

THOSE THREE PLATFORMS.

Dr. C. F. Taylor, editor of the Medical World, Philadelphia, prints the following letter which he received from Dr. C. M. Spalding of Narbath, Pa.:

"My Dear Doctor: I have been reading your September number and reviewing the August number of your splendid magazine, and find myself so pregnant with its pleasant and profitable recollections that I have got to tell you about it. I took those three platforms and compared them plank by plank, and find the republican and democrat platforms so near alike that it would take a microscope to distinguish the difference; but the populist platform in every plank speaks for the interests of the people, while both of the other platforms are ambiguous, wordy and hypnotic as to the true dangers of our republic."

There are many thousands of voters in Pennsylvania, especially among the professional and educated classes, who entertain the same views. The management that leaves Pennsylvania in a condition that it is impossible for the citizens of that state to record their votes for the people's party national ticket, has certainly slipped a cog somewhere.

MR. WATSON'S LETTER.

Particular attention is directed to the advertisement of the special edition of The Independent in another column. This special edition will appear next week, October 13. It will contain both letters of acceptance of Watson and Tibbles, in addition to Mr. Watson's best speeches in this campaign, with many other valuable contributions upon economic questions. This will be a first class magazine edition of The Independent. One state has already ordered 40,000 copies. Other committees and all persons desiring copies of this edition should forward orders at once to avoid mistakes and delay in filling them.

HERE'S A KICK.

The Independent, for the first time during the campaign feels like scolding a bit. In Massachusetts there are two great economic interests and one of patriotism and sentiment that find no advocate outside of populism, and any sort of wisdom on the part of political managers would have seized hold of them at once. The mills, water powers and factories of Massachusetts are in danger of losing their whole value and following them the houses and lots and the whole business of the small merchants who supply the population, on account of the loss of trade with Canada through the rejection of all reciprocity treaties. The New England manufacturer can no longer sell textile goods in the south, because the south has gone into manufacturing itself and is employing cheap child labor and the negro. The transportation and other charges are severely affecting its markets in the west. New England must have reciprocity with Canada or the value will go out of its immense manufacturing plants and the towns surrounding them.

The small banker in New England is just beginning to find out that branch banking and other Wall street plans means his complete ruin, and he is ready to join a revolt.

In no section of the country is the feeling so intense against imperialism as it is in Massachusetts. Yet Gerry Brown has received very little if any assistance in endeavoring to get the people's party on its feet in Massachusetts where it would undoubtedly receive a very large vote if the principles of the party were rightly presented to the people. The condition that Massachusetts has been left in, makes the editor of The Independent feel like getting up and kicking everything over in the room.

The editor of The Independent has been cogitating over an editorial for more than two years, and has never yet got the subject clearly enough defined in his own mind to attempt to write upon it. Some time in the future he may feel able to elucidate it. It concerns the subjects of saving and waste. The thing was brought to mind by some figures recently published about the St. Louis fair. It is said that not less than \$230,000,000 has been expended on that fair and probably several millions more. At the first glance that seems greater than the waste of a cotton wood tree which not only produces seed enough to propagate the species, but enough to seed half a state each year. But is it absolutely waste after all?

The various ways that the distribution of immense wealth has been disposed of at the death of the owner during the last few years has never been

universally satisfactory. Whether it has been given to educational or other public institutions or bestowed upon the relatives, has not met general approval. At last there has been a distribution of an immense estate which seems to meet with the approbation of all and has brought great joy to the hearts of many honest, hard-working people. Recently Benjamin Matlack Everhart of West Chester, Mass., died, and when his will was probated it was found that he had divided more than one half of his great fortune among the people of his town. After providing for his children in a generous way, he released mortgages of men of small business, gave houses and lots to widows and hard working men raising families, added to the capital of others struggling to establish a business, and departed into the life beyond, leaving behind a memory that will be cherished by thousands, and a name that will be honored for generations to come.

Governor Wright has been writing letters (for publication) to the president telling him that any discussion of the principles of the declaration of independence in this country must be stopped, as it has a tendency to make the Filipinos rebellious. Judge Brewer did not obey the warning for at the St. Louis fair the other day in a speech he said: "You can see here twenty acres of Filipino life but not one square rod of the constitution." The applause with which that was received probably induced him to add: "The purchase which this great exposition commemorates was not the result of conquest and came not at the end of war. Not a gun was fired or a life lost. A lawyer, not a soldier, made the transfer. The glory of that transfer is one of the laurels of our profession."

The New York World announces that "David B. Hill and W. J. Bryan will both stump Indiana for Parker. Hill will make thirty speeches and Bryan fifteen."

The Direct Legislation Record which has for years been so ably edited by Eltweed Pomeroy of East Orange, N. J., has been merged with Wetmore's Weekly, and its influence thereby largely extended with that larger field. Mr. Pomeroy will continue to edit that department in Wetmore's Weekly. Robert Tyson of Toronto, Canada, will also edit a department in Wetmore's Weekly devoted to Proportional Representation. These departments will appear in that periodical the first issue of each month, making the record of these two important reforms monthly instead of quarterly as heretofore. The direct legislation movement is so purely a democratic movement, depending on the always unpaid efforts of widely separated earnest men and women, that it needs a center of information. This is well accomplished by this "merger." Those interested will do well to correspond with Mr. Pomeroy or Mr. Tyson.

The people of Boone county have a chance to elect to the legislature a splendid man in the person of L. E. Hallstead. He has been a resident and active business man in that county for many years. He is an independent-spirited man and thoroughly reliable in every way. He will make a worthy representative.

He is certainly devoid of all sense of humor who can not see whole gobs of it in this campaign. The two old parties are so nearly alike that were it not for the ginger that Watson and Tibbles, reinforced by their following, have put into this campaign, few would know that there is a campaign in progress. But the joke of the campaign so far developed is the leading editorial in The Commoner for this week. It is entitled "The Wonders of the West." And this in the midst of an exciting campaign, in the leading democratic weekly, edited by the candidate of democracy in the previous two campaigns, who says he is supporting Parker in this campaign. Truly this is one of "The Wonders of the West."

A great many assertions are made concerning what was the logical thing for the Kansas City democrats to do at the close of the St. Louis convention. The "logical" thing for them to have done, if they had not the courage to repudiate the surrender, was to say: "Now that we have given up our principles, let us nominate Roosevelt and make his election unanimous."

Many republicans, when the need of some reform has pressed upon them, have been in the habit of saying: "We'll get it through the republican

party." But Roosevelt has declared that the policy of the party is fixed, there is to be no change, no reform. He says in his letter of acceptance: "We intend in the future to carry on the government in the same way that we have carried it on in the past." That is only another form of Judge Parker's proclamation that things are "irrevocably" fixed and ordained for all time to come. The party cry of both Parker and Roosevelt is the same. One is "irrevocable" and the other is "stand pat."

The Japanese continue to astonish the world with their genius for organization in which never a detail is neglected. The correspondents assert that the day of the first freeze in Manchuria, the whole army was supplied with woolen clothing and the khaki uniforms were sent to the rear. Never a battery yet has ceased firing or an infantry been forced to retreat because of exhaustion of ammunition.

The people of this state have a choice for governor between a man who says that he rides on railroad passes and one who will not accept a pass and pays his own expenses. Every mullet head will vote for the man who rides on a pass and then pay his governor's fare himself in higher passenger and freight rates. After he has cast his ballot, he will go home and boast to his wife that he "voted 'er straight." But when his wife asks him for an easy chair or to send one of the oldest children to the high school he will declare that he is too poor and can't afford it. That is because he wants to perpetuate his own species. If the boy went to the high school, he would probably not turn out a mullet head.

The republican idea of the way to curtail the postal expenses was to stop the circulation of as many country weeklies as possible and Madden and Loud tried their hands at that sort of economy. The populist idea is to cut down the exorbitant charges of the railways. Which plan is the most statesmanlike?

Some populist and some democratic papers in this state refuse to put up the national ticket at the head of their columns and display only the state ticket under the head of "fusion." Both sets of them are cowards. If you have no politics don't put up any ticket at all. If you are for Parker put up his name. If you are for Watson put up his name.

Senator Hoar of Massachusetts, died at his home in Worcester, September 30. He had been confined to his bed for several weeks. Senator Hoar was of the old style of statesmen, highly cultured, of unimpeachable honor and great ability. Of all the speeches that he has made none will probably live in history except those dissenting from the policies of his own party. There are passages in his speeches against imperialism that will rank for all time to come with the oratory of Webster.

The republican spellbinders are still going up and down the land telling the people that "the foreigner pays the tax." In France, although they have a high tariff there, they don't seem to believe it. There is a great shortage in wheat in France and the tariff on wheat is 36 cents a bushel. The government has removed the tariff on wheat so that the people may have cheap bread, which is evidence that the French government does not believe that the farmer in Nebraska who sends the wheat to France "pays the tax," but the French "consumer pays it all."

The eastern democratic leaders are getting excited over the rush to Watson, but that only makes them hate Bryan worse than ever. Some of them say that while Bryan is making speeches for Parker, "he only damns Parker with faint praise," while others say that "in his speeches he almost faints with damned praise."

The London Daily News calls attention to the danger that lurks in the establishment of universities under the patronage of the trust magnates of America. The greatest danger it thinks lies in the influence it will have on other institutions of learning, which in a large measure will lose their intellectual freedom fishing for smaller donations. It adds: "The growing control of the American millionaire over higher education in America is as real as it is subtle, and it will be imitated in England if we subject our educational forms to the same pressure." There is no greater threat to free government than this passing over of the educational institutions

of this country to the control and patronage of the trust magnates. Against that populism has always protested.

FOLLOW NEW YORK'S EXAMPLE.

The following telegram tells the story of the activity of New York populists in this campaign:

NEW YORK, Oct. 5 1904.
The Independent,
Lincoln, Neb.
Will take forty thousand copies special edition Independent.
HENRY M. McDONALD.

The Scotts Bluff Republican thoroughly believes in the old adage: "The whole hog or nothing." It says "the revenue law is one of the best laws passed by the people of late." If that sort of obedience to party was ever excelled, when was it?

Speaker Cannon says the republican party is against reciprocity with Canada. Everybody knew that before he said it. It is against reciprocity with any nation. It is for a tariff that will protect every trust and combine and which will enable the trusts to charge American citizens just twice as much for goods as it sells the same goods to foreigners, and every mullet head in the land is willing to pay the extra price, if he is only allowed to vote a ticket labelled "republican."

The steel trust graft consists of tariff and monopoly. In a recent legal investigation a letter was introduced written by Schwab to Frick, in which Schwab said: "We can make steel rails at \$12 a ton leaving a nice margin for profit." The tariff is \$7.80 per ton. The managers add that \$7.80 to their "nice profit," and credit it to their tariff graft. Then they clap on \$8.20, credit that to the monopoly and sell their rails for \$28 per ton. Vote 'er straight.

It is doubtful whether all the monumental thieves are among the trust managers and bankers. The political managers are at least a close second. The democrats stole the populist platform and all the populist senators but one. The republicans stole our policy of creating more money, set the mints to coining silver and kept them at it night and day for three years, besides putting out a large quantity of bank paper money. That amount of political thieving was never equalled in the same length of time before.

Of all the parts of speech the prepositions give the most trouble to a writer. There is no getting along with them in any sort of a satisfactory way. We are glad to see that the London Saturday Review has "pitched into them" in a way that has aroused the whole United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. The best thing to do "with" them or "to" them (which is right?) is to pile them in as they happen to turn up. The Saturday Review registers a vigorous protest against "averse to," and declares we ought to write "averse from." It has the same objection against a good many more of the prepositions. "Compared to" it declares is unbearable. There is no use trying to get this awful English language into a state of order.

The spellbinders says that Iowa will roll up 100,000 republican majority. The dispatches from there say that the elevator trust has finally been completed and that no farmer or outside grain man can interfere with it. And they are all going to vote 'er straight.

In 1896 the democrats stole the populist platform and in 1904 they stole the republican platform. As they will have to return the stolen goods and pay the costs of the suit, perhaps they will next time try to produce a platform of their own.

Twice lately, the young lady chosen to break the bottle of wine on the ship as it started down the ways, has failed, and it had to be broken by some one else. A quick witted sailor saved the day at the launching of the Connecticut, for which he has been commended by the navy department. When a great government like that of the United States officially sanctions a silly superstition, it makes one wonder if we are very far advanced beyond the primitive man after all.

The dispatches say that Parker has been completely abandoned by the democrats of Michigan. They never mention his name in the county conventions or in the newspapers. The lightning that carried Parker's celebrated telegram knocked the Michigan democrats out of the fight. No sort of treatment has been able to restore them to consciousness.