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THE ALLIANCE.

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STATE FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

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THE ALLIANCE.
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J. BURROWS, Editor.
J. M. THOMPSON, Associate Editor.

All communications for the paper should be addressed to THE ALLIANCE PUBLISHING CO., and all matters pertaining to the Farmers' Alliance, including subscriptions to the paper, to the Secretary.

EXPIRATIONS.

Your subscription has expired, and unless renewed within the satisfactory period, your name will be removed from the paper. We trust you will feel it your duty to send us your subscription with us. Should this paragraph be marked with a blue cross IT MEANS YOU.

BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENT.

NEW EDITORIAL MANAGEMENT.

With Last Week's Issue the Connection of Mr. Armitage With The Alliance Ceased.

With the Present Issue Mr. J. Burrows, Pres. of the National Farmers' Alliance, Assumes Editorial Control.

Mr. J. M. Thompson, Secretary of the State Alliance, Will be the Business Manager and Associate Editor.

It is the intention of the new management to bring the paper up to a high standard of excellence, making it worthy of the cause of the Alliance and the support of its members. Mr. Burrows brings to the work some experience as a newspaper man. In his early life he learned the trade of printing, and followed the business many years. His connection with the Alliance in this state is known to most of its members. He presided over the meeting which organized it in 1881, and has faithfully stood by the organization from that day to this. Through all its vicissitudes he has claimed that there was good in the society, that it was a necessity to the farmers, and refused to abandon it. In all the offices he has held in it he has served without a dollar of compensation, and he now abandons his business to take charge of the Alliance paper. This he cannot do without pecuniary sacrifice, abandoning that which was paying a certain livelihood for an enterprise which at best is quite uncertain.

The Company asks the members of the Alliance to meet it in the same spirit. The paper is an absolute necessity to the Alliance. With the support of its members it can be made a grand success.

Remember, Alliance men, that THE ALLIANCE IS YOUR PAPER. Its continued existence and success depends upon YOUR PATRONAGE. We ask no subsidies of money, but only your subscriptions and support.

FIVE SUBSCRIBERS

from each Alliance will place the paper on a sure foundation.

TEN SUBSCRIBERS

from each Alliance will enable us to enlarge it to double its present size, and make it the equal of any farmers' paper in the country. WE ABSOLUTELY GUARANTEE A FULL EQUIVALENT FOR EVERY SUBSCRIPTION.

CASH PREMIUMS For Subscribers.

To all officers of Alliances and others who will canvass for us we will allow a cash premium of 20 per cent. on all lists of five yearly subscriptions and upward. That is we will send five copies one year to separate addresses for four dollars. This liberal offer will compensate our friends for their labors, and we now urgently request all who are devoted to the cause to go to work. TEN SUBSCRIBERS FROM EACH ALLIANCE will be easily obtained. We intend to make THE ALLIANCE absolutely necessary to every member.

We invite our farmer readers to send us short articles on live topics, and also give us news items of general interest.

No objectionable advertisements will be admitted to our columns.

CANVASSERS WANTED.

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Lincoln, Neb.

The republican papers are objecting to Sullivan for congress because he is a ring candidate. How about Laws?

Gen. Ben. F. Butler is to write a history of the war. It will be in order now for the papers to allude to the spoons.

EDITORIAL.

AN APOLOGY.

The new editor feels disposed to apologize for the short-comings of THE ALLIANCE this week. Coming to the office late, finding some confusion arising from change of management, he also found the material entirely inadequate to get out a satisfactory sheet, even of the present size. We shall make additions of type of smaller size, giving much more matter, and other needed alterations. We propose to devote every dollar of the income of the office to the improvement of the paper, until it is entirely satisfactory to its patrons. After this week we expect to have our inside pages prepared expressly for the ALLIANCE, and we shall enlarge the paper as soon as our patronage will warrant it. We have had a thirty years' vacation from the printing office, but hope to be able to again pick up the lines and win a fair place among the brotherhood.

The Australian Voting System.

It may be remembered that in one of the memorials presented to the late legislature, the Nebraska Alliance asked that the Australian voting system be adopted in this state. Leading papers of our cities opposed the measure, foremost among them that great advocate of the peoples rights, the Omaha Bee. It kept up a rattling fire against the bill during most of the session. The fact is, this system so utterly destroys the prevalent system of conducting city elections that most city politicians are averse to seeing it adopted. We hope, however, that at our next biennial session Nebraska may join the procession of states which are purifying their electoral system, and that the Bee may have the scales removed from its eyes sufficiently to become an advocate of the measure.

Up to the present time eight states have adopted the system, viz: Massachusetts, Indiana, Montana, Rhode Island, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Minnesota and Missouri. Massachusetts was the first state to pass the law and the laws passed by the other states have in the main been modeled on the one first passed. Wisconsin first passed the law for application to Milwaukee alone. Its operation was so admirable in the city that at its next session the legislature applied it to the whole state. It has been in force in Australia 30 years, in England 18 years and in Canada 16 years.

Its leading principles are, first an official ballot furnished by the election boards at public expense; second, absolute secrecy in voting; third, full provisions for placing independent nominations in the field. The first principle accomplishes several very important ends. It greatly diminishes the cost of elections, it utterly destroys the pretext of collections for printing ballots, and does away entirely with the obnoxious ticket peddling of the present. The second principle entirely does away with all intimidation by employers, and also will quite prevent the purchase of votes. Men never pay for votes unless they or their agents can see the completion of the contract. In the Australian system this is impossible, so the purchase of votes will close when it is adopted. The third principle strikes a fatal blow at corrupt bargains and sales in conventions, and in fact, at the supremacy of the convention itself, by making full provisions for the rights of minorities and individuals in placing candidates in nomination. That corruption will exist in some form while human nature is as it is, there is no doubt, but corruption at elections will be vastly more difficult when the Australian system of voting is adopted. The Nebraska Alliance will renew its demand for the bill; and we hope it will be backed by the pulpit, the press and the people, until the next legislature will not dare to refuse.

WHEN UNCLE SAM OWNS THE RAILROADS.

The B. & N. has made a rate of 85 cents from New York to St. Paul, and a great racket is being made about it. The racket comes partly from the fact that the other roads will be compelled to make the same rate, but more from the other fact that they must make a local rate in proportion. No one familiar with this question doubts that a rate of 85 cents will pay between the points named. Let's figure on it. A train of fifteen cars of twelve tons each would carry 360,000 pounds. At 85 cents per hundred this would bring the road \$2,960. This train would require one conductor, one engineer, one fireman, and two brakemen eight day's time. Cut the income square in two, to allow for all deficiencies, empty cars, etc., and we have \$1,480.00 for hauling fifteen cars of freight from New York to St. Paul. Who doubts, if the business was done on business principles, without high-priced figure-head presidents, a free pass system, and dead-head officers, that this sum would pay operating expenses, repairs and a handsome interest on the cost of the road? Heretofore, when the roads got into a squabble and began cutting rates, the local rate was advanced to the point of robbery, and so-called losses on the long haul thus made up. Thanks to the

Inter-State law this is no longer possible. If this was all the law had accomplished its passage would be amply justified.

It is said that the B. & N. has to meet Canadian competition. The great plain people of this country would like to know how it is that Canadian competition is so much severer than American competition. Are the Canadian roads carrying for nothing because they have been subsidized? Perhaps the U. P. had better take a lesson of them. As a matter of fact that is not the case, and the B. & N. has its eye on its American competitors quite as much as its Canadian, as the flurry among them proves.

With corn at 15 cents a bushel, the farmers of Nebraska may devoutly pray that the reduced rates may reach this state.

Many able thinkers are reaching the conclusion that there is only one solution to this rate question, and that is government ownership of the railroads. When that day comes four thousand millions of watered stocks will be eliminated, ornamental presidents will disappear, country editors will cease to be railroad employees, and consequently will have a little more manly independence; free passes to judges and legislators will be unnecessary, a fixed rate per ton per mile will send freight anywhere in the United States, as a postage stamp now sends a letter, and the value of farmers' property will not fluctuate from day to day, as at present. Ticket scalpers will go to that unknown bourne where no rates are cut and from which no excursions ever return. The evils of competition would disappear, because the government would neither compete nor combine.

The U. P. railroad, compelling the farmers of Nebraska to pay rates to maintain a capitalization of \$105,000 per mile, though built by the government and donated to its owners, is the first road to try the experiment upon. Its operators intend to swindle Uncle Sam out of the debt. Let Uncle Sam take the road now, and operate it for cost of service, and we will soon know whether the government can operate a railroad.

UNDER WHICH KING?

The senate committee to investigate the beef combine ran against a snag in Chicago in the refusal of the beef barons to appear before it and testify. The next committee of this kind will probably be armed with full powers, and attended by a deputy sergeant-at-arms. But even in that case the barons could make it convenient to be taking an outing, or they could take advantage of the legal permission of refusing to criminate themselves, as the Standard Oil men did in the New York investigation. When public opinion takes the proper position as to trusts and combines, viz: that they are a criminal conspiracy to defraud, then and not till then will the persons forming them be placed in their proper relations to society, that of criminals amenable to the penalties of criminal law. We have no doubt there is law enough to place these gentlemen in that position now, were there only mandatory power in some public officer's hands to enforce. No private individual wants to go to law with a trust.

But one of the tools of this Chicago combine was before the committee, and with monumental cheek scored congress for being the cause of the beef combination. He named the oleomargarine act, the removal of the duty on hides, and the Inter-State commerce law as being responsible for the combine, and advised the committee to go back and undo the mischief before any further investigation. This shows the straits these fellows would be pushed to if they were pushed at all. The oleo law simply provides that oleo shall be sold under its proper name, and not under false pretences. It has never lessened the price of a steer a dollar, but has been a great benefit to the producers of honest butter. As to the removal of the duty on hides, that took place in 1883, and there was no marked decline in the price of beef for several years thereafter. In fact the highest price of mess beef in '83 was \$14.00, while in '84 it went to \$13.50, and in '85 to \$16.50. It was not until a combine of four men got possession of the beef product of the country that the removal of this duty was found to be such a terrible blunder. And these four men

would be just as ardent free traders, if they could pin a point by being so.

But the checkiest thing of all is to attribute the evils of a combine to the Inter-State law. This law did just one thing that Chicago Jew speculators didn't like—it spoiled the evenness of their occupation. It put all men on an equality in the shipping business, and it took millions of capital and an extensive combination to destroy this equality, but it seems to have been effectually done. The Inter-State law has no more effect upon the price of beef than a toy lantern has on the tides. And next time a congressional committee goes to Chicago, you will testify, gentlemen beef barons, or leave the country.

THE SECOND DISTRICT.

Who shall be Jim Laird's successor is asked throughout the state. Great interest is manifested in the solution of this question, and several prominent gentlemen have been named. But we have not yet noticed any great anxiety on the part of any one that a farmer should succeed to Jim's shoes. Mr. Laws is—well, we are ignorant of his profession—but it is safe to class him as an office holder, and he may be a lawyer. Mr. Harlan is a lawyer. Mr. Hastings is a lawyer. The man who was sent to an insane asylum because he insisted he had been appointed Laird's successor was also probably a lawyer. Four fifths of the inhabitants of the Second district are farmers. They are not over-well represented in Washington. Why should not that district send a farmer to congress? The interests of all the farmers of the Second district are identical, no matter what political party they belong to. It is high time for the people of this country, and especially the farmers, to wake up to the fact that interests, more than parties, are represented in congress. When tariff revision is considered the special representatives of local interests are upon the alert. When finance is talked of the tools of the banker's association spring to their feet. Propose a bill to put the organizers of trusts in the pen, where they belong, and their attorney's will show up at once. But it would puzzle any one to know any special effort made in congress in behalf of the interests of farmers. It was only after a struggle of ten years, with many defeats, that the national seed shop was promoted to a department.

The republican party is largely in the majority in the Second, and it is composed of farmers nine-tenths of whom are anti-monopoly sentiments. They want a man to go to congress who will represent them on the money question, the transportation question, the land question. They want a man who will not go on the payroll of the B. & M., or any other corporation; a man who will stand up in his place and tell the truth though the heavens fall, and who will fight every monopoly, trust and combine that is making millionaires and starving the people. There are able farmers of that kind in the Second district; and the farmers of that district have the power to dictate who Jim Laird's successor shall be. This they can do by going to the primaries and demanding their rights, and by letting it be distinctly understood that they will be bound by no nominations which do not accord them. Fine declarations in a platform, and standing a railroad capper on it, will not fill the bill. It will be a lasting disgrace and shame to the district if G. L. Laws, or any other monopoly tool, shall be chosen.

A CAUSE FOR DEPRESSION IN AGRICULTURE.

From The National Economist.
The position taken by the National Economist editorially during the last six months, in which it has gradually been shown that the most essential reform now necessary is one that will stop the injustice and oppression that is applied through the power of money to oppress, stands today unchallenged. It has been shown that the contraction of the volume of money in the country reduced the price of all commodities and increased the purchasing power of money; that the ability to pay debts was diminished in proportion to the ratio of contraction; that is to say, a reduction of the circulating medium to one-half its volume is equivalent to doubling the indebtedness of all those who have outstanding obligations. It has been shown that for over twenty years the government of the United States has pursued a policy of steadily but surely contracting the volume of money in circulation, and that it has practically deputed to a class of private corporations the right and privilege of regulating the volume of the circulating medium of the country. That this is a crime against the productive interests of the country no man dare deny. It is an admitted fact in political economy that the business of the country can be as well transacted with twice that amount, and that it can be transacted with just as much ease and certainty, and without injury to it, should the amount of circulating medium at any time be reduced from \$2,000,000,000 to \$1,000,000,000, or if the opposite manner of ex-

pressing the same thing be preferred, every dollar would have its purchasing power doubled. A rapid expansion in volume would have the opposite effect. It follows, then, inevitably that changes in the volume of money in circulation affect with unerring certainty the prices of all the commodities in the country; that a contraction in volume of money may reduce the price of the products of the country to less than it had cost to produce them with a greater volume of money in circulation, and that an increase in the volume of money may increase the price of the products of the country to such an extent as pass the ability of the consumer to purchase, and therefore, seriously damage the productive interests of the country. Should any class be in sole possession of the knowledge as to when contraction and expansion were to be resorted to, they could purchase the products of the country at cost of production and sell them to consumers at as great an advantage as their ability to purchase would allow. This would enable such class by means of a knowledge of that secret to appropriate all the earnings of the producer, no matter how industrious and frugal he might be. But when in addition to the great advantage he would derive from the simple knowledge of when contraction and expansion would take place, such class is allowed the power to apply contraction or expansion secretly at will, it possesses the power to appropriate from all other classes to an extent that practically enforces upon them and will in time—as soon as fully realized—cast a deadly blight on all productive energy and effort. Is not the delegation of such power to such class a crime against the producers of the land?

The depressed condition of agriculture is the certain result of such conditions. Agriculture is the greatest productive interest in this country, and consequently these baneful influences are most felt and most apparent upon it. It is not strange that it is in its present depressed condition, when the above cause is fully considered. In fact, it is strange that it is not worse off, and it is certain that it will be much worse off in the near future if these evils are not corrected.

The above from the Economist is in the main correct. But when it admits that the business of the country could be as well transacted with \$1,000,000,000 as with \$2,000,000,000, "without injury to any interest except those who are in debt," it admits too much. This logical deduction from its own argument proves. Contraction forces the business of the country upon a debt basis. When a system of credit is universal, as it is now, all prices are adjusted on that system. The rate of interest, or the price of money, fixes rent and all other costs of living. It is reckoned in the cost of goods, transportation, etc., and the consumer, no matter whether he is in debt or not, has these prices to pay. It is evident therefore, that freedom from debt does not give immunity from the harder conditions of life which are imposed by contraction. No class of citizens can escape the burden of these conditions.

In such times interest is nominally lower, as it is now. But this also is a delusion, because the burden of interest is determined by the prices of products. We ask our readers to study this question, viewing money as something they have to buy with products. Compare the amount of product it requires to pay eight per cent. now with the amount it took to pay ten per cent. three years ago.

"FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES."

Under the above caption the Bee of Monday comments approvingly upon the decision of Judge Blodgett of the U. S. circuit court, declaring the Minnesota meat inspection law unconstitutional. It is noteworthy that the Bee, as a republican organ, must favor protection. The principle of protection, as enforced by the republican party, is specially applied to local interests. Every manufacturing and mining scheme has its special agents at Washington, and tariff bills are specially arranged to satisfy the demands of these corporations. But when the great interest of the western farmer proposes to protect itself by state laws, another altogether is gored. The Bee, in its article, says:

"A state cannot prohibit the sale of an article of commerce after it has been brought within the jurisdiction of the state. The power of congress to regulate the introduction of articles of commerce necessarily implies the right to authorize the sale of commercial articles so introduced.

No article of commerce can be excluded from introduction into and sale in a state by state inspection laws or prohibition laws, and the common commercial usage and course of trade, and not the legislature of the state, determine what are articles of commerce."

Isn't this a pretty tight jacket to put a state in, Mr. Bee? And does the constitutional power to "regulate commerce between the states" give congress the power to dictate what that commerce shall be? We think not. Congress has only the powers which were granted by the states. If, in the exercise of its police powers a state interferes with the sale of a product within its borders, it may to that extent regulate commerce, not between the states, but within state lines. It has not been denied that the states

the right to pass prohibition laws in relation to liquor. But under the dictation of the Bee, above quoted, this right would not exist.

In this matter an unholy combination, by the use of millions of capital, throttles a great industry and turns all profits resulting from it into its own coffers. Its acts constitute a criminal conspiracy, and its guilt is confessed by the refusal of its members to testify before a congressional committee. It is melancholy to see the Bee, that great champion of the farmer, become its apologist, and oppose any remedies proposed.

THE ST. LOUIS MEETING.

It will be seen by the secretary's minutes of the meeting of the State Alliance Executive Committee, held at Lincoln, Sept. 10, that the committee assumed the duty of appointing delegates to the annual meeting of the National Alliance, to be held at St. Louis, Dec. 5. The Southern Alliance, and the proposed Farmers' and Laborers' Union meeting in Dec'ber, and the proposition for the National Alliance to join this new body, made it necessary for the National Alliance meeting to be held this year at the same time and place, viz: St. Louis, Dec. 5. Hence our Executive Committee had the alternative of calling the State Alliance annual meeting in November, a time when our members are very busy picking corn, and when it would be very difficult for delegates to attend, or itself appointing delegates. After a very full discussion of the subject the latter plan was adopted. The delegates were selected with a view to fairly representing all portions of the state, and securing as large a representation as possible. The St. Louis meeting will be a grand gathering of representative farmers from every state and territory in the Union. To be present at that meeting will form a red-letter day in any man's lifetime. We hope every man appointed will surely attend. But all who cannot attend are requested to so report to the state secretary at once, so that new appointments may be made.

OMAHA A WAY STATION.

The Bee in its issue of the 19th, editorially speaks of Omaha as "merely a way station on the Union Pacific, with a stub connection to the trunk 'lines on the Iowa side.'"

Well, well! Isn't there danger that the ghost of that board of trade may haunt the Bee sanctum? We have long known that the facilities and connections of Lincoln far surpassed those of Omaha; but we have not expected to find in the Bee an admission of this quite so soon. We have four great trunk lines centering here, with easy and quick connection east, north and west. There are five great bridges across the Missouri river on the Nebraska border, besides the one at Omaha, lines crossing all of them with direct connection with the capital. We would like to have the Bee move into town.

GAGE COUNTY ALLIANCE.

The Under the Alliance of Gage will meet at Beatrice on Saturday the 12th of October, at 2 p. m. The members of the Gage Alliances are alive to their interests, and are making business arrangements for their members. Two new Alliances will be organized within a few days, one in Midland and one in Hanover.

The Lincoln Journal devotes an editorial item to the alleged destruction of the colored Farmers' Alliance in Mississippi. It says: "The Caucasian of Mississippi does not deem it necessary for the colored farmers down there to have an Alliance. The new Alliance was therefore broken up, all the members that could be got at having been shot or hung." It will be well if the farmers of Nebraska will note the fact that the Journal has always been quite as much opposed to a farmers' Alliance in this state as it says the Caucasians of Mississippi are in that. Monopoly and ring rule suits in that. Monopoly and ring rule suits in that. Monopoly and ring rule suits in that.

EVERYBODY kicks a man as soon as he is down. The Lincoln Journal says Tanner "talked too much slop," and that his successor needs to "hold his tongue." If "talking too much slop" is criminal the Journal ought to have been shut up years ago. According to the republican organs Tanner lost his office in the same way he got it, by his gab. Mr. Harrison had better make a raid on some deaf and dumb asylums.

When Alliance enterprises are started, sort them unanimously. Trade than capital.

PADDOCK ON TANNER.

In an interview with the Washington correspondent of the Bee in regard to the new appointee to the commissionership of pensions, Mr. Paddock says:

"If a man of exceptional discretion and prudence of speech, like Major Warner, is placed at the head of that bureau he will be able to accomplish much greater results in the way of pension relief than would have been possible under the administration of Mr. Tanner, considering all the complications."

Well, well! If Mr. Warner goes to extemporizing \$4,000 checks to members of congress, unbeknownst, what will the people say? So, talking too much, not paying too much, was what ailed Tanner. This is what ails some senators.

Some organs of the money power are alluding to the slim attendance at the late so-called greenback convention at Cincinnati as evidence that the times are not favorable to the third parties. The gentleman who called the Cincinnati convention does not represent the greenback element of the country, nor have its confidence. Mr. Geo. A. Jones has clung like a barnacle to the old greenback party, annually electing himself chairman of its national committee for the sake of having something to sell to the enterprising politicians of the republican gender. He has disposed of himself once a year in a block of five for some years past. We wish to say to the jubilant parties alluded to that the greenback idea never had more real vitality than it has to-day, and there never has been a stronger sentiment in the whole country in favor of genuine and radical financial reform than at this very time.

Mr. Loucks has publicly announced that he is not a candidate for United States senate, and urges the Alliance to vote for A. Wardall. Mr. Wardall accepts the struggle, and with his usual energy will make himself heard. He is too well known to require a word from us.—Dak. Ruralist.

The farmers and republicans of Dakota will do themselves proud by electing Mr. Wardall U. S. Senator. He more than fills all the standard requirements, and in addition, is a grand representative of the farming interest, the only great interest of the Dakotas. The senate needs an infusion of western blood direct from the farm. In fact, it is the only thing that will regenerate it. We have some sympathy for Mr. Wardall, but he must make the sacrifice.

MR. ARMITAGE goes to a new field of labor. He has the sincerest wishes of all for his success and prosperity. Wherever he is, he will be an earnest worker in behalf of the people and reform.

LABOR GEMS.

Labor is the one prime necessity in the development of the race. Hence the necessity that it be encouraged, to the greatest degree, and everything tending to discourage or oppress it be prevented and removed.

Labor is the foundation stone upon which the superstructure of civilization rests. Let this foundation be injured or crushed and the entire beautiful structure falls to ruin.

Labor, by constantly adding to the great accumulations of wealth in the hands of the few by force of inequitable laws, is steadily building up and strengthening the power which already holds it in bondage, and is thus forging its own chains.

Under existing conditions and institutions labor acts as an involuntary insurance company, which guarantees a sure return to capital, while it alone stands all the chances and vicissitudes of natural laws.—Economist.

ALLIANCE ELEVATOR CO.

The Scandinavian Elevator Co., of Minneapolis, which has been for some time under the management of the Dakota Alliance, has just been reorganized, its name changed, and the company made more purely an Alliance Co-operative Association. By the request of the National Alliance the name was changed to "The Alliance Elevator Co.," so that it might the better express its object by its name. The officers are H. L. Loucks, president; F. B. Fancher, vice-president, and Geo. Wilson, secretary, which we learn from the Ruralist.

The farmers of Dakota should make this elevator enterprise a grand success. The farmer or Alliance shipping one car of wheat will receive the same attention as the warehouse or elevator company shipping several cars per day.