

Nebraska Populists.

After the indorsement of Bryan at St. Louis in 1896, the people's party organization in a good many states was more or less closely merged with the democratic organization. At that time the election laws in most of the states were such that a new party was easily started, and the failure of the people's party to retain its place on the official ballot was a matter of no particular moment, because if the democratic party should lapse into its former state of political barbarism, the populists could easily regain their place as an independent political organization.

But plutocracy is never idle. It had received a genuine fright because of the wonderful growth of the people's party, and in the eight years since 1896, nearly every state has made such changes in the election laws as to render independent third party movements almost impossible—at any rate, very difficult.

Thus the Australian ballot, originally intended as an aid to independent voting, has, by a few clever amendments, been used as the means to kill off such independence.

The democracy of every state, except Nebraska, began early to absorb the populist membership and to see that the people's party made no nominations. But in Nebraska, at least until 1902, there was no indication of any desire on the part of democrats to break down the populist organization. As a matter of fact, all the victories in Nebraska had been won with the people's independent party in the lead—a vital, powerful organization—and the democratic party "playing second fiddle."

In 1902 the democrats were insistent for the head of the state ticket. "We intend to have it," some of them said, "even if we have to go it alone. We are not handicapped this year by a presidential situation. We don't have to submit to populist aggression 'for Bryan's sake'."

Unfortunately they were assisted in this course by many of the populist leaders, whose action at the 1902 Grand Island convention showed a desire to build up the democratic party by disorganizing, humiliating and disrupting the people's independent party. That this was a piece of foolishness, from any standpoint whatever, is evident. Co-operation between Bryan democrats and populists in Nebraska can succeed only by placing the people's independent party in the lead. The populists greatly outnumber their democratic allies, and will not submit to play a minor part.

Since 1902, in many of the counties,

a persistent effort has been made to take into the democratic party every populist party officer possible, and to thus allow the people's independent party to die. For example, there has never been any vital opposition to co-operation in the Fourth congressional district; yet this year the democratic congressional convention has been called at York for June 21, and the populist chairman, Geo. L. Burr of Aurora, has not, so far as The Independent can learn, made any move even to call his committee together. If he believes the populists of the Fourth district can be railroaded en masse into the democratic party by such tactics—well, he is mistaken. There will be a populist nomination for congress over in the Fourth district.

Burr's tactics are in harmony with the do-nothing proposal made by Mr. Howard at the last committee meeting. Or, perhaps, more accurately, the tactics are the joint product emanating from the minds of Former Congressman Stark, Burr, and Howard. The people's independent party organization is to be abandoned as a worthless hulk and all live populists will be taken aboard the democratic craft. Charles Gilbert will be given the democratic nomination for congress; Col. Stark, the democratic nomination for governor, and all will go "merry as a marriage bell."

But "the best laid plans o' mice and men gang aft a-glee."

There is life in the people's party. It is not dead. It cannot die until another party takes up its cardinal tenets, and places in charge of its party machinery men who sincerely believe in populism. It cannot die so long as Dave Hill, Grover Cleveland, Senator Gorman, and men of that ilk, occupy prominent places in the party which proposes to absorb the people's party. Nebraska populists could become Bryan democrats, Dr. Hall democrats, Billy Thompson democrats, C. J. Smyth democrats—if they were absolutely sure that the Bryan-Hill-Thompson-Smyth democracy would be the democracy of the United States.

But they are not sure of this. On the contrary, they see indications that quite another kind of democracy is to prevail at St. Louis—a democracy that differs from republicanism in name only.

So the people's party of the United States must retain its organization. It will hold a national convention at Springfield, July 4, and Nebraska will have 48 delegates there to assist in making nominations for president and vice president. These delegates will be elected at Fremont, June 21. Hamilton, Jefferson and a few other "seceding" counties may not be represented, but there will be plenty without the secessionists.

On to Fremont, June 21.
On to Springfield, Ill., July 4.

NEBRASKA CONVENTIONS.

The following is an abstract of calls, committee meetings, and conventions, for the past week, looking to sending delegates to Fremont, June 21:

ADAMS—Delegate convention at Hastings, June 4. Sixteen country precincts and four city wards; 204 delegates. W. T. Johnson, chairman; Aug. H. Binderup, secretary. Call published in The Public Journal and Hastings Republican.

The Hastings Republican of June 6 says: "The populist county convention convened at the court house at 1:30. J. N. Lyman, chairman, and Geo. E. Brown and Chas. Phillips, secretaries. The following delegates were chosen to attend the state convention at Fremont: J. N. Lyman, Chris Larsen, John Evans, J. Fahrney, J. Harris, Geo. E. Brown, W. T. Johnson, M. C. Fernow."

ANTELOPE—"I publish this week (in The Yeoman) the state and county call. We shall probably do all our work at this one convention."—James R. Cary.

BOONE—Delegate convention at Albion, June 18, at 1 o'clock p. m., to elect both state delegations (Fremont and Lincoln). Fourteen precincts, 80 delegates. S. Z. Williamson, chairman. Call published in the Petersburg Index, and in the Albion Argus.

BUFFALO—Delegate convention at Kearney, Saturday, June 18, at 10 o'clock a. m., to elect delegates to Fremont and to congressional convention. Twenty-five country precincts and four city wards; 96 delegates. J. M. Easterling, chairman; C. C. Carrig, secretary. Call published in the New Era-Standard.

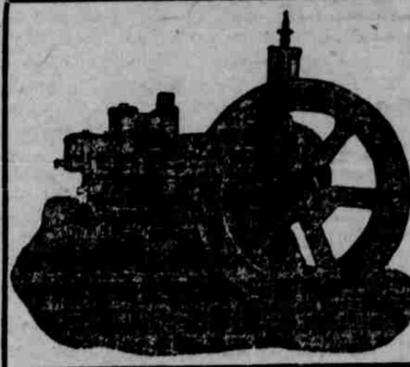
BUTLER—County committee meeting June 4 named delegation to Fremont as follows: N. Holderness, Rising City; J. A. Myers, Millerton; Jos.



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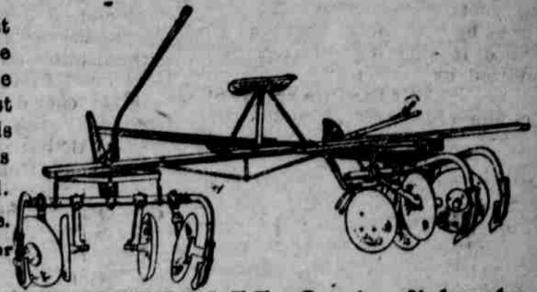
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CLAY—Delegate convention at Clay Center, June 15, 1904, at 10 o'clock a. m. Twenty precincts, 113 delegates. Precinct caucuses recommended for not later than June 13 and should elect township committeemen. Theo. Griess, chairman; J. G. Jessup, secretary. Call published in Clay County Patriot.

COLFAX—Mass convention at Schuyler, June 18, at 2 o'clock p. m., to elect delegates to Fremont. W. H. Carleton, chairman; F. A. Sucha, secretary. Call published in the Schuyler Quill and the Howells Journal.

CUSTER—Delegate nominating convention, Broken Bow, June 6, 1904; at 10 o'clock a. m., and to elect state, congressional, senatorial and representative delegations. Twenty-five precincts, 215 delegates. N. E. Armstrong, chairman; H. J. Shinn, secre-

tary. Call published in the Custer County Beacon; also, in last issue, 15 caucuses notices, and a spirited address by the chairman and secretary. (The following report is clipped from the World-Herald of June 7: "Broken Bow, Neb., June 6.—The populist convention convened today and elected delegates to the state convention at Fremont as follows: Brown, Beal, Shinn, Fennimore, Brega, Arthur, Leisure, Evans, Tooley. A. P. Johnson was unanimously nominated for county attorney. Among resolutions adopted were those declaring loyalty to the people's party as enunciated in 1892, 1896 and 1900; against trusts as a menace to national welfare; withdrawal of all protective tariff from trust manufactured articles; for direct legislation, and opposition to fusion with other political parties. Delegates were instructed to vote only for candidates pledged to work for repeal of some of the present laws. A committee on resolutions composed of James Stockman, W. J. Taylor and C. W. Beal, chairman, was appointed.