

\$1.00 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.

THE ALLIANCE.

OFFICE ORGAN NEBRASKA STATE FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

VOL. I.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1889.

NO. 1.

Editorial

EDITORIAL.

In launching THE ALLIANCE upon the Nebraska journals we do not claim to be filling a "long felt want" in the newspaper world.

It is not a full well that there are so many newspapers, and that room for more can only be found in the higher spheres which only have hearts and hands to reach.

Indeed, the heights are sure of a cordial welcome. But the organization of special interests being in vogue, such organizations must have their own special means of communication.

With their special organs to present their claims to the public, and their cause before it. Viewed in this light the birth of our new paper is fully justified.

The Nebraska Farmers' Alliance is composed of many thousands of the intelligent, progressive and thinking farmers of the state. Many of them have long urged the necessity of a paper devoted especially to the interests of the Alliance.

They have promised their earnest efforts to secure for such a paper a hearty support. The paper sees the necessity. While it will be the organ of the Farmers' Alliance, it will also aspire to work for the good and represent as well as the interests of the members of the whole country.

The paper will represent the interests of all farmers, and stand back of the REAL statesmen a show."

Real statesmen, please understand, are gentlemen, not boys of big corporations, elected by bought voters, or schemed into position by machine politicians. Their fitness was certified to by the monopolies whose servants they are, and not by the votes of a lot of stupid farmers, who cannot be supposed to know a statesman when they see one.

We invite farmers everywhere to commit to memory this interesting screech from the Mail, for it shows very clearly how the city monopoly gang regard the farmer.

It is full of contempt for the man who tills the fields, which is precisely the attitude of the beneficiaries of the banded monopolies.

Farmers! there is no more community of interest between you member of the legislature, if he be square and loyal, and a corporation attorney member, than there is between the greenhorn all gambler who plucks him.

Farmers! you will look out for your interests legislative halls with one quarter the care that is exercised by greedy corporation in protecting their country will be blessed with reign of justice and general prosperity that has long been banished from it.—Farmers Voice.

THE DAKA FARMERS' ALLIANCE Company did over \$200,000 for binding twine last year. This was probably more than one-fourth the amount expended for twine in Dakota.

It used to be that men engaged in business in ties and towns throughout the state, and operated farms convenient towns. Whether these men grew rich from the profits of the farm and log or retired we are unable to say. At all events "Vare vos dem varne now?"

Apply.

THAT a lot of the farmer legislators in the Illinois legislature should assert a right to a knowledge of their own and to do when the brass cracks get the Chicago Hear it.

"Notice to the members of the Illinois legislature: Quit dallying with that bill and let the real statesmen take care of it. If you don't know how to legislate go into the committee rooms and play cards. The other fellows will do your work and you will keep out of trouble. This is the way the White Caps, but it goes. We are tired of your humor."

There is not a soft soap about this. On the contrary, it looks as if the members of the legislature are to scare the farmers to death.

It sounds very harsh and cruel, but perhaps the Mail thinks this is a case where timely severity will prove a lasting kindness.

If this revolt against the beneficent bossing of the corporation attorneys who are always leaders in the House and Senate goes on, in would soon come to pass that there would be no money in practical politics. The rule of vulgar honesty and commonplace purity would crowd men of talent and enterprise into mere lucrative occupations, and the genius would thus be lost to the government.

This dreadful catastrophe must be averted, if every plough wrestling member has to be scared into fits in order to accomplish it.

"Hey! you bumps of farmers, stand back and give the REAL statesmen a show."

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Suppose every farm and farmer in the country was taxed according to net earnings as is proposed to tax the railroads in this state. The result would be very different. It does not matter whether a farmer raises a pig or not he must pay his taxes. It is when a great railroad corporation comes into a great deal of money and a great deal of property a deal of talk is made about taxing according to their income in the state.—Friend Telegraph.

THE MEMORIAL.

The Shot Fired by the National Farmers' Alliance, Heard Round the Continent.

And Produced Consternation in the Ranks of King Shylock.

Let the Reverberations of the Gun Ring on.

TO THE HONORABLE THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:—Your Memorialists, citizens of the United States, and delegates to the National Farmers' Alliance in annual meeting assembled, respectfully represent

That the present economic and financial condition of the country is anomalous, inasmuch as, while the production of wealth is unprecedented, the condition of the producers of wealth is not improving, but is on the contrary retrograding. While no period has witnessed a greater aggregate increase of wealth than the past twenty years, at the same time the farmers of the country are sinking deeper and deeper in debt. It is becoming rare to find farms which are not mortgaged, tenant farmers are rapidly increasing, and failures of country merchants are becoming more numerous day by day.

In addition to this private indebtedness there is a corporate and municipal indebtedness which is of appalling magnitude, and which causes a further exhaustive drain upon the energies of our people.

While the farmers of the country are becoming involved in debt, the artisans and laborers are finding the conditions of life harder. Many are idle, many are working on reduced time, and poverty and distress were never more common in our land than now. This causes dissatisfaction and strikes, often riots and bloodshed, exasperates employers and continually widens and deepens the chasm between labor and capital, which ought to have no existence.

On the other hand, forced by a continually narrowing margin of profit to reduce expenses and secure safety for investments, manufacturers and dealers are driven to combine to accomplish these ends, and trusts which seem pernicious and tyrannical are formed. Meantime there are two classes of men who seem above the reach of adverse financial fortune, money-lenders and railroad owners. Of these the former are reaping a harvest of wealth unprecedented in the history of the world.

While we do not wish to complain of the prosperity of any class, we believe that the prosperity of a state is measured by that of all its people instead of a few of them; and that any nation is surely on the road to decay where a few holders of wealth absorb the greater proportion of its productions, while its producers remain stationary or grow poorer.

Your Memorialists believe that as these disorders are financial in their character, their causes may be found in the financial system of the country.

First, the volume of the currency furnished by the government is insufficient to transact the business of the country on a cash basis, and the people are therefore forced to do it upon a credit basis. This must be apparent at a glance.

In 1865 we had about \$1,900,000,000 currency of all kinds in circulation; we had only 31,000,000 of population, of which 10,000,000, people of the southern states, were then just beginning again to use our money. We were then doing business upon a cash basis; we were free from debt and prosperous. We were in that condition in spite of an exhaustive war and solely by virtue of the volume of currency made necessary by the war. We have now of all kinds of money less than \$1,600,000,000. We have over 60,000,000 of population instead of 31,000,000, and our annual production, by virtue of our annual agriculture and the increased use of mechanical appliances, is three times what it was then, thus making a relative decrease of two-thirds in our money volume. We are now universally in debt, only a few of our people are prospering, and they at the expense of all the rest. It is obvious from this comparison that the great evil is a restricted volume of money.

Your Memorialists believe that to restrict the currency of a people to an amount insufficient to transact its business operates solely to the advantage of the money-lending class and is disastrous to all other classes.

Money possesses two powers which are of transcendent importance,—the power to fix or measure values, and the power to accumulate by interest. It is an accepted financial law that the value or price of property or products maintains a certain fixed relation to the amount of money available for circulation. With a shrinking volume of money, values shrink and vice versa.

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Fresh Attempts at Wit. A wag has discovered a queer coincidence in the fact that while red is made from madder, bulls are made madder by red.

"You're the editor of the Bugville Leader, I believe?" "Yes, sir."

"How are things at Bugville?" "Very dull. Fact is, I haven't been slugged for three weeks."—Omaha World.

"I don't see how you can call me a 'Tubby common'!" cried a young girl, in a tone of reproof. "Why, she never uses anything but rectangular chewing gum, and it costs 15 cents a package!"

A Free Translation.—Binks—I wish I was a mind reader, Marie. Marie—What for, Mr. Binks? Binks—So I could read your inmost thoughts, Marie. Marie—Then it is fortunate that you can't, Mr. Binks.

Customer: "I wish to get a pair of shoes for my boy." Honest dealer: "Yes, sir. Which do you prefer—the kind that looks pretty and go to pieces in a week, or the kind that look ugly and last two weeks?"

"You don't mean to say, John, that you are going to have a steam-heating arrangement in the basement, do you?" "I do, Maria," said John, with iron firmness. "I'm going to keep those feet of yours warm this winter if it costs \$1,000!"

"Don't fret, John," said Mrs. Wiggins. "You've lost nearly everything you had in the world, I know, but remember you've still got me." "Yes," said John, with another heart-felt groan. "That's just what I was thinking."

"Why he thought he'd wait—Dentist: Mr. Dopenheimer: Ish dot so? Well, I dinks I coomes to-morrer. Dentist: But why not let me pull it to-day? Dopenheimer: Well, I don't yoost know how much monish der wash in my pocket-book.

"This is about the slimmest dinner I ever sat down to," he said as he surveyed the table; "but I s'pose I ought to make certain allowances."

"Yes, John," replied his wife, "if you would make certain allowances you would have no occasion to quarrel with your food.—Harper's Bazar.

Foreman (great daily)—Here's an order from down stairs to print a cut of Blifkins, the people's candidate for mayor. We haven't any cuts of him." Able Editor—"How much did he pay for it?" "Five dollars." "Only five dollars? Scratch a beard on Lydia Pinkham, and run that in."—Philadelphia Record.

Chumley—I'm in a little fix to-day, Brown, for money. What would you say if I were to ask you for a temporary loan of a hundred or two dollars?

Brown—Well, Chumley, if the loan will be temporary, I will let you have two dollars.

Clerk—"Brigsby, I want to ask a favor of you." Employer—"Well, James, what is it?" "A beloved uncle of mine is to be buried to-day, and I would like to go to the funeral."

"Very well, James, but wait a few minutes and we'll go together. I want to see the ball game myself."

Tramp—Could you give a bite to a poor man who hasn't eaten anything for— Lady of the house (shouting shrilly)—Tige! Tige! Come here, Tige! (loftily)—You are calling your dog, madam. I want you to understand that I don't eat dog. I'm no Indian. And he strode away in silent dignity.

He Was Quite Hoarse.

The Marion (Ga.) Patriot says several men were sitting in front of the stores in that place, when one of the men remarked, just as a lady with strawberry blonde hair was passing, that he was quite hoarse.

"The lady stopped and placed her arms akimbo, just as they always do when they want to give a fellow a tongue-lashing, and looked him through as though he was as transparent as air, and remarked:

"It is coming to a pretty state of affairs that a lady can't walk the streets without being insulted with that senseless 'white horse' racket. I will let you know, sir, that if I have red hair I have a temper to resent any aspersions cast upon it, sir."

"I beg pardon, madam, I most humbly beg pardon. My remark was that I was 'quite hoarse'."

The lady passed on, thinking that such a mistake was natural, but looking a doubt as to the sincerity of the man's apology.

Cannot Be Ascended.

Mount St. Elias promises to be the future mountain-climbing center of this country. A traveler who has returned from there, after failing to ascend to the summit, reports that his party, after surmounting great difficulties, reached a height of 11,500 feet, and were then compelled to abandon the enterprise. The ascent was covered with ice mounds, strewn with boulders. The party were at one time knee deep in snow and at another were wading through icy waters fed by glaciers. He believes the mountain cannot be ascended without the assistance of trained Swiss mountaineers. The packers with the party could not climb.—Washington Post.

WORKMEN ARE ENGAGED ON THE CAPITOL GROUNDS.

WORKMEN ARE ENGAGED ON THE CAPITOL GROUNDS, about seventy-five yards south of the state house, excavating a large cellar to be used as a basement for the building which will contain the engines now in the basement of the capitol building. Some body is evidently afraid the boilers of the engines might sometime blow up, but whether it is the State Board of Transportation that entertains these fears or not, up to the hour of going to press we did not learn.