

prevent you from going into the party that means something for the east, the west, the north and the south. If you want to follow that delusion again, you are privileged to do it. I have no right to dictate to you. But if you want to be guided by the lamp of experience I beg you to remember they pledged all of this in 1892 and in 1896 they broke them. Do it if you like, but do it with your eyes open. We started this populist party to fight for what is right. We said we would fight both the old parties because they both are wrong. When you are fighting a thing that is wrong you never should drop your gun until you are whipped or the other fellow is whipped. (Applause.) Where does the people's party stand. I haven't the time now, but bear with me one moment while I sketch them briefly.

We say that the people ought to own the public roads. (Applause.) We say it is an outrage on justice that corporations should own our national highways, erecting their toll gates along the highways of travel and making all passengers and freight pay to the limit that they can. I say that the nation ought to own the national highways; run them in the interest of all and not in the interest of individuals. We say again, the taxes of the government should not be laid upon the necessities of life, but there should be an income tax to pay the enormous expenses of this national government. (Applause.) If you levy the income tax according to the Jeffersonian method, you lay it on the richest people who are the most able to bear it. If you take an income tax you will put it upon the people who get the greatest benefits out of this government and who should pay the most. And if you lay it upon the rich, on the great capitalists, you will lay it upon the people who stayed at home during the war and speculated upon the necessities of the country and filled their pockets while the soldier was at the front fighting for his country's cause. If you put it on the rich man you will have an economical government, because while the rich man is a little careless of how your money is spent, he is careful about how his money is spent. When you make him foot the bills he will make the government become economical. Furthermore, we say that labor should receive the wealth which it produces by a more equitable system of distribution than we now have.

It looks to us like an outrage that the men who toil and produce, should be those who suffer most and enjoy less, while those who work less enjoy most and have the most. It seems to me a horrible proposition that thousands of people should be born into the world every year with-

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out a place on God's footstool whereon to place their feet, and without a single industry in which they can be master of their own music, with the right to earn a livelihood, with equality to all. We say our system of finance should be exactly what the constitution prescribes, and that no banking system can stand between the government and the people, arrogating to themselves the sovereign right to make money, and using that privilege to enrich themselves, and entrench themselves in their powers over the poor. We say further, in order to keep the government in the hands of the people, they ought to have the right to initiate legislation, to have legislation referred to them; to have the imperative mandate in order that the democratic will and power should always be a living force to control our government in the way of right and justice.

Now, fellow citizens, while there is much more that I could say, would say, but my physical powers are not equal to the task. Bear with me just a moment.

Of course, you will understand that hereafter in a letter which I will write, I will elaborate our principles and endeavor to make them more forcible, clearer of comprehension to the average person. Nothing that I have said today have I intended to stir up ill feeling. As far as the republicans can see that we are right, I would like for them to come with us; as far as the democrats can see that we are right, I would like for them to come with us. I believe with the hosts, the great mass of people, on the republican and democratic sides want to be right, mean to be honest, and will vote their conviction if they knew what was the justice of their case. Men have been misled, and men will be misled in the future.

(Speaker here takes a seat and continues.)

If I were looking only to immediate results I would not be here today. I regard this as something of an opening toward the campaign of 1908. It seemed to me that this country did not need two republican parties. (Applause.) It seems to me that the people ought to have one party. If this republic is to be redeemed from its plutocratic tendencies we have got no time to lose. The grip of the financial king is getting stronger on us every day. Our power of resistance is growing less every day. If we are to keep this nation true to the principles of its founders, it is high time we realized that we must be up and doing. We have commenced this campaign, not because we expect to win, but because we want to unfold the colors of the right of people of common humanity and establish a recruiting station for all those who want to come. (Applause.) Somebody has got to do it. We had just as well do it as to wait for anybody else. Somebody has got to take the risk; we had just as well take it as wait for some one else. Somebody has got to take hard knocks, and abuse, and we can stand it as well as any one else.

One coward, breaking the ranks and crying out, "save himself who can," may stampede a company, which will demoralize a regiment whose demoralization will bring defeat to an army. (Applause.) Whereas, one brave man may catch up the fallen colors, wave them high above the smoke of battle and say to the heroes "follow me" and this may become the nucleus of an invincible army. (Applause.) Populists, the time was when you loved me and believed in me. (Voice: You bet. Applause.) It is my purpose to arouse the old army as it once followed me (applause) and to pledge their honors again to the sacred cause that was dear to us in 1896. (Applause and cheering. Voices: Hurrah for Watson.)

I know that our papers are dead. I know that my brave cohorts have disbanded. I know the flag has been

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furled and laid away in a thousand homes, but I believe when the populists of the south see that Nebraska means business, and will stand by ours to the end, I believe that the old boys will rally again and follow me once more.
 Populists! never doubt that I am with you, heart and soul. Your creed was never dearer to me; your cause more sacredly just. Keep the faith, and feed the fires of your hopes. Your time will come. Wrongs may multiply, but we must not abandon the right. Stand to your principles; stand by your nominees.

Comrades, it will all come right; it will all come right! Somewhere in the universe there is honor for the champions of right. Somewhere there is honor for the brave men who will not worship the wrong.

We found the tree of human liberty planted here when we came into the world; let us see to it that we leave it standing. We found the sacred torch of freedom burning; let us keep it lit, and pass it on. Let the sower die—it must be so; but let him scatter good seed first—then leave the harvest to Time and to God.

As firmly as if my feet were on the rocks, I believe in the final triumph of right—believe that justice will yet rule the earth. Parties may come and go, force and fraud may rule the day, but yet and ever yet, I believe that right shall sit on the throne or the world, and rule the hearts of all men.

The clouds gather, I know, and the storm and the darkness come upon the land. The weaklings perish; the birds of the day fall and flutter and die. But the eagle—he of the ages—strong of wing and dauntless of heart, rises against the storm, beats his way through it, and beyond, it, and gives a fierce cry of joy as he bathes his wings in the sunlight above the cloud. Oh, spirit of populism! Be thou the eagle—to rise against the darkness and the storm, and to live in the sunlight beyond, when the tempest is passed and gone. (Long applause.)

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