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J. STERLING MORTON, EDITOR.

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OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIOLOGICAL
QUESTIONS.

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There are members of each of the two aged political organizations which nominated the two prominent candidates for the presidency of the United States in 1896 and 1900, who seem pestered by the mere suggestion of a third party. There are allegedly republican and allegedly democratic journals which ridicule the existence of a third party, and bitterly denounce those who think it necessary.

These censorious critics forget that it has been openly admitted in speeches by McKinley and by Bryan that the third party vote determined the presidential election in 1896 and in 1900. These critics ignore the fact that the independent voters of the United States constitute a balance-of-power party. Independent voters do not surrender the right to think, to reason, and to determine public policies for themselves. They do not delegate to caucuses and conventions, their power to discriminate between right and wrong. They do not authorize heelers, ward-workers and precinct politicians to name their candidates and provide principles for their platforms. But after the two old parties have been furnished with candidates and avowals of party creeds by the heelers, ward-workers and politicians who run them both in every state in the Union, the independent citizen selects the least of the evils presented, and votes for the same. Under present conditions the independent voters of the United States can do no better.

Until they are an organized party of representative, intelligent, honest men they can only,—as the balance-of-power party—avert the bigger calamities which threaten the country, by accepting the lesser ones. But the third party is alive. It determines elections. Neither the alleged democracy nor the alleged republicanism of the United States can elect a president without its consent.

POLITICAL STARLIGHT.

Nebraska City Star says:

"Mr. Bryan has fought all efforts to bring about a reorganization of the democracy looking to united action. He has been unreasonable, petty and selfish in his inexorable ostracism of the sound money wing of his party—an element that today more nearly represents American sentiment in general than does the Bryan branch of the organization. Mr. Bryan will not again secure the nomination of the democrats. Yet it is easily possible that he may once more cause the defeat of the party in spite of the unusual opportunities presented for success by accepting the nomination of the populists or the leadership of some new movement."

THE CONSERVATIVE, while in agreement with the Star upon most of its statements relative to Bryanarchy and its prophet, does not believe it impossible for Mr. Bryan to be again nominated by the alleged democracy. Already his lieutenant-colonel, Gen. Victor Vifquain, has declared it the duty of the Bryanarchistic forces to send a solid delegation from this state pledged to his renomination. And from the intimate relations which existed between the colonel of the Third Nebraska regiment and the lieutenant-colonel while engaged in war and their continued political associations in that peace which has succeeded "The First Battle" for sixteen-to-one, it is reasonable to conclude that the recent manifesto, published in the World-Herald, of Omaha, was authorized. The semi-official statement and its publication in the only daily paper which Colonel Bryan ever rescued from the grave and revived by his magnetic pen, is enough to convince Nebraskans generally, that a third nomination is sought and demanded. The populist party has never had a more faithful and consistent color-bearer than its presidential-nominee of 1896 and 1900. Even in

1892 he was the true and avowed supporter of the Weaver presidential electors in Nebraska, notwithstanding at that time he was running for congress as a democrat. And the Star, in view of such a past, is not licensed to declare that "Mr. Bryan will not again secure the nomination of the democrats." What was possible to a Weaver-supporting populist of 1892 at allegedly democratic conventions in 1896 and 1900, is not impossible in 1904 to the same peerless poser for the plain people.

GROWING TRUTHS.

The New England Free Trade League is receiving a good many accessions, and its articles are continually being called for. It has 1,000 members, representing thirty-three states. Among them are twenty-six college presidents and professors, and an even larger number of manufacturers and merchants, including some of the largest and most successful establishments, like J. B. Sargent, of New Haven, hardware; A. B. Farquhar, of York, Pa., agricultural machines and tools; Rowland G. Hazard, of Peace Dale, R. I., woolen manufacturer; Arthur T. Lyman, carpet manufacturer; William B. Rice, boots and shoes, and representatives of every profession and business, but all united in their love of justice and detestation of "the system called protection, which, at the dictation of organized wealth, taxes the whole American people for the benefit of a few."

TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND ACRES.

Every twenty-four hours the railroads, manufacturers and home-builders of the United States denude twenty-five thousand acres of timbered land. That is, there is a daily consumption of all the wood, the trees on twenty-five thousand acres supply.

How many acres are planted? Twenty-five?

Next Arbor Day, April 22, 1902, let each of the one hundred counties in the state of Nebraska, plant at least two hundred and fifty acres in trees. Let there be one day in the year in which one state shall plant as many acres in trees as all the states destroy. Nebraska ought to plant twenty-five thousand acres of timber next Arbor Day.