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POST OFFICE AT LINCOLN, NEB., June 18, 1889. I hereby certify that THE ALLIANCE, a weekly newspaper published at this place, has been determined by the Third Assistant Post Master General to be a publication entitled to admission in the mails at the pound rate of postage, and entry of it as such is accordingly made upon the books of this office. Valid while the character of the publication remains unchanged. ALBERT WATKINS, Postmaster.

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

[This department is conducted by the Secretary of the State Alliance to whom all communications in relation to Alliance work, short articles upon various subjects of interest to the Alliance etc., should be addressed. Write plain and only on one side of the paper. Sign what you choose to your articles but send us your name always.]

Government Control of Railroads.

EDITOR ALLIANCE:—I wish to call the attention of your readers to a few historical facts in regard to our present transportation system, what it has done for the country, and its effects upon trade and industries. About sixteen years ago, competition between our great trunk lines became so active that they were making very little money, perhaps none at all. Three of these trunk lines then entered into an agreement with a few cattle shippers, that if the latter would divide their shipments with them they should receive a rebate of $15.00 per car for all the cattle shipped from west of Dunkirk, Buffalo, and Pittsburg, regardless of ownership; and as these few shippers only owned about a third of the cattle thus transported, they made on shippers outside of the ring $15.00 per car, thus making the rebate on what cattle they actually owned, $45.00 per car, or one-half the regular tariff rates. The result was that honest shippers who were paying full tariff rates were driven out of the business, and the bulk of the trade went into the hands of this favored few, and they made Chicago the great centre of their trade, until it is said, this market has received in a single year, 2,500,000 head of cattle. For a time these men were content with their monopoly of the trade, and did not interfere materially with the interests of the producer. But for a great while, with the millions that had been dropped into their pockets by unscrupulous railroad corporations, and the centralization of trade at a given point, they were ready to dictate to the producer the price he should have for his cattle, and for the last seven years they have been gradually using this power, until to day they are absorbing all the money there is in the business, and some of them, not content with the wholesale slaughter of cattle—as well as the men engaged in raising them—propose to run the retail meat business of this country also. Of these methods I will say no more. The gigantic evils they have consummated, covering this western country like the ashes of Sodom, paralyzing the business of her people, and through it crippling all industries, speaks more eloquently than tongues of angels or men. Let us turn from them to the source from whence they sprung, our present railway system, and ask ourselves if we wish to perpetuate such a system. Bearing in mind it is not only our cattle industry they have ruined, but our grain, and almost every other agricultural interest as well. The farmers of Nebraska have their cribs filled to overflowing with 12 to 18 cent corn, according to location. It has cost them all of this sum to crib it. To remove it to the nearest elevator is running them so much in arrears. It is well for the farmer that he raises enough from God's great store house, the soil, to furnish him food, for if he depended upon the profits of his industry under our present system for support, his days of toil would soon end. A little slab of pine perhaps would mark the spot where he lay, with the inscription "Died of Starvation." This is not the wail of a discontented fanatic; it is plain substantial truth. And there is another truth I will add. If the farmer had been as unscruplous as his oppressors, they too would have had a touch of starvation ere this. But to return to our 12 cent corn. When it reaches its destination does the consumer get the advantage of the low prices? Not at all. There have been from two to five prices added to it before it reaches him. The two classes that should have a large share of the profits of the product are entirely ignored in the deal. The profits, yes the hard labor, also of producer and consumer, have gone to swell the riches of the railroad millionare, and the vultures that he has created to prey upon the dead industries of the country. Remove these two poweaful combinations and our 12 cent corn, 40 cent wheat, and low priced cattle would bring us double price in the exchanges we could make for them in other products. It would give an impetus to industry and trade such as this country has never experienced. The cry of over-production would cease. Every nerve and muscle would be called into requisition to supply the demand until every home in our country should have bread and meat enough to spare, until this vast pioneer country of the west is supplied with substantial houses and barns and all the other blessings of civilization. It would help to raise the mortgages off our farms, and better than this it would be the means of making it unnecessary to mortgage at all. The great highways of commerce rightfully belong to the people and not to private corporations, to block up our trade and cry "stand and deliver." Let us then as a people assert our rights and buy them out at a fair price: or if they do not choose to sell, build our own lines parallel with theirs. The "survival of the fittest" will soon settle the question. Some of these roads already owe us nearly what they are worth, and their evident intention is to always owe us. These are the proper ones to begin the work upon, until gradually the whole system is under our control, and the commerce of our country established upon the broad and solid basis of equal rights and justice to all. There is only one alternative, either the people will control our railroads, or the railroads will control the people. C. H. KING,

DEVIDE, NEB., Dec. 20, 1889.

Notice.

Buffalo County Alliance will hold its next meeting at Prairie Hill school house, eight miles north of Kearney, at 10 a. m. Jan. 15, 1890. We want to have all Alliances represented as there will be business of importance to be considered.

J. Y. M. SWIGART, Pres. Co. Alliance.

Trust Management.

The price of nearly every product is fixed by a trust before the product reaches the consumers. The past season the farmers rebelled against the price fixed on binder twine by the twine trust. The price was so high the farmers refused the twine. At present there are many farmers doing without sugar, attempting by its non-use to force the trust to decrease its price.

The people all agree on the main point that they must manage the sugar and all other trusts or become the slaves of a monied aristocracy. But to manage the sugar trust shall we do without sugar? To control the kerosene oil trust shall we spend our evenings in the dark or go back to the tallow dip? To kill the railroad trust shall we take to our ox carts?

No, no! Better take to the woods at once, or stop living. Kind readers you are asking how I would have the people of the United States manage the trusts and combines that are robbing us with trust prices. Jay Gould's hired help could run his U. P. railroad if he were dead. Vanderbilt's employes can and do successfully manage his railroads. The men employed in the sugar refineries manufacture A and C sugar while the members of the trust are viewing the Paris Exposition. We would have the men who are doing the work on Gould' railroad own the road. We would have Vanderbilt's laborers own his roads. We would have the men who make the sugar own the refineries.

But, you say these laborers are too poor; they cannot own anything. Right here we would have the government of the United States, the people if you please, say to Gould's laborers, "If you want to buy Mr. Gould's railroad we will loan you sufficient money to make the purchase at one per cent a year and take a mortgage on the road."

Let these laborers run the road under government supervision until the debt is paid, and for all time to come.

We would not pay any one $25,000 a year for acting as president of a railroad company: But the section boss should receive $3 per day, and all other laborers in proportion.

The people should serve the sugar or any other trust in the same manner.

Some readers may say the government cannot loan money at one or any other per cent.

Every bank bill in existence the government loans to the national bankers at one per cent a year.

The government also has about fifty millions deposited in the banks and no interest is received for its use.

The government should loan to these poor laborers on the same terms it does to the rich bankers.

Suppose Mr. Gould will not sell his railroad.

When a railroad was graded through our farms many of us did not wish to sell the right of way, and have our farms cut into three-cornered lots. The managers replied: "It is for the good of the country; it is for the benefit of the whole people that this railroad goes this route."

They took our land: we took their price. Now it is for the benefit of the people at large; in fact our only salvation is to have the government take charge of the railroad trust, and all other trusts, and run them in the interest of the whole people.

The people must do this or become the abject slaves of king Gould and the trust lords.

King Gould and the trust ringsters must take our price for their property and be satisfied.

When the people take charge of the great railroad trust as above indicated the members of all the other trusts will call before breakfast to ask the people what they shall do to be saved.

JOHN STEBBINS, Shelton, Neb.

Death of Bro. Edwin R. Clark, of Hall County.

CAMERON PRECINCT, HALL CO., Dec. 28, '89.

EDITOR ALLIANCE:—I enclose herewith resolutions of sympathy and respect to the memory of our Bro. E. R. Clark. Bro. Clark was a very prominent farmer, and was widely known and respected through Hall and Buffalo counties. He was very much interested in our cause, and we feel as if we had lost one of our main stays.

WHEREAS: It has been the will of our Heavenly Father to remove from our midst our beloved Brother Edwin R. Clark suddenly and without warning, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That while we bow in humble submission to the will of God, we no less mourn the cause that has severed the ties of fraternal friendship.

RESOLVED, That the sympathy of our order is hereby extended to the family of our deceased Brother in their great affliction, and we commend them to Him who doeth all things well for comfort.

RESOLVED, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of our deceased Brother and also be published in THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE and the Shelton paper.

J. H. PORTER,
D. C. WOOD,
R. GILL,
Com. on resolutions.

Good News From Merrick Co.

CLARKS, NEB., Dec. 30, 1889.

EDITOR ALLIANCE:—There was a special meeting of the Merrick County Farmers' Alliance held at Central City on Dec. 28, for the purpose of considering the best methods of advancing the interests of the order in the county, where, as you are doubtless aware, Alliance matters have for some time been in a somewhat lethargic condition. The weather was unfavorable, as a storm commenced early in the day with a feeling in the air that we might get a blizzard before it was over. But this did not prevent us from having a good meeting, and considering the weather a remarkably good attendance. Representatives from five subordinate Alliances were present. Each and every one of them manifested, and many of them expressed, increased interest in the work. Members from Chapman reported arrangements about perfected for the shipment of grain by Alliance men of that place.

Members of Alliances have been shipping grain and hay from Clarks for the past two weeks; have also bought and distributed several barrels of coal oil, and report themselves well satisfied with results thus far.

Fraternally yours,
W. H. AUSTIN.

Admires The Alliance.

HAY SPRINGS, NEB., Dec. 27, 1889.

ALLIANCE PUB. CO.:—Enclosed find postal note for one dollar. Please send me your paper one year. If you will send me a few sample copies I will use them in your interest. You ought to have a good club at this place. I have not yet seen a copy of your paper, but take it for granted it is the right thing, as I have long admired Mr. Burrows' bold stand in the interest of labor.

Yours "for the war,"
WILSON HENRY.

They Are All At Work.

We give below an extract from a letter received by the Secretary this week:

We are at work in Gosper county, and expect to be represented at Grand Island. Let us howl MONEY until it is heard by every farmer in the Union, and then let us all strike while the iron is hot, and we think we can mould some laws that will pay us a thousand fold for our trouble. Yours respectfully,

WILSON WINSLOW.

Another Alliance Elevator in Cass Co.

WEEPING WATER, Dec. 30, 1889.

EDITOR ALLIANCE:—As an item of interest I will state that Cascade Alliance is growing, and we now own and are running an elevator at this place; and farmers are getting several cents more for their corn than they otherwise would have got. If it was not for the Alliance corn would be selling now for 12 cts.

Yours truly,
JOHN DALTON,
Secretary Cascade Alliance No. 432.

Meeting of Gosper Co. Alliance.

Gosper County Farmers' Alliance holds first called meeting at Elmwood, Saturday, January, 11, 1890. The purpose of said meeting is to consider the matter of establishing a purchasing and selling agency, and to petition congress in behalf of the farmers. All Sub-Alliances are requested to send delegates. W. H. STONE, Sec'y.

The Solidarity of Labor.

Among many other social changes wrought by the introduction of labor-saving machinery and modern industrial methods is the complete subversion of the old idea of trade isolation, and substitution of the broader view that all labor has equal rights and interests. While the old system prevailed, the ideal of most trade unionists was that each body of skilled artisans, acting on its own account, should secure for its own members, as far as possible, a monopoly of the right to labor without thought or care for the unskilled workingman. It was sought to establish an aristocracy of labor—to draw a hard and fast line between skilled and unskilled, and, while protecting the artisan from all incroachment upon his exclusive field, to leave the common herd of laborers to the mercy of competition.

Labor-saving machinery and the revolution in the industrial system have changed all that. The field which the skilled mechanic can hold to himself is continually narrowing. A thousand and one processes which were formerly done by hand, and requiring long training and superior skill, are now done by machinery with the aid of a comparatively few men easily familiarized with their duties. Every day lessens the distance which formerly separated the skilled from the unskilled—the mechanic from the laborer—and makes it more and more difficult for the well-paid artisan to retain his position as the member of a superior caste. The leveling process due to machinery has been going on simultaneously with the educational process, by which the ideas of men have been broadened and the truth enforced that there is and ought to be no redemption for labor which does not include the poorest and most dependent of the toiling masses.

It is impossible for the intelligent skilled mechanic to hold his position, let alone improve it, without the co-operation and support of the unskilled. A trade can no longer successfully isolate itself from the general mass of suffering, struggling humanity and hope by stringent rules to keep up wages for its members regardless of the general condition of the labor market. Some new discovery, some extension of the machinery system, may at any time rob it of its vantage ground and reduce its members to the general level. Many who in their day have assumed a position of lofty unconcern as to the lot of less-favored brethern of the world of labor, secure in their fancied monopoly of technical skill, have suddenly found themselves compelled by some unexpected change in processes to compete with a throng of machine-tenders or partially-skilled workmen. The days of handicraft isolation are over. Under the system of to-day skill in some special branch is becoming a matter of less importance, and labor of all kinds more on a common footing. The selfishness of class exclusiveness is giving away before a recognition of the great truth that the depression and degradition of the great body of unskilled labor inevitably and naturally drags down the artisan class to their level.

Improved machinery is placing all labor in the position of subjection to the capitalist. The old idea of keeping up wages here and there by close unions is becoming impracticable. The remedy lies, not in the weak defense of unions on the line of caste selfishness, formed to procure a little better conditions for a favored few, which are as powerless against the advancing tide of competition as Mrs. Partington's broom against the Atlantic Ocean, but in the organization of all labor to control the machinery and secure the benefits of increased production for the real wealth-creators. "The Solidarity of Labor" is the watchworth of the future. To enfranchise the few high-skilled and more intelligent, leaving the mass in hopeless poverty, is impossible, and every true friend of humanity and progress, instead of regretting it will rejoice that it is so, and strive for the regeneration of labor as a class.—Journal of the Knights of Labor.

VERY SOUND:—A steady volume of full legal tender money, composed of gold, silver and paper, in amply sufficient quantities to transact the business of the country on a cash basis, increasing in volume as business and population increase, are what the people of this country need, and what they will have when they come to better understand the vast importance of a steady volume of currency.—Omaha Republican.

A Western Wonder.

The American Grocer, New York, December 25, made the following complimentary reference to the Omaha Bee:

"The Omaha Bee is a wonder. It was established and is conducted and owned by Edward Rosewater, a man who during the war was President Lincoln's telegraph operator, in which position he exhibited all the qualities of abilitiy and fidelity which have distinguished him in after life.

When he established the Bee twenty years ago (about the time the American Grocer was established), it was in a little frame shanty. This year it moved into the largest and finest among the many magnificent newspaper buildings of the west, built by Mr. Rosewater, expressly to accommodate the immense business of his paper.

The difference between the first copy of the Bee and the paper at present, is about the same as the difference between the American Grocer of to-day and its first issue, a fac simile of which we issued recently."

W. C. T. U. COLUMN.

Edited by Mrs. S. C. O. UPTON, of Lincoln, Neb., of the Nebraska Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

The editor of THE ALLIANCE places the responsibility of this column in the care of the above editor.

We publish below Mrs. Livermore's reminiscence of the crusade of temperance women, out of which sprung the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. The 23d of December is the anniversary of the beginning of this remarkable movement, and has been kept at Hillsboro by a gathering of christian women who desire a new baptism of the spirit that moved them in those times. It would be well, indeed, if the christian women of Nebraska might stir up such a revival here. In this way we could most surely carry the amendment, and sweep from our state the saloons that curse it.

REMINISCENCES OF THE WOMAN'S CRUSADE, BY MARY A. LIVERMORE.

I was filling lyceum engagements in Pennsylvania and Ohio, in the early winter of 1873, at the time that the remarkable movement known as "The Woman's Crusade" startled the community. The daily papers teemed with the most extravagant and sensational accounts of the methods and aims of the women who had inaugurated this new departure in temperance work. Every morning the dailies of the great cities confronted their readers with staring head-lines that misled and prejudiced in advance—as was intended. And the reports, written on the spot, by ATTACHES of the press, sent to study and describe the new movement, ridiculed and belied it. "A mob of pious women!" "Prayer-meeting in saloons!" "Cold water women drunk with zeal!" "saloon-keepers bulldozed by frenzied women!" "'Rock of Ages,' the song they sing!" These, and similar misleading announcements on the bulletin-boards, left one in doubt whether "The Crusade" was the work of sane women or of lunatics.

As I proceeded from place to place, approaching Ohio, the new movement more completely engrossed the public attention, and was the one theme of conversation—on trains, in hotels, and everywhere. It was now spreading prairie fire, and was achieving most astonishing results. The prayers, and songs, and touching appeals of women who visited the saloons daily, and whose husbands and sons had been ruined by them, and their homes desolated, went with arrowy directness to the hearts of the proprietors. In town after town saloons were closed by this unheard of procedure, the liquor poured out into the streets, and their converted owners joined the ranks of the "Crusaders," and helped them in their work.

I was constantly interviewed by reporters, and asked for an opinion concerning this "outburst of temperance fanaticism," but I had no opinion to give. I fully shared the general skepticism as to the reliability of the press reports, and waited till I should have an opportunity to see the operations of "The Crusade" for myself. It came sooner than I anticipated,

I was to lecture at Washington C. H., one evening, not far from Hillsboro, O., where this blessed impulse of prayer and entreaty had its birth. As we slowly came up to the station, I observed that the platform was packed with women, and I supposed there had been some meeting or convention in session during the day, and that the ladies were now to take the train for their homes. As I stepped from the coach Mrs. Maggie Ustick, of Washington, whom I had met before, welcomed me, and then presented me to the president of the Woman's Crusade in that town. I think the lady was Mrs. Carpenter, wife of the pastor of the Presbyterian church.

Taking me by the hand, with most cordial greeting, she said, "Mrs. Livermore, we are a committee of sixty women, who have come to invite you to accompany us to the Methodist church, where the daily temperance prayer-meeting is in session."

If I must be honest, I wished for the moment that the women were all in Joppa. For I wished to study the Crusade deliberately from the outside, to be a looker-on, and not to be plunged into the very seething heart of it, at the start. But if any of my readers ever find themselves in a like predicament, with a committee of sixty women waiting for them as an escort, I advise them to do what I did—go with them. The church was packed with a serious and intense audience. In the rear of the house hundreds were standing, and among these there was a continual coming and going, as work or business compelled the departure of some, when new comers took their places.

A reformed man was speaking when we entered, one who had recently signed the pledge. The attidude of the man, the tones of his voice, the very features of his face all told of wickedness. He deplored his past life, and with tremulous tones that had unshed tears in them, told how bad a husband he had been to "one of the best wives God ever gave a man." He was interrupted by the clear, sweet voice of a woman.

"Never mind that now, John; we'll forget the things that are behind."

"Only, wife, don't let me fall again! Keep the saloons shut, or else I'm lost."

Then a woman prayed. How her petition beat up against the throne of God, as in low tones of suppressed anguish she pleaded for help, strength, light and comfort. I had never heard a prayer like that before, and knew that the supplicant had a history. My companion whispered, "That woman has suffered everything from the effects of strong drink—in her early home, and now in her own family."

A young girl arose to offer a thought that occurred to her. A man behind me, in evident alarm, said almost aloud, "Gracious! that's my Fannie; I hope she won't slop over." Clear, direct, concise, she fervently, but briefly, gave her testimony as to the efficacy of prayer, and sat down.

Then more prayers from women whose faces bore the record of long years of heart sickness and despair, and who appealed to the "Friend of the friendless," in tones that went to my soul. Then, pathetic and graphic bitd of speeches from men struggling up out of the depths, all of whom uttered the same agonized entreaty, "Don't let the saloons be opened again!" I was called on for a "testimony," but I was beyond the power of speech—I was weeping. The audience palpitated with intense feeling, and all hearts throbbed in unison; and yet there was no outward excitement, all were calm and self-controled, even when they all joined in song, till the house rocked with a very tempest of melody.

All the saloons in town but one had been closed voluntarily by their owners, their stocks of liquors had been destroyed, the proprietors had signed the pledge, and were working with the reformers. I was obliged to leave town too early the next morning to accompany the detail of women appointed to visit the one still defiant saloon, which yielded before the week was ended—and then Washington C. H. had a jubilee of thanksgiving.

For the next three weeks my work carried me almost daily where Crusade work was being done. The features of the movement were the same everywhere. Baffled in their attempts to obtain help from the legislature in restricting the saloons, which overran the southern half of Ohio like the plague of frogs in Egypt, and the "Civil Damage Bill," for which they had petitioned, proving a very mockery, the women in their helplessness and unutterable woe gathered into prayer-meeting, and out of breaking and broken hearts called on God for help. The plan of visiting the saloons with entreaty and persuasion, prayer and song, had come to them, as they believed, in answer to prayer. Who shall deny it?

I lack space for reminiscences of three weeks in Crusade towns. Like the unseen Spirit at Pentecost, like the voice of Christ on the troubled waters of Galilee, this wonderful movement harmonized the discordant element, and brought in order and peace. Not only were the saloons closed, and wretched men lifted out of the depth of moral debasement, but old family feuds were settled, long-separated husbands and wives were re-united, reparation was made for long-standing and unforgiven wrongs, and whole communities were lifted to a higher plane. The reign of the Crusade was brief, but blessed while it lasted, for the very spirit of the Christ vitalized it.

But the movement was phenomenal and emotional, and soon spent itself. I often asked the women, "What will you do when the Crusade is ended, for you see it is so very emotional it cannot have a long lease of life?"

With the sublime confidence in divine direction, they replied, "we do not know, but God will show us." Out of that brief Crusade has come the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, which has only just entered on its career, and is being slowly fitted for the great work that lies before it, through God's divinest agent of help, which is usually hindrance.

On my return to Boston, I found the papers full of misrepresentations of the Crusade, and of the women engaged in it. It was never truthfully reported in the east, nor well understood, and the grossest exagerations were current, and were accepted. I wrote out a statement of my experience and observations for the press, and sought to correct some of the unrighteous falsehoods. It was largely copied in part, or in whole, and finally brought me a request to give the story in full to the people at a public meeting. Dr. Neale, minister of the First Baptist church of Boston, and my old and beloved pastor, offered his church for the occasion. There was a large audience, and very great interest was manifested.

A second meeting was appointed at Shawmut Avenue Baptist church, when an organization was formed, with Mrs. Gifford as president—a Quaker lady of Worcester—and my life-long friend and early school-mate, Mrs. L. B. Barrett, secretary. It was the first born child of the Crusade, and although in its infancy, struck out immediately into vigorous work. It went into the lowest purlieus of the city, and established temperance prayer meetings, sought the reformation of fallen men and women, organized Reform Clubs, and helped weak and struggling men to maintain them. It established a cheap temperance restaurant, and a "Friendly Inn," which finally grew into large proportions. It galvanized the churches into spasmodic interest in the reformation of drunkards, and accomplished much good work, which was permanent in its effect.

After the organization of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union at Cleveland, Ohio, this Massachusetts bantling wheeled into line as one of its auxiliaries. And when Mrs. Gifford retired from office at the close of the year, I accepted the position of president, Mrs. Barrett serving as secretary. For ten years we worked together, and then my friend received her discharge from the battle of life, and "was not, for God took her."

Since that time Misses Toby and Gordon have been respectively president of the Massachusetts union. Their labors have been signally successful; they have won their way to all hearts, and ten thousand of the best women of the slate uphold their hands, and encourage them in their large endeavors. The future cannot be foreseen, but it is my strong belief that the W. C. T. U. has before it a long career of usefulness. Its steadfast adherence to its convictions, its splendid behavior under adverse criticism and unmerited obloquy, its growing unification of hearts and interests, are all prophecies of good omen. Courage! "Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth."

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175 " Y. L. "	"	"	13 "
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