The Farmers' Alliance.

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"In the beauty of the lillies
Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in his bosom
That transfigures you and me.
As he strove to make men holy
Let us strive to make them 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."

AN INFAMOUS OPINION

THE SUCCESSIVE STEPS OF A FATAL AND VILE CONSPIRACY.

Judges and Senates Have Been Bought With Gold."—Pope.

The opinion of the supreme court as to the signing of the resolution to convene a joint convention of the legislature was given out yesterday afternoon. The opinion in short is that the concurrent resolutions convening the joint convention must be signed by the presiding officer of each house, *and the governor*; that if the governor refuses to sign, it must have a three fifths majority or the contest must be abandoned.

The opinion is simply monstrous. It is contrary to all known authorities and precedents, and is a reversal of former opinions of this same court.

The opinion paralyzes the legislature as to the performance of one of its constitutional functions and places the legislative power of this state, which is a co-ordinate branch of the government, prone in the dust under the feet of a disputed governor or a trumvir of old women called, by courtesy, a supreme court.

The provisions of the constitution relating to the signature of concurrent resolutions plainly relate only to such as are to have the force of law. The following are the provisions. Section 15 of article 5 says:

SEC. 15. Every bill passed by the legislature, BEFORE IT BECOMES A LAW, and every order, resolution, or vote to which the concurrence of both houses may be necessary (except on questions of adjournment), shall be presented to the governor; if he approve he shall sign it, and thereupon it shall BECOME A LAW; but if he do not approve he shall return it, with his objections, to the house in which it shall have originated, which house shall enter the objections at large upon its journal and proceed to reconsider the bill. If then the three fifths of the members elected agree to pass the same, it shall be sent, together with the objections, to the other house, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered; and if approved by three-fifths of the members of that house, IT SHALL BE OME A LAW, notwithstanding the objections of the governor.

The final clause of Sec. 4 of same article says: "Contested elections for all of said offices [meaning the executive offices,] *shall be determined by both houses of the legislature*, by joint vote, in such manner as may be prescribed by law,'

The law in relation to such contests simply provides that the legislature shall by joint resolutions "fix the day" for the convening of the joint convention and the trial of the contest.

It will be observed that the joint resolution in point is not a law within the meaning of the constitution; and it is perfectly plain that the section quoted does not apply to such resolutions.

This monstrous opinion, as we pointed out yesterday in referring to the imposition, declares that the question as to whether proceedings may be had to impeach a governor, or to try a contest in case of a disputed succession, must be submitted to the party in interest for him to determine whether the case shall proceed. The idea is monstrous, Under it the liberties of the people of Nebraska are lost, and supreme power is usurped by a branch of the government which has only a reviewing power, and a creature of fraud is placed in the gubernatorial chair.

The Independents have desired to proceed in a legal manner, and after the mandamus proceedings and after it was decided to pass a concurrent resolution fixing a day for the contest, and the attorneys for contestants, after satisfying themselves by a careful examination of authorities that it was *not* necessary for the governor to sign such a resolution, to make assurance doubly sure went to the members of the supreme court on two different occasions, and after a thorough discussion of the matter all the members of the court expressed themselves not only that it was *not* necessary for the governor to sign a concurrent resolution, fixing a time to try his right to the office, but that such a proposition was entirely absurd No reasonable man can escape the conviction that the court was a party to the trick to entrap the Independents.

That this whole thing is a vile conspiricy, in which the supreme court is a party, and that the Independents have been led into a neat trap by asking for this opinion, there is no manner of doubt. The Independents, in asking for the opinion of the court, tacitly agreed to abide by it. They should now proceed to legally and carefully adopt another concurrent resolution for a joint convention, and submit it to Boyd for his signature, and let the final steps of this conspiracy be developed.

IN THE FIRST STEP THEY FELL.

When the supreme court made its first mis-step, when it embarked in excited partisan politics, when it cast itself into the whirlpool of political excitement that the makers of the constitution took especial care to keep them from by a constitutional provision, it did the state an incalculable injury. They took a step that actually led to the fatal one. The steps which they have thus far taken are in violation of the fundamental laws of this and these American states, in violation of the letter and of the spirit and of the practice under such constitutions stated by great courts and jusists to be "*That the determination of the results of all elections is not a matter for the ordinary administration of the law and courts of justice but, is in its nature a political question to be determined under the constitution by the political authority of the state.*"

A brief glance at some of the reasons given by great jurists and great courts for these principles discloses the error and shows how far astray the court of Nebraska has gone from correct principle.

The reasons assigned by the supreme court of Kentucky and Indiana for confiding these questions to the legislature are to withdraw from the courts the passions and excitements to which these cases may be expected to give rise. The reasons given by the supreme court of South Carolina and Pennsylvania are to put to speedy end the choice of an officer so essential to the state. The reasons given by the supreme court of West Virginia and Arkansas are that it is scarcely possible to believe that it was ever contemplated by those who made and adopted our constitution that we should have a person discharge the high and responsible duties of chief executive officer of the state who had never been elected. The reasons given by Judge Cooley in commenting upon a constitution in words like our own were that "there are many reasons why the more suitable authority for its settlement is the legislature of the state, which can *act promptly and without regard to forms*, while a judicial contest might continue for months, possibly even for the whole term of office, and *be embarrassed more or less with questions of pleading and technical law to the incalculable prejudice of public interest and public order.*"

We think nearly every court in America that has spoken upon this subject has spoken with like effect. How suggestive are the above reasons and how prophetic of the consequences that follow the departure from these principles. At this moment Nebraska suffers every evil so intended to be guarded against. The court is regarded as having embarked in this political case as deeply as its most zealous partisans. The loss of confidence among many citizens of the state, and even disrespect from others, has unavoidably followed. The speedy choice of an executive officer has been frustrated, an alien publicly believed to be ineligible, if not never to have been legally elected, sits in the discharge of the high duties of governor of this state by the mandate of that court that should have kept its hands out of the case, and which overruled the solemn determination of the legislative body appointed to canvass that vote. A wide spirit of popular belief is created that by some illegal method unknown the offender is to escape trial altogether and the office is to be filled for the entire term by a person that has no legal right to fill it. The decision of the court has substituted these technicalities and forms and embarrassments for promptness and certainty to the incalculable prejudice of public interest and public order, which Judge Cooley says was intended to be avoided by placing this matter in the decision of the legislature. The sequel or the result of their decision here goes even further, and our court has established as a permanent law and rule of government in this state, binding themselves as well as the legislature, not in this pending case alone, but in every case in this state hereafter, that no matter how illegal the count, no matter how fraudulent the returns, no matter how corrupt the candidate, no matter how bribed the voters, be he citizen or alien, patriot or traitor, man or felon, he is to be installed into the office of governor upon the mere certificate in the hands of the speaker of the house without a citizen or a court or an officer, or a judge or a legislature, or even the supreme court itself, being able to raise a single obstruction or objection. The candidate, though red-handed though rotten in every fiber both in character and method, not only may but must be declared governor by the speaker of the house of the representatives. The representatives can not even mildly protest, the court itself can not even mildly protest; if it acts, it must lend a helping hand. The supreme court, the repository of the highest ideal of justice and virtue and judgment in the state, the legislature sitting by consenting, must compel the speaker to put even a felon in the gubernatoral chair before it can question one of his designs, or even felonious acts, or his character or qualifications. Nay, yet further, that great body of representatives of the whole people, that especially constituted court of the whole people, before he alone or his acts can be tried, cannot meet even to consider man or deed over all of the matters confided to them by the constitution except by the consent of the rogue or felon to be tried. Why, indeed, the court goes even farther and declares that they, being the sole court on earth to try him, the evidence being lodged before them against him, and they having unanimously to a man decided as representing the people of the whole state that they will try him, that the felon and the rogue can overrule their decision, vacate it absolutely and set it aside and declare it for nought as though it never had an existence, and never can have an existence, except by another act or proceeding as complete, as conclusive and as exclusive as though the authority of the executive department of the government had no existence whatever. The above considerations are not fanciful, and under the present proceeding for all purposes the notice of contest may be assumed as true, because according to the decision of the court it does not seem to matter whether the charges be more or less serious. The doctrine of this court is they cannot proceed at all if their decision to proceed be overruled by the felon who might be on trial. Fraud is charged in the notices—mis-conduct of officials, corruption, bribery, statutory crimes and lesser offenses.

The evidence of nearly a hundred witnesses lies before the court that is trying to proceed, the court is waiting the consent of the culprit and offender to go forward. Will he consent?

COUNTY MUTUALS.

We desire to call attention to the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company of Richardson county. It was organized under our very unsatisfactory statute in June, 1887. Its by-laws provide that it shall insure no city or village property, neither mills, shops, or unoccupied buildings. It takes only farm houses and barns, and their contents, refusing even those unless they are as safe as can be made.

The nine directors elected by the members at the annual meeting appoint a president and secretary. The secretary charges each member one dollar for surveying his buildings and issuing policy. It issues five-year policies only. For each one hundred dollar policy, members must pay ten cents into the treasury to pay for blanks, books, and other expenses—balance, if any, to be applied on loss, should a fire occur. Should a fire occur, and funds on hand were not sufficient this company assesses policy holders pro rata. No assessment can ever be made until fire has occurred, and then only sufficient to adjust the loss.

All the money stays at home, not a cent leaving Richardson county. The old line companies charge farm property fifteen to twenty times as much as this company, and in many cases even more than that. That is, the members are getting along by paying one dime for what they formerly paid a dollar and a half to two dollars. This company has never yet made an assessment. A valuable house caught fire last May, but it was saved with a damage of $25. The treasurer settled the damage and had over $50 left.

This company has now over 180 members, with about $270,000 in policies issued. Its members would under no circumstances agree to disband, and recur to the old plan of protection. Persons wishing the farmers of Nebraska prosperity, will agree that an economy of this kind should spread all over the state. Gerdis of Richardson county has a bill in the house which would greatly improve the law for mutual companies. This or some similar bill should be perfected and passed. The vexatious restrictions now in our law were placed there by the insurance ring for the sole purpose of preventing the formation of mutual companies. These restrictions should be removed, and any number of persons should be permitted to associate themselves for mutual insurance on such terms as they might agree. It would no doub be wise to establish safeguards which would prevent individuals from running snide companies. The exorbitant fees now charged for incorporation should be reduced.

The annual report of Wells, Fargo & Co. of precious metals produced during 1890 in the states and territories west of the Missouri shows: Gold, $32,156,916; silver, $62,930,891; copper, $20,569,092; lead, $11,509,571. The total value of the output is $127,166,460, comprising in the aggregate the chief product of seven states and three territories. This is a vast sum to dig out of the bowels of the earth, yet in actual value it is considerably behind what the farmers of two states garnered from the surface. The corn crop of Iowa and Nebraska last year aggregated 300,000,000 bushels. At present prices in Chicago the crop is worth $144,000,000. Thus the chief staple of two states exceeds the value of the entire mineral output by nearly $17,000,000. And the farmer gathers his annual crop at considerably less expense than the miner.—Bee

The above is one of the fallacious methods by which the occupation of farming is shown to be immensely profitable.

But when it is considered that only about one-third of that corn was available for sale, the balance having to be used as subsistence, and when we remember that of the one-third sold the railroads take three-fifths for carrying two-fifths to market, and when we do not forget that the shippers and board of trade men take 50 per cent. of the net proceeds of that part, the subject assumes an entirely different aspect.

Savings Depositors and free Coinage.

Chicago Tribune.

The deposits of last year in the savings banks of the six New England States, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey amounted to $1,279,000,000 against $1,214,000,000 in 1889. The population of those States is about 17,800,000 so that an increase of 140,00 in the number of depositors was about one for every 120 persons in that area, while the total number of 3,520,000 persons who have savings-bank accounts is not far from one for each family of five persons. The increase in the deposits last year was over $17 for each depositor, or $4 for each inhabitant.

In the absence of statistics on the subject it is fair to infer that the other 45,000,000 residents in the United States save not less than three-fourths as much per capita as those for which the amount is stated.. They should be able to save more than that, being fully as industrious, having somewhat less to pay for staple articles of food, and getting fully as good wages. In discussing this question the New York Bulletin estimates that the total of savings put by each year by all the wage-earners of the country must exceed $200,000,000, and asks what they do with it, as the number of sayings banks in the West does not correspond with that at the East. The question is answered by the Cincinnati *Price Current* with the remark that so far as Ohio is concerned the savings of the people are very largely deposited each week in the building associations, which take the place of savings banks and "give the best facilities for saving small sums of money ever yet practiced."

Supposing the accumulation by the 45,000,000, of people to be no more than equal to that by the 17,800,000 at the East, we shall have a total of at least two and a half billion dollars in the shape of money owned by the working classes. It is either at their command when called for at the bank or when drawn out from a private hoard. A depreciation of 20 per cent in the purchasing power of the dollar, due to the proposed unlimited silver coinage, would lessen the amount of savings by $500,000,000, making the economical workers that much poorer. The very persons who should most be encouraged, the bone and sinew of the country, those who not only keep sober and honest themselves, giving no occasion for the employment of policemen, courts, or jailers, but are doing further good to society by setting an excellent example to the rest, are the ones to be impoverished by free silver coinage. They are to be robbed and plundered of a large part of their slowly accumulated savings in order that aid and comfort may be afforded to a lot of others who have borrowed money instead of saving it, and now want to pay the loans back in a kind of money worth 20 to 25 per cent less per dollar than that which they obtained from the lenders.

We republish the foregoing from the *Chicago Tribune* to expose some of its fallacies:

First, an increase of deposits is noticed in a time of great depression. This is not commented on by the *Tribune*, which is quite strange, as it would be in keeping with its opaque ideas to refer to it as an indication of great prosperity among the working classes. The fact is that it indicates exactly the opposite. The increase of money at financial centres in the form of reserves, or in savings banks at low rates of interest, indicates stagnation of business, and lack of opportunities for paying investments. People do not accept 3 per cent for money when they can just as easily get 6, and they do not let money lie idle when they can easily invest it at a profit. The increase of depositors in savings banks may and does in this case mean anything but increased prosperity.

The writer goes on to figure up the amount of money the working people of the country "have at their command when called for at the bank," viz: $2,500,000,000, or about one thousand million dollars more than the total circulation of the United States. This shows the delusiveness of considering bank deposits as money, and the folly of basing the resources of the laboring classes upon any such figures. But the beauty of this argument is yet to come. Having deposited two and a half billion for the working men the writer assumes a shrinkage of 20 per cent on the whole sum—one thousand million more than exist—on account of the free coinage of silver. First, if we concede such a shrinkage, it could not possibly be on more than three-fifths of the sum named. But conceding the point, the writer entirely loses sight of the fact that a shrinkage in the purchasing power of the dollar is more than compensated by an increase in the purchasing power of products or labor. In other words, what the people as capitalists have lost, the people as producers have gained. Or, the control of money over products has been by so much transferrod to a control of products over money. The loss has been to the money lender, and the gain to the producer. Instead of the argument of the *Tribune* being true, it is flimsy, false, fallacious. The robbery is going on day by day, and is increased as the purchasing power of money is increased. The only way to effectually stop it is by increasing the purchasing power of labor or products.

The *Tribune* is working solely in the interest of the gold bug, the money power and the monopolies.

DOG EAT DOG.

The scheme of the insurance ring of this state is a very fine one. It first proposes, with the help of companies of other states, to drive out of Nebraska all foreign insurance companies. Having accomplisped this, the state companies propose then to combine and drive out all the companies of other states.

CLAIMING THE INDEPENDENTS.

The gall of the man who organized the demo-repub-railroad combine passeth understanding. His latest is the claim that the independents in the legislature only represent a minority, and therefore ought to yield to the voice of the railroads as expressed by the repub-demo caucus. That is, he coolly bunches the republican and democratic vote the same as if it were cast by one party, on one side, and measures the independent vote by itself, and then says this is one of those rare instances in politics where the tail is allowed to wag the dog.

Making every effort to overthrow constitutional precedents—striving to subordinate the legislative branch of the government to a governor with a questionable title—it is not strange that Mr. Rosewater should desire to repudiate that other wise constitutional provision which in certain cases gives a plurality power.

Making a corrupt combine between traditional enemies like the republican and democratic parties and then speaking of the vile amalgam as one party will be refreshing to the honest farmer republicans of Nebraska.

The Bee need have no anxiety as to the responsibility of the independents as representatives of all the people of the state. They can best represent those people by insisting that the contest for governor shall be fairly tried and decided on its merits. Nothing is more important to every citizen than the question whether we are to have honest elections and a fair count.

LANCASTER CO. COMMISSIONERS.

There is considerable dissatisfaction among the people of this country as to the board of county commissioners, it being thought that three men could do the business quite as satisfactorily as five. This is undoubtedly true. The office of commissioner is a salaried office, the pay being $1,800 per year. Thirty-five dollars per week is very good pay, and in these hard times, will secure the services of a very good man. Of course there is nothing in the office above the salary. If these men can do the business, the thirty-six hundred dollars paid to the two supernumeraries is well worth saving. It seems as though nine thousand dollars in salary alone was quite a large sum to pay these commissioners.

We are informed that the law under which the present board exists had its origin in Omaha, which is a good reason to believe it may be improved.

THE INTEREST PROBLEM.

The present legislature will soon find itself face to face with the interest problem, and in fact with the great financial question in its entirety. There is no question upon which there is more general misunderstanding than this—no question in regard to which there is so large a number of men interested in befogging and misleading the great plain people. The subject is considered intricate, and few men have given it exhaustive study.

Our legislators will be asked to believe that any reduction of interest, or any attempt to enact stringent usury laws will drive capital from the state, prevent the renewal of loans, and therefore cause the loss of many farms. Are these things true?

First, the usurers are not the capitalists who make long time farm loans, though many of them are the agents of such capitalists.

Second, the higher the prevailing rate of interest, the poorer the security is a prevailing financial rule.

Third—Capital, that is money, is timid, and only seeks investment on safe securities.

If high rates of interest prevail heavy capitalists who loan on long time at reasonable rates are apt to distrust the securities and the ability of the community to pay, and hence they refuse to loan in such localities. The men who loan at usurious rates on chattels usually live in the community where they make their loans, so they can keep their eye on the chattels. The presence of these men, and the fact of their making loans at such enormous rates, actually repel the real capitalists who loan at legitimate rates, and thus leaves the community at the mercy of the chattel mortgage fiends. Stop this robbery, and money would flow in at reasonable rates on good security.

It will be said that there are many who are in such a condition that they must have money on chattels or go under; and that many farm mortgages will be foreclosed if an attempt is made to interfere with the existing order. Well, the present situation is anomalous and unusual. That is to say, it only comes around in cycles of ten to twelve years. It needs an unusual remedy. It would seem as though a temporary stay law would be justifiable.

But the need for a usury law is imperative. The rate of interest should be strictly limited to the legal rate agreed upon—usurious contracts should be invalid, and the vendor of commercial paper should be made its guarantor through all its transfers.

☞ Murat Halsted says, that the continual agitation of the money question in this country, makes it impossible for us to pay any attention to real reforms and improvements. The proposition is undoubtedly true, only we wonder what he calls "real reforms."

THEY GIVE IT AWAY.

It is impossible for the members of the moncpoly combine to suppress their mirth over the result of their bulldozing tactics. It is too good a job to keep. They laugh about Speaker Elder being scared into canvassing the votes and declaring that Boyd and the republican state ticket were elected. Now they say that the Independents made fools of themselves in asking the supreme court for an opinion in reference to the concurrent resolution.

Yesterday two men were overheard discussing the situation, in the lobby of the house, "What a set of d—d chumps them fellows are anyway; they can't see anything and they are so infernally atraid that they will be jacked up by the papers that they don't dare make an effort."

"Yes," replied the other, "we've got them under control. The thought of the supreme court scares them out of of their boots, and we've got the supreme court with us for everything we want. They would whip us in this contest if they knew enough to stand together, but when they get ready to commence again we will set the supreme court on them and the timid, conscientious fellows will run like turkeys."

"Oh, h—l," replied the other, "we've got the R. Rs., the banks, the daily papers and the supreme court back of us, and if they do get over their scare we can buy enough of them at any time to help us out. They are as poor as the d—l and it won't take much of a roll."

LEGISLATION AND THE CONTEST.

Some of the Independent members are very nervous about legislation which is demanded by their constituents. It may be well enough to go forward with the work of perfecting such laws as are demanded. But aside from the appropriation bill for the relief of the west, there is no work of this legislature so important to the people of this state as the correct settlement of the contest. The people of this state want to know whether a rotten repub-railroad-demo combine can seize their election machinery and foist an Omaha bum into the highest executive office, and carry off the plunder unchallenged. They want to know whether three old men, two of them ex-railroad attorneys, can set themselves up to dominate the legislative branch of the government, and cut their outrageous opinions to suit emergencies. They want to know if a judicial tyranny is to be established in this state and all law be subverted. This is the great question.

With Boyd as governor it is perfectly immaterial whether the laws the people are asking for are perfected or not. They would either be defeated in one of the houses or vetoed.

There is some good work that might be attended to. The rotten prison contract should be investigated. It is very desirable for the people to know how it was obtained, how much it cost, and who got the boodle.

The condition of the state treasury should be investigated. The treasury of the state of Nebraska is the bulwark of this Boyd fight. A place that is worth forty thousand dollars a year cannot fail to be a source of corruption. The people of this state would like to know where the money is, and how much of it is left, and how much campaign found from the treasury went into the Boyd railroad pool, and they have a right to know.

This is legitimate and useful work at which the legislature can put in its time.

A PUPPY EDITOR.

The Journal of the 23d criticises our article on interest, but it only acknowledges our existence by the term of "one of the financiers engaged in instructing the members of the legislature," not even alluding to the DAILY PEOPLE. The editor of the Journal need have no fear but that THE PEOPLE will get before the people. Its failure to acknowledge our existence as a cotemporary will not amount to much. But it is noticeable that when it desired to commit a vile libel upon an individual it had no difficulty in remembering his name.

RESIGNATION.

To the Nebraska Supreme Court: Mr. Burrows hereby tenders his resignation as dictator.

☞ Demo-republican is a new word coined to fill a crying need. It is a word full of meaning and may be written several ways and still be as sweet. For instance, "dam-republicans," or "rip-democrats," but "lickem-independents" will live longest and tell the story best.

☞ John C. Cowen played for the pit. Instead of arguing the point of law involved in the question before the supreme court, he harangued the crowd on the anarchistic tendencies of the present legislature. A Boyd attorney denouncing anarchy is an interesting spectacle.

☞ I, Mrs. John Sheedy, do hereby protest against the further investigation of the murder of John Sheedy, for the reason that I, as a party in interest, have not signed the warrant for my arrest, nor given my consent to such an investigation. In support of my position I respectfully refer to the opinion of the supreme court handed to the joint convention yesterday.