

The Farmers' Alliance, AND THE NEBRASKA INDEPENDENT

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY THE ALLIANCE PUBLISHING CO. Cor. 14th and M Sts., Lincoln, Neb.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: G. H. FINE, J. M. THOMPSON, TOSCH, S. ELLIOTT, V. P. J. F. METZGER, C. H. FINE, C. H. FINE, C. H. FINE.

"In the beauty of the hills Christ was born across the sea, With a glory in his bosom That transfigures you and me. As he strove to make men holy Let us strive to make men free, Since God is marching on." —Julia Ward Howe.

"Laurel crowns cleave to deserts, And power to him who power exerts." "A ruddy drop of manly blood The surging sea outweighs." —Emerson.

"He who cannot reason is a fool, He who will not reason is a coward, He who dare not reason is a slave." N. R. P. A.

TO CORRESPONDENTS. Address all business communications to Alliance Publishing Co. Address matter for publication to Editor Farmers' Alliance, J. F. Metzger, C. H. Fine, Editor.

Do you want to attend the national convention at Omaha, July 4th without expense? Here's your chance. To the person sending us the largest list of subscribers at \$100.00 between April 20th and June 25th, the Alliance Publishing Co. will pay all necessary expenses to the convention at Omaha July 4th, including hotel expenses.

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STAND TOGETHER.

Wise men can always learn from their enemies. The wise men of the people's party can learn a valuable lesson from the following paragraph clipped from the Kearney Hub, a republican paper:

"The necessities of the republican situation require an abeyance of personal ambitions, the harmonizing of all elements, the selection of the cleanest and most capable men by the cleanest and most open methods, and with it all an honest and candid deliberation among republicans with an eye single to party success and the public good."

No man carries a "knife" into the coming campaign to gratify personal malice or to gain a factional revenge. A square republican or a good citizen. And no republican who is a fire-brand in the party should be considered a member in good standing who forces his way to the front at the cost of republican harmony.

If the above paragraphs were amended by striking out the word "republican" and inserting the word "independent" wouldn't they make excellent reading for the members of the new party?

Think for a moment of the objects for which we are contending as compared with the objects republicans are fighting for. We are fighting for principles, they for offices; we are striving to better the condition of the masses, they to secure mere party success. We are engaged in a grand movement for redress of grievances, for better laws, juster conditions, for the advancement of the human race to a higher plane; they are trying to perpetuate a system that is destroying prosperity and degrading humanity. If then it is important for republicans to harmonize and bury personal ambitions and desire for factional revenge, how much more important for us.

What kind of an independent is he who says: "If this or that man is nominated, count me out?" Can men work together in harmony to accomplish great purposes when one sets up his judgment as superior to that of the majority?

Most men will of course have their preferred candidates, but every member of the party should hold himself ready to support with all his might the preferred candidate of the majority. "But," says some one, "this very policy of supporting this ticket no matter who may be on it is just what has ruined the old parties." Not at all. No party was ever ruined in that way. The old parties have been ruined by the neglect of the people to attend primaries and conventions, make platforms and put up good tickets. And if the new party is ruined, it will be in precisely the same way. The very fundamental truth on which our government rests is that the people can be trusted to govern. If this principle is sound, then it applies equally to a political party, provided always that the members of the party act. If a majority of them neglect their duty, the control of the party may fall into the hands of a minority of selfish men and become an engine for the accomplishment of evil. The first and most important duty of every independent is to attend the primaries and voice his sentiments.

If the full and freely expressed voice of the people is heard in the nominating convention, then loyal members can have no excuse for refusing to heartily support the ticket.

By standing together in 1890 the independents of Nebraska accomplished wonders. In 1892 they can accomplish nothing unless they stand together.

NEBRASKA MORTGAGES.

If the census reports of Nebraska mortgages published last week were startling, the current reports of mortgage statistics gathered from month to month under the operation of the law passed by the last legislature are still more startling.

Labor Commissioner Andres reports the mortgages filed and released during April throughout the state as follows: Amount of farm mortgages filed, \$ 2,022,290 Amount released, 1,957,208 Increase in farm mortgages, 65,082

This report does not include chattel mortgages in the counties of Gage and Lancaster where the law is for some reason being ignored. In these counties there is a very large amount of chattel mortgages which would largely increase the aggregate for the state.

It should be borne in mind at all times that the aggregate of mortgages released includes all that are satisfied by sheriff's sales, and security relinquished in payment of the debt without the formality of a sheriff's sale.

This like all mortgage statistics we have published shows how much more rapidly chattel mortgages are increasing than those on real estate. And this indicates a state of affairs that is truly alarming. Chattel loans are invariably made at high rates of interest, usually from one to three per cent a month. The rapid increase in this class of loans shows that in many cases men have exhausted the real estate security and are borrowing on their chattels to pay interest on their real estate mortgages.

It also indicates that there is a vast number of borrowers that have no real estate to mortgage.

Several weeks ago in the columns of the Independent we called attention to a statement which the Kearney Hub was carrying at the head of its editorial page showing that the mortgage debt of that county had decreased nearly \$200,000 within a few months. We stated our belief that the statement was made up to deceive, that the figures did not represent the real state of affairs in Buffalo county, and challenged the Hub to show the contrary. Shortly after this the Hub took in its "sign of prosperity" without any explanation. The Kearney Standard has been investigating the matter and has brought to light some very interesting details. Last week's Standard contains the following:

For the eleven months ending May 1, 1892, the farm mortgages filed aggregated \$87,665.10 and farm mortgages released \$49,836.90 leaving a balance in favor of plenty of money of \$112,136.50 if the record of filing and releasing was not explained. This summary includes sheriff's sales. Besides it includes a release of a mortgage for \$20,000 on Eastern Iowa which has been released twice for a total consideration of \$800. It should be borne in mind that this is a blanket mortgage and when one lot or parcel is released it releases the whole mortgage so far as that lot or parcel is concerned and the release on the record kept shows a release of the entire face of the mortgage. Now, here is a mortgage released twice aggregating \$112,092 for a consideration of \$800. Deducting the actual amount \$800, released from the total \$112,092, there is left in favor of trust \$111,292, which deducted from the balance of \$112,136.50 leaves a balance in favor of the claimant holders argument of \$50,919.50.

Let us go on. There is a mortgage on Kenwood addition to Kearney of \$61,113. On the payment of only \$25 this mortgage has likewise been released twice. Now calculate as above and the balance changes in favor of more money \$71,362.90.

KEEP CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE.

There is no more important principle advocated by the members of the new party than that of keeping close to the people. A representative government is based on the delegation of power. One is chosen by a number of citizens, and empowered to act; and speak for them in the making of laws. Political parties in this country are built on the same plan. The whole membership of the party act only in the primary election. From their number men are selected to act and speak for them in the county convention, and from this body in turn men are chosen to act in district and state conventions which in their turn choose delegates to represent the people in the national convention.

At the best a certain amount of danger lies in these successive steps in the delegation of power. But the greater danger lies closest to the people, i. e., in the primary. If the people do not do their duty in the primary election every convention following is simply a farce. For this reason both the old party state conventions lately held in Nebraska were farces. They did not voice the real sentiments of the rank and file of the respective parties as expressed in well attended primaries. Such primaries are unknown in the old parties in this state to-day.

Keeping close to the people requires not only that primaries should be well attended but that the members should act wisely in selecting their delegates. Only men who are in full sympathy with their ideas, and whose interests are the same as theirs, should be chosen.

A further matter of great importance is that state and county conventions and primaries should be held as close together as possible. It is not right, nor is it safe that a set of delegates should be subjected to the electioneering of office seekers for one, two, or three months. Besides if a delegation is chosen to attend a state convention to be held two or three months later, the political situation may change materially during that time, and the opinions of voters on matters of importance may be changed. It is undoubtedly the true policy for the party to keep the conventions close to the primary in time as well as in other respects.

There is danger too that the new party may fall into an evil custom of the old parties, i. e., that of repeatedly choosing the same persons to represent them in conventions. It is by this means that rings are created. The honors and burdens should be passed around. One of the best methods of avoiding this is the district method of choosing delegates. For instance: at the Holdrege convention a few days ago, four delegates were to be chosen to attend the national convention at Omaha. Instead of having them chosen at large from the district the convention divided the district into four sub-districts, each of which chose one delegate. Thus was all "log-rolling" and combining effectually prevented. A similar plan is frequently employed in county conventions.

Another danger arises in some cases where to conventions are held at the same time and place, as for instance the state convention at Kearney Aug. 3rd, and the congressional convention of the Sixth district to be held at the same time and place. If the same delegates should be empowered to act in both conventions, an excellent opportunity is created for "log-rolling" between the friends of candidates in the two conventions. The independents of that district will do well to bear that in mind and choose separate delegations to attend the two conventions at Kearney August 3rd.

The people should be on the alert to foresee and avoid possible dangers. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." Keep close to the people.

"IT IS ALL RIGHT." The above words headed an article in the "Business and financial situation" in the Evening Call a few days ago. The article discussed Henry Clews and Co.'s report in which this most significant sentence occurs: "The general tendency of prices is downward." If the editor of the Call had ever carefully studied the effect of falling prices, and had expressed the results of his study, he would have said: "It is all wrong." There is nothing that has such a depressing and staggering effect on business as a long continued decline in prices. Any one who has studied Bradstreet's or Dunn's or Henry Clews' reports knows that this downward tendency of prices has been long continued. In fact with a few variations it extends back to the close of the civil war. It has simply been the effect of money contraction which has resulted from the retirement of the greenbacks, and the demonetization of silver. This contraction was wrought by the republican party acting at the dictation of the money power of Europe and America.

And what are the effects of falling prices? Here are a few of them: All classes of merchants are compelled to sell continually on a cheaper market than that on which they bought. Every business man knows that under such conditions his profits must suffer in proportion to the fall in prices. This has been the chief cause of the alarming increase in business failures. Falling prices cause men who have capital to avoid investments and seek loans. No man wants to reinvest money in property with a: almost certain prospect that next year it will be worth less than it is now. No man wants to put his money into factories or other enterprises under such conditions. This is the principal reason why capitalists demand subsidies and bounties, before they will consent to invest capital in productive enterprises. On the other hand capital continually seeks investments in bonds and mortgages. These evidences of indebtedness have their value written on their face, and hence

CONGRESSIONAL KEM.

to, we would ask that every dollar paid to the government for these lands, over and above the filing fee, should be applied to the establishment of an irrigating system that would place them on an equality with the lands lying in the rain belt. That was opened under the homestead law, and that is the principle of that law will not be fulfilled, the intent of which was to give homes to the homeless. But in this case it not only fails to carry out the spirit of the law, but enables loan companies to get possession of large tracts of land, upon which small loans have been made to the settler who was compelled to borrow because of failure of crops, and in the end he not only loses his home, but what little property he was possessed of at the time of settlement.

The \$90,000 asked for is the amount necessary to do the work, as estimated by Col. Powell, who has had charge of the work for years and therefore competent to judge. Inasmuch as this does not increase the appropriations a dollar, and only seeks to change the location of a small portion in the bill, I hope this eminently just and proper request may be granted.

The Omaha Tocsin is a bright, bold, well edited paper, and ought to have a liberal support. Some Recent Additions to our Book List. A CALL TO ACTION. By Gen. Jas. B. Weaver, cloth and gold \$1.50. This is one of the best reform books published, from the pen of an authority whose legislative experience and thorough knowledge of machine methods in politics gives him undoubted authority on the subjects treated of in the various chapters. We predict for it a large sale.

A MEMBER OF THE THIRD HOUSE. By Hamlin Garland, paper 50 cents. In this Mr. Garland's latest work, he presents a swift, powerful story of American legislation and the lobby. Differing entirely in theme and treatment from anything he has hitherto published. The story has all his strength and originality and it will live as a truthful study of a peculiar phase of our civilization. It cannot be too widely circulated and is a powerful arraignment of the corrupt influence of the "third house" in legislation.

CONGRESSMAN SWANSON. By C. C. Post, paper 50 cents. Col. Post, author of "From Sea to Sea," has in his new book portrayed in a vivid manner the perils that surround the politician, and the book will take rank with "Sea to Sea" as one of the best of recent contributions to reform literature. Any of the books sent postpaid on receipt of price.

MEETINGS. State Lecturer Dech asks us to say for him that he did not fill his appointments for last week because of sickness and bad weather. He says he will not make any new appointments till after the farmers get their corn planted and have more time to attend meetings. He will fill all appointments already made.

Gen. Van Wyck spoke at North Platte, on last Saturday evening on his way to Denver where he spoke on the 24th. A partial report of his speech appears on another page.

Mr. W. H. Talcott has been holding a series of meetings in Fillmore, Thayer, and Nuckolls counties. He reports good meetings and increased interest.

GOSPER COUNTY ALLIANCE. Will hold a regular meeting Saturday, June 4, at 1 o'clock p. m. People's Independent State Conventions. The people independent electors of the state of Nebraska are requested to elect and send delegates from their respective counties to meet in convention at the city of Lincoln, Thursday, June 30, 1892, at 10 o'clock a. m., for the purpose of selecting delegates to the People's National convention, to be held in Omaha, Neb., July 4th. And also to elect delegates to the state convention to be held at Kearney, Neb., Wednesday, August 3, 1892, at 10 o'clock a. m., to nominate the following state officers, viz: Governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer, attorney general, auditor, commissioner of public lands and buildings and superintendent of public instruction. The basis of representation will be the same in both conventions and the same delegates may act for both conventions, or two sets of delegates may be elected as each county may determine at their county conventions. The basis of representation will be one delegate for every 1000 votes or major fraction thereof cast in 1891 for Hon. J. W. Edgerton for Judge of the supreme court. Give the following votes by counties:

ADAMANT.

Adamant 10 Johnson 10 Banner 10 Kearney 7 Boone 4 Blaine 4 Boone 4 Keith 2 Boyd 1 Kimball 2 Box Butte 5 Box Butte 5 Brown 32 Buffalo 10 Lincoln 1 Burr 1 Loup 1 Cass 1 Nemaha 10 Chadron 10 Nemaha 10 Chase 5 McPherson 1 Cheyenne 5 Nebraska 9 Clay 14 Nuckolls 10 Colfax 7 Pawnee 7 Cuming 19 Perkins 4 Custer 19 Platte 12 DeWitt 10 Red Willow 7 Dixon 6 Sheridan 12 Dodge 10 Richardson 12 Dundy 3 Saline 14 Elm 14 Scott 14 Fillmore 14 Saunders 20 Frontier 8 Scott Bluff 2 Furnas 8 Seward 12 Gage 10 Sherman 6 Garfield 2 Sherman 6 Gosper 4 Sioux 3 Grant 1 Stanton 3 Greeley 5 Thayer 10 Hall 11 Thomas 2 Hamilton 2 Valley 2 Harlan 8 Valley 2 Hayes 6 Washington 4 Hitchcock 6 Wayne 2 Hooker 1 Webster 10 Holt 1 Wheeler 2 Howard 9 York 14

Total 722. While the committee do not feel it should lay down any definite test as to who should be allowed to vote at the primary elections to elect delegates to the various conventions, as any test would not work equally well in all localities, yet we would urge upon county and precinct committees, and all having the primaries in charge, to adopt such rules and tests as will best secure a fair expression of the honest voters of the state.

The question of selecting delegates to the National convention to which the congressional districts are left to elect delegates to themselves, either to call congressional conventions in their respective districts or to select them by district at Lincoln at the state convention, at the same time the delegates are selected to represent the state at large.

We would recommend that no proxies be allowed at either convention, but that the delegates present cast their vote to which the state or county is entitled.

We would also recommend that the primaries for electing delegates to the County Conventions be held Thursday, June 23, 1892, and that the County Conventions be held Saturday, June 25, 1892.

C. H. FINE, Chairman. Secretary.

Mr. Chairman, in the consideration of an appropriation it is proper to determine but three questions: First, is it necessary? Second, can we afford it when considered in connection with all the other bills that go to make up the grand total and our ability to pay? Third, are the different appropriations so distributed over the country as to meet impartially the requirements of the people? When these questions are properly determined, there are no extravagant appropriations, nor people complaining of burdensome taxes.

Of recent years these three questions, seemingly, have been ignored, and the only question asked was, "How much do you want?" and when anyone dared utter protest against the amount designated, he was at once branded as a chafe-paring, pecksniffar, and a worthy only of contempt. Time and again have I heard the point urged on the floor of this House in favor of an appropriation, that it was small and ought to meet with no objection. Particularly was this true of the appropriation asked for the Russian sufferers and when it was refused, the amount went up from a certain class of newspapers and we were accused of the sin of refusing to donate to suffering humanity the paltry sum of \$100,000.

Let me remind these gentlemen that it was the appropriation of these paltry sums of ten, fifty and one hundred thousand dollars, here and there, gathered together, that brought the last congress up to the billion dollar point, and the wrath of the people down upon those responsible.

PAUL VAN DERVOORT.

The following letter from Paul Van dervoort containing extracts from Col. Polk's letters to him will certainly prove a source of inspiration to our readers: OMAHA, May 17, 1892.

Enclosed find extracts from letters from Col. Polk. Please give a prominent place. I have several letters from him and I wish they could be printed. I never read such letters. He is a second John the Baptist. His grand words are on fire with the loyalty enthusiasm and love of his country. Any "Blue coat" can gladly clasp hands with him. The movement he leads means the complete burial of bitterness and hate, and in the spirit indicated by Abraham Lincoln, "With malice towards none and charity for all," a complete bond of union between "Blue and Gray," citizens and soldiers, under the stars and stripes blest by the hope that our children will love each other as their fathers did in the struggle for freedom and independence. May God bless him and spare his life to see the full fruition of his devoted labors.

PAUL VAN DERVOORT. "In this great movement all is lost unless we can thoroughly unify and trainize its advocates from all sections of the country. Great national evils, inflicted through national legislation can never be corrected by sectional effort or sectional remedy." "As one who felt it his duty to his state to lift his arm against the government and the union, I desire above all things to make and leave a record for myself and comrades as marked in its devotion and loyalty to a reunited government, as the record I shall leave for bravery and dauntless courage. I feel, my brother, that the brave, true men on both sides, who in the providence of God are spared to stand a quarter of a century from these scenes and review the past, cannot afford to go down to their graves without showing to the world and to our children that we are brave enough to forgive and forget the past, and patriotic enough to make one manly effort to transmit to posterity the inextinguishable legacy of one flag, one country, one government and one destiny. I know these sentiments are but the echo of those entertained by the great body of the ex-confederate soldiers. Poor old fellows, they would gladly attest the truth of this statement by coming in columns of thousands to Omaha to meet the brave men of the north, but the great masses of them are too poor. Many of them have not the money to buy bread and clothes for their children. They may not meet you at Omaha my brother but they will meet you at the ballot box in November. You may tell the boys of Nebraska that the west must look to its own and the south will lead the column for the people's party. The south is on fire from the Potomac to the Rio Grande.

Tommy Benton. According to testimony given in the suit of Richardson against Doty in Lincoln a few days since, Mr. Richardson who is ostensibly a railroad contractor, has for silent and secret partner the Hon. Thomas H. Benton, auditor of public accounts, and member of the state railroad commission.

This revelation throws a flood of light on the proceedings of the state board of transportation. It was a railroad we would be delighted to let fall contracts to a member of the board which has the power to regulate railroad rates.

Benton is a genius. He is a Napoleon of politics—profitable politics. Visit Lincoln and you will be shown in architectural form the evidence of his great success in profitable politics. Once upon a time and that not long back, Benton lived in a modest little cottage, very modest and very little. As politics prospered something happened. A fine and costly "residence" we had almost written "mansion," grew up next to the cottage. Benton built it and moved into it. Now he stands in his spacious bed room and gazes out of his second story window upon the roof of the little cottage, reflecting upon railroad rates that do not come down, although the railroads may—World-Herald.

SPEAKING OF the adoption of the single gold standard and the complete demonetization of silver which is advocated by a writer in the Century for May, The Cincinnati Enquirer says: We concede without argument that if silver money is dishonored, and gold is made the only legal tender, that bondholders, mortgage holders, depositors in savings banks, salaried officers, persons living upon fixed moneys, and the creditor class generally will be profited; provided, always, that the margin of the security is large enough to stand the contraction in its commercial value. Of course the holder of United States bonds and salaried officers are all secure, because the government can dispose of bonds to replenish its exhausted stock of gold. What will the condition of the farmer be, whose home is under mortgage and who hopes to receive the income by the sale of his surplus crops? If half of the circulating medium is withdrawn the surplus crops will bring only half the price, practically doubling his debt for the sole benefit of the holder of the mortgage.

The Call speaks of Edward Rosewater as a "political thug." He seems to be running the republican machine just the same.

Mr. Chairman, if we were to ask for all that these people are justly entitled