The Farmers' Alliance,
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J. BURROWS .....Editor
J. M. THOMPSON.....Business Manager

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

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

"A ruddy drop of manly blood
The surging sea outweighs."
—*Emerson.*

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

N. R. P. A.

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THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE
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J. BURROWS, Editor.
J. M. THOMPSON, Business Ma'gr.

The Great Alliance Weekly and the Leading Independent Paper of the State.

SEVEN COLUMN QUARTO.

It will always be found on the side of the people and wholly devoted to the advocacy of reform principles in state and nation.

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Lincoln, Nebraska.

Call for Annual Meeting of the Neb. Farmers' Alliance.

The next regular annual meeting of the Nebraska Farmers' Alliance will be held in Bohanan's hall, Lincoln, Nebraska, on *Tuesday, January 12, 1892.*

All Subordinate Alliances having dues fully paid to State Alliance for quarter ending September 30th will be entitled to representation, and should elect their delegate at the first regular meeting in December or as soon thereafter as convenient.

Representation will be one delegate for each Subordinate Alliance, who will cast the full vote to which the Alliance may be entitled.

Liberal hotel rates have been secured for delegates and reduced rates of fare will be arranged for on all railroads.

J. H. POWERS, Pres.
J. M. THOMPSON, Sec'y.

Meeting of the National Farmers' Alliance.

The annual convention of the National Farmers' Alliance will be held in the City of Chicago, Illinois, Wednesday, January 27th, 1892, at 9 o'clock a. m., for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, and the transaction of such business as may come before the convention. By order of the executive committee. J. H. POWERS, Pres.
AUGUST POST, Secy.

ROSEWATER GAGGED.

The above seems incredible, but it must be true. Steve Elkins has been his *bete noir*. Formerly nothing was too bad for the *Bee* to say about him. Now Steve is appointed secretary of war, and Rosey roars as mildly as a sucking dove, with not a roar against Stevey. The secret of it is, that the war department has a lease of rooms in the *Bee* building at $9,000 a year. That's the amount that shuts up one paper.

THAT BEE CHALLENGE.

Some weeks ago Mr. Rosewater challenged the editor of this paper to a discussion. We accepted. Some minor differences arose as to details which were adjusted. We conceded to Mr. Rosewater almost everything that he asked, and we are now waiting for him to send his first article.

If this discussion does not come off we wish it distinctly understood that it is not the fault of the editor of THE ALLIANCE.

Kem has been placed on the committee on Indian affairs and McKeighan on coinage, weights and measures. The two Nebraska independents will scarcely be in a position to do the farmers of Nebraska the least good.—*Bee.*

Will the *Bee* be good enough to state specifically just how much good Connell, Dorsey, Laws, Manderson or Paddock have ever done the farmers of Nebraska?

A REPLY TO THE CENTURY MAGAZINE.

BY J. BURROWS.

But dropping sentiment, I will observe that debts are paid in products; that the debt paying power of products is determined by prices; that, as prices are determined by the law of supply and demand finding its application in the relative volume of money and products, the volume of money becomes a question of vital moment to the debtor. As, according to the *Century* writer, 92 per cent of the people of the country are debtors, volume of money, or per capita circulation, becomes a vital question to by far the largest proportion of our people.

A striking illustration of my proposition in relation to prices and prosperity is found in the fact that in 1866, one year after the close of the war, 12,000,000 bbls of beef would have paid the national debt; while in 1890, after we have paid over $4,000,000,000 of principal and interest on that debt, it would take 236,666,937 bbls to pay the part that remained. Of wheat, 1,007,000,000 bus. would have paid the whole in 1866, while it would have taken 1,972,222,448 to pay the remainder in 1890. Of cotton it would have taken 6,056,162,755 more pounds to pay it in 1890 than in 1866.

These are stupendous facts. They illustrate the potency of price and the power of interest over the producers of the country. They are utterly ignored by such writers as the *Century* editor, while the corelative fact that 92 per cent of the business of the country is done on a credit basis is used as an argument in favor of this grand superstructure of slavery based upon it which the money reformers are trying to pull down.

A reply to paragraph three would be a partial repetition of the argument I have already made. The writer ignores the existence of debt, and therefore ignores the effect of increased circulation as a restorer of prices and equalizer of distribution. He assumes, in the most shallow manner, that the advocates of increased per capita circulation do not understand the economic relations of money to exchanges and distribution, and that they are asking for increased volume of money simply because they hope to get a share of the money. In the loosest possible manner he uses the term "money" and "wealth" as interconvertible terms. He says, "if the per capita were to be doubled the ratio of the present division would be maintained." Present division of what—wealth, or money? If the former, we have shown that the statement is not true. If the latter, it would make no difference whatever, if the money went into the channels of trade. If the government would double the present circulation, and put every dollar of it as a gratuity in the hands of Jay Gould, if he proceeded to put it into the channels of trade, it would have its legitimate and beneficent effect in stimulating exchanges, employing labor, increasing wages and equalizing distribution. So the statement of the *Century* editor, in the last sentence in paragraph three, is absolutely untrue, and shows an entire lack of comprehension of sound financial principles and knowledge of his subject.

In paragraph four the brilliant *Century* editor assaults a historical aspect of the question, in which every essential fact and every legitimate conclusion is dead against him. We refer the reader to that paragraph for the *Century's* argument. In the first place every intelligent student of our financial history knows that there was a large amount of actual money in the form of 7.30 bonds that were then in circulation, and which were paid out to our soldiers as money, which have never been reported as money by the later secretaries of the treasury. Treasurer Spinner in his report to congress for the years 1869 and '70, (page 244) heads the estimate of outstanding currency with a certain amount of 7 30 bonds. This ought to settle the question. Those bonds had long been in use as money. It was not until July 15, 1870, that a bill was passed to refund $1,500,000,000 U. S. bonds, in which these were included. In 1866 the congress passed a law authorizing the secretary of the treasury to sell 5.20 bonds, and with the proceeds retire United States currency, *including greenbacks.* In 1870, when the *Century* editor claims there was only $17.50 per capita in circulation, the country, owing to the continued policy of contraction, was emerging from the period of unexampled prosperity beginning in 1864. In 1873, the year silver was demonetized, the reaction culminated in a panic which downed half the banks in the country, and annihilated thousands of millions of wealth. As a matter of actual fact there was more money per capita in circulation in 1870 than there is to-day. But for the sake of meeting the *Century* writer fairly on his own ground, we will concede the accuracy of his figures; viz: a per capita of $17.50 in 1870, and $23.45 in 1891; and we now assert that, increase of production considered, there has been a steady and continuous contraction of the money volume from 1870 to the present time. The per capita increase claimed by the *Century* is something over 30 per cent. If there has been an increase of exchangeable wealth of more than that amount we gain our point. Now we assert without fear of successful contradiction that the average increase of exchangeable wealth since 1870 will exceed 150 per cent. If this is correct the contraction since that date has been in the ratio of the difference between 30 and 150. This, as every student of finance knows, could take place without any absolute lessening of the volume of money.

I give below the increase of production in eleven staple products from 1870 to 1890, as reported by the treasury department:

ARTICLES.	1870.	1890.
Cotton, bales	3,114,508	7,313,727
Wool, lbs	160,000,000	276,000,000
Pig Iron, tons	2,163,168	7,724,813
Wheat, bus	235,884,700	490,560,000
Petroleum, bbls	558,775	21,458,406
Corn		Doubled
Cows	10,000,000	16,000,000
Oxen	15,000,000	36,000,000
Swine	26,000,000	50,000,000

There was no such "phenomenal prosperity" in 1870 as is depicted by the *Century* writer. In 1864 there were $52 per capita of circulation, and 520 business failures, with a loss of $8,579,000. In 1870 the per capita was reduced to $17.50, and the failures numbered 3,551, with a loss of $88,242,000. 1890 comes in with 10,907 failures, and a loss of $189,856,946 of capital.

There is another use for money peculiar to those periods when there is a great volume of debt, which is seldom considered, but which is as legitimate as agricultural or other exchanges, and which as imperatively demands actual money. Funded securities are exchangeable property. Notes, bonds, mortgages—in fact all evidences of debt—are daily bought and sold for actual money. Thus the scarcity of money which forces debt upon the people creates an enormous demand for money to buy the debt. The demand that this creates for money may be imagined when we see that our State, county and municipal debts, our debts to railroads and banks, insurance companies and capitalists amount to $17,000,000,000. To this must be added our chattel and individual debts, which swell the aggregate to an appalling total. It is all exchangeable, and aids in making a relative currency contraction as much as increased farm production or increased manufactures.

Paragraph five is another striking example of the *Century's* loose reasoning and reckless assumptions instead of facts. Its first sentence involves an idea that probably never illumined the opaque brain of the writer, viz; that in times of falling values money shuns business ventures. It is often the case in such times that it pays better to lock money in a safe than to invest it in property. The shrinkage in value is often more than the interest of money, in which case investment would have brought actual loss. Hence in such times money accumulates in the money centres, and seeks investment in guaranteed loans, and takes such loans at very low rates. The accumulation at these centres, and the low rates of interest, are the direct result of falling values caused by contracted money volume. This condition is always accompanied by stagnated trade, low wages, idle labor, increased failures, and general financial distress. It is a condition which would be relieved by rising values and prices, which could only be brought about by increased volume of money, and there is no misapprehension about this.

The denial by the *Century* that contraction of currency does not involve contraction of credit does not surprise us, after what we have already seen. What is credit? Deferred payment of money. Upon what is it based? Upon the belief of the debtor that he will be able at certain times to obtain money with which to meet his obligations. If there was no money could credit exist, as far as money payments were concerned? It could not. Is it not certain, therefore, that credit must be limited by the volume of money? There is no denying it.

If the *Century's* assumption is true that contraction of credit is not coequal with contraction of currency, how senseless it has been for the secretary of the treasury to periodically pour a volume of money into Wall street, when a panic was threatened from what is euphoneously called "over-trading." "Over-trading" is simply the transaction of a larger volume of business than the existing volume of money warranted. A reserve volume of currency in the U. S. treasury, which could be drawn upon in emergencies, is what alone has repeatedly averted financial disaster This fact is a sufficient reply to the sophistical assumptions of the *Century.*

The *Century* now makes the common statement that 92 per cent of the business of the country is done on credit, and only 8 per cent with actual currency. This is a deplorable fact, and is one of the strongest arguments in favor of more money. All this enormous credit involves interest, which is a potent factor of unequal distribution. It not only involves interest, but it involves broken contracts, litigation, mortgage sales, an army of courts, lawyers and bailiffs, and a mountain of costs and fees which no one has attempted to estimate. It is said that 95 per cent of all the litigation in the country arises from disputes in financial transactions based on credit.

The above statement is often made in another form, viz: that 92 per cent of the business of the country is done by checks and drafts, it being assumed that these are agencies of exchange independent of money. A trifling analysis will show the shallowness of this argument. "What are checks? Are they instruments by which business is transacted without money? Does the check itself end the transaction? Is there no money behind it, or can the money behind the check be dispensed with? On the contrary, must there not be the full face of the check behind it in the bank to make it good? What part, then, does the check play in a transaction? It manifestly saves handling the money, but the money must be in existence. Checks facilitate transactions and enable settlements to be made more rapidly, but they do not do away with the need of money or take the place of money. If they did, then all that would be needed in a money stringency would be more checks.

"Again, what is a draft? Is it anything more than an order to pay money? The function of the draft is substantially the same as that of a check, as the maker must have the money to transfer or it must be owed to him or he cannot rightfully make a draft.

"Imagine for a moment all the money represented by checks and drafts to be destroyed; what would then become of these 'substitutes' for money?"

To be continued.

THE NEBRASKA PENITENTIARY.

We never expected to do it but we did at last get into the State penitentiary. And while we were there last Saturday we looked it all over, the cells, workshops, kitchen, laundry, bathroom, hospital, etc. We saw the insane inmates, four or five in number, the six hospital patients, and the murderers in close confinement. We saw the female criminal department which (all honor to the sex) contains but four inmates. We stepped inside the men's cells, where they live, each cell a prison house, and examined them. We entered the black hole and shutting the solid iron door imagined how it would seem separated from all sympathy. The dense darkness and solid walls that manacled hands can touch on every side in this special place of punishment must make men desperate and desolate in spirit beyond our power of realization.

There are 360 prisoners behind the sentried walls. In the last year 176 have been discharged, 9 pardoned, 13 have had sentence commuted, 5 have been remanded for new trial, 1 has had sentence reduced by district court, and 2 have died. During the last year the courts have sent 179 new convicts to the institution, so the books show a reduction of 27 in the number enrolled.

About 225 men were at work in the different workshops—38 were in the harness shop, 14 in the machine shops, 5 in the foundry, 46 in cooper shop A, 48 in cooper shop B, 60 in cooper shop C, 14 in the broom factory, and 25 were working on stone. Others were at work in the kitchen, laundry and about the yard and buildings. The larger portion of the men in countenance looked like and as well as ordinary men. Almost all averted the eye, showing a feeling of degradation that was pitiful to see, so weakening is it morally and so nearly related to despair. A few only had the deep brand of criminals upon their faces.

It is a mercy to give them work, but an injust, unwise, uneconomic, unreforming system by which they are worked. The state pays to the convict labor lessee, C. W. Mosher, forty cents a day for the maintenance of each convict, and allows him all he can make out of their labor, either directly or by sub-leasing. The convicts work well, and an average of nine hours a day. In addition to turning out marketable products for the lessee, they make and wash their own clothes, cook their own food and cleanse their own cells and cell utensils, do all their own work in fact, and the forty cents a day paid Mosher by the state undoubtedly covers more than cost of keeping them. That being the case all the value of their labor in the making of barrels, brooms, harness, saddles, machinery, and the rest, is so much taken out of the bodies of the convicts and put into the pockets of the lessee. They are made his slaves, forced to work without wages and furnished very poor board and worse than slaves' lodgings, no regard being paid to their natural *inalienable* right to have all that they produce in excess of what they consume. Seventy per cent of the men sent there in 1891 were convicted of crimes against property. And the state, the embodyment of law, teaches respect for law by legally robbing these men of the unconsumed surplus which they earn during each day of their confinement! Is not this a crime of the same kind but greater than their's, and having no intelligent excuse?

The state is neither poor nor tempted. It is not enriched by the exploitation and systematic robbery of its prisoners. The prisoners are not morally benefited by it. They cannot be taught to respect the personal and property rights of others by having what they produce taken from them by state sanction and contract. The folly and wickedness of the present treatment of prisoners must therefore be admitted.

The crying need is for the state itself to furnish employment for its prisoners. It has every facility to manufacture goods, the buildings, the men, the machinery or money needed, and can hire honest book keepers and competent managers and overseers. It can give useful employment to all its prisoners and after paying all expenses from the product of their labor divide among them in bank account, or send to their families, profits which will correspond favorably with the savings of men who are free, and it would save itself at the same time at least $60,000 or more paid yearly to the present lessee. The convicts by this just system would retain some self-respect, and a growing bank account given into their hands when set at liberty would place all who desired to lead honest lives above the temptation and despair which drag so many back after being sent almost empty handed into an unsympathetic unfriendly world. We should like to write more in detail concerning the just treatment, cash profits, and moral reforming benefits to be found in the change of penitentiary management here proposed, but lack of space forbids.

One very great evil at the state's prison at present is the lack of cell room which necessitates putting two prisoners into a cell. The most of the cells contain two men. The cells, as the warden pointed out in his last report, were made for but one. Their size is only about four feet by seven, and besides being unhealthy and very uncomfortable for two men to live in, the moral contagion of the most degraded cannot help being a deplorable, injurious result. New cell room is imperatively demanded. There is no moral selection made in the matter of cell companionships.

The food which we saw was what many would think good enough for convicts, but it would destroy what appetite we have to sit down to it. The sliced bread was black and hard, and the big pans of browned conglomerate—an unexplored mixture—did not send forth a delicious aroma.

After personal observation of the conditions of life and labor at what is called "the pen" we can only repeat with emphasis the remark of our courteous attendant—"*It is not a reformatory institution.*"

TRUE AND FALSE EVOLUTION.

The chapel of the State university was comfortably filled Friday evening last to listen to an addresss by Chancellor Shaw of the university of Kansas. He spoke, or rather read a paper, upon "Evolution" by invitation of the Science club of this city, the audience being composed of the club, its friends and other interested citizens.

The address was a graceful, polished, argumentative effort, and we presume the young minds before him, now in the memorizing age and unable to reason broadly and critically through lack of facts, were convinced of the correctness of his deductions. But those listening who have seen theories and arguments believed by the scientific world again and again demolished, and who have in consequence found it necessary to rigidly separate fact and fancy by whomsoever mixed, were forced to pronounce the argument of the Kansas educator unsound and misleading. His first statement was, that Evolution had come to be regarded by almost all scientists as established truth, a law almost as certainly true as the law of gravitation. Now there are evolutionists and evolutionists, but the Chancellor is evidently one who would trace all life and matter back through a continuous unbroken series of material causes and effects to what is called star gas, and to a single motion. He did not say that star gas or "fire mist" was the beginning, but he in argument evolved all things from it and jumped whatever chasms he came to with the violent presumption, first, that there must be an unbroken continuity of process, and second, that it must be a direct evolution of atomic potentialities by means of new combinations and minute variations.

This theory of evolution requires belief in spontaneous generation, the derivation of living things from dead matter, a belief which the whole circle of scientific inquiry and investigation finds nothing to sustain, and which the laws of life so far as they are known contradict. We are also required by the Chancellor's theory to believe that freedom of action or inaction springs from absolute necessity of action, the action of unvarying forces according to fixed law. But *freedom* from *necessary obedience to fixed law* is the most palpable absurdity; and an absurdity which completely blocks the way for all loyal intellects. From this absurdity we are taken to still another, namely, that the orbital motions of all bodies are the extension of but one motion, the tendency of matter in the nebulous or ununited state to draw together. We have not time or space to show the impossibility of this as demonstrated by the laws of motion, but it can be easily done.

The writer is an evolutionist of a certain sort. He doubts not that "through the ages one increasing purpose runs," but the atomic base is not broad enough to build everything upon, and projection or attraction of a single kind could not give rise to all the antagonistic motions and series of changes following.

☞ Wm. S Woods, an Indiana judge, saved W. W. Dudley, of "blocks of five" bribery fame, from indictment. President Harrison now rewards him with a United States district judgeship.

POWDERLY'S APPEAL.

From the Omaha Bee of Dec. 28.

Mr. Terence V. Powderly's appeal to the working men of America to join hands with the Farmers' Alliance in a third party movement is the weakest document that has ever emanated from Powderly's pen. Mr. Powderly insists that the interests of the workingman are identical with those of the farmer. Mr. Powderly insists that when the farmer is prosperous the laborer is prosperous, and when the farmer is pinched and hard up the laborer is also in distress.

Even the most ignorant wage worker must pronounce this truism as inapplicable to the relative condition of the two classes. Mr. Powderly might as well say that when the crops are abundant the farmer is prosperous and abundant crops also insure prosperity to the railroads; hence the interest of the railroad is identical with that of the farmer, and the farmer and railroad monopolists should join hands politically.

Nobody ought to know better than Mr. Powderly that the factory wage worker, the skilled mechanic, and the day laborer have little or nothing in common with the farmer. It is the interest of the workingman to buy his beef, his flour, butter, eggs, potatoes and other products of the farm as cheap as possible, and to sell his time as wage worker as high as possible. It is the interest of the farmer to market his products at the highest price, and to buy the wares that are fashioned in the work shop and factory as cheap as possible. In other words, the farmer is as a capitalist who wants the largest income upon his investment in land, and wants to cheapen all commodities he is obliged to buy for himself and his family. The laborer lives from hand to mouth and consequently has nothing in common with the man who is interested in raising the price of the necessarices of life—except, possibly, in a stable currency and economic and honest government.

If American workingmen could under any circumstances be induced to rally en masse to the support of any particular party they would find greater promisses of success in organizing an American labor party, pure and simple, with labor reform as the rallying cry, than with a party made up of elements whose aims are almost in direct conflict with their own interests.

The above article is an infamous outrage. Every word of it is a lie, and the editor of the *Bee* knows it. Knowing it, he wilfully falsifies sound economic laws and the truth of history to sow dissension between the workingmen and farmers, and bolster up the falling fortunes of monopolists, Wall street shylocks and his plutocratic party.

And this *Bee* editor is the man who championed the cause of the laboringmen and farmers of the state, and with brazen impudence went into their conventions with loud-mouthed protestations that he was their friend.

Mr. Powderly never wrote a stronger document nor stated a truer principle than when he said that the interests of the farmers and workingmen were identical. Nobody knows better than the editor of the *Bee* that abundant crops do not always mean prosperity to the farmer; and nobody knows better than he that when the farmers of the country are receiving high prices for their products, the factory wage worker, the skilled mechanic and the day laborer have full employment at good wages. Nobody knows better than he that when prices are low, trade paralyzed and values falling, labor, skilled and unskilled, is alike idle, and poor men, of all classes depressed. When the *Bee* says, "it is the interest of the farmer to market his products at the highest price, and to buy his wares at the cheapest price," he knows he is lying. It is true many farmers *think* that is their interest, but the *Bee* knows better. The *Bee* KNOWS that unless the farmers pay fair prices for what they buy the other classes cannot pay fair prices for farm products, and that it is the *interest* of the farmer to have high prices all along the line. The *Bee knows* that when prices are low all producers suffer alike, and only shylocks and money sharks prosper.

We have not read an article in a long time that has made our blood boil as does the lying one that we have quoted above. The editor of the *Bee* will never see the day when he is fit to untie the shoe-strings of Terence V. Powderely.

THE REAL QUESTIONS.

Rev. Dr. Charles F. Twing, president of Adelbert college, Cleveland, has an article in a recent issue of the Boston *Congregationalist*, in which he says: "Social and economic questions are the burning questions of to-day. They are to be the burning questions of to-morrow. * * * These problems are of wide inclusiveness. What they do not include is small in comparison with what they do include." Yes, they are the problems of justice; they deal with right conditions, with the care of the weak and the restraining of the strong; with the evils of competition and the greater evils of combination for selfish ends. The problem of political corruption and class legislation, the subsidizing of the press to prejudice and mislead the masses, the degradation to poverty and dependence of the masses and the necessity of preserving with ignorant and dependent voters the fast vanishing liberty of American citizens, these are the things that confront us. So they are not simply social and economic questions, but moral questions great and almost all-inclusive.

EDWARD ATKINSON AND HIS LITTLE STOVE.

The "European pauper" would have no difficulty in subsisting a family of five on an annual allowance of $300, or $1 per day for each working day. To the American laborer, however, and some others, the problem is something of a puzzle. Fortunately we have a large minded and philanthropic economist, statistician and inventor who has solved the problem. Mr. Edward Atkinson, of Boston, has recently invented a little stove for the use of laborers and poor people generally. Rich or fairly well to do people are not interested.

If poor people would use this stove they would save a good deal of fuel.

If they would use several of them they might save all the fuel.

After studying statistics that would only be a "Sahara of figures" to others, Mr. Atkinson finds that a laborer in any of our towns and cities can subsist on 14 cents worth of food and drink per day, or 70 cents for a family of five; *provided* he will use the bill of fare that Mr. A. has found to be the cheapest, most wholesome and nutritious, and cook his food on Mr. A.'s little stove.

Of course this bill of fare does not consist very largely of bird's nest soup, lobster salad, Charlotte Russe, champaigne, etc., nor can these articles be furnished every meal.

But there are no cobble stones in this bill. Mr. A. is not the man to give a stone when asked for bread.

It is to be observed that 14 cents does not cover the cost of fuel, labor and use of utensils used in cooking and serving the food. If the breadstuffs are bought unground, the meat on the hoof and other things in a similar way, the cost might be reduced below 14 cents per day.

At 70 cents per day the family food bill would amount to $255 50 per annum. Deduct this from the total annual allowance of $300 and there remains $44 50 for *Rum, Rent and Raiment.* Allowing 50 cents for rum, which is quite liberal, the $44 could be divided equally between rent and raiment. $22 will pay the annual rental—which covers taxes, repairs and insurance—of quite a sizable house, well provided with suitable arrangements for heating, lighting and distributing hot and cold water, saying nothing about champaigne on tap. Said house will contain not less than three rooms, including the front and back yards, and will occupy not more than an acre of ground, thus affording abundant "children range" and "chicken scratchin'."

The rooms for library, art gallery and chapel are just around the corner, free to all, having been provided by Andy Carnegie, *et al.*

Our coffee roasters, soap makers, makers of baking powder and many others are to-day gratuitously furnishing their patrons with works of art of an exceedingly high order of merit. By the judicious use of these gems, the American laborer can embellish his home and envelope his family in an atmosphere of art such as was never dreamed of by his ancestry either near or remote.

Twenty-two dollars per annum will not clothe a family of five as well as a larger sum; but when the wife and children make additional earnings, which they frequently do, and always should do, they can have more clothes. If there chances to be any doctor bills or funeral expenses in the family, they can be paid from such earnings. Shoes and stockings need not be worn in warm weather. The law does not require it, and as this is still a free country one may wear shoes or go bare-foot as he or she may elect.

Besides the above 300 working days and the fifty-two Sundays per annum, there are thirteen other secular days including the legal and other holidays; or one day for each Lunar month. These thirteen days can be devoted to sickness or recreation. For the latter purpose the laborer can play base ball, while his wife and babies can go to the sea shore or the national park.

There is no real reason why laboring people should grumble. They should study Edward Atkinson. They don't seem to realize what a blessed boon the Lord has sent them in the person of Edward Atkinson. And above all they should buy a copy of Edward Atkinson's little stove.

THE "BEE" AND DOC MERCER.

The *Bee* comes out unequivocally for Doc. Mercer for governor. This is a severe blow for Mercer. Whatever force the *Bee* may have in a campaign, it seldom wins in a convention. But it means another boodle, whisky corporation campaign, with Omaha rum and Rosewaterism as its basis, for the supremacy of so-called republicanism in Nebraska. "To what base uses may we come at last!"

"Imperial Cæsar, dead and turned to clay,
Stopping a hole to keep the wind away!"

It means also another campaign in which Omaha is pitted against the state. Omaha has ruled Nebraska in the two last elections. We will sadly miss our guess if it does it the third time.

☞ "There is now more money in New York than there is use for. The banks hold over $19,000,000 more than the law requires them to." Significant facts these, when studied in connection with the hard times, dull business, and multitudes out of employment, suffering and destitution in western towns and cities. This vast accumulation of money in New York banks is the stream of interest which the sale of crops in the west and south set in motion. It goes to parties who exchange nothing for it, the workers of the west being impoverished to swell the bank accounts of the eastern capitalists. They sell their crops to pay exorbitant railroad charges and to meet enforced tribute to the money kings, and so cannot buy back out of the markets over half what they put in. The result is congestion on the one hand and destitution on the other, money in the hands of those who cannot use it, and the workers suffering and thrown out of employment.

☞ It is said that at the beginning of the year the president will issue his proclamation restoring duties on sugar, teas, coffee, molasses, hides, etc., imported from countries which refuse to make reciprocity treaties with us. Taxing American consumers of the above articles to punish foreigners for not becoming free traders in our products will be considered by many people as biting off your own nose to spite another fellow's face. Isn't this protection business of the republicans getting a little mixed anyhow? We were using protection a while ago to bolster up our infant industries, while now we propose to use it to compel even exchanges. When that succeeds what will the infants do? At any rate it will not do to take any back tracks. Putting necessaries on the free list is a good thing. Putting the duties back again is another and very different thing.

☞ From figures obtained by the senate committee which made an investigation of the Chicago beef trust, the enormous sum of $16,660,000 was taken in ten years from private shippers and paid in rebates to those who were in it. The railroads thus make themselves the hired tools of robbers, building up enormously wealthy trusts, which combine with the railroads to corrupt congress and purchase state legislation for their defense and the further extension of their tyrannical power. The tide of plutocracy gathers impetus as its gold increases, and will sweep the country onward to ruin and bloody revolution if the people cannot be aroused soon to the danger, and be led to stand solidly together against this proud, victorious, fast-growing power.

☞ Chicago isn't asking congress for $5,000,000—O no! It is the directors of the world's fair. Just watch out, now, and see how nicely Chicago will bunco Uncle Sam.

THE ARENA FOR JANUARY.

HAMLIN GARLAND.

In the January *Arena*, Hamlin Garland's much-talked-of novel of the modern West opens brilliantly. The publishers of the *Arena* claim that this will be "the greatest American novel," and certainly it bids fair to be by far the strongest work that has yet come from the pen of the brilliant "novelist of the West," though this is saying much, as those who have read "Main-Travelled Roads" and "Jason Edwards" will admit. This issue also contains strong papers by Alfred Russell Wallace on "Human Progress: Past and Future;" Prof. A. N Jannaris, Ph. D., of the university of Greece, Athens, on "Mohammedan Marriage and Life;" Henry Wood, on "The Universality of Law;" Ex-Gov. Lionel A. Sheldon, on "Louisiana and the Levees;" D. G. Watts, on "Walt Whitman;" Chas. Schroder, on "What is Buddhism?" and several other able papers. The *Arena* fully maintains its brilliant reputation and should be in the homes of all thoughtful people.

We give above a life-like prtrait of Hamlin Garland, and author whose name is destined to become a familiar household word in all the land.

☞ From 1887 to 1890 inclusive, the freight transported by rail increased 30 per cent. During the same time the number of freight cars was increased only 11 per cent. Does it not seem to be the settled policy of the railroads to reduce expenses in this way, a way which enables them by pressure of demand for cars to raise the price of transportation, so doubling their profits? There is only one way to deal with this gigantic legislature and congress-controlling, politics-corrupting power, and that is to nationalize the railroads and put it out of existence.

☞ "Sweat for sweat is the first great principle of finance," says the Indianapolis *Journal*. Very good, axiomatic, incontrovertible. But will the *Journal* kindly tell us how sweat is exchanged where interest is paid? or where idle speculators amass wealth by the market increase of land and commodity values? or where rents and royalties are paid to men for things which man's labor never produced? He who *produces* most by his own labor of brain and muscle, should be the richest man; but under our present laws he is not.

☞ From the plutocratic abuse that is heaped on Senators Peffer and Kyle, we judge they must be getting in some pretty good work. The lies come indiscriminately from both old parties. Senator Peffer did not caucus with the republicans. The Alliance representative from Minnesota did not caucus with the democrats. Senator Kyle kept out of both old party caucusses. Senator Peffer received four committee assignments, and Senator Kyle five, while Senator Pettigrew received four.

☞ If the Kansas legislature should be convened to elect Plumb's successor, an Alliance man would be elected, the independents having 16 majority on joint ballot. It is safe to say that the governor will appoint. That is, the republicans will steal a senator.

A Granger in the Beet Sugar Convention.

WINSIDE, Neb., Dec. 22, 1891.

MR. EDITOR:—I want to say to the many readers of your paper which is making such a noble fight for justice and equal rights for all, that it was my good fortune to look upon the delegates in attendance at the sugar beet convention at Lincoln last week; and to say that they were the smoothest looking lot of grangers or hayseeds that it has ever been my privilege to look upon, don't express it. You might search the third congressional district from one end to the other and the like could not be found.

And the supreme gall that some men have is astonishing. The idea of a man getting up before an audience of that kind and stating that he could clear $23.75 per acre raising sugar beets is too ridiculous to talk about. It would be hard to believe that he would have the cheek to get up before an audience composed of Grand Island or Norfolk farmers and make such an assertion.

At Norfolk to get the necessary number of acres of beets planted to run that institution it become necessary for the business men to form a small syndicate, and I learn from a good man that one man put up $275 and drew out $75, and I fail to see where his $23.75 per acre comes in. There would be just as much consistency in the farmers asking the legislature to grant them a bounty for raising wheat, corn or flax. To a man up a tree it looks very inconsistent for Mr. Oxnard to come before the tax payers asking them to do what?—to give him any sum from $10,000 to $50,000 per annum to protect his capital. The more factories the more bounty.

Now let us see how he looks after the interests of the granger. The sugar that is made at Norfolk can be supplied to the Madison County farmer after it has been shipped to Omaha and back—two freight bills, one wholesale profit and one retail profit. How long will the farmers swallow such medicine because it is administered by these slick fellows, and the subsidized press to back them? Please mark me down a kicker.

The farmers had a few friends in that august body, and in their behalf I want to say many thanks.

Now as one voter in the great state of Nebraska let me say if they want to make a campaign on the bounty question next fall I say come on and if you don't see the fur fly set me down as a false prophet. Yours truly,

H. B. MILLER.