

Enroll and Vote

Reference to the weekly report of enrollment in the Old Guard of Populism shows that there are 591 regularly enrolled members, that is, those who have filled out the enrollment blank and sent it in or have asked to be counted as members, either directly or through the medium of a neighbor. Up to Saturday night, January 23, 1904, the records show that 4,463 circular letters of invitation have been sent out—hence, the responses are something like 16 out of every hundred. Printing and postage alone costs nearly four cents to the letter, making the actual cash expenses nearly \$180. The receipts have been \$152.

I have on hand something like 2,000 names to which letters of invitation should be sent, but unless the responses show better the coming week, will not be able to do so. I trust that the nearly 4,000 who have not answered the letter of invitation will bestir themselves and not delay longer. If you have received the circular letter and do not wish to enroll, have the kindness to write and say so. If you do, be sure to fill the enrollment blank—and don't forget that postage and printing cost money; send a little to help along if you can. If the 16 who enroll, out of every 100 invitations sent out, do not in the aggregate send in at least \$4, the work must stop for lack of funds to carry it on.

In order to accommodate those who may have lost or misplaced their letter of invitation, I print the enrollment blank on this page. Also the sample ballot on which is being taken a test vote on choice for president and vice president—not an official vote for the purpose of making a nomination, but to ascertain the practicability of nominating by direct vote. No votes will be considered except those from regularly enrolled members of the Old Guard of Populism, but the filled enrollment blank may accompany the letter containing your vote.

To the 4,000 who have not answered the letter of invitation, and to any reader of The Independent—whether a subscriber or not—who has not received an invitation to enroll, I would say: Cut out the enrollment blank and the ballot; fill them according to the facts and your desires as to candidates; and mail to me with such contribution as you may feel able to make in helping the work along. A quarter, half dollar or dollar is not much to one man; but four thousand of them are more than one man ought to expend in rebuilding the populist organization.

I confess that the past few weeks have not been altogether encouraging. They would be actually discouraging to many a man. Out of the 591 enrolled, 214 have done nothing toward helping along with the expenses. A few of these, of course, are financially unable to afford even the scriptural widow's mite—and they ought not to pay anything however small, but should be welcomed in the heartiest manner. But it is inconceivable, however, that all the 214 are in this financial condition. Of the 377 contributors, J. J. Streeter, of the Vine-land (N. J.) Independent, stands at the head with a total of \$9 to his credit, besides more than a thousand names. J. H. Calderhead, Helena, Mont., secretary of the Denver conference; and James H. Ferriss, of the Joliet (Ill.) News, each gave \$5; J. W. Maher, general agent of the Farmers' Mutual Insurance company, El Reno, Okla., gave \$3; and the remainder gave sums ranging from ten cents up to a dollar. There is no need for any one to give very much, if all who can afford it will give a little. It will be noted that the contributions average a little over 40 cents for those who gave, and about 25 cents each for all who enrolled.

The vote on choice for president and vice president will close with the last mail February 13, 1904. No vote received after that will count; and no vote will be considered at any time except from members of the Old Guard of Populism. How to mark the ballot is clearly explained in the ballot itself. They will be counted according to the Hare method. That is, all ballots will first be distributed into piles according to first choice. Then the lowest first choice man will be considered out of the race and his pile of ballots redistributed according to the second choice marked. This will continue until only two piles are left. The one having the larger number of ballots will be considered the choice for president, and the other choice for vice president—unless they should be a tie, in which case the one having the larger number of first choice ballots would win.

Although the voter's name must be signed to the ballot, the way he votes will not be made public. Only the

The Old Guard of Populism

NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT ENROLLMENT BLANK.

Approving the work of the Denver Conference and desiring to be enrolled as a member of the Old Guard of Populism I furnish you the following information regarding myself, to aid in making up your enrollment records:

Name.....

P. O..... Precinct.....

County..... State.....

I was born (Date)..... in (place).....

My vocation is.....

I am a Populist; was formerly a.....; but left that party in.....

During the time I have affiliated with the People's party, I have held the following positions in the organization:

Delegate National Convention (years).....

Delegate State Convention (years).....

Member National Committee (years).....; Mem. State Com. (year).....

Sec. or Chm. County Com. (years).....

During this time I have held the following offices by election or appointment:.....

Our last populist state convention was held (date and place).....; our last county convention

(Date and place)..... Officers of our county committee are as follows:

Chairman..... P. O.....

Secretary..... P. O.....

Treasurer..... P. O.....

I take the following populist papers:.....

result will be announced after the polls close, and the ballots will be turned over to the national committee to show the practicability of making direct nominations.

Populists, send along your enrollment, a list of names and your vote. Let us stir up a little enthusiasm. Populism is the only real safeguard to American liberties, because it seeks to prevent the bankruptcy and annihilation of the food producers—with-out whom, and without whose continued independence, the United States would soon become a virtual if not a nominal monarchy.

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

C. W. Otis, Santa Rosa, Cal.: "Socialism includes all of populism, and more. It never sells out to old parties and is always in the middle of the road. I think it best for all reform parties to unite on this idea, but so many are not broad enough and are too easily tied to a name, rather than a principle. Populism was the stepping stone to a broader and better idea of actual and pure democracy for the people. We are some time coming to it—too few thinkers, too narrow and personal—but empty dinner pails will educate if nothing else does." (Has the socialist party of California always "kept in the middle of the road?" It is simply nonsense to talk of uniting "reform" parties with a "revolutionary" party. Socialism scoffs at the idea of "reform." And to intimate that it grew out of populism, is a slander upon the memory of Karl Marx. The two isms are wholly antagonistic upon the question of money, and not in harmony upon the question of public ownership. Hence, it is a mistake to say that "socialism includes all of populism"—it does nothing of the sort.—Associate Editor.)

A. F. Spaulding, Northfield, Vt., asks where he can procure a copy of "The Seven Financial Conspiracies." The Independent does not know whether it is now in print, but can assure Mr. Spaulding that with all its excellence, "The Seven Financial Conspiracies" does not begin to throw the light upon the subject that may be found in Alexander Del Mar's "Barbara Villiers." Write to Cambridge Encyclopedia Co., box 160 M. S., New York city, for circulars.

Who is Your Choice for President? MARK YOUR PREFERENCE IN THE SAMPLE BALLOT.

(EXPLANATION—The ballot below is not official in any way. It is not binding upon the voter and is for no other purpose than to test the question of whether the People's Party, at the proper time, could really make a success of nominating its candidates by direct vote. The success of the vote made on this ballot will have much weight in determining whether our next candidates shall be nominated by referendum or convention. The vote to be taken on this ballot is called "preferential" or "effective." In other words, if your first choice doesn't win your second choice may. You have a right to vote or all, giving each one a preference over some other. Suppose your first choice should be Watson, your second Allen, your third Barker, your fourth Williams, etc., you would mark your ballot something after this fashion:

- 9 Morgan, 4 Williams, 6 Livingston, 7 Owers, 7 Weller, Calderhead, 1 Watson, 5 Breidenthal, 2 Allen, Ferriss, 8 Brown, 3 Barker

In such an event, you would not vote at all for Owers, Ferriss or Calderhead, but would express a preference for the other nine in the order indicated by the figures at the left of each name. In marking your vote do not make a cross or check mark, but place a figure 1 in the space to the left of your first choice, a figure 2 for second choice, and so on. The blank line above Mr. Morgan's name may be used for writing in any other person's name not printed in the list. The method of counting these ballots will be explained in the populist papers. When your vote is marked as you want it, sign your name and address at bottom and mail to C. Q. De France, Lincoln, Neb.

Table with 3 columns: CHOICE, NAMES, POSTOFFICE. Lists candidates like W. S. MORGAN, FRANK W. OWERS, THOMAS E. WATSON, etc., with their respective post offices.

Voters's Name P. O.