

THE ALLIANCE-DEPENDENT

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MANAGING EDITOR: J. M. THOMPSON

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ADVERTISING MANAGER: J. M. THOMPSON

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Published Announcements

THE PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND.

One of the first subjects which the house has undertaken to investigate is the non-investment of the permanent school fund in state warrants, and the reasons therefor.

The persistent fight which THE ALLIANCE-DEPENDENT has waged against the state officers for their violation of the law enacted two years ago attracted such general attention to the subject, that the house on Jan. 17th appointed a committee of three to investigate the matter. The committee consists of Horst of Polk (ind), Nelson of Dodge (dem), and Keyes of Sarpy (rep).

In view of the importance of this matter we will give a brief summary of the facts and the law in the case:

The permanent school fund is a large sum of money (at present \$3,028,340) set apart for the support of the public schools of the state. It has arisen chiefly from the sale and leasing of school lands although considerable sums have come from other sources. The principal of this fund may under no circumstances be used. The constitution provides that it shall be invested in United States bonds, state and county bonds and state securities. The interest accruing goes to the support of the schools.

In 1899, there being \$270,663 of this fund lying idle in the treasury and yielding the state no revenue, the house of representatives asked the supreme court of the state to hand down an opinion as to whether state warrants outstanding and bearing interest were "state securities." On Jan. 30, 1899, Supreme Judge Reese handed down an opinion, in which Cobb and Maxwell both concurred, the tenor of which will be seen from the following extract:

It was evidently the purpose that the evidences of indebtedness issued by the state, secured by the levy of taxes to secure their payment guaranteed and certain as they would be, should be deemed "state securities."

We are therefore of the opinion that state warrants drawing interest or that may be made to draw interest by presentation to the state treasurer which are issued in pursuance of an appropriation secured by a levy of tax for their payment are "state securities" within the provision of the section.

This decision may be found in volume 25 of the Nebraska reports, page 660.

All doubt as to the constitutionality of investing the permanent school fund in warrants was dispelled. The members of the legislature seem to have considered the matter settled for they took no further action.

Nearly two years rolled away and the amount of the permanent school fund uninvested grew to over half a million. Yet no steps were taken to comply with the decision of the supreme court. Finally October 20, 1890, the Board of Educational lands and funds passed an order which read as follows:

Resolved, That the state treasurer be, and he hereby is, directed and authorized to pay out of the permanent school fund, the cash for all state warrants presented for payment when a levy has been made to pay such warrants.

This order was adopted at a regular meeting of the board, Attorney General Leese, Commissioner Steen, Secretary of State Cowdery, and Treasurer Hill being present.

Again time rolled on. The treasurer paid no attention to the order of the board, and not a dollar of the permanent school fund was invested in warrants. Finally the "farmer legislature of 1891 assembled." The treasurer's report at that time showed the enormous sum of \$522,000 lying idle in the permanent school fund yielding no interest to the state. The report also showed over \$582,000 of state warrants outstanding on which the state was paying interest to private parties at the rate of 7 per cent. In order to finally settle this matter and have no room for further dodging on the part of state officers, the legislature then enacted an amendment to the law which reads as follows:

"PROVIDED, That when any state warrant issued in pursuance of an appropriation made by the legislature and secured by the levy of a tax for its payment, shall be presented to the treasurer for payment and there shall not be money in the proper fund to pay said warrant, the state treasurer shall pay the amount due on said warrant from any funds in the state treasury belonging to the permanent school fund, and shall hold said warrant as an investment of said permanent school fund."

The legislature adjourned. The members returned to their homes feeling that they had done their duty. Month after month rolled away. Nothing was said and nothing seemed to be known as to whether the state treasurer was obeying the law. Finally in October 1891, the writer, who was then editing the Nebraska Independent, went to the state house and investigated the matter. We found that the law was absolutely ignored. The treasurer had not invested a cent of the fund in state warrants. The minutes of the board's proceedings were ransacked but not a line or word showed that the board had ever acted on the matter. The deputy state treasurer in answer to a question as to why the fund was not being invested in warrants, muttered something about the law being "unconstitutional." These facts were published but they attracted very little attention.

After another year had passed away, we returned to the subject again. We made another investigation, and published the results: We boldly charged

that the people of the state had been robbed of \$70,000 by the refusal of the state officers to do their duty. The World-Herald also took up the fight. The independent campaign speakers spread the facts before the voters during the campaign. Still no impression seemed to be made on the public mind. The votes of the tax-payers seemed to endorse the course of the men who had thus robbed them. Whether this apparent endorsement resulted from the apathy of the people, or from a belief that these charges were made merely as "campaign thunder" we are unable to say.

Now we believe we voice the sentiment of all honest citizens of the state when we demand that this matter be investigated, and if the state treasurer and the members of the board of educational lands and funds are proven guilty of having willfully violated the law in order to enrich themselves by pocketing the interest on this vast sum of money that steps be taken to collect from them every cent of which the state has been robbed.

THE BOUNTY QUESTION.

Mr. Oxnard and his bounty boomers are at work to secure the restoration of the state bounty on sugar. Mr. Oxnard not only has shrewd lobbyists here working in his interest, but he has the leading daily papers of the state engaged in booming the bounty.

While the members of the legislature are busy with a great variety of pressing duties, these bounty boomers are taking advantage of every opportunity to advance their scheme.

Instead of proposing a restoration of the bounty in its old form, they put it in a more seductive form: They propose that part, or even all, of the bounty be paid to the beet raiser. They hope to win over to this proposition members who could not be induced to vote a bounty to the sugar makers.

The beet sugar lobbyist will approach a member with such plausible arguments as this: "Now of course it wasn't exactly fair to give all the bounty to the manufacturer as it was under the old law. We realize that. But now we propose to correct that injustice by giving the farmer the benefit of it." Then they proceed with their great song about developing the state, variety of crops, inducing capital to come in etc.

The man, be he a member of the legislature or not, who allows himself to be seduced by such delusive arguments is not a wise or far-seeing man. Let us indulge in a little analysis of this subject.

CLASS LEGISLATION.

If it is wrong in principle to give a bounty to a manufacturer, it is, wrong to give a bounty to a farmer. In either case it is class legislation. The farmer who accepts the benefits of class legislation is effectually disarmed as an opponent of class legislation for the benefit of other classes. This is a valuable lesson which the advocates of protection learned many years ago. The protected manufacturers saw that they could not hope to perpetuate the protective system unless they took in the farmers as partners in its special benefits. Hence they placed a tariff on wool. By this shrewd move they seduced millions of farmers in voting for a system which robbed them of a dollar for every cent it gave them. The farmers have never of their own motion asked for class legislation in their interest. Whatever special legislation has been passed in the interest of farmers has been enacted at the instance of others to tie the farmer's hands or blind them to the injustice of class laws.

Let the farmers of Nebraska beware how they accept a special benefit of a few dollars for a few of their number which may be used as an excuse and a precedent for special favors to other classes that will take thousands of dollars out of their pockets.

DOESN'T BENEFIT THE FARMER.

As a matter of fact, however, a bounty on beets would not benefit the farmer who raises the beets anymore than would a bounty on the sugar. In either case the bounty will inure solely to the benefit of the manufacturer. Mr. Oxnard and his boomers understand this perfectly well. Is anybody silly enough to believe that Oxnard would hire lobbyists, and subsidize newspapers to advocate a bounty for the benefit of the farmers? Has he turned philanthropist?

Let us suppose that farmer A in Hall county can raise beets for \$5 per ton and make as much on an average as he can in raising other farm products. Then suppose the state offers him a bounty of \$1 per ton. Does it follow that he will get \$6 per ton for the beets? Will Oxnard pay him \$5 per ton (all the beets are worth) and let him have the \$1 bounty as an extra profit? Not by any means. The beets can be raised for \$5. If farmer A doesn't want to raise them for that, farmers B, C, and D will. Mr. Oxnard will simply pay \$4 per ton and let the state pay the other dollar.

Thus it is clear that, even if the farmers should raise the beets and receive the bounty, Mr. Oxnard would receive the benefit.

FACTS REGARDING BEET RAISING.

A further investigation of the facts

will show that such a bounty would go just as direct to Mr. Oxnard as if it were paid on the sugar.

What are the facts concerning beet raising in Nebraska? The experiment has been more fully tried in Hall county than anywhere else. The farmers have found out to their sorrow that it doesn't pay to raise beets at the prices offered by Mr. Oxnard. This is not only the testimony of the farmers themselves, but of the men who advocate a bounty. One of Mr. Oxnard's friends stated in the beet sugar convention a year ago that out of about 2700 acres raised by Hall county farmers not over 300 acres paid. The result has been that Mr. Oxnard has undertaken the raising of his own beets, and in order to cheapen the production he has imported cheap Russian labor to take the place of well paid American labor. Of course such farmers as under other conditions might have persevered in the experiment, will be driven to abandon it by Mr. Oxnard's selfish and un-American course.

The conclusion of the whole matter is this: If the beet sugar industry becomes permanent in Nebraska, the beets will be produced on large beet farms located near the factories, owned by the manufacturers, and worked by the cheapest labor obtainable either at home or abroad. Hence it will make no difference whatever to the manufacturers whether the bounty is paid on the beets or on the sugar.

CRUSH THE BOOM.

No man in Nebraska can have any reasonable objection to Mr. Oxnard or any other capitalist investing money in beet sugar factories. No man can reasonably object to any farmer raising beets if he wants to. But every patriotic citizen should object to having the machinery of our state government used to collect money to pay a profit to private individuals engaged in an unprofitable business. Every lover of good government should object to any measure which must be pushed forward by a corruption fund, a paid lobby and a subsidized press. Our politics are corrupt enough now. We should reduce rather than increase the sources of corruption. This can be done in no better way than by crushing this bounty boom.

THE CONTEST CASES.

The contest cases in the house and senate are likely to come up for settlement this week. The committees have examined a vast amount of evidence. No intimation as to the character of their reports have been given to the public. It is believed that the two houses will consider and decide the cases in a fair and non-partisan spirit. No party can afford to unseat a man who was fairly elected merely to gain a partisan advantage. On the other hand no member who was not fairly elected should be allowed to hold a seat to which he is not entitled. The only safe course for honest members of all parties is to "hew to the line no matter where the chips may fall."

JOHN H. POWERS.

In naming John H. Powers as their first choice for United States senator the independent members of the legislature did well. They nominated a man who is an honor to his party, a man who thinks, a man who is in full sympathy with the toiling millions, a man whose honesty is beyond possible question, a man who will REPRESENT Nebraska if he shall be elected.

In getting together and casting a solid vote for Powers the independents acted most wisely. They set an example worthy to be followed by other parties. They showed the people of the state that they were not here to trifle away time. They showed that they would not let personal preferences stand in the way of success. John H. Powers was the first choice of a majority. Therefore he become the first choice of every loyal independent.

If they continue to stand together till the end casting a solid fifty-four votes for a true and worthy independent on every ballot we believe their efforts will be crowned with success.

REPUBLICAN SLANDERS.

The daily republican press of Nebraska just now teems with slanderous stories and falsehoods concerning prominent independents. The object seems to be to kill off candidates, actual or possible, for United States senator.

Several days ago the State Journal came out with a telegram from Washington set up with large headlines reporting that General Van Wyck was in that city and had declared himself for John M. Thurston for United States senator.

About the same time the Omaha Bee came out with an attack on W. L. Green, charging among other things that Greene had purchased fifty eight theater tickets to take the members of the legislature to a play.

During the past week all the republican dailies have joined in a chorus to libel McKelighan with charges of drunkenness.

These reports and charges are lies from the whole cloth. They are manufactured by shameless tricksters, and published by unprincipled cowards.

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SKETCHES OF LEGISLATORS.

Short Biographical Sketches of Populist Members of the Legislature.

As already announced THE ALLIANCE-DEPENDENT will lay before its readers short interesting sketches of the populist members of the legislature. The following sketches constitute the first installment:

SPEAKER GAFFIN.

James N. Gaffin, lately elected speaker of the Nebraska house of representatives, was born at Pocatonia in northern Illinois, May 27, 1855. His father was a farmer and the son was raised at hard work on a farm attending district school in the winters. Later he took a course at the best high school in that section of Illinois, and after a six years course graduated. In 1877 he removed to Douglas county Nebraska and began farming and stock raising. In 1883 he moved to his present home in Saunders county, where he continued the same calling.

Politically Mr. Gaffin has always been an anti-monopoly republican, although he says he never voted a straight ticket in his life until he voted the straight independent ticket in 1890. In that year he was elected to the lower house of the Nebraska legislature, where he was known as one of the hardest working members of that body. He was on the railroad committee and did a great deal of the work of getting the anti-railroad bill finally ready to go before the house.

In demeanor Mr. Gaffin is genial, courteous, but at once impresses you as a man having a mind of his own. "Gentleman" is marked on every feature and in every action of the man. He is making one of the ablest, fairest and most respected speakers that ever presided over a Nebraska house.

PORTER OF MERRICK.

William F. Porter, the brilliant young leader of the independents on the floor of the house, was born in Champaign, Illinois, June 1, 1861. He was brought up on a farm. His education consisted of that which could be obtained at a common school. He came to Clarks, Neb., April 5, 1879, bought a small farm from the railroad company, but did not live on it long. He got a position as fireman on the U. P. railroad, and for about a year made the regular run from Green River, Wyoming to Ogden, Utah. Tiring of this life he returned to his home in Illinois, where he remained for about eighteen months. Then he came back to his farm near Clarks, Neb., where he has lived ever since.

Mr. Porter had never been prominent in any way until 1890. True he had been a justice of the peace in his own precinct a couple of terms, but was not generally known over the county. He was taken up by the alliance convention and nominated as a dark horse candidate. But when he got into the campaign and afterwards in the legislature, he showed the mettle of which he was made. He showed that as a ready, witty and forcible debater, he had few superiors in the house. He was the author of the Australian ballot bill and with Gaffin and John M. Moan got up the Newberry bill. In the present session he naturally and easily took the place of a leader on his side of the house. He is chairman of the railroad committee. As he is a young man his friends predict for him a brilliant future.

BARRY OF GREELEY.

Patrick H. Barry was born in Cork, Ireland, in 1843. His parents brought him to America when he was 5 years of age. They settled in Boston, Mass. Young Barry attended the schools of the great city until he was 12, when the death of his father left upon his hands the support of a mother, sister and younger brother. But the young man bravely bore up his part and went into the battle of life, learning the trade of a tinsmith.

But the remarkable part of Mr. Barry's history is his army record. On September 2, 1861, when 18 years old he enlisted in Company E, of the 63d, N. Y., then 3d regiment in Gen. Thomas Francis Mar's Irish brigade, which went through the peninsular campaign and made the famous charge on St. Mary's heights in December of 1862. Mr. Barry was wounded in the right leg at the battle of Antietam which occasioned his discharge from the service. He re-enlisted in July 1863, in the 12th, Mass. V. I. afterwards transferred to the 39th, served under Grant in his terrible campaign through the wilderness on to Richmond. At Spottsylvania he was severely burned in the face by gunpowder, but did not lose a day's service. He was at the famous mine explosion in front of Petersburg, when he received a wound which occasioned the amputation of his right arm, when he was again discharged from the service.

Mr. Barry then returned to civil life and engaged in business in Boston. While here he became an ardent greenbacker. He was a member of the greenback state central committee and was prominent in the movement in Massachusetts until he left that state and came to Greeley county, Nebraska, in March 1880. He signed the first call for the formation of the people's independent party in 1890 and in 1892 was nominated and elected to the legislature by that party.

Mr. Barry is white-haired, smooth-shaven, and of medium height. He has already shown power of the first order as a debater on the floor of the house.

STEVENS OF FURNAS.

John Stevens was born in what is known as the "Pan-Handle" of West Virginia, November 10, 1839. His parents moved to Iowa when he was 15 years of age. Here John completed a common school education. He lived on a farm in Iowa until 1878, when he came to Webster county, Nebraska, in 1879 went to Furnas county, where he still resides.

In August 3, 1861, Mr. Stevens, then 22, entered the service in company A,

10th, Iowa, V. I. He saw 39 months in active service, mostly in the army of the Cumberland. He was twice at Corinth, at Iuka, Champion Hill, Vicksburg, twice at Jackson, Miss., at Mission Ridge and several other battles.

In politics Mr. Stevens is one of the "Old Guard." He voted for Peter Cooper, in '76, J. B. Weaver, in '80, Ben Butler, in '84, A. J. Streeter in '88, and Weaver again in '92, and says he is proud of every vote cast.

In 1890 Mr. Stevens was elected to the legislature where he at once became one of the notable figures! Fearless and forcible in debate, he met the gladiators of other days and gave way for none.

He was re-elected to the present legislature and is already making his influence strongly felt.

IMPEACHMENT.

On Tuesday representative Barry offered a resolution proposing the impeachment of Governor Crouse for his action in approving the bond of Mosher and Outcalt. The resolution was laid over till Wednesday. A substitute will probably be adopted including Hastings and Allen, for it is the general belief that they are the guilty parties.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The Alliance Publishing Co. has lately received many complaints from subscribers stating that they do not get the paper at all, and others that the paper does not reach them till the middle of the following week. We intended to change our day of publication to Wednesday instead of Thursday in order to remedy this. If possible, but have not been able to do so yet on account of delay in getting our motor repaired. We believe however that most complaints arise from causes beyond our reach.

With a view to correcting the evil if possible, we request every subscriber who has just cause for complaint in the future to send us a written statement of his case without delay. If it shall appear that the fault is with the mail service, we will forward these statements to the post office department at Washington.

WRITE TO YOUR MEMBERS.

While the thousands of producers and tax-payers of the state are busy with their affairs at home, the corporations, and combinations of all kinds have shrewd, well dressed brainy men at the capital to lobby for the passage of bills in their interest, and prevent legislation in the interest of the masses. These lobbyists are shrewd and persistent, and they make their influence felt in many ways.

The people have one means of neutralizing these evil influences which they ought to use for all it is worth:

They should write personal letters to their senators and representatives.

Such letters exert a powerful influence. They are generally read and remembered. Members frequently speak of letters they have received from constituents as indications of popular sentiment. Such letters tend to strengthen the weak, encourage the strong, convince the doubtful and arouse the indifferent.

There are two subjects on which farmers should write to their senators and representatives without delay:

First, The proposed bounty on beets. The bounty boomers are trying to secure the restoration of the bounty as a measure in the interest of the farmers. The farmers who see through their scheme should send in a flood of protesting letters.

Second, There is talk of a compromise on the railroad rate question by which low rates will be established on a few principal commodities. Such a compromise is proposed ostensibly in the interest of the farmers, but as a matter of fact, it is solely in the interest of the railroads.

Railroad men understand the rate question a great deal better than the farmers, and whenever they or their friends propose any measure of compromise it can be set down as a measure that would do the farmers little or no good.

Farmers, write your members, urge them to keep close to the low rate, and protest against any compromise that will give the people another worthless railroad law.

No Real Rival Yet.

World famous Eli Perkins says: "After people have gone over all the routes to California once, they settle down to the U. P. This road will always be the great transcontinental line. It has the best track, the best equipment, the best eating houses, and it teaches the traveler more history and geography than any other line. It shows you historic Salt Lake and the Mormons, takes you through the great Laramie plains, the Humboldt Basin and the Grand Canyon, over the very stage route that Horace Greeley and Artemus Ward rode.

Once on the Union Pacific it goes everywhere. It runs to Portland and Pueblo, Helena and the Yosemite, Tacoma and Seattle, Los Angeles and San Diego, and is the only route to San Francisco. It has no real rivals yet. Send for our California Sights and Scenes. J. T. MASTIN, C. T. A. E. B. SLOSSON, G. A. Lincoln, Neb. 1044, O. St.

SENATOR CLARK OF OMAHA HAS INTRODUCED A RAILROAD BILL WHICH IS ATTRACTING A GOOD DEAL OF ATTENTION. IT IS BELIEVED TO BE AN EXCELLENT MEASURE.

SENATOR HARRIS' RESOLUTION CONDEMNING FREE PASSES CAME UP ON TUESDAY AND ITS CONSIDERATION WAS POSTPONED TILL FEB. 25TH BY A VOTE OF 17 TO 16. THE RAILROAD GANG ARE IN NO HURRY.

In our next issue will appear a well written and very interesting article from the pen of A. E. Sheldon, editor of the Chadron Signal. The article will describe the principal events of the settlement's invasion of Wyoming last summer, and the stealing away of the witnesses who saw Ray and Chapman murdered.

We are gratified to be able to announce the following additions to our list of contributors for the coming year: Howard Gibson, A. E. Sheldon, and George C. Ward whose article on "metary science" appears this week.

REFORM IN THE MATTER OF LEGISLATIVE EXPENSES IS ARGUABLY A MATTER OF COMPASSION. ONE LEGISLATURE MAKES A GREAT BOAST OF ITS RECORD FOR ECONOMY BECAUSE IT SPENDS LESS THAN SOME OTHER. THE MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE THINK THEY ARE MAKING A GREAT RECORD FOR ECONOMY, AND THEY ARE AS COMPARED TO OTHER NEBRASKA LEGISLATURES. BUT THE FOLLOWING FROM THE NON-CONFORMIST WILL SHOW THEM HOW THEIR RECORD WOULD LOOK IF MEASURED BY THE INDIANA STANDARD OF ECONOMY:

"It is proper that the people of Indiana should understand exactly the extent and outrageous cost put upon them by the legislature in authorizing its employees. The statute only provides for 35 employees of the House of Representatives, all told. Yet this "economic" reform legislature deliberately provides for 88, which is over half as many as the membership of the house.

IN KANSAS.

Kansas is enjoying rather more than her share of political excitement. Her three-cornered legislature seems to have settled down to a regular thing. The populists are in full control of the senate. The populist house has been fully recognized by the senate and the governor. Enough republicans who had been seated by fraud of various kinds have been ousted to give the populists a majority in the house. But the ousted members are acting right along in the republican house which also has a majority of the whole number elected. No solution of the trouble is in sight.

THE LEGISLATURE.

This week we have not undertaken to give a detailed account of the legislative proceedings. Nothing of special interest has transpired.

The daily sessions have been short, and they have been mostly occupied in passing resolutions and reading bills.

The real progress that is being made is in the work of regular committees in the consideration of bills, and of special investigating committees. Something like a dozen of these special committees are at work. The principal subjects of investigation are: The penitentiary, the non-investment of the permanent school fund, the various state departments and the sale of certain school land near Lincoln to Joe Burns and others.

The most important action yet taken in this line has been a provision for the appointment of three experts to make an examination of all the records in the various state offices.

Next week we will devote a good deal of space to the bills relating to railroads and other important subjects.