

THE OLD GUARD.

Several More of Them Answer to Roll Call Ready for Duty.

MISSISSIPPI

Mr. Herrington is Pleased With the Denver Conference—Outlook Good For Populism in the South

Editor Independent: Am pleased with the Denver conference.

Have never been much of a Bryan populist, although I voted for him in '96. Will never do anything like it again.

Outlook for reorganization of people's party in Mississippi is good.

The most abominable democratic campaign in the history of the state has just ended. It was a regular mud-slinging affair. The side that could sling the most mud got the plums. There was no issue; the negro furnished material for mud. He has no political rights. This is as it should be; but the side that could yell "negro" the loudest at the other fellow was called the "white man's man." Both sides cry for white supremacy—negro domination, as though the negro dominated, and the battle was for white man rule.

The fact is, the negro has been the politicians' scare-crow for the last 45 years in the south, and the one that can paint him the ugliest is always the winner. It is intellectual suicide to speak of negro domination vs. white supremacy in the south; there is nothing but white supremacy and no negro domination. This is as it always will be. The negro is lacking in wisdom; cannot dominate; is lacking in wealth, can never dominate financially; is lacking in morals, can never dominate socially. ORANGE HERRINGTON. Dollie, Miss.

Stand Firm

Editor Independent: I am still in the cause of justice and humanity. I am rejoiced at the results of the Denver conference. May the members of that conference stand as firm in the future as they did the day they met their wayward brothers and welcomed them back to the cause of justice and equal rights. I am glad to be called one of the Old Guard. I have been in the cause since the days of Peter Cooper and know I am right. The cause just and right will prevail. Stand firm, boys, and all will be well, is my advice. May God bless the cause. J. S. JONES.

Iuka, Ill.

Pessimistic

Editor Independent: I have been in the middle-of-the-road, so far as the old political parties are concerned, practically since 1868, when Tammany Hall sold out Horatio Seymour, democratic candidate for president, to the conspirators whose purpose was to supplant American liberty with Roman imperialism; a task at this writing well high accomplished.

It was the same year the so-called credit strengthening act (robbery) began the revolution. I have been among the first in all the uprisings of the people since that time, doing what little I could to avert the evil day. The people's party, the most formidable opposition to the conspirators, went down never to rise again at St. Louis in 1896 (where I had the honor of being a protesting representative of the party of my adopted state, Virginia), when Tom Watson and the populist hosts were traded for the false promise of a few Catholic votes.

Since that memorable time I have endeavored, with my paper, the Dalton Herald, to keep as many of the faithful together as possible. The socialists have come upon the scene and have been recruited with many of our best men. But they will be tied hand and foot, however just their cause, long before they can get strength sufficient to stay the victorious march of the conspirators, which has been continuous from 1868 till now.

The Denver conference accomplished nothing. The only escape from the Roman empire lies in the early coming together of the liberty-loving people on that issue direct and rally around some great leader in whom the people have confidence and elect him to the presidency in 1904. It is waste of energy to talk about money reform or any other kind of reform until the liberty flag is unfurled upon the capitol at Washington.

J. A. BODENHAMER.

Dalton, Ga. Editor Herald.

Unite on the People's Rule

Editor Independent: I first saw the light in Trigg county, Kentucky, over 70 years ago. Father was an old line whig. Came to Texas in 1852. Voted

with the democrats until 1861. Went into the confederate army in '61 as a private. Was promoted in '62. Came out wiser, but not a democrat, after nearly four years' service.

When the party gave me Horace Greeley, I refused to vote the ticket. Have not voted an old party ticket since the great war.

Was an active organizer for the greenbackers. Voted for the immortal Peter Cooper. Have been active in all the reform movements from greenbackism to populism.

When fusion and consequent failure came, I made one step forward to what is now known as class-conscious socialism, which I believe to be the only solution of the many vexed problems now before the American people, and the world.

I regard the Denver conference as a grand move in the right direction; it makes one fact less.

Now that the trend is to unify, the next and most important is the union of all factions of reformers upon the common ground of the initiative and referendum and imperative mandate.

Fact is, we must be free. A unity of the workers is the only hope.

The competitive system must give place to co-operation with the motto, If he will not work he shall not eat, connected with equal rights to all, special privileges to none.

With best wishes to all I am yours in the fight to the end.

J. W. SIVELLE.

Bells, Tex.

Georgia

Editor Independent: Seeing your announcement in the Missouri World I respond from old Georgia.

I am determined to endure to the end and be faithful.

We are arranging a Watson club in my beat—and a great many Watsons living here are all of them O. K.

The watchword on the picket line: "Watson."

Our Thomas A. Watson, Noble, frank and bold.

Old oligarchy trembles When the name of Watson is told.

A. L. SMITH.

Lithonia, Ga.

Feels Good

Editor Independent: I was born in De Witt county, Illinois, in 1854; former politics, republican; broke away in 1890; have worked hard for reform ever since. I have been on the central committee for twelve years; was a delegate to the Cincinnati convention that nominated Barker and Donnelly and voted for them on election day. As to the Denver conference I admired it very much. I had been waiting for something like that to take place. That was the proper thing to do and it makes us mid-road fellows feel good to meet you fusionists in conference and lay down our differences. Now go straight ahead as you have started and victory is ours.

W. D. WATSON.

Springfield, Ill.

Riley Co. Kansas

Editor Independent: I was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, June 17, 1829. Was raised a whig. Helped to organize the republican party, and worked with it until 1876, when I became a greenbacker. Have contributed both time and means in fighting the battles of reform along greenback-populistic lines.

I think that the financial and transportation questions are of great importance. I am well-pleased with the action of the Denver conference, as I understand it, and do sincerely hope that the scattered ranks of all the reform parties will be gathered under one head and one name; and that name, populist, or united people's party, if a majority prefer that name. Yours for complete victory over the twin relics of barbarism, viz: the two old parties.

S. A. BLACK.

Manhattan, Kas.

Arkansas

Editor Independent: I am one of the old guard. I am now and always have been a Jacksonian democrat and an Abe Lincoln republican. I left the old parties on the financial question in the canvass of Peter Cooper. I think that the Denver conference was all right. I think that unless the reformers "organize" and stick together in a political school something like that of the old farmers' alliance or granges that little can be done. Only think of it! Since the old alliance became scattered here in Arkansas the

democrats can secretly count the votes in a general election without being watched as you may it in the republican party there. Give us a pure ballot and a fair count.

B. F. HUFFMAN.

Minnie, Ark.

Oregon

Editor Independent: The writer hereof was born on a farm in Jefferson county, Iowa, September 15, 1864. Reared a democrat. Bolted Tilden in 1876. Straight greenbacker and ever since with the "under dog." Candidate for Oregon legislature on greenback ticket in 1878. Greenback candidate for congress in 1880. Campaigning my county as candidate on union labor ticket, on prohibition ticket and on populist ticket since that party's organization. Within 43 votes of state senate in 1896. Candidate for state treasurer in 1898, and for congress in 1900. Attended populist national convention at Cincinnati in 1900, also Oregon's member of the national committee at Cincinnati, O. Denver conference all right. Prodigals return welcome. Now to bring together our scattered forces for the battle with plutocracy. Organize, agitate and educate and we will come to the front.

JAMES K. SEARS.

McCoy, Oregon.

Alabama

Editor Independent: I want everybody to know that I am a true populist and that I have been ever since 1890 and that I never expect to vote another democratic or republican ticket. I cannot see any difference in them. They both belong to the monopolists. Everybody knows that Alabama has voted the populist ticket by a large majority every time she has had a chance. I am in my 74th year and was born and raised in Spalding county, Georgia. I like the Denver meeting. I think that it was the best thing that could have been done.

DR. T. PATRICK.

Opp, Ala.

Louisiana

Editor Independent: I was born in 1832 and voted the democratic ticket until 1894 when I broke away and joined the populist party. In 1896 I voted for Bryan. That was my last vote. When I saw that democrats did not mean fusion, but their aim was to kill the populist party, I would not vote at all. I feel all right over the Denver conference.

S. D. DUCKWORTH.

New Iberia, La.

New York

Editor Independent: I now have no cards left. I send a dollar to pay for the four I send. I think the people of this state are slowly opening their eyes to the true condition under republican boss rule and as soon as they can get a clean cut platform to stand on as they have in Ohio, led by that honest patriot and splendid fighter, Tom L. Johnson, we will have a revolution in political management that will delight the hearts of true Americans. Majority rule is taking hold of the people all over the country and we may look for some great surprises in the near future.

ALANSON M. HINES.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Do 'em Up

Editor Independent: I send you one subscription and will send you another soon. I hope that we may do up both of those old parties after a while. To h—l with fusion. We are hailed out up here or I would do better.

C. HOPKINS.

Tilden, Neb.

Oregon

Editor Independent: I herewith send you three more subscriptions, among them one for myself. I am almost ashamed to take advantage of your liberal offer, but dollars look unusually large to me now. So pardon me for this time for I can hardly make up my mind to live without The Independent. I think you have the best paper of its kind in this country and if we could only get the "mullet heads" to read it they would soon know more than they know now. I could easily sell more of these cards if I had a little spare time, but I am very busy. If you think best you might send me a few more and perhaps I can see them.

S. E. PENN.

Lebanon, Ore.

Not Happy Without It

Editor Independent: Enclosed find a postal order to renew my subscription. Many thanks for not stopping my paper for I don't see how I could be happy without it. It is my favorite among all the papers I take. I was very much pleased with the masterly manner in which De France showed the difference between what Christ

taught and the actions of those who have so much to say about "Christ within." It would not surprise me at all if the Rev. Mr. Orr was one of the many tens of thousands that voted for the robbery and murder of their fellow men in 1900. I agree with the associate editor in his answer to N. M. Smith of Washington, Kas. How in thunder are we going to get together things that will not come together, without fusion on the old populist plan, if it takes a century?

G. W. PRICE.

Funk, Neb.

Let the Flag Wave

Editor Independent: The last week's issue containing so many good letters with one by each of the editors giving a sketch of their lives and political experience, with so many others from the Old Guard has inspired the writer to come up in the rear (as women are ever expected to do), notwithstanding their hearts often ache to take the place of some of their "leiges" at the ballot box who only throw their votes for their enemies.

Now that the hatchet has been buried by the two populist factions at Denver, I would move that we forget every mistake that any of us may have made in the past and start as from a new birth and cement a persevering and progressive union to battle for our God-given rights. Let the first one that tries to sling mud within our ranks be branded as a traitor unless he give good proof of his grievance.

I was born in Stark county, Ohio, near Canton, but with my parents emigrated to Indiana at three years of age, when our county, Whitney, was a dense forest, and Columbia City only a hamlet of logs. My father was a republican and I thought it O. K. I married during the rebellion. My husband affiliated with the democracy until Honest Old Abe ran the second time, he cast his first ballot for him, having become disgusted with his old party. He voted the republican ticket until 1884 and then bid adieu to that party. Until his death in 1893 he was a staunch advocate of populism. In 1880 I visited my parents in Indiana and found that my father had donned the populist armor, and my brother was so full of populism that I began to investigate the situation. He was so anxious to have us converted that he bought and paid for the Chicago Express and sent it to us for a year. God bless the owner of that paper and the donor who still waves the populist banner although he has had to meet much opposition, for he was one of the seven who voted for reform in 1880. I, too, have been one of the Pettis county reformers ever since I found that much of my hard earnings was extorted to aid plutocracy. I send a trial card and hope to send more. Let the adg continue to wave.

MRS. M. MAGLEY.

Green Bridge, Mo.

For 100,000 Subscribers

Editor Independent: Enclosed find a dollar for the renewal of my subscription. I wish you had 100,000 subscribers in New England for light is really needed here. The most papers here are lound hand and foot to the car of Mammon. So long as The Independent continues its present course it will have at least one subscriber from this office. Continue to show up the enemies of the people. Turn the light on the traitor democrats and let the mailed hand fall on the vile gang that has its head-center and chief attraction in Grover Cleveland, that Benedict Arnold of American politics.

F. P. SANBORN.

West Buxton, Me.

A True Fighter

Editor Independent: I am in receipt of the sample copies of The Independent. I find it to be a true fighter for the cause of reform and for the union of the party. I think the Denver meeting a good thing and now that we have got together, let us fight it out in the middle of the road. Enclosed find order blank for trial subscription of five months. Start the paper as soon as you get this.

T. W. RAY.

Lois, Ga.

'Till Gabriel's Trumpet

Editor Independent: I was born in Marion county, Ohio, September 24, 1830. I always voted the democratic ticket until I helped to elect Grover Cleveland the first time. Then I came out in the middle of the road, have been there ever since and expect to remain there until Gabriel blows his trumpet. In regard to the Denver conference I know nothing about it. My time ran out on the Missouri World and I am too poor to take a paper. I am an old, broken down soldier and not able to take a paper.

W. H. LUCKS.

Powell, Mo.