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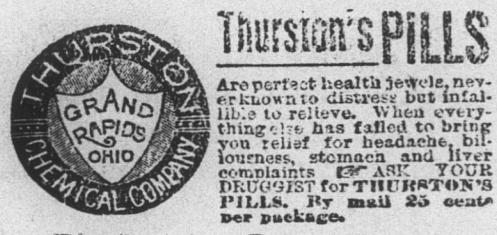
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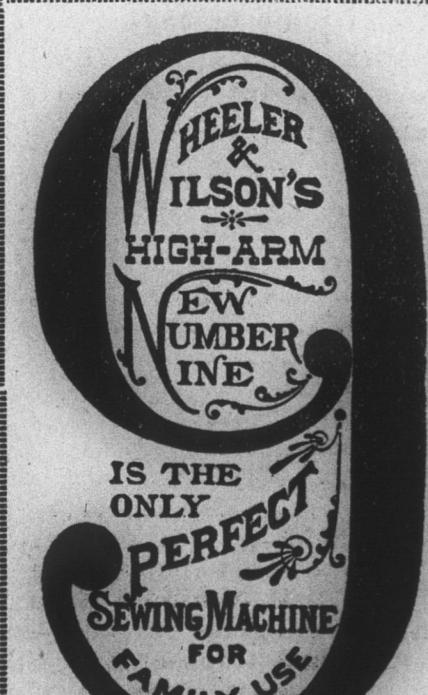
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THE BIG CONVENTION.

REFLECTIONS INSPIRED BY THE PROCEEDINGS AT ST. LOUIS.

Will the Party Be the Victim of Treachery as Suggested by the St. Louis Republic and Other Organs.

The chaotic condition of American politics so plainly shown by the bolting of disaffected republicans, democrats and prohibitionists from their respective parties this year, was again emphatically illustrated by the proceedings of the national people's party convention at St. Louis. But since political "chaos" is only possible when the power of party "leaders" fails of commanding the unquestioning respect of the people, and since it is indisputably true that the oppressive and outrageous conditions at present existing are the result of implicit obedience of the past commands of those whom accident placed in control of political affairs, the disturbance of our political ocean may be hailed as a happy omen that the spirit of independence still exists in the breasts of those for whose benefit alone governments can claim the right to exist and that that spirit is now fully aroused to the necessity of important and radical changes in the policy of our government. It was this spirit and the sense of this necessity that prompted influential republicans and prohibitionists to withdraw from their respective parties and inspired the dominant faction of democracy to mark out a course for their party so radically different from that which it approved four years ago that the administration of its own choosing repudiated the new policy as the vagaries of "cranks," "socialists," and "populists," and it was this same irrepressible and indomitable determination to compel those in control of governmental affairs to inaugurate measures which the people have come to believe necessary for their relief, that at times seemed to bid fair to turn the people's party convention into a howling, heartless horde of senseless beings who were prompted solely by the belief that the supreme duty of the hour was abundantly compiled with if each would make all the noise he could.

It was not a lack of respect for age that caused the convention to howl the venerable Senator Stewart from the rostrum, nor a want of appreciation of past services rendered by General Weaver which at the same critical moment caused his mouth to be stopped by the angry yells of the people's party delegates, but the intuitive knowledge that they were both endeavoring to guide the convention into a channel which it had decided not to enter. This scene occurred on the question of nominating Thomas E. Watson for vice president.

The usual order of nominating the candidate for president first had been reversed by the adoption of the minority report of the committee on rules, which provided for this way of procedure in the belief that if the usual order was preserved and Bryan nominated first the convention would be balked in seeming indorsement of the entire democratic ticket by the nomination of Sewall for vice president.

The delegates had recognized in the intelligent, incorrupt and generous-hearted W. J. Bryan, whom the democrats had unexpectedly and in a moment of forgetful delirium, inspired by his own eloquence, honored with the position of chief standard-bearer of their party, a person in every way worthy of their confidence, and had determined to show their willingness to unite with democracy in seating him in the presidential chair. But while these rugged representatives of the new force that is rapidly coming to the front in American politics were thus ready to display a degree of patriotism hitherto unknown in partisan politics, they could not and would not be guilty of the self-sacrifice involved in the proposition to nominate the railroad magnate and national banker whom the democrats had selected as their candidate for vice president. And it was while this contest between Watson and Sewall was on, and at the hour of midnight, when the delegates were exhausted with the efforts of a continuous session, that Senator Stewart, who was not a delegate to the convention, attempted to speak in behalf of his fellow-millionaire on the democratic ticket and was driven from the stage by the cries of "time! time!" etc. General Weaver followed and met with a like fate because of the widespread belief, inspired by his recent course, that he stood ready to sacrifice everything for free coinage of silver.

This scene, followed, as it speedily was, by the unanimous selection of Watson as the choice of the convention for vice president amid a display of wildest enthusiasm, in which the delegates from every state joined, coupled with the fact that a simple doubt in the minds of the delegates as to whether Mr. Bryan would accept their nomination for president, prevented his nomination from being made unanimous, tells of a latent determination in the representatives of the people's party to place principle and patriotism above party and office-getting, of which those who are considering the advisability of taking Watson from the ticket and substituting Mr. Sewall in his stead would do well to take heed. It is hinted that the motion investing the national committee with plenary powers, with the avowed object of enabling it to substitute the name of Norton for that of Bryan in case the latter declines to accept the nomination, was really introduced for the purpose of enabling the committee to take down Watson and substitute Sewall.

While this insinuation against the honor and loyalty of the new national committee gains no credence in any respectable quarter, it will do no harm

to remind the wily democratic leaders that if they should accomplish this purpose through "proxy" tricks or any other devious method their action will be taken as a plain warning to the people's party that the unscrupulous element of democracy is in control of the democratic party and that they will conclude if present conditions must continue it were better that they be perpetuated under McKinley, who, whatever else may be said of him, stands in the open as a defender of the gold standard, rather than under Bryan, who, such action would indicate, was simply to be used as a tool to accomplish designs which would not bear investigation. That the Bryan leaders in the people's party convention were afraid to trust his nomination to the delegates conditioned upon his acceptance of the honor is proven by their haste to adjourn the convention after their desires had been accomplished without waiting to hear from Mr. Bryan. The same spirit which would not accept the advice of Senator Stewart or General Weaver in the vice presidential contest would have asserted itself and rolled W. J. Bryan from the list of possible presidential candidates had the convention believed that the honor which it sought to confer would have been contemptuously returned to it as a thing of no account. As it was, and in spite of every effort quietly made by the Bryan men to convince the middle-of-the-road men that Mr. Bryan would accept the nomination and thank the convention for the honor, the shadow of doubt upon this point remained so thick in the minds of 340 delegates who voted against him that it was deemed inexpedient to move to make his nomination unanimous.

Whether it was the fear on the part of Mr. Bryan that the acceptance of the people's party nomination might alienate from his support that class of millionaire monopolists of whom Mr. Sewall is a type or whether it was from a strained sense of duty on his part toward his democratic running mate, or whether it was a misconception on the part of his advocates in the convention as to what his real position was in the premises, the fact is indisputable that the close of the convention with almost one-fourth of the votes of the delegates recorded against him that the nomination leaves matters in a very unsatisfactory condition.

The platform adopted by the convention, since it provides for government money, without the intervention of banks, free coinage, government ownership of railroads and telegraphs, the abolition not only of corporate but private monopoly of land, and the initiative and referendum, is even more radical than the Omaha platform, and plainly bespeaks a determination to take no step backwards. It is not reasonable to suppose that a party whose invincible determination to move forward on the lines of the Omaha platform was plainly shown by the hearty and unanimous adoption of such a platform will consent for a moment to be balked in its career by the wishes of a few selfish office-seekers who fear that the substitution of the honorably and widely known name of Thomas E. Watson for that of the obscure millionaire Sewall may endanger their chances to obtain a place at the public crib.

The willingness of the people's party to accept Mr. Bryan as its candidate and the exponent of its principles is based wholly upon the fact that he is everywhere recognized as an independent, progressive, large-minded young man far in advance of the fossils of democracy who nominated him solely with the desire to profit from the association with the "new blood" and new ideas which his candidacy alone would make possible to him, while the hope of obtaining office under Mr. Bryan doubtless prompted some of the "leaders" in the people's party convention to support him, that contemptible selfish motive did not inspire the tenth part of the thousand votes he received in the convention.

The people's party recognizes, as does every other body of intelligent men, that the power of the "pie brigade" is very great, and the men from Texas, Maine, Arkansas, California, Ohio, Illinois, and many other states who took part in the proceedings of the meeting held after the adjournment of the convention were determined that the influence of the office-seekers in their own as well as in the democratic party should for once, however, reluctantly be cast upon the side of principle, or else be rendered absolutely nugatory. Either Mr. Bryan will accept the people's party nomination and with Watson on the ticket with him and accomplish a sweeping victory over the gold standard as represented by Mr. McKinley, or he will refuse the assistance tendered by the people's party and with his monolithic running mate go down in overwhelming defeat.

With two electoral tickets in the field, one for Bryan and Sewall, the other for Bryan and Watson, or Norton and Watson, such a division in the rank and file of the voting army would occur as would necessarily defeat the electoral tickets opposed to McKinley in three-fourths of the states of the union. The votes for the Bryan and Watson electors could not be counted with the votes cast for the Bryan and Sewall electors in order to elect Bryan.

The Republic, in an editorial in its issue of the 27th inst., chucklingly says:

"Senator Allen played a shrewd piece of politics when he refused to read the telegram from Mr. Bryan announcing a refusal to accept the populist nomination with any other except Sewall as a running mate.

"He secured the nomination of Bryan, prevented a bolt and placed the authority to make further arrangements in the hands of the national committee.

"Thus, while Watson is the nominee of the populist party for vice presi-

dent, the votes of the party can be secured for Bryan with or without his acceptance, as the populist national committee may determine."

Here is a plain admission that Senator Allen received a telegram from Bryan declining to be the nominee of the populists except with Sewall. The intimation is plain (and it is true) that Bryan would not have been the nominee of the convention had such a telegram been read, but the assumption that the national committee will treacherously do that which the national convention of the party would not consider a moment is assumption pure and simple and is strictly on a par with the impudence which characterizes as "a shrewd piece of politics" a contemptible action which is only properly named when it is called "dishonest politics." The Globe-Democrat, another organ to whom real reform and real reformers are as poison, also suggests that the democrats will accomplish their purpose through the treachery of our national committee, which is to be relied upon to take down Watson and put up Sewall in his stead. These old party organs, who know absolutely nothing about reform or reformers, and who "measure everybody in their own half-bushel" and judge others by themselves, of course believe that the members of our national committee have each their price and all that is necessary to meet it. In this they are mistaken. But suppose the impossible should happen, does anybody "know" that the members of the people's party would permit themselves to be made merchandise of and delivered in the direction suggested? T. D. HINCKLEY.

WHO OWNS IT?

Does This Country Belong to Americans or to Foreigners.

Southern Mercury: It is high time for the American people to wake up to the fact that this country is going into the hands of foreign money lenders, and they will soon control it, if they do not already own a majority of the railroads, factories, breweries, furnaces, etc. Only contemplate for a moment the vast interests now held by foreigners:

Sixty per cent of the stocks and bonds of the vast Pennsylvania railroad system is said to be owned in Europe.

Nearly all the Illinois Central railroad, extending from Chicago to New Orleans, with great city properties and branches and laterals, is owned in Holland.

Great ownership in the immense properties of the New York Central railroad company, and all its vast railroad connections, is held in Europe.

A controlling interest in the Great Northern railroad, running from Lake Superior to the Pacific ocean, is owned in England.

A controlling interest in the Northern Pacific railroad, lying south of and as extensive as the last named railroad, is owned in Germany.

Large, if not controlling interests in every other important railroad in the United States, are owned by European investors.

The immense Carnegie iron works at Homestead, in Pennsylvania, are owned principally in Scotland.

The controlling interest in the famed Pillsbury flouring mills at Minneapolis, the largest in the world, is owned in England.

The great iron mines of the Lake Superior region, said to produce 10,000,000 tons of iron ore a year, are largely held by English investors.

A controlling interest in the Grant Smelters in Denver and Omaha, the largest in the world, is owned by Englishmen.

Foreigners own immense interests in the breweries of the country, largely, if not controlling.

The largest bankers of New York are foreigners, or representatives of foreign banking houses. These are the great gold shippers.

A large percentage of our fire and marine insurance is in foreign insurance companies.

Five-sixths of all the freightage of our foreign commerce is carried in foreign vessels.

Foreigners own millions of acres of our farming lands.

They own many millions of dollars in value of our city properties.

Their mortgage loans overspread the face of the country.

Foreigners own millions of acres of millions of United States bonds, and state bonds; and they own untold millions of city bonds, and other municipal obligations in the United States, and vast amounts of other properties not here specially stated.

So great has become the aggregate of all these ownerships in the United States properties by foreigners living in foreign countries that the aggregate cannot be less than \$7,000,000,000 or \$8,000,000,000, with an average of earnings of not less than 5 per cent per annum.

It is well to be alive to the dangers ahead, and not to suppose that because a majority of the people are in favor of the free coinage of silver that we will have a walk-over. The power of money will be exerted as it never was before, and a campaign of bribery and corruption is before us such as this country has never seen. We must be in the fight from the start. Nothing is so dangerous as feeling too sure of victory.

We can be sure of nothing until it is accomplished, therefore, until the polls close on election day we should not cease to labor for the triumph of our principles.

If you intend to do anything this year for reform, now is the time to begin work.

Keep the Reform flag flying.

NEARING A CRISIS.

AMERICA RAPIDLY APPROACHING THE DANGER LINE.

When the Present Process of Concentration Is Consummated Our False Financial System Will Have Finished Its Mission.

The following, which appears in the New Charter of San Jose, Cal., very clearly shows how the present debt-making credit system is forcing the people out of their possessions and making a few people masters of the people and owners of the world. Why can't the people see and understand? Why do they stand indifferently by while the robbery goes on? Why will they be whipped into line year after year to vote their loved ones out of food, clothes and shelter, and into serfdom, bondage, pauperism and prostitution? Will nothing but the crack of doom awake them? Read the following:

Sixty-five billions is the assessed value of all the wealth in the United States, including lands, say the census reports.

Forty-two billions is the indebtedness of the country, say careful statistics.

The average annual increase of wealth is 3 per cent, which on sixty-five billions is an increase of one billion nine hundred and fifty millions.

The average interest of six and a half per cent on forty-two billions amounts to two billions seven hundred and thirty millions—a deficit or annual increase of debt to the amount of seven hundred and eighty millions.

This deficit must be made up by the sacrifice of the lands of the producers to bond-holders. There is no other way for it to be made up. This accounts for the vast number of farms and homes going daily into the hands of the mortgage holders by foreclosure.

When this process of concentrating the ownership of the land into a few hands is consummated our false money system will have finished its mission and served its purpose. Then it will not matter how much money or how little we have or what it is made of, for the owners of the land will then be absolute masters of the products of labor.

The landlord will then take in rent what the bond and mortgage holder now takes in interest.

Being masters of the whole people the owners of the land will only employ enough to supply all their own wants and the rest of the people must die or emigrate.

When Rome fell one thousand persons owned all the land of the Empire, says history.

Rocking from the foregoing statistics, the year 1912 will find the American republic in the control of perhaps less than a thousand men. Really, is it not dominated now by less than that number?

Revolution did you say? Oh, no; no danger. So long as the masses ignorantly lick the hand that smites them under the hypnotic influence of patriotism and partyism no revolution can occur.

So long as one workingman stands ready to shoot another workingman at the behest of corporative robbers, or dispute over a religious idea or the jingoism of a Monroe doctrine, or bruise each other's heads and reputations for the sake of party, just so long may those who are being benefited by the present systems of land, money, bond and transportation robbery compose their souls in peace, for they are safe.

But should an electric shock of intelligence suddenly awaken in man that slumbering instinct of the rights with which nature or nature's God endowed him, then look out for equality.

A falsely called civilization has rendered impotent the natural instincts of men to assert their natural rights; but the signs of the times portend an awakening. What is it to be?

Government Ownership of Railroads.

Dr. Glover, of Macon, who has recently returned from a trip to Europe, Africa and Asia, wrote a private letter to the Flavilla Enterprise, from which that paper makes the following extracts:

"I traveled seventeen thousand miles and found no place where the American silver dollar or paper dollar was below par. I traveled over railroads that are owned and operated by the government. On the government railroads we feel more safe than on our roads, from the fact that they are all double-track and every precaution is taken to prevent accidents to passengers. The fare on the roads owned and operated by the government is about half what it is on the roads in this country.

"I am very glad to find on my return to America that so many who have been opposed to the true principles of government are beginning to see the light and have the manhood to say so.

"What I have seen of the financial systems of the old countries and conditions surrounding their people I am more firmly convinced of the justness of the demands of the People's party than ever. I hope the good cause may go on till Shylock is dethroned and all rejoice in a government for the people, by the people and in the interest of mankind, and the great idol (gold) will not have a worshiper in this fair land."

There were none to do honor to President Cleveland at the Chicago convention. However