

THE HOME RULE.

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BY
THE HOME RULE PUBLISHING CO.

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THE HOME RULE launches its boat this week on the sea of journalism, and like the daughter of the Governor of Kentucky, instead of breaking a bottle of whiskey as a part of the initiatory ceremonies, to perpetuate an old custom, we use the pure God given beverage that nature has furnished—water, and in endeavoring to carry out the principles that the name of our paper suggests, home rule. We shall ever be found advocating the doctrine that the greatest blessings that can come to any people, in a temporal sense, is to possess the right to govern their own affairs, and since this can only be done by good men, of the people's own choosing, and since this must and can only be done through the ballot-box, we contend that outside of the church itself, the most sacred institution in all this land is the ballot-box, a privilege that our forefathers fought, bled and died for that we might obtain yet, we are sorry to say that up to 1896, and for twenty-five years previous to that date, hundreds and thousands of the poor laboring classes of our citizens were deprived of this precious privilege, and because they had not the advantage of an education their ballots were thrown out or received and counted for men other than their friends. "HOME RULE" will labor to perpetuate the present fair and equitable election law as fixed by the legislature of 1897, which gives to every man, be he learned or unlearned, the right to cast his vote and have it counted for the man of his choice.

The men who have taken upon themselves the responsibility of the publication of this paper have not done so with the expectation of realizing any benefit financially. In addition to giving their time and talents they will only be too glad to know that the enterprise is self-sustaining. What they want is to keep the masses of the unsuspecting voters posted, so that they will not be lured into voting for a party whose sole purpose is to use them in getting control of the State, and then spank them right good and tell them they are doing this because they left the grand old Democratic party in 1894 and 1896 and caused some of us Democrats to lose our good paying offices for four long years, an almost unpardonable sin, yet if you will come back and acknowledge you have done wrong and promise to do so no more we will take you in on probation.

In order to put THE HOME RULE within the reach of all our friends we will send it regularly to clubs of five or more from now until the first of December next, seven months and a half, for the small sum of 25 cents. Now, friends, go to work and let us have a good club from every township and school district in the State. If you don't receive a sample copy write for one.

We want a short, spicy news correspondent to THE HOME RULE from every locality in the State. THE HOME RULE being the people's paper, let some representative man express the sentiments of his people in every section of the State, so that this paper can be the medium for the people to express their views and let their wants be known and their wrongs be righted.

We send a package of THE HOME RULE to many of our friends this week, in different parts of the State. Brethren, when received please place them in the hands of men who will read and appreciate them, also who will send in their subscriptions at once, that no gap will occur between the first and each subsequent number of the paper.

DEM-POP FUSION.

It is passingly strange to us how any self-respecting Populist can for a moment think of entertaining a proposition coming from a Democrat tending to fusion after the abuse they have heaped upon the Populists from their very incipency. Up to date they have been the Populist's only political enemies in this State. When L. L. Polk was battling for Populist principles the Democrats were so bitter against him on account of his principles that they almost made life a misery to him, and no doubt his days were shortened through the spleen that they vented against him. Later, when Marion Butler was battling for the same cause he was hissed and rotten-egged all over the State, and the echo of the misrepresentation of his Rocky Mount speech is still reverberating from one end of this State to the other, and all because they were advocating the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1. And now to think that they want to assume the championship of the free coinage of silver by stealing the Populist platform and saying to them: Come into the Democratic party and help us get free silver.

We say that this is just a little more than we can comprehend or digest. We do not want to impugn the motives of any of our Populist brethren if they are honest in their views about Dem-Pop fusion, or rather absorption, but for the life of us we can't see the consistency in such a course, and we are inclined to the belief that if they will stop and think for a moment, and review the Democratic record for the past twenty-five years on free silver they will become disgusted and ready to say, I want no Democratic fusion in mine.

POPULISTS WARNED THEM.

It is now the boast of Democratic organs, when appealing to Populists to return, to speak of their party as the "Regenerated Democracy." Now, we would be glad to give this regenerated party a few test questions by which it may verify the genuineness of its conversion. Do you repent of the rotten eggs you have thrown? Your mud slinging? Your abuse? Your misrepresentations and slanderous declarations concerning the Populist party?

Do you repent of your ballot box stuffing, your bull pens and like fraudulent methods at the polls?

Do you repent of your laws depriving the good citizens of the State of their rights as American citizens to elect all their township and county officers? In short, do you repent of all your political sins and resolve to do better in the future than in the past?

The Democratic party may ask itself this further question as a supreme test of its regeneration: Do we love the People's party which forced us to profess regeneration?

If the above questions can be answered satisfactorily, then let the Democratic party cease to do evil and learn to do good and bring forth fruit meet for repentance; then the people will take under consideration the genuineness of its conversion.

HOW DEMOCRATS TREATED POPULISTS.

If it were not told to us by men whom we have the utmost confidence in, how they were treated by democrats just after they joined the Populist party, we could hardly believe their story, but knowing them as we do we have every reason to believe they are telling the truth. In the middle and eastern part of this State good Populists tell us that soon after the Populist party was formed all kind of abuse was heaped upon them by the democrats they thought their malice could conceive of. Some they would hang in effigy, some they would bury alive in effigy, and write their epitaph in the most diabolical language, others endured the grossest insults on account of their principles, others were ostracised on every occasion, and all this was done hoping to drive the Populist party out of existence. But all this shameful treatment having failed of its object, and learning from sad experience to them that the Populist party has come to stay,

they are now trying another tact. They stole the Populist platform at Chicago, and every Democrat is tearing his throat hollering free silver, white man and white metal; come, you Populists and go with us—when every Populist knows that deep down in their hearts that same old bitter feeling exists that did when they were burning and hanging Populists in effigy. We'll not go 'wid 'em.

HARMONY AT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

The Democratic papers would have the people believe that there was much friction at the meeting of the Populist Executive Committee of the State on the 5th of April, when such was not the case. The only difference of opinion was as to the time of holding the State Convention. A very small proportion of the committee favored the 25th of May, while a large majority preferred an earlier date, 17th of May, and this committee being composed of representative men from all parts of the State, it proved that the Populists do not want to become mixed up with the Democrats. The majority ruled and the minority yielded, and outside of fixing the date of the convention perfect harmony prevailed upon every other question that was raised. Populists are just like other people, they will have their little differences, but there is this redeeming trait in them, when the time arrives they can settle their little differences in a way best known to themselves, and then all go on their way rejoicing, singing, "We'll all meet again in the sweet by and by."

HIST! HIST!

"Negro in the wood-pile." Ho! Populists, do you hear it? Yes, it is just the same old cry of the Democrats who are hungry for pie. In 1876 the Democrats came into power and wrested from the people the right to elect justices of the peace and other county offices. There being three justices to each township, it was given out as the Democratic party policy that one of these justices should be a Republican and wherever practicable he should be a negro. By this policy a large number of negroes were put in such offices as justices of the peace, school committees and the like. So great a number of negroes were put into office in the eastern counties that Mr. Dockery, the Republican candidate for governor against the late Governor Fowl in 1888, charged in the west that the Democratic party was the negro party, and it is said he offered for proof that the eastern counties were negro counties and were Democratic and put negroes into office.

THE FREE SILVER PARTY.

Some of our Populist friends who favor Democratic co-operation say they have no idea of going to the Democrats; they are only going to join the Free Silver party.

Well, the only Free Silver party we know in North Carolina resides and has its being in Wilmington, and when brother Keith retires at night he locks up all that is known of it. But still with some it has a place in their fancy, a sort of flag station on the air-line railroad to the Democratic party at which point the engineer has peremptory orders from the bosses not to allow his train to be flagged down. There is no middle grounds for a reformer; he must act either with the gold standard Democrats or with the Populists. Which will he do?

"NIGGER IN THE WOOD-PILE."

Is it not an insult to the intelligence and manhood of the white people of the State to endeavor to excite their fears of negro rule? The whites are two to one negro in North Carolina, and yet are expected by demagogues to tremble and quake at the old cry of "nigger in the wood-pile."

The grounds around the Governors' Mansion present quite an attractive appearance since Mr. Vanderbilt's gift of trees and shrubs and other improvements by Mr. Burns in the way of new walks and drives.

THE MOTIVE.

We believe the Bryan Populists sincerely favor co-operation with the Democrats, and that Butler knows his hope for the future rests with the decent element of his party. However, if what his worst enemies say of him is true, the quickest way to dispose of him is to force him to accept or reject a proposition for an honorable co-operation in the interest of the white man and the white metal. If he crawfishes, that will open the eyes of the men we are trying to win back and his power over them will be broken. If he sticks, as he did in the last campaign—and we must do him the justice to say that he worked like a Trojan for Bryan—all the better for us; the Republicans are crushed, white supremacy is assured in North Carolina and the way prepared for Bryan's triumphant election in 1900. When we get Democrats and Populists to pulling together all along the line, the trivial differences that now divide them will soon be forgotten and we will have once more a happy and united political family like we had before Cleveland appeared upon the scene. The election of Bryan and a silver Congress will remove the causes that brought the Populist party into existence, and its honest members will find themselves back in the historic party of Jefferson and Jackson without knowing when the line was crossed. This cannot be done in a day nor a week, but requires time, patience and wisdom.

Chairman Jones, with rare foresight, has called attention to the fact that we can well afford to forego the advantage that local issues might give us for the present in order to prepare the way for greater things in the future. He has written to two leading Democrats in this State urging co-operation.—*Webster's Weekly.*

The decent element of the Populist party, according to Mr. Webster, are those who wish to abandon their party and be absorbed by the Democratic party.

The quickest way to dispose of him (Butler) is to force him to reject or accept a proposition for honorable co-operation on Joe Daniel's platform, white men and white metal. Right, you are, Mr. Webster in saying that the Populist party will be disposed of if they dicker with your party whether we accept or reject it. We assure you the People's party will recognize you and your party in no other way than to denounce you for your sins of omission and commission. We have heard your siren song of free silver and decent government before, if we mistake not, when your party declared for free silver and lots of other good things in 1892, and then voted for Cleveland. A nice lot, you are. If your promises and professions had been any good the country would have been saved long ago.

"When we get Democrats and Populists pulling together all along the line, the trivial differences that now divide them will soon be forgotten, we will have once more a happy and united political party like we had before Cleveland appeared on the scene."

Yes, a re-united family, with Ransom as the boss, bull-pens, election frauds, justices of the peace appointed because of their partizanship, county commissioners elected, not by the people, but this same machine, and the sweet, dear, lovely old times as of yore, where no man of independence will be allowed to sit in the synagogue of the righteous?

Yes, a nice scheme to catch suckers, this little game of yours, getting us to mix up with you and "find ourselves back in your party" without knowing when we crossed the line."

We commend your candor and promise you that we will not get in sight of your net.

The Democratic party, to the Populist party, is like the deadly upas trees, and we will not touch the unclean thing.

We warn Populists everywhere to be on the alert, attend your primaries and see that delegates are sent to the County and State Conventions who truly represent the sentiments of your people.

See that there is no packing of delegates, as is the custom of the Democrats, and your party will be safe.

DON'T WANT IT.

If the Populists that we meet tell their sentiments, they don't want any co-operation with the Democratic party. Still there are many who say they are willing to make them a proposition, etc.

Now, brethren, we claim to be honest, patriotic citizens. If you want fusion with Democrats, say so, and if not, then so declare.

Remember that it may be hard to tell the first untruth, but it is quite easy when once used to misrepresentations. How Populists can wish to affiliate with a party that has fattened on fraud and corruption, vituperation and abuse is past our understanding. We don't want it and are not afraid to say so.

NOTICE!

White man, can you read? If not, you surrender your right to vote the Democrats into power in this State.

White man, do you pay tax on three hundred dollars worth of property? If not, your vote for the Democratic party means a vote to place fifty thousand negroes above you and to place yourself and seventy thousand white men in like circumstances on a practical equality with penitentiary convicts and jail-birds.

White man, do you love your children and your race? Then you cannot vote with any party whose purpose is to disfranchise white men and place educated negroes over them.

SEAT OF VIRTUE.

It is too common for men who have a scheme to work on the credulous to meet the arguments of those who disagree with them by impugning the motives of their opponents. This veil is too thin, and sooner or later will be torn off and show those who practice such business in all their hideous deformity.

Whenever a man cannot meet assignments in a better way it is time to call him down.

HOW IS THIS?

Senator Jones, Chairman of the National Democratic Executive Committee, is the author of the bill to retire five hundred million of greenbacks and substitute five hundred million of interest-bearing bonds.

He is also author of the address calling on all free silver men to rally under one banner on which the Democrats in North Carolina have inscribed, "The Democratic party." Selah.

"Since the silver Democrats got religion at Chicago they've been regenerated and we wish to be with them."—*Senator Atwater in Raleigh Post.*

This religion and profession of regeneration is from a death-bed repentance, which is generally lost upon restoration to health. Just let the Democrats be again restored to power in this State and the last state will be worse than the first. Once upon a time Winkey Wankey King of the Cannibal Islands, fell sick nigh unto death and sent for the Christian missionary doctors who ministered to his soul as well as his body and he, too, professed religion. But having been restored to health his menu was as of old, "Little-boy pie and baby sauce, and a missionary for a second course." Can the leopard change his spots or the Ethiopian his skin? They may, but the Democrats of North Carolina can never leave off the use of the bull-pen and counting-tables at elections.

We send out this week 5,000 copies of THE HOME RULE, and before the end of the month we hope to be able to mail a copy to every Populist in the State as a regular paid-up subscriber, and to do that it will take at least sixty thousand copies, and surely this is not expecting too much, for every live Populist wants his paper weekly direct from headquarters, and we promise you nothing but what is reliable and fresh. Brethren, give us your help and we will certainly try to do our part.

NO POP-FUSION FOR DEMS.

"We do not believe that any amount of foreign influence can divert the Democracy of the State from its present intention to redeem this Commonwealth from the incompetent fusion administration, with which it is now afflicted, by undivided Democratic responsibility, or go down in honorable defeat. The past history of fusion in North Carolina places that form of administration without the pale of honest government. It has been a disastrous experiment, and the Democrats do not propose to be a party to any agreement that will perpetuate the present state of affairs. Yet in declining to fuse the Democrats should adopt a most liberal policy, consistent with principle, and invite into their ranks all those who place patriotism and State pride above a rapacious desire for office. The doors of admission to the party should be thrown wide open that all good citizens of the State who desire a reputable government may march under the Democratic banner. Fusion for the sake of obtaining the offices at the sacrifice of principle will not benefit the people. More would be alienated by this course than would be gained. A wise and conciliatory policy will hold the Democratic party together and draw others to it. Don't repel those who wish to come with us—give them a cordial welcome—but hold the ship steadily to its moorings. Therein lies safety and honor."

The above is from the Morgan-ton *Herald*, which voices the sentiments of the Democrats of Western North Carolina. The *Herald* being a leading organ, and being from Judge Avery's town, and of his party, it is supposed to voice his sentiments. We ask how the above accords with a reported interview in a Salisbury paper last week in which the Judge favored Dem-Pop fusion? But we are not at all surprised at the discrepancy. It is nothing more than may be expected. They want Populists to prize them out of the mud, and when they get on solid ground they will look back and say, "Physician, heal thyself."

WAKE COUNTY LOCALS.

A. J. Buffalo, a leading Populist in Wake, is also a leading cattle and dairyman. He demands from \$40 to \$100 each for cows, and he gets it.

At least one-half the Democrats we meet in Raleigh say that if the Democrats fuse with Populists they will not vote the Populist part of the ticket.

It is generally believed that one condition to Josephus Daniels' fusion carries the State printing. The State (printing) will then be saved (to Josephus).

The Democrats turned the affairs of Wake county over to the present administration \$45,000 in debt. The present County Commissioners saved \$13,000 the first year. It will never do to keep them in two more years, for if you do they might get the county entirely out of debt.

Since Hon. W. Jennings Bryan and Chairman Marion Butler have formed a co-partnership looking to Dem-Pop fusion Mr. Bryan has given orders to be sent down the line in this State that the Democratic papers are to hold up their personal abuse against Senator Butler and hold up his hands, hence Josephus Daniels' change of tactics since his visit to Washington.

Now, how can any self-respecting Populist accept such deceptive, backbiting pretensions as that, for just as soon as conditions should change, as change they will, the old spleen against Butler, and every other Populist in the State, will burst forth with ten-fold more bitterness in the future than in the past.

It strikes us that the HOME RULE would be a good medium for business men of every kind to advertise their wares and merchandise, as we are publishing from five to ten thousand copies each week and these are sent to every nook and corner in the State. Hope advertisers will call and see us, and we will make terms to suit.