TAX INHERITANCES.

Prof. Richard T. Ely, of Johns Hopkins University, in the North American Review for July.

The chief modern industrial problem is often stated to be the distribution of property. What is wanted is widely diffused property, and it is desired to bring about this wide diffusion without injustice, and without injury to the springs of economic activity. At the present time I feel inclined to classify the chief things required to bring about an improved condition of society in the United States under three heads, namely:

1. Education in its broadest sense, including kindergartens, manual training, technical schools, colleges and universities.

2. The abolition of private monopoly, and the substitution therefor of public ownership and management of all those enterprises which are by nature monopolies, like railways, gas, and electric lighting businesses, telegraphs, telephones, etc.

3. A reform of the laws of inheritance.

When we attempt to bring about reform and improvement by a wise regulation of inheritance, we have a solid basis of experience to help us. One part of such legislation which naturally suggests itself is the taxation of the estates of decedents, and such estates are taxed to a greater or less extent in nearly all—perhaps in all—great modern nations. We may mention England, Australia, New Zealand, and Switzerland as countries with particularly instructive experience in the taxation of inheritances. Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland, in the United States, have experience which is valuable so far as it goes. Three of the countries named, Australia, New Zealand and Switzerland, have taxation of inheritances which amounts to a conscious attempt to influence the distribution of property.

All inheritances of every sort should be taxed provided the share of the heir exceeds a certain amount. The state or the local political unit—as a town or city—must be recognized as a co-heir, entitled to a share in all inheritances. A man is made what he is by family, by town, or the local political circle which surrounds him, and by the state in which he lives; and all have claims which ought to be recognized. Taxation of inheritance is the means whereby this claim of the state and town may secure recognition. It should, however, be borne in mind that it is a peculiar tax, and rests upon a different basis from the ordinary tax. The justification which appeals to me most strongly is that the political organisms are coheirs. There are, however, many different stand-points from which the taxation of inheritances can be justified. Property which comes by inheritance is an income received without toil. It is for the one receiving it an unearned increment of property, and on this account may properly be taxed. The most satisfactory basis upon which property can rest is personal toil and exertion of some kind, and when property comes otherwise than as a return for social service, a special tax finds a good solid basis in justice.

It generally happens, perhaps universally, that a large property does not pay its fair share of taxes during the lifetime of its owner, and the tax upon estates when their owners die may be regarded—if it is not too large—as a payment of back taxes. It is noterious with us that personal property bears relatively a very small proportion of the burdens of government, and it has been proposed that the ordinary property tax on personal property should be abolished, and that in the place thereof there should be substituted a tax on all estates of decedents in so far as they consist of personal property. These, however, are grounds only for a limited tax, which in the case of personal property ought to be added to the regular inheritance tax, if personal property is otherwise exempted from taxation.

The taxation of inheritances should be graduated, the tax increasing as the relation becomes more distant, and as the property becomes larger. This is in the line of the present development of taxation of inheritances. The tax rises to 20 per cent of the estate in some of the Swiss cantons, to 13 per cent in New Zealand, and to 10 or 11 per cent in some other countries. I would have the tax vary from 1 to 20 per cent, establishing 20 per cent as the maximum at any rate, until public opinion is more enlightened. Mr. Andrew Carnegie is willing to see a tax rate of even 50 per cent, and advocates such a high tax on estates of decedents on social grounds. It will probably be a long time before so high a tax would meet with general approval, but we know that a tax of 20 per cent works well. In the case of near relatives, small amounts inherited by each ought to be entirely exempt from taxation. There is provision in the laws of many countries that small legacies left to servants should be free from taxation, and this, like other provisions recognizing the family, is praiseworthy.

The use to be made of the funds acquired by the taxation of inheritances, and by establishing the co-heirship of town and state, must vary according to time and place.

The states of the union, and many of the towns, ought to go into forestry, purchasing large tracts of land, especially on mountains and along river courses, and covering these with trees. States and cities have allowed the ownership of valuable public works to slip away from them into the hands of private corportions. Waterworks, gasworks, street car lines, and the like, might be purchased and operated at cost. All great cities require a larger number of parks, especially of small parks in the crowded sections. Sanitary measures might be mentioned, and some of these are expensive. They, however, lower the death rate and improve the health of the community. There are many cities which ought to buy slums and tear down the houses in them. The city of Manchester, England, bought quite a large tract of land in the centre of the city, which was the worst slum region in it, and tore down all the houses. It then leased the land for a limited term of years, to be built up with houses according to plans and specifications laid down. The result has been a remarkable improvement in Manchester, and it is said that, when these leases fall in, Manchester will be one of the richest, if not the richest, municipal corporation in the world. London has recently decided to undertake a similar improvement, but it is stated that in the case of London this will involve great expense.

School funds ought to be increased until they become great enough, with the aid of current taxation, to provide the entire population with the best educational facilities of every sort, including manual training, kindergartens, public libraries, universities, industrial museums, art galleries, and the like. It would be especially desirable to improve the schools in the rural communities, establishing good high schools wherever the population is sufficient to furnish them with pupils. Good schools in the country districts would tend to keep the people in the country, for now many leave the country and go to the cities purposely to educate their children. It is on every account desirable to make the country pleasanter and more attractive as a place of abode. Another fund may be suggested as suitable to be accumulated out of property inherited by the state and town, and that would be a highway fund, designed to help to improve the streets and roads of the state.

Talks on Nationalism.

By Edward Bellamy in The New Nation.

Mr. Smith who has joined the Nationalists, meets a prohibitionist.

PRO.—There is no doubt that your party is the coming party, on one condition.

SMITH.—And that is—

P.—A prohibition plank in your platform.

S.—I confess I don't see how you make out that a prohibition plank would strengthen any party. According to the test of elections, which, within the past five years, have pretty well sampled the sentiment of north, south, east and west, the prohibition idea is on the wane.

P.—I admit that the elections have been against us; but the principle is the only right one, and the people are bound in the end to come around to it.

S.—If the principle is right, no doubt they will; but while we wait for that, there are many great abuses of the liquor business which ought to be corrected.

P.—The business is altogether an abuse. The only way to correct its abuses is to abolish it wholly.

S.—But how are you going to abolish it in states which refuse by great majorities to do so? The only way by which you can abolish it, in most parts of the union, at present, is by substituting minority for majority rule. You cannot seriously expect to do that.

P.—These are considerations of mere expediency. The liquor traffic is a crime, and it is a crime to compromise with it.

S.—Correcting the abuses of a business which you cannot abolish is not compromising with it, by any means. Don't you see that refusing to compromise, as you call it, with the liquor business, amounts to surrendering unconditionally to it? By taking up the attitude you do, you virtually exclude yourselves from participation in any remedial measures now practicable, or likely to be in the near future. Doesn't that seem a great pity?

P.—Perhaps there would be something in that argument if a generation of experiment in correcting the abuses of the traffic had not resulted in complete failure. The statute books of our state for thirty years are lumbered with the records of such experiments, and the net result has been nothing.

S.—I admit that the success of the efforts thus far in that line has been poor enough.

P.—Then why do you wish to continue the same line of policy.

S.—We do not. We propose a wholly new policy. The corrective liquor legislation of the past in this country has chiefly consisted in a series of pecuniary impositions upon dealers and petty persecutions of their customers, which have only exasperated both. The personal persecutions of the dealers has led to their being regarded by their patrons as a sort of heroes, while the pecuniary impositions by fines and licenses have led to an adulteration of liquors (for the purpose of recouping legal fines) which has been ruinous to the health of the people.

P.—That is all true; but what is this new sort of corrective system which you propose?

S.—We propose to entirely eliminate the motive of private greed in promoting intemperance, by putting the liquor business exclusively under public management.

P.—Nationalizing it, that is to say?

S.—Well, I suppose the first step would be to put the distributive or retail business under state and local management, leaving the business of production to be conducted by the nation when it got ready, for nationalization must necessarily wait till a majority of the entire nation favors it.

P.—That is to say, you propose to have the government turn rumseller.

S.—Precisely. Do you see any objection to a municipality selling the water to a community?

P.—Water is harmless.

S.—Certainly; and that is why it's sale might, so far as any moral reason is concerned, be safely left to individuals. Liquor is not harmless, and therefore it is not safe to leave its sale to individuals. It is exactly because rum is the dangerous thing it is that its distribution, seeing that it cannot be prevented, ought to be in public hands.

P.—It would be a pretty spectacle to see the government making a profit out of the vices of the people.

S.—Not so fast. It is a principle of nationalism that when the people, through their agents, assume charge of a business, they should not make a profit out of it beyond the expenses and (during the transition stage to complete nationalism) so much more as may take the place of the taxes previously levied on the business, when it was in private hands. Consequently, the government would conduct the liquor business at cost. That means it would have absolutely no motive to encourage sales or to promote trade in any way. Would not this change be likely to result in a tremendous reduction in the amount of liquor consumed?

P.—I am bound to say that it would.

S.—Here is another point. Bad whiskey is as much worse than good, as good whiskey is more dangerous than water; and at present a large proportion of both spirituous and malt liquors are adulterated or improperly made. The liquors supplied for medicinal purposes by the majority of drug stores are often so bad as to be dangerous to the sick, a fact for which the druggists are by no means necessarily to blame, but rather the dealers who supply them. Now, under public management, all liquors supplied would be of official test and pure.

P.—There is something in that, no doubt.

S.—Well, then, here is another point. The law now forbids the sale of liquor to persons already intoxicated. If this law could be enforced, three fourths of the drunkenness on the streets and the riotous disturbances resulting from it would be at an end. It never has been enforced, and cannot ever be, so long as liquor is sold for profit. It would end from the very day the business passed into public hands. The salaried official, who had no interest in the business or the amount of sales, and would lose his place as the result of any disturbance traced to him, might be depended on to keep the safe side of the law. The same would be true of sales to minors. They would be at an end.

P.—As regards the public agencies, I admit that liquors would be likely to be sold by them strictly according to law, but what is to prevent unlicensed private persons from obtaining liquor and retailing it to any body who chose to buy, regardless of the law, as they do now.

S.—A business reason, much more effective than any law, would prevent that. The government agencies would sell at cost, and therefore could not be undersold. If people bought of the agencies to sell again, they could only make a profit by selling at an advance, which nobody would pay, especially as the goods would lack the government guarantee of quality. There have been various town-agency experiments in liquor selling before this, but they have chiefly failed from neglecting to adopt the nationalist principle of selling at cost. The result has been that unlicensed dealers have competed and beaten them, in spite of laws and penalties. Once let the state sell the best goods at cost and constables will be scarcely necessary to keep unlicensed dealers out of a business in which there would be no possible profit.

P.—Now you speak of it, I can see that this might have been why the old town-agency system did not work.

S.—That was one reason. Another was that it was intended as a sort of prohibitory law in disguise. Everybody who purchased had to write his name down, and go through a regular inquisition. It was the policy of the law to discourage purchasers as much as possible. The result was that the customer would rather pay double price any where else than buy at the agency. Such a law could not help failing. Our plan is entirely different. It would not be disguised prohibition, but just what it pretended to be, merely the substitution of public and law-abiding management for private and law-breaking management. The state would do no more to discourage a buyer than to encourage him. There would be no writing down of names, or answering questions. Sales would be precisely as free as they now are in a licensed saloon, with the difference that the law would be absolutely complied with, as to the conditions of selling, and the condition of those to whom sales were made.

P.—And you would put these agencies into towns, whether they wanted them or not?

S.—On the contrary, the plan of public management need not interfere with local option. An agency need be put in only upon application of the municipality.

P.—One thing I like about the plan: it would abolish the saloon power in politics.

S.—It would certainly have that effect. I should judge that this would be enough to commend it to prohibitionists.

P.—So far it would; but they will never abandon the prohibition idea.

S.—They need not. This plan is not proposed in place of prohibition, but in place of the present chaotic and ruinous system. If the community ever gets ready for prohibition, public management will give place to it much more readily than the present system would, because there will be no private vested interests to antagonize the change. The question for you to answer is not whether public management promises better results than prohibition, which is at present impossible in most states, but whether it promises better results than the present system of private management for private profit.

P.—I am bound to admit that it certainly promises better results than those of the present system.

S.—Then it appears to me that you have no excuse for refusing to support it as the most genuine temperance measure at present in sight, especially as this is something you can do without in the slightest degree compromising your devotion to prohibition as an ultimate end.

P.—Under nationalism, I suppose, we should have complete prohibition?

S.—I don't know anything about that. We are none of us prophets. In my opinion, however, there will be a great deal more personal liberty under nationalism than now. You see, at present, a man's family is absolutely dependent on his conduct for maintenance, and therefore has a right to demand that he shall not bring them to want by bad habits. This right is the most forcible argument for prohibition. Under nationalism, women, whether married or unmarried, will be independent of men, holding, like men, a direct relation of duty and maintenance with the nation. So long, consequently, as a man's habits do not interfere with his service to the nation, they will be strictly self-regarding in their consequences, and on that account there will be much less excuse for arbitrarily interfering with them than now. But, while I doubt whether the use of alcoholic beverages will be wholly discontinued, I do believe that drunkenness will become practically unknown.

Happenings in Omaha.

The Omaha base ball club is a thing of the past. Base ball cranks will now have to emigrate. But hold on; times are are about as hard everywhere else as here, and as no one has any money to spend they may all collapse. We suppose there is an over production of base ball players.

The labor organizations are making great preparations for the fall campaign and we hope they will, by the use of the Australian ballot law, cast their votes in their own interests.

An unprincipled, untruthful, depreciated, debauched, monopoly cornered an fearing sheet, not much better known as the *Bee*, has the brazenness and hardihood to assert that the $47 per capita deposited in the banks of Nebraska represents actual surplus cash, when the truth of the matter is that not one fourth of the deposits are in the banks. For an example we have a statement of one bank in Omaha that has deposits to the amount of $4,313,000 and only has cash $1,050,000. Another has deposits $2,056,000 and only has cash $585,000. It is true they hold plenty of good(?) notes, but notes and cash are different. The deposits have been borrowed from the banks and most of it paid as interest on mortgages held by aliens and has gone across the sea. The same sheet proudly proclaims that the calamity howlers will now have to shut up, while on the same pages it tells of the failure of one of the largest lumber firms in the country, of several small business failures, and also records the failures of some banks. Their attempt to make everybody believe they are out of debt and happy is weak. D.

Resolutions of Condolence.

Resolutions of condolence passed by Garfield Alliance No. 803, Edgar, Neb.

WHEREAS, The Great Ruler of the universe has seen fit in his wisdom to take our fellow worker and brother, J. F. Johnson, from this life to a life beyond; therefore be it,

Resolved, That in his death this Alliance has lost a worthy member and a true helper, the community a worthy and respected citizen and his family a kind husband and father. Therefore be it,

Resolved, That we extend a friendly hand to the bereaved family, and humbly bow to the will of Him who doeth all things well.

A. G. JACOBS,
WALTER NORTHOP,
A. L. HOBGES,
Committee.

A people's party meeting at Arkansas City, Kas., commanded the president to open the Cherokee strip to settlement.

FARMERS OPINIONS.

Good Crops and More Independents.

DONIPHAN, Neb., July 13, 1891.

EDITOR ALLIANCE: Owing to the continued heavy rains much of the corn in this county is in bad condition. Hundreds of acres almost ruined, and many more very weedy on account of the farmer being unable to cultivate at the proper time. The rye is mostly in shock and promises an abundant crop. Wheat and oats generally good—some fields bid fair to make 70 or 80 bushels per acre. If it be true as is often remarked in these parts that with a good crop the independent party will fail to pieces and the members return to their first love the politicians at this writing have great cause for rejoicing. Let me say through your valuable paper to the wire-pullers and railroad hirelings that this is not true of Hall county. The farmers and laboring men propose to force the fight. What little disposition there was a few weeks ago to fuse with either of the old parties on a county ticket this fall, has disappeared, and the independents will place a ticket in the field composed of honest, capable, clean men chosen from their own ranks. No, the movement is not lagging in this county, but with the prospect of an abundant harvest the membership is increasing in every subordinate Alliance in Hall county, and some of them wonderfully fast. One of the Alliances of this county which I have in my mind, has increased its membership in the last few weeks from 40 to 65 in the face of a prospect for a good crop. We want the politicians and the cappers for the bankers' combination of this state to understand that every person who has enlisted in this movement has not done so for office, which is charged of every person who has ever taken any part in political matters.

Labor is being robbed of a fair share of its products. Under the present system of political management the producers of this state have no hopes of any relief through either one of the old parties; hence this great uprising. It is the duty of every true Alliance man in this and other states to speak of the conditions of the people as we find them, and the cause which has produced it. You have truly said in your issue of July 9th that had any Alliance orator uttered as radical sentiments as J. J. Ingalls did at Crete on July 4th he would be denounced at once by the monopoly press as a red-handed anarchist; and in proof of this let me say that we have a "two-for-a-penny" sheet published at our village known as the *Weekly Messenger*, the editor of which comments in a sneering and contemptible manner upon the exercises of the day on this same Fourth of July, and all because the Alliance people desired to take part in the exercises, and for a further reason that some of the speakers saw fit to talk on this line of thought. The independence of the American laborer at the present time is a farce and a humbug, and these monopoly editors well know it, General Howard's speech to the contrary.

Let the people's party at their state convention on Aug. 18, 1891, place in nomination a clean able man for supreme judge, and then let every person who is in favor of reform rally to his support. H. C. DENMAN.

Better Education Needed.

EDITOR ALLIANCE: Upon fixing the date and ratio for the Independent convention a large number of queries arise. Who shall the Independents select for Regents of the University? It is conceded that with decent nominations election is sure. We want regents who will entirely revolutionize the results of higher education, which are at present fatally deficient. The results of a true system of instruction would produce a just balance of employes and employers. The present system has produced about one employer to ten employed. This is both father and mother of the pernicious wage system. Our whole duty as parents should be to learn our boys and girls how to set themselves to work, or to create a business of their own. It is far better for a young man to run a wheelbarrow of his own than a four horse team that belongs to some body else; and it makes but a trifle difference whither he comes from the district school for the last time or with such sham parade he starts from the college campus. Unless his habits of thought have been such as to provide for self employment he fully realizes how weak and useless a thing he is. Then he goes out on the tedious business of hunting a job—to work under a boss for wages—when if properly educated he should have the power to create a business of his own. All those large undertakings which require associations of laboring force should be managed by profit sharing.

Again our whole course of economic studies in school are absolutely false. They are the out come with little or no improvement upon the writing left by Ricardo, Malthus, Adam Smith and Joan Stuart Mill, and are built on the monarchial idea that the few were born to rule and oppress the many.

1. That capital is in all things first, labor second.
2. That capital employs labor.
3. That capital is consumed in making improvements, building houses, railroads, etc.

Now each and every one of the propositions are false. To the first proposition, there never existed a particle of what is called capital, whether money or property or natural resources as such, until wrought upon by labor. Then labor is the active and capital is the passive factor; then labor is first and not subordinate to capital.

Second, that capital employs labor, or furnishes the means by which labor is employed, is equally untrue. If you employ a mechanic to make a panel door worth $2—you furnished the lumber worth $2—paid $2 to the mechanic—you have now all your capital in another form—a door, $2. You received your door. The mechanic had put $2 of labor into it before you paid him. Oh, you furnished lumber, the capital on which he worked. Not quite. The lumber was furnished out of the tree by the same process that the door was out of the lumber, by labor. So you see it is active labor that gives use to passive capital.

Third, that capital is consumed in making improvements, building houses and railroads, etc. This is equally untrue; for in making improvements nothing is consumed but labor—and labor is a curious thing. The more it is consumed the more is left. And had that part which has gone to waste through idleness been employed at one dollar a day it would have paid the national debt annually since the war. In constructing a mile of railroad for $20,000 the company has its capital only changed to another form—into ties, rails, rolling stock—and the money has gone into the hands of the grader, tie cutters and ironmonger. Nothing is consumed but labor, and the amount which labor receives less than it is worth is counted as profit on all business.

Now, a college graduate comes into the real world of life loaded with these false teachings. They form the ladder by which he hopes to climb upon the backs of the producing class and ride. What we need very much is a more practical educational system; and it is the duty of the independents to do that thing. D'Allemand is my choice for one of the Regents. A. R.

Good Letter from an Old Englishman.

EDITOR FARMERS' ALLIANCE: I am gratified to read the gigantic progress of the Farmers' Alliance, having been well schooled in the old England conflict to forever abolish the infamous taxation of King George. I am the fifth son of an English farmer. I am 75 years old and have farmed in America upward of forty years. The Alliance was organized in 1826, with a determination to abolish personal property tax or to seize and compel royalty to be forfeited to the people; and by 1846 the people obtained an entire repeal of all personal property tax on producers and laborers. And while the people obtained these rights under dictation rule, surely we should obtain our rights by a people's government from fabulous usurpation tax.

My brothers have farmed all through their lives exempt from all imperial tax, a local tax excepted for roads, the poor and church, three wholesome assessments, as the church holds an unpolluted Sabbath that is so profanely desecrated here. We have had much false report about the English renting farmer. I can give real facts. My three land renting brothers have not altogether done as much hard work as I have to live on a large farm of my own. I pay various taxes on land and on improvements. Then all produce is taxed, and every article in the house—every animal and implement—all poultry, watches, and an ever odious poll tax that all foreigners declare ignorance of in all the world. Then add to this hardship taxation in open violation to the law of our constitution that holds "no representation no taxation." Within four miles of my house are six widow farmers paying compulsory tax. What a notoriously impudent rule by sworn public officers to execute the ratified statute law of our nation pure—then to subvert the people's right of statute law for common law, to shave and fleece. Only think of the legion of females dependent upon their taxed sewing machines. Now, all we ask for is a government run honestly. Either let the women vote as a right or entirely release them from taxation. Honest people understand the word government to be a controlling system of wisely administered law. Then add to our reckless rule the nation's calamity from center to circumference of bad trade, wretched poverty, stricken wives and families by government rule of intemperance, while the same power that grants can restrict, while the government avarice is like Judas "unnt for the treasury as it leads to Death and Hell for the soul;" so says the Bible. This is the real cause. For the sad effect we have it plain if we only contrast the state of Maine with no individual liquor cost, and of crime but one arrest to every 3,200 population; with California which has one arrest to every 500, and the cost of liquor to every man, woman and child of $30; amount spent in the state annually $25,000,000. This twenty-five million state calamity would replenish every need, and call up full employment, and give a home market for all produce, and peace and plenty in contrast to abject poverty and street brawls and criminality. In this, Yolo, county, eighty saloons pay less than $6,000, and the farmers pay $23,000 annually for crime. This is a sample of the United States misrule. D. ARCHER.

Madison, Cala., July 4, 1891.

Bankers in Politics.

EDITOR ALLIANCE: The law passed by the independents provides that the funds in the county treasuries of the state and also the funds in the state treasury shall be put on interest at a rate not less than 3 per cent for the benefit of the general fund of the counties and the state. This law if obeyed to the letter will save to the people of the state not less than $300,000 dollars per year and probably much more.

We have a credible intimation that the constitutionality of the law is likely to be tested, or that the law will be got around in some way. In the past the different treasuries of the state have been a kind of double acting suction pump used by the bankers of the state to absorb banking capital and interest from the people, and the treasurers have usually been puppets set up by the banks to work the pump handle for a share of the swag. The state treasury is said to be worth $30,000 per year to the encumbent in office, and we have never heard it denied. If the $30,000 represents the income from state funds on interest at 3 per cent, the principal cannot be less than $1,000,000. If the banks pay 3 per cent and loan at 10 per cent their share of the swag will be 7 per cent or 70,000 a year. The introducer of the law refered to (Senator Horn) made the statement that two years ago the county Alliance of Hamilton county pledged a nominee for county treasurer to put the available funds of the county on interest for the benefit of the general fund. As we remember it, the saving to the county was near $4,000 per year.

There are ninety-two counties in the state, suppose they each save a little over $2,000 per year or $200,000, for all the counties of the state, or the county treasurers of the state are now receiving $200,000 interest a year on county funds, or the principal is over $6,600,000. If the different banks of the state have this amount of public hands in their hands and give their treasurers 3 per cent for the use of the same and loan it at 10 per cent, they get 7 per cent or $462,000 per year, or the state treasurer, the county treasurers and the banks draw the enormous sum of $762,000 per year interest on funds belonging to and that have been taxed away from the people. We believe these estimates are below the actual facts in the case. Of course the banks are getting the lion's share; they are not in politics for their health. They will make an effort to get around complying with the new law. They will undertake to name the candidates for county treasurers for all parties in the different counties of the state in every instance seeking for men they can handle. Independents in each county see to it that the banks do not name your nominees for county treasurer; pledge your men to carry out the spirit of the law. In case it should be declared unconstitutional do as the farmers of Hamilton county did. One fact paste in your hats, the bankers of this state have controlled party nominations wherever there was a dollar in sight.

J. STEBBINS.
Shelton, Neb.

Hon. J. H. Powers at Stella, July 4, 1891.

[Of the very many reports of celebrations of the 4th received too late for publication last week, we insert this in the present issue—not because it is better than the others, but so as not to entirely neglect the glorious fourth. The reports received of successful celebrations by the Alliances would fill this issue; but of course they are very much alike. All were successful and all were pleasant.]

July 4th was ushered in with a pouring rain which continued till 10 a. m. However out of the ten thousand that anticipated celebrating at Stella, great lines of wagons came pouring in by noon, and by 1 o'clock the parade led by the Dawson band commenced forming at the foot of main street. Hon. J. H. Powers and the president of the day in a carriage fell into line next to the band, then the merchants, trades display, which was a very gorgeous affair, entered into with great spirit by the whole business interests of the town to make the celebration a grand success; then followed the long line of farm vehicles and the Calath companies, the latter attracting much attention and were laughable indeed. As the head of the long column reached the grand stand the band took its place on the the stand and played some excellent selections, intermingled with grand choruses by the singers while the people were occupying the seats and standing room available within hearing distance. The exercises were opened with prayer by Rev. Harney. J. R. Crain then welcomed the people to the celebration at Stella in an appropriate address. Other preliminary arrangements completed, Hon. J. H. Powers was presented and proceeded to deliver the oration, which will long be remembered by the attentive masses, differing as it did materially from the general Fourth of July orations. Instead of soaring off to the stars in praise and bombastic flattery, he logically and impressively instilled the minds of his hearers with the facts that while they were living under a government founded upon the grandest of principles, this did not relieve them of the responsibilities of maintaining these institutions in their perfection and purity, and that our system was certainly deserving of that vigilance that would make them accommodate themselves to the advancing civilization of time, and to see to it that in the future as in the past they continue in the advance guard. It is to be hoped that more such oratory will continue to ring through the length and breadth of our country, opening the eyes of the whole people to a patriotic duty.

The people in Stella's vicinity bid farewell to the old style and gladly ring in the new, with a realizing sense that only with the people's consent will God continue our great country to be free.

From Stella, after meeting with the Stella Alliance Monday evening and storing the members with cheering encouragement for their future work, Mr. Powers went to Brock, where he met with Lafayette Alliance Tuesday evening, and Wednesday arrived in Auburn, where he delivered a very instructive address to a large and intelligent mass convention. With one accord all who were fortunate in hearing Hon. J. H. Powers on this trip say, come again, and come often into southeastern Nebraska. T. G. FERGUSON.

No Endorsement Wanted.

EDITOR ALLIANCE:—When people go to war they do not choose officers that will receive the endorsement of the enemy. The independent party is making war on corporations, and the action of the old parties in the last legislature brands them as faithful servants of corporations; and there is no longer any excuse for an honest man to remain in the old parties. I don't see how an honest man can ask for the endorsement of either of the old parties. The independents do not want any officers who will be independent in the presence of independents and something else in the presence of old parties. The old parties are going to do all in their power to keep up their party organizations. One of their games will be to have their party put up good men for small offices and try and get the independents to endorse them. They (the corporations) know that to put good men into the county offices will hold the old party together and help them to place their servants in the state and national offices. Let the independent or people's party give good men to understand that if they want its support they must come out and make war on the enemies of a government of, for and by the people, and show to the world that they are fighting for principles and not for office. J. B. OSLER.

Grant, Neb.

Meeting of Merrick County Alliance.

Pursuant to call the Merrick County Alliance met at the court house on Saturday July 11, and was called to order by the president. The following gentlemen were elected as officers for the ensuing term: A. J. Harshberger, President, Postoffice Central City; D. H. Burke vice-president; M. F. Rawlings secretary, postoffice Archer; E. W. Marsh treasurer; J. M. Dressler lecturer; T. F. Farrell asst. lecturer. This is an entire new deal in the County Alliance and will add much strength to the Alliance cause in Merrick county. These officers were all elected from among the delegates present at the County Alliance, and are honest and fearless independents. There was a very large attendance of delegates and the election will doubtless give general satisfaction to the Alliances of Merrick county. INDEPENDENT.

Representative Storm Endorsed.

The following resolutions are of Auburn Alliance No. 2151.

WHEREAS, Our Brother J. D. Storms did work earnestly, and was loyal to the cause of right and justice in the 22nd session of the Nebraska legislature to which he was chosen; therefore be it,

Resolved, That we heartily extend our thanks to him for faithfully discharging his duties, and his noble efforts in our behalf. R. W. BRYANT, Sec.

Interesting Letter from Brother Ware of Chase County.

IMPERIAL, NEB., July 15.

EDITOR FARMERS' ALLIANCE:—Thinking that you of the east side would like to hear from us of this late drouth stricken district I write you a few lines. We are at present rejoicing over the prospect of a most bountiful crop. Wheat, oats, rye, barley and potatoes are already made. Rye harvest commenced here yesterday, and some wheat will be cut this week. Wheat will average twenty bushels to the acre (not excepting sand hills) and some will yield much more. The corn crop is yet uncertain, but though late still has a fine color and may make a fair crop.

While we are thankful to the Giver of all these blessings, we do not forget that we owe acknowledgements of gratitude to the good people of the east who so generously contributed to our need in our distress. You have helped many to hold on to the homestead and plant the crop.

Our people are becoming better satisfied and there is but little talk of returning east or going west now since there is prospects of plenty to eat. All Chase county wants now is a railroad and a maximum freight rate law, and we will rank among the first counties of the state.

The independents are booming out here. We endorsed the people's platform as set up by the Cincinnati conference. Our Alliance (Spring Creek No. 1201) now numbers 110 members with new accessions nearly every night.

We like your paper and I hope to be able to send you 50 new subscribers after harvest. Go on with your good work. D. H. WARE.

Party Leeches.

SILVER CREEK, Neb., July 6.—To the Editor of the *Bee*: Why cannot republicans who have been leading themselves and the party in this state to destruction have sense enough to get out of the way? They have nothing to gain by hanging on. Without them the party might at least make itself respectable and put itself in a position to advantage by the ever changing tides of public sentiment.

But is the party dependent on these men? Is it indeed unable to rid itself of them if they will not voluntarily step down, I will not say and out?

Yours truly,
CHARLES WOOSTER.

Mr. Wooster is a man who was sometime ago expelled from the Alliance. The fellows he alludes to are not in anybody's way, unless it is their own. They are really about all there is left of the party for which Mr. W. mourns. Without them the party would be a cipher—with them it is a wreck. Mr. W's suggestion that the party "might at least make itself respectable" is pathetic and impracticable. There are some places and things it is very difficult to make "respectable" even by forsaking them. Hades, a brothel, and the party which excites Mr. Wooster's sorrowful regrets may be named in the list. If Mr. Wooster would soak his head for a year—well, it wouldn't make any difference with him.

Mr. Stephens, of the Crete Nurseries, Writes About Cherries and Pears.

CRETE, Neb., July 16, 1891.

EDITOR FARMERS' ALLIANCE: We send you by express this morning a basket of cherry branches and two or three clusters of pears, that you may see something of what the late cherries were like. We have finished marketing our crop of 800 bushels about two days ago, but have saved two or three trees that are near the house for home use and from these I cut the branches. You will note that the fruit is not yet ripe, as the English Morello to be ripe should should be black and they should hang on to the trees for another week yet.

There are quite a number of Russian cherries with which we are experimenting that are considerably later than the English Morello, and they are quite green yet. Probably some of these will be valuable, and among those that we are experimenting with is the Ostheim which we regard as quite valuable. They are larger than the E. Morello and better quality and the trees seem to be quite hardy. A variety called the Foune Morello we also think is quite valuable, as the quality is better than the E. Morelio and perhaps a little larger, trees very healthy and thrifty and from our experience it is a very free bearer.

Among the varieties that promise well are the Brusseler Braune, "25 Orell," and probably 26 Orell, the Bessarabian. We have noticed also the Lutovka and the Yellow Glass introduced by Prof. J. L. Budd as two varieties that seem to be of great merit. We think that all the varieties above mentioned are well worthy of discrimination. For the present we will continue to plant fairly of the Early Richmond, as it is a variety which when the season is favorable and the fruit buds have not been injured yield very freely. They grow more rapidly and to a larger size than the average cherry, and where the climate does not injure the fruit buds it will hold its place for many years to come. Most of the varieties mentioned above are more meaty and I think will give better satisfaction in canning, many of them being much larger and the trees much hardier. We are not very well pleased with the Late Richmond, although we have a good many trees in the orchard. It does not bear freely enough to suit us.

We have not so far succeeded with any of the American sweet cherries. We have planted a great many of them but have always failed on account of the trees not being hardy enough to stand our winters. Should any of your readers conclude to plant the Ostheim they must be sure and get the right variety, as among the numerous varieties there are some that are quite small and inferior, although all of them seem to be quite hardy trees.

I noticed that in a general way people pick their cherries too soon. We commenced picking our Early Richmond about the 12th of June and finished the main crop about the 25th of June, but we yet have them hanging on the trees where they were too high and in locations where the birds and boys did not get them, showing that cherries will hang on the trees a long time past the usual season, and get better and better all the time if allowed to do so. The E. Morello should not be picked till they are black. Yours respectfully,

E. F. STEPHENS.

☞ We have received some resolutions from Alliance 1540, of Chelsea, Fillmore county, endorsing Bro. J. W. Mullikin, as a good Alliance member, and a reliable man morally and politically. The removal of Mr. Mullikin to some other locality was the occasion of the resolutions. They are signed by W. Wollam, Jonas Lawrence and D. Cook, as committee.

☞ Hackberry Alliance No. 1379 sends resolutions endorsing the Cincinnati conference.

Forty thousand people are reported without food in one district in Russia on account of crop failure.

The body of Smiler, one of the murderers electrocuted at Sing Sing, will be exhumed by the coroner.

The Missouri railroad has ordered a slight reduction in rates on grain.