

## FARMER'S OPINIONS.

Answer to "Uncle Jake."

Feb. 24, 1891.

BRO. JAY BURROWS.—I see your request for an answer to Uncle Jake's question in THE ALLIANCE of Feb. 21st. It is not at all certain that I can give an exhaustive answer, nor yet the correct answer, but I feel quite sure I can partly answer it. He supposes a class of people entirely out of work, and no work to be had anywhere. Of course such people can earn nothing. A million of them could not earn a dollar in a year. The case never had a parallel in history. But conditions have existed that were analogous, and we are rapidly approaching a point where it will no longer be a supposed case. When one looks at England with a million of paupers at this moment on her hands, conjecture at once becomes probability. The power of steam, electricity and discoveries in chemistry taken with ever improving machinery and we are moving very rapidly to the very point supposed. When we get there then what? That's the question. Let us look at it

NEGATIVELY,

1st. They will not die so long as they can avoid it.

Life is a divine gift. The love of life extends to all sentient existence, and pervades water, air and land and all inhabitants of either cling to life. This is an index finger ever pointing to the Divine source of life, to its sacredness and to its right to be. Human reason is not needed to affirm it. Instinct does that. Then men can never become so ignorant, so degraded, or so brutal that they will not affirm it and insist upon it.

Cut off from the means of earning the necessities for sustaining life, the weaker elements in this class will begin to look to charity in any form. Falling in that, many will perish with want. The stronger will look to more vigorous measures.

2nd. They will not cease to reproduce.

With or without marriage, reproduction will go on. Most likely increase from this source alone will take place. If not, their ranks will constantly increase in number by drawing new recruits from the ranks next above them. But increase from both sources means an ever increasing danger to society and all the interests of civilized life.

3d. They will not cease to vote:

The Proletariat of Rome did not cease to vote, and this class will be our proletariat. They were descended from citizen parentage, so will ours be the children of citizens. They were hundreds of years away from the four and seven acre farms of their fathers. So will ours be far away from the pilgrim fathers, from Washington's soldiers as ancestors, but all the same they will be citizens. In Rome they had votes for sale, only votes and nothing else. So they will have votes for sale here in these United States.

Demagogues needed them in Rome, and used them too with a vengeance. So demagogues will need them here, and use them too. Nay, they do it now, and the day is not yet come.

In the next place

POSITIVELY,  
If they will not die as long as subsistence can be obtained—if they will increase in numbers, and will vote, what then will become of them?

1st. Necessity knows no law.

The condition of such a class will be necessity. The voluntary power and voluntary conditions are gone. A man in the water may be said to have a choice. He can consent, possibly choose to drown, rather than swim or try to swim. But this is far fetched. The general fact in his case is one of necessity. So a man without food or means to earn it affirms his right to live, just as the man in the water affirms his right to swim and save his life. Of necessity or choice, if choice may be, he seizes the most available means at hand, it may be beggary, an almshouse, theft, counterfeiting, money, forgery, perjury, highway robbery, piracy, selling his vote, selling a child, bartering his wife or daughter for money or bread, and murder if that is or starve.

He feels nothing but necessity—that excuses anything and everything to him. His right to live he never doubts. He cannot be ignorant of the wealth and luxury of others if he wished to be. He feels that he is God's creature as real as a millionaire. The veriest slave feels that. How he has been robbed, by whom and by what means he may never be able to tell, but he sees that he is cut off from all God's arrangements to support life. His right to have his share of God's mercy is too plain a case to be doubted. There is no way to get it only to take it. So he seizes it in the way and by the means which his intelligence affirms to be the most likely to furnish him the most enjoyment, and risk the least.

2d. Conscience dies.

All experience shows that long familiarity with want totally debauches men. What disposition God will make of them finally is not now the question. The question is what we will do with them. We may and do mock them with a religion without a brotherhood or a soul. With liberty in name—a shadow but no substance. Religion and liberty are the most hypocritical words he ever hears. How shall such creatures feel a conscience, moral obligation, honor, truth, patriotism, love of home or any noble impulse? Society, statute, courts, social ostracism have made him a human tiger, hyena, sloth—anything but a man. Now society must endure him or kill him. If endured, ignorance increases, crime increases in all its forms, books are burned for fuel, art ceases, the state staggers, fails, and civilization dies.

Kill him and it is no better, that bruises the executioner and calls down the wrath of a just God.

Such is the end as it seems to me. Is there a remedy? Yes, yes, yes!! God and nature can cure. Let men put law back where the All Father put it in Levitical law—let government own

the highways, make sales of land impossible except in cities and incorporated towns—destroy forcible collections for debt except taxes and labor, and we are safe—civilization then is safe.

We have gone wrong so long that it may take fifty years to reach it, but we can begin now, lay the foundation wisely, prudently, and stop the constantly increasing abuses. From that we can build safely.

I cannot extend further in this article. Details cover much ground, and must be postponed to the future.

J. M. SNYDER.

Verdurette, Sherman Co. Neb.

An Interesting Letter from Bro. L. Henry of Oregon.

HOOD RIVER, Wasco Co., Ore., Feb. 28, 1891.

EDITOR FARMERS' ALLIANCE.—I will send you a few lines, and if you see proper to give them space in our most excellent paper do so, if not all right. This place is 66 miles east of Portland, Oregon, on the O. R. & N. V. R. R. Said road runs along the bank of the Columbia river. The town has a population of 200. This is neither a farming or stock country, but a great place for fruit, and claimed to be the healthiest part of Oregon. A person can live here fully as cheap as in Nebraska. While some articles are very high others are very cheap compared with prices in Nebraska. There is another feature of this part of the state that I will mention, that is the timber. Most of this range of mountains are covered with a heavy body of fir which is being sawed into lumber which is mostly shipped east.

I arrived here Nov. 30, 1890, and the coldest weather yet was 17° above zero, and the deepest snow 7 inches. Have had plenty of rain. I find that there is hard times here, as well as in other places, and great discontent among the people. Some think one thing is the cause of hard times and some think something else is the cause, but from the action of the farmers I believe they have found out what the matter. There was a County Alliance organized the other day in this county. We have a state organizer commissioned by August Post, of Iowa. There were 40 delegates in attendance at the meeting. You can depend on there being a State Alliance formed by the 1st of June. The county Alliance adopted the Nebraska state constitution, and also adopted a secret work with the understanding that as soon as they have a State Alliance, they will adopt the ritual as adopted by the Nebraska Alliance at its last meeting. Our state organizers name is B. F. Bonny, P. O., Wamic, Oregon.

I have not been able to do much in the cause of the Alliance from the fact that I was taken sick the 10th of Dec. and was in bed 3 weeks, and have not been able yet to get away from home; just able to be out and around some. I am well pleased with the way you conduct our paper. I read it and then hand it to some one else to read, and they are all well pleased with the paper.

If you print blanks calling for signatures to a national convention please send me some and I will see that they are put in circulation.

Trusting that God will spare you that you may battle for the right until you may see our labors crowned with success.

I remain yours truly,

L. HENRY.

Relief Swearing.

CRAWFORD, Neb., Feb. 26, 1891.

EDITOR FARMERS' ALLIANCE.—We notice by the Lincoln papers that the State Relief Committee have reached the investigating stage, some one away out west is getting aid that don't deserve it, and—well—some good large bills for expenses of investigating will be the result.

That some are getting aid that don't need it is certain; that when it was decided that the aid must pass through the political mutual admiration circle which exists in every county, that there would be cause for investigation. But in our humble opinion we should read this "careful investigation" business between the lines. It is so much easier to see fraud 500 miles away than close by. Our attention was recently called to a box of goods from a clothier, shipped through a committee, said box contained a large and varied assortment of paper collars, cuffs, white shirts, lace (old, yes, very old) and such other warm and useful clothing. There were no flies on these goods, but judging from appearances there had been. Now it is not to be supposed that these things are not needed for we are having some very severe weather out here and no one will dispute the fact that paper collars are just the thing for a blizzard; and then the lace, just the thing! A farmer's wife can wrap up her feet in gunny sacks, and ensnarl her self in lace and enjoy some solid comfort, and there is no doubt but what many people are getting such aid that don't need it. Yes, investigate 'em.

Now the "seed grain" business is going to be handled different, these "sniffless, lazy and improvident farmers" who have not given away more than one half of all their income in wealth for years to the support of the state and county organizations, without which life would be impossible, they must hold up their hands and swear that they are paupers. Yes, we have heard considerable swearing done about this already, but then they don't understand the situation. They don't know that it is only bankers, money lenders and corporations which are entitled to the benefits and emoluments of government. The farmers couldn't live without THEM, (so says the senate resolutions of Feb. 6.) But suppose we require some one else to do some swearing. Suppose we have the merchants who are selling these goods swear to their bills, also swear to what per cent they are giving the member or members of the relief committee; also have the committee swear as to how big a bonus they are getting from the merchants. Yes let them all be sworn or else let us know why the man who supports them all must swear.

H. G. STEWART.

Notes.

The regular quarterly meeting of the Butler County Alliance will be held at David City, on Thursday, March 19th, at 9 o'clock a. m. State lecturer O. Hull is expected to be present and address the Alliance. A full attendance desired.

D. L. SYLVESTER, Sec.

Butler County Alliance.

LILLY DALE, Chautauqua Co., N. Y., Feb. 24, 1891.

Wherein dwelieth righteousness. To accomplish this a new party is needed, New York city has long been ruled by the democratic party. No where is there so much debased man and woman-kind. More evictions of families from their miserable tenements have occurred during the last year than in the whole of Ireland. Two hundred and thirty-two miserable persons succumbed. The city rules the state. It is common to read items like the following from the rural districts:

CLARENCE, N. Y., Feb. 24.—The body of John Long, a well-known farmer living near this village, was found hanging to a beam in his barn Sunday. Mental depression caused by hard times, which farmers are experiencing, is supposed to have led to the commission of the act.

For years the Republicans have increased taxation, squandered the peo-

## Current Political Notes.

EDITOR ALLIANCE.—It is pleasing to a man who published about the first Alliance paper in the state of Nebraska, away back in '82, to note the progress the Alliance has made there.

In connection herewith we are reminded that some papers are likening the growth of the Independent party to that of a mushroom and stating that the movement is but six months old. But the writer herewith knows better than that. He was an Independent in '76, in '78 established about the first greenback paper published in Illinois, and in '82 established about the first Alliance paper published in Nebraska. Therefore he feels that he has a right to feel proud of the growth of the Alliance in Nebraska, and he also hopes and confidently expects that the "boys" will "on with the fight" till there are no more rascals to turn out.

Our bonds are all right; they are even at a premium. We don't see why the bondholders haven't insisted upon the bonds being made of gold, 25-10 grains in weight for every dollar of the face value of the bond. There is just as much reason for making the bonds of valuable material as there is for making money of valuable material.

Money is designed as a measure of values—as a measure of the value of commodities. It is designed as a medium of exchange—as a medium for facilitating the exchange of commodities. Thus, if a man has 1,000 bushels of wheat he "sells" it for \$500; he does that because it is more convenient. He doesn't have to trade his wheat for something he doesn't need, nor hunt up men who have clothing, lumber, hardware, groceries, etc., and then barter his wheat for any or all of these things that he may need. Some who have clothing, lumber, hardware or groceries may not want wheat, but they want meat, coal, corn, etc. Those who have wheat to sell, sell it for money, spending all or part of it for such commodities as they may at the time need. People who have commodities for sale are always willing to sell for money, but they are not always willing to exchange their commodities for other commodities. They are willing to sell for money for they know that the money is an evidence that they have parted with that measure and that by common agreement the evidence (money) will be taken by anyone having anything to sell that the holder may desire.

Fancy a man coming to Chicago and driving around town, bartering four bushels of wheat at one store for a hat, thirty bushels at another store for a suit of clothes, ten bushels at another store for some groceries, one bushel at another for a plug of tobacco, and then fancy each of these stores keepers trotting around trying to trade off their wheat!

Money is valued not for what it is intrinsically, but for what it will do—and what it will do is governed by the law behind it.

In some countries silver money is the only legal tender; gold is at a discount. Some countries have used iron money, tin money, copper money, shell money, etc., etc. The old English pound sterling was an actual pound weight of silver.

When people got it into their heads that money is a measure of value (the same as a yard stick is of length, or a bushel or gallon of bulk) and to facilitate the exchange of commodities, then will they see the absurdity of its being a commodity itself.

We haven't heard a word about over-production for a long time, and had about forgotten all about the old-time bug-a-boos till just now we were trying to think of the direct cause of nineteen-tenths of all the poverty and misery in this country—and now we have it! There's been an over production of dandophools who have been voting the republican or democratic ticket for a quarter of a century for no other reason than that their fathers voted the "old ticket" a quarter of a century ago. They don't even know, to this day, that the war of the rebellion is over; that the emancipation proclamation was signed by Lincoln; the negroes freed; and that Lincoln is dead. We sometimes like saying that such people should not have the right of suffrage—for they use their franchise to not only enslave themselves but others who would like to be free. They don't do it intentionally, that's true, but they do so nevertheless.

It makes one laugh to read the "arguments" of the old party press to the effect that a third party is unnecessary in order to bring about the reforms so much needed. It's too late, you old patriots! You have both had a hand in making reform necessary, and as you have gotten things into their present condition it is not at all likely that you will do anything to reform the things you yourselves have brought about. But aside from this, you are both in the control of monopoly, and monopoly will fight against reform till its last breath is gone. Reform is the death-knell of monopoly, and monopoly realizes it too. And where, pray, would the old party be if it were not for monopoly's contributions to blocks-of-five funds?

Reform—reform nothing, you cess-pools of corruption, you! Rotten eggs cannot be made pure; neither can you.

Wanted, A New Nation.

LOGAN, Neb., Feb. 20, 1891.

EDITOR FARMERS' ALLIANCE.—What is to be the final outcome of the extraordinary action of the senate in regard to the contest?

When the devil is loose, and in the present mood of the two old parties, we may expect anything but virtue. What is to prevent Jas. E. Boyd, from signing all bills up to the expiration of this session and then admitting the fact that he is an alien? Would we have a single legal enactment from this legislature? If this winter's experience does not open the eyes of the entire people of Neb. to the fact that our liberties are in jeopardy and a united effort is necessary to back the law defying oligarchy in our state, I cannot conceive of anything that ever will. Fraternally Yours.

C. H. KING.

Divide, Neb.

The Omaha Declaration.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Feb. 19, 1891.

J. BURROWS.—I received a Kansas paper containing a call for a national conference to meet in Cincinnati next May. My name is forged as a signee of said call. I have no doubt that the whole thing is a scheme of traitors within or enemies without, who thereby hope to make chaos come again and prevent a union of the new political forces. The move will help satisfy honest reformers that the plan of campaign adopted at Omaha, by the National Farmers' Alliance, *is the only way out of the woods*.

Thanks for copies of the declaration. If the Nebraska Farmers' Alliance has provided for the issue of the declarations in that way I would be glad to have you send me 100 copies. The people are ready for independent action. The only lack is organization on an anti-fusion basis.

Yours truly,

GEO. C. BREWER.

From the President of Logan County Alliance.

LOGAN, Neb., Feb. 20, 1891.

EDITOR FARMERS' ALLIANCE.—I have just received your valuable paper in which is announced the defeat of the contest. I heartily second what you say relative to the three contemptible frauds that helped to defeat the measure.

And for fear their condemnation should stop here I take this opportunity to write, requesting you to keep their names before the people in conspicuous type as the *Three Friends* from their respective counties. I think it is the duty of every Alliance man and independent to render those fellow's stay on earth so uncomfortable that they will be obliged to get out and give place to men who cannot be bought and will carry out the will of their constituents.

Yours for justice.

WILLARD GIFF, Pres.

ples money and lands, doubled salaries created servants of more than useless officers to harass and eat the substance of the industrious. There is nothing to be hoped for from either of the old parties.

Miss Francis E. Willard in a speech at Washington said that in the epoch on which we have entered, labor will doubtless come to be the only potentate. For man is to nature as the only mortal is to the mortal hath is that which every mortal shares." But nature belongs equally to all men: hence the only genuine capital and changeless medium of exchange, always up to par value, is labor itself, and there will eventually be no more antagonism between capital and labor than between the right hand and the left. Labor is the intelligent and benevolent reaction of man upon nature. This reaction sets force enough in motion to float him in all waters and carry him across all continents. His daily labor, then, is the natural equivalent he furnishes for food and clothing, fuel and shelter, and it is the supreme interest of the state to prepare the individual in head, hand and heart to put forth his highest power. Carried to its legitimate conclusion, this is the socialism of Christ; the golden rule in action: the basis of that golden age which shall succeed this age of gold.

In this glorious enterprise Kansas and Nebraska leads the van as they did for the freedom of black slaves. Millions are looking to them for redemption from a slavery more heartless, and galling than negro slavery.

G. F. LEWIS.

From Otoe County.  
BURKE, Otoe Co., Feb. 18, 1891.

EDITOR FARMERS' ALLIANCE.—It was with the greatest sorrow I read your account of the treachery of our trusted champions in the legislature, but it is what we all expected. There always was, and always will be Judas Iscariot's, thanks be to God, there was no more. The treachery and perfidy of the few, only makes the luster and brightness of the many shine the more. When will the trusted learn the simple fact (taught by Shakespeare) "that corruption wins not more than honesty?" Is it not strange that of these men, some of them, do not see and feel the immense trust and confidence reposed in them, and the immensity of their responsibility to their country, to us, to the people and to their family for generations to come. Do they not see they could even as county representatives or senators hand down to their children a bright and glorious name as the first pioneers, the advance guard of a great and glorious reform instead of verses both loud and deep, with the brand of Cain and Judas, all for filthy lucre trash. Too much condemnation cannot be heaped upon them, or thanks and gratitude to the faithful. But let them remember that virtue always brings the best reward.