

PRESIDENT J. H. POWERS

Tells Why Alliance Stores Fail—Concentrated Capital Crushes Them Out.

THE ALLIANCE IS A SCHOOL.

It Must be Kept Up to Educate the Voters—How to Make Alliance Meetings Profitable.

President Powers Writes a Letter.

An alliance brother who lives in Wayne county not long since wrote to President Powers of the state alliance complaining that the co-operative store business was a failure in his neighborhood, and suggesting that inasmuch as the people's party was now well organized, there was no good reason for keeping up the alliance organization. To this letter, President Powers replied as follows:

WAYNE, Neb., Oct 25, 1892.

Mr. _____, Cornville, Neb.
DEAR SIR:—Your favor of Oct. 8th, duly received. As it contains questions of importance to all alliance and other industrial organizations in this state and the whole country, I take the liberty to reply through the columns of THE ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT.

The complaint of the failure of the alliance in the general merchandise business is not confined to one county, but is the natural consequence of the endeavor of so great a number of partners to carry on a business complicated in its nature and requiring constant supervision in all its details.

That there are business enterprises in which farmers can profitably co-operate no one can deny. But they must be of a nature that does not require continuous care and supervision and does not come in direct competition with concentrated capital. The power of capital, fortified in trusts which now command every avenue of supply, and every facility for disposing of our industry, is used without scruple to discourage and break up every enterprise undertaken by the farmers which would in any way interfere with the monopoly of all the profits by the capitalist. Enterprises which were profitably conducted by the farmers through the grange twenty years ago, are now made an easy prey to those who claim the right to be enriched by the labor of others.

This has become so apparent that many industrial organizations, including the grange, which once made co-operation in business their principal object, with unity in political action only incidental, have been brought to see the futility of their efforts without the protection of law and are now vying with the capitalist in seeking to control the law-making and executing power.

But the alliance in this state has from the first claimed that its principal object was to study the duties of its members as citizens, as part of a people's government. Such being its object, you ask how long it should be continued. I answer, "so long as a people's government continues." A king or emperor who had received no education in the affairs of government could not be expected to govern with ability; and it is just as true of a people. Our common schools are intended to fit our youth for the business of life. But that man would be considered crazy who would propose to discontinue the common schools because the pupils had entered upon their life's work.

If our members have agreed on the best principles for the regulation of the affairs of government, and the most efficient means to enact them into law, and to reduce them to practice, it is well so far. But new men are coming to the age for political action every year, and many more voters have not yet joined our alliance and for these reasons it is quite as necessary to keep up our alliance schools for the study of politics, as it is to make the common schools perpetual for the education of

our children and youth in the principles of science.

If the school systems of the world had been conducted on the principle that political parties have been during the past thirty years, they would still teach that the earth is flat and that the sun, moon and stars revolve around it.

Advances are made in political knowledge, the condition of the people and the arrangements of business are certainly changing; and political education must keep pace with these changes or the people are not qualified to rule. But how can the alliance be revived in interest and energy?

I answer, by adopting and permanently applying the same orderly system of study and discussion, as is found necessary in the public schools.

Let our members realize that at every meeting there will be some worthy subject for discussion, the proper understanding of which will increase their knowledge and efficiency in business matters, or lead them to a better understanding of their duties as citizens of a free country, and in my opinion there will be no more complaint of a lack of attendance or neglect of payment of all reasonable dues.

For my views of the relation of the alliance to the people's party, with your consent, Mr. Editor, I will continue when I have a little more leisure.

J. H. POWERS,

WHY WHEAT IS BEING SOLD.

The World-Herald of November 4th, gives the following excellent reasons why the farmers are rushing their wheat into market in spite of the ruinously low prices:

Nothing pleases the World Herald more than to enlighten the ignorant; therefore it seizes the opportunity to cast a little light on a very dark place. The Bee of Tuesday says:

"Nobody seems able to explain why the farmers are rushing their wheat to market at such a rate when prices are so low, but the wheat continues to come and the elevators at all prominent market points are full to overflowing, while millions of bushels are on the railroads awaiting movement."

It is not at all strange that the republican organs should profess ignorance of the causes of such a condition. The republican press is so accustomed to dealing with theories that when it is confronted with a condition it invariably pleads ignorance. Now, there are a large number of reasons why the farmers are rushing their wheat to market despite the low prices. The republican press may not be aware of the fact, and judging by its policy is not, but the farmers have to have clothes, and fuel, and groceries, and shoes, and other necessities of life, just the same as the pampered pets of the pernicious republican party. And as the farmer cannot depend upon Mr. McKinley or any other tariff sweater to secure them a profit by perverting governmental authority, he needs must sell his wheat as soon as it is ready for market, be the price ever so low. In addition to the necessities enumerated, the farmer must regularly remit the interest on the mortgage held by Mr. McKinley's proteges in the east. He must pay his taxes—only the rich can shirk their taxes—and he must furnish his share of the dividends declared by pampered corporations.

If these few facts do not enlighten the ignorance of the Bee in the matter in question the World-Herald can furnish more. There are a thousand reasons why the farmers are rushing their wheat to market despite the low prices.

IN one of his great speeches in congress that grand old soldier, and patriotic statesman John A. Logan said:

I can see as a result of the CONTRACTION, the people of our western states, who are producers, reduced almost to SERFS to pay the interest upon state, county and other public and private debts to the money lenders of the east.

What would Logan think now if he could hear the orators of his party declaring from every stump that there never was any contraction of the currency, and quoting the secretary of the treasury as authority for the statement? Either Logan was a fool, or the present leaders of his party are knaves.

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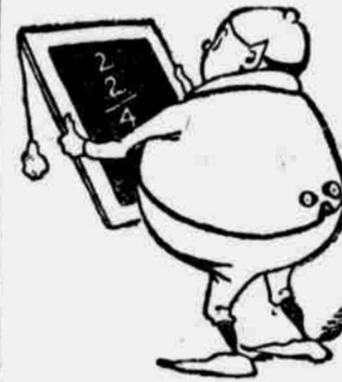
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