

IS PARKER A FRAUD?

Mr. Wakefield Believes Parker Should not be Permitted to Enter the Denver Conference

Editor Independent: I notice in papers that Jo A. Parker of Kentucky, chairman middle-of-the-road populists, has called his executive committee to meet in Denver as part of Edgerton's conference.

It seems to me you should warn the honest populists of Parker's and his committee's true character, and that on no account should they be permitted to enter or take part in the conference. For them to do so is to smirch the entire attendance and its constituency with the vilest of Mark Hanna commercial harlotry.

I take it for granted that both yourselves and Mr. Edgerton are acquainted with the absolutely positive nature of the evidence that Parker and his so-called committee were in 1896, 1900, and ever since then in receipt of a regular salary, with corruption funds and free transportation, from the republican national committee. Several of Parker's lieutenants in this disreputable business are Kansas men, whom even the Kansas mid-rollers have repudiated as shameless political prostitutes. To have the Denver conference identified with Hanna's hired minions would not only be fatal to its influence and an irretrievable injury to populism, but a severe blow to reformers generally. In Kansas it would put the brand of Mark Hanna and Perry Heath—of political prostitution—upon the whole party and justly so, but other and honest independent action will have to share—unjustly share—the obloquy and suspicion.

You cannot afford to be silent on Parker's record, between now and date of conference, and should publish Perry Heath's letter—as secretary republican national committee—in which position of Parker and his committee are made clear.

As one of the founders of the people's party, I do not like to see it end in political prostitution. I would rather see it decently buried at once.

W. H. T. WAKEFIELD.

Mound City, Kas.

(Although The Independent has never had a very high opinion of Jo Parker, and has said some harsh things about him, it has no positive proof of his political corruption; hence, if Mr. Wakefield will bring forward the proofs, he will confer a benefit upon men who are earnestly trying to do right. Parker represents an element of populists who are undoubtedly honest and sincere, and it is this element rather than Parker with whom the Sioux Falls platform adherents wish to treat. If Parker is a fraud, let us know it. His exposure will benefit mid-rollers more than any other faction.—Ed. Ind.)

A Mississippi Populist

Editor Independent: I am one of the 300 that supported Judge Norton of Chicago in 1896. I met Judge Green, Bryan's old law partner, in the convention at St. Louis and told him that was not the time and place to fuse; that we should put out a straight ticket and do our best to throw the election in the house and then was the time to fuse. I am of that opinion yet. Take it out of the electoral college into the house and then and there fuse.

Long may The Independent live and prosper.

R. BREWER.

Aubrey, Miss.

Texas Reformers

Editor Independent: In compliance to your request, will offer an expression of my views. Dr. Wm. N. Hill, Baltimore, Md., in issue of June 18, 1903, has written a letter with the expression and platform of the union reform party, which I think is timely and very commendable.

Now for a successful union of all reform parties I would suggest for a platform direct legislation, known as the initiative referendum and imperative mandate. By this movement the enfranchisement of the people will be possible; and as long as the people are disfranchised in matters of legislation, there is little interest in voting for the man. With the adoption of direct legislation in the constitution of the United States, the people could elect from the dregs of the penitentiary for office of executive or representative, and they would be the servants of the people to the best of knowledge and ability. With the above accomplished, as the people shall elect from time to time, other reforms may be secured.

Mr. Edgerton's call at Denver is timely and of great importance. I would suggest to all reform people

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15c, 20c and 25c remnants in Dimities, etc., now, yard.....	4 ¹ ₂ c	25c Wash Silks in fast colors, now, yard	16c
18c Swisses and Tissues are now, yard.....	9c	\$1 Pongees and 60c Jap Wash Silks, now, yard.....	35c
25c White French Dimities and Novelties, now, yard.....	12c		

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THE COMING MAN

**Major Steagall Looks Over the Situation
and Believes William Randolph
Hearst is a Winner**

Editor Independent: A Mr. Bliss of California put an article in the Arena, headed "United or Perish," in the year of 1900, that was full of wisdom. I wish the Arena would republish it. The object of Mr. Bliss was to show all patriots that democrats, populists and all other parties and factions must unite or see the republicans carry the day. He labored to show them that the democrats had polled over six million votes in 1896 and that they at least ought to be consulted in the selection of the candidate. He showed the folly of factions and factionalism generally.

Well, the factions refused to follow his advise and "they perished" and the country has well nigh perished also—although Hanna continues to howl "let well enough alone." But it is "well" with republican thieves only.

Four years more of Hanna's rule and the country will not be worth saving.

Nine-tenths of its wealth will be in the hands of one-tenth of the people. Eight years more of Hanna's rule will leave 95 per cent of the property of this great country in the hands of 5 per cent of the people, with perhaps not an honest man in the 5 per cent.

Yet with these facts staring us in the face, we have democrats, populists, mid-rollers, Debs men, socialists, gold democrats, silver democrats, single taxers, temperance men and whisky men! On a New York ballot I saw last fall, which, by the way was as large as a country newspaper, as well as I remember, there were seven different kinds of democrats—Tammany democrats, county democrats, silver democrats, Greater New York democrats, gold democrats, socialist democrats, and Henry George democrats, and God only knows how many other factions!

If any two of these factions had combined with the democratic party they could have swept the state. In fact, a combination of straight democrats and temperance people did elect Mr. Cunneen as attorney general of the state.

Well, we will let all the factions alone. They are a curse to the country. If the six million of men who voted for Bryan will unite on a man who is in sympathy with the masses we can get a few thousand votes from each of the factions and the day is ours, sure. For, bear in mind, these factions are held together by the influence of their leaders, who are the paid hirelings of Hanna. Many of the leaders are paid not less than fifty thousand dollars per annum, I am sure, and here is where many millions of the corruption funds go that are squeezed out of the trusts. No organization could use up thirty or forty millions in personal bribes in an election.

There is a man in Florida, who is today under several indictments, who was hired by the leaders of the republican party at a fixed salary to come to Georgia in 1891 to get into the

farmers' alliance and to use his influence to lead the alliance out of the democratic party; but a leading paper published the affidavits of several reputable men that established the truth of the above statement, and ere the next issue of that paper went to press he had left for parts unknown. He turned up in Florida afterwards, and no doubt his salary was continued, for he soon began to figure as a leader of one of the factions that I have alluded to. He usually made it a point to introduce a resolution at the close of each convention of his faction to "vote 'er straight"—if you are the only man that does.

But who is "the coming man?" He is the only man that has a ghost of a chance to poll enough votes from the factions to win. Why can he do this? Because every man in every faction knows that he is a friend of the masses; that his great heart is in full sympathy with them; his purse is ever open to them; and that his three great papers have ever plead their cause, and have always hurled defiance at those who rob and oppress them. At his name, the trusts shudder, and postoffice thieves tremble. In fact, his great papers are a terror to evildoers generally.

He will be the unanimous nominee of democracy and he will poll more votes from each and every faction, and from the republicans even, than can any other man living. In fact, he is the only man that has been named or even alluded to in connection with the next presidential election by the opposition to the party in power who really has any inherent strength, any personal popularity, any power with the great masses of the American people. And if the nomination of the candidate for president of the nation for the opposition next year is left to a general primary, William Randolph Hearst will poll more votes than any ten men in the nation can. A. H. STEAGALL.

De Land, Fla.

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