

THE ALLIANCE.  
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J. BURROWS, : : : Editor.  
J. M. THOMPSON, Associate Editor.

All communications for the paper should be addressed to THE ALLIANCE PUBLISHING CO., and all matters pertaining to the Farmers' Alliance, including subscriptions to the paper, to the Secretary.

EDITORIAL.

A CUSTOMS UNION.

The pan-American delegates have at last got through with their outting, and are leisurely getting ready for business. Having ridden over a large portion of the continent they must appreciate the extent of our country. They have viewed our great cities, inspected our magnificent buildings, looked through our public institutions, criticised and admired and flattered our fair women, and have been wine and fete by the select four hundred snobs who form the thin upper crust which must be broken through to get at the genuine heart of American society. After all this, if they are ready now to get down to real business without a long soak in cold towels they are a remarkably good lot of men.

One of the subjects which has been named for their meeting is a customs union. They will have no more difficult question to deal with. Undoubtedly, from every economic and statesman-like point of view, the great desideratum of all the countries of this western hemisphere, is free and unrestricted interchange of their natural products and their manufactures. But the legislation of the past has apparently had for its object the restriction of such an interchange. We have all of us been taxing the productions of our neighbors, and some of us are foolish enough to believe that in so doing we are getting the assistance of these neighbors in paying our running expenses. We have all established vexatious and expensive regulations to prevent the fruits of our neighbors' industry, or the bounties of their soil and climate, from being brought across our borders without paying the legal impost. We have established a network of custom houses along every national line, and employ an expensive army of inspectors to prevent the farmers of these countries from swapping diamond rings when they shake hands across the border. The existing restrictions between the countries of the western hemisphere are relics of a barbarous age, when the principles of trade were not understood, and when it was believed that a tax upon a certain article was a tax upon the then owners of that article, instead of a means by which their profits could be enhanced. While we have established lines of custom houses, England has established lines of steamships. The result of these respective policies may now be seen in the condition of trade between us and our near neighbors, and between them and England. The latter country comes to our very doors and takes the lion's share of the trade that naturally, by location, similarity of institutions, and the laws of necessity, belongs to us.

As a progressive and expansive nation, desiring for the use of our laborers and mechanics the raw material with which our neighbors are so richly endowed, and desiring unrestricted markets for whatever we may have to sell, we must desire to annex all the countries of this western hemisphere. We do not desire to assume their debts, to influence their local laws, nor interfere with their local police. At the same time, to annex them for purposes of trade it would be necessary for us and them to take an interest in certain national laws and regulations affecting trade. Now how is this great national desideratum to be accomplished? Take the case of Canada, for instance. Of what would a customs union between this country and Canada consist? 1st, Of absolute free trade between this country and Canada, with customs regulations which would prevent smuggling into this country through Canada. 2nd, Of the admission into our congress, and into the Dominion parliament, of commissioners from each country, who should have a vote and voice on all international questions, and no other. The same principle would apply to our southern neighbors. These two principles practically applied would make a trade confederation extending from the Straits of Magellan to the Arctic ocean, and would weld the people of these two continents into a homogenous race that would rule the world.

The absurdity of maintaining a line of custom houses between this country and the British North American provinces may be shown by a summary of the trade between these provinces and the United States for almost any year. We will take 1887, that being the latest date to which we have official treasury returns:

Total imports from British North American provinces for 1887, were \$38,015,584  
Total exports to same provinces for same year \$36,162,847  
Balance of trade in our favor, \$1,852,737

Now, the total trade between these provinces and the United States, except the sum of \$1,852,737, was an exchange of products. But in order to effect that exchange our importers have paid a duty on the total imports, and the importers on the other side have done the same thing for their side, while the total net result is the duty to the U. S. on the amount of the balance. The total sum of this balance would probably not

pay the expense of the two lines of custom houses for that year. Add to this foolishness all the irritation caused by these imports, the delay in the receipt of goods, the actual prohibition of trade that takes place, and the curtailing of the market for our manufactures, and the extent of the folly of this system may be seen. And this is repeated, not only on a smaller scale, between us and every country in this hemisphere.

Let the United States annex Canada, by all means, and the South American republics as well. The plan we have proposed will accomplish it, but in order to adopt it we must give as well as receive. It never can be done by a high protective tariff.

The Knights of Labor and the Single Tax.

It is announced that the General Assembly of the K. of L., at its late session at Atlanta, adopted a declaration in favor of the single tax on land values. If this is true—and we have no reason to doubt it—it is a fatal blunder. The single tax idea is an attractive but deceitful fallacy. Based alone on the theory that land belongs to the community, it assumes that rent, or the use of land, may be taken by the community for its annual use, and that the general result of this would be to place all taxation upon landlords, and relieve laborers and small farmers entirely, or almost entirely, from its burdens. Never did a greater fallacy obtain so many supporters. The error of the idea is fundamental; and it would seem as though a fair understanding of the basic principles of the creation of wealth and of taxation, would enable any ordinary mind to detect its fallacy. No matter how, or upon what, taxes may be laid, they are never paid out of accumulated capital, but are always paid out of current labor, or current production. Rent has no existence separate from labor. It is the annual creation of labor. With interest undisturbed, the more of the annual production of labor which is taken for public use the less there will be left for the laborer. The single tax men propose to take all rent. To those who are renters alone, and intend always to remain such, it would make little difference whether they paid their rent to a landlord or the community, providing the amount was not increased. But to all those laboring men who wish to own their own homes, and to all farmers who own the land they till, and are thus their own landlords, the difference would be vital. They would be compelled to pay to the community the rent that should remain in their own pockets.

The idea so strenuously urged by Mr. George that exemption from other taxation under his system would more than compensate for the confiscation of all rent, is quite as fallacious as the other idea that such confiscation would relieve labor, as the following figures will show. Annual taxes are estimated to-day as follows: Local, \$813,000,000; national \$812,000,000. Total \$1,625,000,000. Annual rent of land is estimated now at \$2,000,000,000, or an excess over present taxation of \$1,375,000,000. Connect the above with the pregnant fact, that to prevent the holding of land for speculative purposes, and thus open the so-called natural opportunity of access to land to all persons, it is NECESSARY TO TAKE ALL RENT IN TAXATION, and some adequate idea of the relief from taxation which will be experienced by laborers through the single tax, may be had.

It is unfortunate that just at this time when the Knights endorse the single tax, Mr. Herbert Spencer, the eminent economist upon whose writings more than any other man's Mr. George leaned when writing Progress and Poverty, should repudiate the application which is being made of his theories. In his letter to the London Times of Nov. 9th, conveying this repudiation, he says: "There is no reason to think that the 'substituted form of administration' would be better than the existing form of administration. The belief that land 'would be better managed by public officials than it is by private owners is a 'very wild belief.'"

The Demorest Medal.

We publish this week the scheme for the Demorest contest. Considerable interest in this contest has been excited in this state by the fact that a little girl of Republican City won the large gold medal in the contest at Norfolk, and the diamond medal in the contest at the national meeting of the W. C. T. U. at Chicago.

The idea of the Demorest contest is certainly a fine one. While cultivating literary taste and talent, and drilling the young contestants in elocution and oratory, it makes them for the time the exponents of genuine temperance principles and arguments. It also may in many cases bring the liquor seller to hear his own children advocate temperance principles in their competition, when he could not be induced to listen to any one else.

THAT NEMAH TRINITY AGAIN.

That precious trio Howe, Majors and Stull, got scooped down in Nemaha county on the 6th. Turnip bitters couldn't save them. Howe and Majors ought to be made to sleep together for a year. Stull ought to be whipped for being in bad company. If they were to be crucified Stull should be in the middle. We would be glad to state our opinion of Church Howe, but the language isn't adequate. If any new words come in within a year which express all the villainy that has ever been condensed into language heretofore, we'll save them up, and boil them down, and if we can get a sufficient number together we may some time put some adequate notation of this man Howe into plain English.

This paper is the best advertising medium west of the Mississippi river.

SILVER BULLION CERTIFICATES.

The Omaha Bee of Nov. 20th has an editorial under the above caption into which are crowded as many inaccuracies and misconceptions as to money and the silver question, and the relation of bullion to money, as there are sentences in it. It is amazing how a man of the ability and penetration of Mr. Rosewater can employ a writer who will pile up rot in this manner.

After saying that the secretary of the treasury might favor bullion certificates, it adds:

"It is not known upon what basis of value he would have such certificates issued and redeemed, that is, whether they should represent the coinage or the market value of the bullion, but perhaps this is not a matter of great importance, since for all the purposes of circulation the certificate would under any circumstances represent and have the purchasing power of a dollar."

If the editor will explain how and why, "under any circumstances," a bullion certificate would have the purchasing power of a dollar, he will confer a favor. How would such a certificate be money at all? Suppose the government buys up wheat at its market value now and then, and stores it in government warehouses, and issues certificates upon it, just as the warehouse men do. Would such certificates "represent and have the purchasing power of a dollar"? And if not, why not? Bullion is a commodity, and so is wheat. Both have variable prices on the market. Neither are money, in any sense of the word. It is certificates of dollars of this country wants, not certificates of bullion, or wheat, or any other property.

In four separate and distinct places in a half-column article the Bee writer alludes to the expense to the government of the coinage of silver dollars, which he says would be saved by issuing bullion certificates. If this editor had read THE ALLIANCE last week he would have learned that we now coin each year \$38,000,000 out of \$24,000,000 worth of silver, making \$9,000,000 gross profit in the operation. The writer ought to know enough of coinage to know that even if cent per cent of bullion value is put into a coin, which it never is, the alloy more than pays the expense of coinage.

The expedient of bullion certificates is an invention of the money power to continue the demonetization of silver and contract the volume of dollars. If Mr. Stewart ever favored it, as the Bee says he did, but which we doubt, it was simply as a concession to the mining interests of Nevada, and to make a market for silver bullion, and not as a sound financial measure.

The editor asks:

"Why should the government continue to coin dollars that do not get into circulation, every one of which represents a tax on the people to the amount of the cost of its coinage?"

The last clause we have already answered. To the first clause we would say, because the people need dollars to increase the price of their wheat, corn, pork, beef, bullion, and other property. Because the contraction of the volume of dollars has brought the country to the verge of ruin, and caused the bankruptcy of many a good business man. As to the silver dollars not going into circulation, and not being wanted by the people, that is a lie. If the government certifies that it will pay one silver dollar on presentation of course it has to hold that dollar until the certificate is presented. But that dollar, through the certificate, is performing the functions of money just as completely as though it was itself in circulation. The Bland bill went into effect Feb. 28, 1878. From and including that date to Jan. 1, 1888, there had been coined 289,731,150 silver dollars. The statement of the secretary of the treasury for June, 1888, shows that there were then in circulation of gold certificates \$116,792,750, and of silver certificates, \$257,895,204. These facts effectually dispose of the lie that the people do not want the silver. Of course they prefer the certificates, but they will take all of either them or the hard dollars they can get, or of anything else that is money.

THE NEW PARTY.

We print this week a letter from Mr. Stebbins, of Buffalo county, in regard to a new party. It seems now as though the many factions will soon be driven together into a new party by the mere logic of events and force of circumstances. We have little sympathy with the efforts of every little clique who have a special aim to form a new party in which their pet hobby will be the leading idea. If new parties would save the country we must now have very near regeneration, as we have two or three on each corner and several in the middle. When it becomes apparent to the people that the republican and democratic parties are both dominated by the monopoly power, as they are, and when the people are prepared to drop immaterial side issues and write on one or two or three leading and vital points, the factions will come together, and the new party will come to stay. Until that time tariff and the bloody shirt will be flung before the people like a red rag before a bull, and the money power and the railroad monopolists will work their schemes and make the laws to suit themselves.

On one thing we wish to be distinctly understood. The Alliance is not a partisan society, and we protest against it being changed to a political party or used for political ends. Farmers of all parties are invited to join it on the express ground that it is non-partisan in its character. To induce them to join on this plea, and then turn it into a political party would be a great breach of faith, to say the least. But it would do much more. It would destroy the Alliance as a distinctively farmers' society.

On the other hand, if joining the Alliance educates men in the direction of political independence, we consider that a good work, and may God speed it.

INSURANCE.

We publish this week an article from the Iowa Homestead in regard to mutual insurance in Iowa. At its annual meeting the Alliance of this state took some initiatory action in this matter, by first asking the legislature to amend the law relating to mutual insurance companies, and by appointing a committee to investigate the whole question. A much needed amendment to the law was secured, though not all that was asked. The proposition of the Dakota Alliance to establish a branch insurance department in this state was for some time under consideration, and has delayed the establishment of an insurance department by the Executive Board of the State Alliance. We believe we can now safely assure the members of the Alliance that action on this matter will be had soon after the St. Louis meeting. The plan adopted will be as liberal and inexpensive as is possible, and it is hoped that all members of the Alliance who need insurance will avail themselves of it as soon as presented, so that insurance may be made effective at once.

CITY GUARDIANS.

The vigor and activity of the real estate exchange promises to supply what the city has long needed, a representative body of citizens to vigilantly guard the interests of Omaha—Bee.

The above is enough to make a horse laugh. To select a society of real estate speculators to "guard the interests" of a city is just too awful funny for anything. The men who make poor men's homes impossible, who raise rents to the skies, who increase the cost of living in all lines, who meet every stranger at the gate and size up his pile and conspire with each other to get it to set such a crowd to guard a city's interests is very much like setting a hyena to guard a lamb.

THE COST OF INSURANCE.

From the Iowa Homestead.

While the plan of mutual insurance among farmers has become the fixed and settled policy in many parts of the West—there being, for example, more companies than counties in Iowa, and these growing in strength every year—an attack is made, every now and then, against the system, in order to mislead and deceive farmers. The attacks are generally made in counties where there have been, for a year or more, heavy losses, amounting, as they often do, in some single year, to more than the regular rates for the average of five years in stock companies. Local agents, armed with this one fact, assail the system, and endeavor to create dissatisfaction among farmers who are patronizing, or about to patronize, farmers' mutuals. This, we observe, has been the effort recently in Floyd county, Iowa. The answer to all this sophistry is to take the history of a company for five or ten years, and then compare this with the history of other companies, and thus get the average of the losses. The rates made by stock companies are based on the average of losses, plus the cost of doing the business, plus profits on the capital invested—not on this risk, nor that class of risks, but on the business as a whole. The only fair way, therefore, is to compare the average of expense incurred by the farmers' mutuals with the average of premiums charged by stock companies.

To refute the charges made against the Floyd County Mutual, its Secretary, Mr. P. Cole, has gone back over the history of the company for eight years, and compiled a statement which will be read with interest by farmers everywhere, as follows:

To show the comparative cost of the mutual and stock arrangements, we propose to show the farmers of Floyd county the amount of risks in force on the first of January of each year from the first of organization in 1880 to January 1st, 1888, and also the assessment in mills for each year, and what it would have cost on the same amount in stock companies at their lowest regular rate, which is three mills on the dollar for each and every year; also the amount saved or lost each year by insuring in the Floyd County Mutual. Our table shows the amount of interest at seven per cent, on advanced premiums on the risks carried for five years in a stock company:

THE ABOVE EXHIBIT SHOWS THAT FOR THE EIGHT YEARS THE ASSUMED AMOUNTS AGGREGATE THIRTEEN MILLS ON THE DOLLAR IN OUR MUTUAL, AND TWENTY-FOUR MILLS IN A STOCK COMPANY FOR THE SAME PERIOD. The amount saved to the farmers of this county by insuring in the first five years amounts to \$4,337.55. The interest on this amount of premiums paid in advance amounts to \$1,746.16, which, added to \$4,337.55, makes \$6,083.71. Owing to the heavy losses of 1885-6, the average amount saved in the last three years is below that of the first period, \$1,514.08, and interest for three years \$940.72, which makes \$1,554.80 saved for the three years, and a grand total of \$8,438.51 for eight years. This exhibit ought to be very satisfactory to every member of "Our Mutual," and ought to receive the careful consideration of every farmer in Floyd county, for, whether a member or not, he is benefited by the Floyd Mutual, not only in the lower rates offered, but in the more liberal adjustments given in cases of loss. Our statements are backed by the records in the office of the Secretary of the Mutual, which are open to the inspection of every farmer wanting information. Investigate this matter, instead of accepting the smooth stories of these stock agents who are so anxious to fill their pockets with your expense money. If that if there were no County Mutuals in the State we would all have to pay two per cent or four mills on the dollar for each year, and many are doing so to-day. Every farmer should keep insured, and there is no company that, for cheapness or reliability, equals the County Mutual.

While stock companies have their fields, and when properly conducted, are a great public benefit, and are, in fact, indispensable in cities and towns, and wherever risks lack general uniformity, there is no doubt but that the farmers' mutuals give the cheapest and safest insurance on farm risks. A properly-managed farmers' mutual can do the business cheaper than any stock company, and for reasons that are apparent at a glance. First, it costs the stock company from twenty-five to thirty per cent, as agent's fees to secure the risk, while it costs the farmers' mutual next to nothing. In case of loss, it costs the stock company larger traveling expenses to adjust the loss, while it costs the mutual nothing. It costs the stock company the salary of a high-priced adjuster, the mutual the cheap PER DIEM of its secretary. The stock company is obliged to keep an expensive office and to make dividends on its stock; the mutual has a cheap office and no dividends. The stock company loses constantly from bad notes and bad investments, and the mutual does a cash business, and has no money to invest. For these and other reasons, the establishment of farmers' mutuals is simply a question of the capacity of farmers to organize and do business on business principles. The risk is the same in one class of companies as in the other, the amount of losses cannot vary, and the general principles that govern the business are the same. It is simply a question of economical management, and the mutual plan has every advantage when applied to risks, like those on farms, of substantially like character. We do not believe the mutual principle can be applied to live stock as against disease or death, nor to city property, nor mixed commercial risks. The stock companies must deal with these, and charge enough to pay them for so doing.

JOB PRINTING.

THE ALLIANCE PUB. CO. has just added to its outfit a new Gordon jobber, and is now prepared to do all kinds of job work in a tasteful manner. We have just printed a new edition of the ritual for the State Alliance, which for neatness cannot be excelled. Send us your jobs, and we will print them as good as the best, and as low as the lowest.

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That "Weak Spot."

Some of our exchanges seem disposed to severely criticize certain members of the late Bankers' Convention, Kansas City, because of their expressed desire to have the Treasury notes retired from circulation. Is this criticism? We think not. Those gentlemen did not go to Kansas city for their health. They did not go there to consult as to the public welfare. They went there to look after and consult about their own interests. Did they not attend to it all the time? Some of them asserted that "the Treasury notes constitute the weak point in our monetary system," and that they should be retired. Well, it is true from their standpoint. The Treasury notes do constitute a weak spot in our money system. These notes are the only part of our paper money that costs the people nothing, that pays no tribute to interest-absorbers. And from the standpoint of the interest-absorbing profession it is an outrage that they should exist. Just think of it. The American people had the free use of those \$846,000,000 of greenbacks for over a quarter of a century to do business with, and they have absolutely shut the public credit for the public benefit to that extent without paying any private parties for permission to do so. Just think of it! Had those notes been withdrawn from circulation at the close of the war, and interest-bearing bonds issued instead, AS EACH OF OUR PRESIDENTS SINCE THAT TIME HAVE RECOMMENDED, think of how much additional interest our people would have the pleasure of paying. Even at 3 per cent it would amount to \$17,300,000 yearly, or in twenty-five years to \$432,500,000 at simple interest. Think of the number of good men that amount would have made rich! Think of the number of the poor that it would have created! And there is really no excuse for the people in failing to pay this, because there are any number of gentlemanly interest-absorbers in the country who were ready at all times to fulfill the duties of their profession. And the people would never feel the additional burden of a few hundred millions, more or less. It is not to be wondered at, then, that the members of the Kansas City convention, proud of their profession and jealous of its interests should be in favor of removing "the one weak spot" in our money system. Besides, there are many eminent financiers who declare it grossly unconstitutional for the government to use the public credit for the public benefit.

Mr. John J. Knox said in the Kansas City convention that he hoped the last decision of the supreme court upon the legal-tender notes "would be soon reversed." John J. is an interest-absorber, not only by profession, but also by instinct. He judges this world and all the people therein solely by their ability to pay interest. A people unable to pay a good round of interest are to him worthless. Where interest is high and secure, is his ideal of a progressive nation. He is therefore always and consistently opposed to every proposition to make currency plentiful or to lower interest. But he is not to blame for this. It is his nature to think thus. He cannot help it. Why, then, should he be criticised for attending strictly to his own business? He and his confederates are correct in considering anything weak that cannot bring them a profit. Interest absorbing is a respectable profession. It has grown to immense proportions, and is to-day the most prosperous business in the country. It deserves and should receive the fostering care and protection of the government. If the government does not exist for that purpose, what does it exist for?—National Economist.

The Northern Pacific railroad will furnish the bond market with \$160,000,000 worth of coupon bonds bearing 5 per cent and to run for 100 years. If the greenbacks obtain power, as they will, and make money as cheap as the bankers now get it, these bonds will still go on for generations drawing their 5 per cent—a legacy of serfdom for all who use the roads. The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe road has issued \$230,000,000 of bonds, most of which draw 4 per cent, \$90,000,000 5 per cent. Judge Fairall has decided that a legislature cannot reduce railroad charges so low as to make it impossible for the road to pay operating expenses and fixed charges. If this decision stands, such stupendous bond selling will enable the road forever to charge all the traffic will bear.

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Johnny Banker.

TUNE, YANKEE DOODLE.  
BY PERIE FLOWMAN.

Johnny Banker came to town,  
His purses full of money;  
He stuck his sign upon the door,  
The people thought it funny.

CHORUS.  
Johnny Banker, ha! ha! ha!  
Johnny Banker's purses;  
Johnny Banker, ha! ha! ha!  
Johnny Banker's purses.

Rowing, smiling all the while,  
He took up by the hand, sir;  
"In need? I am your friend indeed,  
Now at your command, sir."

Chorus—Johnny, etc.

Johnny Banker sowed the land,  
To reap a crop of gold at last;  
He put his mortgage on it then,  
A mighty one to hold, sir.

Chorus—Johnny, etc.

Johnny Banker said "It's due,  
Your note, your note is due, sir;  
The mortgage holds you in my vice,  
And many more like you, sir."

Chorus—Johnny, etc.

Johnny Banker took our land,  
He charmed us with his purses;  
We farmers now have lost our homes,  
This said, by sad reverse, sir.

Chorus—Johnny, etc.

Johnny Banker has his crop,  
The gold is in his purses;  
The Knights and Farmers all agree  
Are giving Johnny curses.

Chorus—Johnny, etc.

Johnny Banker drank our blood,  
Oh! Mister Knight of Labor;  
And when he pierced us to the heart,  
He used his golden sabre.

Chorus—Johnny, etc.

Honest farmer, where is he?  
Oh! now he's Honest Rentier;  
Johnny Banker holds his house and land,  
He took it by Per Cent, sir.

Chorus—Johnny, etc.

Johnny Banker, out, get out!  
We need no more your doing;  
Per cent, per cent, per cent, per cent,  
Is little less than stealing.

CHORUS.  
Johnny Banker, ha! ha! ha!  
Johnny Banker's purses;  
Johnny Banker, ha! ha! ha!  
Johnny Banker's CURSES.

DEMOREST MEDAL CONTEST BUREAU.

EDUCATION OF YOUTH IN THE PRINCIPLES OF TEMPERANCE BY MEANS OF A SERIES OF EDUCATIONAL CONTESTS IN WHICH SILVER, GOLD, AND DIAMOND MEDALS OF HONOR WILL BE AWARDED THE SUCCESSFUL COMPETITORS.

The Medal contest Bureau, No. 10 East 14th street, New York, are pleased to announce that, through W. Jennings Demorest, who furnishes the medals free of expense, and suitably inscribed, arrangements have been made for a series of educational contests in which young persons of either sex, under twenty-one years of age, are invited to recite before an audience in some school-room, church, church parlors, lecture-room, or hall.

The arrangements for these contests are as follows:

A competing class to consist of eight or ten, but in no case less than six. The selections to be taken exclusively from the book of recitations, which can be procured for ten cents per copy.

A public meeting to be arranged, for which these recitations will form the programme, which may be interspersed with music. Three disinterested persons, of mature age, are to be chosen to act as judges, for whom suitable blanks will be furnished free. At the close of the programme, the competitor who has, by the decision of the judges, been awarded the prize, will be presented with a handsome silver medal in a satin-lined morocco case. Other classes can be formed, but all contests arranged must be for different dates. No new medal will be sent until a certificate signed by judges and chairman has been received, providing that the preceding contest has been properly conducted.

When eight or more have obtained silver medals, these may form another class to compete for a gold medal under the same conditions. And again, eight or more who have received gold medals may, in the same manner, enter into a contest for a larger gold medal. And in like manner, eight or more holding this larger gold medal may compete for a diamond medal, which is a handsome gold medal set with diamonds. At each contest the speakers are to learn new pieces.

No one holding a medal shall compete the second time for the same kind of a medal. Those who win silver medals may compete twice for the first gold medal, but only one trial will be allowed contestants for the large gold and the diamond medals.

To give all young people an opportunity to compete for these honorable trophies, boys or girls in any school, public or private, Sunday or secular, Band of Hope, Loyal Temperance Legion, Juvenile temple, Section of Cadets, or other institution for the young, either singly or in connection with others, can arrange for one or more contests.

As soon as a class has been formed and the date fixed, notice should be sent to the Medal Contest Bureau, and the medal will be forwarded so as to be presented at the time of the Contest. Do not send for medals by postal card.

Pastors, parents, teachers, officers and members of the W. C. T. U., leaders of temperance and religious organizations, and all others interested in the young, are kindly invited to get up these Contests, co-operate in this movement, and encourage the children under their direction or control to learn the pieces and participate in the competitions.

Medals, Recitations, and all information can be obtained on application to Mrs. CHARLES F. WOODWARD, General Superintendent, 10 East 14th Street, New York City.

THE GREAT WEST is the name of a thoroughbred Farmers' Alliance Weekly newspaper launched at St. Paul, the first three numbers of which are received. It strikes straight from the shoulder and beards the corporation lion in his den. If the Farmers' Alliance people will stand by and support the papers that advocate and defend their cause, as other interests do, they will soon have plenty of papers, and with the power of a strong press added to the numerical strength of the farmers, they will be invincible.

OPTION DEALING A VICE; IT SHOULD BE A CRIME.

American Farmers or Foreign Tenants, Which?

The necessity for relief to the grain raiser and stock feeder is apparent.

The disease is recognized. Dissolution is at hand unless a remedy is found. Eruptions on the skin are overlooked when the vital part of the system is attacked with a malady. When a man's brain is effected, his liver out of order or his heart diseased the boils that break out are unnoticed.

The state of the markets on grain and stock threaten the heart of the grain and stock producing interests of the West.

We see an effect. What is the cause? We learn that a committee of the United States senate is insulted and treated with contempt by those engaged in dealing in stock.

We are informed that demagogues are busy inflaming the public mind against men engaged in the laudable attempt to destroy the price of grain.

We are taught that the federal constitution is so narrow that it leaves the know distresses of those engaged in agricultural pursuits and that state constitutions are not broad enough to reach the disease.

If this be true, we must either prepare for a worse condition of the grain and stock market, or we must amend the fundamental laws of the nation.

If the states cannot regulate this by uniformity of legislation, then the power should be, by amendment, conferred on the federal government. We are suffering from a course that only criminal laws can wipe out.

The option dealer and his friends cry overproduction, and statistics prove that the excess of grain produced has no effect on the market.

The bull and bear raise and lower prices according to their command capital. Whether wheat is 50 cents or \$1.00 per bushel cuts no figure. Supply and demand have no perceptible effect on prices. If the bull is successful markets are good, if the bear triumphs there is a crash.

Option dealing or selling what one does not have and has no intention of possessing, or putting it in its true light, betting on the price of grain and stock at a future date, is vicious, because there is an incentive on the part of one party to bet and destroy the worth of an article.

If a man bets \$100,000 that lots on Main street will depreciate fifty per cent in three months, he must, to gain his wager, create a panic on Main street lots, and his endeavor, if known, would result in a "hanging bee," and yet so-called capitalists are men bet on the price of grain, and the result on the real owner of grain is disastrous.

We may be wrong in our conclusions (we often are) but the depression, or ruin of farm products, has led us to conclude that the tendency of grain gambling is to drive the AMERICAN FARMER FROM THE FARM, and the result will be that foreign peasantry will do our farming, i. e., a class of people will be brought here by alien capitalists to farm the large tracts of land they will acquire.

There is a growing tendency on the part of English capitalists to secure large land holdings and bring the methods practiced in England to America. The result will be a peasant class as tenants, and ere we know it the American will abandon the farm. If farming becomes unprofitable no one can blame him for so doing.

I do not think we shall ever have a famine in breadstuffs, but stranger things have happened than a universal riot on account of the price of wheat. We do not counsel any raid on the