

THE WEEKLY POPULIST

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ADVERTISING RATES.

SPACE.	1 mo.	2 mo.	3 mo.	6 mo.	1 year.
1 inch	\$ 3.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 6.50	\$11.00	\$ 15.00
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5 inches	10.00	16.00	17.50	27.00	35.00
6 inches	11.50	18.00	19.00	30.00	40.00
7 inches	13.00	20.00	21.00	33.00	44.00
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1 column	40.00	50.00	55.00	85.00	100.00

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Editorial notices, first insertion, 15 cents per line; subsequent 10 cents per line.

Communications are solicited, but we will not be responsible for any views therein expressed.

Address all communications to the Business Manager. Communications must be sent in by Monday.

Communications intended for publication should be accompanied by the real as well as the assumed name of the author, not for publication but as an evidence of good faith on the part of the writer.

A failure to do so will consign them to the waste basket.

FRIDAY, December 14, 1894.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.

All defendants in judicial sales have the right to select the paper in which the advertisement is to be inserted, therefore we would ask our friends to give us a bid before advertising. The Populist is being run in the interest of humanity, and it is the duty of all men to support it. Also those who enter homesteads have a right to select their own paper for advertising. Don't fail to give us a call and we will treat you well.

The Knights of Labor, in session at New Orleans, passed a resolution, on the 23d, protesting against the issue of the \$50,000,000 bonds by the government, and characterizing the same as an unmitigated fraud and outrage upon the toiling masses, in flagrant violation of existing laws, and intended solely for the interest of the money powers and a bond-holding aristocracy.

Reuben F. Kolb was sworn in as Governor of Alabama, on last Saturday by a Notary Public in the presence of about 300 of his followers, who maintained the most quiet and orderly behavior; but the usurpers and ballot-box thieves, were so afraid of the righteous indignation of an outraged people that they thought it necessary to have the State militia present, which glorious, though expensive farce was indulged in galore.

Mr. Kolb's purpose in taking the oath of office, seems to be simply to sign the certificates of election of the Populist senator and congressmen, who have been counted out in that State. By so doing, congress will be forced to investigate Alabama methods of holding elections, which methods have become famous—or rather infamous.

For Farmers.

That's right, Mr. Farmer, just keep right on at your work; ask fewer questions; raise more hogs and less hell. Pay more for what you buy and get less for what you sell, but don't get frisky and go to asking questions. Don't refuse to keep up a lot of bloodsuckers in indulgence by your toil, nor to pay extortionate tariff rates, nor to keep your children out of school and your wife at work like a slave in order that these pimps of hell may feast and be merry, for to refuse would be to ruin your standing in the Democratic or Republican party and class you among the calamity herd. Yes, keep right on; you may yet be appointed postmaster at the X roads with an income of 13 to 26 cents a quarter. Toot the horn, carry the banner, old boy; the country desires and must have evidence that the fools are not all dead, and you are an exhibition as a witness.—Thorn-ton's Monitor.

Raise The Price Of Cotton.

More than seven millions of people in the United States are connected with the production of raw cotton, to say nothing of those interested in its manufacture and its transportation to and from the factories and its sale from the producer to the consumer.

We hear no complaint from the consumer that the price of manufactured cotton is too high, except when compared with the price of raw cotton by the producer himself, nor do we hear the manufacturers grumbling about the price of the manufactured product being too low, but we do hear one continuous wail from the producer of the raw material that the price of cotton is below the cost of production, and the justice of this complaint is now admitted by all professions and industries.

The manufacturer of cotton, himself the only consumer of the raw material and hence the only one legitimately interested in cheap cotton, is beginning to realize that the cotton producer under normal conditions is his best customer for manufactured cotton goods, and that the decline of cotton prices has cut off in exactly the same ratio the consumption of cotton goods and therefore that low prices are not the best even for the manufacturer.

Then if some inventive genius will discover the lever by which we can raise the price of cotton, his name will go down to posterity along side of, but more sacred than, Whitney, Fulton or Edison.

"Necessity is the mother of invention," however, and out of that source must come the powerful agency that shall bring the sunshine of prosperity and gladness all over our Southland again.

Now, we do not wish to be understood as looking for the fundamental cause of the present low price of cotton, nor for a plan to remove that cause; for we firmly believe that the system of wage-slavery fastened on us by financial legislation is the cause, as it enables money kings to dictate the price of cotton, wheat and every other product of the farm, by regulating the volume of money in circulation.

This miserable system was declared in advance (Hazard Circular) to be more profitable than chattel slavery, and hence the latter was abolished by the enthusiastic devotees to christianity and human rights, who afterwards became the unwitting instruments in the hands of shrewd schemers against human liberty, to fasten this system of wage-slavery upon us. And we are quite as firmly convinced that the removal of this primary cause of the trouble by restoring to the government the function of issuing money in sufficient volume to meet the legitimate demands of business—taking it out of the power of any set of individuals to control prices, by controlling that volume, will permanently correct the evil and restore, not only the cotton belt, but the whole country to its wonted prosperity.

But while we are waiting for the "legal delays"—the political revolutions that must come before we can change the legislation that has produced our present systems, we naturally turn to a temporary relief—something to mitigate the evil, until the deadly "Upas" can be uprooted and cast out of the body politic.

We propose then to analyze every plan or suggestion made in the interest of a higher price for cotton, and especially do we urge an examination of the merits of the two plans embodied in the resolutions, appearing elsewhere in this issue.

These plans were offered, and will be reoffered, to the Cotton Growers Association of this parish, by men who have had a long practical experience in the production and sale of cotton, and who have seen their fortunes—their hard-earned profits—rise and fall with the unnatural fluctuation in the price of the raw material.

We will attempt to discuss in this issue only the plan offered by Mr. S. E. Russ, which is embodied in the first six resolutions referred to above, and which amounts practically to the formation of an organization of cotton growers, and their friends, who will bind themselves to grow no more cotton at the present destructive prices.

The only questions to be met are, "Is it practical?" and "will it accomplish the desired result?"

To the first, we answer that this is the age of organization and combine, every law upon our statute books seem favorable to the formation of mighty combinations, the history of the United States is a record of the mighty results of organized effort among the masses of the people, but to come nearer home and to more recent efforts, we cite the Farmer's Alliance and the various labor organizations which, without any well-defined purpose in view, or any very brilliant leadership, have risen to be factors in national events, and have settled questions equally as momentous and difficult as the temporary elevation of the price of cotton.

If it be a fact that the present price of cotton is much below the cost of production, and that there are other crops to which a farmer can turn, for at least a bare living, without a constant loss of capital invested, and we presume no reasonable man will deny this, it seems that the least possible agitation of the information would cause a majority of our farmers to abstain from that course which is surely sinking their farms under mortgage as fast as the years roll on; while a reasonable amount of energy and time expended by a determined and persevering leadership ought to organize a body of such intelligence and magnitude that it would control public opinion in the cotton belt, and dictate the cotton acreage. There never was a more auspicious moment for any organization, than for such an one at the present, and it should in a few months grow to such massive proportions and so completely control public sentiment as to make it a disgrace to grow cotton to the injury of the individual and the community.

The answer to the second question is by no means so easily demonstrated. The history of cotton production in this country shows two great instances of decrease, one by artificial causes, during the late war and the other by natural (or as some would say "Providential") causes, notably the crops of 1892-3 and 1893-4.

In the first instance of decreased production the cotton belt was the scene of a war that engaged many men. The cotton producers stopped the production of cotton and engaged in a business that, if it did not pay better, at least enabled them to wear plenty of cotton clothes; and this "business" called a great many more men to the same "business" which paid them even better, and in a climate that requires cotton clothes. So that while the cotton production was cut off by the erstwhile producers engaging in something else, the demand for cotton goods was very largely increased and the demand was accompanied by the ability to buy, because the men were engaged in a "business" that supplied their necessities. So that this decrease in the production of cotton very largely increased the price of cotton.

But in the second great instance of the decrease in the production of cotton in this country, we find the producer putting his whole time into the effort to produce cotton and so when Providential or natural causes decreased the production, the producer's ability to buy and not his necessities (or the demand) was decreased and hence the price went down instead of up.

There is every reason why this should be so. The cotton producers and those directly interested in that business are themselves the greatest consumers of cotton goods because they live in the mild climates where only light clothes can

be worn for a greater part of the year, hence when their labor is unrequited by a short yield, or by a low price on a large yield, their ability to buy, and not their necessities, is cut off.

Another (to our mind the most potent of all) factor in raising the price of cotton during the first great decline in production (1862-6), was the fact that the producer was not only being paid for his time lost out of the production of cotton, but he as well as his brother on the other side the line were being paid in an entirely new issue of money that was making the total amount of money in circulation greater every day until it reached in 1866, fifty-two dollars per capita. In 1892-3, when the cotton production was again decreased for two successive crops, the amount of money in circulation had been reduced to less than fifteen dollars per capita, and has not increased since, so while the wants of the people (the demand) for cotton goods was as great as ever, and greater, and the supply of cotton less than it had been for several years, the price went on down because the scarcity of money and unrewarded toil (spent on a decreased crop) conspired to reduce the producers ability to buy.

So now if we would reach the desired result by the Cotton Growers Association—raise the price of cotton; we must not simply stop the production of the staple, but we must put the producer at some kind of work that will enable him to remain a consumer of cotton, or if possible, increase his consumption of cotton goods. We certainly cannot hope to raise the price of an article by decreasing its production when that very act decreases its consumption in the same ratio.

Therefore the labor that is now employed in the production of cotton must be employed at something which will continue it as a consumer of cotton goods, if the price is to be raised, or even maintained by decreasing the production; but this can be done, and will form some of the interesting and profitable themes for discussion in the various (anti) Cotton Growers Associations that should be formed all over the country. Supplying the farm or plantation with food products, keeping the fences and buildings in good repair, and the land renovated and up to its virgin fertility will require the bulk of the time; while all surplus might be donated to the production of such food products are in demand by neighboring towns and cities, and the production of sugar, rice, tobacco, and many other things now brought from a distance.

But we should never lose sight of strengthening this plan as well as bringing about permanent relief by increasing the amount of money in circulation, and taking the control of it and other great public necessities out of the hands of bankers and private corporations, who will always exercise such immense power and special privilege for private gain, and to public loss. And this latter can only be accomplished by healthy political education that will bring about political revolution against the plutocracy that now dominates both the old parties.

Mr. Russ' plan for temporary relief is a good one, and it too must be brought into operation by education and co-operation, and we hope to see the good work of education on both of these lines go on at a rapid pace. Our columns are open to arguments on both sides of these important questions.

A Cold-Blooded Proposition.

"If the government would issue a billion dollars in 2 1/2 per cent bonds, I think it would be the best thing that could happen to the country."

Such is the gospel of Captain R. J. Lowry, one of the bankers of the city of Atlanta, Ga.

The indebtedness of the country is already appalling. Such favored individuals as Captain Lowry do not feel it, but ninety-nine out of every hundred of the men you meet do feel it.

According to the lowest estimates, the total indebtedness of

the country is \$30,000,000,000. This includes national, state, county, municipal and individual debts.

The interest charge upon this debt can be shown with approximate accuracy. A fair average upon it is thought to be 6 per cent.

Therefore, the annual outgo for interest, upon the sum total of all our debts, is \$1,800,000,000.

The estimated value of all the property in the Union is \$70,000,000,000.

It is increasing at the rate of 4 per cent per annum.

Therefore the yearly income, to be set off against the yearly outgo, is \$3,800,000,000.

We thus have a surplus of \$1,000,000,000 to our credit.

But we must subtract the cost of governing the United States, and of each one of the separate states and territories, and of each county, and of each city in the Union.

The cost of governing the United States is \$500,000,000 per year.

So there goes half our surplus at one dip.

Then comes the cost of governing each state in the Union. Georgia costs about \$2,000,000, but New York costs about \$40,000,000; therefore we must strike an average. Let us say that \$10,000,000 for each of the 44 states is about correct.

That will absorb \$440,000,000 of our surplus, leaving only \$60,000,000.

The government of New York city alone, under Democratic rule, costs \$40,000,000.

Subtract this, and we have \$20,000,000 left—just about enough to govern Chicago with, if "rigid economy" does not hit her too hard.

Thus we have exhausted our income and we still have some 4,000 counties to govern, and about the same number of cities and large towns.

Where is the money to come from to meet the shortage?

We must borrow it. Borrow it how?

Issue bonds.

And that's the reason why every state, every city, and nearly every county and town is plastered over with bonds—the outgo was greater than the income, and they borrowed the money to keep going.

This mountain of debts keeps growing higher and higher.

The gap between income and outgo widens every year.

The appalling deficit in the national treasury, state treasury, city treasury and private treasury grows larger every year.

The situation challenges the most profound attention, and the most patriotic and speedy treatment.

What do the Populists propose?

Cut down your expenses, lessen your outgo, quit wasting millions on battle ships we don't need, quit throwing away so many millions on River and Harbor contractors, quit prostituting the credit of the government to speculators and use it directly for the benefit of all the people, create more currency so that prices will rise and our income increase, give us as much money as there was in circulation when our debts were made, so that we can pay them with the same amount of produce they would have required when the debts were made.

Thus by cutting down the outgo, and building up the income, we can in the course of a few years make buckle and tongue meet again, and all will be well—and injustice done to no living creature.

But what do the money Kings want?

More bonds.

When Captain Lowry said he favored a billion dollars in new bonds he voiced, doubtless, the secret wishes of nine tenths of the national bankers.

What would be the effect of these bonds?

They would retire \$1,000,000,000 of the wealth from taxation, and thus our income would be curtailed.

They would cost us \$25,000,000 per year by way of interest, and thus our outgo would be increased.

They would intensify the miseries of our present situation by giv-

ing fresh food to the cancer, fresh malaria to the fever, fresh fuel to the flame.

Vitriol dashed upon a wound would be as grateful a medicine as bonds, a billion dollars worth of bonds, piled up high and heavy upon the heads of our people would be to their sufferings.

The slick and glossy feeders on Special Privilege have advanced a good many astounding theories, arguments and plans to uphold their system, but a colder blooded proposition has not yet been made than that of Mr. Lowry.

TO THE PRESS.

State Bureau of Agriculture, }
Baton Rouge, La., Dec. 7, '94. }

We desire to call your attention to the ninth annual meeting of the Louisiana State agricultural Society which will take place at Natchitoches on January 23, 24 and 25, 1895.

A large and representative body of planters and farmers of this State is desired at this meeting. To accomplish this every agricultural organization, including planters' associations, farmers' clubs, grauges and unions are earnestly requested to send delegates.

The committee on programme has appealed to the police juries of the various parishes to send two or more planters or farmers as delegates from each parish. Favorable action of each police jury is not only most earnestly desired, but will meet with the honest approval of every friend of agriculture.

The present financial condition of our agriculturists calls for serious thought and deliberation. Low prices of our staple products, unreliable labor, soil depletion and high money rates have deprived our profession of much of its profits and all of its pleasures. Changes in our methods and perhaps in our crops are imperative, and what these shall be can be best determined by the combined wisdom of assembled conventions of our leading men. It is therefore earnestly desired that farmers and planters from all parts of the State be present at this meeting and participate in its deliberations.

The old city of Natchitoches will extend its usual hospitality, and the farmers of Cane river will welcome their brothers from other portions of the State.

Respectfully,
A. V. CARTEB,
Commissioner of Agriculture.

NOT A PASSING CLOUD.

The People's party is not a passing cloud on the political sky. It is not a transient gust of popular discontent caused by bad crops or hard times. It is an uprising of principle, and the millions who have espoused these principles will not stop until they have become incorporated into the constitution of the government and the framework of society. The people's government which is to be established by the People's party will rest on these two principles: 1. No use of public powers or public property for private profit. 2. The public have the right to use public powers for the public welfare to any extent the public demands. The first principle is a principle of defense—to keep for the public all that which belongs to it. The second principle of progress—to widen into new benefactions of wealth and liberty the Government, which is the most powerful institution that has made America the richest country and the Americans the freest people in the world. The first principle will put an end forever to all land grants, charters to railroads and banks, gifts of public streets to profit seeking gas, telephone and street railway syndicates, all the gifts of public powers and property out of which the great fortunes of America have been made. The second principle will inspire the people to join their common agent, the Government, for the common good to any extent the public will desires.—Henry D. Loyd.

Job work must be paid for on delivery.