

Wither do they lead? Fraught as they have been, fraught as they are with blessings and with misfortunes for us of the earth, for those who have preceded us, for those who will follow us. Pregnant with good or with evil?

The future we cannot peer far into. The past is unalterable. We live in the present. In it we can labor. Labor which influences the present, the future. Shall our energies be concentrated mainly upon self-aggrandizement which, even if accomplished, proves unsatisfying?

With clearer insight into the unchangeable principle of justice which underlies all of nature's laws, there will come a melting away of the debasing strifes of the past and the present.

A conception faint at first, but growing, expanding, becoming more and more intense, more and more lucid, will sway us, control us and lead us aright. Will lead us into the pathway of true advancement. Will urge us to seek Divine assistance as we labor to purify, to ennoble, to elevate ourselves and the race. EDWARD STERN. Philadelphia, Pa.

MAINE POPULISTS

National Committee on Smith Says Populism in Maine is Not Dead but Sleeping

(The communication below was dated July 23, but did not reach The Independent until July 28—too late for publication before the Denver conference. However, as giving an insight into the situation in Maine, its publication now will be helpful. If Mr. Smith had used the word "democrat" instead of "fusionist," where he speaks of gallant Tom Watson, it would have been more in accordance with the facts. Here in Nebraska we had four Watson and four Sewall electors. It is highly probable that Bryan's defeat in 1896 was in no small measure due to keeping Sewall on the ticket.—Ed. Ird.)

Editor Independent: I received your communication of May 28, also circular letter of May 16, and several copies of The Independent. I must congratulate you on the noble work you are doing in trying to gather our straggling forces together for the coming fray.

In my humble opinion there never was a time in the history of our country when reform was more needed than now. Nor were the people ever more dissatisfied and more ready for a change than now. It therefore becomes the duty of every reformer, and all of those who are opposed to the two old parties, and who know our whole social and economic system is wrong, to assist in breaking up this hellish oligarchy which will engulf this nation and make a race of slaves more cringing and dependent than ever chattel slavery was in its worst form.

I believe there will be a divided democratic party and dissatisfaction in the republican party in 1904.

Now is the opportunity of the people's party; will we grasp it? I think so.

It is with pleasure that I see the two wings of the people's party coming together.

Populism in the state of Maine is not dead, but sleeping. We have no state organization at present. We are waiting for the south, and west, to start the ball rolling; then Maine will wake up with her old-time vigor as she did when we cast 50,000 votes for the national greenback party—before fusion cast her blight upon us.

The socialists of Maine and Massachusetts are hurting us some just now, but socialism stands no show for power; it is visionary and spasmodic. If the people will not grasp populism they will certainly not embrace socialism. If they wish to become a factor they must come back to the people's party.

I make a prediction. We hear it said that the democratic party is dead. The democratic party will never die; it don't know enough to die. But the republican party will go into dissolution. It will die from its own strength and corruption and on its ruins will be built up a new party of the people from the better element of that party and democrats of the Bryan type. And when the new party shall have accomplished its mission and outgrown its usefulness it will follow its predecessors, the old federal, whip, and republican parties, and on its ruins will be built up a new party of the people with new issues to combat the democratic party; for into the democratic party all exploiters of labor will go. These things must be or this republic will be destroyed and all liberty lost.

The fusionists made one of the greatest mistakes of their life when they threw gallant Tom Watson overboard and indorsed Sewall. Watson as a statesman was to the wage-slave what Phillips as an orator was to the chattel slave.

If the fusionists had stood by Watson, Bryan would have been elected. He only needed about 500 votes in five

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states which they could have had if they had been true to Watson. But it is no use to look back upon the past only as an object lesson. Let us look to the present, and future, and work as we never worked before. Let us unite; in union there is strength.

Enclosed please find \$1 postoffice order for which send me The Independent.

I should like to be present at the conference at Denver, but it will be impossible for me to do so, as I have just got off a bed of sickness.

LEVI W. SMITH,
Member National Committee People's Party for Maine.
Vinalhaven, Me.

P. O. Service

The annual examination for the postoffice service will be held in Lincoln on November 18, 1903. Applications for this examination will be received at the Lincoln postoffice up to the hour of closing business, 8 p. m., October 19. Blank applications can be procured upon application to C. W. Pace, secretary postal board, Lincoln, Neb.

Cause of Lynching

Editor Independent: On August 6, 1903, President Roosevelt addressed a letter to Governor Durbin of Indiana—an executive who for three years has refused to surrender to the orderly procedure of law a fugitive from justice, accused of one of the highest of crimes—a letter in which, after eulogizing this persistent obstructor of law as a courageous opponent of anarchy, the president proceeded to dilate at great length on the recent growing prevalence and barbarity of lynchings, especially of negroes, in this country.

Whether the president's labored effort was wholly uninspired by a hope to influence thereby the colored vote in the approaching elections, the writer expresses no opinion. The object of the undersigned is to direct attention to what he deems an important cause of the alarming evil of which the president treats—an element in this matter which the president, with characteristic superficiality, ignores.

Did it ever occur to President Roosevelt that the unusual frequency and barbarity of lynchings in the United States began since President McKinley declared a war of conquest in the Orient? Does not the president know that war is the abrogation of all civil and criminal jurisprudence, that it is but accumulated violence, anarchy itself? Does he not know that all war is brutalizing, that a war of subjugation

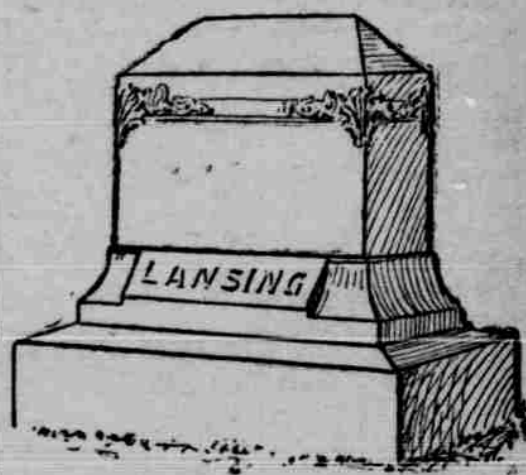
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ties? Does he imagine the words of Christ any less true today than they were nineteen hundred years ago, when He said, "Whatsoever ye sow, that shall ye reap also?"

JOHN SAMPSON,
Washington, D. C.

The New York World continues to talk about "a dollar worth 100 cents." All the cents there are, are made of copper and 100 of them are worth just the amount of copper that is in them. According to the World's reasoning, it wants about the cheapest dollar that ever was invented.

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