

## MR. BAYLOR'S VIEWS

The communication from Mr. Chas. Gano Baylor, elsewhere in this issue, deserves editorial attention.

The first amendment to the federal constitution reads as follows:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

The Independent can see no good reason for singling out this one amendment and making it a "cardinal principle of populism" to the exclusion of other amendments or other provisions of the constitution. Has Mr. Baylor in mind any law which congress has made "respecting an establishment of religion?" The new anti-anarchist law seems to contravene the second clause regarding the abridgement of the freedom of speech; and a ruling of Roosevelt and the postmaster general denies postal employees the right to "petition the government for a redress of grievances."

Every individual has his hobby which, to him, seems the "dominant issue of the age." It may be single tax, government ownership, "free thought," or what not. But when he and his fellow men meet in a body to take definite action upon some proposition on which all are agreed, and thereby give expression to the "voice of God," it seldom happens that any individual gets everything his own way.

The Independent favors free thought, free speech, free press, and free men. It never excludes a communication (if there is space for it) which gives evidence of an earnest desire on the part of the writer to better the condition of mankind—no matter if completely at variance with the editorial views of the paper.

Making war upon some particular sect or religious body, or upon all sects or religious bodies, as The Independent views it, would accomplish the very end which Mr. Baylor seeks to avoid. Political parties—and the government itself finally—would have, instead of an economic foundation, one based upon religious belief, and ultimately result in a virtual, if not literal, law "respecting an establishment of religion" and "prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Mr. Baylor's conception of a supreme being, or how he wants to worship it, if at all, is his own personal affair. Populism has nothing to do with it. One's belief in a God does not determine his economic condition primarily, but quite the reverse—and political parties, as The Independent views it, have to do with economic questions, not religious ones.

Are those four or five millions of "enrolled liberal and free thought" voters as "liberal" and as "free thinking" as Mr. Baylor seems to think? As a matter of fact, aren't most of them aching for a "serap" with some religious body? The Independent doesn't think it right to "summarily throw away" any votes; but, on the other hand, it does believe in adopting an honest policy and making no bid for votes by some catch-phrase which in the last analysis means nothing. Among populists who subscribe to the fundamental declarations of the Omaha platform there are men of all shades of religious belief. One may believe in "greenbacks" and a personal God, or no God, just as he chooses. To adopt what Mr. Baylor is evidently trying to bring about, would alienate more voting strength than it would add—and foolishly, too, for no political party can ever grow to any size upon a religious or anti-religious basis; it must have an economic foundation.

There is now a national liberal political party, having vice presidents and an organization in nearly every

state. Its platform is "liberal" enough. Why not let the four or five millions Mr. Baylor speaks of give this party a boost? The people's party grew up because of economic conditions. It will remain in the field as long as these economic conditions require reform. But it has nothing to do with a warfare between different religious factions.

When the "redeemers" took possession of the state offices in January, 1901, they found a state debt of \$1,727,447.72. McKinley "prosperity" was at high tide. The corn cribs were overflowing. Today—after three short years of "redemption"—the Nebraska farmer finds himself bound hand and foot by the three big railroads, while the same old gang of treasury looters is rifling his corn crib. The state debt has been increased \$535,729.49 in three years. Taxes are running sky-high. The legislatures of 1901 and 1903 made total appropriations of \$6,615,569.21 for the "redeemers" to spend in four years—or \$1,688,352.21 more than the populists had for a similar period. Yet people wonder why taxes are high and why the state debt increases.

## TO INDIANA POPULISTS

The Independent is in receipt of a letter from F. D. Craig and one from Dr. Van Vorhis anent their differences regarding the condition of populism in Indiana. Both gentlemen have had their "say" once on this matter, and an interminable wrangling over the question will accomplish nothing at this time. Hence, The Independent will print neither of these communications.

It has been apparent to The Independent for some time that Indiana has rather more than her share of bright, intelligent, energetic populists, both "mid-road" and "fusionist." But the difficulty seems to be that in the past there has been rather too much jealousy manifested by these gentlemen. They have protested that Indiana populists want no leaders—yet each assumes the attitude of a leader himself and exhibits signs of jealousy if any other populist deigns to speak. Wouldn't it be a good plan, just for once, to say nothing about the question of leadership and let each populist do whatever he can to disseminate a knowledge of the principles of populism? In the very nature of things, some will probably be better teachers than others—but so long as each does his best, the consciousness of a duty performed to the best of his ability ought to suffice, without any heart-burnings over which has done the most.

Indiana is ripe now for a revival of populism. But progress will not be rapid until these bickerings cease.

## THE BRYAN BANQUET

T. D. Worrall, chairman of the Bryan banquet committee, has sent out the following letter of announcement: Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 29.—To the democrats of Nebraska, Greeting: The democrats of Lincoln and Lancaster county have taken the initiative in the pleasant task of giving a banquet to Mr. W. J. Bryan immediately upon his return from his European trip.

During this European tour Mr. Bryan has been honored by rulers and statesmen as no other private American citizen has ever been honored, and he has, by his manly democratic bearing, reflected credit upon his citizenship and upon his fellow citizens.

Loyal democrats, therefore, deem it only fit and proper that this splendid American citizen and great democrat be honored by his fellow democrats upon his return home, and to that end are arranging a "Dollar Dinner" to be held at the Lindell hotel, Lincoln, on January 18, 1904.

It is to be a democratic banquet, in fact, as well as in name, given by democrats who not only refuse to apologize for remaining true to the

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## Special January Combination

### We Pay the Freight.

We will deliver the following \$10.00 combination to any towns in the State of Nebraska, freight prepaid by us, any time during the month of January, 1904. Reference:—First National Bank or The Independent.

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| baking powder .....                | .50    |
| 3 pkgs. 10-cent soda.....          | .25    |
| 3 pkgs. 10-cent corn starch.....   | .25    |
| 3 pkgs. 10-cent gloss starch....   | .25    |
| 1 lb. pure black pepper.....       | .25    |
| 1 bottle lemon extract.....        | .10    |
| 1 bottle vanilla extract.....      | .10    |
| 3 cans 10-cent Phoenix lye.....    | .25    |
| 5 doz. clothes pins.....           | .05    |
| 3 bars 10c Rising Sun stove polish | .25    |

All the above for.....\$10.00

Orders for customers outside of the state of Nebraska and on line of railroad entering Lincoln add 75 cents to pay part of freight.

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principles of democracy as enunciated in the Chicago and Kansas City platforms, but who deny with due democratic emphasis that they owe any apology to democrats who deserted the party during those campaigns and lent their aid and comfort to the enemy.

While standing ready at all times to welcome the wandering and erring ones back to the democratic fold upon sufficient evidence that in future they purpose supporting the democratic ticket, the democrats who are arranging for this banquet to democracy's gallant leader decline to step aside to make room at the family table for those who betrayed the household of the faith.

While it is true that the departing ten tribes of Israel marched forth with the gaudiest banners and the loudest sounding of timbrel and lyre, it is equally true that the ark of the covenant remained with the tribe of Judah.

The ark of the democratic covenant remains in the household of the faithful, and they are cordially invited to gather on the evening of January 18, 1904, to again renew their faith in democratic principles and gain strength for the forthcoming struggle for control of this republic's affairs.

T. D. WORRALL,

Chairman Banquet Committee.

## THE JACKSONIAN CLUB

I. D. Chamberlain, now general secretary-treasurer of the Knights of Labor, and editor of the Journal of the Knights of Labor, published at Washington, D. C., formerly lived at Stromsburg, this state, and is well acquainted with Nebraska politicians. His comments on the recent "make-up" in the Jacksonian club at Omaha will be of interest to Nebraska readers:

## THEY MADE NEBRASKA REPUBLICAN.

The democratic club of Omaha is named the Nebraska Jacksonian club, as nearly as we recall it. When Bryan became the candidate for president, a lot of good democrats of that state hopped over the fence to help the republicans pull through. This list of assistant republicans included Dr. George L. Miller and J. Sterling Morton, and their retainers. The

democrats are thoroughly downed and nationally don't have a ghost of a show, unless they adopt a republican platform and nominate a "white-winged" republican-democratic ticket, and now the Miller-Morton crowd are returning to the club, so as to have something to sell out in the next campaign. Jim Boyd was a lieutenant in the Miller legion, and when he was seated as governor, he placed the chairman of the republican state committee on his staff, with the rank of colonel, and Edward Rosewater, of the republican national committee, dictated the appointments, as chief cook and bottle-washer. It was this same Dr. Miller, who was the head of the Omaha Herald, from the territorial days, who used to print tickets for the whole cowboy end of the state, and put in the name of the republican railroad candidate for congress.

Yes, that old crowd are crawling back into the democratic ranks again; and they will probably be hoiering in defense of the boodle gang that is now prancing and bellowing like a steer on the lariat line thrown out by the federal court, for selling post-offices and stealing land.

## Likes The Word

Editor Independent: I am a subscriber and interested reader of The Independent. I like the word "Independent." In its true sense, it means liberty, and that, either in the press, politics or religion, the individual is liable to "say things" without consulting the wishes of the millionaires, the money manipulators, the railroad and other corporations and trusts.

I was a Bryanite the last two national campaigns, but I realize that the two old parties are too closely affiliated with plutocracy to be of any benefit to the masses, and to perpetuate honest government, for and by the people. Regardless of the good the old parties may have done in the past, like the traditional dog, they have had their day, as far as the future uplifting and betterment of the whole people is concerned.

Under what form or name, I have not yet figured out, but something must and will come to take the place of these corrupt parties, that the government of the equal and the free shall not perish from the earth.

W. E. BERRY.

Kansas City, Mo.

A Harvey, North Bend, Neb.: "Find renewal. It does me good to see you going for the Nebraska redeemers."