

CAN THE POPULIST PARTY BE REJUVINATED

The recent call issued by the members of the Populist party for a state convention to be held June 18th, with a view of electing delegates to its national convention, which will be held in Springfield, Ill., July Fourth, calls to mind the part played by the Populists in this state but a few years ago. That the reader may become more familiar with the subject which is herein briefly discussed a cut representing the former Populist leaders of the 1895 legislature is herewith printed.

this country and sooner or later sweep the entire West, but only a wreck of that once great party is now to be found in this and other states, hence its convention will be poorly attended.

The Populist party did, however, come to the front in 1896 and would of itself have overthrown the Republican party, but a few Democratic politicians joined their ranks apparently for the express purpose of wrecking it, and they succeeded in having it be-

and that it sleeps the sleep that knoweth no waking is feared by even the callers of this convention.

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Referring back to the personnel of the portraits in the above group it is rather remarkable that though all of them were prominent in the political affairs of this state from 1894 to 1898, yet they have all dropped out and have been relegated to the political state of "inocuous desuetude." Some one or two of them are dead, but the



Populist Members of Washington State Legislature in 1895.

The above portraits represent the men who represented the Populist party of this state in the legislature of 1895, who voted to the last ditch for John R. Rogers for United States senator, who was himself a member of the legislature and was the acknowledged leader of the Populist party on the floor of the house of representatives. It was then that the Populist party gave strong evidence of becoming one of the prominent parties of

come a part of the great Democratic party under what was known at that time as the "Free Silver Fusion Movement," and thereby accomplished their aims. The "Fusion" party lasted through 1896 and the campaign of 1898, but lost out immediately thereafter and the Democratic party succeeded it, which was a death blow to Populism. Since that time its leaders have been unable to put a state or even county ticket in the field,

rank and file are still living in the respective districts from whence they were once elected wholly indifferent as to the good of the country.

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John R. Rogers, who was the candidate for United States senator in 1895, was subsequently elected governor of this state. Four years later he was re-elected, being the

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