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THE LAY OF TWO THOUSAND.
(AT TOPEKA.)
Ha, ha, and ho, ho, and hey, hey!
We'll sing you our cheerfulness lay;
We're the rankest brigade of the present decade,
And we're here for a month and a day;
A promiscuous Popocrat throng,
We're camping here two thousand strong.
In the winter's chill blast 'till the pie can be passed,
And we all have a voice in this song:
Oh, Leedy! Oh, Leedy!
Why ar'n't you more speedy?
Can't you see that we Pops are exceedingly needy?
Ah, ha, and oh, ho, and uhm, hum!
We are feeling unspeakably glum!
For the few vacant places there are long-whiskered faces
By hundreds, and still more to come;
And the men whose indorsements we had
While we whooped it up for 'em like mad,
Don't honor us now with even a bow,
And we're lonesome, impatient and sad.
Oh, Leedy! Oh, Leedy!
Why ar'n't you more speedy?
Can't you see that we Pops are exceedingly needy?
How now? Tut, tut! We swan!
Did you say that the jobs are all gone?
Please say it's a joke, for we all are dead broke
And told to keep off of the lawn.
It is awful to gaze on the doom
Of a blighted political boom.
While the men you helped in complacently grieve,
As they see you left out in the gloom.
Oh, Leedy! Oh, Leedy!
Why ar'n't you more speedy?
It is tough for us Pops to go home looking seedy.
—J. E. Torrance.

The genteel and scholarly editor of our esteemed contemporary made a vicious attack upon us last week because we are unable to see how the interests of western Kansas would have been promoted by the election of Weilep, of Cherokee county, for speaker, instead of Street or some other western man, and further affirms that Honorable Alfred Lawson, in company with other Democrats and silver Republicans, voted for Street for speaker. If we are correctly informed, and we think we are, Mr. Street does not owe his election to any assistance rendered him by Mr. Lawson. As any one who is posted on political matters knows, the caucus nominee of the dominant party is assured of the election. It was therefore in the caucus of the dominant party that the battle for the speakership was won. Did Mr. Lawson work or vote for any one except Weilep in the caucus? The report of the caucus stated that Lawson and two others were faithful to Weilep to the end and voted for him up to and including the last ballot. Simmered down it is this way: Speaker Street was nominated in spite of Lawson's vote against him in the caucus. The nomination being secured and thereby his election assured, Mr. Lawson and silver Republicans voted for Street as a matter of form in obedience to the usual custom of voting for the caucus nominee.

We are not "keeping tab" on Mr. Lawson with the view to finding fault with his actions. He is a citizen who differs from us politically but we have no reason to doubt his sincerity or honesty of purpose and action. He owes us nothing politically and we expect no favors from him. He is a public servant and as such we have a right to criticize his action and vote when either seems against the interests of the western part of the state which he, in part, represents. We believe that the interests of our part of the state are best promoted by having in power and influence men who live in the west and know and understand our needs. It was for this reason that we criticized his position and vote on the speakership question.

Speaker Street, of the Populist house, has warned the members, says the Fort Scott Monitor, against voting for any measure not sanctioned by

the steering committee appointed by the Populist leaders. Under Street's orders the Kansas house will become as complete a party machine as was ever organized. No matter how much any member may desire the passage of any bill affecting the interests of his constituents, he must submit the matter to a set of self-appointed bosses, whose highest interest is in mounting places themselves and providing others for their friends. The government by the people becomes an iridescent dream, the radical legislation promised is pigeon-holed in the offices of the bosses and the honest legislator is deprived of the right to represent the interests of the people who elected him, and becomes a jumping jack in the hands of designing men.

C. A. Buck, editor of the Toronto Republican, who has been married within the past twelve months, will not probably declare matrimony to be a disappointment, judging from the following observations in his paper: "We are not sorry when times are hard. The women then cook noodles with the chicken to make the chicken go around; make good gravy to save the meat; serve apple pie oftener than plum pudding; do away with the hired girls who can't cook, and display their own skill; stay at home more with the children, because they have no fine clothes to wear gadding; try their hands at nice old-fashioned gingerbread instead of angel's food. The general health is better, and the people who would otherwise come and visit a month, stay at home. There is nothing so terrible about hard times if a clever woman manages the house."

In Georgia the trusts have seen the handwriting on the wall and are accepting the situation. The legislature of that state has acted on the suggestion in President Cleveland's message and passed a law declaring unlawful and void all combinations made to lessen free competition or control the price of products by the trust system. It is announced that the Georgia trusts in tobacco, potash, snuff, coffee and matches have notified their customers and agents that the new law has ended their contracts, and that their prices hereafter will be governed by the open market. The Georgia law was signed by the governor December 23, and the promptness with which the trusts have recognized the wisdom of obeying it is a lesson that will not be lost on other states.

The Lawrence Journal insists that the Kansas hen is a revenue-getter outranking the cow, and thus comments: "Kansas papers are all urging their readers to cultivate more cows. Long columns of figures are printed to show that cows pay better than wheat or corn, and that if a farmer wants to get rich all he has to do is to keep cows. Cows are all right in their way, and this paper is a friend to them, but for the amount of money invested and the work necessary in taking care of them, the hen will beat the cow in any game they sit down to. And aside from the actual gross or net amount of money taken in, profits from the hen go by custom and usage to the better half of the household, where the money will do more good than it will if the 'old man' gets his hands on it."

The proposed bill by which this state is to be redistricted into eight congressional districts has been framed with a view to strengthening the populist party. By a good deal of gerrymandering in the northeastern quarter of the state the republican strongholds have been put into one district with a view of beating either Broderick or Curtis. Very good politics and just what any political party in power would do.

The Kansas single taxers held a convention in Topeka last week. Two or three preachers, a doctor and several

theorists, all of whom voted the pop ticket last fall, were there. Farmers were very, very scarce in the convention. Socialism, "unearned increment" and kindred subjects receive but little encouragement from those who labor with their hands instead of with their jaws.

Last week a test vote in the House of Representatives at Topeka indicated a large majority against resubmission. The vote means that so far as this legislature is concerned prohibition will stand. Temperance sentiment is on top in Kansas and the prospect is that it will remain on top indefinitely.

Since Ohio was admitted to the Union seven of her senators have resigned; Corwin, Chase and Sherman to accept cabinet positions. Garfield was elected senator but was chosen president before he qualified and now Sherman will soon resign a second time to enter the President-elect's cabinet.

Mrs. Hill P. Wilson, of Hays City, reads a paper to-day on "Kansas Foods and Products" before the Federated clubs of Topeka for the Kansas Day celebration of the Pure Food Exposition, which has been in session at the capital city of this state this week.

Sir Isaac Pitman, the author of the system of shorthand bearing his surname, died a few days ago. His system of phonography is the basis of all the leading shorthand systems of the present and he was a man of marvelous energy and perseverance.

Webb McNall has been chosen to succeed A. P. Riddle as insurance commissioner. McNall's term as a probationer in the populist party had hardly expired but this slice of pop pie will insure his joining into full fellowship with the populist fold.

Senator Hugh P. Farrelly, of Neosho county, has introduced a bill in the Senate which permits gas or electric light companies to obtain exclusive franchises in cities. This smacks a good deal of monopoly for a reformer of Farrelly's pretensions.

W. H. Linton, deserter from the Union army and recently populist elector, has just added adultery to his list of misdoings, says madam rumor.

Fat appointments given to such fresh recruits to Populism as McNall, Little and Turner are galling the Democrats, without whom Populist success would have been impossible in the last campaign. Col. "Whoop Tomlinson," of the Topeka Democrat, thus excoriates the Populists in a recent issue of his paper: "In the election of Col. W. A. Harris to the United States senate—who, it is well known, has not been for six years in affiliation with Democrats—we say emphatically will be rung the death knell of coalition between the Democrats and Populists in Kansas.

"This, we believe, is as certain as anything can be in the future. Nothing now can happen to change the result.

"Within thirty days after the election of W. A. Harris to the United States senate, there will scarcely be a Democratic editor or a representative Democrat in Kansas who will give his opinion that coalition between the Democrats and Populists two years from now will be even a possibility.

"Among self-respecting Democrats over the state from now on there will be only one watch word: 'Down with the Populists!'

"We are perfectly willing to wager a hat with any one that early in the year 1898, perhaps before the roses of June blow, there will be a straight Democratic ticket in the field in Kansas.

"That this ticket will poll tens of thousands of votes; enough at least to bury the selfish, mole-eyed Populists out of sight in Kansas, goes without

saying. "Even the despised worm will turn when trod upon.

"What of the People's Party? It is a fungus, nothing distinctive. It has no future. It is losing its hold all over the South. It is a thing of weakness even in Kansas. It has never won a battle without Democratic aid. It will go to pieces in this state the moment that aid is withdrawn.

"The hour has come for the dissolution of an unnatural partnership, which has well nigh destroyed the Democratic party.

"Let the Democratic editors of Kansas unite in sounding the bugle note to call the wanderers home to the Democratic party.

"A chasm broad and deep will yawn between the Democrats and Populists in this state!"

STAND BY THE GUNS.

What idle and cowardly and suicidal talk is this about Republican "concessions" to the free silver deserters, and about "conciliation" to the Populists? What have the 160,000 men who voted the Republican ticket in Kansas last fall got to concede? That they were ignorantly mistaken? That they were willfully wrong? That the deserters were partly or wholly right? That they were justified in deserting and bushwhacking and keeping up a fire in the rear and out of the brush upon their old friends?

Well, hardly!

The men who deserted the Republican party in Kansas last fall, and voted not only for the Democratic National ticket but also for the Populist State ticket, are Populists. What right have they to bear the name of the party they helped to defeat? "Free silver Republicans" they call themselves, and yet they voted for the Pop ticket from top to bottom! Just as much sense in Jerry Simpson calling himself a sub-treasury Republican. Those who call themselves so admitted this when they went outside of the party to vote for free silver. And they will have to keep on going outside of the party as long as they want to vote for free silver, for the Republican party will never be for it. That party was always for sound money, and the free and unlimited coinage of silver at 16 to 1 is not sound money; it is Populist flat and repudiation. And the Republican party will always be against it.

So there will be no concessions. The Republican party of Kansas is sorry that some of its former members thought more of free coinage than they did of all the other party tenets. It is particularly sorry that some who had been its members thought so much of free silver that they even voted to elect a Populist state administration that cannot possibly do anything whatever for free silver. But it does not question any man's right to his own opinion and to his own vote. And when the men who went off with the free silver wave see their mistake, it will welcome them back gladly. But the 160,000 men who stood loyally by the old Republican banner are mighty sure they are right, and they propose to keep on marching under it, "eyes front," without apology or explanation or excuse, and they have no concessions to make.

And as to "conciliating" the Populists by helping one faction or the other of them to elect a United States senator or state printer, or by going half way to help pass their measures—that is madness and folly and suicide. There are but fifty Republicans in the legislature this year, but they represent a party that is nationally triumphant, and that even in Kansas has many thousands more voters than any other single party. The thing for these fifty men to do is to hold their caucuses and nominate their candidates for senator and printer and introduce their measures as if they were in the majority. That is the only way to put the opposition on record, to place the responsibility where it belongs, and to maintain intact a fighting organization. The Republican party of Kansas has had enough of concession and conciliation. It has conceded and conciliated itself nearly off the face of the earth. The thing for it to do now is to fight. It has won many victories fighting; it never won anything running away.

The Republican party is against free silver; it is against free trade; it is against free riot; it is against socialism, under whatever guise it comes. There lies its line of battle, and there it must win or lose the fight.

Stand by the guns!—Lula Register.

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