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The Dreams That Old Guards Dream Come True.

## The Vanguard of Populism

## A Twin of the Old Guard

To be a member of the Old Guard of Populism—to be able to say, "I have come all the way over the trail"—is grounds for pardonable pride on the part of those who have been in the thick of the fight from the days of Peter Cooper. But there is today good reason for creating a twin organization to go hand in hand with the Old Guard of Populism.

Criticism has been made lately to this effect: "Your Old Guard enrollment is all right. It's a good thing to hear from the old-timers who have been fighting for reform so many years. But a really vital political organization must have young men in it, full of enthusiasm, push, determination, and the physical strength to do much of the hard work that your

Old Guards—a good many of them, at least—are physically unable to do, no matter how willing they may be."

I recognized the force of these criticisms, although, as a matter of fact, there are many more young and middle-aged men enrolled in the Old Guard of Populism than these critics know—men of vigor both mentally and physically. But the title itself is a trifle misleading, now that the St. Louis meeting is over and the national convention called.

Antithesis would suggest that the twin organization be called the "Young Guard of Populism," but after considerable study over the situation, I am convinced that a preferable name is The Vanguard of Populism. The reasons follow:

In the coming campaign it is evident that populist support must come from two classes: (a) those, regardless of age, who have heretofore affiliated with the people's party, who have "kept the trail," whether they started in the days of Peter Cooper, Benjamin F. Butler, or James B. Weaver; and (b) the recruits—those wealth-producers who have hitherto been affiliated with some other party, but are now satisfied that the populist program gives greatest promise of bringing relief from plutocracy's plundering. Manifestly, it would be unwise to have two auxiliary organizations divided in this manner. The recruit must be welcomed. He must be given the right hand of fellowship. He must be given work to do.

A little thought should convince us that the division should not be made along the line of age. Many men in the seventies, aye, even in the eighties, count themselves as so many "years young." Others, in the thirties and forties, are physically incapacitated from taking an active part in the campaign. Besides, it is a rather delicate matter to draw the line between youth and age. The Old Guard of Populism was intended to designate those old in reform work, without regard to their years on earth. For example, W. S. Morgan of Arkansas is 53 years of age—not an old man by any means; yet he has never voted an old party ticket, but started out in the greenback movement at its beginning. He is, as "old" an Old Guard