

The Peoples Party Platform of 1896.

The peoples 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

2. We demand the free and unrestricted coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1, without waiting for the consent of foreign nations.

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.

Jesse Grant a Populist.

San Diago, Cal., Sept. 4.—At the populist county convention to-day a great sensation was caused by Wade McDonald, one of the delegates, reading the following from Jesse R. Grant, son of Gen. U. S. Grant:

"My Dear Judge: I have noticed with much interest your withdrawal from democratic party and espousal of the people's party. This action meets my approval, since I have concluded to enroll myself in the same cause.

The financial plank in the republican platform must drive from that party any one who believes as I do, and the anarchical plank in the democratic platform must lose to it any person who believes in the protection of American citizens at home as well as abroad.

"The platform of the people's party has, on the contrary no objectionable principles and seems to offer a political home that an American can proudly enter.

Yours truly, Jesse R. Grant."

Mr. Grant has been a resident of San Diego for several years. He has large property interests here, but has taken little part in public affairs. His letter provoked prolonged applause in the convention.

Noted Silver Recruits.

The Hon. James L. Evans of this city, for four years a congressman and a life-long republican, has come out for free silver. Mr. Evans has been engaged in the grain business in Noblesville for forty years and has always voted the republican ticket but he says he will give Bryan his cordial support in the present campaign. He has the following unique offer posted in the office of his grain elevator:

"I will contract to buy all the No. 2 wheat you have raised in 1896 at 60 cents per bushel, provided Bryan is elected, and with him a free coinage congress; or I will sell you all the No. 2 wheat you want at 50 cents per bushel, provided McKinley is elected."

In an interview to-day Mr. Evans said: "I will make money on either proposition. If Bryan and a free coinage congress is elected wheat will go above 70 cents. If McKinley is elected and the gold standard is continued I can buy it for less than 50 cents." Among the other things he added: "While in congress I served on the committee of coinage, weights and measures, and I think I then learned just what free coinage of gold and silver means, and the experience of years since then has only strengthened my convictions. Free coinage is the only hope for our farmer friends. We can not have prosperity on constantly falling prices. There must be a restoration of the prices of the products of labor before we can hope for

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, its payment of its obligations, shall use in 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 rightful 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 laws 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 miners 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.

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 favor home rule in the Territories and the District of Columbia, and the early admission of the Territories as States.

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 question. 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.

Aptly Answered.

PERU, Indiana, August 15th, 1896.

Messrs Phil Armour & Co., Chicago, Ill.

DEAR SIRS:

Your offer of 50 cent's worth of meat and a Mexican dollar in exchange for an American dollar received, but we can do as well with our patrons. We can offer 50 cents worth of meat and \$2 worth of Portuguese three percent gold bonds in exchange for a silver dollar.

Our patrons say the bonds must be good, as Portugal has been on gold standard since 1853—twenty years before the other enlightened nations of Europe—and its national debt has only increased 100 per cent. without any war since that date. Average wages paid all citizens in Portugal is 17 cents per day. In your letter you say all we need is "a little gold, improved banking facilities" and "confidence."

Portugal has a "little gold," the world has had its "improved banking facilities" since 1853, and we can supply the "confidence," so the bonds are certainly good. We can continue to give you 50 cents worth of meat and \$2 of Portuguese gold bonds after Bryan is elected. Will you continue to give 50 cents worth of meat and a Mexican dollar in exchange for an American silver dollar after Bryan is elected?

Yours Truly,
Columbian Meat Market,
Peru, Ind.

P. S. We see the London Times quotes Mexican bonds at 94 1-2; Portuguese 3 per cent. gold bonds at 26 1-4.

Hepburn, the silver-tongued railroad, attorney. Mr. Robb is a magnificent man, a splendid campaigner, and his prospects for success are very bright.

Notwithstanding the strong "middle of the road" ground taken by the Missouri Populists heretofore and especially by the delegation in the National Convention, arrangements for "fusion" have been or are being made with the democrats in almost every county in the state where the republicans are in power.

A. R.

Did Well on Mere Credit.

Special to the Chicago Record.
Creston, Iowa, Sept. 7—C. W. White, claiming to be from Rensselaer, Ind., is in jail here. White has the appearance of a prosperous farmer and is a smooth talker. He came here about a week ago and made a deal for 640 acres of land, agreeing to pay \$40 an acre. He gave a check for \$450 on the State bank of Rensselaer, Ind. It was learned Saturday that he had no money there. On the strength of his land deal here he succeeded in borrowing quite an amount from different citizens.

The Bryan Free Silver club of O'Neill, Neb., has issued a challenge to the McKinley club for a discussion of the money question between two members of the respective clubs; such discussion to take place every Saturday evening.

The Populists of the Third Virginia district have postponed their nominating convention until after the democratic convention is held. In the Fourth district the Populists have nominated Col. J. Thomas Good for congress.

Clarence D. Klem, of New Jersey, one of the leading Socialists in this country, has withdrawn from that party and joined the Populists, in order, as he says, to more speedily secure relief from existing oppressive conditions.

Senator Allen, of Nebraska, Chairman of the committee appointed by the National Populist convention to notify Mr. Bryan of his nomination, announces that he will call the committee together for that purpose at an early date.

C. B. Sampson, president of the Topeka, Kansas, Paper Company, one of the oldest business men in that city, and a life-long republican, in a newspaper article repudiates McKinleyism and announces his intention to vote for Bryan.

Hon. W. H. Robb, editor of the Daily American, of Creston, Iowa, has been nominated for congress by the Populists of the Eighth district, against W. P.

Persons who have a coughing spell, every night on account of a tickling sensation in the throat, may overcome it at once by a dose of One Minute Cough Cure. A. F. Long.

Mrs. Imes has received her first selection of fall millinery among which are some beautiful new designs. See her new walking hats and sailors, and other popular styles.

Since the Reformation, no such general religious awakening has been experienced as that which marks the closing years of the nineteenth century and the question discussed in the September Arena by I. N. Taylor, "Is a Universal Religion Possible?" is one that has exercised many minds. While of course, all discussions of this nature must be merely speculative in character, Mr. Taylor handles the question in such a broad, comprehensively, and unorthodox manner that his paper cannot fail to be of great interest to all those to whom the great subject of religion appeals.

The September Arena contains a paper by James Malcolm, on "A Remarkable Statistical Report," which discloses revelations as startling as did Mr. Stead's "If Christ came to Chicago." It deals with the statistical report recently issued by the Illinois Bureau of Labor Statistics, and points out the frightful injustice done to the great industrial population of the country your present unfair system of taxation, which multiplies the burdens of the poor man by adding to his already too heavy load that which should be borne by the rich man. This paper should be read throughout the length and breadth of the land, and the question it discusses should be agitated until a just and equitable system of taxation is established.

In the September Arena Rev. B. W. Williams discusses the "Evils of Land Monopoly," and in a short but pithy paper shows the baleful results which flow from monopoly in land—the gift of the Creator to his creatures, but which has been wrenched from them by grasping syndicates and private monopolists. Mr. Williams points out the extent to which foreign landlordism prevails in the United States and gives a long list of the names of foreign dukes barons and earls, also of American syndicates and private monopolists who own vast tract of land in this country, with the number of acres held by each which is very suggestive.