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### James E. McBride.

(Written for Symposium.)

Editor Independent: You ask my view of the condition and prospects of the people's party. I answer that all depends on the outcome of the St. Louis convention.

The eyes of nine-tenths of the old line populists north of the Mason and Dixon line are turned towards St. Louis instead of Springfield. The absorbing topic in our national convention will be that outcome. I saw this two months and more ago, after extensive correspondence with former party leaders in Michigan. I see it now more forcibly after a zealous effort to secure volunteer delegates. Nine-tenths of the replies are that the writers hope for Hearst's nomination, and are not ready to insure against former allies while there is hope.

You know, as every candid, cool-headed man must know, that the defeat of the Cleveland element at St. Louis and the nomination of Hearst on a Hearst platform, means the final dismemberment of the people's party nationally. Co-operation may continue populist organization in the west; but north, east and south the forces of populism will be given to aid the democratic party with the usual result of two late campaigns, and the few of us who oppose co-operation and resist absorption must take to the words and hibernate our votes.

No one is to be blamed for not seeing this situation before the date of our national convention was fixed, because it was undisclosed; but I must insist, and I believe the feeling at Springfield will prove that it would have been best to have postponed our convention to July 26.

With the later date and a throw-down of Bryanism at St. Louis determined, there is not a state that would find the least difficulty in holding a convention to name delegates and in securing a full delegation to our national convention; besides which we would have made the politic and manly move to invite fusion, always desirable, of the reformers of the country with our own forces in one compact political organization where they would have equal voice and vote with us.

I believe that those who come to labor in the political vineyard with zeal and honesty in the eleventh hour are entitled to as much compensation as those who have borne the heat and toil of the day, and that it ill becomes the few who have been the teachers of the many to close the door of opportunity to the many who are ready to graduate.

As to platform at Springfield, give us sound populist doctrine. Insert no planks of a vote-catching nature, that will lead us into difficulty. The curse of the Omaha platform—that developer of co-operation—was its demand for "the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the legal ratio of 16 to 1." This is not now and never has been populist doctrine, but the mere ghost of a false doctrine first promulgated in the Loco-Foco convention of 1844—patent reserved since then by the bimetallic, basic money democracy.

Let us remember that we are green-backers all the time, and that our demands for bimetallic coinage at the old ratio are made not because we want more redemption money, but more money in circulation of the historic kind until the scientific system can be established and commodity money abandoned.

The Michigan delegates chosen to attend the Springfield convention are: E. S. Grece, M. G. Loenecker, L. E. Lockwood, F. W. Anthony, D. C. Wachs, James M. Houghton, F. P. Monfort, Horace Jerome, W. R. Hall, J. A. Corner, John M. Harris, Robert Blemhuber, Austin S. Randall, James E. Stewart, M. J. Vincent, N. B. Farnsworth, S. J. Brown, A. B. Wood, P. P. Miner, Abram Pauckboner, M. F. Vaughan and James E. McBride. Each may appoint his alternate. A few of these may be unable to attend, but provision is made for substitutes by proxy.  
JAS. E. McBRIDE.  
Grand Rapids, Mich.

### J. R. Norman.

(Written for Symposium.)

Editor Independent: The populists of Iowa are not taking the active interest that they should. They seem to think that a few men will look after the reorganization and foot the expense, although they claim to be true populists. Some, however, are working earnestly to forward the work, and many are seemingly waiting to see what the democratic national convention will do at St. Louis, Mo., July 6, 1904.

If the members of the people's party of this state would take the active part that they should, organized labor would join in with them largely, as

many members of organized labor are ready to break away from the two old parties and work with the people's party, since the outrages in the Colorado mining districts.

What all reformers should do, is get together in one grand organization that says, Special favors to none and equal privileges to all, like the populist declaration. One house is all we need for the reform family. When we divide up on technical points we are working to assist our enemies, the two old parties.

Give us a short, clean-cut platform that all can understand and candidates that will go into the fight and enthruse the people, and we can make a good showing in this campaign. No more fusion, and no more traitors to lead our reform cause, should be our future watchword. On to Springfield!

J. R. NORMAN.

State Chairman Iowa People's Party.  
Albia, Ia.

### J. P. Sossaman.

(Written for Symposium.)

Editor Independent: There are hundreds, yes, thousands of the Old Guard in this state, without any leader or organization, that could be put on the firing line if there was an outsider that the people have confidence or could have confidence in.

Butler, by one slick method and another, in order to feather his own nest for the time being, destroyed the party; he fused with everything that could not outrun him or climb a telegraph pole; went back on his best friends; and it was all done that Butler might be financially benefited. That is what put us in the shape we are in today.

Now, it would be hard for me to say what is the outlook. The mass of our people, of the old populist stamp, will vote the republican ticket nationally this year no matter who the democrats put up. If the populists put up a good man, some will vote for him. If the populists and democrats fuse the candidate will get a slim vote here.

No suggestion as to platform—the old one is as good as I want. As to fusion, I say go out of business rather than make a deal with any old party. It's only defeat and I would prefer defeat to getting in by joining hands with any old back number party.

J. P. SOSSAMAN.

Charlotte, N. C.

### Edwin D. Cox.

(Written for Symposium.)

Editor Independent: Too old to aid you; am 76.

"Right forever on the scaffold,  
Wrong forever on the throne."

D—n the bastard republic.

The later Huns will destroy with their ballots as ruthlessly as did Alaric with the sword.

EDWIN D. COX.

Marquette, Mich.

Bro. Cox sees through smoked glasses. There is no foundation for either extreme pessimism or extreme optimism. Both have their elements of truth; both their elements of error. Seventy-six is not "too old." Brother Gilbert, near Lincoln, told us the other day, in a most matter of fact tone, that he did his best writing "back when I was eighty." He's away up in the nineties now, and few men in their fifties would care to outwalk him. Only last year he threatened to walk nine miles to the polls because all the horses about the farm seemed to be busy. "Too old" is largely a matter of the mind. Mrs. Eddy isn't altogether visionary.—Associate Editor.)

### G. W. Dostater.

(Written for Symposium.)

Editor Independent: I look for great good to come from the Springfield convention, for I believe that at present is a time when people are very much awake, although they seem to be slumbering. I really know this to be the case here in my locality. Politics is at low ebb now, although the majority are watching the outcome of what will happen.

I live on the county line between Otoe and Lancaster counties. In Otoe our populist organization is a thing of the past, but I believe our votes are ready for future use.

Could not something be organized like our old alliance move? It surely would be an educator if nothing more. It seems as though something must be done in some way at least.

I am a simple farmer; joined the alliance, No. 465, February 12, 1889. Have had many a good conversation with J. H. Powers, and have taken The Independent from the first issue of the Alliance through all of its changes and phases until the present.

G. W. DOXTATER.

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