

THE ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT

Consolidation of the Farmers Alliance of Nebraska Independent

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N. I. P. A.

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Publishers Announcement.

The subscription price of the ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT is \$1.00 per year, invariably in advance.

Agents in soliciting subscriptions should be very careful that all names are correctly spelled and proper postage given.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS. Subscribers wishing to change their postoffice address must always give their former as well as their present address when change will be promptly made.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

THE ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT may reach subscribers a day late this week. Just after we had gone to press, a break in the press occurred, and we have had to get the paper run-off elsewhere.

THE republicans of Kansas haven't given up electing a gold-bug democrat to the senate. They will make another trial.

ON Tuesday the republicans in the house led on by Johnny Watson, tried to call back from the senate the free coinage resolution which the house passed while the republicans were out fixing things for J. Sterling Morton a few days ago.

SHERMAN has finally got a measure through the senate authorizing the Secretary of the treasury to issue three per cent bonds to purchase gold.

IT seems even President Harrison has found out there is a "money power," a "great octopus" or something of that sort. The dispatches say:

"The president is credited with a belief that the demand for gold for export is not only artificial, but it is a part of a scheme, international in scope, having for its object the issue of bonds."

It has certainly taken him a long time to find out considering his superior opportunities.

AN IMPORTANT DOCUMENT.

It is a well known fact that the republicans made a strong effort to elect J. Sterling Morton to the United States senate instead of Allen.

Now comes editor Calhoun of the Lincoln Herald, and says that on Monday when the republicans held that remarkable caucus at the state house, forty-two republicans signed an agreement to vote for Morton. How Calhoun got the facts, we can not say, but we know he is not in the habit of editorial guessing.

The contract that was signed by the forty-two so-called republicans who wanted to elect a gold-bug, corporation democrat whom honest democrats refused to support—that document ought to be considered an important state paper. It ought to be filed with the historical society so that future generations may know to what depths the party of Lincoln sunk in its last days.

IN KANSAS.

On the inside of this issue will be found several columns of press dispatches regarding the "Kansas war." These reports are of course colored in favor of the republicans to a great extent. We believe the populists have been in the right from the first. The republicans were the aggressors in attempting to arrest the clerk of the populist house. They were the first to appeal from law to force. The governor was powerless to oust them from the state house because the militia officers refused to obey. The populists prevented bloodshed by their willingness to compromise, and on the whole came out of the conflict with far more to their credit than the republicans.

As to the final decision, it will be made by the supreme court. Cases are now being tried there to settle the matter. The populists have won the first point. The court has decided that "the republicans must furnish the burden of proof." It looks now as if the populists will be finally victorious.

SOME INSIDE FACTS.

In previous issues of THE ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT I have given the readers of the paper some hints of the villainies that were being attempted with a view to wreck this paper. But they have been mere hints.

Although for want of time I cannot give a full account of these matters this week, I have felt it my duty to state some of the facts in the case.

In beginning, let me say, as a man who weighs his words, that I knew of nothing in the history of Nebraska politics that is more contemptible and infamous than the series of outrages planned and attempted against the life and reputation of this paper.

When the INDEPENDENT and the ALLIANCE were consolidated nearly one year ago, Mefferd and myself became minority stock holders, both together owning a little over one-fifth of the capital stock. While I had editorial management, neither Mr. Mefferd nor myself had any controlling voice, or active participation in the business management. Mr. Pirtle was nominally business manager, but Mr. Thompson was acting business manager. During the latter half of the year Mr. Pirtle was almost wholly occupied with state committee work, and Mr. Thompson had full control of the business management of the paper. Near the close of the year, Mr. Mefferd and myself were astonished and deeply concerned to find that the company had run into debt beyond the limit set in the articles of incorporation, and that its financial stability was in danger.

Frequent consultations were held during December between Mr. Thompson, Mr. Pirtle, Mr. Mefferd and myself regarding the best course to pursue. Mr. Pirtle was able to suggest so plan. Mr. Thompson proposed three plans:

1. That the company's business be leased to the Mickie Bros., printers, one of whom is an employee of the State Journal; (2) that the management of the concern be turned over to prominent publisher of this city who is a republican; (3) that the company's affairs be placed in the hands of a receiver. Mr. Thompson appeared very anxious to have one of these plans adopted. I am well satisfied that if one of these plans had been adopted, Mr. Mefferd and myself would have been at once ousted from the paper and Mr. Thompson would have been retained as business manager while some friend of his (whom, we leave the people to guess) would have been put in as editor. I do not wish any one to understand that there was any quarrelling between Mr. Thompson and myself, for there was not. I am simply reciting facts. The people may draw their conclusions.

Mr. Mefferd and myself refused to approve any of these plans. Therefore, Mr. Thompson, on December 12, offered his resignation as secretary of the company. In so doing Mr. Thompson virtually gave up the fight. Instead of helping to man the pumps, he deserted the ship. I state this to show how utterly false is the charge being circulated that Mr. Thompson was ousted from his place.

In the crisis which arose, the whole responsibility of saving the paper fell on Mr. Mefferd and myself. How we bore that responsibility I leave others to judge.

On December 29, a little over two weeks after Mr. Thompson offered his resignation, Mr. Mefferd, Mr. Murray and myself bought Mr. Pirtle's stock which gave us a controlling interest in the company. Our plan for relieving the company from financial danger was very simple. The stock of the company was issued half paid up, the other half subject to assessment. We decided to call on the stock-holders for a part of their unpaid subscription. Without waiting for any assessment, Mr. Mefferd, Mr. Murray and myself each paid in 20 per cent more on our stock; each paid \$483 in cash of our own money into the treasury. With this money we proceeded to pay the debts of the company and put the business in shape, but not a cent of that money was used to pay on our salaries. Then we proceeded to call on the other stock-holders for 10 per cent (just half of what we had voluntarily advanced) on their stock.

Mr. Murray was elected secretary of the company, Mr. Mefferd business manager, and myself president. We then began to run the business on business principles. The result was that during the month of January the income of the paper exceeded the outlay about \$400, and since December 29th the indebtedness of the concern has been reduced about \$1,800, and is being reduced continually. If the people stand by us and rally to our support like true

and loyal independents, every dollar of the company's indebtedness can be paid off in a few months. We are in an absolutely safe condition financially, nearly all of our unpaid debts being in the hands of our friends. We still have debts amounting to a little over \$3,000, but we have a plant and business easily worth \$10,000. I do not wish to appear as parading the private affairs of the company before the public, but this dastardly attempt to wreck our business made it necessary to lay a full statement of our business before the district court of Lancaster county.

And how did the other stock-holders of the company act in this crisis? Did Mr. Thompson come forward with his assessment? Not at all. On the contrary by a series of maneuvers, which I believe to be a put up job from first to last, his stock was transferred to an employee of the B. & M. Railway as follows: One A. J. Rigby instituted a suit against Thompson for money he claimed Thompson owed him, had Thompson's stock sold at sheriff's sale and McGovern the B. & M. night watch bought it for \$94, there being virtually no competition at the sale. Then this Rigby proceeded to sue the company for a few dollars' salary claimed to be due Thompson, which this company was ready and willing to pay as soon as a satisfactory settlement of accounts could be made.

Mr. Thompson's efforts to have this company put into the hands of a receiver did not stop even though the board was re-organized and the company's business put in good shape.

Not long ago he suggested to one of our creditors, a good independent, that he apply for a receiver, but the suggestion was rejected with indignant scorn.

In McGovern, the B. & M. night watch, and A. J. Rigby, our enemies have found most willing tools. Tom Darnall, a lawyer and one of the biggest republican lobbyists in the state, was employed for attorney and a petition for a receiver was filed in the district court in the name of McGovern. Rigby scoured the city to get other stock-holders, and creditors to assist in the scheme, but I am happy to say, met with very poor success.

Rigby is too well known to make a good "tool" even "for those who know how to use them." He is an ex-convict, having served a term in the Nebraska penitentiary. His especial enmity to this paper arises from the following facts:

Last spring when the ALLIANCE and INDEPENDENT were consolidated, Rigby was working on the ALLIANCE as advertising solicitor. He was retained after the consolidation. Shortly after that he was one evening sent to the bank with the day's receipts consisting of \$51, of which \$20 was cash and the balance checks and drafts. Rigby went to his room, pocketed the cash, made out a new deposit slip and deposited \$31. The next day the theft was discovered, the original slip was found in Rigby's waste basket, and he was forced to return the money. Even after this Mr. Thompson did not wish to discharge Rigby. But the other members of the board engaged another man, and dispensed with Rigby's services shortly afterwards.

This McGovern filed an application for a receiver, setting a tissue of slanders and falsehoods, and asking that H. M. Bushnell be appointed receiver.

Bushnell is editor of the Lincoln Call. I need not say more concerning him. That is enough.

Thus this company has been forced by a pack of cut-throats to go into court to establish its own financial standing.

Then appeared in all the daily papers flaming reports of the slanders set up by McGovern. And all these reports had a peculiar faculty for ending up in a certain way, for instance: The Bee after reciting the slanders said:

"No date has as yet been set for the arguments on the application for a receiver: In connection with the above is announced that Jay Burrows and John M. Thompson will next week commence the publication of the Farmers' Alliance. Mr. Burrows states that the new paper will be practically a resumption of the old Farmers' Alliance which was conducted by himself and Mr. Thompson before Thornton and his associates secured control of the paper."

The World-Herald recited the charges of McGovern, and added:

A new weekly paper will be started next week by Jay Burrows and J. M. Thompson, the latter being the secretary and treasurer of the farmers' alliance and industrial union. The name of Burrows' old paper, "The Farmers' Alliance" will be taken, and the style of the publishing firm will be Burrows & Thompson.

Liberty had about three columns of the vilest slanders which ever emanated from the boggler who edits it, but at the head of the editorial page appeared the following:

Lunor says that Mr. J. Burrows and J. M. Thompson will soon begin the publication of an alliance newspaper in Lincoln to take the place of the one that the courts are asked to wind up. If this be true, we say, "May it live long and prosper."

We leave readers to draw the only inference thinking persons can draw from such a grouping of facts.

transferred his interest in the same to this company. The names of the two papers were consolidated into ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT, but both names have been carried at the head of the editorial page.

Now what legal or moral right had these men to use that name? Why should they attempt to do so? The question is easily answered: The name has great value in securing advertisements, especially outside of the state. Advertisers might be deceived by means of the name into believing that the new paper was the original "Farmers' Alliance." A large portion of our mail, many letters inclosing money, papers, books, etc., come addressed to the "Farmers' Alliance." If the postmaster should see fit he could send all this to the new paper. In fact, the scheme was an attempt to rob this company.

I do not object to any man starting a paper on its merits, but I do object to any man or set of men attempting to wreck another paper to build up on its ruins, and then attempting to steal the name and good-will which they themselves sold.

But the officers of this company gave notice that they would invoke the power of law to protect their rights. And I have just learned that Burrows has decided that it won't work, and will try another name.

I am not making careless statements in this article. Nearly all the facts herein stated are supported by affidavits on file in the court house of this county.

I regret to make these statements. It is not a pleasure to divulge such things. Nothing but the stress of circumstances has forced me to it. I am not inspired in the least degree by personal malice.

The readers of this paper know that during all last summer when Holden was filling his columns week after week with the vilest personal assaults on me and when Burrows went to his support writing letters of endorsement and doing all in his power to give Holden a character, I never allowed a word of criticism of Burrows to appear in the columns. When county alliances, and sub-alliances sent in resolutions denouncing Burrows, I suppressed them. But "here is a time when forbearance ceases to be a virtue, and with me that time has arrived.

The receiver case will be heard tomorrow (Thursday). The Alliance Publishing Company will make a complete showing of its business affairs, and will without doubt win a complete victory.

And now I appeal to all independents in Nebraska who love the cause, who love decency and fair play to stand solidly by THE ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT so long as it merits support.

Give us your moral as well as your financial support. Help us to correct the impression made by these slanderous reports which have been scattered broadcast.

Yours for Truth and Justice, S. EDWIN THORNTON.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS.

Grover Cleveland has chosen J. Sterling Morton for his secretary of agriculture. Morton is receiving the congratulations of the democratic and republican papers. The republicans seem especially pleased, and none so much as the State Journal. The house of representatives has even passed a resolution congratulating Mr. Morton and the state on this appointment.

One of the republican dailies has gone so far as to suggest that even the independents ought lay aside their partisan ship and join in the congratulation business.

Perhaps some independent may do this merely as a matter of courtesy and state pride, but the ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT wishes to be excused. We can not congratulate either the state of Nebraska or the nation on the appointment of such a man to such a place, and here are a few of our reasons:

Mr. Morton is an aristocrat, and a plutocrat. He has no sympathy with the common people, the wealth creators of the nation.

Mr. Morton is bitterly hostile to the great reforms demanded by the organized farmers of the country, and he will use his position and influence as secretary of agriculture to discourage and defeat reform legislation. In proof of this we will cite his views as expressed in an interview published in the State Journal of February 19:

"I am opposed to the Hatch anti-option bill. What the farmers of this country most need is protection from their alleged friends. The farmers need a change in some of their ideas and they would be materially benefited by a certain kind of education. It is generally said and believed that the farmers are the instigators and supporters of the Hatch anti-option bill. In my opinion they should be its most vigorous opponents. They produce ex changes and boards of trade which this bill is intended to destroy are of the greatest advantage to producers of grain."

How can the farmers of this state or the United States rejoice over the appointment of a man expressing such views to represent them in the cabinet? Morton is in hearty sympathy with the board of trade gamblers in Chicago, and will try to defeat all legislation tending to interfere with their schemes of robbery.

"I am and always have been a hard money man, I am opposed to the irredeemable greenback issue and, have been opposed to every measure advocated by fanatics and demagogues tending to lower our currency from its solid and honest basis. I do not favor state banks but I endorse the section of the Chicago platform favoring the removal of the 10 per cent tax."

Thus he openly professes his subservency to Wall Street, and flings an insult in the faces of the organized farmers of the country. If he were merely a "hard money man," it wouldn't be so bad. Silver is as "hard" as gold. But silver is not Morton's kind of "hard money." He is as bitterly hostile to silver as he is to "irredeemable paper money." Silver is "dishonest money" according to Morton, and all the force of his logic and wit will be used to prevent the passage of a free coinage measure.

Morton is a friend of the railroad corporations. Last fall he sought and secured the nomination for governor, with the object and intention of defeating General Van Wyck. Then he went about over the state slandering Van Wyck, and insulting the people. He ran for the purpose of assisting Crouse H. disgusted and humiliated thousands of true honest reformers in his own party. He did defeat Van Wyck, and almost defeated Bryan. But he elected Crouse. The republicans were happy. They have frequently expressed their gratitude. They have even gone so far as to try to elect him United States senator. They love Morton for the good he has done them.

We can not congratulate the honest democrats of Nebraska. Morton in no way represents them. Thousands of them despise him. In appointing Morton, Grover Cleveland has slapped the democracy of Nebraska (except a few Wall-Street-corporation-tools) squarely in the face. Their congratulations are merely lip-service. Casper the leader of the democrats in the house, before he voted on the resolution of congratulation, stated that he did not endorse Morton's views, and that if it had come to a choice between Allen and Morton for United States senator, he would have voted for Allen. Casper voiced the real sentiments of a majority of Nebraska democrats. Republicans and monopoly democrats may rejoice and congratulate, but we beg to be excused. Our congratulations will keep till some man who truly represents the people of Nebraska gets a cabinet position.

THE STOCK YARDS BILL.

We call especial attention to an article on the second page of this issue on the stock-yards bill. The writer is a republican, but his views are sound and forcibly expressed. There is no doubt that extortion and robbery is practiced at South Omaha by the stock-yards' management. Extortionate prices for feed and short weights are said to be the rule.

The legislature has a right to establish reasonable maximum rates of charges for services and feed furnished by the stock-yards management, and it ought to exercise that right. A law providing for such reasonable rates would not only save a great deal to the producers and shippers of live-stock, but would eventually greatly increase the business of the stock-yards at South Omaha.

The reason Mr. Snowden sets forth as to why charges are high in the stock-yards in other cities is a good one. They have got the start of the people and so fortified themselves that they control, instead of being controlled by, legislatures. Nebraska should learn a lesson from this, and "take time by the fore-lock."

The independent representatives and senators should use every effort to secure the passage of a good stock-yards bill. They cannot afford to rest under any suspicion of having neglected their duty in this matter, or in any way contributed to the defeat of such a law.

TRUE AND LOYAL.

Through the sayings of newspaper reporters and others, insinuations and assertions have frequently been thrown out during the session of the legislature that this or that independent was a traitor. Some people are entirely too free with the word "traitor." The men who voted to postpone the Douglas and contests were called traitors, those who bolted the senatorial caucus were called traitors. Now we want the position of THE ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT clearly understood. If there are any traitors in the independent legislative camp we don't know it, and we have been watching pretty closely. We believe all the independents are true and loyal to their principles, and to their party. We believe they have acted honestly and from good motives. We do not think all members have acted wisely at all times, but we have seen no signs of treachery.

OUR PREMIUM OFFER.

On account of the heavy burdens of work heaped on the editor of THE ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT in preparing papers and affidavits to meet the gang of would-be wreckers in court this week, we have not been able to formulate our complete premium offer. Hence we republish last week's statement. The full list will appear soon. We hope to hear from several hundred friends this week who will go to work at once to secure these premiums. Do not delay. Time is precious.

A WONDERFUL OFFER!

Forecast of The Alliance-Independent's Grand Premium List. Premiums For Everybody.

A SURPRISE FOR OUR FRIENDS

City Lots, Sewing Machines, Libraries, And Other Things too Numerous to Mention, to be Given to Club Raisers.

A Grand Campaign for Subscribers.

For sometime we have been preparing a great premium list, and next week we expect to publish it in full. It will contain the greatest and most numerous premium offers ever made by a reform paper.

The preparation of the list has progressed so far that we are able to make a general statement of what it will contain:

First, there will be a grand premium for the largest list sent in. This premium will consist of a fine, and valuable residence lot in one of Lincoln's most beautiful suburbs. Arrangements are not fully completed for this premium, and we may have to change it to something else.

Second, there will be a premium for the largest list sent in from each congressional district in Nebraska. This premium will be an elegant first-class sewing machine, known as the "Columbian."

Third, there will be a premium for the largest list from each county in Nebraska, and from each state outside of Nebraska. This premium will consist of a family library comprising twenty cloth bound volumes, all standard and first-class. Many of the leading reform books will be included.

To the one sending the second largest list from each county in the state, we will give a Useful Library of twenty standard books in paper covers.

Fourth, there will be a large list of special premiums for those who are not successful in getting any of the above premiums.

Fifth, we will continue to give a premium to every subscriber as at present.

The above brief forecast gives only a very imperfect idea of the liberality of this offer. We believe it will be a welcome surprise to the friends who have been working for the paper faithfully without hope of reward.

Some may wonder how we are able to make such liberal offers. In explanation we will say that most of these premiums are received in payment for advertising in our columns. Whenever we have to purchase the articles, we get very favorable prices by taking large quantities.

And now we confidently appeal to friends of our glorious cause everywhere to begin a campaign for subscribers. Write for the full list to appear next week, or week after, but don't wait for it. Now is the best time to push the work. Go to work without losing a day. Arm yourself with a few sample copies and a copy of one of our premium books and start out. Get old subscribers to renew. Get new subscribers among dependents who have never taken the ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT. Persuade republicans and democrats to try the paper for a year.

We expect to have at least two thousand persons actively at work for these premiums within two weeks. Write at once for blanks and sample copies. Don't lose a day.

If you cannot work for a premium, will you not kindly bring this to the attention of some one else who will, or send us the names of parties who might undertake to raise clubs.

Many of our premiums are suitable for ladies, and children, and we want them to compete. Remember every one who raises a club of five or more will get a premium.

Yours for success,

THE ALLIANCE PUBLISHING CO.

FINE BERKSHIRE HOGS.

Mr. H. S. Williamson of Beaver City offers a hog worth \$20 to the person raising the largest club for the ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT by March.

Only one person can get this premium, but dozens of others who wish to improve their stock of hogs can purchase Berkshires of either sex of Mr. Williamson at reasonable prices. Write him.