

POLITICAL parties are the instruments and only agencies through which, in a popular government like ours, the people settle political issues. This is a fact which no one will attempt to deny. It must also be conceded that there are now public issues that must be settled. These issues are now forcing the farmers and all honest people to inquire whether or not the constitution and make-up of the Democratic and Republican parties are adapted to the special function of handling the living issues of the present time. Did the Democratic party or the Republican party come into existence on the living issues of to-day? History tells us no. Go back 25 or 30 years over the political history of the affairs of this nation and you will see that both the old parties contracted what is now in their political constitution and make-up, namely the interests of the powers of Wall street, rum and the combinations of corruption. These are the powers in this country that are now choking the moral, social and financial life out of the body politic and the people. Hence the Democratic party can only be the Democratic party and the Republican party can only be the Republican party. Both parties have constitutions antagonistic to the laboring masses of American citizens. Neither the Republican or Democratic party can execute a new function without a change of their political natures, and a change of their natures would destroy them. Thus we see the great necessity of all friends of good government, honesty and justice, to come together and unite in a national political party that has a political constitution that is antagonistic to all the powers that are enemies to the interests of the laboring masses in any shape or form.

SENATOR JONES, in his silver speech, used language which rings with eloquence and truth. He said:

"Who are the debtors in this country? They are the aspiring, the hopeful, the energetic, the ambitious; they are the upbuilders, the designers, the men of initiative, of executive power, and of achievement. They are the constructive force in every community. As probably nine-tenths of the business of America depends in one form or another on credit, any system which makes the dollars of a debt more valuable at the date of payment than at the date of borrowing is a system of robbery. Macchiavelli, describing a certain period in the history of Italy, said of it: 'The people perished, but the brigands thrived.' The old brigandage was enforced by guns and pistols, the modern brigandage with bonds and mortgages."—Iowa Tribune.

A LARGE and enthusiastic meeting of Knights and farmers was held in Fort Scott on the 14th, when it was resolved to hold a convention in Ottawa, on the 18th of July, for the purpose of nominating Mr. Funston's successor. Never since war times have the farmers been stirred as now. Notwithstanding this is the busy season for farmers, Grand Army hall was filled to overflowing with Bourbon county farmers and Knights of Labor. The sentiment was almost unanimous in favor of separate political action. All the counties comprising the Second congressional district were represented and from each county, with the exception of Douglas, was heard the most cheering reports of this great uprising of the people.

ORGANIZE and stand together.

SEND in items of the doings of the F. M. B. A. and Alliance.

FARMERS, you can help to make the AGITATOR interesting. Send in short letters or items.

EDWIN SNYDER, representative of the Kansas Farmers' Alliance, has promised us a resume of the weekly market of Kansas City. This will be a valuable addition to the AGITATOR.

WHY, it seems that old man Funston is now so badly divided on tariff that he favors free trade and high protection—free trade to catch votes, and high protection to catch votes.

Hew Ade Reynolds, of the Sedaw Times-Journal, does hate the Farmers' Alliance and other kindred organizations! The fact is, a large majority of Republican editors are in the same boat. We are glad to note, however, that there are a few who are sensible enough to believe that a farmer is a citizen, and has the right to think and act as he pleases.

THE English syndicate bought up the big breweries at St. Louis, promising to employ the former owners at big salaries. After the deal was completed and the papers signed, the syndicate says to the former owners, "We don't want you—just step down and out." And now the fellows who sold their breweries are mad, and swear they will build a great big brewery that will knock the stuffin' out of all the English syndicate's breweries. Let 'em fight—its all in the family.

WE have heard from one of Funston's fourth-class postmasters who says the AGITATOR is just started for the purpose of hurting the Republican party, and of course it would soon play out. Now Mr. postmaster, the AGITATOR has started out in the interest of good government and humanity, and if the administration of the Republican and Democratic parties are not the mediums through which the powers of Shylock and corruption have obtained the legislation that has got the farmers and laborers of this country in the soup, then you needn't be so greatly alarmed about the dear old party getting hurt. And as for the AGITATOR, the present prospects for its playing out soon are not good by a long shot. Are there any other remarks from some other fourth-class postmaster?

FARMERS, read up on the old party collar and you will read the history of the beginning of the present state of affairs that the bosses are now so extremely willing to try to explain. Why, even some of the old party ex-office holders and office seekers are willing to join the F. M. B. A. just to try to explain the causes of the present state of affairs, etc. One will say overproduction; another says want of a home demand; another says no foreign demand; another says overproduction in Europe; another says there is plenty of money if the farmer only had something to sell; another will say, if we just have a good crop next year the country will boom—but by all means keep out of politics—your farmers must be non-political. Ingalls, Funston and their brood are extremely anxious that the farmers keep out of politics.

It is amusing to see the old party papers squirming, kicking, crying and making wry faces over the organization of a People's party. The Garnett R-P. has the severest attack of the belly-ache over the matter of any paper we have seen. It is trying to make this new party out as a mysterious secret clan of red-handed banditti, ready for murder and plunder. We imagine the little "editor" of that paper is so worked up over his own diseased imagination of this terrible monster (?) that he can't sleep at night. Poor little fellow! But he can't scare the people with that kind of stuffed club again so soon. He should remember that that kind of a racket was worked by the Republican bosses in '88; but the people found out the facts about the damnable scheme, and they won't be so easily fooled again. Another hellish Coffeyville dynamite plot won't work.

SENATOR PLUMB has come to the conclusion that the tariff question should be viewed from a business standpoint, and he, for one, will look at it in an independent, impassioned, non-partisan way, and proposes to throw off sentimental party ties whenever they hinder the expression of his best judgment. The Topeka Capital takes the same view of the case, and believes that we, as a nation, are tending toward free trade. But there's a lot of fool Republicans who will continue to make the matter a party issue to the exclusion of matters of real importance to the people. Their sole idea is to throw dust in the eyes of the people, to keep them from seeing the true, live issues of the day.

WE chanced to meet a commission man of Kansas City in the city the other day, and in speaking of an extra nice lot of cattle owned by one of our farmers and which he had attempted to buy, he said that he had offered the farmer more than market price and had failed to make a purchase. "That man will lose money on his cattle for I will see that the market is fixed, for him when he wants to sell," he said. And we understand that his words have been verified. The cattle, an exceptionally fine lot, were shipped the other day and evidently the market was "fixed," as we are informed that several hundred dollars were lost to the man who owned the stock, and in all probability was the result of a combination against him, worked by the man who failed to buy the stock. This is a fair sample of the work of combinations and pools with which the country abounds. Thus one man can control the market and rob the stock-raiser of hundreds of dollars. It would seem that the time is at hand when such work would be regulated by law to the benefit of those who honestly feel the need of the protection of our laws. Different laws will not be enacted until the farmers and laborers and all good honest citizens get together as one man in an honest party and vote for honest men to enact laws that will protect the interests of agriculture, labor and every home in the land.—Ex.

"As soon as you read this paper, hand it to some neighbor, have him read it and hand it to another neighbor, and keep the ball a-rolling.

THE Farmers' Alliance and Knights of Labor of South Dakota, at a three days' conference at Huron, S. D., last week, decided by a vote of 418 to 83 to organize a new political party. The young hopeful was named the "Independent Party."

A platform was adopted which included the state and national declaration of principles of the Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union and Knights of Labor, and demands:

First—Currency to be issued by the general government to be full legal tender, to increase in volume with the increase of business, and to be issued directly to productive industries, without the intervention of banks of issue.

Second—We demand railway transportation, telegraph and telephone service at actual cost; and that the government shall own and operate the same.

Third—We demand the adoption of an absolutely secret voting system, both state and national.

Fourth—We demand the free and unlimited coinage of silver.

Fifth—We demand the most rigid economy consistent with the safety of our state and nation in the administration of every branch of our government.

Sixth—We demand the passage of laws prohibiting the alien ownership of land, and that congress take steps to obtain lands owned by aliens and foreign syndicates, and that the lands now held by corporations in excess of such as is actually used and needed by them be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only.

The committee on manifesto reported an address to the people of South Dakota, setting forth the grievances and demands of the new party, the motto of which shall be: "In the spirit of love and justice the people rule."

A state convention for the nomination of a ticket was called to meet at Huron on July 9th.—Beacon.

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