

**WATSON'S SPEECH**

While a verbatim report of Watson's speech at Lincoln before the state convention is printed in this issue of The Independent, and however readers may be delighted with it, no conception can be formed of the spell it cast over the vast audience that listened to it. One must have heard it. A slight, frail man, every nerve quivering with earnestness, throwing all his soul-power into every word he said, seeming at times that his very heart strings would break with a yearning to save this government from the attacks of predatory wealth entrenched behind special privileges, he captured the sympathy of every man, woman and child that heard him. His logic was invincible, his rhetoric a model for all public speakers who may follow him, his enunciation distinct and clear.

Toward the latter part of his speech his strength began to fail and he sat down in a chair. From that chair there blazed forth such bursts of eloquence as was never heard in Lincoln before, although the greatest orators of the age have spoken in this university city. Tom Watson, he is the greatest leader of the common people since Lincoln. Let us all prove loyal to him.

**A STRANGE BOLTER**

It is perhaps the first time in the history of politics that a man who went before a body of bolters, most of whom had repudiated a convention, who determined to put out a new ticket and get them to promise that they would go home, and immediately begin to organize clubs where every person admitted was to be pledged to "openly support the party's principles and candidates" was denounced in the papers as "leading a bolt."

The truth is that the editor of The Independent told everybody what would happen in the populist convention if the program was carried out which was advocated. And it did happen just as he said it would. If the plan had been adopted that The Independent had advocated there would now be harmony between the anti-Parker democrats, populists and republicans who repudiate the present administration. There would have been an enthusiastic campaign.

The following is the resolution that Mr. Tibbles proposed and which was unanimously adopted:

"That the counties here assembled to take into consideration the action of the convention in endorsing fusion resolve that we appoint a committee of three members to take into consideration and devise a plan of organization to be presented to the people of the state for straight populist clubs, which are opposed to fusion, and to which no one would be admitted who would not openly support populist principles and candidates."

The Hastings Public Journal says: "Let every honest voter consider well and weigh carefully the welfare of his country, before he decides which is best for the most people, fusion or populism." The trouble is that the "honest voter" will have very little to do with it. A lot of gib-tongued lawyers and officer-seekers will crowd the convention, while the "honest voter" is toiling in his fields.

**REPUBLICAN LIES**

Mr. Tibbles has received a dozen or so letters during the last week from populists in various states who were very much discouraged and some of them very angry because they saw a dispatch in the papers saying that Mr. Tibbles had come out for fusion. The Lincoln evening dailies of Thursday had great headlines announcing that the populists had bolted on account of fusion and that Mr. Tibbles had led the bolt. One of the papers after writing along that line for half a column then gave the following almost correct report of what actually did occur at the meeting where it said Mr. Tibbles had led a bolt:

"The delegates gathered at 9 o'clock. W. L. Hand of Buffalo county, called the convention to order and stated that the meeting was for the purpose of discussing fusion and anti-fusion. He was of the opinion that an organization ought to be perfected in the party in order that the fusionists would have to take back seat if they were not in the majority. He claimed that the wishes of the people had not been carried out in regard to the matter. W. J. Waite, of the Geneva Gazette, was chosen secretary. T. H. Tibbles moved that a committee of three be appointed by the chair to submit a constitution and a plan for organizing populist clubs. To these no one would be admitted who favored fusion. This

carried and J. H. Stockham, Mr. Tibbles and F. X. Pearl were the names mentioned by the chair."

Men who have been fighting Wall street for twenty years long ago learned not to believe what they saw in the papers concerning populists, but there seems to be a good many who have not been in the fight long enough to learn that.

**POPULIST CLUBS**

Sitting in this office week after week where almost every weekly paper in the state comes, in communication with 20,000 subscribers in the state and getting at least one letter a year from each of them and a score or more from some of them, it was but reasonable to suppose that there was a sound basis in this office for the position taken by The Independent that a formal fusion with the democratic party would be a great detriment to the ticket. It turned out just as The Independent said it would. When a fusion resolution was passed many delegates began to leave the hall. An announcement was made that they would meet at the Capitol hotel, the next morning to consider what they would do. A large number staid overnight and some even missed morning trains on which they desired to go home to attend that meeting, though a good many could not do so. At the hour named, 9 a. m., over one hundred were there. What the straight populist should do was discussed very fully.

Mr. W. L. Hand or Kearney was elected chairman and Mr. Waite, editor of the Geneva Gazette and Exeter Enterprise was elected secretary. A motion was made to appoint a committee of three to formulate a plan for the organization of those opposed to fusion and submit its report to convention later, but as it was necessary for the delegates to leave on the next train out, it was afterward resolved that it should be a permanent committee and should report through The Independent.

The chair appointed Mr. Pearl, James S. Stockham and T. H. Tibbles. It being afterwards reported to the chairman that Mr. Pearl could not serve, Chas. Q. De France was appointed in his stead.

Another motion was adopted directing the committee to proceed to organize populist clubs in every county and precinct where possible, of straight populists who would pledge themselves to work for and support people's party principles and people's party candidates.

The Independent asks the populists in the different parts of the state to take action immediately. Begin at once the organization of these clubs, and send the names and postoffice address to T. H. Tibbles, 1328 O street, Lincoln, Neb.

The Indiana Clark County Citizen (dem.) remarks: "Our candidate for the vice-presidency, being a large owner of trust stock, he can not be expected to take an active part against the combines. We must postpone attending to the trust evil until 1908, or later."

The St. Louis Dispatch says: "If Tibbles shines in the reflected light of a pair of Bright Eyes, he certainly made a wise choice of the source of his illumination."

I said to the crow, "Oh, crow, tough crow, must I eat you forever and aye? Shall I never at meat have nothing to eat but tough old crow till I die?" The old crow answered me fair and true, with the gleam of a fiend in his eye: "Don't make such a roar, you ate it before, at the board with Slippery Sl."—Edgar Howard.

It was a hard fight, but Wall street reorganized Bryan along with the rest of the party.

We gather from the Patriarch that there is likely to be lively times in Oregon. George Cotterell, one of the leading democrats, has bolted. Mr. Cotterell says: "One hundred determined Lincoln republicans and Jefferson democrats—which are synonymous terms in the last analysis—can organize within the next month an independent state movement, free from national party entanglement, which will sweep the state next November."

The populists are never hero worshippers. Whenever a leader goes wrong they drop him as quick as they would a hot poker. But there are men in this state who, every time that Bryan shuts his eyes, declare the whole universe is in darkness.

The Smith Center, Kansas, Messenger is one of the best populist papers

in the United States. The editor always has able editorials. In discussing Bryan's support of Parker, he remarks: "Suppose Abraham Lincoln had said: 'I will vote and work to elect the slave power to full control of the government, and then I'll go to work to free the negro.'"

Those reliable dailies! The Chicago Record-Herald puts down Geo. W. Berge as a democrat. Any sort of a lie about populism or populists goes these days.

If the report made in the Lincoln dailies of what Judge Waterbury said to the anti-fusion populists ever reaches his ears, there will be some remarks made.

This is the first time since 1895 that the populists have had a chance to save themselves counted. In that year there were over 70,000 of them who went to the polls and cast their ballots without a campaign being made. On the electoral ticket they have a chance to be counted. Every populist in the state should feel that every consideration of honor and patriotism requires that he cast his vote for the noble leader, Thomas E. Watson, who without hope of reward, is giving his very life to the cause of populism. Those who saw him at Lincoln, when he could no longer stand on his feet, drop into a chair and pour forth those burning words for the common people, can appreciate the sacrifice that he is making.

That carpetbag government in the Philippines is the best paying job that republican workers ever struck. The salary of the governor of the Philippines is \$15,500 a year. He receives in addition \$5,000 a year as a member of the Philippine commission, making a total of \$20,500 a year. It is kept up for the benevolent assimilation of dollars.

Roosevelt is increasing the higher grades in the army at a wonderful rate. There are 269 generals on the retired list of the United States army, 227 more than there were in 1898. Of this list 120 were in the service as generals less than two weeks and two for less than a month before retirement. Taking the entire list into consideration, 210 never performed active service in the ranks.

The populist state convention of the state of Iowa will be held at Des Moines, Iowa, August 25. Headquarters will be at the Iowa hotel.

Wall street has no politics.

Wall street does not belong to any party. Parties belong to it as soon as they begin to hold the offices.

Wall street is the biggest grafter in the business and the business covers the whole United States.

The people's party was organized to fight Wall street and not a populist can be convinced that the way to fight Wall street is to vote for candidates which it has nominated. Even Mr. Bryan can not make them believe that.


A personal friend in one of the most flourishing towns in northern Nebraska writes to the editor of The Independent that: "Several democrats here have announced their intention of voting for you and the populist ticket and some have said they would vote for you any way. I am at a loss to understand Mr. Bryan's position in the matter and think that he has hurt himself more in the estimation of the people than anything he has ever done, as his integrity has never been questioned before, and now they think he has not been true to his own convictions."

Populists who repudiate Parker and all his followers are constantly charged with aiding the republicans. The truth is pop-populists would as readily aid the republicans as they would Parker democrats and none of them will deny it. So the accusation has no force. If a populist is forced to aid either Parker or Roosevelt, many of them would prefer to aid Roosevelt, for the reason that that portion of Wall street that is behind Roosevelt is somewhat more decent than the gang from the same crowd that is backing Parker. But a populist will aid neither of them. He will persistently refuse to be counted among either gang of plutocrats.

The negro model town of Buxton, Canada, founded during the days of the "underground railroad," is now almost abandoned.

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