

The Thirteen Towns.

By A. W. FOSS.

The Office of THE THIRTEEN TOWNS is on Stephens Avenue, Opposite Postoffice.

Entered at the Post Office at Fosston as Second Class Mail.

BETTER STOCK.

It will be remembered that two weeks ago several of our local stock buyers shipped a train load of cattle to the St. Paul stock yards to dispose of there to the best advantage. Much of this stock had been kept by them all summer and well cared for purposely to put it in as good shape as possible for this fall sale.

This special train, which left here late Sunday afternoon, arrived at the stock yards about noon on the following day. A day and a half went by before they had sold the first car load out of the train and the prospect was anything but encouraging. Trains of fine, well bred western stock were coming in continually and selling at prices ranging from \$3.75 to \$4.40 per hundred pounds live weight, while our stockmen, on account of the scrub grade of cattle in their bunch, found it hard to dispose of their animals at any price. More sold for \$2.25 per hundred than for any higher figure, although some of the better cattle brought \$2.40, \$2.75 and \$3.15, that being the highest figure obtained. Then the keeping of the stock several days was no slight bill of expense, and it was rather aggravating to see the large herds of better cattle disposed of at once, sometimes at almost twice the price per hundredweight that our men were receiving.

Which all goes to show the benefit of better breeding and emphasizes the urgent need of more full blood stock for breeding purposes in this part of the country. High grade cattle always bring a fair price, and now, more than ever before, buyers are taking them in preference to scrubs. Mr. Campbell says that he believes the time is not far off when it will be useless to try to sell scrubs in the cities. The sooner the stock raisers of this country commence infusing good blood into their herds the better it will be for them and for the cattle interests in this locality.

The proper thing to do at this time is for those in different townships interested in cattle raising to club together and bring a number of full blood bulls of the most profitable breeds into the country. There should be ready sale for twenty or thirty shipped to this point alone. Although they naturally will cost more than common animals, every dollar expended in this way will be worth a hundred in the years to come.

A constitutional amendment, providing for increasing the limit to which school districts can go in borrowing money, from 7 to 15 per cent assessed valuation, and reducing the interest rate from 4 to 3 per cent, will be voted upon in this state at the time of the coming elections.

If the negroes of North Carolina and other southern states rise in revolt, would the Democrats say, "withdraw the soldiers; these negroes are entitled to a government of their own?" And yet the negroes of the south have infinitely more justification for rising in revolt than had the Tagals of Luzon. The negroes have been deprived, by Bryan Democrats, of the franchise which the United States constitution guarantees to them, whereas the Tagals have never known what it means to vote. The negroes have no prospects of again securing the right to participate in choosing their future governors, while the Tagals, now fighting to set up a dictator, are promised self-government as soon as they show themselves capable of exercising it.—Fergus Falls Journal.



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DR. JOHNSON QUILTS

THE FAMOUS KANDIYOHI POPULIST GETS ENOUGH OF FUSION, LIND AND ROSING.

REDEEMS HIS 1896 PLEDGE

Says McKinley Prosperity Suits Him and Democratic Hypocrisy Disgusts Him.

Dr. Christian Johnson of Willmar, who was one of the brainiest and most enthusiastic supporters of Bryan in the Seventh district four years ago, has seen the error of his ways and returned to his first love, the Republican party. He had about six years' experience as a Populist, and while he considers these years wasted, in a political sense, he values the experience as an eye-opener. He learned to his satisfaction that Bryanism is a hollow delusion; that Lind is a designing politician, who obtained his election by false pretences; that Rosing turns the machine which grids Democrats and Populists into Democratic sausage, and that Dingdahl and Bowler are 99 per cent Democrats but wear the garb of Populism in order to round up the Populist herd and drive them into Rosing's fold.

Dr. Johnson has practiced medicine in Kandiyohi and adjoining counties some sixteen years, and thus has an extensive acquaintance with people and conditions in that vicinity. In 1894 the silver idea, as advocated by Bryan, was wafted through the air in the form of disease germs, and many of them found lodgement in Kandiyohi county. Dr. Johnson and a few others thought they saw relief from the panicky conditions of that time in the measures championed by Bryan, and they founded the People's party of Kandiyohi. The doctor is an aggressive, courageous, fiery fellow, and his first step was to start a Populist paper, the Tribune. All who read that paper during his supervision will never forget the sultry effusions of its intrepid author. The doctor-editor was nominated for the legislature and he advocated the election of Bryan, Lind and himself in a way that was both original and effective, he being defeated by only twenty-nine votes by Henry Feig. He accepted defeat philosophically, and with characteristic candor and honesty promised himself that if McKinley's administration brought the prosperity that his followers had predicted he would acknowledge that Bryanism was a nightmare and would join the ranks of McKinley's supporters. That promise to himself was redeemed so far as the president was concerned. He remained an active Populist, however, and in 1898 not only supported Lind with all the enthusiasm of his nature, but came within a few votes of being nominated for congress by the Populists, and then made another unsuccessful race for the legislature.

His present position and his reasons for assuming it are given in his own words. His logic is commended to every Populist:

"Yes, sir, I guess I am a Republican this year, and am apt to be for some time to come. I was originally a Republican and worked and voted for Harrison in 1882. But unfortunately Cleveland was elected president, and with him came the panic that struck us all amidst soon after his inauguration.

"At first the ordinary people were dazed and dumfounded by the panic, but by and by we found out that we were beggared, that lands, houses and goods, beyond what was needed for immediate personal use, were utterly worthless, or worse, a burden of taxes and expense. The well-to-do were bankrupt and the poor trampled and starved. The promised relief from the repeal of the Sherman law did not materialize, and a good many of us concluded that both political parties had either lost their reason or had conspired to destroy civilization on this continent.

"With this condition of public sentiment Populism hove into view and opened the only plausible avenue of relief. Thousands and thousands of the common people joined its ranks, and I with them. Not that I and others subscribed to the ultra radical tenets of the party, but we believed that the movement furnished the nucleus of a new political party that would in time be able to satisfactorily solve the mighty social questions that then confronted the nation. And let me say right here that if the People's party had had leaders made of the right stuff—statesmen instead of office-seekers at the helm—it would to-day have been the second party in the nation and still have had a mission to perform.

"Now I am no milk-and-water sort of a man. If the new party would succeed work must be done, and I was in it for all I was worth.

"In Kandiyohi county we fought the campaign of 1894 at a swinging gait. We had no newspaper, but I led, and political friends stood by me, and the Willmar Tribune was established. It was a virile, spirited Populist paper, and was a success from the start.

"The campaign of 1896, with Bryan at the head of the ticket, came on and I fought it with all the power at my command. The issue in 1896 was the restoration of prosperity. At that time our financial condition, individually and as a nation, was all out of order. Our financial structure, so to speak, was dilapidated, the windows out, the shingles off, and we were at the mercy of every squall or gust of wind let loose from the gambling money centers of the world. Two remedies were proposed:

"First—Tear out the old dilapidated money system, root and branch, and establish an entirely new structure on a new plan—the free coinage of both money metals at a ratio of 16 to 1.

"Second—Restore the Republican party to power and let it try to fix up the old shack, as its leaders claimed they could.

"The majority of voters decided in favor of the latter, and I said in an editorial in the Willmar Tribune just after the election—in 1896—that if the Republican party should succeed in doing what it had promised and would restore prosperity then, and in that case, I would vote the Republican ticket in 1900.

"Now candor compels me to admit

that prosperity has been restored to a degree that is fair, reasonable and, to me, satisfactory. I see men getting better wages than they had before for thirty years. I see the land values of 1890 restored, and more than restored, so that if the farmer cannot make his farm pay interest on the investment he can dispose of it for a good price and turn to something else. I see plenty of money at a lower rate of interest than it has ever been before in Kandiyohi county. I see industry, contentment and progress on every hand. And for one I am not critical as to how this renewed prosperity was brought about. I am quite satisfied that it has returned, apparently to stay.

"So I feel it my duty as a citizen to vote to continue present conditions; and, so far as I can see, I can only do so by voting the Republican ticket.

"All this talk about militarism and imperialism cuts no ice with me. This boggy of imperialism is too far-fetched to be seriously considered. And if we have to-day some more taxes, war taxes, if you like, what do we common people care so long as we can do business and out of the earnings pay the taxes and still have a fair prosperity margin left?

"We have got the Philippines, and we will keep them; and I believe the American people will do justice to them in any event. But I believe it is poor policy to change administrations at this critical point when we are just in the process of settlement of the question. But even if I did not approve of everything that the administration has done, I should still feel it my duty to stand by it through such a crisis as this Philippine muddle. It is very easy to sit on an empty barrel at the corner grocery and howl about 'Emperor McKinley' and all that sort of thing. It is very easy for the Demopop spell-binders to get up on the platform and solve the whole Philippine question by a wave of the hand and a hurrah for Bryan. But it is quite another thing to solve it in actual reality. For my part I am willing to trust that to McKinley and Mark Hanna, rather than to Bryan, Boss Croker and Arkansas Jones.

"Why, if W. J. Bryan were elected president he would be tied hand and foot on one side to Boss Croker, the Tammany plutocrat and trust magnate, and on the other to Arkansas Jones, the Southern aristocrat. And the trio would walk boldly over, not only the rights and liberties of both black and white on this continent, but would most likely lead the Philippines to the amalgamated ice trust of Croker, Aguinaldo & Co.

"What do I think about John Lind? Well, I am free to say that I cannot approve of the political methods of John Lind as I have seen them developed during the last four years, though I confess that I have entertained the greatest respect for his intellectuality and apparent earnestness. In 1896 I hailed with delight his advent into so-called independent politics. But as the real spirit of Populism was overridden and taken control of by a certain class of Democratic politicians, and as from time to time it became evident that John Lind was hand in hand with them, simply and solely, as I now believe, to build up a Democratic political machine in this state, I of course lost my faith in his political program, whatever respect I may still entertain for him personally. Let me explain:

"In 1896 the People's party of Minnesota stood, at the beginning of the campaign, as the second party in the state. Our party organization then represented a vast amount of brain and brawn and money and potent energy that had been freely and enthusiastically contributed by individual and local efforts all over the state. Men who work up such a party as the People's party was in 1896 form a sort of comradeship, united and cemented by fraternal ties. Our party organization extended to every county and election precinct in the state, and had already given hundreds of county offices to men within our ranks.

"In 1894 the People's party had fought in deadly combat with the Democratic party for second place among the political parties in the state and come out victorious. At the beginning of the campaign of 1896 the odds were all in our favor. It was a moral certainty that if the People's party were left alone in this state during another campaign it would practically assume the rank of second party for good. And this was the case in other Western and Northwestern states.

"To save themselves and their party from extinction by Populism the Democratic leaders got up the scheme of fusion. They pretended to reform their party to suit the Populists, brought out Bryan, the Demo-Pop, to serve as a bait, and secured the co-operation of certain leading Populists in chopping up the People's party into mince-meat to be fed into the lean carcass of the Democratic donkey. In this state, however, there were serious difficulties to overcome in getting the Populist meat into the belly of the donkey, because a large majority of the Populists had formerly been life-long Republicans and still retained their prejudices against the Democratic party.

"In this dilemma the Democratic leaders got up the brilliant idea of a free silver Republican party, a sort of political mongrel, a triple cross between the cattle, elephant and donkey species, to act as a medium through which the Populists of Republican antecedents might be led into the Democratic fold. Charles A. Towne of Duluth and John Lind of New Ulm were selected as star performers in the comedy in Minnesota. What followed is history and need not be repeated here.

"Now, I do not really blame the Democratic politicians for fighting, by fair means or foul, their rival, the People's party. Self-preservation is the first law of nature. But I do think that John Lind did not do the fair thing when he consented to allow his popularity and influence to be used against the People's party and in favor of the Democratic party. Without the People's party organization John Lind could never have been made governor of Minnesota, and yet no sooner was he elected than he began pulling every string in his grasp to build up the Democratic party at the expense of the People's party.

"Reviewing the movements of the fusionists during the last four years, and especially in the light of recent events, I am satisfied that John Lind was a genuine Democrat as early as 1896, but that, like Towne, he has in turn been playing silver Republican and 'orphan' at easy stages, in order to

be able to conduct the wild and refractory Pops over the rough and rugged road from Populism to Democracy.

"For instance, at the Populists' state convention in Minneapolis in 1896 some leading Populists desired to see Mr. Lind face to face and ask him some plain questions as to his relation to the two parties—the Democratic and Populist—in case he should be elected. He was in Minneapolis, but he could not be located by the Populists in question, although the fusion leaders had him where they could put their fingers on him at any time. After his nomination he was brought in the room to make his little speech to the convention, and after it was made he vanished as suddenly as he appeared. Now, John Lind, I have every reason to believe, knew of this desire on the part of many prominent Populists to see him for the purpose indicated and he purposely and studiously evaded them. I then got the impression, as did many leading Populists, that John Lind and the fusion leaders regarded us as a lot of greenhorns who could be handled like so many cattle, simply by bell-gingling, yelling and whip-cracking, and the whole fusion program has since abundantly confirmed this view. Yet our regard for 'honest John' Lind was such that we, to some extent, excused him, and when he came out as the 'Political Orphan,' a phrase selected by himself as the proper term to define his political affiliations, we determined to give him our support and went out and solicited votes for him among the Republicans on the 'orphan' basis. I say it deliberately, for I know what I am talking about, that thousands of Populists and Republicans voted for him for governor in 1898 in the belief that he was strictly an independent and non-partisan candidate. And I believe that this vote elected him.

"Now, according to my notion of consistency and political ethics, John Lind should have remained a 'political orphan' during his term of office; otherwise he lays himself open to the charge of having obtained his election by false pretences.

"Could not John Lind have found some other suitable person to serve as his private secretary and political manager than the state chairman of the Democratic party? Was it necessary to choose a man who had made himself especially obnoxious by offensive partisanship in his dealings with Populists? Was there no alternative but to choose a man whose conspicuous ambition it had been for four years past to cripple and destroy the People's party that his own might profit thereby? This man Rosing has now so nearly succeeded, by the aid of Gov. Lind, in annihilating the People's party that the remnant of the latter is only the tail end of the donkey, and thus but a laughing stock or a joke.

"Now, this Lind-Towne, end-justifying-the-means program may be good Democratic politics, for all I know, but to my notion of political methods, acquired in the Republican and the People's parties, it is irreparable. If real and valuable reform in governmental affairs can come into existence by this road then all the political history of the past is a lie.

"Am I sore at John Lind because he has been the chief agent in wiping out the People's party? Well, yes; haven't I good cause to be? Suppose the People's party had succeeded in undermining the Democratic party in this state by similar methods, don't you think Rosing and the O'Briens would have been saying about us just what I am now saying about them? Don't you think they would have been employing all their ponderous ingenuity to get even with us?

"But we Pops are simply voting cattle! We must kiss the hand that smites us! Yes, let those who are content to live on crumbs from their victors' tables take them and be happy. I am not built that way. I stand on my dignity in politics as in other matters. I will never degrade myself by voting for a man who has taken an undue advantage of my generosity. I have only one vote, but John Lind cannot have it this year. I will not vote to perpetuate a Rosing political machine in Minnesota."

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