

BIMETALLISM.

And Question of the Union Of Reform Forces in Oregon Politi- tics Discussed.

Chief Abrams writes from Crawfordville Or., on April 19:
Permit me, through the columns of THE JOURNAL, to dwell briefly on the question of the fusion of the reform forces in the state of Oregon.
I notice in the issue of THE JOURNAL, of the 16th inst, an address prepared by the state central committee, of the Populist party, to the people of the state of Oregon, opposing fusion.
In this address this bold declaration is made: that the "Populist party is the original and only National Bi-metallic party." Let us see:
The platform of every true bimetalist in the United States is this: Gold and silver as standard money, paper or greenbacks issued direct from the Treasury department to the people without the intervention of any bank or corporation, the abolition of the National bank as a bank of issue, and the option left to the secretary of the treasury in redeeming government obligations in either gold or silver.
Now then, if I have correctly outlined the Bi-metallic platform, let us see if the Populist party is the only National Bi-metallic party. Let me quote from the platform of the Democratic party, adopted at Chicago, July 9, 1896, it says: "Recognizing that the money question is paramount to all others at the present time, we invite attention to the fact that the constitution names silver and gold as the money metals of the United States."
Further on it says: "We declare that the act of 1873, demonetizing silver without the knowledge or the approval of the American people, has resulted in the appreciation of gold and a corresponding fall in the prices of commodities produced by the people."
Again it says: "We demand the free and unlimited coinage of both silver and gold, at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1 without waiting for aid or consent of any other nation."
Again: "We demand that the issuance of notes intended to circulate as money by National banks, as in derogation of the constitution, and we demand that all paper which is made a legal tender for public and private debts, or which is receivable for duties to the United States, shall be issued by the government of the United States."
Is these utterances of the Democratic party, not bimetallic? Do they not sound the key note of bimetalism? The platform of the National Silver party, is, in effect, the same as that of the Democratic party.
With these facts before us, why does the Populist party claim the distinction of being the only National Bi-metallic party?

The Populist party has done a great work. They have forced the money question to the front in the United States. But after having accomplished this much, they have at last departed widely from their former doctrine, and today instead of the money question, it is the initiative and referendum, government ownership of railroads, telegraph and telephone lines, opposition to trusts combines etc, that their press, as a whole, nationally, tell us is of more importance than the financial question. These things are all very good, I endorse them all, and I believe that they will eventually be accomplished in the United States. But I wish to call the attention of our Populist friends to the fact, that never in the history of the world, was a dozen great reformer accomplished at one time. Bi-metalism, national or international is the great overshadowing issue that today confronts the American people, and it will not be settled right.
It must be, and it will be settled first, and until it is settled, another issue can or will take its place. We want to restore the party between gold and silver, between money and commodities, and when this is accomplished, then one (and the first)

grand step in the right direction has been taken, and the road to other reforms has been opened.

The adoption of the single gold standard the contraction of the volume of standard money the entire circulating medium of the United States, having been controlled and manipulated by bank corporations and syndicates, has brought untold misery, want and woe to the laboring and producing classes of the United States, and to cure the malady the cause must be removed.

If like causes produce like effects, then to cure the evil, we must return to that system of bimetalism, under which for eighty years this government grew and developed into a mighty nation.

Why not work and write together for the accomplishment of this one great end? "In union there is strength" a grand and decisive victory awaits independent American bimetalism in the State of Oregon.

In a union of forces on the great question of bimetalism, no party is asked to surrender its organization, I do not believe that it would be best to do so, for aside from the money question the three parties—the Democrat, Populist and Silver Republican—differ on other questions, and therefore for party interest it would not be best. What we want is a union reform ticket composed of men from all parties, pledged to the cause of bimetalism, on which all reformers can agree.

The Populist party other than their leader, seemingly, are conservative, but there seems to be a terrible mania for leadership, and a great lust for office among the leaders of the party.

They seem to want to promote their own personal and selfish interest first, that of the people afterwards.

One of the basic principles on which men must build is: "Man promotes his own interest best by promoting the common good." And I believe that the State central committee of the Populist party have this one great fact yet to learn.

Principle must be placed above party, country above self, all selfishness must be eliminated, personal promotion given up, and a thorough organization of the reform forces must be accomplished, working together in harmony, for one common end.

The Silver Republican deserves great credit for the stand he has taken on this question, when his party in National convention assembled, declared for the single Gold standard, he refused to bow down to party ties, he refused to fall down and worship the golden calf, which his party had set up. There, principle was placed above party, country above self.

"United we stand divided we fall" and so united we will win, divided, defeat is the only result.
With a thorough organization, not only in the state of Oregon, but in the United States, we will go forth to the conflict, battling for supremacy, and when the smoke and the noise of the battle have cleared away, with a mighty ring and glad tidings of victory will be heard, from the Atlantic to the Pacific from the Gulf to the Lakes.

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Yours very truly,
HOFER BROTHERS, Editors.
SALEM, Or., Feb. 25, 1897.
Editor Daily Journal:
DEAR SIR—The weights of mails now received from the DAILY JOURNAL are fully 75 per cent more than a year ago at this time.
Respectfully,
B. F. BONHAM, P. M.
By J. A. Sellwood, Asst. P. M.
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