THE
FARMERS' ALLIANCE
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J. BURROWS. - - - Editor.
J. M. THOMPSON, Business Mg'r.

"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 ALLIANCE MEETING AND THE PRESS.

In a long life we have never known a more disgraceful exhibition of journalism than that shown by the *Bee*, *World-Herald* and *State Journal* in the treatment of the State Alliance meeting of last week. Every person who was in the convention knows how utterly vile were the statements of these papers. Having no reliable information, their reporters listened in hotel corriders and drew upon their imagination for the balance. But through all this vile lying there runs one ever present and strenuous purpose to destroy Burrows. Every misrepresentation seems to have this object in view. The present object of this is obvious. These papers have all the time given it out cold that Mr. Burrows was the instigator of the election contest. Of course all the parties directly interested in the contest know this to be false, and that Mr. Burrows probably had less to do with it than any other prominent independent. But it is likely that the general public believe them; and they now hope to prejudice this general public against the contest by throwing discredit upon Mr. Burrows. It is for this reason, and to protect the Alliance from the effect of these slanderous tongues, that we allude to this matter.

First, in the *Bee* of the 18th is an article headed "Burrows' Prohibition Plot." in which the editor alludes to the reception of the two ladies of the W. C. T. U., and says that he had discovered a "cunningly devised plan to secure statutory prohibition," and that the business of the ladies was "to urge the Alliance to commit itself to an attempt to saddle prohibition on this state after the people have rejected it by a majority of 50,000 votes." The article goes on in half a column of the same kind of stuff, saying that "Burrows is a better prohibitionist than Alliance man," and accusing him of "bringing the ladies into the meeting."

Now see how plain a tale will put this lying villain down. 1st. Mr. Burrows knew nothing of the intention of the ladies to visit the meeting until he met them in the ante-room. 2d. The whole time they spent in the convention did not exceed five minutes, and they said no word about prohibition or any other subject, but simply bore greetings from their society and congratulated the Alliance upon the good work it was doing. 3d. In this paper of last week, issued on Wednesday, the day before the *Bee* came out with the above named article, there was an editorial written by Mr. Burrows in opposition to statutory prohibition, and giving good reasons why the 22d legislature should not attempt it.

In all other matters about the meeting the papers named run the whole gamut of vile lying. One paper says Burrows has been "vindicated." Hardly! No charge has been brought against him. The *Bee* of the 20th says Burrows proposed three per cent as a legal rate of interest. Burrows' proposition was six per cent. The *Bee* speaks of Kem's conservative influence. Mr. Kem was not a delegate, but was on the floor by courtesy.

Another paper speaks of "King Burrows." The *Journal* speaks of "Burrows and his gang," and of course classes them all as hogs.

Now the fact remains that all this has little or no influence on the Alliance. Its members know what they want and intend to have it, though all the Rosewaters outside of hades oppose and deride them. They know an honest man from a traitor, when treachery is so plainly shown as it was lately. They know when a man is among them for a good purpose, and when he is there to divide and destroy them

The Alliance is and always has been a conservative body. It has not changed in that respect. But its conservatism is of that kind that will preserve and build up free institutions, and not the kind that clings to a rotten institution because it is ancient.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY GOV. POWERS.

Bro. Powers has requested us to return his thanks to Alliance No. 705 for a beautiful shield, with devices representing the varions industries ingeniously displayed upon it. Mr Powers did not receive this shield until after the state meeting had adjourned, otherwise it would have been displayed in the hall. It will adorn the executive office after the inauguration.

☞ Jay Gould is a microbe on the body politic of this land; kill the microbe! The Alliance lymph is the thing to do it with.

THE MORTGAGE PROBLEM.

A correspondent sends us a plan by which the farmers of this state, or such part of them as will adopt it, may find relief from the incubus of their mortgages. It is a good plan, and a practicable plan—if—if—if—they will only join together and adopt it. We give the plan in our correspondent's own words:

"Suppose the male members of the Alliance form a joint stock company and each member takes four shares at $25 per share, paying the full amount in at organization. Now if there are sixty thousand stockholders in the state that would give a fund of six million dollars as a permanent fund. Then loan this money to stockholders, say one thousand dollars to one person, at 4 per cent., to pay off present mortgage, giving a mortgage to the company. This would furnish six thousand stockholders with money to pay mortgages at a reduced rate of interest, and the six million loaned at 4 per cent would give an annual income of two hundred and forty thousand to loan the second year to stockholders whose mortgages are coming due. The duration of the company to be 25 years, thus giving five different sets of mortgages."

Our correspondent asks us what we think of the scheme. We think it is a grand scheme. It is not only a grand scheme, but with honest and unselfish officers to manage it, it is a practicable and safe scheme. And it would not be necessary to wait for 60,000 subscribers. Twenty thousand would furnish $2,000,000. Ten thousand would furnish $1,000,000. Some of the most successful loan companies of this country began business on less than one-tenth of that sum. We not only consider the scheme practicable, but it is the only direction in which we see any hope of *immediate relief*,

A year ago last June the writer of this article visited the eastern money centers as the accredited agent of several State Alliances authorized to make arrangements for money to renew the mortgages of our members. We made at that time a thorough study of this whole mortgage loan business, the methods of conducting it, and the sources of money supply. Our mission as far as obtaining relief was concerned was a failure; and its result was the full conviction that any immediate succor from the mortgage incubus must come through co-operative effort and with our own money.

But a very large "if" intervenes. Would it be possible to raise even $100,000 in the way our correspondent names, to say nothing of $6,000,000? We fear not, at the present time.

The next great struggle of mankind, already in its first stages, will be to dethrone money as a power to oppress. It will be the most memorable struggle of history, and its success will mark the brightest era of the world's progress. If that success can be achieved without the misery, devastation and bloodshed that are the milestones of the world's advance, we may be sure we have reached the age of reason.

The future does not look bright. The usury and mortgage problem, a veritable riddle of the Sphinx which to solve not is to die, confronts us, tiring our brain and deadening our hope. The earth shudders at its unwonted burden, in sympathy with the weary worker who leans over it, and together they bring forth a harvest of sorrow and tears. The roots of the mortgage, like the tentacles of the devil-fish, clutch and penetrate every fair hill-top and fertile valley, absorbing the best fruits of the soil, and the dew from its spreading branches distils blood on the lintels of thousands of homes. These things are making cowards of half the men of Nebraska to-day. Knowing into their vitals, bringing their families to the verge of starvation, still they dare not move to destroy it for fear the little life left in them will go out in the strife. Who will solvethe riddle?

There is only one solution to it. Money, which is created by law, must be issued in sufficient quantity to make debt, the basis of the mortgage, unnecessary.

RELIEF FOR OUR WESTERN BROTHERS.

There is much aid going forward for the relief of the victims in the drouth stricken country. The organization effected by Gov. Thayer is very effective, and the roads are acting liberally in the matter of transpertation. Free transportation is being furnished for all genuine donations, providing the prescribed conditions as to receipts and consignments are complied with. While the conditions may seem onerous to some, they are not unreasonable. It could not be expected that the roads would furnish free transportation to all comers without any safeguards against the abuse of the privilege.

The same state of facts may be true as to distribution. The commissioners thought best to put this distribution in the hands of county clerks, commissioners and justices of the peace. Considerable red tape will intervene in this business, and in consequence of it perhaps many cases of actual suffering which demand speedy relief may occur.

We desire now to ask that where cases of suffering or unrelieved destitution of our brothers in the Alliance are known to exist information of them may be sent at once to the chairman of the State Alliance Executive Committee. This information should be full and explicit, with names and address of parties plainly written. This is done with the view of giving prompt relief in such cases without the delay incident to official machinery.

☞ The farmers in the legislature will no doubt watch that warehouse and grain and provision exchange business as provided for by the good people of Omaha, and vote against it on general principles.

ROSEWATER AND THE COUNTRY EDITORS—ESPECIALLY THE COUNTRY EDITORS.

Mr. Rosewater has returned home from Washington. He has testified before the contest committee. As an assistant to Father Time in bringing around his revenges Mr. Rosewater is a decided success. As an evener in the matter of inequalities between himself and other individuals Mr. Rosewater is not by any means to be sneezed at. The country editors—and some of the city ones—have been hounding Mr. Rosewater. He grasps them all in a lump, and with one single resounding blow mashes the whole lousy outfit. As we said before, Mr. Rosewater has testified. Here is some of his testimony:

After stating that there was a finance committee of the State Bankers and Merchant's Association, he goes on:

Q.—What was the duty of that committee? A.—It was to raise funds and distribute them.

Q.—Did the executive committee require any report from the finance committee from time to time? A. No, only this: We some times had plans that would involve us in a great deal of expense, and we would inquire whether we could afford to go into them. We at one time had an application for the sum of $20,000 by thirty editors. They had entered into a little combine and wanted $20,000, but we didn't give them twenty cents.

Q.—Did you know the political complexion of those editors? A.—That particular group was democratic, but there was another group of republicans that were equally desirous to help us and they also made trifling demands of from one thousand to two or three thousand dollars. * * * * *

Q.—How many republican editors made application? A.—I could not tell you. I was invited to a republican convention at Lincoln and they were delegeted to see me down there. There was a large number of editors there from the country, and they took me into their confidence sufficiently to know if there was anything in it. Quite a number seemed to be anxious to assist us; the trouble was we had no money, but they would not believe me, and they insisted that I had $100,000 or $200,000 at my disposal.

Q.—How many republican editors were present? A.—I think some thirty or forty, but only ten or twelve were especiallay anxious.

Q.—What did they want this money for? A.—To assist in defeating prohibition.

Q.—They were all editors of country papers? A.—Yes.

Q.—At what time did that occur! A.—It must have occurred in September.

Q.—At what time did the democratic editors make this raid upon you? A.—That was before they had their state convention; they had tied up in the spring and declared they would say nothing on prohibition: I was told by Mr. McShane that we would encounter difficulties; that there was a meeting of north Nebraska editors, and they decided to keep absolutely mum on prohibition until something was done; well, they came down here in a large flock, and they waited upon Mr Roggen and myself and Dr. Miller, and told us that we were a bad lot, and that we were working for Richards and would not help Boyd, and that they would work for prohibition, because this business association was a scheme only to elect Mr. Richards, and we had lots of calls from democrats then protesting against the scheme

Q.—Is it not true that those thirty democratic editors, or some of them, stated that they were opposed to the editors of two citiy papers getting all the boodle? A.—Yes they understood that there was $30,000 or $40,000 to be divided. I have a list or slip that said I was paid $100,000, but he has since admitted that he didn't believe it was quite that much.

Q.—But they did state that they ought to have a divy? A.—They thought so, and insisted upon it

Q.—What was the attitude of those papers after they failed to get a divy of this boodle? A.—They were going for Rosewater as a bad man; he must get out, and they insisted upon me retireing from the committee.

Q.—Do you mean to be understood as saying that these thirty democratic and thirty or forty republican editors were actuated entirely by a desire for gain? A.—Yes, I mean to say that every one of those fellows who came clamoring for boodle were boodlers, and they wanted to get pay for advocating principles which were their own convictions, as the democratic party has proclaimed itself against prohibition from time immemorial in this city, and these men claimed they were against it, but wanted to be paid for saying so.

That's enough isn't it? Mr. Rosewater has a great reputation for abusing people, etc., etc., but he isn't noted for lying when under oath. In fact, he tells too much truth on such occasions. That's what's the matter. It is really difficult to treat this subject with levity. What a contemptible, disgraceful, humiliating spectacle it is. Sixty of the men who set themselves up as exemplars for the community turned boodlers in a fight where a great principle is involved, and where if ever the instincts of manhood would be appealed to. Bah! Our gorge rises at it!

Mr. Rosewater would earn the gratitude of the community by publishing the whole list. THE ALLIANCE will copy it with due credit as soon as received. Meanwhile, *vive la* Rosewater.

☞ Anything legitimate to discover or frustrate the misdoings of a corporation ought to be hailed with joy by public officials. But this is not the case with Attorney General Miller, the chief law officer of the land. He has just issued an order preventing Mr. Lambertson of this city to act any further as attorney for the inter-state railroad commission in the rebate matters as against the C. B. & Q. R. R. Co., and why? Because he asserts that to serve the inter state railroad commission any longer in that capacity would enable said attorney to win a certain suit against that same corporation. Too bad indeed! And this very same Miller is spoken of as a possible judge of the supreme court, on which bench oo many such corporation cappers as he have already found their way.

If there is a court in christendom that needs a thorough shaking up it is the supreme court of the United States.

It is to be hoped that the inter-state railroad commission will take issue with Attorney General Miller on this point, and thus enable it to punish the C. B. & Q., as it so very justly deserves. If a private citizen of poor means was guilty of the one thousandth part of crimes of this corporation, there would be no interference with Mr. Lambertson.

THE ALLIANCE RELIEF FUND.

The following amounts have been contributed for the relief of the drouth-stricken region of the state:

Amount previously reported....	$433 05
E. S. Davison, Emerald, from farmers of Emerald.....	3 50
Frank Reth, Tekamah, Golden Springs Alliance, No. 1301....	14 00
H. A Lockwood, Waterloo, Neb. Alliance No. 1420.....	54 40
Martin Schnetzer, Fremont, Neb. Esteina Alliance No. 1041....	10 00
Ole Nelson. Nysted, Neb., Nysted Alliance No, 548.....	9 25
John Laird, Fullerton, Neb., Council Creek Alliance No.413	10 00
P. C. Boasen, Kearney, Neb. Alliance No. 1708.....	9 60
Geo. Fisk, Olive. Neb., Olive... Alliance No. 1391.....	10 00

State Alliance Meeting.

A GRAND GATHERING OF NEBRASKA FARMERS.

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting, Held at Lincoln, Dec. 16, 17, and 18, 1890.

A List of the Newly Elected Officers.

First day. Morning Session.—Meeting was called to order by President Powers.

Prayer by Chaplain.

There were about nine hundred delegates present, representing that number of Alliances, the representation being one delegate for each Alliance.

The president's address occupied the time until the noon recess, and is as follows:

(We republish this address this week, as our edition containing it was exhausted before the demand was supplied, and as our new subscribers of last week did not receive any of that edition.)

ANNUAL ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT POWERS TO THE STATE ALLIANCE.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF THE STATE ALLIANCE, I REJOICE TO GREET YOU TO-DAY IN OUR ANNUAL MEETING:

When we last met, the city of Grand Island was astonished to see 600 determined men appear in their midst as delegates from the Alliance in Nebraska. Since that time politicians throughout the state have been astonished still more to see the determination manifested by our members in sustaining our principles by political action.

To-day, with about one-third the representation we were entitled to then, in spite of the famine which prevails over nearly one-half of our state, which renders many of our brother delegates unable to attend our meeting; we are here to show to the world that the farmers of the state of Nebraska are awake to their interests, their rights, and their duties.

During the past year there have been added to our number of Alliances 1236, while in most cases the membership of those then existing has largely increased; so that in the aggregate we number probably six times as many as we did at that time.

Notwithstanding the fact that we are so great a multitude, that we are scattered over so large a state, that there were local prejudices to overcome, that there is to some extent, a diversity of business interests, that we are composed of persons of all shades of religious belief, and all kinds of political affiliations, and in spite of the opposition arising from the jealousies of other industries and occupations, we have proved that industrial co-operation in this state is a success.

And although the tremendous influence of the money power has been brought to bear to crush our financial ability, and to make us entirely dependent on it for our very existence, the hitherto irresistible power of the corporations, trusts and monopolies, has been exerted in a combined effort to overwhelm us; and the experienced shrewdness and cunning of politicians have been exerted to their utmost to divide us and array us against each other; we have demonstrated that the farmers of this state can "hang together." That they can successfully co-operate in business. That they can unite, successfully, with all those who believe in equal rights for all before the law, in independent political action, and that it is yet possible that the PEOPLE SHALL RULE.

Many Alliance business associations have been established, and have in most cases proved a success. At the same time merchants and manufacturers have been disabused of the idea that the Alliance was established to injure their true interests, or to break up their business if honestly conducted.

The educational feature of the Alliance in the line of political information has brought forth fruit in one of the hardest contested campaigns that was ever witnessed in the state, and in achieving a victory decided and gratifying in its results, and with good prospect of being complete and permanent.

In the preceding year several of the counties which were best organized nominated, and in most instances elected independent or peoples' tickets. These counties early in the spring of this year, began to express their determination to repeat the action on a larger scale. They united with some others in urging a combined effort throughout the state, to exert their political power and influence in some manner outside of all existing political parties. But here a difficulty arose, which for a time created grave apprehension in the minds of many, and put the loyalty and sincerity our members to a severe test. Grave differences of opinion arose as to how political action could most safely and successfully be taken. Some were in favor of forming a new political party, having the same characteristics of the old parties, as to perpetuating itself and controlling the political action of its members, and in which the Alliances should elect the delegates to the first conventions. Others were in favor of selecting from among those that shou d be nominated by the existing political parties, but of no longer affiliating with them, while others advocated capturing the primaries wherever possible, and thus gradually changing them in principle and reforming them in practice. These differences of opinion were manifested and compared at a conference of the presidents of county alliances and the county organizers, together with the officers of the State Alliance, held at Lincoln on the 22d of April. The result was that a circular was sent to the Alliances in the state advising them to make preparation for political action, but that action should be determined by the strength of the Alliances in the different counties. Using the old party primaries, the balance of power, or separate nominations as might seem best.

But during all this time the organization of Alliances was going forward so rapidly that county after county felt that they had arrived to a strength of membership that would warrant independent political action. In reponse to earnest requests from different parts of the state blank petitions headed by the St. Louis Declaration of Principles and a request for a call for a state convention; were sent out to every Alliance and Assembly of the Knights of Labor in the state. These petitions were signed by many thousands of members and were sent back to Alliance headquarters and in compliance with them a convention was called to meet in Lincoln, July 29th. The apportionment of the delegates to the different counties being based on the best judgment of the secretaries of the State Alliance and the State Assembly of the Knights of Labor, or such persons as they chose. The primaries were to be composed of those legal voters who pledged themselves to sustain by their influence and votes the principles contained in the petition in response to which the convention was called. A part of the counties, impatient of delay had called their county and district conventions through the action of the Alliances and Knights of Labor, and delegates were sent from them, but on the issue of the call it was received with general approbation and promising the most permanent success. The conventions were held, the nominations made, and the result so far has astonished the politicians, and electrified the workers of the country with the hope that in connection with the victories obtained for the same principles in other states, it presages a peaceful but complete revolution, to be accomplished in the year 1892 by which the government shall protect the laborer as well as the capitalist, and the poor as well as the rich. That true nobility, measured by intelligent and honest industry, rather than arrogant wealth, shall be honored with the confidence, and trusted with the affairs of the nation; and that truth and morality shall supplant error and corruption throughout our whole land.

I trust that you will during your present session, formulate and adopt some definite plan by which independent political action may be taken each year, on living principles and not in obedience to the dictation of a *permanent* political party.

Experience has taught us that our state constitution needs amending in several particulars. I think that the article defining qualifications for membership should be so amended as to include county school teachers, and that some definite rule ought to be laid down by which the eligibility of those persons engaged in several kinds of business might be determined.

I think that some definite statement ought to be made of what offences should justify expulsion from the Alliance. Under the present indefinite wording of the constitution, while engaging in some laudable branch of business which renders the eligibility of the member doubtful is promptly followed by dismissal, the most flagrant violation of the obligations of the order are sometimes passed unnoticed. A clear declaration on the subject would secure uniformity of action in such cases, and conducê to the permanence and strength of our organization.

A discrepancy in the length of term of the delegates to the county alliance and the officers of the same shonld be corrected, as it has led to no little perplexity and inconvenience.

The duties of the lecturers of the County Alliances and the State Alliance ought to be extended, and clearly defined. I think the county lecturers ought to be directed to visit and instruct all the Alliances in their respective counties at least once in each year; and that the lecturer of the state Alliance should visit each county Alliance in the state at least once each year, delivering lectures to the same, and assisting and instructing them in their duties, and should report to the state Alliance at each regular meeting.

Permit me to call your attention again to the fact that a different basis of representation to the state Alliance must of necessity be adopted. No body of men consisting of more than 500 can properly deliberate upon and discuss such questions as must be considered by our state Alliance, and had it not been for the famine and hard times which exist at the present at least 1,700 delegates would have been present at this meeting.

I trust that such change will be made that, while all parts of the state shall be represented, the Alliance will not be so unwieldy as to cripple its efficiency or embarrass its deliberations.

And now let me remind you of the necessity of continuing the work of organization. No county is as completely organized as it should be, and in some the work is just begun. There are few neighborhoods but what contain some persons who ought to be brought into the Alliance. The young are coming of age. Ladies perhaps are not encouraged to join or do not attend your meetings. Perhaps your meetings are losing their interest in some places, or are being turned into places of trifling diversion or amusement.

Let there be a waking up all along the line.

Do not be deceived. We have probably passed through the last triangular political fight which this state will ever witness. Already the corrupt leaders of the two old political parties are combined against us, while the rank and file of those parties, those who are in favor of morality and justice, are only waiting to be invited to join us.

We must hold out to them the hand of welcome. We will need them all. Money is an engine of tremendous power in our state, and every misfortune or calamity which visits our people but increases its strength.

While the benevolent and charitable in the eastern part of the state and in adjoining states are contributing to relieve the necessities of the famine stricken inhabitants of the west, the railroad corporations are offering limited concessions in freight charges for delivering those contributions, on the condition that the new legislature shall promise them immunity, by law, from future interference with their extortionate charges, and the bankers are warning them that if they interfere by law with the present ruinous rates of interest that they will leave them entirely without money for the transaction of business.

Trusts, corporations and syndicates are growing more and more grasping, and showing less and less consideration for the rights of labor.

They obtain control of every enterprise that is calculated to benefit our people and change them into a boon for themselves and a burden for us, and turn a deaf ear to every demand for justice and every cry for mercy until the laborer is reduced to a pauper or driven to crime, and then that money is doled out in grudging charity or unwilling taxation which should have been paid as fair wages for honest industry.

Our enemies say that the Alliances will now go to sleep and will soon melt away.

Let us show them that we are just awaking as a strong man out of sleep, and that we feel that our day's work is just begun. Let us use every honest means and every fair appliance and plan for building up our organization and increasing its influence for good and its strength for action.

Let me earnestly call your attention to the necessity of putting the newspaper organ of the state Alliance into every family of the members of the Alliance throughout the state; and also of establishing and supporting, too, in every county at least one good newspaper which can be relied on to espouse our interests and plead our cause; and then banish from our homes and firesides the venal partisan papers which have done so much during the past year to mislead our people, and to strengthen the hands of our oppressors.

I take pleasure in commending to you THE ALLIANCE newspaper, published in this city by Brothers Burrows and Thompson, for the able and fearless manner in which it has battled for the right during the year, and especially in the late political conflict. I bespeak for them your hearty support and earnest efforts to extend the circulation of their paper, so that its efficiency and size may be increased, and that they may be saved from the pecuniary embarassment which so large an outlay must entail, and from the failure which so often overtakes such enterprises.

I would like, if time would permit, to speak in detail of the editors in different parts of the state, who, in their different localities have ably battled for the right I trust that you will reward them by your earnest support.

It seems to me that a systematic line of subjects for discussion, carefully considered and arranged by some competent committee or designated officers, and distributed by circular each quarter of the year, as a help and guide to the Alliances in making the programs for their meetings would be productive of much good.

Our relations to the National Alliance are not satisfactory to me, and I think many others will agree with me in that respect. While I would not recommend or favor such arbitrary power as is assumed by the National Alliance and Industrial Union of the south, I think a closer relation between the State Alliance and the National Alliance should be provided for. I would suggest that our delegates to the National Alliance be instructed to recommend and urge the adoption of a uniform secret work and ritual for the National Alliance, and also the adoption of a system of reports by State secretaries to the National secretaries, and also a report to be made by him at the annual meeting giving concise and definite information of the condition and progress of the Alliance throughout the country.

I am also in favor of urging the holding a conference of all the Industrial organizations in the United States sometime next year for the purpose of formulating a platform of principles for the basis of National Independent political action throughout the country during the year 1891 and 1892.

The question of organic union with the other Industrial organizations in the country is agitating the minds of some of our members. But I think a careful examination of the difficulties in the way will convince every one that the scheme is not only impracticable, but that if consumated it would be productive of actual injury to our cause.

The terrible disaster which has visited the western counties in our state calls for our deepest sympathy and most strenuous efforts to relieve the destitution of our brothers and sisters in the famine stricken districts.

Earnest efforts have been made by the governor of the state through a committee to afford temporary relief, which is well timed and commendable. A small sum was appropriated by our executive committee early in the fall for the immediate relief of the most destitute, and if more can be spared for the purpose I think it should be promptly given.

But there is one feature of the case which should not be lost sight of. For every dollar that is being contributed by the benevolent and charitable in the east for the relief of the west, the people there are robbed of five dollars by the foreclosure of chattel mortgages, by which the property of the sufferers is sacrificed and their permanent financial and business ruin is rendered inevitable.

On the account of the accumulation of funds in the State Alliance treasury an order was made by the executive committee in the spring that the state dues for the third quarter of the year be remitted, or should not be required of the Alliances, which was afterwards for the same reason made to apply to the fourth quarter.

The State Alliance Business Agency which was established early in the year has been a success in furnishing increased facilities for purchases by our members at reasonable prices, and by acting as a check on the unwarranted extortions which the law and a seared concience sometimes tolerated on the part of the merchants and dealers. Bro. Hartley and his assistants deserve our warm praise for the efficient manner in which the business has been conducted. I would recommend that Bro. Hartley be continued in the position, and that he receive the confidence and remuneration that his faithfulness and efficiency deserves.

I cannot forbear to express to you my appreciation of the ability and fidelity with which our worthy Secretary and Treasurer, Bro. Thompson, has discharged his arduous and responsible duties, and also of the Executive committee, and especially Bro. Burrow's its worthy chairman, for the patience with which he has endured the vials of wrath which have been so liberally broken over his devoted head.

The subject of fire insurance has engaged the attention of the Alliance heretofore, but the obstacles thrown in the way by our statutes have prevented any feasible plan for mutual insurance in connection with the Alliance from being adopted. I think a memorial should be adopted and laid before the legislature by a competent committee, urging the amendment of the insurance law, and also the passage of a more effective and stringent usury law, and some effective enactment by which the railroads will be compelled to reduce their freight rates in a reasonable degree, so that those whose industry furnishes their business may realize some return for their labor.

And now brothers, let us not weary in our work or remit our efforts. Our success has just begun. Every victory on our part will arouse our wily and determined foes to some new and unexpected attack. Let us be watchful. Let us work always. The night is fading away, the day is breaking. Let our watch-words be, "Liberty for the oppressed," "In Union there is Strength," "Justice to the Toilers," "Equality of all before the Law."

Let me tender to you all, and through you to the Alliances you represent, my grateful thanks for the uniform courtesy and kind consideration with which you have treated me as your president during the past two years. Although my life has been one of toil and almost unceasing labor, my work in this cause, during this period has been as ardent as any in my life. But the conciousness of the necessity for continuous and energetic action, if we would achieve success, the rapid encroachment of our oppressors on our liberties, the claims of the rising generation for some better lot than that which our carelessness and neglect had permitted to be laid up in store for them, and the conciousness hat an ever increasing host of friends and brothers were rallying to the support of the cause, and ever ready to follow the standard wherever duty called me to bear it has borne me up and has led me to rejoice when weary, and when discouraged to look up.

May the blessings of Almighty God rest upon you. May His spirit guide you ever to the light, to truth and to liberty. May the Lord of Hosts, the Captain of our salvation lead you on to victory over every foe in this world, and to joy and happiness in the world to come.

Afternoon session, Tuesday, Dec. 16, called to order at 2 p. m.

President announced the following committee on resolutions:

Stevens of Lincoln Co.
Burrows of Lancaster.
Beaver of Richardson.
McReynolds of Clay.
Stewart of Sioux.

On amendment to the constitution:

Pres. Powers of Hitchcock, Chm.
Lee of Hall.
Root of Douglas.
Bradley of Phelps.
Palmer of Fillmore.

On conference with secretary of the state board of agriculture in relation to bill providing for farmers' institutes:

Ferguson of Nemaha.
Chambers of Lancaster.
Jenkins of Madison.

Committee on credentials made a partial report which was accepted and the committee continued.

Report of Secretary-Treasurer: Number of Alliances organized since Jan. 2, 1145. There are now over 2,000 subordinate Alliances in the state with a total membership of over 65,000. The month denoting greatest activity in work was February, when 206 charters were issued. All Alliances report an active interest being taken by the members in every department of the work before us, and prospects for the future growth of the order are flattering in the extreme.

Financial report: The report of receipts and expenditures was made in detail and will be printed and sent to all subordinate alliances. Money received from all sources, including amount on hand Jan. 2, $15,087.44. Amount expended for all purposes, $8,325.61. Balance cash on hand, including interest on time deposits, $6941.82. Supplies on hand and unpaid accounts, $247.65; total $7,189.47. Report accepted and ordered printed for distribution to the Alliances throughout the state.

Report of executive committee by Mr. Burrows, its chairman:

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Convention:

In accordance with the instructions of the last annual meetng, your executive committee employed Mr. Hartley as a state agent, at a salary of forty dollars per month. At the first meeting of the executive committee thereafter, which was May 30th, this salary was advanced to $50 per month. The experiment of this state agency has proved very successful, and has been of great benefit to the membership in all parts of the state. It was established solely as an agency business, no capital whatever being invested, and has up to this date been conducted upon that principle. Twine for the last season was furnished to members of the Alliance in Nebraska at lower prices than in any of the neighboring states, and we have to thank Mr. Hartley's business ability for the result. At the late meeting of the executive committee arrangements were made with Mr. Hartley to continue in charge of the business for another year and his salary was advanced to $100 per month, providing the commissions of the agency leave a surplus over all debts and liabilities of that amount.

The commissions of the agency are reduced as the volume of business inreases, there being no effort whatever made to accumulate a surplus fund from the profits, it being the object of the committee and the agent to merely add commissions to sales sufficient to pay the working expenses of the agency and the salary of the agent. I give herewith the present condition of the agency: The total volume of business to date was $39,486.08. The disbursement for expenses to date, exclusive of agent's salary, was $852.10. The total liabilities at date of this report are $3,156,33 Cash in bank and stock on hand at date of this report $3,475.42.

The live stock agent of the State Alliance, Hon. Allen Root, has his office at Omaha. His operations during the present year have been very successful, and have netted to the persons making sales through his agency a larger percentage than ever before. Mr. Root will make to you a separate report of the business of his department.

In accordance with the instructions of the Grand Island meeting the question of insurance was considered at the meeting of the committee on May 30th. Your committee had been instructed to organize a mutual insurance company for the state of Nebraska. At the meeting of May 30th a very thorough investigation of this whole subject was made. The Grand Island Insurance Co. proposed to your committee to turn over that company to the State Alliance on any terms that would be satisfactory to your committee. After a full investigation of this subject it was deemed wise to reject this proposition, and your committee determined that it was not practicable under the present law of this state, to organize a state mutual in the manner contemplated by the state meeting. This matter was therefore postponed until the law could be amended so as to permit the organization of such a company on a satisfactory basis. After a more thorough investigation of the subject your chairman has come to the conclusion that if the vexatious legal hindrances which now exist in this state can be removed, good policy dictates that county mutuals should be organized, and that perhaps some one department of insurance which might be impolitic for counties, such as cyclone or tornado, could be made a state department. There are some sixty county mutual societies in the state of Iowa, and your chairman is convinced that they furnish to their members the cheapest and most reliable insurance furnished in that state.

In view of the almost total failure of crops in the western part of the state, and short crops in the other portions, and also from a desire that no excessive fund should accumulate in the treasury of the State Alliance, your committee deemed it wise to remit the dues for the quarter ending Sept. 30th; and the chairman was authorized in his discretion to remit the dues for the succeeding quarter if it should be deemed desirable to do so. Accordingly the dues were remitted for both quarters. Your chairman would recommend that this remission of dues in all the drouth stricken portion of the state be continued until another crop is raised. This remission of dues, it must be understood, does not apply to initiation fees, and it is thought that the initiation fees, and the dues from the part of the state which raised a crop during the last year, will be sufficient to defray the current expenses of the Alliance until another year.

Appeals for relief from the western counties were being received by your chairman. These appeals were re-published in the organ of the State Alliance, but, probrbly through the excitement of the pending political campaign, received no attention. After these appeals had been repeatedly made with this result, your chairman appealed in a private letter directly to Gov. Thayer, asking that he should make an appeal for aid for the sufferers in the drouth stricken counties. This appeal was promptly responded to by Gov. Thayer in person. The Governor stated to your chairman that he did not feel disposed to make a public appeal for aid unless an official report of the condition of the western counties was made to him upon which he could base such an appeal. This conclusion of the Governor was based upon experience; he having formerly made upon his own responsibility such an appeal, and afterwards had contradictions made by the newspapers in the very locality, stating that no such state of affairs existed. Your chairman then proposed that a committee be appointed by the Governor who should immediately proceed to the western counties and make a report as to the facts they found to exist. This proposition resulted in the appointment by Gov. Thayer, of Rev. Mr. Martin and J. W. Hartley as such a committee. These gentlemen went west and made an investigation of the facts, and reported in accordance to the Gov-