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IF You Are Not a Subscriber This is A
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Kindly read this copy and if you wish to give it a trial trip send ten cents for three months to June 15, 1896. Now is the period of the big national conventions, and the greatest surprises seem to be in store for the people. Revolt from the Gold Standard old parties is everywhere manifest. The only hope of the nation centers in the great double convention to be held in St. Louis July 22. The Populist and Silver parties will unite and to them will come the loyal patriots who have made their last appeal for justice in the conventions of the Democratic and Republican parties. The new consolidation of the reform forces will be victorious in November. The Pilot is the champion of Silver and companion monetary reform, and will keep you posted on the great movement to free America from the Money Kings of the East. The great city dailies and old party papers suppress the very news you seek. Send in at once.

There are indications that the Democrats will unite with the Populists in Idaho. There are about 5,000 Mormon voters in that state, the majority of whom, it is believed, will affiliate with the Republicans. The A. P. A. has organized there within the last few months and is a very uncertain quantity. The Republican machine in Idaho is strong, but the silver men are deserting the party every day. The Democrats and Republicans will probably repudiate their parties if silver is not given proper recognition.

In Kentucky the voters are reported as being at sea, and our party is now being spoken of in respectful terms by the opposition. A large per cent of the free silver element will come to us in the event their parties adopt the gold standard or straddle the financial question.

The situation in Nebraska, is about as follows: On strict party lines there are at present 80,000 Republicans, 65,000 Populists, and 40,000 Democrats. With the lines divided on the money question, Nebraska would give a majority of 25,000 for free coinage. The populists of that State are in favor of a union with the free silver people on honorable terms that will not involve the surrender of distinctive principles, nothing as yet has been done in that State toward selecting delegates to the National Convention.

In New Mexico it is reported that the rank and file in both the old parties are ready to join an independent movement, if their parties fail to declare for silver, when they nominate presidential candidates. No nominations will be made by our people, until after the National Conventions, but the territorial convention to select delegates to St. Louis, will probably be held in May.

Montana has called a delegate convention to meet June 23. The nominating convention for State officers will be held some time in August. The political situation in Montana is very encouraging to Populists. The Democratic party is completely demoralized. The Republicans are afraid to endorse a platform declaring for the gold standard and they dare not go before the public as Republicans, unless they do endorse it. In either case there promises to be a good sized bolt.

The situation in Texas is very encouraging. The new recruits to our party are coming mostly from the free silver Democracy and there is likely to be a regular landslide from that source, if the Chicago convention adopts, as it is almost sure to do, a "sound money" platform.

The Democrats of Virginia are despondent and divided. Three fourths of the party are said to favor silver, but the goldbugs control the party machinery. The Republicans of that State are reorganizing under goldbug leadership in anticipation of victory and although there is a better feud among the leaders, they will probably unite on a congressional and electoral ticket. In this respect, both parties are on a parity.

The situation, in Washington, on the far Western coast is good, especially in agricultural sections. Initiative and Referendum Clubs, have recently been formed throughout the Eastern part of the State and Populist meetings are being more largely attended than ever before. A lecture bureau has been established in that State and money is being raised by the monthly pledge system to keep speakers in the field.

Oregon elects a Judge of the Supreme Court, Congressmen and Legislative and county officers in June. The outlook for success in that State appears reasonably favorable, although the Populists have about 10,000 votes to overcome. It is conceded that the fight is between the Populists and the Republicans. The Democrats are simply not in it. The silver men in Oregon are organizing silver leagues, while the gold men are forming McKinley clubs. The famine in money in that State is so fearful that in one county recently 80 horses were sold for \$80.

The people on the western coast have a grievance against the railroads, especially the Southern Pacific, and silver is not the only issue. Oregon is needing help from abroad badly. With a few good speakers turned loose in that State before the close of their campaign, supplemented by a liberal supply of reform literature, there is little doubt of Populists carrying the State.

The political event of last week, was the State Convention of the People's party of Kansas, held at Hutchinson on the 18th. It was the largest and most important convention, in many respects, ever held in the State. Ninety-two delegates were elected to the National convention, headed by John Breidenthal, Chairman of the Kansas State Executive Committee. A splendid set of resolutions were adopted, reaffirming faith in the People's Party and its principles: inviting the Alliance and co-operation of all reform elements in the State and Nation, to the end that a union of all voters may be formed who oppose a gold standard and the European level of prices.

Watchman, What of the Night.

To the men who voted for Peter Cooper, and have followed the reform flag ever since, as the soldiers followed the white plume of Henry of Navarre, the present political situation, with all its complications and uncertainties, is intensely interesting. The overwhelming Republican victory of 1894, and the utter demoralization if not demolition of the Democratic party, presaged the complete and triumphant success of the Republicans in 1896. But hard times, false positions, incompetent leadership, and forceful

questions that will not down to accommodate cowardly presidential candidates, have so changed the political situation, that the outcome is highly problematical. The irreconcilable differences in the Republican ranks, have so far modified their views that they now speak of defeat, not as a possibility, but as a probability.

The Democratic party does not now, nor has it since the election of 1894, even set up a claim to the election as a possibility. Their sole aim is to so manage the campaign as to prevent the entire disruption of their party.

The Populist party with the most advanced political platform ever made by a great party, asplendid and compact organization backed by more than two millions of the most intelligent voters in the Nation, enters the ring bravely and hopeful of success. Such being the situation, our heading is appropriate, "Watchman, what of the night," and are there any signs of promise? Populists claim some credit as prophets. Whether it is the possession of superior wisdom by them or the great ignorance of their opponents, we will not now discuss, but it seems that all Populists have to do to establish their claims as seers, is to prophesy that the wrong thing will be done, and they will hit it every time. Allow your correspondent to do a little forecasting, and the Pilot readers can note the outcome:

The Republicans are doubtful, the Democrats never had any hopes; the Populists are full of it. Were the canvass conducted without the interference of the money power, we believe the election would go to the House where our chances would be as good as any. But the confederated monopolies have powerful intellects among them; moreover, they employ the brightest minds in the land, and we believe that in view of the uncertainties of the presidential muddle, they have already fallen upon the following plan, the Republicans will adopt an out and out gold standard platform. They would like to have the Democrats do the same, but that would not do for it would result in a grand sweep of southern and western Democrats into the Populist camp, and would result in the election of a Populist president, and that must be avoided, therefore the Democratic party will be so manipulated that at Chicago the two factions will engage in a battle royal, but it will be so arranged that the silver men will win. That will divide the west and south between the Democrats and Populists, while the Democrats of the middle and eastern states will vote the Republican ticket, thus insuring Republican success. This, then is our prediction. The Republicans at St. Louis will declare for the gold standard, the Democrats at Chicago will declare for the free coinage of silver at 16 to 1. Eastern Democrats will slough from their party and go to the Republicans, and the next president will be a gold standard man and a Republican.

You think, then, that the silver Democrats by the money power will be made a stalking horse by the Republicans? Yes, exactly so. The money power will see to that. You don't, then, expect a union at St. Louis of the silver forces? No, first for the reason given above.

The money power will risk no such a combination. It would be too dangerous to them, and they caught the hint and no doubt have acted on it before this. I mean the declaration of the silver men that if either of the old parties gave a platform and candidate they would seek no further combination. The money power will accommodate them by giving them a platform and candidate. Another reason why there will be no union of Populists and silver forces, lies in the fact that the leaders of the Populists, after having labored for twenty years in building up a great party pledged to many and great reforms, will not, and ought not, now to surrender all to a party whose sole aim and object can be obtained by a single enactment, leaving other wrongs unredressed. Radical measures touching land, transportation, control of money, and taxation are just as important as free coinage, and will not be abandoned now for a mere palliation.

What, then, is the duty of Populists? Stand by your principles; they are the corrective measures that will bring relief to the country and hope and happiness to the downcast and oppressed. Follow the even tenor of your way, trust in God, and keep your powder dry. We

have everything to encourage us. There are dissensions in the ranks of our enemies. Cleveland would scalp Tilman; Tilman has scalped Cleveland; the Tribune dares the Inter Ocean to read it out of the party; the Indianapolis Journal denounces all as traitors who will not worship the golden calf; members of both parties have sharpened their knives and put on their war paint. May Satan aid them in their devilish intentions against each other, for when rogues fall out honest men secure their dues. Wadena, Ind.

J. W. SWAN.

Organizing the Alliance.

The editor of this paper is a firm believer in farm organizations and we are more than pleased to note the perfection to which the F. A. & I. U. has brought its order. The following was written in reply to a private letter from a prominent citizen of Indiana, and we are glad to give it to our readers that they may know what is being done and where to apply to get this order in our midst in increased numbers:

Mr. J. B. F.

DEAR SIR:—Your favor is here and I was glad to hear from you. In my work in Wabash county I have learned that the county Assembly F. M. B. A. withdrew from the State Assembly, believing that that body was almost on the point of closing up its business. Those members may have been misinformed, but they withdrew and I shall organize tonight an Alliance of probably about 40 members by combining the membership very largely of two local Assemblies with a few who never joined that order. It was not, and is not now my purpose to interfere with the F. M. B. A. where they are occupying the field, unless they desire to make a change. But I would like to consult with your people as to the advisability of consolidation in one order. In many respects the aims of the two orders are identical and their methods similar. No order is superior to the F. M. B. A. as a social order, while I incline to the opinion that perhaps our trade advantages in the F. A. & I. U. at present are perhaps superior to that of the F. M. B. A. However, in this I may be mistaken. But we have one decided advantage, i. e. our Beneficiary Department or life insurance. This is a combination of the best features of other successful fraternal orders, and since those orders owe their success and longevity to their beneficiary work, may we not infer that this feature added to the social and trade departments, will produce a permanent and a growing and highly profitable brotherhood? Wabash county has many orders and hundreds of members, but many of them admit to me that our system is the best of all, and members are coming from other good and sound orders to join with their wives in the Alliance where trade benefits, life insurance and social enjoyment may be secured in the same order. It is no exaggeration to say that the saving made in our trade department will several times pay the cost of a \$2,000 life insurance certificate, so that we may fairly say that the life insurance really costs our members nothing. If you will furnish me the names and addresses of the secretaries of your local assemblies in your county, I will correspond with them and perhaps arrange to meet your delegates in the next county assembly and explain our system to them. Mail will always reach me at 37½ West Market street. Indianapolis, Ind. Fraternally yours, C. VINCENT,

Organizer and Lecturer of F. A. & I. U.

This journal has no hesitancy in recommending the farmers to patronize their own order, composed of the men of their own class, and an order that excludes from membership all the dangerous occupations that crowd other fraternal orders. The death rate is sure to be lower in a farm organization and hence the insurance will be better and safer.—[Editor.]

The course pursued by the minority wing of the democratic side of the Kentucky legislature is likely to create much bad feeling, not only in the minds of Kentucky democrats, but in the minds of all democrats who believe in fair play and majority rule. The idea of six or eight democratic members of any state legislature bolting the regular party nominee, and carrying their opposition so far as to leave their state with but one representative in the United States Senate is really something new in democratic history. Mr. Blackburn was the choice of over 50 democratic members of the late Kentucky legislature. There was not a day from the time the first vote was taken on senator, but what Blackburn could have been elected had the obstinate gold bug minority voted for him. Blackburn's only offense to the wee wing was his pronounced silver views. Democrats of Indiana and many other states would not look at this matter so seriously if it were only something that affected Kentucky; if it were only a state fight, but we know that the powers at Washington used everything to overthrow the will of the majority. Any other candidate with Blackburn's silver views, would have received the same treatment by Cleveland, Carlisle & Co. If this is what democracy means, if the will of the majority, the exceeding large majority, is not to rule in the councils of our party, then the quicker we disband and give the country over to the republicans and populists, the better.

OLD DEMOCRAT.