

The Farmers' Alliance,

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

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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THE TRIUMPH OF THE CORPORATIONS.

"Judges and Senators have been bought with gold."

Long before this paper will reach our readers all of them will have heard of the veto of the maximum rate bill by our *de facto* governor who is not a citizen, Jim Boyd. Outside of the merits of this bill, the manner in which its defeat was compassed comprises an outrage unparalleled in the history of legislation. It was not considered and defeated on its merits. It was defeated by the invasion of our legislative halls and the executive office by the railroad corporations of the country. These were not of this state alone. The Pennsylvania road and other eastern roads had their henchmen here and helped by their contributions to swell the corruption fund that was potent in drowning the voice of our people and denying them the power to control the creature which they have apparently raised up to destroy them.

At every step in its progress the bill was fought by every means known to the most corrupt lobby. But when it reached the senate the climax of the opposition was attained. Senator Taylor, who had been corrupted, was spirited out of the state, and advantage was taken of obscure parliamentary rules to cause a deadlock of business, in the hope to weary or bulldoze the supporters of the bill to yield. But the deadlock had a contrary effect. It hardened the bill's supporters in their determination never to yield. The railroads at this juncture hoped to gain by corrupting more members. But the example of Taylor and Collins was not contagious. And public opinion now came to the aid of the majority. Letters and resolutions began to pour in exhorting them to stand firm; and under this growing pressure the railroad cohorts surrendered and allowed the bill to pass.

It now went to the so-called governor, a subject of her majesty the queen of Great Britain. During the campaign we denounced this fellow as a tool of the corporations and money-power, as a man whom the railroad lobby of Nebraska could rely upon to do its bidding. We were met by indignant denial, and the pug-nosed bog-trotter, whose only notable achievement was the brutal clubbing of a man who exposed one of his hog-stealing exploits, was heralded by his partisans as a man of the people. The event shows who was correct. Not an official nor unofficial act has he performed that does not prove him to be the pliant tool of the moneyed and railroad corporations that placed him in temporary power. The villain vetoed the bill, as every man of sense knew he would. It was promptly passed over his veto in the house by the most decisive vote of the session, 75 yeas to 17 nays, and sent to the senate.

This body is the stronghold of the plutocrats. It consists of 33 members, 17 being a majority. When divided nearly equal, the purchase or removal of one or two members serves to turn the scale. Many a time have measures in the interest of the people been killed in this body by these means. On this occasion the corporations had purchased and removed Senator Taylor of Loup county, and had purchased but not removed Senator Collins of Gage county. This hoary-headed old villain is a worse as well as abler man than Taylor. It is probable that he got a higher price for his honor—if honor can be named in connection with such a scoundrel—than Taylor, but he stayed in his seat and voted for his owners. Twenty votes were required to pass the measure over Jim Boyd's veto. Only eighteen were to be had. It is a noteworthy fact that it was only by the treachery of two men who were elected as independents, and who by every consideration of right and justice and decency should have voted with them, that this bill was lost. But those men were bought with corporate gold.

The above is history.

Let us say a word about it.

The invasion of any branch of the government by a great interest like the railroad and money power, with unlimited money resources, and the bribery

and corruption of representatives, governors or judges, is as essentially force as though the same ends were accomplished by bayonets or by armed thugs. It is more harmful because intangible, hidden, mysterious. Does any one for a moment doubt that if an armed band were to appear in our legislative halls to compel our legislators to pass even the most harmless law, that our people would rise instantly in their might and sweep it off from the face of the earth? And yet a force more potent is allowed to openly offer its bribes, corrupt and spirit away legislators, and stand boldly between the people and the exercise of their just rights, and the people sit supine and do not arm. Can there be any oppression greater than this? Would immuring your bodies in dungeons be any worse than destroying your most sacred rights? Is not a people nearly ready for chains when it calmly sits and sees its rights destroyed? We, the men of to-day, are standing between two epochs, the tomb of one world and the cradle of another. We are at the parting of the ways, the very height of a period of transition. We are saying good-bye to a past that is full of delusions and mistakes and errors. Whether we will or not we are entering upon a new era big with joy or sorrow for the human race. We have now to question as to what is our duty. Our forefathers transmitted a sacred legacy to us all. What are we to do with it? Which is to be conserved, the people or the aristocracy?—the people or the corporations? To settle down into apathy, to submit without battle to the existing state of affairs, is *moral suicide*. Thought, reason, theory, are to be supplemented by action. Force is to be met by force. Our mission now is to get ready. We can see through the veil. Old men and young must consecrate themselves to their country or see their country lost. No man knows how soon our soil will thrill with the tread of armed hosts.

THE SUPREME COURT AND JIM BOYD'S CITIZENSHIP.

The adjournment of the supreme court until May 5, without deciding the *quo warranto* case to determine Boyd's citizenship is a remarkable proceeding. The court that could issue a mandamus upon the speaker of the house of representatives in thirty minutes, and only give counsel seven minutes each for argument, cannot determine a plain case of fact as to the citizenship of a man—a case in which the record is plain and all the leading facts agreed upon by both sides—a case in which there are no intricate law points involved—after six weeks consideration. The course of the court since the legislature convened on all questions in which the interests of the independents were concerned has been such that it has entirely lost the confidence and respect of the citizens of the state. It is either in the conspiracy which involved a combination of the democratic and republican parties, the defeat of the contest, and the sustaining of Boyd in an illegal position, or it is swayed by partisan feelings to such an extent as to incapacitate it for an impartial judicial decision. One horn of this dilemma involves as much moral obliquity as the other, and either destroys the character of the court as an impartial arbiter of law points on their merits. If the court is not that it is nothing; and its course during the past six weeks proves that it is not that.

We have reasonably trustworthy information that Judge Maxwell is for Boyd, that Judge Cobb is for Thayer, and Judge Norval for Majors, in the case of Boyd's citizenship. If this is true, pure partisanship has withheld a decision in this important case. Another view of the case is that the court has determined to sustain Boyd regardless of his technical disqualification, and that its delay in rendering a decision is to familiarize the public with the existing situation.

However this may be, the public career of these judges will end with their present terms, if not before, and they will never regain the place they held in public esteem. A partisan judge, a bribed judge, or a judge that will conspire with corporate or political power, is equally an object of abhorrence and detestation. The civilization that will tolerate him is doomed to extinction. Around him are ruins, beyond him a desert, and his horizon is a blank. The men who can sit unmoved and leave such a judge in power have no faith in their God and no belief in the republic. Judicial corruption in the higher courts is only a step short of the power that will stifle itself in blood or consume itself in debauchery.

The mission of the men of to-day is to find a remedy for this and all the other disintegrating influences of the time. This remedy will be found in an infusion of new blood into the constitution. This new blood must be drawn from the veins of the people. Drawn in peace by an infusion into their souls of nobler principles and higher moral aims, and by organization and association that shall give these principles and aims expression in law, or drawn in fire and blood in a mortal struggle against tyranny and oppression. Which shall it be? Great ideas alone create great peoples. The low materialism, which makes a god of gold, destroys conscience and manhood and

faith. Principles alone can generate revolutions, and a revolution we must have, peaceable if we can, forcible if we must. Beginning at the very foundation stone, our social structure has got to be rebuilt. Honor and morality and truth and justice have got to be acknowledged as indispensable corner stones in the formation of the temple we have got to retrace our steps and change our idols, or be buried under the debris of a ruined civilization.

WHAT SHALL THE ISSUE BE?

The above question is beginning to assume large proportions for the party which parades itself before the country under the name of democratic. It cannot present a united front on the tariff question. A representative democrat said several years ago that the tariff was a local issue. This great truth is forcing itself upon the perceptions of democrats more and more as time goes on. In every manufacturing democratic district the democrats are protectionists, though extremely anxious that no one should discover the fact. The democratic south is becoming a manufacturing region, and its infant industries are demanding their share of protectionist pap. So it has come about that the democratic party is more than half protection. There is plenty of room in this country for two protectionist parties, but a contest between them would not possess much interest for anybody. Political conflicts, like horse races, need diverse interests to make them entertaining.

Mr. Cleveland believes in tariff reform as the sole and only issue. But his haste to assure his Wall street friends that they have nothing to fear from him as far as the money question is concerned emphasized the fact that he would conceal, viz: That there is another and equally important issue which it was necessary for him to take cognizance of, the money issue. But this is not an issue upon which the democratic party can take sides. Wall street and the east are diametrically opposed to the south and the west on this question, and Wall street has its clutch on the democratic as well as the republican party.

Added to this embarrassment is the fact that there is a large and growing wing of the democratic party which repudiates tariff reform as too mild a medicine, and demands absolute free trade in theirs. And absolute free trade is undoubtedly the logical conclusion from the tariff reform efforts of the last few years.

Mr. Cleveland is a great man. The grave yawns thrice wider for him than for other men. But in trying to clear the ground for his favorite tariff reform issue, and relegate the money question to the limbo of obscurity, he not only demonstrated that he was much smaller than his party, but he buried his chances to become the next democratic nominee for president.

With the great question of all others, the money question, on one side, free trade on the other, and half and half protection mixed between, it is perfectly apparent that in the year 1892 the democratic party will be divided against itself. "A house divided against itself shall surely fall." This will be the opportunity of the independents. With honest declarations on live issues, and able and honest standard bearers, they may carry the winning flag.

TRUE TO THEIR IDOLS.

As naturally as the law of gravitation the Omaha Bee and Lincoln Journal join hands in commending Boyd's veto of the maximum rate bill. The first the long time great exponent of anti-monopoly principles, the advocate of farmer's rights, the St. George in the fight against the dragon of corporate power; the second the open and avowed advocate and organ of the most shameless, audacious and thieving corporation in this or any other state, in the face of an attack upon corporate power find their complete affinity in the defence of a so-called democratic governor, but a real tool of the railroads, for an act for which any governor should blush.

Let no man be deceived. For years we have told the people of Nebraska that the only difference between the democratic and republican parties in this state was one of name only. This distinction may still remain, but the parties themselves are merged in one and the only plank of its platform is servile subservience to corporate power. Don't forget it, and don't be deceived.

To our brother N. H. Blackmer we will say that we cannot offer inducements for any additional correspondence. We have before us now a pile of over one hundred and fifty letters, many of them of much merit, which we have been unable even to open, to say nothing about publishing them. They would fill several complete numbers of THE ALLIANCE.

A kind correspondent has asked us to explain the three years' stay law. There is no such law. Such a law was asked for by some, but the demand did not gain sufficient force to cause the enactment of the act.

Remember, only the gold of corporations that bought two Senators stood between *de facto* Boyd and the passage of the maximum rate bill over his veto. The veto was enforced by treachery succeeded.

THE OMAHA BEE AND THE CINCINNATI CONFERENCE.

The Omaha Bee has condescended to notice the Cincinnati conference which is to meet the 19th of May. It even admits that it "promises to be an imposing affair as to numbers," and that it "may make the political battle of next year rather more interesting and exciting than usual." These admissions are remarkable. It is the general custom of the monopoly press, of which the Bee is now the chief representative west of the Missouri, to belittle all movements of the people for reform, or for any new party organization. The conference must be promising indeed to exact such admissions from the Bee so long in advance of its coming.

But we notice this Bee article for another reason. The editor of the Bee is incapable of frankness and fairness in the treatment of any subject or upon any occasion. He speaks of the Cincinnati conference as the creation of the Alliance—he assumes that it was called by the Alliance—and that the formation of a third party by it will signalize the entrance of the Alliance into national politics. And yet that editor, unless he is an absolute dolt—which he is not—well knew that there was nothing further from the truth. He knew that that conference was not called by the Alliance. He knew that it was called by parties outside of the Alliance, and that at least twenty organizations besides the Alliance were invited to send delegates to it. He simply distorts and misrepresents facts to suit the mood he is in when he writes.

If the Cincinnati conference results in the formation of a great party, as it probably will, it will not be an Alliance party, nor a K. of L. party, nor any F. M. B. A. party, but it will be a people's party, embracing the great plain people of this country of all classes and conditions, without regard to previous condition of servitude.

In the article alluded to the editor of the Bee appeals to "republican farmers" not to take any part in the great movement, and gets off the old chestnut about their "throwing away their votes" by voting for candidates that may not be elected. He admits, however, that the election of president "may be thrown into the house."

Now, we desire to assure the editor of the Bee that since the late democratic combine was made in this state there are very few republican farmers in his bailiwick. As for their "throwing away their votes," if there is any more effective way of doing it than has been practiced by the average republican and democratic voter for the past ten years, we will thank the editor of the Bee to point it out.

SENATOR TURNER.

We are satisfied that injustice has been done to Senator Turner. We are informed that his own Alliance in Saline county adopted resolutions instructing him to vote against the contest, and that strong pressure was brought to bear upon him from other parts of his own district. While we consider his vote against the contest a deplorable mistake, it may not in his case have been a crime. After that vote we are informed that Senator Turner voted with the independents every time and was staunch and true in the contest on the maximum freight bill. We make this statement voluntarily. Senator Turner has asked no vindication from us. But we have no intention of doing any man injustice, and hasten to make this reparation on the mere suggestion that we may have done him a wrong.

A DEMOCRATIC VIEW OF IT.

Last week copied some remarks of Mr. Calhoun's *approbo* of the Alliance and the new party movement. We make another extract this week. Let the reader remember that democracy is part of Calhoun's daily life, as necessary to him as the air he breathes. Remembering this, the significance of the following will be appreciated. But, like thousands of other staunch democrats, he may have concluded to forsake the stranded party. We hope so. There is room for him and all the rest in the independent ranks. Here is the extract:

Gov. Boyd has vetoed the Newberry maximum rate bill. At the same time he condemned the democratic party to death. A kind fortune may commute the sentence to penal servitude for life. On the one hand were the governor's party and his constituents, urging him to sign the bill. On the other were the railroads. He chose the side of the railroads. The party is dead, as a result. No calamity of equal weight has fallen since the war period. Not only in Nebraska but all over the country it will be felt. Those people all over the nation who were looking to the democracy for relief from republican misrule will turn their faces to the new party that has just been born.

Boyd's veto will take rank with Cleveland's letter as indicating democratic servitude to the great capitalist power whose slave the republican party already is. Had both these men—Cleveland and Boyd—possessed the divine gift of inspiration, had they seen the necessity that a new party should spring full-armed from the earth, had they been appointed to pre-empt it, they could not have done their work better. The new party is here and in the war for the betterment of existing social and political conditions. It will win—it may be as soon as 1892.

Gov. Boyd took young Mr. Hitchcock to the top of the dome of the state capitol building and dropped him to the pavement below. There was no "dull thud." It was simply a "squish." The pavement is awful dirty.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY.

A List and Description of the Bills Passed By the Twenty-Second Session of the Nebraska Legislature.

The following acts were passed by the session of the legislature just closed, and have been approved by the governor. Those in the nature of laws will go into effect three months after the adjournment, except where the emergency clause is attached in this record, such bills being in force as soon as they were passed:

Concurrent resolution.—Resolved, That our senators in congress are hereby requested to demand the immediate foreclosure by the government of the mortgage against the Union Pacific railroad.

Senate File 12—An amendment relating to the drainage of swamp lands.

S. F. 17—An amendment to school land laws whereby a lessee of school land who applies to purchase the same shall have the *pro rata* proportion of the rental for the unexpired time for which such rental has been paid in advance credited on the contract of purchase. This bill is by Senator Randall, and corrects a serious wrong which the old law has placed upon lessees, and subsequently purchasers, of school lands. Under that law nearly a year's rental was paid by every lessee-purchaser after he had purchased the land.

S. F. 20—This law authorizes any number of persons not more than twenty, to form a corporation for the purpose of acquiring and holding real estate, issuing and negotiating bonds thereon and borrowing money for the use of members of said corporation. Senator Dysart is the father of the bill, and his object is to give farmers a chance to combine in this way and secure farm loans at the very lowest rates, and without paying a commission for each farmer as now, but to secure loans for twenty farmers in one lump. The farms of all twenty members go in as security for one loan. A great many farm mortgages are falling due in central and western Nebraska, and the framers of this law believe it will give relief in getting new loans easily and at lower interest.

S. F. 23—An amendment relating to fees of county treasurers.

S. F. 43—An amendment to present laws relating to insane. It provides that if the county commissioners shall deem it a hardship to compel the relatives of a patient to bear the burden of his or her support, they may relieve such relatives from obligation.

House Roll 79—First appropriation of \$100,000 for relief of western sufferers, with emergency clause. Luther P. Ludden, R. R. Greer, Louis Meyer, Rev. Geo. W. Martin, John Fitzgerald, A. J. Sawyer, C. W. Mosher, W. N. Nason and J. W. Hartly are the state relief commission, constituted by the provisions of this bill.

H. R. 30—Appropriation of \$75,000 to pay members and employees of this legislature.

S. F. 106—Authorizes the governor to deed to John Dee eighty acres of state saline land near Lincoln. Dee settled on the land in 1856, intending to claim it under the pre-emption act, but the government in the mean time deeded it to the state of Nebraska.

S. F. 216—Creates the state board of health, consisting of the governor, attorney-general and superintendent of public instruction.

S. F. 210—Authorizes the county board of any county to use the surplus general fund in purchasing food, fuel and seed grain and feed for teams, to be distributed among the needy farmers of said county. Emergency clause attached.

H. R. 16—Appropriates the matriculation and diploma fees of the State university to the support of the university library.

H. R. 17—Accepts annual donation of \$15,000 from the United States for the support of a college for the benefit of agriculture and mechanic arts. The Industrial college connected with the State university receives this money.

H. R. 32—Authorizes the organization of mutual insurance companies. This law provides that any number of persons, not less than twenty, residing in this state, who collectively shall own property of not less than \$20,000 in value, which they desire to have insured, may form an incorporated company for the purpose of mutual insurance against loss by fire, lightning or tornado. Such company may issue policies only on detached farm dwellings, barns (except livery, boarding and hotel barns), and other farm buildings, and such property as may properly be contained therein, and also upon horses, mules, cattle, sheep and hogs for any length of time, but not to extend beyond the limit and duration of the charter, and for any amount not to exceed \$2,000 on any one risk. All persons so insured shall give their obligation to the company, in a written or printed application, binding themselves to pay their *pro rata* share to the company of the necessary expenses, and of all losses by fire, lightning or tornado which may be sustained by any member thereof.

H. R. 65—Repeals the bounty heretofore paid on sugar.

H. R. 68—Appropriates the sum of \$3,500 for the relief of Anna E. Norin, whose husband was killed by the explosion of a boiler at the Lincoln hospital for the insane. One half of said sum is to be paid to the guardian of Marietta Norin, daughter of Anna and Jacob Norin.

H. R. 81—Second appropriation of \$100,000 for relief of western Nebraska drouth sufferers. Passed with emergency clause, and funds are being used by the relief commission.

H. R. 83—Divides the state into judicial districts as follows:

1st. Richardson, Nemaha, Johnson, Pawnee, Gage and Jefferson, two judges.

2d. Otoe and Cass, one judge.

3d. Lancaster, three judges.

4th. Douglas, Sarpy, Washington and Burt, seven judges.

5th. Saunders, Seward, Butler, York and Polk, one judge.

6th. Dodge, Colfax, Platte, Merrick and Nance, two judges.

7th. Saline, Fillmore, Thayer, Nuckolls and Clay, two judges.

8th. Cuming, Stanton, Dixon, Dakota, Cedar and Thurston, one judge.

9th. Wayne, Madison, Antelope, Pierce and Knox, one judge.

10th. Adams, Webster, Kearney, Franklin, Harlan and Phelps, one judge.

11th. Boone, Hall, Wheeler, Greeley, Garfield, Loup, Valley, Howard, Hooker, Blaine, Thomas and Grant, two judges.

12th. Buffalo, Dawson, Custer and Sherman, one judge.

13th. Lincoln, Logan, Keith, Cheyenne, Deuel, Scotts Bluffs, Kimball, Banner, McPherson, Arthur and Perkins, one judge.

14th. Gosper Furnas, Frontier, Red Willow, Hayes, Hitchcock, Chase and Dundy.

15th. Holt, Rock, Brown, Keya Paha, Cherry, Sheridan, Dawes, Sioux, Box Butte and the unorganized territory, two judges.

H. R. 115—An act to protect the associations of workmen in the use of labels, trade marks, etc., for advertising goods manufactured by members of such associations and unions. Any person who counterfeits such trade mark or label is made liable to a fine of \$100 to \$300, and imprisonment three to six months.

H. R. 206—Appropriating \$50,000 for an exhibit at the Columbian exposition in Chicago.

H. R. 233—Establishes a Girls' Industrial school at Geneva, Fillmore county.

H. R. 141—The Australian ballot law. This is a combination of the best features of the Massachusetts and Montana laws, and though it stood a severe test this week in city elections, no flaw has yet been picked in it by anyone.

H. R. 271—Forms the county of Boyd from the unorganized territory north of Holt and Keya Paha counties.

H. R. 284—Authorizes any county to vote bonds, not to exceed 3 per cent of the valuation, for the purpose of purchasing seed grain and feed for destitute settlers therein.

H. R. 298—Appropriates \$2,000 for relief of Lavena Turner who lost her hand and was crippled for life while in the employ of the state.

H. R. 125—Appropriates \$3,500 for the relief of Geo. W. Davis, who was maimed for life by the explosion of a boiler at the Lincoln insane hospital.

H. R. 12—A bill classifying freights and fixing maximum rate of charges for transportation thereof; was passed by both houses and vetoed by Governor Boyd. Afterward passed over his veto in the house by a vote of 75 to 17 but lacked two votes of passing over the veto, in the senate.

S. F. 232—Amending the law relating to Soldiers and Sailors' homes.

S. F. 213—Establishes agricultural experiment stations at Culbertson and Ogallala.

S. F. 117—Makes a felony for selling or giving liquor to an Indian, with a fine of not to exceed \$1,000, or imprisonment not exceeding two years.

S. F. 200—This applies to Omaha only and takes in the territory within the two-mile limit, which, in the matter of saloon license is without regulation.

S. F. 211—This bill provides for a new form of tax receipts which shows to the holder just what he pays taxes upon and other information in regard to various funds.

S. F. 179—Relates to establishment of parks by cities of from 5,000 to 25,000 population.

S. F. 212—Requires the register of deeds to keep a record of the mortgage indebtedness of the county.

S. F. 180—Relating to the governance and powers of cities of the second class having more than 5,000 inhabitants.

S. F. 116—Omaha charter. An important provision is that independents must be recognized in the appointment of members of the fire and police force.

S. F. 92—Requires the deposit of state and county funds in banks, interest to go into the public treasury, instead of the treasurer's pockets.

H. R. 272—School book bill. The directors of any school district shall, upon a majority vote of the voters of the district, furnish at public expense books for the district, the price to be no higher than charged in all sections of the country.

S. F. 178—Regulating cities of 8,000 to 35,000 inhabitants.

S. F. 128—Makes a felony of giving or selling firearms to Indians.

S. F. 80—Lincoln charter.

H. R. 432—Appropriating \$13,500 to