

believe in its sincerity.

The utterances of the party platforms and the acts of the party leaders cannot be harmonized. In fact, I do not see any reason for the continued existence of the party under these conditions, because the republican party has a prior right to this policy, and is better prepared to advocate and support it.

Mr. Editor, there should be more patriotism and less partisanship in politics. Since attaining my majority, I have followed the democratic party, but I shall follow it no farther. I am not leaving it; it has left me. The democratic platform of 1892 is good doctrine to-day, and I am still in favor of a low tariff that will lead to ultimate free trade; free silver coinage, at the ratio of 16 to 1; an income-tax, and government legal-tender paper currency to replace national-bank notes. This being my political creed or principle, I think I can best serve it by voting the People's party ticket in the coming election. Respectfully,

F. W. FRASIER.

E. B. WHALEY.

Hon. John W. Breidenbach:

DEAR SIR—The duties of citizenship demand a careful consideration of all public questions, and the attitude of the several parties towards the same, that the right of franchise be exercised for the best interest of humanity.

The practices as well as the promises of political parties should also be well considered by the voter before he places himself in line with any party.

The above requirements I have endeavored to meet, and the conclusion reached by me is, that I cannot remain with the republican party.

It is with feelings of regret that I am compelled to make this decision, for it severs political associations of [eighteen years' standing.

My reasons for this change are as follows:

The practices of the leaders of the party in the past were the cause of much complaint in its own ranks, and the tendency seemed to be rather to aggravate than to remove the cause; the centralization of power into the hands of a few selfish and unscrupulous men who have been manipulating its affairs for years; the entire absence of courage and conscience in the last convention; and the subverting of public interest to railroad interest.

My position on the executive committee of the republican party and in the state auditor's office gave me opportunities for observation and investigation of which I availed myself.

The enormous republican majority of 1888 was swept away in the election of 1890, but the Buchan committee's unscrupulous methods seated L. U. Humphrey again in the governor's chair.

The revolt by and demands of the people were alike unheeded by the republicans in the senate that year, in refusing to pass the redemption, chattel-mortgage, and maximum-freight bills.

During the campaign of 1892, the revolt was fully as strong. In Shawnee county it was aggravated by the use of a large amount of railroad money to renominate a candidate for district judge.

Governor Humphrey's action in appointing the late B. W. Perkins as Preston B. Plumb's successor, at the dictation of the general attorney of the leading railroad of the state; in using the governor's contingent fund to pay the expenses of Lew Hanback in putting up delegations for his (Humphrey's) nomination for congress in the Third district; in hiring at the request of a railroad lobbyist a supposed-to-be anti-railroad lawyer to make up the case of

the people against the Kansas Central railroad. The action of the republican board of railroad commissioners in giving \$500,000 in return for \$25,000 to the railroads. The action of the republican can school fund commissioners in purchasing \$125,000 of western county bonds and paying par for same to the railroads at the request of a railroad lobbyist, when the same could not be sold for more than 10 cents on the dollar in the Eastern market.

In 1892 the election returns showed a deplorable state of affairs for the republican ticket, and the methods of the Buchan committee were advocated. I was asked how many votes Shawnee county would furnish to make up the deficiency, and replied that Shawnee county could not go into that kind of business. A telegram was sent to a committeeman in the northeast corner of the state asking how many votes his county would furnish to make up the deficiency, and he replied that he would furnish his share.

That man is now a prominent manager of this republican campaign.

The plan was dropped, and the chairman was cursed for his lack of courage to carry it out.

When it was discovered that the populists had elected the governor and a majority of the senate, and that the house was very close, the scheming commenced to at least save the house. The railroads were determined that the maximum freight bill should not be passed. The scheme was to place the name of the republican candidate or contestant, in all cases of tie, in the hands of the drawee, and not in the hat, so that the drawing would result in a sure thing for the republicans; later, to secure a deadlock in the house, and submit a case to the supreme court. These delays, it was presumed, would exhaust the time of the session, so that all railroad legislation would be defeated, which they did.

The legislature of 1893 decided to submit the suffrage amendment to the people in the election of 1894.

The republicans, in convention assembled, lacked the necessary courage to indorse the republican house. They also demonstrated a lack of conscience in the defeat of all the prominent leaders in the legislative war.

Their platform is a makeshift, and does not shed a ray of light upon the issues of the hour. The selection of the candidates and committeemen demonstrates that the machine is to grind the same old grit, and that the same old lubricating oil will be used to run it.

Believing that the People's party platform and candidates embody most nearly my ideas, of all the parties now in the field, I shall give them my vote and hearty support. Yours truly,

Topeka, July 10. E. B. WHALEY.

M. A. WILSON.

J. W. Morphy, Topeka, Kas.:

MY DEAR SIR—I am in receipt of your inquiry of recent date, asking my reasons for leaving the republican and joining the Populist party. Will say, in taking this step, I do it believing that it is the right thing to do. I am just as good a republican as ever, and I honor and revere the old republican party for innumerable good measures and good laws passed by them. But of late years it seems to me a new and altogether different party, styling themselves republicans, have sprung into existence, and by virtue of the money power behind them, retain a miraculous grip on the name republican. I am led to believe, from their actions, that the leaders in both old parties have combined with the monied powers of the earth, as

against the common people, and I believe it so strongly that if I indorsed each and every plank in the republican platforms, and only indorsed one plank in the Populist platform, I would be constrained to vote the Pop. ticket, for I have not the least hope of a congress composed of the two old parties, or either of them, ever again passing a good and wholesome measure that will benefit the common people. I, however, believe the masses of the republican party mean right. But the masses are the minority when it comes to passing laws. I am in favor of free and unlimited coinage of silver, 16 to 1. So were our three republican congressmen, last winter. But what could they do, battling against the powers.

I was at the Minneapolis convention and heard that platform discussed and adopted, and the plank in it referring to the coinage of silver is only a forerunner of that part of that meaningless plank relating to silver in the republican platform recently adopted at Topeka, which is susceptible of any construction that would fit a legislative enactment favoring the money lender. In short, I consider the Minneapolis, Chicago and Topeka platforms regarding the coinage of silver very weak, cowardly documents, framed expressly for the purpose of misleading the voter. I consider Sherman, Quay and others in congress the prime leaders in the republican ranks, and working hand in hand with Grover Cleveland and those democrats who I believe are in harmony with the Wall street element, backed up by the Bank of England. The reason I think that, is their actions in keeping the circulating medium scarce, thereby keeping rates of interest high, and prices of commodities raised by the producing classes low.

I believe in the kind of republican doctrine advocated and practiced by Lincoln, Logan, Garfield, Stewart, Plumb and these representatives of the common people. I am the kind of a democrat (relative to the money question) that Stone, Bland, and other democrats of like kind, are.

I have various other reasons for affiliating with the Populist party, but for fear I become too lengthy, will close for the present. Yours truly,

M. A. WILSON.

Atwood, Kas., July 11.

Two Picnics.

EDITOR ADVOCATE:—It was my pleasure to attend two picnics last week—one three miles south of Belleville, Republic county. This one was held by the county Alliance, and was a very pleasant affair. There was not as large a crowd as expected, but some 700 people were together, bringing with them well-filled baskets. After all had partaken of the contents of the aforementioned baskets, J. W. Amis, candidate for secretary of state, was introduced, and for two hours he spoke on the questions of the day. Mr. Amis is a pleasant and logical speaker. Those who will have the pleasure of hearing him this fall will conclude that the state convention made no mistake in nominating this eloquent young Kentuckian. At the close of his speech, Mr. Miller, county lecturer of the Alliance, gave a fair talk on the land question, after which "The ADVOCATE" man spoke for about thirty minutes. Much credit is due the officials of the county Alliance and Mr. Boyd, editor of the Freeman, for the success of this meeting.

After spending a pleasant Sunday with H. H. Young, one of the truest Populists of Cloud county, I went to Washington, Washington county, where Dr.

Smith, chairman of the county central committee, ably assisted by the county secretary and other good workers, had made all arrangements for one of the grandest rallies ever held in that county. On Monday afternoon the doctor very kindly showed us over the city. Have been in almost every county seat in Kansas and must say of a truth that Washington seems to be one of the very nicest towns in the state. While we were expecting a good crowd at the picnic on Tuesday, such an outpouring of the people was not expected. Early Tuesday morning you could see the trains wending their way to Sprengle's beautiful park. They came from the land of Kimee, from the hills of Clifton, from the valleys of Hollenberg, from the plains of De Witt, from the banks of Mill creek and from the forests around Barnes. The Haddamites came by hundreds, while from the land of Hanover came thousands more, and the sons and daughters of Morrow clasped glad hands with the sires and matrons of Linn. In fact, from every school district in the county a host of yeomanry came up to hear the political gospel of more money and less taxes as promulgated by the Populist party. They came to see, to hear, and to shake hands with the present and next governor of Kansas, L. D. Leavelle, the poor man's friend and brother. Before dinner, Hon. Andrew Shearer, the Scotch orator, of Marshall county, was given a fine hearing, and a telling speech he made, too. In the afternoon, Governor Leavelle and Superintendent Gaines held that vast crowd of nearly if not more than 5,000 people, by the power of their eloquence and logic, for nearly four solid hours. There is no doubt but what their speeches made many converts to the cause of the people. A large crowd remained for the evening meeting, which was addressed again by Mr. Shearer and "The ADVOCATE."

O. W. HENDER.

Public Speaking.

AMBER L. DICKS.

July 27 to 31—Phillips county.
August 2—Osage county, four miles north of Soranton.
August 6—Pratt.

R. S. OSBORN.

July 28—Hawatha.
August 1—Smith Center.
" 2—Norton.
" 3—Colby.
" 4—Goodland.
" 6—St. Francis.
" 7—Atwood.
" 8—Oberlin.
" 9—Hoxie.
" 10—Hill City.
" 11—Natomas.

GOVERNOR LEWELLING.

July 25—Hutchinson.
August 1—Syracuse, 1:30 p. m.
" 2—Johnson City, 1:30 p. m.
" 3—Ulysses, 1:30 p. m.
" 4—Garden City, 1:30 p. m.
" 4—Dodge City, 8 p. m.
" 6—Pratt, 1:30 p. m.
" 7—Greensburg, 1:30 p. m.
" 8—St. John, 1:30 p. m.
" 9—Kinley, 1:30 p. m.
" 10—Larned, 1:30 p. m.
" 11—Elmwood, 1:30 p. m.
" 14—McPherson, 1:30 p. m.
" 15—Lyons, 1:30 p. m.
" 16—Lacross, 1:30 p. m.
" 17—New City, 1:30 p. m.
" 18—Dighton, 1:30 p. m.
" 20—Leoti, 1:30 p. m.
" 20—Tribune, 8 p. m.
" 21—Sharon Springs, 1:30 p. m.
" 21—Winona, 8 p. m.
" 22—Oakley, 1:30 p. m.
" 22—Grainfield, 8 p. m.
" 23—Hays City, 1:30 p. m.
" 23—Ellis, 8 p. m.
" 24—Russell, 1:30 p. m.
" 25—Ellsworth, 1:30 p. m.
" 25—Wilson, 8 p. m.

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