

THE PLOW BOY.
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THE GREATEST ISSUE.

It seems probable now that the Populist convention which meets at St. Louis the 22nd of July will decide to make a square cut fight for financial reform, holding other questions in abeyance for the present. Whether or not this will prove to be the wisest course, time alone will tell. We have never been able to see anything wrong with the transportation plank in the Omaha platform and we believe that the government ownership of the public highway will eventually be the adopted system in this country, but the people will have to be educated up to just as they were educated up to the postoffice system. It will be only a question of time.

There never has been nor never will be any part of a political platform that is more important than that which relates to the financial system of the government. It fact, there is no political issue of more importance than the financial question. This is true in time of peace or war, in time of adversity or prosperity. In time of peace and prosperity the masses should keep close watch on the financial system, lest it should be transformed into a system for the benefit of the few at the expense of the many, as has been the case during the past 30 years of our history. In times of adversity or war the financial question is more important than all others, for with an unjust and discriminating financial system there can be no ray of hope for an oppressed people.

We repeat here what we have frequently said before, that if every part of the Omaha platform were enacted into law and the financial system left as it is now, it would not bring prosperity, but times would continue to go from bad to worse. We must strike at the root of the evil if we would bring about changed conditions for the better. Enact an American system of finance to meet the business requirements of this country and it will partially remedy other evils of which we complain.

Some of the Populists are disposed to condemn the idea of making the silver question the leading issue in the coming campaign, but we would remind them that this issue is one that has, to a large extent, forced itself to the front and it will stay there till settled. We admit that the free and unlimited coinage of silver alone would not afford the needed relief, but it will be a big step in the right direction and will mean a big Populist victory, because the enactment of a free silver law will establish the Populist principle of fiat money, it will prove what Populists have been saying all along, namely that *it is the law that makes money, and that money is simply a creature of law.* When this idea is established by practice, it will be an easy matter to get a still greater increase in the volume of money by additional greenback currency until the amount shall have become large enough to meet the business requirements of the country, so that the grinding credit system may be dispensed with.

Again, it is certain that the next Populist platform will not stop at the demand for free coinage of silver, but will demand the abolition of national banks and declare for legal tender currency issued by the general government without the intervention of national banks. In short, the financial plank of the Omaha platform will, no doubt, stand practically the same as now, and upon this issue the campaign will be made. This seems to be the prevailing sentiment now, and it will, we believe, be a wise course to pursue. All the efforts of the old partyites to keep the financial question from the front will prove fruitless. It is the burning question in American politics and the old party traitors will have to meet it face to face in the coming contest.

It borders on mockery for the goldbugs to sing praises to the name of Abraham Lincoln, the man who warned the nation of the schemes of these enemies of a free people. Lincoln was the great champion of greenback money. He was not a Republican of the present school.

There are lots of patriots (?) waiting to serve the people in official capacity.

The People's party is a mighty live corpse.

PARTY METHODS.

For years the old party press has taught its followers that it is dishonest to bolt a convention. They work on this plan:

Early in the campaign they call township and county conventions. They move heaven and earth, so to speak, to get everybody to attend these conventions. They make their followers believe that their party will give them any kind of candidates and, if elected, any kind of laws they want. But as soon as the national convention meets and the monopoly serving wing of the party nominates its man and adopts its platform, (as it always does, and always will do) the rank and file of the party begins to kick, but the boss puts a quietus on them by telling them that it's the meanest thing in the world for a man to participate in the conventions and then refuse to stand by the nominees, and by applying the party lash in this manner, they hold most of their followers in line and get them to vote for their enemies. This same old racket will be worked this year, but not with the same results as heretofore.

The people are learning from past experience and will put a little common sense in their politics this year. Already a number of earnest free silver Democrats in this State have announced their intention to bolt the national convention as soon as it nominates a gold bug, and this they have a right to do and it is their duty to do it. In making this assertion we are aware that it is not in accord with the teachings of party politicians heretofore, but it is in accord with honesty and it is in accord with the broad principles of popular government upon which this republic was founded. We claim that free silver Democrats have a right to participate in the national convention, because the Southern wing of that party have taught in all the past that their party is a free silver party, and they are teaching now that the Democratic party is a free silver party. It is this principle that the common people want to see enacted into law, and if their delegates who go to the national convention should pledge the support of free silver men to a gold bug candidate, they would not only be acting dishonestly, but would be assuming powers not delegated to them. Inasmuch as the mere success of any political party is not the object of its supporters, it is dishonest for any part of its delegates to sacrifice any great principle just for party harmony and party success.

Old line party beneficiaries take pleasure in referring to Senator Butler as one who bolts conventions, and they therefore say Senator Butler is dishonest. The difference between him and these partyites is that Senator Butler believes in placing principle above party, and he further believes that it is not only right but the duty of free men to bolt the conventions of any party that repudiates a great principle that its voters thought was the established creed of the party, while the party bugs teach that the success of their party is paramount to every other consideration and they put every man down as a traitor who stands in the way of the office seekers.

This blind adherence to party has been the curse of this country, and when a man commits himself to his party regardless of the principles it advocates and practices, he becomes a party slave and an impediment to popular government. It is contrary to the spirit and intent of a republican form of government for men to tie themselves to any party machine, and it is a hellish doctrine which teaches that a man has no moral right to act independently in politics, even after he has participated in the convention of some political party.

Yes, Who is He?
 Concerning Mr. "Janus" who is writing voluminously and noxiously for the Charlotte Observer, we wonder if he is also Mr. Moses Cone, of the plaid trust.—The Caucasian.

Some think here it might be the editor. But whoever it is, he calls every silver man and party that declares for free silver, a traitor, a crank and no democrat. Then has the audacity to say if the Democratic party declares for silver, he will support it. So of all the fools and traitors, he is the biggest.—Hickory Mercury.

A Western paper remarks: Did you ever pinch a dog's tail and watch him turn around and bite his tail instead of biting you? You doubtless thought the dog foolish. But the people have done the same thing for many years. When plutocracy pinched the people, the people began fighting each other instead of fighting plutocracy. See the point.

ABOUT "HONOR."

It may be said that the movement for Democratic-Populist fusion in North Carolina died before it was born, so nearly unanimous has been the revolt against the idea of entertaining such a proposition even for an instant. Democrats understand that they can have no dealings with a man totally devoid of honor, as is Senator Butler. We know that it is a serious thing to make such a charge against a man, but that his political acts for last four years justifies it, even his party friends can not successfully deny.—Wadesboro Messenger-Intelligencer.

We would pass the above by unnoticed, were it not that it slows the plan of campaign to be practiced by the small calibre party bug editors. We notice that week after week the Wadesboro M. & I. has been barking at Senator Butler and yelping something about "honor," and this time it concluded that it is a "serious thing" to charge a man with being "devoid of honor." For four years this same paper has been howling at Mr. Butler and putting him down as one of the meanest men that ever lived in the State and this year it starts out with same old song, but all at once it discovers that it is a "serious thing" to charge a man being dishonest! We want to tell the editor of the above sheet that it depends largely upon who makes the charge as to whether it's a serious thing or not. If a man who lives an honorable, consistent life charges another with being dishonest it could properly be called a "serious thing," but when a party bug newspaper brings such a charge against a political opponent, there is nothing at all "serious" about it, but it is in perfect harmony and keeping with papers of this character, for they have no standard to go by except that laid down by their party bosses and under that standard they could charge the purest man on earth with being "devoid of honor," but we submit that a charge coming from such a source could not be considered "serious" under any circumstances.

If further proof is needed to show that the Wadesboro Messenger-Intelligencer's idea of honesty is in direct opposition to what honesty really is, we have only to note the fact that said paper is doing all it can in its own weak way to get the voters who read its columns to swear allegiance to a party whose record has proved it to be the most dishonest political party that ever held the reins of government since this republic was established. Yes, it is trying to get the people of its own county (Anson) to commit themselves unequivocally and unreservedly to the nominee of the national Democratic convention when there is a thousand chances to one that the nominee will be a gold bug and the Messenger-Intelligencer has repeatedly stated that the Democratic party of Anson county is in favor of free coinage of silver. We hope the Messenger-Intelligencer will have respect enough for the sense and conscience of its readers not to burden them with any more essays on honesty!

The Charlotte Observer says that it has it from reliable sources that Senator Butler has agreed to a fusion with the organized Democracy on certain terms. It must be a very reliable source. The Caucasian has it direct from Senator Butler that this charge is untrue. Senator Butler says that he had every time stated, when such an arrangement has been proposed or suggested, that in his opinion the People's party would never fuse or co-operate with the Democratic machine. He says that the People's party will not co-operate with those who support the nominee of the Democratic party for President, but that the People's party is ready to receive into its ranks, or to co-operate with, those who repudiate the gold and monopoly policy of the party of "perfidy and dishonor."—Caucasian.

Senator Harris says he will continue the fight for silver, but only inside the Democratic party. We do not doubt that Harris' position is entirely satisfactory to the goldbugs. He has been in Congress for many years and in that time has seen silver stabbed to death. How much longer will it take him to get free coinage through the Democratic party? The people need no better proof that Harris and his sort are frauds.—Current Voice.

We learn that there are several hundreds of people in Wilmington, most of them perhaps with families, who are out of employment and but little prospect of getting any soon. Their condition is distressing and their necessities most pressing. Shall they be allowed to suffer, perhaps some of them to starve? Here is a chance for benevolence to do its blessed work.—Wilmington Messenger.

Another Man Bolts the Democracy

Capt. "Bill" Day, the great bulwark of Democracy in Halifax and Eastern North Carolina—the man who could make a county having three Republican voters to one Democratic vote, give a Democratic majority of 2500, has quit the gang. He has done right in leaving the Democrats, but we think he has gone to the wrong place for salvation. In a card to the News and Observer he says:

To the Editor: I was in Washington a few days ago, and at the same time Capt. Peckles and Mr. Ed. Chambers Smith was in the city. I was not present at the conference looking to "save the State," or for any other purpose. My mission was to serve a friend. "Only this and nothing more."

I regard the issue in North Carolina as a fight between the Populist and Republican parties. Or if you prefer, between sound money and inflation. Between vagaries of unrefined political dreams and conservatism. If it can be of the least interest to the public what my political conduct will be under these circumstances, I most unhesitatingly say, I shall vote the National Republican ticket in '96.

Very truly,
 W. H. DAY.
 Halifax, N. C., Feb. 26, 1896.

And we think we remember the Charlotte Observer to have said recently that it wished the Democratic party had more men like Capt. Bill Day. On this particular matter there is not much difference in the Caucasian and the Observer.

The Democrats recently lost Kitchen. Later their Fountain broke away and now they have lost their Day. Poor party! In the dark and famishing and thirsting to death.—Caucasian.

Exchange Clippings.
 After all the American people seem to be more interested in the Jeffersonian doctrine of finance than the Monroe doctrine of territorial acquisition. The latter only attracted their attention momentarily, when they are again absorbed in the all important question of whether American people should submit to the English gold standard and English commercial and political rule.—News.

Is it right that one man should have the power to mortgage a nation for \$2,000,000, or even \$1, without the consent of those who must pay it? Is it not the power of a king, despot and tyrant? Let the people think of this; it is an act recently perpetrated in this country. Let us arise and apply the bridle to the beast which threatens destruction to the vehicle of government by the people.—Missouri World.

The United States can go it alone on silver as well as it can go it alone on the Monroe doctrine. We are not consulting Europe as to the position we should take regarding Hawaii, the Venezuela boundary line, or the Nicaragua canal and we don't have to consult any nation on earth as to whether we will admit to our mints for free coinage the silver mined from our own grand and rich mountains.—News, Port Huron.

Don't be fooled any longer by the deceitful word bimetalism. The time's come when things should be called by their right names. Bimetalism has a thousand strings to it. What we want is free silver, and there is only one way on earth to express it. "We demand the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, without waiting the consent of any nation on earth." There is nothing ambiguous about that. It means just what it says, and says just what it means. Even the lawyers could not twist it to mean anything else.—Operator.

Bonds! Bonds!
 Every dollar invested in bonds is so much money retired from useful business. Many of our people go robbing and rascality have grown so rich that bonds at 1 per cent would give them immense incomes, but a 3 per cent bond is a bonanza. They don't want to be bothered with business. In fact they regard business as disgraceful. "Tain't English, you know." With Cleveland as president they get all the bonds they want. Then the Reed bond bill as it passed the house would do the same. Money is in the saddle, the people are on foot, many of them destitute, and the condition growing worse every day.

Voters of America, are you blind or simply party partizan fools, that you can't see the situation? The country is going to the dogs, in fact the dogs have it now. "Reform is necessary," let us on to St. Louis for union and victory.

The angel of healing has disturbed the waters, let us all get into the pool. Liberty lies bleeding, avarice is supreme.—[Silver Knight]

Some Valuable Political Facts.

To the People's party is due the credit of agitating this money question for years past. It is the only national party that ever declared for 16 to 1 or any other ratio, and in all its efforts to arouse the people on this vital subject it has had to contend with both the old parties. Now that the people have become fairly educated, and are beginning to understand not only the cause of their misfortunes, but also, who are responsible for them, the treacherous old Democracy flops over and pretends to be silver's best and only available friend. That this claim is wholly unfounded and unprejudiced man will understand when he examines the record made by the party. Here it is:

1. The Forty-ninth Congress having a Democratic majority of 42, on April 8, 1886, killed a bill providing for the free and unlimited coinage of silver at a ratio of 16 to 1.

2. The Fifty second Congress having a Democratic majority of 148, on the 24th day of March, 1892, killed a free coinage bill at a ratio of 16 to 1.

3. The same Congress on July 13 of the same year, overwhelmingly defeated another free coinage bill, 16 to 1, after it had passed a Republican Senate, and when it was well understood that a Republican President, although individually opposed to free silver, had said he would approve it, if passed by the Democratic House.

4. On August 23, 1893, the Fifty-third Congress called in extra session by Mr. Cleveland defeated a bill providing for the free coinage of silver at 16 to 1 by a two thirds vote. This Congress had a Democratic majority over both Republicans and Populists of 83, but the ten Pops voted for the bill, thus making the Democratic majority, if really in favor of free silver, 103 over the Republicans.

There were 217 Democrats on the floor of the House when this vote was taken, and 101 voted for the measure and 116 voted against it. So, then, it will be seen, if nobody but Democrats had been present and voting, the bill would have been defeated by a majority of 15.

5. On the same day namely, August 23, 1893, the same Democratic Congress voted down a second proposition to coin silver free, at a ratio of 17 to 1, by a still greater majority.

6. On the same day this same Congress voted down another proposition, looking to "the parity" of the two metals at 18 to 1.

7. On the same day another bill providing for the free coinage of silver at 19 to 1 was defeated.

8. On the same day another proposition looking to the free and unlimited coinage of silver at a ratio of 20 to 1 was snowed under in a Democratic House.

And thus it was five bills providing for the free and unlimited coinage of silver were beaten in a representative body now professing to be the friend of the white metal as fast as the clerk could call the roll. And don't forget, honest Democratic reader, that in every solitary instance a majority of your Democratic Congressmen voted against silver, and in favor of the single gold standard.

9. On November 1, 1893, the Fifty-third Congress, with its 83 Democratic majority over all, voted down an amendment offered by Mr. Blain to a pending bill, which amendment provided for the free and unlimited coinage of silver at 16 to 1.

10. On October 27, 1893, the United States Senate, having a Democratic majority of three over all, and when the four Populist Senators were counted for silver the majority over the Republicans was eleven, defeated Senator Stewart's amendments providing for free coinage of silver at 16 to 1.

11. In February, 1895, the Fifty-third Congress being in session with a Democratic majority in both Houses, and a Democratic (so called) Executive, the Finance Committee of the Senate, with Dan Voorhees Chairman, and a majority of Democrats on the committee, killed in the committee room the last proposition made for the free coinage of silver at 16 to 1.

Thus it will be seen that in nine years the Democratic party in Congress has killed eleven free silver bills, and wholly failed and refused to rebuke "the crime of '73"

When the party had the power to restore free silver, it refused. Now that it is powerless to do anything, its leaders, especially in the South, are profuse in their promises, what they intend to do right next time. The man who says he believes they are in earnest this time is either a credulous idiot or knowingly aiding in making another platform "to get in on," and wittily deceiving the public.



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WESTBOUND TRAINS.

Jan. 26th, 1896	No. 403		No. 41	
	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily
	A	M	P	M
Leave Wilmington	8 30	10 30	8 30	10 30
Leave Lumberton	8 58	11 00	9 00	11 00
Leave Maxton	9 12	11 15	9 15	11 15
Arrive Hamlet	9 25	11 30	9 30	11 30
Leave Hamlet	9 35	11 40	9 40	11 40
Leave Wadesboro	9 49	11 55	9 55	11 55
Leave Marshville	10 05	12 10	10 10	12 10
Arrive Monroe	9 35	11 40	9 45	11 50
Arrive Charlotte	10 45	12 50	10 55	13 00
Leave Charlotte	10 45	12 50	10 55	13 00
Leave Lineinton	11 14	1 19	11 24	1 29
Leave Shelby	11 44	1 49	11 54	1 59
Arrive Rutherfordton	2 10		2 20	

EASTBOUND TRAINS.

No. 402, "The Atlanta Special," Solid Pullman Vestibuled Limited Train with Buffet Sleepers and Day Coaches (no extra fare), Washington to Atlanta "Congressional Limited" Pullman Parlor and Dining Cars. New York to Washington, Pullman Vestibuled Drawing Room Sleepers, Richmond to Monroe, also Portsmouth to Atlanta (open at Richmond and Portsmouth 9 a. m.)

No. 41, "The S. A. L. Express," Solid Train of Pullman Sleepers and Day Coaches, Portsmouth and Weldon to Atlanta, Pullman Sleepers New York to Cape Charles.

Jan. 26th, 1896	No. 402		No. 38	
	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily
	P	M	A	M
Leave Rutherfordton	4 35	6 35	4 35	6 35
Leave Shelby	5 05	7 05	5 05	7 05
Leave Lineinton	5 20	7 20	5 20	7 20
Arrive Charlotte	6 25	8 25	6 25	8 25
Leave Charlotte	6 35	8 35	6 35	8 35
Leave Monroe	9 15	11 15	9 15	11 15
Leave Marshville	9 30	11 30	9 30	11 30
Leave Wadesboro	9 54	11 54	9 54	11 54
Arrive Hamlet	10 34	12 34	10 34	12 34
Leave Hamlet	8 15	10 15	8 15	10 15
Leave Lumberton	10 20	12 20	10 20	12 20
Leave Maxton	9 29	11 29	9 29	11 29
Arrive Wilmington	12 30		12 30	

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