

THE HOME RULE.

EQUAL RIGHTS TO ALL—SPECIAL PRIVILEGES TO NONE.

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VOL. I.

“WHITE MAN AND WHITE METAL.”

The above is the motto inscribed on the banner of the Democratic party, and will be its slogan in the coming contest at the ballot box.

What does white man and white metal as used by the Democrats of North Carolina mean? It does not require an astute politician to see that it means anything and everything necessary for the Democrats to get into power, and but little, if anything, else. Free silver was their slogan when at the election of 1892 they elected gold-standard Grover Cleveland President, with a gold-bug Congress, and secured the repeal of the Sherman silver-purchasing act, thereby removing the last vestige of silver as a basic money. No Democrat need charge Cleveland with deception in that campaign. He made speeches and wrote letters giving his position on the silver question, all of which were published in the Northern papers. These letters and speeches were scrupulously kept from publication in the Democratic papers in North Carolina, lest the people should be informed and refuse to vote for Cleveland and his party.

Their public speakers in this State vouched for Cleveland's fidelity to silver and dissuaded the people from reading Populist literature, which was full of Cleveland's position. They also induced Democratic voters to remain away from Populist meetings where every speaker proclaimed Cleveland's opposition to the use of silver as one of the standards of value. This well-known position of the Democratic party was one of the great causes which induced many honest Democrats to express a purpose to withhold their support from the National ticket. This information coming to the ears of Hon. F. M. Simmons, then Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Democratic party, he promptly issued orders that all men who refused to vote for Cleveland should be refused a voice in the Democratic primaries.

Being thus expelled from their party because they asked to be excused from voting for the gold standard under a free-silver slogan, there was nothing left for them but to join themselves together in the People's party and fight the Democrats who, they believed, would fasten the gold standard upon the people.

All men now see how well their fears were founded. If the Democratic party were sincere about silver they would acknowledge that they were wrong and that the Populists were right and would join us in our fight against the single gold standard. They have never acknowledged that they were wrong, or that they had deceived the people. How then can the people believe that the party is now regenerated? Their battle cry in the Cleveland campaign was “Free Silver,” long and loud. Now for national policy the cry is “White Metal.” Will they tell us the difference between free silver and the white metal. If they proved false to free silver, will they not prove false to the white metal? Are they more sincere now than then? Where is the evidence of their regeneration? They halloo for free silver a little louder now than then because they are farther removed from the people, having alienated themselves from the good citizens by violated pledges and broken promises. The great common people when they look upon the thing called the Democratic party will see that it is the same old coon with another ring around its tail.

Now let us consider the use to be made of “white man” as contained in the Democratic motto. This is the plank upon which the gold-bug element in the party is induced to stand with the free silver advocates; on

conditions, however, that they, the gold bugs, shall control the party machinery.

Now let us suppose that this combination shall, by the aid of Populists, get control of the State. What will be the result? The first thing the Legislature would do would be to restore the old election laws and take the county government out of the hands of the people, but would let the election machinery remain in the hands of the gold-standard Democrats. The next thing would be to call a Constitutional Convention, or by Legislative enactment, to make provision in our organic law to allow the Legislature to prescribe an educational and property qualification for the voters of the State.

It is reasonable to suppose they would do like other Southern States have done.

It would seem that the Mississippi and South Carolina election laws would about suit them, that is to say, that no man shall be allowed to vote at any popular election unless he is able to write and also to read and explain the State Constitution to the satisfaction of the inspectors of election, or else own property valued for taxation at three hundred dollars. Such a law would disfranchise in North Carolina say seventy thousand white men and about the same number of colored voters. Then we have the spectacle in the State of seventy thousand poor and illiterate white men deprived of their vote while about fifty thousand negroes who can read and write march up to the polls and vote, while these white men with their political privileges taken from them are forced on an equality with convicts and penitentiary birds. Just think of it, fifty thousand negroes elevated above seventy thousand white men, and this done under the slogan of “white man.” It is no use to say that this cannot and will not be done if the Democrats again get possession of this State. “Just let us get possession of the Legislature one more time” is the word passed from leader to leader in stage whispers. With nearly one hundred and fifty thousand voters in the State, most of whom are for free silver, disfranchised and the election machinery in the hands of gold bugs the State will wheel into line with Cleveland Democracy. While the present free silver element is content with State offices, and the fifty thousand educated negroes are happy in their promotion over white men, we will get both the gold standard and negro supremacy under the slogan of “White Man and White Metal.”

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

In my last article I undertook to show that our people are divided into two broad classes on the money question. On the one hand we have the metallists. This class comprises two types, those who believe in the single gold standard, or monometallists, and those who believe in the free coinage of silver and gold, or the bimetalists.

These two types are the same in kind, and differ only in degree. Those who worship the old fetish that gold or gold and silver are money treated so by nature, are rapidly diminishing. Intelligent metallists are now rapidly coming to the conclusion that they are commodities, and claim that they should be used as money because they are more uniform in production and less liable to fluctuation in value, and should be made the standard by which to measure all other commodities. This admission is a matter of the utmost importance, as I shall undertake to show later on.

The other class consists of the fiatists. They reject the idea that money is a product of nature and claim that it is a creature of law entirely—that the material of which money should be made is a minor matter; that

the real heart and soul of this controversy about money is not as to the material of which money should be made, but who shall make, issue and control it. This class, the fiatists, have embodied their financial principles in the National platforms of the People's party as adopted at Omaha and St. Louis.

In view of these facts, open and manifest, how astonishing it is to often hear intelligent men who profess to be Populists, and are undoubtedly sincere in their professions, say “the Democrats stole our principles at Chicago; the Democrats have come to us on the money question.” The truth is, the Chicago Democratic platform and the St. Louis Populist platform are as wide apart as the poles on the money question. They do not even agree on the silver question, about which such a din is being made.

The silver Democrats still adhere to the old delusion that money must have so-called intrinsic value, and therefore the precious metals, made so by artificial demand mainly, alone are money, and that any paper used as money is only an evidence of debt, and must be redeemable in metal money. This is the fly in the ointment that ruins the whole. This chains commerce to a complicated system of barter which is a relic of barbarism. This “redemption” of money has ever been a most cruel engine of oppression, enabling the speculating cliques, aided by the banks, to expand and contract the circulating medium largely at their own sweet wills, and thus raise and lower prices to suit their purposes. Like the car of juggernaut it has gone forth at intervals to maim and crush our people.

The Democrats claim the free coinage of silver, as proposed by them, will give us bimetalism. For the sake of argument only, I will accept their contention, and what then? We will have the old system of finances that existed in our country from the foundation of our government until silver was demonetized, and what is its record? Do you say this will bring us back to the conditions in the days of Jefferson and Jackson? Very true, but were these great men pleased with the financial conditions of their time? Far from it, as could be easily shown. In fact, they, in a measure, advocated the fundamental principles of the People's party. In these happy times which our Democratic friends want to restore, our country was cursed with periodical cyclones of financial ruin. Witness the panics of 1837, 1846 and 1857.

But the free coinage of silver made the Democratic plan of coin redemption will not give us bimetalism, but the single silver standard, in lieu of the single gold standard, and no one can predict with certainty what the effect would be, but I believe it would be disastrous. It would certainly greatly anger the money power, and would leave the instrument—coin redemption—with which it could punish us. This punishment would be so severe, perhaps, as to dishearten our people and cause a reaction against reform that might prove ruinous. For these reasons, whilst I approve of the free coinage of silver as advocated in our platform, I earnestly oppose it as advocated by the silver Democrats. Shall we throw away all the financial principles for which we have so long contended for such a wild experiment, to state it mildly, as this?

In another article I will state why I accept the financial principles of the People's party, including the free coinage of silver.—Geo. E. Boggs, in *Progressive Farmer*.

All business letters and communications for this paper should be directed to the HOME RULE, Raleigh, N. C.

TYPICAL.

How long would it be before the Democratic “silverites” would control the legislature, pass a Mississippi or South Carolina election law, and then throw off the silver mask, with everybody disfranchised except themselves?

The Populists in this county do not want fusion with Democrats on any terms, nor will they have it, and upon the first indications of such a movement they will go by the hundred straight into the Republican camp for refuge and protection, from a return to their former slavery—in which they know their last estate must be worse than their first.

The writer of this is a Populist, straight and unadulterated, and believes in the principles of the party, but believes first in securing his political liberty, to vote as he pleases and have that vote counted as cast.—Henry E. King in *Progressive Farmer*.

The above effusion is printed simply because it reveals in every asinine line of it the animus of your true, blue Populist statesman. The writer is evidently a Populist, and several other things, “straight and unadulterated,” as he says. The Populist statesman, in the main, is a man who lacked the brains to even attain unto the distinction of constable or magistrate in the Democratic party. His elevation in the Populist party has fully confirmed his previously conceived ideas that his was a case of great abilities overlooked. He therefore hates the Democratic party as only a man of small brain and large prejudices can hate. The writer above is a member of the State Executive Committee of the Populist party. He is fairly representative of the Populist brains and Populistic methods. He has the bilious whine that is the ear-mark of all his kind. He declares that the Democrats would “pass a Mississippi or South Carolina election law” with “everybody disfranchised except themselves.” Does the writer mean to say that only Democrats are able to read and understand a passage of the constitution? Cannot that savior, of his country, to whom the initiative and referendum are but as crystal streamlets and from whose massive brain wise schemes of statecraft rise like votive incense stand a simple educational qualification? Cannot the political marksman who can hit an octopus in the most vulnerable part of his anatomy a half mile away find the slot in the ballot-box?—Greensboro Telegram.

We reproduce the above to show that the same old hatred of Populists by Democrats is a shining virtue in that set.

To show who has the assive ear-marks we call the attention of the Telegram to the methods of all educational qualifications under Democratic management. You make ability to interpret a clause of the constitution a requisite to vote, then make a machine tool the judge, and he “judicially” determines, and he does the rest. Whoever is not familiar with the machine methods of frauds in elections are allowed to take these facts with a grain of salt. If the writer will take Cumberland county election methods as a sample and find the facts, he will, if honest, “ess up.”

THE THREE ADDRESSES.

It is a significant fact that Jones alone of the three chairmen signed his address in his official capacity, while the other two with a few leaders signed their names as private individuals.

Does this mean that there is to be but one organization, and that the Democratic party? What else can it mean?

It is too plain for doubt that it is expected by these leaders that the Populists will disband and leave their organization and join

the Democratic party. And it seems these are the only terms upon which co-operation of all silver forces can be had in the next campaign. Will Populists accept co-operation on such conditions? This is the question to be settled at our State Convention in Raleigh on the 17th.

It therefore behooves all Populists who are unwilling to abandon their party and join the Democratic party to go to their primaries and send no Democrat fusionist as delegate to the County Convention.

The right to vote is too sacred to be thrown away. While we advocate free silver and would be glad for the Democrats to help us secure the same, we cannot afford, even for their help, to give up our right as American citizens to vote. But it is said we can fuse with Democrats on principle—upon the free coinage of silver. Yes, but how about the principle of a free ballot and a fair count, local self-government and such other home rights as the great common people now enjoy? There is not a scintilla of principle in common between Democrats and Populists on these domestic questions. How can we join with them without supporting their scheme of disfranchising all white men who cannot read and write or who do not own as much as three hundred dollars worth of property? Of course it will be claimed that their object is to get rid of the negro and that they will disfranchise as many negroes as whites in this State. We fail to see what consolation the seventy thousand white men who will be disfranchised can draw from the fact that as many negroes are deprived of their votes. This condition will be to them political equality with the negro.

Democratic politicians do not care about the color of the face of the negro, it is only the complexion of the ballot to which they object. They have already declared in their State platform for a new election law, and this is one of their promises they may be relied upon to keep if they are again placed in power either with Populist fusion or without it. There was no use for Populists to advocate or cast a vote for free silver or other reforms until we secured fair elections. It was for that reason we co-operated with the Republicans in 1894. Shall we now throw away this priceless boon by rejoining the Democratic party. Up to 1835 the free negro voted at all our popular elections. In that year a State Convention was called and the constitution was so amended as to deprive him of his vote. His condition in less than twenty years has become so intolerable that the legislature was impelled by the dictates of humanity to pass an act compelling him to choose a guardian or protector from whom he carried a pass.

Can a white man hope for better things when he is denied the right to vote? What say you, Populists? Will you surrender to the gold-bug, monopoly-ridden Democracy, or will you stand for freedom and the right? Answer by and through your delegates at the Populist State Convention on the 17th of May next.

TO YOU, AND YOU, AND YOU.

Brother, this copy of THE HOME RULE is sent to you this week as a sample copy, hoping that you will give it a careful perusal, and if the matter contained in it is worthy your attention and you want to follow up the arguments that will appear in this paper from week to week, we hope you will allow no time to be lost in sending your name and your subscription, so that there will be no break in the paper from the first number. We cannot afford to continue sending sample copies without a little oil to grease the wheels. Twenty-five cents for the campaign.

THE NEWS AND OBSERVER.

What is the matter with the News and Observer? For the last month it has not dished out to its readers the usual amount of scandal.

Has it finished its job as political scavenger?

Are all the official back yards of the present administration cleaned up?

If this most excellent paper wishes to perform a patriotic duty it could be most profitably employed for the next quarter in washing out the dirty linen of some of the late Democrat officials.

Such an exposure of Democratic weakness and shortcomings would be interesting reading to the people just now.

If this popular organ of the Democratic party will undertake the job we would suggest that as a beginning it might explain how it happened that Democratic legislatures have from time to time passed bills purporting to authorize certain towns and counties to issue bonds, and after these bonds were sold and the money received and spent these counties and towns repudiated their bonds and defeated their recovery in the courts under the plea that the legislature did not observe the constitutional requirement in passing the act authorizing the same.

Let this good work begin without delay and we promise Populist co-operation with the Democrats in this labor of love to the good people of the State.

“THE POPULIST STATE CONVENTION.”

Under this heading the Caucasian of April 14th, among other things says, “A large majority of the committee favor co-operation of all who are opposed to the gold standard and the election of an anti-monopoly legislature.”

This declaration or fact coming from the organ of the Democratic fusionist is misleading. The advocates of Democratic fusion out of the twenty present were only four, and those four voted for calling the convention on the afternoon of the 25th with the avowed purpose of formulating a proposition to the Democratic Convention which meets on the 26th of May.

The vote stood 16 against the 25th to 4 for the 25th. It was considered then, as a complete test of the committee's position on Democratic fusion. There were two of the sixteen who were in favor of making a proposition to the Democrats in order to show to Populists that the Democrats would refuse co-operation even on honorable terms.

The News and Observer of April 7th under the caption of “Pops are for Fusion,” takes the anti-fusionists to task for sitting in the committee silent on the question of fusion with the Democrats. Well, we voted down what was considered a proposition to fusion by 16 to 4, and stood ready to do the same for any and all propositions of like import, but there being no further question raised on that line we of course had nothing more to say.

This organ of the Democratic party in the same article grows indignant over the purpose of Populists to run a paper devoted to our doctrines. It draws its gladiatorial sword wreaking with the life-blood of the Populist party, flourishes it in the face of Populism and threatens destruction to the last remnant of our party. Has it come to this that the News and Observer, the late gold bug Democratic organ, is championing the cause of Populist fusion with the Democrats? To your tents, O Israel.

Mr. Burns, Keeper of the Capitol, is giving such attention this spring to beautifying the Capitol Square, and it is now one of the most attractive places in the State and a great resort for the citizens of the Capital city.