

WATSON HAS HORNS.

The democrats of the south are raging in a most fearful way if one is to judge of the furious attacks that are being made on Tom Watson. The Nashville Banner devotes about three columns to Watson, adorned with the same sort of adjectives that they used before the war when an abolitionist was under discussion. After reading that screech, the children of the south would naturally conjecture that Watson had horns, hoofs and a forked tail. Here's a specimen of its denunciation:

"Ours is a government of political parties, and no party has yet had the custody of our fortunes that was not at the time sane, however unsafe it might have been. That our government and our people will go the way of everything human—degenerate and decay—is quite likely, and when that time comes our posterity will elect presidents like Thomas E. Watson."

It says that Watson's speeches in congress: "Showed that he was for everything vague, impractical and impossible." One is inclined to ask how about free rural delivery? That is the only measure passed by congress for the benefit of the people in the last decade, and Tom Watson drew the bill and pushed it through. If Tom Watson had not been in congress we would have no rural delivery today.

The democrats down in the south who have been howling for Bryan and free silver for the last eight years are now shouting for Parker and the gold standard. Let us fuse with them.

BRAVE WORDS.

I have always believed, I believe tonight, I shall always believe, I hope that a man's duty to his country is higher than his duty to his party. I hope it will always be true that men of all parties will have the moral courage to leave their parties when they believe that to stay with them will be to injure their country. The success of your government depends upon the independence and moral courage of its citizenship.—W. J. Bryan.

SPECIAL PLEADING.

The proposition for state ownership of railroads instead of ownership by the general government, if it leads to any discussion at all, will be the deadliest blow that has ever been struck at the principle as heretofore advocated. It will bring the subject into the same position that the liquor question has so long occupied. All men will say that they believe in sobriety and temperance. There is no question about that. Every one is opposed to drunkenness. Then they divide. One says that absolute prohibition of the sale of liquors except for medical and mechanical purpose is the only way to establish sobriety and temperance. The other says that won't do at all, temperance can only be promoted by a high license. Then the discussion goes on without end.

The principle of public ownership of railroads may be acceded to by all men and then two parties arise. One declares that the only method is for the state to own the roads, and the other will declare that that will never do at all, the general government must own them. The discussion can go on year after year and nothing will be done. No roads will be purchased by either the states or general government.

The proposition is simply "special pleading," that is, it is the allegation of special or new matter, as distinguished from a direct denial of matter on the other side. Every one knows what a good lawyer thinks of that sort of pleading.

CAN'T BE FOOLED.

A fusion between democrats and populists upon a first-class ticket means the defeat of Mickey and Mickeyism in the legislative halls as well as in every department of the executive branch of the state government.—World-Herald.

An attempt to fuse the populists with men who support Parker would result in the most glorious republican victory ever recorded in the state. The republican majority would not be less than 50,000. This writer never will vote for men who support either Parker or Roosevelt. There is not gold enough in Wall street to get him to do it. There are more than fifty thousand other populists in the state who will say the same thing. Why a democrat wants to force himself upon the populist ticket when he knows that populists won't vote for him, is something that no sane man can understand. The editor of The Independent is willing to vote for any democrat, or republican either for that matter, who will openly pledge himself to fight that hydra-headed Wall street gang, led by Roosevelt and Parker. Fusion with

democrats, socialists, prohibitionists or any body else can be had along that line, but in no other way.

There may be enough lawyers and office-seekers get into the populist state convention to attempt such a thing. They may control the convention, but they can't control the populist vote of this state. Populists organized and sacrificed for years to fight Wall street. They never will vote for men who support Wall street candidates. They glory in the fact that no convention can control them. They have had experience enough during the last eight years to learn a few things. They can't be fooled by any trick.

A democrat writes to The Independent to inquire what the editor meant when he spoke of the democratic vote in this state as a "negligible quantity." It is a figure of speech drawn from the higher mathematics where a remainder or decimal is so small, that if disregarded, it will not effect the solution of the problem and may be neglected, disregarded and left entirely out of consideration. That may not be a scientific definition of the term, for it has been a long time since the editor delved in the calculus, but that is the idea he intended to convey, and is just what the democratic party has always been in Nebraska whenever it has been forced to stand up and be counted by itself.

WILL ORGANIZE.

This is a large country and to travel from one side of it to the other costs quite a little sum of money. Members of the populist executive committee live on both shores of the continent and to meet would cost a good many dollars—enough to buy a Nebraska farm. There will therefore be a meeting of the western members of the committee at Lincoln on the tenth, and another meeting later of the other members. Mr. J. H. Ferriss, the chairman of the national committee will be present and things will be started. The whole press of the east is giving very large publicity to the notification meeting in Madison Square Garden which will be held some time in the latter part of the month.

Since the Denver News has gone to Parker and Wall street, it is of no further use to any editor engaged in a fight against plutocracy. Formerly its editorial columns teemed with items that were thought producers to every man who read them. The Nebraska Independent is now the only paper of national circulation that has not surrendered to Wall street. It never will surrender while its editor lives and he is good for twenty years more of hard fighting. He descends from a long-lived race.

Another idol fallen. Tom Johnson is an enthusiastic supporter of Parker and Davis. The readers of The Independent will remember what Dr. Reemelin said about Tom Johnson and his platform before the Denver conference. Why any single taxer should support Parker is past understanding. Henry George allied himself with the democratic party on the sole ground of the tariff and gave to the party his copyright to his book, "Free Trade and Protection." The circulation of that book did more for the democratic party than all the other literature that it ever published. But the party has now abandoned the tariff fight and why should any single taxer stick to it?

A populist holds these things to be true: No man is bound by a convention, even if that convention is legally held and no fraud or deception is used, if it adopts a platform or nominates candidates opposed to his principles. The whole people's party, except the office seekers, hold steadfastly to those views. Those politicians who are so anxious to force men on the populist ticket who support Parker, would do well to consider these things. What is the use of putting a man on the populist ticket, for whom the populists will not vote? Are they of that class who are delighted beyond measure to get their names in print?

The present national committee has one great duty to perform. It must provide for some sort of organization of the people's party that will enable the men on the farms and in the shops to have a voice in directing its policies and making its nominations. Our conventions are filled with county officers, those who want such places and lawyers who can out-talk twenty times their weight in farmers or wage-workers.

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Governor Pennypacker of Pennsylvania has been accepting free transportation from all the railroads in his state and lately has been traveling about in President Baer's private car. The coal miners will of course continue to vote for Governor Pennypacker to protect themselves from foreign pauper labor.

The Old Guard dies, but never surrenders. There will be a fight to the finish at the populist state convention on the 10th of August.

The intense anxiety exhibited in some democratic and office-seeking quarters in this state to effect fusion with men who are supporting Wall street's pet candidate, Parker, is not so much a desire to carry this state on local issues, as to send another senator to Washington to go into the democratic caucus, and to destroy the populist party. The people's party is the only party in existence that Wall street has any cause to fear. The democratic party is more completely controlled by it than the republican party ever was. It is the most disreputable end of Wall street that controls it. The Belmonts, the Sheehans, the Dave Hills are a thousand times more disreputable than the Wall street gang that ran the republican party. It is a wonder that Belmont didn't trade wives again when Parker was nominated, just to show his joy. And men who work with that gang want populists to fuse with them!

The sheriff of Cook county in which Chicago is situated, is about as great a disgrace to the country as the supreme court of Colorado. Under his wing horse race gambling has prospered immensely. Every sort of pressure has been brought upon him to enforce the law, but Sheriff Barrett says: "I am sheriff of this county. There is no living man who can dictate to me. I care nothing for those who criticize me." The fit residence for a public officer of that kind would be a cell at Joliet. The republicans of Chicago had to be "regular," so after Barrett got the nomination by manipulating the primaries, they all felt bound to vote for him. For the prosperity of Wall street and gamblers, "regularity" is a great thing.

The editor of the Clay County (Neb.) Patriot attended both the populist and democratic national conventions. He remarks that "the Hill-Belmont machine never slipped a cog." That is the fact about the matter. The Independent told its readers last January what would happen.

The way to overthrow plutocracy is to "vote 'er straight" and then "talk" against it for the remainder of the year.

Watson's Lincoln Speech

Will be one of the noblest and most patriotic addresses ever recorded. The famous Georgian is a great student, a clear thinker, and an orator of the highest rank. Thousands of Lincoln's citizens who heard his speech in 1896 pronounced it more than equal to any that Mr. Bryan had ever delivered in this state. His address in this city the 10th of August will be a master piece of logic full of soul stirring patriotism. It will be

Officially Reported

from the official stenographer's copy and printed IN FULL in the next issue of The Independent. Every Populist should be proud to distribute this speech among his neighbors. The garbled and incomplete reports that will be sent out by the subsidized associated press are unreliable.

Extra copies of The Independent containing the entire speech as officially reported will be sent to any address and in any quantity at

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INTERESTING ITEMS.

In an Associated Press dispatch a column long, which was printed in last Thursday's dailies and dated at Esopus, Judge Parker's home, there were two paragraphs of interest to the people of Nebraska. They were as follows:

"Friends of the many photographers present accomplished the posing of what was at once termed the 'harmony group.' In it were Judge Parker, Senator Hill, Charles F. Murphy, Thomas Taggart, W. Caryl Ely and John G. Maher of Nebraska.

"One of the assurances of party success which particularly pleased Judge Parker was made by Mr. Maher of Nebraska, who said that Chief Justice Silas A. Holcomb would probably be nominated for governor, and that under his leadership Nebraska would go democratic."

Will Judge Harrington who fired Maher because he was a "reorganizer," from the position as his court reporter, take to this deal, come to the populist state convention on the 10th and advocate fusion with Maher?

Maher gives it out cold that he is going to carry three congressional districts in Nebraska and elect Parker men to congress. Hurry up you old pops and fuse with him.

Some time ago The Independent said that the enormous amount of gambling on horse races came through the

prominence and free advertisements given it in the great dailies which devoted whole pages to horse racing every day. The Chicago grand jury seems to have come to the same conclusion, for last week it passed the following resolutions and sent them to the dailies:

"Whereas, The publication of the so-called 'dope' sheets, racing form news and official announcements in the daily newspapers of Chicago is deemed subversive of public morals in that it aids and abets in an open and public manner the violation of law by others, and to the detriment of legitimate occupation and business, creates and fosters the gambling instinct in many persons, particularly the young and unsophisticated, who would otherwise not be influenced in that direction; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That we, the grand jury, do most earnestly deplore the part that the newspapers of Chicago have taken in bringing about the present lamentable conditions, and respectfully urge, in the interests of public decency and law and order, that the newspapers desist from further publication of the objectionable matter."

There is no more dangerous thing to admit to the family circle, or more degenerating agent in all the land than the great, gold standard daily paper.

For the people's cause—Campaign rate, seven for a dollar.