

# Results of Referendum Vote

## What Populists Should Do

The referendum taken by The Independent, at 12 o'clock noon, on Wednesday stood:

For People's Party organization **4,977**  
 For co-operation with Democrats **302**

### Nucleus for a Revolt

Editor Independent: In compliance with The Independent's policy of referendum to the populist voters of the country, relative to fusion or anti-fusion, if the editor will remember, I expressed myself against fusion in the columns of The Independent two or three years ago. And I am very glad to go on record at this time as irrevocably against fusion with the democratic, or any other party; and above all things, politically, let the populist fight shy of any entangling alliances with the so-called democratic party. The populist party has demonstrated beyond the possibility of a doubt that they do not care so much for the official places as they do to have their advocated principles enacted into law. Although unprecedented in the history of any party, in national convention they nominated a man of the democratic party for president and a republican for vice-president, and what did this bimetal, reform, good, moral and pious party do at its convention. Why it slapped the whole reform element of the country in the face, by turning down Mr. Towne and substituting one of their own henchmen, and I am sorry to say that I have never heard of any protest from Mr. Bryan.

The facts in the case are this: In the early nineties the populists were carrying on an educational propaganda with a fiery zeal that boded no good to the plutocrats of the country. The scheming conspirators of the country had, up to this time, managed to keep the people organized in two hostile camps or parties, the solid south and the no less solid north, by wielding the bloody shirt, and were thus able to formulate the policies of the government to their own advantage. But in this educational propaganda of the populist party the bloody shirt lost its power to divide. Then the conspirators began their war upon the reform movement, by using the daily press to misrepresent, vilify and ridicule everything populist. Still the movement continued to gain strength. Counties, then states, fell into the hands of the populist party. They elected judges, congressmen and senators, and everyone of them an able teacher in political economy (or national housekeeping). The special privilege class saw that if the populists were allowed to continue their educational program, that it was only a question of a very short time that the people would take the government reins in their own hands and return to Lincoln republicanism and Jefferson democracy, and hence there must something be done if they retained their hold upon governmental affairs. They had learned that the populists could not be driven to disbandment, so they schemed to lead or sell them to the destruction of the party. They had brought into existence against such fearful odds and with so much sacrifice. The first thing on the program in the plot was to appropriate enough of the populist platform to make it palatable for the populist voter. They now had the hook and line. The next step in the plot was a proper bait (the stuffed prophet is a fisherman), they knew that the populists would refuse to support a man—even on their own platform—unless they thought that the man represented their principles, and hence they allowed Mr. Bryan to be nominated for president, the object being to absorb all that had come of the democratic party and to drive back to the republican party all that came out of that party.

The democratic and republican parties have been fighting, either politically or in civil war for a hundred years, and any reform party organized must come out of these parties and draw its strength from both or it can not succeed.

Therefore, let me say, no more entangling alliances with any party under any circumstances whatever. I am heartily in favor of keeping the populist organization up. It will form a nucleus for a revolt which is liable

to occur within the next four years. Our principles advocated are just, they are for the betterment of the whole people. Millions of the people believe in them, but partisanship is their great stumbling block. But the last election has shown that partisanship has received a severe wound—let us hope a deadly wound.

I would like to make a suggestion to the populist brethren of the country. Would it not be well for the populists to organize themselves in a balance of power party. By so doing we would weed out all office hunters if there are any in our ranks. I believe that we could reach power for good government on this line sooner than any other that we might adopt. Where the two old parties are anywhere equal in strength a very small number would turn the scale. They would be compelled to harken somewhat, to our demands or be turned out the next election. But in any county or state where we have a reasonable chance for success, nominate our own ticket and elect it, if possible. However, as our party is a referendum party, this question will have to be considered by the members of the party before a decision for the plan can be reached.

G. S. CURREY.

Orleans, Neb.

### A Maryland Democrat Speaks

Editor Independent: I see that you ask for expressions in regard to the future policy of the radical or reform elements in politics.

There is one question settled—there is no room for two conservative parties in this country. There is another question that I think is also settled—the democratic party will never again win the respect and confidence of the people. It has trimmed its sails too often. It has bowed before mammon and been spurned with contempt. Parties, like all things in nature, have their formative period—their growth, maturity and decay. If it is possible to restore senile old age, with its attendant feebleness and decrepitude, to youth and vigor again, then it will be possible to re-invigorate and give life and virality to democracy. But, why continue: "We all know who know anything, that it can not be done. The old

democratic banner will never lead to victory again—it has been trilled in the dust too often. It may be attempted and perhaps will—but it will be another failure. Many hate to give up its traditions. It is but natural for us to call up the many pleasant memories of childhood when we grow old—we then live in the past. Many will try to forget that it has sinned and will lovingly forgive its wrongs—but not so with the masses.

A party, to succeed, must advocate a principle, must cling to it with a tenacity that does not fear defeat. Must stand by it till the public can see that it is honest. That it will practice what it preaches. The democratic party has failed to do this. We, who were of the democratic faith, were taught that it was the party of Jefferson and Jackson; that it was the party of the people. What true, loyal democrat does not feel the hot blush of shame when he remembers the administration of Grover Cleveland? How gladly the true democrats rallied under the banner of Bryan in 1896 and in 1900.

And with what shame and humiliation we bowed our heads in 1904!

Can the shame of Cleveland's administration—the shame of the surrender to mammon in 1904 be so cleansed from democratic garments as to make them decent wearing apparel in the future? I think not.

No man holds Mr. Bryan in greater respect and veneration than I do. No man loves him for what he is better than I do. No man followed him more gladly in 1896 and 1900, than I did, but to follow him and vote for Parker and Davis in 1904 was too much—there were several of us that didn't do it, eh! I will follow him as far as the platform of 1896 or 1900 will allow him to go but no further. I believe that he is wrong in trying to make the old democratic garments decent and clean. Why not get a new suit and throw the old worn out things away? All the cleaning, brushing, patching, dyeing and pressing that can be done will never make the old things decent to wear any more—throw them into the rag pile and get into a new suit that has not stains on it to be brushed out.

I, for one will wear the garment, name it what you will, so that it is clean, strong and well made—"all wool and a yard wide!"

I was taught democracy from my childhood up and know how hard it is to give up the old banner. I never voted but one republican ticket in my life, that I know of, and that was when I voted for Grover Cleveland in 1892. And before his administration was ended—and many of us thought that it would never end—I swore, by all the gods of ancient, medieval and modern times, that I'd never do it

again. And I have not.

I was not surprised at what the democratic party did in 1904 and if we will allow it, it will be swung around the circle again as we were in 1896, 1900 and 1904, and end up at the same old stand. Life is rather short for such experiments and I must confess that I have had about all I want in that line.

Others may do as they please but I am not going to swing around that circle. Let those, who believe that this is a government for the people and by the people and not for the trusts and by the trusts, get together and formulate a platform if that is necessary. It is not necessary so far as democrats are concerned. The people's party platform was good democracy in 1896 and 1900 and it would have been far better for democracy if it had sustained good, democratic doctrine in 1904.

I think that we will have no trouble in making a platform that a vast majority of the people of this country can endorse. That is not the hard point to overcome. The hard thing to keep from doing is not to give it a name that will kill it. Therefore, in my humble opinion, you had better not call it democracy.

I am, however, not adverse to union with all reform elements. That is what we want. What we must have to succeed. Let us do nothing to prevent the broadest union possible without the surrender of principle. I have an abiding faith that all will work out well. The people will solve these questions and will never be satisfied until they are solved right.

"Truth crushed to earth, shall rise again;

The eternal years of God are hers; But error, wounded, writhes in pain; And dies amid her worshippers."

N. B. HOFF.

Spencer, Md.

### Principle Above Party

Editor Independent: Enclosed please find draft to cover arrears and for next year. Also my referendum ballot, and in reference thereto will say that the history of the democratic party and its present leaders (without exception) will not inspire a thoughtful man with any degree of confidence for the future. A party so vacillating, incompetent and cowardly should not find a supporter among those who believe in honesty of purpose, progressive methods and free institutions. A party to endure must be composed of men who honor their own judgment and will refuse to follow any party man or set of men unless they are leading in the right direction.

Such is the history of the people's party. Let us rejoice in the fact that there are millions of men in the democratic party that have the courage of

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| Abscess—Anemia      | Kidney Diseases     |
| Bronchitis          | La Grippe           |
| Blood Poison        | Leucorrhoea         |
| Bright's Disease    | Liver Troubles      |
| Bowel Troubles      | Malaria—Neuralgia   |
| Coughs—Colds        | Many Heart Troubles |
| Consumption         | Piles—Pneumonia     |
| Colic—Croup         | Pleurisy—Quinsy     |
| Constipation        | Rheumatism          |
| Catarrh—Cancer      | Scrofula—Syphilis   |
| Dysentery—Diarrhoea | Skin Diseases       |

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| Dandruff—Dropsy    | Stomach Troubles |
| Dyspepsia          | Throat Troubles  |
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| Fevers—Gall Stones | Tumors—Ulcers    |
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