

# The Independent.

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## The Vanguard of Populism

Progress of the Movement  
—Convention Calls—Grand  
Enrollment Day.

It usually requires at least a week after the publication of a particular issue of The Independent before results may reasonably be expected. Notwithstanding this, applications for Vanguard enrollment blanks began to come in by Monday, although the announcement of Grand Enrollment Day, March 31, had been made only in last week's issue.

Warner Starr and the Old Guard of Dixon County must look to their laurels. Both Lincoln and Custer will dispute Dixon's claim of having the greatest number of enrolled members.

Monday A. F. Parsons of North Platte asked for a supply of blanks and printed matter, giving assurance that Lincoln would be heard from Grand Enrollment Day.

And Tuesday James Stockham of Custer sent in the names of 15 new members of the local Old Guard at Callaway, for enrollment in the national records. And he sent in a money order for \$1.70 to help out on postage and printing. The Callaway local meets on the second Saturday of each month. Mr. Stockham says, "The fight is now on and Custer will again be in line."

This addition makes a total of some 30 members in Custer. Dixon comes next with 23. Clay has 16, Franklin 14, Lancaster 10, Otoe 9, Madison 8, Lincoln 8, and 58 other Nebraska counties have from one to six enrolled members of the Old Guard.

Since the work of enrollment began last December, the most active states have been Nebraska, Missouri, Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, Indiana, Alabama and Georgia, in about the order named. Nothing at all has been done in Nevada, Rhode Island, Delaware, or Maryland, and very little headway has been made in Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, or South Dakota—states where populism was strong at one time.

A partial report is made this week, closing up the work to February 29. It is likely that next week a report complete to date can be given.

Lest misunderstandings may arise over what may seem a multiplicity of committees and organizations, I deem an explanation proper here:

The national committee selected at Sioux Falls, May 10, 1900, has for its officers the following persons: Chairman, Marion Butler, Raleigh, N. C., and Washington, D. C.; vice chairman, J. H. Edmisten, Lincoln, Neb.; secretary, J. A. Edgerton, Orange, N. J., (formerly Denver, Colo.); treasurer, George F. Washburn, Boston, Mass. The whole committee consists of three members from each state and territory, except one or two where no populist organization exists. Chairman Butler, for the past two years, has either actively or passively opposed any movement toward unifying the people's party, and the active work has been performed with Vice Chairman Edmisten presiding.

The national committee selected at Cincinnati, May 10, 1900, has for its officers the following persons: Chairman, Jo A. Parker, Louisville, Ky.; Secretary, Jas. E. McBride, Grand Rapids, Mich.; treasurer, Milton Park, Dallas, Tex. This committee consists of one to three members in most of the states and territories.

At the conference held in Denver, Colo., July 27-29, 1903, for the purpose of uniting the two wings of the people's party, it was recognized that both these national committees must, in the nature of things, continue to exist and act until the national convention of 1904 should select a new national committee to take the place of those theretofore existing. But as a sort of auxiliary to the two national committees, a third body of populists was there selected to act in conjunction with these committees in bringing about harmonious party action. The officers of this Denver conference organization are as follows: Chairman, J. A. Edgerton (who is also secretary of the Sioux Falls committee); vice chairman, Milton Park (who is also treasurer of the Cincinnati committee); secretary, J. H.

Calderhead, Helena, Mont.; assistant secretary, C. Q. De France, Lincoln, Neb.; treasurer, J. S. Felter, Springfield, Ill. This committee consists of one member for each state and territory. It was designed to continue whatever work might be done to further the cause of populism until the national convention is held.

The Old Guard of Populism can scarcely be classed as an "organization." It is in reality simply an enrollment of populists, preparatory to perfecting an organization. It is a roster of those who "have come all the way over the trail," who are glad of it, and who propose to continue along the road of populism.

The Vanguard of Populism is essentially the same, both enrollments being kept in the same manner and not separated. The Vanguard is intended to take in all populists, no matter how "old" or how "young" in the faith, who expect to take a more or less active part in the coming campaign. Whether these men are known locally as "union reformers," "liberal democrats," or what not, makes no difference. They are entitled to be enrolled as Vanguards if willing to subscribe to the fundamentals of populism and the action taken at the St. Louis meeting.

It follows, therefore, that old-time populists, not incapacitated for taking an active part in the coming campaign, are entitled to enrollment in both Old Guard and Vanguard. But those who cannot engage actively in the campaign will be enrolled simply in the Old Guard.

It is not intended that this enrollment shall conflict in any manner with the work to be performed by the two national committees. The call for national convention having been made by the joint sub-committee appointed at St. Louis, there is work to be done by Vice Chairman Edmisten (for it is probable that Chairman Butler will continue his inactivity) and Chairman Parker. It is their official business to get in communication with the officers of the various state committees and see that conventions are arranged for selecting delegates to the national convention. This is not the official business of either the Old Guard or the Vanguard of Populism; but Vice Chairman Edmisten and Chairman Parker will doubtless receive a great deal of help from the Old Guards and Vanguards in the way of securing a full attendance at the various conventions.

The roster or record of the two enrollments is being prepared with an

eye to permanence. Every name is written (with pen or typewriter) upon a library bureau card, showing name, postoffice, county, voting precinct, age and place of birth, former politics, and other information regarding the enrolled person. Upon back of card is noted whatever contribution of money, lists of names, or other assistance was rendered by him in carrying on the enrollment work.

These cards are then filed in a cabinet, about 1,000 to each drawer, arranged by states and by counties. Each state "guide card" shows number of counties in the state, number of congressional districts, number of delegates to national convention, and the presidential vote of 1900. Immediately following come cards showing officers and members of the present state committee; the national committeemen; and other information pertaining to the whole state.

Following this come the counties in alphabetical order. Upon each county "guide card" is noted the presidential vote of 1900; what congressional district it is part of; and other information. Immediately following come cards showing the officers and members of the county committee, if any; and then follow in alphabetical order the individual cards of enrolled Vanguards and Old Guards.

This arrangement is ample until a county enrollment should reach several hundred, when it might be advisable to re-file by election precincts or by postoffices if thought best.

No other method of keeping a roster equals the card index system. It can be expanded to any size without disturbing the alphabetical order. The cards will last for years and, being always easily found, can be kept up to date by checking up returned letters, etc. It is a little more work to write out a separate card for each person; but once started, the list grows rapidly with comparatively little effort. There are no duplicates—and that alone will save the extra cost, by eliminating useless postage in a campaign.

I need not dwell upon the merits of this system of keeping records. Business men understand the value of it. And a national campaign ought to be conducted as systematically as any private business.

These records when completed are to be the property of the people's party for the use of the officers of its national committee to be selected at Springfield. The enrolled members come from both wings of the party; and, as each national committee has records of its own, as to committee-

men, etc., the Old Guard and Vanguard enrollments do not in any manner encroach upon the work now to be done by such national committees.

Nor need this enrollment conflict with the precinct club plan adopted by the Parker committee at St. Louis. The business of the Old Guard and the Vanguard is to find individuals who are willing to stand up and be counted for populism, whether committeemen, public officials, or "high privates in the rear ranks." Paraphrasing Burns—"The rank is but the guinea's stamp, A pop's a pop for a' that."

But when two or more of them get together in the name of populism, there is nothing to prevent their forming a club or society or the like. My efforts are confined solely to finding the hiding places of discouraged, down-cast, down-trodden, disheartened populists and to tell them that the people's party still lives; that it will hold a national convention at Springfield, Ill., July 4, 1904; that it will nominate a populist for president and a populist for vice president; and that after that is done and the new national committee gets settled in its headquarters, we want an army of enrolled Vanguards to go out into the highways and by-ways and preach populism to every creature. The hope of America is her "middle-class" and the people's party is its only true exponent.

So, if populists anywhere receive letters from different persons—from Vice Chairman Edmisten, Chairman Parker, or half a dozen others—let them understand that while all are laboring in the vineyard of populism, each is working along a particular line to accomplish a specific end, and that there is no conflict whatever in the work each is doing.

It is the intention to have a Grand Enrollment Day each month, the last one prior to the Springfield convention to be on June 15, after which no more enrollments can be received. At least two weeks will be required to close up the work so the records can be turned over to the new national committee. Grand Enrollment Day for April will be announced next week. In the meantime, if you have no enrollment blanks, cut out the application blank in this issue, write in your name and address and mail it to me. If a special effort will be made in your county, ask for as many blanks as you think will be needed.

Report for the last two weeks of February follows:

- ALABAMA.  
Cherokee county: L. M. Bishop.  
Coffee: John Adkinson, H. E. Brock, James Hearing, A. J. Helms, R. N. Kelley, B. H. Mixon, James More, J. H. Sawyer, T. R. Wright, W. J. Deal, J. Z. Foxworth, T. D. Hendricks, Jasper Parker.  
Fayette: G. W. Ashcraft.  
ARKANSAS.  
Howard county: Levi Cranford.  
Nevada: L. P. Sullivan.  
White: J. S. M. Beaver.  
FLORIDA.  
Calhoun county: W. F. Woodford.  
GEORGIA.  
Gordon county: Y. J. Malone, P. L. McCutcheon.  
Paulding: J. B. McBrayer.  
IDDAHO.  
Canyon county: Frank Forbes.  
ILLINOIS.  
Coles county: A. Whitmer.  
INDIANA.  
Hancock county: Elam M. Leary.  
Johnson: Parker T. Brown.  
Knox: Richard Bonewitz.  
Laporte: Oscar D. Coombs.  
Martin: Walter Summers.  
Miami: F. C. Jackson.  
IOWA.  
Hancock county: J. D. Colyne.  
KANSAS.  
Osborne county: H. A. Turner.  
Phillips: H. F. Palmer.  
Riley: Robert Hauserman.  
Russell: Aug. Helseher.  
KENTUCKY.  
McLean county: G. S. Ward.

### Vanguard of Populism.

APPLICATION BLANK.

Charles Q. De France, Lincoln, Neb.

Please enter my name in the Vanguard enrollment, and send me blanks and other Vanguard printed matter. I shall do what I can to help out in the work

**Grand Enrollment Day,**

(March 31, 1904.)

Name.....

P. O.....

State.....

Precinct.....

County.....

(Cut this out, sign name and address, and mail to C. Q. De France, Lincoln, Neb. Let us add a thousand members to the roll, as the result of a little extra effort on Grand Enrollment Day—March 31, 1904. Speak to your populist neighbors about it.)