

E. W. Boardman Dec 25 '99

# BROAD-AXE

"HEW TO THE LINE, LET THE CHIPS FALL WHERE THEY MAY."

VOL IV

EUGENE, LANE COUNTY, ORE. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1900

NO 41.

## Interesting Letter

### From Grants Pass

Grants Pass, Ore. Feb. 27.—To the Editor: Your numerous requests to "correspond" for the Broad-Axe have been reluctantly deferred through pressure of business in the hope that a few leisure moments might fall to my lot. But I fully realize that the force of the poet's expression that "procrastination is the thief of time" and that procrastinated resolutions do not amount to much. I greatly appreciate your kind invitation to write for the paper and feel flattered that you think my occasional scribbling is worthy of a space in the columns of so able an advocate of the people's rights. It has given me great pleasure to read from time to time your able defense of the taxpayers' rights in Lane county and your continuous advocacy of the doctrines enunciated in our magna charta, the Omaha platform. Yet there are some things in which I cannot agree with you but I accord to you honesty of conviction and acknowledge your right to not always see things as other people see them. The whirligig of time and the fortunes of war bring about many strange metamorphoses in the opinions and affairs of men, and the late war with Spain and its resulting war with the insurgents, are no exception to the rule. One of the results of the Spanish-American war was to re-unite the nation and inspire the people with unbounded patriotism, such as has not been witnessed since our revolutionary fathers fought in defense of home and country. It also has had the effect to obliterate party lines and to weaken party influence—so much so that even the republican party who has dominated the country for nearly forty years is greatly divided in its sentiments in regard to what course to pursue in the coming campaign. The great slogan of protection and stepping stones to republican success since the civil war will probably not be mooted in the party platform in the campaign of 1900, and I doubt very much if Bryan and other democratic leaders are ever able to revive the free silver and sixteen to one issue again. The populists never did consider the silver question a vital issue, although incidentally it was of some importance in illustrating the principle that material is immaterial in the creation of money or the medium of exchange.

The war cry of the people's party if the organization is not already dead through its own folly should be the Initiative and Referendum—the cure-all and only remedy for all the political evils to which our representative system of government is subject. With this accomplished, all parties will disappear from the political arena and the people the real sovereign will

reign supreme.

Expansion and progression have been the policy of the American people since the foundation of the republic, and without these great principles instilled in us from birth we never could have become a great and progressive nation and an industrial power among the nations of the earth.

Well Brother Amis, enough of politics—there is nothing in it! I will simply inclose you a letter from Charlton who has had some experience in war and Filipino character the last year or two. He seems to think our open door and expansion policy alright.

H. C. PERKINS.

Judge Potter's report of the comparative standing of the financial condition of former years with those years covering the period of his judgeship, is a jumble of figures which can only mystify the ordinary taxpayer, and form a hiding place from the eye of the initiated into the mysteries of the ordinary official grafter. But twisted as the judges report is, the figures show that the county indebtedness is \$114,947.89.

The action of Grants Pass in the smallpox case resulting in the recent death of a Mr. Johnson, of that city is universally condemned. The circumstances in the matter shows that Johnson died from sheer neglect, and was denied even a decent burial by citizens of the town, but that his burial was committed to three tramps who happened to be there. For this these tramps were paid \$50 with the understanding that they were to leave the city; which they did coming north, probably to strew the germs of smallpox as they went.

We notice friends of the citizen's cause have formed what they call a "democratic club" in the southern portion of the county which is composed in part of populists. Now it occurs to the Broad-Axe, that a "democratic club" is a misnomer for a club composed of populists and democrats mixed. Why not denominate your club "a citizen's club," or a Bryan club? This would be more in consonance with the trend of the spirit of the times. Why not all reformers in the county organize "Bryan clubs?" All can train under a Bryan flag.

We regret to notice that owing to ill health Miss Jones has severed her relations with the Drain Watchman, Mrs. Miller and Mires taking her place. We fervently hope for Miss Jones' speedy return to good health, and bid her a regretful farewell.

The Chandler News of Oklahoma of February 16th has more than a column and a half of "political notes," in four line paragraphs devoted to Bryan, without once showing its hand politically.

## ANTI-TRUST CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO IS PROGRESSIVE

The proceedings of the anti-trust conference held at Chicago 11, 12, and 13 of February show that what is termed socialism in the United States is making astonishing progress. The conference was composed of eminent men from all portions of the country, among whom may be named:

- M. L. Lockwood, J. P. Altgeld, Ex-Judge Williams, F. S. Monett, Samuel M. Jones, John S. Crosby, George Fred Williams, Thomas L. Johnson, Ex Judge Wm. Prentiss, William P. Black, Mayor Carter Harris, Gov. Lee, Jay D. Miller, Dr. George Sherman, T. Carl Spelling, of San Francisco; F.W. Elliot of Texas; C. C. Matthews of New Jersey, Alexander Delmar, S. H. Greeley, Helen M. Gouger, E. B. Finley of Ohio; H. S. Chaffee, Gen. Weaver of Iowa; and Jerry Simpson of Kansas.

It strikes us that this declaration of principles are about the proper thing to meet the urgent demands of the hour. Think it over.

Talk as you will for a single gold standard, but after all labor and the products of labor are the only true standard for monetary circulation. The wealth of a country is the basis of its money.

Washington's birth day was observed in our city with becoming propriety by a suspension of business.

If what Gilstrap said in his Tulara Citizen in '95-'96 about the republican party was true then, is what he says now about it true?

If Gilstrap Gilstraped every body including women who trusted him at Oakesdale in Washington in 87-'91, why should he be trusted now in Lane county Oregon?

Isn't the republicans of Lane county hard up for some one to run their organ when they pick up an ex-populist who was kicked out of the populist party in California as unworthy of confidence.

What do we hear from the republicans of the county with reference to a betterment of affairs, but the cry of "stick to the party," and ribaldry and abuse of every one who dares open his mouth in protesting against infernal thievery, and high handed robbery?

Do we hear any one of them condemning the party, and proposing a remedy for the wrongs that party has perpetrated? Do we hear any one of the leaders of the party talking about that \$2,000,000 session of the last legislature, and 6 1/2 mills state tax levy? Or, do we hear of any one of them in Lane county complaining about the condition of things here? Rather do we not hear them justifying and approving of it?

### THE PLATFORM.

WHEREAS, In the opinion of the National Anti-Trust conference at Chicago February 12, 13 and 14, 1900 the just and true remedy for the combinations known as trusts which consist of corporations and natural persons controlling legalized, special privileges, is the abolition of these privileges, and

Whereas, The legalized privilege of telegraph monopoly, the legalized privilege of protection against foreign competition with American goods controlled by trusts, the legalized privilege of monopolizing the issue of paper money, and the legalized privileges incident to the private ownership of railways are potent factors in creating and maintaining trusts; therefore be it resolved:

First—That congress take immediate steps under the power of eminent domain, or otherwise as may be deemed the most expedient, but in any event by paying the just value of watered stock or other fictitious values of any property taken or recommended, to establish the telegraph and telephone system of the United States as adjuncts of the Postoffice Department and subject to its operations.

Second—That Congress defeat all measures that have been or may be proposed and repeal all that now have the sanction of law whereby private corporations may acquire control of the circulating medium and create a banking trust.

Third—That the tariff shall no longer be employed to foster and protect trusts, but that congress shall place on the free list all articles, the sale of which in the United States is controlled by a trust.

Fourth—That congress take immediate steps, under the power of eminent domain or otherwise as may be deemed the more expedient, but in any event by paying the just value of watered stock or other fictitious values of any property taken or recommended, to take, own, and operate the interstate rail highways now operated by private persons or railway corporations.

And, whereas, the political power of the trusts lies in their frequent representation in and control of the houses of legislation, we recommend the adoption of the system known as Direct Legislation, to make government more direct, to elect it outright, and as was conceived alike by Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln, a government of the people for the people and by the people.

Gil-Strap says the National Committee members of the populists which met at Lincoln Nebraska last week had a row. Gilstrap, should have been there and got "thrown out over the transome" as Allen wanted done in the case of some of the kickers. Gilstrap knows how it is himself, as he went through a similar experience at the St. Louis convention in 1896, when a fusionist knocked him over the railing instead of over the transome which guarded the members of the convention from the crowd of visitors.

Can you learn an "old dog new tricks," or did you ever know an old party to reform itself? Or did you ever know a stream to rise above its source? Or did you ever see a man strong enough to lift himself off the ground by the strap of his boots? If you want to feel the full force of Burns' Couplet—  
"Oh, would some one the gift to give us,  
That we might see ourselves as others see us,"  
—just look at W. G. Gilstrap strutting along main street with a cigarette in his mouth.

The plutocrats say it is better for labor to be overworked and underpaid than to be underworked and not paid at all. In this they may be right, but, strange to say, they never apply that principle to themselves, for they are dissatisfied even when they get all the pay and do no work.

## Silver Siftings And Short Sayings

Hon. J. R. Sovereign.

Morality and indigence are mortal foes.

Starvation and honesty will not live in the same house.

Hard times, low wages and enforced idleness makes mourning in heaven and a jubilee in hell.

When a person borrows national bank notes he promises to pay interest on another fellow's promise to pay money.

Your employer asks you to vote his ticket because he gives you employment and he thinks you an ungrateful wretch if you do not, but he would think it the height of impertinence if you asked him to vote the silver ticket on the ground that you create his wealth.

To make two mean men: Deprive one of his honest earnings and give it another without just compensation. The one will become desperate; the other arrogant. Jointly they are God's worst enemy and the devil's best friends.

The dollar that is the hardest to earn by honest industry and easiest to get by dishonest speculation is the so-called "prosperity" dollar—the gold standard advocates.

The new born babe sends its cradle shout back to the angels in heaven in thankful acclamation of its heritage on the earth. But that is only additional evidence to prove that where ignorance is bliss it is folly to be wise. In a few years the same child bows in humble supplication before the land monopolist and begs to subscribe to his terms for permission to stay on the earth.

Laboring men in America go to the ballot box to create a cause, and then go on a strike to fight the bad effects of the cause they created. If they will vote to abolish the cause there will be no bad effects to strike against.

This office is pleased to acknowledge a call Thursday of H. C. Perkins of Grants Pass returning from a business trip, to Salem, a former citizen and pioneer of Lane county widely and favorably known throughout the state. It is always a pleasure to us to meet Mr Perkins who we regard as an ideal old time Oregonian of whom unfortunately for our country there are but few left. The letter published in this issue from Mr Perkins will be read with interest.

### Chickens and Eggs.

I have at my ranch three miles west of Eugene some thoroughbred white Wyandott cockerels and sitting of eggs of the same breed of hens which I will sell to anyone on application within the next two months. L. B. ROSSMAN.

Overton's for wall paper, oils and paints