

THE WEALTH MAKERS.

New Series of THE ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT. Consolidation of the Farmers Alliance and Neb. Independents. PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY The Wealth Makers Publishing Company, 1125 N. St., Lincoln, Nebraska.

GEORGE HOWARD GROOM, Editor J. S. HYATT, Business Manager



N. I. P. A.

"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"

PUBLISHERS' ANNOUNCEMENT. The subscription price of THE WEALTH MAKERS is \$1.00 per year, in advance. Agents in soliciting subscriptions should be very careful that all names are correctly spelled and proper postoffice given.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION

J. S. Hyatt, Business Manager of The Wealth Makers Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of THE WEALTH MAKERS printed during the six months ending October 11, 1894, was 211,200. Weekly average, 8,123.

ADVERTISING RATES.

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Send Us Two New Names

With \$2, and your own subscription will be extended One Year Free of Cost.

The United States Bakers' Trust stands between those who pray for daily bread and the Almighty, and says to both, "We are running the bread business, and unless our price is paid for it, it is no use to pray."

On the question in the senate of voting gold bonds, which Cleveland in his message urged, two-thirds of the affirmative votes were from Republicans, three-quarters of the negative votes were from Democrats. The Populists were of course unanimously against the bonds.

A BILL has passed the Kansas senate to reduce stock yard charges about 50 per cent. A committee of investigation appointed by the house is soon to report and no further action will be taken until the committee which is visiting the stock yards at Kansas City is heard from.

The People's party central committee of Chicago held a meeting Feb. 5, which was largely attended. Resolutions were passed declaring for a middle of the road policy and opposing fusion, and a resolution was added requiring that each delegate taking a seat in the approaching convention must subscribe to the middle of the road policy.

The Pops are a wild and woolly set of anarchists no doubt, but where is the governor of any state who has displayed more quiet, gentlemanly dignity coupled with calm, conservative decision, than have been shown by Nebraska's Populist governor during his first six weeks of executive responsibility? Governor Holcomb is a credit to Nebraska as well as to the Populists who elected him.

It is seldom that a meeting of the city council of Lincoln occurs without giving occasion for our Populist mayor to veto some scheme of our Republican council. The recent attempt of the council to give Messrs. Green & Van Buyn \$13,000 as a commission for selling some refunding bonds of the city is in keeping with other schemes of the gang. It is fortunate that a people's mayor stands guard over the people's interests in Lincoln.

If we had an inheritance tax in the United States such as they enforce in England it would slice down the big fortunes. The estate of John Walter, the late proprietor of the London Times, an estate of \$1,300,000, had to pay over \$100,000 inheritance tax. Jay Gould's heirs at the same rate would have been compelled to pay about \$8,000,000. Let us keep up with Great Britain in reducing the power of commercial kings.

WEALTH AGAINST COMMONWEALTH

We have just finished reading Henry D. Lloyd's new book, Wealth Against Commonwealth, and found it more interesting than fiction, more startling than any tragedy. It is the story of the rise of commercial kings among us, their early conspiracies and conquests, their way to power, the absorption of the natural stores and control of transportation, their enormous tribute drawn from all the people, their successful attempts to ruin all rivals and obtain privileges which put an end to competition, leaving them power to decree prices of goods and labor, a power which increases by what it feeds on and has no limitation of increase until all workers the world around shall be reduced to complete destitute dependence, and shall have received upon their backs the heaviest burdens of productive toil and self denial they can stagger and live under.

Mr. Lloyd has devoted years of most diligent, faithful, expensive research to the gathering of the facts which he has put together in this great book. They have been found in the reports of state and congressional committees, in reports of the later State Commerce Commission in the voluminous records of the courts; and part of his evidence of the means and workings of the monster monopolies have been obtained direct from the lips of living witnesses who have been ruined by their power, or have, from inside sources, had intimate knowledge of their schemes and doings.

The concentration of wealth is absorbing and destroying the commonwealth. The growth of monopolies has been the cause of, and has kept exactly equal to, the spread of poverty. The corporations, syndicates and trusts raise prices and curtail production because there is too much oil, coal, lumber, iron and flour, to sustain the prices to provide the profit they last after. At the same time the people who produce all wealth suffer from cold and hunger, and never have all their legitimate wants supplied.

Mr. Lloyd gives the full history of the rise and growth of the Standard Oil Trust, "the parent of the trust system," that seeing it we may have a clear conception of the whole family of trusts, whose features and workings are the same. The home of the Oil Trust is Cleveland. Its conquest of the oil business was made possible by what Mr. Lloyd calls "the smokeless rebate," a secret agreement with the railroads by which the trust secured not only very much lower rates on its own shipments of oil, but also all the excess in freight charges which its rivals paid. It was a secret weapon that struck down all rivals, a noiseless, invisible force of universal sweep and worldwide range which the private ownership of public highways put into the control of men of unlimited greed. The railroads in this favoritism, by their special rates and rebates, have also built up the coal combines, the dressed beef and pork trusts, and other great monopolies that draw tribute from all the people. Mr. Lloyd vividly describes the effects of "the smokeless rebate" in the oil regions, the panics it caused in oil speculations and among oil property holders, the bank violence almost of civil war in Pennsylvania. Many, ruined, committed suicide. Hundreds were forced into bankruptcy and insane asylums. But while every one else was failing half a dozen men whom the railroads were favoring were rising to thrones of wealth and power unparalleled. It was wading through slaughter to a throne. It was the financial destruction of many to enrich a few. The first of the six (John D. Rockefeller) started a little oil refinery in Cleveland in 1862. Prior to that he had been a book-keeper and then a partner in a very small country-produce store. He conceived the scheme of getting "the smokeless rebate" at work, and first associated with him his brother and an English mechanic who was bought out by them later. In two or three years another partner was added who began life as a clerk in a country store and had been in the salt and lumber business in the west. A young man who had been in the oil regions only eleven years (two of the years as an errand boy), a lawyer, a railroad man, a cotton broker, a farm laborer who had become a refiner, were at different times admitted into the circle of the ruling coterie.

By their first contract with the railroads handling oil the managers agreed to, (1) double freight rates, (2) not to charge the Oil Trust the increase, (3) to give them the increase from all competitors, (4) to make any other changes of rates necessary to guarantee their success in business, (5) to destroy their competitors by high freight rates, (6) to spy out the details of their competitors' business. Understand, these rates, in some cases more than doubled, were to be ostensibly charged to all shippers, but the oil combination, then called the South Improvement Company, was to have it paid back as a rebate, and the extra charge by increase of rates paid by others was not kept by the railroads, but was paid over to the ruling oil coterie. The result was all that reason could have foreseen would result. One refiner after another was ruined and his plant was bought in by the new oil kings at their own terms (an eighth to half what it was worth or would have been worth could he have secured as good freight rates as any other refiner), and with his own money which "the smokeless rebate" had secretly transferred from his own account to the pockets of his favored rival.

The Oil Kings as they rose to power were discovered and fought in the markets and courts, with pipe lines, and by refiners also who had water-way outlets; but not till their power by railway favoritism had become so great they could and did buy up courts and legislatures. They hired men to blow up rival refineries regardless of life that might be destroyed. They suborned witnesses and perjured themselves. They spirited away witnesses and tried to lead them into debauchery and ruin. They got control of the oil business by using the railroads, as modern highwaymen, to rob and ruin their rivals for them. They kept absolute control of it by fighting pipe lines, forcibly tearing up pipes and by obstruction in the courts to use up the means and wear out and so get power to finally buy up pipe line stockholders. They taxed the people by dismantling or limiting the output of absorbed refineries and holding up prices enough to employ the most brilliant legal talent (solicitors and judges) to wear out their competitors and to save themselves from criminal convictions beyond such as allowed fines to serve as penalties. The court records against the Oil Trust mysteriously disappeared out of the document-room taking with them the story of a woman's business whom the Trust destroyed. They succeeded in getting the investigation of the Committee of Commerce of Congress in 1872 suppressed, the testimony before the House Committee of Commerce in 1876 was stolen, and testimony on record taken by Congress in the Buffalo Explosion Case in 1888 was mutilated.

In the year 1878 "the smokeless rebate" robbed the other refiners and shippers of \$3,093,750, which vast sum was turned over to the Oil Kings. In the investigations made by courts and commissions the railroads refused to bring their contracts before the public, alleging as a reason that "it might incriminate us."

The Oil Trust after obtaining control of the business shut out a new process which an oil refiner had patented which greatly cheapened and improved the product violently, destroyed his works by its hired agents, because it would necessitate the destruction of the large capital invested in their machinery and their plants in part if permitted to come into use. They also systematically saved by making a poorer, less perfectly refined oil, using absolute power for selfish ends as men always do. Mr. Lloyd in this great work has given us the history of the rise of commercial despots among us, and the secret sources of their growing power, the unguarded quarter thrown open by granting to private corporations the public highways, by which the wealth of the people is being absorbed and our independence gradually lost. He shows that "Liberty and monopoly cannot live together;" that the power of monopoly to extend and multiply itself is subversive of the rights of all who come into commercial relations with it. In his closing chapter the author sums up the situation in part in two paragraphs which we quote below: We have a people like which none has ever existed before. We have millions capable of conscious co-operation. The time must come in social evolution when the people can organize the free-will to choose salvation which the individual has been cultivating for 1900 years, and can adopt a policy more dignified and more effective than leaving themselves to be kicked along the path of reform by the recoil of their own vices. We must bring the size of our morality up to the size of our cities, corporations and combinations, or they will be brought down to fit our half grown virtue. Industry and monopoly cannot live together. Our modern perfection of exchange and division of labor cannot last without equal perfection of morals and sympathy. Every one is living at the mercy of every one else in a way entirely peculiar to our times. Nothing is any longer made by man; parts of things are made by parts of men, and become whole by the luck of good-humor which so far keeps men from flying asunder. It takes a whole company to make a match. A hundred men will easily produce a hundred million matches, but not one of them could make one match. No farm gets its plough from the cross-road black smith, and no one in the chilled-steel factory knows the whole plough. The life of Boston hangs on a procession of reciprocities which must move, as steadily and sweetly as the roll of the planets, between its bakeries, the Falls of St. Anthony, and the valley of the Red River. Never was there a social machinery so delicate. Only on terms of love and justice can men endure contact so close. The style of the book is above praise, and the author's grasp of conditions, forces and individuals and social necessities requiring change, make him perhaps the greatest social leader of this generation. He has in Wealth Against Commonwealth turned on a great light that must awaken the slumbering love of justice and independence in the American people, and that will alarm the monopolists as well as the more intelligent of the masses. Wealth Against Commonwealth, by Henry D. Lloyd. Published by Harper & Brothers, Franklin Square, New York. Pages 563. Price \$2.50.

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The Republican papers are beginning their regular semi-annual shout for the best men to rush forward and control the nominations of their party. This kind of talk always precedes the city elections in the spring and the general elections in the fall. Then when the nominations are made, in accordance with the dictation of the corporations, these papers swallow the whole ticket at one gulp and shout "stand by the party;" and, alas! how many voters are pulled into line against their own better judgment. When shall we become men with minds of our own?

There is a movement on foot, reported in the Washington dispatches to the Chicago Times, World-Herald and other papers, to split the Democratic party on the silver question. It is stated that the silver men have formulated a program or program to consolidate the anti-administration 16 to 1 free coinage Democrats and capture the next national Democratic convention, if possible. In the event of capturing it they will name a free silver candidate and make silver the issue, but expect all the eastern Democrats and what gold basis Democrats there are in the West and South to bolt such action. On the other hand it is stated that if they fail to get control of the convention, they, the silver men, "will bolt the convention in a body, call a convention of their own, frame their platform and name their man for the presidency." To this bolting action at the convention, on the contingency named, men are now being pledged, it is reported. Bryan, Bland, Bailey, Whiting, Fithian, McLaurin, McGuire, Cox and Boatner are named as the leaders who have the movement most in hand, but about sixty congressmen are reported to be in it. It is stated that these sixty or more Democratic silver leaders will organize immediately, and before congress closes, the 4th of March, issue an open letter to the silver men of the Democratic party. "Should Populists, like Simpson, Pence and McKeighan, or Republicans like Jones, and Dubois and Pettigrew, who profess free silver as a cardinal point of politics, join in this silver movement, they must join as Democrats, under the flag of Democracy. There will be no fusion; nothing that will permit the claim now or hereafter, that the people involved and the party constructed are anything but the pure Democrats." Bailey and Bryan have been asked by Bland and others to prepare the letter. It will, it is said, declare for free coinage of gold and silver at 16 to 1 as the fixed policy of the government, against national banks, for a tariff for revenue only and a return to strict construction of the constitution to preserve states' rights. It will be signed by every silver Democrat in the house and senate. It is in short the same plan on a national scale to capture the national convention that the Bryanites put through here in Nebraska to capture the state convention. If the report is reliable—and the next few weeks will make it clear if it is—there will be two Democratic parties in 1896, or there will be a Democratic party in the West and South, and the eastern Democrats will go over to the Republicans. Now how would this affect the Populist party? It will undoubtedly draw away from us such as consider free coinage the "cardinal point" or principal plank in our platform. Are there many such? We think not. And we can spare without real injury the one-idea men who are at present trying in vain to trim our sails and throw overboard our ballast. Some of our leaders—and we might as well call some of them by name—Taubeneck, Turner, Weaver and a small percentage in the state organizations like them—think they are "practical politicians," and that all the rest, including nine-tenths of the party leaders, should be nosed about by them. These "practical" fellows are for the most part honest men, but lacking in breadth and depth of mind or strength of moral convictions. They really believe, perhaps, that a reform party can be advanced by changing its front, by dropping out its principal demands, by scheming and fusing with and being smarter than the politicians of other parties. Taubeneck and Weaver, perhaps, think it will be fatal to us if another party for free silver is organized, and that it is policy for us to slip out of sight those stumbling stones and rocks of offense in our platform that are called socialistic, viz., the demand for the government ownership of the railroads, telegraphs, telephones and banks, the last to provide money for all at labor cost "not to exceed two per cent per annum." There is, however, an element causing disharmony who are not and never were Populists from intelligent comprehension and moral conviction. Their minds are filled with the dust of the past, or by natural feebleness of understanding they can not think out clearly something better and juster than the old; or they have come to us for what they could get out of the movement by being brought into public notice and being paid one way or another for acting their part. The Populist party press, state and national organs, we happen to know, is almost to the last paper unchanged in its devotion to the Populist principles embraced in the Omaha platform. And not only do our party editors know what the party principles are, but they know the minds of the rank and file as none others can, and they and their supporters will not be turned aside by schemers inside and outside the party. Let the Democrats split if they want to. Let them organize a free silver fourth party if they choose. Those who want something more than the coinage of both silver and gold and government paper based on it, will stay with us and come to us out of all parties. The one-idea ("pure Democrat") party may play quite a part in the next campaign, but it cannot win on a reform that promises nothing more than to restore the financial laws of the past. The party of

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the people is the party of progress, of new ideas and measures, and none other can be the party of the present and the future. ASHAMED OF OUR PRINCIPLES In the Senate, January 15th, last, Nebraska's Populist Senator essayed to prove that the Populist party is not "full of vagaries," and that its leadership is not "composed of a class of vagarists and idealists," as our political enemies maliciously declare. He assumed to speak for the party, to be its voice to all the world, and yet, strange to say, he did not stand on or defend the platform of the party, but substituted a platform containing thirteen planks never before seen or heard of, a platform presumably of his own construction, and tried to palm it off as "embracing the principles of the Populist party." The Populist party is not honored by any such defense, by misrepresentation, by declaring its principles and demands to be what it has not in convention assembled declared them. No man, be he great or small, high or low, member of Congress or private in the ranks, has any authority to declare any doctrines or demands not found in the Omaha platform to be "the principles of the Populist party." Observe carefully what Mr. Allen, calling himself a Populist, elected to his present position because of professed allegiance to our national platform of principles, declares "embrace the principles of the Populist party," and what he has really left out of and interpolated into the original text. His first three planks are on the financial question, and contain no demand for postal savings banks and money in some way provided at "not to exceed two per cent per annum." The money question is the interest question. He does not recognize it. Therefore he is not half a Populist on the financial issue. On the transportation, telegraph and telephone questions he is no Populist at all, because he repudiates the party demands, that these shall be owned and operated by the government in the interest of all the people and falsely says that our party asks (compare platform) for laws to regulate corporations and correct their abuses. On the land question Mr. Allen is absolutely silent, yet says his thirteen previously unseen planks embrace the Populist party principles. Senator Allen seems to be of opinion that he carries the Populist party under his hat, that when he speaks it speaks, and that he can lead it off and away from its national platform. His efforts to fuse with the Democrats in the last campaign and this gross, unpardonable misrepresentation of our plainly enunciated demands and principles, fill us with the keenest disappointment. He is ashamed of those who honored and trusted him. He has misrepresented and brought dishonor upon the people who lifted him to his present high position. He has publicly kicked from under him their platform, the platform on which he was elected, and made another radically different, which he knows to be such, yet calls it by the old name. Does he wish to divide the party? The bankers belong to the genus Sanguisuga (bloodsucker), and have in Sheridan county, this state, followed their instincts. The Populists four years ago passed a law requiring county treasurers to deposit county funds with banks and receive interest therefor for the county, instead of dividing it up between themselves the bankers and the political machine, as had been the practice. But the Sheridan county bankers got up a combination this year to defeat the law and refused to bid against each other for the use of the county funds. Their mutually agreed on bids being too low, were rejected by the county commissioners, whereupon the banks which contained the county balances refused to carry the money longer, and the commissioners demanded that they turn over the funds on hand. Then the banks played their last card by getting 18,000 silver dollars, the sum belonging to the county, and paid them over. There were several times more of the cartwheels than the county safe would hold, and they had to be dumped into the court house in bags and barrels, and guarded by armed men until arrangements could be made with banks elsewhere to take the deposit. The greed of the banking fraternity is only limited by their power. GREECE is bankrupt, and "Germany and England are reported to have considered a naval demonstration to secure the interests of their subjects who hold stock in the Hellenic debt." That is the way to do it, collect usury at the cannon's mouth, all that the workers can live under. Prove that governments are merely the means which the real rulers, the world's creditors, collect tribute with. Let debtors be given a warning from the two greatest powers of Europe, that they must sell all they have to pay interest obligations, or war will be declared and their country devastated with all the death-dealing instruments of modern invention. If something is not done such as England did in Egypt when she made war on the Khedive to force the payment of interest that made hopeless slaves of the fellahen, debtors of one country after another may refuse the pound of flesh to foreign creditors, and it will no longer be possible for tribute to be drawn from the citizens of our country to enrich and add ever-increasing

power to individual citizens of another country. Why, the disposition to be free might even spread to the debtors in the United States, and then it would be a question whether all the armies and navies of Europe could subdue that great power and force her people back into the bondage they now think honorable!

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In the Senate, January 15th, last, Nebraska's Populist Senator essayed to prove that the Populist party is not "full of vagaries," and that its leadership is not "composed of a class of vagarists and idealists," as our political enemies maliciously declare. He assumed to speak for the party, to be its voice to all the world, and yet, strange to say, he did not stand on or defend the platform of the party, but substituted a platform containing thirteen planks never before seen or heard of, a platform presumably of his own construction, and tried to palm it off as "embracing the principles of the Populist party." The Populist party is not honored by any such defense, by misrepresentation, by declaring its principles and demands to be what it has not in convention assembled declared them. 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On the transportation, telegraph and telephone questions he is no Populist at all, because he repudiates the party demands, that these shall be owned and operated by the government in the interest of all the people and falsely says that our party asks (compare platform) for laws to regulate corporations and correct their abuses. On the land question Mr. Allen is absolutely silent, yet says his thirteen previously unseen planks embrace the Populist party principles. Senator Allen seems to be of opinion that he carries the Populist party under his hat, that when he speaks it speaks, and that he can lead it off and away from its national platform. His efforts to fuse with the Democrats in the last campaign and this gross, unpardonable misrepresentation of our plainly enunciated demands and principles, fill us with the keenest disappointment. He is ashamed of those who honored and trusted him. He has misrepresented and brought dishonor upon the people who lifted him to his present high position. He has publicly kicked from under him their platform, the platform on which he was elected, and made another radically different, which he knows to be such, yet calls it by the old name. Does he wish to divide the party? The bankers belong to the genus Sanguisuga (bloodsucker), and have in Sheridan county, this state, followed their instincts. The Populists four years ago passed a law requiring county treasurers to deposit county funds with banks and receive interest therefor for the county, instead of dividing it up between themselves the bankers and the political machine, as had been the practice. But the Sheridan county bankers got up a combination this year to defeat the law and refused to bid against each other for the use of the county funds. Their mutually agreed on bids being too low, were rejected by the county commissioners, whereupon the banks which contained the county balances refused to carry the money longer, and the commissioners demanded that they turn over the funds on hand. Then the banks played their last card by getting 18,000 silver dollars, the sum belonging to the county, and paid them over. There were several times more of the cartwheels than the county safe would hold, and they had to be dumped into the court house in bags and barrels, and guarded by armed men until arrangements could be made with banks elsewhere to take the deposit. The greed of the banking fraternity is only limited by their power. GREECE is bankrupt, and "Germany and England are reported to have considered a naval demonstration to secure the interests of their subjects who hold stock in the Hellenic debt." That is the way to do it, collect usury at the cannon's mouth, all that the workers can live under. Prove that governments are merely the means which the real rulers, the world's creditors, collect tribute with. Let debtors be given a warning from the two greatest powers of Europe, that they must sell all they have to pay interest obligations, or war will be declared and their country devastated with all the death-dealing instruments of modern invention. If something is not done such as England did in Egypt when she made war on the Khedive to force the payment of interest that made hopeless slaves of the fellahen, debtors of one country after another may refuse the pound of flesh to foreign creditors, and it will no longer be possible for tribute to be drawn from the citizens of our country to enrich and add ever-increasing

power to individual citizens of another country. Why, the disposition to be free might even spread to the debtors in the United States, and then it would be a question whether all the armies and navies of Europe could subdue that great power and force her people back into the bondage they now think honorable!

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