

# THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE: LINCOLN, NEB., SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 1890.

**THE ALLIANCE.**  
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"In the beauty of the lillies  
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.  
"He who cannot reason is a fool,  
He who will not reason is a coward,  
He who dare not reason is a slave."

## EDITORIAL.

The State Senate—A Note of Alarm.

The railroad power of Nebraska is organizing to capture the State Senate. There will be no organized fight made to secure the lower house. It is already conceded that the farmers will have a working majority of that body. But it is not so with the Senate. If the railroad influence can secure seventeen members it can control the Senate, and block any legislation in favor of the people. To do this it may not be necessary for this power to elect seventeen senators. If it can elect nearly that number and at the same time secure the election of a few of the non-committal sort of men, who are so straight up that they are in danger of going over backward—whose sense of dignity will not allow of their making pledges—who think if they cannot be trusted without pledges they could not be trusted with them—if a few of this kind of men can be elected the railroad people will have no difficulty in securing a majority of the Senate. The non-committal men are the dangerous men—they are the men who are for sale.

We want every farmer in this state to see by what a narrow thread hangs their hopes of success next fall. Without a fair working majority in the Senate there can be no new legislation. With three members of the Board of Transportation on the side of the roads no lower freight rates need be looked for. Without the Senate this same state board could not be removed; and it may become a serious block in the way of lower local rates.

The wires are already being laid in the senatorial districts to secure railroad Senators. We warn our people to watch out. Beware of these sleek conservative men who have no very decided opinions, and who are so dreadfully anxious that justice should be done to the poor railroads. These fellows are greatly concerned lest capital should be driven out of the state, and railroad building be discontinued in the west. Don't have the least anxiety on that score, but just watch these sleek non-committal, sanctimonious devils who sneak in between two leaves of the bible without touching either, and who will turn Judas as soon as they get to Lincoln and come across an oil-room Johnny.

We are reasonably sure of the house; but it will do us no good without the Senate. Select men who have made records on the side of the people. If there are none of that sort, then select men whom you know to be honest and who will swear with uplifted hands, without cavil or quibble or hesitation, that they will be faithful and true to the interests of the people.

Watch and probe and prove every man of every party who aspires to be Senator.

### Free Sugar.

The ways and means committee decided to report in favor of putting sugar on the free list, and in favor of a bounty of 2¢ per lb on domestic sugar. If sugar is to be protected of course this is the sensible business way of doing it. But it does not suit the capitalists who desire to invest in the sugar industry. One of these men says that the removal of the tariff will allow a flood of cheap sugar to come in from Germany and elsewhere "and swamp us." Well that's a pretty good argument for taking it off. How nice it would seem to have cheap sugar as well as cheap corn. He also says "there is no stability in the bounty scheme." Right again! The American people will not long consent to pay a bonus of \$40 per ton on domestic sugar. He also threatens to stop operations at Grand Island if the sugar schedule is adopted. This is a common bluff of capitalists. Our John M. Thurston made the same bluff a short time ago; and so did President Perkins and George W. Holdrege, and that's all it amounts to.

### One G. H. Mendal Again.

We learn from the Bee of the 21st that a set of resolutions which it had previously published as coming from an Alliance in Cherry county turn out to be fraudulent. We received this same set of resolutions, or some quite similar, purporting to come from an Alliance in Nuckolls county, accompanied by a request from Geo. H. Mendal that we publish them. Not being so good natured as the Bee, we put them in the waste-basket. Shortly afterward came Mr. Mendal's interview in the B. & M. Journal, and information that he had been for years connected with that vicious monopoly sheet.

The Bee says that "wolves in sheep's clothing" are getting in their work, in which Mr. George's arguments are all true—all false, or are a dangerous mixture of truth and falsehood, one thing is certain, he writes good English.

### Bosh!

The farmer is on the wrong seat in hunting after more currency. He should hunt down the speculators. No matter how much the volume of currency is increased, the farmer will not be able to buy a dollar of it cheaper than he does now. His true remedy is to enact laws that will make usury a misdemeanor or felony, and will cause the forfeiture of the principal as well as the interest when the money lender exacts more than the legal rate, either in the shape of interests or commission.

If the Farmers' Alliance desires to accomplish anything it should confine its efforts to measures of relief that are within their reach. They cannot hope to readjust the finances of the nation. They can accomplish something by centering their influence upon the legislature.—Omaha Bee.

The above is the kind of bosh the Bee is regaling its readers with since it became the champion of the money power. Let us look at it a little. The Bee says if money is more plentiful the farmer will not be able to borrow cheaper. The Bee will not deny what all financial authorities assert to be true, viz: that abundance of money makes higher prices. Now with interest at 10 per cent and corn 20 cents per bushel, it takes 500 bushels of corn to pay the interest on \$1,000. With corn at 40 cents it would take only 250 bushels. Are these figures correct, Mr. Bee?

A more stringent usury law may be a good thing. But it isn't a question of being able to pay *more* than the legal rate. The legal rate is breaking our backs, let alone an illegal one. There is no legitimate business going in this country to-day which is good as loaning money at seven per cent.

The Bee says the farmers cannot adjust the finances of the nation; and so should confine its influence to state legislatures. We will say to the Bee that the legislature has very little to do with financial matters. Our national finances are regulated by Congress—the volume of our money is fixed by Congress—in interest is regulated by the volume of money and the method and terms of its issue. If, in the light of events of the past two months, the Bee says the farmers "cannot hope to adjust the finances of the nation," it doesn't know what it is talking about. Why, even banker George W. Dorsey is hurrying up to supply the farmers with more money. Jump aboard, Mr. Bee, or you'll get left.

### Strikes Everywhere.

"Strikes seem to be in the air," say the eastern dispatches. "A spirit of universal discontent is abroad," says one of the Omaha dailies. In Chicago the cigar makers led the movement of a few weeks ago. Then came the plumbers and the carpenters and clock-makers. Now the gas-makers are going out, and the employees of the stock yards are uneasy. In England the Manchester tailors strike for shorter hours and longer wages. In London monster labor meetings are the order of the day. In Vienna six thousand carpenters are on a strike for shorter hours and better pay. Philadelphia street-cleaners are rioting, and in Pittsburgh ten thousand railroaders threaten to quit work unless wages are advanced. In Chicago the choir boys of one of the Episcopal churches have struck.

What does this all mean? Are the local rates on corn too high in London? Is the tariff squeezing those Pittsburg fellows? Can't the stock-yards men meet the interest on their mortgages? There seems to be some unhappiness somewhere—everywhere—among the wage-earners. Strange, isn't it, considering that a dollar will buy more food than at any time in the past twenty years. It seems, in fact, that the more the dollar will buy the more trouble there is about getting the dollar. Because it is the getting of the dollar that is making all the trouble among these workers. The banker's theory is, that the more value you crowd into the dollar the greater the value you give for a day's work. But it don't seem to work in practice. The more the purchasing power of the dollar is increased the more distress there is among the dollar-earners. Paradoxical, isn't it?

Perhaps the explanation may be found in the fact that as the purchasing power of the dollar is increased the purchasing power of the products of labor is diminished. At all events, one thing is certain, the labor question is the money question. Each embraces the other. There is only one thing that is absolutely common to all the varied workers and strikers we find named in the dispatches—and that is the need of money.

### A Very Small Affair.

The representative conference of anti-monopoly republicans took the wind out of the fourth party's sails, and the platform of the forthcoming republican state convention will effectually demoralize the little that remains of the VanWyck squall.

The above is the concluding sentence of an editorial in the *Omaha Republican*. The last clause is the leader. Whatever may be meant by "the VanWyck squall," it is evident that the republican leaders depend on satisfying the demands of the people with wind. We will say to these gentlemen that bumblebee resolutions will not do this year, and that the issue is broader than one of mere local freight rates.

### Henry George in Australia.

The *Chicago Herald* says: Henry George is making a great impression in Australia. A grand banquet was given the other day at Sydney in his honor. His lectures on the land question draw immense and enthusiastic audiences. Perhaps the land of new ballot systems, black swans and duck-billed platypuses, will be the first to give Mr. George's theories trial. Meanwhile the great single tax disciple will not suffer any. A California woman has just left him \$10,000 and not long ago he was the recipient of another bequest of a large amount. Whether Mr. George's arguments are all true—all false, or are a dangerous mixture of truth and falsehood, one thing is certain, he writes good English.

### SENATOR VOORHEES.

#### Extracts From his Recent Speech—Eloquent Talk.

We give below an extract from a late speech of Senator D. W. Voorhees in the U. S. senate. His portrayal of the present condition of affairs is quite as vigorous and accurate as his description of the remedies. It is very observable that all the honest, outspoken men of the country, of whatever party, are taking the same view of the present situation:

The relations of the laboring classes to the feudal barons of Europe during the Middle Ages were exactly the same in principle as those now existing between the laboring classes of the United States and the favored few, for whom men are hewers of wood and drawers of water.

Cordie, the Saxon, had no master hold on the services of Girth, the swineherd, than the lords of the money power have at this time on the hard earnings of American industry. Are we to be blind to the lessons of history? There is always a point in the oppression and enslavement of labor where safety ceases and danger begins.

### REMEDIES PROPOSED.

First. Tariff reform should be so thorough, complete and unsparring that after providing sufficient revenue for the government, not one dollar would be further required of the farmer as protection to high priced goods, wares and merchandise, because of their being manufactured and sold by American monopolists.

Second. A full supply of legal tender money in the hands of the people, proportioned in amount to the population and business of the country, is as essential to the prosperity of the farmers as a sufficient quantity of blood is to human life. It is nowhere denied that there is at this time a meager and stinted volume of currency in circulation sufficient to the producing and business classes. This set is largely due to the absorption of money by the monopolies at the money centers, and to a great extent also to the growth of population and the expansion of business without any corresponding increase in the amount of our circulating medium.

The figures of the census and the statistics of finance show that while our population has increased 25,000,000 in the last twenty-five years, and the requirements of business for the use of money have increased in the same proportion, yet there is in fact less money in actual circulation in the hands of the people or attainable by them for daily use than there was a quarter of a century ago. This is the constitutional power of the government to regulate and the constitutional duty of the government to authorize and enact by its stamp, on either gold, silver, or paper, a sufficient amount of money, full legal tender in quality, to meet the sound and healthy demands of the people in their trade, their commerce, and their development of the physical resources of the country.

Thus the supreme court of the United States has decided, and thus, in spite of those interested in the scarcity of money, in low-priced property, and in cheap labor, the law stands settled. With the power in congress to declare what shall be money and how much shall be issued, what necessity can there be for the farmer to offer his lands to the government as security for a small loan in his distress? He has a higher right than any to demand complete and honest enduring relief. I fully agree with the editor of the *Stanford Standard*, in his statement that "an abundance of money means universal activity, bringing in its train all the blessings that belong to a constantly employed, industrious, and intelligent people."

I do not, however, agree with him that the land-owners of the United States, the sovereign people who own and support the government, should be left to become borrowers at the door of one-half or one-quarter of their assessed value, or at any other appraise-ment. I do not agree with him that such a system would be in the long run doing any relief at all. The owners of the soil will be on a higher scale, and more dignified ground." The constituents of the United States confers the power on congress to create and issue all the money needed for the relief of the people; and for the value of as much use to the farmer as the fifth wheel to his wagon. It is pleasant to know that figs are unchanged, since no farmer will suffer by their admission at the present duty of two cents a pound. It is to be hoped that every farmer realizes the advantages conferred upon him by increased duties on raw silk and peat.

\$14.67 per capita, while it is but \$2.72 per capita with us. With more silver products than all the world besides, the people of the United States are demanding fair play for silver money and the assistance and stimulus of its unlimited coinage and circulation. With all the discrimination that has been made against it, with all the sneers and calumnies that have been heaped upon it, we can buy no more in the markets than silver, and can carry in aristocratic houses higher than the dollars of the fathers. The adoption of the free coinage of silver will make an era of prosperity to the American farmer and to all the industrial classes.

Fourth. Another measure of relief for the embarrassment and depression of agricultural interests and the disturbance of their markets should be the prompt enactment of laws, either by congress or by the states, or by both, punishing with state's prison imprisonment those who speculate on the great food products of the world and gamble on their future prices, without having owned a bushel of corn or wheat, or a pound of beef or pork or any other commodity which they assume to buy and sell. This is an interference with the honest, legitimate trade of the farmer which should be made a felony, and punishable as such.

Fifth. To the foregoing propositions in the interest of the farmer I would add a liberal policy of pensions and a full and generous recognition of those who served their country in the hour of its peril. Money paid in pensions to the soldier is not only a benefit and a blessing to him and those who are dear to him, but also to the produce dealer, the merchant, and to all within range of its circulation. But for the large sums which for years have been disbursed by the pension office and thus reached nearly every neighborhood in the United States and gone into general circulation the present financial crisis among the farmers and laborers would have come at an earlier day. As a beneficial measure to the nation, as well as a duty of the most sacred character, the soldier should be paid by his government as one who was willing to die for his government. On that lofty basis his equities are without limit, and justice should at all times stand ready to enforce them.

### ALL FOR THE FARMER.

Corn, Wheat, Eggs, Raw Silk and Peat Under Higher Duties for His sake.

The New York Tribune, by way of convincing the farmer that the republican party benevolently holds him in the hollow of its hand, publishes a list showing the comparative rates of duty on agricultural products by the present tariff. The Mills bill and the McKinley bill. Here are some of the most striking facts of the case, showing the increase of duty as compared with the present tariff:

Bailey, 20 cents a bushel; buckwheat, 5 cents a bushel; corn, 5 cents a bushel; oats, 5 cents a bushel; wheat, 5 cents a bushel; butter, 2 cents a pound; beans, 30 cents a bushel; eggs, 5 cents per dozen; peacock feathers, from 20 cents to 40 cents a bushel; feathers, 10 cents a pound; dried vegetables in natural state, 5¢ per cent; straw \$2 per ton; apples, 25 cents per bushel; plums, 1 cent per pound; figs, unchanged; raisins, 4 cent a pound; bacon and ham, 3 cents per pound; beef, mutton and pork, 1 cent a pound; wool, unwashed, 1 cent a pound; wool, third class, not exceeding 12 cents a pound in value, 1 cent a pound; wool, third class, exceeding 12 cents a pound in value, 4 cent a pound; raw silk, \$1 a pound; peat, \$8 a ton; leaf tobacco, stemmed, \$1.75 cents a pound; unstemmed, \$1.25 cents a pound.

This is a refreshing list. A tariff on most of these things, especially wheat, corn, oats and bacon, is of about as much use to the farmer as the fifth wheel to his wagon. It is pleasant to know that figs are unchanged, since no farmer will suffer by their admission at the present duty of two cents a pound. It is to be hoped that every farmer realizes the advantages conferred upon him by increased duties on raw silk and peat.

### Saunders County Alliance.

A grand meeting of the Saunders County Alliance was held at Wahoo on Saturday the 19th inst. Mr. Vold addressed the meeting. His addresses are original, sharp and incisive, and are attracting much attention.

Secretary Rand reports twenty-eight Subordinate Alliances in Saunders county, with a membership of fifteen hundred. The total vote of Saunders county in 1888 was 4,379. It looks as though the Alliance in that county might turn matters about to its liking, if it keeps reasonably solid.

### Strange Bedfellows.

The Omaha Bee and the *B. & M. Journal* come together in their fight for the money power, and against the farmers. The latter quotes from a correspondent of the former some abuse of the men who have dared tell the truth about the indebtedness of Nebraska. Neither of them quote the official report of the farm mortgages of Saline county, that we have noticed.

### The Memorial Again.

The *Omaha Republican* publishes a column rigidamente about the Alliance Memorial, and some figures about farm mortgages obtained by Mr. Jenkins in Sarpy county. Mr. Jenkins has memorial on the brain, when his brain is in condition to receive any impressions. Why don't the *Republican* publish the official figures from Saline county?

The Moral and Political Decadence of American Institutions.

Under the early presidents, appointments to office were made in the true spirit of the Constitution. A certain service was to be performed in the interest of the public, and a man possessing the requisite capacity and tried character was looked for to perform it. Appointment as reward of partisan service, and removal as a punishment for opposition of political enemies. In the first division of parties, the strength lay with the Federalist, and George Washington, their candidate, was elevated to the presidential chair. But George Washington was first of all a patriot, and only in the second place a Federalist; and his earliest executive act was to appoint to the leading places in his cabinet his most conspicuous political opponent, since known as the father of American Democracy, Thomas Jefferson; while Alexander Hamilton, the champion of the party which had just triumphed in his own election, was assigned to a lower seat at the same council board. And in this large and liberal and magnanimous spirit were made all the appointments

to office during the administration of that great man. If under his earlier successors the same noble magnanimity was not the invariable rule, there was at least no large departure from it for more than thirty years. There came at length, however, when the chair of state was filled by a man who chose to make himself the chief of a party and to support him. The iron rule inaugurated by this energetic chief, the tyrannical power of a few individuals, the machine politicians, called to the chair by a vote without a count, a machine politician proposes the nominees; the nominations are declared to be adopted; and the engineering of the primary is complete. The management of the convention is almost equally simple. Being made up of machine politicians it knows very well what it has to do and it does it. The really important part of its work has been prepared for it in anticipation of its meeting by a process conducted in secret, known among machine politicians as "making up a slate." In general, the slate, after the observance of certain decorous formalities is duly ratified; but occasionally as there are changes in the party, the public interest is the last thought of. Rather, on the other hand, the public treasury is regarded as the most important to the country, since it is perfectly understood that the winning party in any case shall have the use of the machine. The portion of the work of the convention which is designated for popular effect is the declaration of principles, technically called a "platform." This is a beautiful piece of composition, glowing in every line with patriotic and virtuous sentiment, setting forth with earnest emphasis a variety of indisputable propositions and embellished with a choice selection of those glittering generalities which sound so well and when we think of it, seem to mean so little. These may be varied from time to time according to circumstances; but there are one or two specific words which are being used by all parties, and particularly by the Republicans, which are quite indispensable to any properly constructed platform. These are first, a peremptory demand for the retrenchment of the public expenditure; and secondly, a proper denunciation of the ungrateful and unscrupulous squabbles to determine which of two bodies of political cormorants, both equally unworthy, shall be permitted to prey upon the public. Under its operation the very character of our government has been changed.

In the meantime the opposing party has been going through with a performance entirely similar; and the result is that the simple citizen or the "man outside of politics" has no alternative but to stay outside altogether or to choose the machine party which he will. There remains of course the expedient of independent action; but such action is only labor wasted, unless it is wisely concerted, so thoroughly organized and so energetically prosecuted as to become powerful enough to break both machines. It must be attempted, if at all, under enormous disadvantages. The advantage of experience is against it; it must oppose raw volunteers to disciplined and veteran troops. The advantage of position is against it; one of the parties is already in possession of the government. The advantage of instruments is against it; the custom house, the postoffice, the internal revenue bureau, the land office, and all the other ramifications of the civil service are so many engines in the hands of the machine. And finally, the advantage of time; he certainly improved under his predecessor, but his predecessor had had time. His belief is believed to have been due to an important discovery, if not in the science of politics, then in the science of political economy, at least in the economy of political parties. He must be attempted to be successful, unless it is an astute which amply compensates for this defect. It was his boast that he had in the front of his illustrious predecessors, to a man, a record of distinguished service, and in some respects he certainly improved under his predecessor. His predecessor had had time. His belief is believed to have been due to an important discovery, if not in the science of politics, then in the science of political economy, at least in the economy of political parties. He must be attempted to be successful, unless it is an astute which amply compensates for this defect. It was his boast that he had in the front of his illustrious predecessors, to a man, a record of distinguished service, and in some respects he certainly improved under his predecessor. His predecessor had had time.