THE ALLIANCE.

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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.

THE STATE MEETING.

A Notable Gathering of Noble Men.

THURSDAY, JAN. 9, 1890.—We have just returned from the Annual Meeting of the State Alliance held at Grand Island. Fatigued with hard work and want of rest for the past three days, we can only briefly allude to the meeting this week, having delayed our forms for the purpose. While we knew from the deluge of credentials which had been pouring into the Secretary's office that there was to be a large meeting, we were surprised to see the large number of delegates in excess of our calculations. The Knights of Pythias Hall had been engaged for the meeting; but it was found soon after the hour of opening that it would be entirely too small, and the afternoon session of the first day was opened in the opera house, which had seating capacity for one thousand persons. Every train brought new accessions until the number of delegates reached about eight hundred. We have not yet examined the list of counties represented, but we believe now there was not a single county unrepresented. If there were counties without delegates they were very few.

As to the meeting, there has never been in the State of Nebraska a more orderly, earnest, intelligent, and business-like one. Its dispatch of business, its size considered, was simply marvelous. All who were present, and will think of the amount of work which was accomplished, will concede this. This was partly owing to the ability of Bro. Powers as a presiding officer, and also very largely to the fact that every man present was earnest in the work. The harmony of the gathering was also phenomenal. Not a jar occurred. In several days' sessions of a meeting of this size it is very rare that there is not some wrangling. But there was none here. Every subject was treated fairly, and every question settled without excitement or feeling, though enthusiasm rose high on several occasions.

All members of the Alliance have occasion to feel jubilant over this meeting, and the grand results it promises.

The officers elected for the ensuing year are as follows:

President, JOHN H. POWERS, of Hitchcock county.

Vice-President, V. HORN, of Hamilton county.

Secretary-Treasurer, J. M. THOMPSON, of Lancaster county.

Executive Committee, J. BURROWS, Ch'm; JOHN W. WILLIAMS, of Gage Co.; B. F. ALLEN, of Cass Co.; — YOUNG, of Custer Co., and DICKINSON, of — Co.

We shall give as complete a report of the proceedings in our next issue as our space will premit.

Which Shall We Confiscate, Land or Franchises?

The leading propositions of Mr. George in the advocacy of the single land tax are, as we understand them, 1st, that the land belongs to the state or community, and cannot properly be alienated; 2nd, that land values are the creation of the community through the growth of population, and not of individuals, and that such values properly belong to the community instead of individuals.

The first proposition is unquestionably true, and the community still retains control of land through the right of eminent domain. The second proposition seems to be logically deduced from the first, and it is not necessary to discuss the abstract right involved in it. If the community can take land for public uses, it can take rent, or annual accretions of land values, for public uses. This much granted, the question is narrowed to one of policy, and to a consideration of the actual results that would be accomplished by the confiscation of land values. We do not propose to discuss this branch of the question at this time. There would be one result from it, however, which must be conceded. It would destroy the fundamental idea which underlies the creation of a home. This is the idea of ownership. Mr. George proposes to open the possession of land, or natural opportunity, to competition. It is perfectly evident that under competition the creation of a HOME which might be transmitted from generation to generation, and around which might be clustered the family memories and associations of decades and centuries, would be utterly impossible. This idea of a home—of the absolute ownership of one spot of earth against all the world—is deeply grounded in human nature. It is an institution in the broadest sense of the word. The single tax would destroy it.

Granting, for the sake of argument, that the single tax would accomplish in other respects all that Mr. George claims for it, is there not some other source of wealth which is as entirely created by the community as land values, which is not so deeply grounded in the prejudices and usages of mankind, and the confiscation of which would accomplish all the beneficent things which the confiscation of rent would accomplish without its apparent evils, and without the destruction of the institution of the ownership of land? We think there is.

There is no value which owes its origin so absolutely to the growth of population as the value of franchises. In addition to this, franchises in their matereal expression or personification, are the creation of law. They are first made possible by the growth of population and the formation of community, and they are then called into existence by the joint act of the community. They are created and exist by the consent and tolerance of the community, and may be terminated at any time by the will of the power that created them. They are not in any sense natural rights, and are the farthest possible from being the creation of God. Besides all this they are, more than all other things which have had their origin in the association of men, used by the few who obtain them to oppress and despoil those who have them not. Their confiscation by the state, or diverting their revenues to the use of those who created them, would interfere with no supposed natural right, and would destroy no sacred institution. In fact, there need be no confiscation whatever. Under the present practice franchises are given away with comparatively little benefit to the community. In addition to the gift of the franchise, which are always of great value, corporations have frequently extorted from the people other values, such as lands and bonds, to an enormous amount. The possession of valuable city franchises almost always imply more or less corruption. Let the people retain these franchises, and use them for their own benefit, and the need for taxation would soon cease. The street railway and light and water franchises alone would pay the total municipal expenses. Now we vote bonds and hire corporations to build these conveniences, and throw the franchise in.

The Farmer a Skilled Laborer.

Viewed from the lofty standpoint of the New York hodcarriers' union, considered from the hall of the Philadelphia bill posters' protective association, the prairie farmer is simply a clodhopper. He is a man who decides to have corn, wheat and potatoes, instead of wild grass, grow on a certain piece of land, and plants the seed that will produce them. In point of fact, more knowledge and skill are requisite for prosecuting this craft than that of any city artisan. It requires more skill to handle a plow than a trowel. It is much more difficult to manage a reaping machine than a machine that turns out brick. Greater knowledge is needed to sow grain than to move switches in a freight yard. Much more information, experience and skill are needed to raise tobacco plants, to cultivate them, and properly to cure the leaves, than to make them into cigars. Laying drain tile is a more difficult art than laying brick. Properly to remove a fleece from a sheep demands as great dexterity as to shave the beard from a face. The successful farmer is necessarily a skilled laborer. He is master, not of one trade, but of many, and a long time is required to learn each of them. He is also a merchant, and to be prosperous, he must be a judge of the quality of many things, and know how to buy and sell them to the best advantage.—Rodney Welch in January Forum,

The above is all very true, and much more might be added. The self-binder is one of the most complicated of machines, and the most difficult of operation. But the successful farmer must know all its intricacies, and be able to take it apart and repair it. In addition to the mechanical knowledge required, the farmer must understand the adaptation of crops to markets as well as crops to soils and climates; the economy of fertility, and how to restore it at least expense, as well as the economy of animal food. In short, it takes more genuine ability and business tact to successfully operate a section farm than any merchandising business of the city. Farmers, magnify your occupation.

A Gleam of Sense.

The following glimmer of sense appears on the editorial page of the Sunday Journal, and we hasten to make a note of it. It shines on the page like the night reflection of a square cut cigarette on a darkey's nose:

"The usual amount of nonsense is being printed these days about the sin and shame of burning corn for fuel on the farms of the west. Now the principle is as plain as a pikestaff, and every farmer knows it. It is that when you cannot get more than a bushel of coal for a bushel of corn, you save labor by burning your corn, instead of shelling it out, hitching up your team and hauling it to the market and hauling your coal back. Two bushels of corn in the ear are equivalent to a bushel of coal for heating purposes.

A farmer generally has sense enough to know whether it pays him to burn corn or coal. There is no more "sin" in burning corn that might be eaten by stock, or ground into meal for johnny-cake, than there is is burning a stick of wood that might be whittled into a hoe handle or turned into a table leg. It is simply a matter of "cold cash."

One important point escapes our erudite contemporary. Corn generally brings from 30 to 40 per cent more in the spring than in the fall. We remember one old farmer now not far from this sanctum who made the above figures, and logically burned 200 bushels of corn; and in the spring found himself out of pocket forty dollars. There's two sides to every question, sometimes three.

Gone to Australia.

Prof. E. M. SHELTON, of the Kansas Agricultural College, started for Australia on Jan. 4, to take charge of the Agricultural Department of the Province of Queensland. Prof. Shelton will occupy the same position in the government of Queensland that Secretary Rusk occupies in this country. It is quite flattering to know that when these outlying British provinces want distinguished talent they come not only to this country, but to the western part of it, to find it. Prof. Shelton is a brother of Mr. Shelton of the firm of Shelton & Smith, furniture dealers, of this city.

In answering advertisements always mention THE ALLIANCE.

THE BEEF PACKING PROJECT.

A Small Meeting Saturday Afternoon---About $8,000 Subscribed so Far.

A meeting of the farmers to discuss beef packing matters failed to materialize very largely yesterday afternoon, partly on account of a misunderstanding in regard to the time.

Mr Alsdorf, superintendent of the Nebraska stock yards, stated to a reporter yesterday evening that in his opinion the packing house would be built, but that the matter of raising funds would finally devolve upon a few persons. He said that about $8,000 had already been subscribed, but that the soliciting committee was too large to make a success. A few good rustlers, he thought, would bring the desired result in a short time.—Journal.

It appears from the above that stock subscriptions to the packing house scheme come in slow. Certainly a beef slaughtering and packing house at Lincoln will be a good thing, as furnishing business and employment for labor. But as a competitor of the Armours, and as a relief for the farmers in their home market for cattle, it would be of no value whatever. The Armours could compete such a slaughtering house out of existence, or depress its stock and buy it, just as easy as it could compete a local individual slaughterer out of the business. There are only two ways in which the Armour competition can be met. One is to destroy it by law. The other is to neutralize it by a universal agreement of all citizens of Lincoln not to buy, sell or use the Armour meat. The logic of these facts cannot be escaped. Our restaurants and hotels are now buying dressed sides at 3¾ cts per pound. Figuring a shrink of about 45 to 50 per cent on what is called butchers' stock, and it will be seen that this brings the farmers' beef to a point lower than it can be produced for.

Alliance Stores and Agencies.

OXFORD, NEB., Dec. 31, 1889.

EDITOR ALLIANCE:—I find that merchants and other parties who oppose our Alliance are loud in their condemnation of the principles set forth in our constitution, alleging that it is a cunningly devised scheme whereby the State and National Alliance expect to establish commercial and manufacturing companies, and then bind Subordinate Alliances to deal exclusively with firms that are controlled by the State or National Alliance. In proof of this they refer us to the provision in Article IV Section 1 of the constitution, claiming that our local purchasing agent has a right to purchase wherever he pleases, unless the State Alliance is engaged in manufacturing and dealing in produce; and if so, that local buying and selling agents, or Subordinate Alliances, are under obligations to purchase of these establishments.

By such arguments the opposers of the Alliance are succeeding in keeping some of the farmers in this vicinity out of the Alliance, and may possibly discourage some of the less hopeful that are now members. Having great faith in the Alliance, and believing that its originators must have had the interest of the farmer at heart when they effected its organization, I of course am a hard stick for them to draw over the coals. But for the satisfaction of the doubting ones we would be pleased to have a communication from you giving the original purport of the provision in the Article and Section alluded to, so that we may have it to use as a weapon against our adversaries.

J. A. RIDDLE,
Sec. of Hardscrabble Alliance.

Article IV, Sec. 1, of the State Alliance constitution, alluded to by our correspondent, is as follows:

The State Alliance and each County and Subordinate Alliance may appoint purchasing and selling agents and establish relations with dealers and manufacturers for the purpose of securing merchandise, machinery, etc., of first hands, and of selling products direct to consumers, thus saving commissions and unnecessary middle-men's profits; provided, that the State Alliance shall not engage directly in manufacturing in dealing in any products.

The above seems to be plain, and cannot be misconstrued, except for purposes of mischief. It prohibits the State Alliance from engaging directly in manufacturing or dealing in any products. So whatever the State Alliance does in these directions must be done through agents, or through a separate business associatian.

As far as the obligation of members to deal with Alliance agencies is concerned, there is certainly none imposed by the above section. While we think such an obligation exists, it is entirely of a moral character. First, as a rule self-interest will impel members to buy of the co-operative store or agency. They are established for the very purpose of "saving commissions and unnecessary middle-men's profits." But it often happens, when these agencies or co-operative stores are established that competing dealers will sell some lines of goods at less than cost, in order to throw discredit on the Alliance store. In such cases as these members should not lose their heads, and desert their friends; but on the contrary they should stand by their own store or agent. If they do not the little gain they make by deserting will be taken away from them ten times over when their own store is closed. On the other hand, when its competitors offer goods for less than they can be bought at wholesale, the Alliance store should have enough capital to take them, and save transportation. In any event perfect harmony between all members interested in the Alliance store should be had, and favorable circumstances taken advantage of as they arise. Our article of last week, entitled "Co-operation," is very much in point on this subject.

What is a Mugwump.

Chicago Herald.

A subscriber asks for the definition of mugwump, as used in political circles. It depends a good deal on who is defining the word. In republican political circles it means a traitor to his party; a man that has the mistaken idea that he can bolt a party nomination and stab his party in the back by voting against the nominee; a self-assertive ignoramus that thinks his conscience belongs to himself; an idiot that foolishly thinks he belongs to himself instead of to party bosses; a holier-than-thou Pharisee that dares to think for himself and vote as he pleases.

That is the Jim Blaine republican definition of a mugwump. But the true definition of a mugwump is: A man that votes in accordance with his conscience instead of at the dictation of a party boss; a man that exercises his right as a free man to vote as he pleases for the candidate he thinks is the best man; a political freeman, as opposed to a political slave. Shch a man is the noblest work of God.

The word was borrowed from the Indians by the New England pioneers. It meant chief, head of all, in the Indian tongue, and came to be used humorously by the pioneers.

THE ALLIANCE UNION.

By N. B. ASHBY, National Lecturer.

[We publish below a statement from Bro. Ashby in regard to the Alliance Union, written and sent to us by the request of our National Secretary, Bro. Post. We do this in order that all may fairly understand the facts of this matter; and we shall not again allude to the subject unless forced to do so. The National Alliances and the Knights of Labor have agreed upon a joint declaration of principles which we can all advocate; we have formed a business union of state agents embracing nearly all the states; and the industrial masses of the country have eliminated all sectional feeling from their hearts and their councils. They have all determined to leave sectionalism hereafter to the politicians. It now only remains for us to go forward like brothers, each in his place, to do the work assigned us. Nebraska, at its meeting this week, has set a noble example. Let all the rest follow it, or surpass it if they can.]

DES MOINES, IOWA, Dec. 30, 1889.

ED. FARMERS' ALLIANCE:—In response to a request from the National Secretary, I send you for publication the following statement as to the relations of the National Farmers' Alliance and the Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union (as the Southern Alliance has been christened). First, a seeming error needs to be clearly set before the states forming the National Farmers' Alliance. The impression has gone out, and interested parties are doing all in their power to spread that impression and make it a conviction: 1st. That an agreement for organic union was reached between the National Farmers' Alliance and the Southern organization. 2nd. That the organic union will take place at just as early a date as two-thirds of the states comprising the National Farmers' Alliance shall have ratified the terms of organic union. Nothing can be more false and hurtful than this impression. The hasty, ill timed and illegal action of a part of the delegates from South Dakota has given color to the idea that organic union only awaits the action of each state, and that when a majority of states have ratified, the National organization of the Farmers' Alliance ceases to exist. According to the Dakota idea each state evidently can ratify and enter the consolidation at its pleasure. This simply means that the various State Alliances are free to act for themselves, and that the National organization has no power to bind a state to the National organization, nor should any sense of duty or moral obligation bind. This may appear strange, but it is the exact ground upon which South Dakota acted, and it is the ground that each state belonging to the National Farmers' Alliance must take if it votes to consolidate with the south, for, strange as it may appear, there is no proposition before the National Farmers' Alliance for an organic union; no agreement by which the National Farmers' Alliance can be joined with the Southern Alliance by proclamation. The only terms upon which union can be effected is for the National Farmers' Alliance to disband, and be absorbed state by state upon such terms as the Southern organization may offer. Every day of the conference at St. Louis made more clear this fact, that the Southern farm organization neither wanted nor would accept terms of consolidation with the National Farmers' alliance short of absorption upon terms dictated by themselves. These are the propositions which were before the organization at St. Louis, and which were adopted:

First, That a joint committee of five on the part of the National Farmers' Alliance and a like number on the part of the National Farmers and Laborers' Union be appointed with authority to formulate a plan for a confederation of said organizations and of other known agricultural and industrial organizations in the United States, to the end that immediate and practical co-operation may be secured for the accomplishment of all objects common to all.

Second, that the autonomy of said organization be preserved intact until such time as the way may be found clear to effect organic union if the same should hereafter be found necessary.

MR. PRESIDENT:—Your Committee on Conference would respectfully report as follows: That a committee of five be appointed by the National Farmers' and Laborers' Union to meet with the present committee from the National Farmers' Alliance, to prepare a constitution of organic union, to be submitted to the Farmers' and Laborers' Union and to the states composing the National Farmers' Alliance, and when the same shall have been ratified by the Farmers' and Laborers' Union and by three-fourths of the states composing the National Farmers' Alliance, the President of each of above named organizations shall, by joint proclamation, declare the consolidation completed, and shall appoint the time and place for a National meeting for the purpose of electing officers and putting into effect the provisions of the consolidated organization. In the meantime the present State and National organizations shall continue in force.

" The plan of federation was drawn up and was agreed to by the committee from each organization- The plan was as follows:

ARTICLES OF FEDERATION.

Article I.

1. This Federation shall be known as the Federated Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union of America.
2. It shall be composed of ten delegates from each National body composing this Federation, choosen at the annual meeting of each National organization for the term of one year. The President of each National organization shall be members ex-officio.
3. Its officers shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer from its members, to be elected for the term of one yea.r
4. The duties of said officers shall be the same as those usually pertaining to said officers respectively.
5. The first meeting shall be on the 6th inst., at the Planter's House, in St. Louis, Missouri. The time and place of its next annual meeting shall be fixed by the Federation at this meeting.
6. The President and Secretary of this Federation and the President of each National body composing this Federation shall constitute its Executive Board.
7. The Executive Board shall call special meetings whenever they deem it necessary.
8. The Federation shall have power to adopt rules and regulations for its government.
9. This Federation shall continue until such time as the National organizations composing it may unite in an organic union.

ARTICLE II.

1. The objects of this Federation shall be to unify and carry into practical effect the principles which may be adopted by the National bodies composing this Federation, and to secure legislation in the interest of these principles.
2. Its special duty shall be to secure practical reform in the interests of the producers of the country in money, land and transportation.

ARTICLE III.

1. Each National body composing this Federation shall defray the expenses of its delegates to the meetings of federation, and shall, by annual appropriation, by the Executive Board, contribute its equal share of the general expenses of the Federation.
2. The Executive Board shall report to the annual meeting of the Federation a full statement of all expenditures during the past year and for what purpose expended, and shall submit their estimate of the expenses for the coming year for approval by the Federation.

It failed to pass the Farmers' and Laborers' Union. But the more interesting feature of the convention centers about the second resolution. Coupled with the resolution was the proviso "that a committee of five be appointed to meet a like committee on part of the National Farmers' Alliance to prepare a constitution and plan of consolidation for said organizations." No such committee was appointed by the brethren from the south. No plan of consolidation was formulated or presented. The Farmers' and Laborers' Union offered us their constitution to adopt or nothing. The craze for organic union had driven some of the delegates so far beyond reason that finally the committee from the National Farmers' Alliance secured the constitution from the Southern organization and laid it before the National Farmers' Alliance. When it was known that this was the last resort, the National Alliance considered their constitution paragraph by paragraph and agreed to most of its provisions. Some features could not be approved, and an attempt was made to compromise with the Southern brethren. The final answer of the Farmers' and Laborers' Union to these compromise offers on the part of the National Alliance was: We do not have time to longer consider terms of consolidation, but we shall be glad to receive you as accessions. This was the final answer. This is the proposition before the states of the National Farmers' Alliance. This is what Dakota accepted. Not to be received as equals as belonging to a national organization, but to disband the National Farmers' Alliance and come in as accessions. I say we cannot afford to surrender our National organization in any such a way for the untried benefits of something we wot not of. The National Farmers' Alliance has been, and is, a much greater factor in national reforms than has been its Southern sister. We are stronger to-day for all good works than is the new Farmers' Alliance and Industaial Union. In all that is of material benefit to the two sections, we are agreed. We are in harmony upon the land, transportation and money questions. We can co-operate for these ends to better advantage than we can work to them with consolidation. The Southern Alliance refused organic union to us as an equal body. Do we wish to seek it as suppliants? Do we wish to disband a strong and useful organization to be absorbed into a weaker organization? This is the question before the states of the National Farmers' Alliance. The officers of the National Farmers' Alliance are not empowered to act in proclaiming a consolidation. Each state can secede, if it so wishes, and then go thundering at the doors of the south for admission. But does not every state prefer to remain in the National organization until consolidation can be effected upon equal terms? It seems to me that we do not wish to give up all our national strength for an untried experiment.

Length of this article prevents my discussion of the constitution of the Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union and some of the fatal defects of the organization. I reserve those for a later issue.

N. B. ASHBY,
National Lecturer.

The Public Cash.

Rural

The cash in the treasury of the United States at the beginning of last month was still a "likely" sum. Here is the statement of the condition of the treasury as taken from the Treasurer's monthly report:

Gold Coin and Bullion	$310,979,791
Silver Dollars and Bullion	209,340,695
Fractional Silver and Minor Coins.	22,235,826
Trade Dollars	6,083,537
Total Coin	$629,639,849
Coin Certificates held in Cash	33,697,264
Legal Tender Notes	24,959,622
Deposits in National Banks	47,372,668
National Bank Notes	225,732
Fractional Currency, U. S. Bonds and Coupons	591,891
Funds for Redeeming National Bank Notes—Failed, etc	75,282,948
National Bank Notes in Process of redemption	4,026,241
Post Office Department Account	3,490,702
Disbursing Office Balance	36,304,815
Undistributed Assets Failed National Banks	1,162,940
Currency and Minor Coin Redemption Account	540
Fractional Silver Coin Redemption Account	2,360
Redemption and Exchange Account	732,985
Treasurer's Transfer Checks and Drafts Outstanding	6,055,431
Treasury Agent U. S. for Paying Interest D. C. Bonds	265,526
Interest on D. C. Bonds paid	10,088
	$863,021,003

It is well enough in this connection, however, to call attention to our responsibility. The Rural knows that there is much that ought not to be, for the existence of which we are in no way responsible. But if we are responsible for anything, it is far better for us to frankly acknowledge it. This great surplus in the treasury originates only in one way: as the result of our expenditures for foreign productions and from our use of tobacco and liquor. The most of it comes from the former expenditures. It is not our intention to advocate self-denial of imported products. That is a matter for every one to settle for himself. But we do contend that this country should not buy from foreign producers anything it can successfully produce itself. The nearer a people can reach the point of being self sustaining, the more independent they are. We are sending immense amounts out of the country for the sweets that we use, when every pound of sugar we need could be produced at home, if the government and the individual would make the effort to do it. It is possible that we might produce other things which we are now importing, and paying a duty upon. If the convention of farmers' societies that is proposed is held, such questions as these—home production and cutting down the surplus in the treasury—will be live questions, and if a confederation is accomplished, it will be within its province to practically solve such problems.

A National Banker's Testimony.

John Thompson, of New York, at the silver convention said:

The demonetizing of silver has been and is a wicked preference given to the creditor over the debtor classes of our entire population, and it is this preference that is driving the middle classes into poverty and enabling our millionaires to multiply their millions. Nothing, in my opinion, will save our people frum a bloody revolution so surely as the full remonetization of silver, and giving it all the advantages now given to gold, both in tax and in ruling of the treasury department. The mono-gold standard is the stepping stone to anarchy—nay, it is more—it is a flight of stairs leading to the chamber of horrors, bankruptcies, panics, sucides, repudiation, agrarianism and universal poverty among all real wealth producers for whose welfare the best men, the best statesmanship and the best representatives of all legitimate business interests should ever be enlisted.

AT THE STATE MEETING.—Any shortcomings of our paper this week must be attributed to attendance at the state meeting by both of our editors. We will try to make it up in the future.

A Century of Dishonor.

Western Rural.

Many of our readers have read Helen Hunt Jackson's book—published a few years ago—entitled a "Century of Dishonor." It was a startling arraignment of the government for its treatment of the Indian. Pretty soon that same title will be appropriate as the title of a work in which the government shall be arraigned for its unjust treatment of the producer. If the government during the last quarter of a century, had openly professed its intention to favor a few reckless, greedy absorbers of wealth at the expense of our farmers, it could scarcely have done more in that direction than it has done. It has in that time permitted railroad corporations to gobble immense tracts of the best land we have; it has permitted kid-gloved capitalists to stock the public lands with cattle and sheep to compete with like products upon our farms; it has allowed Wall street to shape the financial policy of the government in its own interests; it has sold the national securities to capitalists at a discount, took pay for them in depreciated paper, and agreed to pay them in high priced gold; it has permitted railroad corporations to rob the farmer to their heart's content; it has permitted rings and trusts and combines to fleece him also; it has loaded him with taxation and permitted the rich tax shirker to go comparatively free; it has leaned money and its credit to bankers and railroads, and refused the slightest encouragement to the producer in the way of assistance; it has winked at food adulteration; permitted reckless defalcations in high places, the corruption of the ballot box and of legislation, through which the farmer has been deceived and swindled.

Talk of dishonor! It has been years of unceasing dishonor, and the wrong has been inflicted upon the most patient, the most useful, the most reliable and most patriotic class of American citizens. It has been inflicted upon a class that the country cannot do without, and that because of its importance to the prosperity of the nation, deserves first consideration by the government. If the infliction of such injustice had been under old monarchical forms of government, with the people educated to believe that the few owned the earth and the fullness thereof, it would not be a matter of wonder, but when the fact is considered that all this wrong has been perpetrated under a flag that proclaims equality of rights, and with a century's education of the people that there are to be no favored classes, the dishonor of which government in America has been guilty is as black as midnight.

Dog Eat Dog.

Chicago Herald.

LYONS, IOWA., Dec. 28.—EDITOR OF THE HERALD: For the benefit of the western farmer would it not be good policy for this government to place an export duty on the products of the farmers to prevent the sale of such products in foreign markets? Under such a policy the foreigners could not establish the price for our farmers for that which is consumed in this country, and production in this direction would be limited to the needs of our own people—the same that it is now with manufactured goods. Having thus practically nothing to export, we could not, after a short time, import anything, and our market would be entirely at home. The home market is represented by some parties as being so much better place to dispose of our goods, we should increase in wealth as a nation very rapidly by adopting this policy.

D.

This is an idea which seems to have escaped Jim Blaine and the other "greatest statesmen that the world has ever seen." Perhaps they are "saving it" with the intention of springing it on the country in 1892. It is quite equal to some of their previous efforts in the line of finance and economy, and is almost as grotesque as Mr. Blaine's prize proposition in idiocy that the federal government should continue to raise $100,000,000 per annum more than it needed, but that the amount should be regularly refunded to the states.

No, Mr. D., a tariff on exports is even more wicked and unjust than a tariff on imports. The farmer pays them both. Both are devices of monopoly, both oppress the great mass of the people for the benefit of the few, and both prevail only where trickery and craft have triumphed over the honesty and intelligence of the people.

Workingmen can Control Legislation.

Chicago News.

Mr. Powderly's late address to the workingmen of Pennsylvania on the value of the ballot intelligently and honestly used is another example of the wise and honorable methods by which he aims to improve the condition of organized wage-workers. He tells the vast army of laborers in that state that they must cease being partisans in order to be freemen. He urges them to ignore all party bosses and work together for a secret ballot so that they may vote henceforth absolutely as they choose, without any fear of coercion. Then they can compel the powerful corporations of Pennsylvania at least to respect existing laws.

The workingman in this country can always control legislation in the interests of the people if he will make the best use possible of his vote. The doctrines of the anarchists and of other perfidious agitators tend to make him look on the ballot with contempt. There lies his great error. Mr. Powderly's advice on this subject is the best he can hope to receive.

The Cass County Bond Case.

The following line from Cass county is from a member of the farmer committee which contested the $80,000 court house bonds which were voted in Cass county. The ground of contest was fraudulent voting. Italian laborers and others were hired to vote for the bonds. The court house was to have been built in Plattsmouth, which is in one corner of the county, which was probably another reason for opposition to the bonds. We have not seen the decision alluded to by our correspondent. It is said the case will be appealed, but it is hardly likely Judge Broady's decision will be reversed:

UNION, Dec. 31, 1889.

EDITOR ALLIANCE:—The great court house bond case of Cass county has been tried and decided by Judge Broady, and as I believe, in accordance with law, justice and common sense. The day of wholesale fraud in this county will be likely to come to an end. Plattsmouth went up like a kite and came down like a stick. The showing made by the documents and records as well as all the evidence produced by the plaintiff proved that the city trebled her vote between April and June, and that she shrunk back to her old figures and poll list with the same old names that they enjoyed previous to the June bond election. Please print the decision as handed down by Judge Broady.

Yours, OLD MAN CASS.

A Mine Disaster.

DENVER, Jan. 8.—A telegram from the Victor coal mine, near Trinidad, says a cave in occurred this morning and five men were buried beneath the rock and earth. It is feared the miners will be dead before they can be rescued.

A RADICAL WRONG.

A Tryant Which Civilization Has Enthroned.

Great West.

There has been a development of late years in newspaper history, which demands the immediate attention of every honest citizen—and of the law making powers. It will brook no delay nor palliation.

We write of an evil, which has grown up with journalism, so powerful, so wonderful—so despotic—that no dream of a tyrant ever equaled it in a tranceendant subtlety, or comprehensive consequences. This is no exageration—if in any degree we exagerate it is is because an overpowering sense of danger blinds us to the simple truth. The editor of the Great West has been on the Daily Press, and is familiar with the unseen and simple mechanism whereof we are to speak.

Revolutions have arisen and kingdoms been overthrown in the determination of the people to maintain a free press. No tryanny so potent as one built upon a trammeled press. A visible censorship of the press would cause a bloody overthrow of the instigators without even time to consider immediate consequences.

And yet, men of America we do not belie the actual, absolute, unexagerated, positive facts when we state, from a knowledge in which belief has no influence, there is a simple organism in this country by which the press is more absolutely controlled than in any other country in the world. In explaining this matter we beg our country friends to open their hearts to the full truth. Do not endanger our institutions nor your rights by equivocating or denying unless you know our streightforward statement is either false or grossly exagerated.

Be sure our statement is not fully true before you hesitate to strike at an enemy so potent for evil, so simple in construction, so thoroughly entrenched.

Every one knows that the telegraphic agencies are in the hands of the plutocratic element—that is, it is wholly in the hands of capitalistic classes which own both parties. Out of the vast telegraphic system has grown an organization, consisting of at least three branches, known as the

ASSOCIATED PRESS.

This organization—at least that branch which wholly contracts for the news of the morning papers, and practically controls every other branch, is not a union of newspapers, as its name implies. It is a combination of men of the capitalistic class who have united to furnish the news from every part of the country—and even the whole world—to daily papers. The country press relies wholly upon the city papers for its news—and thus whoever furnishes the news, the sentiments, the ideas, for the news columns of the daily papers, educates the world—and if it chooses, leaves the world in ignorance.

There is no escape from this thralldom. Several times have powerful daily papers sought to shake it off—but ignobly failed.

Why failed?

Because a rich organization with its agents, on high saleries in every city of consequence, and subagencies, can, of course, secure news on all general topics vastly better than any single newspaper plant. This organization issues "franchises" to papers at so many thousand dollars a year. It has control of all the wires during certain hours, especially after eleven o'clock at night. It has cheap rates based upon an enormous business. It has exclusive wires.

The Associated Press often gets into trouble with the two great parties, but as both parties have agreed with the National Bankers' Association, and with the National Brewers' Congress on all great monetary issues and temporary issues, these quarrels have only pertained to reports of local matters, and have been easily adjusted.

No movement of the masses of this country can be put upon the wires except as cut, mangled or colored by the financial agencies of the great ruling parties or the manipulation of paid censors!

We care not who denies this. We *know* it is true. It is as true as human knowledge can make it. As to whether the free citizens of the Republic will believe this and act upon it is the question, but the truth of this statement is absolute.

The most powerful exposure of this could be connected with the Third Party movement. But is not necessary to call up political testimony. It is not necessary even to call witnesses from the great dalies which have sought to evade the tryant censorship! Nor those papers like the New York Herald which put their own wires across the Atlantic to avoid it! Nor the ineffectual struggles to use independant wires of new telegraph companies!

The only witnesses necessary are the daily transpirations in which only that news is scattered about which bends the facts to the policies and sympathies of the capitalistic and party despots, no matter what the actual burden of the facts may be,

Let some great railway accident occur—the facts only get out when "correspondents" get upon the ground, and then some papers in the combine ring, suppress one-half the truth. Let some monster meeting of the people strike for righteous laws in some great movement, and an insignificant ten-liner relates it as a mere bubble, while baseball and theatricals fill columns upon columns.

Elections where the people succeed in rising above party dwindle to nothing under the palsying touch of this organization.

When the Iowa Alliance elect Railroad Commissioners of judgment and honesty the fact was heralded as a crime. When the railroads sued the state under its decision partisan reports were hurried over the wires. When the Alliance triumphed, and the railroads dismissed their suits at their own cost and promised to behave if the Governor would let them down easily, the great Associated Press discolored the reports, and even squelched the matter altogether.

The greatest enemy the poor man has, is the servile tool of the capitalist—the News Columns of the daily press.

Quite Right, Brother McCormick.

American Potters' Journal.

Many of the papers that were in the habit of talking about the Knights of Labor as an institution that had run its course, and would soon be swallowed up by some other labor organization, have suddenly changed their tune. The fact that the farmers have formed an alliance with the Knights of Labor is rightfully looked upon as an admission that there is more vitality in the Knights of Labor than in any other labor organization. It follows that the two united form a body of earnest workers and thinkers that is almost irresistible for any good work.

Flour Contract

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—Four hundred and forty thousand pounds of flour for the western Indian reservations is to be furnished by C. H. Searing of Arkansas City, Kas., at from $4.40 to $4.65 per 100 pounds, according to the place of delivery.