

Kansas Populists.

Topeka, Kan., Aug 2.—(Editorial Correspondence.)—It is a little too early to forecast the result here tomorrow. Both democrats and populists hold their conventions then. A good many bourbons are on the ground, whooping it up for Judge David M. Dale of Wichita, for governor. They are all for fusion—the real thing—pops to go "bodaciously" into the democratic party, swallow Parker and Davis, approve the St. Louis platform and telegram; in short be "regular."

The Kansas election law presents an obstacle to such "fusion" as we have had in Nebraska. No candidate's name can appear more than once on the ballot. No one may accept more than one nomination for the same office. And so on. At the last election (1902) an attempt at fusion was made—but the ticket went on as "democratic," leaving the populists out. I believe the hard-shell mid-landers did have a ticket up—which may be the only means of holding the people's party place on the official ballot.

Candidate Dale has opened headquarters at the Throop and his followers are working. He had the support of Judge Babb of the Kansas Commoner, until recently, and I suppose has yet.

Dale has written a platform upon which he expects to run. It starts out by saying that "We, the democratic party of Kansas, in convention assembled, endorse the principles of the platform adopted by the last national democratic convention at St. Louis, Mo., and the nominees of said convention."

The remainder treats of state issues. Regarding it, Judge Dale told a Capital reporter who asked if he would sacrifice any of the planks in

the Wichita platform if the populists demand it:

"Well, I am always willing to be reasonable, but I think that platform is a good one. I am willing to concede any reasonable demand that may be made by the sincere fusionists among the populists, but I can not see where they can object to that platform."

"Would you refuse to become a candidate unless the endorsement of the St. Louis platform and Judge Parker were left in this platform?" he was asked.

"Yes, I would," was the reply. "State and national issues can not conflict in this campaign, and the state ticket must be on the ballot under the same set of electors. If we do not endorse the democratic electors we could hardly put our ticket in the democratic column. The sincere populists will be willing to get together with the democrats on some platform on which we can elect our state ticket. I have no fear of the few populists who may come to the state convention for the express purpose of bolting."

Judge Dale stands by his speech at Wichita in which he said he would not accept a nomination if it appeared to him that a large number of populists favored another candidate for governor.

There will undoubtedly be a straight populist ticket, if one may judge of the way matters are shaping up. The democrats are militant and rampant. They have "swallowed the pops" and are not inclined to show any mercy to the poor devil who objects to being hauled in the Parker handwagon, even though inside the capacious democratic maw. Any man who can't take Parker and the whole show, "has republican money in his pockets." It is lese majeste for a populist to think of supporting Tom Watson.

May be I'll feel better when the "boys" get here from the middle west. I hope so.—D.

- A Kentucky View -

Editor Independent: A sufficient time has elapsed since the St. Louis convention for the people to look into the proceedings and make up their minds quietly, deliberately and dispassionately as to the motives and results. The action of the convention as well as the results were a sore disappointment to a great many people, but especially to the followers of Mr. Bryan.

We can not help admiring Mr. Bryan for the fight he made for a democratic platform. But his failure was signal and overwhelming. That he would for a moment lend his support to a platform that is undemocratic, and to nominees that are republicans in faith and practice, is beyond belief. That he, of all men who have stood for the rights of the people, and have times without number expressed his faith and confidence in them, should now turn against their interests and advocate a platform in which he does not believe, and support men for office who he has denounced in season and out of season as unworthy the support of true democrats; men that he has branded for years as traitors and cowards who had sold their patriotism, party and souls for gold, is beyond the comprehension of common minds to grasp or conceive.

Had Mr. Bryan bolted the St. Louis convention and formulated a code of democratic principles similar to those in the last issue of The Commoner, and invited all men who agreed with him, regardless of past party affiliations, to join him in the fight against a plutocracy, he would have been entirely consistent. He could in the next four years have built up a party against which flesh, hell and the devil could not have prevailed. It would have swept this country as a cyclone, and landed Mr. Bryan in the executive chair as the republican cyclone did Mr. Lincoln in 1860. He had in this convention the same opportunity that Lincoln, Garrett and Phillips had in 1856 when the republican party was organized in the interest of all the people. He had the opportunity that only comes to a man once during his life time. Had he made use of it, no power on earth could have kept him in the back ground.

But he has missed his opportunity; or, at least, failed to take advantage of it and is destined to go into an obscure political grave, unwept, un-

honored and unsung. No man ought to know better than Mr. Bryan, that if Judge Parker is elected, that he, Bryan, will be relegated to the rear and his voice will no longer be heard in the councils of the democratic party. If he could not purify the party when he had a large following in it, how can he expect to purify it when he will no longer be heard in its councils? If the democratic party, under its present management and leadership, is what Mr. Bryan says it is, what hope has the farmer, the mechanic, the miner, the artisan, in fact all wage earners and wealth producers? If it is a fight of plutocracy against democracy, as Mr. Bryan says it is, how can he reconcile his actions in supporting a party that stands for plutocracy? Does he not know that if his own conclusions are true, that the time is ripe for a party to be raised up that will stand for a government of the people, by the people and for the people?

The people must have a party that will represent their interest. Their rights, their liberties and their existence as a free people demand it. The time is now ripe for such a party and the only thing lacking is a great leader to give life and tone to the movement. The eyes of the whole country were centered on Mr. Bryan to take up the gauntlet thrown down at St. Louis and lead the people in this fight against a plutocracy. No man ever occupied a more enviable position than he to become a great leader in a still greater cause. But alas! human nature is weak and short-sighted. The cause for which Mr. Bryan has so nobly stood and gallantly fought is not dead, but sleeping. While he has missed his chance to become a great leader and have his name chiseled upon the monuments of fame as a great political reformer, following the high and glorious ideal of purity, justice and honesty in government as in individuals, a leader will yet be born who will be equal to the occasion and his name will be emblazoned on the pages of history over and above any name that has figured in changing this blessed republic of Jefferson into a plutocracy.

I had hoped that that man would be William Jennings Bryan. But I find I must look for another.

KENTUCKY.
("Kentucky" evidently over looks

the fact that all progress results from the efforts of two distinct types of men—the agitator and the statesman. Both are absolutely essential to progress, yet it is the fate of the agitator to be like Moses, permitted to view the promised land but never to enter. On the other hand, the statesman does enter, but is always "misunderstood, very much like the character mentioned in J. Fennimore Cooper's "Spy." In American history, Andrew Jackson alone seems to come nearest combining both qualities.

Mr. Bryan has abiding faith in the democratic party. He sees the "solid south" ready to vote the democratic ticket regardless of what the platform may contain, so long as it opposes negro domination; and, bending his efforts to make the platform right, sees a nucleus of electoral votes which, as he evidently believes, will be given just as readily for a reform platform as for one plutocratic, so long as the ticket bears that ralsmanic label "democrat." We may differ from Mr. Bryan as to the correctness of his view; but, holding it, we must grant that his every act is consistent with his idea of how reform may ultimately be accomplished.

The Independent differs from Mr. Bryan upon the question of how to accomplish the overthrow of the plutocratic element which now dominates both old parties and the government. According to its horoscope of the political heavens, the democratic party, as now constituted, is destined to go much as the old whig party did; and upon its ruins will be built the modern, progressive democratic party which will one day sweep plutocracy from power. Just what the name of that party will be is not material—but there is reason to believe that it will not be "democrat." It may not be "people's party," either, but the people's party will undoubtedly stand in much the same relation to the new and progressive democracy, as did the old free soil party to the republican party which grew around it.

In 1848 the free soilers, by nominating Van Buren, effected a virtual "fusion" with the bolting end of the then democratic party. In 1896 the people's party did the same thing, with this exception, that it "fused" or attempted to fuse with the regular organization and not the bolters. In 1852 the free soilers cut loose from the democratic party and polled only 156,149 votes for Hale as against 291,263 which they had polled for "Matty Van" in 1848. It is possible (although the outlook is otherwise) that in 1904 the people's party may not poll as many votes as it did for Weaver in 1892—but if it does not, analogy would indicate a new alignment in 1908, with the populists standing in the same relation to the new party as did the "abolitionists" to the republican party in 1856.

As a matter of fact, however, political movements are more swift in these days of rapid communication; and although analogy would indicate a victory for progressive democracy in 1812, there is no reason why it may not come by 1908. And, contrary to "Kentucky's" view, The Independent believes that Mr. Bryan is not destined "to go into an obscure political grave, unwept, unhonored and unsung," but that he will be a tower of strength in the new movement. It believes he has allowed his abiding faith in the immortality of the democratic party to place him in a false light before the people; but if Mr. Bryan is dishonest in his present course—well, there is small use to place confidence in any man.—Associate Editor.)

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