

# The Independent.

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## LET'S WIN THIS TIME

A Final Word of Advice to Populists

For the fifth time this month The Independent devotes four or five of its best pages to the state campaign. Next week's issue will give the result.

Whether Judge Sullivan is to succeed himself on the supreme bench depends in great measure upon the populists of Nebraska.

Whether Dr. Weber and Prof. Jones will succeed the outgoing regents depends also in no small degree upon the populists of Nebraska.

And also upon the populists largely will rest the responsibility of determining whether a majority of the district judges, and the county officers are to be republicans or anti-republicans.

The democrats, too, must do their full duty if a victory is to be won; but The Independent is a populist paper and as such prefers to address itself first to its own party adherents, leaving to democratic papers the duty of speaking to democratic voters.

There are hundreds of good reasons why Judge Sullivan should be re-elected; not one for his defeat. He was the populist choice in 1897 and at no time in the six years has he given any cause for regretting that choice. He was unanimously renominated by the populists at Grand Island, because, notwithstanding he calls himself a democrat and affiliates with the democratic party, he is a better exponent of populism than many of our own party. His record on the bench shows him to be a consistent anti-monopolist. Without any pettifoggery or grandstand play his opinions and voice on the bench have always been to hold the railroad corporations strictly to the law, but to give them exact justice, and no more. His dissenting opinions in several railroad cases are models of clear reasoning and concise statement.

Of course, this is not what the railroads want. They live and rob the producers of wealth by means of special privileges in legislation, in administration and judicial decisions. Justice would mean an end to the robbery. But Judge Sullivan, always fearless and conscientious in his every act, has taken no advantage of popular clamor to make political capital for himself. The Omaha Bee sneers at his decision in the Rosewater-State Board mandamus tax case; but any layman knows that the supreme court has no power to assess railroad property and no right to require the board to reassess unless fraud is clearly proven. It is one thing to feel quite sure that the board was biased in favor of the railroads and quite another to prove the fact in court.

Had he been a political trimmer he might have catered to popular opinion by favoring a writ to compel reassessment; but he would have lost the respect of good lawyers, who know that the right way to get higher railroad taxes is by having a board with nerve to put up the assessment—and not by writ of mandamus.

And hundreds of republican lawyers are secretly favoring his re-election, but doing nothing openly—because every man Jack of them has aspirations to be governor or congressman or senator or judge himself some day; and the republican party is a strict disciplinarian!

Year by year the struggle between the farmers and the railroads becomes more intense. The farmers are learning this lesson better every day. Up to this time they are content with a fair and square deal; but if railroad domination continues for a few years as high-handed as it has in the past, and the supreme court passes under railroad control by the election of Judge Barnes, there may come a time when the farmers, aroused by the wrongs they have suffered in freight extortions and discriminations and railroad tax-shirking, will not be content with simple justice—they will demand restitution; and they'll get it!

There is always a calm before a storm, and apathy before a revolution. It may be that populist farmers will permit Judge Sullivan to be defeated, but if they do, there is no doubt that both they and the railroads will regret it—for Judge Sullivan's election this fall will be some check on rail-



THE FARMER—(October)—: "Look at my wealth!"

road rapacity and thus prevent the reprisals which will be sure to come some day if railroad arrogance continues to grow.

However, The Independent is inclined to believe that Judge Sullivan, the populist regents, and a majority of the populist district judges and county officers will be elected. There are plenty of populist and democratic voters to accomplish this—if they can be brought to the polls. It is true that a considerable number of Nebraska populists have removed to other states and their places are taken by Iowa and Illinois republicans—but there is still a majority against the republicans, if it votes.

The Independent suggests faithful compliance of every populist with the instructions sent out by Chairman Weber and Secretary Farris. Show your colors. Go early to the polls.

Stay all day. Work like a nailer. Be aggressive. Tell about the big increase in state taxes—not to pay off the big republican state debt, but to pay for republican extravagance. Tell about the \$270,000 increase in the state debt since the populists went out in 1901. Tell about the \$658,000 of state debt the populists paid off in four years. Comment on the "prosperity" prices for cattle and hogs, and the rising price of beef and pork. Mention the advance in freight rates. Discuss the new revenue law which will make the farmer's taxes sky-high and let the railroads off easy. Show how the railroads are treating the farmers' elevators.

Get your populist neighbor to go with you. Tell him it took all the corn ten thousand men shucked last election day to pay the increase in farmers' state taxes alone. Work hard



THE FARMER—(the next spring)—: "Where has it all gone? Who got it?"

for your county assessor—if he's the right kind of a man; but knife him if he has any railroad strings on him. The republican is the railroad party, and we have no business trying to compete.

Work hard for your district judge. If you are interested in a co-operative elevator, and have trouble with the railroads, you know what to expect from a republican judge.

If you have done your part, your county clerk has prepared the official ballot like the lower sample in last week's Independent. If so, vote by making a cross in the populist circle. Then if you want to scratch, make an "X" in the square at right of name of the opposition candidate you wish to favor. This is the right way to scratch.

But if your county clerk has euchred you by making a "Secretary Marsh" ballot, don't make a cross in the second circle—it is not a party circle at all—but make your X in the square after each man you vote for.

Stay and watch the count. See every ballot. See that it is read correctly and counted properly. Don't be bashful if you see any republican "skulduggery." Have the nerve to fight if need be. Keep track of ballots thrown out, if you think they ought not to be.

When the count is over, send the state committee or The Independent a sample ballot with the figures on everything down to the precinct ticket, and those, too, if you like.

The Independent assures every populist, whether fusionist or mid-road, that the loss of Judge Sullivan from the supreme bench means four years at least of railroad domination in the court of last resort. Both Sedgwick and Barnes are amiable gentlemen; but their training makes them lean to the railroads. They dare not rebel because the railroads will defeat any republican in convention who shows any independence, and no man wants his political future blasted if he can help it. Their party is tied hand and foot to the railroads. It cannot break away. Neither can they.

Let no question of future populist action cause you to neglect the ticket this year. What we do next year is to be decided next year. Our duty now is to elect Judge Sullivan.

Let us do it! Let's win this time!

### Tibbles at Broken Bow

Editor Independent: Col. T. H. Tibbles held one of the most enthusiastic populist meetings of the season at the court house in Broken Bow last Thursday night. Quite a number were present from a distance and everybody, including republicans, were of the opinion that the colonel was equal to the occasion and thoroughly understood his subject. He received round after round of applause and when through was greeted with a general handshake.

If the people could hear the colonel speak throughout the state there would be no question about the success of our ticket. He goes from here to Callaway, thence to Arnold and from there to Kearney.

His trip here has been a success; his speech has aroused new interest in populism and the prospects of getting our old-time majorities are favorable.

A. SUBSCRIBER.

Broken Bow, Neb.

### Valley County

The Independent finds it impossible to give personal mention of all the populist candidates for the various county offices over the state, but must make an exception in favor of Clem N. Meyers, populist candidate for sheriff of Valley county.

Mr. Meyers is one of the few populists in Nebraska who have worked in season and out for the success of the party. There are thousands of populists who are energetic part of the time, but Clem never sleeps it would seem. The Independent hopes that the returns next Tuesday will show the election of Mr. Meyers.

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