

THE ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT.

Consolidation of the Farmers Alliance and Nebraska Independent

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"If any man must fall for me to rise. Then seek I not to climb. Another's pain I choose not for my good. A golden chain, A robe of honor, is too good a prize To tempt my hand to do a wrong Unto a fellow man. This life hath wee sufficient, wrought by man's antic face; And whot hat hath a heart would dare prolong Or add a sorrow to a stricken soul? That seeks a healing balm to make it whole? My bosom owns the brotherhood of man.

N. I. P. A.



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. Blanks for return subscriptions, return envelopes, etc., can be had on application to this office.

Always sign your name. No matter how often you write us do not neglect this important matter. Every week we receive letters with incomplete addresses or without signatures and it is sometimes difficult to locate them.

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FOOLISHNESS OF MAN'S WISDOM.

Getting as much as one can. While giving the least that one must. Held to be practical wisdom by man; In all of the matters of business his plan Regards not the thing that is just.

Selfishness, meanness, and guile. We cultivate daily in trade; We hold back the truth for advantage the while.

Till that which was honest and noble is vile 'Tis thus that our fortunes are made.

But gain is at terrible cost In hardness and meanness of soul! And good which we ought to appreciate most, The faith and the service of neighbors, is lost When "business" steps in to control.

Pressure of want and of care, The strain and temptations of life, The want of distrust in the struggle unfair, And burdens of gainers that losers must bear, Is more of the cost of the strife.

Whether we think so or not, One's losses are losses for all; The hand cannot lose and its service be what It otherwise would be in helping the foot— On all must each injury fall.

Whether we will it or no, Our good is the good of the rest, We can't get away from the want and the woe That we bring upon others, nor gain as we go The good of the people oppressed.

Justice in commerce would hold, As gravity does in the skies, A balance of forces; the bought and the sold With the means of exchange, whether paper or gold.

KEPT EQUAL, no want could arise. Tollers, producing the whole Exchanging would each draw his part If each had just credit or cash to control The fraction put in, to its owner 't would roll And empty each fast-filling mart.

THE notoriously corrupt Connecticut legislature keeps up a state militia at a tax expense of \$235,000 a year, a drilled and officered army which, according to a recent report, can be "mobilized within twelve hours in case of a strike." The expensive militia are the capitalists' army to force the poor to quietly work for them on their own terms.

THE net loss of gold in the years 1890 '91 and '92 amounts to \$106,326,000. This year the excess of gold exported over what was imported up to November 1st, is given at nearly \$97,000,000. A fine commodity to base our whole financial system, our commercial and industrial activities on, a metal that plays hide and seek with us and keeps calling for bonds, more and more bonds. And what is gold that we should worship it, that we should place our liberties in the hands of its possessors? It is simply the product of labor, no better than any other product. And shall the producer of it be enslaved by it?

THE Farm, Field and Fireside says J. Sterling Morton should resign, because he represents not the thirty million of our population interested in agriculture, but J. Sterling alone. Second, because of his ignorance of what is wanted to promote the best interests of agriculture, shown in his opposition to the United States Experiment Stations. Third, because "this paragon of wisdom from Nebraska is endeavoring to destroy the market rapidly growing up in France and Germany for American meats." He pronounced Secretary Rusk's meat inspection a failure, and, going away with it, had meat, containing trichina, is already reported from Berlin. Morton has made an ass of himself, and the whole farming class is demanding that they be given a fit man to represent them in the cabinet.

THE PLAN OF THE ENEMY.

Last week we called attention to the apparent plan of the Republican party to get its great news and political weeklies into all Nebraska homes, to so crowd out our Populist weeklies as far as possible and counteract and destroy their influence. The Toledo Blade, Globe-Democrat and State Journal are about giving away their political poison, and throwing in attractive premiums to introduce it. Already hundreds of thousands of these papers are being read in Nebraska. We have knowledge that they are being circulated as never before, and the indications are unmistakably strong that political funds are being supplied to multiply and circulate them. Some time ago the following letter in circular form was sent to the banks throughout the country by the Bankers' Association. Read and ponder it:

DEAR SIR: It is advisable to do all in your power to sustain such daily and prominent weekly newspapers, especially the agricultural and religious press, as will oppose the issuing of greenback paper money, and that you withhold patronage or favors from all applicants who are not willing to oppose the Government issue of money. Let the Government issue the coin and the banks issue the paper money of the country, for then we can better protect each other. To repeal the law creating national banks, or to restore to circulation the Government issue of money, will be to provide the people with money and will, therefore, seriously affect your individual profits as banker and lender. See your member of Congress at once, and engage him to support our interest, that we may control legislation. (Signed by the Secretary.)

JAS. BUELL, No. 147 Broadway, Room 4, New York.

This letter shows that the most powerful organization in the world is fighting us, and fighting us with the keenest intelligence, with the shrewdest plans and vast money resources. The bankers already own the greater part of the stock of the metropolitan dailies, and they are adding whatever capital is needed to make attractive and push the circulation of the weekly newspaper which each daily publishing company issues. The bankers are glad to have a tariff noise kept up, and anything agitated which diverts the popular attention; but their gaze is unceasingly riveted to the money question. It matters not to them what the old parties fight about, for both parties belong to and are dependent on them. The Populist party is the only force that threatens them. The Populist party is strong and growing stronger where its weekly papers are being read. So the scheme is to prepare cheaper weeklies and newsier weeklies to overwhelm ours greatly in circulation, to occupy the weekly field ahead of us and cultivate partisan prejudice and the Shylock money superstition, and so to effectually check our farther growth.

These papers are already in the field and working like Trojans to down us. And we warn Nebraska Populists, the workers and those who ought to be workers in every county and neighborhood in the state, that they will down us if there is not a sudden and general waking up to meet this emergency, this masterly movement against us. The majority of our own voters are taking these papers, and, in consequence largely, are not taking their own papers. A considerable percentage of these, with no truth coming in to counteract the crafty partisan influence, will drink in enough misconception in a few months to confuse their judgment and destroy their faith in our leaders, if not in our cause.

These are facts which we have presented. Now will our readers be individually aroused to act as is necessary? We must have the circulation of our Populist papers greatly extended, and we have no Shylock funds to pay for it.

Many of our people take the Coming Nation, the New Nation, the Nonconformist, or the National Watchman. That is all right, friends; but these papers, grand good papers though they are, cannot take the place, or do the work, of a good state paper. Take as many papers as you can, but at peril to the cause in your own state neglect to take and to push the circulation of your own state paper. We shall watch the columns of the great Republican weeklies which are being sown broadcast over Nebraska, and shall furnish in THE ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT antidotes for all their poison. We therefore ask all our readers who will help, to sign the workers' pledge found in the upper corner of our first page and send it to us. The pledge is not necessary at all, if you dislike pledges even in a good cause. But, for the love of humanity, for the love of liberty, for the love of your children if you have any, go to work to

spread the truth by securing subscribers for a paper that publishes it. The world cannot move forward except as men who see the truth help others see it.

THE SHAM ANTI-TRUST LAW.

It is one of the tricks of politics to make laws of no value to fool the people. Political platforms of all parties, the old as well as the new, call for popular reforms, inveigh against injustice, and promise many things. But platforms are made to get in on, and old parties are never any more hampered with them than Cleveland and the Democratic party has been with the plank pledging no discrimination against silver. The laws that have to be made to satisfy popular demands and give to the party an appearance of consistency, are seldom sound and effective. This is the case with the anti-trust law. The Republican and Democratic platforms had opposed "trusts and combinations, which oppress the people." As the New York Independent says, "the anti-trust act was passed avowedly to crush supposed monopolies, and in a general spirit of hostility to corporations. Its provisions were severe in language, and there was at the time a popular impression that the aim and effect of the statute was to break up and prevent those aggregations of capital so common in our day and which are sometimes on so large a scale as practically to control all the branches of an extensive industry."

It has, however, broken up nothing. It was not made for that purpose. In the first place it can only operate on such trade as is carried on between the several states. All contracts and business confined to state lines is outside the jurisdiction of congress, and the railroads being governed by a special law are exempt. But the reason why the law has not been executed remains to be told. According to Attorney-General Olney's just published annual report the law is unconstitutional. Here is the argument condensed:

"The United States cannot limit private citizens in their right to accumulate or control property; nor prescribe the price at which property shall be sold; nor pass criminal laws about the intent and purpose of citizens in buying and selling."

What then constitutes a monopoly which the constitution does not defend? General Olney quotes with approval Judge Jackson's decision, which declares:

Monopoly as prohibited by the statute means an exclusive right in one party, coupled with a legal restriction or restraint upon some other party which prevents the latter from exercising or enjoying the same right.

Judge Jackson is now on the supreme bench, and there is little doubt his decision would be sustained by that body. If so, under the rule of the old parties we can expect no relief, and can figure out just about how long it will take the present commercial rulers, with their monopoly-enforced tribute, to buy up the rest of the natural resources, and become the sole, absolute owners of the country. Less than thirty years will do it. Through monopoly dictated profits (robbery), thirty billions worth of land, capital and money have been taken in thirty years from the inheritance and earnings of the people. Out of a total national wealth of sixty-five to seventy billions, thirty-seven billions are now owned and absolutely controlled by a few thousand monopolists. More than half the people are homeless or deeply in debt. And the harder the workers work the faster will the rich accumulate, and the sooner will they have means to finish buying the Republic.

The anti-trust law is very ornamental, but of no possible use. Trusts, monopolies and corporation combines are a legitimate offspring and part of selfish, struggling individualism. If one man may make inequitable terms and trades with his neighbor, two, three, a hundred or a thousand may pool their wealth and their advantages and make still better terms for themselves. If the liberty of the individual to make unjust prices and contracts is sacred, the liberty of any number of individuals to do likewise is sacred; and as a consequence universal freedom, the independence of the common people, is a fast vanishing dream.

But the People's party says, the trusts and perfected monopolies shall not exact tributes from and enslave the people. And it has a constitutional way to save our liberties, and to avert the impending revolution.

COMMENDATION WHICH CARRIES WEIGHT.

We take the liberty of printing from a letter received from Prof. Wm. A. Jones of Hastings a few words of commendation just received. He says: "Your cavigation of the later-Ocean man I thank you for. Lay on, spare not 'I'll do all I can to extend THE ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT so long as it will hit such blows as it does this week. It is an excellent number."

HON. JOHN STEBBINS writes us— "Dear Sir—You are on the right track. Your aim is all right; fire away at those who would destroy liberty. I have read and watched closely your course. Editorially you cannot say too much as to what the remedy for the present crisis ought to be. To succeed all the Populists have to do is to advocate a remedy in season and out." He urges that the Postal Savings bank and government loan system be advocated by our press.

"THE ORY OF THE POOR."

[The following article was written over two years ago by the present editor of this paper. It has greater force now than when written, because of the desperate condition of the vast army of the unemployed. For this reason and because it will now reach a large number of new readers, at the request also of several subscribers, it is reproduced, with slight changes:]

"When a man finds himself going down and down and down, without power to mend things; freezing, hungering and dying by inches, he's sure to get desperate. In the last week I've been an atheist, anarchist and devil. I've sat here and cried out that there was no God except for the rich. I've said that if I could get down stairs again I'd burn and kill. I've looked at wife and children with murder in my heart!"

These words were recently spoken to a reporter of the New York World by a sick man living with his wife and children in a dingy room on the third floor of a miserable tenement house in New York city. The poor man's hell, which they so truly, so graphically describe, is, however, but imperfectly comprehended, and awakens only surface sympathy, until we study his situation in the light of the following ordinary news item which we clip from another paper:

"At a dinner given in New York the other day to thirty-three persons the bill was \$6,500, or \$200 a plate."

Is there any certain connection between the two conditions and experiences of human life revealed by these common facts?

The hard working poor evidently think so.

Why did this man, sick and hungry and cold, cry out against the rich? Why, when he looked at his hollow-eyed wife and famishing, freezing children, did the spirit of destruction and murder struggle within him?

May we not even believe that he gave too hard a name to the spirit that moved him? Was it not the love of justice in an honest man, the hatred of injustice, and an intense love of wife and little ones, that burned in his soul and that made him fierce for judgment?

Let the rich beware. The poor in this land will not endure what the wage slaves of other lands have suffered. Human law and human teaching will not be revered when it is found that they contain for the poor neither justice nor mercy. All men love liberty. All desire happiness. And who shall stand in the way of their obtaining it? The poor were not made to be beasts of burden for the idle rich. They were not created to be the dependent slaves of scheming capitalists. Yet a part, a small part of the people, have so monopolized the means of production and exchange that they have enslaved the rest. Can the poor be blamed, then, if they declare their independence, and when pushed to the wall, fight for it?

More and more they realize that but for unjust laws they would have been born with equal rights in the earth, equal opportunities and privileges with all others. Why should they be obliged to beg for a place to work. Why must they sell their labor for less than it produces? Who forged the name of God and signed the deed to disinherit them? Is not God's curse upon those who "join house to house and lay field to field till there be no place?" Has He not made ample natural provision for all whom He creates, and planned for each a place where he may work to satisfy his needs? Who, then, are these who hold the keys of earth and stand with legal despotic power between it and the workers?

Nine out of every ten of our citizens, the worried, the anxious, the overburdened—as well as those who are out of work, and hungry—are thinking, studying, questioning. Why should not working and enjoying be inseparably united? How can the idle be rich and respectable? The whole productive class, forced to accept the tasks imposed by capitalists, groans and labors in pain together, and voiced or unvoiced one prayer is in all hearts.

"Go where I will I hear a sound Like sullen thunder shake the ground." Out of the mines it mutters. Above the roar of factories it rises. Wherever workmen meet it threatens. Where farmers stand allied it breaks with mighty voice—and the one word that all are saying is, "WE WANT NO KINGS."

O cruel travesty of freedom and just laws! O boasted land of liberty, where robbers rule! We pity the ancient state over which thirty tyrants reigned, while thirty thousand sit enthroned above us, and drive to treadmill till the nation's millions! In thirty years our thirty thousand kings have by monopoly secured one-half of all productions, half of all wealth in store. They now control all mines, all railroads, all factories and mills, all motive power and its machinery. They hold the lightning in their hands, and steam is their slave. For them the earth spouts oil. For them her iron, coal and every useful mineral was stored, it seems. To them come sixty millions for work and bread, and bow submissive to the money kings.

If all men are "created equal" none shall be allowed to enslave them. If each has an "inalienable right" to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," each must have a God-given title to such a portion of the earth and its

forces as is necessary to sustain life and gratify legitimate desires. The means of production must be equally possessed at birth, and none can be disinherited. Down then, with monopolies. Give back to each his birthright. Stand out of the factory's door. Take your Pinkerton's from the mines' mouths. Give to the people's representatives the keys to nature's common storehouses, and let willing workers enter to supply the needs. Make every man a worker, and secure to each the full product of his labor, or its equivalent labor product when he must needs exchange. Force men not working to consume what they with previous toil produced, instead of living as leeches, fastened to the weary muscles and sucking the life-blood of those who still must work. Harness Job's modern steeds to the flying car, to the whirling wheels, to tireless lever arms and iron fingers, to the common load of productive labor, and shorten and lighten the necessary work of each citizen an equal amount.

But where is the church which says, "Our Father," and prays, "Thy kingdom come?" Has it raised its voice against monopoly? Does it consider the poor and the common cause of their poverty? Does it "relieve the oppressed?" Does it "judge the fatherless," and "plead for the widow?" Does it face the usurer, the money lender, and say, God's curse is on you? Does it require its rich communicants to love the poor as they love themselves?

For the rich the church has demolished "the strait gate." With a little talk, some professed faith and a few dollars doled out in charity, they enter a palace car and are put to sleep by pleasing platitudes and monotonous, meaningless abstractions, expecting to wake up in heaven. But "How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God?" The parable of the rich man who had more than he needed, yet permitted the poor to suffer, and who waked up in hell, means something.

Not to the rich alone but to the church that shelters them, comes the word, "Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard."

MONOPOLY POWER AND TENDENCY.

If there is no restraint, no legal restriction upon any party, we may safely rest quietly and await results. So far the corporation fear has proven to be a bogaboo. If anything really demanding legislation should arise in the future, it can be dealt with then. The Attorney-General is entitled to thank himself a corporation lawyer—for putting the case, commercially and legally, clearly before the people. Very few persons, indeed, have a legal monopoly of any sort.—(The N. Y. Independent.)

The banks, for instance, have no monopoly, according to the new definition. There is no law restraining any five men or more from going into the banking business. But the refusal of the banks to loan money as usual brought on the panic and consequent commercial paralysis, and showed that they have a monopoly of necessary cash or credit. Nor can banks, with the limited volume of gold, if gold is to be the base of credit, increase in number and overthrow or reduce the grasp of, the money monopoly. Another thing. Monopolies of almost any and every sort do not, as the Independent is pleased to believe, necessarily call into existence competition which destroys them. After a certain advantage is gained, an economic advantage is secured, which enables them to destroy all rivals. And all monopolies by investment in the limited natural resources can command an ever-increasing tribute from the landless class and those whose land does not make them independent. The land monopoly and the money monopoly and the transportation monopoly can, in spite of all possible competition, absorb all surplus wealth and with it buy up in a comparatively short time all the natural resources of our people.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR PLATFORM.

The American Federation of Labor, at its recent annual meeting in Chicago adopted a twelve plank platform, calling for compulsory education, direct legislation, a legal eight-hour work day, sanitary, inspection of workshops, mines and homes, liability of employers for physical disability, abolition of contract labor in all public works, abolition of the sweating system, municipal ownership of street cars, electric lights and gas plants, national possession of telegraph, telephone, railroads and mines, collective ownership by the people of all means of production and distribution, the principle of referendum in all legislation.

This is the moral, political, social creed of 750,000 members of trades unions, men who vote in the cities. This vote should be joined with ours, and may be, if we can through exchange of ideas become acquainted.

HIS HIGHNESS, OLD GROVER.

The men in power across the water have a great regard for, an exalted opinion of, our American Dictator. His here untried deeds delight them. His subjugation of Congress (through official pig and gold-bug bribery), his trampling on the party pledges that elected him, his bold dethronement of the people's will and the making into law of his own and Wall street's—all this, in their opinion, entitles him to

the reverence Europeans give to their kings. The London Spectator, among other worshipful compliments, has this to say of His Highness:

He will be as efficient a factor in American politics as any continental monarch in those of his own country. Indeed, we doubt if Emperor William could have struck down a great and previously triumphant party, supported by a huge mass of interests, as President Cleveland has in a few short months struck down the silver men.

OUR readers will do well to make a note of the fact, that the Nebraska Savings and Investment Company of Omaha, and the National Guarantee and Investment Company of Lincoln, are included in a list of about fifty similar concerns which the Post Office Department has given orders to shut out from using the mails, not to deliver registered letters to them or cash money orders for them, and to prosecute them under the law prohibiting lotteries and denying the use of the mails for fraudulent purposes.

THE SPIRIT OF COMMERCIALISM.

The American republic has become a government of money, for money, and by money.—Caroline de Maupassant.

This is fearfully true. Politics has long been a money making business. Instead of the office seeking the man, there is always a scramble for the office. The strong, the selfish, the unscrupulous are usually elected. The sacred temple of justice, of law, has thus been profaned by Mammon worshippers, and license to rob the people has in numberless enactments been sold to favored classes. Among our lawmakers and stronger classes there seems to be no fear of God, no reverence for the rights of man, no noble, unselfish patriotism. Class legislation has been found to be a wonderfully valuable lawfully respectable help in transferring the earnings of the money into the pockets of the greedy. And to the whole time, nearly, of our law-making assemblies is spent in efforts to legislate for or against certain classes. It is all an individual and class war for money, for power. If there is no help for this, if we cannot revive in our people something better than the beastly business principle of "each for himself,"—if we cannot shame them out of grabbing, grinding, and groveling in mammon worship, the nation is doomed. The spirit of commercialism—the very opposite of what it ought to be, brotherly love—is destructive of patriotism. It is practical atheism, and will, if it is not subdued end in anarchy.

"WHO LIES? AN INTERROGATION."

This depression is not confined to the United States, but is world wide and has been steadily extending ever since the famous Barings collapse. In Europe the condition of affairs is much worse than here, being complicated by vexed social political and international difficulties. Of all countries in the world the United States shows the greatest recuperative powers, and will undoubtedly be the first nation to feel the revival already heavily overdue.—Financial Report.

Now see here. Either the financial writers are lying about this, or the entire Republican press is booked for a place in the brimstone lake. In the first place the Republicans, Democrats and usurers in one, grand, deafening, harmonious chorus declared that too much silver was destroying confidence and causing bankruptcy and ruin. Removing the cause we should remove the evil, they said.

It was done, but the evil only grew worse. Prices took a great tumble immediately, and the confidence promised with the Wilson bill passage has neither arrived from England, nor revived in America.

Then the Republicans went back on their own assertions, that silver money was ruining us, called their fellow-prevaricators liars, and declared that "No other cause for business stagnation than that of dread of tariff revolution can now be assigned." But this is now seen to be a trick of Republican politics; for there is no tariff scare in any other part of the world, and the depression is worldwide. And, take notice, it is not silver, nor tariff; but usury, the tribute of monopoly, that has caused it.

SOME THOUGHTS FOR THE THOUGHTFUL.

The demand for merchandise of all sorts is, however, of a strictly hand-to-mouth character. Rigid economies are being practiced at the mill, at the office and in the home, the effect of which cannot be otherwise than to greatly restrict consumption. Among the laboring classes there is much distress and many idle hands, all of which means that production must continue on a reduced scale until a reaction from this depression sets in.—Financial Report.

This begins to sound something like the teaching of Ruskin and common sense. "Consumption is the crown of production." The greater the number compelled to economize, the less will be the demand for labor. The economies of the poor and the middle class, and the accumulations of the rich, just as they lessen consumption, prevent production. Economy and accumulation are therefore the cause of poverty and lack of employment. But stunting, repressing economic are forced on the producing class by the capitalistic, net profit, monopoly system of production. The people today cannot buy back what they have produced and empty the markets, because the money paid them for filling