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THE POPULIST CREED AND MISSION.
Senator Peffer contributes an article to the North American Review in which he ventures to explain the creed and mission of the populist party. Some of the cardinal doctrines enunciated in the populist articles of faith could, with equal propriety and truth, be endorsed by the republican party, the democratic party or the prohibition party. We are told, for example, that the mission of the populist party is to emancipate labor; that it believes all men to have been created equally and equally entitled to the use of natural resources in procuring means of subsistence and comfort. The declaration of independence, promulgated way back in 1776, embodies the same declaration. The democrats claim Jefferson as their patron saint and founder. The republicans made the equality of man and the right of all to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness the corner stone of their political edifice. As a matter of fact, every patriotic American believes with Senator Peffer that "taxation should only be for public purposes and that all moneys raised by taxes should go into the public treasury; that public needs should be supplied by public agencies, and that the people should be treated equally and alike." Many of these doctrines have been firmly entrenched in the law and practice of our government for decades and nearly all of them might be subscribed to without entailing upon a person the necessity of classifying himself with the populists.

It cannot then be so much in the ultimate aims of the populist party—in reality the attainment of good government—that it can claim a peculiar position as distinguished from the other political parties, but rather in the measures which are supported as leading to the goal. The demands of the populist as given by Senator Peffer may be epitomized under four headings: First, a sufficient currency, consisting of gold and silver, coined on equal terms, and government paper, all of legal tender quality. Second, interest rates reduced to the level of average net profits in productive industries. Third, public control of transportation. Fourth, discouragement of large private land holdings. To the last three specifications but little attention is devoted. It is so manifest that everything depends upon what is considered to be the average net profits in productive industries, how far the public control of transportation should extend, and what constitutes the line between large and small land holdings that upon these points even the populists themselves have been unable to agree.

The whole populist mission then sifts down to the one article of faith, in which all members of that party profess belief, the proposal for a sufficient currency, sufficient being interpreted for the time being as meaning \$50 per capita in legal tender gold and silver freely coined at a ratio of 16 to 1, and paper issued directly by the federal government. What machinery the government is to set in motion to keep \$50 per capita in circulation among the people has not yet been divulged. Nor does the Kansas senator explain what advantage it would be to 90 million men who had \$1 each that one thousandth man had his own per capita, \$50, and the \$38,951 which is credited to the other forty-nine men. In other words, neither Senator Peffer nor any other living man has been able to devise a plan by which a given sum of money issued by the government for a given number of people shall continue to remain in circulation in equal proportions for all. Experience of ages has demonstrated a per capita circulation to be a fallacy, because no two persons will manage to spend an equal amount of money even if they earn an equal amount.

If 100 men were given \$100 each on New Year's day three-fourths of them would not have \$25 by next New Year's day, while the remainder would have absorbed the bulk of the money which the others had expended or squandered. To demand that the ratio between gold and silver must perpetually remain 1 to 16 is to assume that the ratio between the metals has always been 1 to 16. The fact is that when silver and gold were measured by shekels four parts of silver were equal to one part of gold. When Columbus discovered America, that is 400 years ago, the ratio between gold and silver was 10 to 1. By the time the United States constitution was framed the ratio between silver and gold had risen to 15 to 1. Alexander Hamilton, the first secretary of the treasury, had it fixed at 15 to 1. So then the price of silver, as compared with gold, had shrunk over 50 per cent from the time America was discovered to the beginning of the present century. All the edicts of kings, parliaments and congresses failed to keep these metals together. The causes for the great shrinkage between 1492 and 1792 were the same as they have been between 1873 and 1893. The vast increase in production after the discovery of America was responsible for the slump of the ratio from 10 to 1 to 15 to 1. Two enormous increases in production, marked decrease in the cost of production by bringing the railroad car to the shaft and expending against road agents, followed by invasions that make the smelting of low grade ores possible and reduce the cost of refining from 50 to 100 per cent, coupled also with the general decline of silver by the great commercial nations, has resulted in a decline that must prevent forever the restoration of the ratio of 16 to 1.

If Mr. Peffer and other populist leaders were rational in their demands they might possibly bring about the adoption of a new ratio between silver and gold—say 22 to 1—by which the equilibrium between gold and silver coins could be restored and maintained for years to come. As it is, they are simply butting their heads against a solid wall. The policy they advocate is a policy of pure inflation, turning its back upon every lesson taught by the historical cheap money experiments. The senator even ventures to proclaim that the populist party is the only party that honestly favors good money, and taunts the other parties, which profess their purpose to keep every dollar issued by the government equal in value to every other dollar, with failing to live up to their profession because all our currency is not equally legal tender. He refuses to see that were national bank notes and silver certificates made legal tender their convertibility would be destroyed and the danger of going to a premium over gold made possible. Nor does he cite a single instance since the resumption of specie payments where any dollar issued by the United States has commanded a premium over any other dollar. On the contrary, were the populist monetary program carried out, the time would not be far distant when a depreciated paper would be quoted on the market at a discount.

The populist mission is undoubtedly one of noble purpose. It is to improve the government and promote prosperity. But, unfortunately, inflating the currency is not the way to go about it, and it is at present outlook unlikely that its mission will be fulfilled.

A COSTLY INSTITUTION.
The managers of the Home for the Friendless have given to the public a tabulated statement purporting to show the relative cost of support of the inmates of that and of other public charitable institutions. As published, however, the statement artfully conceals any real information which such a comparison might possibly supply. Not only does it fail to give the reader any intimation from what sources and upon what data the compilation was made, but it is also calculated to put the other state institutions in an extremely bad light. A searching investigation would show that the methods of management in all of them might be noticeably improved. But it is manifestly unfair to compare the cost of sustaining a child with that for an adult, as well as to make no distinction between institutions where care by trained keepers is necessary and those where the inmates receive no attention beyond mere watching.

The people of Nebraska know very little of the actual work that is done for the homeless children confined to the keeping of this quasi-private corporation. While they want all public moneys economically expended, they want them expended in a way that will do the beneficiaries the most good. In order to have the money voted by the legislature so expended they have given the Board of Public Lands and Buildings supervision over the state institutions, and in theory, at least, hold it responsible for the proper exercise of its power. If the managers of the Home for the Friendless will only devote themselves to the economical administration of their charge and will see that the destitute children are brought up so as to become good and honest citizens they will be performing their duties. Internal dissensions and bickerings and controversies with the state officers are not conducive to these results. If harmony cannot be secured with a private board of managers it will have to be attained by making the home a purely public institution.

URGENT DEMAND FOR RELIEF.
The secretary of the treasury informed congress in the plainest possible terms that the demand for legislation providing relief for the treasury is most urgent. The condition of the treasury is such, he said, that unless some available means are promptly provided by law for supplying the growing deficiency the public service will be seriously impaired and pensioners and other creditors subjected to great delay and inconvenience. It was not necessary for congress to wait for the report of the secretary of the treasury in order to learn this. The leaders of the majority in that body were entirely familiar with the situation, the nature of which has been made known to the country from time to time for months. Moreover the treasury officials were at all times accessible to these leaders for any information they might desire regarding the condition of the treasury.

Yet with this knowledge before them the democrats in congress did nothing whatever to strengthen the treasury, and even did not agree upon any policy with this object in view, to be carried into effect when congress reconvenes after the holidays. According to the latest statement of government receipts and expenditures, the latter for the current month thus far have exceeded the former by nearly \$5,000,000, so that for the entire month the receipts will fall below the expenditures between \$6,000,000 and \$7,000,000. From the same report it is learned that the available cash in the treasury at the close of last week was \$90,487,208, of which \$22,422,104 is the gold reserve. Since December 1 the available balance has decreased to \$5,000,000. These figures indicate that the estimate by the secretary of the treasury of the amount of the deficit at the close of the current fiscal year is much too small. Undoubtedly the treasury will be able to meet its pressing obligations between now and the time for the reassembling of congress. Faith in the government will lead creditors to wait if that should become necessary and the gold reserve may be further drawn upon without passing the danger line. But this state of affairs cannot be greatly prolonged without such results as Secretary Carlisle points out in his report and without intensifying public solicitude and apprehension. If the party in control of congress shall continue to manifest the incompetency to deal with this matter which it has thus far shown there will be danger that financial distrust will become more sharply defined than has yet been the case, and that as a consequence business depression will become more severe.

The trouble is that the democrats have no settled policy and such is the diversity of views among them, due partly to political considerations and partly to sectional interests, that it is extremely difficult for them to agree upon anything. The evidence of this is found in the long struggle over the question of internal revenue taxation, not yet ended. One thing only in the situation is plain, and that is that until the business community know the exact character of the changes to be made in the customs and internal revenue laws the business depression will continue and the receipts of the treasury will not improve. The addition of all in Leavening Power—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

THE REPUBLICANS OF PENNSYLVANIA are talking of running Galusha A. Grow for congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of General Lilly, who was elected from the state at-large. It would be a very proper recognition and reward of the public services which Mr. Grow has rendered. Among these the most important was the homestead legislation, of which he was the author and persistent advocate. For ten years Mr. Grow fought for the homestead law, and had the gratification of finally witnessing the triumph of his efforts and the distinction of attaching his signature to the enrolled bill as speaker of the house. The magnificent results of that legisla-

tion few people have any conception of. Under its operation over 53,000,000 acres of the public domain have been permanently occupied. Nearly half a million farms, occupied by about 3,000,000 persons, have been given by this act to honest settlers and not to land grabbers and railroad monopolists. This comprehends an area covering more territory than all of New England and almost as much as the entire acreage of New York and Pennsylvania and represents a value of \$10,000,000,000. This alone entitles Galusha A. Grow to a most distinguished place among American statesmen, but there is much besides to his credit. The republicans of Pennsylvania would honor themselves by sending him to congress as representative of the state at-large.

GERMANY need not become excited over the fact that President Cleveland in his annual message referred to our foreign relations with France as excellent, and to those with Germany as satisfactory. The president certainly did not intend any discrimination. The imagined affront must be attributed to his somewhat limited vocabulary.

With Olney guarding the interests of trusts and Carlisle acting as attorney for a lottery, the present cabinet cannot lay claim to a large measure of public confidence, or even respect.

And Voorhees, too, has launched his boom. If it will only kindly smash the Gray boom, and then cut up and die itself as a result of injuries received in the collision, an anxious public will be the more freely.

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Merry Christmas! Helfenstein has broken out in several eastern cities. He tempests with the pie. Its dark, mysterious, famous glass area is still alive, though suffering great pain. President Cleveland was gratified by this visitation in Chicago. Grover is easily pleased.

Gold discoveries are reported in the vicinity of Burlington, Ia. Gold ore institutes have lost their luster in this case. The opposition of Missouri senators to gold routes serves to show how much attachment for the plank. They will wait it.

Thomas Wentworth Higginson, soldier, historian, essayist, poet and reformer, completed three-score years and ten, last Friday. There is only one state officer in Kansas who has not a sister or a cousin or an aunt in some far public berth. His relative value is not great.

A woman and a gun put to flight a small army of railroad squatters in Kansas City. The combination always had a scattering tendency. Mr. Croker assures New York City that he will continue to direct the expenditure of her millions, all reports to the contrary notwithstanding. Richard is himself again.

Fred May emerged from obscurity and exile recently and paid a fine of \$50 for assaulting a policeman in New York. May distinguished himself a few years ago by fighting a French duel with James Gordon Bennett.

Miss E. Pauline Johnson, daughter of a Mohawk chief, is one of the big list of Massachusetts poets. Her work is a red, woolen, sleeveless short tunic, over which was a fringed tunic of blue, ornamented with red and white, and colored beads, and with bear claws and moose horns for bracelets and necklaces. She recited several of her own poems at a meeting held in Boston the other night.

An Iowa woman adopted rather heroic means to cure her better half of the prohibition habit. Thinking water a specific, she filled a tin can with water. She poured it into a bucket and then poured it into a few bowls to agitate the fluid. He called her darling ducky. She emptied a shotgun on his devoted head. He was wiped out. "Wasn't my wife the cat?"

The World-Herald only requires two columns per day in its circulation bluff with The Bee. If Hitebeck had as good a supply of brains as he has of zeal the World-Herald would be a more consistent and better paper.

Testing the Unemployed. Kansas City Star. Only 450 of 2,000 recipients of free food at a Chicago soup house worked a day on the streets in 1933. This is a record. This fact will be applied generally and will undoubtedly show that the situation is not nearly as dark as some people believe.

Repelling Destruction. Denver Republican. Every democratic senator and representative should be deluged with letters, postal cards, telegrams and remonstrances in opposition to that iniquitous and destructive measure from day to day until the pressure of public sentiment thus created becomes too great for even the worst bourbon to withstand.

On With the Good Work. Globe-Democrat. Let the state bank currency cranks frame all the bills they desire, and let all of them be reported. Not one of them has the remotest chance of passage. The silver heresy was extinguished a few weeks ago. Let us complete the good work by stamping out the wild-cat law.

No Better Class of Citizens. Oklahoman Independent. THE OMAHA BEE of Sunday last contained a handsome write-up of the early Swedish settlement in and around Okla. Truly it is that the Swedish colony has made wonderful progress toward establishing successful homes. There is no better class of citizens in this republic than our Swedish brethren.

The Bay State and Mormon. New York Advertiser. Why did Elijah Adams Morse, M. C. of Canton, get into so wild a rage because Delegate Rawlins of Utah wrote Massachusetts was being a sort of patron or founder of polygamy? President Eliot of Harvard eloquently defended the Mormons some years ago, and everybody knows that conservative polygamy prevails in the Bay state. Morse pointing because Massachusetts is called the Mother of Mormonism? Does he ever change his opinion when he reads the mother of Morse?

Buffalo Bill's Politics and Pull. New York Advertiser. "Buffalo Bill" denoted in an interview in these columns that he has an ambition to fill the chair of the governor of Nebraska. Nevertheless, Colonel Cody is an honorable, upright man, who would reflect credit upon the office. He is a staunch patriot and a good republican. He has a big heart, a clear head, a steady tongue and a strong will. He is a man of noble traits we believe. Colonel Cody is also an Ohio man.

Beet Sugar Industry. Denver News. It is gratifying to notice in this connection the importance of the beet sugar industry which has sprung into existence almost like magic in the Platte valley between Denver and Omaha. It is but a brief time since the beet factories at Grand Island and Norfolk, Neb., were started and yet the announcement is made that both of these enterprises are producing sugar successfully in enormous quantities.

During the present year 10,000,000 pounds of refined granulated sugar has been produced at the Grand Island and Norfolk factories. Mr. Oxnard, the superintendent of the enterprise, writes that 3,000 acres of beets were raised to supply these enterprises during the past season, and that \$5 a ton was paid for the beets. The factories used about 300 tons of beets daily and the payments to farmers for beets was about \$3,000 a day, while the daily pay roll of operatives in the factories exceeded \$800. Among the other daily outlays \$200 for coal and \$500 for freight. With these figures before us and taking into consideration the vast area of the Platte valley extending from Denver to Omaha, it seems like folly to attempt to estimate the extent or value of the sugar producing resources of the transmissourian region. If two factories, established as experiments upon the lower Platte at a cost of \$500,000, can produce 10,000,000 pounds of refined sugar in their experimental infant stage, what will they be producing a few years hence, when the beet sugar industry has been developed? The vast possibilities of beet sugar production are before us in present calculation.

CHRISTMAS VERBS. Kate Field's Washington. UNDER THE MISTLETOE. Under the mistletoe she stood. And yet he never kissed her. She was awfully sweet and pretty, but she happened to be his sister.

THE MOTHER CHILD'S CHRISTMAS PRAYER. No day is so dear to me as this. I pray that straight my face I'll keep. The while my father tells that state of mind that I may fairly feel. I hope that I may never show if that I think the story's so. I fear I would hurt and grieve him much To know I doubted—yet, what fudge!

JOHN'S PIDDING. Galveston News: The fare-dealer admits raw material free. Siftings: Talk about women being flighty! Look at bank cashiers! Milwaukee Journal: A man can talk himself out of a job easier than he can talk himself into one. Archon Globe: Sweating is probably an effort of nature to force lazy people to take some exercise.

New York Herald: "Where is Volkes now? The last time I saw him he was contending that a sign should tell the truth in all circumstances. He is in the hospital!" Elmira Gazette: Life is full of disappointments. Many a girl who expects money and settles down finds she has to settle way up on the top floor of a ten-story tenement house.

Chicago Tribune: Mr. Chiquetero, looking over the sporting columns—What a lady that billiard player lives is making of himself. Mrs. A. Long, very true, favored a policy which was how many times you pile on him after he's dead. At least, I guess he don't, and if he did he'd be in the hospital.

Washington Star: The police say they have known you a long time," said the magistrate to one of a pair of criminals. "That's very true, your honor," said the spokesman, "but we hope you won't hold that against us, as we do, that fact by knowing a great many highly respectable people."

THE HAWAIIAN MOUNTAIN. We daily grow in experience. But not so surely in common sense. We sometimes suffer an hour of pain, which, if not relieved, may become chronic. And drag our heads up to the light. Telling and waiting to reach its crown. For the minute's pleasure of sliding over.

THE HAWAIIAN MOUNTAIN. Abundant and misrepresentation on the Hawaiian Islands comes to the front, and is not without cause. He cannot be ground that he has ever exceeded his authority as executive, or treated congress with contempt, or favored a policy which was in any sense derogatory to our national honor. On the contrary, he has exceeded his authority as executive, or treated congress with contempt, or favored a policy which was in any sense derogatory to our national honor.

Then No Growth Can Touch It. Western Nebraska comes to the front with the largest irrigation convention ever held in this country. With over 300 delegates present and every one in earnest in this great effort to favor a policy whose fatal weakness is its idealism. It is a sufficient answer to his plan to say that it is impracticable. President Harrison, if he had acted promptly after Stevens' mission, might have carried it such a plan. It was too late to carry it out when Cleveland was inaugurated, and would have been too late had the question consented to his plans. Upon this or similar ground an effective objection to the Cleveland irrigation policy can be based, while it is in the air, and against the familiar attacks of his antagonists, based on a total misapprehension or misstatement of the facts.

Great Imprudence. It strikes us that for a man earning no more than \$20 a week, to marry and bring into the world six children is an act of as great imprudence as can be imagined. Certainly it cannot be said to suffer from "causes beyond his own control."

CHRISTMAS ON THE ROBBERS. Our roof-top good was a cabin rule. Our fire the pipe-knot's blaze. And our good the short of the storm without. Through the canyon's rock-ribbed maze. But the proudest least would have gladly been a robber.

Our robes hung dark and long among. On the outer-gheld walls. We feasted and quaffed and reviled and laughed. Till the shadows began to fall. When we stepped up higher the fading fire, And with Indian moccasins arrayed. For a haughty dance of the olden time, While a grizzled scout, who had passed his prime, A rickety banjo played.

In and out of the whirling rout. We sped with our dusky guests. Till but and bird in the rafters stirred. And peeped from their holes and nests. Then we gathered once more by the hearthstone's roar. When the crazy dance was done, And talked of the merry olden days. Who were having their jays on Christmas day. Near the gates of the rising sun.

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The largest makers and sellers of fine clothes on Earth.
Your money's worth or your money back.
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Then closed Christmas afternoon to open again
Tuesday morning with an after-Christmas
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