

# The Independent.

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No. 10

## NEBRASKA POPULIST CONVENTION:

Oliver Theater, Lincoln, Nebraska, Wednesday, August 10, 1904, at 2 o'clock p. m.

Don't forget the date.

In all likelihood the railroads will make a rate of One Fare for Round Trip. Ask the agent.

Thomas E. Watson, wires he will be here Aug., 10th.

TELEGRAM.—Received Thursday, 3 p. m.—"T. H. Tibbles, Lincoln, Neb.—Will be with you August 10th. THOMAS E. WATSON, Thompson, Ga."

## Open Letter to Single Taxers

MR. FREELAND Urges Single Taxers to Support WATSON AND TIBBLES

Editor Independent: Single taxers are practically a unit in their distrust of Judge Parker's democracy, just as they are unanimous in their antagonism to the influences which surround him and which are responsible for his nomination. Numbers of them propose to vote for Roosevelt, as a rebuke to the pluto-democracy and to make the defeat of that element overwhelming.

But are single-taxers justified in supporting either representative of the double-headed plutocratic monster?

The people's party is in the field with a genuinely democratic ticket and perhaps the best platform ever enunciated by a national party in the history of the country. While there is room for improvement in the platform from the viewpoint of a single-taxer, still it approaches more nearly to his ideal than any other. Four years ago the middle-of-the-road populists gave indications of a tendency toward socialism, and of course single-taxers could not support them, but, since the socialist party has made such rapid gains as to make a semi-socialistic party superfluous, the people's party has altered its course and is now headed toward real Jeffersonian democracy.

Under these circumstances, with the option of supporting either democracy or plutocracy, wouldn't it be cowardly for the rank and file of single-taxers to support the plutocratic interests by voting for either of monopolies' representatives?

It will be argued that a vote for Watson would be but half a vote against Parker, while a vote for Roosevelt would count a full vote against pluto-democracy, and that every vote possible should be thrown against the latter. But "that is the affair of Jupiter, not ours." We should "not do evil that good may come." We "can not command success, but we can do better; we can deserve it."

But it is not so certain that a vote for Roosevelt rather than Watson would be the surest way to defeat Parker. An active and enthusiastic support of the people's party platform and ticket would probably carry ten reform votes where one could be induced to support Roosevelt.

Signs are not wanting that a panic is impending. One of those decennial industrial depressions (the cause of which none but single-taxers can understand) is hovering over the land. It has been with us for seventeen months. Look at the record of business failures for the last couple years, an increase of fifty per cent for the past seventeen months over the corresponding period previous, notwithstanding the recent separation of "business" from "bank" failures. Observe that the annual surplus of federal government receipts over expenditures which was a feature of the last two years has changed to a deficit—from an average surplus in the four years, 1900-03 of \$26,000,000, to a deficit for 1904 of \$65,000,000; to a reduction of the available cash in the treasury in the past year of \$65,000,000. Consider the effect of the discharge of a million men from employment in the last year and the reduction of wages of two million more of from 7 to 60 per cent, an average of 20 per cent. This is equivalent to a reduction of 10 per cent

in the purchasing power of the nation. Stagnation is inevitable. The panic can not be stayed. The crisis can not be far off.

Plutocracy would be delighted to have a democratic president who would not be dangerous to its interests, during the panic years, as was the case a decade ago. Then the republicans would take charge again during the comparatively prosperous years that would follow.

A million votes for the people's party ticket would be the surest way of defeating Parker and electing Roosevelt. It would demonstrate to the satisfaction of all democrats that no pluto-democratic candidate could approach Bryan or any other real democrat as a vote-getter. The responsibility for the panic would be placed upon the republicans. Out of the panic would emerge a real Jeffersonian party—either the democratic or the people's party—whichever was fittest to survive.

The Nebraska Independent by its heroic work for reform has easily made itself the national organ of the people's party. It offers a campaign rate of seven subscriptions for a dollar. If even 1,000 single-taxers would send in a club weekly until election day they would bring the best national platform yet promulgated to the attention of 100,000 readers and would thus do their part toward overthrowing for good the corporation-dominated democracy.

The populists are fellow reformers. We have nothing to fear from them, now that they have turned from socialism. Our local option in taxation measure was submitted as a constitutional amendment in two states, Washington and Colorado—both populist.

If the course above outlined meets the approval of single-taxers they can show it by actively aiding in the circulation of The Independent. In the meantime they need not let up in their propaganda of that reform without which all others are worthless.

A. FREELAND.

Mt. Pleasant, Tenn., July 23.

### Peoples Party Platform.

The people's party reaffirms its adherence to the basic truths of the Omaha platform of 1892, and of the subsequent platforms of 1896 and 1900. In session in its fourth national convention on July 4, 1904, in the city of Springfield, Ill., it draws inspiration from the day that saw the birth of the nation, as well as its own birth as a party, and also from the soul of him who lived at its present place of meeting.

We renew our allegiance to the old-fashioned American spirit that gave this nation existence, and made it distinctive among the peoples of the earth. We again sound the keynote of the Declaration of Independence, that all men are created equal in a political sense, which is the sense in which that instrument, being a political document, intended that the utterance should be understood. We assert that the departure from this fundamental truth is responsible for the ills from which we suffer as a nation; that the giving of special privileges to the few has enabled them to dominate the

many, thereby tending to destroy the political equality which is the corner stone of democratic government.

We call for a return to the truths of the fathers, and we vigorously protest against the spirit of mammonism and of thinly-veiled monarchy, that is invading certain sections of our national life, and of the very administration itself. This is a nation of peace, and we deplore the appeal to the spirit of force and militarism which is shown in ill-advised and vainglorious boasting and, in more harmful ways, in the denial of the rights of man under martial law.

A political democracy and an industrial despotism cannot exist side by side; and nowhere is this truth more plainly shown than in the gigantic monopolies which have bred all sorts of kindred trusts, subverted the governments of many of the states, and established their official agents in the national government. We submit that it is better for the government to own the railroads than for the railroads to own the government; and that one or the other alternative seems inevitable.

We call the attention of our fellow citizens to the fact that the surrender of both of the old parties to corporate influences leaves the people's party the only party of reform in the nation.

Therefore, we submit the following platform of principles to the American people:

The issuing of money is a function of government, and should never be delegated to corporations or individuals. The constitution gives to congress alone power to coin money and regulate its value.

We demand, therefore, that all money shall be issued by the government in such quantity as shall maintain stability in prices, every dollar to be a full legal tender, none of which shall be a debt redeemable in other money.

We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of the savings of the people.

We believe in the right of labor to organize for the benefit and protection of those who toil; and pledge the efforts of the people's party to preserve this right inviolate. Capital is organized and has no right to deny to labor the privilege which it claims for itself. We feel that intelligent organization of labor is essential; that it raises the standard of workmanship, and promotes the efficiency, intelligence, independence and character of the wage-earner. We believe with Abraham Lincoln that labor is prior to capital, and is not its slave, but its companion; and we plead for that broad spirit of toleration and justice which will promote industrial peace through the observance of the principles of voluntary arbitration.

We favor the enactment of legislation looking to the improvement of conditions for wage-earners, the abolition of child labor, the suppression of sweat shops and of convict labor, in competition with free labor, and the exclusion from American shores of foreign pauper labor.

We favor the shorter work day, and declare that if eight hours constitutes

a day's labor in government service, that eight hours should constitute a day's labor in factories, work shops and mines.

As a means of placing all public questions directly under the control of the people, we demand that legal provision be made under which the people may exercise the initiative, referendum and proportional representation, and direct vote for all public officers, with the right of recall.

Land, including all the natural sources of wealth, is a heritage of all the people, and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes; and alien ownership of land should be prohibited.

We demand a return to the original interpretation of the constitution and a fair and impartial enforcement of laws under it; and denounce government by injunction and imprisonment without the right of trial by jury.

To prevent unjust discrimination and monopoly, the government should own and control the railroads; and those public utilities, which in their nature are monopolies. To perfect the postal service, the government should own and operate the general telegraph and telephone systems, and provide a parcels post.

As to those trusts and monopolies which are not public utilities or natural monopolies, we demand that those special privileges which they now enjoy, and which alone enable them to exist, should be immediately withdrawn. Corporations being the creatures of government should be subjected to such governmental regulations and control as will adequately protect the public. We demand the taxation of monopoly privileges, while they remain in private hands, to the extent of the value of the privileges granted.

We demand that congress shall enact a general law uniformly regulating the power and duties of all incorporated companies doing interstate business.

### The Packing House Strike.

Editor Independent: This city is now in the midst of a great struggle between the packing houses and their employes, and from the mass of misinformation furnished by the daily press as to the causes of the trouble it may be of interest to the readers of The Independent to know something of the situation from one on the ground.

In the first place about 65 per cent of the employes of the packing houses come under the head of common laborers, the remainder consisting of skilled workmen, foremen, office help, etc. Six years ago the common laborers were receiving in South Omaha 15 cents per hour. And they were then raised, after a strike lasting only four days, to 17½ cents per hour. One year ago, owing to the great advance in the cost of living the unions demanded and secured a raise to 19 cents per hour for a term of one year, which term expired in June. With the expiration of this agreement the pack-