#### **FEBRUARY 16, 1905**

### Somewhat Bewildered

Editor Independent: Having read so many well written pieces, ideas, notions, opinions, policies and visions, as well as principles in your paper, as well as some other papers, trying to uphold true American principlescalled by so many names when applied to old as well as newer parties and ing the sixties, etc., etc. We are up bring no scholar and nothing but a common clodhopper I often become more or less bewildered. I am somewhat of an independent (in thought more particular) both in religion and politics. I suppose I might say I was nothing politically (being both young light on the way to Damascus and a and an orphan) until the little simbling, sapheaded lawyers, preachers and others began to blow their little secession trumpets which started me to thinking, reading and deciding. (I was no secessionist.) I went into the army in 361 rather than be carried in. I was surrendered to Gen. Grant by Gen. Lee at Appomattox, which made my stock in southern democracy as I have seen, understood and known it, more than worthless. I was a greenbacker long before I knew of the venerable Pete: Cooper and the greenback party. I was with and for the reform movements until the h-l-ish d-v-ishness of 1896. I was then somewhat of a secesh until this 1904. I voted her straight for Watson, for yourself and down to constable in the county, while I always issue of Dec. 29 that The Independent grant others the same right and liberty. take my self in politics and religion. Yet we are all subject to each other's criticism of differences in opinion (or of words and actions). Probably if the presidential (B.) had not buzzed so to the confusion of thoughts and principles in W. J/ B.'s bonnet he would not have made so many declarations and then paid no more attention to them than if not made, but being a democratic politician he must follow the customs and rules which is party, party, party, office, office, office, Perhaps hes like Jeff Davis in the sixties depending on old England to help, as he but recently returned from over there. If the papers were correct, England backed ap secession until the Bible war was a fixed realization and then through her democratic and other allies North overthrew the Lincoln, Chase and Thad Stevens financial green back policy and got what is known as the senate amendment on the second greenback bill with the devil begotten English conceived hell reserving national banking system fastened on the American people as a tail to the American financial kite, which in my humble opinion is the foundation cause of more woe and misery with the laws resolutions, decisions and rulings established since to uphold and perpetuate the h-l-ish policy and princip.e, which de-

for the English and American financial ago and with all our work and all the for wisdom and counsel. tratorous Arnolds of the national banks hard earned money that we have spent who in beelzelbub form and satanic to advance our demands, are we one the work determined to win in 1908 and style have lived on the interest of inch nearer our destination? Surely by the help of the Standard Oil trust, what they owe (bank notes), who were the task is a great one, the mountain and the great banking trust and the and are today a thousand times more is a high one to climb. dangerous to American freedom and independence than we Rebs were duragainst an extreme and 1 predict we will be forced to meet it with another extreme before we successfully combat with and overcome it. We need a Saul of Taxsus and maybe letters of authority from the chief priests and a big Judas on a street that is straight and an Ananias to lay hands on that the scales may drop from our eyes that we may see how to drive the money mongers and changers from the control of our American temples of justice and freedom (the present policies and agencies that rule) and establish instead truly improved Jeffersonian and Lincolnian principles by which to be governed. (No "con"-fusion with either

old party.) Yours for the war,

C. W. MASON.

Alto, Texas.

### **Twenty Thousand Populists**

Editor Independent: I notice in your will from now on follow the orders of the rank and file of the peoples party. This inspires hope for the cause of the common people and no one can doubt the great good that will follow if you stand firm.

With 20,000 voters in our state I am sure that in 1906 the party of "redeemers" will see redemption in truth for with such a motive power of earnest men no legion of corruptionists can withstand. Honest men will soon see that our party is amply able to resist any appearance of evil collusion which for the past eight years has so delayed our advancement. These 20,-000 voters cannot be counted as any- tion for unborn generations. thing but populists; will represent no party strength but that of the populist party and when these are organized into state, county and precinct committees they will not be made to represent-or rather misrepresent our party. alliance and the past ought to teach us that all important axim that if you want a thing done, don't ask others, but do it yourself.

Every populist now should be ready and willing to help organize. If only eight are found in each precinct who voted for Watson and Tibbles those ought to resolve themselves into a precinct committee and at once proeed to call a meeting of all precincts in each county, then in a state meeting organize the state. After this is done future work will have discipline. As now constituted, many committee- gradually into that same condition if men are fusionists and the task of organizing will be somewhat like that of greedy class? organizing the Bryan democracy when the other fellows have all the committees. Many of the members ci the fusion state committee may be ready now to But now comes the hard proposition. go with the reorganization and if sincere, will aid in the work, but with better conditions, through better laws? our present form, confusion will result. How can we get these millions of vot-I can see no reason that will compel the 20,000 straight populists to wait until another state convention is called to form a new committee. It seems to me that if it is possible, that as constituted we must wait the call of the present committee, the committee should be called now and discuss where we are, that months of time may be saved. You will find, dear editor, that a mighty power will show itself when the test comes. It will take your careful and vigilant watch, together with a strong hard pull toward the shore. The enemy is alert and you need the backing of the 20,000, but cut loose. I believe populists are made of stuff W. C. STARKEY. to do it. Wilber, Neb.

The Nebraska Independent

The difficulties are money and opcomparison between the condition and office in our land. downfall of the Roman empire and our own beloved country.

The question that we ask now is: Will there be any salvation for our country?" There is no doubt but that corruption is in every branch of national, state and city government, and this corruption is spoken of and lightly passed by.

The wealthy men who dictate the policy of legislation are nothing more than a band of pirates. The boards of trade and stock markets are run by men who have no conscience of right and justice.

It is utterly impossible to get any laws brought before legislative bodies that have a shadow of lessening the grip that organized greed has upon the existence of the common people.

It is useless to name these as every reader of The Independent knows them all. The greenback party was an organized protest against some of them twenty-five years ago and some little good was accomplished. Then the union labor party came into existence. Then the people's party was organized and has made a heroic contest for reform with but little, very little success. Many good, honest and sensible men have come forward and labored with all their heart and soul. Some have died and passed away, others have been discouraged and fell back. Some have sold out and joined the greedy enemy, while others are yet in the line ready and wiling to put forth their best effort to right the many wrongs that burden the toiling millions of our country and to prepare a better condi-

Truly Bro. A. A. Perry has spoken when he says that instead of the war freeing the black slave that it fastened the chains of bond slavery upon all, both white and black, who toil for their existence and delivered them into the Now we are again free from entangling hands of the money power of the world. While our president is making some effort of controlling some of the trusts he becomes the willing tool of the original of all trusts, the Wall street money trust and dictates the most infamous scheme against the common people:

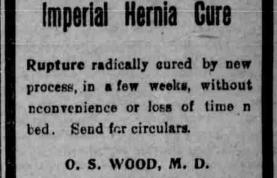
> Surely the demands of the idle greedy wealthy individuals and corporations will never have an end.

The old world is filled with hunger,

ious American union, but not sufficient road." That was nearly fourteen years never surrender. To them we will look

Now, brothers, let us take hold of thousand smaller trusts that will squeeze the people into an active politiponents are on every side. Rev. Her- cal revolution we will elect our full bert Bigelow draws a very discouraging ticket from the smallest to the highest

I. A. WESSON, M. D



521 N. Y. Life Bidg. Omaha, Neb



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preciated the greenbacks at the time and since has destroyed nearly all of them and now favors entire destruction of them all, which was good enough for the preservers of our glor-

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### The Grip of Corporations

satisfaction in reading the letters in be willing to follow. The Independent, many of these reflect very fine thought and sentiment, for the good of all. and are written by men who are honest in their political convictions. Though the writers may live far apart and surrounded by very different social, political or religious influences.

The one truth apears in all of thema betterment of the condition which is the lot of the laboring people and the across our line of march. future of our children.

Bro. A. A. Perry of Omaha, has rightly said that our children will have less knowledge of their rights than we have and of course will more willingly submit. I was with Bro. V. H. Biddi- whom any suspicion rests son at Cincinnati May 19-20, 1901, and We have leaders true and tried, men

starvation, misery and wretchedness because of these greedy demands and will not our own beloved children pass our laws are dictated by the same

Yes every reformer in the land knows this is too true and millions of voters in the two old parties will acknowledge the truth of this statement. How can we get them to join us for ers to act in their own interest instead of against their interest?

Will persuasion do it? Will good speakers do it? Will argument do it? Will a candid review of the history of Beauti (ully Illustrated With all the past legislation do it? Or will the onward march of oppression, the heavy hand of greed, bringing in its wake want and starvation, do it?

Something must do it it it is ever done. The great mass of the people know what is right and demand it every day in the year except on election day. We who are striving to live the life of Christ "That the world may be better because we have lived in it,' look back to the trend of human action and therein try to outline the future.

We look at the past of a man's life to decide what action he may do in the future.

That the great mass of humanity Editor Independent: I find great must have leaders, yet the masses must

We must make personal sacrifices

We must do right as God gives us the mental power to know the right.

We must organize as did the poor Israelite slaves, have our captains and be numbered.

We must go forward at the command even though the Red Sca shall lay

There will be traitors to our cause as ever there have been in the past to every reform movement. We must ignore every man as a leader who has shown the black feather and upon

have been faithful to the motto there whose past is untainted, whose soul adopted: "Keep in the middle of the and heart is in the cause and who will

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