

for the subtleties of academic discussion. There is scarcely a demand of the populist platform which has not been tried in New Zealand—and with pronounced success.

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CHARLES Q. DE FRANCE.

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 6, '05.

#### Mickey and the Lobby

This stilted scare of the presence of the masked lobbyist at our legislative councils has no place in a real message. No message reference should be made to a possible state of affairs, that does not exist and can have no real existence without the connivance of those officials who have in advance made distressing reference to lobbyism.

The governor in his message saw fit to assume a pessimistic attitude, and with studied emphasis declared "The bane of every legislative body is the subsidized lobby." The statement is not true in a general sense and is therefore a reflection upon the integrity of the American legislator. The condition which seems to alarm the governor for the safety of the state are not alone the work of the pernicious lobby. The personnel of the legislature cannot escape responsibility.

The majority of all legislative bodies are normally honest, and are conscious of a moral responsibility to their constituency. It is the minority of such bodies that give the lobby a tangible existence. The venal nexus between the minority of a legislative body and the lobby which is engendered in corporate greed, and manifesting itself in individual appetite, can only be established and maintained under a weak, incapable and dishonest administration. The history of legislation in our country affords many brilliant examples of governors under whose administrations the slimy brood never made any tracks within the precincts dedicated in the name of courage and conscience to the interests of the common weal. Notably the late Governor Pingree of Michigan, had no occasion to sound a lobby alarm because the lobby will only vegetate where conditions are favorable. When he was called to the office he so ably filled, he found the venal minority and a well organized lobby, whom he attacked at the very threshold of his administration with courage and singleness of purpose, that the corruptness retired abashed in the face of "a man."

The state of Illinois has had legislative experience with and without a lobby, under the retiring Governor Yates, the venal minority and a well organized lobby seemed to be in control of legislation. The governor stationed the troops, during the session of the legislature in the state house grounds in readiness to quell a riot. The electors of the common wealth realizing the evident faithfulness of their representatives, swooped down upon the venal crew, and dispersed them. The speaker of the house narrowly escaped mob violence at the hands of outraged citizenship. While under the late Governor Altgeld, the venal few with a boost from the "long green lobby" representing the gas company of Chicago, succeeded in passing the gas bills. The governor promptly came to the rescue of the people, and vetoed that vicious legislation. In his veto taking a high position in ethics and morals, he fearlessly denounced corruption in high places, sought out the sponsors of vicious legislation exposing their methods and motives, the corruptionists retired under a judgment of public opinion, from whose decree there is no appeal.

How inspiring and reassuring in these sordid days of commercialism, is the strenuous example of Gov. La-Follete of Wisconsin, engaged in mortal combat with organized greed,

**A Tired Stomach**  
Does not get much good for you out of what you eat, for it does not digest much—it is wasteful. It feels sore and lame and is easily distressed and often upset by food. The best treatment is a course of **Hood's Sarsaparilla** which is positively unequalled for all stomach troubles.

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# TOM WATSON'S MAGAZINE

To those who gave me their support in the last Presidential election I hereby return my heartfelt thanks. They could not have been actuated by any motive other than the desire to vote their honest convictions.

Those who cast their ballots for me were brave enough to stand with the minority, and conscientious enough to think that a ballot is prostituted which does violence to one's sense of right.

The campaign of 1904 was but a prelude to the campaign of 1908. The start had to be made, and it seemed to me a vital necessity to start at the time when both old parties were openly pledged to Plutocracy and Class Legislation. The Republicans stood pat for every evil of the present system which builds colossal fortunes upon the false basis of Special Privilege. The Democrats, led by place-hunters and time-servers ravenous for the spoils of office, shamelessly abandoned every democratic principle and transferred their standard to the hands of the gambler, the monopolist and the Wall Street corporation.

At such a time, when both the old parties were down on their knees to the pampered beneficiaries of Class Legislation, it seemed a high duty that someone should preach the gospel of "Equal rights to all."

As well as I could I made the fight for Jeffersonian principles. All things considered, the support I received was encouraging. Therefore, I am resolved to devote the next four years to a campaign of education, in which all governmental questions will be discussed and the citizen brought to realize how ruinous to the masses are the present tendencies of Municipal State and National legislation.

By law, one man's business has been fostered at the expense of another's; by law, one class has been given special privileges not enjoyed by others; by law, certain forms of wealth have been entirely exempted from national taxation to the vast injury of the non-exempt; by law the artificial persons, called corporations have been clothed with powers, immunities and privileges not exercised by individuals; by law, the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer and more enslaved. Thus the enormous forces of law and government tend irresistibly to concentrate wealth, power and opportunity in the hands of a few.

Already one per cent. of our population own more than the other ninety-nine per cent. combined. Already you can count upon the fingers of one hand the trusts that annually absorb more than one-half of the entire increase in wealth. Already you can name four railroad kings who, by agreement among themselves, can levy heavier tribute upon the people of this country than Congress itself can impose; the Trust invades every market, dictates where you buy and where you sell; fixes the price when you sell, and fixes it when you buy. You are nothing; the law is nothing; the Trust is all-in all.

Meanwhile, the expenses of government grow larger and larger; the cost of living mounts higher and higher, the ragged legions of poverty multiply day by day; the rich swagger more and more with offensive bluster and display, and the storm-cloud of class-hatred blackens the future as never before. Nine-tenths of the sufferings of our people are due to bad laws and bad government. The situation has become so desperately intolerable that we are nearer the danger line than we ourselves know.

It is my purpose to discuss all economic and governmental questions, to point out abuses and advocate practical remedies.

I believe that equal and exact justice between man and man should be the object of law. I believe that special privileges can never be granted to one class without gross injustice to others.

Instead of the Hamiltonian theory of the Divine Right of the Few to govern and monopolize, I believe, as Jefferson and Lincoln did, in the rule of all for the benefit of all.

I invoke the co-operation of all who believe, as I do, that present conditions are wrong; that they can be and must be improved. I wish this magazine to penetrate every city, town, village and country precinct with my monthly message. If you are in sympathy with me lend your aid not only by promptly forwarding your own subscription but by going among your neighbors and enlisting their support.

The political purpose which is herein proclaimed is but one feature of this new magazine; it will interest every member of the family with reading matter that will appeal to and benefit all.

The first number will be issued in February. Subscription one dollar per year. Send it in at once. I want my friends first, and with their aid we will have no lack of converts to our cause. Remit—Postal or Express Money Order, or Cash in Registered Letter—to TOM WATSON'S MAGAZINE, 121 West 42d Street, New York City.

Thos. E. Watson.

Thomson, Ga.

striking calmly and unerringly as a gladiator without beating a party reveille. The heroic example of Governor Van Sant of Minnesota, bids us hope that the spirit of '76 will yet reanimate those who will be charged from time to time with the affairs of the republic of humanity. The precepts and examples of the foregoing show that all that is necessary to do when conditions are about to arise with them, and such actions will always have the endorsement of the people. Intelligence, honesty and courage are a sufficient safeguard against the baneful influence of the lobby.

Organized greed is intelligent and adroit, it possesses a penetrating discernment and therefore is never deceived in the character of the people's representatives. And whenever the skulking lobbyist comes out in the open, it is a sure sign that it meets with covert encouragement. It would seem to be the duty of the governor to point out the abuses that hamper progress, and suggest remedial measures that will meet the trend of the times.

BERNARD DOLAN.

#### No Surrender

Editor Independent: Here is my vote—as always—against fusion.

Fusion and the democratic party are dead dogs and of right ought to be. Any party that barter its manhood for votes is already damned.

If we go down to defeat, let's go like the gallant Custer, with the last shell fired, the gun empty and face to the enemy. Nail the banner of no surrender to the mast, asking and giving no quarter; never daunted, often overpowered, but never defeated.

I. J. TEAGARDEN.

Hamilton, Mo.

#### A Virginia Suggestion

Editor Independent: In response to your suggestion for opinions from the rank and file as to a conference of populists in the near future, I would say, it were wise to get together, compare notes, and have a consensus of opinion. To get advantage of railroad rates a conference might be held in

Washington about the time of the "coronation ceremonies," March 4. But how to determine whether to call a conference or not. Let the national chairman confer with all national committee men, state committees and editors of the populist press, and then in the light of replies received issue a call for a conference.

What is the party plan of organization and action to be in the future; referendum vote by precinct clubs, or the usual convention system? Some plan ought to be adopted, we believe, for getting a referendum vote from the rank and file on all questions of party management. Can we not guarantee a voice in party affairs to the individual voter who has no "say" whatever in his present condition under boss rule and party regularity, etc.? It would encourage many who are lukewarm citizens to offer them the rights of a freeman whose referendum ballot will always be as potent as the vote of a "leader." Can't we re-vitalize the Cincinnati plan?

"J. L. KAY."

Hillsboro, Va.