

**POPULISM FIRMLY ESTABLISHED**

Twice the republicans have had to fly to populist principles to save themselves and the country from wreck and ruin. The long depression that followed the stoppage of the coinage of silver proved so disastrous that the republicans were compelled to resort to the populist demand for more money and for three or four years they coined more silver than was ever coined before in the same length of time in all the history of the government. The result was just what the populists said it would be. There was a revival of business and a season of prosperity set in. If populist principles had continued to be applied, that prosperity would have been general and continued. But they were abandoned again and wreck and ruin stares everybody in the face who were engaged in their abandonment. Trusts were allowed to be formed and hundreds of millions of watered stock was issued. The president allowed the Sherman anti-trust act to become a nullity and the interstate commerce act was not enforced. The result is that through transactions on Wall street, criminal in their very nature, hundreds of thousands of people who had saved a little money have lost it all by investing it in stocks. In the eastern states there is misery and want on every hand.

But once again has the government been forced to adopt a populist principle. The attempt to let the banks regulate the amount of money in circulation resulted in bringing the country to the ragged edge of a gulf of despair. Destruction, not only to Wall street interests, but legitimate business all over the country, was staring the nation in the face. In this desperate situation Secretary Shaw was compelled to adopt, as far as possible, the populist doctrine that the government and not the bankers should control the volume of the circulation. When money was most needed to save business from destruction, the bankers began to retire their currency and make money more scarce. To stop the work of the bankers, to maintain the volume and increase it if possible, the secretary resorted to every governmental means within his reach and undertook by governmental action to control the volume of money in spite of the bankers.

The only two acts of congress in the interest of the common people who live on the farms and in the cities that have passed congress in the last thirty years was one forced through by the skill and active work of Tom Watson, a populist, and the other by the eleven populists who were in congress in 1893 and the latter, the income tax, was knocked out by a plutocratic supreme court, although to do it, they had to reverse the decisions of that court for a hundred years.

The events of the last decade have firmly established the soundness of populist principles. They are sure of final adoption as that this republic shall exist.

**WHAT'S YOUR POLITICS?**

They have been trying the Lincoln system of making a man publicly declare what party he affiliates with before they will allow him to register or vote at a primary. The voters at Boston did not accept this inquisitorial work with the same meekness that the citizens of this city have done. The Boston papers say that this inquiry of the election officers in regard to the person's politics was generally resented as an impertinence, and in many cases resulted in the person's refusal to vote. In one precinct booth, a middle-aged man, after giving his name and being admitted within the rail, was then accosted in the usual form employed: "We have three ballots here—republican, democratic and socialist; which one do you want to vote?" "I don't see that it is any of your business," declared the man, indignantly; and when the law was explained to him he turned on his heel and left, declaring that no man had heretofore known how he had voted,

and no one should know at this late date. At another precinct came an elderly man, who was asked the same question. The reply:

"Sir, that is none of your business. I have voted in East Boston for a number of years, and I don't want any man to inquire into my politics. I have a right to vote as I please."

The law is likely to create a good deal of uproar and cases will be brought to test its constitutionality. There being no populist party in Massachusetts, it disfranchises all those independent voters who will not say that they belong to either the republican, democratic, or socialist parties. Under the law there is no chance for the independent voter at all. He is put in the same category as the negro in the south.

**WILL THAT DAY COME?**

In a letter to the editor of The Independent one of the most distinguished men now living said: "The time will come when the subjugation of the Filipinos and the changing of this free republic into an empire will be made the paramount issue in a presidential campaign and I have faith enough in the love of liberty among the common people to believe that it will be decided right." Things are happening all the time that tend to show that the confidence placed in the love of liberty by the common people will have its fruition in the re-establishment of the doctrine of the Declaration of Independence.

The Independent noticed the arrival of a transport at New York bringing the bodies of 302 dead soldiers. The incident is attracting wide attention. The fact that there were 300 dead bodies in the hold of the vessel drove the passengers in hysterical efforts to dispel the gloom. One writer describes the long passage of some weeks as follows:

"All had agreed to dismiss sorrow the day they sailed for home. They stocked up with liquors at Singapore and indulged in a 'Dutch dinner,' which would not bear repetition. They had suppers, dances, balls, punctuated with varied revelry, and the last Thursday night got up a masquerade which surpassed the fondest expectations of its promoters."

A poet describes the horrible affair in these words:

"Now let's be merry!" the captain said,  
"We laugh at the skipper's curse—  
The living must live though the dead be dead,  
So here's to the floating hearse!  
And here's to the dying that huddle in crowds  
Where the pestilent breezes blow,  
And here's to the ghosts that grin in the shroud,  
And here's to the boys below!"

"Now form quadrille!" is the merry call;

They sway as the prompter bids;  
"Now swing your partners—balance all!"

Just over the coffin lids,  
The shrouded listen beneath their feet  
And whisper "A masquerade show!"  
And groans from above the dancers' greet  
And a laugh from the dead below.

**WHICH IS MORE SENSIBLE?**

From the very first organization of civilized society the fact has been recognized that there must be some things owned in common. At first the village streets, the court houses and a few other buildings were the only things so owned. As society grew more complex it was found that the public welfare necessitated the public ownership of still more things. Private highways upon which toll had to be paid by travelers were made public property, then little by little followed the public ownership of municipal utilities, such as waterworks, street car lines, gas, electricity and telephones.

The populist party from its beginning has recognized that there must be some things owned by the public, but

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- Tea siftings, per lb......124
- New crop Ceylon......29
- Imperial tea......30
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- Old Ceylon Java & Mocha coffee, per lb......20
- H. B. & C. Java & Mocha coffee, per lb......174

Our out of town patrons will bear in mind that we can furnish you with groceries as well as goods in any other line which we carry. If you have not received our special catalogues, we will be glad to mail you same upon receipt of name and address. When in Omaha, make this your headquarters.

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has been insistent that other things must remain in individual ownership. The division point between public and private ownership by the people's party has been that railroads, telegraphs, telephones, waterworks, gas, light, and in fact everything was a monopoly and in which practically all the people were interested, should become public property and that all other things in which one man or only a few men were interested should remain in private ownership. That is certainly as far as a majority of the people will go for a generation or two. It would not revolutionize society and government, as would the proposition for the common ownership of all the means of production and distribution. The populist proposition is sensible, sane and has been adopted in some degrees in so many cities and countries that it can no longer be denounced as an "experiment."

The socialists would have everything in common; the populists would have the things above enumerated. Which is the more sensible political program? Or shall we wait for revolution and try to reconstruct society anew upon the wreck that is left?

**HE WOULD N'T DO IT**

The Lincoln Star says: "If Abraham Lincoln were living and running as republican candidate for office in Nebraska he would be denounced as 'a railroad attorney,' 'a corporation tool,' etc. And yet some of the fusion organs have the nerve to claim to be Abraham Lincoln men."

Of course they would. They would be traitors to their principles if they did not. But if Lincoln were living he could not run on a republican ticket unless he proved traitor to all the principles the advocacy of which endear him to all mankind. How would Lincoln appear running on the imperialist state platform of the republican party? How would he explain away that Beardstown speech and scores of other speeches of the same character? Would he deny that he ever said anything about the sappers and miners of liberty? Would he deny that he ever gave an opinion about the phrase "all men" that appears in the Declaration of Independence. If George Washington or Thomas Jefferson should accept a nomination at the hands of the Nebraska railroads, on a John L. Webster platform, populists would de-

nounce them without any compunctions of conscience. But George Washington and Thomas Jefferson never did anything of that kind and therefore populists venerate their memory.

**AN UNEQUAL CONTEST**

The injustice of the proposition that is presented in the claim that a corporation has the right to make a contract with and hire separately each individual is preposterous. Now if it were really a single individual who did the hiring that sort of a contract would have something of justice and equality in it. While under the law a corporation is a "person," a single entity, the truth is that it is an organized aggregation of many persons, sometimes numbering thousands. When a workman undertakes to make a contract single and alone with a corporation, he is not dealing with an individual, but an organization of thousands of individuals acting together, and as one person. The claim that corporations and single wage-workers meet on an equality when making a contract is extremely absurd. It is thousands against one. Even the largest of the labor unions when acting together in making contracts with large corporations are not equal. The proposition sustained by the great plutocratic dailies that corporations have a right to demand that they deal only with single individuals in fixing the rate of wages has no foundation in justice whatever. It is simply a proposition to give to the rich the power to oppress and crush the poor. The contest is not only unequal as to numbers, but is much more so as to wealth. The wage-worker with his union is not only inferior in numbers, but he is poor and his opponent is rich. The corporations have a great advantage even when dealing with labor when it is organized. The plutocrats would give the corporations still greater advantage than that. They advocate the establishment of absolute tyranny over wage-workers. The saddest thing about the whole matter and which makes the skies grow blacker over the hopes and aspirations of labor is that most of them still continue to vote to build up the power and influence of the corporations.

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