

## Auxiliary Organizations

Mr. Van Tine Has a Few Remarks on Organization.

Editor Independent: A few years ago I became convinced that a remedy for bad laws could not be procured from the political parties then dominating the policies of government, and when that conviction ripened into desire for action, the opportunity to aid in the formation of a new political party presented itself, and I entered upon that work with all the vigor I could command, giving thereto both time and means.

Thus was the impulse to break from the power of oppression fostered and cultivated until occurred that memorable nomination, by that new party, of Mr. Bryan, at St. Louis. That party which had secured our undivided affection, sincerity and devotion, there prostituted all that work, hope and spirit, so inspired, in a disastrous betrayal. The campaign of 1896 over, I determined to ever after oppose fusion with any party, or any division or group of men representing a party, or piece of a party, and so far as possible I have adhered to that line of action.

As a mid-road populist, I opposed fusion or agreement with socialists; I opposed the movement for an allied people's party, both at Kansas City in 1901 and at Louisville in 1902. And I opposed the fusion with fusionists at Denver in 1903.

I held that the mid-road people's party was quite as legally constituted as any political party ever was, and for the purposes of genuine reform was altogether right.

As a political organization the mid-road people's party roll of membership was always open to the reception of any voter, whatever his previous party affiliation. There was with the mid-roads, opportunity and a welcome awaiting the socialist, the single taxer, the municipal ownership man, the prohibitionist, the fusionist, the democrat or republican. All who joined, should be treated fairly, generously and without prejudice.

Now, with this opportunity open to every one, by the mid-roads, of what use to hold a conference with a group of men claiming allegiance or influence in other political organizations, and thereby make some kind of a new agreement; more especially when the mid-roads all the time, with a tenacity born of desperation, adhered to every attribute of the Omaha platform? Why a conference of that character?

Well, the conference was held and, contrary to my ideas, a new condition was inaugurated.

I voted for Mr. Bryan in 1896 because I could not do otherwise, and in any attitude whatever vote for reform.

And now, I give adherence to the Denver agreement, not because I believe it was in any sense a necessary affair or of any practical benefit to the reform cause. In fact, I believe that like every other fusion the people's party has entered upon, it will be found a hindrance to reform progress and a millstone about the neck of reform sincerity; but I must go with the Omaha declaration, mistaken leaders—as I believe—to the contrary notwithstanding.

The editorial in The Independent of December 31, "A Straightforward Course," is so nearly in accord with my views, that I am persuaded thereby to suggest some ideas concerning organization. In the aforesaid editorial appears a paragraph as follows: "But the people's party can go to the 'bone and sinew' of America, the home builders, home owners and producers." Relative to organization, I first observe that "the old guard" of true and tried money reform populists, are about the only men who, in any essential respect, seem to comprehend the vital reason and extraordinary necessity arising from the question.

Why should a people, who would preserve the essence of civil liberty, practice eternal vigilance as the price of that liberty? Yet we are often disappointed in many of "the old guard" because in their eagerness to embrace the millennium of happiness, which they feel the triumph of populism would achieve, they are constantly allowing themselves to be deluded into ecstatic anticipations of what victories that profound statesman, Thomas E. Watson; or that erudite philosopher, Wharton Barker; or that political warrior chief, William V. Allen; or what the Missouri World or the Nebraska Independent will do towards exposing financial conspiracies and persuading voters to espouse people's party principles.

These men and newspapers are strong and faithful; they create, as far as possible to them, the most

important public sentiment; but they cannot, in an adequate sense, reach the numbers that much be reached, and do not in any efficient way organize the people.

What really should concern "the old guard" is perhaps best expressed by asking: What is that system and method needed? Not just to convert the people to populism; but that system and method which, when the people are duly converted to populism, will hold them fast, occupy their attention, keep them in organization and companionship, until the growth and strength of that organization shall become endowed with a conscientious fealty and an intelligence equal to feats of patience, persistence, deprivation, destitution or humiliation, which are the ever-present or more than probable concomitants to an enduring emancipation and the (neglected or forgotten) eternal vigilance price of liberty.

What should concern every patriot populist is that of finding a system and method of organization which shall lead and command the rank and file constituency (bone and sinew of America) in a continuous lesson of action for a just cause; to their being inspired in every moment of their work with the knowledge that the organization is alert and watchful to sustain and protect its membership, to care for that membership's very smallest needs, willing and able to help that membership by a substantial personal pecuniary benefit: thus enticing the sacred flame of confidence and security to burn steadily, unceasingly ever and ever glowing.

It is thereby we shall secure a constituency that would scorn to "wobble on the spindle," that would meet death rather than desertion, that would move when and as the organization moves, forget or expire only when their right hand forgets its cunning and the tongue cleaves to the roof of every freeman's mouth.

It is such a system and method alone which can build the impregnable fortress, from whence the veterans of the Omaha platform shall vanquish the tyrant despots of vested property rights and the bribe-seeking, bribe-giving villains of monopoly.

Adequate organization must include every possible department or auxiliary in aid of the cause.

In 1890-1-2-3-4 and 5, the auxiliary organizations that propelled the reform party movements then, were known in most states as the farmers' alliance. In Illinois and Indiana they were the farmers mutual benefit association. And I am of opinion that had the fundamental laws and regulations of those old auxiliary organizations been compiled with a view to safeguard against the assaults of unknown and unseen foes, internal weakness, and the subterfuge of office-seeking treason's intrigue; and containing also a proper provision for securing to its membership certain personal pecuniary benefits, in regular monthly periods; those old auxiliary organizations would have withstood and overcome the political disappointments or betrayals.

Then, as a consequence of the auxiliary organizations' survival, the people's party would have thrust its plagues from companionship and, within a twelve-month cycle of time, reorganization would have done its noble work; and again the people's party would have occupied the whole highway to success.

The future of our political power, the vigor granted us from public attention, our opportunity for control of legislation and thus to direct the adoption of attributes leading to the general public welfare, is centered upon and depends upon the exercise of abilities to organize. To so organize that the rank and file can be kept busy in approval of the acts and purposes of the leadership.

It seems to me we populists are like unto the foolish virgins in the parable; our lamps are without the "oil" of organization so vitally needed—by a rank and file constituency. Behold the bridegroom (campaign of 1904) cometh, and the oil of adequate auxiliary organization has been by us forgotten, ignored or possibly misunderstood!

Conventions and conferences are necessary no doubt; but so, or even more so, is the auxiliary organization indispensable to a rank and file; and pray of what particular good or use is a leadership, whether statesman, scholar, or warrior, without a devoted, loyal and enthusiastic or zealous rank and file? The public regard for soundness of views will be secured or withheld in accord with the conversions brought to accept our enunciation of

principles; yet no matter how wise our utterance or how truthful our arraignment of vicious public administration, there will be no material progress without the auxiliary organization to procure and bring hearers to rendezvous.

For unless voters attend meetings and rallies, there will be no proficiency of conversions or enlistments; and how, without the auxiliary organization, are we to obtain the interested attention of sufficient numbers of voters, to make a reputable or respectable campaign? If, by any worthy manner of means, we could bring to our aid an adequate auxiliary organization, even by the time autumn weather requirements should cause assemblies to seek shelter in school houses, town or village hall, in place of the picnic grove—that would greatly help; but limited means is the present potent hindrance thereto.

If auxiliary organizations were now formed or quite well in process of formation, the courage, zeal and zest of their membership could be relied upon to furnish means, but, but and but!

Alas, we have not the organizations sufficient to create any particular impression and so few engaged in that organizing interest, the probabilities of that influence in the coming campaign seem quite remote.

How shall the growth and strength of the rank and file be augmented, maintained and inspired?

If acceptable to the readers of The Independent, in another communication I will define a system and method of auxiliary organization, that from every prairie and intervale, rustic home and cabin simplicity, there may assemble in its session rooms, the neighborhood farmers (the bone and sinew of America), bestowing unto that membership the mutual benefits and blessings which all accumulated experience teaches, has ever waited upon the ministers to justice, virtue, intelligence and liberty.

A. C. VAN TINE.

Flora, Ill.

(Mr. Van Tine's logic would be in-

exorable if his premises were sound. He seems to overlook the fact that "as a political organization the mid-road people's party" has no legal existence in a number of states. It is needless here to thresh over old straw as to which wing is or was ethically entitled to the name "people's" party; but the fact remains that there were, and are yet, two distinct and separate national committees, each claiming to represent populists. In Nebraska, for example, Mr. Parker's committee following is too small to cast the necessary 1 per cent of votes to get on the official ballot. In Texas, Mr. Butler's committee has little, if any, following. But both these committees represent voters who believe in the Omaha platform; in other words, populists. And if there was to be a union of the two wings, a conference was the logical proceeding.

The Denver conference simply gave expression to a desire that the two wings be united, which will be finally consummated when a new national committee is selected to take the place of the two now existing.

The feature of Mr. Van Tine's article, however, is his suggestions regarding an auxiliary organization. There is yet an occasional subordinate alliance in existence, and in every instance it will be found that the ones which lived were the ones that proved of some pecuniary benefit to the members. The alliance could not live as a purely political organization, because it was necessarily auxiliary and ancillary to the party which rose out of it; but if each lodge had conferred some material benefits upon its members, the alliance might still be in existence as a powerful factor. The Independent will gladly hear from Mr. Van Tine further upon this head.—Associate Editor.)

It is an old story, but as true as ever—The Independent office, composing room, and press room are still unplastered. It is equally true that a large number of our readers are delinquent for subscription.

## The Philosophy of Freedom

An Open Forum for Single Taxers

A WORD FROM DR. BARNES.

Editor Independent: In your issue of January 7 your associate editor says, "Single taxers lay much unnecessary stress upon 'land values'." Our object is to get farmers to see that it is value alone that we would tax and that valuable land is in the cities and that the farmers' tax would be light. The land in Chicago has more value by five times than all the land in the great state outside of the cities. A friend of mine told me today that he and five other men had bought a piece of vacant land ten miles from the center of the city, 150 feet front, for residences, where not more than one-third of the land was improved for a mile in any direction, and they paid \$20,000 for it—less than two-thirds of an acre.

Of course, by taking all the economic rent of land as a tax, land would have no selling value. But what would a farmer who expected to remain on his farm care whether his farm would sell for \$1 or \$100 per acre, if he did well farming? At present a farmer, to live easy, must wait years for the raise in the price of land and then sell. But the single tax would put money in his pocket as he goes along in life. It would raise his wages as a laborer and his interest on his capital, consisting of improvements, machinery, stock, etc. We try to impress the farmer with the fact that what he loses as a landlord he gains as a laborer and a capitalist.

For there are but three factors that enter into the production of wealth, viz: land, the silent factor, and labor and capital applied on land. Now, if the landlord is eliminated as a sharer in the wealth produced, then labor and capital must get all wealth as wages and interest. There is nowhere else for wealth to go legitimately.

At present the active farmer does not get the benefit as a landlord till he sells. But the landlord who owns and rents his land does get a benefit. The landlord as a landlord is a leech—he lives and takes without giving any equivalent in exchange, but has to be supported by society.

Your associate editor assumes that the farmer under a single tax, as now would make a bare living, but if land values should increase as now and he could pocket the increase at some remote time as now, it would be all right. We single taxers want to ben-

efit the farmer now, and benefit him greatly. Waiting for land values to increase, is a species of hoarding which is abnormal and unhealthy for society. It is at the bottom of all hoarding of wealth. It is worse than hoarding—it is robbing community of a value it has produced—for all value of land is made, not by any individual more than another, but by all.

The land in Nebraska and every other state, exclusive of all improvements on it, is worth \$500 for every man, woman and child in the state. Every man, woman and child in any city or town, adds \$4 to the value of the center acre in the town and to other acres proportionately to their proximity to the center. Take the population of any town and multiply it by 4 and the product will approximate very nearly the value of an acre in dollars of the center acres of the town, showing that the man who owns the acre did not produce its value. Of nothing else can it be said that increase of population increases its value.

J. C. BARNES.

Chicago, Ill.

(Dr. Barnes is a little inclined to jump at conclusions. I assumed nothing as to what the farmer would get "under the single tax." What I tried to show is this: Under present conditions the farmer gets a bare living out of his current production, and but little more; but the "uneared increment"—rise in land values—does give the land-owning farmer something more than a bare living in the course of say thirty years. This unearned increment, single taxers propose to take away from the farmer—and their representations of what he will get in return are generally so vague as to fail to convert the average farmer to the single tax proposition.—Associate Editor.)

B. F. Robinson, McLarty, Ala.: "Am well pleased with the picket line plan. Count me one of the Old Guard."

\$2.05 A Gold Watch For \$2.05  
THIS OFFER FOR 30 DAYS ONLY

Get this out and send it to us with your name and address and express office, and we will send you for FREE EXAMINATION this beautiful engraved, solid 14k gold pattern double hunting case watch, with a fine jeweled movement, adjusted and regulated, stem wind and stem set. GUARANTEED 25 YEARS. You examine the watch at Exp. office and if you find it equal to a \$40.00 watch, pay about our SPECIAL PRICE only \$2.05 and the watch is yours. FREE a beautiful long neck chain for ladies or chain and charm for gents. Mention if ladies or gents watch is wanted. If money is sent with order we also give a handsome Santiago Diamond Ring Free, and send watch postpaid. Modern Mig. Co., 12th and O Sts., Lincoln, Neb.