

## THE PEOPLE'S PILOT.

BY F. D. CRAIG, (Lessee.)

PILOT PUBLISHING CO., (Limited,) Proprietors.

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THE PEOPLE'S PILOT is the official organ of the Jasper and Newton County Alliances, and is published every Saturday at

ONE DOLLAR PER ANNUM.

Entered as second class matter at the post office in Rensselaer, Ind.

Rensselaer, Saturday, Jan. 19.

## People's Party Platform.

## FOUNDATION PRINCIPLES.

FIRST.—That the union of the labor forces of the United States this day commanded shall be placed in permanent order, and kept in perfect health for the salvation of the republic and the uplifting of mankind.

SECOND.—Wealth belongs to him who creates it, and is to be taken from industry without an equivalent payment. If any will not work, neither shall he eat. The interests of civic and rural labor are the same; their interests are identical.

THIRD.—We believe that the time has come when the railroad corporations will either be nationalized or taken into the hands of the railroads, and should the government enter upon the work of owning and managing any or all railroads, we should favor an amendment to the constitution by which all persons engaged in the government service shall be placed under a civil service regulation of the most rigid character, so as to prevent an increase of the power of the national administration by the use of such additional government employees.

## FINANCE.

FOURTH.—We demand a national currency, safe and sound, to be issued by the general government only, a tall lead tender for all debts public and private, and that without the use of banking corporations, a just, equitable and efficient means of distribution direct to the people at a tax not to exceed 2 percent on the amount of the currency issued forth in the sub-treasury plan of the Farmers' Alliance or a better system; also by payments in discharge of its obligations for public improvements.

We demand free and unlimited coinage of silver at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1. We demand that the amount of circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than \$50 per capita.

We believe that the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and hence we demand that all state and national revenues shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government, economically and honestly administered.

We demand that postal savings bank be established by the government for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people and to facilitate exchange.

## TRANSPORTATION.

SECOND.—Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity, the government should own and operate the railroads in the interests of the people.

The telegraph and telephone, like the postoffice system, being a necessity for the transmission of news, should be owned and operated by the government in the interest of the people.

## LANDS.

THIRD.—The land, including all the natural sources of wealth, is the heritage of the people, and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes, and alien ownership of land should be prohibited. All lands now held by individuals, corporations, or aliens in excess of their actual needs, and all lands now owned by aliens should be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only.

## SUPPLEMENTARY RESOLUTIONS.

WHEREAS, Other questions have been presented for our consideration, we hereby resolve that the following, not as a part of the platform of the People's Party, but as resolutions expressive of the convention.

RESOLVED, That we demand a free ballot and a fair count in all elections and pledge ourselves to secure it to every legal voter without undue interference, through the adoption by the States of the unperfected Australian or secret ballot system.

RESOLVED, That the revenue derived from a graduated income tax should be applied to the reduction of the burden of taxation, now levied upon the domestic industries of this country.

RESOLVED, That we pledge our support to fair and liberal pensions to ex-Union soldiers and sailors.

RESOLVED, That we condemn the fallacy of protecting American labor under the present system, which opens our ports to the pauper and criminal classes of the world and crowds out our wage earners, and we demand a general protection of labor and demand a rigid enforcement of the eight-hour law, government work, and that a penalty clause be added to the said law.

RESOLVED, That we regard the maintenance of a large standing army of mercenaries as a curse to the Union system, as a menace to our liberties, and we demand its abolition and we condemn the recent invasion of the Territory of Wyoming by the hired assassins of plutocracy, assisted by Federal troops.

RESOLVED, That we commend to the thoughtful consideration of the people and the reform press the legislative system known as the initiative and referendum.

RESOLVED, That we favor a Constitutional provision for the election of President and Vice President to one term, and providing for the election of senators of the United States by a direct vote of the people.

RESOLVED, That we oppose any subsidy or money aid to any private corporation for any purpose.

No delegated power is safe.

Give the people the postal express.

The greenback, it must be preserved.

Greenbacks always—wild cat money, never.

Over production is caused by under consumption.

All men need is an equal opportunity with each other to the natural resources of the earth.

Some one please tell us what would be the value of 25<sup>th</sup> grains of gold nine-tenths fine if it could not be coined into a dollar.

Congressman Bryan is announced to have an article on finance in the February Arena. It will be worth watching for.

The Australian system was a favorite from the moment it first asked consideration; so is the Initiative and Referendum.

Massachusetts was the first to adopt the Australian ballot and now she is again leading for Initiative and Referendum, all her political parties having declared for it in their last platform.

Charity only for the starving, and not then until hunger and cold threaten to demolish the cob house of tyrant King Favoritism.

By the adoption of the Initiative and Referendum every great public question would be submitted direct to the people for their verdict.

Iowa's 35,000 populist voters are to raise a fund of \$10,000 for education and organization. Reform literature is to be the basis of campaign.

At last the magazines have recognized the money question as the living issue with the people and are presenting papers by eminent authorities galore.

The year 1896 will find every state west of the Mississippi and every southern state a solid column for the free coinage of silver under the Populist banner.

\$500,000,000 of 3 percent bonds as an interest bearing basis for national bank notes, greenbacks retired, silver destroyed, a gold basis with the gold in Europe, that is the fusion reform plan of republican and democratic parties.

Thousands upon tens of thousands of democrats and republicans are but waiting the inevitable action of this congress upon the silver question to pay their last party dues and join the Populists.

There could be no poverty and consequent suffering if a few favorites of society were not given special privilege to levy tolls upon the natural resources of the earth, which are God's gift and dowry to all mankind.

John M. Thurston, the Union Pacific attorney-in-chief was given the senatorial plumb by the Nebraska republicans Wednesday. This election makes the Chicago Times' remark thoroughly applicable, that "the roll of trust attorneys could be called in the United States senate without discovering any absenteers."

If the United States builds the Nicaragua canal it is liable to be accused of paternalism and socialism, at least that is the argument used against the repeated request to build irrigation ditches that would reclaim the arid west and prevent the need of benevolent people in Jasper county sending relief to starving Nebraska.

If any amendment be made to the Indiana ballot law it should be relieved of the possibility of confusion by making it obligatory on the voter to stamp a cross for each candidate voted for. It might also stimulate "party voters" to discover the names of their nominees if all names of candidates were printed in a single column without party designation.

Where and what is the power that wields such a mighty influence for evil; that induces the great press of the country to support and defend a monetary system that has had a trial of centuries in every civilized (God save the mark!) nation of the globe and has failed in every instance; that in every case where great danger menaced a people, as domestic turmoil or foreign war, has had to be abandoned, while recourse to its opposite has been had as the only means of salvation for the national life, and a return to which has in every case resulted in untold suffering to all classes except the very rich.

The Denver Republican which used its editorial columns with the utmost brutality and malignity in its opposition to the candidacy of Gov. Waite, now repudiates its own utterances in giving the following tardy acknowledgement of his sterling character in its issue of Jan. 9th: "No taint of dishonesty or corruption ever attached itself to his (Waite's) record as governor," he "could neither be bought nor bullozed, and we have no doubt that he always endeavored to do what he believed was best for the people of Colorado." The Republican asks that justice be accorded his good qualities, though it was only by misrepresentation and venal newspaper abuse that he was defeated. The editor of the Pilot is proud of the fact that he assisted in the nomination of Waite for governor in 1892 and cast one of the votes that gave him 17,000 majority. Colorado is the loser by his defeat not Gov. Waite.

It is impossible in a short newspaper article to enter into the details of so important and radical a proposition as the Initiative and Referendum, for to fully comprehend its beauties one should give the matter careful thought, and study the practical working of the system in Switzerland. Elaborate on our New England town meeting, where nearly 1,000 voters assemble in a body and transact business in the usual legislative way

## Initiative and Referendum.

The above heading is suggestive of one of the great reforms, we believe the very greatest reform, the country needs and which the people are ready to receive, namely, a system by which the body of the people by direct act shall suggest and ratify the laws of the land. The Initiative and Referendum system would place all the power of legislation in the hands of the people where it of right belongs. It would forever triumph over the corrupting influence of wealth and king power, as at present asserted in state and national legislative bodies, the disgrace of our boasted civilization.

Its introduction into the political arena for discussion at this time is from the general recognition that our legislative bodies are absolutely dishonest and incompetent; that the members who compose these bodies are at best but the equal of those who have delegated them with power, and consequently not more competent to make laws and decide upon the various affairs of government than the average of their constituents. It is patent to all that the ideal legislature of honest, honorable, intelligent self-sacrificing delegates is but a fleeting dream. Instead we all know that corrupt influences are at work in every stage of this representative system from primary to senate chamber. It is needless to prove that such government is misrepresentative instead of representative.

And because of these facts thousands of our best intellects and most profound economists are studying the ways of Switzerland, our progressive little sister republic of the glacial Alps, and pronouncing them practical and immediately desirable for each of our several states, and for the whole vast nation of 70,000,000 people. It is feasible. It will come. But you ask an explanation of this profound innovation upon our American customs. It is but the elaboration of our New England town meeting. It is the most American of all our American institutions, only we have allowed Switzerland to carry it out in its practical completeness, while we have recognized it only as an infant slumbering in the cradle. It is the infant now of our profound expectations, and full of the promise of deliverance from partisan strife and professional politics.

The Initiative is simply the proposing of laws by the people.

The Referendum is the submitting of laws to direct vote of the people.

Impossible you say. Let us see. You already vote upon amendments to the constitutions of both state and nation, and that is considered proper. In fact a constitutional amendment is considered of too great importance to trust with representatives in a final vote. Public men and measures are now discussed in the numerous press, from the rostrum and in private debate; it would be doubly safe under the new system, measures more than men receiving the purifying scrutiny of the citizen. To our present press could be added an official gazette through which the people could be informed of the affairs of state and proposed legislation, upon the plan of the Congressional Globe.

The fact that laws would be submitted to the voters for their approval or rejection would stimulate interest in public affairs and at once develop a high intelligence upon economic questions, and that is more than can be said of the present elected representatives. The comparative competence of elector and elected is at least favorable to the former so that the proposed system cannot be successfully opposed upon the ground of ignorance. It remains then only to devise the method of execution which must be as inexpensive and simple as possible. And here is where the Australian ballot can be used in all its glory, the voter being able to decide separately upon a list of proposed laws as easily as is now done upon a list of proposed officers, and upon a day set apart for that especial purpose.

Enforced idleness and its consequent miseries is the cause of most crime and immorality, and it is also the cause of more iniquity than all other causes combined.

The establishment of a social democratic republic based upon the principles of liberty, equality and fraternity is coming.

Depression in trade is caused by inequality in distribution and the power of capitalism to fleece and monopolize.

The theory assuming wages and the maintenance of labor to be drawn from capital is fallacious.

Plutocratic "laws are spider webs which catch the little flies but cannot hold the big ones."

There is not as much difference between one man and another as superstitious people imagine.

Sociological truths are as fixed as mathematical principles.

The universal federation of all labor approaches.

aggregating \$50,000 and forty or more counts in a single day.

Consider that a country where the people originate or propose the laws, and then vote upon their adoption, would be a pure democracy; the officers would in truth be but the servants of the masses, their clerks so to speak.

## The Average Argument.

The following excerpts from a leading democratic journal of Indiana is amusingly forceful when properly analyzed:

"If the leaders want to keep the Democratic party intact, they should keep it clear of entangling alliances with the Populists."

It is too late now to talk about the "intact" business and of the "entangling alliances" the populists have had enough; it is advice wasted on that score.

"Most democrats are democrats from principles and not for spoils, and such men can never be led far away from the landmarks of the party as laid down by the Jeffersons and Jacksons of the organizations.

That is a secret of the growth of the populist party and of the decadence of the democratic organization. They refused to be led away from the precepts of those sterling defenders of the people.

"Nearly every idea the populists have is socialistic or paternalistic in its conception and intent, and democratic leaders ought to know better than to suppose the intelligent believers in the democratic theory of government will ever follow a course directly opposite to the one of all their traditions and beliefs."

Pardon please, but if it is not sacrilegious, pray what is the democratic theory of government, and in what respect does the socialistic financial ideas of the populists differ from the ideas of Old Hickory and Jefferson? Where is the proof that they were not paternalists and socialists?

They are instinctively opposed to the tendency to absorb the individual citizen into a mass swayed by a centralized power."

That is why they "instinctively" oppose the centralization of wealth into monopolies of money, of production, of transportation, of land and of a right practically to exist, and it is the reason why the democratic party has been deserted by nine hundred thousand voters in two years.

We have just received a copy of "The Autobiography of a \$100 National Bank Note," by Frank E. Richey, the editor of the St. Louis illustrated Populist paper, *Vox Populi*. The story is told, of course, as though the \$100 bill had written it. In it the early history of the banks and of the Greenbacks, and the secret inside workings of the present banking system is charmingly told. The work contains some 30,000 words and is profusely illustrated with more than twenty cuts, making it the best literary bargain that was ever offered at 10 cents. Bristling with facts, figures and illustrations and containing a stirring story concerning the latter day White Slavery of the National Banking system, touching deeply the national life, this story will sell by the million and profoundly impress the political thought of the time on one of the most vital subjects before the People. It can be had at the Pilot office.

It gives us that "tired feeling" so explicitly described in patent medicine advertisements, when we hear some babbling idiot say "paternalism," and lift his dingy digits in horror at the possibility of having such a world quaking calamity upon us. Paternalism, and he patronizing and praising our paternal postoffice, tramping on paternal sidewalks and pavements with a paternal poor house waiting for him and a paternal potters' field in reserve for him.

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The District of Columbia Court

## FOR SILVER COINAGE.

## It Must be Unlimited but the Government May Gain Seigniorage by

## BUYING BULLION AT THE MARKET PRICE.

## There Can be no Financial Legislation Without Silver is Considered. An Extra Session of the New Congress Probable.

## THERE WILL BE NO LABOR BILL.

From Our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—This has been a fateful week in congress. The House gave its czars—the committee on Rules—a black eye, by voting down the order reported from that committee, fixing a time to vote on the currency bill, by a vote of 129 to 122. There is talk of a new currency bill that will get the support of the silver men by providing for an extended use of silver money, but the general impression is that no financial legislation will be had at this session and that an extra session of the next Congress must be called. There is little regret in or out of Congress over the defeat of the currency bill, which had very few earnest supporters, even among those who were its professed friends. The trouble was that few believed the bill would afford any real relief either to the Treasury or to the country; and the belief is general that the currency bill would have been defeated by a larger majority than was the order, if it had reached a direct vote.

No bill that is not satisfactory to the silver Senators can pass the Senate. In fact, a conference of silver Senators this week decided that no bill should be allowed to reach a vote which does not provide for the unlimited coinage of silver. Speaking of this decision Senator Teller said: "We shall not yield an inch so far as unlimited coinage is concerned, I do not say that we shall have to have free coinage. On the contrary, I think that the government might charge, as is proposed, the difference between the market and coined value of the bullion as seigniorage for coining. What we insist upon is that coinage shall not be limited to \$50,000 or to any other sum." Senator Jones of Ark., says of the proposition for the unlimited coinage of silver: "There is no reason to fear any disturbance of the financial world if coinage under this plan should be authorized. If the owners of silver bullion get from the government only the same price they get in the market they will not rush to the mints, but the fact that they can do so will give silver a better standing."

Coxey was in Washington this week. He expected to have talked to a Congressional committee about his non-interest bearing bond scheme, but was compelled to be satisfied with talking to a sub-committee of four members of the House Ways and Means Committee and to such individuals as he got a chance at. He also expected to have explained the scheme to President Cleveland, but when he called at the White House private secretary Thurber met him with the old story about arranging a time for an interview with the President and sending a note to inform him of the time he should come to the White House. That note was never sent, and Coxey left Washington without seeing the President. He says he will come again, and announced his willingness to run for President.

Neither the National Arbitration bill prepared by Labor Commissioner Wright nor any other bill dealing with the subject will be reported to the House, unless those interested in such a law shall declare in favor of some measure with more unanimity than they have done up to this time. We urge all who are afflicted to procure a bottle and give this trial at F. B. Meyer's Drug Store.