

# The Independent.

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## Some Pertinent Suggestions.

What a Number of Populists  
Think Ought to be Done

### MASSACHUSETTS.

Editor Independent: It was Josh Billings who gave us a bit of sage advise, "Never prophesy unless you know." Prophecy is either intuitive or it is a calculation based upon the belief that certain causes operating in the present will in the future produce certain results.

A political party at any time is but the expression of political sentiment that already exists. A political sentiment can readily create leaders who have a following; or leaders can create themselves without a political following if they so desire. Why do we blame our leaders for the result in St. Louis, in 1896? Were they leaders or were they followers? We, who loved the people's party, as we never again will a political love, did we deliver it for sacrifice or did the wave of public sentiment, vibrated by the great magnetic force, sweep everything before it as it swept us into our glorious and never to be forgotten conventions of earlier years? Why do we chafe at results if we have the testimony of our conscience that we did our duty so far as we could understand it? And that is the key note of this hour; let each one do his duty—never mind results that are with a higher power.

Twelve years ago the people's party had a monopoly. Reform was in thick layers; and there was no political party to voice the sentiment until the people's party came into existence. We educated the people so well that they shook both the old party conventions, and took the democratic machine away from its capitalistic leadership and set up business with a portion of our stock in trade. That took a number of our customers who were using our brand of goods.

Now there are indications that this same old democratic machine has forgotten the bad case of fever and ague which afflicted it previous to 1896 and is about to offer a Gorman brand of nigger-in-the-woodpile goods as a substitute for our genuine and only reliable brand of populism for home consumption made under fair conditions.

Our other competitors are also in trouble; Mr. Roosevelt was admitted to be a silent partner—very silent—and the irony of fate has made him IT. Please spell "it" with a big "I." Anyone who approaches him must do so in the spirit of "I am as nothing in thy sight; do with me as thou wilt." Fancy Mark Hanna and some other republicans doing it! Therefore the republican quarrels; the outer circle catches only the reflections; while the inner circle shudders at what may happen next. Roosevelt's star brooks no division in leadership.

The success of the people's party, numbered in votes, has been dependent upon what the old parties did or did not do, and not upon what our leaders have done. The duty of populists is to preach the gospel of populism wherever they may be. Populism will come again. Therefore let us who are numbered in the Old Guard make the old home attractive; just let it be known that the people's party, dealing only in honest and reliable political offerings, can be found in its old location, where it will be pleased to welcome its old customers and all others who want full political value for their political patronage.

Mr. Editor, once more let us gather in St. Louis, February 22, 1904, to renew "old acquaintance," to sing the old songs, to pause for a moment while we recall the names of a host of genial, companionable, whole-souled men, who thought that the sun of reform, which shone so brightly when our party was formed, would soon pass to the mid-heaven; but doomed to disappointment they fought the fight, kept the faith and passed to the genuine reward which does not depend on the success of a political party—the knowledge of duty done.

E. GERRY BROWN.

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### KENTUCKY.

Editor Independent: It is yet too early to forecast the future



"Papa says there won't be any Santa Claus this year."

(There will be no visit from Santa Claus to the homes of the 1,250,000 recently discharged wage workers, and very small gifts, if any, to 475,000, whose wages have been reduced from 17 to 20 per cent.)

with any degree of certainty as regards the actions of the republican and democratic parties. Congress is now in regular session, and questions of national importance will be up for consideration. The Cuban question, the Panama question, the isthmian canal question, the insular question, the currency question and the tariff question will all be up for discussion at an early date. It remains to be seen what disposition the republican party will make of them.

Something is liable to take place that will change the sentiment of the people, and a reaction take place against President Roosevelt, that will place him on the shelf for all time to come. In fact, it begins to look now like he is becoming entirely too strenuous for some of the bosses. If Senator Hanna could be prevailed on to accept the nomination, the leaders, hangers-on and grafters would desert Roosevelt at once and line up under the banner of Hanna.

While the question of organized labor will not be up for discussion in congress, it is a question that will have to be dealt with by the political parties. It is a foregone conclusion that the republican convention will take advance ground in favor of organized labor and make a bid for that vote. Their past record is against them, and this will mean nothing but to catch the unwary and suckers. No thinking labor man could for a moment believe they were sincere in any promise along that line. But with Roosevelt the nominee and a wholesome plank in the platform, a great many voters could be easily hood-

It is not so hard to outline the policy of the democrats. The solid south will support any man or any platform. The race problem is of more importance to the south than any other question. Consequently, the wants and demands of the south will be entire ignored. The platform will hold out every inducement to organized wealth, and nothing to organized labor. The reactionary democrats will control the convention and nominate Gorman or some one whom he will name. They will get a conservative central western man to accept the place on the tail of the ticket. Then with a large campaign fund

they will try and sweep the country as they did in 1892.

Of course, a large number of western democrats will bolt. But western democracy has never counted much in the electoral college. The idea prevails with the reactionary democrats that with this disturbing element out of the party, they will be relieved of an incubus. Strenuous measures will be used if necessary to force this element out of the party; believing that the corporations of the central west, and capitalists of the east will rally to their support as they did in 1892, when the western democrats supported Weaver and Fields. Organized wealth can have no confidence in the party as long as they believe there is a probability of its being dominated by western leaders. They conclude that for every democrat lost to the party in the west they will join two republicans in the east and central west. With the solid south and New York, they can buy New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Delaware. Should they lose any of these states they hope to make the loss good by carrying Indiana and possibly Illinois.

Now, if these predictions come true, there is no place for the bolters to go but to the people's party; provided, the party has an organization sufficiently strong to offer them inducements.

There is another important idea that should not be lost sight of. If the democrats should be successful under the leadership of Gorman or some other reactionary democrat, it will be regarded as a blow to the strenuous policies of Roosevelt, and within the next few years there will be a split in the republican party. With conservative actions on the part of the people's party they can profit by this division as they will be benefited by the disaffection in the democratic camp.

By all means the people's party organization should be kept in force where it can be. The party has already done a great work, and there is a greater work for it in the future. Its principles are just, and will sooner or later be crystallized into law. The people might not next year rush into it in great numbers. But the time will soon come when they will rally

under its banner and strike for man against money. The hope of a restitution of our government to what our fathers intended, is in a new party. Patience, time and labor will work wonders. We should all remember that justice travels with a leaden heel, but when it strikes it is with an iron arm.

R. C. CRENSHAW,  
Hopkinsville, Ky., R. F. D. 4.

### TEXAS.

You ask me what of the night and what are the signs of promise? Will the people's party rally again and come forth full orb'd for the battle of 1904? Since the great blunder of 1896, the first sign of the dawn of a better day was the Denver conference. The people are beginning to believe that the men who composed that conference were in earnest and all eyes are now turned to the meeting of the national committees on the 22d of February.

If that meeting shall be well attended and if all of us shall stand together for a straight ticket, on a platform embracing the fundamental principles of populism as set forth in the old Omaha platform of 1892, with direct legislation added, then again in every nook and corner of this great country you will see the fires of populism blazing.

Since the Denver conference I have been nearly all over Texas and talked with hundreds of men and all tell me that there is no hope of reform legislation at the hands of either old party; nor do they believe that there is any hope from the vagaries of socialism. The consensus of opinion everywhere is that the only hope of the country is in the principles of populism, and around that banner the boys of 1892 will rally again and thousands of free silver democrats will be added to their ranks.

The indifference manifested now by the people everywhere is only the calm before the storm. The democratic party is today camping on the same ground occupied by the republicans in 1900, and in their next national convention the Cleveland element of the party will control and a man in full sympathy with Wall street and the great corporations will be named for the head of their ticket.

When this occurs, and no thinking man doubts it, then the break from the ranks of the two old plutocratic parties will begin and true, unadulterated populism can furnish them a political home; and my judgment is we should now stand firm, throw our banners to the breeze, secure a full attendance of the members of both committees at St. Louis, as well as leading populists from all parts of the country.

Yes, I presume I may be called one of the Old Guard. I abandoned the democratic party in 1872 when Horace Greeley was their candidate. Was a greenbacker, a union labor man, and a populist; and up to this good day have never voted an old party ticket since. Long live The Independent and its editors. It and the Watchman of Texas form a strong team.

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Member National Committee,  
Cleburne, Tex.

### PENNSYLVANIA.

Editor Independent: Yours of recent date, requesting my opinion relative to the people's party, has been received and considered.

First—As to the future, I believe the two old parties will nominate candidates from the plutocratic class, who will favor trusts and banks.

Second—The populists can be again organized for battle, if we get proper leaders. I recognize W. V. Allen as a good person to place on such a ticket for president. Williams of Massachusetts would make a good running mate for Mr. Allen. Allen is an ex-union soldier and that would help him in his race.

Third—I look for a rally and another race by the people's party, and while I say Allen for president, I think Bryan might accept the place.

Fourth—We should have a grand