



"PROVE ALL THINGS; HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD."

VOL. IV.

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NO. 30.

POPULIST-SILVER CONVENTION.

THE SILVER PARTY NOMINATED BRYAN AND SEWALL.

Bryan Nominated by the Pops—Watson of Georgia, Nominated in Place of Sewall, as Bryan's Running Mate—Synopsis of the Proceedings.

The national committee of the Populist party met in St. Louis Tuesday to perfect the temporary organization of the convention. Chairman Taubneck presided and about 50 members were present. This committee is organized upon a radically different basis from that of the old parties. Each State and Territory is entitled to two members and out of the entire membership of 153 a central executive committee of nine is chosen to manage the campaign. The committee comprises two female members—Mrs. Anna L. Diggs, of the District of Columbia, who was present and Mrs. A. O. Hasluis, from Arkansas. There are no persons in official life on the committee except Senator Marion Butler, of North Carolina, who carries a proxy.

There were but two contests of importance—those from Colorado and Illinois. The former involved the entire State delegation. The latter the 27 delegates from Cook county (Chicago). The Colorado contestants were headed by ex-Governor Waite, but he having declared in favor of Bryan's nomination, his colleagues deposed him for another leader.

On the matter of temporary chairman, two candidates are mentioned, General Jas. B. Weaver, of Iowa, who represented the Bryan and Sewall element, and Senator Marion Butler, of North Carolina, who was opposed to the endorsement of the Democratic ticket.

After the matter of membership of the committee itself had been determined, the committee proceeded to consider applications by a number of the States for increased representation in the convention. The basis upon which this is made by the national committee in its call, is one delegate for each member of Congress from the State and an additional delegate for each 2,000 votes cast at the preceding general election. In making up the table of delegates for this convention, the national committee was compelled to act upon data contained in the various political almanacs, and in the case of a number of States this information proved to be inaccurate. The committee from each Southern State demonstrated by certified copies of the tabulation of votes in his State that the Populists were entitled to an increase in the number of delegates from one to five, the latter being allowed the State of Texas. The several Territories were allowed six delegates instead of four, making their representation equal to that of the Territories in the Democratic and Republican conventions. Oklahoma was given the same right of representation as the States; that is, one delegate for its delegate in Congress and one for each 2,000 votes, which made its total representation nine.

Senator Butler's nomination was seconded by Cyclopedia Davis, of Texas, a delegate from Alabama and by Mr. E. C. Brown, of Massachusetts, and he was selected temporary chairman by acclamation.

For temporary secretaries, the names of W. D. Vincent, of Kansas, editor of "Sound Money," and John W. Hayes, secretary of the executive committee, Knights of Labor, were suggested and accepted.

Mr. S. D. Walton, of Georgia, the only colored member of the committee, presented for use at the convention a general composed of 17 different kinds of wood. Sixteen of these were from the South and West and one from the East.

The committee then voted to proceed to the election of temporary chairman and temporary secretary. The expectation that this would afford a test of the Bryan and anti-Bryan strength in the convention was not realized, for the name of General James B. Weaver, of Iowa, who had been spoken of as the Bryan candidate for the place, was not mentioned. Mr. Guthrie, of North Carolina, the probable Populist candidate for Governor of that State, presented the name of Marion Butler, of North Carolina, claiming that the mantle of Leonidas Polk had fallen upon him and the honor sought was due to North Carolina, because she had been the first to break the solid South.

The Reform Press Association, composed of editors of Populist and free silver newspapers, met in the headquarters of the Texas Populists in the afternoon. A committee whose members were J. M. Mallett, of Texas; A. P. Tagwell, Washington; A. C. Brown, Massachusetts; Frank Burkett, Mississippi; M. W. Wilkie, California, and Ignatius Donnelly, Minnesota, reported an address, which was flat-footed for independent action by the Populist convention. It denounced fusion or coalition with either of the old parties and declared emphatically against the endorsement of Mr. Bryan. The reading of the address was followed by a stormy scene. It was put through with a rush, however, and the Kansas members of the association walked out of the room to emphasize their disapproval. They drew up the following resolution and attached their signatures thereto.

"With the spirit of the address we are in accord, but believe that the only way to relieve the people of this country from gold-

bugism and McKinlevism is to nominate Bryan and Sewall on a Populist platform."

The North Carolina Populist met in the afternoon and completed their organization.

The Burns-Hogan faction, of Illinois, were unseated by the committee.

SECOND DAY.

Wednesday the Populists were not quite so harmonious. Senator Butler's speech was for harmony, but unmistakably indicated a leaning toward a separate Populist ticket and a separate platform. Before the temporary chairman had entered upon his opening speech, certain of the Southern delegations freely stated their intention to bolt if the Chicago nominees were endorsed. They privately spoke of the absolute necessity of maintaining the People's party organization intact in their respective States so as to control the State offices. One of the most outspoken of these Southern recalcitrants said he could not go home to his State if he carried with him an endorsement of the Democratic ticket by the Populist convention. He frankly admitted that if he and those who were acting with him could not prevent the endorsement of Bryan, their irrevocable purpose was to kill off Sewall and to give place to a Southern Populist and thus to confuse the electoral voters for Vice President and throw the election into the United States House where they would have matters their own way.

With all these difficulties ahead the People's party arrived very slowly. The committee on credentials, apparently for the purpose of gaining time, protracted its deliberations over the utterly unimportant contest cases, none of which could affect results. At 2:15 the convention took a recess until 8 p. m., and when it re-assembled some one had failed to make the necessary arrangements for turning on the electric lights. Under such circumstances the transaction of business was impossible. At 8:33 o'clock the convention adjourned until Thursday at 10 o'clock, at which hour the Silver Convention also re-assembled.

Governor Stone, of Missouri, delivered the address of welcome.

TULLER'S SPEECH.

Chairman Taubneck introduced as temporary convenor Senator Marion Butler, of North Carolina, who was received with three cheers, which he characterized as "a cyclone of patriotism." His history taught, and his life showed that there always came crises in the affairs of men, by which humanity was raised to a higher level according as the men whose shoulders the responsibility rests, were able to meet the crises with wisdom and patriotism, (cheers), and to solve it to the betterment of humanity. Two principal parties, he said, had held national conventions. One of these parties had adopted a platform and had put forward their leaders, and now another great political party, young but a growing giant in strength, had assembled to the American people in this critical and important hour. (Cheers.) The Populists were here because there was need of them to be here. The parties that had had charge of the government since the war had succeeded in bringing the nation to the verge of bankruptcy and ruin, and had necessitated the existence of the Populist organization. The parties had divided with each other in "straddling" and now "straddling" was a thing of the past. He went on to speak of the transgression of the old parties, and with the money question, and declared that both these great questions would have to be solved before the country could get on its feet. The Standard Oil trust, he declared, would not exist today if it were not for its co-partnership with the transportation companies.

If the Populist party were to go out of existence, the next Democratic National Convention would report a platform upon which Bryan could not stand. (Cheers.) The People's party had raised an issue so universal, so great, so important, that it would divide both old parties in two. (Laughter and applause.)

Now, this convention had met to save that issue or to allow it to go down in death. It had taken the convention would not turn itself into a Democratic annex (loud cheers) or into a Republican annex (more cheers) but would stand for the issue that was true and right. What, Senator Butler asked, should this convention do? And he was answered by one of the California delegates, Mr. Alfred Dagard, "Nominate a straight Populist candidate on a Populist platform without reference to what the Democratic convention has done."

While Senator Butler exclaimed, "and God grant that it shall never die; because it will be ever needed so long as human liberty is threatened, it must be true to the mission it was born to accomplish." (Cheers.)

THIRD DAY.

Temporary Chairman Butler, of North Carolina, called the Populist convention to order, prayer being dispensed with. He called for the report of the committee on credentials, but that committee was unprepared to report. The roll of States was called for the names of committeemen on organization, resolutions and notification of nominees.

While the call of the committeemen was going on there was a sudden outburst of cheering all over the hall. It was caused by the interruption of a small party of Texas delegates, headed by the two bearers of a banner with the words, "Middle of the Road; straight Populist ticket."

A majority of the delegates rose and cheered and shouted and waved hats and fans and spectators in the galleries joined in the shouts and cheering. From the gallery behind the stand a flight of cards descended, on which was printed a financial plank proposed for the Middle of the Road party by three Arkansas delegates—George M. Jackson, J. W. Rollinson and Isaac McCraiker. This plank is in the words:

"We demand a national treasury note issued by the general government, receivable for all public dues, public and private, and loaned direct to the people through postal and other governmental banks, at the purchase price of such amount of gold and silver bullion, at the rate of 16 to 1, as may be necessary to pay the debts of the government and which the volume of money shall increase to an amount necessary to transact the business of the country on the convention and was greeted with applause.

A motion was made by Delegate Crawford, of Kansas, that the delegates to the Silver convention be admitted to this convention on the presentation of their badges. The motion was greeted with hisses and shouts of "no, no." It was modified by making

it apply only to the galleries, but the sergeant-at-arms interposed the objection that all the seats in the galleries were assigned on tickets issued and that, besides, there were counterfeit badges out.

Mr. Washburn, of Massachusetts, offered the following resolution:

"Whereas, we are all Populists and democrats, and an attack which has appeared in some of the newspapers, that there is a disposition on the part of any portion of this convention not to abide by the action of the convention, therefore,

"Resolved, that we repudiate all such utterances, as a reflection on the fidelity of the members of this convention to the People's party."

Strong opposition was immediately developed to this on the part of the Southern delegates and the point of order was made that the convention not yet being permanently organized, it was out of order.

At the afternoon session the convention was called to order by Senator Butler and the different contested States was taken up. The report from the committee on permanent organization was presented when points of order were made that the committee on credentials had the right of way until its full report was made. The chairman (Mr. Washburn, of Massachusetts) overruled these objections and amid an uproar announced that Mr. Cox, of Virginia, chairman of the committee on permanent organization, had the floor on the subject of the recommendations of the committee—the name of Senator Allen, of Nebraska, being reported for permanent chairman.

The convention then, at 7:10 began to vote by States on the adoption of the majority report, Allen for permanent chairman, the utmost confusion prevailing.

The vote was announced at 8:05 p. m. as follows: For Allen 758, for Cameron 565, for Donnelly 1.

Senator Allen was escorted to the chair by Life Peace, "Cyclone" Davis and Ignatius Donnelly, and was greeted with cheers. He returned thanks to the convention for the mark of its confidence and esteem. He said that he would have preferred to act as a simple delegate, but it had been thought proper by a portion of the delegates to nominate him as permanent president and he had consented (in perhaps an hour) that his name might be used. He had read in a St. Louis paper (a paper supposed to be in the McKinley gold standard interest) that the Populist convention was prepared to die; but if the editor of that paper had witnessed the soul-stirring scenes of patriotism here he would have changed his opinion. (Cheers.)

Mr. Allen spoke for an hour in his best sarcastic vein, eliciting shouts of approval and dissent sometimes, alternately, but frequently committively. He concluded by expressing the opinion that he had entertained the convention sufficiently and asked: "What is your pleasure?" Senator Butler named the appointment of a committee of 25 delegates to confer tonight or tomorrow with a conference committee of the Silver convention whose honored president now occupied a seat on the platform. (Shouts of "No, no, adjourn.")

Mr. Branch, of Georgia, moved to lay the motion on the table. That motion was voted down and Senator Butler's motion was agreed to.

Mr. Burnham, of Iowa, offered a resolution for the appointment of a committee of one delegate from each State to consider and report in what manner the People's party can cooperate with other parties on the question of free coinage of silver. Referred to the committee on rules.

Marion Butler and the North Carolina delegation withdrew opposition to Bryan and decided not to bolt if the Bryan was nominated. Texas was then fell in, and it was easy sailing for the Bryanites afterward.

FOURTH DAY.

Friday the Populist Convention was called to order by Senator Allen, permanent chairman, at 10:05 o'clock.

A gavel, constructed in the state of Ohio, of forty-eight different kinds of timber was presented by delegate Demore, of that State, as a "Middle of the Road," gavel. When this performance was at an end, the States were called for and the appointment of delegates to act on the conference committee with the Silver convention commenced. The report of the committee on rules and order which was made Thursday night was taken up for action. The majority report was also read Thursday night. The minority report was read—the point of it being that nominations for Vice-President should be made pro to those for President. The majority report was plain by the delegate Pomeroy, of New Jersey, a member of the committee on rules. There were but three points of difference, he said, between the majority and minority, the principal one being a reversal of order of nominations for President and Vice-President.

The most of the morning session was taken up in making short speeches, and the nomination of a Vice President was begun.

The roll of States was called on the question of substituting the minority report, giving precedence to the presidential nomination for the majority report to proceed to ballot for President first and Vice President next.

Mr. Skinner, of North Carolina, who has cast 85 of that State's votes for the minority, announced that he would change that vote until good faith was to be observed and a Southern Vice President nominated.

VENING SESSION.

The convention was called to order by the permanent chairman, and delegate Folio, of Mississippi, a member of the Silver Convention, was introduced by the chairman and proceeded to read the platform adopted by that body. There were some points of order made against the reading, but they were promptly overruled by the chairman. When he reached the conclusion, to the effect that Mr. Bryan had

been nominated for the presidency, there was an outburst of applause, drowning the further announcement of the nomination of Sewall for the vice presidency.

The call of States for nomination for Vice President was resumed, Mr. Banmann, of Alabama, appeared as the spokesman of that delegation, to nominate for Vice President, Representative Howard, of Alabama, placed in nomination Hon. Thomas E. Watson, the late Populist Congressman from Georgia.

Colorado being called, yielded to Mr. Life Peace, now of New York, formerly a Congressman of Colorado, who began by saying:

"Mr. President, in order to draw the poison quickly and have it out, let me say my purpose is to give some reason or try to give some reason why we should nominate Mr. Arthur Sewall, of Maine, for Vice President." This announcement was received with considerable applause, followed by hisses.

Frank Burkett, of Mississippi, and A. L. Mills, of Tennessee, were put in nomination.

Mr. A. A. Gandy, who spoke for Louisiana, said neither of the old parties had dared since the war to put a Southern man of the ticket but it was reserved to this great party to take this step forward.

Delegate L. C. Bateman, of Maine, protested solemnly against the nomination of Mr. Sewall for Vice President. He was for Page, of Virginia.

Mr. R. B. Taylor, of Michigan, spoke in favor of the nomination of Mr. Watson, of Georgia.

Delegate Walter, of Georgia (col.), was allowed five minutes to second the nomination of Mr. Watson.

Mr. Ignatius Donnelly seconded the nomination of Watson.

At 11:40 a. m. Watson had 541 votes at the end of the first call. Texas and Tennessee changed, giving him 721 votes. Necessary to a choice 699.

Just as Watson was declared nominated the electric lights went out, leaving the hall in darkness, while pandemonium reigned.

A scene of great confusion ensued, which delayed the proceedings some time. An informal count showed the vote to be: For the minority report 780; for the majority report 768.

Before the result was announced, Mr. Skinner changed the vote of North Carolina, casting the whole 95 votes for the minority report, which was thus adopted.

The official total was: For the minority 785; for the majority 615. The report, as thus amended, was declared adopted.

W. J. Bryan, the nominee of the Chicago Convention, wired Senator Jones, immediately upon the nomination of Mr. Watson, that "if Sewall is not nominated, have my name withdrawn."

FIFTH DAY.

Notwithstanding the receipt of one or more telegrams from Mr. W. J. Bryan, declining to permit the use of his name on the Populist ticket unless Mr. Athur Sewall, his associate on the Chicago ticket, was also endorsed, Mr. Bryan was put in formal nomination as originally contemplated by General Weaver, of Iowa, and was seconded by one or more spokesmen from every State and Territory with about ten exceptions and on a ballot received 1,049 votes against 321 for Col. Norton, of Chicago, who at the last moment was selected as the candidate of the unconstructed Middle of the Road element. It was the intention of this faction to force the labor issue to the front, but Mr. Debs telegraphed declining to serve and his telegrams were respected. Strenuous efforts were made without avail by Ignatius Donnelly and others to obtain some kind of an assurance that Mr. Bryan would accept the nomination and stand upon the platform. The permanent chairman, Senator Allen, of Nebraska, admitted that he had received some kind of a telegram from Mr. Bryan, but he said he had paid no attention to it.

Before adjourning, the convention adopted a resolution clothing the national committee with plenary power to do anything and everything which the convention itself might have done in session. This, of course, would authorize it to take down the names of Mr. Bryan or Mr. Watson or both if necessary and to construct an entirely new ticket. The national committee was enlarged so as to consist of three members from each State and Territory. But naturally the power conferred upon this cumbersome body will eventually be lodged in an executive committee of more manageable size. A notable feature of the last moments of the convention, was the fact that though the result of the ballot for President was announced, it was not followed by any declaration on the part of the chair that Bryan had been duly chosen the candidate of the People's party for President of the United States.

The convention separated in bad humor, many of the delegates openly denouncing the ticket as a "theatrical one." It however met the unqualified approval of Mrs. Lease, of Kansas, (whose name, usually printed "Mary Elizabeth") was officially stated to be "Mary Elizabeth."

In an impassioned address she assured the delegates that they had risen to the grandeur of the occasion and had done honor to the party and to themselves.

The first meeting of the new Populist National Committee was held at the Lindell Hotel and several prominent men were placed in nomination, and on the second ballot Senator Marion Butler, of North Carolina, was declared chairman of the National Committee.

There is so much distress in the world that we can't cry over all of it.

THE SILVER PARTY.

It Was Generally of One Mind and One Accord.

The national committee of the national Silver party met at the Lindell Hotel, but after a brief session a recess was taken, when a session was held at Dr. Mott's room at the same hotel. Mr. George P. Kenney, of California, presided.

One of the features of the afternoon session of the national committee of the Silver party was a speech made by Mr. Battell, the member from Vermont. Mr. Battell created considerable enthusiasm when he asserted that the farmers in Vermont were in open revolt against existing conditions. The great majority, he said, cannot be induced to go into the Democratic party, he predicted that many of the number would support Bryan and Sewall because of their belief in silver. He asserted that the Republican State committee was astonished at the attitude assumed by the Republican farmers, and that they were uncertain what course to pursue.

SECOND DAY.

The National Silver Convention had smooth sailing Wednesday. It fairly went wild over Permanent Chairman St. John's speech. They will endorse Bryan and Sewall.

THIRD DAY.

The National Silver Convention was called to order Thursday by Chairman St. John. He then introduced to the convention its vice-chairman, Hon. Chas. A. Towne, of Minnesota. He said:

"The condition of the country was most grave. He stated that patriotism had been almost forgotten; glory had been narrowed to success; money has become a god. (Applause.) But the day of regeneration is at hand. (Cheers.) We are in the very vortex of events; we are making American history today; the American people are serving a notice that they are about to take charge of their own affairs. (Great cheering.) Mr. Towne's allusion to the great old man of Colorado set the convention on its legs in a tumult of applause. A vast majority of the Democrats of Chicago, he said, was in favor of free silver. "Fortunately Democracy, thus to become the heir of this great generation. Happy Democracy, to find itself in the possession of the results of a great movement, without having labored for years in its behalf, and without being compelled to forego the amiable prejudice of party affiliation. (Applause.) Mr. Towne paid a glowing tribute to the worth, character and abilities of Mr. Bryan, saying that his nomination demonstrated the truth of the statement that in the affairs of Providence there are no accidents.

"Bryan represents an idea. He stands for a cause, the cause of humanity against injustice; the cause of the masses against the classes." (Applause.)

No rest in the campaign was to be known by the cohorts of silver. Mr. Towne said, until the banners of victory had been planted on every outpost of the enemy. He who, three months ago, had predicted that victory for free silver was possible in 1896, would have been set down for an enthusiastic dreamer. Now it was not only possible but absolutely certain. Mr. Towne pleaded with the convention to make no mistake but to ever hold the cause above all things else and closed with an eloquent peroration.

All were made for Governor Stone, of Missouri, and W. H. (Coin) Harvey, but neither was in the hall.

Ex-Governor St. John, of Kansas, responded to the demands for a speech and greatly entertained the delegates.

No such political revolution had ever been started in America as that which followed the adoption of the platform by the Populist convention. The victory was already won, he assured his hearers. There were but two dangers to be feared, over-confidence and the loss of the cause.

C. G. Bradshaw, of Montana, presented a resolution of thanks to Dr. J. J. Mott, chairman of the executive committee of the Bi-Metallic League, in appreciation of his services in arranging for the convention. As one result of Dr. Mott's labors and those of Secretary Devine, of the League, Mr. Bradshaw said that nearly 2,000,000 voters had signed their names to the declaration of the Washington address of last January in favor of free silver. The resolution was adopted by a unanimous rising vote.

A call for States was ordered under the resolution adopted at the morning session to show the previous political affiliations of the delegates. The poll as far as reported showed the following:

One Arkansan, who was a former Republican, now is an ardent Bryan supporter. California reported 35 bolters from Republicanism to Bryanism, Colorado, 64, Illinois 46, Indiana 15, Iowa 21, Kansas 42, Michigan 16, Minnesota 27, Missouri 40, Montana 6, Nebraska 35, Nevada 9, New Jersey 3, North Carolina 5, North Dakota 6, Oregon 10, Pennsylvania 40, South Dakota 15, Utah 2, Virginia 20, Washington 17, Wisconsin 9, Arizona 2, Indian Territory 4, District of Columbia 4—total 496.

Mr. Strong, of Illinois, offered the following resolution and it was adopted:

"Whereas, The false accusation is so freely made that those who demand the restoration of the silver dollar to its proper place as equal to the gold dollar as a debt-payer, under our flag, are not patriots in the defense of our national honor, and that those who were formerly true to that flag and who risked their lives at sea, or land, who are present as delegates to the national Silver convention, be requested to stand upon their feet until their number is counted."

While the old veterans were on their feet a Confederate veteran, General Melver, occasioned much enthusiasm by grasping the hand of L. F. Dow, a Union soldier, and proclaiming that the former enemies were re-united, "and may they remain so against the gold forces of the country."

FOURTH DAY.

The Silverites met Friday morning, but as they had practically finished up their work Thursday, they had very very little to work upon.

The recommendation that Bryan and Sewall be nominated, brought the whole convention to their feet with cheers and many demonstrations of delight. Francis O. Latta, of Oregon, moved that the resolutions be adopted as read.

THE SILVER PLATFORM.

Full Text of the Declaration as Adopted at St. Louis.

The National Silver party of America, in convention at St. Louis adopted the following declaration of principles:

"First: The paramount issue at this time in the United States is indisputably the money question. It is between the British gold standard, gold bonds and bank currency on the one side, and the bi-metallic standard, on bonds, government currency (and an American policy) on the other.

"On this issue we declare ourselves to be in favor of a distinctly American financial system. We are unalterably opposed to the single gold standard and demand the immediate return to the constitutional standard of gold and silver, by the restoration of this government, respectively, in equal proportions, the unrestricted coinage of both gold and silver into a standard money at the ratio of 16 to 1, and upon equal weight as they existed prior to 1876; the silver work of full legal tender, equally with gold, for all debts and dues, public and private, and we demand such legislation as will prevent for the future the destruction of the tender quality of any kind of money by private contract.

"We hold that the power to control and regulate a paper currency is inseparable from the power to coin money; and, hence, that all currency intended to circulate as money should be issued and its volume controlled, by the legislative power only, and should be a legal tender.

"We are unalterably opposed to the issue by the United States of interest-bearing bonds at a time of peace, and believe that a blunder worse than a crime, the present Treasury policy, conceived in by a Republican House, of plunging the country into debt by hundreds of millions of dollars, and to maintain the gold standard by borrowing gold, and we demand the payment of all coin obligations of the United States as provided by existing laws in either gold or silver coin, at the option of the government, and not at the option of the creditor.

"The demand for silver in 1875 enormously increased the demand for gold, enhancing its purchasing power, and lowering all prices measured by that standard; and since that time the price of gold has fallen upon an average nearly 50 per cent, carrying down with them proportionally the money value of all American property.

"Such fall of prices has destroyed the legitimate industry, injuring the producer for the benefit of the non-producer, increasing the burden of the debtor, swelling the gains of the creditor, paralyzing the productive energies of the American people, relegating to idleness vast numbers of our citizens, sending the shadows of despair into the home of the honest toiler, filling the land with tramps and paupers and building up colossal fortunes for a few.

"In the effort to maintain the gold standard the country has within the last two years, in a time of profound peace and plenty, accumulated a debt of \$200,000,000 of additional interest-bearing debt under such circumstances as to allow a syndicate of native and foreign bankers to realize a net profit of millions on a transaction which cost the people nothing.

"It stands confessed that the gold standard can only be upheld by so depleting our paper currency as to force the price of our products below the European and even below the Asiatic level, to enable us to sell in foreign markets, thus aggravating the very evil of which we complain, and by the loss of our grading American labor and striking at the foundations of our civilization itself.

"The advocates of the gold standard persistently claim that the cause of our distress is over-production—that we have produced so much that it made us poor—which implies that the true remedy is to close the factory, shut down the mine, and send a million of people out of employment; a doctrine that leaves us unensured and disheartened and absolutely without hope for the future.

"We call upon the American people to recognize that there can be no such economic paradox as over-production, and at the same time tens of thousands of our fellow-citizens remaining unemployed, and unable to obtain the only alms for the common necessities of life.

"Over and above all other questions of policy, we are in favor of restoring to the people of the United States the time-honored money of the Constitution—gold and silver, not one but both—the money of Washington and Lincoln, and under the American flag may pay just obligations in an honest standard and not in a dishonest and unsound standard approximated 100 per cent. in purchasing power, and an appreciation in debt paying power, and in fact, further, that the silver standard countries may be deprived of the unjust advantage they now enjoy, in the difference between the value of gold and silver—an advantage which tariff legislation cannot overcome.

"We, therefore, confidently appeal to the people of the United States to hold in their hands all other questions, however important and even momentous they may appear to us, and to stand squarely upon the principles announced in the platform of the American Bi-Metallic party, promulgated at Washington, D. C., Jan. 23, 1896, and therein reiterated that it is the only real issue in the pending campaign, therefore, recognizing that their nominees embody these patriotic principles, we recommend the nomination of Mr. Bryan, of Nebraska, for President, and Arthur J. Sewall, of Maine, for Vice President.

"Great fairs are entertained in Cairo, Egypt, that choose will spread throughout the South and West."

WATSON WILL ACCEPT.

Mr. Watson was seen by a representative of the Southern Associated Press at his home—Thompson, Ga., Saturday. He said:

"I will accept the nomination. I did my friends in St. Louis to that effect. I was in the interest of harmony, and to prevent the disruption of the Populist party, which seemed imminent. Under the circumstances, I did what I believed to be best for all interests. The movement of fusion was immensely greater than I had any idea of two weeks ago. It was originally for a straight Populist platform, and a straight Populist ticket, but the demand for fusion was so strong that it could not be withstood. I do not believe in the fusion of the entire Democratic ticket, would have killed the Populist party. As it is, the integrity of the party is preserved. Under the circumstances, I fully endorse the policy pursued by the convention. There is no reason why I should refuse to receive the support of a man who agrees with me in three essential principles because he does not agree with me in four. I should rather accept his aid and thank him for it. If Mr. Bryan accepts the Populist nomination, I believe our ticket will be elected."

Oldest Senator Dead.

At Dubuque, Ia., Gen. George W. Jones, the oldest surviving ex-United States Senator, died Thursday. Aged 92. He represented as a delegate to Congress that territory now included in Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa and the West, except the Pacific coast.

He was Iowa's first Senator and in early years prominent in national affairs, especially of the Northwest.

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"On this issue we declare ourselves to be in favor of a distinctly American financial system. We are unalterably opposed to the single gold standard and demand the immediate return to the constitutional standard of gold and silver, by the restoration of this government, respectively, in equal proportions, the unrestricted coinage of both gold and silver into a standard money at the ratio of 16 to 1, and upon equal weight as they existed prior to 1876; the silver work of full legal tender, equally with gold, for all debts and dues, public and private, and we demand such legislation as will prevent for the future the destruction of the tender quality of any kind of money by private contract.

"We hold that the power to control and regulate a paper currency is inseparable from the power to coin money; and, hence, that all currency intended to circulate as money should be issued and its volume controlled, by the legislative power only, and should be a legal tender.

"We are unalterably opposed to the issue by the United States of interest-bearing bonds at a time of peace, and believe that a blunder worse than a crime, the present Treasury policy, conceived in by a Republican House, of plunging the country into debt by hundreds of millions of dollars, and to maintain the gold standard by borrowing gold, and we demand the payment of all coin obligations of the United States as provided by existing laws in either gold or silver coin, at the option of the government, and not at the option of the creditor.

"The demand for silver in 1875 enormously increased the demand for gold, enhancing its purchasing power, and lowering all prices measured by that standard; and since that time the price of gold has fallen upon an average nearly 50 per cent, carrying down with them proportionally the money value of all American property.

"Such fall of prices has destroyed the legitimate industry, injuring the producer for the benefit of the non-producer, increasing the burden of the debtor, swelling the gains of the creditor, paralyzing the productive energies of the American people, relegating to idleness vast numbers of our citizens, sending the shadows of despair