

LOUISIANA POPULIST.

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There is No Free Country, Unless the People Rule

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The usurer is a parasite.
Money is a creation of law.

Money consists in the stamp and not in the material of which it is made.

The referendum means the people shall rule; explain it to your neighbors

When money is plentiful we have good times; when it is scarce we have the reverse.

It is in order for the "advance agent" to open up his case and show his prosperity samples.

Hanna is not an issue, but he is "cussed" and discussed about as much as if he was one.

The people are anxious for information on the money question. Now is a great time to educate.

When a court has no consideration for either law or justice it should be abolished for contempt.

Grover Cleveland threatens to write his "Presidential reminiscences" for a magazine. Don't do it, Grover!

If prosperity don't come pretty soon the people will begin to think they have been flim-flammed by Republican promises.

The bankers want to loan their notes to people the same as money and draw interest on them. Will the fool people do it?

The first thing Cleveland did when he went out of office was to go "down the river." He always goes there when he gets tired.

The sincerity of the Republicans is evidenced by the fact that the place hunters in that party are still trying to save the country.

We don't want to hear anything more said about Populists being given to whiskers; every member of McKinley's cabinet has 'em.

The result of a study of the modern implements of destruction leads one to the conclusion that war is too dangerous to think about.

McKinley proposes to close up the gap between the government's income and its outgo by increasing the taxes instead of reducing the expenses.

All the corporations, trusts and combines that fatten off of special legislation oppose the referendum, and that is one of the best arguments in its favor.

The people (the government) furnish the banks money at one per cent and then borrow it back from them at 8 to 20 per cent. Its a great scheme for the banks.

When Cleveland was elected president in 1892 the Democrats held ratification meetings all over the land. Now most of them would be willing to ratify the close of his reign.

Organize Populist reading clubs. Establish a library and invite your neighbors to attend. This is the best method to reach those whom you cannot influence in the heat of a campaign.

The Republicans now have a chance to redeem their campaign promises. The people will hold them responsible. The Democrats have had their chance and failed and it is not their "put in."

The Republicans claimed that the Democrats had not brains enough to prepare an income tax law that would run the gamut of the constitution. Suppose they try their hand at it now.

In McKinley's inaugural observations on the civil service there is a loophole large enough for the whole thing to crawl out. It is evidently the intention of the Republicans to cross Cleveland's civil service tracks.

A paper dollar with the simple promise to receive it, by the government for all dues, taxes, etc., would be the most perfect kind of money. This is no new idea. Jefferson, Clay and Calhoun are all on record as in favor of such a money.

A Good Thing for Banks.

The bill which passed the House February 25, to loan the rich national banks over twenty-three million dollars, at a tax of 1 per cent per annum is a good thing for the banks. They would have to pay two hundred and thirty thousand dollars interest on the loan. Of course they would reloan it, and say they secured 6 per cent per annum (a very low estimate), what would the profit be to the banks? At this rate the twenty-three million would bring them one million, three hundred and eighty thousand dollars in interest, leaving a gross profit of \$1,150,000. And yet we are told by the political leaders that "you cannot legislate wealth into the pockets of the people!"

CAUSES A SURPRISE.

LONDON PAPER COMMENTS ON WASHBURN LETTER.

Glad to Hear That the Populist Party Will Go It Alone and Change the Course of American Politics—Tells Some Plain Truths.

A recent issue of the London (England) Chronicle contains the following editorial comment on the Washburn letter:

"An event has happened which has once more changed the course of American politics. The alliance between the Democrats and Populists has been dissolved and the latter will henceforth march alone. Such is the declaration made by Mr. Washburn, a member of the executive committee of the People's party. It is, of course, well known that Mr. Bryan's candidature last year received the support of both the Democratic and Populist parties, and that it was through this joint support he made so good a running. But the alliance did not become a complete fusion, or anything at all like it. The Populists would not support the Democratic candidate for vice-president, but ran a candidate of their own. They bitterly complained, moreover, of the tactics of the Democrats, and accused that party of using Populist votes for their own purposes. There is good reason to believe that not a few Populist voters stayed at home on election day, or at most voted only for their own state and congressional candidates, and that this fact accounted for the majorities for Mr. Bryan in some of the southern states being smaller than they expected. There was never much love lost between Democrats and Populists, for their fundamental ideas, up to the time of last year's campaign, were absolutely different, and in the south especially, the Populists have been engaged, ever since they were first organized, in fighting the Democratic politicians. We need not wonder, therefore, that the alliance is at an end.

"In his manifesto announcing the future independence of the Populist movement, Mr. Washburn expressly attacks the program of free silver coinage on which Mr. Bryan appealed to the people. Populists, says this document, never believed in free silver as a genuine remedy for economic evils, either industrial or purely financial. They accepted it as a means of breaking down the financial monopoly, but cared nothing for it beyond that. Their idea, according to Mr. Washburn, is that the United States should abandon both gold and silver and issue a paper currency based on average commodity values—an idea which has been advocated by several advanced economists in America. Besides this, they are not going to permit the Aaron's rod of free silver to swallow up all the other rods—taxation reform, state ownership of monopolies, legislation as to "trusts" and "combines," the ending of the power of "injunction" claimed and exercised by the federal courts. They take a far broader view of the situation than do the Democrats, and they evidently feel that, if they do not assert and maintain Populist independence, they will be lending themselves to four years' barren agitation ending in another defeat.

"We have said that this decision of the Populists changed necessarily the course of American politics. Since the Populist vote is admitted to be at least two millions, since it is well represented in congress, and holds the balance in the senate, this Populist action is a factor which cannot be ignored. The one person especially and immediately affected thereby is Mr. Bryan. He had determined to head a four years' campaign for free silver, which he had already begun. But now he is notified by the more resolute and more honest, though not more numerous, half of his united following, that his course of action cannot be accepted and that if he is for a free silver fight he must carry it on without any Populist aid. Mr. Bryan is, therefore, no longer, on this showing, the one leader of the national forces of discontent. He is a mere general of a division, not the commander-in-chief; and the other division cannot be counted on to cooperate with him on the lines he has marked out for himself. Mr. Bryan's position is thus seriously affected and his plans frustrated. If he decides to plunge into Populism with the belief (and a very well founded belief) that it is likely to carry all before it in the trans-Mississippi states, he will have to reckon with that section of the Democratic party which clings to him on the main ground of party loyalty, he being the regular party nominee. If, on the other hand, Mr. Bryan sticks to silver only and refuses to accept the Populist position, while he could not hope to recover the eastern states, he would then lose the west also. It is indeed a most difficult situation, and we can see at once how vitally it affects the results as left by the electoral contest last year.

"But, as is pointed out in America, the Republican party is also affected as well as the Democratic. The assumption was that free silver was a

dangerous issue which was scotched but not killed by the elections, and that consequently the Republicans must be organized either to defeat it outright or to make terms with it in some unexplained way. But if, after full consideration, the Populists decide that they are not interested in free silver, the Republican party will find that the purely monetary question is no longer urgent, and will address themselves to that policy of protection pure and simple which Mr. McKinley made the battle cry during the late campaign. Thus the real issue in the politics of the United States will steadily grow into one of protected monopolies on the one hand and the public ownership of monopolies (or at least their control and taxation) on the other. A more momentous result, not only for the United States, but for the civilized world generally, can hardly be imagined; but this is what the decision of the Populists as embodied in the new declaration of independence leads us to expect."

McKinley's Cabinet.

The influence that prompted the nomination and election of President McKinley is well known to have been the money power. In no manner is this shown more clearly than in the selection of the members of his cabinet. They are all more or less allied with banks, bankers, corporations and concentrated wealth in general.

The secretary of state is a millionaire. John Sherman has been in public life forty years. His connection with the infamous "crime of '73" is well known to the public. Sherman needs no introduction to the American people. They know who he is and they know what to expect from him.

Lyman J. Gage, the secretary of the treasury, is also a rich man. For years he has been in the banking business in Chicago and he is one of the best known financiers in the country.

General Russell A. Alger, of Michigan, has achieved a war record since the war. He has amassed several million dollars in the lumber business, and he is reported to have made one of the largest contributions to the McKinley campaign fund.

The secretary of the interior is Cornelius N. Bliss. He is one of the dry goods magnates of New York, and is connected with various banks and corporations. He has millions of dollars, but has never held office before.

Mr. Gary, of Maryland, the postmaster general, is a millionaire. He has all sorts of moneyed interests in Baltimore.

Judge Long, of Massachusetts; Mr. Wilson, of Iowa, and Judge McKenna, of California, are all wealthy men. The McKinley cabinet is plutocratic. The president's advisers are representative of the sinister influences which are known to exist behind the chief executive's chair.—Arkansas Gazette.

That's What!

If you favor more money you are considered a crank.

If you contend for honest politics your are pronounced a fool.

If you dare to suggest that the bond grabbers should be paid in the same money that the private debtor is forced to receive you are a repudiator.

If you assert that the government can "coin money and regulate the value thereof," as the constitution declares, you are crazy.

If you intimate that government is designed to promote the public good you are denounced as an empty-headed crank.

If you dare to state, even in a low whisper, that the thieves and scoundrels who are plundering the people and loading the masses with debt and poverty ought to be driven from the temples you are an anarchist.

Sea-Saw Margery Daw.

Johnny shall have a new master! The memories of the American people are very short.

In 1884 they put in power the party they rejected in 1880.

In 1888 they put in power the party they rejected in 1884.

In 1892 they put in power the party they rejected in 1888.

In 1896 they put in power the party they rejected in 1892.

The "purified" Democracy now confidently counts on their putting in power in 1900 the party they rejected in 1896.

How much longer are the people going to be fooled.—Southern Mercury.

Would Rush for Employment.

Suppose the government should announce its intention to build a railroad from New York to San Francisco and call for laborers to do the work, at the same time giving notice that all help would be paid with a new issue of government paper money. What a rush for employment would follow! And why shouldn't this be done? The people need cheaper transportation: everybody, except the money-lenders, recognize the need of more money, and that thousands of unemployed men, anxious to work, are scattered all over the country can not be denied. What a great blessing to the people of the United States such action would bring about!—Missouri World.

THE POSTAL BANKS.

A CHICAGO POSTMASTER FAVORS GOVERNMENT BANKS.

The United States Government Should Take Control of the Banking Business—It Was Adopted by Great Britain in 1861.

Whenever there is talk of the government taking over the telegraphs, immediately the claquers for the present monopolies everywhere about cry "socialism," says the Chicago Farmer's Voice. Whenever there is talk of establishing postal savings banks, the claquers of the opposing banking interests set up a howl intended to drown out the voice of the people. But the success of the postal savings system in other countries, and the evident influence they have exerted in the direction of thrift and economy, give promise that a plan so full of advantage to all members of the community shall not much longer be debarré.

There has never been a time when there was greater need for a system in this country than the present. The sense of insecurity felt in banks in many cities and towns, and the terrorism of the burglar and highwayman, combine to make the life of the saving man a burden. He turns to the safety deposit vaults; but it is expensive to pay rent there, and so he is either compelled to spend a portion of his savings or keep them about his home or person, either of which he feels is unsafe.

How natural it is for the people to turn to the government at such times, is suggested in a recent newspaper interview had with Postmaster Washington Hiesing of this city. Mr. Hiesing emphatically favored the postal savings system, and to illustrate its needs related the following experience: "The panic, you know, was in 1893. In 1894 I became postmaster, and I had an opportunity to observe that numbers of people had withdrawn their money from the banks and other places of deposit and had purchased money orders with it payable to themselves. As soon as the flurry was over and a feeling of confidence was in some degree restored the orders began to come in. Many hundreds of thousands of dollars were thus banked, as it were, with the department. Any one can see what an advantage it would be to the public to have been able to deposit small amounts of money at any place by producing a book, and to be able to withdraw it in the same manner at any point, however remote."

In 1861 Great Britain adopted the postal savings bank system. In the following year the deposits amounted to more than \$8,000,000. In 1890 they exceeded \$38,000,000. In 1867 Canada, with a scattering population of 5,000,000 put the system into force. June 30, 1896, there were 120,623 depositories with \$27,000,000, to their credit. Other countries make showings quite as favorable.

The farmer is especially interested in the postal savings banks. How many millions might to day be in them to the credit of American farmers had they been established, as they ought, years ago, no one may compute. But all should unite in securing the establishment of the system now.

Instead of the government's going out of the banking business, as is demanded by the bankers, there is a growing sentiment in favor of its taking complete control of the financial and currency system of the nation.

NOTES AND COMMENT.

Snap Shots Taken at the Passing Profession.

If we are to judge from the wall that comes up from the gilded saloons of plutocracy, the stupendous crime of Populism is its socialistic tendencies. The fact seems to be overlooked that government itself is socialism, and the best institutions of the land are conducted on the socialistic plane.

There is socialism and socialism. The animal man is in part a socialistic creature and possesses at the same time an individualism that incites him to great personal effort. In all that pertains to the home one's individualism predominates. Few people live in boarding houses for choice. One of the strongest desires of the human family is to own a home.

To make home the one resting place of our lives; to adorn and beautify it; to plant flowers and shrubbery and create shady bowers is the individualism in the human heart. But many things there are that can be better done collectively. The first step towards socialism is government. In a Republic, everything that government (the people) does is socialistic.

Our school system is the perfection of socialism along that line. Our public road system is socialistic and the postoffice system is a living monument of the beauties of socialism. The great trouble is that few people who use the word socialism do so without a full understanding of its meaning. Some use it in connection with the word

anarchism, when as a matter of fact they mean exactly the opposite of each other. Anarchism means no government at all, and is the extreme of individualism, while socialism means government by all and for all without favoritism.

There are those who, in our opinion, go to the extreme in socialism, as some people go to the extreme in everything. The socialism of the People's party is not extreme, but it is rather in the direction of a social democracy. The most that any Populist claims is the public ownership of all public utilities, and this is more than the platform demands. But whatever may be said the logic of events is rapidly driving the world to the acceptance of enough socialism to own and operate the more important of the public utilities.

A St. Louis chemist claims he can make gold out of clay. Another chemist claims he can make gold out of silver. Suppose that such a thing could be done, and gold would be sold on the streets for seventeen cents a bushel. Would the men who have drawn up their contracts payable in gold want to repudiate them? Would they want gold demonetized? And if they did, wouldn't they be repudiators? If it is dishonest to want to evade the payment of a debt in dear dollars, is it not just as dishonest to want to refuse to take payment in the "dollar of the contract" as expressly stipulated by the creditor himself, and put "in the bond" in black and white?

Such an occurrence would be a blessing to humanity. It would be an object lesson that would open the eyes of the people where generations of misery, mountains of anguish and rivers of tears have failed. Gold would have as much real intrinsic value when its commercial value was only seventeen cents per bushel as it has now. A ring would look just as nice; it would be just as well to fill teeth, and more could use it; and—well, yes, it could be used just as well for money then as now, but its volume would have to be limited by law and common sense instead of as now, by chance.

We sometimes compare the government of England unfavorably with our own, but as a matter of fact the English government is better in some respects, and not much worse in any than that which now obtains in the United States. Great Britain has a civil service system which should make us blush when compared with our "to the victor belong the spoils," and the devil-take-the-hindmost plan of rotation in office. Great Britain has postal savings banks and government telegraphs that protect her people from robbery by criminal corporations. Her postal system provides for carrying parcels at reasonable prices and the express companies are compelled to meet those prices.

And the queen has not as much power as the president of the United States, or the speaker of the house of representatives. Parliament may be prorogued or adjourned, but the people may re-elect the same or another. The house of lords is hereditary, but even in that respect it has the advantage of our senate. If a man is a born fool or rascal he is a lord nevertheless, but all lords are not born that way and they hold for life, where in the United States senate, if an honest man does happen to break into it the combined powers of darkness spare no effort to get him out. The English house of lords represents an autocracy of blood; the United States senate represents an autocracy of corporate wealth. The English house of lords is perhaps the worst feature in the British government, save its financial system, and in both of these respects our own government, as now administered, is not much better.

It is surprising how wonderfully honest and economical some of our wise solons become at times. One of the reasons given for the passage of the bill to permit the national bankers to have the use of \$23,000,000 more on the bonds now deposited with the comptroller was that it would increase the revenues of the government 230 thousand dollars. This would come from the one per cent tax on the circulation. It was urged that this would be saved to the people. There was nothing said about the banks loaning this money out at 8 per cent which would bring them \$1,840,000 per annum, and it would be collected off the people. That is to say the banks would make a clear profit of \$1,610,000. Or in other words the people would spend \$1,840,000 in order to save \$230,000. Isn't that brilliant statesmanship? Yet it is the kind we have been having for the past thirty years.

W. S. MORGAN.

The best speech that McKinley ever made was when he told the office hunters to "go home and wait."

A billion dollars don't pay the bills of Congress now-a-days.

The White House is surrounded by "patriots."

THE CURSE OF GOLD.

EFFECT OF SINGLE STANDARD UPON THE MASSES.

The Overproduction Theory and the Absurdity of It—The Independent Farmer Has Become a Hopeless Toiler—Something Wrong.

Judge O. W. Powers in Chicago Record: What is the matter? Poverty is increasing. With increasing poverty there is more crime. Suicides are more frequent and despair is displacing hope. The wealth of the world is drifting under the control of the few. Department stores are ruining the small shop keepers. Syndicates manipulate our industries. The independent farmer has become a hopeless toiler. The day laborer sees nothing ahead but a hand-to-hand struggle.

Something is wrong. The days are just as long, the soil is just as productive, the sun shines just as brightly and the rains are just as refreshing. Our housewives are far more economical and the opportunities for bettering our condition should not be fewer.

Still, prices are falling. Real estate is a poor investment. Business enterprises end often in receiverships than profits. Mortgages are being foreclosed and deficiency judgments entered. The courts are busy running bankrupt railroads at the instance of bondholders. Money at interest at three per cent is more profitable than in employing labor in industrial enterprises. The nation is a constant borrower, and, although taxes are an excessive burden from the national government down to our municipalities, the public revenue is insufficient.

This sort of thing has been going on for more than twenty years.

Unless things change there is no certainty for the future but universal bankruptcy.

The excuse given for the deplorable state of affairs by those who advocate the gold standard is that there has been overproduction. In other words, we have been made poor by reason of having too much wealth. People are starving because they have too much to eat. Railroads are going into bankruptcy because they have too large crops to move. Men are in rags because the sheep have produced too much wool.

The conditions that exist are these:

All men would like to have on hand plenty of flour. From the gold men's statistics the supply of wheat seems to be adequate. The men who own the wheat would like to exchange it for money, but the people who need the wheat have no money to give in exchange. Real estate has fallen in value until no one can readily tell what it is worth. There are numberless people who would like to own homes, and there are plenty of people who would like to sell land. But the people who want homes cannot raise the money to exchange for the land, and the result is very unsatisfactory to both parties. There are hundreds of thousands of industrious men and women who would like to make exchange of their labor for money, in order to exchange the money thus received for things which they really need, but the owners of money cannot find profitable investments upon a falling market, and hence hoard it in banks or loan it at interest and the working men and the working women go without employment. Horses are ridiculously cheap, and many people would prefer riding to walking. The men who own the horses need money and would like to sell, but the mass of the people keep on tramping, for some could not afford a horse, even if he could be purchased for two bits.

We have, then, plenty of labor which is seeking a market. We have manifold opportunities awaiting the touch of money to spring into beneficent life. We have an ample supply of the necessities of life, and yet, with bursting granaries there are needed more pauper houses. With ample wealth on every hand there is a demand for more policemen to club down crime born of squalor and misery.

On the other hand, gigantic fortunes have been accumulated in the hands of a few people. While hundreds of thousands suffer, it is possible for a Whitney, through the magic of his wealth, to transfer 7,000 acres of wild land into a pleasure garden for his children in less than twenty days. Impetuous lords of the old world have no difficulty in exchanging their titles for the daughters of our millionaires, while many honest workmen cannot sell their labor at any price. The beneficiaries of this vicious condition insist that it shall continue upon the false plea of "honest money." The peculiar advantages which they secure may be the real reason why they denounce their suffering fellow-countrymen as "anarchists," and violently rail because a cry of distress sometimes rings above the chink of their gold. As other people suffer they gain. The distress of the government is their source of profit.

There's a "run" on the White House.