

Go It Alone, The Best and Safest Policy
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A political party, Macawbar-like, that is always waiting for something to turn up, shows very conclusively that it does not trust, implicitly in its own ability, integrity, righteousness and he purity, fixedness and final success and establishment of its principles and doctrines. If a man or party honestly believes at heart (after study and investigation) that he or it is right, there is and can be but one course to pursue and that is to go straight ahead, hew to the line and let the chips fall where they may. Any other policy will ultimately lead to defeat and ruin.

There is today two political parties in North Carolina and the Federal Union halting between two opinions, not knowing whether to go the right, the left or straight to the front, without any known national policy on any one of the great issues now agitating the American people. A rolling stone never gathered any moss, and a roving rambling party, first upon one side of the road and then upon the other never did and never will gather any permanent strength.

Time-servers, office seekers and officeholders are today and have been, and I fear will be the besetting sin of all Republican forms of government. They are the stumbling blocks, the quagmires, the sinking sands between corruption and reform in all governments.

Nine men out of every ten whose character and standing is impeached and apparently unassailable when tempted by the tempter, tumble, fall and sinks into these quagmires and sinking sands.

When the ambitions of men are aroused and set on fire; when their longings and cravings become a mania for feeding at the public crib, and sucking the public udder, ther [sic] lose their patriotism and manood [sic]; they forget their honor, integrity, principles and pledges; they become trimers, time servers, policy men, selfish, conceited, stiff necked, with a plausible excuse for all they do and say.

This class of men when elected or appointed to office become your masters, your dictators, your oppressors, instead of your friend and servant. So far as the three political parties are concerned, as to their office-holders and office seekers, there is but little difference, or would be but little, under the circumstances.

But otherwise there is a striking and wonderful difference between the parties. The leaders of the Republican party have and always have had a known and fixed purpose, a known and fixed policy, and the have always pursued that purpose and without a shadow of a turning adhered to that policy. Not so with either of the other parties. They declare any purpose, adopt any plausible [sic] policy that has the appearance of bringing temporary success, forgetting that this means final defeat and overthrow.

The great mass of the American people want to know what a party is going to do when placed in, or restored to power. They want to know this, whether they agree with the party or not. And they will put in power a party whose policy is known, although they disagree with that party both in principle and policy, before they will one whose principles and policies are not known.

And for these reasons the people have repudiated the Democratic party and banished it into outer darkness, and not because they are disbelievers in the great and eternal bed rock principles, or because they are believers in the doctrines, principles, practices and policies of the Republican party, but because they want fixedness and stability in government. And if the people's party continues to pursue the policy heretofore adopted in many of the States, districts and counties of the united States, the same political disaster and distraction that overtook the Democratic party, will overtake and bury it so deep that the hand of the resurrection will never reach it. If the People's party means business and desires at least the unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, and the restoration of former values and former prosperity; if it desires the defeat of the two old parties and the success of itself, it is high time for it to stop canoodling with either of the old parties. If the party is based upon principles let it act and practice principle.

What will it advantage the party to swap horses with the common enemy if it gets cheated in every trade and strengthens the enemy's divisions and brigades so that he will be able to crush us in the final contest. If we add one cubit to the dimensions of the enemy, to every one we add to our side, and he has one hundred cubits the advantage at the start, how long will it be before our cubits outnumber his cubits?

If we are to tickle the enemy in November, one, and he is tickle us in November, two, and so on *vice versa*, it is a tickling [sic] game for plunder and honest men ought to quit the game, or at least they ought to be consistent and declare their purpose.

The fellows who gets tickled, or who desires to be tickled, will always advocate the tickling game. But what will the masses of the people say of the game? Of course it is fine fun for the boys who get tickled, but it is bad on the frogs that get stoned to death while begging for bread, with no one to hold their garments during the game.

There was an alleged community of interest between the Republicans and Populists in the last campaign, the reform or the revision of the election laws. These laws have been amended so as to give satisfaction to all honest voters. This accomplished, as the political sky now appears to a man out of office, and not stricken with a mania for office, there is nothing now in common between the People's Party and the two old parties. There is no community of interest whatever. Both the old parties are on record for the single gold standard. The People's party is on record against the single gold standard. It is also on record against any man or party who favors the single standard directly or indirectly.

With the lights now before us, it would seem impossible for any honest, consistent People's party man to vote for either of the old parties, or for any member of either, unless he should renounce his allegiance to and repudiate his former party affiliations.

He that is not for us is against us. He that is for us is with us, or will be with us.

If we cannot win a majority of the people on our side, we can never win a victory on our lines.

If a victory over class legislation and a restoration of silver to its basic money function and the return of prosperity to our common country are not the great aims we have in view, the foundation and corner-stone of our fight, then we are stultifying ourselves, misleading others and only plunderers and spoil-hunters, and are, of all men, the most degraded.

Our place is in the middle of the road. Our fight is for the universal liberation and emancipation of the human family. Our object ought to be to avoid entangling alliances with other parties. We ought to do right or do our best at least, though the heavens fall. We are standing on dangerous ground. We are in our incubating state. If we are to become the majority party in this country, it must be by gathering strength from the two old parties by convincing them that we are right and that they are wrong. We cannot do this by co operation or fusion. To fuse or co operate with either, if we are right and they are wrong will encourage the wrong and defeat the right. As the two old parties are now organized and controlled, it is impossible for either to lift the burden or restore prosperity. Both have had their day in court and both stumbled over the same stones which the builders rejected and both fell into the pit dug by the enemies of the human family. To support either of the old parties, or any member of either the old parties before he has severed his connection, or removed his allegiance thereto will be a crime against liberty, against humanity, against the religion of the Son of Man and God Himself.

The gulf between the two old parties and the People's party is impassable; it is as wide as the earth and as deep as the sea.

Let us stand as firm and immovable as the mountains themselves. Our course is just. Our principles are eternal. The religious thought of the world is on our side. All right thinking, honest men are on our side. All the laboring people in the world will be on our side as soon as the scales fall from their eyes.

Three fourths of the voters of the United States are on our side in sympathy and will be in word and deeds as soon as they can be made to see the wrongs heaped upon them by the old parties and their children as the sands glide from the hour glass.

He is a poor Populist or Democrat, or Republican, or citizen who will not make any reasonable sacrifice to save his country, or who would not sever any party tie to restore silver as money and prosperity to his country, or who would not give up all parties, sever all former ties, break all bonds for the sake of restoring happiness, contentment, peace, abundance, gladness and prosperity to this our common inheritance.

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