

THE ALLIANCE-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 hasty hand to do a wrong

N. I. P. A.



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

We call our readers' attention especially this week to a very notable, valuable article contributed by Hon. H. H. Moses of Ohio, an article entitled "Farmers Rights and the Railroads," found on page 8.

THE plutocrats are going mad in their blind effort to fasten bonds upon the people.

THERE are a few Democratic dailies that are opposed to bonds and bondage, and the Atlanta Constitution is one of them.

THE Atlanta Constitution says, "If the Democratic policy is to be outraged and violated by a bond issue, let genuine Democrats wash their hands of it."

If Carlisle, backed by the Democratic administration and the John Sherman Republicans, fastens bonds on the people, the people will rise in their wrath and fling them from power.

THERE is a voice or two raised among our Populist exchanges to nominate candidates who are not known and known not to be Populists. This seems to us decidedly premature.

THE men who issue and fasten bonds upon the people should be made to wear striped clothes and work on the public streets with a ball and chain attachment to their understanding.

It is a mistake to suppose that the South Carolina liquor law is what is called for by the new platform of the Nebraska Farmers Alliance. The South Carolina law provides for a hundred per cent profit, thereby encouraging illicit sales for profit, and making it the financial interest of the state to sell as much as possible.

We forgot to mention editorially that our friend, Hon. J. M. Devine, of state and national fame, has been retained in Washington as office manager of the National Bimetallist League Headquarters. It is a position he is eminently qualified to fill.

AN EXPLANATION AND REPARATION.

The editor of this paper felt compelled in last week's issue to relate what he had reason to believe was a matter of fact, and upon the basis of that supposed fact to severely criticize the writer of the report of the action of our State Conference published in the previous week's issue of the Nonconformist.

Through a peculiarly unfortunate misunderstanding a mistake was made, a mistake which no one can be blamed for, but we wish to repair the injury done. We wish to make the complete reparation which truth and justice call for, and have therefore written the following letter, which fully explains the whole matter. The original was last week forwarded to the Nonconformist.

GENTLEMEN:—I wrote you this morning calling your attention to editorials in our this week's issue criticising the report of our State Conference sent you by Mr. Edgerton. He has since seen here to see me and has convinced me that I was not correctly informed about one important matter, which my writing was based on.

Our business manager understood him to say that his report was written before the Conference acted. It happened this way: Another man on the street, having read his report in our office, the report published in your paper, chafed him about it and said he must have written the matter before it occurred.

Mr. Edgerton has brought me today what he considers justifies and substantiates the above statement regarding our Conference action. It is found on a smaller sheet of paper enclosed, in his own handwriting, as he brought it to me.

I was present at the January 3d session of the Conference. During that session a motion to appoint a committee on platform and resolutions was promptly voted down, after a speaker had pointed out that the Conference (not being a regularly elected, delegated body, chosen for that purpose) had no right or power to take such action.

It is apparent on the face of it that the committee exceeded its authority in bringing in such a recommendation, and the Conference in adopting it. Its own action in refusing to act on the matter proves this.

Now as to the recommendation itself. It is to be remembered that it was part of a report whose chief features were "plan and organization." These other features drew particular attention. Notice also that the language of the recommendation is very ambiguous. It may be construed to mean much or little.

and exchange. That the committee as well as the Conference did not understand it to mean simply free coinage of silver seems certain from the separate expression regarding silver.

From these considerations we conclude that, this recommendation going through without discussion (a fact, I am told), each man who voted for it did it without more than momentary consideration, and it meant to each more or less, according to his individual views, by an ambiguous power of adaptation.

Since writing the above letter we have been informed by part of the committee which brought in the plan and organization report at the conference (the report containing the recommendation which is printed and commented on in the foregoing letter), that they did not as a committee intend to recommend, or wish it understood that they recommended, that the Omaha platform be dropped.

NOT MANY GREAT ARE CALLED. The lawyers, bankers, railroad managers and editors who furnish the brains and boodle and run the old party machines, look loftily down on the Farmers Alliance, the grangers, the political "hayseeds" and the organized city laborers.

Colleges and universities have a natural tendency toward scientific and economic dogmatism, the limitation of know-it-allism, which supports always the social crust and stratification of society. Changes come never from the class above, the well-to-do, the teachers, the professionally gowned and ecclesiastically endorsed and sent.

Mr. Frederick declares that "When the People's party was organized there was already a party in existence which demanded reforms almost identical with those now being advocated by the new party."

This is a very great mistake, which we could clearly show if we had space to print and compare our platform demands. The national Prohibition party has a goldbug head and a silver and greenback tail.

In this issue of our paper we are pleased and proud to say Prof. Jones gives us the first of a series of articles entitled, "An Outgrown System and Social Needs." Find it on page five.

THE government is in need of money; but the government, we are told, can no longer coin its metal or issue non-interest bearing legal tender paper. The government must borrow of the bankers what it has given the bankers. It must exchange its interest-bearing bonds for gold which the banks can purchase with their non-interest bearing paper currency.

OUR FRIENDS THE PROHIBITIONISTS

The New Republic, organ of the Nebraska Prohibition party, in its last issue, says, "If there is an honest and conscientious man in the People's party (and there are many of them) Mr. Gibson is one of them. But honest and well-meaning men are often deceived."

"The very foundation of all morality" assertion is what rubs and arouses our Prohibition brother. There has always been a good deal of self-satisfaction rising up in the breasts of Prohibitionists from the belief that they were really the only "God-and-morality party."

The trouble with our high moral critics is, they do not comprehend any evil except the evil which they have given almost their whole attention to for many years. Until the People's party appeared prohibition was all the Prohibitionists agreed on, and woman suffrage all they quarreled over.

Mr. Frederick declares that "When the People's party was organized there was already a party in existence which demanded reforms almost identical with those now being advocated by the new party."

Now as to their anti-monopoly ideas and their effect on them. Take the railroad monopoly, for example. The Prohibition party in Nebraska is a long way in advance of the national party, and stimulated by our teaching has adopted exactly our railroad doctrine and platform demand.

But think for a moment of the consistency and influence of those who stand on the platform they do, riding about on railroad paces. Can it be believed that the railroad managers will carry

men over the state without charge whose political influence in the least degree injures them? Is it not absolutely certain that passes are never given to or accepted by the actual, effective railroad anti-monopolists?

We have not space this week to discuss the question of what constitutes the "base of morality," but refer our prohibition friends to some few thoughts on usury given in another column. Much more might have been added on that subject.

THE LIQUOR PLANK OF THE ALLIANCE PLATFORM.

One of the recently adopted planks of the Nebraska Farmers Alliance platform reads as follows:

We believe the solution of the liquor problem lies in the elimination of the element of profit, and therefore demand that the sale of liquor shall be exclusively carried on by the state at cost through salaried officials in such municipalities as shall apply for such generalities, and that the national government shall regulate the importation, manufacture and transportation of all intoxicants so as to protect the states in their exclusive management.

The evils growing out of the present legalized system of liquor selling are universally conceded to be great. What reason have we to believe that those evils could be to the largest possible degree removed under the exclusive public conduct of the business, which the Farmers Alliance calls for?

We quote from a very practical and very high authority when we say that, "The love of money is a root of all evils." The business of selling liquor, with all its evil features, is now carried on for money. The desire to obtain money easily, without labor, is what prompts men to engage in it and to provide with it social and gambling and sensual attractions.

The liquor sellers who now find it to their interest and make it their business to play the tempter, to financially prey upon, physically debauch and morally ruin men by alluring them into the coils of the fearful drink habit, must be interfered with. The American saloon must go. But it is growing faster than it is going, in spite of the utmost efforts of political prohibitionists and high license restriction lists.

As long as there is a great profit to be obtained selling liquor, the sale of it will be pushed, and no state will be able to rest in peace after outlawing the liquor business. The root of the evil we believe to be the love of money, the opportunity under present liquor laws to make money. Cut off the possibility of making money out of it by providing state agents to sell it at cost, and it will close all saloons, stop all illicit selling, reduce sales to actual or supposed needs, and leave education regarding the abuse of alcoholic liquors to complete its work unhindered, unopposed.

Hon. J. W. EDGERTON has lately removed from Omaha to Grand Island and opened a law office in company with Samuel F. Brigham. His political principles have cost him dear in Omaha, and he is forced to begin life over again, as it were. Omaha is a hard place for reformers of note to thrive in.

SILVER AND POPULISTS.

[The following article from the Populist Tribune of Montana, one of the silver mining states, suits us exactly, and it is especially worth careful reading by those among us who fancy it wise to drop out of sight or keep in the background our national platform. The national platform is what binds us all together. It unites us beyond the power of local issues or interests to pull us apart. It furnishes our party in every state and section of the country the reason and ground for local existence, and the rational inducements needful to draw anti-money-monopolists of every variety, anti-land-monopolists, anti-monopolists of any and every sort, unto us. This has never been brought out more clearly than this silver state Populist paper shows it.—EDITOR ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT.]

The above shows what the Inter Mountain has always contended, viz: that the Populists, outside of the mining states, are not so much advocates of silver money as they are of more money. The Populist party is not distinctively a silver party, except in the Rocky Mountain states, and here they are no more friendly to silver than the republicans are.

It is true, as the Inter Mountain says, that the Populist party is not a distinctively silver money party, but it is the only national political party which favors the free coinage of gold and silver at a ratio of 16 to 1.

The Populists regard the fight between goldbugs and silverites merely as an incident in the grand struggle now going on between those who have and those who have not—a contest the money power is waging against the laboring masses. They hold that convertible money is not necessary to the existence of our government, and, therefore, contend that an issue of proper money by the government—a legal tender for all debts, public and private—would meet every demand of the business world if never a dollar of gold or silver were coined.

The suggestion of the Inter Mountain that the Populist party of Montana act with the Republicans at the polls in the interest of silver is somewhat amusing. The record of the Republican party in congress upon the silver question is not assuring to the Populist mind; neither is that of the present Democratic party. The old parties are too shaky upon any given policy—silver or otherwise.

How long will it take the majority to learn that usury, in the broad biblical sense, is the great parent evil, the prolific source of poverty and riches, of suffering and suffering, of enmity and anxiety, of proud arrogance and degrading dependence? Usury enables one class to enjoy without labor, and forces another class to labor without enjoying. It debases work by enslaving the workers, it discourages strict honesty, and rewards the spirit of covetousness. It is the child and multiplier of monopoly privileges and power.

It makes speculation possible, and by introducing and spreading uncertainty throughout the whole system of production and exchange, it makes it unsafe for men to be either just or generous. It forces brutally upon us all. It compels us in business to be supremely selfish in order to live; and out of the struggle and scramble all the evil fruits of selfishness are brought forth. It spreads distrust, envy, vanity, sycophancy, tyranny, hypocrisy, caste and class antagonisms. It destroys all