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Lincoln, Neb.

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Teddy paid \$5,000,000 to the French, the Wall street boodlers, and a "jun-ta" of conspirators for the Panama canal, but not a cent to the nation that owned the canal route. Yet Teddy is always talking about being 'de-cent.'

It seems to be settled that Congressman Dick is to take Hanna's place in the United States senate. He is the Dick that signed those checks of which so many lithographic copies were made and circulated during the campaign of 1896.

The Mexican Herald sizes up the Panama affair about right. It says: "That ridiculous little Panama re-public gives its consent, in advance, to anything Theodore Roosevelt and John Hay wish to have done. Call it a protectorate honestly, and without any more damnable dissembling."

There will be more than twice as many votes cast this year for the candidate for president nominated by the people's party than was ever cast for a populist candidate before. Besides that, we will capture some legislatures and elect a populist senator or two as well as some representatives in congress.

The Financial Chronicle announces that the output of gold last year was 328,568,774. This is an increase of \$0,116,068 over the phenomenal output of the preceding year. Prices go up as the quantity of money increases, just as the populists always said they would. Wheat is a dollar a bushel in Chicago now.

The meat trust gets 7 1/2 mills a mile from the railroads for each mile that one of its own refrigerator cars is run. The owners of other private cars get nearly as much, and more than one-tenth of all the freight cars are privately owned. That is even better than the Rockefeller system of rates with which he started out in business. Rockefeller is credited with the invention of this private car business as well as most of the financial eviltry of modern times.

The other day some of the aristocracy in the British parliament were making arguments in favor of Chinese bolle labor in the African mines, during which they denounced the blacks for allowing their wives to support them. John Burns quietly threw in the remark: "But it is far worse for uppeonious English peers to marry Americans solely for their money." Besides that, Burns was so wicked as to cast a glance up to the gallery where one of that sort of peers was sitting. The peer quickly withdrew.

**THE HOUR HAS COME**

The conclusion arrived at by many eminent men, as the editor of The Independent has learned from conversation and interviews with them both in the east and the west, is that reform can never be effected under bi-party government as it has heretofore existed in the United States. This is the only free government in the world that adheres to the bi-party system. In the congress of the United States every member in the house and senate belongs to one of two parties. In England, Germany, Italy, France and Austria-Hungary, the members of the parliamentary bodies belong to several different parties.

These men say that while the democratic party in this country should be the reform party and while there are more men members of it who earnestly desire reform than any other party they are utterly helpless. If by any miracle of eloquence or otherwise, Bryan should gain control of the democratic national convention, no man denies that the Cleveland men would not bolt just as they did in 1896 and 1900. If Cleveland should control it, it is just as certain that the Bryan democrats would not support the ticket. That condition of affairs makes the democratic party incapable of accomplishing anything, and hundreds of thousands of men are ready to forsake it who have followed its fortunes for a lifetime.

In the republican party the same condition, though not so pronounced, also exists. Large numbers of men in that party, both in the east and the west, are disgusted with cruds and exorbitant tariff rates. This class of republicans have able representatives both in the east and the west. No man seriously believes that any effective measures can ever be enacted against high tariffs or the trusts by means of the republican party. Reformers in both the democratic and republican parties have expressed themselves to the editor of The Independent as seeing no hope for better government as long as the present condition of bi-party government exists.

One of the most distinguished men in New York city said to the editor of The Independent the other day: "With two parties, as they now exist, the financial and tariff interest will continue to rule indefinitely. If one party makes a campaign for a reduction of the tariff and elects a majority of congress, it will always be found that there will be enough members of the majority who will not vote for a reduction, to defeat any such legislation, so it will be upon any other vital question. That was the case in 1892. The Wilson tariff bill as it finally passed congress was the highest 'protective' bill ever enacted up to that time. The hour has come for the organization of an independent party. That is the only way in which the schemes of the trusts, promoters, and tariff grabbers can be defeated. I have taken a somewhat active part in political matters for twenty years. But I have quit. I will no longer spend my time any money in hopeless efforts to get legislation through either of the parties. If an independent party with the right kind of a platform was put in the field, I would be willing to give what assistance I could to aid that kind of a movement."

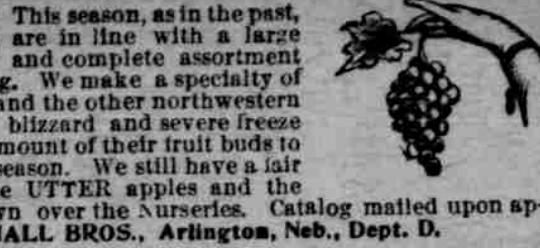
Undoubtedly "the hour has come" for the organization of an independent party which will not affiliate with either of the other old parties. That was what was accomplished at the St. Louis conference last week.

**THE SAME OLD GAME**

The old game which has been practiced for the last 1,000 years is being worked on Cuba. It is altogether probable that if an agreement had not been made to allow the game, that Cuba would now be in the same predicament as the Philippines. The

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money power had a very lively part in the final agreement to allow Cuba to become a nation. They were looking forward to a chance to get their 16 or 20 per cent. Cuba has just issued her first lot of bonds through the banking house of Speyer & Co., New York. That house takes \$35,000,000 at 90. That is to say the purchasers of these bonds will get 16 per cent interest the first year and 6 per cent afterwards. The city of Havana is to put out \$28,000,000 more. These will be sold below 90 and the rate of interest will be higher. Now here is Cuba, which is about the size of the state of Nebraska, and not more productive, saddled with \$63,000,000 of bonds. A good many men in Nebraska are raging around like a Texas steer on a stampede because the republicans have run up the debt of the state to two and a quarter millions. What would they say at a \$63,000,000 debt just as a starter?

It is the American money that has got this hold on Cuba. The people of that island will toil for the benefit of the New York millionaires for the next century or two and the fruits of their toil will go to add to the accumulations of the twenty men down there who rule us with such an iron hand. "After us, the deluge." Vote 'er straight. Stand pat.

**A NATIONAL PARTY**

Small independent parties are to be found in every part of the United States. Many of them have been successful in cities, towns or counties. Every one of these successes have been gained by advocating people's party principles. The successes in San Francisco, Detroit, Cleveland, and many eastern cities have each and all been made possible by advocating locally distinctive populist programs. What has been called the liberal democratic party in New York has had great success in many parts of the state and polled many thousands of votes, yet it has been a well defined populist movement with platforms identical with that of the people's party. When it came to state and national politics the men who had fought and won locally by advocating populist principles found that they had no way to express their opinions through the ballot box.

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There were the two tickets in the field, the democratic and republican, and in a few instances another choice as to the prohibition party. The assaults on corporations owning city utilities have all been made on the populist principle of public ownership and where a victory has been gained, it was a populist victory in fact, though the organization that won it was known by some other name.

From every part of the Union there has grown up in the last few years a demand for a national organization, bringing all the independent parties into action under one name and as parts of one organization. This was made possible by the action at St. Louis. Adding to the agricultural vote, which has always been populist, the scattered independent parties in the cities, who have been advocating populist principles, and there are not less than 2,500,000 of them. That is the number of populist votes we have to start out with. There are more than 100,000 straight populist votes in the state of New York alone, who have proved themselves to be populists by voting with the liberal democrats and other independent organizations which advocated populist principles.

The disgust among the common people against the rule of the rich for their own benefit is shown in the republican party as well as in the democratic party. Several large cities where there have been republican majorities of many thousands have been wrenched from the control of that party by an uprising. Just at present Milwaukee is attracting attention. That city has always had a republican majority of from 3,000 to 10,000, but now they say the party has no chance to elect its city ticket at all. There is an uprising there against the rule of corporations and machine graft. The fight that will be made will be upon distinct populist principles. All these kind of voters will find a home in the people's party after the next national convention at Springfield, Ill., to be held on the Fourth of July next.

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