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POPULAR ELECTIONS.

A SYSTEM
OF
POLITICAL GOVERNMENT.

NOMINATIVE,
ELECTIVE, LEGISLATIVE
AND
FINANCIAL.

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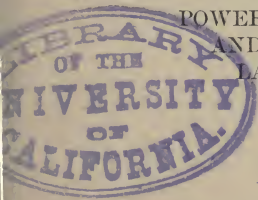
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PROPOSED PLAN

FOR

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

A NOMINATIVE AND ELECTIVE SYSTEM BASED
UPON THE RIGHTS, POWERS AND DUTIES OF
THE PEOPLE, COMPRISING A SYSTEM OF
CHECKS BY WHICH FRAUD IN THE
NOMINATIVE AND ELECTIVE
POWERS OF THE PEOPLE
AND THEIR LEGIS-
LATORS IS PRE-
VENTED.



BY URIAH B. THOMAS,
Author and Proprietor.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

1886.

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MAIN



PREFACE.

OUR present system of choosing representatives of the people utterly fails to give a fair expression and force to their will, and in the injustice of this failure lie the seeds of revolution and destruction to our free government.

The objects sought to be obtained by the following system are—

First. To organize the industrial elements of society in one political body, under rules so just and simple, that it will commend itself to all who examine it with attention.

Second. To abolish dishonest and corrupt practices in the politics of our country, by avoiding the use of party conventions in the nomination of public officers, having all such nominations made directly by the people.

Third. To educate the people in the science of government by Local, State, Territorial and National organizations.

Fourth. To purify legislation and restrict it to the requirements of the people, as expressed in their platform of principles and policy emanating from the Local, State, Territorial or National organizations.

Fifth. To secure honest lawmakers—

1st. By depriving them of all opportunity of selling their vote.

2d. By the people to first adopt all proposed laws before being legalized by legislative enactment, thus securing a fair expression in their government.

Sixth. To secure to the people the just and equitable fruits of their labor and enterprise—

1st. By controlling the political system of the country.

2d. By controlling the law-making power.

3d. By controlling finance, land and all questions involving the rights, comforts and happiness of the people.

Seventh. To set an example, from the workings of the following plan, by which the President, Vice-President, Senators and all other officers of the Local, State, Territorial and National government may be nominated and elected directly by the people, thus avoiding the dangers that have arisen, from time to time, under the representative and electoral system.

Eighth. This plan is designed to convert our present representative system to that of "a government by the people and for the people;" to preserve order in our political ranks; to secure the objects and aims of the party; to prevent any possible intrigue from outside political tricksters, and to defeat the most wicked conspiracy of systematically organized capital, tending towards the centralization of wealth, successfully carried on through our present financial, legislative and political system.

Why may not these objects be attained by a judicious use of the ballot, as herein set forth, with harmony, perseverance and in accord with equitable laws and by the majority RULE?

THE AUTHOR.

SAN FRANCISCO, July, 1886.

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PROPOSED PLAN

FOR

THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION.

A nominative and elective system based upon the rights, powers and duties of the people, comprising a system of checks, by which fraud in the nominative and elective powers of the people and their legislators is prevented.

ARTICLE I.

ORGANIZATION.

Name. SECTION 1. This organization shall be called THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL PARTY.

It shall have Local Unions, County, State, Territorial and National Boards of Election.

Composition of Departments. SEC. 2. It shall have also, County, State, Territorial and National *Assemblies* and *Executive Departments*.

Executive Departments—how composed. SEC. 3. The Executive Department shall be composed of a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer of the party, in each State and Territory in the Union. The National Executive Department shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, to be elected by the National Assembly, until otherwise ordered by the local unions.



ARTICLE II.

COUNTY, STATE AND NATIONAL NOMINATIONS.

Uniform in
time. SECTION 1. The election for the nomination of President and Vice-President shall be held on the same day in each State and Territory of the Union.

Nominations for State and County officers shall be made to harmonize with all established laws in their respective States and Territories.

Nomination
of officers. SEC. 2. All officers, County, State, Territorial and National, and Presidential Electors required by law to be elected, shall be proposed and nominated by a plurality vote of the members of the party through its political organization.

Nomination
of Party
officers. SEC. 3. *Representatives* to the State, Territorial and National Assemblies, and the Executive officers of the State and Nation of the Industrial Party, shall be proposed and nominated in the same manner.

ARTICLE III.

LOCAL UNIONS.

Where
located. SECTION 1. Local Unions shall be organized in each voting district or ward in each State and Territory of the National Union; the officers shall consist of a President, First and Second Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer.

How repre-
sented. SEC. 2. Any Union having a membership of one hundred members, legal voters of the ward or district, who are in good standing, shall be entitled to one representative in the County Assembly.

SEC. 3. It is the duty of the Unions to work in harmony with the County Assembly, for the general good of the party, and the government of their respective counties. Duty of Local Unions.

ARTICLE IV.

WHO MAY VOTE IN THE UNIONS.

Each Local Union shall keep a register of all its members in good standing, and only such shall be allowed to vote for the nomination of elective officers and party representatives. Register of Membership.

ARTICLE V.

PROPOSALS FOR NOMINATIONS.

SECTION 1. Any member of a Local Union, in good standing, may propose a nominee for any office by registering the name and residence of the nominee, together with his own, with the Secretary of the Union. Proposition for Nomination.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to record the same, with the name of the office to be filled, and the date of registration. Nominees to be registered.

SEC. 3. The register shall be closed to further nominations thirty days previous to the nominating election, and no person shall be entitled to a nomination except as herein provided. Register closed.

SEC. 4. No person shall be nominated by any member unless he shall have first consented to accept the nomination if elected. Acceptance of nomination.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of all persons proposed for nomination to come before the Unions, if possible, and discuss the industrial interests of the State and Nation. Duty of nominees.

Election for nominations. SEC. 6. . Not less than thirty days after the closing of the register or record of nominations, all the Unions within the State or county shall hold an election on the same day, by ballot, to determine what persons so proposed in the Local Unions are the choice of the members for nominees of the party.

ARTICLE VI.

UNION BOARDS OF ELECTION FOR THE NOMINATION OF OFFICERS—THEIR POWERS AND DUTIES DEFINED.

Board of Canvassers. SECTION 1. Each Local Union shall elect a Board of Canvassers prior to each election. Before entering upon the discharge of their duties they shall be duly sworn to perform them fairly and honestly.

Supervision of Elections. SEC. 2. It shall be their duty to supervise each election, and to count all the votes cast in their respective Union organization.

Publishing election returns for nomination. SEC. 3. They shall publish the result of all ballotings immediately, and forward a copy of the same to the President of the County Board of Election, reserving a copy thereof, which shall be filed with the Secretary of the Union.

ARTICLE VII.

THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY AND COUNTY BOARDS OF ELECTION—THEIR POWERS AND DUTIES DEFINED.

Of what composed. SECTION 1. The County Assembly shall be composed of the Local Union Presidents of the County, and shall meet from time to time, being a continuous body.

SEC. 2. They shall elect from their own members a County Board of Election, whose duty it shall be to canvass the aggregate vote of all the Unions in their respective counties.

Of what composed.

SEC. 3. Said County Board shall publish immediately the result of all ballotings, reserving a copy thereof, which shall be filed with the Secretary of the Assembly.

Publishing county election returns for nomination.

SEC. 4. They shall make returns to the President of the State Board of Election of all votes cast for State, Territorial and National nominations.

Report to State Board of Election.

SEC. 5. The persons receiving the highest number of votes cast for each of the respective county offices shall be declared duly nominated by the County Board of Election.

Nominations declared.

SEC. 6. The County Board of Election, at their first session after each State election, shall also elect for the ensuing term two of its members as delegates to the State Board of Election.

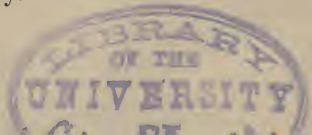
To elect delegates to the State Board of Election.

SEC. 7. The State delegates shall carry forward a certified copy of all the votes of their respective counties for State, Territorial and National nominees to the State Board of Election. Said delegates shall constitute the State Board of Election. They shall hold office until their successors are elected.

County returns to be carried forward by State Delegates.

SEC. 8. Before entering upon the discharge of their duties the members of the County Board of Election shall be duly sworn to perform them fairly and honestly.

Members of County Boards of Election to be sworn.



ARTICLE VIII.

STATE AND TERRITORIAL BOARDS OF ELECTION
FOR THE NOMINATION OF OFFICERS—THEIR
POWERS AND DUTIES DEFINED.

Of what
composed.
Time of
meeting.

SECTION 1. The State and Territorial Boards of Election shall be composed of two delegates from each County Board of Election, and shall meet at the capital of the State or Territory immediately after the nominating election, and count the aggregate vote of all the counties in their respective States or Territories for State, Territorial and National nominees.

Nomina-
tions de-
clared.

SEC. 2. They shall declare the persons receiving the highest number of votes for the State, Territorial, and Congressional offices, duly nominated to the same.

Publishing
State Elec-
tion returns
for Nomina-
tion.

SEC. 3. They shall publish the result of all ballotings immediately, and forward a copy thereof to the NATIONAL BOARD OF ELECTION of all votes cast for President and Vice-President, reserving a copy thereof, which shall be filed as a part of its permanent record.

Members
of State
Boards to be
sworn.

SEC. 4. Before entering upon the discharge of their duties, they shall be sworn to discharge them fairly and honestly.

To elect del-
egates to a
National
Board of
Election.

SEC. 5. The State and Territorial Board of Election shall also elect two of their members as delegates to the NATIONAL BOARD OF ELECTION.

State re-
turns to be
carried for-
ward by
National
Delegates.

SEC. 6. The National Delegates shall carry a copy of said State and Territorial returns to the President of the NATIONAL BOARD OF ELECTION. Said National Board shall consist of said State and Territorial delegates.

ARTICLE IX.

NATIONAL BOARD OF ELECTION FOR THE NOMINATION OF OFFICERS — ITS POWERS AND DUTIES DEFINED.

SECTION 1. The NATIONAL BOARD OF ELECTION shall consist of two delegates from each State and Territorial Board of Election. Of what Composed.

SEC. 2. It shall meet in the city of Washington within twenty days after each National Nominating Election. Time of Meeting.

SEC. 3. It shall receive and count the aggregate vote cast for the nomination of President and Vice-President of the United States, in the several States and Territories of the Union. Counting Aggregate Vote.

SEC. 4. It shall declare the persons receiving the highest number of votes for President and Vice-President duly nominated to those offices respectively, and issue certificates to that effect to the persons so nominated. Nominations declared.

They shall report their action to the Executive Officers of the several States and Territories of the Union.

SEC. 5. Before entering upon the discharge of their duties they shall be duly sworn to discharge them fairly and honestly. Members of National Board to be sworn.

All public officers nominated by this system shall be voted for at the general election, County, State, Territorial or National, against any other party nomination.

ARTICLE X.

STATE INDUSTRIAL ASSEMBLIES—TO ADOPT A
PLATFORM—THEIR POWERS AND DUTIES
DEFINED.

Nomina-
tion, Elec-
tion, and
Composi-
tion.

SECTION 1. There shall be a State Industrial Assembly, nominated and elected directly from the Local Unions for each term, representing the industrial classes of each State and Territory, consisting of two persons for each one hundred members of each Local Union.

Meetings.

SEC. 2. They shall meet at the call of the State President and Secretary in due time for the State campaign.

Adoption of
platform.

SEC. 3. They shall consider and discuss the industrial interests of the State and Nation, and adopt a proposed code of laws and the repeal of unjust laws, and embody the same in a State platform, which shall be referred to the whole people at their general election, State, Territorial or National, as the case may be.

Term of
office.

SEC. 4. Their term of office shall be for the incoming term, and until their successors are elected. This will be about five months before each nominating State election.

Members to
be sworn.

SEC. 5. Before entering upon the discharge of their duties they shall be duly sworn to perform their labors fairly and honestly, in the interests of the poor and industrial classes of the people, to the best of their knowledge and ability.

ARTICLE XI.

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL ASSEMBLY TO ADOPT A
PLATFORM — ITS POWERS AND DUTIES DE-
FINED.

SECTION 1. There shall be a National Industrial Assembly nominated and elected directly from the Local Unions for each Presidential term, consisting of three or not more than six persons from each State, one or two from each Territory in the Union.

Nomina-
tion, Elec-
tion and
Composi-
tion.

SEC. 2. It may meet annually, pursuant to adjournment or at the call of its president, to consider and discuss the laws, measures and the policy of the States and Nation; the principles of our industrial and financial economy; to gather, arrange and publish statistics and facts respecting finance, education, production, hours of labor, and the distribution of profits between capital and labor, and determine the measures best adapted to promote the welfare of the Nation and all its people.

Objects of.

SEC. 3. They shall adopt a proposed code of laws and the repeal of unjust laws, and embody the same in a platform for National Industrial Party.

To adopt a
National
platform.

SEC. 4. The first National Assembly shall elect the National Executive officers of the party for the ensuing term, and thereafter until the members of the Local Unions throughout their organization shall do the same. They shall hold office until their successors are elected, and shall constitute the National Executive officers.

To elect
National
executive
officers.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the executive officers to call upon the several States and Territories to make nominations for President and

Duties of
National
Executive
officers.

Vice-President in due time for the campaign. The City of Washington, D. C., is hereby designated as the place of meeting of the first National Industrial Assembly, and thereafter to be named by it on its adjournment.

To be sworn SEC. 6. Before entering upon the discharge of their duties, they shall be duly sworn to perform their duties fairly, honestly and justly, to the laboring poor and industrial classes, to the accumulation of wealth and the comforts of life, to the best of their knowledge and ability.

ARTICLE XII.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT—TO DRAFT AND ADOPT LAWS ONLY—ITS POWERS AND DUTIES DEFINED.

Duties of Legislators.

It shall be the duty of all legislators elected by the Industrial Party to draft, support and defend all laws required by the platform of the party, and to labor earnestly for the repeal of all existing laws condemned by said platform. No member of any legislative body in the State or Nation, elected by the Industrial Party, shall have the right to introduce any proposed law or bill not named in the party platform; nor shall he support by his influence or vote, any proposed law introduced by a member of any other party, not in harmony with the principles and policy of his party as embodied in its platform.

ARTICLE XIII.

LOCAL UNIONS FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION—THEIR POWERS AND DUTIES DEFINED.

To secure proper legislation.

SECTION 1. It shall not only be the right but the duty of the Unions to watch their representatives while performing their duty as legis-

lators, but no Union has the right to instruct any legislator elected by the Industrial Party, in regard to any State policy that is or is not embodied in the platform, except such special laws as affect their respective counties and introduced by a member of another party.

SEC. 2. It shall also be the right and duty of the Unions to discuss the laws and policy of the State and Nation, the principles upon which our political and industrial system of economy is based, respecting finance, rates of interest, education, labor, home industry, tariff, land and all other questions involving the comforts, protection and happiness of a free people, and the favorable evolution of future generations.

To educate the people in the science of government.

ARTICLE XIV.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND NATION—THEIR POWERS AND DUTIES DEFINED.

SEC. 1. The party President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, elected by the Unions throughout the party organizations, to serve in County, State, Territorial and National capacity, shall constitute the Executive Officers in their respective departments.

Executive Officers.

SEC. 2. When an election is to be held, the President and Secretary shall call for the same in due time. They shall also call for the election of State, Territorial and National Assemblies, provide for mass meetings, parades, and so forth.

Call for election.

SEC. 3. Said officers shall have power to fill all vacancies that may occur, in the nomination of officers, by death or otherwise, in the absence of action on the part of the Unions to fill the same. Their term of office shall continue during the State or National campaign, or until their

To fill vacancies and term of office.

successors are elected, unless sooner dismissed by a majority vote of all the Unions in their respective departments.

Executive officers members of Assemblies.

SEC. 4. The President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer of the party, whether County, State, Territorial or National, shall be members of the Industrial Assemblies in their respective departments.

ARTICLE XV.

BREACH OF TRUST.

Committees on Charges.

SEC. 1. The President and Secretary of the party, Local Unions, County, State, Territorial or National, shall, on good evidence presented, call for appropriate Committees in their respective departments, for the examination and trial of accused legislators.

Trial of Officers.

SEC. 2. Any officer who, in the discharge of his official duties, is accused of neglect or transgressing or infracting the principles of the party which elected him, shall be tried in open session by a Committee, MUNICIPAL, COUNTY, State, Territorial or National, representing the constituency that elected him, and therein find EXONERATION or POLITICAL DEATH. A legislator or officer found guilty of betraying his trust, shall resign his office when properly called so to do.

Charges to be made in writing.

SEC. 3. No charge shall be entertained against any member of the party, unless made in writing by a member of the same in good standing.

ARTICLE XVI.

BY - LAWS.

Rules of Order.

SECTION 1. The Local Unions, County, State, Territorial, and National Boards of Election, and Industrial Assemblies, shall each make By-Laws

and RULES OF ORDER for their own government, consistent with and subject to this system of organization and government of the NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL PARTY.

SEC. 2. All of said bodies or departments shall also determine the qualifications of their own members. Qualification of Membership.

ARTICLE XVII.

FINANCIAL SYSTEM.

The Financial System of the National Industrial Party shall be as follows: Collection and Disbursement of Funds.

First.—The Local Unions shall collect an initiation fee of twenty-five cents, and ten cents monthly dues from each member.

This shall be collected by the Financial Secretary and paid over to the Treasurer, taking his receipt therefor.

Second.—All moneys collected as dues and fees shall be apportioned as follows:

For the use of the Local Unions, seventy-five per cent;

For the use of the County Assembly, twenty per cent;

For the use of the State Assembly, two per cent;

For the use of the State Board of Election, one per cent;

For the use of the National Assembly and the National Board of Election, one per cent each.

This shall be the general fund of the party.

The Treasurer of each Local Union shall forward twenty-five per cent of all moneys received by the Union to the Secretary of the

Collection
and Dis-
bursement
of Funds.

County Assembly every quarter, who will turn the same over to the County Assembly Treasurer.

Whenever the State Industrial Assembly shall convene, the County Treasurer, on the order of the County Assembly, shall forward to the Secretary of the State Assembly, eight per cent of all moneys collected by the County Assembly since the meeting of the last State Industrial Assembly. This money shall be turned over to the Treasurer of the State Assembly for its own use.

Whenever the State Board of Election shall convene, the County Treasurer, on the order of the County Assembly, shall forward to the Secretary of the State Board of Election, four per cent of all moneys collected by the County Assembly during the time intervening between the last two sessions of the State Industrial Assembly. The Secretary will turn this money over to the Treasurer of the Board of Election for its own use.

Twenty days before the meeting of the National Industrial Assembly, the Treasurer of the County Assembly shall forward, by order of the Assembly, to the Secretary of the State Executive Department, eight per cent of all moneys collected by the County Assembly since the last apportionment to the National Industrial Assembly. This money shall be turned over to the Treasurer of the State Executive Department for the use of the National Industrial Assembly and the National Board of Election, and shall be disbursed by the Treasurer as follows:

Seventy-five per cent of all moneys received by him for this purpose shall be forwarded by him to the Secretary of the National Industrial

Assembly. The Secretary will turn this over to the Treasurer of the National Assembly for its own use. Collection and Disbursement of Funds.

Whenever the National Board of Election shall convene, the Treasurer of the State Executive department will forward, on the order of the President and Secretary, the remaining twenty-five per cent held by him to the Secretary of the National Board of Election, who will turn it over to the Treasurer of the National Board for its own use. In all cases where money is transferred from one department to another, the order shall be duly recorded in the regular minutes of the meeting, and proper receipts shall be taken therefor and be placed on file.

ARTICLE XVIII.

INCIDENTAL QUESTIONS.

All questions arising not herein provided for, within the jurisdiction of each department, Local, State, Territorial and National, shall be determined by a majority vote in each case. Incidental questions. How determined.

ARTICLE XIX.

AMENDMENTS.

The details of this plan shall govern the National Industrial Party. It shall be altered or amended only by propositions made by members of the Unions, and with the approval of a majority vote of all the Union members in each State of the National Union, together with a majority vote of all their representatives in the National Assembly. How made.

NATIONAL BOARD OF ELECTION

FOR THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT — THE PLAN OF THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL PARTY.

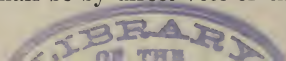
When a general election is to be held for the election of President and Vice-President by a *popular* vote. There shall be not less than two persons elected from each State and Territory to act instead of electors.

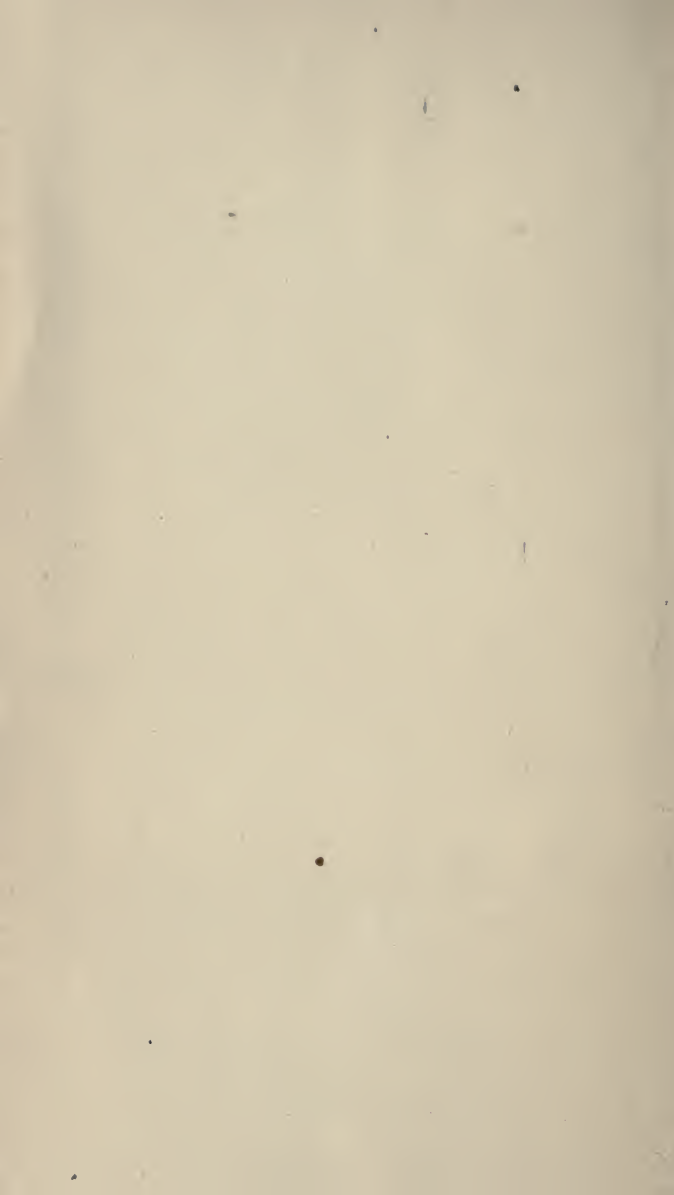
Their duty shall be to carry forward to the National Board of Election at Washington, D. C., the returns of their respective States and Territories, and there count the aggregate of all votes cast for President and Vice-President. The persons receiving the highest number of votes for said offices shall be declared duly elected President and Vice-President of the United States, and certificates to that effect shall be issued to said persons by said Board of Election.

NOTE ON POPULAR ELECTION.

The plan here presented for the election of President and Vice-President (by a popular vote) is one that will harmonize with the nominative and elective system of the National Industrial Party, and we believe it will commend itself to the thoughtful consideration of every honest, intelligent voter in the country. We believe there is no valid reason why the President, Vice-President and State Senators should not be elected by popular vote, and we believe that at no distant day they will be so elected, and consequently more in harmony with a people's government.

The plan is therefore inserted here for the consideration of all parties looking forward to the time when the nomination and election of President and Vice-President and Senators shall be by direct vote of the people.—THE AUTHOR.





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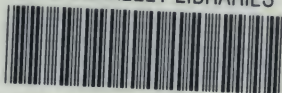
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