

Mason Co., Washington

Editor Independent: I send you my name to be enrolled in the Old Guard of Populism. I joined the people's party in the year 1892. I was the fourth name on the list that was presented to the people of Mason county to secure the county convention. In that convention 150 men enrolled and about that number of votes were cast.

The organization was lost through the duplicity of the secretary and some of the members of the county committee. The records were destroyed and could never be found. We reorganized two years later by help of Farmer Todd of Kansas and several of the old members.

In the year 1894 we had 26 straight mid-road populists as the vote stood on the county ticket. But in fusion with the democrats the organization is lost. Most of the populists divide the vote, so there is a tie between the two old parties.

GEORGE W. C. KENNEDY.

Clarke Co., Miss.

Editor Independent: I received the roll of papers you sent me. Am getting along in years; have not got the snap in me I had 15 or 20 years ago, but I am not so old but what I know right from wrong. Have been with the greenback party ever since it was born. I know we are right and I know that if the common people don't get together and work for their interests, it will soon be too late—we have been asleep too long.

The most of the people here don't seem to think there is any danger, and that in time it will all be right; the most of them think if they are a democrat that is all that's needed. I wish there was a way to open their eyes and see the condition the country is in. I am a strong Bryan man, but am afraid he has got too much to butt against. If the gold party get control of the democratic convention, I believe the people's party will have a good chance to do something. Our great mistake was when we went in snucks with the democratic party; but the old saying is, "Bought wit is good."

I have lived here in Mississippi eight years; came from Newaygo county, Michigan. Voted the greenback ticket when there were only six votes cast for the party in the county; in two years we elected every officer in the county; then in two years more we went in snucks with the democrats and lost everything.

I have never found a paper that suits me better than The Independent. J. H. VAN NESS.

Gonzales Co., Texas

Editor Independent: That there should be diversity of plans is but natural, for men are not constituted alike either mentally or physically; but after an investigation of the thoughts and ideas of each other a rational solution may be found which will meet the approval of all interested in the final result.

Changing of program in any movement, unless made necessary by change in circumstances which brought the movement into existence, is considered evidence of weakness; so that it would seem best to adhere to first principles and to present a firm front to any opposition which may present itself.

There are new questions being presented which may be considered in the light of details and that can be acted upon after what we believe more important ones are disposed of.

The three planks, finance, land, and transportation, with all that would naturally come under the three heads, makes a platform broad enough or any intelligent citizen to stand upon.

We would all agree that to succeed there must be a persistent adherence to first principles; if they were important enough for the foundation of a political party they are important enough to continue to be the foundation till the necessity ceases to exist. A party that believes its position to be the best for the general good is bound to succeed eventually if it is not divested from its position by any outside influence.

Such interests are now watching the trend of general thought with reference to their movements and it is only by persevering on lines which are intended to counteract the evil effect of any action of capital, that populism may hope to attain its objects. We have precedents enough both in our own country and in others where continued effort on lines of benefit to the whole people have finally been successful when persistently presented for legislative action.

At times it has taken continued encroachment of oppression to compel attention to reforms which these encroachments necessitate; but human nature is seldom satisfied; hence, we

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find that the various schemes which capital has inaugurated are being constantly enlarged and strengthened without considering the direful effect which they will have upon the community at large.

The seeming prosperity which is so persistently proclaimed by a certain class has had the effect of blinding the eyes of the masses to the real existing conditions; but it is to be hoped that the continued consolidation of power in the hands of a less number will finally result in calling the attention of a suffering people to the real situation.

Finally, let me say to the populist party: Let us be one in purpose, in desire, and in continued action for the perpetuity of those principles, which will inevitably secure and perpetuate a republican form of government. S. C. LE BARON.

San Diego Co., California.

Editor Independent: I do not know but I am entitled to call myself one of the Old Guard, as I do and have been voting for populist principles ever since Garfield's election. Was in the thick of the fight in Kansas from 1882 to 1895 and have kept it up since that time in this place. Voted for Bryan in 1896 and 1900 and still think him one of the grandest men in America, but think he is out of place in the democratic party.

I am an old soldier of the war of the rebellion and would be glad to see our government return to a government of the people, by the people, for the people, rescued from the hand of Greed. JONES K. WARREN.

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