

THE SITUATION

"Cyclone" Davis Gives a Kansas Friend His Impression Regarding the Coming Contest

(In a letter to The Independent, accompanying the open letter below, Mr. Davis expresses his pleasure because Vice Chairman Edmisten has called the Butler committee to meet with Parker's committee at St. Louis, February 22, and says:

"Populism will never die until humanity has lost all love of liberty. Public ownership—municipal ownership—direct legislation, and the quantitative theory of money are now acknowledged by all parties. In my opinion there is a crash and crises not far ahead, and our party should be united and organized so as to hold a commanding position in the mobilization and amalgamation that must follow. The labor vote that went republican before will, in a great measure, go to the socialists this time; and if the populists, Bryan democrats, and liberal republicans can be brought together, there is a hope of success. Patriotic prudence may accomplish this end." His letter to Mr. Grisham follows:

Hon. T. H. Grisham, Cottonwood Falls, Kas.—My Dear Friend: A number of inquiries like yours have reached me of late.

My typewriter boy is in western Texas and I have delayed answers expecting his return. Without waiting longer I will give a brief review of the situation as I see it. Will send this to the Nebraska Independent and make the answer to you answer others.

I have been greatly interested in the letters in The Independent from the Old Guard populists, and hope their efforts may succeed.

But they fail to take into consideration that all honest reformers are just as honest and partisan as they.

The socialists will not go with the populists because they must abandon some of their creed. If they are honest men they dislike to do this.

The mid-road populists refuse to join the Bryan reformers for the same reason.

The single tax people link that reform with free trade and join with the democrats as the nearest approach to free trade.

The direct legislation people have usually been non-partisan.

So the only means of growth or source of supply for populist increase must come in general from the two old parties.

The democratic party, having a strong reform element which has controlled the late history of the party, no reformer will leave it until he has lost all hope of reform in that organization; and when there is a division in that party it will not be by individuals, but by sections.

Where the democrats control a county, district or state, they will not disband and go as individuals to another party. This would force them to abandon the offices which they hold. Human nature is not made that way. No party has ever done that.

So if there is a split in that party it will be into factions—each trying to hold the organization that confers offices. In such a case the reform element may be willing to cooperate, but will not disintegrate or amalgamate. Whatever of reform element there may be in the republican party will act in very much the same way.

In addition to these conditions, most of the states have passed laws making it next to impossible for reformers to get on the official ballot except in one of the old parties.

In the south the race problem weakens all reform parties, for when the party gets strong enough to confer offices the negro, either through the arrogance of his own assumption or as the venal minion of the ruling democrats, takes charge of the primaries and nominates a few negroes on the ticket.

This raises a race cry and clamor and the whites put all else behind them and go to the democratic party as a white man's party. It was this more than all else that destroyed our populist organization in the south.

Now, my dear friend, you can better understand the importance of the race question in the south, when I tell you that the American Indian with his scalping knife, tomahawk, brutality and savagery, was never such a horror and dread to the wives and daughters of the south or of Texas as is the "black fiend." In fact, never committed so many crimes against the whites.

Taking advantage of this situation, the democrats of the south have passed what is innocently called a "white man's primary system" or election which in effect legally prevents the advancement of reform

about as the "anti-fusion" laws of Kansas and some other states.

There's such a catalogue of difficulties to contend with, that I see but little hope for the populist party—with no funds to support even a meagre campaign, it is not possible to organize or "reorganize" for the coming election. But it is cheerful to see the zeal with which most of the Old Guard write. May heaven bless them; they have not lived in vain.

I believe the populists stand for a haven of happiness for mankind, a happy medium between centralized socialism on the one hand and selfish despotism on the other. Representing a money system, a land system and transportation for the masses and not the classes; yet leaving each individual free in the walks of life to choose and ply his own vocation with equal access and opportunity.

But perfection of the plan does not mean success of the cause. For Jesus the Christ—a perfect man with a perfect cause the object of which was to insure man's happiness on earth and in eternity—was reviled, repulsed and rejected; and though today the justice, grandeur and glory of his cause is admitted, his followers are divided into sects and factions all over the world. The intense honesty and earnestness of each in his zeal, keeps them further apart than even in a political party.

It is this partisan feeling in humanity that must be used in forming political movements.

I hope the February conference at St. Louis will take this into consideration in forming their plans.

Labor will enter this campaign in gloom and despair; his dinner pail is no longer full.

The capitalist class has inflated securities until productive wealth will not earn a sustaining wage and dividends on billions of bonds, stocks, etc. So wages are reduced everywhere.

No outside supply of shining gold in vast quantities from the Klondike. No Spanish war on hand with the government as a disbursing and purchasing agent into millions among the people. All this will open the way to a better view of the real situation this time.

There must be some common ground named and such liberal spirit shown as will bring the Bryan democrats, reform republicans and populists together. There will be but few socialist votes go to any but socialist candidates this election—they are too radical and zealous to make any concessions.

My want of faith in the democratic party makes it deplorable and all but hopeless in that way; yet I must confess that I see but little hope except through the Bryan element of that party; if they surrender to the Cleveland crowd all is lost for this campaign at least.

But if we can bring the populists together at St. Louis and place the work in liberal patriotic hands, we may be able to inspire or force the reform element of the old parties to action they would not otherwise take.

I would like to attend the St. Louis meeting, but as I am not a member of either of the committees I shall leave them to do what "seemeth best" without any advisory influence I might have as outsider; but I do think the meeting is an important one.

With ever-increasing respect for you and those like you throughout our country, who have stood for justice as against greed, for the masses against the classes, and labored to build up hope and happiness and peace and prosperity for our people, I am, with best wishes,

J. H. DAVIS.
Sulphur Springs, Tex.

A PRESS CONSPIRACY

There Seems to be but One Editor of all the New York and Brooklyn Papers

New York, Jan. 18, 1904.—(Editorial Correspondence.)—The whole daily press of Greater New York, whether it is labeled republican or democratic, bears internal evidence of being controlled by one mind and its editorial policy dictated by one interest. Not a daily published here had the slightest reference to the great co-operative meeting held in Boston, and the editor of The Independent being dependent upon the New York dailies for information is as ignorant of what was done there as any other mule head. In fact, since coming here I have learned to sympathize with that unfortunate class of individuals. Sitting in The Independent editorial rooms, reading every day twelve or fourteen dailies published in all the principal cities of the United States, it was possible by hard work and the scanning of the articles not put under scare heads,

to get something of an idea of what was going on, but here, seeing only the dailies of the two cities of New York and Brooklyn, I knew nothing of the meeting in Boston except what came in the Nebraska Independent. One part of this editorial policy is to keep the people in ignorance and another part is to deceive them with catch phrases and elaborately worked out fallacies.

The New York Times in its last Sunday edition makes an elaborate argument to prove that the increase in the volume of money does not necessarily result in the increase of prices. To prove its assertion it gives the increase in the output of gold since 1890 as follows:

1890	.....	\$118,848,700.
1891	.....	130,650,000
1892	.....	146,651,500
1893	.....	157,494,800
1894	.....	181,175,600
1895	.....	198,763,600
1896	.....	202,251,600
1897	.....	236,073,700
1898	.....	286,879,700
1899	.....	306,724,100
1900	.....	254,556,500
1901	.....	263,374,700
1902	.....	295,880,600
1903	.....	327,000,000

Its conclusion is as follows:
Rise in gold production 1890-1904. .175
Rise in commodity prices 1890-'04. . 2

Now the writer of that article was not prejudiced so that he could not see the truth, nor was he ignorant of the truth which is abundantly shown in the very article itself. He was simply lying with malice and forethought, selling his soul for so much money. Hardly a reader of that article will discover the fallacy. They will take his figures as correct and his conclusion as irresistible. Not one of them will ever stop to think that the proposition is not that prices will increase at the same per cent as the output of gold, but that other things being equal, prices will increase at the same rate that the volume of money increases. If we say that there are five billion dollars of gold in the world the increase of two or three hundred million of gold every year for a few years would make a very small per cent of increase in the volume in circulation, especially when we consider the very large per cent of that increase which goes into use in the arts. The actual addition to the volume of money would be very small. De France is "a fiend at figures" and perhaps as a little rest from the daily grind in the office he may figure out just what per cent of increase that addition from the increase of output of gold was to the volume of gold money in the world.

Strange as it may seem, there is after all some inquiry here among the people for the truth after years of that kind of editorial writing. The so-called democratic papers are always talking about "democratic principles" and never tell any one what those principles are. A young man wrote to the Brooklyn Eagle asking what democratic principles were and its astute and highly paid editor made the following reply:

"There are few fundamental principles, so called, concerning which all are in accord. The Declaration of Independence, for instance, sets forth that the Creator has endowed us with certain inalienable rights, including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, to secure which governments are instituted, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. These principles glitter radiantly."

After ridiculing these principles in two or three paragraphs, he adds:

"It is obvious, therefore, that principles do not become fundamental by the simple process of labeling them as such. And it is equally obvious that circumstances do, or may, so alter cases, that a principle, at one time accepted as fundamental, may at another time be dropped from the classification, if not abandoned altogether."

Its final advice to the young men was to wait until after the next democratic national convention before he made any decision concerning principles. The strange thing about this matter is that any young man after reading New York dailies all his life, had enough mental stimulus even to ask a question.—T.

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I never cared to be as rich as some men that I know,
For riches ain't the greatest thing in this old world below;
An' men don't always feel the best because they've lots of wealth,
For gold, though legal tender, won't buy its possessor health.
But I'd just like to have enough of money so when I
Was called these winter mornin's I'd be able to reply:
"Uh-huh! All right, I'm gettin' up; in just a minute." Then
Roll over kind-o' lazy-like, an' go to sleep again.

I never cared to own a yacht or pal-ace car so fine;
An' automobiles are too strong—I don't want none in mine.
I don't want such a pile o' gold that folks will envy me,
Nor mix in deals that won't let my old conscience feel quite free.
But I'd just like to have enough laid carefully away,
So when I'm called at 6 a. m. I'd feel quite free to say:
"Uh-huh! All right, I'm gettin' up; in just a minute." Then
Roll over kind-o' lazy-like, an' go to sleep again.

To corner markets, water stocks, and float a trust or two
May be the things the millionaires think lots of fun to do;
But I don't want to have no fun that causes others woe—
Or by a robbin' set of laws make my own fortune grow.
I don't want millions—that's too much—my wants are not so great;
I only want enough so I at 6 a. m. could state:
"Uh-huh! All right, I'm gettin' up; in just a minute." Then
Roll over kind-o' lazy-like an' go to sleep again.—W. M. Maupin.

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