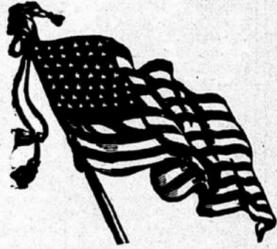


The Farmers Leader

BY ARTHUR LINN.

ARTHUR E. LINN,
Editor and Business Manager.

Member South Dakota Press Association.



PEOPLE'S PARTY STATE TICKET.

For Congressmen—
JOHN E. KELLY of Moody.
FREEMAN KNOWLES of Lawrence.

For Governor—
ANDREW E. LEE of Clay.

For Lieutenant Governor—
F. C. ROBINSON of Brown.

For Secretary of State—
GEORGE SPARLING of Edmunds.

For Treasurer—
MARIS TAYLOR of Beadle.

For Auditor—
HUGH SMITH of Miner.

For Attorney General—
C. S. PALMER of Minnehaha.

For Com. of School and Public Lands—
JOHN SCOLLARD of Meade.

For Supt. of Public Instruction—
L. F. KINTZ of Hutchinson.

For Railroad Commissioner—
W. H. TOMPKINS of Pennington.

PEOPLE'S PARTY COUNTY TICKET.

For State Senator—
S. A. ROMMERHEIM, of Norway.

For Representatives—
F. A. LEAVITT, of LaValley.
E. W. NORTON, of Lynn.
W. J. WIMER, of Canton.

For Treasurer—
ZEPH. ELLIS, of Highland.

For Auditor—
THOS. COLLINS, of Lincoln.

For Register—
O. F. CARLSON, of Brooklyn.

For Clerk of Courts—
C. R. MOULTON, of Springdale.

For Supt. of Schools—
T. A. DAVIES, of Canton.

For Sheriff—
SIMON ULRIKSON, of Canton.

For Judge—
J. S. HATLESTAD, of Worthing.

For Coroner—
A. H. ROGERS, of Canton.

The People's party of Lincoln county met in Canton last Saturday and placed a county ticket in the field to be voted on by the voters of Lincoln county on Nov. 8. The ticket is composed of men whose loyalty to the reform cause in Lincoln county has been many times proven. We will not mention them separately as the ticket appears in the paper. As to the legislative ticket, every nominee is pledged, and at heart is in sympathy with the present railroad law, a fact of which the opposition cannot boast. It is true the Republican platform favors the railroad law; their national platform at St. Louis in '96 declared for bimetallicism and where do they stand today—unqualifiedly for the single gold standard. With the bimetallicism snare they succeeded in catching the votes of a majority and elected McKinley. Will the people of Lincoln county be caught again? It would be consistent with their past dealing to use all efforts to repeal the present railroad law. What assurance have we that their pledge is worth anything after the manner in which they have betrayed the people in the past. Imagine Kittredge and his deputies enforcing the law which Kit has tried so hard to have declared unconstitutional. Vote for the People's party legislative ticket and vote for a class of men who represent a party that gave South Dakota her first railroad law. There are many other questions of great importance but the railroad is the principal one and as the railroad lease of the Republican party is so plain to all it will be readily seen where the people should stand. As to the rest of the county ticket, the LEADER is proud of it. The officers who for the past two years represented the reform forces of Lincoln county, have been re-nominated. All have made officials of which their supporters are '96 proud. The new candidates are as well known as the old ones and are excellent representatives of the reform forces.

The Argus-Leader has made a fearful blunder so far as Kirk Phillips and Roddle are concerned. Phillips dare not deny getting interest on state funds, and Roddle says the brand fees belong to him. If these charges are proven the Argus-Leader demands the resignation of Phillips and Roddle. Go in, Tomlinson.

From all over the state comes evidence of rebellion against the railroad-elevator-machine dictatorship of Kittredge. At first it was only threats, now it open rebellion.

To begin with the Canton News, it demands that Kittredge, who has disgraced the party, should at once resign the command of the pie counter.

Major Dollard, the gallant soldier and square-toed Republican, swears Kit can elect his machine brood. Major Dollard has defended the party and labored for its success for nearly twenty years and now he gets the frozen fist from Kit and his gang. Dollard will not defend the machine any more.

Hon. Wilbur S. Glass of Watertown, one of the most honest, honorable Republicans in the state, resigned his foreign appointment and came home, determined to save the Republican party from ruin at the hands of Kit's machine.

He found the railroad crowd on top, backed by Republican appointees of Kit, Republican postmasters and Republican editors, all owned by the machine or too cowardly to express an honest opinion and in face of this cowardly and degrading condition, he turned his back on the machine and said to his friends, "I will help to purify the g. o. p. by destroying the political thugs who have sold it out to the corporations." Mr. Glass and his anti-machine friends will carry Codington county for clean politics and against the Republican machine gang.

S. M. Howard of Gettysburg, a delegate to the Mitchell convention, renounces the machine ticket named by Kit, and says there is no Republicanism connected with the outfit. His proclamation is printed elsewhere in this issue.

Major Pickler is roaring mad, to put it mildly. After the nominations at Mitchell he was so mad that he would say nothing, but the "old soldiers" who surrounded his headquarters were very outspoken and many said they would never vote for Kit's machine ticket, and as a free silver Republican veteran was passing, Senator Ross of Roberts county, caught the free silver Republican veteran by the arm, stopped him and said, "Listen to the boys," and the boys were denouncing Kit and the machine in bitter language.

Many of Ringrud's friends, and the backers of Van Cise, Greeley and Gifford are not quite ready to raise the rebel flag, but some have gone far enough to say that they will never vote for Kittredge's railroad-elevator ticket.

Prominent Republicans at Pierre, at Armour and in Bon Homme county, and at many other points will soon be heard from. It is open rebellion. Watch the machine squirm.

Nash of the News, is a little uglier than the average editorial follower of the machine, and goes far enough to say that Kittredge hates the old soldier. This is a fatal admission for a soldier lover like Nash to make. He frankly admits that Kittredge hates the old soldiers, and yet Kit is the head, body and legs of the Republican party in this state. Don't attempt to deny it, Nash. State Auditor Mayhew proves it. Major Dollard's organ at Scotland bitterly proclaims it, and the turning down of men like Judge Gifford, Major Dollard, Major Pickler and Van Cise at Mitchell, proves it in thundering tones. Kittredge is the Republican boss. Everyone who knows anything knows this, and yet Nash says if Kittredge was any part of the party in this state every old soldier would leave the party. This is bad language for Mr. Nash. Perhaps he has backbone enough to make his words good.

Hon. W. S. Glass, of Watertown, one of the ablest men in the state, and the ablest member of the house of representatives in this state, who was appointed to a foreign consulship by President McKinley, which he resigned and came home, was nominated again for the House last Monday, but by the silver reform forces. The silver forces are to be congratulated. Judge Glass has deserted the machine gang and has taken his stand with the people. He is a fine speaker and one of the most highly respected gentlemen in this state. The machine rule and arbitrary dictatorship of Boss Kittredge was too much for such a man as Judge Glass. His leaving the Republican party means much, because he has a powerful following throughout the state. Many other good Republicans are leaving Kit's machine party.

Republican papers are calling on Kittredge to resign his position as boss of the Republican party in this state. Chief among the insurgents is the News of this city, and the News is a good deal better as a kicker than a fighter. Nash was a delegate at the Mitchell convention and his demand that Kit resign as boss of the pie counter is very amusing. The hypocrisy and cowardice of the Republican papers in this state has made it possible for such machine tools as Kittredge to make the once grand old party, a party now owned by corporations and money-changers.

Every Republican editor in the state swears he likes the Kittredge railroad ticket nominated at Mitchell. Some of them are pounding Joe Greene and other men, but none of them dare say a word about the machine rule.

It is unfortunate for Mr. Phillips that he has a fool for a mouth-piece. At least the Argus-Leader at Sioux Falls assumes to be the mouth-piece of Mr. Phillips and it is causing him no end of trouble and is going to cause him to lose many votes. In a speech made some days ago, Judge Palmer recited the fact that Republicans were charging that Mr. Phillips had drawn interest for public funds on deposit and that Secretary of State Roddle had appropriated "brand fees" contrary to the constitution.

The Argus-Leader gave an editorial, a column long, abusing Palmer for repeating what had been said by Republicans at Mitchell.

It said it was authorized to deny that Mr. Phillips had taken interest on public funds. That was a surprise to Mr. Phillips. He had not authorized the Argus-Leader to make any such denial. It was generally known that Mr. Phillips had received interest on funds deposited. He does not pretend to the contrary. We imagine that Mr. Phillips was more disgusted when he read the following:

"Judge Palmer is out in a letter in which he says that he did not charge Kirk Phillips with taking interest on public funds or W. H. Roddle with stealing the brand fees belonging to the state but that he was merely repeating what he understood certain Republicans at Mitchell had charged. This is a very lame and impotent conclusion. Judge Palmer does not take a very dignified stand as an applicant for high office when he admits that he is going up and down the state retelling gossip, repeating disgraceful charges against honorable men without taking the trouble to verify them or even attempting to look in to their truth. These are very serious charges. If they are true the two men accused should promptly step down from the Republican ticket."

No doubt Mr. Phillips felt like he would like to be in reach of Mr. Tomlinson when he read that paragraph saying that if he (Phillips) had taken interest on state funds he should step down and out. It is equivalent to demanding that Mr. Phillips get out of the race, for Mr. Phillips has received interest on the deposit of state funds. It is also probable that Mr. Roddle would like to administer a swift kick to Mr. Tomlinson. Mr. Roddle claims to have acted on legal advice when he took the \$600 of brand fees and added it to his salary. Mr. Roddle admits having taken the brand fees and intimates that he will only give them up at the end of a lawsuit. He says he acted on the advice of Attorney General Grigsby. Yet in the face of it all the Argus-Leader says that both Roddle and Phillips should get off the Republican ticket. That is a very severe arraignment of these two leading candidates on the state ticket by the leading Republican paper in the state, which claims to be defending them. We imagine that shortly after Mr. Phillips gets in reach of the editor of the Argus-Leader that young man from Yale may be seen going for a bottle of ammonia to relieve the contusions caused by a number 10 boot.

This is the year that the old soldiers in this state will teach the soldier hating gang a lesson they will not forget for some time. Nash says Kittredge hates the old soldiers and Nash is good authority. He was at Mitchell and knows how every old soldier was turned down. Old soldiers who followed the leadership of Mark Hanna in 1896, may not be good enough for office holders in the Republican party in '98, but they will be courageous enough, honest enough, and honorable enough to resent the cowardly assault on their rights as citizens to aspire to any office within the gift of the people. Let every old soldier in the state resent Kittredge's insult, and they will have reason to feel proud of having turned down a soldier hater.

C. T. Howard, Republican, ex-Speaker of the House, sold out his belongings at Redfield and moved to Minnesota. He said, "What show has an honest man in the Republican party? He must either be a Kittredge tool or he might as well keep out of politics. The Republican party is boss-ridden and boss-cursed and its defeat will be materially aided by honest Republicans who have manhood and courage enough to resent the slave-driving tactics of Kittredge." Thus able Republicans like Glass and Howard are leaving the party in disgust, and moving out of the state.

The Minneapolis Tribune thinks the people will resent "political claptrap" in connection with a discussion of the conduct of the war. The Tribune is right about this, but the people will recall the fact that the Republican papers began the infusion of what the Tribune calls "claptrap" as soon as war was declared, and have kept it up ever since, even declaring that the war was to be a Republican war, and that Democrats and Populists were to have no part in it. Take away the conduct of the two Democrats, Dewey and Schley, and what is left in the conduct of the war that America could be proud of?

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The News believes that Mr. Kittredge should resign his position as member of the National Republican committee from this state. The most grievous blunder committed by the Republican convention at Mitchell the News believes, was its failure to demand his resignation. The News desires not to be unfair to Mr. Kittredge. The unfortunate position of the Republican party in this state, being without senators or representatives in congress, has thrust large responsibilities on the shoulders of Mr. Kittredge. In the discharge of those responsibilities he has committed grave blunders, for which there is absolutely no excuse, but any other man in his position and with no greater clearness of vision, might have committed the same blunders. Very few men possess the faculty of denying applications for positions and, at the same time, retaining the friendship of the applicants who are "turned down." Probably few men in the party could have presided at the "pie counter" more efficiently than has Mr. Kittredge and it is not on this account that the party should request his retirement from the National committee.

As the paid employe of a great railway corporation, his duties to his employers compel him to oppose the interests of the people of this state, and he has thus far successfully opposed those interests. As the standard bearer, the champion of interests and aims which are at present in direct opposition to the interests and aims of the great body of the people of this state, he is a disastrous burden to the party whose interests he pretends to champion also. The railways can safely trust him for he has proven his fealty to them and for this reason alone the party ought not to be compelled to carry the burden which his membership in the national committee entails upon it. The News hopes the time will come, and it ought to come when there may be such an adjustment of the mutual relations of the people and the great railway corporations, that the rightful interests of the one may be subserved without infringing on the interests of the other; when both can see that their highest interests will be best conserved by being mutually helpful to, and considerate of each other. But that time is not now. When that time comes, if it ever does come, there might be no impropriety in Mr. Kittredge serving as the corporation counsel of a railway company and at the same time assume the leadership of a political party. Under present conditions, however, if he has any regard for the welfare of his party, he ought to promptly terminate his career as national committee man for the Republican party of South Dakota.—Sioux Valley News.

When Kit reads the above he will come right down and see the editor of the News immediately if not sooner. In the above article the News furnishes all the evidence necessary to drive every old soldier out of the Republican party, according to the threat made by the News. This rabid organ of the g. o. p. says Kit has committed grave blunders, for which there are no excuses, but after election it will be fun to read the News and hear of the other blunders committed by Kit, when he ruined the party.

Hon. Coe I. Crawford was at the Mitchell convention. He is the general attorney of the Chicago and Northwestern railway in this state, and his conduct at that convention was in marked contrast to that of Mr. Kittredge. Both were dignified and courteous, but Coe I. Crawford made many new friends, while Kittredge was generally despised except by those who imagined they were using him to pull their chestnuts out of the fire. Crawford kept his hands off the convention entirely, and freely expressed the opinion that a state convention should be entirely free from any attempted railroad domination. Kittredge acted as though he thought the railways should own the people of the state as well as as completely as they own the rolling stock of their several roads. Crawford carried home with him from the Mitchell convention, the respect and admiration of the delegates to that convention. Kittredge went home without the respect of the delegates, and we doubt if an inventory of his belongings would disclose any self-respect.—Sioux Valley News.

Mr. Nash ought to be aware that there was only room for one boss at Mitchell, and if he was blind enough or stupid enough not to understand the apparent "goodness" of Mr. Crawford, then this Kittredge hater should stand up for a post somewhere. Stupid Nash, sly Crawford, cunning Kit, dandy machine. It seems Nash stays bought.

Senator Lindsay of Kentucky has suggested the possibility of the "hero of Porto Rico" being the Democratic candidate for president in 1900. If the Senator means Gen. Miles, it would be interesting to know where heroism comes in. Come to think about it, Miles did disobey Alger. Well, that's heroism.

THE REPUBLICAN PLATFORM.

(By Freeman Knowles.)

We desire to call attention of our readers to the consistency of the Republican party of South Dakota as exhibited in the various platforms of the past few years. In 1893 they said:

"Resolved, That we affirm our unalterable allegiance to a bimetallic standard of money; to the continuance of the coinage of silver and its maintenance at a parity with gold; and we further declare our belief that the present condition of national distress is in no wise due to the so-called Sherman law, but is the result of apprehension and distrust as to the policy of the Democratic party."

In 1894 they declared:
"We favor the use of both silver and gold as money, at the ratio of 16 to 1, confining the coinage of silver to the American product, at the net cost of the actual expense of coinage; and we demand that silver as well as gold, shall be legal tender for the payment of all debts, both public and private; and we pledge the congressional nominees of this convention to support the principles herein contained."

Having all these years deceived the people into the belief that they were bimetallicists, they now throw off the mask and declare:

"We are unalterably opposed to the free and unlimited coinage of silver and unhesitatingly indorse the gold standard of money, under which the nation has made wondrous strides of progress."

Upon the railroad question they are still more inconsistent, having given even more unmistakable evidence of their perfidy and treachery to their promises. In 1894 they spoke thus upon the railway question:

"The abnormal development of the idea of corporation capital has resulted, in modern times, in immense aggregations of money in certain classes of private enterprise—incorporations of corporations; and we therefore declare ourselves in favor of such legislation as will thwart the dangerous power of such trusts and combines and prevent as far as possible the aggressions of capital. The transportation companies and these interests are so interlocked that we demand of our legislature that the railway commission shall be dignified with sufficient authority to properly protect such interests against unjust discriminations by such transportation companies."

The people took them at their word, trusted them to another lease of power in every branch of the state government. Did they keep their promises? Not a bit of it. Their legislature refused to grant the people any relief from railroad extortion. Senator Pettigrew then a Republican, telegraphed them from Washington, begging them to keep their promise to the people. Their answer has become historic: You mind your business and we'll mind ours." The state officers elected at that time, on that platform were the most servile tools of the railways, and as members of the board of equalization, listed railway property for taxation at less than ten per cent of its capitalized value.

The People's party in their platform of 1896 pledged themselves to give the people relief from railway extortion. Their legislature carried out this pledge by granting the railway commissioners the power to fix rates which should be just to both the railroads and the people. This power has been exercised by the board in a new schedule of rates, reducing former schedules about twenty per cent, and cutting passenger rates to three cents per mile. These rates have been affirmed and declared just and fair by the United States District Court.

In every stage of these proceedings the commissioners have been hampered and abused by the leaders and press of the Republican party. Their leaders have been in the employe of the railways in fighting these rates. The Republican press even went so far as to charge the commissioners with being bribed because they voluntarily withdrew their rates regarding a weak road whose rates had been placed too low.

The present Republican candidate for governor declared that the railroads were being persecuted by the commissioners.

But now that the people have won a signal victory in spite of all that the Republican leaders and their press could do, this party of false pretenses comes in and claims the honor and responsibility as follows:

"We rejoice in the passage by the last legislature of the Iowa railroad law. We commend the Republican members, who, in obedience to the Aberdeen convention and the overwhelming desire of the Republicans of the state, unanimously advocated and voted for that law. We congratulate the people of the state of the first great victory won under it for just and reasonable rates and we pledge the nominees for governor, railroad commissioner, attorney general and the legislature to vigorously and relentlessly carry the contest to a successful termination."

The people have just had a good il-

lustration of how "vigorously and relentlessly" these railway tools will force the railroad law, in their action as members of the Board of Equalization, when railway property capitalized at \$40,000 per mile was listed for taxation at \$2,800 per mile. By this outrageous assessment they have permitted the railroads of the state to flich from the taxpayers more than \$200,000 per year. Had railways paid their just share of taxation during the past ten years, the state would now be out of debt and a comfortable surplus in the treasury—that is, providing the money had not been stolen by Republican officials.

And these are the men who now come and ask that the state government, with the execution of this railway law, be turned over into their hands. What a ridiculous farce they would make of it. It is little wonder that they seek to revive the issues of the war to divert attention from their malfeasance in office. They evidently want us to "remember the Maine" and forget Taylor, Kellam, Frendenfeld, Hipple and the rest of the gang which bankrupted the state. But will the people do it?

But the following, for immaculate gall, takes the cake:

"We arraign the Populist governor and legislature for inexcusable stinting of needed appropriations while wasting public money on political favors, and we promise an economical, wise and business-like administration."

When the state was admitted, South Dakota's portion of the public debt was about \$600,000. Every single year since that time the state debt has increased until January 1, 1897, the debt amounted to \$1,388,200, or more than double what it was when the state was admitted. On July 1, 1898, eighteen months after the Populist administration, the debt had been reduced to \$381,600, or a net reduction of \$376,000 in eighteen months and with four years more of such management, the debt will be wiped out. It should also be remembered that the rate of taxation, for the past two years has been about one-quarter less than it has been for six years past.

Let the people ponder upon these things and ask themselves whether they will turn down the able, clean and fearless administration of Governor Lee and turn the state over to the gang of railroad tools now seeking to control it?

The Argus-Leader at Sioux Falls has begun the campaign for the Republicans by calling every silver man who makes a speech a liar. That is its sole defense. Although the record of the Republican party has been brought forward and quotations from the platforms made, although Republican newspapers are quoted and the words of Republican leaders recalled, in its desperation the Argus-Leader turns and says, "You are a liar," and closes the incident.

Such methods indicate one thing clearly: The Republican party in South Dakota is on the "hog train," and the leaders now recognize the desperate plight in which they have placed themselves.

In a long editorial, under the head of "Palmer's Lying Campaign," the Argus-Leader becomes very abusive because Judge Palmer criticises Secretary of State Roddle for appropriating \$600 beyond what the constitution allows him as secretary of state. This amount was collected by the state department for cattle brand fees and Mr. Roddle put it in his pocket. The constitution fixes his compensation as secretary of state, and just how the extra \$600 got into his pocket, is a puzzle.

Mr. Tomlinson, editor of the Argus-Leader, went to Mitchell openly opposed to Roddle. He said he had come there for Roddle's scalp, because there had been too much thieving in the Republican party to allow the action of Roddle to go unrebuked.

But a change came over the spirit of his virtuous dream, wrought probably, by \$50. People of Sioux Falls and politicians of the state know that Mr. Tomlinson is quite subject to having his dreams changed in that manner. It is a weakness of his.

At any rate he withdrew his opposition to Roddle and now says any man who charges that Roddle got more than his constitutional salary is a liar. To be sure, the records of the brand commission, created since Roddle came into office, show the fees collected and furthermore show that they got into Roddle's hands, and fail to show when or where they ever got into the state treasury.

Another thing the Argus-Leader waxes hot over is the statement by Judge Palmer that Treasurer Phillips has received interest on money of the state deposited in banks. Mr. Tomlinson says he is authorized to deny that Mr. Phillips ever received a dollar of such money. If Mr. Phillips will make such denial over his own signature we will be delighted to publish it. We hardly believe that Mr. Phillips authorized the Argus-Leader to make any such denial.

The fact is, along with a strong argument in favor of the principles advocated by the silver forces, Judge Palmer is laying some facts before the public, which nobody has dared to deny, except the Argus-Leader, the hired mouth-piece of Mr. Kittredge. It will deny anything, if paid to do so.—Deadwood Independent.