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THE PEOPLE'S PILOT

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FOR THE FREE AND UNLIMITED COINAGE OF SILVER AND GOLD AT THE PARITY RATIO OF SIXTEEN TO ONE WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY OTHER NATION ON EARTH.

VOL. V.

RENSELAER, IND., THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1896.

NUMBER 41.

PEOPLES PARTY PLATFORM.

FOUNDATION PRINCIPLES.

First—That union of the labor forces of the United States this day consummated shall be permanent and perpetual; may its spirit enter all hearts for the salvation of the republic and the upliftings of mankind.

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

Third—We believe that the time has come when the railroad corporations will either own the people or the people must own the railroads, and should the government enter upon the work of owning or managing any or all of the 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, as to prevent the increase of the power of the national administration by the use of such additional government employees.

FINANCE.

First—We demand a national currency, safe sound and flexible, issued by the general government only, a full legal 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 per cent, per annum to be provided as set 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 and gold 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 demand a graduated income tax.

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 the 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 interest of the people.

LAND.

Third—The land, including all the material resources of wealth, is the heritage of the people, and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes, and alien ownership of land should be prohibited. And lands now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs and all lands now owned by aliens should be reclaimed by the government for actual settlers only.

PEOPLES PARTY NEWS.

The Prospects Bright and Such
as to Enthuse.

THERE IS EVERY INCENTIVE TO WORK.

Republicans Divided in Oregon and Elsewhere.
Democrats at Daggers Points
Everywhere.

PEOPLES PARTY NEWS BUREAU,
Headquarters National Ex. Com.
St. Louis, Mo., April 14.

The news that reaches headquarters these days is all good news. Everything seems to be coming our way. Notwithstanding the extremely hard financial conditions, our people can take hope. There is certainly a brighter day just ahead.

At no time since the meeting of our national committee in January, has so much encouraging news been received at headquarters as during the week ending April 11. Up to that date 405 delegates had been elected to the national convention. Of this number 360 are instructed, or favor a union with all the reform elements opposed to present conditions.

The attention of our people is now directed chiefly to Oregon and Virginia where events are rapidly shaping themselves so that the People's party may score a victory. In Oregon Gen. Weaver is doing great work, speaking daily to crowded houses. The democrats there, as everywhere else, hopelessly divided on the money question, are fighting with pen and ink while the republicans, having resorted to more energetic measures, are showing broken heads and demolished ballot boxes as results in their primaries.

Gen. Weaver writes: "Pennoyer's nomination for mayor of Portland was made in an orderly, quiet and open convention large in size and without a dissenting vote."

The Populist state committee of Utah will meet at Ogden, June 20. The state convention will probably be held in July to name presidential electors, a candidate for congress, a new state committee and select delegates to the national convention.

In Florida the democracy is becoming demoralized. The gold standard advocates are making desperate efforts to carry the state. The Populists, while appearing quiet are firm and advancing all along the line. Probably ninety per cent of them favor the Omaha platform, but they are willing to take all free silverites into the party.

All reports from Maine agree that in case Speaker Reed fails to secure the Republican nomination for the presidency the Populists will receive large accessions from the republican ranks in that state.

Expressions from every section are generally favorable to deferring state, congressional and

Sir Archibald Allison in
History of Europe, Says:

"The suspension of specie payments by the bank of England in 1797 led to the use of an enormous amount of irredeemable paper money.

"The result is magical.

"It terminated in a blaze of glory and a flood of prosperity which has never before, since the beginning of the world, descended upon any nation.

"Prosperity, universal and unheard of, pervaded every department of the empire.

"Agriculture, manufactures and commerce increased in unparalleled ratio.

"The landed proprietors were in affluence.

"Wealth to an unheard of extent was created among the farmers.

"Our exports, imports and tonnage nearly doubled, and the condition of the people was one of extraordinary prosperity.

"From 1797 to 1819 no financial embarrassments of any moment were experienced and in vain Napoleon waited for the stoppage of England's financial resources.

"But the resumption of specie payments in 1819—the change of the financial system from legal tender paper to metal money—was ruinous to all the industries of England. The distress became insufferable, and in Manchester sixty thousand men, women and children assembled, demanding blood or bread; and many were killed and many were wounded by British troops."

county nominations until after the national convention.

Editor J. R. Norman of the Southern Iowa Educator writes: "I am getting all of the Populist and silver dailies yet I like the plan of your News Bureau and believe it should be liberally patronized. The Populists and free silverites in Iowa will have no trouble in uniting if the former are consistent and the latter sincere."

The secretary of the Virginia state committee in a special to this Bureau says: "The meeting of the state committee at Richmond on April 2 was the largest known in the history of the party in the state. Every district was represented and many prominent members of the party, besides the committee, were in attendance. Extreme partisanship is losing its hold upon the voters. The silver contingent is growing stronger and stronger, influential democrats and republicans publicly declare that they will not support on the money question. Straddleism seems to have had its day. We have good chances to carry several districts. If not by majorities, by pluralities. The state committee selected thirteen delegates at large to the national convention, among them, Gen. Jas. G. Field, Peoples party candidate for vice-president 1892, Major Mann Page, president of the National Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union, Col. Robert Beverly, E. R. Cocke, Peoples party candidate for governor in 1893 and J. A. Hobson. A sub-committee composed of delegates to St. Louis was selected to issue a call for a state convention immediately after adjournment of the national convention. The committee issued a ringing address reaffirming the Omaha platform, but inviting the cooperation of all citizens and organizations favoring a distinctive American policy of finance through the free coinage of silver at a ratio of 16 to 1. Government issue of money and opposition to bonds, and instructed the delegates to the national convention to use all honorable endeavors to secure a union of such forces.

On April 16 the Peoples party of Maryland will hold their state convention to elect delegates to the national convention. Letters received from all the leaders in that state indicate that Maryland will follow Virginia in sending a strong conservative delegation to the national convention.

On the 17th inst. the Nebraska state central committee will meet at Hastings to fix the time and place for a convention to elect delegates to the national convention. Nebraska will undoubtedly send as strong a delegation to the national convention as any other state.

Ex-Governor Waite of Colorado denies bolting the action of the Denver reorganization committee and says: "It is the reorganizers who have bolted." The ratio against the Governor, however, seems to be about 14 to 4.

It is reported, on what seems to be good authority, that Senator Allen of Nebraska has written a letter to Governor Holcomb of that state, declining to be a candidate for the presidency. Nebraska however, has other strong men.

Senator Tillman of South Carolina is making a tour of the western states, speaking in the interest of the white metal. It is pretty generally believed that the Senator is more of a Populist

than Democrat and will lead a bolt from the democratic national convention and join his forces with ours at the St. Louis convention. Governor Stone of Missouri and ex-Governor Boies of Iowa seem to be working in harmony with Senator Tillman.

The self-styled committee on sound currency, with headquarters in Wall street, are at their old tricks again. In order to accomplish their dastardly work of fastening the gold standard, with its attendant evils, upon the people they offer to send free of charge, either "plate" matter or supplements to all the old party sheets they are able to subsidize in that manner. The public should beware of this yellow tinted literature.

J. H. Lathrop of Topeka, Kansas, is perfecting arrangements to run special trains from several points in Kansas for the accommodation of delegates and others who desire to attend the national convention in July. Similar arrangements will also be made in other states.

Kean St. Charles, editor of "Our Mineral Wealth" of Kingman, Arizona, and a delegate to the national convention, writes: "Three Peoples party papers are now being published in Arizona; one at Phoenix, one at Bisbee and 'Our Mineral Wealth' at Kingman. Three of the four delegates to the national convention favor a financial plank and the initiative and referendum, if necessary, to bring the reform forces together. For my part the financial plank is good enough until the administration of government affairs is taken out of the hands of the 'shylocks.' Then reform can be carried out along the whole line. All Americans who no longer believe in the many working for the few must join together."

From Georgia Tom Watson writes: "The first contest for '96 occurred between Democrats and Populists in Georgia this week. Screver county heretofore Democratic went Populist by 507 majority."

T. C. Bateman, candidate for governor of Maine in 1894, writes: "The spring elections here show immense gains for us. Elsworth, the home of Senator Hale, the two old parties fused to beat us and we tied the vote. In Norway where I had 26 votes two years ago, we had 337 this spring!"

From South Dakota Henry S. Volkmar encloses printed form for organization of Peoples party leagues with which good work is being done in his state. He regrets that the form may seem "tame to old-time Populists but reports that they are bringing in the dissatisfied old party voters."

This Bureau will soon undertake to fill orders for literature and lecturers, also cooperate with state and local committees in the matter of railroad transportation and hotel accommodations for those desiring to attend the national convention.

A. R.

Odd Fellows Favor Free Silver.

The following editorial is taken from the March 1896, number of the Odd Fellows Souvenir, the national organ of the great fraternity of Odd Fellows. In a personal interview with the editor we are informed that this editorial is the result of much consideration by many of the most conservative members; that this question has been under consideration for more than a year and the official data at hand is so convincing that it is useless to attempt to claim that the pres-

ent monetary conditions are working great injury to the order. In part, editor M. F. Dowd said:

"The present monetary condition has been a great injury to our order. The official data received at this office show that we lost in 1893, 36,886 members by suspension for non-payment of dues and in 1894 the number dropped was 48,339, a total of 85,225 for the two years, and it is believed that the official reports for 1895 when completed will show nearly as many suspensions as in the years 1893, 4 combined. In 1893 we initiated 72,807, while 1894 we initiated 63,845, a decrease of nearly 9,000. We have about 800,000 members in the United States and territories."

"Yes, they are all voters. Before a man can become an Odd Fellow he is required to sign a contract which is binding alike upon himself and the order, hence it is necessary that he should be 31 years of age. When the situation is properly understood I believe the American people will demand free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1.

The Souvenir does not handle political questions, i. e., from a partisan stand point, nor is the question of finance a partisan question in any sense of the word. It is, however, a question that vitally affects the great order of Odd Fellows. This is a great benevolent institution and anything that retards the progress of the order is a subject entitled to the fullest consideration.

A contraction of our currency makes money dear and thus increases the burden of our members. If the purchasing power of money becomes great the price of labor and the products of labor become less valuable; hence, if the purchasing power of the American dollar is twice as great under the gold standard as it would be under free coinage of both gold and silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 then it will be twice as hard for the members to pay their quarterly dues under the present gold standard as it would be under the free coinage of both gold and silver. It is also twice as hard for those outside of the order to pay the price of admission. When we look over the reports of the various jurisdictions and see the thousands of brothers who are being suspended from the benefits of the order by their inability to pay their dues it is simply appalling. The order now pays out for relief about three and one-half million dollars annually. If the present conditions continue it is only a matter of time when there will have to be made a sliding scale—this sliding scale will be to decrease the number of dollars paid for the relief of members and families of deceased members or increase the dues of members—that the present ratio of dues is as high now as the members can pay goes without saying. Then the only thing left will be to decrease the benefits. It is argued that we should have only the kind of money that will pass in all parts of the world. Nothing can be more absurd. Our gold eagles as are now coined are not accepted at their face in all countries of the world and never have been—never will be. It is more difficult to pass gold money in the United States than it is a piece of American silver. Another objection urged against the use of silver is its weight. While a silver dollar is much heavier than a gold dollar it is also true that a laboring man can carry home all the silver dollars he can ever hope to obtain for one week's wages, and if any of our laboring people should desire to make a European voyage they will not object to paying the necessary exchange for money that will be accepted to bear the necessary discount at the other place. What the American people want is enough money to keep the laboring classes employed and transact the business of the country, and any money coined by the United States is honest money, and it is certainly unpatriotic to stamp any of it as anything else. When the greenbacks were first issued by the government there were those who said it was both dishonest and unconstitutional, and yet a patriotic people accepted them as money. After the third of a century the greenback is still accepted and no one wants them more than the banking fraternity, who were the original objectors to the issuance. If a bill passes the next congress restoring silver to its place in our currency, i. e., free coinage of gold and silver at a ratio of 16 to 1, a patriotic people will accept both for all demands and our idle members can then find employment and be able to pay their dues. Every Odd Fellow in America should work and vote for free coinage of both gold and silver.

General Fitzhugh Lee has been appointed to the important office of Consul General at Havana. It is expected that President Cleveland will give him secret instructions to investigate the status of the Cuban revolution. It is safe to say, however, that the United States will "remain neutral" through the overflying Cuban sympathies of its "unruly hearted" executive.

Secretary Carlisle is a prime favorite for the honorary nomination which is to be made at Chicago.