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THE POPULIST KEYNOTE.

"MANHOOD SHOULD COUNT FOR MORE THAN MONEY; CHARACTER SHOULD OUTWEIGH ALL."

ABLAZE WITH POPULIST ENTHUSIASM.

The New York Tribune astonished its readers by printing Tom Watson's speech in full, together with a full report of the great meeting at Cooper Union. The populist movement in New York city receives its impetus from former Bryan democrats, who positively refuse to follow Mr. Bryan into the plutocratic fold and support Parker, and from the single taxers. The single taxers seem to be coming in a body since Judge Parker's speech, made at his notification meeting, was published, in which he took practically the same ground on the tariff that the republicans occupy. The tremendous masses of people that thronged the vicinity of Cooper Union at the populist notification meeting astonished not only the denizens of Wall street, but the whole east. Even the staid, conservative democratic Evening Post, gold standard to the core, was moved to remark that "the populists seem to be doing very well."

Besides printing Watson's speech in full the Tribune had the following account of the spirit and atmosphere of the meeting:

"The Bryan democrats of New York are flocking to the populist standard of Thomas E. Watson. Cooper Union was crowded to the doors last night with Bryan men, who cheered every mention of his name. Thomas E. Watson, who was informed officially of his nomination for president on the people's party ticket, raked the Parker men fore and aft. Thomas H. Tibbles, his running mate, 'roasted' Wall street; Jay W. Forrest of Albany declared that 100,000 Bryan men would vote the Watson ticket in this state, and other speakers contributed to make the meeting last night a memorable one.

"There was plenty of fun along with it all. Mr. Watson 'sort o' made' the bark fly off of things in his quaint Georgia way, and the audience, good natured as a Cooper Union audience

almost always is, made interpolations and comments on the points of the speakers. There were not seats enough for all. Good sized flags were abundant, and when a good point was scored enthusiasm found vent by the waving of the colors and by vigorous cheering. Mr. Watson's address gave evidence of careful preparation and his hearers gave him close attention. Alfred J. Bouton called the meeting to order. On the platform were many radical democrats, including Melvin G. Alliser, Henry M. McDonald and some single taxers.

"The populist candidate for president is a slim, frail looking man, with reddish sandy hair, and smooth face. His voice is not strong, but it has a quality that is engaging, and everything he said last night was heard by those present. When he walked to the front of the platform there were three cheers given for Watson and three for Georgia.

"W. Jay Forrest of Albany, who has made a close study of his neighbor, David B. Hill, for years, made the speech informing Thomas H. Tibbles of his nomination for vice-president. Mr. Forrest is violent in his use of words, and he was somewhat abusive in referring to Belmont, Hill and John G. Carlisle. He predicted that one hundred thousand Bryan democrats would vote the Watson ticket in November, and that Parker would be buried under an avalanche of votes.

"Thomas H. Tibbles, Mr. Watson's running mate, is a ruddy faced man of perhaps seventy-five, but there is nothing decrepit about him.

"Hello, Tibbles!" said the familiar friend in the rear seat, the person who always is at Cooper Union to greet new faces.

"The candidate said that he had spoken in Cooper Union twenty years ago, and was glad to be back. He attacked Judge Parker's reasoning about the gold standard, and said: 'Why, God might change the gold standard, but Parker says no.'

"Mr. Tibbles went into a somewhat extended discussion of money standards, and advocated the quantitative theory of money, the same as did Mr. Bryan in 1896 and 1900. He insisted that about all the money in the country is controlled by twenty-five or thirty men down in Wall street, and he called these affluent persons "the monumental thieves of all God's ages."

"An invitation was extended to those present to greet the candidates at a reception at the Union Square hotel immediately after the meeting adjourned. Thither there repaired more than a thousand people, who kept Mr. Watson and Mr. Tibbles busy handshaking for more than an hour."

JUDGE BERGE AND A FUSION LEGISLATURE.

There was passed by the last legislature of republicans, a bill changing our system of raising revenues. This measure almost doubles the amount of state taxes to be paid by each taxpayer, which in turn is shifted upon the people, and it means the accumulation of a large fund in the treasury, which is a temptation to any party in power. The recent experience of the state, in having a half million dollars taken from the vaults of the state treasurer's office and never returned, and the sending of the republican state treasurer to the penitentiary for a term of twenty years, is sufficient reminder.

With this information placed before the people they can understand why the people's party of the state of Nebraska were again willing to join forces with the democrats to help to elect a governor and a legislature who stand pledged to the repeal of such a law, and thereby remove from the people a burden, that was put upon them without cause, as there was no demand for such an amount of money.

On the other hand, one million and over of extravagant expenditures, that have created a debt upon the people by the republicans in the last three years, could and should be stopped, as there is no need for raising a dollar more than heretofore has been raised.

Let one and all who are opposed to this attempt to rob the people of the state come to the support of men who stand pledged and ready to throw off this burden and save the people's money. Judge Berge, the candidate for governor, and fusion candidates for representative and senator must be elected to accomplish this result.

POPULIST TRAITORS.

Perhaps the phrase, "Populist Traitors" should be qualified. No true populist could be traitor to anything but rascality. He could not be traitor to that, for he would not originally bind himself to rascality. But the allusion is to those who for a time posed as populists, and by oily tongue secured the confidence of the populist party, but to betray it. No

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political party was ever so basely betrayed.

History of political parties in America fails to reveal an instance where any nobler band of reformers ever gathered under a party banner. Unselfish devotion to American ideals; unflinching faith in the ultimate triumph of justice and right; the most liberal spirit of fraternity; an all-consuming devotion to the common weal—these were the sentiments that inspired hope; these, combined, the cause that animated all to do and dare in defense of those lofty ideals of government that had inspired the course of every patriot that ever laid down his life that others might live to enjoy the blessings of economic liberty.

In the days when patriotic Americans came forth and formed the republican party to fight the encroachments of the plutocracy of the democratic party, the world beheld the manifestation of a devotion to high ideals of government almost unprecedented in political party history. Having won a victory in the election of Lincoln, patriotism was satisfied and it slept. And as it slept, plutocracy again hired assassins to strike from that party the spirit of freedom that gave it birth. But up from the valleys and the plains, from the workshops, the mills and the mines, again rallied a mighty host that finally gave to the people of America a party that should be the people's party and their hope.

Candidates for president were nominated, and they betrayed. Senators and congressmen were elected, and many of them joined the ranks of those unworthy of trust. And so down the line governors and others were elected and appointed, but when the crucial test did come, they too, fled the cause. But honor to those who have remained true. No better epitaph can ever be written than this: "That when the time did come for him to choose between poverty and disgrace and the righteousness of his convictions, he chose the former that he might die a man."

Now, in 1904, this glorious band of American patriots, united in a party, repurified, rejuvenated and revived, under the leadership of as grand a brace of leaders as ever graced a national ticket, has cast off its lethargy and despair, and to the eloquent plea of its valiant leader, "Populists, come back," there echoes from valley, plain and mountain height, from mill and workshop and mine, from the homes of aspiring manhood and from tottering age, the response, "We have never left. We have but awaited this glorious opportunity for you to lead us out of our 'slough of despond.' Go on, go on, we'll follow thee."

NEBRASKA REVENUE INQUISITION

The principle that should guide legislators in framing revenue laws is to economize in the collection of taxes, and levy all taxes upon only such things as can not hide or leave the state. Taxes may drive property into hiding, if it can be hidden. Where it can not be hidden taxes may drive it from the state, or prevent its production. It is effectual in this just to the extent of the levy.

A revenue law should not be so framed as to punish men for being honest and rewarding men for lying. It should not fine honesty and thrift and offer a premium upon perjury and indolence. The present revenue law of Nebraska comes under the latter classification. If the truth could be fully known and the penalty for perjury strictly enforced, the penitentiary walls would have to be extended around the borders of the state to fully accommodate all our citizens who refused to suffer by the operation of the present inquisitorial revenue enactment. It is doubtful if there would remain a sufficient number of unconvicted ones to act as guards for the convicted. It is certain that those who enacted the law would not be serving in the capacity of guards.

The present law makes it compulsory upon the farmer to make true return of the full value of his stock, implements, improvements, household goods, savings and every other

form of property he may have. The working man must do the same thing, and if he owes any money he must pay taxes on that, too; not directly, it is true, but he must pay it nevertheless. The man to whom he owes it must pay a tax upon that debt, and he in turn shifts it upon the debtor. The business man must pay the tax upon the full value of his stock and upon all the money that may be due him, though he may never collect it. But the railroads of Nebraska, under the operation of this law, last year were assessed upon less than \$27,000,000. At the same time, upon the testimony of Edward Rosewater, it was shown that the railroads of Nebraska are worth \$350,000,000. Under the provisions of this law, for county purposes, twenty per cent of the full value shall be the sum levied upon. In other words, while the farmers, toilers, merchants and manufacturers of the state were assessed upon one-fifth of the full value of their property, the railroads escaped with a tax upon only one-thirteenth of the value of their property. Instead of their assessment being upon \$27,000,000, it should have been upon a value of \$70,000,000.

It is true that even under this iniquitous tax measure, the franchise value of railroads "may" be assessed. But their assessment is not compulsory upon the state board of equalization. The board "may" assess them. The state board of equalization consists of the governor, treasurer, auditor, secretary of state and commissioner of public lands and buildings. If the railroads continue to own this board, composed of these officers, can the people of the state hope for any better treatment in the future than in the past? Is it not apparent to the least enlightened voter of this state that his direct interest, as to this particular assessment at least, lies in the election of the populist ticket, and especially the candidates for these places? George W. Berge, for governor; R. T. Watske, for secretary of state; J. S. Canaday, for auditor; John M. Osborne, for treasurer, and A. A. Worsley, for commissioner of public lands and buildings, are all men tried and true, whose records upon this issue are well known throughout the state. Can the voters of this state fail to see where their interests directly lie?

When the enormous values of railroad franchises are considered, one can understand why the railroads are interested in electing men to do their bidding, but why should the people join in that effort? The most valuable part of the property of a railroad is the franchise. It is this that gives the railroad its monopoly. Why should this most valuable property escape taxation?

The Independent welcomes all communications relating to economic questions. All such, whether coinciding with the policy of The Independent or not, will be used, so far as space will allow. However, all such communications must be short and to the point. The object of every correspondent is to write such communications as will be read. In these strenuous times, and especially in hot weather, not one reader in ten will read lengthy communications. The object of the writer is therefore defeated. When a writer makes a statement and consumes several pages trying to make his statement clear, his act is accepted as a sort of apology for the statement. People who apologize for statements they make never win the confidence of the reading public. Therefore say what you have to say in few words. Be quick and to the point. Don't consume a ton of dynamite to kill a flea. Boil it down. Cut it short.

A NEW PEOPLE'S PARTY PAPER.
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The Forum is a new people's party paper. Its birthplace is Denver and it bids fair to soon rank among the aggressive and progressive papers working for the dawn that is already shooting its arrows across the eastern sky. Richard Wolfe of Denver is the editor and publisher of The Forum.