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Since the Allison plank on the tariff was adopted by the Iowa convention, the republicans over there who were once proud of the "Iowa idea," now declare that they never had an idea and never expect to have one.

The dailies have had a great deal to say about the purification of the politics of Minneapolis and the conviction of Mayor Ames and his brother, the chief of police. They have, however never mentioned the fact that the whole movement was the work of the old populist, Ignatius Donnelly. He set on foot the investigation that ended in the conviction of the Ames brothers and other city boodlers and fought the whole gang to which they belonged for years.

Up to the present writing twenty-two deaths from lockjaw have resulted from wounds by toy pistols in the state of Pennsylvania alone. There is a good deal of discussion in the papers about how to prevent the sale of these deadly things. Suppose they try taxation like they did on oleomargarine. Put a tax of \$5 on each pistol and provide that a stamp to that amount shall be attached to each one, in the absence of which the owner will be fined and sent to prison.

The entire "push" on Wall street is just at present united in maintaining prices and resisting to the uttermost any decline. Besides Wall street, the managers of the republican party, knowing that their hold on power depends upon it, are using every means at their command to the same end. They have an awful load of, as Jim Hill says, "indigestible securities" to carry and the only question is how long they can endure the strain. It may be that they can put off the collapse until after the presidential election and in that is their only hope.

These have been a good many stories printed in the papers about the discovery in Colorado of extensive fields of anthracite and semi-anthracite coal. David H. Moffit, who is building what is called the Moffit Short Line road out in Colorado, announced in New York the other day that when that road was finished he would deliver anthracite coal, as good as the Pennsylvania variety, in Chicago at \$5 a ton. The Independent has had so much experience with millionaire lies that it takes this statement "cum grano salis." It seems to it that if there were such a field of anthracite out there, some responsible newspaper man would long ago have visited the spot and told all about it. A description of such deposits and their extent would make a "feature" in any Sunday paper that would attract universal attention.

THE PEOPLES PARTY

Populist differences are now settled. No change, however, will be made in the two national committees, but they will continue as low until the next national convention selects a new committee for the campaign of 1904.

Working in harmony with these two will be the national committee selected by the Denver conference, which is intended to bring together both factions in each state. Part of the work will be to arrange for state conferences later this year and effect a thorough organization.

As a national organization the people's party will never again join hands with any other party. It will have its own candidate for president and vice president.

Whether this action will result in rallying around its standard the former adherents, depends almost wholly upon what the old parties do next year. The republican party is safely plutocratic. So is the democratic party—when it wins. It was really democratic in 1896 and 1900—and lost because its state leaders in the east were plutocrats and stabbed it to the heart.

Given next year an Iowa platform and a Gorman or Parker, and the democratic party will lose hundreds of thousands of votes. The people's party will poll one and one-half to two millions. But populists generally recognize that with a Chicago or Kansas City platform and a man of Bryan's stamp, the democratic party can kill the people's party—-independent action, or no action, or fusion cutting no figure.

There is room for but one really democratic party—and whether it goes under the name "democrat" or "people's" is a question that will be decided next year. In any event there will be genuine opposition to plutocracy, and not a repetition of the farcical opposition of the democratic party from the war until 1896.

IS HE A "NATURAL"

Henry W. Yates, gold democrat and national banker, has attempted to write on money and he makes just as ridiculous an ass of himself as he was wont to do in 1896 and 1900. He gives a definition of "fiat money." The Independent wonders how long he will stand by it. He says:

"Fiat money is any money made to order, or which comes into existence by means of legislation."

That is exactly what the populists have always said. As it is impossible to conceive of any sort of money coming into existence in any other way than "by means of legislation" he is in perfect accord with the Omaha platform and Senator John P. Jones, who said in his great speech of 1893, page 102:

"All money, whether of gold, silver or paper, is 'fiat.' Money is created by law."

Gold becomes money by means of legislation, therefore, according to Mr. Yates, gold is "fiat money." Mr. Yates will hardly claim that a nugget of uncoined gold is "money." If he thinks so, let him undertake to discharge a judgment or pay his taxes with it. But that nugget of gold may become money. How? By means of legislation." So gold is "fiat" money according to Mr. Yates' definition.

Mr. Yates shows his assinity further along in a still more striking way. He says:

"Natural or sound money is that which depends for its supply solely upon the amount of labor expended in its discovery and production, and whose value is fixed by no law."

That statement shows that Mr. Yates is a socialist. The socialists claim that labor creates all value and the value of his "natural or sound money" is created by labor. Much labor has been expended at Crede, Colo., and much gold has been taken from those mines. But after the la-

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1 bottle ink.	6 tea spoons.	1 box hair pins.	1 boxwood whistle.
1 box crayons.	6 table spoons.	1 aluminum thimble.	1 brownie mask.
1 lead pencil.	1 sponge.	1 cone ironing wax.	1 dressed doll.
1 leather pocketbook.	1 kite.	1 white handkerchief.	1 heart patty pan.
1 7-inch comb.	1 pair scissors.	1 pair black hose.	1 star patty pan.
1 pocket mirror.	1 pocket knife.	1 needle cabinet.	1 wire coat frame.
1 spool emb. cotton.	1 shaving brush.	1 combination tool, can opener, glass cutter, plier, etc.	1 good hammer.
1 box tacks.	1 watch chain.		6 shelf papers.
1 screw driver.	1 scarf pin.		1 egg beater.

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bor has been paid, more than a hundred millions of gold was left and it was distributed among the owners of those mines. What put value into the gold that stockholders got after the labor had been paid for?

Evidently Mr. Yates concludes that the old phrase "sound money" has seen its day and he must have a new one, so he coined "natural money." "Natural" means fixed or determined by nature. If there is such a thing as "natural money," then it has existed since time began. Away back among the uncounted millions of years that the geologists tell us about, even beyond the silurian age in the Azoic times, there existed "money." Before the Trenton granite was deposited, money existed for it is "natural."

Mr. Yates says of his "natural" money that its "value is fixed by no law." If that is the case, then gold is not "natural money." For the value of 25 8-10 grains of gold is "fixed by law" and the law says that "that much gold nine-tenths fine shall be one dollar."

Mr. Yates may claim that there are other meanings to the word "natural" and to that The Independent agrees. Here is one which, after reading his article in the World-Herald, July 13, would seem to fit him:

"Natural. One born without the usual powers of reason."

Mr. Yates not only seems to have been born without the power to reason, but he shows a still greater defect. He can't distinguish between truth and falsehood. Read the following and see how true this assertion is: "We have now fiat money in amounts as follows:

Legal tender notes.....	\$ 366,000,000
Silver certificates	462,000,000
National bank notes....	406,000,000

Total\$1,234,000,000

"All this volume of currency is based for its redemption upon a gold reserve in the United States treasury of \$150,000,000 giving us an inverted pyramid, the base line of which is 150, and the top line 1,234."

Mr. Yates must certainly know that his statement that the \$462,000,000 of silver certificates are not "based for their redemption upon a gold reserve in the United States treasury of \$150,000,000." On the face of every silver certificate there are printed these words: "This certifies that there has been deposited in the United States treasury payable to the bearer on demand . . . silver dollars." Any man can satisfy himself concerning whether Mr. Yates can distinguish between truth and falsehood by reading what is printed on the first paper dollar that he gets, for in 99 cases out of 100 it will be a silver certificate.

A SENATORIAL CAD

The newspapers exhausted their vocabulary of invective, ridicule and sarcasm in regard to Kansas populists. But the Kansas populists sent a respectable man to the United States senate. As soon as the republicans got

back into power they sent a call and a scoundrel there. He is one of those despicable creatures that makes a decent man disgusted whenever his name is mentioned. Some months ago this senator, Burton, went to the president and told him that he, Burton, was interested in a great religious and moral scheme connected with the St. Louis world's fair. It was to reproduce an exact fac simile of the city of Jerusalem. The president was interested and afterwards wrote Burton a confidential and private letter introducing him to some of his church friends. Burton took this letter, had it photographed, surrounded it with advertising matter so worded as to make the president indorse the stock of the company formed to get up the exhibition and sent it to a magazine as a full page advertisement. The proprietor of the magazine was astonished and coming to the conclusion that the letter must be a forgery, wrote to the president to know if it was genuine. It is said that when Teddy got that letter his language cracked the plastering on the White house walls. The publication of the advertisement was stopped and Burton has been kicked into the outer darkness, as far as any patronage is concerned, in which the opposition senators dwell.

BIMETALLISM AT LAST

The fact that the great dailies are more interested in suppressing the news than they are in printing it is shown by the way they have treated this question of adopting bimetalism at the ratio of 32 to 1. The commission appointed by the president to go to Europe has visited England, France and Germany and is now on its way to Russia. The first three nations have agreed to the plan and there is no manner of doubt that Russia will also. In Germany the conference resolved that it would be beneficial to "fix" the value of silver in relation to gold, and as much so to the gold-using countries as to the silver-using countries. The funny thing is that this same conference passed another resolution disclaiming any idea of promoting bimetalism. If "fixing" the value of silver in relation to gold by law is not bimetalism, what is it? The Independent informed its readers all about this move by this, and the European governments months ago, being as usual, that much ahead of the dailies in furnishing news that is of interest to the people.

Some of the pretenses for wearing a button, a badge or a ribbon are the most absurd and childish that silly members of the human race could invent and the most ridiculous of them all is this thing called the "veteran" button of the Spanish war. That war lasted only a few weeks. How a soldier could become a "veteran" in that time, is one of those things that no pop can find out.

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