

The Farmers' Alliance

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

"In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea, With a glory in his bosom That transfigures you and me. As he strove to make men holy And he strives to make them free, Since God is marching on." - Julia Ward Howe.

"Laurel crowns cleave to deserts, And power to him who power exerts." - Emerson.

"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." - Emerson.

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Independent Peoples' Ticket.

Independent State Ticket. For Associate Justice of Supreme Court, JOSEPH W. EDGERTON, Douglas County.

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For County Superintendent— Prof. H. S. BOWENS, Lincoln.

For County Commissioner— MATT MAUEL, Little Salt Precinct.

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THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE

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

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT PAPER IN THE STATE.

J. BURROWS, Editor.

J. M. THOMPSON, Business Manager.

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A Dawson county farmer raised a crop of rye averaging forty bushels to the acre. He refused an offer of 85 cents per bushel for the crop, which had been sold would have brought him \$6.00.

FARMERS' ALLIANCE please copy—Journal.

Certainly. There was a very nice crop of rye on this editor's Gage county farm, which the boys unfortunately sold for 75 cents. Rye will probably be worth \$1.25 by January 1st. But what's that got to do with politics?

THE "BEE" ON THE PAST AND THE PRESENT.

The Omaha Bee is mighty anxious about the result of the approaching election. It had an article in its issue of the 4th, entitled "An Encouraging Situation," in which it endeavors to extract sunbeams from cucumbers by an explanation of the causes which led to the independent success and the demoralization of the republican party. We quote:

The election of 1890 was in part disastrous to the republican party not because of the reasons who have steadfastly maintained the ascendancy of republicanism have lost confidence in the principles of the old party, but because it was necessary to rebuke the corporation bosses who had forced their benches upon the party and the people until endurance ceased longer to be a virtue. So long as the railroad kept their hands off the supreme court or at least did not control a majority of that tribunal, the people submitted under protest. When, however, they boldly and in open defiance of public sentiment, threw their strength against Chief Justice Reese two years ago and nominated an attorney more to their liking, the discontent took shape in a reduction of the vote for the republican nominee. A reaction thereupon set in against corporation bossism which almost resulted in ruin to the republican party of Nebraska. But the organization has come to its senses again and the dictum has gone forth that the corporations must keep out of republican politics.

Now let us analyze this a little. The first clause of the first sentence contains one truth and one lie. It is true that the yeomen of the country have not forsaken the principles of the "old party." They are as devoted to those principles as they were in 1856 when the party nominated John C. Fremont on its first platform. But it is not true at least for all these many years, that these yeomen "have maintained the ascendancy of the party." For twelve or fifteen years that ascendancy has been maintained by the brutal force of patronage, bribery, corruption and fraud, and by that alone. While the principles of "the old party" stand unimpaired to-day, the party itself has forsaken them and become a corrupt machine under the control of the money power of the country. Under the vicious management of this power the government has been changed from a democracy in which the people rule themselves to a despotism in which the people are ruled. Under the beneficent management of this machine the government has been kidnapped by a plutocracy where sixty millions of subjects are under the dominion of a few thousand arbitrary despots and where capital is the supreme king. The Bee is mistaken in saying the people abandoned the party to rebuke corporation bosses, and that their withdrawal will be only temporary. The people have fully realized at last the nature of the animal in which the "old party" has degenerated, and they have left the party to destroy the animal, and their abandonment is definitive and final.

Since when, pray, have the railroads in Nebraska, "kept their hands off the supreme court?" We can prove conclusively from the files of the Bee, and from Mr. Rosewater's own editorials, that there has not been an hour since the state was organized that the railroads have not been greedily for every particle of executive, judicial and legislative power. Look over the list of chief and associate justices of the supreme court, and only two or three names can be found of men who have not signalized themselves by subservience to corporate power, and several of the most distinguished of them have graduated into attorneyships of giant corporations. Look over the decisions and opinions of the same court, and you will find an endless schedule of railroad decrees endorsed by it into laws.

Read the last sentence of the extract from the Bee. Now pray, since when has "the organization" come to its senses? and from whence has the "dictum" gone forth that the corporations must keep out of republican politics?

If we remember aright, a year ago last spring there was a feeble organized effort in the party to stem corporate control, which ended in ignominious failure. The party held its convention and placed in the chair of it the most outrageous and unprincipled railroad scoundrel the state—or the world for that matter—has produced, viz: Church Howe; and the convention nominated a railroad boss for its candidate for governor. It is true that Mr. Rosewater, having a more abiding love for and faith in whisky than he had in republicanism, knifed his candidate and turned his efforts to the election of Boyd. The party was defeated at the polls; but instead of taking a healthy lesson from its defeat, "the organization" proceeded to signalize the utter depth of its degradation and its humiliating devotion to corporate power by joining with its traditional enemy to defeat the trial of a just contest, and prevent the people from securing a law which its own platform had demanded to regulate freight rates in this state. Since when has there been any official repudiation of that action? Was the bribery of Taylor and Collins evidence of it? Was the holding of Boyd in the gubernatorial chair by a corrupt judicial deal? the using him as a corporate tool to veto the Newberry bill? the final base desertion of him by his republican co-conspirators, any evidence of a change of heart and a repudiation of the villainy by "the organization"?

Was the appointment of — on the board of transportation as a reward for low down, sneaking, underhanded treachery any evidence of it? An election is approaching. The Bee sees that something must be done to try to win back the voters. So it begins to send out this rotten, hypocritical bomb of repentance. The only dictum that has "gone forth" is in the editorial columns of the Bee, which is as contemptible a political strumpet as ever disgraced the annals of journalism. This vile Bee supported the corrupt parties of the democratic and republican parties—supported the brutal outrages by which Jim Boyd raped the elective

LABOR NEEDS A SOUND CURRENCY.

Under the above caption the ignorant jake who mixes the financial hotch-potch for the Bee gets off a lot of fallacies which are intended to mislead men who do not understand the principles of money. The writer first quotes Senator Sherman's question—"How can a farmer or laborer be benefited by a cheaper dollar? But first, what is a cheaper dollar? It is a dollar which requires less corn, wheat, oats, pork or beef, or less hours of labor, to buy. The terms cheap or dear as applied to money do not relate to the value of the material in the dollars, but to the value or cost of the products or labor with which the farmer or laborer buys the dollars.

Now about the benefit. How can a bond-holder, banker, land-lord, or money-lender be benefited by a dearer dollar? By a depreciation of price or value which enables him to obtain a larger amount of products or wealth with a given number of the dollars. For instance, if banker A is receiving \$100 interest on a mortgage for \$1,000, and takes it in wheat, he will get twice as much wheat if wheat is selling for 50 cents per bushel than he will if it is selling for \$1.00 a bushel, though his interest is the same in each case. Poor dollars mean low prices. The men we have named are creditors. The men who pay the interest on their bonds and notes and rent on their lands, are their debtors.

MR. ROSEWATER ON FRENCH FINANCES.

Under date of Vienna, August 15, Mr. Rosewater writes about the farmers and finances of France. In his eagerness to serve the money power and the men who hold the mortgage on the Bee building, Mr. Rosewater betrays himself into some very inconsistent statements, and indulges in some very weak writing. We quote:

While talking about French farmers, it may not be amiss to direct a detour under which so many American farmers have been carried away by the clamor for free and unlimited coinage and "flat money." The prevailing impression is that the prosperity of the French farmer is due to the fact that the volume of money and particularly of silver coin in circulation in France is nearly double per capita as compared with the volume of money in circulation in the United States. I have taken pains to ascertain what, if any, relation the volume of silver currency has in France to the general contentment of the agricultural classes, and find my former conclusions fully confirmed. In France the bulk of all purchases, sales and payments are in cash. Drafts and checks are never used by merchants, farmers or working people. Their use is confined to the exchanges between banks. Eminent financiers compute the transactions by check and drafts in France at less than 20 per cent of the whole volume of business done, while in the United States, more than 95 per cent of all payments is by check and draft. This fact alone explains why so much silver currency is in actual circulation in France, while in America nearly four hundred millions of silver dollars remain in the national treasury, because people prefer silver certificates and paper money exchangeable on demand for gold or silver.

Please read the above extract critically. First, Mr. R. says he has "taken pains to ascertain what if any relation the volume of silver currency has to the general contentment of the agricultural classes, and find my former conclusions fully confirmed." But we are left to guess what his former conclusions were. This is a very loose way of writing, and is intended to induce the reader to infer some dreadful things against an increase of money, when no grounds for such inference exist. Mr. R. now states practically, that the bulk of all business is done in France on a cash basis. "Drafts and checks are never used by merchants, farmers or working people." He also states that of the whole volume of business in France less than 20 per cent is done with commercial paper, while 95 per cent is done in that way in this country. Then says Mr. R. "This fact alone explains why so much silver currency is in actual circulation in France," etc. Now we submit that this is plainest case of putting the cart before the horse that we have seen in a long time. The people of France have about 852 of currency per capita, while the people of this country have only \$24, of which more than half is hoarded in the treasury, or held as reserves by the banks. It is only persons who have deposits in banks or credit money, who can use checks or drafts, only persons who have money on hand, who can "make sales and payments in cash." If the people of this country had the cash they would do business on a cash basis. Not having the cash they are compelled to do it on a credit basis, which forces all those who cannot draw checks and drafts to become the debtors of those who can draw them. This means that the poor man must give his note properly secured either by endorsement or mortgage, and submit to the burden of interest at such rates as circumstances render necessary. The practical results of these two systems are seen in the freedom of the farmers of France from debt, and the intolerable burden of debt under which the American farmers are struggling. Will Mr. Rosewater for a moment contend that the farmers of this country would not make their "purchases, sales and payments in cash" if they had the cash to do it with? Will he dare to argue that if prices had not been forced below a paying basis by the demonetization of silver and the contraction of currency in proportion to population and production they would not have had the cash?

Mr. R.'s allusion to the silver dollars in the treasury is an unworthy subterfuge, or very loose writing. Every dollar in the treasury which is represented by a certificate is practically in circulation. If the people prefer certificates that only proves the superior quality of paper money. The difference between this country and France is that we have at least \$35,000,000,000 of debt, while France is practically free from debt. The national debt of France is not felt as a burden because there is little or no private or municipal debt. In this country the national debt forms only a small part of the great aggregate. In this country, placing the average of interest at 6 per cent and the aggregate debt of \$35,000,000,000 must be produced and applied to interest before the producers can call a dollar their own. Add to this the daily burden caused by being forced to do business on a debt basis instead of a cash basis, and some idea may be obtained of the intolerable burdens of the American producers, and the happy condition of a country in which the people are free from debt, and can make their sales, purchases and payments with cash.

THE PRICE OF BREADSTUFFS.

The present situation in relation to bread supply is phenomenal, and has not had a parallel for many years. Russia is the great granary from which western Europe draws the supply of wheat which is annually required to make up its own deficiency. Russia this year has so short a supply that she has stopped exportation of grain, and has lowered the standard of her army bread ration. Germany, Sweden and France are in little better condition than Russia, while there is a short crop in all the other European countries. Our crop failure last year exhausted our wheat supply, so the crop year opens with empty granaries in all the world. Never before in a century has there been such a scarcity of breadstuff as there is today.

In 1854 Russia was barred from western Europe by the Crimean war, and that region had to look elsewhere for its bread supply. In all of that year wheat sold for \$2 per bushel in gold throughout the Mississippi valley. There are a thousand farmers in Nebraska today, who then lived in the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa, who sold wheat at that price that year.

To-day western Europe is not only cut off from Russia as a source of supply as effectually as if war existed, but that country has to buy and import large quantities for her own starving people. And yet to-day wheat is selling in interior points in Nebraska for only seventy cents per bushel.

In 1854 ocean transportation consisted almost entirely of sailing vessels, taking months to make the voyage. To-day we have ocean steamers which can make the trip in from six to ten days. In 1854 the fastest communication was by steamship mail. To-day we have the ocean telegraph which sends orders from Liverpool to Chicago and San Francisco in less than an hour. In 1854 months were required to gain intelligence of actual conditions. Now as soon as a situation is known news of it is flashed to every quarter of the globe. But to-day with all these apparent advantages on the side of the producer he is failing to reap the advantage that naturally belongs to him from the situation. For the producer to-day to be on an equality with the consumer in 1854 wheat should be selling for \$2 per bushel throughout the Mississippi and Missouri valleys.

We are firmly convinced that the price must approximate that sum if the price of this crop is to at all approach the conditions of supply in former years; and we have no hesitation in saying to all who can possibly do so, hold your wheat.

But with notes at the bank drawing 2 or 3 per cent a month—with two or three years' interest on the mortgage unpaid, and installments on the principal falling due—with all the accumulated obligations of several years of light crops and one year of almost total failure, how many farmers of this state are there who are not compelled to turn their crops into ready money as soon as they can be put in marketable shape?

The cause of the present low price of wheat, while all the conditions seem to demand a high price, is worthy of consideration. What is it? First, the increased facilities for quick communication are taken advantage of by the commercial class to aid combination. The commercial class is organized and combined against the producing class. The railroads, the steamship companies, the boards of trade, the option dealers, the bank's, constituting collectively the money-power, are combined to bear agricultural products until they are out of the hands of the producers. The railroad companies, with the great elevators, are grain speculators. Their interest is to have grain remain long until it is out of first hands. Short selling of grain alone on the boards of trade reduces the value of all our grain more than 10 per cent. The best authorities agree that in the past ten years the farmers of the country would have received one thousand millions more for their products had not short selling become a prominent and profitable method of fixing values. How long will this vile system, which is purely the growth of republican misrule, be allowed to curse the country and rob its producers? In 1854 no such condition existed. Chicago was an innocent country village, and its board of trade had not been spawned from the pit.

The contracted volume of our currency is against the producers. No fair comparison can be made between 1854 and this date; but the decline in farm products has been very marked in the past twenty years. In 1873 corn was worth 40 cents a bushel, and yielded \$11.41 to the acre. In 1889 corn was worth only 28 cents a bushel, and yielded only \$7.68 an acre. In 1873 the home value of wheat was \$1.15, and it yielded to the farmer an average of \$14.59 per acre. In 1889 its home value was only \$0.69, and its value per acre only \$8.98. And so we could go through the whole catalogue and find about the same result. The cause that produced this change, viz: the demonetization of silver and the gradual contraction of the money volume in proportion to population and production, is still at work with full force. But the price of wheat specially is affected by the demonetization of silver for the reason that silver bullion is admitted to free coinage into rupees in India at the ratio of 15 to 1, or \$1.37 an ounce. Prices in India in silver have not materially changed since 1873; consequently, as silver bullion falls, it takes less gold to get the silver to convert into rupees to pay for wheat. In other words, the same number of rupees will buy a given quantity of wheat in India, regardless of the gold cost of the rupees; hence, as silver goes down the gold cost of wheat in India is reduced, and as our surplus wheat goes to Liverpool in direct com-

BUYING BULLION OR FREE COINAGE.

The absurdities and inconsistencies of the single-standard men are betrayed into in the advocacy of their views are amusing. In discussing this subject the Philadelphia Press says:

"Even if it were practicable to separate the silver produced in American mines from that melted from foreign ores or imported, there could be no possible gain, except to the silver mine owners, in providing for the free coinage of American silver. The government now buys as much as the American mines produce, only it gets the bullion at the market price. If the free coinage was confined to American silver it would simply compel the people to pay \$17,000,000 a year more to a few mine owners for precisely the same quantity of silver."

Now what are the facts? Under the present law the government buys bullion at its market price, issuing therefor treasury notes which may be redeemed in silver or gold, at the option of the government. These notes are not a legal tender—that is, an express provision is inserted in the law enabling a stipulation against their legal tender quality to be made. Under this law a debt is being made today for the purchase of silver bullion, and not a single silver dollar is being coined by the mints.

Now what would be the condition under free coinage? Simply this: The mints would receive the bullion, assay it and coin it into dollars, which would be returned to the owner of the bullion, unless he preferred to deposit them with the government and receive certificates for them. There would be no purchase or sale involved. The government would not go into the markets and bear a leading American product, to the injury of the producers of it, as its agents are now doing in the purchase of silver. It would restore silver to a parity with gold, just as it was from 1794 to 1873, and would make all silver bullion in existence in this country potentially money, as it was up to 1873.

DECREASE OF FARM VALUES IN OHIO.

Ten years ago says the Standard, the farms of that state were officially valued at \$884,826,516, and during the intervening period improvements to the value of \$40,815,730 have been added. The farms owned, therefore, fairly to be valued at this time not less than \$725,642,255. But they are worth, on precisely the same basis of valuation as before, only \$627,278,974, or \$57,547,542 less than they were worth ten years ago. So it appears that the farms of Ohio have, within the decade just closed, so fallen in value as to obliterate over forty millions of improvement value, and nearly seventeen millions of land value on top of that. This goes to show that the single tax, in its application to farmers, would tend to fail.

But only half the story is told. The real estate values of the villages, towns and cities of Ohio, which were but \$412,683,314 ten years ago, have risen to \$639,026,724. Since \$93,000,000 of the latter sum represents improvements, the increase in land values is \$133,343,410. This net increase in urban land values contrasts sharply with the \$16,731,803 decrease in farm land values.

THE IRRIGATION CONGRESS.

There is to be an irrigation congress at Salt Lake City September 15, 16 and 17, to perfect a crusade upon congress for a great appropriation to dig ditches and tunnel mountains throughout what remains of the great American Desert, in the interest first of the companies that may be formed to do the work, and second of the poor dear farmers. Incidentally, the denizens of Salt Lake City will move upon the delegates in a body, as it were, to show them the vastness of their resources and the unsurpassed beauties of that vicinity as a place not only for homes but to accumulate wealth in.

If the congress will develop the exact truth about drouths and hot winds, and recommend the only practical and practicable means of preventing them, viz: the storing of surplus water in ponds all over the country by the farmers themselves, it will have justified its existence.

AN INSULTING ARGUMENT.

We don't pick up a republican or corporation capper paper but what we find the stereotyped argument about the dissolution of the independent party as the result of the good crop of the present year. Ike Lansing, the end man of the monopoly monkey show, comes home from Custer county with a fool yam about some man who, by the grace of some benevolent banker, had stayed in Nebraska one more year, and the grand crop resulting had completely eradicated his foolish Alliance and independent notions. Of course here in Lincoln where Ike Lansing is known, that he states anything is its sufficient refutation. But the argument is a common one, nevertheless. It says to the farmers, "O yes, your movement was all right last year; you were a hungry lot of grangers, and we don't blame you. But now you've got a belly full, just keep quiet. You don't know anything about political economy, finance or the science of government. You don't know what makes high prices or low prices; you don't know anything about interest, railroad rates or taxes. You don't understand the relations of labor and capital, the difference between money and wealth, nor in fact

anything about money. Of course if you are hungry you expect you to make a fuss, as any baby would; but now you're well fed again, you tend to your horses and pigs and cattle, and plant your wheat and corn, and we'll attend to this money question, and government affairs, and politics, including filling the offices, etc."

The "hogs in the parlor" Journal has been re-iterating this argument every day for the past two months, and every time it has done it it has flung an insult into the face of every intelligent and self-respecting farmer in the state.

To permit this argument to have any force it must be conceded that the independent party is the growth of one year. And yet these men know that it has had a continued existence in this state for ten years, and that the agitation which has brought it to its present condition has been going on continuously for twenty years. They talk about the greenback party being dead, when as a matter of fact the greenback principles are only just beginning to be understood.

Go ahead with your foolishness, gentlemen. You will learn before long that the farmers of this nation comprise the soundest, best educated, most intelligent, most progressive, as well as most safely conservative class of people in these United States.

HON. J. H. BROADY.

We publish below some remarks from the pen of J. D. Calhoun, editor of the Lincoln Herald, on Hon. J. H. Broady. We desire to add that we heartily endorse every word that can be said in commendation of Mr. Broady. He has long been known as an independent in the old 5th district. He was first nominated for the bench by the anti-monopolists, and was endorsed by the democrats, and that order of his nomination was followed thereafter. Formerly a democrat, and neither a partisan nor a politician, which in a judge is eminently proper, we do not know that Judge Broady ever formally changed his party; but in devotion to independent principles there is no better independent in this state. It is worth a fortune, or better, an angel's smile, to write kind words as graciously as does Bro. Calhoun. As we cannot do it, we quote him with our fullest approval:

"As stated elsewhere, if we are to have an attempt at a non-partisan selection, let us have Judge J. H. Broady of Beatrice. He is young, in every way qualified, a hard worker—a man of the people and in touch with the people, utterly independent of railroad influence, yet devoid of the demagoguery which would pronounce against corporations for the prize of popular favor, a man who believes that law was made to serve men and not to rule them. Beneath his modest and unassuming exterior Judge Broady possesses a brain of perfect clearness, a heart as true as steel and a soul as honest as sunshine. He is a man of keen perception, of solid conviction, of dauntless courage, of perfect courtesy, of supreme fidelity, of entire truth, and with the grace of tender kindness and fellowship.

To place Broady on the supreme bench would bring it nearer to the people, would inspire them with respect for and confidence in it, and go far towards removing the distrust of it that demagogues are artfully fanning in the public mind."

GO AHEAD WITH THE INVESTIGATION RACKET.

Test and Livinghouse have resigned. Very well. Let the board of public lands and buildings now push its investigations into the other public institutions. There is probably not one of them but will be found much more rotten than the Kearney hospital. Start in with Tommy Benton, and go from him—or with him—to the pen and Charley Mosher. In fact, it may be well enough to investigate these two together. We believe, if the truth could be shown, that they are the rottenest pair in the United States. The people would like to know just where the 2,000 railroad passes and oceans of money that were used last winter came from. It is understood that Charley Mosher courts investigation. Of course he didn't want a gang of raw grangers fooling around, so he soaped a chairman or two last winter. But he will not object to a committee of experts, donchereno, such as the board could fix up.

And then, when public officials, such as senators, are bribed, and one of them run out of the state, the people would like to know just who did it, and who furnished the money. Of course we could tell them; but that wouldn't be official. We prefer to have it a matter of public record. One of the go-betweens is practicing law—quite a prominent fellow. Another holds an honorable but not very lucrative position in a public institution. No one would suspect, meeting them on our streets, that they were black-hearted villains. But, they are. They are in for an annuity to Taylor. But they ought to be in the pen. Let 'er go Gallagher! There's millions in it.

"That McKinley bill is a big thing, sure. The 'hogs-in-the-parlor' Journal says that 'it has cheapened the price of the necessities of life, reduced the revenues, shifted duties for the encouragement of industries that have hitherto been unable to flourish on account of foreign competition, without appreciably increasing the price of any article of common household use.'" Just think of the double compound, back action, reciprocating spring back of the pesky thing.

"The 'stupendous prosperity' which the monopoly press claims has invaded America will be a grand thing for the independents this fall. They can hire men to do their work and give their exclusive attention to politics. We hope the prosperity will materialize.