

ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT.

Consolidation of the Farmers Alliance Nebraska Independent

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GEORGE HOWARD GIBSON, Editor. CHAS. T. GRIFFIN, Business Manager. J. S. HYATT, Advertising Mgr.

"If any man must fall for me to rise, Then seek I not to climb. Another's pain I choose not for my good. A golden chain, A robe of honor, is too good a prize To tempt my hasty hand to do a wrong Unto a fellow man. This life hath we Sufficed, wrought by man's satanic foe; And who that hath a heart would dare prolong Or add a sorrow to a stricken soul? That seeks a healing balm to make it whole? My bosom owns the brotherhood of man."

N. I. P. A.



Publishers Announcement. The subscription price of the ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT is \$1.00 per year, invariably in advance. ADVERTISERS in soliciting subscriptions should be very careful that all names are correctly spelled and proper postage given. Blank checks for return subscriptions, return envelopes, etc., can be had on application to this office. ALWAYS sign your name. No matter how often you write us do not neglect this important matter. Every week we receive letters with incomplete addresses or without signatures and it is sometimes difficult to locate them. CHANGE OF ADDRESS. Subscribers wishing to change their postage address must always give their former as well as their present address when change will be promptly made. Address all letters and make all remittances payable to THE ALLIANCE PUBLISHING CO., Lincoln, Neb.

THE attention of our subscribers is called to some special articles and new features in this issue of our paper. We have in the way of special articles of very great educational value on panics, their cause and remedy, by J. M. L. Babcock, reprinted from Donohue's magazines. Our Washington letter, by Mr. Thornton, is more than usually interesting. From the St. Joseph Herald we reprint an article of value on "Interest and Money." From "The Outlook," an article on the New York city telephone monopoly, giving valuable interesting facts. We have also borrowed "Zeke Bilkins," the North Carolina political humorist, and introduced him to our readers. We are very serious ourselves, more so than we like to be, but we know a joke when we see it, and in future we shall help our readers who need to laugh by means of a laughing department. We have also introduced (in crude form this week) a family department, including Sunday school lessons, puzzles for the young folks and stories. We are glad to announce also that we are negotiating for a serial story to be written specially for our columns, a story which will deal with our reform questions. Show this number to your friends and get us up a club, won't you?

ACCORDING to estimates given in a dispatch of the 11th inst., there were at that time in Chicago, "not less than 117,000 people out of work and in sore need."

GOVERNOR LEVELLING of Kansas is getting stacks of letters, from people all over the United States, commending him for issuing his so-called "tramp circular."

NEW YORK CITY reports enormous increase in the demands of charity. There cannot be less than 200,000 people in that city and Brooklyn who are unable to find work.

TEXAS is all alive, throughout its great length and breadth, with Populist and Farmers' Alliance activities. Texas will soon be the Populist constellation of redeemed states.

THE Populists of Oregon are actively at work perfecting their party organization. Governor Penoyer is giving them the full strength of his influence, and ably leads the party.

IN the mining regions of northern Wisconsin and Michigan 25,000 men are without work and have been for a long time. This means that 1,000 to 125,000 people there are in great destitution.

THREE THOUSAND of his townsmen turned out to greet and receive ex-General Master Workman T. V. Powderly when he returned to his home in Scranton, Pa., a few days ago. No braver, truer, nobler leader of the laboring men will ever be found. And his work is not yet done. We hope he will put his heart and brain into the task of educating all the wealth-producers to see their common interest and unite politically and industrially to secure it.

A WARNING TO THE POPULISTS.

We wish to call the attention of the Populists and our party press to some very important facts which we have in the last month observed. The strength of the life, the hope of the people's party and the cause of liberty is in the educating power of its press, its party papers. We have not been able to spread our ideas much in the cities, because the old party daily papers are almost the only papers taken by city people. But in the country our weeklies found a field that they could enter, a field open and partly prepared for them by the Farmers Alliance. Our advantage there, however, has been noted, and the state and national organs of plutocracy have determined to crowd us out of that field, if possible. Through the Associated Press news monopoly the Republican and Democratic dailies are able to gather, mold, suppress and express the news; and everybody must have the general news, the Populists as well as the rest. But less, comparatively little, attention has been hitherto paid by the dailies to the people who could not take a daily, the farming class. This class, because of the value of their votes and their drift toward the Populist party, is claiming now the shrewd, careful attention of the old party leaders, and they have perfected a scheme to hold all the votes which we have not yet secured, and to draw back as many as can, by newspaper art and political tactics, held away from us. Our first phenomenal party growth was made before the old parties knew we were to be feared. But as soon as the ballot box showed our power floods of misrepresentation, sophistry and ridicule were poured out of the daily dragon mouths to swallow us up. But the distance from the cities has helped the child of our hopes, and the party, in spite of all ingenious lying and the prejudices it could create, has grown. The only way to kill it, it is apparent, is to go into the wilderness where it is being nourished till it shall have strength to reign. And this is what is determined on by the great dragon power. Out of their daily issues the old party papers are making up their best possible weekly newspapers, and at trifling expense they are able to send out papers which, well advertised, they will introduce everywhere. The Republican papers are being advertised with hitherto unheard of inducements and unparalleled cheapness in Nebraska (it is not a good Democratic field), the Toledo Blade, the Globe Democrat and the Republican state papers. The weeklies will have the same skillful misrepresentation, the matter prepared to prejudice and mislead. This is the scheme to hold, capture and divide the farmers. And the only way we can prevent this as a party is for the rank and file to stir themselves mightily to introduce and help our papers. The people sometimes forget that a reform paper must have a mighty struggle to live when such times come on us as we are now staggering under. Where individuals everywhere are pinched and poor the paper fighting their battles must not be put off and work for it forgotten. It is the single dollar withheld which are its life. Its own bills must be paid promptly, but advertisers and subscribers put off what they often might pay. Take care of your papers, those which you know deserve to live, and when times are hard work the harder to introduce them, and to gather up a few dollars to meet their pressing necessities. Remember, there is a plan to kill out and crowd out the Populist weeklies, to get into homes ahead of them. The life of the Populist party depends on what you do now for your party press.

THE OMAHA RAILROAD ORGAN.

Trade and Traffic, "devoted," it says, "to political economy and railway, financial and commercial interests," has transferred its publishing office from St. Louis to Omaha, and asks of us an exchange. Certainly; we exchange with everybody, and road friends and foes. It pays to do it. This railroad sheet, no doubt, also, will watch the state organ of the Populists. "T. and T." gives notice in its first column that "it believes in sound money, sound credit and sound business methods." Well, so do we, the very soundest and perfectly honest. Following this creed the editor prints a letter of warm endorsement from S. H. H. Clark; and in his first article argues that Omaha should not be hampered by the Inter-State Commerce law, but should be given special railroad rates, rates not given to smaller towns or proportioned to distance. That is "T. and T."'s idea of justice and "sound business methods." The next article is "First Money, and the Farmer." Its first sentence reads, "It is expected that congress will be flooded with petitions from the rural districts of the west this winter asking, or rather demanding, free silver coinage, and perhaps other kinds of flat money." "T. and T." admits the right of petition and thinks it indicates freedom, but shows the folly of it. It then says, "No political economist, who has given any thought at all to the question, will deny that the cost of raising farm products is out of all proportion to what they sell for in the consumption markets." (Our eyes opened at this. In "Trade and Traffic," said true as preaching? And

it went on to show that this was bringing the farmers into debt, whereas each producer ought to have a surplus, after living. "And it is the violation of this economic law," says T. and T., "that gives rise to petitions to congress for flat money when there is money enough, and to strikers for higher wages when wages are on a parity with other commodities."

We here began to wonder what the T. and T. remedy could be. It was simply this:

If the consumer, makes his cost of living more than his income; if he aspires to social or other currents of life that are higher than the results of his production can reach, he must get back into the currents that are in harmony with the economic law of adjustment, or be crushed out of all currents, save one leading to the jail, or the one leading to the poor house. And this applies to all kinds and conditions of men, since it is natural law that expenditure exceeding income is the down grade to bankruptcy.

The succeeding paragraphs preach so plainly and interestingly to the lazy, shiftless, too luxurious farming class that we print them entire:

Now, it is the violation of this very law that makes the cost of raising farm products out of proportion to what is obtained for it in the markets. The methods which a great many western farmers employ in conducting their farm operations inevitably lead to financial distress. There are many unnecessary factors in farm operations, which have crept in from time to time until they now, and have for several years, exerted a most powerful influence in the direction of making the cost of production overlap the income. Thus the percentage of the cost over what it should be is in ratio to the number of unnecessary "help" employees; to the cost taken of farm machinery; to the number of non-supporting, much less producing, saddle, buggy, and carriage horses, and to the number and kind of "city ways" that have been injected into the economies of farm life and farm operation.

Renovals in farm implements is another important item in the cost of the product, and yet the majority of western farmers never think of housing or otherwise caring for them. The rule is to leave plow, harrow, reaper, threshing and, in fact, every other implement right on the spot where its work was completed until the next season's crop requirements demand their employment; but meanwhile the buggy, the carriage, the piano, and the fashion and sporting papers receive careful attention. Another large and unnecessary item of expense is house servants and field hands to do work that should be done by the farmer and his family. This kind of farming is suggested by the speckles of pride which is invariably succeeded by a humiliating fall, and the fall always begins with mortgaging the farm to provide for deficits, or the difference between the cost of production and the value of the product.

The remedy that is demanded for these ills is free silver coinage and other kinds of flat money, but the proposition is too absurd for thoughtful consideration. It is nonsense to suppose that flat money, or war upon the railways for lower rates of transportation will bring relief from conditions that have been brought about by the employment of unnatural and hurtful business methods. If the farmers of the west will give proper encouragement to capital to come and establish factories, mills and other kinds of industrial enterprises, and thus help to build up home markets for their products, and adopt a more economical policy in caring for more machinery; give up ornamental hired help and other kinds of unjustifiable habits of extravagance into which they have fallen; they will soon see their farms emerging from the clouds of financial distress. Sound business principles are needed just as much in conducting a farm as in conducting a bank or a railway.

How do you like that kind of talk, farmers of Nebraska? Take notice, too, that S. H. H. Clark says of the writer of it that "his articles have the reputation of standing in the front rank of economic literature." More than that. Two pages of its space are filled with the most flattering and appreciative letters commending Trade and Traffic, its tone, ability and teaching, letters written by more than twenty of the high up officials of the principal railroads of the west, with a few additional from bankers, brokers, and board of trade commissioners.

THE Congregationalist of Boston reports that a careful investigation of the situation in that city reveals that Boston has, approximately, 38,390 persons unemployed. These figures of course do not include those who draw incomes, the class whose absorption and accumulation produces all the unjust, unvarnished poverty of the workers.

THERE has been another great exposure of Republican rottenness, this time in Hamilton county, this state, where the politicians and officials took the naturalization law into their own hands and made voters at their own pleasure to down the Independents. Judge Wheeler has undone their illegal work. But it is a crime against popular government which deserves the severest penalties. The Republican party must be overthrown.

FORTY lots between 98th and 100th streets in New York City which sold at \$40 a lot in 1843, are now worth over \$10,000 a lot, that money having just been refused for them. The father of the present owner bought them in 1848. Who carried the greatly increased value they now contain? No labor has been expended on them. If society were it, it belongs to and should have been taxed into the treasury of society. If the individual (without labor) earned it, society has no right by a direct or graduated income tax to take a dollar of it away from him.

"THE SPIRIT OF PARTY"

It is said that "the father of his country," a most reverent worshiper of Jehovah, a man of faith and prayer, at a critical period in the revolutionary struggle cursed terribly a man upon whom much depended, who yet failed in duty. And were Washington here today, fighting for human freedom, he would not less fearfully and justly curse the man whom we quote below:

The "silver scare" by which Mr. Cleveland sought to direct attention from the disasters which threats of revolutionary tariff changes were bringing on the country is over; indeed, so rapidly do events succeed each other, it is well-nigh forgotten. But that restoration of prosperity that the Democratic press promised as the result of the repeal of the Sherman bill is not apparent. The stagnation of trade continues. No other cause than that of dread of tariff revolution now can be assigned. Money is plentiful. The banks are full to repletion—Inter Ocean.

In a succeeding paragraph this Chicago editor, with a sickening assumption of moral superiority, calls on the Populists and others who believe "more money in circulation" is necessary, to contemplate the present bank holdings, and "to meditate upon their share of responsibility in driving the money out of circulation and into the banks by votes that contributed to the election of a Democratic president and a Democratic majority in congress."

THE EUROPEAN ANARCHISTS

Anarchistic violence is caused always by injustice, and the high and mighty who think they can repress it by government force leave human nature out of consideration. The way to prevent anarchy is to remove the cause, the gross injustice under which those at the bottom suffer till they are made desperate, so desperate that legal penalties for violence can add nothing to their misery, and hence lose their terrors. Here in America one of two things in future will follow, we shall grant justice by law; or an upheaval of social violence will leave us without law.

The New York Tribune's Paris correspondent in a very long article on "Anarchy in Europe" has some interesting introductory words concerning, and quotations from, a French lady, Mme. Severine, which we give below:

Mme. Severine—a daughter of Puritan bourgeois and a woman of high talent, who is succeeding to the place of Mme. Adam in French politics—pleads the cause of the Barcelona Anarchists in the "Echo de Paris" of November 17. She speaks of the stupor made up of unreason, fright, wrath, that has invaded the world "in which people eat."

"That world, when it sees the Anarchist thunderbolts falling, has in its eyes the look which the men of the ancient civilization must have had when they saw the barbarians coming in hordes, uncouth and frenzied, rushing on to the assault of the old Europe." This lady, who knows whereof she speaks (she has served soup at the anarchist conferences), amid much sentiment which is not all hysterical, puts a few questions which those who love society as it is cannot afford to neglect, in view of the future.

First, the explosion of Barcelona, the attempted assassination in Paris, are but incidents of war, episodes in a strife without mercy. It is worse than idle to protest against such words. "Is it not better to face the situation firmly? Is it not even a duty, for every person of good faith and good-will to examine the evil and seek a remedy for it? Utopia! cry the politicians. But why? Do you not know that every beast driven to bay becomes ferocious? You will exercise repression by means of terror. The terror of what? Of death? Vulgar assassins nowadays laugh at it. And then, a man who has caused death usually holds his own life cheaply. Here facts speak. In all the States of Europe the suppression of Anarchists during late years has not found one who asked for grace and died as a coward. Philosophically, I do not believe that any intimidation can be brought to bear on them. Will you appeal to their pity? They can have none. The letter of Leauthier (published in Thursday's "Figaro") explains this well. This youth, whom all that knew him assert to be of gentle nature—as Ravachol was also—sets forth this theory of massacre with a calmness and lucidity to make the least clear-sighted reflect. You will cut off his head? Very well, do so. And after? Will you have succeeded in putting under lock and key all the knives and all the dynamite in the universe? Will you have gutted or strangled forever the spirit of revolt? The history of the last ten years is there to say you no. Communism takes the place of compassion. Ravachol is no sooner judged than Very is blown into the air; then it is the turn of Pallas, and then of Leauthier."

one of the speakers at that conference stated that the bankers of Chicago were carrying out the same money-locking-up credit-refusing line of policy. Secretary Carlisle, as reported, also made his statement to please the bankers clear and emphatic, that there was to be heroic treatment all the way through; and he predicted that by virtue of this heroic treatment the adherents of silver in the house and senate would be ready when congress met to consent to a repeal of the Sherman law. This is the history of the cause of the panic. The tariff question had nothing at all to do with it, and intelligent, thoughtful people, all financial writers at least, knew, while the repeal-prosperity lies were circulating, that the business paralysis which follows a panic is a slow disease to deal with, a disease which it takes years to cure.

The panic was the weapon the bankers used to secure the downfall of silver, and shows their fearful power. But the destitution which a short period of enforced idleness has brought to millions, proves that the workers have for years been robbed by land, money or capital, transportation and trust monopolists. These tribute-enforcing kings are fast concentrating the necessary capital and natural resources into their hands. And same tariff issue demagogues are the worse than Arnold traitors who have misled and sold the people into an almost hopeless slavery. God give us men to lead who will not lie, "tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog" of every where diffused partisan sophistry, and who can face the demagogues and damn their treachery.

RESULTS OF CLASS LEGISLATION.

In one home visited by the Flying Post representative (in Paterson, N. J.) was a baby in a cradle, covered with straw, which was tied over the tiny form with a string. The applications for relief grow more numerous as the Flying Post's relief fund becomes better known, and the number of people feeling the pangs of poverty increases. From early morn till nightfall they come, old and young, men and women, but almost all have the hectic flush of starvation, fever and despair upon their faces. There is no levity in the shocking scenes of despair, of these emaciated men and women, and crying, wailing children, begging their parents for the food which they are quite incapable of providing. Babies are now falling. Parents cannot afford to buy milk for them, and tradesmen will not give any trust. There is nothing in prospect for them but starvation and death, and the poor mothers are weeping the galling tears of bursting hearts. There can be no lurid painting of the present condition of the poor in this city.

This is the situation in not one city alone, but every city; and this awful suffering extends to nearly all the villages and smaller towns, and to the farming regions of the west. Charity associations can not obtain means to relieve a tenth of the distress, and the poor and self-respecting are dying without a sign. A dispatch from Indianapolis dated Dec. 2nd says: Myra L. Wood, wife of Benjamin Wood of West Indianapolis, died yesterday morning of starvation. The husband had been out of work for nearly six months.

Another family of three, adults, without food or fuel, rather than beg or steal, went to bed, lay down to die. The neighbors in the same tenement found them three days later. Are we dreaming? Is this just a horrible nightmare? or has all this occurred in America, in once free America, a country whose warehouses and storehouses are ever full?

Look on these starving ones, these homeless, respectable multitudes who, packed together like swine, lie down on the stones to sleep; look at these emaciated mothers whose breasts are dry, and at their wailing infants; see the vast army of American citizens whom thirty years of monopoly oppression has reduced to beggary, see the six millions who can now find no work to support them;—look at all this, accursed politicians, plunderers, traitors!—look, and tremble. For God is just.

A STUDY OF SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

CIVILIZATION'S INFERNO. By B. O. Flower, author of "Lessons Learned From Other Lives," etc. For prices in paper and cloth see our selected book list advertised on page five. The suffering poor, the wronged and wretched millions who must be sweated and starved and tortured to procure rent and profit for the landlords and capitalists, the people who at the bottom are crushed by the weight of the social structure, who toil in poverty that the idle may live in luxury, and that the brutally despotic may heap up mountains of wealth,—the people who create civilization's heaven, but who are crowded into civilization's hell,—have a most Christ-like, devoted friend in B. O. Flower, of Boston. His love is more than charity; he does not mock the defrauded class by giving back to it a part that he has drawn from it. He does not rob a hundred, and then ease his conscience by giving to one. He loves most those who most need love, and so has been led into the slums and social cellar of Boston to see and hear and feel and smell the conditions of its swarming residents. His visits to the tenement districts of the proud, wealthy, most civilized city of this most civilized nation, the impression of which he gives in Civilization's Inferno, were made, take notice, before the panic came, before the present business paralysis crept over us, before commercial confidence was shaken; and his book portrays, therefore, the ordinary life, the best times of those at the bottom of the social fabric. The Inferno which Mr. Flower saw in '91 and '92 has since swallowed up myriads who were living above its banks. In the opening sentence of his book Mr. Flower said, "The dead sea of want is enlarging its borders in every populous center." He referred to the steady spread of poverty which he then saw; but this year we have had an inundation that has sent bitter want and whelming anxiety over millions of new thresholds.

In Civilization's Inferno we have the life of the poorest wage slaves, and over against the delineation of their sacrificial toil and temptations the author has hung pen pictures of civilization's paradise, the pleasure-pursuing life of the income-drawing rich,—and it is Ward McAllister, the leader of New York's "four hundred," who proudly furnishes one of the "Society" silhouettes. The contrast between the classes is frightful, when one considers that it is brutal injustice and soulless selfishness which has separated them. We cannot look into the future, when we remember how the strong have ever fought for their legal possessions and prerogatives, without serious forebodings. But Mr. Flower has strong faith in the possibility of spreading the truth, and he is nobly exerting himself not only to make evil conditions known, but to show the great causes which divorce wealth from labor, pleasure from work, independence from industry. His book must arouse all the manhood its readers possess, and it invigorates faith still no mountain seems too great to remove. It opens every heart to embrace the cause of humanity.

A GERMAN farmer living in Seward county, a subscriber of this paper, was some time since in an attorney's office at Seward, and the lawyer had the indiscretion to give the farming class a general raking over, similar to that found in another column, copied from the Omaha railroad paper. He got on to the matter of the farmers wanting buggies to ride in, and condemned it as a, for them, needless luxury; but right there the slow-rising wrath of the phlegmatic German broke forth in words and works of violent motion. He wanted to know who on God's earth had a right to ride in a buggy if the hard working farmer should not, and he went for the attorney with stilette gesticulating emphasis, in a way the lawyer will not soon forget. Our best wishes for Christmas.