

Kansas Politics.

(Some weeks ago The Independent suggested that Kansas populists think over the proposition to nominate Gen. Percy Daniels to head the state ticket. He declines to be considered as a possibility, but suggests the name of Edwin Taylor of Wyandotte county—a suggestion that strikes The Independent as a wise one.—Associate Editor.)

Editor Independent: While I fully appreciate the compliment you give me in suggesting my name for the consideration of the populist state convention for the governorship, permit me to offer as a substitute the name of Edwin Taylor of Wyandotte county, one of the brightest, squarest men that ever followed the populist banner, and who always protested and fought against its being dragged through the maw of political trickery and iniquity.

Since I issued "A Protest on the Council Door" in October, 1898, in which I protested against the policies and practices of the controlling element in the populist "machine," I have not affiliated with any party, and hence, am not eligible for a party nomination.

Until there is a party with the sense, the nerve and the patriotism to say the plunder of labor by the capitalist has got to stop; and upholds positive and specific measures for bringing this about; and not only for stopping the plunder, but for scattering the booty stored in the coffers of the multimillionaires among the people whose labor and genius it represents, my ideas of the necessity for and the justice of such a process will compel me to remain an independent.

Monopolies are the handmaid and consort of a despotism, and a den in a republic. So long as we harbor and protect them we cannot enjoy the blessings of republican institutions.

The fundamental purpose of populism was to destroy monopoly, not simply to restrain it. My paper of October, 1898, was a protest against the substitution of the schemes of the band-wagon crowd for the original—the fundamental—purpose of the party. The following quotation from that article contains my view on these matters, and it has not been modified since it was written:

But the state convention of 1898 was too busy with efforts to maintain the status quo and to adjust the recompense of the reward, to give any heed to the efforts of the legislature to take up the cause of oppressed labor in the only way that will force a readjustment of economic conditions. They preferred to let the legislature wage its war against wealth concentration without their aid; and to let Mr. Ridgely fight the battle against the vampires of commerce without a party backing.

Such is the degenerate politics of today. It is the art of being blind when you ought to see; the faculty of being deaf when you can hear. It is the science of not knowing what you know; and "good politics" is the science of discarding good sense gracefully and persuasively.

Those who know wealth concentration is the cause of our troubles, know, too, that no party is a reform party that does not intend to apply the remedy of diffusion. Certainly no party that repeatedly rejects the opportunity to demand the application of a sovereign antidote after its legislature has deliberately proclaimed it such, can hope to be classed as a reform party.

The difference between the position of the Kansas legislature and the people's party on this question, is the difference between condoning or consenting to perpetuate a great wrong, and a purpose to correct it. It is a vital difference. In 1894 when occupying a prominent state position, I told the populist convention unless they were willing to take an advanced position on this question, if they renominated me they must do it as an independent. The need for such an attack on the combinations and intrenchments of capital is far more apparent and imperative in 1898, than it was in 1894. I concur with the legislature that has moved forward from the Omaha platform, and demands readjusting taxation, rather than a party that refuses to.

The recent record of the populist party shows that their rank are no longer the place for earnest reformers. In the general chaos of principle in the political arena and the wreck of tangible patriotic purposes, the only tenable position for them to occupy is independence. They cannot consistently remain allied with any party that shows no purpose to defend the rights of the industrial classes, by a resort to measures that will release them from the oppressive effects of thirty years of capitalistic spoliation. Much less can they re-

main in the ranks of one that spurns the opportunity offered by its legislature to take such a measure to the battle line.

In our county convention of 1897 I "moved" for an adjournment without making nominations and a call for meeting of the allied forces outside of all present party lines for the purpose of reorganization. It was referred to a committee "without debate" and heard of "never more." A large majority of the convention favored such an effort later. They said, "Wait till after this campaign." Since then I have waited, participating in no political meetings. Instead of a movement to push up stream in the channel defined by the legislature as hoped for, the order is signalled to drift down stream under the head of a party machine.

Protesting against the decision and the order, I will cling to the banner of readjusting taxation, and follow the narrow path of an independent.

The interests that controlled the populist state convention of 1898 are responsible for the failure to respond to the call of the legislature and move forward.

For this failure as well as for the abandonment of its early methods and purpose, the party deserves, not vindication, but rebuke.

Governor Leedy and his party machine, as they were in control of the convention, are responsible for the failure to sustain the legislature. For this reason I oppose his re-election. But there are other reasons why he should be rebuked instead of vindicated. One of these I will cite.

There was a railroad scandal four years ago. It cost the state \$40,000. The populist senate demanded an investigation. A resolution for the purpose was passed and a committee consisting of Senators Taylor, Landis, King, Wilcockson and Scott were appointed.

Later in the session the senate included an item in an appropriation bill, appropriating the money necessary for the expenses of the committee. The republican house of representatives struck out the item. The difference was referred to a committee of conference. The populist conferee appointed by the senate agreed to recommend, as demanded by the house of representatives, that the item be stricken out and the investigation killed. The bill passed as agreed on by the conferees and the investigation was defeated.

Under the next administration, the said populist senator was removed from a state board for disqualifications. When the present administration came in he was reappointed. I am not a defender of \$40,000 swindles on the people, and hence protest against rewarding those who play a conspicuous part in covering them up.

The influences that dictated the course of the state convention this year were exerted against both the judgment and preference of a majority of Governor Leedy's associates in the state house; and hence they bear but little if any of the blame for its sins.

A part of those on the state ticket with him are entitled to a re-election, not because they have been nominated by a populist convention, but for especially efficient service. Some are entitled to support for a sincerity of purpose; and others, including Associate Justice Allen, Congressman-at-large Botkin, and Congressman Ridgely for both reasons.

With the present populist senate, the cause of good government, which should be but is not the incentive of parties, could not suffer as much with the executive council divided among three parties, as it would to vindicate with our votes those who deserve to be rebuked.

The important state boards that are not chosen by the people, are either elected by the executive council, or appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate. If no one of them could be made up from any one party, the state would get better service. The minority should be represented on every board by men not selected by the agents of the majority.

Parties as they exist and operate today are bellowing imposters and organized frauds, sowing little but deception and garnering little but spoils and corruption. There is not enough honest metal in their defensive works to send to the junk shop; nor of honest purpose in their offensive armament to shake a reed.

They are either reliable machines of plutocracy and the corporations, or they are the handy tools of hypocrites and harlequins, and are as much responsible, through the deceptions they have practiced and the corruption they have defended, for the servitude of the masses to plutocratic usurpers, as

SIXTH YEAR OF THE UNITED MUTUAL HAIL INSURANCE ASS'N.

E. D. Beach, Pres. S. H. Burnham, Vice-Pres. Jno. F. Zimmer, Secretary-Treas.
Exeter, Neb. Pres. First Nat. Bk.
Incorporated January 4, 1899.

HOME OFFICE--116 So. 10th St., Lincoln, Neb.

Number of Policies issued since organization..... 11,570
Amount insured thereby..... \$6,800,000.00
Number of loss claims paid, 2,963. Amount..... \$200,911.80
Largest single loss ever paid by any company..... \$1,577.00

The largest, oldest, best and most successful hail insurance company now doing business in the state. Upwards of two hundred thousand dollars paid for losses, an average of more than forty thousand dollars for each year of the association. Old line companies are simply astonished when they look at the record of the United Mutual, but it only goes to show what can be done by a well managed mutual. One of the most important facts is in the cost of carrying this large amount of risks and paying this large amount of losses compared with the

cost of carrying this amount of insurance with an old line company. If the amount of insurance carried by the United Mutual would have been applied for to old line companies it would have cost the insured upwards of eighty-five thousand dollars more to get it than it has cost the members of the United Mutual to get it. This is certainly a big saving in the cost to the insured.

The following is a summary of all business done during the year 1903 by all the hail insurance companies licensed to do a hail insurance business for the year 1904:

	Losses Paid in 1903	Losses paid since organization	Ins. in force Dec. 31, 1903.
United Mutual, Lincoln.....	\$53,596.10	\$200,911.80	\$1,683,220.00
Hastings Mutual, Hastings.....	4,841.15	21,596.15	87,211.00
Cash Mutual, Lincoln.....	4,720.82	10,651.82	None
Nebraska Farmers, Hastings.....	580.35	680.35	59,365.00
Eastern Nebraska, Wayne.....	429.73	429.73	72,250.00
Security Mutual, Omaha.....	6,340.89	7,861.69	70,088.00

The above figures show that the United Mutual alone paid \$36,683.18 more for losses during the year 1903 than all the others combined and has paid since organization the enormous sum of \$200,911.80, being \$159,791.88 more than the combined payments of all other hail insurance companies now doing business in the state. It therefore had not ought to be necessary for any argument as to which is the most reliable, strongest and best company to insure with.

The rates of the United Mutual are now all fixed by the by-laws, there being no haphazard or guess-work about it. Every one becoming a member knows just what he has to pay. The secretary and treasurer is bonded with the United States Fidelity and Guarantee Co. in the sum of \$50,000 for the faithful accounting of all the moneys coming into his hands as provided by law, passed by the last legislature.

This bond is deposited with the auditor of the state of Nebraska, so that every dollar paid in is absolutely safe.

Write and tell us how many acres you have under cultivation and give us the numbers of your land, together with a policy fee of \$2, and we will issue a policy for you, taking effect as soon as received at the Home Office, at the rate of \$6 per acre on any kind of crops, for which the premium will be 21 cents per acre if paid June 15 or 24 cents per acre if not paid until fall. If you live east of range 9 west of the sixth principal meridian. West of this line the rate is 30 cents and 36 cents per acre. Write today. Don't delay; tomorrow may be too late. It won't take ten minutes of hail to deprive you of your whole summer's labor. Applications and by-laws sent to you for the asking. Write your wind storm insurance in the Western Cyclone Ins. Co., Lincoln, Neb.

are the lawless exactions of organized capital for their plundering.

From this plundering and this bondage the industrial class will never be relieved until at least a majority of these parties are swept from the arena they have defiled and disgraced. When they get their just deserts they will be branded as imposters and banished to hades. It will be a blessed thing for Kansas, if in the pending election neither or all of them can celebrate a victory.

Partisanship has become the screen for plotting and the shield of intrigue. It is the sanctum of deceit and the bulwark of corruption. To be entitled to my vote there must be a change both in methods and purpose.

I will never again vote a straight party ticket until there is a party with the patriotism, the sense and the nerve to say the plunder of labor by the capitalist has got to stop; and makes its first purpose to bring about such amendments to the constitution, and such legislation, as will not only stop it, but will scatter the booty stored in the coffers of the multimillionaires, among the people whose labor and genius it represents, in less time than they have taken to rake it in.

That day looks a long way ahead. Present evidences point to it as beyond the horizon. But it may be nearer than any of us expect; nearer than the revelers dream of plutocracy imagines; nearer than the corporate usurpers and their mawkish party zealots, nearer than the plunderers and their hoodling allies, nearer than the drones and their adored Belschazzar surmise.

"Till then let Cummings blaze away. And Millers Saints blow up the globe; But when you HAIL that blessed day, You'll cease to be a dumb microbe."
Girard, Kas., Oct. 19, 1898.

It is useless to try and gather together the scattered hosts of populism, without not only going back to the fundamental purpose of the organization—a purpose that started it on the road to certain success had a majority of the party rulers been able to keep the faith—and, discarding the heresies of the band-wagon contingent, adding to that foundation a superstructure of simple and specific, of positive and just measures to bring

this about, to crush monopoly and to undo the vicious and unparalleled wrong it has done.

It is useless to ask men to come again and help destroy monopoly in the same ways we have been trying (or have thought we were trying) for the past series of years.

If we want volunteer recruits for such a purpose, we must show them how we propose to do it. If it should be possible to gather the necessary force without a specific plan of operations, the same slick tools of the oligarchy, the same dupes of the band-wagon, and the same motley throng of grafters from the bummers' brigade, will swell the patriotic ranks and then combine as they have before and defeat our purpose. Lament it or deplore it as we may, neither the old party nor a new party can collect the necessary force to unhorse the oligarchy without not only the positive purpose, but the specific plan—simple, clean cut and certainly effective—to work for.

I have given too many years of close study, of earnest effort, of careful work over these subjects to be in any doubt about the proposition; and if you would like to encourage the discussion of such measures, I would be glad to submit to the clubs for their consideration and a vote thereon, three or four planks as a suggestion for a basis for the organization, and to incite a new interest in the meetings and in a forward move.

In reference to the governorship question: Even if, under other conditions, I should be willing again to enter the sulphurous vortex of politics in the hope of aiding the industrial masses to find some peaceable way of escape from their bondage—some solar plexus for plutocracy's battle-axe of starvation—which was the sole motive in my previous experience, I know my strength is not now equal to the work it would involve, and, hence, could not accept the nomination.

If you will accept my amendment to your suggestion, I am sure you will do the reform cause a service.

PERCY DANIELS.
Narragansett Farm, Girard, Kas.

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