

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

The Railroads Seek to Combine Their Employees Against the People's Party.

A Circular With Comments Thereon—An Appeal to Railway Employees.

The following is a copy of a circular that is being sent to railway employees in all parts of Nebraska:

OMAHA, Neb., August 23, '92.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—The text of the enclosed documents is "Protection to the Interests of Railway Employees and Investments," and we are proud to record, that there is not a man in the service today who cannot intelligently grasp the situation as it is here presented.

How to act together in this matter is briefly told in the enclosed outline of the Railway Employees' Club and its work in Nebraska.

Every employee owes it to his family, to work with the club in the interest of his order. Can you not be counted upon for one?

Local clubs, with a total membership in excess of 4,000, have been organized at the following points:

Ashland, Alliance, Aurora, Blair, Beatrice, Chadron, Columbus, Emerson, Fremont, Gibbon, Grand Island, Holdege, Hastings, Kearney, Lincoln (2), Long Pine, McCook, North Platte, Norfolk, Nebraska City, Omaha, Oxford, Plattsmouth, Red Cloud, Ravenna, Sidney, Schuyler, Seneca, South Omaha, Valparaiso, Wahoo, Wymore, York.

To join the club simply fill up the blank space on the stub of enclosed folder, detach it, and send by U. S. mail to the "Secretary Railway Employees' Club" at the point nearest your voting district, with such dues as you may feel able and willing to pay at five cents per month, or if preferred, same can be mailed to general secretary, who will assign you to proper club, and attend to enrollment and issuing of membership card. If unable to attend the meetings of the club, you will be kept advised by the local secretary of any action taken by it.

Only by organizing as railway employees and working and voting together for men and measures that offer us protection, can we hope to maintain even the present standard of railroad-ing, and wages.

You will be surprised to find how much your influence can accomplish if you will but lend it. If you doubt this, make the effort and be convinced.

In a cause like ours, those with means help those without; do not, therefore, stay out because you cannot afford to pay any dues. Your vote and influence are what we desire most—money is secondary, although very acceptable in paying expenses.

Our chief aim is to combine the employees in each county, so that they may be a power in county as well as state elections this year.

There was never a better opportunity for railway and express employees to make their power felt than in the coming elections, and if their interests fail to receive proper recognition at the hands of office-seekers, the fault will be largely with themselves.

If already a member, please hand to some employee who is not, and endeavor to enroll him as a member.

Yours fraternally,
O. E. COOMBS, Gen'l Sec'y.
W. W. CONKLIN, President.

COMMENTS.

For nearly two years men working in the interest of the corporations have been at work in the northwestern states trying to organize the railway employees into clubs for political purposes. The chief object set forth by the promoters has been stated to be the defeat of "granger legislation." The men are approached with the specious plea that if the freight rates are reduced by legislative action the profits of the roads will be cut down and their wages will have to suffer. The whole argument is based on the idea that when a man hires to work

for a corporation he should serve that corporation on election day as well as every other day; in other words the railway employee should cease to be an independent citizen, and become a political slave.

Railway employees ought to have learned by experience long ago that the corporations pay no more wages than they can help, nor do they give any better treatment than they are forced to give. The wages paid to the men are not governed by the profit the corporation secures. Do corporations which are making big profits pay any better than others that make small profits? As a matter of fact does not the B. & M. which is part of the best paying system in the west, pay the poorest wages and require the hardest service?

Isn't it a very suspicious circumstance for railroad men to encourage organization among their employees? Have they ever done it before? The B. & M. especially has been the deadly enemy of organized labor. Remember the great Burlington strike of 1887? Were not Pinkertons imported into Nebraska to shoot down organized men, and crush one of the greatest organizations of railway employees?

This is an attempt to array the laboring men of the cities against the producers of the country. The farmers are the true friends of every class of city laborers. They have shown this in every possible way. They are fighting to secure justice and protection to laboring men. They favor the use of coupling appliances that will save the railroad hand from danger to life and limb. They favor ultimately government ownership of roads. Under this system, every employee would get good wages, fair treatment, and a pension if injured, or his family would get one in case he lost his life. How is it now? If an accident occurs, the matter is speedily hushed up, and if possible the whole blame is thrown on to the employees.

Suppose an employee is killed or crippled for life. Can any adequate damages be secured?

What has the crippled employee, or the wife of the man who dies crushed and mangled by his engine to hope for in a legal contest with a giant corporation? Little indeed. In such cases the road usually sends one of its legal tools around to compromise the matter for a few paltry dollars.

No, it is not the aim of the people's party to injure any class of laborers, but to make all labor more profitable. The laws they propose to pass, will not lower the wages of railway employees, unless hired attorneys, and lobbyists, and officers who draw princely salaries are set down as employees. These reforms will help the railway employees by making greater openings for employment. By increasing the production of wealth they will increase the business to be done by the roads. By opening up other avenues of employment they will create a demand for labor in other directions, and thus enable men in all trades to demand better wages.

The railway employees of Nebraska should think well over these matters. There is a crisis approaching in this country. The great battle between organized labor and organized capital is on. They must take their stand on one side or the other. The two old parties are controlled in the interests of organized capital. The people's party stands for the laboring man and the producer. Is it possible that the railway employees of Nebraska will cast their votes in the interest of organized capital at the coming election?

Laboring men of Nebraska, your employers can no longer march you to the polls and vote you on peril of losing your jobs. You have the Australian ballot. You are free when you stand in the voting booth. You can vote for yourself, your wife and babies, and none but yourself and your God need ever know how you voted. Will you do it?

No Debate at Crete.

The third of the joint debates between Dech and Hainer which was advertised for Crete, Oct. 6th, was put off. It was to be at the fair grounds and the management would not consent to stop the racing, so the debate was put off. It will occur at Wilber the 17th.

McKeighan and Andrews in the Woolly West.

VENANGO, Neb., Oct. 5, 1892.

Editor ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT:

I want to tell you something about the woolly west. On the 4th inst there was a political joint debate in our thriving little villege of Grant—between our congressman W. A. McKeighan and that other want to be congressman, Prof. Andrews. Now I want to ask, does the g. o. p's take us for cattle out here? If they do they will be badly mistaken on the 8th of next November. Now we went there to hear a joint debate but McKeighan had the joint and Andrews was diving for the bait. He got it too, in the neck. If a man was a half judge of human nature and watched the countenances of the two men, he could not help pronouncing Andrews argument a fraud from begin'g to end. Why, the confounded rascal had the audacity to produce to us glassware and plate ware that was (or said to be) manufactured in the United States. If he is a commercial traveler representing some firm of th's kind, why did't Andrews show us that English brand under that paper when requested? Oh no, that would have been a dead give away. Should I have gone home from that grand jollification and told my children that Andrews told the truth, I would want to be blown up with dynamite. Now that honest cool headed McKeighan sat there like a man while Andrews threw mud and slush in all directions. I want to tell you he had no platform to base his arguments on. He had no platform to stand on for when a half dozen of those 200 imported yelpers got on the stand to yell for him, she broke down and likewise did the glass-ware break. Oh well, we were all independents in this county but 29 and McKeighan got 25 of them, and the other four are going out west, so we are all right. Hurrah for McKeighan, tell the Professor to go back in Posey county and talk to the boys.

I have seen many campaigns, but I don't think I ever heard a speech made that caused more enthusiasm than the one McKeighan made here. I think the boys abused him. They come near shaking his hands off—then they carried him on their shoulders for half a mile. Well, William you do as well by us again down in the capital as you did before and when you come to old Perkins again we will do you the same way.

Andrews told us he was going to Washington next winter, but we didn't half believe that unless he was going to follow McKeighan down.

There is one thing I do denounce and that is the disgrace that was brought upon the fair name of our county by the importing of about 200 yelping coyotes to disturb a public meeting. If you fellows have mothers that you have any respect for, for God's sake the next time stay at home. Jones paid the freight on you. Andrews lost 25 votes, and you knocked the bottom out of the republican platform and broke the Professor's wares—but hurrah for McKeighan. LITTLE JOHN.

Tell the Truth.

BOOK WALTER, Neb., Sept. 28, '92.

EDITOR ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT:

I am a reader of THE ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT and am delighted with the course you take in the people's cause. Give the people true facts and nothing else. Do not exaggerate even to the smallest item, as the papers of the two wings of the old party do. For the last twelve years I have been in the same position (politically) as Thomas Jefferson was: I could not stand with the republicans neither could I stand with the democrats. But I stood in the middle of the road and my stand is there to stay until labor receives just compensation and dominates over capital. I had the honor once of voting for James B. Weaver, and I expect to vote once more for him if I live until the 8th of next November.

Yours as a true worker,
J. F. WEIDNER.

ATTENTION!

Our "Songs of the People" Have Created For Themselves a Nation-Wide Demand Which Enables Us Now to Reduce the Price.

We have all along contemplated reducing the price of our songs just as soon as we possibly could do so, and we are exceedingly glad to announce that prices will be way down from this time forward. The first cost of sheet music is heavy, and we have been forced to sell hitherto at nearly ordinary prices. We shall now sell our new, popular, splendid, unequalled songs at rates within the reach of all.

Chairman Taubeneck says: "Your songs are the very best that have been prepared for our people. Hope you will do all in your power to push the work. It is badly needed in every state."

The Arena says: "The songs just issued for the industrial millions will, if we mistake not, add tens of thousands of votes to the ranks of the people's party."

President Loucks, of the National Farmers' Alliance, says: "They are admirably adapted for campaign songs."

The Journal of the Knights of Labor says: "They should be in the hands of all lovers of liberty."

The New Forum says: "The sentiment of these songs is grand."

These words of unsoftened praise indicate the enthusiastic reception they are meeting with everywhere.

Do you want songs that will bring down the house? We have two that are regular swivel guns, loaded with fun and thunder, and each worth more in making votes than a hundred dry orators. They are: "We Have the Tariff Yet," and "The Taxpayers Settle the Bills."

"Get Off the Earth," is equally popular. Mrs. Mary Baird Finch, our Nebraska poet, says: "If I could write anything as good as 'Get Off the Earth,' I should consider my name and fame permanently established."

"The Workers' Battle Hymn of Freedom," is the new Marsellaise hymn set to the wonderfully thrilling French air. Nothing could be more moving and inspiring.

"Sons of America" is a new tune like the Marsellaise, and we believe equally stirring and fine.

"The Alarm Beat," is our trumpet call to action. It is one of our best quartette campaign songs and arouses much enthusiasm.

"The Flag of Liberty" is the patriotic song of the people's party. It will quicken the pulses of all who love their country and hate oppression. The Farm Field and Stockman selected it from all our list to present to their readers this week.

"God Save the People" is another song that will live long. It touches a popular chord.

You are hearing a good deal about "An Honest Dollar." We have a song on that subject (ready next week) which can't be beat. Send for it at once.

"Truth's Approaching Triumph" is a song of the "thousand years," the reign of righteousness for which we are fighting. It is a beautiful, inspiring composition, refreshing as a song of the angels to those who have become weary waiting.

"The Weakest Must Go to the Wall" gets in some tremendous blows against the money land and transportation monopolists.

"Losses and Lies" shows up where profits come from and how obtained. It is red hot.

"The Millennium Army" is Mrs. Lease's favorite and she has reason to think it our best.

Space lacks to tell the merit of the others. NOW NOTICE: Any one of these songs heretofore sold at 35 cents now can be had for 20 cents. Three songs, your choice, for 50 cents. Seven songs for \$1.00. The entire series, sixteen in number, for \$1.50.

Order at once and get ready for the greatest, grandest, most enthusiastic campaign the country has known.

The following is a list of the songs:

- The Workers' Battle Hymn of Freedom.
- Right Shall Reign.
- The Weakest Must Go to the Wall.
- The Taxpayers settle the Bills.
- Sons of America.
- Get off the Earth.
- The Flag of Liberty.
- The Coal Baron's Song.
- Truth's Approaching Triumph.
- God Save the People.
- We have the Tariff Yet.
- The Alarm Beat.
- The Millennium Army.
- That "Honest Dollar."
- Losses and Lies.

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Round trips to the Pacific Coast. Short trips to the Mountain Resorts of Colorado.

The Great Salt Lake. Yellowstone National Park—the most wonderful spot on this continent.

Puget Sound, the Mediterranean of the Pacific coast.

And all reached via the Union Pacific System. For detailed information call on or address,

J. T. MASTIN, C. T. A., 1044 O St.,
E. B. SLOSSON, Gen. Agt.,
Lincoln, Neb.