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People's Party Platform.

1. We demand a national currency, safe, sound and flexible, issued by the general government only, a full legal tender for all debt public and private, and that without the use of banking corporations; a just, equitable and efficient means of distribution, direct to the people, at a tax not exceeding 2 per cent, be provided, as set forth in the sub-treasury plan of the Farmers' Alliance, or some better system also by payments in discharge of its obligations for public improvements.

a. We demand free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1.

b. We demand that the amount of circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than \$50 per capita.

c. We demand a graduated income tax.

d. We believe that the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and hence we demand that all State and national revenue shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government, economically and honestly administered.

e. We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people and to facilitate exchange.

2. Transportation being a means of exchange and public necessity, the government should own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people.

a. The telegraph and telephone, like the post office system, being a necessity for the transportation of news, should be owned and operated by the government in the interest of the people.

3. The land, including all the national resources of wealth, is the heritage of all the people, and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes, and alien ownership of land should be prohibited. All land now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs, and all lands now owned by aliens, should be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only.

WE ARE JUSTIFIED.

The Organization of the People's Party a Necessity.

From a philosophical standpoint we may regard tyranny in all ages, and in all countries as a necessary precursor to freedom, liberty and happiness, and we might further add, that there is no exception in any age or any clime, in which tyranny and oppression coupled with an absolute refusal of relief has failed to arouse the people from that state of lethargy that invariably permits the alert despoiler to entrap them in his coils. We have no better object lesson to draw from than to look back upon the comparatively little band of pilgrims that fled from the immediate presence and domination of a despotic king, to the barren, rugged shores of a wild America, braving the dangers of wild savages and beasts, rather than submit to the tyranny of a monster in the shape of a monarch little thinking the greedy monster would extend his powerful hand of oppression across

the mighty deep, to rob them of the fruits of their labor, made more precious to them and their families by the dangers they faced in procuring them. But while these plans for plunder were being laid by King George, the colonists were busy in clearing lands, building homes, schools and churches, and their anticipated happiness in a free country, all their own, only beguiled them into a lethargy that prevented all apprehensions of evil from the King, of then the most powerful country in the world. Yet, during the apathy that was the result of this happiness and hopefulness, there was looming up from behind the political horizon of this infant country, the darkest of those clouds that always portend a terrible epoch for that nation over which they hover. When those sturdy yeomen awoke to a full realization of their condition, they found that their supposed friend was their enemy, and had well laid his plans to despoil them of their labors by the ruthless hand of oppression, (*unjust taxation*). They then began to plead in a tone of humble supplication to be exempted from this oppressive burden, but alas! all in vain. Young America was getting a taste of liberty, it must be *subdued*. Those old patriots then for the first time saw that there was something for them to do, the dark and murky cloud that hovered over and threatened their liberty, was momentarily growing in darkness and density, and the terrific thunder it portended was to settle the freedom or English domination of America. All questions of tyranny being settled alone by the sword or ballot, and our American heroes having no ballot, there was but the one course to pursue, and they were not long in deciding to fight, (hon or be to their names). As a result of the declaration of American independence was made on the 4th day July, 1776, and was the first and grandest paper of that nature ever originated. This brings us to a period in our history that opens a bloody war of seven years, in which the weak contended for right against the strong, contending for spoils and might. God, as always, was with the right, and it won.

We will, for the purpose of this discussion leave the intervening time to the investigations of our readers, and take a leap down the pathway of time to a period that finds this country in the throes of another civil war, the generalities of which it is not our purpose to discuss here, nor now. But we will notice such features as may be connected with our subject, i. e. the necessity for, and the rise and progress of the People's Party. When a country has to pay, maintain and equip a great army, a vast amount of money is of necessity required, and during the last war, as in all others, gold and silver hid out or was hoarded by money kings with the view of forcing heavy interest from the government for its use. This, of course, was attempted with Abraham Lincoln, who cut the matter short by instructing Congress to issue legal tender United States treasury notes, (or greenbacks) which Congress did to the amount of about one billion, eight hundred million dollars. This money carried the United States safely through the war, and was left in circulation after the war, when there was about thirty million inhabitants. It was performing the functions of money—that of exchanging the title of produce from one man to another by representative value, and there being a great volume of money, produce brought good prices, and every one who was old enough in 1865, and a few years following, knows that the country was in the greatest prosperity. The men had re-

tured home from four years service in a cruel war, and not withstanding the fact that many of them found their homes gone to destruction and their fortunes wrecked, they found a large volume of floating currency, and labor in demand at good wages, and it was but a few years till the horrors of the war were supplanted by the rejoicings over immediate prosperity, with nothing to mar their happiness, except the ever sacred memory of some dear one lost in the cause of his country. There were but three millionaires and no tramps, but everybody prosperous and happy, what a beautiful picture. Almost too beautiful to behold, when we contemplate that it emanated from the war. But why linger to contemplate these prosperous times when their very existence produced that apathy that always endangers the liberty of the people, and while the people were basking in the sun shine of prosperity and happiness, the vile schemer and conspirator was at work to undermine that American liberty which had been so dearly purchased. Chattel slavery had been abolished and wage slavery must be established, and this could only be done by controlling the volume of money, thereby fixing the price of and controlling wages and all other produce. The great volume of money that existed as a consequence of the war, and which was the source of such unbounded prosperity could not be controlled, therefore it must be destroyed, and all but \$346,000,000 was called in, bonds bearing 7 per cent interest in gold issued therefor and the money burnt. (It would make this article too long to specially detail the manner in which this money was called in and destroyed, but we will say that it forms the blackest page in American history, and would advise our readers to study it) this money was destroyed by virtue of an act of Congress in which 53 Republicans voted for it, and 53 voted against it; 28 Democrats voted for, and one voted against it. Thus it is to be seen that the Democrats could have saved us if they would.

There are other things that could be mentioned, and which contributed to the distress that has followed, but we can not mention them here, but suffice it to say, that as Lincoln predicted gigantic corporations were enthroned; the people's money destroyed; the issue and control of money was turned over to the national banks, by which they could absorb all the wealth of the laborer, by high rates of interest compounded, and also by controlling the volume of money controlled the price of produce and labor. The apathy of the people continued until wages were reduced below the cost of living. The price of produce was reduced below the cost of production. England had piled up a private and public indebtedness that all the wheat, oats, corn and cotton raised in the United States will not pay the annual interest on it. The people worked harder, economized more, and grew poorer and poorer. When sheer necessity forced them to do so, they began to look about them for the cause. Lo! and behold, they found in existence a worse state of affairs than confronted our forefathers, they found that England in collusion with the money power of the United States was demanding greater money tribute than ever England dared to allow; and as our forefathers, they set about seeking relief. They sent petitions aggregating over 300,000 names to both Democrat and Republican Congresses setting forth their demands, and asking that they or something better be enacted into a law for their (the people's) relief. They were ridiculed and

denounced as fools and cranks by the men they had elected to represent their interest. All of their views, no matter what, were called "visionary," "impractical" and "unconstitutional." They plead with their representatives in person, and met with the same result. The people of the South voting the Democratic ticket; the people of the North and West voting the Republican ticket, and all expecting the same result, but never deriving any benefit. In 1890, the first intimation of any independent political action was manifested, when all the labor organizations, including the Farmers Alliance met in convention at Ocala, Florida, formulated their principles into demands and pledged themselves to support the political party that would enact them into a law. These demands were presented to the Democratic national convention at Chicago, in 1892, and the Republican national convention at Cincinnati, in the same year. Again the people met with a direct repulse by both conventions. They were then left right where the heroes of the revolution found themselves with one glorious difference that we hold as a blessed heritage from our forefathers, (God bless their memories) that is the ballot, but the people in 1890 met another obstacle, and that was to get a man in the field to vote for, that was not bound body and soul to one of the old parties. How was this to be done? By independent political action through the organization of a distinct and separate political party and no other. The next step was to form that party, and on the 4th day of July, 1892, the representatives of the people met at Omaha, Neb., formulated and signed the second declaration of independence of the United States, and then and there the great and glorious People's party was born; it is no myth, but a substantial reality come to stay and to win, not the spoils of office, but the liberty of the people. It made the greatest record in 1892 that was ever made by any political party in the world, of its age. It carried twenty-two electoral votes, and over one million plurality; elected four United States Senators and eleven Congressmen, besides carrying several States. This is a fair account of the necessity for, and the origin of the People's party, and let us say that relief will come, and there are only two sources, one by the ballot and one by the bullet; the People's party want it by the ballot, will you join the party and help us, for relief can come through no other party, the people have tried that sufficiently. Our platform is published in this paper, read it. We are not ashamed of it.

To the Voters of the Fourth Congressional District.

Friends: Another election day is about to dawn on us, and we are to exercise that blood-bought right of American citizens—the use of the ballot, in choosing a representative in the national legislature who shall be called upon to act for the people of this district, and represent their views on all pending questions of national government.

Believing that the time is at hand when it behooves men who have an interest in the welfare of their country to get together into one party and to work for the welfare of those dependent on them, we beseech you to consider well the matters we present to you in this address. For many years the only issue between the people of the South has been, which race shall control the affairs of state, the colored or the caucasian? That question has long since been settled, but while the attention of the people of the south has been directed

to the danger of negro dominance, and that of the people of the north to the possibility of the dominance of the Confederate Brigadier, there has grown up a moneyed power through combinations of capital and aggregation of speculative interest, that threatens to enthrone a power more detrimental to the southern people than carpet-bag government, and more injurious to the northern and western producer than the much feared Confederate Brigadier power. While the eyes of the people have been watching their imaginary enemies, the traitors in both sections have banded themselves together to deliver over to the money power every vestige of the wealth that can be stripped from the people through corporate taxation, usury, speculation, tariff and currency contraction. Through excessive railroad tariffs the cream of the farmer's products is taken for transporting the balance. Through the national bank monopoly, usury has put its clutches on the homes and farms of the people. Through speculation the products of the farms are sold, and their prices fixed before the farmer has the seed in the ground. Through currency contraction, the cost of money is carried so high that the products of labor do not bring half the price they should, and thereby the debtors of our nation are robbed by bad methods for the benefit of creditors.

All these evils are matters subject for legislation, and it is the duty of the voter who has any interest in the welfare of the people to do all in his power to rectify these matters, by casting his vote for a man or party pledged to labor for the abolition of the evils that we have pointed out. The People's party stands pledged to work to reform the abuses that we have named, and we point with pride to the good work done by the members of the People's party, who have made a record in the House and in the U. S. Senate. They have stood unflinchingly by the principles they were chosen to represent. How is it with the Democratic party or the Republicans. The abuses of power we most complain of were inaugurated during the time the Republicans had complete control of the government, but since the Democrats have had an influence they have made no effort to repeal the bad laws. Our people trusted them upon their pledges of reform, in case they were given a chance. They have failed to carry out a single important pledge. They promised us full and unlimited free coinage of silver, but gave us demonetization instead. They promised us more money through State banks of issue, but refused to remove the 10 per cent tax on State banks of issue. They promised to give us tariff reform—and some of their orators almost promised absolute free trade, but they gave us "Bill McKinley junior" instead, in fact they have given us to understand that the people are not the ones they are working for anyway, but for the corporations, such as the sugar trust, and the railroad corporations, as well as the manufacturers of the east. We ask you in all candor can you further go with a party that only asks your vote for the purpose of getting your consent to draw the salaries and work for the money power. Can you longer submit to having your vote endorse the broken pledges of a party you have served during all your manhood. The People's party on all the questions that the Democratic party in the past held in honor, is as solid as the rock of ages. It believes that intelligence, honor and manhood, should rule, and that the government is safe in such hands. It opposes national banks as did our Democratic forefathers.

It is in favor of home rule, and opposed to federal interference in elections, as well as strikes, where the State is competent. It opposes monopoly in all its forms, and believes that this government is controlled by it. It favors more money, less taxes, free silver and government banks of deposit. It opposes all banks of issue, except the government own and operate them in the interest of the people, the whole people, and the party asks you if you favor these reforms to come and vote with us, and cease to throw your vote away by voting with a party that does not regard its own platform or the pledges of its representatives on the rostrum. The Democratic party of the south can not be any more solid than it has been, but its solidity has not benefited the people. It is called on to furnish the votes that elect, but it is only the tail of the eastern Democratic dog—that must wag whenever the dog wills it. It is true that the President took some of his important appointments from the south, but whom did that benefit besides those who got the offices? It made cotton no higher; it put no more money in circulation; it made manufactured goods no lower.

In fact the people of the South now expect nothing from the democratic party of the East, but that the republicans of the East are identified with usury, manufacturing and the profits of commerce, and only a union of the West and South can bring as good times. We cannot expect the republicans of the West to turn democrat, nor can we expect the democrat of the South to take the name of its old enemy. So the people's or populist is formed into which all can freely go and make no surrender of principle or pride. We hope you will view your own condition and compare it with ten years ago and ask yourself "can I longer go in the way I have been going? Can I longer vote against my own interest simply to honor a name that has ceased to have a meaning in it. Can I longer afford to vote men into office who must work against my interest because the Eastern wing of the democratic party bids them do so.

We have named a man, Hon. B. W. Baily, as our standard bearer, whom we trust with our cause, and we ask you to help us to send him to join and work with a band of invincible patriots who have ever been found at their post of duty manfully battling for right and justice. We shall work and vote for him, believing that the crystallization of the demands upon which he so firmly stands, into law, will again bring happiness and prosperity to this people.

N. V. BUSH,
Chairman.

Abraham Lincoln's Awful Prophecy.

"I see in the near future a crisis arising which unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war corporations have been enthroned, and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working on the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the republic destroyed. I feel at this time more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war.

"God grant that my fears may prove groundless."

The LOUISIANA POPULIST is published at Natchitoches every Friday, is devoted to the education of the people upon the great economic issues of the day. Subscribe for it, only one dollar a year.