

### Notice to Subscribers.

**EXPIRATIONS.**  
As the easiest and cheapest means of notifying subscribers of the date of their expiration, we will mark their papers with a blue or red pencil on the date at which their subscription expires. We will send the paper two weeks after expiration. If not renewed by that time it will be discontinued.

### POETRY.

#### What Mary Meant When She Said "Rats"

Kansas City Star

I was one of them "fool farmers," yes, I'll own it like a mast;  
There was plenty of us fashioned on the same peculiar plan;  
And I've lived out here in Nebraska more than five and twenty years,  
A growin' poor and poorer as it certainly appears.

I seldom read the newspapers; I worked too hard for my bread,  
And never knew why I got lean while other men got fat;  
I didn't fool with politics; I had too much to do;  
But I always voted as I shot and as they told me to.

The day before election, just imagine my distress,  
When I ketch'd my wife a-readin'—now whatever would you guess?  
A free trade publication, and, to make it worse, she said  
She'd read it regular each night before she went to bed.

And, do you know, that wife of mine just told me she had read  
That farmers' alliance was a few monopolists in town?  
I always try to get around these warm domestic spades,  
But when I praed protection and she laughed and said "rats!"

I bristled up; it kindled all the sentiments of strife  
To think this free trade stuff should be corruptin' of my wife;  
I quit her then and there before her argument was through,  
As every good protectionist must make it a rule to do.

That night we had a camp fire and our congressman was there;  
We gave him "John Brown's Body" when he went to take the chair;  
I wore my old blue uniform to spite the demagogue,  
But all the time I wondered what my Mary meant by "rats."

Our congressman was eloquent, he made a stirrin' speech;  
I could almost see the battle's smoke and hear the bullets screech;  
And when he bade us vote as we had shot at Matrons' camp,  
We rose with one accord and cried with one acclaim, "We will."

We sang the good old war songs and we ate a mess of beans,  
And we passed the evening pleasantly, recallin' bloody scenes;  
And we took the straightest tickets and we voted "on our hats,"  
But all the time I wondered what my Mary meant by "rats."

When I reached home I noticed that my Mary wore a smile,  
Which seemed to me as indicatin' storms ahead, or bile;  
To head her "on our hats," "You'll call me early mother dear,  
For to morrow'll be the liveliest day free trade will have this year."

Next mornin' 'jest at sun up, as I woke and rubbed my eyes,  
A-wonderin' what she meant by "rats," I saw to my surprise  
My clothes and hat and boots all ranged in order on the floor,  
And hearin' each a card I'd swear I never saw before.

My flannel shirt displayed the sign, "Taxed 45 per cent";  
My trousers "Iaxed 100"—so this was what "rats" meant;  
My vest said "Iaxed 100," and my shoes "Iaxed 35";  
My coat and hat "300" with "Protection makes us thrive."

I went to fill the basin and I noticed as I came  
"Taxed 45 per cent"—Great Scott! the towel said the same;  
The soap was marked as "30," as I dropped it on the floor,  
I chanced to see a scuttle full of coals, chalked "24."

I passed into the kitchen and it gives me pain to state  
That my wife had on a woolen dress stamped "only 55";  
And in shooing out a guinea hen she made a little dive  
Which showed a pair of stockings with a card marked "35."

The baby in his little bed was lyin' fast asleep;  
I always held the little chap as most uncommon cheap;  
But when I saw these cards on blanket, pillow, crib and seat,  
I felt a lump rise in my throat; I knew that I was beat.

No matter where I went I struck them pesky little signs;  
The stoves, the plates, the knives, the forks, the window sash and blinds,  
The scissors, needles, thread, all bore that terrible per cent;  
Bigosh, I didn't dare to ask what card was on the rent.

That was the soberest meal I ever ate in all my life;  
And as I left the table, in remarkin' to my wife that I was goin' to the polls, she helped me with my coat,  
And said: "I reckon, John, I needn't tell you how to vote."

I walked down to my votin' place; it looked like every yard  
Was full of farmin' implements which bore a little card,  
And seemed to say from plow to spade, from thresh to ax:  
"Good mornin', John, and don't forget the tariff is a tax."

I voted straight—O, yes, no doubt of that; I voted straight,  
But not exactly in the way expected of my state;  
And I showed the boys the little cards provided by my wife;  
—That night our congressman took ferma leave of public life.

I was one of them "fool farmers" durin' five and twenty years,  
But I've learned a little common sense, as doubtless now appears;  
You can run and tell McKinley and say—don't forget to state  
That we've voted in Nebraska and we've voted darned near straight!

### INTERESTING LETTER FROM HON. AUGUST POST.

Secretary of the National Farmers' Alliance.

#### The National Farmers' Alliance—Its Object—All Working People Will Be Benefited if Their Allegiance is Given It.

The National Farmers' Alliance, as the name denotes, is a national organization of farmers having for its object the promotion of the interests of agriculture. The reason for its existence is found in the fact that this is an age of organization—an age in which important results are accomplished only by massing forces that can be bound together upon the basis of similarity of circumstances and community of interest. It is believed that the influence to which the magnitude and importance of agriculture entitle it, can only be exerted through the principle of organization and that it is only thus that farmers can favorably affect the social and economic conditions which so vitally concern them. It is believed, further, that the general public does not desire to be unjust, and would not willingly deny to so important a section of industry as agriculture, and fair and well-considered demand which farmers regard as essential or advantageous to their welfare. Organization affords opportunity for such intelligent discussion as shall furnish a reasonable assurance that the demands that may be made are fair and well-considered, and supply a voice which to some extent at least can give authoritative expression to the farmers' wishes and needs after they shall have been formulated. These are some of the considerations—and only some of them—which render organization by the farmers of the country desirable not only for their own sake but for the sake of the public. Mere unrest and discontent without definite expression of grounds of complaint has never yet righted a wrong or removed a grievance.

The object, then, of the National Farmers' Alliance is to secure unity of action, after full and intelligent discussion, for the promotion of such reforms as may be necessary to the bettering of the farmers' condition. It covers a broad field and nothing that can advance the welfare of the farm or the farmers is foreign to it. Naturally, purposes so extensive cannot be described in detail in a word. They exclude reformation in economics, the discrimination of principles calculated to encourage and foster agricultural pursuits and to secure those engaged in them their just share of the returns from the soil; the education of the agricultural classes in just ideas of government, opposition to monopoly, the inculcation of the belief in the dignity and worth of the pursuit of agriculture, the discussion of all topics relating to the farm, whether directly as in the case of crops, grasses, feeding, breeding, etc., or more remotely as in the case of transportation, markets, supply and demand, and the like. The principle of cooperation in purchasing is one to which the alliance devotes much attention, and with good results, and it seeks by every legitimate means to so influence legislation as to secure justice from railroads and transportation companies, to abolish special privileges to the few, to prevent food adulterations injurious alike to the consumer and producer, to increase markets at home and abroad, and to crush out legitimate trading under the laws of competition and supply and demand.

With these purposes in view, the National Farmers' Alliance has organized State Alliances in ten of the states of the Union and has in process of organization five other states, with numerous local Alliances in still other states, where the body is not yet strong enough to warrant state organization. The plan of organization consists of the National Alliance at the head with state organizations auxiliary to it, and then in turn have subordinate Alliances organized under their jurisdiction, both county and local.

The officers of the Farmers' Alliance are as follows:

President—H. L. Loucks, Clear Lake, South Dakota.

Vice President—J. H. Powers, Cornell, Nebraska.

Secretary—August Post, Moulton, Iowa.

Treasurer—J. J. Furlong, Austin, Minnesota.

Lecturer—N. B. Ashby, Des Moines, Iowa.

Thus far it is almost wholly located in the northern states, and its headquarters and business office is at Moulton, Iowa.

Its methods are non-partisan. It believes that however interested individuals, professional politicians and some partisan leaders may feel, the vast majority of the people of all parties want to do right. It believes that the alliance principles are right and only need agitation and discussion to commend them to the masses of all parties.

The following is section 1 of article XII of the constitution of the Iowa Farmers' Alliance, and is practically the same as is contained in the constitutions of all of the state bodies organized under the auspices of the National Farmers' Alliance:

ARTICLE XII.  
SECTION 1. This organization is strictly non-partisan in its methods. It is recommended, however, that each member use his utmost influence in the political party of his choice to secure the nomination of candidates for congressional or legislative honors, committed to alliance principles.

This principle of non-partisanship has never been abandoned, even temporarily, and in Iowa where it has perhaps accomplished most, it has never

had a political tincture in the field. At the annual meeting in September, 1890, it formulated a number of legislative demands, quite a number of which were complied with at the last session of the legislature. As, for example, in the passage of the law authorizing and requiring the making of joint tariffs upon railroad tariffs, the reduction of legal contract interest to 8 per cent, the passage of a school text book law, the law against trusts and trade complicity, and many others. Upon the same non-partisan lines the alliance was chiefly instrumental in securing the adoption of our previous system of railway control, which includes an elective railway commission with power to fix rates, a system which however combated when first proposed, no one would now be willing to abandon unless for something very clearly shown to be better.

I have thus given a hasty and somewhat incomplete outline of the National Farmers' Alliance and its objects, and plan of organization, in response to many requests for information regarding it. In various parts of the country the necessity that is felt for organization has led to the formation of a number of other organizations upon diverse plans, having a variety of objects and pursuing almost as many different methods of work. What is written above is intended as a brief description, although necessarily quite imperfect, of what the National Farmers' Alliance is in these respects. Those who may desire further information will be supplied with copies of the constitution and proceedings of meetings heretofore held upon sending me their address with a request for the same.

AUGUST POST, Secretary.  
Nat'l Farmers' Alliance,  
Moulton, Iowa.

**Does Farming Pay?**  
The facts in this article are condensed from an address by Burt Stewart of Macon county, Ill., published in the Chicago Express. Mr. Stewart is a member of the Illinois bureau of labor statistics, and speaks from authentic information.

The evidences that farming does not pay, are that farms by means of sale, but mainly through the pressure of the mortgage, are passing out of the hands of actual farmers who are rapidly being gathered into cities. Forty-two counties in Illinois have lost population since the census of 1880, while our city population has increased in the last ninety years from 3.3 per cent to 33.3 per cent of the whole population, and during the last fifty years tenant farmers in Illinois have increased from none to 115,000.

The average rate of interest on farm mortgages is 7 per cent, but the best day Illinois ever saw, her property only increased 3 per cent. Manifestly it is only a question of time and that not long, when lazy usurers will own all things. Even for the farmers who are not yet in debt, the compensation, in the form of the price they get for their products, is fixed by the market which is controlled by the necessities of the men who must sell at any price in order to pay usury.

In our boasted increase of wealth the farmer and laborer have no part. In one respect we have made more progress than any nation in history. We have made more millionaires in twenty-five years than the whole world beside has made in six hundred years. "We have made more tenant farmers in Illinois in fifty years than there are in Scotland and Wales, after two hundred years of mismanagement there." The great means of all this robbery and wrong is, and has been: DRAINING THE WEST INTO EASTERN MONEY MARKETS.

The annual wealth production of our whole country is \$1,300,000,000, of which exactly one-half is produced in the west; \$470,000,000 in the middle states, while \$125,000,000, or less than one-tenth, is produced in the east, and yet the east has 45 per cent of the capital of the country.

Why is the western farmer so encumbered with eastern mortgages? "I tell you," said Mr. Stewart, "it is because all the commercial, industrial, financial and legislative tiling is so laid as to drain the west and the south into the east. First the whole process of commercial machinery is to drain the agricultural districts for the benefit of the towns, then to drain the towns into the large cities, and lastly to converge all channels of wealth ultimately into the eastern centers. Why should Chicago banks have to call on New York for money to move Illinois crops?"

The writer fails to give the real answer to his specific question, which is our government's paternal care for New York grain and stock gamblers, embodied in the national banking law; but in general terms he says: "I will just say that the legislation on this country in relation to money matters, the tinkering with silver, and the present infamous fight against free coinage, all national bank legislation has made millionaires in the east and depressed the people of the west. All our exchange and board of trade systems do the same. It is an alarming fact that last year, while your farmers of Illinois lost \$10,000,000 on corn \$800,000,000 of money were shuffed into the tills of Wall street; into the pockets of men who never did a day's productive labor in their lives."

One eastern insurance company, the Connecticut Mutual Life, holds \$5,000,000 in mortgages on Illinois farms, and draws an annual usury of \$350,000 on the same. In one year, 1887, New York mortgages for the sum of \$112,465 were placed on 6,400 acres of Logan county farms, and other eastern states encumbered 5,509 acres more; making in all 11,909 acres.

Not only is interest on a vast incalculable amount of debt drawing the life-blood out of the west into the east, but exorbitant freight rates constitute

far the greatest drain in the same direction.

"Let us suppose you raise forty bushels of corn to the acre in Illinois; it costs you \$6.75 per acre to get that corn to the seaboard; in other words, the railroads get \$270 out of every forty acres of corn you raise; the commission men, board of trade and elevator men, get \$230 while you get from \$50 to \$400. In other words you get \$300 for raising forty acres of corn and other men get \$300 for about one week's work hauling and selling it."

According to the report of the interstate commerce commission, just published, the gross earnings of our railroads were \$6,200 per mile, and the net earnings \$2,087 per mile for 1888. As compared with the depressed condition of agriculture, this, when you consider the wastefulness of the enormous salaries and fees paid to an army of officials, clearly indicates the monstrous robbery of the system.

### TWELVE APOSTLES OF REFORM.

A Suggestion as to How the Tariff Can Be Reduced, Despite the Republican Senate.

St. Louis Republic.  
Senator Cockrell's hearty approval of the Republic's plan of tariff reform is another gratifying evidence of its feasibility and popularity. Though we have heard publicly from men like Messrs. Vest, Cockrell and Springer, we have heard nothing except hearty commendation of the plan, nor do we expect anything else except from those who are either openly or secretly in favor of maintaining the McKinley tariff of abominations.

The plan is so simple that it can be understood at once by all, even by those who have never considered the tariff question as a whole. It involves nothing more than a number of separate bills, each dealing with a single article of trade now controlled by monopolies. No general bill will be introduced. Each of these separate bills would stand on its own merits, just as did the single bill which put quinine on the free list, broke down the quinine monopoly, and reduced the price of the drug from prices ranging as high as \$4 an ounce to prices ranging as low as 40 cents.

In suggesting a somewhat indefinite number of such anti-trust bills we spoke of "a dozen separate measures," and Congressman Springer christened them for us as "The Twelve Apostles of Reform." Below we give them, tentatively:

1. Free binder twine.
2. Free cotton ties.
3. Free worsteds for men and women's clothing.
4. Free agricultural implements and edged tools.
5. Free blankets.
6. Free coal.
7. Free tin and tin plate.
8. Free silver-bearing lead ore to re-establish our trade with Mexico.
9. Free lumber.
10. A reduction to the "revenue only" basis on table and kitchen ware.
11. Free white lead and paints.
12. Free barbed wire and wire rods for fences.

We doubt if a single one of these bills could be defeated by the senate. The republican senators from western states have learned a great deal since five years that the whole world beside has made in six hundred years. "We have made more tenant farmers in Illinois in fifty years than there are in Scotland and Wales, after two hundred years of mismanagement there." The great means of all this robbery and wrong is, and has been: DRAINING THE WEST INTO EASTERN MONEY MARKETS.

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We doubt if a single one of these bills could be defeated by the senate. The republican senators from western states have learned a great deal since five years that the whole world beside has made in six hundred years. "We have made more tenant farmers in Illinois in fifty years than there are in Scotland and Wales, after two hundred years of mismanagement there." The great means of all this robbery and wrong is, and has been: DRAINING THE WEST INTO EASTERN MONEY MARKETS.

The annual wealth production of our whole country is \$1,300,000,000, of which exactly one-half is produced in the west; \$470,000,000 in the middle states, while \$125,000,000, or less than one-tenth, is produced in the east, and yet the east has 45 per cent of the capital of the country.

Why is the western farmer so encumbered with eastern mortgages? "I tell you," said Mr. Stewart, "it is because all the commercial, industrial, financial and legislative tiling is so laid as to drain the west and the south into the east. First the whole process of commercial machinery is to drain the agricultural districts for the benefit of the towns, then to drain the towns into the large cities, and lastly to converge all channels of wealth ultimately into the eastern centers. Why should Chicago banks have to call on New York for money to move Illinois crops?"

The writer fails to give the real answer to his specific question, which is our government's paternal care for New York grain and stock gamblers, embodied in the national banking law; but in general terms he says: "I will just say that the legislation on this country in relation to money matters, the tinkering with silver, and the present infamous fight against free coinage, all national bank legislation has made millionaires in the east and depressed the people of the west. All our exchange and board of trade systems do the same. It is an alarming fact that last year, while your farmers of Illinois lost \$10,000,000 on corn \$800,000,000 of