

Straight Talk Down East.

It is a grave mistake to suppose there are no populists down in the "provinces." It is a mistake to suppose that all New York newspapers suppress everything not in harmony with their respective business offices.

The letter below was clipped from the Utica (N. Y.) Daily Press, a somewhat independent republican paper, enjoying a large circulation in central New York. The writer, Frank Stuhlman, was the people's party candidate for assemblyman in 1895. He voted the populist ticket as long as the party organization was kept up. And since then he has, quite naturally, affiliated with the Debs wing of socialism. His letter follows:

To the Editor of the Utica Daily Press: I write this for those who hold principle higher than party, right more than spoils of office. Parker spells plutocracy. Bryan has announced that he will vote for Parker. That is his personal privilege. We have followed Bryan loyally for eight years. We have advocated him in season and out of season. We had Bryanitis and had it bad. There was no campaign so hopeless, no hope so forlorn but we would have been proud to go down to defeat under his banner. But we will not follow William J. Bryan into the plutocrat's camp.

Democracy minus Bryanism equals political hypocrisy and inefficiency. For a decade Bryan and Tom Johnson have been trying to infuse some life and virtue into the moribund old derelict. It was time wasted. "The leopard can not change its spots." The party has again fallen to its level. It is the other tail to the plutocratic kite. If Bryan wishes to swallow a straddle-bug platform that is satisfactory to the worst elements of his party; if he wants to support a candidate the choice of the money power and nominated by a contemptible trick of the unprincipled wire-puller, D. B. Hill, let him. But we renounce Bryan as a leader. "We shall march prospering—not through his presence;

Deeds will be done, while he boasts his quiescence, Still bidding crouch whom the rest bade aspire."

As for results to the common people the difference between the election of Razzle-dazzle Roosevelt and Puppet Parker is the difference betwixt tweedle-dum and tweedle-dee. The republican party is out in the open. It stands for class legislation, for imperialism, for militarism and the autocracy of the dollar. It is a stand-and-deliver highwayman, the democratic party is a confidence man. It puts its arms around the working people with a "How is it with you, brother?" and then drives the knife under the fifth rib. The democratic party is anti-trust! Sugar Trust Myers and Money Trust Belmont are steering their campaign. When the merger case was before the supreme court every democratic member voted for the corporations!

The democrats are great friends of labor, but Judge Parker wrote the decision declaring the eight-hour law unconstitutional! In the southern states where this before-election champion of labor is supreme the condition of the laborer is the worst in the nation. Little children from six to ten years of age toil in the unhealthy dust-filled cotton mills twelve or thirteen hours a day for a wage of from 25 to 40 cents per day. And it is impossible to get decent factory laws passed by legislatures wholly controlled by these devoted friends of the working people. The brave and brainless Richmond Hobson (we know that he is brave because he endured the Spanish fire at Santiago and the kisses of foolish women in America with equal fortitude) boasted at the St. Louis convention that the only president with the courage to crush a labor union leader was a democrat. And the convention applauded. That is the kind of a friend labor has in the democratic party!

When the bill to pension the judges of the higher courts of New York—the best paid and longest terms—men with independent private incomes, every democratic senator voted for it. This is the way they lift the burden of taxation from the farm and the home!

There is no issue between the great parties. Both candidates are "safe" from the Wall street standpoint. Parker is evidently considered the safer. Of course, as Belmont and Cleveland are his sponsors.

I notice that some of the "Bryanites" are turning to Roosevelt. I deplore the tendency of voting for one evil to defeat another. For you lose if you win in that case. Why should the democratic democrats vote for

the "trust buster" who doesn't "bust" anything; the civil service reformer who has clasped hands with Gasman Addicks, and the rest of that ilk? Why should labor vote for Roosevelt? Today in Colorado the republican party in alliance with the "Standard Oil Crowd," have destroyed a republican form of government. In its place they have erected a lawless despotism as foul as that of Russia, with all tyranny and cruelty that has made the Muscovite the shame of the world. And the president with his "big stick" in hand and his eagle eye fastened upon the South American republics warns them to keep order or else something will happen. But he can not see the anarchy of despotism in Colorado. He dares not offend the Standard Oil interests.

There is no reason why any believer in true democracy should vote for either of the wings of plutocracy, headed by Parker and Roosevelt, respectively. Two candidates are in the field who represent the principles Jefferson lived for and Lincoln died for. They stand for eternal right, for equal opportunity and equal privilege. The populist nominee is gallant, tried and true, Tom Watson, the greatest historian of his time. His "Story of France" is the most brilliant historical work since Carlyle. Those who have not read it have missed one of the most fascinating and profound histories ever penned. He has kept the light of equal rights burning in the land of darkest Bourbon democracy. The other is Eugene Debs, the peerless labor leader, who bears the standard of the social democracy. He represents the highest and noblest ideal ever put in the political field. In every state there will be tickets for one or both of these true democrats. Neither will be elected, but a mighty protest can be given in their names that will lay the foundations of victory for the people, and at least we have not "bowed our knee to Baal." If the American people must lose their liberties we need bring it about by our votes. If the workers must bear chains and wear collars like the thralls of Cedric the Saxon, do not forge them with your own hands. In the words of a great thinker: "Workingmen of the world (and that means the farmers and everyone not belonging to the predatory classes; everyone not a parasite or a plunderer), unite. You have the world to gain and nothing to lose but your chains."

FRANK STUHLMAN.
Vernon, N. Y., July 20, 1904.

Chase County.

Out in Chase county, A. C. Clayburg is secretary of the people's independent party county central committee; he is editor of the Chase County Tribune—and the Tribune is supporting Parker and Davis. He has joined in a call for a joint convention with the democrats and they have set Friday, August 5, as the date for such convention.

The Independent said last week this date was fixed so as to shut out the country delegates, just as the party machinery in Lancaster county selected the same date for a like purpose. But the rank and file out in Chase are not looking for a chance to fuse with Parker democrats. Listen to this letter from J. Davidson of Lamar: "I am busy and don't see how I could go as a delegate. I would like to do all I can for the people's party. No fusion for me after this. A. E. Smith joins with me in sending 50 cents in stamps to help carry on the work. He agrees with me in regard to no fusion."

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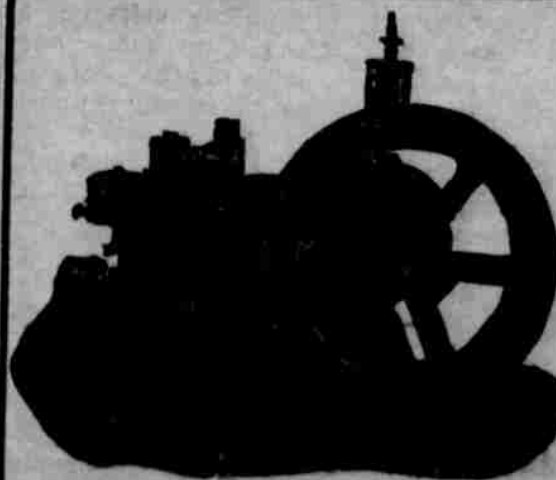
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