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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.

1889--1890.

Another of the old years is gone, another of the new begun.

"Let the dead past bury its dead."

But of the new year we have great hopes. An intellectual ferment never before known is going on among all classes of men. This is not literary or educational in its character. It seems to arise from a common conviction that our social forces are being misdirected—that our present industrial and economic systems are productive of injustice and inequality, instead of justice and equality. And a remedy is being sought. New ideas are being evolved, and men who have long been welded to the old are being convinced that perhaps there may be something better in the new—that more age may not after all be infallible evidence of truth. So we have hopes for the new year. Hidden forces may be brought to light, and new systems be developed, which will revolutionize our ways of life without the red horrors of old time changes—without the axe and the fusillade. These hopes look in the direction of a closer co-operation and a fuller recognition of the brotherhood of man. In physical life we have seen such a revolution. The most powerful agency known has within the past ten years been harnessed and brought into subjection more than in a thousand years before. May we not develop a social electric force as powerful as the material one?

And now, dear reader of whatever age or station, let us give you a hint of the true philosophy of life. Do the duty day by day that lies nearest to you, and remember that the highest dedication of man is to duty, which often lies ahead of thorny paths. Do not look too far ahead for happiness, unless you look beyond the veil. It is a mirage that vanishes as you approach it. Wealth, honors, a great name, do not bring it. Do not, with haughty mien, while looking for the opportunity for some great achievement, pass the lowly and needy who are at your feet. What happiness you get in this world you will find scattered by the way as you go along, not corralled and branded at some elysian ahead of you. And you will find it through love and charity and kindness to your fellows, more than in all other ways combined. Let that sublime sentiment of Terence, "There is nothing which is human that is alien to me," be your motto and your guide of action, and you will find much content. And now we wish you all a very Happy New Year.

The Tariff and the Iron and Steel Men.

It is stated that during the first ten months of the current year our imports of iron and steel manufactures amounted to seventeen millions of dollars, while our exports of the same goods for the same period amounted to nearly twenty-three millions. That is, we sold in the first ten months of the current year, in the open markets of the world, in competition with the manufactures produced by the so-called pauper labor of Europe, nearly six million dollars' worth more of those goods than they sold to us. Or in other words, we have gone into the free markets of the world, in competition with manufacturers who are said to have a great advantage over us in the matter of labor, and who do have an advantage in the matter of money, and beaten them in their own door-yards. Of course it goes without saying that our manufacturers have sold cheaper in foreign markets than they do in our home market. And it also goes without saying, that they are not selling goods anywhere for their health alone, but have made a fair living profit on the wares they have sold abroad.

Now they have done this while handicapped by a tariff which, while it fails to give them the monopoly of the home market as against foreign competition, largely enhances the cost of production by imposing a duty on raw material, as well as upon the cost of living of themselves and their employes. Suppose this handicap was removed by making raw material upon which American labor may be employed free, and by largely reducing or entirely removing the duties upon the necessities of life, is there any doubt that our manufacturers of steel and iron goods could control the markets of the world? Labor is the creator of all wealth; and the policy that taxes labor by imposing a duty upon raw material upon which labor may be employed, and upon articles necessary to subsist laborers, is too blind for any intelligent nation to pursue.

Something Like a Depression.

It has for years been the business of R. G. Dun & Co. to keep a tentative finger on the commercial pulse of the country, and note the changes in the condition of the patient. They have also put out weekly bulletins, purporting to announce these changes. But these bulletins have been inspired more by hopes than symptoms. They have been continual prophets of better times. "Business improving," "prospects fair for an excellent trade," "stocks tending upward," "collections easier," etc., etc., have been their burden. And notwithstanding the patient hasn't been getting any better. He has just barely weathered the last two years and kept

life in him, and seems now on the verge of a fever or convulsions. Dun & Co.'s report for Dec. 28 is a sort of suppressed wail over the condition of trade. Such terms as "much pressure for money," "a dullness bordering on depression," "fear of commercial embarrassments," "unusually slow collections," etc., are sandwiched between hopes and prophecies of better times.

Gentlemen, let us tell a little truth. We have been on the down grade for several years. For the past two years the pace has been accelerated, and another year, or half of one, like the past, will drop the country into the worst financial panic ever known in its history. Down, down, down, have gone all kinds of prices. This same R. G. Dun & Co. announced a decline in values in one of their reports this fall which aggregated seven billions of dollars. Ten western states are sending out by their borders \$240,000,000 annually in interest. With every fall of price it takes more of the products of labor to raise this money. Lands are falling fearfully. Cultivation has ceased to pay. Widespread movements for a general stay of mortgage sales are being made.

This on one side. On the other, money-lenders and bankers are reaping a harvest never before known. Interest scoops in wealth as never before. The railroads, too, in spite of the interstate law, are prosperous. These are the classes who have fixed incomes in money, and the lower prices are the more wealth they command. The Great West compiles the following figures to show how the grangers have ruined the railroads. While farm incomes have decreased in four years from \$8.75 to \$6.75 per acre, the railroads show up the following for the first week in December, with increase over the same week last year:

Table with 3 columns: Name, 1st week in Dec., Inc. Includes Canadian Pacific, N. O. and T., St. Paul, etc.

Do the body of millionaires at Washington who buy their way for six years at a time, take cognizance of these facts? No, indeed! If they should see this article they would call it writer a crank and a fool. Sitting there in Washington, watching Wall street, as the money-pulse of the country, and doling out a few millions now and then, to prevent an explosion, the secretary of the treasury does not seem to realize that the situation is an unnatural and alarming one, and that his patient sorely needs a transfusion of new blood into its veins in the shape of more money in the veins of commerce. And he prescribes a quack nostrum called bullion certificates, and holds the pulse and watches the fever without knowing what it means. The prospect for a change is not good.

Fool Editors.

One of the editors of the Omaha Bee is at the farm mortgage business again. The facts about farm mortgages which crop out now and then keep the tools of the money power frothing like a rabid dog. This writer, after alluding to the figures which have been given as to these mortgages, says: "They were promptly and effectually 'disproved' by official statements from 'governors, auditors and state treasurers; but the same old falsehood once 'more reappears to do service for campaign and partisan purposes.'" That's the kind of loose assertion indulged in by fool editors. This man wouldn't know a mortgage from a hitching post. He has never printed in the Bee, and never seen, a single official statement from any governor, auditor or state treasurer on the subject. These men are not giving official figures from the records on this question.

Again he says: "There are millions of 'dollars of mortgages of record in the 'west which have been paid off, and 'the evidence of payment not spread on 'the books.'" This editor evidently thinks the farmers who have paid off their mortgages are as great muckskulls as he is. But he is mistaken. We'll bet him a horse against a dude necktie that there isn't \$25,000 of such in the state.

Will the editor tell us what "campaign" is going on just now, and what "partizan purposes" are to be served by telling the facts about farm mortgages. An Omaha editor might mortgage his pasture—a thistle pasture probably—to build "good barns and sheds," but a sensible Nebraska farmer will not do it at these times, and they have not done it in the past, to any great extent.

Going from mortgages to money, this writer slobbers over the president for his supposed approval of Mr. Windom's plan to issue gold certificates on silver bullion. He says "both the president and secretary have received thousands 'of letters from financial men in all 'parts of the country, commending the 'proposition.'" We suppose so. That is one of the tricks of the national bankers' association. To accomplish that one-half of its members would have to write one letter each. He alludes to "the convictions of the president," etc. The message showed conclusively that the president did not have a single conviction on the subject. His influence upon legislation in regard to it will be as neutral as his opinions are undecided. But one thing seems sure—that the power of Wall street controls the daily papers on the money question, no matter what their politics or professions.

"JUSTICE TO WANAMAKER."—The Bee has an article headed "justice to Wanamaker." That's right! Justice should be meted to all the fellows who had a hand in that "blocks of five" business.

A Wild Scheme.

The National Economist for Dec. 28, under the flaming heading of "Eureka! Key to the Solution of the Industrial Problem of the Age," elaborates a proposition for the relief of the industrial masses—a scheme which it says "will emancipate productive labor from the power of money to oppress, with speed and certainty." We heard this scheme presented, on a celebrated occasion, under an injunction of secrecy. We had fondly hoped the secrecy was to be eternal; but we were doomed to disappointment.

The scheme in short is for the government to build warehouses and elevators in all counties producing more than \$500,000 worth of farm products, including wheat, corn, oats, rye, rice, tobacco, cotton, wool and sugar, all together, and receive those products in store, issuing warehouse receipts therefor, conditioned on their redemption within one year, and at the same time advancing to the storer United States legal tender paper money equal to 80 per cent of the local current value of the products stored, the storer to pay interest on the same at the rate of one per cent, and also a trifle for handling, storage and insurance.

We believe the above is a fair statement of the proposition. We regret more than we can express that a paper having the standing of the Economist, a paper "devoted to social, financial and political economy," and representing as it does so large a wing of the Alliance, should seriously put forth such an impracticable, unwise and unjust proposition. We regret it on account of the confidence we have had in its author, and on account of the ridicule and contumely it will bring upon the Alliance and the cause of financial reform. We regret it on account of the division it will cause in the Alliance ranks. We have studied hours over our duty in this matter; and have concluded that we are here to tell the truth as we believe it and see it.

A scheme that proposes to expand the currency of the country to the amount of a billion at the time the crops begin to move, and contract it to the same amount when the products are consumed, requiring an adjustment of prices and business to this enormous range of variation twice within twelve months, is too hair-brained for even patient criticism. Such propositions tend to make one conservative, and inspire a healthy dread of revolutions.

In the same number of the Economist is a criticism of Secretary Windom's scheme to issue certificates on silver bullion, and it is very justly denounced as much worse than the present system. But issuing certificates on all kinds of perishable crops would be all right.

We write this article with great reluctance. But it is our duty to put this paper on record without waiting to hear the criticisms of others. And it is our duty to protest against the Alliance being compromised, or having to bear the discredit of such propositions. The author of the proposition makes an excellent argument in its favor. He is in dead earnest, and sincerely believes in the efficacy and adequacy of his plan. Should the proposition receive any attention we may analyze it hereafter.

"Why Prices of Farm Products Have Declined."

The above is the caption of an article in the Omaha World-Herald of Dec. 27. The reason it gives for the decline is the old hackneyed one the money-lenders have used for generations, viz: over-production. The article closes as follows:

"It must be apparent, therefore, that the low prices of all food products, from which the farmers throughout the land are now suffering, is not to be attributed to the demonization of silver, and that the restoration of that metal to its former standard of value would not in any wise aid them. The inevitable laws of supply and demand are stronger than legislation, and prices will doubtless continue to be fixed thereby."

If the laws of supply and demand make prices, what makes and controls the laws of supply and demand? We answer, contraction of the money volume. Money is the primary and governing force, which as its volume increases or diminishes, increases or diminishes prices. The value of each unit of either fiat or metallic money depends absolutely upon the number of such units and the relation they bear to the services they are required to perform. It is the limitation of the quantity of money that regulates the value of each unit of money, whether fiat or metallic. Every great and general fall of prices has been preceded by a decrease in the volume of money. There never has been a decrease in the volume of money which has not sooner or later resulted in a general fall of prices, and there has never been a recovery therefrom except through a preceding increase in the volume of money. If by a contraction of the money volume and a consequent fall of prices you destroy the farmers' margin of profit which should be left after subsistence has been secured, you destroy his power to make new improvements, buy improved stock and machinery, and engage in new enterprises, and thus effectually interfere with demand to that extent. Diminishing money and falling prices are not only oppressive upon debtors, but they cause stagnation in business, reduce production and enforce idleness. All intelligent writers on money agree that when it is decreasing in amount, either relatively or absolutely, poverty and misery also increase.

One of the traits of these times of prostration is an apparent overproduction. But this arises from actual under-consumption, caused by inability to buy. It is merely a symptom of the disease, not the disease itself. But empirics like the World-Herald consider it the disease. And the only logical remedy they can offer is, do less labor—produce less wealth.

As to the effect of making the coinage of silver free and unlimited, it is true it would not offer a full remedy, because it would not increase the volume of

money in proportion to the increase of population. But it would do much. It would make the stock of silver now in the country, or which might be brought in, potentially money, whether it was coined or not. The plan of Sec'y Windom, on the contrary, would not increase our stock of money by a single dollar. The demonetization of silver was intended to diminish the money volume of the world, and cause a fall of prices; and it was undoubtedly one of the agencies that did it, notwithstanding the World-Herald. Its demonetization will have the contrary effect in quite as great a degree. The editor of the World-Herald ought to read an elementary treatise on money, or else read THE ALLIANCE more attentively.

The Eight-Hour Law.

That assinine corporation organ the Lincoln Journal was greatly exercised a few days ago about a resolution of the Knights of Labor in favor of a legal eight-hour day. Its agony was occasioned by its fear lest the farming industry might be ruined by a limitation of farm labor to a day of eight hours. The anxiety it commonly shows is caused by fear the farmers may organize and hurt their pets the railroads. It has never been known to lose any sleep on account of anxiety for their welfare, either as laborers or sellers of products. Its natural instincts would be against an eight-hour law, or any other law for the amelioration of the condition of the laboring men. The laboring men of Lincoln would like to see it come squarely out in favor of making eight hours a legal day's work.

The agitation in favor of an eight-hour day is not new, and it has made great progress. Such profound thinkers as John Stuart Mill, and such profound reasoners as Thos. B. Macaulay were among the early proposers of such legislation in England. The agitation began in that day in an effort to prohibit the labor of children and women in factories. These worked fifteen, sixteen and seventeen hours in a day. The same kind of sneers against the movement as the Journal uses were common then. A class of men existed then as now who look upon men and women as simply beasts of burden who are to be turned to the most profitable account. Experience shows that where intelligent and instructed employes work faithfully for eight hours, and have the remainder of their time for intercourse with their families, for reading, for attending lyceums and lectures, for resorting to the public libraries and social meetings, they are not only better workers and better citizens, but they turn out more work in the line in which they are engaged. Instead of a man jaded, tired, going to his home with every faculty of his brain and body worn out and fatigued, you have one with a skillful, inventive and reflecting brain. Where leisure is one of the luxuries of life, it is highly valued and put to good use, and better manhood and higher citizenship is the result. This experiment has been tried, and its results are recorded.

We invite the Journal to come up on a higher plane, and treat this matter in an earnest philosophical manner, not with sneers and innuendoes.

WHAT MIGHT BE, BUT WILL NOT.

What an opportunity any great railroad in Nebraska now has to do a favor to the farmers living along its line which would make them its fast friends for years. The elevators are glutted with corn. The capacity of the roads are overtaxed. They cannot at once furnish cars, nor haul all the corn offered. At Filley we saw a thousand bushels of shelled corn piled on the ground awaiting shipment. The price at best was low. This glut forces it still lower. Farmers cannot afford to go to the banks and pay 12 per cent for money to hold 15 cent corn. They can make contracts for future delivery at these low prices, and so get a little money to pay up interest; or they can rush it on the market, and take what it will bring. This is what many are doing.

Now suppose one of our great railroad companies should go along its lines and offer all farmers who had corn to sell, and would mortgage the same, an advance of say ten cents per bushel, at 5 per cent, with three or four months' time to repay the debt—thus relieving the farmers' most pressing needs, and giving time for the glut to get over, and the market to recover. If a road should do this, it would secure ultimately one-third more corn to transport, as this would be brought to it from far beyond its natural limits; it would relieve the pressure on its transportation, and would endear its customers to it in a way that would ultimately bring it to great profit. Besides it would not lose a dollar of the money advanced. Don't all speak at once, gentlemen.

The Nationalist.

The Nationalist for December is upon our table. This is a very attractive monthly, devoted to "the nationalization of industry and the promotion of the brotherhood of humanity." It is published by the National Educational Association, 77 Boylston street, Boston, Mass. Price \$1.00 a year. The present number contains a pen and ink sketch of Edward Bellamy, the author of Looking Backward, and a choice collection of original articles. Among these are Looking Forward, by Edward Bellamy; The Why and Wherefore, by Abby Morley Diaz; Politics and the People, by J. B. Wakeman; A Solution of the Liquor Problem, by George W. Evans. To our country readers who wish to keep abreast of the foremost in reform literature we commend this magazine.

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.

AN AVALANCHE OF LYING.

We much regret that it has seemed necessary to so many of our contemporaries to lie so mendaciously as to what was done at St. Louis. It may be matter of regret that an organic union was not formed between the northern and southern Alliances, though we are not at present certain that it is. But such a union was not formed, and we see no possible good in asserting that it was, as so many papers which know better, have done. There are things in the southern Alliance constitution which the National Alliance would never accept. First, it would not consent to be restricted as to the class of delegates it might send to the national meeting; 2d, it would not agree to give up its distinctive features as a farmers' society; 3d, it would not consent to a long line of high salaried officers.

Dakota delegates to the Southern Alliance.

ST. LOUIS, MO., Dec. 7, 1889.

TO THE FARMERS' AND LABORERS' UNION OF AMERICA:

In pursuance of the joint action of the National Farmers' Alliance and the Farmers' and Laborers' Union, providing for an organic union between the two bodies, the conditions being that when the new constitution should be jointly proposed, approved and ratified by said Farmers' and Laborers' Union, and by two-thirds of the State Alliance, then by proclamation of the presidents of the two bodies the union should be declared completed, we the delegates from the State Alliance of South Dakota, by authority reposed in us, do hereby accept and ratify said constitution, as amended and agreed upon by the National Farmers' Alliance and the Farmers' and Laborers' Union, to take effect upon acceptance and ratification of said constitution by two-thirds of the State Alliance composing the National Farmers' Alliance.

Attest— C. V. GARDNER, Chairman of Delegation. A. WARDALL, Secretary of Delegation.

Now, the "conditions" stated above were part of the conditions proposed by Bro. Loucks late Friday evening, as the final compromise basis of a union between the two bodies. The other conditions related to a joint election of officers. This proposition was taken to the Southern Alliance by a committee composed of Hon. A. J. Streeter and Hon. Allen Root. It was acted upon by the Southern Alliance, and REJECTED, and the committee so reported at once. It was then moved, we think by Mr. Wardall, that the National Alliance unite with the southern, notwithstanding the almost contemptuous rejection of the conditions proposed by Mr. Loucks. This motion was debated calmly and dispassionately, until 2 o'clock, Saturday morning. Men who went to St. Louis to form a union opposed the motion, saying that they could not support it without sacrificing their self respect; and it was finally laid upon the table by an almost unanimous vote, upon which the National Alliance adjourned *vine die*.

So, as a matter of fact, the above assumption of the Dakota delegates is entirely without foundation, and implies a state of facts which has no existence.

As to their authority to take their State out of their National Alliance, they had none. When the National Alliance adjourned their authority as delegates ceased. But we are informed by the Ruralist, that the State Executive Committee has held a meeting and formally ratified the action of these gentlemen. If that is true, we have this to say about it: It was quite as unauthorized as the action of the delegates. An Executive Committee is raised to execute the law, not to make it. When it assumes to change organic law without referring the matter to the organic body it exercises an usurped and despotic power.

The assumption that the constitution of the National Alliance had been amended was necessary to justify the action of the Dakota delegates. This assumption has not a particle of foundation in fact. That constitution was not altered or amended in the slightest degree. Some amendments which had been proposed or acted upon by the southern Alliance were reported to our meeting by our committee of conference, and were concurred in with the proviso that said concurrence had no force unless a union was formed. The union was not formed, and no amended constitution was ever acted upon. Other amendments which were adopted by the southern Alliance were not even reported to the National Alliance, notably the one admitting all mechanics as members.

Dakota having gone out through the action of its Executive Committee, President J. H. Powers, of Nebraska, will become President of the National Alliance. Bro. Loucks said, in open meeting, after he was elected, that if Dakota joined the southern society he should feel in honor bound to resign. We lose a good president, but we also gain a good one. There is no better man for the position than Bro. Powers.

Another Squeeze on Wall Street.

The New York dispatches of Dec. 30 give an account of almost a money panic on Wall St. The bank of England advanced its minimum rate of discount to 6 per cent, and the impression got out that the treasury department would not recognize a stringency in the money market. This shot all loans up to 25 per cent, and caused the failure of two firms on the stock and petroleum exchange.

The way these sharks eat each other when a pinch comes, is amusing as well as instructive to an outsider, though the melancholy part is prominent. A well-known stock exchange house obtained, on representation of great necessity, \$200,000 from the Mechanic's National Bank at 6 per cent. As soon as the transaction was concluded the firm appeared on the stock exchange as a lender of money, and loaned at 25 per cent precisely the same amount it had borrowed from the bank. Its discount on \$200,000 at 6 per cent was \$12,000. The interest on the same sum at 25 per cent was \$50,000, leaving a net profit of \$38,000. This amount has to be paid by somebody, and it is ultimately loaded on productive labor, through the agency of prices, and is termed either profit or interest, or else it is an absolute loss, and taken from accumulated capital. But the men who gain it on Wall St.,

through sharp practice, do it without using a dollar of their own money, or performing an hour's productive labor.

Of course it is understood that no legitimate business will bear such rates of interest, and men only pay it when forced to, and to avert disaster. The men who are inside, and can get favors like the firm alluded to above, turn around and mercilessly bleed their less fortunate associates on the same board. If the merchants of New York would come out frankly and state over their own signatures what rates they have paid for money for the past three months, and give the names of the parties from whom they have borrowed it, and the securities they have pledged for it, a system of extortion would be revealed which would create a sensation.

The dispatches state that on the morning of the 9th Mr. Windom "CAME TO A REALIZING SENSE OF THE OBLIGATIONS OF HIS DEPARTMENT TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, and ordered the several sub-treasuries to prepay, without rebate, the checks for interest on the national debt that were due Jan. 1." Mr. Windom is holding down the safety valve, as we described a few weeks ago; and if he should happen to do so and forget "the obligations of his department" for a few days, the result might be something fearful.

But doesn't this picture smack slightly of paternalism? If we ask that the government own the railroads, or start a postal telegraph, or let up on the sugar and lumber tax, the money men ask, "O, you want a paternal government, do you?" But the secretary of the treasury, with his pile behind him, must keep his finger on the feverish pulse of the stock board, and the petroleum board, composed of gamblers and thieves who rob each other with as little compunction as a granger would kill a rattler, and if they begin to get excited or feverish he must dole out some fever drops in million dollar parcels; and these fellows see no paternalism in that.

A Daring Scheme That May Win.

Burnette G. Haskell, in the Nationalist, proposes a plan of action for a first-class experiment in Nationalism which is so daring, and at the same time so practical and plain, that it will attract wide attention, and may win success. It is nothing less than to colonize all the nationalists of the country in some large city—San Francisco is named—and elect a city government composed of that element, and at once proceed to carry its principles into practical effect. Says Mr. Haskell:

But—if next November we here in California, by concentrating our forces on one spot, succeed in carrying San Francisco for Nationalism at the ballot box, and then right here, we make poverty unknown—then this city will begin a growth unparelleled even in a dream, a million of men will flock to it and every other city in the Union must follow in our footsteps or be competed out of existence. We propose to win this next election here. And then this is our program: Our National Board of Supervisors will, by municipal ordinance, declare that the city and county of San Francisco henceforth propose to conduct its own affairs; that it will begin the immediate construction of its own water works, bakeries, abattoirs, street car lines, bathing houses and laundries. That it will pay for the construction and operation of these in script and will receive this script for water, bread, meat, car fare and washing, and ultimately for taxation. This will give its script full currency as money and at par, perhaps may place it at a premium. I have no space to show where this has been successfully done; I can only note the market place of Guernsey, the court house at Greeley, Colo., the People's Ditch at Hanford, Cal., the natural gas at Findlay, Ohio, etc. The script being received for the products of the city, and then destroyed, will constitute a scientific circulating medium subject to no fluctuation in value.

If an aqueduct is constructed bringing the water from the Sierras across the state and sold to other cities and to farmers on the route as well it will produce a revenue of \$1,500,000 per year, and will cost \$10,000,000, paying for itself in seven years. Bakeries and warehouses for grain can be established for \$500,000, and would make a profit of \$2,700,000 per annum at present prices. Abattoirs could be established for \$200,000, and would make a profit of \$2,700,000 per year at present prices. Wheat and meat could be bought of the farmer either for cash or script. As script would be current for water, for flour, and as every city merchant would take it from him in settlement of account, the farmer would take it from us. The street cars of San Francisco pay a profit of \$1,042,675 per year, and this plant cost but \$4,584,100. Laundries and baths at present pay a profit of \$400,000; the city could build them for \$300,000. The lighting of this city gives a profit of \$2,000,000 a year. A proper electric light plant could be put in for \$4,000,000. The total cost of these would be \$10,000,000, and the annual income (net) would be \$16,000,000. The annual tax of this city is but \$3,000,000. Comment is superfluous.

The very first year we would nearly pay for all of our improvements. The second year we could buy up the outside lands and build homes for our workers. The third year we could establish other industries and in ten years we could actually, alone, pay off the national debt. No great National party, no weary fight to win congress are necessary in my opinion. The point of attack is the municipality; the weapon is competition with municipal script receivable for the goods produced; and the road is a plain and easy highway. Let the peoples' money—not the irredeemable greenback, but the scientific production-check—once be sent into the field and nature then fights for us, and the fittest and most perfect will survive.

Neither ignorance nor despotism are potent for any purpose against science; and what we must win the citadel and soon, upon these lines, seems to me to be certain as a mathematical equation.—BURNETTE G. HASKELL, in the Nationalist.

STEALING EDITORIALS.

It is very flattering to see our editorials copied into other papers; but don't you think, brother editors, you ought to give credit? Of course, in the case of the Trenton Torpedo, it was a mistake. Brother Stockton can write too well to need to commit grand larceny. But as a rule it is better to "render unto scissiors that which is scissiors."

THE STATE ALLIANCE MEETING at G. Island, beginning on the 7th inst., will be held at the Knights of Pythias' Hall, in the Scarff Block. Reports to the Secretary indicate an attendance of about five hundred delegates.

Order of Business and Outlined Program of the 9th Annual Meeting of the Nebraska State Farmers' Alliance at Grand Island, January 7th, 1890.

TUESDAY, JAN. 7TH, MORNING SESSION, 10 A. M.

- 1. Organization, and appointment of committee on credentials.
- 2. Short addresses by delegates present.

AFTERNOON SESSION, 1:30 P. M.

- 1. Music.
- 2. Prayer by the Chaplain.
- 3. Report of committee on credentials.
- 4. Address by President of the State Alliance.

AFTERNOON SESSION, 1:30 P. M.

- 1. Music.
- 2. Jurisprudence; 2nd, on resolutions; 3rd, on memorial to congress, embracing Money, Land and Transportation.
- 6. Report of State Secretary.
- 7. Report of State Treasurer.

EVENING SESSION, 7:30 P. M.

- 1. Music.
- 2. Address by N. B. Ashby, National Lecturer.

WEDNESDAY MORNING SESSION, 9 A. M.

- 1. Music.
- 2. Prayer by the Chaplain.
- 3. Report of Executive Committee.
- 4. Report of State Agent.
- 5. Miscellaneous.

AFTERNOON SESSION, 1:30 P. M.

- 1. Music.
- 2. Election of Officers.
- 3. Report of Committee on Memorial.
- 4. Short addresses.

EVENING SESSION, 7:30 P. M.

- 1. Music.
- 2. Report of Committee on Resolutions.
- 3. Miscellaneous.
- 4. Adjournment.

CO-OPERATION.

With the progress of sentiment in favor of co-operation throughout the country, the friends of the middlemen are coming to the front with a demand that the country store-keeper and agent for farmers' supplies is a blessing that cannot be dispensed with, even if the farmers sustain a co-operative store. This argument has been very effectively worked in the past. We know of numerous instances in which farmers have started to organize co-operative stores and then gave up the attempt through the persuasions of friends of country store-keepers. This is all wrong. It is claimed that the local merchant is a blessing to farmers by accommodating them with credit, but it should not be overlooked that this accommodation is a most expensive luxury. It is cheaper for farmers to mortgage their land and pay cash for their supplies than to buy on tick of local dealers. We must buy together and sell together. More money can often be saved by this means than by a whole season's work on the farm. But to be effective, the business of buying and selling together must be conducted by a well-qualified man in whom the farmers have confidence, and they must put up the cash with which to meet the bills. Buying for spot cash from first hands and distributing direct to consumers is the object to be constantly kept in view in all co-operative efforts.

C. H. GERE, editor of the Lincoln Journal, has received the appointment of postmaster for Lincoln. As everybody knows, the Journal is the machine republican organ of this city. It is also the organ and tool of the railroad monopoly and whiskey ring of the state. Mr. Gere has edited the paper ably, and been the faithful servant of his employers. If he serves the public as well as he has served the low down political cliques, the plundering Journal Co., and the railroad and whiskey brigades, he will make a good postmaster.

BOIL IT DOWN.

We like many letters from our readers. But we cannot publish many unless they are short. Our space is very limited. Study brevity. Boil it down. If you have anything to say, say it, and then quit. The best English is short, concise, crisp. The shortest articles have the most readers.

It is said that the Russian influenza is contracted by handling money that is infected. It will have an awful run among our western farmers.

A NEW PREMIUM.

LOOKING BACKWARD.

We have made arrangements to furnish our patrons with that wonderful book of Edward Bellamy, Looking Backward, as a premium. All who wish this book can get it in this manner at about one-half the retail price. Every person interested in progress and reform, and every student of the social problems which now claim so large a share of public attention, should read this book. The sale it is having is almost unprecedented. Since the phenomenal sale of Uncle Tom's Cabin no book has had so wide a sale.

We will send THE ALLIANCE one year, and a copy of Looking Backward, post-paid, in paper covers, for \$1.30. Or, we will send the book for two new subscribers at \$1.00. Or, we will send the book post-paid, for 50 cts.

Three carloads of Pinkerton detectives have gone to a mining town in Pennsylvania where the miners are on a strike. It is safe to predict an early announcement of outrages by these irresponsible hirelings. If the authorities of the place to which these so-called detectives are sent do their duty they will compel them to leave without any ceremony, and in the event of their refusal put every man of them where he can do no harm. The importation of these men is an outrage upon the people and an insult to the authority of the state of Pennsylvania which should be vigorously resented.—Bee.

In answering advertisements always mention THE ALLIANCE.