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## PLEDGES INVIOULATE.

### A PARTY RECORD THAT SHOULD INSPIRE EVERY POPULIST WITH COURAGE.

These Words Appeal to Loyalty and Common Sense, Not to Prejudice—Address of the People's Party State Central Committee.

To the People of Kansas:

As representatives of the People's party of this state we deem it proper at this time to address you with a brief review of the political situation from a Populist standpoint, and in this manner call attention to the position our party has occupied in the past, its present attitude and its future prospects, aims and intentions.

Being without the support of any daily paper having an extensive circulation among the people of the state, our party is deprived of the usual means of presenting its views to the public and is therefore compelled to resort to other means of reaching the masses and commanding their attention.

Since the party we have the honor to represent promulgated its platform of principles, many events have transpired in our state and nation, which, in our judgment, warrant an expression from the committee, to the end that the people may know the true position occupied by our party, and may be able to judge it correctly; and while this committee realizes that it is acting without instructions from the membership of the party, it feels competent to give a fair expression of the views entertained and the principles advocated and supported by the party and believes that the time is opportune for such an expression. With this apology for addressing the public at this time we would call attention to the political events of the past two years and the recent political situation and ask all fair-minded people to answer the question, which of the three prominent political parties of to-day has made true predictions as to the effect of the success of either and the probable result of a continuation of certain policies.

The People's party entered the campaign of 1892 upon a declaration of principles which in strong terms outlined the condition of our country and demanded legislation that in its judgment would remedy the evils that afflicted us.

Kansas was made the ground upon which the new party was to fight its most effective battle and by reason of this fact it was assailed on every hand, its leaders and representatives were denounced as thieves, demagogues, rascals and anarchists, its portrayal of the deplorable condition of the people declared

to be a tissue of falsehoods, its predictions as to future results of a continuation of the then existing financial policy and its proposed remedies were declared to be the vaporings of visionary theorists, malcontents and political imbeciles.

The party was charged with being composed of bankrupts and repudiators and it was claimed capital and capitalists were leaving the state as a result of the existence of our party. Voters were appealed to and urged not to bring disaster upon the state by placing this party in power. No argument was presented to meet the claims of the new party, but the opposition entrenched in state and federal positions, fortified with the support of all leading daily papers that circulated in our state and supported by the corporations, feeling secure in its position, resorted to vilification, misrepresentations and abuse instead of argument. Daily reports of alleged desertions from our ranks were circulated through their papers, the immense audiences which greeted our speakers everywhere were reported as dismal failures, while much smaller meetings of their party were reported as "mighty throngs."

Here and there an individual was found who could be persuaded, bulldozed, or bought into deserting the party, and each case of this character was heralded to the world as evidence that the People's party was "falling to pieces," and desertions by scores, by hundreds and by thousands were reported for each such case, and, finally every absent voter who would return to the state and vote the republican ticket was furnished free transportation for the round trip. Many men who had removed from the state with their families years ago returned on free passes and voted the republican ticket. In this manner no less than 15,000 votes were added to the opposition, a large portion of which were fraudulent and illegal. Loan agents also contributed their share by refusing to renew farm loans for Populists without first extorting from them a pledge of their support for the republican ticket. But notwithstanding this terrific opposition, the new party was successful and the party that had held undisputed sway for over thirty years was dethroned, and the epitaph should then have been written, "weighed in the balance and found wanting." But there was yet a chance to turn defeat into partial victory. It was discovered that the legislature (the lower house) would be very close and there was yet a ray of hope. Discarded by the people who once were proud of the privilege of voting their ticket and of being counted as one of an 82,000 majority, repudiated at the ballot box in the state and nation, yet goaded to desperation by the loss of the "loaves and fishes," this once grand party coolly

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## CHEAP RAW MATERIAL

Used in the Manufacture of Supreme Court Court Judges—A Scathing Criticism.

Special Correspondence.

Time was when the civilized world believed the king could do no wrong. That superstition died, but its undeveloped ghost had not had enough of earth life; it hung around until it got the chance to reincarnate in our United States belief that our supreme court is immaculate.

Sixty-five million American citizens will some day break the hypnotic spell which has so long enthralled them, and they will see that the nine superannuated lawyers trigged out in black Mother Hubbard gowns have nothing supernatural about them.

Some day men will not speak with bated breath of a "decision of the supreme court," exactly as the man of long ago with upturned, reverent faces said "It is the king's will." And when that good day shall come when men shall clearly see that in a true republic "our populus" should be the supreme court of appeal. Then they will look back to Grover Cleveland and see that they have him to thank for a large share of their disillusion. Thanks be to Grover, who never dreamed of advancing human progress or anything else except the money speculators and his own private fortune, he has let much light upon the manner in which these begowned oracles of the supreme court are manufactured.

Mr. Cleveland has not only succeeded in making the presidential office a questionable honor, but he is now striving to make the supreme bench a perch of less dizzy altitude. First, he tried Mr. Hornblower, a third rate New York lawyer, whose chief merit lay in the fact that he had rendered some personal service during Mr. Cleveland's lawyer period in New York city, and the further fact that Mr. Hornblower was obnoxious to Senator Hill. There was much secret sessioning done by the senate over this supreme judge appointee, resulting in the defeat of the third rate lawyer, whereupon the president to revenge himself on Senator Hill for defeating Mr. Hornblower, vetoed the New York bridge bill, a measure which Senator Hill had championed.

Thus far the game between the White House and the United States senate was a draw. Then Grover dealt himself a new hand and flung another New York lawyer in Brother Hill's face. This man Peckham, they say, does not even size up with Hornblower as to ability, but that's not the point; once get him inside the Mother Hubbard and boost him on the supreme bench and the superstition of our day would regard a decision "handed down" by him and the eight other Mother Hubbards as second only to holy writ. The supreme

merit of Mr. Peckham, in the eyes of the president, lies in the fact that he hates Senator Hill. Mr. Peckham once said that Hill was "a reptile in politics." Ergo, the lawyer is supremely fit to become a member of the last and highest court of appeal in this great nation of ours.

Now, if such high-souled business as this does not let in a little light upon the occult method by which a tricky limb of the law may be hocus-focussed into a being fit to arbitrate for several millions of American citizens, then I am no good guesser.

The thing which chiefly interested me in the Hornblower contest was the fact that Senator Martin voted for his confirmation. It was, among the democrats in the senate, a straight fight among the administration and anti administration forces. Brother Martin's name on the president's side smacked of pie. Grover can be depended upon now to do his part in the way of patronage for the democratic senator from Kansas.

Let no one hope that the good action of the house in the way of abolishing bounties and duties, and possibly passing an income tax bill will be sufficiently ablebodied to become actual law and be turned loose upon the people. The senate can be depended upon to claw over and chew up everything done in the house.

It is more than glorious to note the rapid spread of Populist ideas here in Washington. It does my soul good to know that even Cleveland and his creature, Carlisle, are aware that the people are catching on to their villainous schemes to concoct a money system purely in the interest of money loaners.

Yes, even dull Cleveland and his man Carlisle have discovered that they have pressed the people a little too sorely, and law-defying as they are, they are troubled.

The chief talk in the lobbies, in the hotels, and everywhere is of Carlisle's bond issue—is it legal or not? That is the question men are anxiously debating, and nine out of ten of the congressman privately question the legality.

My delight over Mr. Cleveland's demolition of his party is tempered by my pity for his congressional supporters. Poor fellows, what hard lines for them.

Senator Allen will be chief counsel in the injunction suit which Master Workman Sovereign will bring.

What a lovely boomerang Mr. Carlisle started. The country will know more about the whole bond scheme before this case is done with.

ANNIE L. DISON.

Washington, January 27.

The thirteenth annual encampment of the G. A. R. will be held at Newton, February 20.