

publicans," as Bryan calls those who disbelieve in his fusion policy, or will they drop the democratic name which has so often spelled defeat in the last forty years, and join the united people's party where they have belonged since the campaign of 1892? Even should the Bryan democrats succeed in retaining control of the party machinery and nominate the candidates, they could not hope to hold the eastern wing, and the result would be the same as in the last two campaigns—one more democratic defeat. Does Bryan court another such disaster? Is he optimistic enough to believe that the democratic party, guided by his counsel, no matter how wise it may be or seem to be, can win? If not, then why should he continue to follow the ignis fatuus of democracy? Why not join forces with those who believe in his principles under another and better name? He could not easier or more surely defeat the plans of the eastern reorganizers, for with Bryan and his following out of the democratic party what would they have left but a handful of "assistant republicans?" Let all who believe in the principles of the Omaha, Chicago and Kansas City platforms get together next year under the united people's party banner and victory will be in sight. Meanwhile the work of organization, education and unification must go on this year, as next year after the national conventions are held will be too late.—James Flannigan, in Herald, Ft. Morgan, Colo.

Many populists feel that it is useless to keep on trying to help one wing of the democratic party defeat the other wing, and at the same time let the corporation element that is in control of the republican party run the affairs of the government. There are thousands of republicans who do not like the way things are running in their party, but who can see nothing better in the democratic party. It is time for all forces who want reform to get together.—Jason L. Clafin, in Ord (Neb.) Journal (pop.).

"A GENEROUS CRITIC."

Even as mild and generous a critic as Mr. Bryan does not hesitate to say that the Denver conference resulted in a surrender of honest populists to the mid-road populists, who have worked in collusion with the republicans since 1896. When men like Senator Allen go over to a crowd like that they destroy confidence. A half dozen members of the national committee are not the party, and it is safe to say that Senator Allen will be a socialist, republican or out of politics by this time next year.—C. D. Casper, in Press (dem.), David City, Neb.

Undoubtedly Mr. Casper is right: "A half dozen members of the national committee are not the party"—but neither is Mr. Bryan nor Mr. Casper. Did we raise any hullabaloo some time ago when an exclusive "democratic" press association was formed, and populist editors excluded except as they declared themselves democrats?

James Flannigan, editor of the Herald, Fort Morgan, Colo., "only people's paper in Morgan county," prints Edgerton's call for the Colorado state conference, the Denver "manifesto," some editorials from The Independent (being duly credited as besecms a good populist) and a cracking good editorial of his own production, which The Independent quotes elsewhere.

AS TO FUSION.

Notwithstanding the decision of the reform forces at the Denver conference against it, it appears certain that the fusion policy will prevail in Nebraska again this year. The rank and file of both the populists and democrats are opposed to fusion, but those who want office are bound to cling to fusion.—C. Clinton Page, in Progress (pop.), Holdrege, Neb.

Would Mr. Page advise populists to drop as good a judge as Sullivan? Chief Justice Sullivan has made such a record on the bench that every populist in the state can point with pride to him as "their judge." There will be no "fusion" this year. But both conventions will nominate Judge Sullivan just the same. However, the Denver "manifesto" said nothing about state matters. Down in Kentucky Jo Parker is bringing about a fusion of the people's party and the union reform party—and nobody up here is making any kick about it.

It is worthy of more than passing attention that the populists who received the most rewards under fusion are the leading advocates of independent action by their party now that their chance is gone of being kept in office by democratic votes.—R. O. Adams and Harry Risley, in Grand Island (Neb.) Democrat.

This everlasting chatter about what "democratic votes" have done is getting a bit tiresome, because of the implication that these democratic

votes were a majority of those cast for the various fusion candidates. They helped, of course; no one denies that it required a coalition of populist and democratic strength to accomplish results—but what is the use of prating about what the democrats have done? They were simply powerless without populist help. What have they ever done in Nebraska without populist assistance?

"It may seem rather strange," says J. P. Correll, in the Easton (Pa.) Sentinel, "to the 'thick and thin' men who 'belong' to the democratic and republican parties that there are still citizens of this republic who, at a conference held in the city of Denver on July 28, declared certain principles as their principles. The following is that address and we trust no male reader of the Sunday Call but will give it earnest study and consideration." (Quoting the address.)

The Custer county (Neb.) populist convention, held at Broken Bow, August 10, nominated a strong ticket and put out a magnificent platform, which wound up by saying: "We approve the sentiments expressed by the Denver conference in the following paragraph: (Quoting the first paragraph.)

SEND IT ALONG.

Editor Independent: I would be pleased to receive a copy of your paper reporting the proceedings at Denver. I have seen nothing about them, except in a paper published in Illinois and what is said there was chiefly in laudation of the editor of that paper.

I notice what Mr. Bryan says in his Commoner which I received this morning. He is in a sense correct in his criticism. I think Mr. Bryan will find that he is counting without his host and the democratic party will certainly abandon him and his followers next

year. I may take occasion to send a communication to your paper later on.

GEO. A. GROOT.

Cleveland, O.

SYMPATHY FOR BRYAN.

Editor Independent: On reading the first page of last week's Commoner I was a bit surprised at the comments on the Denver conference. At first was sad to think so noble a man as Bryan would object to reformers in politics to gather themselves at some given place and confer together on what was needed and not take the name democrat.

Mr. Bryan has performed almost superhuman efforts to reform the democratic party, and still the outlook is so dark he cannot get enthusiastic. Could he have succeeded in marshalling all grades of reformers under his banner in 1900 he might have been elected, but this could not be done and leave Towne out.

Had Mr. Bryan been born early in 1827 and had passed through those never to be forgotten twelve years in political history from 1844 to 1856, he would have known the futility of trying to reform a corrupt and rotten party and save its name. When looking back to the heartaches caused by the knowledge that we must drop the whig and on our banners have a new party name, then my sympathies went out for my beloved hero of the west.

Hero? Yes, hero. My limited knowledge takes in but one as great—Abraham Lincoln. He who dared to defend the right. He who dared to fight against slavery, Hamiltonianism and all political corruption in any and all parties. It is a trying ordeal to lose the party name. We were many who were willing to get help from outside; we were willing for any sacrifice, but save the whig.

In 1856 many of us had received a new baptism—we were proud to be called vile names. What a lot of votes

we cast—were defeated, but could see daylight ahead, and, like Paul, we took courage.

Our fight has not been on twelve years yet. O, populists; O Jeffersonian democrats; O honest, upright, God-fearing, man-loving republicans and all who wish reform in politics, lay aside every weight (party name) which so easily besets you and see if we cannot come together on a new political alignment for 1904 on which even the sun will be proud to shine on.

Comrades, you of '61 to '65, lay aside prejudice if you have any; don't say the republican party fought this war to a satisfactory finish. Who was your bunk mate? Why, yes, he was a democrat; yes, and so was mine.

I was in the band box democratic regiment of Illinois, and our colonel was a democratic supreme judge. Well, that did not make me a democrat nor our colonel a republican. Don't say the republican party gave us our pensions. Who worked harder for our pensions than Dan Vorhees and the venerable Bill Holman?

Boys let us join hands for 1904 and see if we can't stop sculdugery in the national P. O. D. and a train of legislation leading to wildcat money.

R. D. PARSONS.

Amelia, Neb.

"NOT FULLY SATISFIED."

Editor Independent: Find enclosed postal money order for two dollars. I have appreciated your courtesy and the instructive matter given in the paper.

I am not fully satisfied that the late conference did the best thing. It is evident that there must be a union of all the reform forces.

I am yours in all that will tend to better the condition of the masses and to perpetuate the principles of the fathers of our government.

JAMES C. LEWIS.

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No. 214. If you want a good inexpensive dining table we are confident this will please you. Made of hardwood in best golden finish, heavy 4-inch reeded legs, 42x42 inch top, complete with casters.

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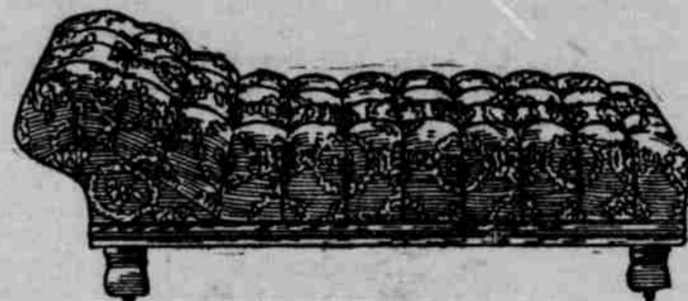


No. 316, Solid oak combination bookcase and writing desk, 5 ft. 8 in. high, 37 in. wide; French bevel plate mirror, 10x14 in., good sized writing desk; pigeon holes and small drawer; 4 adjustable shelves in bookcase; locks on both desk and bookcase. Price, \$13.00.



No. 354. All solid golden oak chiffonier, double top, heavy post construction; five large drawers; top measures 20x33 in. Price as in cut.....\$5 00

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Price.....\$7 50



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