

organization conference, I have been opposed to any further fusion with either of the old parties. At that time I was in favor of retaining the original name, people's party.

But conditions are ever changing. To be practical, political parties should change names, forms and even principles, when not vital, to meet these changed conditions.

First. I suggest retaining the people's party platform, as the basis of a reorganization. To this might be added any practical reform planks.

Second. Change the name from people's party to that of "The Jeffersonians." Under this banner invite Mr. Bryan, Mr. Hearst, Mr. LaFollette, Mr. Watson, Mr. Williams and Mr. Debs, together with all other reformers to attend an advisory convention at a given time and place, to round out the organization.

It is a conceded fact that upon all fundamental principles the two old parties are as one. That in point of moral honesty there is no choice. These facts, with Mr. Roosevelt's personality were strong factors of the recent landslide.

Mr. Bryan is too well versed in political history to have much faith in reforming democracy within its own lines. Mr. Debs should concede that socialism is not practical in this age of the world. That it is not suited to the genius of personal and individual liberty, inherent in the American system. Socialism is feeding and growing upon the corrupt failures of the two old parties. Hence, all the more need of a new reform party direct from the great body of the American people. This plan would collect and solidify all reformers into one great party.

T. H. COLLINS.

Denver, Col.

Join the Socialists

Editor Independent: I send you referendum vote with the following answers: "Populists who believe in reform should become socialists." And to the other question as to co-operating with democrats: "Populists who want to dally with present evils may join Bryan democracy."

Populism as far as it goes is practically socialistic—in so far as it differs from republicanism or democracy. Some democrats as well as some republicans favor many things that populists demand. But the parties as such, are capitalistic, and you will get what you ask from one as soon as through the other. I admire Mr. Bryan in fact, all good men love him politically, as well as Tom Watson and your noble self, but this will do no good. You can not get a hearing before the multitude—they will not read unless they are presented with a new primer. With republicanism rampant, democracy discredited and populism—as a party—dead, it looks to me that the true patriot, which is a man who believes in the principle, the greatest good to the greatest number, can turn no other way than toward the socialists. There is no danger of the American people becoming too radical, the real danger now is that they are too conservative. All that socialists demand will not come at a step—the ideal republic is a long way off; but we must start on the journey, or we never will complete it. There appears to me many reasons why populists should not maintain their organization and why they should not join with the democracy. The name "democrat" is wormwood to lots of well-meaning republicans. These we need as well as the radical democrat, and all populists, and when all is considered, the socialist party offers the only logical place for these men to come. The very fact that socialism is not confined to one state of the world, but to the producing class of all civilized countries is strongly in its favor.

But I do not wish to say anything further, only to speak as an old reader and subscriber of The Independent, and you have my vote and a few of the many reasons for it.

JOHN EVERSON.

Alma, Neb.

For People's Party

Never Made the Suggestion

Editor Independent: I am surprised to see The Independent attempting to disorganize our party again by suggesting a return to Bryan and the democratic party.

You know the history of our movement, and the great advantage there is in the populists having a party and party organs.

Mr. Watson's splendid and brilliant campaign has aroused anew the spirit of populism. Why not take advantage

of this and build anew our party in as many localities as possible? If you had been this far south, though this is largely settled by northern people, you would have had an opportunity to witness the overbearing nature of old-time and insolent democracy.

We must have a new party for the protection of old-time populists, and for a home for them. With a live party in each community we can have an influence upon local and national politics.

The existence of a strong populist party is necessary to Mr. Bryan's attempt to control the democratic party. The populist has no influence in the democratic party, but he may by independence have great weight as they will then fear the movement.

We are organizing here and want a good national paper and I thought we had it in your paper, but if you have called a halt to see how many want REFERENDUM ... F. ... FOUR to lie down, we will look elsewhere.

I am anxious to hear from Watson and care nothing for Bryan.

J. C. SHULL.

Arapahoe, Okla.

Don't be Deceived Again

Editor Independent: I want to congratulate you on three editorials in The Independent of November 10: "The Republican Party," "The Democratic Party" and "Mr. Bryan a Democrat." All are to the point, well said and, what is better, true.

I send you herewith a vote. The only hope I have had for some time, that the democratic party might prove to be a reform party, was based on the possibility that Mr. Bryan might think more of the cause than he did of his party. The democratic party has now ceased to be but an obstacle in the way of better things. Let who will stay with it the reform movement must depend upon something else. It was not the fault of populists that they have been deceived in two campaigns. It will be their fault if they are deceived again.

FLAVIUS VAN VORHIS.

Indianapolis, Ind.

A Fatal Mistake

Editor Independent: Find inclosed my card and vote. Populism is now on a firm foundation and none of the political storms of the future can move it. Our two Toms have done noble work. When populism of the west and the south can stand united, as we now stand, all the minions of plutocracy can not check our march to victory. Mr. Bryan has proved faithless in this election, and never again will he be able to disrupt and disorganize our party. There must be a sad spot in his heart, since he is deserted by the western populists, who made him great. Many great men make fatal mistakes, and Bryan has certainly made his. Let us on with the fight, as there is something now in sight worth fighting for.

A. H. LIVINGSTON.

West Plains, Mo.

Always a Democrat

Editor Independent: I inclose my idea as regards the future actions of the people's party. I believe the people's party should continue and if the Bryan democrats and others choose to come to the populists all right, but I am not in favor of disorganizing our party to bow in humble submission to those who can join hands with such vultures as Cleveland, Hill and Belmont. I have always been a democrat and worked hard for Mr. Bryan in both 1896 and 1900, and should have done the same in 1904 had the democrats named a man who would stand firmly on a platform for the people and not for Wall street and Lombard street. I do not feel like censuring Mr. Bryan, as he is an able, educated and, I believe an honest man, and it would hardly be in place for a poor, uneducated man like me, to criticize a man who has twice been honored by a presidential nomination, yet in my humble walk in life I am democratic enough to vote as my conscience dictates. We did not get many votes in old hide-bound Suffolk. The board of canvassers are at work and when finished I will send result to you. It is a grave injustice that the vote of all parties is not made public at once.

F. E. NICKOLS.

Brentwood, L. I. N. Y.

Worse than Suicide

Editor Independent: Herewith find my vote for the people's party organization and so thoroughly convinced am I that any alliance with the so-called democratic party would be the undoing of all our hopes and plans, I wish I could send a million votes that the

very thought of fusion might be smothered in its birth.

If the democratic party together with its leaders are right, then our party together with our leaders and plans are wrong, and good sense and honesty would say go bodily into the democratic camp and do penance at their shrine.

I freely admit the honesty of the great body of all parties—this idea—vox populi—vox Dei—is the basic doctrine of true democracy and real republicanism. But does this prove that the methods used to control the people are right?

I say not. An alliance with the democratic party means that we accept their leaders, their organization, together with their methods, and to do this would be worse than suicide.

Again, sectional feelings engendered by the war between the states make it an impossibility for all reformers to unite under the democratic flag.

Let us march under a new flag—one not stained by the fratricide—the old flag the old house has served its purpose—let us build a new one to fit our environments.

C. H. COLE.

Welsh, Ala.

Fusion Proved Disastrous

Editor Independent: I think that we already had more than enough confusing political fusion. The people's party was sidetracked by Engineer Fusion for at least fifteen years. No sound member of the people's party will again consent to enter a political co-partnership simply to get even a slim chance at snatching a few crumbs and little fishes. The fusions at the past proved disastrous experiments, and no sane populist will again be coaxed to enter the democratic spider's net. Let us rather reform and reorganize the demoralized members of the nearly shipwrecked people's party. Our party principles are Jeffersonian and Lincolnian; they are the quintessence of pure democracy and republicanism. Our platform rests on the solid foundation of common sense and sound statesmanship. The people's party platform contains as much socialistic essence as we can stand, understand and need. It can't be denied that the different platforms of the several socialist aggregations go to extremes. Our platform is socialistic enough for all conservative socialists to stand on. Let us beware of the extremes of monarchy and despotism. History proves that most communistic societies fell to pieces. It is true that the first Christians held all their property in common, but it must be considered that they were few in numbers and their earthly possessions were very scant. Its nearly fanatical brotherly love welded them into one. But their Christian socialism tottered and fell as soon as they had perceptibly increased in numbers and goods. It must be admitted that all the socialistic features of our political creed are reasonable, practicable and lasting.

The public ownership and operation of railroads, telegraphs, mineral deposits, the issuing of the money by the governments and a graduated income tax are imperatively called for and should be insisted on by the people. Let every true believer in our principles become a tireless evangelist, and then we will be able to accomplish much four years hence. If the newcomers to our camp object to the name populists, then the party might be called the "national" or some other forcible name. But let us by all means refrain from fusing with any old, worm-eaten party. The federal and whig party names are nearly forgotten; let it be so with the democratic party name. The recent election proved that most voters consider that party either dead, useless or hastening to the grave. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." Let our party ship be manned and sailed by reliable men; men that have been tried in the fiery political furnace.

JOHN F. KELSO.

Stroud, Okla.

Whose Lost?

Editor Independent: I wish to express my opinion as to any further fusion. I am like the old Indian who was lost. He wandered around and finally braced himself up and said: "Injun no lost, wigwam lost."

L. G. STEWART.

Geneva, Neb.

A Democratic Funeral

Editor Independent: You will find inclosed my vote. Sure, I am for maintaining the people's party organization. What do we care for defeat? We have set in to win. I have made up my mind to stay with them. This is no populist funeral, this is a democratic

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