

THE PLOW BOY.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
The Plow Boy Publishing Company.

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One dollar a year in advance.

WADESBORO, N. C. Oct. 30, 1895

The campaign of 1896 has already begun.

It is better to be right than to have your picture hung in the Bank of England.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Republicans and Populists are now engaged in an animated discussion as to the advisability of fusion next year. The Populists, to a man, seem to favor fusion from the electoral ticket down, while the Republicans are somewhat divided on the question so far as the electoral ticket is concerned. Quite a number of Republicans, who still have some regard for the principles of their party, are protesting vigorously against voting for a Pop for President and it is very evident that the conglomeration of pie seekers who carried the State last year will not have such smooth sailing in the next election. Wadesboro Messenger-Intelligencer.

There is no "animated" discussion about it. Since the credit of the State is so much better now than it was under Dem. misrule, it goes without saying that fusion on State issues is a certainty next year, hence little is being said about it—except by the Dem press. They are the ones who are engaged in an "animated" discussion. They are the ones who are doing the talking, and they are the ones who are disheartened—sick nigh unto death. The statement that "the Populists, to a man, seem to favor fusion from the electoral ticket down" is wholly without foundation and does not possess the shadow of truth. It is our pleasure to mingle almost daily with leading Populists and we have never yet seen one who favors fusion further than the State ticket. Neither the Republicans nor Populists expect fusion on the national ticket. The Wadesboro ex free silver editor had better harmonize the Democratic free silverites and gold bugs before he talks about "smooth sailing." The man who rides on the Democratic ship next year will certainly be shaken up terribly, and chances are that he will perish in a wreck.

According to Democratic authority the public and private indebtedness of the United States is 18 billion dollars. Do you know what this means? It means that the annual interest drawn from the debtor class each year exceeds the entire amount of money in circulation. That is, if the interest on the indebtedness had to be paid at one time, it would bankrupt the country, to say nothing of the principal which must be paid sometime, or repudiated. Ye, there are certain toadies around every county town who argue that prosperity will naturally return in the course of events, provided we have patience. They say that periodical panics are "natural" and that legislation can't do this country any good. In the meantime the "sound money" bankers and creditor classes are gobbling up fortunes made by productive labor, and the farmers are pressed harder and harder every year to make ends meet. And the little muzzled county Democratic organ proceeds with its ridiculous bosh about the farmers being in "better condition than ever before," etc. If the fool killer should pass along now, he would find a rich harvest among the free silver gold-bug straddle-bug Democrats of the South.

You Populists who are behind with your subscription should remember that this paper has no support from the enemies of Reform; it must look to its friends for support. If you want your county paper to live and take the front ranks in the battle next year, it is your duty to see that your renewal is sent in NOW. Don't put it off; you might forget it. If you don't want to be left at the mercy of the straddle-bug, gold-bug papers of this county, PAY FOR YOUR OWN PAPER and keep it going. If you'll keep your subscription paid up, we'll keep things in shape at this end of the line.

Speaking about the financial part of our business reminds us of that Democratic "history of the legislature." The last we have heard from it was in chairman pou's letter. He made a patriotic appeal to the Democratic office suckers throughout the State to go down into their pockets and help the "dear old party" managers pay the printer for getting out that famous "history." The proceeds from its sale were so insignificant that they amounted to comparatively nothing and the "dear old party" was groaning under the burden of debt. Now we rise to suggest that now is a good time to raise the money to pay the printer for his work. We make this suggestion not because we are concerned about the Democratic party, but because we know what a hard time the printers have and how badly they need the money that is justly due them. If the Democratic office holders don't feel like it will profit them to throw away any more money on the Democratic party, then a hat collection should be taken among the 10 cent "sound money" men. Attend to this matter "brethering." You ought to get the "dear old party" out of debt before she brings her last breath, that she may not be disturbed in her dying moments.

When the rise in the price of cotton came the sound money creakers began a little jubilee song about the "returning prosperity." They said the advance in cotton would stop the agitation of the silver question. Their reasoning is as shallow as the sound money theory. They ought to know that the price of commodities is not only effected by their supply and demand but that the supply and demand of money effect prices also. Last year the cotton crop was about 10 million bales and sold for 5 1/2 cents. This year it is 6 million bales and will average 8 1/2 cents. The supply of money being about the same it was last year, the cotton crop will bring no more money but probably less than it did last year. Let the supply of money remain the same and the crop will bring about the same every year regardless of the amount produced. Then the only way under the sun for labor's products to bring more money, is for the supply of money to be increased, and the United States Congress is the only power that can supply the demand for more money. Whenever the Populist idea of more money and higher prices and higher wages is crystalized into law, the burden upon labor will begin to lighten. If the sound money contractionists remain in power, the general level of prices will decline just in the same proportion that the supply of money is diminished. The fellows who mistake the temporary advance in the price of cotton for "returning prosperity" ought to soak their heads in soft water.

In his speech at Henderson, Senator Pritchard was taking quite "advance grounds" when he advocated Republican and Populist fusion on the electoral ticket. He was advocating a thing that neither the Populists nor Republicans want. In our opinion fusion in the State should continue till the intolerant Democracy is out of the way. On State issues the Republicans and Populists are nearly the same, but they are vastly different on national issues. The Populists can not and will not vote any part of a gold bug ticket; this Senator Pritchard ought to know. If he doesn't know it now he will know it later on.

The man who blindly follows any political party now is a back number and altogether out of date. When one follows his party after he knows it has drifted away from its original principles and become corrupt, he shows himself to be a very small citizen—a kind of cattle that has been trained in the party circus to love his master and do his bidding. Independence of thought and action is the prime requisite to popular government and without it there can exist no genuine practical democracy. Without it all republics must sooner or later come to an end.

There is a certain class of things that call themselves Democrats, and when we talk about independent

thought and action, when we talk about popular government and say that the voice of the people should be the supreme law, these creatures (Democrats, too, God save the mark) spurn the idea of such a thing. They say that the thought of legislation originating among the common people is nothing but an empty dream, that "money has always ruled and will continue to rule." We would be safe in asserting that a majority of the so called Democrats who are now leading lights among Southern Democracy entertain the above cowardly views, and yet they profess to teach the people Democracy!

After exhausting the English vocabulary to find words with which to praise, adore and worship the American traitor, Grover Cleveland, who stopped his carcass in Charlotte last week, one of the Charlotte mugwump papers very mildly suggests that a white stone ought to be put up in memory of the grand (?) event. If Maria Halpin and her son Oscar had been with the Cleveland outfit, we venture the assertion that the columns of some of the mugwump papers of the South would have been teeming with words complimentary to this noted (?) mother and son. But such is modern Democracy.

TOADYISM.

It was quite natural that the gold bugs of Charlotte should make a display of toadyism and flunkeyism when Grover Cleveland, the king gold bug of America, passed through that city en route for Atlanta. During the campaign of '94 the toadies and rabble of that city annulled that part of the Constitution that guarantees freedom of speech and made it a point to howl down Populist speakers, and of course the patriotic (?) officers of the city were powerless to put it down. A few weeks since Senator Butler and Walter Henry hired the Auditorium of the city and tried to speak but the "sound money" table were on hand and got in their work, and again the patriotic officers "gave up in despair"—so sure were they that they could not stop the mob that they didn't even try, but just sat back in their dens and let the toadies yell and throw rocks on the Auditorium until the brave old soldiers ran them off. But when that greatest of all American traitors, Grover Cleveland, passed through in his palace cars the rabble that howled down Populist speakers turned out in full force under generalship of the patriotic city officers, perhaps. And all this is done in historic Mecklenburg, the birthplace of American independence!

Notes from Morgan's Saw.

Extortion is one of the paths that lead to hell.

Grover Cleveland is making lots of ex Democrats.

Horr ought to sue Harvey for damage to his reputation.

J. Sterling Morton is the foolosopher of the cabinet.

"The fool says in his heart "I will stick to my grand old party."

The church that votes against the body will never save the soul.

A free silver Democrat means the same thing as a free silver goldbug.

The farmers ought to be proud of their Secretary of Agriculture, J. Sterling Morton.

Changing from one old party to another is like turning an old pair of socks wrong side out.

The gold standard has in two years cost this government five times as much as the late war.

If all the people would demand gold it would settle the gold standard fallacy in ten days.

The Democratic party is like a male—it has neither pride of ancestry or hope of posterity.

Figure out what your party has done for you, and then ask yourself if it has paid you to stick to it so long.

One of the beauties of being a Democrat next year will be the privilege of voting for what you don't want.

The love of life is beautifully illustrated by the Democratic officers in the way they hang on to the government pap.

A Safe Refuge.

Just let the boys hide themselves within the ample jungle of the "Democratic plat form of 1892" and all will be well. "The Democratic national platform of 1892" is fearfully and wonderfully made.

As a paradise for straddlers, its equal has never been known. From the hot sun of free silverism there is shade to protect the weary goldbug. From the dry winds of goldbuggery there is water to refresh the fainting free silverite.

All honor to the "democratic national platform of 1892!" There's no case it won't fit, nor theory it won't support.

To the goldbug, it is a text; to the free silverite, an oracle.

It is balm to Hoke Smith and tonic to Evan Howell.

It's a plea of justification to Cleveland and a bond of indemnity to Billy Bryan and Dick Bland.

It soothes the raging contractionist and whispers encouragement to the mild inflationist.

Owing to its mesmeric influence the Wall street banker, who started out to crush the silver fanatic, and the hayseed farmer, who started out to smash the Wall street goldbug, suddenly find themselves locked in one long, luscious hug, and mutually vowing eternal fidelity to the dear old democratic party.

It's a wonderful platform, this "democratic national platform of 1892."

If there ever was an instrument which was meant to be a gospel to hypocrisy, a ritual to fraud, a text book for straddling, a winding sheet for everything that's honest and straightforward, it is the "democratic national platform of 1892."

When the democratic bosses adopt this platform at the Crawfordsville convention, they will do a most logical thing. They just about fit the platform and the platform just about fits them.—Tom Watson.

Gold Bugs Want Low Prices.

If it can possibly so happen that there is any poor, drivelling, fool farmer in the country who is a gold standard man, and who doesn't see that he is working out his own poverty and ruin, let him read this from the London Times:

"It seems impossible to get bimetalists to understand that there is quite a large number of us for whom a general rise in prices has no charms whatever. We like them low, and the lower the better. If they all went down to half their present figures we should rejoice, because we have nothing to sell and a great many things to buy. For those who have things to sell we do not feel any great concern."

If this doesn't open his eyes let him go as an utterly irredeemable fool.

"Nothing to sell and a great many things to buy."

This the condition of the gold bugs. The larger part of what they buy is the products of the farmer. Do you see?—Caucasian.

Read This.

A Populist may talk loud and long about the cussedness of the shyllocks; he may shout to the Populist editors to give 'em L; he may talk about plumbung the middle of the road; he may talk in favor of keeping up the Populist papers; but unless he rameth his fist down in his own pocket and whacketh up his subscription in due season, he hath become a sounding brass or a drum with the head knocked in, and is not the sort we are looking for to help in the work of pushing Populism on top of the political situation.—Arkansas Populist.

The New Girl.

Yea, verily, girls are of a few days and full of mischief and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. When the fair one cheweth gum with much haste, and stampeth her pretty foot with much vigor, then beware. She cometh forth in the evening with low neck and short sleeves, but in the morning she lieth in bed while her mother hustleth. She eateth all winter of the devoted young man's oysters, and partaketh with glee of his sleigh rides, but when the gentle spring time cometh she winketh the other eye and goeth with a new beau.

Who Will Untangle This?

There is likely to be another overproduction of corn this year. Talking with a Kansas man last Saturday who expects to buy corn the following fall, he remarked that he had already been solicited to contract for it at 15 cents per bushel, but that he declined. He further stated that he could contract for any amount of it now at 12 cents, but he believed it would be lower than that. So it goes; when people complain of hard times and a scarcity of money, they are told that there is an abundance of money if they only had something to sell.

When they have something to sell it is not worth anything, and they are then told that its worthlessness is owing to an overproduction of it. How are the people to accommodate themselves to such circumstances so as to "catch on" to a little of that prosperity that is so abundant everywhere—or is just going to be.—Topeka Advocate.

In a recent interview the Hon. John Sherman discussing the part he played in the demonetization of silver said: "It was quite an undertaking when I agreed to shape legislation on this line in 1873. I can forgive the Democrats now for what they said about me and what they were pleased to call my great crime. I have lived to see their leaders swallow their words, and to day there is not a stronger and more outspoken defender of my cause than you will find in President Cleveland's state papers, and the speeches of his cabinet officers. It is hardly necessary for me to say a word. Of course it is gratifying to me."

What is the referendum? Every reader of this paper must learn what the referendum is. To learn what the referendum is will be to learn a primer lesson in the great reform movement of the age. Repeat the word please till you have it handy at your tongue's end. Referendum, referendum, referendum. The referendum is something that will in itself cure plutocracy and once more establish democracy. It will take from trusts and monopolists their power in legislation and give it back to the people. It gives to the people the power to repeal or enact any law which they choose by popular vote. As an illustration take the Hayes re-assessment bill which was defeated by a few Baltimore millionaires. A large majority of the people in Maryland are in favor of reassessment. The referendum would give the people the privilege of voting for or against the passage of this law provided that 20 per cent of the people should sign a petition calling for a popular vote on the question. If the people should vote on this question it would undoubtedly carry by a big majority. The referendum therefore would place in the hands of the people the power to vote away unjust laws that were passed in a legislature by the force of bribes or to enact any law which a legislature might reject because of bribes. The referendum will thus kill political corruption. When the People's Party gets in power it will establish the referendum and thus make impossible its own power to sell out to the money power like the old parties have done.—Ex.

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