

old boys to do this work all over again for very few of them ever received any perquisites. These have gone principally to the half-baked railroad pass brigade that followed in the wake of the Old Guard and never contributed a dollar or showed any enthusiasm until a prospect for an office was in sight."

W. E. Mullikin, Somerset, Neb.: "I am pleased to send you blank filled out for membership in the Old Guard of Populism. I believe that the Old Guard could be used to good advantage as a medium to organize the socialists, prohibitionists, single taxers, silver republicans, reformers, etc., into a direct legislation league with auxiliaries, with no other plank except that the people shall rule; that is a question agitating the public mind which shall be presented to the voter for his approval. We should enroll a membership in such an organization that would surprise the natives. As we view the present status of political conditions, the reform elements must be brought together to accomplish reform without a revolution."

N. H. Webb, M. D., Clareville, Tenn.: "Enroll me as one of the Old Guard of Populism. I am a Tom Watson populist."

J. K. Reid, Lily, Fla.: "I have been a populist ever since the party was organized and expect to remain so. There are more populists in our country today than there ever were, if we had any leader. Enter my name as one of the Old Guard of Populism." (Seems to be a difference of opinion regarding that question of leadership. Indiana populists insist they do not need any leaders, and do not want any.—De France.)

Wm. D. Howard, box 242, Albion, Neb.: "I have no other desire than to be enrolled in the Old Guard of Populism. The principles laid down in the Omaha platform have been, are now, and always will be good enough for me. I consider the Denver conference was timely and wise and believe the delegates at Grand Island who precipitated the tabling of that conference resolution will see the time that will prove they made a grand mistake."

Wm. Floyd Howard, box 242, Albion, Neb.: "I also wish to join the Old Guard of Populism. My father's sentiments are also mine."

M. J. Williams, West Plains, Mo.: "I will be in line when the bugle sounds. If we never accomplish anything we will have the pleasure of knowing that we are right. I hope the Old Guard of Populism is not being enrolled for the purpose of being turned over to Bryan or some other old party man; if it is, please excuse me." (The Old Guard of Populism is being enrolled in harmony with the work of the Denver conference; and this conference said that "we believe the time is now at hand when the united people's party should declare itself emphatically opposed to any affiliation with either of those parties and unqualifiedly in favor of independent national political action." I shall turn the list of Old Guards over to the next national committee of the people's party.—De France.)

J. P. Jarrell, Godley, Tex.: "Please enroll my name among the Old Guard of Populism, for I have been one ever since the party was organized. I hope to see populism prevail in 1904."

John Maribush, R. F. D. 1, Esbon, Kas.: "The Denver conference is all right. Enroll me in the Old Guard of Populism."

A. R. Wright, Strang, Neb.: "Enroll me as a member of the Old Guard of Populism. The address of the Denver conference sounds like the long lost and forgotten Declaration of Independence."

W. F. Peters, Tolar, Tex.: "I am living away out here in western Texas and there are no populists near me, but I want to be enrolled as one of the Old Guard of Populism."

T. W. Winn, Covington, Tenn.: "I was one of the very first in my county to espouse the cause of populism. I spent three years lecturing on the principles enunciated in the Omaha platform, freely giving of my means to advance the cause, believing as I did then—and do now—that the principles therein set forth would be the bulwark of the nation in the coming ordeal through which we are called to pass."

B. F. Arnold, Nashville, Ark.: "A referendum nomination would be in

line with our teachings. Why preach a thing and not practice it? There is my hand for straight populism and a big victory this year; shake!"

J. D. Tucker, R. F. D. 2, Valparaiso, Ind.: "Add my name and that of John Blakeman, Winfield, Ind., to the roster of the Old Guard. We are greenbackers and still in the fight for the Omaha platform."

A. H. Livingston, West Plains, Mo.: "Am certainly gratified with progress you are making toward the reorganization of our forces. Your plan was a splendid thought. It gives us a starting point. While we mid-road populists, who live in mossback democratic states—suffering untold abuse and persecution at the hands of pie-hunters and hoodlums—had about given you fusionists over to satan and the democratic party, we are more than rejoiced to see you take the lead for reorganization and aggressive party action. It gives us new courage and hope, and we will be found doing our full share toward upbuilding the party on a firm basis. The disclosures here in Missouri of hoodling, bribery, and all kinds of villainy on the part of as corrupt a political machine as ever dominated any state, will give you some idea why we refused to abandon our party and support a party as corrupt as the republican party dared to be. But this is now all of the past and let us stand together as brothers and patriots until our country is rescued from the insatiable god of greed and the government, from one end to the other, given into the hands of the plain, honest, common people."

Vincent J. Stedry, Broken Bow, Neb.: "Enclosed find 50 cents to help populism along. No new parties for me, for I believe that populism stands as good a show as any party that can be started, if the thing can be kept clean."

John Long, Colfax, Wash.: "I never have doubted the final triumph of the principles of the people's party. My knowledge of history and faith in a just God assures me that darkness cannot resist light or wrong resist right, for this is a conflict between darkness and light or right and wrong. Jesus taught that if the blind led the blind both would fall into the ditch. The ditches are certainly being dug and the blind politicians and editors are leading the blinded voters into them."

Wm. A. Lassiter, Barber, Ark.: "My health is bad, I being past 71 years of age; but am still strong in the faith and expect to die so, though by the feebleness of age I am unable to do much."

A KENTUCKY SPECIAL.

Hon. J. J. Streeter, editor of the Vineland (N. J.) Independent, and father of the Cincinnati plan of organization, noting that the third weeks' enrollment of the Old Guard of Populism showed only two names from Kentucky, sends in a list of 135 Kentucky names and a couple of dollars for postage. I sent this list the prospectus Wednesday, and hope to get big results from it. Mr. Streeter takes issue with me on the question of whether the St. Louis meeting shall decide on a convention or referendum nomination. He says: "I differ from you. Samuel Williams holds the key to the situation and can legally call a central district convention and so proceed with the work of division and subdivision by properly utilizing the enrollment you are making." Doubtless that is true as far as concerns the allied people's party, but the wing having Chairman Butler at the head has never adopted the Cincinnati plan. And if the two wings are to unite according to agreement at the Denver conference, each has a right to say something as to the plans for future work. Mr. Williams has had three years in which to call this central district convention; it might have been done long before the Denver conference.

I trust Brothers Streeter, Parker, Park, Mallett, Bodenhamer, and others, will pardon me if I refrain from taking part in any of their controversies over what has been done, or neglected to be done, in the past in the way of giving the Cincinnati plan a fair trial. I had no hand in its adoption and am not a part of that wing of the people's party which did adopt it. I know but little, and care even less, as to who is the correct historian. The past is beyond recall. I am looking to the immediate present and the future in the Old Guard enrollment and have no criticisms to make of any of these gentlemen, because I haven't time now to study ancient history, even if I had the inclination so to do.—De France.

A QUESTION OF ILL GRACE.

I am somewhat at a loss to understand just what Mr. Howell is driving at in the letter below, which accom-

panied his request to be enrolled as a member of the Old Guard of Populism. His enrollment has been entered and will appear next week. He says:

"Charles Q. De France, Assistant Secretary: 'Why not in 1904?' Under the quoted heading, Mr. Dixon voiced honesty of purpose. Convention rule means corruption, bossism, ultimate betrayal. The man who suggests it is too late to inaugurate honest measures in party management, usually proves to be one who really does not want fair, honest rule. Your suggestion, if carried into effect, will prove the finish of populists as a party. Then, in view of the past, such a suggestion comes with ill grace from Nebraska. I value populist principles enough to raise my voice against such a suggestion; and with the most charitable consideration I can see it, it looks very suspicious. Populists have been betrayed quite often enough. JAMES L. HOWELL, Poplar, Cal."

Well, I have not doubted Mr. Dixon's honesty of purpose. Neither have I opposed the plan to nominate by direct vote—but, on the contrary, have been doing a little toward making it possible to nominate that way. Mr. Howell has a perfect right to be just as suspicious as he chooses and to make whatever charges of "ill-grace" he may deem proper. But after he has worked as many hours under high pressure as I have in the past six weeks in this enrollment work, his temper will not be any sunnier than mine is right now.

It is easy to TALK about direct nominations—but it takes WORK to make them. I have been five weeks enrolling 511 names. How long will it take at that rate to get in touch with half a million people? Perhaps, after he has figured a little, Mr. Howell will not be so suspicious.—De France.

F. M. Clifton, Kaufman, Tex.: "Please give Mr. Geo. A. Groot and Mrs. Lydia Butler my thanks for their two articles in The Independent. They are worth the price of the paper one year."

W. R. Tribbey, Gallatin, Mo.: "I voted the democratic ticket straight until they got a president, house of representatives, and a senate; then they did just what they accused the republicans of doing in 1873—repealed the Sherman law and gave us nothing in the way of a change. Then the republicans met in convention at St. Louis and indorsed the wise course that the preceding administration had followed! I was going to winter my vote for a few years, but an old populist, who has since gone from his labors, gave me the Missouri World with the Omaha platform and since that time I have been a populist, rooted and grounded in the faith, and will be in the trench if the rest all leave. I am prepared to defend populist principles anywhere. I can't say I am an Old Guard, but I am a faithful young guard."

T. W. Ray, Lois, Ga.: "I am still in the cause of justice and humanity and am rejoiced at the results of the Denver conference. May the members of that conference stand as firm in the future as they did the day they met these wayward brothers and welcomed them back to the cause of justice and equal rights. I am glad to be called one of the Old Guard, having been in the cause since the day of its birth and am proud that I have."

J. W. Maher, El Reno, Okla., general agent for the Oklahoma Farmers' Mutual Indemnity association, sends \$3 to help pay expenses of enrolling the Old Guard of Populism, and says: "I am still a strong believer in the Omaha platform, and will continue so until there is a better one framed, which, in my judgment, has not been done yet. Had we lived strictly to the principles of our platform, we today could dictate to both old parties, but we wandered away from the principles laid down in our platform and today we are drifting away, not knowing where to land, like a mariner at sea who has lost his rudder. But let the past be a warning, and an educator to us all, and let us begin the year 1904 with a firm resolution to reorganize and stay by our party and not be ready to swap our party principles for office or promise of same."

A. Gammon, Ore, Mo.: "It is very gratifying to see the boys all along the line answering to your noble call to action. I wish my name placed on the Old Guard roll and hope that it may be preserved, for coming generations will honor it if possible more than we now do those noble men who signed the Declaration in 1776. We have no organization in this county now, but hope the day is not far off when there will be. I must admit that it takes a fellow with a stiff backbone

here now to say, 'I am a populist,' but I am very proud to be called one even now. I fear those who wish the party name changed have not been all along the trail. Hope all nominations for officers in both state and nation be made by a referendum vote in 1904; it will add more strength to our grand old party than many think. Enclosed find \$1."

SMITH COUNTY, KANSAS.

I have begun the work of sending out blanks on which to report the county organization complete. The first return comes from Smith county, Kansas, showing names of the 25 precincts, with committeemen therefor and their postoffice addresses. There are 25 members of the county committee.

Smith is probably the banner county for populism in Kansas. Secretary J. A. Wright of the county committee informs me that he has just purchased The Messenger, a democratic paper at Smith Center, and converted it into a populist journal. "It will surely be 'pop' to the core," he says. This is good news. Mr. Wright says there are 12 populist papers in his congressional district (6th). Populist papers will see that The Messenger is put on their exchange list.

CHARLES Q. DE FRANCE, Assistant Secretary, Lincoln, Neb.

Exchange List

A splendid 3-story brick business block, well located, in Lincoln; rents for \$200 per month. Price, \$24,000. There is a mortgage of \$6,000 at 5 1/2 per cent against this property; this can run as long as desired. Owner will trade his equity for \$5,000 cash and balance for good land. Here is a proposition that pays 10 per cent on the money invested—can you put your money out to better advantage? Write us about this if interested.

We have a stock of dry goods and clothing that will invoice about \$25,000, together with a fine 2-story, double brick store room worth \$12,000—located in one of the best county seat towns in Nebraska—store is doing a good business. Will trade this property for good clear land. The owner wishes to move to California and will close out his business for land that will rent to good advantage.

A fine 2-story brick building, 24x66, on a lot 50x140; 10 large pleasant living rooms on the second floor, bath room and every convenience, finished in hard wood, etc. Store room is equipped with plate glass windows, entire building lighted with electricity, good cellar under whole building, barn on rear of the lot, building occupied by a stock of groceries and gents furnishings; the stock and building is worth \$10,000. Will trade for good land. This is located in a good town in Gage county.

Beautiful home 4 blocks from the college buildings in College View (a suburb of Lincoln); good 6-room house with summer kitchen, cellar, well, wind mill and cistern, also barn, 5 acres of land—2 in fruit, 2 in tame grass and beautiful lawn around the house. Price \$2,500. This to trade for good piece of land.

We have a fine list of fruit farms in California to trade for land in eastern Nebraska. For example: 23 acres half mile from town; 18 acres in peaches, apricots and lemons; 10 acres in grain; 5-room house, bath, pumping plant; best of soil. Price, \$4,000. We have California fruit farms in value all the way from \$3,000 to \$50,000 to trade for farm land in Nebraska. It will pay any one interested in fruit land to write us. Weber & Farris, Lincoln, Neb.

Three Dollars Saved

Money-saving is as important as money-making. Frequently it is easier to save than to make. On your next bill of groceries you can save at least \$3 by taking advantage of the special combination offer made by Branch & Miller Co. in this issue. The goods are the best and all who have sent orders have been more than satisfied. Try it today. Mention the fact that you saw the ad. in The Independent and we will guarantee satisfaction.

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