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"In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea, With a glory in his bosom That transfigures you and me. As He strove to make men holy Let us strive to make men free, Since God is marching on." Julia Ward Howe.

"Laurel crowns cleave to deserts, And power to him who power exerts." "A ruddy drop of manly blood The surging sea outweighs." Emerson.

EDITORIAL.

A NEW PREMIUM.

This is a Cabinet Photograph of Generals Sheridan, Merritt, Torbert, Davies and Gregg, taken in the field in the Shenandoah valley. Gen. Sheridan is standing in front of his tent, the other Generals on either side. This picture was reproduced by Noble, of Lincoln, in the highest style of the art, from the original now in the possession of Mr. Burrows. As a staff officer of the 2d Brig., Cav. Corps, Mr. Burrows frequently met these Generals, and he pronounces the likenesses perfect, the best he has ever seen. This is a historical picture, the only one of the kind obtainable, and will be furnished only as a premium to THE ALLIANCE.

The FARMERS' ALLIANCE one year and the above splendid photograph, \$1.50. The picture alone is worth twice the money.

The Next Legislature?

What shall it be? Will you have it made up of machine politicians who are what they are for what there is in it— who swing with every changing breeze, and are all things to all men, and have no principle, no stability, and no sincere devotion to any cause? There are plenty of such men. They are the fly-som that comes to the surface. They are blatant and noisy and aggressive in their professions, but treacherous and unreliable in their performances. It is time this subject was being considered; it is time the right men were being looked up and consulted about, and means provided for bringing them out. A good principle to tie to, now-a-days, is that the office should seek the man and not the man the office. The men who lay their wares for positions as a rule should not have them. Good men are modest. Good men are thoughtful and quiet, and are not watching for opportunities to totter their own horn. Experience is a good thing. If there are men who have been to the legislature, and have made a good record on the side of the people, send them again by all means. Let us have the benefit of their experience, as well as the fact that they have gone through the ordeal of temptation without being seared. We know but little of the virtue that has never been tempted.

There are in every precinct in this state a certain few individuals who have been in the habit of fixing up the precinct delegation to the county convention, and then going to the convention and fixing up a trade between a few precincts to control its action. Everybody knows these men, and everybody knows that their influence is used in the interest of the corrupt element. They go to the county seat and get their orders from the ring, and are perpetuating the ring rule of the old parties year by year. Spot them this year. We have no use for them. Select your own representatives. And the senate—look out for the senate. Seventeen senators control that body. The railroads have found it pretty easy to control seventeen senators. Keep the Howes and Funks and Ransoms at home, and vote for no man for senator whom you do not absolutely know to be straight. It is time you were thinking about it.

CO-OPERATION.

Method of Operation in Co-Operative Stores.

There is much desire through the Alliance for co-operative effort in business lines. Many enterprises are talked of, such as mills and elevators, more frequently the latter. There are a few Alliance co-operative stores in the state; but as far as we can learn none of them are operated on the correct co-operative principle. It is generally thought that the store is the most difficult of the enterprises named, when in fact it is the easiest, and should be the primary move, leading to the others. We have asked some who were talking of building an elevator or a mill why they did not start a co-operative store, and they replied, "We are not strong enough yet—we'll start that by-and-by." Now the fact is that the capital that would build one mill would start twenty co-operative stores, and the capital that would build one elevator would start half-a-dozen; while the benefits of the store would be much more general and equally distributed among the membership than these of the other enterprises.

We will first try to give a clear idea of the true co-operative principle of co-operative merchandizing. The store is started on the joint-stock principle. The shares should be put at \$5 each. No person not a member of the Alliance should be allowed to own shares, and they not more than ten each. A certain rate of interest is agreed upon

which the share capital may receive. This should not be over 7 or 8 per cent. In this particular the share-holders are on an exact equality. They receive the same rate of interest on their shares. The man who has \$50 in shares receives interest on \$50. The man who has only \$5 receives interest on only \$5. Now we will suppose the store has been started and done business for one quarter, or three months. The books must now be squared, an inventory taken, and the profits divided. To ascertain the profits expenses must first be ascertained and paid. These consist of goods bought, rent, fuel, light, insurance, pay of store-keeper and assistants, if any, and interest on share capital. These all belong to the expense account and must be paid before there are any profits. After these are paid the profit remaining is divided among the share-holders in proportion to their trade at the store. That is to say, each share-holder receives the profit on the goods he has bought. To illustrate this point clearly, suppose A has \$50 worth of shares, and buys only \$10 worth of goods during the quarter, while B has only \$5 worth of stock and buys \$100 worth of goods. A would receive interest on \$50 and the profit on \$10, while B would receive interest on \$5 and the profit on \$100. It will be seen that A and B are on an exact equality as to their interest, and that their profit depends on their own trade. It will also be seen that this principle tends to induce trade, and not induce any effort to monopolize the shares, as there is no inducement to invest money for the profit, as it can only draw the agreed upon per cent. It will also be seen that this is pre-eminently the plan to put the poor man on an equality with the rich one. They are in fact on an absolute equality.

LITTLE CAPITAL NEEDED. It needs but very little capital to start a co-operative store. This fact arises from the ease of the purchasing system of the present day. All kinds of goods are sold by commercial travelers right in the stores of merchants, by sample. Goods can be bought in this way nearly every day, so only a small stock is needed to start with. Thirty and sixty days' time is considered the same as cash, though even these bills may be discounted for actual cash at a small profit.

Trade is capital. Suppose twenty-five members of an Alliance wish to start a co-operative store. They need a store-room, fixtures, and money enough to pay freight and running expenses for two months. If each of these twenty-five members will trade at the store, and pay for their goods when they buy them, good business management makes the success of the store certain. With fifty members we would ask no other capital than their assured trade.

THERE MUST BE NO TRUST. This is an essential to success. The business must be ready pay, either cash or its equivalent. This makes it necessary for the store to deal in truck, which is a great disadvantage, but unavoidable in the country. With Alliance agencies in Omaha, Lincoln and Denver this disadvantage will be partly neutralized.

THERE MUST BE NO CUT IN PRICES. It would be extremely bad policy to start a store in a country town, and undertake to undersell or injure the other merchants. This would tend to excite enmity and demoralize trade, and there would be no compensating advantage. The better the prices at which goods were sold the more profit for the share-holders. If members of the Alliance wanted the benefits let them become share-holders, one share entitling them to all benefits. If non-members of the Alliance want the benefits let them join.

In a store of this kind there would be some trade from outsiders. The profit on this trade goes to the stock-holders; so there would be no gain by destroying this profit by selling goods at cost. Neither would there be any gain in selling goods to members at less cost than to others, as the total profits are divided among the members, and each gets all the profit on his own trade. If there was no cut in prices the other merchants would be apt to say, "Well, there must be room here for another store, or these men would not start one; and if there is room some one else will start one if they don't, so I guess it is all right." But if prices were cut enmity would be engendered, profits wiped out and nothing gained.

OTHER ENTERPRISES WILL FOLLOW.

If a store is started in a small way, with a stock of staple dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes, hats and caps and clothing proportioned to its membership, and is made successful, other branches of trade will soon be added. For coal only a shed and scales would be necessary. The implement agency would soon be attached. Then would come the lumber department and the grain-shipping department, until the establishment embraced every branch of the farmers' trade, and in every branch the members would have the profit on their own trade, and thus come as near eating their cake and keeping it as possible.

This hasty sketch is already too long, though much remains to be said. We will recur to the subject, or explain any part of it when requested.

Government Ownership of Railroads.

President T. B. Blackstone, of the Chicago & Alton railroad, in his annual report to the stockholders, recommends that the national government shall acquire the ownership of all the railroads in the U. S. which are used for interstate traffic, and operate the same at such rates as will pay operating expenses, interest on cost and repairs. Many of the people have been advocating the same thing. As intelligent railroad men study this question more of Mr. Blackstone of the same mind with them will be.

THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE is the best advertising medium in the west.

"Grievances of Farmers."

The Bee of Feb. 20 has an editorial containing a lot of vague generalizations as to the "grievances of farmers," and what they should do to redress them. In this case it gets down to business close enough to object to some specific propositions for the relief of the people. It says:

"Such a proposal, for example, as that the government shall loan money to the farmer to purchase the intelligence of those who make it. That is not a function of government, and, if it were, its operation could not be confined to the farmers."

The Bee shows an entire misapprehension as to the nature of the proposition. Does the government lend money to bankers on bonds? The Bee will say no, it issues money on bond security. Very well, that is just what it is asked to do on land security. The government issues metallic money. It buys gold, giving a dollar for the gold that a dollar contains, and coins it into money, or it coins it free for the owner. Now, if the farmer or artisan wants that gold dollar he must give a dollar's worth of labor, expressed in wheat or corn or some other product, for it, and then when it gets into circulation it has cost two dollars—one dollar in taxes to pay for its material, and one dollar in labor; at the same time there isn't a business man in the community who does not prefer the government paper dollar. But the belief in intrinsic value, money is so ingrained in human nature that we make the concession to it of consenting that money when primarily issued by the government may be a representative of actual intrinsic value, and that it may be issued upon land—and that is represent land values—and draw a small annual interest from the products of land. Hence we ask that money be issued on mortgages, at cost of issue, or not over two per cent annual interest, in sufficient volume to hold interest at that point, and that no other money except coin be issued.

The Bee alludes to the objection that this would be class legislation. This is true, but in a very different sense from what the Bee supposes. It would impose upon the owners of land the burden of furnishing the circulating medium of the country. This burden would amount to two per cent per annum, and would be drawn directly from the tillers of the soil. A land owner borrows money on mortgage, and uses it generally only once. He pays a debt, or builds a barn, or buys some stock or more land. If he is a good manager the added capital pays the added interest. But it more often happens that the benefit is merely temporary and the burden permanent.

If money was issued upon land at cost of issue, the burden would be light, and it would be continually shifting from one land-owner to another. Finally when prosperity had settled all over the land, and all were out of debt, a new basis for money would have to be formed, or else government would have to resort to purely credit money, which it ought to and could issue now, without passing through a vale of tears and blood to reach it.

No man of sense now supposes that a money based upon coin alone will ever again be adequate to do the business of the world. Land is the only other thing which affords a general, unfailing and invariable security. It is better than coin, inasmuch as it annually reproduces wealth, while coin or metal produces nothing.

The Bee says lending money is "not a function of government." Isn't it, indeed? It loaned or issued \$300,000,000 to the national banks at one per cent. It loaned \$65,000,000 to the Union Pacific railroad, and then consented that its security should be impaired by a second mortgage. A grave senate committee now proposes to extend this loan for fifty years, at a lower rate, and to extend the Central Pacific loan for 75 years, at two per cent. The difference is that in all these cases monopolists get the benefit, while in the case of the loans on land the people would get it. The "functions" of the government of the U. S. are periodically imposed upon it by law; and the function of issuing money on land security may be imposed just as well as issuing it upon bond or railroad security.

Twenty years ago the government sold bonds and bought \$100,000,000 of gold with the proceeds, and locked it up in the treasury. We have paid by taxation over \$100,000,000 interest on those bonds, and the gold we bought with them might just as well have been in the deep sea. Suppose, instead of those bonds, the government had loaned \$100,000,000 to the people on land security, at two per cent. The government would have received \$2,000,000 a year interest, and the money would have been doing beneficent work among the people in exchanging products and paying wages from that day to this. Can the Bee see the difference?

When money shall cease being made an instrument of oppression, and be brought back to its legitimate use as an instrument for exchanging wealth, will prosperity return to our land, and not before.

Silver Dollars as a Basis for National Bank Notes.

There is pretended to be great anxiety just now for a basis for national bank notes. The premium on bonds has reached so high a point that it is not profitable to use them for that purpose. That is, they bring a great many more dollars by selling them to the government in advance of maturity than they do to be in the treasury as security. Mr. Windom has proposed to use silver bullion as a basis for bank notes; and some distinguished lights in Congress, among them our own Gen. W. E., have proposed to issue a new two per cent bond especially for the use of bankers; and Senator Farwell, of Ill., who is a good judge of dry goods, has proposed to use the stocks and bonds of corporations as security for bank bills.

Now isn't it a little singular that with

all this anxiety about a basis for banking, no one has proposed that the national banks should issue bills secured by silver dollars deposited with the U. S. treasurer? And isn't this fact evidence that the anxiety of the national bankers to restrict the volume of currency so that the greatest possible amount of wealth can be packed into a dollar, is much greater than their anxiety to find a safe basis for banking. National bank bills based on silver dollars deposited with the U. S. treasurer for dollar with the issues, the banks to continue as now under the strict supervision of the treasury department, would be popular money. While we are deadly hostile to the U. S. issuing its money in any form through a corporation, if we must have such money let us have it on a solid basis where we can get good silver dollars for it when we want them.

As for the banks, wouldn't it be a pretty soft snap for them to be able to take seventy-two cents worth of silver to the mint and get a silver dollar for it, and then be able to get them changed into national bank bills endorsed by Uncle Sam? Of course the snap wouldn't last long, as silver would soon be at par under such an arrangement. Silver would come here from abroad, too, we have no doubt, and some of our surplus productions be moved with it, and our idle labor employed, and the price of corn and everything else advanced.

Secretary Garber's Letter.

"Acting for the board of transportation," as he says, Secretary Garber has written a remarkable letter to our Alliance friends of Hamilton county. We agree with what he says against "coercing the railroads into a reduction of interstate rates by threats of annihilating local rates." We do not think that plan would work, nor that it ought to be tried. But we believe that lower local rates should be made. We believe that justice demands that, without any regard to the through rate. This is what Secretary Garber says about it:

"Our transportation board has undoubted power to fix local rates, and its sworn duty is to regulate and maintain the rates with utmost justice to the shipper, to the limit of allowing a fair return upon the capital legitimately invested in railroads. Local rates are excessive and extortionate, beyond the limit above mentioned, then it is the sworn duty of the board to reduce them; a duty which cannot be evaded by passing beyond its jurisdiction, and, in consideration of a cessation of unjust exactions on through traffic, permit a continuance of local extortion."

That is pretty nearly solid. By the first sentence of above extract the board admits that capital not "legitimately invested" is not entitled to any return. We had not expected a board constituted as this one is to reach such a conclusion. But we accept it as quite satisfactory. This narrows the matter to the question whether capital "legitimately invested" is receiving more than a fair return. We are willing to join the issue right on this point. The roads have been built for the bonds. These represent the amount of capital "legitimately invested." Now they are stocked for an additional amount equal to the bonds, and that is water, and represents capital that has never been invested. But the rates are adjusted, not only to pay a fair return on all this bogus capital, but to pay extortionate salaries, oil room expenses, an enormous load of free passes, (the board of transportation having its share,) extraordinary election expenses to control or defeat the will of the people, judicial decisions and an army of law officers. This results in making Nebraska rates 100 to 350 per cent higher than Iowa rates, and in wholesale robbery of the people of this state.

Now the question arises, does the board of transportation know this? Everybody else knows it, and unless we assume that the board is composed of an extremely dull set of numbskulls it must be assumed that it knows it. What then? Why Secretary Garber says "it is its sworn duty to reduce them." Just so. That's just what the people say. Why don't the board do it? Just because corporation influence in that board is stronger than an official oath. That's the size of it. We might as well get down to the bottom facts while we are about it.

The construction of the second sentence of Mr. Garber's letter is noteworthy. "If local rates are excessive and extortionate, beyond the limit above mentioned," etc. In the opinion of the board, then, the rates may be "excessive and extortionate" up to the limit of what it may choose to consider a "legitimate investment" of capital. If this is to be the rule of action, the opinion of the board on the interstate business is important to the people of this state. But there is great danger of a divergence at this point. The U. P. people think \$105,000 a mile a legitimate investment. The B. & M. folks think \$50,000 about right. The people think the actual cost of the road, with oil rooms, free passes, figure-head presidents and Pullman dining car junketing trips dispensed with, much nearer the figure. Law will have to regulate it, or the government own and operate the roads.

Mortgage Sales. The Industrial Age, of Duluth Minn., of Feb. 15, contains thirty-two advertisement of mortgage sales of lands.

The Real Cause of Hard Times.

The effort of certain papers which are devoted to the money power to ignore the actual cause of the present industrial depression leads them into some peculiar positions. The Omaha Bee of a late date says:

"Everybody who has considered the matter at all knows that the chief cause of agricultural depression is the policy of the railroads which are leased to exact the last mill that the traffic will bear. Four and five years ago corn was carried from points in Nebraska to Chicago at fourteen cents a hundred where now the rate is twenty cents and upward. So long as these rates are made with reference to agriculture will be depressed. There are other minor causes, but the one mainly accountable for the existing condition of the agricultural interest is the unjust and unreasonable railroad charges for transportation. So long as these are made with reference to supplying the greed of the corporations and meeting the demands of excessive speculation agriculture must suffer."

Now, as the Bee well knows, we do not feel disposed to under-estimate the effect of railroad extortions upon the welfare of the west. They constitute certainly an important element in the problem of prosperity. They go a long way towards destroying the margin of profit of producers upon which the commercial welfare of every community rests. But that they constitute the "chief cause of agricultural depression" we entirely and utterly deny. In the first place the Bee is well aware that, while corn may have been carried to Chicago for 14 cents a hundred for a short time, for any lengthy period rates from Nebraska east have never been lower than they are now. Second, the term "agricultural depression" used by the Bee is a misnomer. The depression embraces all classes and callings except simply one—the money-lending profession. If the depression was caused solely by high rates on agricultural products, city merchants who depend on local or city trade would not be measurably affected. Freight with them is an element of price, and they care little whether it is high or low so they are not discriminated against in favor of their competitors. But these people are feeling the depression quite as much as the farmers, and failures among them are occurring every day.

Now, there have been times since the war when there was great prosperity among western farmers when freights on all kinds of goods averaged quite as high, in fact, higher, than at present. If high freights are the "chief cause" of the depression, as the Bee says, why did they not have the same effect then as now? The average freight charge per ton per mile in 1870 was 2.005 cts. In 1887 it was .974 cts. This is an average reduction of about 1.25 cts per ton per mile, or 51.43 per cent. Now the Bee will not deny that the farmers were quite prosperous in 1870 as compared with the present, while according to the Bee's theory they should have been in the very slough of despond, and would have failed, if freight rates were the "chief cause" of financial depression.

One or two brief comparisons may open the Bee's eyes to some important facts. The following table shows the lowest prices in the New York market of the products named for the years 1870 and 1887. We have no official tables later than '87; but it is well known that prices now are lower than in that year, which would make a still greater contrast:

Table with 2 columns: Product and Price. Items include Butter, Corn, Cotton, Flour, Iron, Scotch Pig Iron, Lard, Onions, Mess Pork, Liverpool Salt, Wheat.

Here is an average shrinkage in price of over 40 per cent, while there has been an average reduction in freight rates of 51.43 per cent. According to the Bee, freights being the "chief cause" of business depression, the shrinkage in rates should have made a corresponding increase of prices. But they have not done so, and it is apparent that there is some other cause more potent and general in its operation to which we must attribute the "agricultural depression." This cause will be found in the enormous increase of wealth and business in proportion to money. The ratio of this increase has been such as to effect an enormous contraction of the money volume in the period we have named. A shrinking volume of money brings falling prices, stagnation of business, depressed agriculture, commercial disaster. It is this cause more than all others combined that has brought our present calamity upon us; and this calamity is to continue until the cause is removed. If the Bee and papers of its ilk will tell what they know to be the truth we will reach a remedy sooner.

The Alliance and the Catholics.

An article is going the rounds of the Associated Press giving an account of what is termed a "savage attack" upon the Alliance by Bishop L. M. Fink, of the diocese of Kansas, which is said to have been read in all the churches. If the whole letter is as unjust as one sentence of it is, its correction need only be left to time. It says, (referring to the Alliance,) "Its constitution and ritual virtually set up a farmers' religion and provide for a farmers' chaplain." Bishop Fink is under grave misapprehension in this matter, and any intelligent Catholic member of the Alliance could set him right. We believe all non-sectarian secret societies aim to preserve in their social forms an adherence to the Catholic principles of Christianity. If this is a "new religion" then the Alliance may be guilty. Its constitution provides, as an indispensable qualification for membership, that applicants must "be of good moral character, believe in the existence of a Supreme Being, be of industrious habits, and over sixteen years of age." This is the utmost extent of the "new religion" of the Alliance. The constitution further provides "there shall be no political or religious test of membership."

In the meetings of organized societies it is well known that some simple cere-

monial forms, with an invocation of the Divine blessing, conduce to dignity and good order. These forms are provided for in the Alliance ritual. They are simple and beautiful in a high degree. A chaplain has a part to perform in this ceremonial. Where it is possible a Christian minister is selected as Chaplain. Where this is not possible a devout church member is selected. And it often happens that the Chaplain departs from the prescribed form of words provided in the ritual and appeals to the Throne of Grace in words of his own choosing. We suppose Bishop Fink believes in prayer; and we hope he believes if prayer is sincere forms of words amount to little. We are quite sure that if he knew the demonic nature of the powers the Alliance is opposing he would admit that it needs praying for. Below we give the exact form adopted in the ritual of the Nebraska State Alliance:

"Our Heavenly Father, we pray Thee to lead us to reverse Thy name and be guided by Thy inspirations; aid us to secure the needs of our daily lives, restraining the tendencies of our natures to selfishness and greed; enable us to so live that we shall have no enemies, and to daily practice charity to all Thy creatures; guide us safely through the dangers and ills of life, and finally save us in Thy Kingdom; we ask all in the name of Christ our Lord, Amen."

We think the above is a broad and Catholic prayer, and that every Bishop and every other living sinner might say amen to it without any serious strain upon his conscience. We have now frankly given every religious feature of the Alliance. Sectarianism cannot get into it. Partisan politics has no place in it. But both religion and politics, in the broad sense of the terms, invade it daily. But it has set up no "new religion," and introduced no new forms of worship. If it can induce men who never enter a church—and there are some—to gather in its halls and listen with uncovered heads to such a prayer as the above, it would seem that Bishop Fink should be delighted to know of it, if his heart is in the right place.

We have no unkind words for the Bishop. But his conception of the Alliance is so absolutely false and misleading that his motive in assailing it is different from the one stated, and the complaint as to the "new religion" is a mere pretext.

Don't Tell.

Brothers of the Alliance, don't tell! The Alliance is a secret organization. Its meetings are confidential. It is supposed that at those meetings discussions may be free, and that whatever takes place there, whatever is said, whatever resolutions are taken, or whatever plans or measures are perfected for work or business, is to be kept sacred from the outside world. If we do not act upon this principle, if the proceedings or conversation or measures of these meetings are reported and discussed and criticized outside, our confidence in each other is at once impaired. We no longer feel those confidential relations which are necessary between members of the same society. Not only this, but we have betrayed ourselves and our business to those who are interested in destroying our organization, and have given them a great advantage over us.

If arrangements are made for goods—if we can save by buying at wholesale, don't brag about it. Don't antagonize local dealers by making statements to outsiders as to prices, or anything of the kind. Let all these things be confined strictly to the membership. Let it be distinctly understood, as a matter of honor, that everything that takes place in the Alliance meetings is strictly and sacredly confidential.

Nothing tends so much to disorganize and demoralize Alliance work as sharing confidence with men who do not belong to the order. If they are business men with whom we are competing, they have no business to know about our affairs. If they are farmers, let them join if they want the benefit.

Goldwin Smith and Marion Todd.

Over the signature of "M. L." in the Chicago Express, Mrs. Marion Todd criticizes Prof. Goldwin Smith's article on woman suffrage with an incisive vigor that is refreshing. She takes his statement that "men and women are two beings whose spheres are different, and who are the complements but not the competitors of each other," as a text for her article, and completely demolishes it and the Professor. We would be glad indeed to publish the article entire, and hope some day to have a paper from which we are not compelled to crowd such gems for want of space. We give one paragraph:

"This philosophy is getting quite clear to us. We understand more fully the position of the wife who daily totters to the earth by unjust conditions, are not willing to contribute two cents a week in order to have their cause ably, bravely and presently championed—the Banded Monopolists will be right in declaring that they are merely first class material out of which to make cringing slaves."

One good way for true men to show their sympathy for the great plain people is to subscribe for The Farmers' Voice, which speaks in the interest of a Government of the people, by the people and for the people—first, last, and all the time.

Remarkably Good Sense.

The daily Bee of a late date says: "The duties on farm products, obviously a country that exports such products, and the price of which is fixed in a foreign market, would not benefit the producing industry by tariff duties, however high."

The proposition to increase duties on farm products for the benefit of the farmer has come from the highest republican authority, viz: a conclave of politicians held in the tower of the Tribune building, New York City. We are glad to see the Bee repudiate its party on this point. Now if it will look up the "home market" business, which makes corn 14 cts and harvesters \$175, and will admit that a protective tariff is a bonus to capital and a fraud on producers—and if it will take the side of the people instead of the banks on the money question, we will have some hopes for it.

vile tenets of a specie basis, and single gold standard and intrinsic value in money into text books for our youth, and inoculate them with the poison virus of an old exploded system, so as to maintain their grasp upon the wealth of the people. All right, Gentlemen! All we ask is study, investigation. The trouble heretofore has been that the people did not study for themselves, but left you to think for them. Set them to investigating, even with your doctored up text-books, and progress is all right. Truth is mighty and will prevail. Besides, some text-books giving the actual truth may be obtained.

The State Agency at Lincoln.

Mr. J. H. Hartley, formerly of Broken Bow, has accepted the position of Agent for the State Alliance at Lincoln, tendered him by the Executive Committee, and has located at Lincoln to open the business. It is intended to make this agency a medium for the procuring of all kinds of goods for the different Business Associations, and also for the individual members of the Alliance; and also a selling agency for all products. In short, the agency is established for convenience of the members of the Alliance in every direction where their convenience can be promoted.

Of course, there is a great deal of preliminary work to be done before the agency will be in complete working order; but this will be done as fast as possible, and announcements of business arrangements made as soon as any are completed. Mr. Hartley is a man of large business experience, of whom all his business associates speak in the highest terms. We have no doubt the business here will grow to large proportions under his care. The Executive Committee reserve supervision and control in matters of importance. The aim of all connected with the agency is to make it of the utmost benefit to its members.

Of course our paper will be the medium of communication on business matters; and we trust all members will see the convenience of becoming subscribers.

Corn Rate Notes.

West Blue Farmers' Alliance No. 375 endorses the resolutions of Wabash Alliance, condemning Gov. Thayer and commanding Gen. Leese.

Clarks Weekly Messenger prints an open letter to Gov. Thayer asking him why he delayed so long to ask for reduced rates, and forcibly reminding him that the present condition of affairs has grown up under his rule and that of his party.

The Fullerton Post prints an incisive letter, headed "The Governor is too late." It says of Thayer:

"He has been in a position where he could have acted with dignity and effect. During all these many years, the people have been shamefully and cruelly robbed, and yet not one word of rebuke for the wrong or advice for righting the wrong has ever escaped his lips. While this merciless, heartless, despicable and base conduct has reduced the farmers to their present condition, this John M. Thayer has distinguished himself only in an equal greed for office."

The correspondents pan out about the same as the public meetings. The Phelps County Herald says the governor is having a hard time of it, and that it is difficult for a man to serve two masters at the same time.

The Farmers' Voice.

The Editor of the Farmers' Voice, of Chicago, is a fearless advocate of the rights of the people. His paper is now in its third volume, and is a marked success. He appeals for subscribers for it; and his language may be applied to other farmer papers as well—THE ALLIANCE, for instance. We copy: "When The Farmers' Voice can show a subscription list that rises 200,000, then the Banded Monopolists, the political bosses, and servile Congresses and Legislatures will say 'why these Hayseeders mean business' and laws for the benefit of rural Americans and the producing masses will come along quite natural all of themselves."

But so long as farmers who know they are being crushed to the earth by unjust conditions, are not willing to contribute two cents a week in order to have their cause ably, bravely and presently championed—the Banded Monopolists will be right in declaring that they are merely first class material out of which to make cringing slaves."

Remarkably Good Sense.

The daily Bee of a late date says: "The duties on farm products, obviously a country that exports such products, and the price of which is fixed in a foreign market, would not benefit the producing industry by tariff duties, however high."

The proposition to increase duties on farm products for the benefit of the farmer has come from the highest republican authority, viz: a conclave of politicians held in the tower of the Tribune building, New York City. We are glad to see the Bee repudiate its party on this point. Now if it will look up the "home market" business, which makes corn 14 cts and harvesters \$175, and will admit that a protective tariff is a bonus to capital and a fraud on producers—and if it will take the side of the people instead of the banks on the money question, we will have some hopes for it.

Bro. Beal as an Editor. Alliance is a success as an editor. His Alliance department in the Leader is ably edited, and passes much interest.