THE ALLIANCE.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING.

BY THE

ALLIANCE PUBLISHING CO.

BOHANNAN BLOCK,

Lincoln, - - - Nebraska.

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, includitg subscriptions to the pape., to the Secretary.

EDITORIAL.

LANDLORDISM AND CAPITALISM.

An article in the Journal of United Labor for Nov. 21, under the above caption, grazes the truth in regard to capitalism so very closely that it is simply a wonder that the writer fails to perceive the exact relations of money capital to rent. The writer says "landlordism exacts tribute from industry by claiming possession of the soil and charging an increasing rental according as the demand becomes more urgent. * * Capitalism does the same thing by inflating the volume of credit capital, which, rather than currency, is the means of exchange. And the two are inextricably interwoven so that it is impossible to separate their operations or say that any particular act of spoliation is to be credited to the one rather than the other." New right in the conclusion of this sentence is where the writer errs. Instead of being inextricably interwoven, one of these powers comprehends and governs the other. A clear perception of this fact, and a clear knowledge as to which is the controlling power, will open a clear view of the only true remedy.

Money capital embraces all other kinds of capital. It embraces capital in land, houses, merchandise, because it constitutes the only legal agent into which these other kinds of capital can be transmuted. All other kinds of capital can be changed into money and stored for future use. Money capital represents all other kinds of capital, because it commands all other kinds. This being true, the use money at any time commands determines the use or rent other kinds of capital will command. Thus, instead of being "inextricably interwoven," money is seen to stand apart, and be actually the controlling power. If this is true, the control of interest will control rent or the use of money in its transmuted form.

The writer, in what follows, grazes this fact so closely, that it is strange that it escaped him. He instances the case of the speculator in land who has "made" $100,000. He then asks: "Has he called into existence anything that did not previously exist? Yes—$100,000 have been added to the volume of credit capital. It matters not whether he receives gold or paper money or other land values in exchange, or, as in most cases, a slip of paper giving him a credit on a banker's book, there is just that amount of capital additional available for purposes of trade or investment. Invested in a bank, a railroad or factory, or lent out at interest, these dollars may yield their owner several times the amount of the original investment." All of which is very true; but however the $100,000 may be invested, it is the rate of interest which money commands that determines the return to its owner. The pregnant fact is that this $100,000 of credit capital, while a representative of money, is not itself money, and by being called into existence through an increase of values, has rendered actual money relatively just $100,000 scarcer. While it is absolutely immaterial, so far as renters or producers are concerned, whether the income from this $100,000 goes to capitalists in the form of interest or rent, it is true that its amount is fixed by interest.

Interest can be controlled in only one way, and that is by the rate which the sovereign power issuing money consents shall be received. Volume of money regulates the burden of interest through prices, not through a nominal rate. But interest controls the use of all forms of wealth which money commands. Interest controls rent, and largely fixes wages of labor and transportation charges. Credit capital, constantly expanding by land speculation, stock-watering, mortgages and other forms of debt, or in any manner, is doing its mischief by causing contraction, thus lowering prices and values, and constantly increasing the share interest takes from labor through the increased purchasing power of money. The remedy is to increase the purchasing power of labor. This can be done by re-inforcing labor with an increase of actual money fairly proportioned to increased credit capital, the same to be issued by the government direct to the people at cost of issue on land security.

The fundamental principle of our land system is ownership by the state through the right of eminent domain, never relinquished. The state is the only power that issues money. Why should not the state make one of these sovereign powers rest upon the other, and make land the basis of money?

Every debt drawing interest is a form of credit-capital. It is performing one function of money, viz: accumulation by interest, but cannot perform either of the other functions, viz: effect exchanges or liquidate debts. Its existence increases the necessity for more money, and at the same time lessens the relative supply. Every dollar of credit capital that is created creates a need for more money. This process of the creation of credit capital has been going on with accelerated pace, until there are thirty thousand millions of such capital, transmuting the earnings of labor into interest at the rate of eighteen hundred millions a year, and by the same process continually retransmuting this interest into credit capital.

Cæsar Johnsing's 'Pinion.

De Preserdint is talkin' 'bout cheap barcar
an' free rye—
Dat's whar he's flingin' tariff dus' right in de
po' man's eye.

I needs er good, warm overcoat, warm socks
an' shirts an' shoes:
Jes' gimme cheap bed-blankits, an' I'll do
widout de booze.

I's tired uv bein' taxed fer sheets, spoons,
skillits, forks an' mugs—
Somehow hit don't look right to keep free
whisky in taxed jugs.

I's tired uv restin' on taxed cheers, an' on er
tariff bed—
Free whiskey ain' gwine put no hat on dis po'
nigger's head.

Gimme cheap sugar an' bacon, an' corfy, den
I'll try
Ter pay my debts an' worry long widout the
untaxed rye.

All dat I eat an' w'ar is taxed: but ef I had ter
choose,
I'd put de taxes down on close an' put 'em up
on booze.

—William G. Eggleston.

ELMWOOD FARMERS' ALLIANCE VS. THE M. P. R. R. COMPANY.

This was a case in which the Mo. Pacific Railroad Co. refused to allow Elmwood Alliance to erect an elevator at Elmwood. It was taken before the State Board of Transportation on complaint of Elmwood Alliance, was tried at Elmwood before the Secretaries of the Board, and upon their report the Board ordered that the prayer of the plaintiffs be granted, and that the M. P. Company give said plaintiffs room and track privileges for an elevator at Elmwood on the same terms as are given the other Elevators at that place, within ten days.

Now comes the M. P. Railroad Co., and, and having lawyers hired by the year, and in pursuance with the usual custom of railroad corporations to tire out complainants, and harrass them by delays and appeals, and discourage them with visions of fees and costs, and appeals to the Board of Transportation for a re-hearing of this case before the full Board, and asks the suspension of the order until such re-hearing can be had. At the former hearing all the commissioners were present except Attorney General Leese. The alleged grounds for asking for a re-hearing are as follows:

1st. Findings and order not supported by sufficient evidence.

2nd. Findings and order contrary to law and evidence.

3rd. Board has no authority in law to act upon things and circumstances and conditions in expectancy, or to provide by an order for possible future conditions.

4th. The order of the Board will not secure to complainants the remedy desired, and only adds burdens to respondent without securing the relief sought.

The hearing of the argument for a re-hearing is set for Jan. 8th. If a re-hearing is then denied, the road will probably carry forward its policy of delay by taking the case into the courts.

We hope Elmwood Alliance will stay with this case until it is taken to a successful issue. If the funds of that Alliance are not sufficient for that purpose, we would favor making an appropriation from the treasury of the State Alliance to aid them.

It is necessary to down this railroad interest which peddles out elevator privileges and takes stock in grain-buying companies, thus acquiring a direct interest in depressing the price of grain at local stations. It is necessary that competition in buying and selling grain should be absolutely free, and if the present law will not make it so, more law should be enacted.

Observe the third claim in the motion for a re-hearing.

Just What Was Done at St. Louis.

From the loose statements put forth by the press, and by some parties who seem to be interested in making a false impression as to the facts, there seems to be danger that a wrong impression as to what was actually done at St. Louis may arise. We deem it proper therefore to make a short statement of the actual facts.

First, there was no organic union of the Northern and Southern Alliances effected. Kansas, having two state organizations, was, by vote of the National Alliance, permitted to join the Southern Alliance. It is stated that Dakota also joined the southern body. This is not true. No such action by Dakota had been taken previous to the adjournment of the National Alliance. Any action after would be the unofficial action of individuals, and would have no force until sanctioned by a state meeting. That Mr. Wardall joined, and was appointed a member of the executive committee of the southern body, at a salary of $2,000, there is no doubt. But the State Alliance of Dakota will not leave the northern organization.

Second. As to the color line, the Southern Alliance amended its constitution, leaving eligibility as far as it relates to race, to each state; but refusing to admit colored delegates to the national meeting.

Third. The eligibility clause in the southern constitution was amended by leaving out the word "country" before "mechanics," thus opening that organization to all occupations, instead of confining it to farmers, as heretofore. This amendment effectually destroys that society as a distinctively farmers' association. The National Alliance is not prepared to do this. The farmers and the mechanics and laboring men of our cities and towns cannot be profitably united in the same society. While their community of interest is sufficiently the same to enable them to unite on a general declaration of political principles, a mixing of these two classes in one society would be harmful to both. It is safe to assume that the members of the National Alliance will not yield the distinctive feature of their society as a farmers' organization. The Knights are in one field of work, and the farmers in another; and they will accomplish much more good by co-operating on general lines than by joining each other's societies.

Fourth. The question of salaries did not come up in the National Alliance meeting. That society has not been paying its officers salaries. There is much to be said on both sides of that question. In some directions salaried officers can perhaps do better work. But as a rule work that is done for the love of a good cause is the most effective. When large salaries are paid some men will accept office for the sake of the salary who will be an injury to the cause. There are quite a number of gray-haired men in the country who went through the Grange movement which was at its height about twenty-five years ago. Drunk with numbers and apparent power, the enthusiastic Grange conventions voted large salaries, and engaged in enormous business enterprises. These were necessarily placed in the hands of men unused to handling large capital, and as a rule proved disastrous failures. We saw $150,000 accumulated at Washington, and dropped into a hole. The hole is still there.

The Southern Alliance voted a large sum to its officers as salaries, and also, we are informed, voted allowances to its organizers, to be collected by them, or ppid by the states, which will aggregate, with officers' salaries, $50,000 or upward per year.

The statement that there was a debt of $75,000 on the Southern Alliance, arising from its exchange operations, and the fact that Texas had refused to ratify the union, had much influence in inducing delegates to the National Alliance to hesitate before forming an organic union; though it is certain every delegate ezcept those from Iowa and Minnesota went there with that intention.

But for co-operative work on political lines the Northern and Southern Alliances and the Knights of Labor are one body. They have agreed upon an identical declaration upon the great questions of land, money and transportation, which they recognize embrace almost all questions. While retaining their autonomy as distant organizations, there will hereafter be no rivalry except as to which shall do the best work for reform. Uniting their efforts, and agreeing in their methods, they will form a new power in the government of this country. If their plans are practically carried out, the test in the election of the next congress will be fealty to the people and to certain well-defined measures and lines of action, instead of fealty to party. And with a congress elected in this manner we may look for some legislation for the people. The following, from the Journal of the Knights of Labor, fairly expresses the hopes excited by the new alliance:

"Never before was the future so full of hope. With fidelity to convictions, all we ever hoped for is now within our reach. We have formed an alliance with a body who are earnest, honest, intelligent, and who believe as thoroughly as we in the great principles upon which our Order is founded, and for the carrying out of which it exists. Our allies are not fair-weather friends, not new converts, but men of deep and well-rooted convictions; men who "know their rights, and knowing, dare maintain." They are men who can be depended upon to do their full part in the struggle. Let us see to it that we too do ours."

"SILVER'S DEMAND."

Under the above caption the Chicago Herald attacks the proposition made by the St. Louis convention for the free coinage of silver with a ferocity that is quite surprising, or would be surprising did we not know that the Herald is owned and controlled by a national bank millionaire. When this is known its rabid utterances on the silver question are easily accounted for. It talks about the desire of the silver men to add 20 per cent to the value of their product at public expense. This amounts to a square admission that making the coinage of silver free would enhance its value 20 per cent. Good enough. The friends of silver claim that the main cause of depression in its value was its demonetization, and that its restoration to its old place would restore its value to par with gold. Its enemies have denied this, except in such unwitting cases as the above. Says the Herald:

"The effect of free coinage would be to inflate the currency immediately, to drive gold and its equivalent out of circulation, to increase prices, to promote speculation, to lessen the purchasing value of a dollar, and eventually to precipitate bankruptcy for multitudes of men."

Well, most of the above is pretty good. The scare-crow of silver driving gold out of circulation is getting thin. But we have been having contraction, and the country has been brought to the verge of ruin. Let us try a little expansion. We have had low prices, and under low prices the farms are mostly mortgaged, and the nation thirty thousand millions in debt. Let us try higher prices. We have had the purchasing power of the dollar indefinitely increased, and the result is disaster. Let us now increase the purchasing power of products and labor, and see if prosperity will not follow. Millionaire bankers and gold-bugs will froth and foam, but the results will be the same. If more multitudes reach bankruptcy under free coinage than there have under restricted coinage, the country will indeed be bad off. But we think the multitudes are willing to take the chances.

The Chicago Herald says:

"It is a peculiarity of republicanism that it shields its rogues. Insisting on the sternest penalties for democratic villians, it provides rich rewards for its own."

The times must be getting badly out of joint when a democratic organ admits that there are "democratic villians." But we are not prepared to deny it. And there is certainly no doubt about the "republican rogues." The people ought to protect each from the other, and the Australian ballot is about the thing to do it with.

BULLION CERTIFICATES.

The following is the recommendation of the secretary of the treasury upon the silver question, made in response to the public demand that silver be restored to its old place in our monetary system:

"Issue treasury notes against deposits of silver bullion at the market price of silver when deposited, payable on demand in such quantities of silver bullion as will equal in value, at the date of presentation, the number of dollars expressed on the face of the notes at the market price of silver; or in gold, at the option of the government; or in silver dollars at the option of the holder. Repeal the compulsory feature of the present coinage.

Upon an analysis of the above the points that will strike the reader are.

1st. That the coinage of silver would be stopped.

2nd. That silver would be a commodity only, and cease to be money.

3rd. That the value of this commodity would be measured in gold.

4th. That neither the certificate nor the bullion would be legal tender.

5th. That the amount of legal tender silver would remain limited by the volume already coined.

It will be observed that the plan of redemption proposed is in exact accord with the above facts. It does not contemplate redemption with the same amount of silver deposited, but IN SILVER AT ITS VALUE AT DATE OF REDEMPTION, MEASURED BY GOLD.

Making silver a commodity, with a continually varying value, upon which a holder could realize at any hour at any mint or U. S. assay office, would at at once transform it into one of the prime articles of speculation, and options in silver would become more plentiful than options in wheat or corn. In this case the certificates would take the place of warehouse receipts, representing a variable quantity of silver, one amount to-day and another amount to-morrow. The option of the government to redeem them in gold would not necessarily keep them at par with gold; though the obligation to so redeem them would.

While the secretary holds out the idea that this scheme would result in an increase of currency, that is not necessarily the case. The provision that they may be received for customs and all public dues, andre-issued when so received, sufficiently guards that point. It is likely that the current business of the treasury would enable it to take all the bullion offered without increasing the volume of certificates beyond the present point, bullion being made exchangeable for gold at the option of the treasury, or dollars at the option of the depositor. This last provision, makes present silver certificates available to handle bullion. So no increase of currency need take place.

These bullion certificates would not be money. They would not perform the one great function which is bestowed upon money by law, viz: pay debts. Gold would remain the debt-paying standard, supplemented by the silver dollars now in existence. The scheme simply makes the U. S. the depositary and holder of silver bullion, to account for on demand. It will not satisfy the silver men, and offers nothing to that far greater class who demand more money. The wheat raisers, the corn raisers and the cotton raisers have just as much right to demand that the government shall become a depositary and insurer of their products, and issue certificates upon them in dollars at market rates, as have the silver raisers, and such certificates would be as much money in the one case as the other.

This scheme is so lame and unstable, and so certain to result in bull and bear interests in the silver market, that the secretary proposes that discretion be vested in him to arrest operations when necessary.

While apparently so plausible, a careful examination shows that the proposition practically gives to the gold bugs all they have been fighting for. It demonetizes silver, stops its coinage, and leaves gold the sole and only standard of value, while offering no relief to the country by an increased volume of money. It is a dead give-away to Wall Street, and effectually disposes of the pretense that Mr. Windom is friendly to silver.

Death of Hon. R. B. Harrington.

Hon. R. B. Harrington, of Beatrice, died of consumption at Richmond, Va., on Friday, Dec. 6, 1889.

Mr Harrington was one of the oldest and best known residents of Gage Co. He held many offices of trust and honor. He was for several years Receiver of the Beatrice land office, and was State Senator from Gage county.

To say he possessed the confidence and esteem of all men is not enough. Those who knew him best loved him most. He was a noble, upright, honest man. He had a quick contempt for all shams, and despised all wrong. During the war we had known and frequently seen our then honored President, Mr. Lincoln. Becoming intimately acquainted with Mr. Harrington long afterward, we were struck by his strong resemblance, in person and character, to Mr. Lincoln. The resemblance in many particulars was marked and striking.

We are proud to know that we could call Mr. Harrington FRIEND. When we took his hand at our parting, just before he started for Virginia, we knew that we were standing at the portal—were saying good-bye to one who was about to enter in, and whom we should never more see upon earth. We pause now in the selfish strugale and ceasless strife of this wrong life, in which men and brothers are trampling each other in their eager rush after false gods, to drop a tear to the memory of A MAN, and to almost envy him the peace of the sleep that knows no waking.

In answering advertisements always mention THE ALLIANCE.

ADDRESS OF PRES. BURROWS.

Delivered at the Annual Meeting of the National Farmers' Alliance, Held at St. Louis, Dec. 3rd, 1889.

Again we are met together as representatives of our different state organizations, to survey the field of our past labors and draw from their results lessons for our future guidance, and perhaps encouragement for our future endeavors.

The progress that has been made in organization in the past year, while not nearly so great as it should have been, is sufficiently encouraging to show that our society is receiving the approval of the intelligent portion of the agricultural class, and to warrant the continuance of our efforts to mobilize and centralize our influence for the advancement of its interests. New state organizations have been formed in Ohio, Washington and Colorado. The Alliance has been reorganized in Illinois on a basis that promises to give that great state a distinctively farmers' organization commensurate with the magnitude of its agricultural industries. New Alliances have been chartered in California, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Indiana, New York and Missouri, and only a little effort is required to secure state organizations in those states.

It must be noted that all this organization has been purely voluntary, and that the National Alliance has not employed any national officers in proselyting work. This fact shows a readiness of the agricultural class to unite for its own welfare which is certainly a good augury for future success in organization.

Looking over the field from another standpoint, we find there has been no advance in material prosperity since our last annual meeting. The prices of agricultural products continue so low that there is but little incentive to continued production. Values of all kinds of property have continued to shrink, until it has become hazardous to make new investments in any kinds of business. With continually shrinking values hoarded money pays a better return than money invested. This fact, by impeding new enterprises, interferes with the employment of labor, intensifying competition in the labor market and throwing idle hands upon the public or upon charity for support, thus at the same time consuming accumulated capital and arresting production. A continual shrinkage of values also increases the burden of interest and debt, while diminishing the power of the producer to pay. In fact, with prices continually shrinking the liquidation of debt becomes almost impossible. The fund for the payment of interest and debt by the farmer must come from the margin of production over necessary consumption. If shrinking values entirely wipe out that margin the fund is destroyed. That that margin has been entirely wiped out there is no manner of doubt. In the case of our public debt it can be shown that it will take more of the products of labor, measured by the present prices of those products, to pay that debt now than it would in 1865. On August 1, 1865, our national debt was 2,680 millions of dollars. On July 1, 1888, it was 1,705 millions, showing the payment of $975,000,000. During this twenty years we have paid over 1,800 millions of intere t on this debt. With all this enormous outlay we are startled with the information that our debt is larger now than when we thought it was the largest in 1865. But such is indubitably the fact. In dollars it is smaller. But measured in any of the products of industry with which producers buy dollars, it is larger. It would take more bushels of corn or wheat, more pounds of pork or beef, more tons of bar iron, or more bales of cotton, to pay the debt to-day than it would have taken in 1865. The condition of affairs that has made this true of our public debt makes it true also of all private debts. It is not so much the nominal number of dollars as the price of products or labor with which the producer buys the dollars that determines the burden of debt.

The transportation problem has assumed some new phases, but it still remains unsolved. On the side of the people the concensus of opinion is enormously in favor of government control, more or less absolute. There is no doubt whatever that a sentiment in favor of absolute ownership of the roads by the government is rapidly gaining ground. In this direction the adding of stringent criminal provisions to the interstate commerce law, and the increasing exercise of large powers by the interstate commission are in response to this growing public sentiment. The demand that the law should be repealed finds no echo among the people, who on the contrary are rapidly advancing to the point when government ownership will be demanded.

On the part of the corporations the tendency to cover railroad properties with enormous blanket mortgages, in which are included every possible form of debt which may be funded, is a pointer in the same direction. These debts, when funded into bonds, become as much a taxing power, draw their enormous revenues as directly from the producers of the nation, form as untransferable a load upon the labor of the country, as do the municipal, state or national taxes imposed solely for governmental purposes. Add to this pregnant fact the other, that as soon as they leave the hands of their issuers they go into the possession of innocent holders and assume the sacred character of vested rights, and the motives of their issuers, and their instinctive apprehension that a great change is to take place in the transportation problem, may be partially fathomed. Railroad combinations which will far surpass in magnitude any of the past are undoubtedly contemplated. With this phase of the question the public has become familliar. But after all that has been said about watered stocks, it is doubtful if the public fully appreciate the enormously increased taxing power which may be still developed by greater combinations, and fastened upon our posterity under the delusive pretense of vested rights and innocent ownership. It is for us to sound the alarm, and warn the people of their still greater danger, and to demand of congress prompt action to prevent this increased incubus of taxation from being loaded upon our children and our children's children.

The land question is still with us. The unexampled rush of land-seekers to Oklahoma when it was opened to settlement, partially shows the extent of the land starvation which is felt by our farming and laboring people. Of all the unearned lands which are said to be forfeited by the railroads and recovered by the government, very few acres indeed can be obtained by the settler for a home without a lawsuit with a corporation. In almost all these cases the railroads have carried the contest for these lands into the courts, hoping to gain by legal chicane the empire they failed to steal outright. Congress should at once establish an authority upon which the duty of forcing all forfeitures of lands to a rapid and final decision, should be mandatory, to the end that these lands shall be open to the settler under the homestead law.

We should renew our former declaration that no alien should be permitted to hold land in the United States.

But if agricultural land is to be held in large quantities, it makes little practical difference whether it is held by aliens or citizens. The principal evil resulting from such holdings is the forcing of would-be tillers of the soil to the outskirts of civilization, or dooming them to a life of servitude to pay a debt contracted in the purchase of a home. It is unquestionably the duty of the government to see that honest citizens who desire to be tillers of the soil are not deprived of that right by unjust and liberty destroying monopolies. This is a duty the government owes to posterity as well as to citizens of the present time, for it is undoubtedly true that a virtuous, industrious and FREE agricultural population is the only basis for a progressive and enduring civilization. Every man desiring to till the soil, and to make a home thereon, should be permitted to own 80 acres of land free of all taxation and execution for debt. Holdings in excess of that amount should be taxed cumulatively until ownership of agricultural land above a reasonable amount would become impossible. This principle should be established and have universal application as soon as possible.

It has been proposed to usher in the millennium, solve the labor problem, give profitable employment to all who desire it, renovate and rejuvenate society, and advance civilization to yet nobler heights, by the confiscation of rent through taxation, at the same time that all created wealth is to be exempt from taxation. With many shallow thinkers, and with many people in our towns and cities who are taken with the idea of exemption from taxes of all personal property, this proposition has gained much favor. But it is worthy of note that no trained political economists, and few men of great intellectual culture or achievement, have espoused it. And it is also worthy of note that Herbert Spencer, the great apostle upon whom the proposer of this panacea for all economic and social ills mainly leaned in the elaboration of his theories, has quite lately entirely repudiated the application made of them.

Rent has no existence separate from labor. It is, in fact, annually created by labor. To the man who pays rent, and expects always to pay it, it may make little difference whether he pays it to the public or to a landlord. But to the small land owner, who comprises within his own person both capitalist and laborer, and who as his own landlord is the receiver of the rent paid by himself, it will make a vast difference whether this rent is confiscated by the state or left in his own pocket.

To exempt the creations of labor from taxation, in the interest of the laborer, while four-fifths of such products are absorbed by the capitalist as soon as created, and must under our competitive system and the competitive system proposed by Mr. George, continue to be so absorbed, would be of very doubtful benefit—or rather would be of undoubted benefit to the capitalist.

To argue that because taxation never has produced human happiness, it never will, would perhaps not be fair in this era of progress and change. But, as far as heard from to date, taxation has at best been considered a necessary evil, and human happiness has never been predicated upon it. To increase taxation so as to fully absorb the total revenue of one of the prime factors of production, viz: land, does not in my opinion offer sufficient promise of paradise to commend it to my approval. A careful analysis of an exclusive tax upon land values will show that the burden of this tax will rest finally upon the actual tillers of the soil.

As representatives of the class which nominally holds in its posession the land of the nation, and which produces annually the largest proportion of the wealth of the nation, it is our duty to ascertain the cause for the continually increasing concentration of wealth in the hands of a comparatively small number—and for the fact that the great middle class which is the true manistay of popular government, is fast disappearing, and that we are rapidly becoming a nation of a few very rich and a great many very poor, people. This important fact is attracting the attention of the very best minds of this age. In this connection I must again refer to the money question, which is of the most transcendent importance, and really embraces all economic questions which are attracting public attention at this time. The land question is the money question, as rent is only interest upon capital in other forms than money. The labor question is the money question, as an adequate supply of money would stimulate enterprise, employ labor, and raise wages, and thus prevent strikes and lockouts. The transportation question is largely embraced in the money question, because interest on plant and on debt forms the largest fixed charge of railroad corporations.

By the demonetization of silver by the Latin Union, Germany and the United States a large volume of this metal was deprived of its money quality, and was relegated to the domain of commodities. By the appreciation of U. S. bonds a large contraction has been caused in the volume of our national bank currency. This contraction has been tangible and absolute, and can be stated in dollars. But the relative contraction caused by increased and improved appliances for production, by more rapid communication, and by the removal of obstacles to trade, has been much greater. Every removal of an obstacle to commerce, every improved machine which makes production more rapid and easy, has created a use and a necessity for more money. But while these improvements have been going on, while this necessity has been created, the volume of money has been growing less. If proof of this fact was needed it might be found in the statistics of business failures. These aggregated in 1865, six hundred and thirty-two, representing a loss of 17 millions of dollars. In 1888 they aggregated 10,679, representing a loss of 124 millions. Or by the shrinkage in the value of farms and agricultural property, which will amount for the past twenty years to 5,000 millions of dollars. Or by the enormous debt, estimated at 30,000 millions, which now hangs like a pall over the nation.

This contraction of the volume of money has been in the interest of the handlers of money capital. As values have receded the purchasing power of money has advanced. With every depression of price interest, or money derived from fixed incomes in any form, will command more of your wealth. Remember, with all handlers of money-capital, or receivers of fixed incomes, the purchasing power of money is a vital point. But with all producers, whether by agriculture, manufactures, arts, professions, or day wagers, the purchasing power of products is the vital point. The first-named class buy wealth with money, the second-named class buy money with wealth.

The contraction of the money volume means the robbery of the producer and laborer, and the enriching of the money lender.

The control of the money volume of a country means the control of the labor of that country.

The power to fix interest, and the power to depress prices, means a power to tax never possessed by the most autocratic government on the face of the earth.

The power to issue money and regulate its value is the highest sovereign power that can be exercised.

The government of the United States, as far as one species of our money is concerned, viz: national bank notes, which form an important part of our circulating medium, has farmed out this sovereign power to a monopoly.

It has thus conferred upon this monopoly, an enormous taxing power.

This taxing power has been conferred by law, and by law alone can it be taken away.

Production of late years has so enormously increased as to require a greatly increased volume of money to effect exchanges. The demand for the use of the precious metals for other purposes than for coin has also largely increased, while the supply remains normal. It would seem therefore that the supply of those metals would never again be adequate alone to furnish an amount of money equal to the demands of the commerce of this country, and the world.

But more money is demanded by the people. The silver convention held in this city last week was simply an incident growing out of this demand.

How shall this additional money be issued, and of what shall it consist?

Land is now the ultimate security of all loans of money, and is the ultimate basis of all bonds, whether municipal, state or national. The productions of land form the basis of the taxing power upon which the credit of nations is founded. Money based upon first mortgage on land, with its issues properly limited, would possess two indispensable requisites for good money, viz: stability and an imperishable and reasonably unchangeable basis of value.

This money should be issued direct to the people who could give the adequate land security, at cost of issue, as now to national banks on bond security, and should be legal tender for all debts public and private.

The coinage of gold and silver should be free and unlimited.

From the foregoing I would deduce the following measures, viz:

Abolish land monopoly by a cumulative tax.

Supply money at cost, by amending the law which now requires the government to loan money to bankers at one per cent on bonds, so that loans on small landed estates can be obtained at the same rate.

Supply transportation at cost by government ownership of railroads.

Let the farmers of this nation unite on these three measures, to the exclusion of all minor ones, and vote for no men for congress who are not PLEDGED to make these measures the first and dominant legislation in congress.

A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE.

Last week Mr. Powderly's paper came to us as "The Journal of United Labor." This week it comes as "The Journal of the Knights of Labor." This is a silent but very expressive protest against the proposed union of the Southern Alliance and the Knights into one organic body, which was invited by the former when they made all mechanics eligible to membership. Mr. Powderly knows very well that the mechanics and laboring men of our towns cannot be profitably organized in the same society with the farmers; and he takes this effectual method of showing that his paper is the organ of the Knights only, and not of any new amalgamation. Mr. Powderly has a reputation for having quite a level head.

National Banks.

The following from the report of the comptroller of the currency shows the condition of the national banks at the present time. National banking seems to be a very satisfactory kind of business—to the bankers:

On October 31, 1889 there were in existence 3,319 national banks, possessing an aggregate capital of $620,174,365. The last report of condition exhibited their resources and liabilities on September 30, 1889. The number reporting at that time was 3,290, having a capital of $612,584,095; surplus, $197,394,761; undivided profits, $84,866,869; gross deposits, including amount due banks, $1,950,935,160; loans and discounts, $1,805,729,739. The amount of circulation outstanding was $203,662,732, of which $131,383,334 was secured by United States bonds, and the remainder, $72,279,362, was represented by deposit of lawful money in the Treasury deposited to retire it. Within the year 211 banks were organized, having an aggregate capital of $21,240 000. Only two national banks failed during the year.

NO PROXIES.

The Excutive Committee, at a meeting held at Lincoln, Dec. 17, to make arrangements for the annual meeting, decided to recommend that no proxies be admitted to the annual meeting, and that Delegates present be entitled to cast the vote their respective Alliances are entitled to.

This recomendation is right, and will undoubtedly be adopted. Proxies are the tools of corrupt politicians. Many a convention has been entirely swamped and corrupted by them. They are simply an expedient for concentrating large power in the hands of an individual. When the railroad power of this state wanted to control the late republican convention, it naturally resorted to proxies; and two hundred and eighty men voted in that convention, of course for the railroad candidate. The State Alliance wants nothing to do with proxies.

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 well print them as good as the best, and as low as the lowest.

Do not send money by postal notes. They are no safer than stamps. Postal notes lost cannot be traced or recovered. Send by express or money order, registered letter or bank draft.