

**THE PEOPLE'S PARTY PLATFORM.**

Declaration of Principles Adopted by the St. Louis Convention.

St. Louis, Mo., July 24—Following is the Populist platform as adopted:

The People's party assembled in National Convention, reaffirms its allegiance to the principles declared by the founders of the Republic and also the fundamental principles of just government as enunciated in the platform of the party in 1892. We recognize that through the connivance of the present and preceding administrations, the country has reached a crisis in its National life as predicted in our declaration four years ago, and that prompt and patriotic action is the supreme duty of the hour. We realize that while we have political independence our financial and industrial independence is yet to be attained by restoring to our country the constitutional control and exercise of the functions necessary to a people's government, which functions have been basely surrendered by our public servants to corporate monopolies. The influence of European money changers has been more potent in shaping legislation than the voice of the American people. Executive power and patronage have been used to corrupt our legislatures to defeat the will of the people, and plutocracy has been enthroned upon the ruins of the democracy. To restore the government intended by the fathers for the welfare and prosperity of this and future generations, we demand the establishment of an economic and financial system which shall make us masters of our own affairs, and independent of European control by the adoption of the following:

**DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES**  
(1) We demand a National money, safe and sound issued by the general government only without the intervention of banks of issue, to be a full legal tender for all debts, public and private, so that a just equitable and efficient means of distribution may be made directly to the people and through the lawful disbursement of the government.

(2) We demand the free and unrestricted coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1 with out waiting for the consent of foreign nations.

(3) We demand the volume of circulating medium be speedily increased to an amount sufficient to meet the demands of the business people of this country and to restore the just level of prices of labor and production.

(4) We denounce the sale of bonds and the increase of the public interest bearing bond debt made by the present administration as unnecessary and without authority of law, and that no more bonds be issued except by specific act of Congress.

(5) We demand such legal legislation as will prevent the demonetization of the lawful money of the United States by private contract.

(6) We demand that the government in payment of its obligations shall use its options as to the kind of lawful money in which they are to be paid, and we denounce the present and preceding administration for surrendering this option to the holders of government obligations.

(7) We demand a graduated income tax to the end that aggregated wealth shall bear its just proportion of taxation and we denounce the Supreme Court relative to the income tax law, as a misinterpretation of the constitution and an invasion of the rightful powers of Congress over the subject of taxation.

(8) We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of the savings of the people and to facilitate exchange.

**RAILROADS**  
(1) Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity, the government should own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people on a non-partisan basis, to the end that all may be accorded the same treatment in transportation, and that the tyranny and political power now exercised by the great railroad corporations, which results in the impairment if not the destruction of the political rights and personal liberties of the citizens, may be destroyed. Such ownership is to be accomplished gradually in a manner consistent with sound policy.

(2) The interest of the United States in the public highways built with public moneys, and the proceeds of extensive grants of land to the Pacific railroad should never be alienated, mortgaged or sold, but guarded and protected for the general welfare, as provided by the laws of organizing such railroads. The foreclosure of existing lines of the United States on these roads should at once follow default in the payment thereof of the debt of companies, and the foreclosure sale of said roads the government shall purchase the same if it becomes necessary to protect its interest therein or if they can be purchased at a reasonable price;

and the government shall operate said railroads as public highways for the benefit of the whole people and in the interest of the few, under suitable provisions for protection of life and property; giving to all transportation interests and priviledges and equal rates for fares and freight.

(3) We denounce the present infamous schemes for refunding these debts and demand that the laws now applicable thereto be executed and administered according to their true intent and spirit.

(4) The telegraph, like the postal system, being necessary for the transmission of news should be owned and operated by the government in the interest of the people.

**LAND.**  
(1) The true policy demands that the National and State legislation shall be such as will ultimately enable every prudent and industrious citizen to secure a home, and therefore the land should not be monopolized for speculative purposes.

All lands now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs, should by lawful means be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only, and private land monopoly as well as alien ownership should be prohibited.

(2) We condemn the frauds by which the land grants to the Pacific Railroad companies have, through connivance of the Interior Department, robbed multitudes of actual bona fide settlers of their homes, and miners of their claims, and we demand legislation by Congress which will enforce the exemption of mineral land from such grants after, as well as before patent.

(3) We demand that bona fide settlers on all public lands be provided free homes and be provided for in the National homestead law, and that no exception be made in the case of Indian reservations when opened for settlement, and that all lands not now patented come under this demand.

**DIRECT LEGISLATION.**  
(4) We favor a system of direct legislation through the initiative and referendum under proper constitutional safeguards.

**GENERAL PROPOSITIONS.**  
(1) We demand the election of President and Vice President and United States Senators by a direct vote of the people.

(2) We tender to the patriotic people of Cuba our deepest sympathy in their heroic struggle for political freedom and independence, and we believe the time has come when the United States, the great Republic of the world, should recognize that Cuba is and of right ought to be a free and independent State.

(3) We favor home rule in the Territories and the District of Columbia, and the early admission of Territories as States.

(4) All public salaries should be made to correspond to the price of labor and its products.

(5) In times of great industrial depression, idle labor should be employed on public works as far as practicable.

(6) The arbitrary course of the courts in assuming to imprison citizens for direct contempt and ruling by injunction, should be prevented by proper legislation.

(7) We favor just pensions for our disabled Union soldiers.

(8) Believing that the election franchise and untrammelled ballot are essential to government of, and by the people, the People's party condemns the wholesale system of disfranchisement adopted in some States as un-republican and un-democratic, and we declare it to be the duty of the several State legislatures to take such action as will secure a full, free and fair ballot and an honest count.

**PARTISANSHIP ON THE WANE.**  
There is much that is significant in the very fact that Senator Henry M. Teller, of Colorado, seeks a nomination at the hands of the Democratic National Convention. There is greater significance in the fact that many old-time Democrats seriously considered the availability of his candidacy. What the slavery question did for the Whig and Democratic parties 40 years ago, seems about to be repeated as a result of the free silver vs. single standard controversy now waging within both parties. Partisanship was perhaps never at lower ebb than now, and the plain people who do not live by politics, but are the real producers of the wealth of the nation, may take new courage from the fact.

It is a great day in the history of a people when the individual citizen thinks for himself and acts independently of all influences suggested by party exigencies. If he make mistakes, it is better so than that he blindly, stupidly, follows another's direction and so fail to learn for himself the lesson of true citizenship.—Farmers' Voice.

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**PLATFORM OF THE SILVERITES.**

Will Support Chicago Nominees—An Address to the People Adopted by the National Silver Convention—The Platform as Reported From the Committee.

St. Louis, Mo., July 23—The committee on resolutions of the Silver Convention completed its work this afternoon by adopting the platform and address to the people which had been prepared by the subcommittee. The platform and address are as follows:

"The National Silver party of America, in convention assembled, hereby adopts 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 bimetallic standard, no bonds, government currency (and an American policy) on the other.

"On this issue we declare ourselves to be in favor of a distinctively 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 by this government, independently of any foreign power, of the unrestricted coinage of both gold and silver into a standard money at the ratio of 16 to 1, and upon exact equality as they existed prior to 1873; the silver coin to be 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 legal 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 General Government only, and should be a legal tender.

"We are unalterably opposed to the issue by the United States of interest-bearing bonds in time of peace, and we denounce as a blunder worse than a crime, the present Treasury policy, concurred in by a Republican House, of plunging the country into debt by hundreds of millions in the vain attempt 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 demonetization of silver in 1873 enormously increased the demand for gold, enhancing its purchasing power, and lowering all prices measured by that standard; and since that unjust and indefensible act, the prices of American products have fallen upon an average nearly 50 per cent., carrying down with them proportionally the money value of all other forms of 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 willing workers, sending the shadows of despair into the home of the honest toiler, filling the land with tramps and paupers and building up colossal fortunes at the money centres.

"In the effort to maintain the gold standard the country has within the last two years, in a time of profound peace and plenty, been loaded down with \$262,000,000 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 single deal.

"It stands confessed that the gold standard can only be upheld by so depleting our paper currency as to force the prices of our products below the European and even below the Asiatic level, to enable us to sell in foreign markets, thus aggravating the very evils of which our people so bitterly complain, degrading 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 overproduction—that we have produced so much that it made us poor—which implies that the true remedy is to close the factory, abandon the farm, and throw a multitude of people out of employment; a doctrine that leaves us unnerved and disheartened and absolutely without hope for the future.

"We affirm it to be unquestioned that there can be no such economic paradox as overproduction, and at the same time tens of thousands of our fellow-citizens remaining half clothed, and half fed, and who are piteously clamoring 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 Hamilton and Jefferson and Monroe and Jackson and Lincoln, to the end that the American people may receive honest pay for an honest product; that the American debtor may pay his just obligations in an honest standard and not in a dishonest and unsound standard appreciated 100 per cent. in purchasing power, and no appreciation in debt-paying power, and to the end, further, that silver standard countries may be deprived of the unjust advantage they now enjoy, in the difference in exchange between gold and silver—an advantage which tariff legislation cannot overcome.

"We, therefore, confidently appeal to the people of the United States to hold in obedience all other questions, however important, and even momentous they may appear, to sunder, if need be, all former party ties and affiliations, and unite in one supreme effort to free themselves and their children from the domination of the money power—a power more destructive than any which has ever been fastened upon the civilized men of any race in any age. And upon the consummation of our desires and efforts we evoke the aid of all patriotic American citizens and the gracious favor of Divine Providence.

"Inasmuch as the patriotic majority of the Chicago Convention embodied in the financial plank of its platform the principles enunciated in the platform of the American Bimetallic party, promulgated at Washington, D. C., Jan. 22, 1896, and therein reiterated that it is not only the paramount, but the only real issue in the pending campaign, therefore, recognizing that their nominees embody these patriotic principles, we recommend that this convention nominate Wm. J. Bryan, of Nebraska, for President, and Arthur J. Sewall, of Maine, for Vice President.

**BIMETALLISM**  
Or the Evils of Gold Monometallism, and the Benefits of Bimetalism, by Wharton Barker, Philadelphia: Barker Publishing Company. Cloth, \$1; Paper, 50 Cents.

A most comprehensive and lucid work is that of Bimetalism, by Wharton Barker. Bearing evidence of exhaustive research and careful compilation, the book is written with a thoroughness and breadth of scope that makes it easily the peer of all works on bimetalism.

Mr. Barker makes clear that the appreciating gold standard is the mother of poverty, for falling prices destroy the profits of industry, check enterprise, lead to industrial stagnation, the throwing of wage earners out of work and lower wages, with resulting impoverishment and distress to the wage-earning classes. Not until we check the appreciation of gold and thereby the fall in prices, will prosperity return, for in the face of falling prices, labor and energy spent in production entail loss on the producer. To check the appreciation of gold is therefore the first requisite to renewed prosperity, and so long as we make use of the precious metals as money, this can only be done by restoring bimetalism by opening our mints to the free coinage of silver, and thereby throwing upon silver equally with gold the burden of the money functions. We must use both gold and silver as money without discrimination against either metal.

We must give to both metals the same privileges of mintage and legal tender, and as our mints are now open to the free and unlimited coinage of gold into full legal tender money, so we must throw them open to silver. Only by so doing can we restore bimetalism and thus check the appreciation of gold and the benumbing effect of falling prices.

It is, therefore, our first duty to restore bimetalism and lift from the shoulders of our producing classes the burden of falling prices that is grinding them down to poverty and building up on their impoverishment an aristocracy of wealth.

Such in outline is the purpose and scope of Mr. Wharton Barker's work on bimetalism.

Undertaken in response to the demand for an authoritative and exhaustive yet concise and comprehensive work on bimetalism, Mr. Barker has compiled this work, and now presents the result of his labor to the great body of American voters, who hold the destiny of America in their hands in the hope that it may not fail, during the coming campaign, to be of some service and assistance to those struggling to preserve our financial and industrial, as well as political independence, and to save our producing classes from the thraldom of virtual slavery to the foreign money cliques and their allies in America, who are striving to fasten the appreciating gold standard on our country.

The Barker Publishing Company, 110 South Fourth street, Philadelphia, will send the above work, comprising 330 pages to any address, postage prepaid, on receipt of price. Cloth, \$1; paper, 50 cents.

**N. C. RAILROAD LEASE.**

Prof. Graham Thinks the Manner of Leasing the Road Should be an Issue in the Present Campaign.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

RIDGEWAY, N. C.  
The Republican and Democratic State Conventions passed over in silence the lease of the North Carolina Railroad to the Southern Railway Co.

It is hardly probable that so important a matter was overlooked. The mighty power of this giant corporation, even thus early in the "century" of its new lease, makes the politicians tremble.

The next Governor of North Carolina, the two Supreme Court Justices to be elected, and the incoming legislature will decide whether the North Carolina Railroad, built to develop North Carolina and her seaports, is to pass for a century into the hands of a foreign corporation hostile to the best interests of North Carolina.

Under the thirty years lease the Richmond and Danville Railroad paid six per cent. interest on the \$4,000,000 of stock of the N. C. Railroad, \$3,000,000 of which belonged to the State and \$1,000,000 to the private stockholders.

The N. C. Railroad, according to the report of the Railroad Commissioners for 1895, cost \$4,975,627 50. Originally \$4,000,000 of construction bonds were issued. The \$975,627 50 has been expended out of the earnings of the road, so that the actual cash cost of the road approximates \$5,000,000.

Under the ninety-nine years lease, the State of North Carolina and the private stockholders are to receive for the first six years a rental of \$266,000 per annum, and for the remaining ninety-three years of the lease \$286,000 per annum. That is the State and private stockholders are to receive \$6,000 and 6 1/2 per cent. on \$4,000,000 for six years, and \$6,000 and seven per cent. on \$4,000,000 for ninety-three years. In addition, taxes are to be paid by the Southern Railway Co.

It is said that this is a most excellent trade on the part of the State. Let us consider whether this deal for a century is any better than the thirty years' lease of unsavory memory.

Allowing that the N. C. Railroad is worth only its actual cost, to-wit, \$4,975,627 50, the Southern Railway pays 5 3/4 per cent. the first six years of the lease and 5 1/2 per cent. for ninety-three years.

The difference between the real per cent. paid on actual cost, and 6 1/2 per cent. for six years, and seven per cent. for ninety-three years on this same actual cost; to-wit, \$4,975,627 50, would amount at the expiration of the ninety-nine years' lease to \$6,695,829 75, and that, too, without one cent of even simple interest on the semi-annual payments.

The pretense that the State is receiving 6 1/2 per cent. and 7 per cent. on her investment is untenable.

The aggregate value, as taken from the Auditor's reports, of the real and personal property as listed for taxation in the fourteen counties through which the N. C. Railroad runs was in 1871, the year of the first lease, \$26,854,353. In 1895 the value of the same was \$33,851,493; an increase of \$36,997,140, or 137 per cent. increase in the wealth listed for taxation. The population of these fourteen counties according to the census of 1870 was 232,212. In 1890 the population of the same territory was 334,735; allowing the same ratio of increase the population of these fourteen counties approximated, in 1895, 371,555, an increase of 44 per cent. Ought not the rental of the N. C. Railroad to be higher now than in 1871?

In 1871 North Carolina bonds were worth forty cents in the dollar. North Carolina Railroad bonds were worth the same. By the judgment of the United States Circuit Court in the Swasey suit, these bonds were declared a lien on the State's stock in the N. C. Railroad. This decision was unjustifiable, and would have been reversed by the Supreme Court of the United States on appeal. Such appeal was withdrawn by "consent," and the holders of these bonds worth only forty cents in the dollar received in their stead new six per cent. bonds now worth 130 on the market.

All political parties should unite in having the lease declared invalid. The writer has no hostility to the Southern Railway, nor to any corporation, but he believes in State control at least of its own roads.

If the ninety-nine years' lease is allowed to stand, it is but a question of time when the Southern Railway Co. will own or control all the railroads in North Carolina. Already it has its covetous eye fastened upon the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley. It does not wish at present to absorb the entire system, but only a part of it. The C. F. & Y. V. system is next to the N. C. Railway and the A. and N. C. necessary for the development of North Carolina. This road was chartered and built by native North Carolinians for the development of North Carolina. The incorporators found that they un-

aided had attempted more than they could accomplish. Our State Constitution forbade direct State aid, and therefore the managers of the C. F. & Y. V. resorted to a very transparent device to circumvent the constitution. They went before the State legislature, offering mortgage bonds of the road in exchange for convict labor upon engineers' estimate of its worth. They obtained all the labor they needed.

At the next meeting of the legislature they again appeared, showing that they had fulfilled their contract, and asking for a return of the mortgage bonds already given and another grant of convict labor to be paid for with mortgage bonds similar to those returned. The road was gradually built westward, and such was the popularity of the road and such the unanimity of the counties along the proposed lines of the road to be built that very little opposition was made to these indirect evasions of the State Constitution.

The Richmond and Danville Railroad had already built a branch road from Greensboro to Winston. This branch road was extended so as to tap the line of the C. F. & Y. V. at Sedge Garden. This was done to cut off the Yadkin Valley branch of the C. F. & Y. V. Railroad which promised to be the most productive and strongly supporting feeder of the C. F. & Y. V. Railroad.

This extension of the Richmond and Danville system inflicted a severe blow on the C. F. & Y. V., and contributed as much as anything else to its final overthrow.

The Southern Railway Co. has already fallen heir to the W. N. C. Railroad. If the ninety-nine years lease holds good, and it undoubtedly will, unless the people of North Carolina demand of the various candidates for Governor, and the candidates for the legislature, regardless of party, that the validity of the lease be tested in the courts of justice, then the Southern Railway Co. will disrupt the C. F. & Y. V. system, absorb the most valuable portion and thus fall heir to the donations of the State in the shape of convict labor. The interests of the State will be ignored and with these North Carolina systems of railroads in the hands of foreign syndicates, North Carolina will be a strip of territory for other States to prey upon. Nearly all political corruption proceeds from railroads. Unless the lease of the N. C. Railroad is broken up it is only a question of time before the Southern Railway will own or control all the railroads in the State.

We have no time to lose. While the people are carried away in their zeal to restore silver to its proper function as money, "the Philistines will be upon Sampson."

Our sister State, Tennessee, is dominated by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. Hon. James Mahone in a letter to Prof. Chas. W. Dabney, of the University of Tennessee, says that the President of the L. & N., in his office in Louisville, Kentucky, forbids the people of Tennessee to hold a much needed constitutional convention for fear that a clause may be inserted in the new constitution forbidding railroads to lease or purchase parallel lines.

May North Carolina never have a railroad "boss!"

I regret, Mr. Editor, that the public cannot find out the profits made by the Southern Railway Co. in operating the N. C. Railroad. The semi-annual payments made into the State treasury are not to be regarded as gratuities from the Southern Railway Co., but only as a small part of the profits made out of North Carolinians in the course of business. I have been informed that the Southern Railway Co. pays a Georgia railroad twelve per cent., six per cent. on stock and six per cent. on bonds. This may be an error.

When as Chairman of the Alliance Committee, suit was instituted in my name to test the validity of the ninety-nine years' lease, a newspaper reporter represented Judge Walter Clark as saying, "The doors of justice have been thrown open." Those doors were shut and fastened.

Will not the people of North Carolina, regardless of party, see to it that the next Governor of North Carolina and his Attorney General shall open wide the gates of justice, and will they not see to it that the Supreme Court Justices to be elected are men irrefragable in character and fearless in the discharge of their duties.

JOHN GRAHAM.

There should be no fences except those put up for temporary protection, and that can be easily taken down around the garden. If a permanent fence is built it is always in the way, and becomes a harbor for weeds, which will grow all the more luxuriantly because the garden is rich. Neither should fruit trees be planted around the garden for like reason. The fruit garden ought to be by itself, and on the farm it is better to grow all the tree fruits in the main orchard, that can then be fenced in and used as a pasture for pigs.