

For President—
WILLIAM M'KINLEY,
of Ohio.

For Vice-President—
THEODORE ROOSEVELT,
of New York.

OPPRESSED KANSAS FARMER.

The Abilene, Kansas, Reflector relates the following conversation as having occurred between a neighboring farmer and a carpenter. Bryanite papers back there as here have been telling the poor farmer how much he is ground down by the price of nails and other things. So the carpenter opens the conversation by saying:

"I can build and finish up for you a six-room farm cottage for \$1,000, and the nails in the building will cost \$25 at present prices. Four years ago they would have cost about \$19. If the price of your farm stuff has advanced in proportion then you are not oppressed by the price of nails."

"Well," said the farmer, "I don't build a new six-room house on my farm every year and I guess none of my neighbors do, so the \$6 extra would be no hardship. A steer calf six weeks old is worth \$6 more than one of that age was worth in 1896. The difference in the price of a calf will make up the difference in the price of the nails for a new house and I don't have to build, anyway. Come to think of it, a yearling steer now will sell for just enough to pay for the nails in that thousand dollar house. Four years ago a yearling would bring about \$11."

"How many nails do you buy in a year?" asked the carpenter. "Oh, about 75 cents worth," answered the farmer. "And I figure it that the increased price beats me out of about 12 cents. The advance in the price of one bushel of corn or one old hen will make up for that."

"How about your other farm stuff?" "Well, a 300 pound hog will bring at least \$3.50 more than it did in 1896. I sell about fifty fat hogs every year—say the total weight is 13,000 pounds. The advance in price means at least \$150 extra for me. Fat cattle are worth \$15 to \$20 a head more than they were four years ago and I get some little profit there. Most of my neighbors have a few head to turn off every year. A man only has to sell ten head of cattle to get \$150 extra profit. Would buy a whole lot of nails."

"How about horses?" "Now you have struck it, mister. Horses have just doubled in price. When Cleveland was president, good young horses would bring from \$35 to \$45 apiece. Plenty of them were bought up in my neighborhood by horse buyers at that price. Now it takes from \$75 to \$90 to buy the same kind of a horse and there are just as many being bought."

"But you have to pay a bigger price for everything you buy," objected a populist bystander. "You get beat out of so much that you ain't any better off at the end of the year."

"That shows all you know about it," returned the farmer. "Four years ago you didn't have any money to buy anything with, so I guess you ain't qualified to chip in here and make comparisons. Right here in Dickinson county I can get shoes and clothing as cheap or cheaper than I ever could. Sugar is way down to what it used to be. And I'm not so young but what I can remember that coal oil used to cost 30 cents a gallon. I've seen flour and meat a little cheaper, but I've got wheat and hogs to sell at a big price. Machinery is about as cheap as it ever was, and a good deal cheaper than it was seven years ago. Five years ago my oldest boy wanted a bicycle and he bought a second hand one for \$60. It was quite a luxury for the hard times and it took two good cows to pay

the bill, but a new one cost \$100. This year Jim bought a new bicycle for \$25. The price of a yearling done the business. I guess you town fellers ain't robbing the farmers enough to hurt. Nearly everyone up my way has money in the bank now. Four years ago they mostly had notes in the bank."

The above is a sample of the argument one hears here this year. The farmer does most of the talking. The carpenter does not stay around long, for the reason that work in his line is pressing, and there are two jobs for every one carpenter. The sidewalk populist may stand around awhile and growl in an undertone about "plutocrats," but the music is nothing like it was in 1896.

HOT SHOT FROM OLD ABE.

Mr. Bryan is fond of quoting from Abraham Lincoln. Here is a quotation that THE CHRONICLE respectfully commends to his distinguished consideration. Mr. Bryan will doubtless recognize it as applying to a time when his running mate, Mr. Stevenson, was a Knight of the Golden Circle and Mr. Bryan's political ancestors were denouncing Lincoln for sending Vallandigham across the federal lines because of attacks upon the Lincoln administration scarcely more violent than many that have been made upon the McKinley administration by Mr. Bryan's congeners during the past year. Mr. Lincoln said:

"He who dissuades one man from volunteering, induces one soldier to desert, weakens the cause as much as he who kills an American soldier in battle. Must I shoot a simple-minded soldier boy who deserts, while I must not touch a hair of a wily agitator who induces him to desert? This is none the less injurious when effected by getting a father or mother or friend into a public meeting and there working upon his feelings till he is persuaded to write the soldier boy that he is fighting in a bad cause, for a wicked administration and a contemptible government. I think that in such a case to silence the agitator and save the boy is not only constitutional but withal a great mercy."

Bryan closes his last letter of acceptance with these significant words: "When the doctrine that the people are the only source of power is made secure from further attack we can safely proceed to the settlement of the numerous questions which involve the domestic and economic welfare of our citizens." Which, being interpreted, means that when Bryanism is safely seated in the White house it will proceed to demolish the gold standard and establish the lunacy of 16 to 1 in defiance of the financial wisdom of every civilized nation on the earth.

"Speaking of the 'full dinner pail,' what is it full of? Promise?" asks the Walla Walla Statesman. Nay, Pauline. It is probably full of chicken and pie, but to a dead certainty there isn't a drop of free soup in it.

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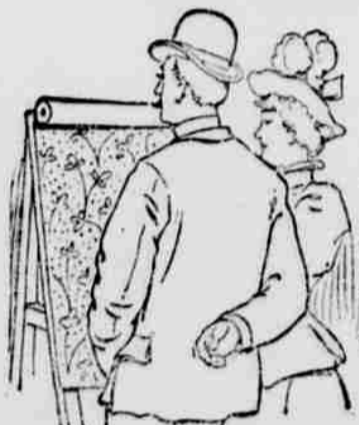
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