

The Main Reason Why

Editor Independent: One more battle for political reform has been lost, once more the majority have endorsed the policies of the republican party.

Acknowledged anew their servility to the monopolist, and again given their approval to the imperialistic policy of forcible expansion and all other iniquities of past administration. Why should it not be that way since the majority have so willed it. May be after all we are wrong in our contention that the people are in the main honest and intelligent. If the majority of the people are indeed honest and intelligent, why do they not give more evidence of it. Take for instance the campaigns of 1896 and 1900. The party that appealed to the honesty, integrity and humanity of the people was thrown down by them, while the party that appealed to the spirit of selfishness, greed and brutality, was endorsed.

Were the leaders of the democratic party so much to blame after all in adopting republican tactics with the idea of winning? Now, the fact that the republican administrations did not carry out to the full, the iniquitous promises of the platforms, is to the credit of the administrations, but not to the credit of the people who endorsed the platforms.

In the matter of the gold standard they did the very opposite of what was promised in both platform and public and political speeches, in that they increased the supply of money instead of decreasing it. It would almost seem in some cases that their dishonest pretenses were only for the purpose of catching votes, and that beneath all that was the honest purpose to serve the best interest of the people in spite of the fact that the people were too dishonest to vote for their best interest. There is no use in denying that the idea of "people's government" is on the wane and it will continue to wane until the citizenship become honest enough to assume their responsibilities toward government. Talk about dishonesty among officials. If there were one-half of the dishonesty among the administrators of government as the average voter exhibits, we would have something to complain of sure enough. Bad off as we are, we are better off than we deserve. Suppose that by hook or crook, or trick we could succeed in electing an honest and capable set of men from one end of officialdom to the other, what would it all amount to without the support of an honest citizenship? Suppose we had elected Bryan in 1896 or 1900 with only a small part of even his own party understanding or being in sympathy with his ideals. I tell you we are beginning at the wrong end of this reform business. Abusing republican administrations, trusts, combines, monopolies, while the real culprits, the voters, responsible for the whole mischief, remain unchided. The need is for a hand strong enough to throw the whiplash of reproof on the dishonest citizen. Where did the trusts get all their advantages and powers? Why, the fool people gave them to them. None of these great advantages were taken away from the people by force, they were all free gifts. And in spite of all that is said the trusts are fairly temperate in the use of their powers; they are dishonest, yes! They take unlawful advantage, yes! They crush out honest competition, yes! They do many abominable things, yes! yes! But here take the average citizen, too dishonest to cast an honest ballot, and give him suddenly this great power, this strangle-hold on the throats of the American public and see what he would do.

The worst of "trust oppression" would seem like humane benefaction, in comparison.

Take the "honest farmer" (and by the way it was the "honest farmer" that defeated reform when it was so near to winning). Take the "honest farmer," I say, and give him the control over the price of meat that the meat trust now enjoys, and meat would rot in their "smoke houses" at the price of dollars per pound because none but the very rich would have money to buy it. The majority of the citizenship has lost their respect for law, their love of right, and retain only their fear of the penalties of the law. Such a condition will surely lower them (as it should) from their higher office of citizens, where they are the makers and defenders of law by virtue of their respect for right and

justice, and the legacy of liberty left by the forefathers, and will lower them from their present high estate to the degraded one of subjects to laws and conditions over which they will have no control. And whose fault will it be?

The most dangerous element in politics is not as is popularly supposed, the bribe giver, or the bribe taker, because they are comparatively few in number. But it is that great mass of respectable "honest" citizenship that will vote for vicious measures without any reward.

Suppose you had a certain work to do that required the abilities of five men, and had the wherewithal to pay but one of them for his labor, you would have a hard time getting the work done. Not so with the monopolist, when he figures in politics he hires about one-fifth of the voting strength that he needs, and finds the other four-fifths, ready to work for nothing and pay for the privilege besides. Thus it is that about one-tenth of the voting strength can over-power the other nine-tenths.

Ask the average voter of the majority party, what he thinks of certain legislation, and he will tell you he knows nothing about it. Ask him what he thinks of the platform of his party. He will tell you he hasn't read it. Then ask him how he can vote intelligently, knowing nothing about what is doing, and he will proudly tell you that his party bosses know what they are about, and that he is "willing to leave the whole matter to them knowing that it will be attended to right."

Such faith! Such perfect trust and confidence, were it exercised in his God, instead of the idolatrous direction in which he does exercise it, would save his fool soul from perdition.

And we are eternally finding fault with the administration, as if it could help itself? With the mighty power of the monopolist pulling in the wrong direction, and the mighty force of the majority of the people, pushing in the same direction. And the president is often unjustly criticized. He is expected to exercise super-human powers in the "trust busting" business. How he owing as he does his position to the friendliness of the monopolist to him personally, and the popular endorsement of trust rule by the people? Is he more than human? Is he a sort of demigod? Is he able, gigantic though he be, to stand against all the world alone? Isn't he doing as well as could be expected, handicapped as he is? Take for instance his first public utterance after being assured of his reelection, when he said he would not under any circumstances accept a third term. What was that but a rebuke aimed at the slobbering flatterer and idolator. It has come to a pretty pass in this country when the patriotism and firmness of one man is all that stands in the way of the change from republic to kingdom.

Read his message—strange medley, strange mixture of bad and good, showing that the better nature of the man was struggling for expression in spite of his evil environment. Instead of being criticized he is rather to be pitied. He might be likened to a great giant bound with many strong bands.

For in his struggles in the right direction restraining cords seem to tear and cut through the very tendons of good intentions. Why should he be required to make a martyr of himself by going up against this awful power alone? Let the people move in the matter of the regulation of the trusts first, and if they fail to do it; then let the trusts rule them forever and ever.

SID FOREE.

A Queer Populist

Editor Independent: As my subscription on The Independent expires February 1, next, I deem it proper that I should give you my reasons for not renewing it, and notify you to quit sending it to me after that date.

I am a true populist, my first presidential vote was cast for B. F. Butler. I also voted for Streeter, Weaver, W. J. Bryan twice, and last fall for Watson, not because I liked Watson or his campaign, but for the principle.

What makes me quit The Independent is the way you have had of late to hurl abuse at W. J. Bryan.

Populists may think it is proper to vote for Roosevelt and ridicule Bryan, but it don't work with me. I think Bryan would have been elected president in 1896 but for Thos. E. Watson. I listened to one speech Tom Watson made in Osceola, Neb., that fall and that was enough to satisfy me that Watson and some others didn't help Bryan any.

It seems to me while reading your paper that you have got a notion in your head, that to build up yours and Tom Watson's political fortunes, it is necessary that you tear down Bryan and the reform democracy. In this

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B. H. ROBISON, President

you, of course, can do as you please, but I will not be along with you in it. And the "woods" are full of others (good pops too) that think likewise.

Hoping this explanation is all that is necessary I ask you to scratch my name from your mailing list Feb. 1, 1905, as that is the date when my subscription expires.

JOHN P. CARLSON.

Osceola, Neb., R. F. D. 1.

(The Independent will continue to print what the rank and file of the party have to say about Bryan, Watson or any other political leader. If any other populists around Osceola, Neb., have a different view, it will be glad to print their opinions also.—Ed. Ind.)

FARMERS, ATTENTION.

Do you wish to sell your farm? If so, send full description, lowest price and best terms. Or, if you wish to buy a farm, ranch or Lincoln home, write to or call on Williams & Bratt, 1105 O st., Lincoln, Neb.

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GEO. W. BERGE, Attorney, IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF LANCASTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA.

NOTICE OF SALE.

In the matter of the estate of Conrad Schmidt, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of an order by Hon. A. J. Cornish, one of the judges of the District Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska, made on the 31st day of January, 1905, for the sale of real estate hereinafter described, there will be sold at the East Door of the Court House in the city of Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, on the 28th day of February 1905, at ten o'clock A. M. at public vendue to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estate, to-wit: Lot nine (9) in block thirteen (13) of Cohn Metcalf & Farwell's Sub-division of the North half (N. 1/2) of the Northeast quarter (N. E. 1/4) of section twenty-three (23); township ten (10), range six (6), East of the 6th P. M., in Lancaster County, Nebraska: Said sale will remain open one hour. Said real estate will be clear except taxes for 1904.

KATE SCHMIDT TROUT,

Administratrix of the estate of Conrad Schmidt, deceased.

Dated this 6th day of February 1905.

SHERIFF SALE

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of an order of sale issued by the Clerk of the District Court of the Third Judicial District of Nebraska, within and for Lancaster county, in an action wherein Peter Judge is Plaintiff, and Charles W. Burkett et al, Defendants, I will at 2 o'clock p. m. on the 28th day of February, A. D. 1905, at the east door of the Court House, in the city of Lincoln, Lancaster county, Nebraska, offer for sale at public auction the following described lands and tenements to-wit. Lot Seven (7) Block 78; Lots Two (2) Nine (9) Block 79; Lot One (1) Block 20; Lots Six (6) and Seven (7) Block 37; Lots Four (4), Five (5), Six (6) and Seven (7) Block 13; Lots Seven (7) Nine (9) Ten (10) Block 38; Lots Five (5) and Eight (8) Block 40; Lot Ten (10) Block 44; Lots Two (2) and Six (6) Block 20; all in the town of Hawthorne, Lancaster county, Nebraska.

Given under my hand this 20th day of January A. D. 1905.

NICHOLAS BRES, Sheriff.

S. B. HAMS, Attorney.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all whom it may concern, and especially to Sarah J. Worley, non resident defendant, that on the 26th day of January A. D. 1905, Charles Dunning as plaintiff filed his petition in the District Court of Lancaster county, Nebraska, against Henry V. Hoagland, administrator of the estate of William H. Worley deceased, Sarah J. Worley, and lot eight hundred and twelve (812) and E. 15 ft. of lot eight hundred and thirteen (813) in the village of Waverly, Lancaster county Nebraska, as defendants, the object and prayer of said petition being to foreclose certain liens for taxes set out in said petition existing in plaintiff's favor against said real estate, to have said defendants and all other persons barred of any claim to said real estate and for equitable relief and that said real estate is made a party to said action. Answer to said petition is required on or before Monday March 6th 1905.

CHARLES DUNNING, Plaintiff.

Tom Watson's magazine and The Independent both one year \$1.65. In clubs of five or more a special rate of \$1.40 will be allowed. Address orders to The Independent, Lincoln, Neb.

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