

THE ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT. Consolidation of the Farmers Alliance of Nebraska Independent. PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY THE ALLIANCE PUBLISHING CO. Cor. 11th and M Sts., Lincoln, Neb.

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OUR PREMIUM LIST. Although our premium list is not yet complete, we hope all who can do so will begin the campaign for subscribers at once. The premiums we offer are simply great.

A GREAT SPEECH. In our next issue will appear Col. A. C. Flah's great speech on the silver question delivered before the American Bimetallic Association at Washington February 22.

CONGRESSMAN BRYAN'S bill, providing that lands advertised for sale under the decree of United States courts must be advertised in the county in which such lands are situated, has become a law.

THE fifty-second congress is dead. In another column appears a review of its last session's work. What it did look pitifully small beside the vast aggregate of needed work it left undone.

DURING the last campaign the Kearney Hub charged that the independents in the legislature of '91 were responsible for the defeat of all railroad legislation at that session; that if they had been willing to accept the Stevens bill the republicans would have helped pass it.

THE Montana legislature failed to elect a United States senator. The democrats could at any time have elected a man whose position on the silver question rendered him acceptable to the populists, but the friends of Clark were determined either to elect their candidate or defeat an election.

Speaking further on this point, he says: "In dealing with our present embarrassing situation as related to this subject, we will be wise if we temper our confidence and faith in our national strength and resources with the frank concession that even these will not permit us to defy with impunity the inexorable laws of finance and trade."

It is idle for any one longer to belittle the money question. It is the leading issue in American politics today, and will be until it is settled. Mr. Cleveland gives the money question precedence in his inaugural, and places the tariff question on a back seat. He says: "Manifestly nothing is more vital to our supremacy as a nation and to the beneficent purposes of our government than a sound and stable currency."

While Mr. Cleveland thus confesses the supreme importance of the money question, he pleads with all the vigor he possesses in behalf of the single gold standard, and against every move that looks toward an increase in the circulating medium. The shysters of the world were "wise in their day and generation" when they secured the nomination and election of Grover Cleveland.

Mr. Cleveland's inaugural is in many respects a most remarkable one. It is perfectly characteristic of the man. It manifests most clearly his great egotism and his cold-blooded disregard of popular sentiment. He seems inspired with the idea that he has been raised up for the performance of a great work, that of protecting the people against the consequences of their own folly.

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In the opening of his address the president says: "I deem it fitting on this occasion, while indicating the opinions I hold concerning public questions of present importance, to also briefly refer to the existence of certain conditions and tendencies among our people which seem to menace the integrity and usefulness of their government."

It is true that "certain conditions and tendencies" exist that "menace the integrity and usefulness of this government." But what are they? They are the increasing indebtedness and poverty of the masses, the increasing colossal fortunes of the few, the increasing power of organized wealth, the increasing sense of wrong and injustice in the minds of the people, the increase of pauperism, immorality and crime, the increase of labor troubles and strikes, the increase of tenantry and landlordism, the increase of political corruption, and the decrease of all that goes to make the people of the nation contented, prosperous and happy.

Are these the "conditions and tendencies" Mr. Cleveland refers to? Evidently not. The first "menace to the integrity and usefulness of our government to which he refers is the "degradation" of our currency. He says "its exposure to degradation should at once arouse to activity the most enlightened statesmanship."

He says further: "The danger of depreciation in the purchasing power of the wages paid to toil should furnish the strongest incentive to prompt and conservative precaution." In that saying Cleveland does not exhibit statesmanship, enlightened or otherwise.

If Grover Cleveland were an "enlightened," statesman he would know that the only way in which the purchasing power of wages can be depreciated is by decreasing the share of the products which goes to the toiler. As currency contracts debts expand. As debts expand the usurer draws an ever increasing share of the products of toil.

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this the people are struggling intelligently. For this Cleveland is pleading ponderously, ignorantly, blindly.

Again, says Mr. Cleveland: "At the same time, in our efforts to adjust the differences of opinion we should be free from intolerance or passion, and our judgments should be unmoved by alluring phrases, and unweaved by selfish interests." One must believe Cleveland sincere. No hypocrite, however rank, could make such a statement under such circumstances without blushing. It outdoes hypocrisy. Speaking in behalf of men whose every political act is inspired by "selfish interests," whose sole stock in trade is "alluring phrases"; representing the money power of the world, the most powerful, intolerant, and soulless combination of selfish men that ever existed, he pleads with the people to be tolerant and unselfish!

"I am confident that such an appeal to the judgment will result in prudent and effective remedial legislation. In the meantime, so far as the executive branch of the government can intervene, none of the powers which it is invested will be withheld when their exercise is deemed necessary to maintain our national credit or avert financial disaster."

If such an exhibition of despotic intolerance has a precedent, or a parallel in the history of our government, it has never come to our knowledge. Reduced to plain Anglo-Saxon, Mr. Cleveland says: "I will use every power with which I have been invested to prevent the free coinage of silver. I will select as my political advisers only men who believe in a single gold standard. I will dispense federal patronage only to those who subscribe to that doctrine. I will endeavor to have both houses of congress organized against all silver legislation. Lastly, I will veto any measure of finance reform which is not in accord with my ideas on the subject."

There can be no doubt that Grover Cleveland will use all his power and influence as president of the United States to effect the complete demonetization of silver. In so doing he will ignore and over-ride the sentiment of a large majority of his party. In so doing he will drive a wedge that will rift the democratic party asunder. Already is the republican party dead in spirit. Its monopoly leaders today stand closer to Grover Cleveland than a majority of his own party.

The outcome will be a new grouping of political forces within the next four years. It will be the masses against the classes, the great plain people against the money power.

CITY POLITICS.

Two years ago, the people of Lincoln made a strong effort to rescue the city government from a ring of corrupt politicians. The effort was partially successful. An able honest man was elected mayor. But the ring succeeded in electing the rest of the city officers, and a majority of the council. The mayor undertook to give the city better and cleaner government through a complete reorganization of the police force, and the appointment of good men to fill the various offices under his control. In this he succeeded for a time. But the men who are opposed to good clean city government soon found means to thwart and defeat him.

Under the city charter, the mayor's appointments on the police force are subject to the approval of the excise board which consists of the mayor himself and two other members. The defeated ring found in the other two members willing tools. They contested the mayor's right to control the police force. The matter was fought out in the courts and the mayor was defeated. The control of the police department was taken from him, his appointees were dismissed, and a new force organized. Since then matters have gone on very much in the old-fashioned way. The utter inefficiency of the present force is apparent. For months the streets of the city have been infested with highwaymen who "hold up" citizens with impunity. The saloons are open after hours, and on Sundays. Gamblers ply their trade almost undisturbed. A policeman seems never to be in sight just when and where he is needed.

The spring election is coming on, and it is for the voters of this city to determine what kind of government they want for the next two years. To all present appearances, the old ring is still in full control of the republican party, and will nominate a full ticket of time-tried ringsters. On the other hand the reform elements, lovers of law and order, will undoubtedly re-nominate Mayor Weir if he will accept. It is understood that Mr. Weir does not desire to make the fight for re-election if his hands are to be tied as they have been. A move is on foot to have the legislature amend the city charter so as to put the control of the police wholly in the hands of the mayor. Whether or not this amendment will become a law it is impossible to foresee. There is however another way in

which the same object can be obtained and that is by the election of an excise board that is in full sympathy with the mayor. The fight in the spring election should not center on the office of mayor alone. It should be made along the whole line. Mayor Weir should accept the nomination, and head the ticket made up of good capable men from top to bottom. Partisan politics should be kept out of city government as far as possible. The issues involved are of a moral and business nature rather than of a partisan character. Partisanship in city politics is a cloak under which bad men sneak into office.

The people of Lincoln should rally to the standard of reform and good government regardless of party politics. They should re-elect Mayor Weir, and fill every other office with an equally good man. Every ward should elect to the council a man who is free from corruption or bank influence, a man who will put the welfare of the city above everything else, a man who is in sympathy with the laboring masses.

If there ever was a time when Lincoln people should have their eyes open it is now. The developments of the last six months have shown them the character of the men who have been running the republican machine. Bill Dorgan, Dan Lauer and Charley Mosh, er now stand unmasked before the people, but their political associates and co-workers are still in the ring. The task of retiring them from active political life is now before the people, and the time to begin the work is at the coming spring election.

THE LOCAL REFORM PRESS.

Stand by your local reform papers. Take a lively interest in its welfare. Subscribe for it. Pay for it. Read it. Get your neighbors to subscribe for it. Patronize the men who advertise in it. When you go into a store to make purchases, give the merchant to understand that it is his interest to advertise in your local reform paper. This doesn't cost you anything, but it means valuable assistance to the struggling reform editor. Help in every way to improve your paper. Help your editor get the local news. When he attacks corrupt local politicians, hold up his hands. Make him feel that he has your moral as well as financial backing. If you think your local paper isn't as good as it ought to be, don't go about carping and kicking. But help in some way to make it better.

You cannot possibly over-estimate the power of your local weekly papers. They wield a greater influence over public opinion than the great subsidized dailies. They are close to the people. They are carefully read. They have a large share of public confidence. They cannot betray their readers without being caught in the act.

The local reform press is the mainstay of the people's movement. If it is faithfully supported and sustained, the continued progress, and final triumph of the people's movement is assured. If neglected, or deserted by the people our fight is in vain. Therefore stand by your local reform paper first, last and all the time.

MONOPOLY KNOWS NO PARTY.

In matters of legislation the men representing the various moneyed interests of the country stand together. When the anti-option bill came up for final passage in the house last week, all the goldbug, trust and monopoly representatives stood with the board of trade gamblers and defeated it. When silver and railroad legislation comes up the board of trade gamblers return the favor. Party politics cuts no figure when monopoly interests are at stake. Although a large majority of the democrats in the past congress were in favor of free coinage, and anti-option legislation, they could never get caucus action on either question. The monopoly minority asserted its independence of the caucus and voted with the republicans to defeat legislation in the people's interests.

When will the people learn to follow this example set by monopoly rtools? If the people would only declare their independence of party machines, the great issues of the day would soon be settled. More than a million voters have already got their eyes open, and thousands more are doing so every week. The light is breaking through the dark clouds of party prejudice. The day of deliverance is coming.

It is very seldom we find anything in the columns of the State Journal that we care to reprint. But this week we copy from the Journal a long article on the outrages at the penitentiary which we think will be read with great interest. The Journal does not give the names of the ex-convicts who write the letters, but asserts that the committee on the investigation of that institution can verify their genuineness. There can be no doubt that the treatment of convicts is horribly cruel and inhuman and we hope the committee will give the whole matter a thorough airing.

GEORGE CONN formerly editor of the local independent paper at Ogallala, Neb., has gone to Miles City, Montana, where he will take charge of a new reform paper. He writes that his prospects are excellent. He has our best wishes.

THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER.

Several alliance brothers who are blessed with inquiring minds, have written us to know just what is the true history of Burrows' connection with Holden during the past year. Now, while we desire to devote as little space as possible to Burrows, we feel that it is only justice to all parties, including Burrows, that the real truth should be made known. Being in possession of the inside facts, we will give them as briefly as possible.

About the last week in January, or the first in February, 1892, being just after the state alliance meeting, Mr. Burrows entered into a deal for the sale of his half interest in THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE to W. C. Holden. The purchase price was to be \$2,500. Mr. Holden went to Buffalo county to try to raise the money. He was to return on Saturday and close the deal. During the week, Burrows wrote Holden to come on and take the paper. He also telegraphed him to make haste. Meanwhile several leading independent in Lincoln got wind of the scheme. Fore-seeing the impending calamity to the people's cause, they went to Mr. Thompson, who was Burrows' partner. They protested most earnestly against the scheme, and finally induced Mr. Thompson to object. So when Holden did come to take the paper, Mr. Burrows was obliged to declare the deal off. A few days later he sold his interest to C. H. Pirtle, charging him \$250 more than he had offered to take from Holden.

Did Mr. Burrows know what kind of character Holden was at that time? That is a fair question, and easily answered. Mr. Burrows has answered it several times over his own signature. He says he was well acquainted with Holden's character and his history for the previous twelve years. It was during those twelve years that Holden made his boodle record at Kearney.

We ask all the honest earnest alliance people of this state to contemplate this move. Here was Burrows the acknowledged leader of a great movement, a man on whom honors and favors had been freely bestowed, the editor of a great paper which the people had built up for him, a paper on which the success of the movement largely depended. He decided to sell the paper and retire from active work. There were dozens of good true able men in this state, and in other states that would gladly have taken his place. But without letting the public know of his intention he secretly entered into this deal with the greatest villain, the vilest and most notorious boodler in Nebraska, and was only prevented from turning over the FARMERS' ALLIANCE to him by the veto of his partner. Is such a man worthy to be trusted with power, and leadership?

Time passed. The ALLIANCE and the INDEPENDENT were consolidated. Holden came to Lincoln and started Liberty. From its first issue observing men could detect "the wolf in sheep's clothing." He began a campaign of slander and ridicule against Kem, and the editor of this paper. The local press of the state warned the people of his character and mission. After this had gone on for several weeks, Mr. Burrows deliberately went to Holden and entered into a deal to purchase a half interest in Liberty. The price was set, the details arranged. Mr. Burrows wrote his salutatory. It was then that good true friends of our movement again came to the rescue. They found out what was going on. They protested with all their might, and threatened Burrows with exposure and denunciation. He weakened and declared the deal off. He authorized the editor of this paper to state that he had not gone into partnership with Holden. Then because we referred to that individual as a "notorious boodler," Burrows came out in a letter over his own signature condemning this editor and fully endorsing Holden. Then Holden filled his columns with terrible tirades of abuse and slander of Wolfe, Dech, Kem, Pirtle and the editor of this paper week after week. After this had gone on for six weeks more, on June 25 Burrows wrote another and longer letter in which he fully endorsed Holden, and congratulated him on the course he was pursuing. This is the letter published in these columns three months ago. It is said that 50,000 copies of that one issue of Liberty were scattered over the state. Hundreds of them were distributed in Bohannon's hall when the state convention met to choose delegates to the Omaha convention. Burrows was nominated, and his name was bisped. He did not receive one vote. Even the man who nominated him was ashamed to vote for him.

Then for many weeks Holden carried that letter of endorsement in his paper alongside of the most villainous slanders ever penned, slanders of men the latches of whose shoes neither Burrows nor Holden is worthy to stoop down and unloose. During the campaign, Burrows and Holden worked and consulted together. Up to the date of Senator Allen's election they were frequently seen consulting and talking confidentially together at the Lindell hotel.

True and loyal independents of Nebraska, these are facts of history. They are facts you should consider well and remember long. While you were striving and sacrificing in the battle for

human rights, while you were trying to wrest this state from the control of corporations and corrupt rings, this man Burrows whom you had honored and trusted, deserted you and went to the assistance of the vilest tool the corporations of Nebraska ever employed. Burrows and Holden are linked together in sympathy and in purpose. To condemn one is to condemn both. To uphold one is to uphold both.

The effort to wreck THE ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT began on the part of Holden and Burrows early last summer. Liberty was their chosen engine of destruction. Just when J. M. Thompson fell into line with them we cannot say. But that he did fall in there is no denying. It is a deplorable fact.

And just at the time when they thought they had THE ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT crushed, they sprang into the newspaper arena to gloat over and fatten on the spoils of their devilish warfare. But they miscalculated. They reckoned without their host. The Alliance Publishing Company met its enemies, and hurled them back into the mire of dishonor.

And now Burrows, true to his instinct is trying to deceive the people regarding his connection with Holden. He is now denying that he ever had a financial interest in Liberty. This is a straw man he sets up and thumps very vigorously. As a matter of fact nobody accuses him of having a financial interest in Liberty. We invite him to quit pounding a dummy, and address himself to the facts we have set forth.

AN ENCOURAGING OUTLOOK.

The present political situation is far from being what the friends of reform desire and what they are determined to accomplish; yet the cloud has its silver lining. The education of the people on questions pertaining to their vital interests is manifesting itself in the growth of a well defined and powerful sentiment against those corruptions and national wrongs that have grown up under the sheltering wings of partisan rule, and is making itself felt in state legislatures and in the congress of the United States to an extent that encourages the belief that the time is not far distant when the people will obtain some substantial redress of grievances.

More than one million votes cast for the presidential nominee of the independent party has produced a marked effect and its wholesome lessons are emphasized by the fact that the independent movement is daily growing and strengthening. Its friends are becoming more and more confirmed in the correctness of their principles, and are asserting them with increasing boldness. The mining states are fact coming to understand that their interests are identical with those of the wage earners and the producers of the country.

There is a growing sentiment in the western and southern states in favor of a closer organization and a more aggressive warfare against the policy of the government which protects the few at the expense of the many, subjects the ordinary business of the country to the grinding power of monopoly, legislates in the interest of the bondholder and those identified with the money power of the world, leaving the people to struggle without relief against the growing evils of a contracted currency, falling prices and increasing indebtedness.

The news from London, the head centre of the gold standard forces, contains glimpses of encouragement. British farmers in some of the most favored districts, in view of the fact that their holdings have depreciated more than forty per cent in the last few years, are protesting against the financial policy of the government.

London bankers are said to be divided on the silver question. Open dissatisfaction was strongly manifested a few days ago in the House of Commons against a British delegate to the Brussels conference because of his antagonism to bi-metalism. Members of the house—well known British bankers—favor the free coinage of silver and openly advocate it in their discussions. Public sentiment is making itself felt in the United States congress. Sherman's \$50,000,000 bond scheme was defeated a few days ago in the senate. Finding that the sundry civil bill would fail to pass with the bond amendment attached, the amendment was withdrawn by its friends. Sherman manifested his chagrin by indulging in a tirade of abuse against the silver men—a gold-bug calamity howl.

These are a few points of interest that indicate that the cause of the people is a living, potent reality and that its advocacy has not been in vain, and encourage its friends to renew their efforts with increased vigilance, energy and activity in the assurance that final victory will be their reward.

FRIENDS of Governor McKinley are soliciting donations for the relief of the governor in the loss of all his money by the failure of a friend whose notes he had endorsed to the extent of \$110,000. The governor may be a great statesman and a shrewd politician, yet for a man worth \$20,000 to jeopardize the support of his family and the welfare of his home by endorsing notes even for a friend, to the extent of \$110,000 is not suggestive of great wisdom.