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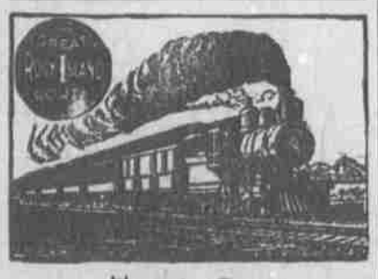

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WORK OF CONFERENCE

RINGING ADDRESS ISSUED BY NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

An Invitation for All Good Citizens to Unite and Rescue the Government From the Control of Monopolies—Time to Act.

The People's party conference called to meet in St. Louis Dec. 28 and 29, was well attended. The call for a meeting of the national committee included an invitation to members of the Reform Press and others who felt disposed to confer with the committee. When the meeting was called to order by Chairman Taubeneck about 300 Populists were assembled to take part in the proceedings. The result of the meeting was the issuing of an address setting forth the situation and urging the necessity of keeping up the fight against the encroachments of organized monopolies, The following is a full text of the address:

"The national committee of the People's party sends greetings to its constituency throughout the United States:

"The rapid increase of our vote in many parts of the Union and the startling events of the past two years vividly justify both the existence and necessity for the People's party. The contention of the party that one of the great needs of the country has been and is an enlarged volume of circulating medium, is now practically conceded by all parties, and by the government. The gold power and banking interests are insisting through the President and his secretary of the treasury that the enlarged issue of our currency supply shall be given exclusively into the hands of the banks; that silver shall be excluded, all treasury notes retired and that gold alone shall be the legal tender, thus making the monetary question an issue which must be met at once.

"Within the present year, the corporations, grown arrogant because of the vast possessions of wealth and the exercise of unconstitutional powers, have made war upon the people, and induced the federal courts to exercise in their interests unusual and arbitrary powers, induced the invasion of the states by federal troops, without the request of either of the executives of said states, or the legislatures thereof, and are at this time, through a recreant administration and a truculent congress, attempting to clothe the railroad corporations by means of a pooling bill with power to further and more systematically rob, oppress and plunder the people; and having already deprived the people of access to the silver mines of the country as an independent source of money supply, are now, in the interest of a banking oligarchy, endeavoring to deprive them of the right to have their government, in the exercise of its constitutional power, to issue the money of the nation and control its volume.

"In the opinion of your committee these events are startling, subversive of the liberties of the citizen, and destructive of business and social security; and adhering to the Omaha platform in all its integrity, your committee insists upon the restoration of the coinage of gold and silver as it existed prior to 1873—at the rate of 16 to 1—without regard to the action of any other nation, and that all paper money shall be issued by the general government, without the intervention of banks of issue, the same to be a full legal tender.

"We also declare our implacable hostility to the further issue of interest-bearing bonds.

"We denounce the pooling bill as a move toward completing the monoply of transportation, and demand that instead congress proceed to bring the the railroads under the government ownership.

"The power given congress by the constitution to provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, to surppress insurrections, to repel invasions, does not warrant the government in making use of a standing army in aiding monopolies in the oppression of the public and their employes. When free men unsheath the sword, it should be to strike for liberty, not for despotism or to uphold privileged monopolies in the oppression of the poor.

"We ask the people to forget all past political differences and unite with us in the common purpose to rescue the government from the control of monopolists and concentrated wealth, to limit the powers of perpetuation by curtailing their privileges, and to secure the rights of free speech, a free press and trial by jury—all rules, regulations and judicial dictatin derogation of either of the which are arbitrary, unconstitional and not to be tolerated by free people.

"We recommend the immediate organization of an educational campaign by the national, state and local committees."

POPULAR CRANKS.

A Partial list of Prominent Persons Who Attended the St. Louis Conference.

Taubeneck called the meeting to order.

Jack Turner was there to preserve a record of the proceedings.

The tall form and familiar face of J. H. McDowell was also present where the most good could be done.

Gen. Coxey was present with his plan for good roads, and as there was no grass to walk on he was not assaulted.

Carl Browne, the invincible, and eminent cartoonist, was there to assist in the good work.

M. C. Rankin, treasurer of the national committee, was also on hand to aid in the good work.

S. H. Snyder, insurance commissioner of Kansas, was shaking hands with the boys.

Bob Schilling, the popular Milwaukee Populist—the man who makes speeches in two or three different languages—took a prominent part in the proceedings.

O. D. Jones of Missouri, author and orator, was in the thickest of the fight.

A. Rozelle, chairman of the Missouri state committee and editor of the Independent, was a conspicuous figure among those present.

Gen. Paul Van Dervoort, ex-commander-in-chief of the Grand Army and commander-in-chief of the Industrial Legion, came all the way from Omaha to help do the work of the conference.

Leo Vincent came up from Oklahoma to have a hand in the proceedings.

Gen. Field, ex-candidate for vice-president on the People's party ticket in 1892, came over from Virginia to help us with his counsel.

Lee Crandall from Washington City and Alabama was good naturedly shaking hands with the boys, and telling them how it was down in Alabama.

J. W. Dollison of Little Rock, Ark., secretary of state committee of the People's party, gave valuable assistance in committee work.

Among the old men who had grown gray in the work was Uncle Charlie Cunningham of Little Rock, Ark. He was candidate for vice-president on the union labor ticket in 1888.

Thomas Fletcher, chairman of the Peoples' party committee, of Arkansas, and one of the best known and wealthiest men in the state, was present helping with his advice.

Robert Pyne came all the way from Connecticut to tell the boys that the "nutmeg" state was in line and would be heard from in 1896.

The well-known face of Prof. C. Vincent was among the congregation of cranks—and the professor seemed to enjoy it.

One of the most active members present was George Washburn of Boston, Mass. He looked every inch the descendant of the men who fought at Bunker's hill.

E. Gerry Brown was another of Massachusetts' patriots who crossed the Alleghenies to attend the meeting and aid in the cause of humanity.

E. J. Oglesby, of Nashville, Tenn., came up to assist in the work of the conference.

H. A. Heath of Topeka, Kan., one of the most prominent business men in the reform movement, and who is principal stockholder in several of our most prominent Populist papers, was exchanging hostilities of the season with many of his acquaintances.

Fred. Close, another well known Kansas man, who is connected with the north and south railroad enterprise was present. He presided with ability over the conference a portion of the time.

Gen. Weaver was chairman of the conference while the national committee was in executive session and he presided with his usual ability. He was one of the conspicious figures present.

Among the most active and efficient workers present was Mr. J. Devine, secretary of the Bimetallic League. He urged the importance of pushing the money question to the front.

Editor Frank Burkitt was busy in committee work and shaking hands with the boys. Mr. Burkitt is one of the most prominent People's party men in Misaissippi.

Henry Vincent of the Searchlight, Chicago, was on hand to greet old acquaintances, make new ones, and to help keep the party in the "middle of the road."

W. F. Rightmire, who was the People's party candidate for attorney-general in Kansas in 1890, was circulating among other fat men and lending a helping hand.

J. P. Stelle came over from Mount Vernon, Ill., to help prepare for victory in 1896.

S. M. Adams, one of the prominent Populists in Alabama, was present and could tell how they carried his state with the negro counties.

The youngest looking man in the convention was J. C. Manning—the boy orator from Alabama. Mr. Manning was elected a member of the legislature and is one of the best speakers in that state.

Among the Arkansas delegation was Col. John H. Cherry of Little Rock. He enjoyed the fun.

J. H. Schulte, the Reform publisher of Chicago, was present, shaking hands with old friends.

L. A. Stockwell, editor of the old Nonconformist, was over from Indianapolis to urge the importance of pushing the fight.

One of the most prominent men present from Kansas was Jno. W. Briedenthal, chairman of the People's party committee of that state, and present bank commissioner.

J. B. Follett of St. Louis, who made local arrangements for the meeting, was shaking hands with everybody.

The towering form of "Cyclone" Davis of Texas, was prominent in all the meetings, and his speeches always went to the bottom of the question.

The great big familiar form of Milton Park of the Southern Mercury, Dallas, Texas, was easily recognized by his many friends. He proceeded from there to Chicago.

Dr. S. McLallin, editor of the Topeka Advocate, was another one of the well known Kansas men who were present. The doctor is a fighter from the head waters of Bitter creek.

Henry D. Lloyd, the brilliant orator and Populist leader of Chicago, was there, and did much to shape things satisfactorily.

V. O. Strickler, the man who did so much toward making the local arrangements for the success of the Omaha convention in 1892, was present with good advice.

Dr. E. W. Fish, the man who had the nerve to fight Ignatius Donnelly in Minnesota, was present, shaking hands with old friends.

W. R. Dobbins, editor of the Progressive Age, St. Paul, Minn., run down to mingle with the congregation of cranks.

A convention or conference would not be complete without the presence of that old timer and greenback wheel horse, Uncle Jesse Harper, so he was there and everybody knew it.

Among the ladies present we noticed Mrs. S. H. Snider, wife of insurance commissioner of Kansas; Mrs. Devine, wife of J. Devine, secretary of Bimetallic league; Mrs. Howard, wife of Congressman-elect Howard of Alabama; Mrs. Striker of Kansas, and Miss Cook of Missouri.

J. T. Duke of Galesburg, Ill., candidate for representative in 1894, was an interested member of the conference. Ritchie, Demaree, Boyden, Aldredge, Ward, Kelley, Hillis and others were there from Missouri. W. D. Vincent, Hopkins, King and others from Kansas. Cleidister and others from Ohio. Jo. A. Parker and others from Kentucky.

Hinckly and Blood from Mount Vernon, Ill.

We make no pretensions to having made a full list of those who attended the conference.

The above are only some—not the most prominent, perhaps—but with whom we are best acquainted, and whose presence impressed themselves on our memory until after the "smoke of battle" had cleared away.

W. S. MORGAN,
Secretary National Reform Press Association.

Railroad Time Tables.

ROCK ISLAND.

EASTWARD.

No 20 Mail Express, departs	9:25 a m
*No 24 Night Express, departs	10:35 p m
*No 62 Freight Accommodation	11:40 a m

WESTWARD.

No 19 Mail and Express, departs	7:20 p m
*No 23 Dodge City Express, departs	6:30 a m
*No 61 Freight Accommodation	2:00 p m

No 19 Runs to Pratt only.
No 23 runs through to Dodge City and Liberal.
Nos 23 and 24 daily except Sunday.

MISSOUUI PACIFC.

EASTBOUND.

No 454 Denver and St Louis Express	7:32 p m
No 461 Wichita and Kansas City Accomodation leaves	3:00 p m

WESTWARD.

No 453, St Louis and Denver Express	7:32 p m
No 463 Wichita Accommodation	11:40 a m
No 465 Way Freigt departs	9:45 a m

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†Nos Freight and Accommodation ar	10:10 a m
*No 1 Mail and Express, departs	8:05 a m
†No Frt and Accommodation, depart	3:50 p m

*Daily. †Daily except Sunday.

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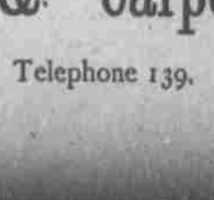

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