

The Farmers Leader

BY ARTHUR LINN.

ARTHUR E. LINN,
Editor and Business Manager.

PEOPLE'S PARTY PLATFORM.

A great many earnest, patriotic Populists and others who want to join the People's party, have not a clear and distinct recollection of the fundamental principles of this glorious platform, and in order that the people may fully understand its demands the LEADER republishes the platform for the benefit of all. The financial plank adopted at Omaha and reaffirmed at St. Louis was the signal gun that aroused the free silver men of the nation, and gave notice to the money sharks that the people proposed to contest and combat the robbers. There are people who think the People's party is not committed to free silver, and that the platform is without rail, fence or limit. The platform is broad enough for every liberty-loving American citizen to stand upon, and the money plank indicates that the framers of the Omaha platform recognized the terrible danger from a gold standard in this country. The heroic leaders of the People's party at Omaha sounded the free silver key note and the people of the nation have taken it up. The People's party platform is the hope of the people, the beacon light of struggling millions. It is the St. Louis platform of 1896, and almost word for word the same as the Omaha platform of 1892. It is a glorious document, and no man who followed Lincoln or Blaine or Garfield can find fault with it so far as American patriotism or principle is concerned. It represents the doctrine taught by Lincoln and followed out by Bryan. It represents Americanism and liberty. It is hostile to foreign mercenaries and foreign domination. It is hostile to trusts, monopolies and public plunderers. It is hostile to a system of government run by American Tories who are the servile tools of the foreign money power. It is hostile to everything that does not represent the best interests of the great common people. It stands for a second "Declaration of Independence," and shall be so recognized and hailed until a People's party president proclaims its principles from the steps of the Capitol. The new democracy raised this glorious standard at Chicago, and a new "emancipator" led the allied hosts to almost victory. The defeated hopes of the people in 1896, will rise in victory in 1900. There can be no other result. Already the mutterings of discontent are heard. The president has thrown off his bimetallic mask and proclaimed himself a servant of the money power. Read this platform. Read it carefully. You will find it clear, distinct and patriotic. You will find nothing in it that will please Wall street or the subservient tools of England. It is a document which every silver man in the Nation can proclaim with pride. It voices the sentiments of silver democrats and republicans, and all lovers of liberty and country. The financial plank stands first because it is the greatest, followed by the transportation and land planks. When the American people are able to settle the financial question as outlined in the People's party platform, a prompt and satisfactory solution of the transportation and land questions will follow, and until the people are strong enough to settle the financial question right there is no hope for favorable action on any other line. No argument is required to prove this, because the money power represents the combined breastworks of the enemy which must be stormed. Read the platform; everybody read it. There is nothing in it but what every liberty-loving American can subscribe to. Slaves of the money power and American Tories turn up their wine red noses at it, but they did the same to Washington, Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln and Bryan. The coming mighty struggle must be fought and won by the people. Abolitionists, democrats, and republicans formed the mighty union army which crushed out the plutocratic slave power and gave new life to the nation. The element represented by the free silver republicans, and free silver democrats, will form another mighty union army which will crush out plutocracy and its attendant evils in 1900, and give us again a government of the people.

It seems that the Black Hills part of the state is going to have a splendid exhibit at the Omaha Exposition. What is the east side of the state going to do? The legislature was unable to make an appropriation for this purpose at the last session owing to a lack of funds resulting from too much "Taylorism." The railroads are doing their share to assist the people of the Hills but it seems are not willing to help the agricultural part of the state in any manner. This hostility on the part of the railroads may come from the determined action of the railroad commissions, but the LEADER can see no honest or just reason why the interests of one of the best agricultural sections of the west should suffer because state officials are doing their plain duty. The railroads of this state have more to gain by a fine agricultural exhibit at Omaha than has any individual or community in the state. The people of South Dakota have no desire to injure railroad property or interests. All they ask is fair play and a square deal. If the railroads are hostile and refuse to assist the people in making a suitable agricultural exhibit at Omaha, it is more than likely there will be no effort on the part of the farmers to spend their time and money to induce settlers to come to the fertile prairies of the state for the benefit of the railroads. If the railroads discriminate against the east half of the state, it is more than certain that it will be the only great agricultural section not in evidence at Omaha. Can the railroads afford this? The LEADER thinks not.

In an article in the current week's issue of the North Western Catholic, of which he is the editor, Hon John Brennan, who has repeatedly stumped the country in support of republican national platforms and candidates, impartially, clearly and truthfully interprets the significance of the Teller resolution. Its passage by the senate, he writes, "does not mean an effort at new legislation. It is simply a declaration of the United States senate that under the law as now on the statute books the bonds of the United States are payable in 'coin' and that the term 'coin' means gold or silver at the option of the government. This is the position of the democratic party in the senate and of their allies consisting of four or five straight republicans and half a dozen silver republicans. The issue made is not a question of law; because the opponents of the resolution admit that under the letter of the law the bonds are payable in silver at the option of the government. Though the government has suspended the free coinage of silver it has never changed the legal ratio; and a debt by its terms payable in coin is payable in silver dollars at the ratio of 16 to 1. To deny this plain proposition, and to pay the bond holder in gold is to admit that there is a cheap money for the people and a superior money for the bond holder."

Editor Geo. W. Kingsbury of Yankton, has the earnest and sincere sympathy of the LEADER and every newspaper man in the state at the sudden and unexpected death of his wife last week, during his absence at Sioux Falls, while attending to his duties as a member of the board of charities and corrections. The senior editor of the LEADER has known Mrs. Kingsbury since 1870, and to know her was to love and admire her charming disposition and sweet motherly character. She was a noble woman in all that makes home happy and cheerful, a delightful hostess and kind friend. She was one of the pioneer ladies of Yankton, and nobly assisted her distinguished husband in his struggles in the pioneer life of the new territory, and did much to give tone and character to the charming society of Yankton in early territorial days. One of the sweetest characters and one of the noblest women in the state has gone.

Much ado has been made over the president's address delivered last week, in New York, at the annual banquet of the national association of manufacturers. It has been said that in this address Mr. McKinley came out more flat footedly for gold than ever before, that he boldly put the interests of the bondholders before the interests of the American people, boldly asserted that the bondholder had rights more sacred than other men, that the welfare of the bondholder must be put above that of all other classes and interests. And the president's address, characteristically ambiguous in parts, being thus interpreted, has been much lauded by the moneyed interests and as adversely criticised by those who believe it right to treat the bondholder as any other man, no better, no worse. That the president's opinions are readily moulded to please those to whom he looks for support, that his opinions change to meet changing requirements, that once an ardent bimetalist, he has become an equally ardent champion of gold, that he wills what those who surround him would have him will, that his opinions are largely governed by the opinions of those who are about him, that those who now surround him and influence him are the moneyed interests, and that they mould his opinions and he stands ready to do their bidding is only too clear. So we find the president giving full satisfaction to the moneyed interests. They threw their united support to him and they elected him, they dictated the plan of campaign which resulted in his election, they forced him to drop the straddling position on the financial question which he had assumed, they forced the gold plank into the St. Louis platform, they caused the tariff to be well nigh eliminated from the campaign, they dictated to him the tenor of his campaign speeches, caused him to interweave in his speeches arguments for gold, they contributed the campaign fund without which his election would have been impossible. And with each recurring day Mr. McKinley has fallen more under their control, grown more and more a reflector of their views, more alive to their needs and demands and better prepared to meet them. So that the president should have grown more and more to the liking of the moneyed interests is only natural. That he had come to look at everything through the glasses of the moneyed interests was, however, apparent to the observant before the manufacturers' banquet. The address that he here made was thoroughly characteristic of the president, it was not bold, he did not plant his foot far in advance of where he had planted it before, he merely advanced by inches in the same direction he has been traveling for eighteen months. His address was more significant from its tone than from its substance. That it was in perfect tune with the demands of the moneyed interests, that they were pleased with it, that they got what they asked, that the address fulfilled their demands and came up to their expectations, is quite evident and it is this rather than what he said that attracts attention to the address.

Now what is the political bearing of this alignment over the Teller resolution. That the Republican party will stand firmly by gold and perhaps drive out of the party three or four Senators who believe in free coinage, have clung to the spectre of bimetalism and their party, is not doubted. But what of the Democratic party? Does the alignment of the gold Democrats in the Senate in favor of the Teller resolution evidence that they have given up their fight to turn the party back to advocacy of gold monometallism, that there will be no opposition to the reaffirmation of the free coinage doctrine by the Democrats in 1900, or does it mean that the gold Democrats in the Senate have bowed to the policy of the party so as to assure to themselves entrance into the party councils, and give them standing as Democrats that they may fight the free coinage policy with greatest advantage and for ease? The explanations they made in the Senate, the excuses and reasons they advanced for their votes would lead one to the latter conclusion, lead one to conclude that they joined hands with the silver Democrats only to get in better shape to fight them.

The Cuban agony continues to drag its weary trail over the most fertile island on the globe. Spanish money cannot buy the Cuban patriots, and the little bands of patriots are fighting and winning victories over the Spanish butchers as did Sumpter and Marion against the British in revolutionary times. Cuba will be free. Her people deserve freedom, but Speaker Reed and the republicans in congress are doing all they can to aid the Spanish butchers.

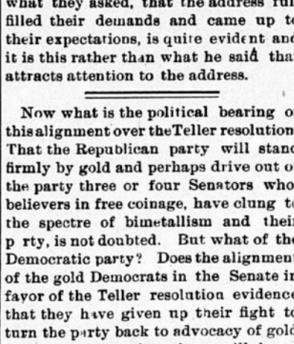
The Sioux Falls Daily Press is publishing some mighty interesting articles on the money question, showing up the fraud practiced upon the people by the bondholders assisted by republican law makers.

The silver forces of this state will get together as did Grant's veterans in the wilderness.

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Before the Teller resolution was brought before the House, Mr. Henderson, of Iowa, is quoted as remarking that "we (the majority in the House) intend to show the business interests of this country that the representatives of the people will protect the people from treason, anarchy and repudiation." And what have the supporters of the Teller resolution done to merit such epithets. They have aimed to protect the government and the people of the United States from extortion at the hands of bondholders, they have insisted upon observing both the spirit and letter of the law. They have protested against the artificial raising of the value of the dollar by the demonetization of silver and insisted that the payment of the bond holders in dollars having the same value as dollars had at the time of contracting the loans would be in the line of honesty not repudiation. And this is called treason, anarchy, repudiation. If such epithets are deserved, to protect the government against extortion at the hands of bondholders is treason, to observe the spirit and letter of the law is anarchy, to pay the bondholders in dollars of the same value as dollars had when such bond issues were made is repudiation.

Nash is getting to be a bigger lunatic than Hopkins. He and Hopkins are now abusing Department Commander Clark. Nash will get a skinning some day that will teach him that a coward and sneak has no place among decent men. Nash poses as an ex-soldier. He never carried a musket. He blew a horn for two years in a band. He was too much of a coward to carry a musket.

The war cloud has shifted from Europe to China, and the greed of England, France, Russia and Germany will force little Japan to fight for her national existence. Japan is no mean antagonist. She has a splendid army and a first class navy, and no European power can frighten her patriotic people.

Our eastern friends enjoyed the thrilling grandeur of a beautiful blizzard last week. This "holy terror" didn't grow in Dakota either. It was raised on the New England coast, and it seems to have taught those down easters that it is not always safe to abuse the wild and woolly west.

Republican newspapers are trying to cover up the discord in their own ranks by telling of Populist discord and middle of the road booby stories. Every free silver man is in the middle of the road when it comes to united opposition to the party of trusts, combines and robbery.

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