

Smith county would have been dead long ago if all the statesmen had been as cheap as McCormick.

Dr. J. T. Polson, Laclede, Mo.: "I am much pleased with the plan of enrollment, but more pleased to know that energy and system are to be employed in reorganizing. There are a number in this (Linn) county who can and will join the Old Guard of Populism and who can be depended upon in the work. If you will send me about twenty enrollment blanks—if it will not interfere with your plans—I will see them and enroll them myself. . . . There is more populist sentiment here than ever before and, with democracy reorganized, the populist vote, in my judgment, will be something surprising." (I have sent Dr. Polson the 20 blanks. His idea is good. Others ought to adopt the same course.)

H. C. Patzward, R. F. D. 1, El Reno, Okla.: "I hope that your efforts may result in an organization that will avoid the errors of the past and endeavor to practice, within its power, the principles we advocate."

A. C. Barton, Danville, Ill.: "Yes, sir; I indorse all you call for in your circular. I am a straight Jesse Harper populist, from the crown of my head to the soles of my feet. Have been in the middle of the road since 1876 and have always opposed fusion."

B. N. Cleaveland, Fremont, Neb.: "You can count on me as a member of the Old Guard of Populism until death ends my career on earth."

J. O. Smith, Ord, Neb.: "I am stronger in the faith than ever before. I cast my vote for Weaver in 1892 and have voted the 'fusion' ticket ever since—but no more fusion for me. . . . The people's party must rise again."

L. R. Fletcher, Bancroft, Neb.: "I am one of the Old Guard and proud to own it. . . . There is no populist organization in Cuming county—fusion swallowed it, boots and breeches. There were at one time about 400 populists in the county, and I think they are here yet and will be heard from when independence is declared."

W. C. Starkey, Violet, Neb.: "There are many true populists here, but the past few years of fusion has disorganized the county. . . . I honestly opposed fusion because, when a greenbacker in Ohio, the same policy was pursued in the campaign of 1879. Then fusion with democracy demoralized our party. The fusion candidate for governor, Thomas Ewing, was beaten by a large majority, and the greenback vote of nearly 50,000 fell off to 12,000. I was a candidate for the legislature and felt the blow as a straight party candidate."

**CALL FOR MEETING OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE.**

Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 10, 1903.—The national executive committee of the people's party of the United States, in session at Memphis, Tenn., this 10th day of December, 1093, begs leave to congratulate the earnest reform voters of the United States on the rapid spread of those great principles of human government enunciated in the Omaha platform of 1892, and for which our organization has steadfastly contended, since the beginning.

The political history of the past few years has only served to strengthen our position, and to draw the attention of patriotic voters to the principles involved in our political creed, until it is today a generally accepted theory that government ownership of monopolies is better than monopoly ownership of government, although through the manipulation of political machines by the monopolies now controlling the public utilities of the country, there has been but little legislation looking to public ownership.

The political history of the past

few years has taught several invaluable lessons to those who would reform existing abuses, the most important of which is that fusion or co-operation with either of the old parties is a failure, destined to spread confusion among reformers and to destroy our organization. It has also taught that a divided reform movement can accomplish but little. While in the past honest differences of opinion have divided our ranks, and lent consolation to our enemies and the despoilers of the people, we recommend as the future policy of our party that reformers of all factions bury their minor differences and unite on the essential principles that will restore to the people the power to conduct the government free from the dictation of an oligarchy of the "idle holders of idle capital."

To this end we hereby call the national central committee of the allied people's party to meet at the New St. James hotel, in St. Louis, Mo., February 22, at 10 o'clock a. m., to fix a time and place for a national convention to nominate candidates for president and vice president of the United States, and we invite the committees of other reform parties to meet at the same time and place, looking to a practical union of the reform forces of the country in the approaching national campaign. We especially invite the representatives of organized labor, as it is the policy of the people's party to support the worthy efforts of organized labor in its struggles against organized capital, and believing that the final relief of labor rests solely in an intelligent and well directed ballot, we urge the co-operation of the labor forces in our conventions and at the polls.

We indorse the action of the recent Denver conference in looking to re-union of the people's party on the old lines, and extend our hands in fraternal greeting to our co-laborers of the great northwest who have in the past been misled by false promises, only to now be offered as a sacrifice to Mammon.

There is widespread dissatisfaction in the republican party; the democratic party has abandoned the west and is now engaged in concluding an alliance with the capitalistic forces of the east. The way is now clear for the patriotic men and women of all parties to unite on those essential principles of human liberty, and to this end we pledge our earnest endeavors.

JO A. PARKER, Chairman.

Louisville, Ky.  
(Reform papers please copy.)

**LIFE OF JESSE HARPER.**

Hon. A. C. Barton, of Danville, Ill., has in preparation a biography of the "Life and Labors of Col. Jesse Harper." It will contain about 420 pages, 5 1-4 by 7 1-2, bound in cloth. In order to assist him in getting out the first edition, it is necessary that a considerable number of populists send Mr. Barton advance orders, which he will accept at the rate of \$1 per copy. After the edition is printed the price will be \$1.25. Members of the Old Guard of Populism who began back in the days of Peter Cooper and Jesse Harper ought to take this matter up, for the sake of the days of auld lang syne, and see that Mr. Barton receives sufficient orders right away to bring out the work.

**SEMI-SOCIALIST.**

Dr. J. H. Lackey, Canton, Ky., who is a member of the Butler national committee, enrolls as a member of the Old Guard of Populism, saying: "I still feel an interest in the old party—but I fear the old party's day of usefulness is past. I am nearly a full-blooded socialist. Believe the people's party has been a sort of schoolmaster to bring us to socialism. In my county canvass I made my text these words from the preamble of the Omaha platform: 'Wealth belongs to those who create it'—and I think they ought to have it. . . . Let's get the populists and socialists together—there is but little difference in their aims."

I have discussed this elsewhere in this report.—Dr. Lackey is what Hon. O. D. Jones of Edina, Mo., terms an "American socialist"—which is little else than a very radical populist. Perhaps the ultimate aim of all well-wishers of the human race is the same—but where methods are so different, it doesn't look much like getting together. The socialist nurses a "proletarian" movement and sees his cause advanced by any legislation which tends to bankrupt the small property owners—the "middle class"—because the real revolution, as he sees it, is to be fought out between the plutocrats and the propertyless. The populist, nine cases out of ten, is himself a "middle class" man and is not welcoming any legislation which will reduce him to the ranks of the "pro-



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letariat." It is idle to expect any "getting together" of two antagonistic organizations, as these undoubtedly are. Few populists will willingly go through hell in order to reach heaven, if they can see a different road; and the socialists insist that all must travel the route they have picked out.

**A DUES-PAYING MEMBERSHIP.**  
Jo A. Parker, Louisville, Ky., chairman national committee of the allied people's party, accompanied his call for the St. Louis meeting (Feb. 22) with the following comment:  
"An organization such as you propose ought to be based on carefully constructed lines and made a dues-paying organization. No other plan will furnish us the necessary sinews of war. The people's party is today scattered to the four winds, and fusion and poverty have done it. We can steer clear of fusion in the future and can overcome our poverty if we have a dues-paying organization, where everyone who has a voice in the councils of the party must contribute his mite."

Correct. I had this in mind at the time I first thought of enrolling the Old Guard of Populism, but said nothing about it for the reason that formal action will be necessary to make the people's party an organization of dues-paying members; and, in view of the fact that there are now two national committees, with the additional

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