

## The Farmers' Alliance.

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THE ALLIANCE PUBLISHING CO.  
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J. Burrows, Editor.  
J. M. Thompson, Business Manager

"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 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."

## The Farmers' Alliance,

PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT  
CORNER 11TH AND M STREETS,  
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA.

## ENLARGED AND IMPROVED.

J. BURROWS, Editor.  
J. M. THOMPSON, Business Manager.

We greet our readers this week with THE ALLIANCE enlarged to nearly double its former size. We intend to add to its value editorially as much as we have to its size. We hope to be able further to enlarge it to a seven column quarto, and will do so as soon as our patronage justifies it.

## PREMIUMS.

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ALLIANCE PUB. CO. Lincoln Neb.

## THE CONTEST ENDED.

The defeat of the concurrent resolutions in the senate on the 11th ended the contest for the executive offices in the state—ended it probably in a way that no such contest was ever before ended. The defeat of that resolution was a denial of the right, not only of certain citizens in their private character, but of a large body of voters in their political character, to bring for trial before the only judicial tribunal known to our law in such cases a cause in which the private citizens believed they had a great grievance, and the body of citizens as voters believed they had been denied their political rights, and the possession of the several executive offices been usurped. To say that this denial of a right of hearing by the only tribunal having jurisdiction of the case, and from whose decision there is no appeal, is an unparalleled and infamous outrage, is a long way within the truth. That it is a plain violation of the constitution and the law is also equally true. The constitution says: "Contested elections for all of said offices (meaning executive offices) shall be determined by both houses of the legislature," etc. The law says: "The legislature in joint session shall hear and determine cases of contested elections for all officers of the executive department." The senate of the state of Nebraska, by the infamous vote of the 11th, refused to "hear and determine" the contested cases, and by that vote every member who voted no, no matter what his motive or excuse, violated the solemn oath he took to "support the constitution of the state of Nebraska."

Those who have read THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE for the past three months are tolerably well informed as to the history of this contest. Those who have depended for their information about it upon the three leading dailies of the state, viz: the World-Herald, Bee and Lincoln Journal, are entirely misinformed. These papers have systematically lied in relation to the matter, and when the evidence was being taken published only that portion of it which suited their purpose. So it happens that the public is really very ill-informed about the case. We do not propose now to review it or give its history, but there are some facts which we propose to state. First, the contest was nominally, in its origin and progress, a contest between the Independent state nominees and James E. Boyd and the republican state nominees. It had not long been in progress before well-informed men discovered that its character had changed, and that it had become a contest between eastern capitalists represented by their money-lending agents in this state, the railroad power, which is under the same control, and

the farmers and producers of Nebraska. This is the phase the contest assumed and under which it was decided, and these were the elements that were at work to defeat the representatives of the Independent voters. Had the people fully recognized this fact the contest would probably have been better fought on their side. But every agency at the command of the money power in addition to the papers we have named, was used to beguile, mislead and misinform the people.

Second—Long before the contest was begun, even before the campaign was fairly closed, the bankers' association of this and other states had begun to accumulate a fund to prevent financial legislation adverse to the supposed interests of the money power. Twenty-five to fifty thousand dollars was accumulated at Lincoln nominally for this purpose. This fund—purely a corruption fund—was under the control, to all intents and purposes, of the most corrupt and unscrupulous jobber in the state—a man largely interested in lucrative state contracts. The money power became greatly alarmed at the prospect of laws for the financial relief of the people, such as a stay law and a usury law, and it also became convinced that to subvert its interests and prevent such legislation it was necessary to defeat Mr. Powers. It therefore came about that a fund originally raised to directly influence the legislature in the enactment of laws was diverted to defeat the Independents in the contest. These are well-known facts, capable of irrefragable proof.

Rarely does it happen, when the interests of the corporations and the money power are pitted against the interests of the people, that traitors are not found to betray the latter. The Judas who took the thirty pieces of silver, and by a kiss betrayed the Saviour of mankind—betrayed the Divine Man who by His life and teachings has always stood for the great plain people—has found his vile counterpart through all the ages. He has been here in Lincoln through this contest. He had three doubles in the senate. They were named COLLINS, TURNER and TAYLOR. We dislike to defile our pages with their names. We hand these three men out, a trinity of infamy. The gold they got will burn in to their souls till they are only ashes. Till the grave closes over them the scorn of every honest man will be their portion. Their wives will despise and their children execrate them. Oblivion is the only solace the future has in store for them. There is only one epithet that fits them. Take the vile spirit of the heart of a thief, a forger, a betrayer of innocent childhood, a murderer of his friend, a hater and destroyer of every good principle that ever animated the human soul, and boil it down till it kills the sense and eclipses hell, and its name is—TRAITOR.

The railroads and money power have won this contest—won it by the vilest corruption and fraud that ever disgraced any legislative assembly—won it by dragging the sacred judicial ermine into the lowest slum of partisan politics—won it by inducing the senate of this state by purchased votes to refuse to perform its plain constitutional duty, and deny to citizens of this state and thousands of honest voters a privilege which is the sacred right of the humblest man that walks our soil, the right to a judicial hearing before the only tribunal to which he could appeal. Not in all the records of all the states—not anywhere save in the black annals of despotic and tyrannical power—can such another case be found.

But the end is not yet. The people will come to know the facts and understand the principles of this case. They will also be fully informed of the vile agencies which have been used to prevent a fair trial. They will learn that this is not a case of a refusal to seat this or that governor, or this or that set of executive officers, but that it involves a refusal to hear—a refusal to try a cause in which citizens believe their most sacred rights were at stake. And when they come to know these crimes they will sweep the men and parties that have perpetrated them into the infamous seclusion they deserve.

## LYING CHEEK.

The lying cheek of the Bee was never better illustrated than in its attempt to identify the prohibitionists with the late contest. It has done this solely to withdraw from the independents the sympathy of their anti-prohibition friends. Now we state again once for all that the prohibitionists had nothing whatever to do with the contest from beginning to end. They did not begin it, and have not aided it with a dollar of money that we are aware of. Of course prohibitionists have testified when called upon. They had to. But the facts are as we have stated, and the Bee knows it as well as we do.

## THE INDEPENDENTS OF SOUTH DAKOTA ELECT A U. S. SENATOR.

On Monday last Rev. J. H. Kyle, an ordained minister of the gospel, was elected United States Senator for South Dakota. This is a great Independent triumph, but it will be a fearful shock to the American house of lords. Of course, any minister who is sentenced to become a member of the United States senate for six years is entitled to everybody's sympathy.

## WHAT TO DO WITH TRAITORS.

## AN IMPORTANT CAUTION.

Threats have been made of vengeance upon men who did not keep their pledges to their constituents. These threats must be seriously and calmly reconsidered. No personal violence, no personal injury must be offered to any man, no matter how much of a traitor he may be. There are cogent reasons for this which a little reflection will show. The Alliance is a secret society. It has been charged—of course, falsely—that its members are bound together by a solemn blood-curdling oath, not only to stand by the society in all things, but to obey the orders of certain leaders. Of course all members know the falsity of this charge. But outsiders do not know it. They may believe that men who would take such oaths would lie about them, which would be true. Now, if any violence should be done to any man who was charged with treachery, the Alliance would be held responsible and would be charged with having complied with such oaths as we have alluded to. One hanging would destroy the Alliance. We hold the welfare of that society sacred; and we now solemnly demand that no violence shall be anywhere. Our civilization, thank God, will not sanction it. It is only when great masses of men are moved by one impulse to resist tyranny and oppression—and only when no other resource is left—that revolution is justifiable.

There is a punishment that, to a man with a spark of sensitiveness or honor, is worse than death. The man whose neighbors despise him—who meets averted eyes and no extended hands—is a living corpse. This punishment is due to a traitor. But in behalf of our society, which is so grand and charitable in its objects, and has so grand a future before it, we demand that no other punishment shall be attempted.

## MONOPOLY SLUSH.

The monopoly papers are teeming full of advice to the granger legislature, and of articles talking about the undeveloped condition of Nebraska, her need for more railroads, and the dependence of her citizens for capital upon the eastern money lenders. These articles are unmitigated slush. They have for their sole object the prevention of laws curbing the rapacity of railroad corporations and seeking relief from the financial situation. These articles particularly dwell upon the dependence of labor upon capital. We have before us one from the Sutton Advertiser and republished in the B. & M. Journal. It is sapient nonsense. It says "Capital will come if we invite it." Now, capital will do no such thing. Capital is a hundred times more dependent upon labor than labor is upon capital. Where labor creates wealth capital is found. Labor creates it. Capital is that portion of wealth which may be used to create more wealth. But it cannot be used without labor. Separated from labor the wealth of Cresser would not produce a dollar of increase. If labor settles down in Nebraska and produces something that other people need, money will come here to buy it. If industrious laborers settle in a country, railroads will follow them, and follow them soon enough. A vast amount of the debt now existing in this state, which is such an unbearable burden, was needlessly contracted, and the owners of it would be better off had they been unable to borrow. We know whereof we speak. We came to Nebraska poor. We have borrowed much money, and bought much goods on credit. But we are absolutely certain that if we had not been able to borrow a dollar or buy a dollar's worth on credit, we would have got along just as well, been just as happy meanwhile, and would be thousands of dollars richer to-day.

The money power is boycotting Nebraska to-day to prevent the legislators from fulfilling their pledges to their constituents. If this boycott could be turned upon the money power—if it could be informed that its money was no longer wanted, and it could at once take possession of every mortgaged farm—its dependence upon labor would be quickly demonstrated, and farms would be for sale at a lower price than for many a day.

## A BRILLIANT IDEA BY THE "ABLE EDITOR."

The B. & M. Journal of the 12th, in an editorial discussing "the rate question," has the following brilliant "suppose":

"Let the farmers of Nebraska suppose a case that might possibly sometime come home to them. Suppose it should be decided sometime by the courts that as the government gave them the land in the first instance free of cost, in short, as a 'franchise,' the people of the state have a constitutional right to say what they should charge for the product of this franchise, how much they should receive for their wheat, their corn, their hogs and their cattle."

The effort to confuse a railroad franchise in which there had been no transfer of any title in fee, and in which to enable the grantees to effectually use the franchise the state had shared with them the exercise of the right of eminent domain, with the case of the use of land the title to which had been conveyed in fee by the government for a

consideration, is quite worthy of the "able editor" of the railroad organ. When it can show a long line of decisions that land is the property of the public in the same sense that a railroad is a public highway, its idiotic "suppose" may have some force.

But aside from these considerations the fact that railroads are and necessarily must be of the nature of monopolies, and the price of their services fixed by combinations, while the prices of the products of the soil are fixed solely by the laws of supply and demand, make the supposition of the Journal altogether ridiculous. If it should happen that the production of any one of the products named by the Journal should be farmed out to a monopoly—as in view of the advance of the monopolistic principle does not seem unlikely—then indeed the people could step in and properly say what the monopolists should exact, just as they have the clearest right to say what the railroad monopolists may exact for their services as common carriers.

The Journal farther says: "But the railroads of Iowa are compelled to do the local hauling for less than cost, according to their testimony, and certainly if they had no other business to do but the local business they would be out of pocket every day."

The editor knew the above to be false when he wrote it. The editor knows that under the Iowa law, if the roads can show in court that the charges fixed in the Iowa schedule are unreasonably low, the schedule would be raised. He also knows that the Iowa roads voluntarily abandoned the contest in the courts and accepted the schedules prepared by the commission because they could not show that they were too low, and that they were losing money by them.

In short, the roads declined to go into court and show up their business for any advantage they might have gained by it.

The State Journal and such paid attorneys as O. P. Mason cannot show that the Nebraska rates are unreasonable and ought not to be lowered, "suppose" as much as they may.

## "A QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE."

## Something About Mr. Gale.

We find the following in a report of legislative proceedings:

"Gale (ind.) arose to a question of privilege, and said that in his absence his seat had been moved over to the republican side of the house, and wanted to know by what authority. The speaker was unable to furnish the desired information."

We don't know anything about the removal of Mr. Gale's seat, but we presume it was removed because the Independents had become ashamed of his company. Elected as an Independent, he has opposed them from the start, voting and acting with the opposition. Mr. Gale is a man whom the word "traitor" fits admirably. He will wear it as he does his new clothes, but it will last longer than any suit he can buy with corporation money. We have described the meaning of the word in another column, and do not care to repeat it. Mr. Gale was repudiated by the Independents a month ago, as the following mild indictment will show. We withheld it hoping there might be some mistake. But time only confirmed the judgment.

REPRESENTATIVE—HALL,  
LINCOLN, NEB., Jan. 20.

We, the undersigned, Independent members of the Neb. legislature, believe it our duty to inform the constituents of Representative Gale of Brown county that in our opinion he has not conducted himself as an Independent member should. In all or nearly all of the test votes, where the Independents have been pitted against the old parties, Mr. Gale has voted against the Independents. And it seems to us that for some reason or for no reason Mr. Gale has become a firm ally of the old parties.

Frank M. Taylor, Dis. 4, Austin Riley, 44; E. Soderman, 63; Henry Stevens, 25; A. C. Modie, 65; Francis Dunn, W. H. Taylor, 28; Alex. Brederson, H. C. Bartholomew, 21; W. T. Porter, 40; J. M. Gunnelt, 38; P. F. Rohan, 18; James Smith, 19; L. McReynolds, 42; Ed. Arnold, J. N. Gaffin, A. D. Stevens, S. Fulton, J. T. Vorhes, F. Newberry, 41; C. D. Shrader, 56.

This is a hard winter on Alliance dictators. Ignatius Donnelly has been dropped by the Minnesota farmers with a shout that sounds strangely like the one noticed in this vicinity recently when our own beloved boss, Col. Burrows, emulated Mr. McGinty.—B. & M. Journal.

What has happened to Mr. Burrows? Will the Journal man specifically state? He does not realize that any change has taken place. Like Mr. Donnelly, he was never a boss, only in the imagination of the corporation paper-sucker on the corner of Ninth and P. If he has been dropped, who did it. Do tell.

"From the depths of my heart, and from every fibre of my being, I present you my unfeigned and most affectionate thanks," etc.—Jim Boyd to Samoset club.

"Most affectionate" is good from a man whose affections are said to have been divided around as this fellow's have been. Does "most" mean more than any other one place, or does it apply to the lump? Samoset club gets into a high niche when it starts in a rivalry for Jim Boyd's affections. It will be giving a Butterfly ball after a while. But meanwhile, poor Nebraska!

## TRANSPORTATION RATES.

What the People Demand and the Interests of the State Require.

MR. EDITOR:—The people demand and the interests of the state require that the transportation question be handled with wisdom and fairness. No personal ambition should dictate a line of policy that would operate as a *legis anie* to the great business interests of the state. All interests must be carefully considered, or no legislation upon this subject will be successful. The eyes of the whole state are upon the members of the legislature, and any visionary scheme will consign its votary to everlasting oblivion. The transportation companies as common carriers have interests in this state which should be respected.

Why this inordinate desire and haste to rush through, half considered, H. R. No. 12? Is it fully advised, or is it personal ambition? In my daily visits to the capitol I find many members of the house lobbying in the corridors and halls, and even on the senate floor, in furtherance of this bill. Now, what are its most important features, calculated to make it effective and beneficial to the general interests of the state? I find upon a hasty examination that the bill is really inadequate, erratic, impracticable, and could not be enforced if enacted into a law. Besides this, I think grave constitutional questions are raised under some of its provisions. The legislature has to deal in this matter with conditions and not theories. These conditions relate to and comprise the subject matter of vast sources of wealth and development within the state. All interests should be carefully considered and guarded with wise provisions.

I want to advise the members of the farmers' side of the house to call a halt and get down to second sober thought, or all will be lost to them and their constituents. The schedule rates of this bill are very erroneous, vague, and often unfair. The statutory provisions are wholly inadequate, chaotic, vague and insufficient. As a friend to the true, but not visionary reforms of this state, I can only seriously and honestly advise that so far as this bill is concerned, proceedings should be wholly *de novo* if good results are desired.

S. F. No. 85, as introduced by Senator Stevens of North Platte, has been long anticipated by the corporations of the whole country. The fact of Mr. Stevens' practical information as a railroad man, coupled with his bold and fearless attitude upon the transportation question, has attracted general attention, and the prospects are that the fight against this class of legislation will hinge upon this bill. This bill is really the only one receiving any considerable attention at the hands of the enemy, and is likely to meet with the determined opposition of the combined corporations.

The general merits of the bill, together with the masterly manner in which the talented senator has drawn it, are likely to commend it to popular confidence. The original and novel scheme of Senator Stevens in placing the machinery of its enforcement within the reach of the great toiling masses is a master stroke that could only emanate from one who has given the cause of the common people very careful and thoughtful consideration.

All those who know the senator personally ask no further proof of the bill than the fact that it was drawn by his own hand, and it seems to me that while some slight changes might be made in the classification rates, the bill as a whole should be enacted into a law.

The legislature should bear in mind that the true policy of state government is to place the administrative machinery as nearly as practicable within the hands of the masses.

## THE WAY THE THING LOOKS.

This item is written on Sunday, Feb. 15. We state the date because we want to make a prediction. It is one day before the time set to hear the quo warranto proceedings questioning Jim Boyd's citizenship. As soon as it was understood that the contest was killed the Samoset club came down and presented a chair to Jim Boyd. They did not wait for quo warranto proceedings. How did they know that that suit was to be dropped, and that there was to be no further question of Boyd's right to the gubernatorial chair on the ground that he was an alien. If they had not known it would they have been in such haste to present the chair?

We now predict that the case will be dropped, or the court will decide that Gov. Thayer had no right to bring the suit. If it is, the fact will constitute *prima facie* evidence that the supreme court has been in criminal conspiracy with the Boyd gang. Boyd would then be allowed to play governor until the legislature adjourns, pull the monopoly chestnuts out of the fire by vetoing bills the money power do not want, and thus make a record which the republicans don't like to make; then, presto, Tom Majors intervenes, Mr. Boyd is sent home, and the republicans take the bakery. This is the nice little trap the democrats have got their fingers into by going into the vile combination. But the combination was perfectly natural. It has long been known that there was no difference between those parties ex-

cept in name, and they have now abundantly proved it.

Wednesday, Feb. 17.—Yesterday when the *quo warranto* case came up, Boyd's attorneys filed a motion to strike the application for the writ of *quo warranto* from the files, on the ground that Gov. Thayer was not the proper party to bring the action. It will be seen that this motion is exactly in line with the policy we have outlined. As soon as the session is ended, Tom Majors will intervene and take his place as governor of Nebraska, and this comedy of errors will be ended, the people's will will have been defeated, and fraud and villainy will be triumphant.

## WILL THE SUPREME COURT MANDAMUS THE SENATE.

In refusing to pass the concurrent resolution fixing a day to try the contest the senate violated the constitution, in refusing to perform a plain duty made mandatory by that instrument. Will the supreme court issue a mandamus on the president of that body, requiring it to perform its duty. It would be quite as legal for it to do so as it was for it to mandamus the speaker of the house.

As a matter of fact the supreme court has no jurisdiction in the case. The constitution and the law expressly give the legislature full power—and makes it mandatory upon it—to determine all cases of contest on the executive officers. The method of procedure being prescribed by law, the supreme court would have a reviewing power in case the law was not complied with, but it certainly has no original jurisdiction.

## THE LEGISLATURE.

Since our last issue the house has passed the Australian ballot law. H. R. No. 12, being the maximum freight law, was recommended for passage by the committee of the whole; also the bill making the governor commissioner of transportation, with power to appoint three secretaries. A bill has been introduced creating a state purchasing agency. H. R. No. —, providing for the taxation of unimproved land the same as contiguous improved land, occupied the attention of the house Monday and part of Tuesday, but was not disposed of.

In the senate little was done in the last part of the week, the refusal to permit the trial of the contest having paralyzed that body. Monday and Tuesday the Australian ballot law was considered, and recommended for passage by committee of the whole. The repeal of the sugar bounty was also considered and recommended for passage.

The senate passed the house bill repealing the sugar bounty.

## THE RELIEF COMMISSION.

In the Bee of the 13th is a caustic article entitled "buying pigs in a poke," in which the relief commission is criticised from an Omaha stand-point. From that point of view of course all purchases of supplies should be made at Omaha.

We sympathize with the Bee in the desire that everything connected with the relief business should be open and aboveboard, and that there should be no jobs or steals connected with it. We consider it extremely unfortunate that any man tainted with jobbery should have had a leading part in organizing the board or the purchasing committee. But we will say to the Bee that there are good and honest men on the commission; that all bills for goods bought are open to the inspection of the public; that good business men who thoroughly know prices will inspect them, and that it will be very difficult for any one to accomplish much of a steal in the matter.

Our friend H. H. Haaf, the great dehorner, edits "Farm Politics" in the Farm, Field and Stockman, of Chicago. He is outspoken and truthful in his views. He makes no bones of saying just what he thinks of the Washington junta, Macune, Terrell & Co., and what he thinks is not at all complimentary.

The Fulton, Mich., Sun says: "Dock Craig called a few days ago and paid his subscription to the *Weekly Sun* and that night a son was born to him." This beats any coupon prize scheme the *World-Herald* has yet started, but we are not prepared to guarantee any such returns.—*World-Herald*.

Just wait till Tom Majors intervenes and Jim Boyd gets home, and you'll be all right.

## COLLINS.

Says an able correspondent: "The five reasons given by Mr. Collins (*Hon.*) perhaps I ought to have said) for voting as he did are symptoms of such a mental disease as requires an application of lymph, or perhaps he ought to be hypnotized. Some of his constituents ought to present him with a volume of hypnotic therapeutics."

Q. Would a business man, by putting his stock of goods into an Alliance co-operative association and receiving shares of stock for the same, become eligible to membership in the Alliance?

A. He would not. He could become an officer of such an association provided membership in it was not confined to Alliance members.

C. H. Van Wyck has a long communication in the *World-Herald* of the 16th, dated at Genoa, headed "The Fall of Burrows," and signed "R. A. H." It contains nothing of special interest.