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THE ALLIANCE.

OFFICIAL ORGAN
NEBRASKA
STATE FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

VOL. I.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 1889.

NO. 2.

Editorial Notes and Clippings.

Partizan political zeal is the graveyard of common sense.—Harry Tracy.

The three great emancipators of the white slaves of America—Agitation, Education and Co-operation.

With steady tread, and under the banner of "In things essential, unity, in all things charity," the Farmers' Alliance goes grandly marching on.

It is not so much of a question at the present time with the farmer of what kind of a crop to raise, but to get something for the crop after it is raised.

Let it be remembered that the pioneer subscriber to THE ALLIANCE will be Charles K. Dutcher, Secretary 608, Indianola, Neb., as his subscription was the first to reach the office.

Our office is located on second floor in the Bohannon Block, on 10th St. between L and N, just a block south of the postoffice, where we shall always be pleased to meet our friends when they are in the city.

The Farmers' Alliance of Dakota have elected to the constitutional convention seventy-five of its members. The farmers will have complete control. Three cheers for Dakota.—Nonconformist, Winfield, Kan.

Organized labor is to be recognized in Lincoln on America's great day—the coming Fourth of July—by making the great labor reformer, Richard Trevelick, the orator of the day. Score a big one for organized labor.

Last fall we threw up our hats for one or the other of the grand old parties, and some of us carried banners and torches and howled our throats hoarse. And what have we got for it? Got poorer and wiser my friend.

The B. & M. R. R. have raised the price of shipping eggs from here to Cheyenne from 60 cts to \$1.30. The local dealer will be compelled to pay that much less for eggs, making the burden fall directly upon the farmer.—Venango Argus.

False systems and principles in the great laws of nature cannot exist without producing discord and convulsions and must give way to the true. So it is with the body politic. We see on every hand today the evil effects of evil laws and systems. They must and will go down.

Wheat is going down, down, down, as the harvest approaches. The men who corner the wheat market, always force down prices until the farmer is forced to sell, and then up goes wheat and the consumer pays what would be a fair remuneration as a reward for our labor, but we don't get it.—EX.

We have been twenty years getting into the almost helpless and hopeless condition of the present. We cannot expect to change this order of things at once. Great changes cannot be brought about in a day. Therefore let us not grow impatient and undertake too much at once, but what ground we do take hold it.

Bro. Richmond, of the Venango Argus, is putting in good licks for the Farmers' Alliance in that part of the state. We need a great lot more of just such papers as the Argus in the field, and if the farmers will make it a point to sustain and support that class there will soon be no other. We feel assured the farmers of Perkins county appreciate Bro. Richmond's work and will give his paper their earnest support.

The signs of the times are auspicious. From all over our country's domain comes up the cheering shout, "The farmers are organizing!" It means that class legislation has got to cease. It means that the great trusts and combines of the day have at last woken up the only power on earth that can sweep their nefarious systems from off the face of the earth. It means the dawn of a new era. It means better days for the whole people. Hail mighty day!

Whenever we hear a farmer making light of his brother farmers because they have joined an organized movement to better their conditions, our feeling toward that farmer is one of pity. Pity for him that he doesn't know any better. Pity for him that

unless a change in his anatomy is effected he is doomed to be a hewer of wood and a drawer of water all his days, for a man without mind sufficient to see the only way out of white slavery bondage, is nothing more nor less than a chattel, his movements governed and operated by some one else's mind. Come, my disposed-to-be-smart friend, get a little sense into your head and make an effort to free yourself along with the rest of your toiling brothers.

To preach economy as a remedy for existing evils to an American farmer is to insult his manhood, because they now produce more per capita than any others under the sun. They also practice economy to absolute stinginess, yet they, as a class, are rapidly approaching pauperism. Why is this? Because the power of speculation is unlimited, and if the farmers produced four bales of cotton to where they now produce one, or ten bushels of wheat or corn, or fifteen hogs to where they now raise one, in ten years they would be as poor as they are now, because the money power's ability to take is only limited by the producer's ability to spare and live.—Harry Tracy in National Economist.

THE ALLIANCE acknowledges a good social visit from I. D. Chamberlain of the Stromberg Headlight, this week. He reports a unanimity of feeling among the farmers of Polk county, and a determination to make themselves heard and felt in the future on all questions of import to them politically and otherwise. They feel greatly encouraged at the rapid progress the work is making in other parts of the state and are always ready to lend a helping hand in pushing it forward. Word from Polk county is always good word we long ago found out.

The rapid spread of the Farmers' Alliance throughout the country and the practical work being done by it is giving the farmers great courage. The stronger this organization becomes the more speedily can matters of lasting benefits to the farmer be brought about. Let each and every one of us renew our zeal and on with the work.

Starved for Land.
The land legislation of this country for the past twenty-five years forms a sad commentary upon our boasted government "of the people, by the people, for the people." About 27 years ago the first land grant was made by the U. S. to a corporation, though grants had before been made to states for specific purposes. At that time the people of this country were rich in land, and the accepted theory in regard to it was that it belonged to all the people in common. By the homestead law it set apart to be parcelled in small lots to those who would make homes upon and till it. This law rendered it possible for every man and woman who desired a farm to procure one at a merely nominal price. Then the precedent was set of granting land direct to corporations, for improving navigation or building railroads. Navigation improvement companies were formed. They navigated sloughs by drawing a flatboat with oxen through the mud, filling the requirements of special laws lobbied through by their agents, and obtained a grant of land. Railroad companies were formed solely to obtain a grant of land. In many instances a section of land, with a block of railroad stock thrown in, was the price of a vote in congress. Thus in corruption and venality was laid the basis of great fortunes and of a landed aristocracy; thus by corruption was swept away the fundamental principle underlying our land system, by which the public domain had been set apart for the benefit of the people. Said the Brahmins ages ago:

"To whomsoever the soil at any time belongs, to him belong the fruits of it. White parasols and elephants with pride are the flowers of a grant of land."

And now began an era of land robbery and plunder unparalleled in the history of any nation. Our people had become familiar with the thought of large areas and prodigious numbers, and they heard day by day of the grant of millions of acres without realizing what was actually going on. The day will come, if it has not already, when men will look back with

amazement at this horrible saturnalia of thievery. Congress actually granted to corporations 220,000,000 acres of the fairest lands of this continent, and the state of Texas granted about 38,000,000 more. This makes an area two-thirds greater than the total extent of Great Britain. It is greater by 55,000,000 acres than the thirteen original states of the Union. It is a greater extent of territory than the five largest states of the Union. It represented a cash value of one thousand millions of dollars. If there were restrictions as to its price they were afterwards removed by the same influence that obtained the grants, and prices of these lands have always moved upward a little faster than other lands. Think of it! A handful of irresponsible men in Washington deliberately taking this wealth out of the pockets of the people and handing it over to a few private individuals, disguised under corporation masks, "with no soul to damn and no body to kick." The ages present no instance of such wholesale and shameless despoliation.

And now—what now? Only a little while ago the people owned this princely domain. Now they are STARVING FOR LAND—starving for an opportunity to labor—starving for the right to create from the soil a subsistence for their wives and little ones.

The mad rush to Oklahoma proves this. These men want FREE LAND. They would gladly buy land if they could. But the merciless contraction of money and fearful shrinkage of values and prices have put it out of their power to buy land, even though it may be offered at reduced prices. They want FREE LAND—the land that congress squandered on the men who could organize a lobby—the land that should have formed the sacred patrimony of unborn generations.

Anxious longing eyes are turned toward the Cherokee reservation—toward the barren deserts of Colorado. And still the contraction goes on, and values shrink, and prices fall. To the man who sells the products of his labor the ability to buy land grows smaller day by day.

Has Mr. Harrison's election improved the times? Is the financial policy of the government under republican rule changed a particle from what it was under democratic rule?

A Shot From Grant.
GRANT, NEB., June 15, '89.
EDITOR ALLIANCE:—I received a copy of the first issue of THE ALLIANCE. It has the right ring to it and deserves the hearty support of the producing classes. Give them a paper that will reverse the idea taught by corporation papers that trusts are private affairs and cannot be interfered with, but all labor organizations to boycott or resist them as criminal conspirators and should be punished as such. And the reason the western farmer only gets half price for what he sells, and pays two prices for what he buys, is because he is so far from New York. And the reason he has to pay a third more for the coal that nature has stowed away in the mountains for this treeless blizzard swept country than they do five hundred miles farther east, is the difference between the long and the short haul.

J. B. OSLER.

Vice-President Howe of the Missouri Pacific is authority for stating that his road will not do any building in Nebraska this year. As a reason, he says, eastern capitalists are fighting shy of western railroad securities on account of the threatening attitude of the western legislatures.—Kearney Enterprise.

Yes, this last Nebraska legislature was a "Joe." Its attitude toward the poor tax-ridden railroads was absolutely frightful. Vice-President Howe of the Missouri Pacific, president of the senate, and still got a bad attitude toward the railroads? Howe's that? Olmstead, chairman of the house committee on railroads, and a ward politician of Hastings clerk of the committee, and still the poor railroads quaking in their boots? Oh no, gentlemen, go right on with your railroad building.

The professional politician, he who waxes eloquent over the dead past but is dumb to the living issues of the present, is becoming alarmed, and goodness knows he has every reason to be. The farmers are stampeding and the party lash fails to round them up. Let's keep right on running.

THE ALLIANCE believes the time is here when the "I c-a-n-t-s" should promptly get out of the way and make room for the farmers to get to the front who "will try." To this class THE ALLIANCE proposes to throw all the power it possesses to their support, and together make a grand charge in the battle for human rights. Stand from under all ye of little faith who make no effort to FREE YOURSELVES.

The Farmers' Alliance of Nebraska is coming thirty thousand strong. Take to the woods! Climb a tree! Get out of the way! "Nancy will kill the bear!"

THE ALLIANCE will gather about it the best writers upon the questions of the day, and whose hearts and souls are in this work—that can be procured, and before the year is out the causes will be shown to every farmer who reads the paper, just why his farm is mortgaged, just why his products fail to lift his burden, just why each succeeding year finds him worse off than the year before.

The remedies will also be prescribed and made so plain that it will not require an expert to analyze the prescription.

Now, we want every farmer in the state who wants something practical said and something practical done in his behalf, to subscribe for this, his paper. We have placed the subscription price as low as we can possibly offer it for. If you do not feel like trying us a year, try us six months for 50 cents, and if this does not suit you, why then try us three months for 25 cents. Any way to get you to read the paper.

Awaiting an early response we are Sincerely yours,
THE ALLIANCE PUB. CO.
Lincoln, Neb.

The Great Issue.
What is the primary object in pursuit of which nearly all men devote their energies daily?

The acquisition of money.
What is the prime factor of civilization, enabling men to acquire education, culture and refinement, and without which the human race would relapse toward barbarism?

Money.
What determines the prices of commodities, the prices of real property and consequently rent, and modifies and controls more than any other agency the laws of supply and demand?

Money.
Is money a natural or an artificial product?

Purely an artificial product.
How is it created?

It is created by law, and in no other way.

By whom is it created?

It is created by the sovereign authority of the state, and the right to create it is always a government monopoly.

THE ALLIANCE.

A PAPER FOR THE PEOPLE.

The Only State Paper Whose Special Mission is to Fight Hard for the Farmer.

It Believes That the Time has Arrived For the Farmers to Protest Against the False Systems of the day in Every Honorable way That They can Score a Point.

THE ALLIANCE believes the time is here when the "I c-a-n-t-s" should promptly get out of the way and make room for the farmers to get to the front who "will try." To this class THE ALLIANCE proposes to throw all the power it possesses to their support, and together make a grand charge in the battle for human rights. Stand from under all ye of little faith who make no effort to FREE YOURSELVES.

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What share has the citizen in its creation?

The citizen is taxed to buy the material of which it is made and to pay the expense of coining or printing it.

How is it obtained by the citizen?

The citizen exchanges labor for it—with actual labor, or labor in the form of commodities, or conserved labor in more or less permanent forms.

What is money?

Money is the legal agency furnished by the sovereign power of the state to facilitate exchanges and liquidate debts. It is the highest commercial expression of the power of the law, and the most powerful agency through which a government can effect the welfare of the citizen.

Is money national or international? It is national, and has no forced circulation or legal tender quality outside of the country issuing it. Its power to accumulate by interest is modified by the method and volume of its issue.

Is money national or international? It is national, and has no forced circulation or legal tender quality outside of the country issuing it. It may be made international by treaty, as in the case of the Latin Union.

Which of its functions or powers most directly influence the welfare of the people?

Its power to measure value or accumulate by interest.

Of these two powers which is the most important?

The power to measure value. We will leave the above monetary catechism at this point, and devote the balance of this article to a few remarks about the last named power of money. The power of money to measure values is of vital importance to the people, and every man ought to study it until it is perfectly understood. If the people of this country understood the full bearing of that power upon their wealth and prosperity, the shackles would no longer be able, by contracting the volume of money and the depression of values and prices, to gather into their coffers the largest share of the wealth of the people. An increase of the volume of money raises values and increases prices. A decrease in the volume of money decreases values and lowers prices. This is a financial law, accepted by all financial authorities no matter to what school of finance they belong. The law applies to all kinds of money which has the sanction of law, but does not apply to substitutes for money, such as drafts, checks, bills of exchange, &c. Every fall in the value of property or wealth is directly in the interest of the man who handles money capital, and whose income is in the form of interest, and against the man who sells labor directly, or conserved labor in the form of products or any of the creations of labor. To illustrate, suppose farmer A and money-lender B have a mortgage for \$1,000.00 on the same at 10 per cent. In this case A owns three-fourths of the farm and B one-fourth. Now a shrinkage in the volume of the currency occurs, either absolutely by a withdrawal of money, or relatively by an increase of population and business, and the value of A's land shrinks to \$3,000.00. Now A owns only \$2,000.00, while B still owns \$1,000.00. A further shrink of one-fourth occurs, and A only owns \$1,500 while B owns \$1,500. Suppose another shrinkage of the same amount occurs and B would own the farm and A owns nothing. But the same shrinkage of money that causes the decline in the value of the farm causes a decline in the price of commodities. Let us see how that affects A and B as mortgagor and mortgagee. A, we will suppose, produces wheat to sell to procure money to pay his interest—10 per cent on \$1,000. With wheat at \$1 per bushel it takes 100 bushels of wheat, or the labor required to produce that amount to pay the interest. Now the shrinkage comes and wheat falls to 50 cents per bushel. It now takes 200 bushels of wheat, or the labor required to produce 200 bushels, to pay the interest, though that remains nominally at the same rate, viz: 10 per cent. Thus, it is plain that by this decline in price, A's burden has been doubled and the value of his labor halved, while the value of B's mortgage and the amount of wealth produced by A which it will command has been doubled. This process has been going on for the past twenty years, and is going on today with an accelerated pace. Values have been and are going down, while the incomes of money-lender have as steadily mounted, until today all the production of the country above a mere subsistence is required to pay interest on the accumulated debt, and TODAY, at this very time, the bankers of our eastern cities are trying to make a general combine to make all mortgages payable in gold.

Wake up, people! Unless you take up this great issue and force a change in the financial policy of the government, universal bankruptcy will be your lot.

We will in future numbers answer questions on all points relating to the nature of money.

The Limitation of Wealth.
The enormous accumulation of wealth in single families which modern agencies have made possible is cause for serious alarm. Given a thousand millions under the control of one man of great ability and an ambition directed toward empire, and the subjugation of the government to his domination would seem to be inevitable. The appearance of such a man at any time is quite possible. Is it not likely

and cannot be directly controlled or modified by statute law. The action of the power to measure values or fix prices depends solely upon its volume relative to the exchangeable products, population, extent of territory and facilities for exchanges of the country issuing it. Its power to accumulate by interest is modified by the method and volume of its issue.

Is money national or international? It is national, and has no forced circulation or legal tender quality outside of the country issuing it. It may be made international by treaty, as in the case of the Latin Union.

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that the mere accumulation of money for the sake of money may pall the appetite of some Napoleon of Finance, and that he may substitute therefore political domination and empire? As for the thousand millions, let us consider it. When old Commodore Vanderbilt died in 1877, his fortune was said to be \$80,000,000. In 1885 it had reached \$250,000,000. This was only six years. At the same rate of increase only a few years more are needed to have one family controlling a billion of dollars—and this family acknowledging a head, and establishing the principle of solidarity in the management of their wealth. Here are elements we have named, minus only the intellectual power.

The tendency to this fearful increase of wealth in private hands is still going on with accelerated pace, and undoubtedly constitutes a serious menace to society, entirely apart from the unequal distribution involved, and the inevitable poverty resulting to thousands of wealth creators.

To all thinking men it must be apparent that this tendency must be checked—that some form of actual limitation must be applied, to prevent the growth of these unnatural and unnatural and unnecessary financial monsters. At the same time it will be seen that any limitation which would check individual enterprise or hamper individual energy might produce quite as much harm as good. In seeking for the points at which restrictions may properly be applied we may find light in inquiring how such enormous accumulations are made possible. Entering this field of inquiry it is at once manifest that no human powers exerted in any line of productive industry—that is in the creation of wealth by labor—are at all equal to the task. It will be found that these accumulations are only made possible by the exercise of quasi public powers—by the application over large areas and to great populations of the principles of taxation and of the accumulative power of interest. The right of eminent domain shared by the government with private individuals, and applied to the construction of railroads, the taxing power involved in the exercise of the privilege of issuing stocks and bonds without the actual investment of money, with the right to fix rates to secure a revenue upon these securities, and are conferring upon individuals, natural or artificial, the right to exercise the supreme government function of issuing money and fixing the interest thereon, thus bringing into play in the case of bonds and money, the enormous accumulative power of interest, and in the case of rates, the unlimited power to tax on fictitious securities, are the potent and fertile causes of our first billionaire. These causes are going forward unchecked, and if they can make one billionaire they can make many.

It is evident from the above brief statement, the truth of which no thinking man can deny, that limitations of wealth should be applied in the direction of limiting special privileges conferred by law. The incentive to issue watered stocks is derived from the power to fix rates. The exercise of these two powers involve all the corruption and fraud and devilry connected with our railroads. Take away the latter power and the former falls. The right of the people to take it away, as well as its expediency, is incontrovertible.

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The right to issue money is an inherent government power. No government can divest itself of it without relinquishing its sovereignty. In all cases where governments have delegated this right, the recipients have become government agents, as are today our national banks. But it is also a pregnant and instructive fact that they have never long exercised the right without acquiring a power which threatened that of their principal. This is the case today with our national banks and their national associations.

In the direction then of limiting the quasi public powers which have been granted to artificial persons will be found the only just as well as the only necessary limitation of wealth. This is in the direction of equality of privilege and equality of opportunity—in other words in the direction of natural justice. We have no sympathy with socialistic levelers, and are no believers in equality of intellect or equality of powers. But the government which by special grants or special laws destroys equality of privilege and opportunity on the certain road to decay.

It will be seen from the above that we would not limit the accumulation of wealth by industry and labor. In those channels which all men share alike enterprise should be untrammelled and its rewards unlimited.

As land itself is absolutely limited, and as it belongs to the community, limitation of its ownership properly belongs to this discussion, and we may refer to it hereafter.

AMERICAN FABLES.
The Drummer and the Mosquito.
A commercial traveler awoke from a sound slumber to find a Mosquito buzzing about his head in the darkness. He at once arose, lighted the gas, and seizing the Bolorator from the bed he struck vigorously at the little insect, exclaiming:

"Ah! you Pest, but I'll have your Life!"

"You are a very Inconsistent man, upon my Word!" replied the Mosquito from his perch on the Ceiling.

"How?"

"Why, you have been Bitten in twenty places by the Bugs, and yet you pay them no heed."

"Yes, but every Man has a Right to choose what Nuisance he will put up With. Take that, you Rascal!"

"How?"

"If a Citizen chooses to Excuse the Piano Pounding on the right, and Poison the Barking Dog on the Left, no one can gainsay him."

The Frog and the Lamb.
A Lamb Who lay down beside a Pond for Rest and Sleep, found it impossible to close his Eyes on account of the Croaking of a Frog. Out of Patience at last with the Interruption, he sprang up and demanded:

"In Heaven's name, why do you keep that Noise going?"

"It's the only Noise I can make," was the Humble Reply.

"Yes. But why do you make it at all?"

"If I kept Quiet, Who Would know that I was on earth?"

MORAL:
Men of Blab are excused on the same grounds.

The Thief and the Defaulter.
A Thief who had been Arrested for Stealing an Overcoat had hardly been Locked up when a Defaulter in the Amount of \$5,000 was brought in.

"Ah! but we are in Sad Luck!" saluted the Thief. "Allow me to say that I feel for you." "Sir! I want none of your Sympathy," replied the Defaulter. "I don't even want your Acquaintance."

"But we are both Thieves."

"Are we? I beg to Differ. You run off with another man's property and was Pursued by a Patrolman. I borrowed money from the Bank's funds to Speculate in Wheat and was Unfortunate enough to lose every dollar. A Detective kindly asked me to ride over in his carriage."

"But we both Appropriated what belonged to another without his Consent," persisted the Thief.

"While that is True, it makes a Difference whether we wanted to buy Wheat or Whisky. Please keep your Distance."

MORAL:
The Thief went up and the Defaulter's friends settled the case by refunding forty cents on the dollar.—Detroit Free Press.

Tearful Humor.
"There is a kind of half sad humor where two earnest people misconstrue each other's thoughts," said Eli Perkins in a recent lecture. "I once heard of a dialogue between a sweet, dear old clergyman in Arkansas and an illiterate parishioner, which illustrates this idea:

"Your children here all turned out well, I reckon," said the clergyman, as he sat down to dinner with the parishioner he had not seen in church for several years.

"Well, yes, all but Bill, pore feller," "Drunk feller, I reckon," said the clergyman, sorrowfully.

"Oh, no, never drunk n'r feller, but hain't amounted to nothin'." Bill was deceived, and it