

A Union of Forces

Editor Independent: Your letter duly received and noted. I am ever ready to aid the cause of reform both by my work and money and can clasp the glad hand with any who have worked in the conference at Denver. I think, however, that no resolution preventing fusion of all reform forces should have been passed or should be passed at our convention. For you will remember that the men who were opposed to fusion did go over to the enemy and did help republicans just as the Palmer and Buckner element did.

You will also remember that that same element did insist upon the nomination of Towne at Sioux Falls; prominent among those were Senator Butler; he probably did more than any other one man to defeat Bryan by his insisting upon Towne being nominated.

And you will remember that all our fusion element wanted to avoid such an appearance of dictating to the democrats. And it was a selfish motive; he thought that would insure his reelection as senator. Now, it looks to me that if the populists refuse to unite with all the reform forces against republicans, failure will be the result. The socialists make the same kind of statement, and suppose the democrats say the same what will be the result? Of course, defeat. And suppose on the other hand any one of the reform forces are willing to unite themselves, what when the time comes will be the best organized plan for making a success of reform?

Why should a resolution by those who have helped republicans elect their tickets before, stand in the way of union of reform forces when all oppose republicans and stand for the same principles and only differ in name? You will doubtless excuse Senator Peffer and his treachery and I can excuse a hundred other middle-landers of the same character. All of that kind of men are for personal gains or republicans in disguise, and for myself I have not even respect for them—better an open enemy than any enemy in disguise.

The road before us as citizens is union of all forces that favor reform, or a continuation of republican rule, and that means revolution in the near future.

The trusts and corporations and capitalists own the administration and the courts with a big OWN. Our only hope is to get together in such a way that we can elect either a populist or democrat—of Bryan stripe, and Bryan would be my choice; labor unions certainly would unite on him or some one like him.

Enclosed find one dollar for The Independent. I like it and I want it to be independent of any and all resolutions which bind it against uniting all reform forces. For that is the only way that we can win.

N. M. SMITH.

Washington, Kas.

(The Independent believes that considerable breath is wasted in the cry for a union of all reform forces. It is laudable, of course—but upon what can they unite? There can be no union with the socialists (they renounce "reform" and ask for "revolution"), except by becoming socialists and demanding the "collective ownership of all the means of production and distribution." There can be no union with the prohibitionists without becoming prohibitionists and demanding that the rum power be "pulverized.")

Upon what can the "reform forces" unite? Upon majority rule, government railroads and government money, you say? Then they will all become populists. As a matter of fact, it looks to The Independent that in the near future there will be three instead of two great parties: The republican, standing as it has for years as the exponent and champion of the great capitalists; either the people's or the democratic party (one and not both) as the exponent and champion of the great middle class, the small producers, home-owners, farmers, etc.; and the socialist party representing the wage-workers. The labor unions had a chance to unite on Bryan both in 1896 and 1900—did they do so? The result says, no.

Whether the party which represents the bone and sinew of America, the middle class, shall be called "democrat," "people's" or by some other name, depends upon circumstances; but it is safe to say that no two great parties can successfully represent the same class at the same time. As the people get their eyes opened, they will naturally ally themselves with the party where they properly belong. The democratic party cannot be plutocratic and live; the people's party would take its place. The republican party, with its magnificent party discipline can best represent the plutocrats. And it is idle to attack the socialist parties. Let them alone. Let them align the wage-workers into a compact organization—for this must necessarily be

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built up at the cost of the republican following. Every "class-conscious" socialist means a republican vote lost. In the three-cornered fight which ensues, the middle class party can surely take care of itself.—Associate Editor.)

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This is one of Nebraska's most profitable farms; located two and a half miles from good town, in Franklin county; 320 acres of choice bottom land, 300 acres is in splendid stand of alfalfa, making 4 to 6 tons of alfalfa hay per acre for several years past. The improvements are first-class and are worth today \$5,000. The alfalfa makes three and four good crops of hay annually and a failure was never known when the land is once properly seeded. In the event of a hail storm you only lose one cutting of hay. There is always a ready market for alfalfa hay either to feed on the ground or to bale and ship to market. Price of this land, \$50 per acre. Will try to make terms to suit purchaser with reasonable cash payment. This farm will pay 20 per cent on the investment net each year.

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For further particulars as to any of these write to Weber & Farris, Lincoln, Neb.

Clark's Comment

Editor Independent: In the editorial on the first page of last week's Commoner, devoted to "The Populist Manifesto," "Free silver, 16 to 1," which was nearly "the whole shooting match" in the last two presidential campaigns, is not mentioned by Mr. Bryan. And bimetallism is very briefly alluded to once. And, what is even more strange, while he censures the fusionists for going back to "the middle of the road," he does not even re-

fer to the subject of government railroads or public ownership and control of public institutions and affairs, that sublime principle of popular government that made one Jeffersonian and Jacksonian democracy.

If moral courage is a good thing, as Mr. Bryan stated in a speech a few weeks ago, then moral cowardice is a bad thing; and I know of nothing but moral cowardice that can prevent anybody from discussing the government ownership or anti-corporation question. There is no question of political law, fundamental or statutory, of greater importance at the present time.

To bring that question up for general discussion is to unite all industrial, all useful people in the same determination in regard to corporations that animated Andrew Jackson when he said, "By the eternal, I will stamp it in the ground," and the national bank went under for many years.

But the prediction of Tom Benton, "We have not destroyed this tigress, we have only driven her into the jungle from whence she will emerge with a litter of whelps, and ruin the republic," has proved to be true, for this nation is now more of a plutocracy, practically, than a republic, and

nothing but a great uprising of the common people like that of 1872, only more so, can create a peaceful revolution that shall restore the real republic, and place it upon a foundation that shall endure forever. And if Mr. Bryan, or any other democratic or populist fusionist, does not want to become "a back number," he must get into "the middle of the road" with the great army of freemen that will soon be marching to victory. "Swing inwards, O, gates of the future, Turn outwards, ye doors of the past, For the soul of the people is moving And rising from slumber at last.

"The dark forms of night are retreating,

The white peaks have signalled the day,

And freedom, her long roll is beating,

And calling her sons to the fray.

"Swing inwards, O, gates till the morning

Shall point the brown mountains with gold,

Till the lone, and the light of the new times

Shall conquer the hate of the old."

C. M. CLARK.

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