

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

"Laurel crowns cleave to deserts,
 And power to him who power exerts."
 Emerson.

"His who cannot reason is a fool,
 He who will not reason is a coward,
 He who dares not reason is a slave."

EDITORIAL.

THE METHOD OF PROCEDURE.

The claim of the partisans of Mr. Boyd that, in pursuance of the so-called opinion of ex-Judge Lake, the candidate for governor having the highest number of votes on the face of the returns must be declared governor, is absurd in the highest degree. The constitution is intended to guard the right of suffrage, and give to the people an assurance that they shall have an honest vote and a fair count. But an aspiring politician and a lot of ruffians seize the election machinery of a city, and if they can hold it long enough to secure a deposit of ballots sufficient to elect their man, no matter how illegal they be or by how much fraud procured, they have fixed the face of the returns, and under this construction their candidate must be seated. Of course, when seated, the only recourse is by the slow process of the courts, and he would inevitably hold his seat until the end of his term. It is plain to see that under this construction the ends of justice would be defeated. Further, under this construction free and fair elections would hereafter be impossible. It offers a premium for crimes against the elective franchise. Any vile combination that could successfully rape the election machinery of a great city might foist its creature upon the people.

The constitution plainly says that the man having the highest number of votes shall be declared duly elected, and it wisely gives the legislature the power to determine who has the highest number. In the present contest the vital question at issue is who has the highest number, and this fact must be determined before the declaration can be made. This is plainly the intent of the constitution, and is the only method by which the demands of the people of this state can be complied with.

If, after a fair investigation, it is shown that Mr. Boyd has the highest number let him be seated if he is eligible to hold the office. If, on the other hand, Mr. Powers has the highest number, let him be seated.

The seating of a governor where the election is contested, by arbitrary vote without an investigation by the only power authorized by the constitution to investigate, would be an outrage upon the people of this state, and would go far to destroy all confidence in the efficacy of the popular election to determine the will of the people.

Since writing the foregoing we have examined the opinion of the supreme court of appeals of West Virginia, of March 12, 1889, in the case of Goff vs. Wilson. In this case Nathan Goff petitioned for a mandamus to compel E. W. Wilson to deliver to petitioner the office and insignia of governor of the state.

The constitutions of that state and Nebraska in the case of contested elections are identical, and the circumstances of the contest of Goff vs. Wilson were quite similar to our case. The decision of the court was that the sole power to pass upon the returns, determine the validity of the elections, and declare who was elected to the office of governor rested with the legislature, and that the supreme court of that state had no jurisdiction in the matter. There is no precedent to the contrary, and every decision and precedent is in line with that decision. (See Southeastern Reporter, Vol. IX, Pps. 26 to 31.)

Omaha Defies the Legislature!!

She Defies the Positive Provisions of the Law and Conceals Her Fraudulent Ballots, and Refuses to Permit Them or the Poll Books to be Sent to the Legislature!

No stronger testimony was ever furnished of the spirit of utter lawlessness and defiance of all law than was exhibited in Omaha on Saturday. The statute, section 75, on elections requires the notaries taking the evidence to issue an order requiring the county clerk who has possession of the poll books and ballots to deliver them to such person to be transmitted to the secretary of state for the use of the legislature here-

ing the contest. Such an order was formally issued and served on Saturday and the county clerk absolutely refused obedience to it. The statute was read to him and he was asked why he would not obey it, and he said he would not do so as he was answerable only to Douglas county. He was then personally subpoenaed, and contemptuously refused to produce either ballots or poll books.

What reason could there be except that the books and ballots contain evidence of the frauds and that they have not yet had time to fix them. Is not this an attractive specimen of Boss Tweedism? "What are you going to do about it?"

CURRENCY BASED ON LAND VALUES.

We have received from a valued correspondent an article from the Toledo Blade under the above heading, which is about as full of misapprehensions and misstatements of historical facts as could be. The writer says: "The experiment of basing a paper currency on land values has been tried several times, and has always ended in disaster." He then notes the case of French assignats issued in 1790, as one of those instances. Now what were the facts as to the assignats. The land of the clergy and part of the nobility had been confiscated by the government. There were two sets of claimants to the land, the government *de facto* and the clergy and nobility who had been dispossessed, and who were waiting just over the border for the accession of their rightful king to the throne, when the confiscated estates were to be returned to their rightful owners. The title was in dispute—there was no settled ownership to the lands and the actual possessors of them were liable to be ousted at any time.

Next, the assignats were not issued on those lands in any correct sense of the term, nor in any sense of the term as now understood and advocated by those who are asking for the issue of money on land security. The assignats were promises to pay money—that is, coin—and the government promised that the estates, when they were sold, should be used to redeem them. The government having no title to the lands, the assignats were necessarily under a cloud. But in addition to this the government issued more assignats than the lands would have sold for in good times with an unclouded title. The proposition to issue money on land, as now understood, had never been made in those times. That proposition is to issue—not loan—money on land security to those who could give that security, the same as now to bankers on bond security. The money would be secured by a mortgage, would bear a low rate of interest, and would remain in circulation as long as the mortgagee chose to pay the interest. When the mortgage was paid, or foreclosed, the amount of money it represented would be retired. It will be observed that specie pays no part in this transaction. The money is not to be a promise to pay specie, but is complete in itself. The legal-tender clause, and circumscribing the volume of its issue, would always maintain it at par with coin.

Now we say that this experiment has never been tried. Various schemes of loaning promises to pay coin on land security have been adopted, and have generally resulted in an over issue of such promises. The cedula of the Argentine republic has no similarity whatever to the proposed land currency. It was a promise to pay gold in quantities entirely beyond the wealth of the government, with an interest so exorbitant that even the wealthiest government would have fallen under it. Our continental currency offers no instance at all similar to the proposed land currency.

Mr. Window's scheme for the issue of \$300,000,000 of interconvertible bonds, and the issue of treasury notes, *i. e.*, promises to pay gold—to convert them into, without furnishing an additional supply of gold to float the notes with, is as purely a wildcat scheme as was ever proposed in this country. If it was put in operation a Wall street combination could bankrupt the treasury and compel a suspension of specie payments in a week.

MORE CITY BONDS PROPOSED.

We understand that an ordinance to provide for an election for the voting of \$100,000 bonds to aid in the erection of a union depot has passed its second reading in the council.

Now we have just this to say about it. The proposition to tax the people of this city and county to give money to corporations that are worth their hundreds of millions is simply infamous. The council that would pass such a bill under the present financial conditions should attend a hanging bee every Sunday and furnish a subject by lot until they were all disposed of.

To the working men of this city we say, you are the men who pay the taxes. Taxes are not paid out of accumulated capital, but they are paid out of current earnings. The men who earn the money each year pay the taxes. If you will study this question a little you will not allow yourselves to be walked up like cattle by railroad and council boddlers and voted for bonds which you erroneously think rich men have to pay.

This proposition and the late electric light contract convince us that Tweedism is growing in Lincoln, and that this council needs watching.

Mr. Rosewater, the Alliance and Mr. Burrows.

We have received a copy of the Weekly Bee of Dec. 24, containing an article of nearly a column over Mr. Rosewater's signature, entitled "The Dictator shows his hand." This article is devoted especially to Mr. Burrows, and abounds in complimentary epithets, such as "ingrate," "dastardly," "libelous," "impostor," "mountebank," etc., etc.

The immediate occasion of Mr. R.'s article seems to have been an item in the ALLIANCE of Dec. 20, in which we intimated our opinion that Mr. Rosewater had left the state to avoid testifying before the contest committee. Mr. R. says that we knew he was in the state and had appeared before the committee the very time we wrote the item. In this Mr. R. is mistaken. While our paper is dated Saturday, our forms are closed Tuesday evening, and when that paper went to press we had no knowledge that Mr. R. had returned or testified. In our next issue we quote from his testimony about the country editors, which is proof that we had no desire to misrepresent Mr. R. in that matter.

But Mr. R.'s article takes a much wider scope, embracing something of the history of the anti-monopoly movement in this state, assuming with his accustomed presumption and arrogance, that Mr. R. was the father of the movement, and holding Mr. Burrows up as a base ingrate because he presumes at this time to antagonize the Bee, and asserting that he is inspired solely by the desire to supplant the Bee in the favor of the people.

As Mr. R. has provoked an allusion to history we will state one or two historical facts. While it is true that we did for some years travel nearly in the same road with Mr. R. it is also true that we were always compelled to be on the alert to resist his cunning schemes to convert the independent movement and the Alliance into a mere private appendage of the Bee office. At the celebrated Hastings meeting, when the anti-monopoly party was organized, a state alliance organizing committee was formed. Mr. Rosewater proposed to take into the employment of the Bee an organizer for each county who should also act as agent for the Bee, and pay him \$50 per month. This offer was rejected, as it would have accomplished just what Mr. R. most desired, namely made the State Alliance merely a state bureau of his paper. Mr. R. then appointed a general agent for the Bee, and made every effort to secure for him a roving organizer's commission, though he was ineligible to membership in the Alliance, and was so dishonest that no business man dared trust money in his hands. From the time the Alliance was organized until the day Mr. R. joined the money power against it his every effort has been to gain a foothold in it so that he could use it for his own purposes. And when it finally reached the point when it was entirely independent of him, he became its covert and unrelenting enemy.

With an audacity that is amazing Mr. Rosewater claims to have resented the editor of this paper from obscurity and conferred upon him whatever place he may have before the Nebraska public. As a matter of fact it has been the constant effort of Mr. R. to keep every leader of the Alliance in the background and arrogate to himself all credit for the movement and the change of public sentiment in favor of it. Every man who knows him knows this to be true. We are indebted for our position in the hearts of the farmers of this state to their belief in our integrity and faithfulness to their cause, and to nothing else. The term "ingrate" used by Mr. R. does not apply. We owe Mr. R. no debt. He has used us when he could; but we are firmly convinced that his temperament is so different from that of other men that he is incapable of the sentiment of friendship.

Mr. Rosewater says we practically acknowledged the falsity of our charge that he was in the combine to defeat Judge Reese, while pretending to be for him. This is not true. We simply acceded to his request to publish his denial on certain conditions, which he did not comply with. Mr. Richards supports our charge, saying "it was patent to all that Rosewater was allied with the Burlington to secure Judge Reese's defeat," and that he then turned on the Burlington and accused it of defeating him.

Mr. Rosewater says that when we started this paper he cordially greeted us as a co-laborer. Let us see. After we had been some time conducting the paper, and it was developed that it was to achieve some influence in the state, Mr. R. intimated a desire for a conversation. We met the next time an opportunity occurred, and the wishes of Mr. R. were developed. First, an intense hatred of the temperance movement was uppermost. Next, the machinery of the republican party was to be taken possession of and the hosts of reform led into its fold. The first idea we did not sympathize with, the second we believed utterly impossible. We discovered that our lines diverged, and we made no pretense in any other direction. Mr. Rosewater went his way, and he had no right whatever to complain because we went ours.

Mr. R. says we have conspired to undermine the Bee. There is not a grain

of truth in this. On the contrary, it is Mr. R. in connection with a certain man who is too blind to see that his reign is ended and his ambition futile, who has determined to undermine and destroy Mr. Burrows and his paper. This is apparent to the most casual observer. Every day all the abuse of Mr. Burrows that can be found in the railroad press is compiled in the daily Bee, and paraded under the heading "The Fallen Dictator," or other obnoxious head-line. The insane idea has seized these men that Mr. Burrows is a dangerous aspirant for the U. S. Senate. The idea never occurred to us till it was thrust upon us by the papers. We reject this idea utterly. To become a candidate would immediately impair our independence as an editor. The necessity a candidate is under to conciliate this interest and that would be a gag we would never for a moment submit to. These little-souled gentlemen may rest in peace. We shall never be a candidate for U. S. Senator or any other office.

Mr. Rosewater says we send out secret edicts and instigate resolutions against the Bee. This is absolutely false. We never to a living soul have intimated a desire for such resolutions. By the same token we have not published one-tenth of those that have been received. Our paper is now enlarged and we may publish more of them.

The cry of "dictator," which originated with the Bee, is as baseless as it is contemptible. The men of the Alliance know this editor much better than the Bee does, and they cannot be fooled by any such nonsense. Mr. Rosewater, in the exuberance of his indignation has raised Mr. Burrows into a mammoth jobberwok working for selfish purposes by dark-lantern methods. This idea makes true Alliance men smile, not to say laugh. No man is more frank or open in his methods nor more free from a dictatorial spirit than the editor of this paper. There is no object that we cherish and no end that we desire to attain that is not proclaimed openly to all the world.

We accept the gage of battle Rosewater has thrown. If he wants war he shall have it. We shall furnish our country readers as good a paper as the Bee at \$1 per year in clubs of five. It will have some qualities the editor of the Bee can not impart to a paper because he does not possess them himself, namely, honesty, integrity, truth. We now ask our farmer readers to prove their respect for us by their support of our paper.

RELIEF FOR WESTERN NEBRASKA.

The subject of relief for the western counties of this state is one of the first that will claim the attention of the 22d legislature. A large population is to be provided for, teams are to be fed, and seed furnished for next spring's planting. From the best sources of information we are convinced that between \$200,000 and \$300,000 will be required for that purpose—perhaps fully the latter sum. In 1875 the state appropriated \$50,000 for the grasshopper sufferers. The population of the state at that time was less than one-fifth of what it is at present, and the area and population to be relieved now are correspondingly greater.

The most economic method of obtaining the large fund required, and that will impose the least burden upon the people of the state, are points of first importance. There is probably now in the treasury nearly if not quite \$500,000 of the permanent school fund. This fund can only be invested in U. S., State, county or municipal bonds. This money is presumably now deposited in banks, which are paying the state treasurer probably 4 per cent for its use, and are loaning it to the public at 10 per cent. While it remains in this way uninvested it brings nothing to the state. We see no reason why the state should not borrow this money for the purpose named, at not more than 4 per cent, issuing its bonds therefor. The interest on these bonds would accrue to the permanent school fund, and the transaction would be quite like taking money out of one pocket and putting it into another as far as the state is concerned. The bonds could be issued for twenty years, but payable at the option of the state; so that whenever there was a surplus in the treasury some of these bonds could be paid.

Money in the east is being loaned at less than 4 per cent. The city of Brooklyn placed some bonds a short time ago at 3 per cent, and they sold at a premium.

We regret that there is a constitutional restriction placing the limit of our state debt at \$100,000, (Art. XII, Sec. 1). This fact is a sound argument in favor of a constitutional convention. A limit that was well enough in 1875 is absurd now. But we believe the legislature may authorize the counties to issue relief bonds on which the permanent school fund may be loaned, and that the state may become the guarantor of such bonds.

This is a subject of great importance, and should receive close attention from all members.

In reply to Brother C. S. Tunis, we would say the State Alliance of Nebraska belongs to the National Farmers' Alliance, but not to the National Alliance and Industrial Union. It elected forty delegates to the former body, which meets at Omaha, Jan. 27, 1891.

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By This Sign They Hope to Conquer.

In every contest in which the interests of the people are against the corporations and the money power money is thrown in the scale, like the sword of Attila, to overbalance right and justice. In the case of the present contested election this is eminently true. The corporations were in the combine to elect Boyd. They are putting money into a pool to seat him, regardless of law or justice.

Ever since it was determined to begin the contest a purse has been accumulating. The bankers' associations of this and other states were appealed to ostensibly to raise money to prevent adverse financial legislation. But the persons who were raising this money, and their interests, and the persons who have the custody and disposition of it, point out with unerring certainty the uses to which it will be put. When the legislature convenes \$50,000, \$100,000, will be at hand ready for its demoralizing and corrupting uses. By wresting from their control one of the co-ordinate branches of the state government the fruits of the splendid victory won by the farmers can be snatched from their grasp, and in no other way.

The inquiry that was instituted by the corporation managers at Omaha into the associations, past party affiliations, habits, character and means of the members-elect had no other motive than to find if possible members whose poverty or circumstances might aid the villains in making them their victims.

We do not believe this search bore any fruit. We do not believe there is one member that has been elected by the independents who can be approached or corrupted by money or other influence. Treachery is not popular nowadays, as the prompt condemnation of Van Wyck for his action in the late campaign abundantly proves. But if money can corrupt men they will be corrupted. If they can be led astray from their associates and their pledges by any known device or agency that is available to the corporation lobbyist, they will be so led.

The only way for the independent members to do is to band themselves together in one compact body like a band of brothers, recognizing that the interest of each is the interest of all, and act together as a unit on all questions which are of a party nature. This is the first principle of organization, and is vitally necessary to success. In fact, this is vitally necessary if anything is to be accomplished in the direction we have been striving for. Every selfish ambition should be laid aside until this unifying of the independent forces is accomplished. The question of who shall be speaker, or president of the senate is entirely subordinate to the other question as to whether the independents will elect those officers or permit some other interest to do so. The man who for a moment opposes such a unification of our forces cannot be trusted, and may be hoping to gratify his ambition by making combinations with some other element. We hope our members will be fully warned by this hint.

THE VAN WYCK-ROSEWATER-BOYD CANDIDATE FOR SPEAKER.

It is Johnny Watson, of Nebraska City. This fellow was speaker of the last house. He is a first-class railroad tool. He can be depended upon to do the dirty work of the Boyd combine. He will have the open support of Rosewater and Boyd, the democrats, and such republicans as will follow them, and the covert support of Van Wyck and such members, if any, as he can delude into the ruinous belief that he is on their side. We also have it straight that Dr. Coleman, who is simply a tool of Dave Butler, and other of Butler's henchmen whom we could name are in this combine. This means a diversion of some of the labor forces if possible, and the prevention of organization by the independents.

We have the sublime spectacle presented to us of the two great prophets of anti-monopoly and reform entering into a dark-lantern conspiracy with the democratic party to take the republican party into the democratic camp to seat a fraudulently elected governor, and thus snatch from the people the fruits of their victory in the late election, and using as their tool the worst railroad boddler in the state.

Let the dance go on. If this scheme is endorsed by any number of republicans there will not be enough of that party left at the next election to mop out a back-house.

LOOK OUT!

Dave Butler is on the ground with his lieutenants. These men are well known. We can name them all. Butler's sole occupation for years has been the handling of corporation boddles. That is what he is here for now. No man can associate with him without being smirched. Bear that in mind. These are not opinions merely. We have plenty of hard facts to back them with.

The Omaha papers and the Lincoln Journal have wickedly and viciously garbled the reports of the testimony in the contest case, and suppressed what does not suit their purpose. No real information can be gained from their reports.

Municipal Suffrage.

A strong effort will be made to introduce and pass a bill in the coming legislature, giving municipal suffrage to the women of the state. The Nebraska Woman Suffrage association and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union have both appointed their committees to work for it, after full discussion in the state conventions of each society. As the constitution of the state invests the legislature with power to enfranchise the women in municipalities, and as our coming legislature is expected to be in the control of liberal, progressive and independent men, the women have strong hopes of securing this measure of justice.

The concerns of city governments are such as naturally interest women vitally. Their systems of schools, police regulations, sanitary matters and the control of the liquor business affect the homes so closely as to make the plea of women for a voice in the management of them eminently sensible and just. The bankers and business men who, in order to keep trade brisk, will license saloons in spite of the protests of the women whose homes are thereby imperiled, may oppose a measure that will give those women a legal right to vote against the license, but it will be a just rebuke to their mercenary deeds.

Kansas gave women municipal suffrage, and reports from there testify to its practical benefits.

There seems to be a tendency to take one step at a time in regard to woman suffrage, and this is sometimes the best method of progress.

The proposed step would be an educator and an experimenter in the direction of the larger reform, viz: equal suffrage.

Associations of laborers are usually very favorable to the measure, because they perceive how capitalists undermine the power of labor unions in their struggles for shorter hours and fairer wages, by substituting the cheap labor of a disfranchised class that cannot organize its forces, thus making wife and sister rivals of husband and brother in the industries to the detriment of both classes.

As evidence of this a national labor convention representing 500,000 men recently sent a petition to congress asking for measures to protect women in their right to vote. The day of justice draws near, and as labor reaches up to claim its crown, woman, the unpaid laborer of all the centuries, will stand by her brother an equal sharer in a common inheritance.

It is much desired by those having charge of this measure that Alliances and individual members shall send to members of the legislature from their respective localities their request for a favorable vote on this measure when it comes before the legislature. Friends of the measure will do well to make a note of this and act promptly. Such communications should be addressed to Mrs. Upton, 2138 R street, Lincoln.

DEFYING THE PEOPLE.

The administration correspondent at Washington telegraphs to the Omaha Bee that some very funny things are happening in connection with certain Nebraska postoffices since election. He says that the patrons of a number of offices have petitioned for the appointment of men who voted the independent ticket to the position of postmaster in the case of a vacancy. That's gall, isn't it! For instance, there are scores of offices where only nine out of ten of the patrons voted the independent ticket, and still they think they are entitled to a postmaster out of their own ranks! It must have been a severe shock to the postoffice department to receive such a silly request as this.

Then the Bee correspondent continues his wall in this manner: "The three republican congressmen from Nebraska whose terms of office expire March 4th will retain their positions for the next two years so far as recommendations for official positions are concerned, and their advice will always be sought with reference to any matters concerning Nebraska. The new democratic congressmen-elect from Nebraska may hold their seats in the house, and vote if they wish to, but their influence will not cut any figure elsewhere."

The present republican congressmen from Nebraska were elected by a majority aggregating over 25,000. This year they were beaten by a majority aggregating 26,000, or a change in heart of over 50,000 voters. If the Harrison administration thinks it good policy to defy the plainly expressed wishes of the voters of this state in this matter, let it sail in. If the independents can manufacture campaign thunder any cheaper than this free donation, the tariff on the raw material will surely have to be reduced.

Within a few weeks or months at most, nearly every county in Nebraska will have one or more alliance papers, and then Jay Burrows will not have as soft a fleecing snap as he has formerly had, and Jay no doubt will be sour and severe.—G. I. Independent.

Now you're shouting! The more independent papers there are in the state the more demand there will be for this paper.

STATE PRINTER FOR KANSAS.

Editor C. B. Kies has been endorsed by a convention of Sedgwick county as state printer for Kansas. No better selection could be made.