

THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY BY THE Alliance Publishing Co., COR. 11th AND M STS., LINCOLN, - - NEBRASKA.

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

"Round crown above to denote, And power to him who power counts." "A ruddy drop of manly blood The ringing sea outweighs." Emerson.

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

THE TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE.

Thursday of last week some of the first arrivals reached Lincoln. Friday there were more, and by Saturday evening a large majority of the members were on the ground. These of them who are classed as "independents" are an exceptionally fine body of men. We are glad to be able to state our belief that this body which will go into history as the farmer legislature, has never been surpassed by any elected in this state for general information and intelligence. Add to this the fact that a majority of it is fresh from the people, without any taint of corrupt political methods, and we may be sure that this will be one of the ablest and most creditable legislatures ever elected in the state.

There was no difficulty whatever in making a caucus, and it was found when the independents got together that they had a majority of three in the house, and two in the senate. If this good result is maintained we may be sure of some legislation such as the people of this state have long demanded. In addition to the caucus, which is indispensable to solid organization, there should be a legislative committee from both houses, and a chosen parliamentary leader for each house.

While it is no more than we expected, and the independents throughout the state expected, we are still proud of the fact that the independents stood together like a band of brothers. In the house fifty-three members voted for S. M. Elder for speaker and Eric Johnson for clerk, and in the senate eighteen members voted for B. F. Poynter for president pro tem and for C. H. Firtle for secretary. Of course there were disappointments. That is understood. But when the majority had agreed upon the men, all differences were laid aside, and every man stood up to the rack like a man. And this on the face of the fact that every possible effort was made with money and promises and lies, to distract and divide the independent forces.

The attempt at a union of the republican and democratic forces was a miserable failure. There are republican members who are staunch Alliance men, and who, while elected as republicans, and as men of honor owe a certain degree of party fealty, are with the independents on every essential principle. These men could not be dragged into the democratic camp on any pretext whatever.

The selection of officers are first-class. Mr. Elder has the sand for any emergency, and will no doubt prove staunch and true. Mr. Eric Johnson has the benefit of several seasons' experience as clerk in the Illinois legislature, and will make an able and efficient clerk. Mr. Poynter is an Alliance man of long standing, a man of strong convictions, who cannot fail to prove reliable in every emergency. Mr. Firtle is the honest and efficient secretary of the independent state committee. He was tried with fire in that position, and is pure gold. Mr. W. C. Holden of Kearney was chosen first assistant clerk of the house. He, too, is a stand-by in the people's cause, and a thoroughly good man for the place.

We congratulate the independents of the state upon the auspicious beginning of the twenty-second legislature.

THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC SCHEME IN NEBRASKA.

Mr. F. I. Foss, a banker of Crete, has published a scheme for the financial relief of the farmers of Nebraska, to which he has done us the honor to invite our attention by a private letter. The plan, in short, is to have all the farmers of a county who wish to borrow money associate themselves together as a county co-operative farm and loan association. Their farms are then to be appraised by a state commission and the lands mortgaged to the secretary of farm loans, who, Mr. Foss suggests should be the secretary of state. This being done, the members wishing loans take stock in the association to the amount of the loan desired, bearing six per cent, and the state issues to the association its bonds bearing three per cent, guaranteed by the state. It is presumed that the bonds can be negotiated at that rate, and the difference between the interest on the stock and the bonds is to form the emergency and sinking fund, which Mr. Foss says would wipe out the principal of the mortgage in twenty years, without any payment on said principal. Mr. Foss also suggests that these bonds might be used as a basis for the issue of bank bills.

To say that we are hostile to the scheme is only to say that we are devoted to sound financial principles. Mr. Foss' plan might be properly designated a scheme to make farm mortgages universal, as that would be the result of its option. That relief from the exorbitant interest our farmers are now paying is very desirable there is no doubt, but more debt is not a cure for debt, the only practical remedy for the present state of affairs is an expansion of national currency to a point that would restore a margin of profit on farm productions. The increase of population and production out of all proportion to any increase of money has destroyed this margin of profit—has made money the controlling factor—has enabled its lenders to absorb the lion's share of production—has, by increasing

the purchasing power of money, doubled and trebled the amount of farm produce, and consequently the amount of labor, required to pay a given amount of interest. This has gone on to such an extent that there is absolutely no profit in farming—no margin out of which to pay any interest whatever. If this be true—and Mr. Foss knows it is—three per cent. could not be paid any more than six or eight per cent., and a scheme which would simply induce every man to mortgage his farm would not be a relief.

In regard to the proposal to bank on these bonds: It would require about one hundred million dollars to fairly relieve the farmers of Nebraska. Now suppose Mr. Foss' plan became reasonably popular and twenty states adopted it, and issued to their mortgaged farmers, seventy-five million dollars each, and banking on these bonds was free, as now on national bonds. This opens up a boundless vista of expansion, debt, and the slavery resulting from debt.

Mr. Foss is a banker. He knows something about the accumulating power of interest. He says three per cent. invested at compound interest as do the building associations would wipe out the principal of the debt in twenty years. Mr. Foss probably sees that things cannot go on as they are now going. He says: "The great danger that has come to our people by reason of the large amount of money amounting to millions, that we have to pay out as interest upon the debts which the farmers owe and have to pay, keeps us poor. The extortionate rate of interest, and the very life out of our farmers, and I believe that there is nothing that would do so much to the interest of the farmer as the ability to borrow what money he is obliged to have on a loan at a rate of interest not to exceed six or four per cent."

Now it is a fact that three per cent. would effectually accumulate the wealth of the country in the hands of the money lending class, only not so rapidly as six per cent. Under present conditions we are drifting straight to bankruptcy or repudiation. Mr. Foss should use his influence to induce the present legislature to memorialize congress for free coinage of silver and the issue of a reasonable amount of money based directly on land security instead of an unreasonable amount based indirectly upon it, as his plan proposes.

"THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE."

The *Cynosure* of Chicago, a religious journal, has an article under the above caption, which for misconception and misinformation rivals the best efforts of Editor Gere. Its first sentence is: "This new secret political party, lately sprung up and seemingly delirious with success, hails from the south."

First, there is no secret political party, and second, the Alliance does not hail from the south. There is a secret society known as the Farmers' Alliance. It originated in New York, made its first national organization in Chicago, extended thence to the west, and thence to the south. It is not a political party, either secret or open, in any part of the country. When it takes a hand in politics it issues a declaration of principles, as this fall in Nebraska, and appeals openly to all citizens, and its political actions and methods are as open as any political organization. The article of the *Cynosure* makes the mistake of treating the Alliance as a political organization, when it is strictly non-partisan, and so fails to criticize it intelligently.

The late elections certainly showed that a new element had been infused into our political atmosphere. There was something abroad that the politicians did not understand and had not counted upon. This new force came from the fact that a great many men had voted in accordance with their private convictions without regard to party ties. This does not amount to the formation of a new party. All intelligent men know that such a party has not been formed. But they also know that this new development gives promise of such a formation. In fact, the question now uppermost in the minds of many reformers is how to utilize and mobilize the new force so that it may have its due weight in the campaign of 1892. There are at this time about a dozen quasi political organizations, each anxious to be the nucleus around which a great national party may be formed. The leaders of all these organizations are very tenacious of their special tenets, and when they meet in national conclave, as they have several times and propose to again, they all stick so firmly to them that the platform they make is an irreconcilable mass of inconsistencies.

We believe the only practicable plan is the Nebraska plan. That is to ignore the organizations and unite the units. Issue a declaration containing a few fundamental principles upon which the largest number of units can agree, and append to it a pledge to support candidates in 1892 on that platform, and appoint certain persons to issue the call and attend to the details of the convention. Invite all men who agree upon those principles to sign and circulate for signatures. If this plan is adopted the new force which the *Cynosure* seems to dread, but does not understand, will elect the president in 1892.

The edict has gone forth. Corn will pay one cent and a half more per bushel from Chicago to the seaboard. That railroad from the north to the deep water harbor of Texas cannot be built any too soon.

JAY GOULD'S HAND.

As soon as Jay Gould let himself loose and gobbled a railroad or two, says the Stockman, he began to scheme to get his hand into the public pocket and his plan has been formulated. He suggests that the presidents of our western roads get together in New York and agree upon a harmonious method of fleecing the people; and they have met and agreed. There is to be no more competition unless the roads become involved in a quarrel. Whether they quarrel or not, however, the intentions of Mr. Gould are plain enough and mean enough. The agreement made by these people under the direction of Jay Gould is that there shall be uniform rates maintained on western roads and, of course, that the rates shall be raised. Gould, in an indirect way has frequently gone into the farmer's fields and taken the grain that belonged to him and into the cattle yards and driven off the stock that the farmer owned, figuratively speaking. But he has never before perched himself so conspicuously on the fence about the farmer's door yard and told him that he proposed to sit there until he had got all that the farmer produced. In the midst of the hard luck which the producer has so long been compelled to endure, this great financial sponge of the world and incubus upon honest industry has devised a means by which he can apply the screws still more tightly than ever upon the farmer.

Will the people permit this black haired and black hearted schemer to carry out his designs; or will they so far as they can, through the honest men whom they have elected to congress and the legislatures, put the screws to the railroads that have gone into this scheme at the solicitation of Mr. Jay Gould? The men who are to represent the farming community in our halls of legislation have a clear duty to perform in the premises. It is their duty to break the power of this conspiracy, and they can do it if they are true to their constituency. The thought of so doing should enter into everything they do. If a United States senator is to be elected and the farmer legislators have the balance of power, he should be a man whom Jay Gould and the railroad interest can neither buy nor influence otherwise. Elect men who will pay their fare; elect men who know a conspiracy against the people when it is as big as a continent and elect men who have both the honesty and the backbone to sit down on railroad assumption.

SUPPORT YOUR PAPERS.

One of the liveliest scurrages in the late Southern Alliance convention in Florida arose when it was charged that the *National Economist*, published in the interest of that Alliance, and another paper of the same kind in the south were under control of monopolists and politicians. In the discussion which followed it was shown that one of these papers, the *Economist*, we believe, had obtained two thousand dollars from a prominent politician, and must be necessarily to some extent under his control.

There is a lesson in this which we hope Alliance men will heed. It is embraced in this formula: Support your papers. A paper is made up of two things which are as staple as cash, viz: white paper and labor. The price of these have to go out every week, whether any money comes in or not. Now, the instinct of self preservation is strong. Half support your paper—let its publishers be shinning around from week to week to obtain means to carry on their work, or let them become embarrassed, and their virtue must be very strong indeed if they do not yield to the temptation to accept an advance from some capitalist who is watching for just such an opportunity. "All that a man hath will he give for his life," says Job. Support your paper liberally, and don't let it fall into this temptation.

The talk of a Union depot is premature. When Lincoln will have real need of it, there will not be so much trouble to agree upon a plan. The farmers of Lancaster and surrounding counties are not as yet prepared to pay eight hundred thousand dollars for a useless luxury. The Lincoln merchants should remember that the higher their taxes the more they will have to charge for their goods, and their prices are high enough already. The Alliance is not desirous to cripple the middle men so long as their prices are reasonable; but when they cease to be so, the Alliance will put up their own stores in every county in the state. The question for the merchant to consider is: "Do we want the farmers' trade?" If they do, they must stand with the farmers against the railroads. This much to the Lancaster delegation in the legislature.

J. A. Speer, member of Alliance No. 1731, Sheridan county, called at our office last week. He is on his way to northwest Missouri to solicit aid for Sheridan and adjoining counties, and will spend the winter there. Mr. Speer is one of our active members, has great faith in the future prosperity of Nebraska, and will return to Sheridan county next spring.

Mrs. Kinsley of the Western Normal college at Shenandoah, Ia., died on Thursday, as the result of injuries received in a runaway there on Tuesday. She was widely known in educational circles throughout the country.

"VIEWS FROM THE WATCH-TOWER."

We publish this week rather a long article under the above heading, which is worthy of careful attention. It treats of a subject upon which we have thought much. The church is not fulfilling its mission, if indeed the modern church has a mission. It has long since ceased to be the church of the Nazarine. It has become an institution for the ostentatious display of wealth. It still has great power, if it would use it in the right direction. It could destroy almost any dominant evil that it would concentrate its forces upon. It is a strange thing to say, but it is not in sympathy with reform. It tolerates almost every sin, if only the sinner be sanctimonious and rich. The great plain people are ceasing to have much use for such an institution, and are learning to do without a church.

The article we have referred to is written by an eminent divine whose name we withhold for the present. It is a good sign that such an article is possible. If a minister of the gospel has any duty, it is to study the live issues of the day as they affect the interests of the people, and take a position upon them which those interests demand.

THE WORLD-HERALD CORRESPONDENT IS A VILE LIAR.

The man who is writing for the *World-Herald* is the most audacious liar we have ever heard of. His communications written from Lincoln in relation to the editor of this paper are malicious fabrications, without a scintilla of truth. It is hardly possible that he is simple enough to be imposed upon by some third party. He conceals them himself for vile and malicious purposes. There is no excuse for such newspaper work.

As one instance, this W-H fool said that Burrows got a black eye in the election of Elder as speaker. Now every man who cared to know, knows that Burrows' choice for speaker, first, last and all the time was Elder.

These lies are not mistakes. They are intentional, and are intended to sow dissension and create division.

The decadence of the agricultural classes commenced on the day, when immense fortunes began to accumulate in the hands of the few; the regeneration of the farmer will inaugurate the conservatism of the past. The farmers ask for no favors; they only demand justice, and they are going to have it, even though they have to dispense it themselves. They refuse to have for master the Prince of Wall street who commenced the foundation of his ill gotten wealth some twenty-five years ago, by robbery of the Erie Railroad stock-holders; and ever since he has, as an evil genius, continued his practices. He has done more harm to the country than Jefferson Davis has; and is allowed to continue in his schemes he will certainly accomplish what Davis failed to do—the overthrow of our republican institutions.

THE CONTEST AND JOINT CONVENTION.

The time of going to press arrived before the joint convention to canvass the State vote assembled, so we are unable to make any report on that matter. At this date (Wednesday noon) nothing except preliminary work has been done in either house.

MR. WILLIAMS.

The B. & M. Journal has been taken in with a story from Nemaha county about one Mr. Williams, whom it says was "Dictator Burrows." The giveaway comes in when the landlady accuses Mr. Williams of smoking and spitting tobacco juice on her best carpet. Mr. Burrows neither smokes nor chews, so that settles it.

BUSINESS CAUTION.

We wish to state to our advertising patrons and all others that this paper is in no way connected with the paper called the *Independent*. This caution is necessary on account of the agents of that paper claiming to represent the Alliance people, and being misunderstood in business matters.

Mr. Funke, Jim Marsh and Lawyer Bibb of Gage Co., are up here to unseat Senator Collins. They are a precious trio. Funke is a poor tool of the banks and railroads. Jim Marsh is a poor tool of the devil. Lawyer Bibb must be proud of his clients; but his case is hopeless.

The FARMERS' ALLIANCE, published in this city, that was the great factor in the late campaign for the independents, has been enlarged and greatly improved. Mr. Burrows has ability, energy, and honest convictions, and he has earned from the Alliance all and more than the support his paper is getting.—Call.

Now that Mr. Richards has skinned Rosewater and set him moving hideless among the people, along comes Editor Burrows of the *ALLIANCE*, and in a two column article rubs salt upon the naked flesh of the editor of the *Bee*. For a truth the way of the political traitor and mountebank is hard.—Call.

At a meeting of the board of directors Mr. Paul Conrad was elected president of the Louisiana Lottery Company, vice M. A. Dauphin, deceased.

Ex-United States Treasurer Spinner died at Jacksonville, Fla., Wednesday evening.

Views From the Watch Tower.

"I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there; and the place of righteousness, that iniquity was there. I said in my heart, 'God shall judge the righteous and the wicked.'" Ecc. 3: 16, 17.

We are on the eve of a new era in the history of humanity. We are now in the throes of a mighty revolution, political, industrial, social, and religious. Not a reformation in the sense of an improvement of the existing order of things, but a revolution, the result of which will be a new regime. This age has been prolific in reformatory means and movements. Societies, organizations and clubs of a religious, political, philanthropic and humanitarian character have sprung into existence by the score. But they have been "weighed in the balance and found wanting." Humanity, like the woman afflicted with hemorrhage, after bankrupting itself on these reformatory "quacks," has been getting worse all the time. We have only been doctoring symptoms. The disease in both church and state is organic, and demands a thorough diagnosis and radical treatment. Thank God the diagnosis has commenced. The writing and contortions of the political patient indicate that the knife is reaching the roots.

Foer, burdened, bleeding humanity, after having been stripped and robbed by political pirates and plutocratic shysters, has been left on the roadside to perish. The ritualistic Levite and hypocritical priest, the exponents of the gospel of gold by the grace of the rich, gather their sacerdotal robes about them and pass by on the other side. Yes, as we look about us, we see "wickedness seated on the throne of judgment, and iniquity in the place of righteousness." * * * God shall judge the righteous and the wicked." For "the time has come that judgment must begin at the house of God."

In the November elections we only heard the first blast of the trumpet of the Divine wrath against political robbery and rottenness. It was but the faintest zephyr before the coming tempest. A whirlwind of righteous wrath and popular indignation will sweep over the country in '92 that will not leave root nor branch of the party that once championed the cause of the people so fearlessly in the forum, and fought for human freedom so magnificently on the field, but which under a corrupt leadership has forsaken God and the people, and become the willing tool of ring rule, the crawling, cringing servitor of Wall street wolves, Fifth avenue nabobs, railway kings and whisky devils. The rank and file of the old parties are ready to wheel into line and march to the music of an emancipated manhood under an honest and competent leadership. The shackles of blind and senseless devotion to party and dead issues are being shattered. The walls of sectionalism are crumbling. The boys in blue have clasped hands with the boys in gray over the bloody chasm. The forces are being marshaled. Men are springing to the front out of obscurity who are displaying a surprising knowledge of affairs, that startles and shames the wisacres at Washington.

Great movements not only demand but also develop great men. God is prolific in resources of men and means. When his providential clock strikes the hour for a new epoch, the men are always on hand to take the helm. Witness Moses leading three millions out of Egyptian slavery, Cyrus, the Persian king, restoring the Jews to their native land and liberty after seventy years captivity in Babylon, Jesus Christ redeeming a race, Paul giving the gospel to the Gentile nations, Luther liberating the gospel from papal and priestly usurpation and restoring to men their God given right to think, Wesley taking the gospel out of the narrow limits of the established church and giving it to the common people, George Washington delivering our nation from British tyranny, Grant and Lincoln striking the shackles from four millions of negroes. God is never taken by surprise. He knows no emergencies. He is always beforehand in his preparation.

Do you think God will desert us in this, the crisis of all the centuries, the greatest battle of the ages? No, never! As the storm of battle begins to shake the heavens and the earth, we hear the voice of victory in the cheering words, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" "I'll stand by you till the morning; I've come to save you, do not fear." The people have been deceived in our day as in all the past by selfish and designing leaders. God puts the responsibility where it belongs when he says, "O my people, they that lead thee cause thee to err." This is no less true of preachers than of politicians. The former are the subjects of some of the most scathing denunciations to be found within the lids of the Bible.

Their sneaking subservency to the rich has perverted their consciences, biased their judgment, and corrupted their hearts. It has created a Christless caste, resulting in an alienation of the masses from the church.

In Germany the people have left the church almost en masse. The clergy are filled with alarm. They are calling conferences and conventions all over the empire to devise means by which to win them back. In their manly struggle for industrial freedom, the church boldly championed the cause of capital and frowned upon the laboring classes. The tables were turned in their election last February when the socialists polled 1,841,886 votes, an increase of over half a million in three years. They also elected thirty-five members of parliament. In 1871 they only had one member. When this surprising vote was announced the church immediately offered her assistance to the people. The latter indignantly replied that they could get along without their help now, that they were on their feet. They informed the church that she had acted the part of the Levite and Priest, while the socialist party had been the good Samaritan, reaching out a hand of help and healing in the time of their distress. That now they were under sacred obligations to stand by their benefactors. They also added that it was a pertinent now that the church's offer of help was