

THE PEOPLE'S PILOT.

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. VI.

RENSSELAER IND., THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1896.

NUMBER 5.

Populist Principles

Free Silver, Limited Land Ownership, Graduated Income Tax, More Money.

Government Possession of Railroads and Telegraph, Direct Legislation, Election of President, Vice-President and Senators.

The Platform as Adopted.

Judicial Power to Punish for Contempt Condemned—Public Work for Idle Labor—Paternalism in Other Procur-ed Forms.

The people's party, assembled in National convention, reaffirms its allegiance to the principles declared by the founders of the republic, and also to the fundamental principles of just government, as enunciated in the platform of the party in 1892. We recognize that through the connivance of the present and preceding Administrations the country has reached a crisis in its national life, as predicted in our declaration four years ago, and that prompt and patriotic action is the supreme duty of the hour. We realize that while we have political independence our financial and industrial independence is yet to be attained by restoring to our country the constitutional control and exercise of the functions necessary to a people's government, which functions have been basely surrendered by our public servants to corporate monopolies. The influence of European money changers has been more potent in shaping legislation than the voice of the American people. Executive power and patronage have been used to corrupt our Legislatures and defeat the will of the people and plutocracy has thereby been enthroned upon the ruins of democracy. To restore the Government intended by the fathers, and for the welfare and prosperity of this and future generations we demand the establishment of an economic and financial system which shall make us masters of our own affairs, and independent of European control by the adoption of the following declaration of principles.

FINANCE.

1. We demand a national money, safe and sound, issued by the general Government only, without the intervention of banks of issue, to be a full legal tender for all debts, public and private; a just, equitable and efficient means of distribution direct, to the people and through the lawful disbursement of the Government.

DIRECT LEGISLATION.

We favor a system of direct legislation through the initiative and referendum under open constitutional safeguards.

GENERAL PROPOSITIONS.

1. We demand the election of President, Vice President and United States Senators by a direct vote of the people.

2. We tender to the patriotic people of Cuba our deepest sympathy in their heroic struggle for political freedom and independence, and we believe the time has come when the United States, the great republic of the world, should recognize that Cuba is, and of right ought to be a free and independent State.

3. We demand the volume of circulating medium be speedily increased to an amount sufficient to meet the demands of the business and population of this country, and to restore the just level of prices of labor and production.

4. We denounce the sale of bonds and the increase of the public interest-bearing debt made by the present Administration as unnecessary and without authority of law, and that no more bonds be issued except by specific act of Congress.

5. We demand such legislation as will prevent the demonetization of the lawful money of the United States by private contract.

6. We demand that the Government, in payment of its obligations, shall use its option as to the kind of lawful money in which they are to be paid, and we denounce the present and preceding Administrations for surrendering this option to the holders of Government obligations.

7. We demand a graduated income tax, to the end that aggregated wealth shall bear its just proportion of taxation, and we regard the recent decision of the Supreme Court relative to the income tax law as a misinterpretation of the Constitution and an invasion of the right powers of Congress over the subject of taxation.

8. We demand that postal savings banks be established by the Government for the safe deposit of the savings of the people and to facilitate exchange.

TRANSPORTATION.

1. Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity, the Government should own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people

and on a nonpartisan basis, to the end that all may be accorded the same treatment in transportation, and that the tyranny and political power now exercised by the great railroad corporations, which result in the impairment, if not the destruction, of the political rights and personal liberties of the citizens may be destroyed. Such ownership is to be accomplished gradually in a manner consistent with sound public policy.

2. The interest of the United States, in the public highways built with public moneys and the proceeds of extensive grants of land to the Pacific railroads, should never be alienated, mortgaged or sold, but guarded and protected for the general welfare as provided by the law organizing such railroads. The foreclosure of existing liens of the United States on these roads should at once follow default in the payment thereof by the debtor companies; and at the foreclosure sales of said roads the Government shall purchase the same if it becomes necessary to protect its interests therein, or if they can be purchased at a reasonable price; and the Government shall operate said railroads as public highways for the benefit of the whole people and not in the interest of the few under suitable provisions for protection of life and property, giving to all transportation interests equal privileges and equal rates for fares and freight.

3. We denounce the present infamous schemes for refunding these debts, and demand that the laws now applicable thereto be executed, and administered according to their true intent and spirit.

4. The telegraph, like the Post Office system, being a necessity for the transmission of news, should be owned and operated by the Government in the interest of the people.

LAND.

1. The true policy demands that the national and State legislation shall be such as will ultimately enable every prudent and industrious citizen to secure a home, and that land should not be monopolized for speculative purposes. All lands now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs should by lawful means be reclaimed by the Government and held for actual settlers, and private land monopoly, as well as alien ownership, should be prohibited.

2. We condemn the frauds by which the land grant Pacific railroad companies have, through the connivance of the Interior Department, robbed multitudes of actual bona fide settlers of their homes and minerals of their claims, and we demand legislation by Congress which will enforce the exemption of mineral land from such grants, after as well as before patent.

3. We demand that bona fide settlers on all public lands be granted free homes, as provided in the national homestead law, and that no exception be made in the case of Indian reservations when opened for settlement, and that all lands that are not now patented come under this demand.

FOREIGN.

4. All public salaries should be made to correspond to the price of labor and its products.

5. In times of great industrial depression idle labor should be employed on public works as far as practicable.

6. The arbitrary course of the courts in assuming to imprison citizens for indirect contempt and ruling them by injunction should be prevented by proper legislation.

7. We favor just pensions for our disabled Union soldiers.

8. Believing that the elective franchise and untrammeled ballot are essential to a government for and by the people, the People's party condemn the wholesale system of disfranchisement adopted in some of the States as unrepresentative and undemocratic, and we declare it to be the duty of the several State Legislatures to take such action as will secure a full, free and fair ballot and an honest count.

9. While the foregoing propositions constitute the platform on which our party stands, and for the vindication of which its organization will be maintained, we recognize that the great and pressing issue of the pending campaign upon which the present presidential election will turn is the financial ques-

tion. And upon this great and specific issue between the parties we cordially invite the aid and co-operation of all organizations and citizens agreeing with us upon this vital question.

CASUALTIES.

At Springfield, Ill., houses were unroofed, chimneys blown off and trees and outbuildings demolished by the storm.

In the vicinity of Fairbury, Ill., farmers are much alarmed at the continued rainfall. Oats in shock are beginning to sprout, and the ground has been loosened so that corn is falling down.

Inhabitants of the lowlands along the Illinois and Sangamon rivers are preparing to move out on account of the rising waters. In the vicinity of Virgilia, Ill., the corn crop is prostrated by rains.

Lightning struck and destroyed the mammoth barn and granary on the Judge J. W. Marsh farm at Warsaw, Ill., together with ten tons of hay and 500 bushels of oats.

All trains on the Hocking Valley and Ohio Central railroad are from three to four hours late on account of high water. Sunday Creek and Hocking river are rising rapidly, causing much damage. Bridges on the Ohio Central have been washed away near Corning.

At Hillsboro, Ill., the farmers are worried about the continued rains, but console themselves with the thought that millions of chinck bugs have been destroyed.

The Wabash river in the vicinity of Marshall, Ill., is rising rapidly, and the farmers fear a damaging overflow.

The suspension bridge at Muncie, Ind., went down Friday and precipitated twelve boys into the river. Walter Darlington, aged 15, was drowned. Two others are missing. It is feared the five remaining bridges will be swept away.

At Warsaw, Ill., bridges and fences were washed away by the heaviest rainstorm in years. Great damage to crops is reported.

Heavy rains throughout West Virginia caused great damage.

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