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THE ALLIANCE.

OFFICIAL ORGAN
NEBRASKA
STATE FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

"THERE IS NOTHING WHICH IS HUMAN THAT IS ALIEN TO ME."—Terence.

VOL. I.

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

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J. BURROWS,
its Editor, is President of the National Farmers' Alliance, and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Farmers' State Alliance. He has had long experience in newspaper work. He will bring to his able men in different spheres of thought, and will make THE ALLIANCE one of the ablest papers in the west.

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In Cass Co.—The meeting at Weeping Water last Saturday was well attended. The farmers of Cass county are showing much interest in Alliance matters, and in public questions in which their interests are involved. We look for a boom for the Alliance from that quarter. Our subscription list received quite an accession at Weeping Water. Mr. B. F. Allen, the secretary of Cass Co. Alliance, is entitled to our thanks. He is a staunch friend of the Alliance cause, and of reform all along the line.

I OFTEN WONDER WHY 'TIS SO.
Some find work where some find rest,
And so the weary world goes on;
I sometimes wonder which is best;
The answer comes when life is gone.
Some eyes sleep when some eyes wake,
And so the dreary night-hours go;
Some hearts beat where some hearts break;
I oft wonder why 'tis so.
Some wills faint where some wills fight;
Some love the tent, and some the field,
I often wonder who are right;
The ones who strive, or those who yield.
Some hands fold where other hands
Are lifted bravely in the strife;
And so thro' 'ages and thro' lands
Move on the two extremes of life.
Some feet halt where some feet tread,
In tireless march, a thorny way;
Some struggle on where some have fled;
Some seek when others shun the fray.
Some swords rust where others clash,
Some flag far back where some move on,
Some flags fur where others flash
Until the battle has been won.
Some sleep on while others keep
The vigils of the true and brave,
They will not rest till roses creep
Around their names above a grave.
—Father Ryan.

EDITORIAL.

HAPPINESS THROUGH TAXATION.

In all ages of the world taxation has been considered a burden. In nearly all conflicts between tyrants and the people the point at issue has been as to the amount of the people's wealth that should be taken by the governing power. All encroachments of privilege have begun by an unjust absorption of the earnings of labor. The English revolution of 1688 was precipitated by the refusal of an English country gentleman to pay an unconstitutional tax. The French revolution was the direct result of the bankruptcy of the producers of France through onerous taxation and the exactions of privileged classes. The water of Boston harbor was transformed into quite a palatable though rather brackish quality of tea, and the English nation lost the brightest gem from its crown, on the same old issue.

It has remained for Henry George to make a new application of old facts, and to gain a large following by deducting from the largest scheme of taxation ever proposed the very acme of human happiness, the millennium of the golden age when equality shall reign and misery disappear. In Mr. George's scheme the rule seems to be—the greater the tax the greater the happiness. Another paradox is found in the proposition that the more the tax is concentrated upon one factor of production, viz: land, the more equally will its burden be diffused through all classes. Mr. George, therefore, proposes to take all the wealth of one class for the benefit of all classes. He proposes to equalize distribution by taxing out of existence one of the prime factors of distribution. His proposition, in short, is to confiscate rent by taxation. Exactly what he proposes to do, and what he proposes to accomplish by it, cannot be stated more forcibly or more eloquently than Mr. George himself has stated it. He says, in Progress and Poverty, p. 292:

"What I, therefore, propose, as the simple yet sovereign remedy, which will raise wages, increase the earnings of capital, extirpate pauperism, abolish poverty, give remunerative employment to whoever wishes it, afford free scope to human endeavor, lessen crime, elevate morals, and taste, and intelligence, purify government, and carry civilization to yet nobler heights, is—TO APPROPRIATE RENT BY TAXATION."
We make this heartfelt tribute to Henry George: the man who can sincerely voice that aspiration is a noble man, whatever may be his errors.

"Error may be the sin and shame of time,
But not the crime—
May cloud the soul with shadows, but may not
Its glory blot."
Considering its Utopian character, and the absolute impossibility of its realization, the idea of Mr. George is gaining adherents with wonderful rapidity. They continually spring up in the most unexpected quarters. A peculiarity of this creed not generally noted is, that while it is offered as a remedy for class distinctions and class privileges, it appeals peculiarly to class support. The business men of our cities, not as a rule owners of land, are offered the tempting bait of having all taxes laid upon land values, and of having all personal property—all the creations of labor—all their wealth of merchandise—except from taxation. The laboring classes are offered the tempting prize of the opportunity to gain possession of lands now held by the wealthy for rent or speculation, and also of having all their personal property exempt from taxation. A glaring injustice and inequality which must result in the relations of merchants to the other classes of society is quite generally overlooked. A merchant might have on hand a stock of goods worth a million of dollars, while his tax as a user of land might be a mere song. His tax upon rental value would be chargeable to expense account, and therefore an element of price, and would be transferred to the purchaser of his goods, the consumer. His million dollars' worth of goods would be exempt from all taxation. His only tax would be upon consumption. His consumption might be little more than the carpenter or day-laborer who lived in the shadow of his untaxed store. It would seem to be a gross inequality where a merchant millionaire paid no more tax than a day-laborer.

Under the Henry George idea, in order to make natural opportunity free to all, it would be necessary to take ALL rent in taxation. This is Mr. George's statement. He does not palliate it, or by any equivocal means seek to lessen its force. The purpose of the single tax by "confiscate rent," it is impracticable to leave a margin of rent to be absorbed by land speculation, because this would defeat that purpose. It will therefore be seen that this tax must be enormous. With advancing values it must advance. Mr. George has not, and cannot, make plain that the adoption of his idea would diminish rent. He claims that the burden of rent, and its constant increase, would be lessened and counterbalanced by a greatly increased production. But his argument does not make it clear how producers would be benefited by this increased production when it would constantly be absorbed by the community in increased rent, with correspondingly increased taxation.

But a question of prime importance is involved in connection with the nature of rent which is to be annually produced by the community by taxation. Rent is intangible. It does not grow, like corn and potatoes. The sheriff cannot go around and put his hands upon it, as he can upon city lots, buildings, farm lands, horses or cattle. This great wealth of rent, which must annually be collected for the purpose of making land free, must be annually created. Created out of what? Out of land? Created by whom? By those who apply labor to land. This is the only way any wealth can be created. The users or the exchangers of wealth do not create it. In fact rent, like interest, has no existence apart from labor. All rent is the annual creation of labor. Now, under Mr. George's system where would the burden of labor which annually produced the rent fall? Manifestly not upon any class in the business of which rent could be made an element of price. All people, whether artisans, merchants, carriers, or professional men, who could make rent an element of price for their wares or their services, would transfer their burden to the purchasers of those wares or services. Analyze this principle, and follow this transfer of the burden of rent, and it will be found to rest ultimately upon the only classes in society who cannot transfer their burdens to any other class—the men of our cities who sell no commodity except labor, and the actual tillers of the soil.

We shall allude hereafter to the principle of competition proposed by Mr. George under which society is to distribute natural opportunities.

REPUBLICAN DESPAIR.

Republican Anti-Monopoly Leagues Needed.

From the republican press comes up a wall because respectable republicans fail to register. The republican vote is likely to be largely diminished because the honest portion of the party recognize that they are disfranchised by the dishonest methods of the imperium in imperio—the corporate power—which buys delegates after they are appointed, and foists monopoly tools upon the party. A monopoly league is formed within the party, led by such men as John M. Thurston and Brad Slaughter, having for its object to maintain a high tariff on eastern protected manufactures which western men have to buy, and perpetuate a high tariff of rates on western roads. This is a wheel within a wheel—and its fine work was seen at the late republican convention, when an honest judge, whom the convention was instructed to nominate, was ruthlessly slaughtered. "Fine work" is hardly the correct term to apply to it, as it was the most shamelessly open piece of corruption we ever saw. So hardened to this kind of thing have those fellows become, that they buy delegates in open market, as they would pigs—the difference being that they don't pay a price pigs would bring.

Now, what are you honest, self-respecting republicans going to do about it? Are you going to be walked up to the shambles like cattle, every fall, and be traded off to the railroad power of the state for free passes and section book situations? That's about the way it looks to a man up a tree. "When bad men conspire, good men must combine." The bad men of the party are conspiring. The railroad portion of it have formed their league—a close corporation to hold the party up to their work. Why should not the honest portion of it who adhere to republican principles in their purity, who believe in fair conventions and honest elections, who abjure the domination of railroad cappers and section bosses, band themselves together in Republican Anti-Monopoly Leagues, and thus afford a rallying point and a standard for the honest portion of the party.

Republicans of Nebraska, if you would rescue your party from the clutches of the men who are using you for merchandise, who are defiling the name of republican, and making any participation in politics a byword and reproach, you must assert yourselves in this or some other manner.

While this is not our funeral, we feel well qualified to give advice in the premises.

Chauncey Depew caught the Presidential bee at Chicago, and it is buzzing still. "Alas! how pitiful!"

ADVANCE OF PUBLIC SENTIMENT.
A marked change and advance of public sentiment on popular questions in which the interests of the people are involved is quite observable. Only a little while ago the man who proposed that the government should own and operate the railroads was considered an impracticable crank—almost a lunatic. Now a great many well-informed and thinking men, and even many railroad men, are admitting that such ownership seems to offer the only practical solution of the railroad problem. Only last week a very conservative gentleman, a judge of a district court, informed us that his opinions on this subject had undergone an entire change, and that he now thought government control would have to be adopted.

This change is also observable in men's views upon the money question. This question has not seemed to appeal so directly to men's interest as the transportation question; and it has not been so intelligently and exhaustively discussed. Or rather it may be more proper to say that a popular comprehension of it has been prevented by the general belief that the old system is the only true one; and the subject being rather more intricate, the popular mind has not grasped it as it has other questions. But the people are beginning to understand that this is the most important question of the day—that it really involves all other questions; and they are beginning to see that it is not so intricate as those who know the secret of the manipulation of money for the control of wealth would have them believe; and a marked change has taken place in the popular view of this question.

The New York Sun in reviewing the proposition of Mr. St. John at the convention of national bankers at Kansas City, uses this language: "The people of this country as represented in congress, will never consent to his fundamental proposition. If any change is made in the form of our currency it will be in the direction of increasing our legal tender and not of diminishing them. They cost little to create, and are as good as coin for all business purposes. To substitute for them actual coin, costing 75 cents on the dollar, would be a waste of public property for which no congressman would dare to vote."

The Sun will have to progress only a little further to advocate a people's money based on land values. Are not all debts based on production? Are not the government bonds based on production? Let the production of wealth from land cease and no bond would be worth a stiver. Now why should security based on land be removed to the second degree? Why should not the money be based on the actual production instead of on a bond which is based on production? In other words, why should not the money issue directly on the first mortgage? Isn't it a little singular that the government—that is the people—wishing to issue money for its use, should set apart a small portion of the people—a fraction of itself—and issue money to that fraction at one per cent, and authorize that fraction to collect twelve per cent of the balance of the people? This is what "we the people" are doing.

The bonds are fast disappearing as a basis for money. Something else has had to be substituted. The bonds represent production through land in the second degree. Will it not be best to substitute the land itself? Our national money would then represent land itself and production in the first degree. Our money would then be the best representative of value, and represent the best value, of any money ever created—a value that would go on producing wealth through the ages.

We hope to see the change of public sentiment on the money question go forward still more rapidly.

The Lincoln Journal and the Corn Laws.

The Lincoln Journal gags Norman J. Colman about his speech before the wheat growers' convention at St. Louis. The speech was in favor of free trade and against monopolies and trusts. The instincts of the Journal are in favor of monopolies, it being the acknowledged mouthpiece and organ of the great Nebraska monopoly; so of course it will ridicule anyone who has anything to say against trusts. It says:

"Colman is under the impression that Great Britain, our only foreign wheat customer of any account, levies a tariff on our wheat in retaliation for the tariff we levy on her iron, and that this is what makes wheat so low in price. He has never heard of the repeal of the corn laws in Great Britain some forty years ago."

How long is it since the Nebraska republican state committee sent out Judge Mason to prove to the farmers of this state that the price of their wheat was enhanced by the twenty cent tariff that is placed upon imported wheat—if any happens to be imported. The Journal's fling about the corn laws would seem to show that it thought those laws barbarous. Well, so they were. What was their object? To keep up the price of bread in the interest of the English producer. Their injustice consisted in the fact that they imposed a heavy burden of taxation upon the consumers of bread. Will the Journal inform us wherein they differed in principle from laws which are passed to keep up the price of iron and steel, and impose a heavy burden of taxation upon the consumers of those articles?

ABOUT REGISTRATION.

A Wall From the Lincoln Journal.

A sad wall about registration goes up from the editorial columns of last Sunday's Journal. Though not a Sunday topic, the exigencies of the case were so important that its discussion couldn't be postponed to a week day. The Journal says, "And now we learn that about two thousand of the tax-paying members of the republican party have so 'failed to register in this city.' * * * * * It is a burning shame."

It is also noticeable that the business men whose interests in honest elections are supposed to be great, the tax payers whose stake in the character of the men chosen to fill the various county offices, notably the commissioner, the treasurer and the sheriff, are the soreheads this year and decline to take a constitutional walk of a few short blocks to put their names or the roll, while the ward bumpers and professional politicians are all down to a man and ready for the election."

It is not our purpose to criticize the republican county ticket. It is probably as clean as usual. In the convention which nominated it, the fight was by one ring against another; and whichever ring had won, the victory would have been heralded as a great triumph of the people over the ring.

But the state ticket! "The state republican convention," indeed! We don't consider that was "republican." It was a railroad strikers' convention, and nothing else. Can such a convention put up "an excellent ticket?" We opine not. Now, we want to say to the Journal that right in the character of these conventions will be found the explanation of the "noticeable" fact that "the business men whose interest in honest elections are supposed to be great" do not think it worth their while to register. They think a nomination is equivalent to an election; and they conclude to let the "ward bumpers and professional politicians" and brass-collared railroad strikers finish the business they began. We would further inform the Journal that "honest elections" must be preceded by honest conventions. A dishonest convention demoralizes and vitiates any election, no matter how honest may be the intention of the voters. In fact, the more honest the voters the more glaring the villainy that was perpetrated at the late so-called republican convention.

Perdition yawns for the party that allows its suffrage to be debased and voters disfranchised by such manipulation of the known voice of the people. The failure of self-respecting citizens to register and vote is a hand writing on the wall which any party organ of sense would omit to call attention to.

LEGALITY OF PASTERS.

Attorney General Leese, in response to an inquiry, gives his official opinion that printed pasters putting names on tickets other than the regular nominees, are illegal; and that any names of other than the regular nominees of the party designated printed on the ticket in any manner, are illegal.

This decision may be correct, and it is well to understand the matter fairly. The law under which this decision is made was passed by the dominant party in this state to prevent independent voting, and not to protect the purity of the ballot. It was passed by the first legislature that met after the revolt from railroad-republican rule which resulted in the formation of the anti-monopoly party. Under Gen. Leese's decision the only way in which a ballot may be legally altered is by erasing a name and writing another in its place, on the margin of the ticket. The custom adopted by the bosses since this law went into effect is to print the ballots in very fine type, with no spaces between the lines, and no margin. This is the kind of ballots that will be furnished to the people with Laws' and Norval's name on; and this the way the railroad party takes to protect the purity of the ballot.

The Demand for Tariff Revision.

Mr. Blaine is reported as saying that it would be the "wisest stroke of policy for the republicans in both houses to unite, as soon as congress convenes, upon a bill designed to meet the popular demand for tariff revision without disturbing the welfare of any special industry."

A politician views this question in one light, and a statesman views it in another. Mr. Blaine is a politician, and he desires to make a "wise stroke of policy" for the republican party, and at the same time "not disturb the welfare of any special industry." This is just equivalent to saying that he will plug up the hole without stopping the leak. If there is anything wrong with the tariff it is that it imposes a burden of taxation upon a portion of the people of this country solely for the benefit of another portion—that it pays a bonus to capital invested in certain industries, which bonus is collected out of the capital invested in certain other industries, which are not only not thereby benefited, but are on the contrary mulcted. Now if there is any "popular demand" on this

subject it is that these irregularities be removed—that taxation of all of us for the benefit of a few of us be discontinued. Mr. Blaine proposes to do this "without disturbing the welfare of any special industry." Mr. Blaine, in our humble opinion you'll find this a pretty large contract. If you lessen the tariff on any of the protected fellows you'll be very apt to disturb them. If you give the unprotected fellows a bounty to even them up with the protected ones, you'll have to impose more taxation, and that will make a disturbance all around. The farmer pays for all, but reaps no benefit from protection. If you divide up the surplus in bounties to the farmers it will soon be gone, and then we'll be just as bad off as we are now.

The Lancaster County Farmers and the Beef Combine.

Unavoidable absence from the city prevented our attendance upon the last two meetings of farmers to consider the dressed beef question. We learn from those who were present, however, that sentiment appears to favor an effort to seek relief by building a local slaughtering establishment. Such an action might be a benefit to Lincoln is quite probable; but how it would afford any relief to the farmers of the county we are unable to discover. A local slaughtering establishment would have to compete with Armour the same as the local slaughterers do now. Under present circumstances, with undoubted railroad discrimination in Armour's favor, giving him control of so many markets, and with his superior facilities for handling a large product and utilizing all portions of it, there could be but one issue to such competition. The local establishment would be driven to the wall, its shares would depreciate, and would be bought up by the combine at its own price. So, practically, capital put into such an enterprise would be a contribution to swell the combine's already plethoric hoard.

The only practicable methods of meeting this combine are, as we pointed out at the first meeting, first by legislation preventing the importation of the Armour dressed meat; second, by an agreement of all citizens not to buy, sell or use it. If these fail our farmers must remain at the mercy of the combine, and must find some other method of gaining a livelihood than by raising beef.

If there are any farmers who propose to mortgage their farms to buy stock in the new slaughtering house, as the Journal says, we advise them to go slow.

TO OUR FRIENDS.

Many of our friends have come up nobly in aiding the work of extending the circulation of THE ALLIANCE. They consider it necessary to the Alliance, as it is, and identify its interests with that of the farmers whom it represents. To J. W. Dorland, of Elgin, E. H. Ball, of Phillips, Jas. O'Fallon, of Mead, Mr. Swigart, of Saunders, Nils Anderson, of Fillmore, and many others, we wish to extend our special thanks. But there are some whom we believe to be sincere friends of the cause whose apathy is strange. Some of these have not even sent their own subscription. We will not believe they are not our friends, and friends of the work we are engaged in. We are sure, if they knew the sacrifice we have made, and have still to make, and the labor we have to perform, before we can consider this paper an assured success, that they would come up to our help. To these men we say, do not help make true the saying that farmers will not stand together, and do not look on indifferently while your friends are struggling to help you.

ANOTHER SPECIAL PREMIUM.

We will send to every subscriber at \$1.00 per year, LABOR AND CAPITAL, by EDWARD KELLOGG, post-paid. This book ought to be read by every farmer in the United States. We make this offer solely to promote educational work.

REV. FRANCES E. TOWNSLEY

delivered a sermon Sunday morning last at the First Baptist Church in Lincoln, to which we had the pleasure of listening. Its literary merits, which were of a high order, formed only a part of the real basis of its value. Miss Townsley impressed her hearers with the fact that she was a devoted Christian worker, thoroughly imbued with the spirit of Christ. It seems to us that the motto of our paper, "There is nothing which is human that is alien to me," would be apt and truthful coming from her lips. Miss Townsley is state superintendent of Gospel work in the W. C. T. U. We consider the work of this society a grand one, and we have profound respect for the noble women who are engaged in it. Among the various avenues of labor which are of late years offering new opportunities to women none seems more appropriate than pastoral work. Why should not Miss TOWNSLEY have a pastorate in Lincoln?

"All property is at the mercy of the money power."—Thos. H. Benton.

"It is the most dangerous power that can reside with any man or set of men."—Prof. Denton.

What Sort of a Generation Will the Next be?

"You see you did not travel all over our country and find out what could be done. You go around the saw-mills and log camps, see how they work, and what it is paid in, and you will say I do. That a negro in a slave time was a gentleman by the side of the third hand of to-day. Look at the little huts, the women and the little children. What sort of a generation will the next be?"—Cor. in Texas Mercury.

That is the question. What kind of a generation will the next be? We don't have to go to Chicago, New York, Cincinnati, or other great cities, to find gaunt hunger striking in broad day. Strange, isn't it? With corn only 15 cts. a bushel, and beef on the hoof only two cents a pound; and yet on all our thoroughfares men begging for work; in our Illinois mining towns women and children eating the bread of charity or starving, and in fertile Texas laboring men worse off than slaves of olden times, and other men asking "what sort of a generation will the next be?"

To-day, this blessed Lord's day, I attended services in one of the palatial churches of Lincoln. On my way there I heard men asking where they could find "a job of work." I had hardly reached the side-walk after service, when I overheard the conversation of a group of well-dressed men. One was saying there were too many men in Lincoln, that men with families were working for six dollars a week and board themselves. God knows I would have given the men work if I could. "Too many men!"—and two hands for every mouth—and the earth groaning with plenty, granaries and ware-houses bursting with food. Is it "the more food the more misery?" Economists, what's the matter? There's a cog slipped in the economic system. There's plenty of food, there's plenty of brawn ready to labor, there are plenty of great enterprises demanding labor ready to be pushed. Is there plenty of money? The government creates the money, and if lack of money is the trouble it ought to be cured at once.

Awful Funny!—Just awful!

The collapse of the leading bank of Central Kansas, following the bankruptcy of several loan and trust companies, is the natural outcome of prohibition. The adoption and enforcement of the law disrupted business and produced such strife and conflict that property values flattened out, and the market stagnated. The result is that individuals and corporations cannot obtain loans at a rate of fifty cents on the dollar, and are forced to the wall.—See of Oct. 30th.

The above is about the funniest thing we ever found in the columns of a great paper. It was probably written by an assistant while Mr. Rosewater was at Tekamah paying his compliments to Mrs. Gougar. In the first place the Bee knows very well that prohibition has never been enforced in Kansas—at least it has so stated more than fifty times in the past year. In the next place it is extortionate interest which has broken those banks. They have lent money on chattels at 25 to 40 per cent. The mortgagors, unable to pay, have driven the chattels out of the state, and the banks were left. In a prosecution last summer in one of the western counties of Kansas, it was shown that the defendant had paid his debt twice over in usurious interest, and while he was proven guilty of selling mortgaged property, the jury refused to convict. Public sentiment is against conviction in such cases. As the greed of the banks has impelled them to put most of their assets in such securities, their failure is inevitable, and we will add well deserved.

If any business except the saloon business has ever been "disrupted by the enforcement of prohibition," we have yet to hear of it.

Steve Dorsey Says There Is No Over-production.

Stephen W. Dorsey is on his way to New Mexico to look after his cattle interests in the territory. He was at the Grand Pacific yesterday with his wife, says the Chicago Herald. Mr. Dorsey and his cattle associates are just opening up a new cattle ranch of 190,000 acres in old Mexico that will be stocked. "The low price of cattle don't scare us," he said yesterday, "but it would if we did not make our market and handle our own stock. I deny that the low price of cattle is a result of overproduction. There are not nearly as many head of cattle in the country as there used to be, in the face of the assertion made by Chicago business lates before Senator Vest's committee. In 1860 the proportion was about one and one-half head of cattle to each individual; in 1880 it was about even, but last year it was one and one-half persons to a head of cattle. Whether it is the increase of population or not cuts no figure. Cattle ought to be higher than ever before. They are low simply because the Chicago dressed beef men control the market and establish the price. I can easily understand why Senator Vest was treated as he was, because it is to the interest of Chicago people to stand by the dressed beef men."

Mr. Dorsey has fully recovered from his illness, but he is still somewhat pale and shows other traces of it.

How SHALL I VOTE, is the title of a manly independent letter from Hon. ALLEN ROOT, in this issue. It takes exactly the right position on the question of how to vote. We commend it to the careful study of every voter. The man who is actuated by the principles it states will vote right, if he votes at all.

"All property is at the mercy of the money power."—Thos. H. Benton.

"It is the most dangerous power that can reside with any man or set of men."—Prof. Denton.