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INDIANA POPULISTS

ADDRESS BY THE
PEOPLE'S PARTY OF
INDIANA.

In accordance with the call issued by Hon. J. A. Edgerton, chairman of the committee of the Denver conference, a conference was held in the city of Indianapolis September 28, 1903, and in pursuance to the action of said conference the following address is issued:

To the Citizens of Indiana: The financial system and financial affairs of the country are so intimately, essentially and inseparably related to every important question in American politics that no party which attempts to exclude the financial question from the political issues is worthy of confidence, and no man who is wrong on that question ought to be trusted as a leader. There is something inherently and fundamentally at fault in either the education or the purposes of men who profess opposition to imperialism, colonialism and trusts and are willing that a bimetallic standard for the payment of debts may be abandoned, and that the sovereign prerogative of government to issue money may be surrendered to banks. The man has very little knowledge of financial history and economic experience, who is unable to see a causative relation between financial legislation during the last forty years and the development of commercial and industrial trusts, the growth of imperialistic tendencies—that have permeated our entire business organization with powers that govern without the consent of the governed—and the inauguration of a colonial policy—contrary to principles declared to be self-evident and upon which was founded our claim to freedom from foreign rule.

The people's party was the outgrowth of opposition to this legislation and was a protest against its consequent evils. The most explicit, the most courageous and the best expression of its principles and proposed policies are found in the platform of its national convention at Omaha.

Its members saw, with Jefferson, in debt, and, with Lincoln, in combined wealth, dangers threatening individual liberty and political freedom. It was an organized opposition to financial combinations that, for years, have been endeavoring, for the benefit of creditors, to increase the value of public debts by the destruction of the "greenback" legal tender notes, and a complete abandonment of silver as a standard of payment.

It is a matter of common knowledge that, prior to 1896, both the dominant parties were under the influence of these combinations. In that year the republican convention, under cover of the insincere, impossible and absurd declaration for international agreement, abandoned bimetallicism and made an unconditional surrender to Wall street influences and to the national banks. This action alienated many of its voters. The democratic convention, by its efforts to free itself from such influences, by its attempt to return to the principles of Jefferson, and by the incorporation in its platform of principles and policies for which the people's party had been contending, invited to its support those republicans and the populists of the state.

It was disclosed in the campaign that followed that there was little difference in political sentiments between the populists and republicans who abandoned the party after the convention in which it had discarded the teachings of Lincoln. It was demonstrated that there were hundreds of thousands of democrats who still believed Washington's "Farewell" to be the expression of patriotic wisdom, and who had not ceased to treasure the words of Jefferson as priceless gems of American statesmanship.

There was never any difference of opinion among the members of the people's party about the principles and policies of the Omaha platform, or about the teachings of Jefferson and Lincoln. Many, however, believed that a duty rested upon them to give their assistance to the democratic party, where the larger number of votes gave promise of an opportunity to advance these principles. Others had less confidence in the democratic leadership, and less hope that through

the democratic party the country would be benefited. They believed that better results would ultimately be attained by an attitude of antagonism to both it and the republican party.

After four campaigns in this state, with the knowledge gained by this experience, looking backward, we see that both "budded better than they knew." In no other way would the discussion of principles and policies—the same as embodied in the Omaha platform—have been listened to with open minds. In no other way could the prejudices engendered by a designing leadership have been so well circumvented and so completely disarmed. In no other way could the incompetency, the insincerity, and want of courage of men in control of the democratic organization in this state have been so completely exposed. These associations and discussions were in the highest degree educational. It is now no longer possible except in the minds of the stupidly ignorant, to create a prejudice against any declaration by calling it populism.

Whatever opinions we may have about the wisdom of past political actions and affiliations, those who gave support to the democratic party, because of principles declared in its platforms, are, by the actions of men in control of its organization in this state and by present political conditions, compelled to recognize the futility of any further efforts to assist it. The greater part of the democratic voters believe in every principle and policy of the Kansas City platform, but they have not within the party, and there is no reasonable probability that they ever will have, any organization that will enable them to control its conventions. Time after time have the desires and intentions of the voters been expressed in township and county primaries, and as often have they been thwarted in district and state conventions by an insincere and cowardly leadership. The victory of Jeffersonian democracy in the con-

vention of 1896 was a surprise to the representatives of combined wealth within the party. In 1900 they induced the convention to mislead the people by declaring an imperialistic effect to be paramount to a plutocratic cause. It is highly improbable they will permit the wishes of the honest voters to control the convention of 1904.

There is now no democratic organization in the state, except an organization of self-constituted leaders who are servants of corporations, trusts and national banks. This organization has no purpose except to advance the pecuniary interests of the men interested in it, and to induce the convention of 1904 to repudiate the most important declarations of the conventions of 1896 and 1900.

The present situation makes it opportune and important that the members of the people's party, united as they are in principle, should cease to be divided in political action. In such event, we believe it equally opportune and appropriate that they should be assisted and strengthened by all those who, with them, believe the principles of the Declaration of Independence to be fundamental and everlastingly true; who believe with Lincoln that "the principles of Jefferson are the axioms of free society;" that the rights of men and not property rights are the prime objects of government; who believe with Jackson that laws giving to banks special privileges and powers are especially wrong in principle and dangerous in tendency; who believe that railroad, telegraph and telephone lines, and all other natural monopolies should be owned and operated by the government; who believe that the sovereign prerogative of government to issue money ought never to be subject to the control of private interests; that a metallic currency ought to be bimetallic, of silver and gold, coined free, without limit and at the present legal ratio; that all paper money should be issued by the government directly; that all money should be full legal tender in payment of all debts, public and private, and never be permitted to be limited by contract; who believe in the principles of direct legislation and desire every

practicable application of them to be made.

We, therefore, advise, in harmony with the spirit and purpose of the Denver conference, that, in every county in this state, appropriate steps be taken to bring about united action to the end that there may, at the proper time, be held a state convention of all those who believe the principles and are in accord with that which is herein specifically expressed or by mention approved.

Without any desire to dictate the action of such convention when assembled, we suggest that it will be in harmony with our feelings if the name "people's party" is continued and if candidates nominated shall appear on the official ballot under the emblem of the plow and hammer.

Indianapolis, Sept. 28, 1903.

ADAM P. HANNA,
FLAVIUS J. VAN VORHIS,
SAMUEL W. WILLIAMS,
Committee.

THOS. MARSHALL,
F. J. S. ROBINSON,
HARRISON OGBORN,
J. C. SMITH,
JOHN W. GEORGE,
W. E. HURLEY,
DAVID ANDERSON,
FRANCIS D. CRAIG,
DR. A. T. KEIGHTLEY,
W. B. GILL,
WILLIAM SMITH,
F. YERKES,
HIRAM MAINE,
J. F. CALLEN,
MATTHEW B. STILLWELL,
JOHN MEDERT.

MISSOURI POPULISTS

Davies County Conference a Success—
Denver Conference and Omaha
Platform Endorsed

From the Missouri World we learn that at a meeting of the mid-road and fusion populists at Gallatin, October 17, all agreed to join hands in harmony and present a solid front to hoodlums and tricksters, bossism and corruption, and stand true to the Omaha platform, and bid adieu to fusion with either the democratic or republican party.

A ringing address by Hon. I. J. Teagarden elicited good attention by all present, and no doubt some went away with facts about the Missouri legislature and legislation presented to them that will cause them to think before casting their next ballot.

A few well directed shots from Hon. D. H. Bashford, the oldest apostle of populism in Davies county (the name that Governor Dockery gave him) were applauded by the convention.

The following resolutions were adopted:

First—We indorse the Denver conference and the Omaha platform, and are determined to fight to the last ditch or win.

Second—We believe that it is the duty of everyone who is interested in the welfare of the present and future generations, the uplifting of humanity, our constitutional rights, and an honest ballot and honestly counted, to use every honorable means to awaken the slumbering thoughts of the people of impending danger.

W. R. Tribby was re-elected county chairman and J. A. Smith, secretary. Township committeemen were appointed to act until such could be elected by popular vote.

A contribution of \$3.50 was collected for state fund, and \$3.75 to be applied to purchasing literature to distribute in the county.

Following are the township committeemen appointed:

Washington township, A. L. Netherton; Benton, Thomas James; Marion, T. J. Fleming; Jefferson, James Foxworthy; Liberty, Ellaha Brown; Jamesport, J. A. Smith; Grand River, Saml Doty; Harrison, L. T. Dale.

J. A. SMITH,
County Secretary.

Editor Independent: As for myself, I am willing to "stand pat" on the address issued by the committee at the Denver conference, until the government issues all the money and the transportation is for the benefit of the people, and not for the benefit of a few Wall street manipulators, will the "blessings of liberty" be insured to ourselves and our posterity.

D. S. PEDRICK,
Bridgeport, N. J.

DEL MAR EDITION

Next Issue Devoted
to Review of Mr. Del
Mar's Books.

As was previously announced, the issue next week (November 19) will be devoted principally to a review of Hon. Alexander Del Mar's books on the precious metals, monetary systems, the science of money, etc., a work which has engaged his attention since 1857 when he first formed the design of writing a history of the precious metals. This led to his study of money. In 1862 he published "Gold Money and Paper Money" and in 1865 "Essays on the Treasury." For the past twenty years Mr. Del Mar has given practically his whole time to original research in the great libraries and coin collections of Europe on the subject of the history of money and finance, and the result of these investigations is embodied in a number of volumes of rare value.

Mr. Del Mar is the one political economist upon whom populists may rely for authority in support of their position on the question of money and finance. Portions of Ricardo, Mill, Walker, may be cited, but the careless use of English by Ricardo gives him the unique distinction of being referred to as authority by widely divergent schools of economists. By him the populists prove the quantitative theory of money; by him the socialists prove the "intrinsic value" or "labor crystals" idea; to him for inspiration go monometallist, bimetallic, and no-metallist. But there is no mistaking what Mr. Del Mar means. His English is unsurpassed not only for elegance of style and purity of diction, but for strength as well. He does hesitate to call a spade a spade.

Notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Del Mar's researches led him unhesitatingly to the conclusion that no "free coinage" of any metal ought ever to be permitted, yet he gave gallant support to the propaganda for the restoration of silver to the place it held prior to 1873—not because that

was theoretically the correct solution, but because it seemed more expedient and lessened the evils existing by extending the privilege to more than one metal. Besides, he saw that it was easier to make the mass of the people understand "free coinage" of both gold and silver than it would be to teach them the necessity for abolition of free coinage altogether. But the elections of 1896 and 1900 decided the fate of free coinage of silver. The next step is to abolish the privilege for owners of gold bullion and require government to buy whatever metal or other material it may need for coinage and coin only "on government account." In no other way can congress exercise its constitutional prerogative to—

"Coin money and regulate the value thereof."

The Independent expects to send a marked copy of the Del Mar Edition to the officers of every grange in America. No other class of citizens have greater reason for desiring a just system of money than the farmers. Every grange should have a set of Mr. Del Mar's books and a regular course of reading should be instituted for this coming winter. Copies of the edition will be sent in bundles to one address at the rate of one cent each. If to be sent to lists of names furnished by the purchaser, add another cent for postage—the Madden rules require such papers to be stamped.

The Del Mar Edition will present a fund of information on the question of money, making it a valuable paper for future reference. The principal review will be of Mr. Del Mar's "History of Monetary Systems," but smaller notices will be made of his "History of the Precious Metals," "Ancient Britain," "Barbara Villiers," "Science of Money," etc.