

People's Party and Democratic State Committees, box one

Section 4, Pages 91 - 120

This manuscript collection consists of assembled materials regarding the People's Party and the Democratic State Committees in Kansas. It includes political correspondence between state and local committees, legal documents, newspaper clippings, lists of local voters and their political affiliations, and other such materials. The correspondence largely concerns organizing and discussing meetings and organizing for and watching election campaigns. Much of the collection is organized alphabetically by county, and most of the materials date from 1902.

Date: 1892-1906

Callnumber: People's Party & Democratic State Committees History, Coll. 627, box 1

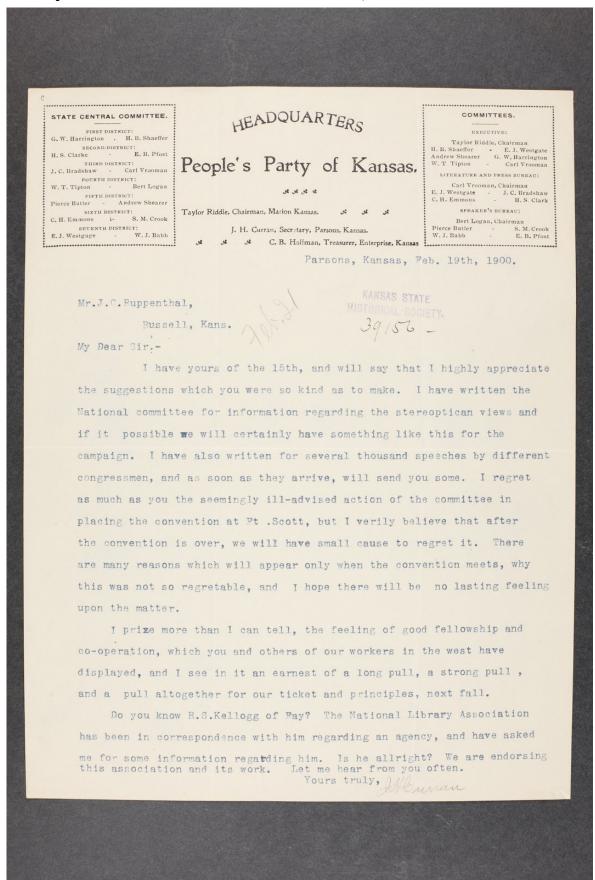
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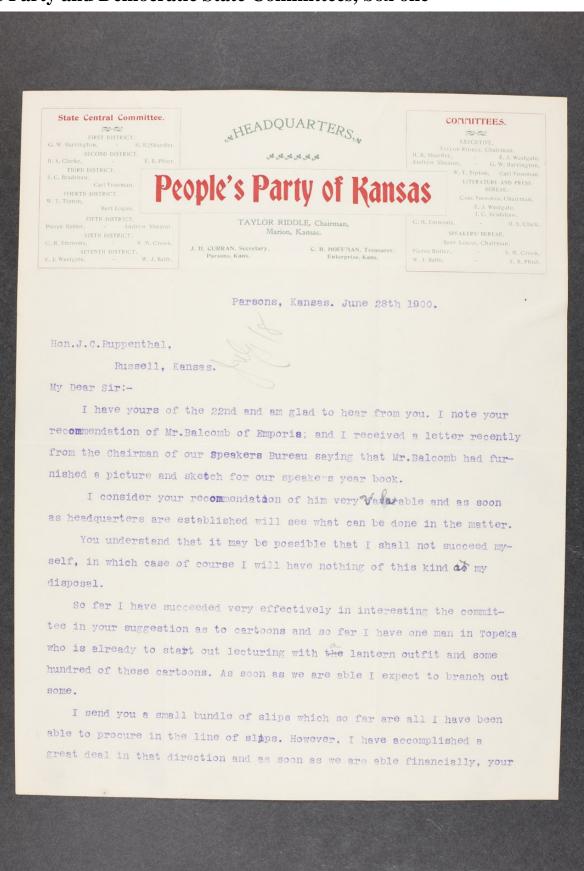
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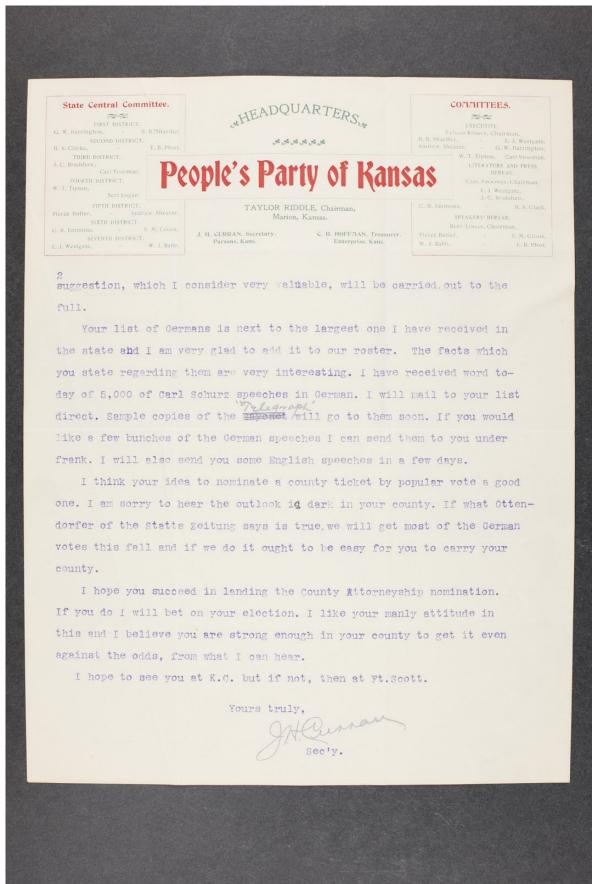




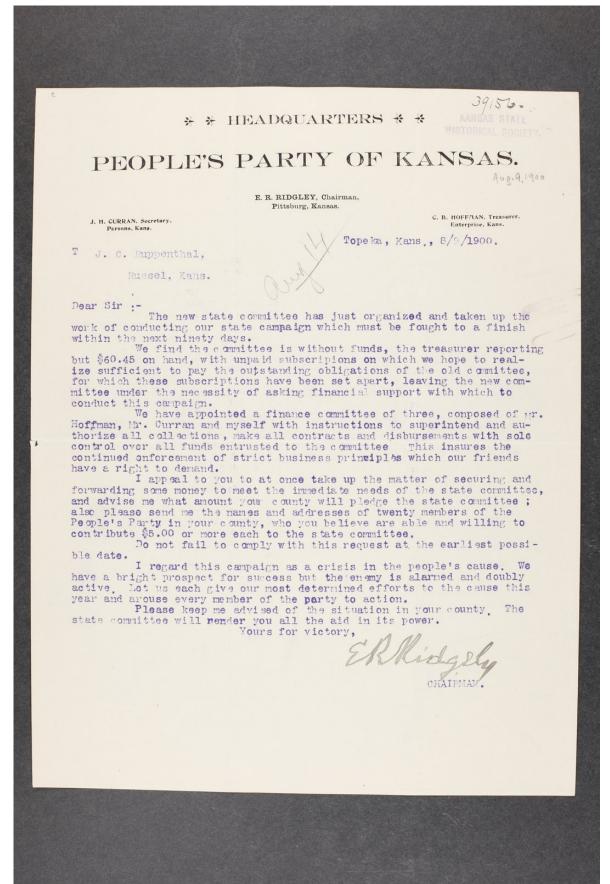














People's Party and Democratic State Committees, box one

* * HEADQUARTERS * *

PEOPLE'S PARTY OF KANSAS.

E. R. RIDGLEY, Chairman, Pittsburg, Kansas.

J. H. CURRAN, Secretary, Parsons, Kans.

C. B. HOFFMAN, Treasurer. Enterprise, Kans.

Topeka, Kansas, Aug. 9,1900.

J. C. Ruppenthal.

Russel, Kansas.

My dear Sir:

Yours of the 2d has been on the desk for some days, but owing to a chaotic condition of affairs, I have been unable to get to it.

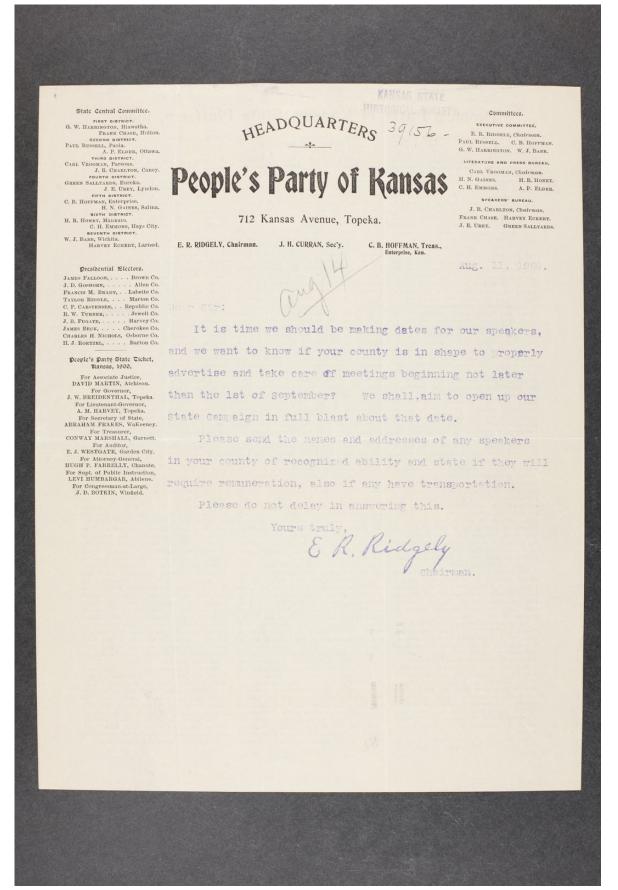
I saw in the newspaper, with much chagrin, that you had not been nominated for County Attorney, and feared that the condition you wrote me about in a former letter had prevailed and that we would be weakened in the senatorial matter. I hope, however, this may be prevented and I await anxiously a letter from you giving your view of the matter clearly as you always have. I must depend upon you in the future, as I have in the past for a review of the conditions as they come up.

Am glad that you received the German speeches, and will soon be in a position to send you more, kindly let me know what you require in either language. I will send, in a few days, a German Talker for your county to help you out with your German voters. Let me hear from you soon.

Yours truly,

chairman. Reco







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People's Party of Kansas, State Platform, 1900.

We, the representatives of the People's party of the State of Kansas, in State convention assembled in Fort Scott, on the 25th day of July, 1900, do hereby reaffirm the declaration of principies promulgated by our national convention held at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, May 9th, 1900, and indorse the nominees of that convention. We commend to the favorable consideration of the people of Kansas a comparison between the last Populist administration and preceding and succeeding Republican State administrations, believing that such comparison will everywhere inure to the credit of the Populists.

The spirit of militarism, imperialism and the desire for foreign conquest which now pervades the dominant political organization is the direct outgrowth of the spirit of greed, which is the chief characteristic of modern commercialism as embodied in trusts and private monopolies. The modern industrial commercial trusportation trust is monarchical in its tendencies, and absolutism in commercial life leads to political absolutism and imperialism. There is no alminty between political democracy and commercial aristocracy. The spirit that compels men to accept the price which a private monopoly may place upon their labor or its products or upon the necessities of their life will utter no protest at the despoilment of our political liberties at home nor at the imposition of unjust and undesired governments upon the people of other lands. We are unalterably opposed to absolutism, whether practiced upon political rusts and private monopolistic corporations, or whether practiced upon political rusts and private monopolistic corporations, or whether practiced upon political rusts and private monopolistic corporations, or whether practiced upon political or political world, and is inimical to a democratic form of government. Either the spirit of greed which now dominates our commercial am and the political government, confident that our reliance on their patrioties and love of liberty and justice citizens of Kansas, irrespective of pr

tution.
The People's party enacted a railroad law to protect the people of this State

against the extortions of the transportation corporations. A Republican State administration made that law of no effect by failing to enforce it, and the Republican majority of the Supreme Court followed this up by destroying it. We are in favor of further legislation to control these corporations as far as possible, but we regard the conflict between incorporated wealth and the interests of the people as irrepressible, and we look for no permanent relief except in government ownership of railroads.

We demand the withdrawal of all special privileges now granted by law to corporations or individuals and the application of the principle of government ownership as a remedy for monopolies of every kind. Believing the public work ought to be done by the people in their own interest, we favor the municipal ownership and operation for the supply of water, light, heat and power and also of all street car lines and telephone systems. We congratulate the people of Kanasa upon the steady spread of Populist principles along these lines which are now leveling all parties, and point with gratification to the erection of a plant for the manufacture of binding twine by the State which has checked the extortions of one monopoly by compelling it to reduce its prices and has already saved thousands of dollars to the farmers of Kanasa. We also call attention to the successful operation of the State law reducing the price of school books and the resultant saving of hundreds of thousands of dollars to the people.

We believe that the people can with descanting the further store in the same

of school books and the resultant saving of hundreds of thousands of dollars to the people.

We believe that the people can with advantage take further steps in the same direction, and that our State constitution ought to be amended so as to permit the establishment of State stock yards and markets, to provide for State insurance and to permit the people as a whole to carry on any business or industry by which they can promote their own welfare. We would especially favor the development of our oil resources by the State and the renef of our people from the exactions of the Standard oil monepoly by the erection of a State refinery to refine the products of the oil fields of our State and supply oil to our people for their own use at the cost of production, without paying tribute to that overgrown monopoly.

We direct attention to the stock yards act, the insurance and banking laws, the corporation law, the laws regulating the salaries of county officers, and the compensation of the State printer, the scrip and screen laws, and other acts passed by the People's party which have proved of great benefit to the people of our State; and we pledge ourselves to enact such further legislation along these lines as may be demanded by the interests of our citizens.

We call the attention to the farmers of

may be demanded by the interests of our citizens.

We call the attention to the farmers of Kansas to the combination of grain buyers extending from Chicago throughout the West, which by means of pools, secret freight rates and other trust methods, appropriates to its members the profits of the great wheat crop which has blessed our land. This combination, to which the local millers and grain dealers are certain to fall victims, exists in violation of the anti-trust law in our statutes; and we pledge the nominees of this convention, if elected, to do all in their power to suppress it.

The State authorizes banking corporations and individual bankers to perform a public function by the receipt of the money of the eitizen for safe-keeping, and at the same time for safe-keeping, and at the same time permits such corporations and individuals to loan ail but a small percentage of these funds for their own priotit: the national banking law protects the bankhote holder from possible loss in case the bank issuing the note becomes insolvent—a security which has been, however, diminished by the gold standard law enacted by the last Congress. To supplement this protection and insure the funds of the depositor whose mioney is in the bank, as well as the note bank, we demand an amendment to our State banking law which will provide for taxing the banks to create a fund, to be under the control of the State banking commissioner and to be used to reimburse depositors in banks which become insolvent.

The scandalous conduct of Governor.

under the control of the State banking commissioner and to be used to reimburse depositors in banks which become insolvent.

The scandalous conduct of Governor Stanley in illegally expelling regents of the State Agricultural College, and the frequent unsavory condition of our State institutions under all parties, condemn the practice of bestowing positions in these institutions under all parties, condemn these practice of bestowing positions in these institutions upon a business basis, alike free from the spoilsman and from the danger that employees may become careless and indifferent or unfitted for other vocations in life and permanent charges upon the State.

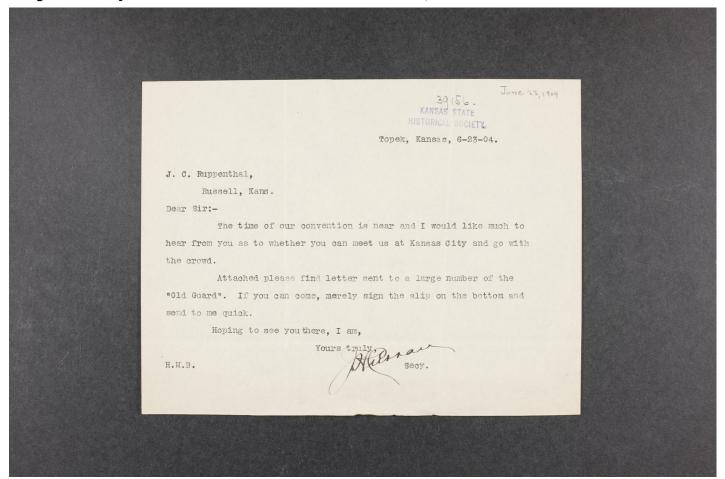
The flagrant violation by wealthy corporations of our present tax law impels us to demand that its provisions be more rigidly enforced. To accomplish this we urge that additional penalties be enacted for its violation.

We favor the graduated taxation of property, incomes and inheritances.

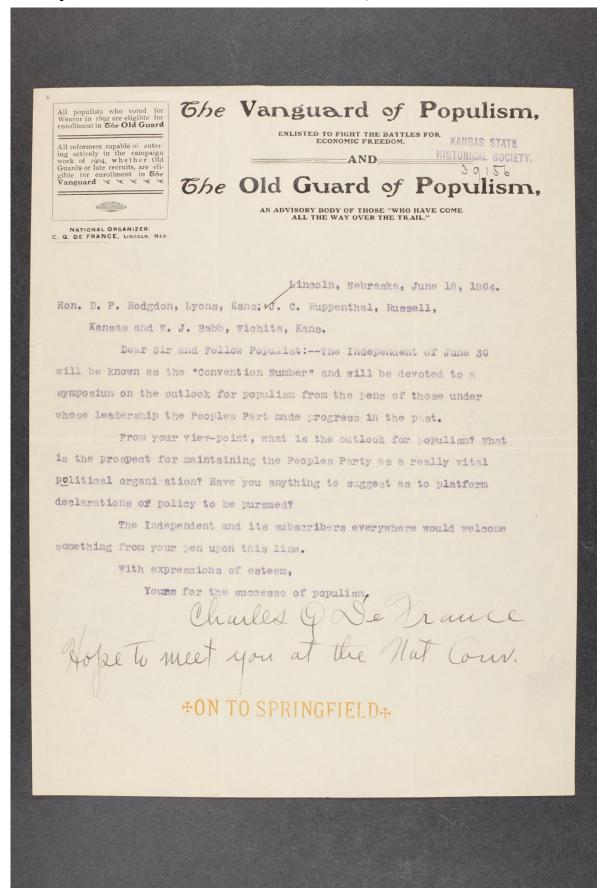
Buring the last decade the power of federal judges has grown to an alarming extent, and that power has been used especially to destroy liberty of speech and to destroy or render ineffective the organizations of labor. By the use of the writ of injunction workingmen have been deprived of their liberty and sentenced to terms of improsiment by the arbitrary action of federal judges, although guilty of no crime whatever, but simply doing what they had under the constitution a perfect right to do. Therefore, we condemn the arbitrary exercise of power and the abuse of the writ of injunction workingmen have been deprived of their players, so universally practiced in the interest of the capitalistic class against labor. We favor such laws, State and mational, as will prevent this abuse of power for all time to come and demand that the right of trial by jury remain inviviolate, and its safe-guards be preserved to every citizen, so that, no matter with what offense of misdemeanor a man may be charged, he will at all times be assured a fair and impartial trial.

Not as partisan





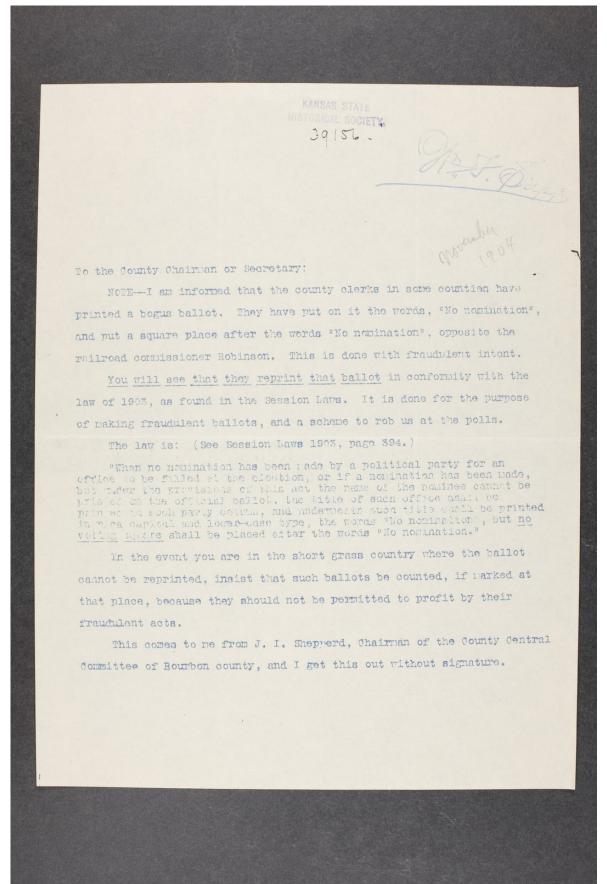




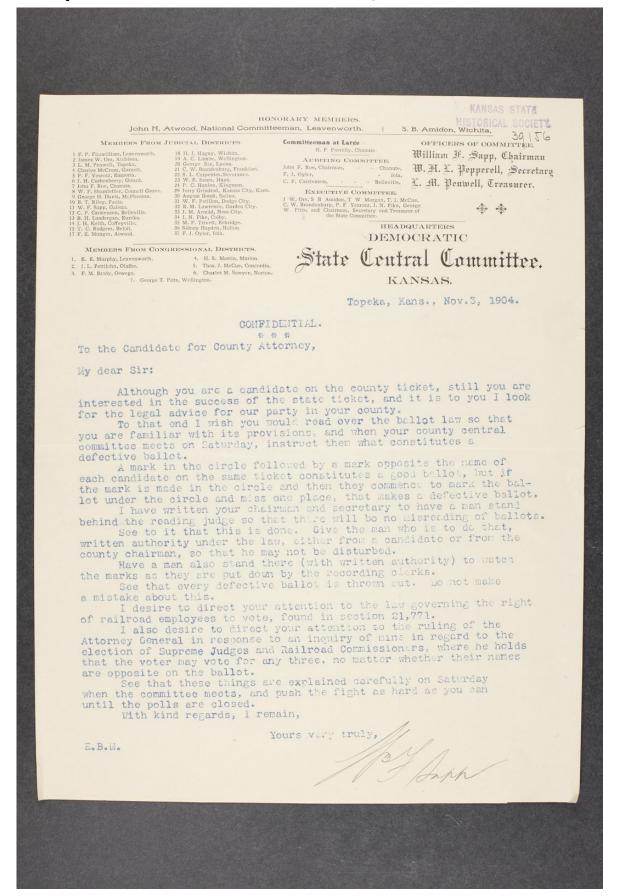


W. J. BABB, Chairman Wichita, Kansas -Topeka, Kansas	E. C. FOWLER, Treasurer Topeka, Kansas		
PEOPLE'S PARTY STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE			
My & Rupruthal Dear Sei	AS, May 5/1906		
Enclosed find cal Party. State conventi action in your coun	on tindly take ty as per the		
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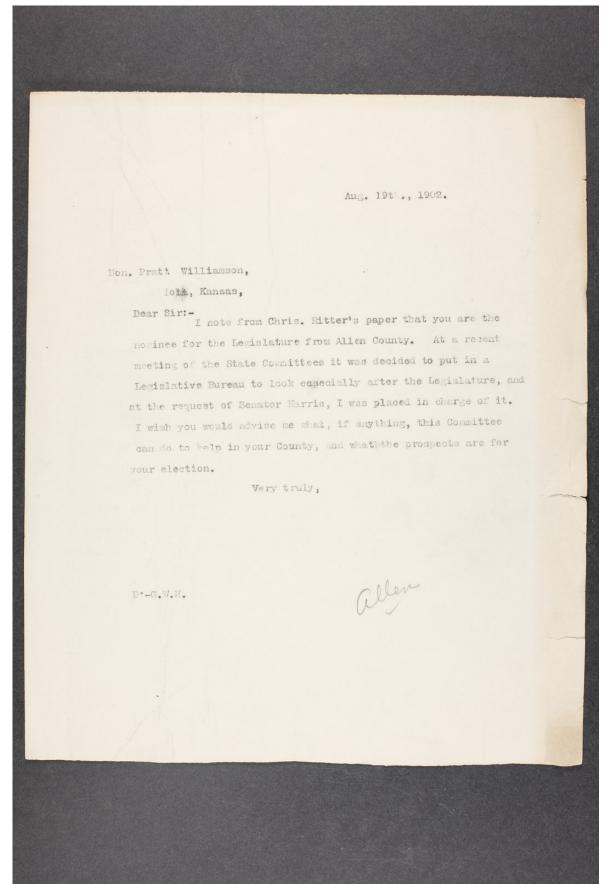




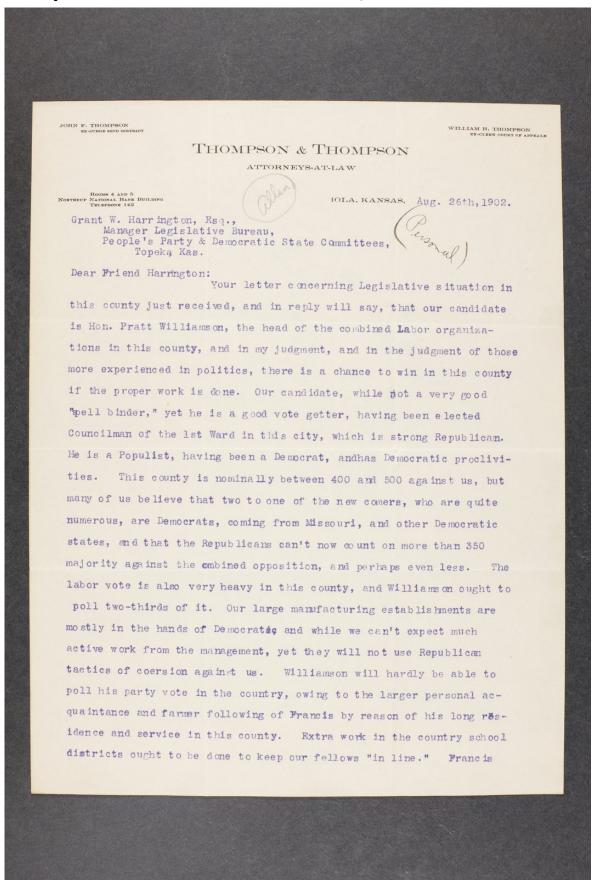




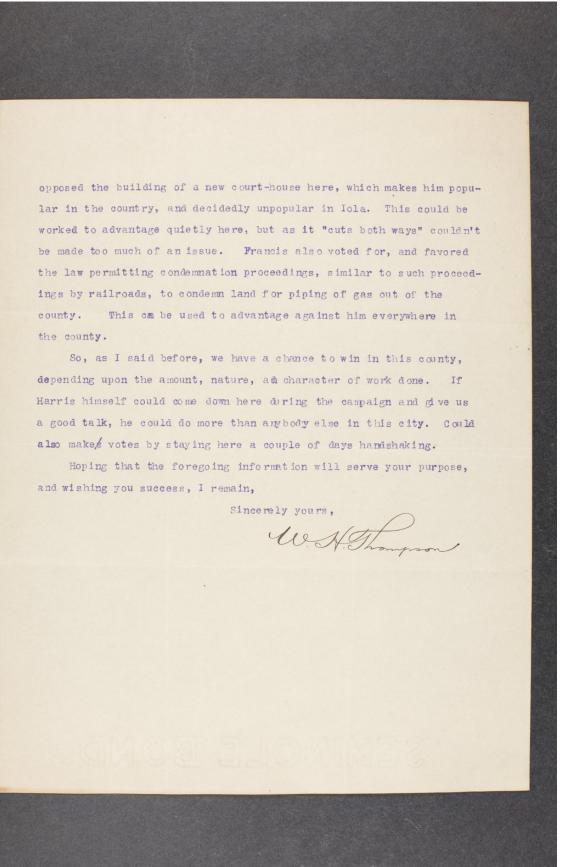






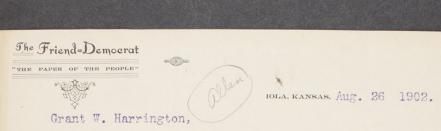








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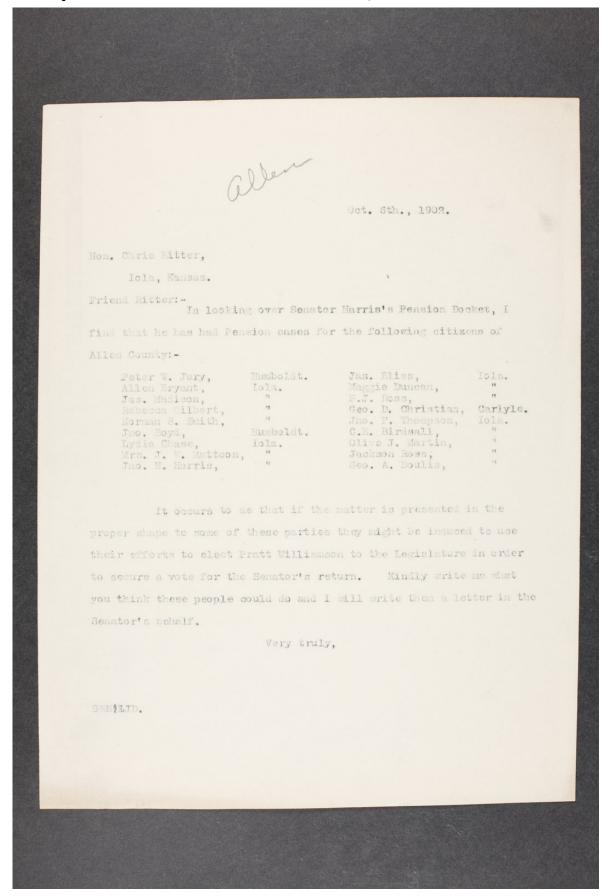


Hiawatha, Kansas.

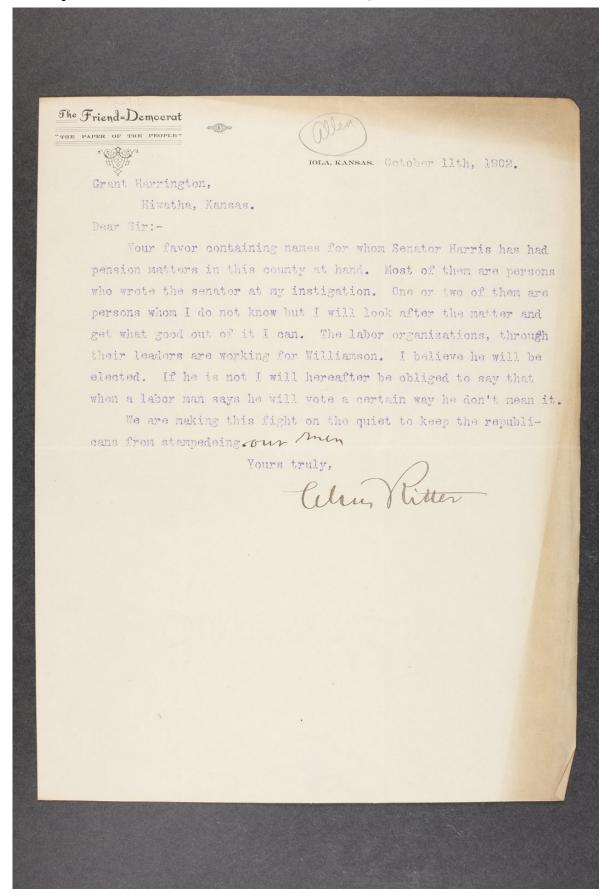
Dear sir: -- Your favor asking for information concerning the fusion candidate for the Legislature from Allen county at hand. Our nominee is Pratt Williamson of this city. He is a radical populist, but we have fusion on the c-onnty ticket and he is working in harmony with the rest of the candidates. Mr William--son is prominent in labor circles here and it is for that reason that we nominated him instead of a farmer. He is a carpenter. There are over 1500 members of labor organizations in his county representing 15 branches of organized labor. This Unions have all been organized since the election of 1900 so we do not know how they will vote. They have the voted to elect Williamson if the will do it. There is a great deal of dissatisfaction with John Francis xx among the republicans. It is wide spread and for various causes. Some of them are: .: The county convention endorsed Long for Senator: Francis says he is for Curtis. The old soldiers are against him on account of some action of his in the last legislature. The proposed now tax bill is believed to be his work and certain influential republicans are against him on that account. The farmers are down on hin on account of general principles. I regard the chances of Williamson's election as exceptionally good and am of the opinion that it will be worth while to make the effort. Our campaign will mopen right away after Labor Day. Weare helping the Labor folk out on a big demon-· startion . Williamson is president of the Committee.

Yours truly, Chris Riter

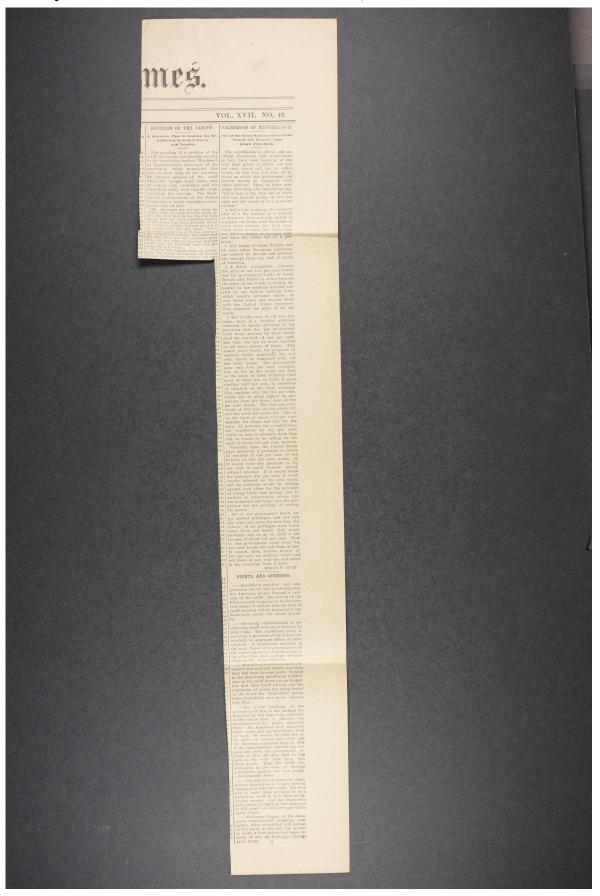




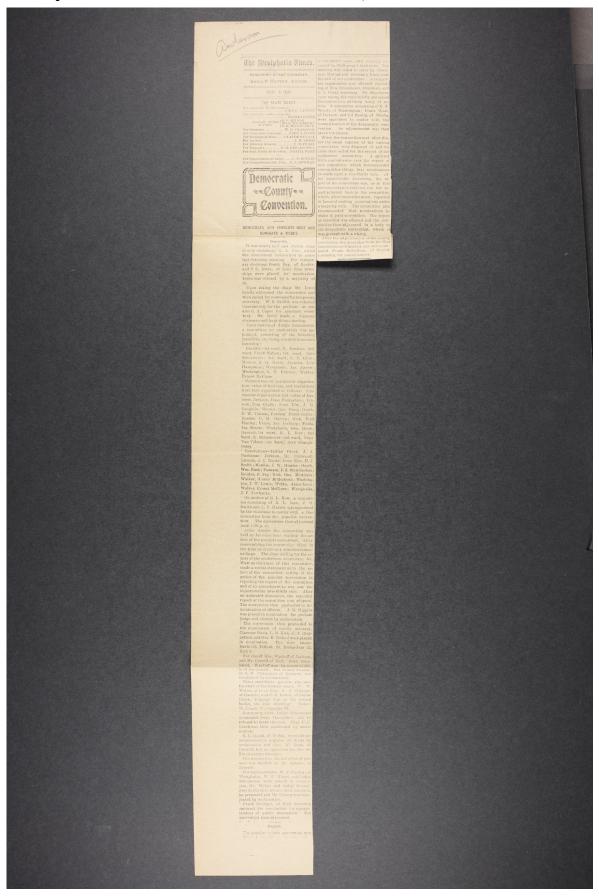




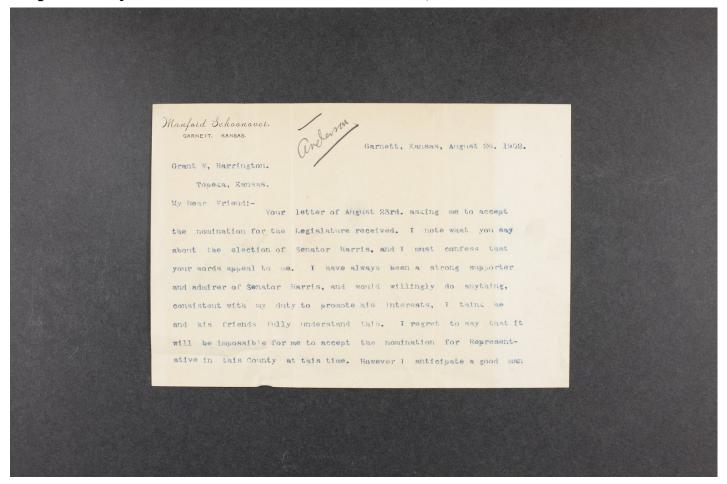




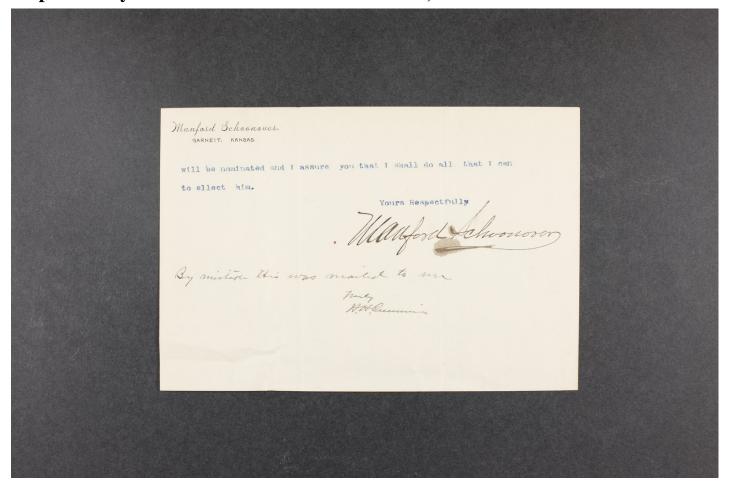




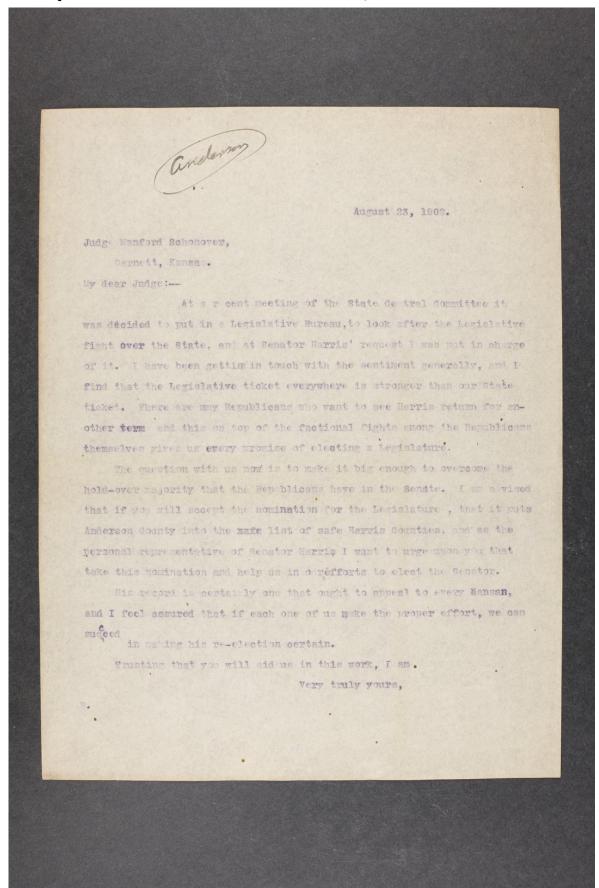




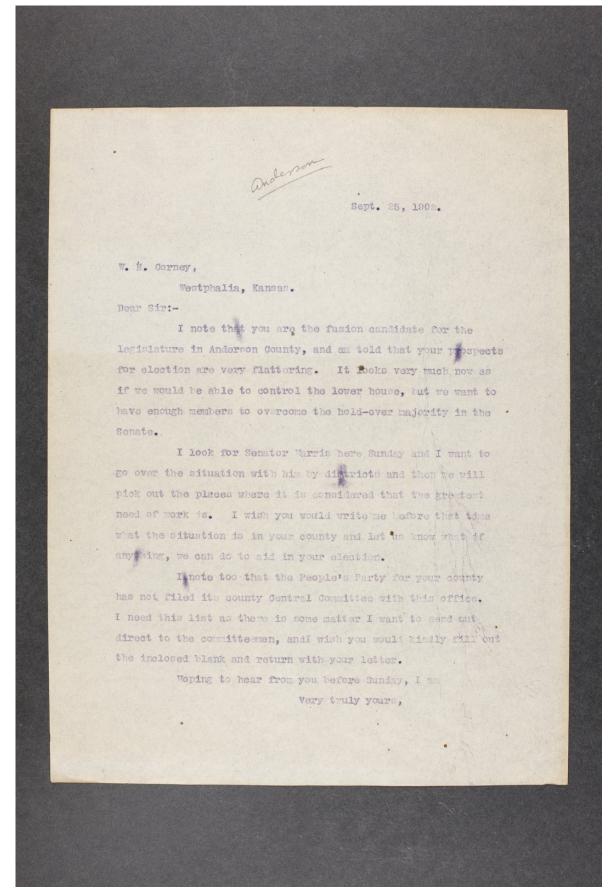














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