

THE ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT.

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N. I. P. A.



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

OWING to the large space occupied by Alliance matter and report of the Populist conference, we are compelled to hold over till our next issue a timely valuable communication from Mr. Mart Howe, bearing on the refusal of the state treasurer to obey the law regarding state warrants and investment of the state school funds, and comparing the work of the Populist and previous legislatures.

By report in the annual number of The Economist the Fall River cotton mill corporations have distributed dividends to idle stockholders, in this worst of years, amounting to from 10 to 25 per cent on their invested capital.

How the rich and the daily papers which speak for them howl over the proposed income tax! "Stamp out the income tax infamy," cries the New York Herald.

THE Republican party of Pennsylvania in its state convention last week declared that, "The simple anticipation of the Wilson bill has closed thousands of workshops. It has reduced to idleness 2,600,000 workers, and soup houses now displace former hives of industry."

THE STATE CONFERENCE

The State Conference of the Populists of Nebraska, held at Hastings last week, was a meeting of historical importance, and its date will mark the beginning of an era of party success and service which will secure the overthrow of all the monopoly forces.

With such perfected organization, reaching into every school district, the entire state can be polled in three days' time, and educational work by means of party literature, or direct personal influence, can be directed with utmost wisdom and economy.

Nebraska Populists have, we believe, led the way, and set the Populists of other states an example of political wisdom in this matter. In all other states our plan will be adopted, without doubt, by our political brethren.

Another evidence of sagacity and grasp of the situation was manifested by the expressed need and determination to push the circulation of our papers and party literature, papers especially. The eloquent speaker who dwelt upon the vital importance of increasing the circulation of our Populist papers was earnestly and unanimously applauded.

The future of the Populist party is bright with promise this year. We are going to sweep the state in November and place true, able Populists in all the state offices from Governor down, elect a sweeping majority to man the law-making body, and send Senator Allen a Populist colleague, in place of Manderson the monopolist.

JUSTICE, LOVE AND CHARITY.

Charity in these days is being made to cover a multitude of sins. "Society" is dancing it; the church is preaching it; the people are practicing it in unusual numbers and degree.

But does the church see and seize upon the duties of the hour? Only the least part of those duties. It is dealing weakly, inadequately with effects, and is making no examination of the unjust, sinful causes of the present distress.

work. Like conditions of enforced idleness and destitution prevail everywhere. Individual and social (legislative) sins are the cause of all this infinite suffering. And the church does not know what those sins are; it is not trying to learn who and what originated all this evil.

Here is appalling, unprecedented, most dreadful destitution on the one hand, and abundance of food, clothing and everything in the markets, while the money to empty the markets and warehouses is locked up in the banks and hoarded by the people whose needs are abundantly supplied.

It is because all production and the work of getting goods to market is carried on by the net profit method that labor, labor products and money do not pass in equal value exchange, and trade preserve an equilibrium of forces.

The church can see all this if it begins to think and examine monopoly questions. If it will not it stands convicted and condemned by braver, nobler, more unselfish moral leaders.

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THE mill men at the Carnegie iron works, Beaver Falls, Pa., are possessed of the idea that rents ought to be reduced when wages are reduced. The men who have recently been reduced in wages insist that it is impossible to continue paying high rents on low wages, and that the cut in rents must correspond with the cut in their wages.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

From Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., New York "PROBLEMS OF TO-DAY," by Prof. R. T. Ely, Ph. D., LL.D., Professor of Political Economy in Wisconsin State University. Pp. 295. Cloth \$1.50.

A YEAR OF ROBBER RULE UNPARALLELLED.

Neither retrospects nor forecasts afford material for cheerful contemplation just now. The record for 1893 was in many particulars one of unprecedented disaster, and it would be utterly unreasonable to expect this great wave of depression to disappear in a few short weeks or months.

So says the financial writer of the New York Independent. Observe, the whole commercial world is paralyzed, and consider what it means. The utterly unprincipled partisan press first agreed that the panic and consequent business depression was caused by too much money, by silver coinage under the Sherman law; and we were assured confidence would be restored, gold would flow back from Europe, American securities would be in demand, and business would boom as soon as the mints were closed against silver.

According to Bradstreet's failures among individuals, firms and business corporations (including banks which reported liabilities in excess of assets) amounted to \$403,000,000, nearly four times the corresponding totals of 1892.

Prices of the following staple articles have fallen, with one exception, and a trust controls that. The opening and closing price of the year is given below:

Table with 3 columns: Commodity, Opening, Closing. Includes Wheat, Corn, Pork, Lard, Sugar, etc.

All the while obligations, mortgages, notes and bonds, have not shrunk in the least. The reduction in price of goods has increased the value of every well secured debt.

We are reading for review that remarkable book, "A Social Vision," and that point in the story where Judge Rue resigns the ermine because "the unjust laws which he was bound to enforce proved too much for his nerves," and where it is added that "he is going to the legislature as a missionary," led us into a somewhat new and profitable train of thought.

Dr. H. S. ALEV, president of the Nationalist Club of Lincoln, has started a new monthly magazine "devoted primarily to domestic medicine and hygiene, secondarily to the cause of nationalism and all progressive ideas."

ADDRESS OF THE RETIRING PRESIDENT.

Brothers and Sisters of the Alliance: As we have met again in our yearly meeting it is well to take a retrospect of the past year; to take counsel of our experiences; to avoid in future the mistakes we have made in the past and to adopt more efficient methods, if possible, than we have used to accomplish the ends aimed at by our organization.

At our last annual meeting an attempt was made to systematize the educational efforts of the Alliance. An amendment to the constitution was adopted requiring the executive committee to prepare a manual for the use of the Alliances in the state, and a further amendment requiring its use in the Alliance meetings.

A resolution was also passed at the last state meeting upitting the Nebraska State Alliance with the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union.

While this union did not require any change in the Alliance constitutions of the state, it did make it necessary to change the ritual and secret work. This, with the introduction of the use of the manual, rendered it desirable, and really necessary for the prosperity of the order, that the Alliances in every county should be visited by an officer of the state Alliance and instructed in the new plan and work.

But these officers were both poor men with families depending on them for support, and could not give up their whole time to the work without adequate financial support.

Your president, besides preparing the new secret work and assisting in the preparation of the manual, has visited 28 counties during the year, holding from one to ten meetings in each, and counselling and instructing the brethren.

A resolution was also passed at the State meeting recommending the Alliance Aid Degree to the Alliances of the State. In accordance therewith the State was visited by Bro. Alonzo Wardall, the National Guardian of the Degree, during the month of May; holding a number of meetings in connection with Bro. Wright and the president and awakening considerable interest in this new feature of the Alliance work.

The strength of the Alliance consists in the co-operation of its members; and this can only be maintained by frequent and regular meetings and conference.

The circumstances which led to the resignation of the office of secretary and treasurer by Bro. J. M. Thompson, and the subsequent appointment of Miss Elsie Buckman to that office, will be fully explained by the report of the Executive Committee. Miss Buckman seems to have fulfilled the duties of the office in an able and satisfactory manner and I think deserves the warm thanks of the Alliance for the patience and perseverance with which she has met and surmounted the difficulties which have surrounded the office ever since she assumed its duties.

On account of the fact that the Aid Degree cannot from the nature of its constitution be introduced except to active Alliances in good standing, Bro. W. F. Wright of Lancaster county was authorized to re-organize old Alliances and to organize new ones throughout the State. He will doubtless during the progress of the meeting render a report of the work accomplished in his special department during the time he has been engaged in it.

There are many people outside the Alliance, and a few who were once members, who assert that the Farmers' Alliance has accomplished the objects for which it was created and should therefore be given up.

The objects of the Alliance are first, and principally, educational. Grand as the common school system of our State is, and able and competent as the higher institutions of learning may be, they none of them include education in political duties.

to protect the people in their God-given rights, or to assist and render efficient their efforts for prosperity and happiness. This is so apparent that it requires no argument, far among those who have enjoyed, and made the most assiduous use of these advantages, will be found all shades of political opinions and the most diverse views in regard to their political duties; while they substantially agree in regard to what they have been taught in the schools.

The public press, wonderful as its educational power and influence is, does not produce any more satisfactory results in the way of political education. This agency cannot be made efficient without great expense, and so it happens that to a great extent it is under the influence of the rich and unprincipled, who use it to advocate their own selfish schemes, and by the most skillful sophistry mislead the people in regard to the best means of retaining their liberties and defending their rights.

Neither do the speeches and writings of our statesmen and lawmakers give the people the necessary political education. Those who read the speeches delivered in congress and the record of the proceedings there, find that our lawmakers are further from agreeing on the questions which most affect the welfare of the people than the people themselves; and show that instead of being reliable political educators they have not, as a class, attained the knowledge necessary to appreciate the political duties of the ordinary citizen.

Second. Co-operation in the management of their own business is as absolutely necessary to the prosperity of the farmers as any other business class, and there is great weight to the reproach so often uttered, "If farmers would attend to their own business closer they would be better off."

The attempts of farmers to co-operate in business hitherto have been mostly in the line of mercantile or grain shipping business. In these, on the whole, they have not been successful. The reason of this is apparent. When persons try to co-operate in carrying on a business without understanding its details, the chances must be against success.

But farmers undoubtedly do understand farming in all its details, and should be jealous of the interference of others in the management of it. When the farmers intelligently and justly set the prices of all the products of their industry, as the merchants do of their merchandise and the manufacturers do of their products, or get them established by law, as the producers or possessors of gold have done; then indeed, and not till then, they may be said to be minding their own business, and will have attained one great step toward emancipation from industrial slavery.

Until these objects are attained let no farmer say, "the objects of the Alliance are accomplished."

No. The work of the Alliance is not finished. So long as the farmers of our country permit a few speculators to absorb the most of the wealth their labor produces, so long as they are dependent on the caprice, or cupidity, of a few soulless corporations for the money that is necessary for the exchange of their products, and the payment of their debts. So long as the political conventions, the elections, legislatures, congress, the higher courts, and even the highest executive officer of the government are controlled by the money power, there is much, very much for the Alliance to do.

And if in succeeding generations the duties and responsibilities of self-government shall still rest upon the people as God grant that they always may, the same education and co-operation of the farmers will be continually necessary as at present; and the Alliance, or some similar organization, must exist, or the farmers will be enslaved. In fact, preparation for performing the duties of citizens must run parallel with the existence of those duties, and be perpetual.

The Alliance has not been a failure. It has, during the short time it has existed, created among the farmers of this state, and the other states in which it has been established, a higher degree of intelligence in regard to law and government, and a clearer understand-