

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 also 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 benefitted the people. It is called on to furnish the votes that elect, but it is only the tail of the east ern 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 democrats of the South to take the name of its old enemy. So the People's party 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. Bailey, 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.

Wife Sold at Auction.

GUTHRIE, O. T., Aug. 28.—one of the most remarkable auctions on record took place six miles northeast of here. An erstwhile Cherokee strip boomer had become hard up and some days ago announced that he was going to sell his wife to the highest bidder. The sale came off Saturday. There were half a dozen bidders present, and as the woman was buxom and good looking bidding was spirited. A grass widower secured the prize, bidding \$100 in cash, a cow, a horse and a lot of household furniture. The woman seemed to be wholly unconcerned about the matter, and departed with the purchaser smiling after he had turned over the things in his bid. The strangely mated pair left for Texas in a covered wagon and everybody seems to be suited all round.

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The Farmer and Hard Times.

The farmer, like the rest of mankind does not find much money in his pockets just now, but he rarely hangs for food and never has to bear the burden of enforced idleness which is rendering his brother workman in the cities so desperate. There is no harder fate than to possess willing hands and find no honorable work to provide means for supplying an empty stomach. It demoralizes a human being. The hard times are forcing us to study these problems, and good will surely arise from seeming evil; besides the dawn of better days is plainly visible.—Lafayette, Lafayette, Ill.

"The hard times are forcing us to study these problems, and good will surely arise," but not through the Democratic party. There is no legitimate excuse for hard times in a country so blessed with natural advantages as this. Corporations are making money, but the people are not—proof positive that the corporations are absorbing the earnings and profits of the people. For thirty years the corporations have had legislation to suit themselves, and the people have been "lost in the shuffle." It has made no difference to the corporations which of these two old parties were in power. Politics, not patriotism, has ruled the country. The corporations have contributed the campaign funds and the politicians have stood by the corporations.

But "the farmers, like the rest of mankind, does not find much money in his pockets just now." No, notwithstanding he feeds the world. For years he has been selling his products at or below cost of production. He has had to buy machinery, keep up repairs, pay taxes, and pay two prices for about all he has had to buy. True, he is a little better off for virtuals than the man who is a day laborer out of employment half the time—but it is only a question of time when interest and taxes will drive him off the farm, and the chances are that after losing all he has, a judgment will follow him for the balance due Old Shylock on the mortgage, his possessions having been closed out at a sacrifice.

The time was when a farmer was well nigh independent, but that time has gone by. He gets now just what the corporations and trusts see fit to leave him, and that isn't enough to live on and keep up his taxes and interest, to say nothing of keeping up improvements.

The "farmer" who makes the most money these days is the "retired farmer" who got his start when farming was profitable, then moved to town and farmed the farmer who farmed his farm, be-

sides keeping both eyes open and loaning his surplus to his less fortunate neighbors and gobbling their possessions at a quarter their value.

Every town in the country has some of these "retired" farmers. No doubt friend Coulson of the LaHarper knows a few of them.—Free Trader.

Don't You Think Education Would be Beneficial!

On the 4th of July last one of the patriotic towns in the country advertised an old fashioned celebration, and the people were present from far and near. When the order of exercises were being gone through with a gentleman arose and commenced to recite the declaration of independence, he having committed it to memory. He had not proceeded far when an old party leader became indignant, arose and walked out of the audience, remarking, "I have heard enough of that d—d Populist rot" and protested in strong terms against politics being even referred to at a Fourth of July celebration. With such men as leaders in the old parties is it any wonder the labor of the country is being sold into wage-slavery as fast as monopoly can weave the laws asked by corporate power upon the statutes of the various states.—Searchlight, Michigan City, Ind.

An exchange claims to have overheard the following: "What is that mother?" "An editor, my son. Some folks seem to think he has gold by the ton; but listen my child, and don't give it away, he works like a horse for a dollar a day. He sets at his case until he wears out his eyes (and pants) then he tries writing copy to keep off the flies; in the summer 'tis flies, and in winter 'tis chills, and creditors cheerfully send in their bills. But alas! He is mortal this editor man, and goes the way of all built on his plan; he turns up his toes and is quickly forgot and goes to the place where delinquents are not."

It is said that when one of Mr. Ogden's constituents learned that coffee had been put on the "free list," he wrote his Congressman to please send him a barrel.—Progress.

The income tax is said to be a Populist measure. If so the poor people of this country owe the Populists a great deal.—Progress.

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