

The Farmers' Alliance, Published Every Saturday by THE ALLIANCE PUBLISHING CO.

"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."

"Lashed crowns cleave to deserts, And power to him who power exerts. A ruddy drop of manly blood The surging sea outweighs."

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

TO CORRESPONDENTS

Address all business communications to Alliance Publishing Co., 117th and M Streets, Lincoln, Neb.

THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE

PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT CORNER 117TH AND M STREETS, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA.

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT PAPER IN THE STATE.

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

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ADVERTISING RATES. PUBL. CO., LINCOLN, NEB.

Call for People's Independent State Convention.

The People's Independent Party will meet in convention by its regularly appointed delegates.

THE INDEPENDENT NOMINATION

Great interest is being taken in the probable independent nominations soon to be made, for the reason that the impression generally prevails that the independent nominees will be elected.

The best portion of the people of this county—the part which is opposed to corporation rule, and in favor of reform in our county government, and an honest and economic administration of public trusts—intends to vote the independent ticket, if that ticket is made up of able and pure men—if it shows no taint of dishonest politics and corrupt trading.

The proposition to let the county bar association name a non-partisan judicial ticket and that it be composed of the present incumbents, bears railroad republican ear-marks. We say no! We have no use for Allen T. Field on the bench, and we have no use for a scheme which ignores so important a factor as the independent party.

We would like to see Hon. Wm. Leese one of the judges; and we believe Mr. Tibbets, one of the present incumbents, and Hon. A. J. Sawyer, would be satisfactory nominees for the large bulk of our citizens. We know that this list would be opposed by the railroad gang, and that its nomination would make the light one between the people, regardless of party lines, on the one side, and the corporations on the other.

It is also very funny to see the Bee publish now a lot of propositions every one of which it vigorously opposed when the legislature was in session, and there was some danger that they might be adopted. It says:

The Iowa system can be adapted to Nebraska. The conditions are different mainly in degree, otherwise they are similar. The fixed charges of the railways are practically the same in both states. Given the same volume of traffic the rates should be almost identical for the same service.

There isn't more than one statement in the above that the Bee did not controvert last winter, as its files will readily show. It also says: "The people do not demand or expect a horizontal reduction of rates."

JOHN M. RAGAN AND THE JUDICIALSHIP IN THE TENTH DISTRICT.

We are greatly surprised to learn that there are some independents in the Tenth Judicial district who are favoring the nomination of John M. Ragan for judge in that district. We believe it is conceded that Mr. Ragan is an able man. We believe it is also conceded that the railroad corporations are very tenacious in their hold upon able men when they once get them in their employ, out of which fact probably originated the saying "once a railroad attorney, always a railroad attorney."

It is well known that the corporations are making strenuous efforts all over the state to secure "trusty" men as judges. It would be a very sharp game on their part to induce the farmers to select their favorites for such places; and we have no doubt that game is being played.

With such men as Hon. E. A. Webster, of Franklin, at home, the voters of the Tenth district have no occasion whatever to select any ex-railroad caper for district judge. Mr. Webster is an able lawyer, an honest man, and a reliable independent—exactly such a man, in fact, as the railroads are trying to keep off of the bench.

Narrowing further comment strictly to the Kansas Alliance, it is not a party of reputation, nor are its members willing defectors or fraudulent debtors. Such charges come with particularly poor grace from the republican press, either state or national. These new partisans come very largely from republican ranks. They have been publicly lauded for years as being honest, intelligent, industrious, frugal and law-abiding.

The New Nation says that a large leather firm failed in Boston last week for \$450,000. Two weeks before the failure the firm made a statement of its financial condition showing a surplus of \$1,200,000 above liabilities. The failure finally was precipitated because it could not borrow enough money to tide it over its July obligations.

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But by all means let Johnny Watson, Walt Seely, et al., make this demand of the board, and then they can all get together and have a smile.

GEN. VIFQUAIN ON ENDORSEMENT.

We extract the following from a letter of Gen. Vifquain, in the Lincoln Herald, on the subject of democratic action in the approaching campaign: "In the letter above referred to I also said: 'The democrats should hold their conventions a week or so after the independents have held theirs, and ratify such nominations by not making any. Now, it goes without saying, that if the independents nominate a set of rags, muds and vagabonds, they cannot expect the democrats to act as I wish they could and should; and they—the independents—do not expect it. I am assured that they mean to be discreet in their selections, so as to deserve the confidence of the people.'

The independents are neither fools nor chumps, as the republican papers would have the people believe. They know full well that neither you nor I would pledge ourselves as we do, if as a party we could beat the combined opposition; but we cannot, neither can the people do so, unless you become republicans; and in my humble opinion, although not on the verge of a civil war, there is just about as much at stake today as there was then, and perhaps a good deal more.

Below is what Calhoun, of the Herald, has to say about the way farmers talk politics now-a-days. With Calhoun, we rather like the change. "The old party newspapers are forever kicking about the farmers who come to town and sit around and talk politics. We hadn't noticed 'em. There are not so many farmers in the habit of going to town and talking politics as there used to be. Which is a good thing, for from which we could spare a few job lots to the kickers we recall that a year or two ago it was the fashion for the farmers to come to town and talk politics. They generally talked it in the back room of a bank or the office of a lawyer, and then went home with a bill or two in the pocket, and came to the convention later at the head of rural delegations and did whatever the banker or lawyer told them to do.

It is no more reputation that a bankrupt law, and to hold what may be deemed an erroneous theory of finance is not necessarily to become a fraudulent debtor. We are, however, free to admit that we rather like the change.

Our readers hardly need to be told that the publication of these articles does not commit The Christian Union to the position proposed. Our object is to tell our readers what the Farmers' Alliance means. And we go to men who sympathize with the movement and are familiar with its spirit, aims, and personnel for the information. Our own views on some of these questions are well known; on others we reserve our opinions for the present.

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THE NEBRASKA WAREHOUSE LAW.

The following comments on the warehouse law are from the Boston Advertiser, and shows how the law is looked upon by disinterested and well informed men in the east. The Advertiser makes some immaterial mistakes. The law does not take effect until August. Instead of "the state," the warehousemen receiving grain issue the receipts. The receipts are negotiable anywhere, or in the open market, not in special boards of trade.

The main feature of the warehouse law is the issue of warehouse receipts by the state. Since the law went into operation, several grain elevators are being built throughout the state, and as they are able to be used for storage purposes, the state will issue warehouse receipts, negotiable on the "public boards of trade," which have also sprung up under the new law. Admission can be made to these boards of trade by the payment of a small fee, and is not confined merely to the farmer who has warehoused the grain. It is stated on good authority that several large Chicago houses will maintain representatives at the more important boards of trade throughout the state, and that they will have a part in the grain operations during the coming season.

The racket in the remains of the republican corpse isn't quieted yet, by any means. Mr. Johnny Watson, one of Van Wyck's pets, and chairman of the republican state committee, is out in a telegraphic manifesto, denying some of the multitude of charges made against him by the Richards crowd. He says the executive committee met a short time ago, and all the republican state officers were present, and they advised him to pay no attention to the numerous charges. He says: "As to Church Howe stating that the republican party had been sold out, I heard that some time ago, and asked Howe if he said it. He denied it flat."

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THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE IN KANSAS.

It is so rare that a fair historical statement in regard to the Alliance is made, that we notice with pleasure an article under the above heading in the Christian Union of June 25th, written by James H. Canfield, late professor of history in the University of Kansas, and recently appointed Chancellor of the State University of Nebraska. That Chancellor Canfield is in thorough sympathy with the Alliance movement his article proves beyond a doubt. That he is also favorable to the organization of farmers for political purposes is proved by his article. His correct information on the subject proves that he has given it much thought and study.

There is one wide-spread error into which he falls, viz.: The belief that the Alliance began in Texas. The Alliance began in New York somewhere about 1873-5, and was organized as a National body in 1877. There were some local or subordinate Alliances in Texas, chartered by the National Alliance, with headquarters at Chicago, when in 1882 the Texas State Alliance was formed. Later the color line—the northern society admitting colored men as delegates and members—was made the pretext for the formation of a southern body, which was done at a place in Louisiana, by a meeting of delegates from Texas and that state. But that was only a pretext, the real motive being in the ambition of one Macone—a man who was never a farmer, but was an underhanded plotter and schemer, and a nurse of visionary financial schemes—to place himself at the head of a great farmers' organization. This ambition, and this alone, made two national Alliance organizations, when there was no need of but one. Macone's connection with the Alliance cost the farmers of Texas \$150,000, in the collapse of one of his wild schemes; and his connection with the National Society has practically divided it every where because of his fostering upon it of his sub-treasury contrivance, than which a more un-sound impractical device never was proposed.

Chancellor Canfield states some historical facts, and proves them, viz.: "The Farmers' Alliance and the people's party are not identical." "The Kansas Alliance is not a party of reputation, nor are its members willing defectors or fraudulent debtors." "The Kansas Alliance has not fallen into the hands of self-seeking hypocrites, political shysters, and unscrupulous tricksters." We may hereafter publish his article. He closes with the following paragraphs: "But their platforms and public utterances are so vague, are such masses of glittering generalities" Undoubtedly—but the same remark has been made about the Declaration of Independence.

It will be a source of much gratification to the Alliance men of this state to know that a man who understands and sympathizes with their movement has been placed at the head of the University. It will also be a source of poignant agony to Regent Gere to learn that he has voted for such a man.

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LESSON FOR FARMERS.

BANKERS IN POLITICS. "Effective Work" of their "Active Legislative Committee."

Some weeks ago we published an article from Hon. John Stebbins, member of the 22d legislature, entitled "The Banker's Lobby," in which he graphically portrayed the methods of that lobby in the late legislature, and the persistence with which it dodged and button-holed members. We publish below a confidential circular from headquarters of the Bankers' Association which explains itself. It also explains why all the efforts of the farmer's legislature to enact a usury law proved nugatory. It also explains why such papers as the Omaha Bee persistently and tenaciously fought any action whatever on the money question.

We wish the farmers of this state to distinctly understand that the banks of the state are organized against them, and against any effort they may make to mitigate the burden of interest, which is to-day by all odds the greatest burden they have to bear. The following is the circular in full, omitting the name to which it was addressed: H. W. YATES, Chm. Ex. Co. Wm. WALLACE, Treas. Omaha. Nebraska Bankers' Association. Wm. C. BEER, Secy. Omaha, 4-25, 1891.

At a meeting of the Executive Council held April 15th, 1891, it was resolved: That an assessment be made and requested from all the banks in the state, for a sum sufficient to pay the expenses of the Active Legislative Committee at Lincoln during the past session of the legislature. The effective work of that committee is, we think, apparent to all, and the unanimous vote of the council was to the effect that the result was all that could have been expected, and was obtained against difficulties which at first seemed insurmountable. It is therefore believed that the assessment will be cheerfully paid by all the banks of the state, thus lessening the burden to each one—the benefits being alike to all. The amount required from your bank based upon surplus and capital is \$15.00, which you will please send to Mr. William Wallace, Treasurer, Omaha National Bank, Omaha, Neb. Yours truly, A. DALRYMPLE, H. W. YATES, Sec'y Pro Tem. Chairman.

There has been much contention in the democratic camp as to the proper course to be pursued by that party in the matter of state and county nominations. Bro. Calhoun, of the Lincoln Herald, has vigorously advocated the plan of holding no democratic conventions, but voting the independent ticket, providing it was good. A small faction has desired to hold democratic and independent conventions the same day, and agree upon a joint ticket. A faction larger than either, and comprising the best elements of the democratic party, favor holding conventions, and either endorsing the independent ticket or omitting to make nominations. The second proposition is dismissed as impracticable and undesirable. As to the other two, they are much the same, and would have practically the same result. The movers of the third plan are very strenuous about maintaining party organizations, which is wise from a party standpoint. But these people are not as wise in their day and generation as Bro. Calhoun. We can see his thoughts and his reasons as clear as day, and we are not certain but he is right. Mr. Calhoun is doubtful which will be strongest in the democratic conventions, the hired railroad strikers or the honest democrats. He knows that a few strikers, with part of their wages paid and the balance contingent on success, with eloquent periods of patriotic bosh in favor of traditional honor to the party and unswerving devotion to Jeffersonian democracy, can get up a fervor that will carry a convention off its feet, and result in nominations that will divide the people, and accomplish their purpose of electing a republican railroad ticket. For these reasons Bro. Calhoun would rather not trust a convention, and he is mighty right.

Victor Vifquain is out in an able letter to democrats, in which he advocates the holding of conventions and the endorsement of independent nominees. This is probably the plan that may prevail, but the other would be the surest of success. If Mr. Vifquain's plan is to prevail, its friends among the democrats must vigorously support it, not only in the conventions, but in the primaries. Great results can be accomplished by that plan. Good men, satisfactory to all good citizens, can be secured by it, and corporation domination in Lancaster county and Nebraska can be given a fatal blow.

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