

work. The following letter from Florida is of interest:

Editor Independent: I have just heard of the nomination of Hon. Thos. E. Watson as our candidate for president. This is glorious news; and I know you feel good over it, too, as you did so much to secure this grand result.

I gave my name to J. S. Stone this morning as a campaign subscriber to your paper. I am so anxious to have the full proceedings of our convention before me and hope you will send it to me.

What do you advise us of this state to do? We are in a chaotic state or condition, without head, tail or body; and worst of all without organization. I am too poor and feeble to canvass the state and I fear we shall not be able to get Watson electors on the official ballot; but, if we could, I know that Watson will poll more votes in the state than Roosevelt will.

Our election law provides that a caucus may select candidates and have them placed on the official ballot, and I believe this will be our only recourse as it would be impossible now to hold a state nomination.

If you will authorize me to take the initiative I will see to it that Watson electors are placed in the field at an early date. Please write me just how to proceed. Or if you do not have the necessary power to act, please forward this to the official who has.

Poverty alone kept me from the Springfield convention; but it cannot hold my tongue and pencil; and I am therefore determined to do all I can for our cause. I am, no doubt, the most hated man in Florida, because I have hit the democratic party more hard, effective blows, all above the belt, too, than any man in the state. So I am proud of my work and feel like pushing right on.

I was state organizer, was appointed a member of the national executive committee by the Cincinnati convention, of which distinguished body I was a member. W. R. SHIELDS. Blountstown, Fla.

## IDAHO.

Editor Independent: Enclosed you will find one dollar to help carry on the principles of populism. I voted for Weaver in 1892 and have been voting the populist ticket ever since, when we have a ticket on the ballot.

I do not think there will be a populist ticket in the county this year. I am the only people's party man in the precinct. I may have to cast a written vote for people's party candidates if the republican and democratic judges of election do not disfranchise me. They have done that once, claiming that a man could not cast a vote without a ticket head; and we have had a hot old time ever since. I tell them they violated the election laws and the rights of a voter. Yours for liberty and justice, E. C. WHITE.

Yellow Jacket, Idaho.  
(Isn't there some way of putting Watson and Tibbles electors on the ballot by petition? The Old Guard of Populism in Idaho would make good electoral timber. For example, what is the matter with this for the ticket: Frank Forbes, Payette; R. D. Jones, Bonner's Ferry; and E. C. White, Yellow Jacket.—Associate Editor.)

## IOWA.

Editor Independent: Ha! ha!! ha!!! What will those bright and shining lights in the populist interregnum do now, that Billy Bryan has publicly declared that he will support Gold Bug Parker as a presidential candidate and endorse so much of an unmeaning-straddle-diplomatic-tickle you tickle me platform as is necessary to clearly stand by the political fortunes of public support of the gold bug democratic national platform of 1904?

Billy Hearst: Ditto! ditto!! ditto!!! I know of some political miscegenationists, who reside in Iowa, who are now industriously hunting for a hole into which they can crawl with their "swag;" the hole to be left open, so that they can emerge at the very moment when the salubrious salvation of the tillers of the land will absolutely demand their presence and vast influence to right the ship of state, put the helm hard-a-lee, and steer for the first inlet that promises a speedy out-go, when the tides are "favorable"—to their personal, selfish interests!

The money contest, by the bold stroke of Parker, is now in the arena, and will not down at behest of any man.

I will help to hurl the javelin of God Almighty's righteous retribution into the very vitals of the British money kings. L. H. WELLER. Nashua, Ia.

## PRATT COUNTY, KANSAS.

Editor Independent: In this county (Pratt) we have maintained our people's party organization and at present have regularly elected active committeemen in every voting precinct

except one, and in that we have one appointed. We have about \$25 in our treasurer's hands to begin the campaign with this year. We have called a county convention for the 13th of August to nominate a county ticket and from present appearances think we will have a full ticket in the field.

Much depends upon the action of our coming state convention on August 3. At the present time many of the democrats of this county say they will not vote for Judge Parker. Some of them say they will vote for Roosevelt, while others are for Watson and Tibbles.

To our way of thinking there is but one party than can make any headway as opposing the republican party in Kansas this year, and that is our people's party. This is surely our opportunity to build for the future. Whether or not we will make the most of it remains to be determined. Our people are tired of machine and corporation rule and are in fit frame of mind to receive the gospel of reform through the people's party.

R. F. CRICK.

Pratt, Kas.

## SMITH COUNTY, KAS.

J. A. Wright, editor of The Messenger at Smith Center (populist exchanges will please get this address right) in sending the secretary his acceptance as national committeeman, adds a postscript in which he says:

"As you will observe by this week's issue of The Messenger we nominated the same man for state senator the democrats had nominated, to await the action of the other two counties in this district.

"It doesn't seem possible that any man with a single cardinal principle of populism in him, could yet talk fusion, but I still find a number of them at it, who said a month ago that if Parker was nominated they would accept the inevitable and go in with us to defeat the republicans. Fact is, all such men are democrats; never were populists, and would have to be shown an office to bring them. A positive detriment when we do get them. J. A. WRIGHT."

## NEW JERSEY.

Editor Independent: The people's party of our neighboring state of New York seems to go in for a winning fight.

What's the matter with New Jersey? Why not do the same in our state? Conditions are the same; the people seem to be ready and anxious to come into the people's party and fight for its principles. Let us have an early state convention and start the ball rolling. JNO. RAUCH.

Camden, N. J.

## A TYPICAL INSTANCE.

Some time in February or March, last, Old Guard Enos B. Whitmore, of Rochester, N. Y., sent in a list of names of former Monroe county populists, among whom were John M. Campbell, Martin J. Cook, John E. Dann, James H. Goodno, Joseph Grasperger, Sol Herschler, Louis Manz, John O'Connor, Charles Sanger, Jas. Spinning, Charles Stoffel, Joseph Williams, and others. They were enrolled March 19, the cards being marked "enrolled by request of E. B. Whitmore," and letters of invitation were sent March 28.

Not one of the number vouchsafed a reply, and the secretary began to think the cards should be cancelled, when the letter following came to hand this week, under date of July 13. It is of interest as showing conditions in New York state, and as showing the changed attitude of populists since the Springfield convention. The writer, Mr. Manz, was a delegate to Omaha in 1892, a member of the state committee from 1895 on, and secretary of the county committee from 1892 to 1897. His letter follows:

Charles Q. De France: Your favors of last March at hand in due time, but I refrained from answering the same until now, because I wanted to see what action would be taken at Springfield on the 4th. I did not want to see 1896 or 1900 repeated because it was through fusion that the populists lost their identity in this state in 1896, and I have been compelled to work with the democratic party more or less since then; but with a gold crowd in control I am through with said party. If I must vote with the ruffled shirt element, I will do so right and vote with the republicans, who make no bones about their protecting trusts and other robbers of the people.

It seems to me that the working people of this part of the country have not half enough of hard times to wake them up to the fact that they must break away from the old corrupt "yellow dog" parties, if they want anything like justice and laws that protect poor and rich alike.

Enclosed find Old Guard enrollment blank filled out; also \$1 to help you

get others.

As you will see by said blank, I have been active in the movement in the past, and am still heart and soul with the populists; but circumstances have changed and it will be utterly impossible for me to find the time to devote to this work in the future as I did in the nineties. Many of our active populists in this city have joined the socialists, some few are backsliders, and a few have since passed away, leaving but a handful of men who could be interested for the two Toms this fall, although if we can get the ticket placed on the official ballot this fall there might be a chance of reviving the party in this state.

The last chairman of the state committee was D. M. S. Fero, Glens Falls, N. Y., and the secretary, Lawrence J. McParlin, Lockport, N. Y. I also send list of some old populists who may perhaps get interested again if written to.

Hoping that Watson and Tibbles will be able to carry at least three or four states in November, yours in the cause, LOUIS MANZ. Rochester, N. Y.

## OHIO.

Editor Independent: Isn't it lovely? The St. Louis democratic convention has anglicised the donkey; he is bobbed now (no money plank). The last farewell shot in the last section shelves all that was true democracy in the last two platforms. The plank on labor is not sincere; and on imperialism, buncomb; the tariff plank hacknied with redeeming features. Hurrah for Watson and Tibbles!

DR. R. H. REEMELIN. Cincinnati, O.

## OKLAHOMA.

Oklahoma territory (it should be state) is alive to the situation and sets an example which might be followed advantageously by populists in other places. Hon. Spencer E. Sanders, of Kingfisher, is a member of the national committee and chairman of the territorial committee, which embraces 23 of the 26 counties of Oklahoma. With his letter of acceptance as member of the national committee, he sends the national secretary a complete list of the territorial committee by counties, and a complete list of the Kingfisher county committee by townships.

If other national committeemen would be as prompt as Mr. Sanders, it would not take long to have a complete roster of the populist organization clear down to the townships. Why not do so?

## WISCONSIN.

No good purpose is accomplished by concealing the true condition of affairs in any state. He who would deceive the enemy by practicing self-deception, is himself the fool. The fact is that populism received a body blow in Wisconsin as the result of fusion with the democrats, and with such a man as Governor La Follette heading one faction of the republican party, the outlook for rebuilding the people's party in Wisconsin is, at this time, not very bright.

The letter below is from one of the members of the national committee selected at Springfield. He does not feel like accepting the position now, but developments within the next month may cause him to reconsider. His letter is worthy of publication because Mr. Freihube is a typical Wisconsin populist. He says:

Chas. Q. De France, Secretary: I received your communication, and in reply will say that I cannot write an encouraging letter, as populism in our state is dead. We have no official standing for nearly three years. We can only get on the ticket by petition, and that we are not able to do now, as most of our people have joined the social democracy.

What killed us was the fusion with the democrats. I have been in the reform movement for over twenty years, but now I belong to no party, as I never was a democrat nor a republican, and am not ready to join the social democracy.

I am very sorry that our party has vanished. I was at the conference in Cincinnati, and also in St. Louis when the union labor party was founded; and to all national conventions—Omaha, St. Louis, and Sioux Falls.

I do not think that under the circumstances I can become a member of the national committee, as all work done in this state is wasted labor, in my judgment. I think Mr. R. Schilling will tell you the same. He was, or is yet, the chairman of the state central committee, of which I was the last secretary.

This is all I can say. I hope that you people in other states can do better. I would like to caution you to be careful who you deal with. Such democrats (a true populist he never was) as General Weaver are a detri-

ment to our cause. We have too many selfish men that are hypocrites at best. Wishing you success in the cause.

H. S. FREIHUBE.

Milwaukee, Wis.

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