

THE ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT.

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GEORGE HOWARD GIBSON, Editor. CHAS. T. GRIFITH, Business Manager. J. S. HYATT, Advertising M'gr.

N. I. P. A.



PUBLISHERS ANNOUNCEMENT.

The subscription price of the ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT is \$1.00 per year, invariably in advance.

No. 2 of Prof. Jones series of articles, begun last week, came too late to set this week. It will appear in our next issue.

The literary contributions are coming in thick and fast now. Boll your matter down friends when you can.

Again we want to thank our friends for sending in new subscribers, and at the same time urge that more improve present leisure to secure new readers for our paper.

FOOLS and financiers are correlated terms. The latter class could not exist if it did not have a vast number of the former to gull and feed upon.

STAND up for the eastern and foreign usurers, and compel the willing workers in Nebraska to freeze and starve, or suicide, or sell their bodies, -or beg for a chance at the charity soup bowl.

It is time every man gave the full strength of his mind to the study of causes, fundamental principles, moral and philosophical solutions for the great evils which oppress us.

REV. J. M. SNYDER, of Sherman Co. is to deliver a week's lecture in Kearney county on questions of the day, beginning about Feb. 10.

EIGHT THOUSAND fashionable Bostonians danced with the Ninth Regiment infantry nearly all night Friday of last week, to keep the city poor from starving.

MR. STREED in a Chicago lecture recently said: "It is bad to hold a man up in the street and rob him, but it is worse to steal whole streets from your fellow man."

The London County Council recently built a sewer. The engineer's cost estimate was \$35,000. The lowest bid they could get on it was \$53,000.

MASTER THE MONEY QUESTION.

It is of the greatest importance for the Populist party as a party to master the money question.

What then, is the money question? Many opinions are held, many which it can be easily demonstrated are incorrect or imperfect.

Some say by opening the mints to silver. Their theory is that gold and silver freely coined will furnish us all the currency we need, that its volume will adjust itself automatically to the other products of labor, thereby providing an unfluctuating value measure.

The Greenback party, which came into existence in the contraction period of the '70s, educated many thousands to see that full legal tender paper money could complete the round of circulation, making all needed exchanges, and serve every purpose as money; and that as much currency could be issued as the people as a whole, in their governmental capacity, called for; but it did not propose anything to prevent the money being monopolized, gathered into few hands, after it should be once paid out.

It is the perfection of this new financial system which gives us power to succeed, to win confidence as a party where the Greenback party failed. But until our party as a party comprehends and everywhere advocates this new financial system we cannot convince the great body of thinkers that we are not dangerous inflationists.

Now let us put aside our prejudices, if we have any, and consider this fact: there is no possible way to effectually and forever prevent the usury or interest drain, except by government loans. But by means of government loans at cost of investigation and caring for securities, all interest, all per cent charges above a trifling labor fee, can be saved to the producers. And this plan, safeguarded and simple, puts a stop to wealth concentration, the great evil, the great danger. Nationalize the whole banking business, loans, deposits and exchange, and the thing is done.

By this financial system each county could have without interest all the capital its citizens could advantageously use in developing its resources; and their entire taxable property, in addition to first mortgages given by the individuals borrowing money, would be absolutely perfect, riskless security to the nation.

Pauses and periods of business depression are an inevitable result of the usury drain. (Usury in the broad sense includes interest, rent, dividends and net profits.) Usury drawn off destroys the value power equilibrium which should always be preserved between money in the producers hands and the goods in the markets.

As usury accumulates market goods accumulate, under consumption being forced upon the people in equal degree. As long as the usury being drawn away is returned in loans, notes and business paralysis are kept at bay; but increased loans mean an increase in the usury drain; and in a brief period, with a full market and but little of the money left in the hands of the people, it becomes unsafe to loan more money, or to produce and pile more goods on the market.

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ing usury cycles. The revolving usury cycles each advance us nearer the time of the ownership of all the land and means of production by a few, who are thus gradually obtaining legal, despotic power over the working millions, and over the principal portion of the middle class.

THE TARIFF FOOLS AND FRAUDS.

"If there be any gain to be anticipated to be set off against this loss [of revenue by lower tariffs], it must come from increased importations, which will just so much diminish American production and be so much taken from American labor."

"But the very depression which today hardens the struggle for the necessities of life is in itself the strongest call for a readjustment of taxes, and the application of production and trade within the confines of the home market demands that they should be given a larger freedom and a more abundant life."

Observe, the Republican scheme is to wall labor in, that it may have more work to do; and the Democratic scheme is to let labor out, that it may have more work to do.

The American workers, distracted by the tariff noise, have overlooked the fact that what they need is not additional burdens, work, but an increase of pay.

Neither can free trade benefit us so long as monopolists and parasites are left to plunder us. If we, the producers, cannot command money sufficient for our goods and services under so-called protection to empty the market we have filled, how can we be benefited by the bringing of other or more goods into it?

It makes us desperately incensed to see the plunderers and the market over-forged, while millions are starving; and congress quarrelling over the Republican home-plunderers free-soup, and the Democratic more-plunderers' methods of getting rid of the trade asphyxiation, the glutted market and business paralysis, which usury, which enforced inequitable exchanges, alone produce.

THE BRUTALITY OF BUSINESS. It requires but two things to change paradise into hades; an each for himself struggle for existence, and property laws which intrench and defend monopolists.

O for a refuge to flee to where men love each other! But there is no such place that we can go to.

THE net profits or interest demanded by the capitalists, and the rents demanded by the landlords, take from the producers power (money) to empty the markets they have filled; so the markets are periodically glutted, and enforced under-consumption cuts off the demand for labor.

MONOPOLY means monarchy, despotism, tribute. Is there any honest man in this country who favors it? No. What then is the reason some men who profess to be of us are so anxious to have us keep still about every monopoly except one, or two, and propose methods of only very weakly and imperfectly dealing with them?

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A SAMPLE OF MORAL IGNORANCE.

The Congregationalist of Boston commenting on the recent Chicago address of Mr. Stead, in which he classed monopolists and all the rich who prey upon society with the criminal "Disreputables," says:

Admitting, as every one does, the monstrous wickedness of those who obtain charters from city councils at a tenth of their real value, it does not follow that privileges now worth \$200,000,000 were at first worth anything like that sum, or that those who now have stock in our city railroads got more than fair returns on their investments.

We consider that the moral ignorance shown in the paragraph here quoted from this great religious weekly to be wholly without excuse. It does not matter whether men draw from society ten times more than they exchange, or a single tenth, or twentieth; the principle is the same.

The panic and business prostration, with all its anxieties and agonies, its fearful sufferings by cold and hunger, its evictions, its family separations, its desperate suicides, its slow-murdered, myriads, its production of prostitutes and criminals, and its millions made beggars—all this is the result of monopoly and usury robbery.

"WHO ARE THE DISREPUTABLES?" Mr. W. T. Stead, London editor of the Review of Reviews, is still in Chicago stirring up society, and last week spoke to a very large and sympathetic audience at the People's Institute.

Not recognized criminals alone, but the "predatory rich," men who make money out of monopolies, who steal valuable franchises, or get them by bribing the city councilmen, -all men who live at the expense of society, and especially the idle rich, those who do nothing with their money or leisure to lighten the burdens of others.

Why, why, why don't the religious teachers of today believe the Bible teaching concerning usury? Why don't they set themselves intelligently against monopolies of every sort? Why don't they preach righteousness? Is it because they respect Calvin's opinion more than they do Jehovah's? Is it because they were themselves educated in institutions supported by usury? Is it because they believe God's laws are impracticable? Who will answer?

RELATION OF CONSUMPTION TO PRODUCTION.

This city has in its midst just at the present time a large number of silent sufferers of poverty, whose pride in many instances gags their cry for help, and as a result the generous public is unaware of the magnitude of destruction which exists in this community.

An investigation proved that out of a population of 150,000 people fully 7,000 were in actual want, according to statistics obtained at the various charitable institutions and county supply rooms.

This is the condition of at least 7,000 people in one city of our most fertile state, a state where the bins of the farmers and bursting with wheat that will not pay the cost of raising—30 to 40 cents a bushel—and for whose corn, oats, potatoes, hogs, cattle and horses there is no sufficient market.

Personal violence is not permitted, and frauds that interfere with the holding of property are forbidden. But it is allowable to take advantage of the pressing physical necessities of our fellowmen to make terms most unequal terms of practical slavery to them. No one is hired today upon an equitable contract. Every man, woman and child of the millions who sell their labor, is compelled to earn his wages and an unpaid for net profit besides.

A rearing plutocracy with the masses enslaved, is the natural development and end of individualism. The only possible permanent democracy is the democracy of unselfish socialism.

THE PROGRESS OF POVERTY.

A Brooklyn contributor to the New York Tribune of January 26th, has a plan to procure 300,000 more meals a day for the suffering poor. He says there are in the two great cities and suburbs 3,000,000 of people, averaging 600,000 homes; that 100,000 homes (500,000 people) are suffering, and that 200,000 homes (1,000,000 people) are so reduced by poverty they cannot help.

Systematic work and great economy are necessary to meet this need in its incipency, and make the means of relief, already fearfully strained, hold out through this night of darkness, which is growing apace, almost rayless of hope.

"Dispensation of sorrow!" The devil, we say; or, if you please, the whole gang of political devils, the Tribune included. Don't talk about God dispensing it. Out upon such cant and blasphemy.

MORE LIGHT ON SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

AT A SOCIAL VISION, by Charles S. Daniel, published by the Arena Publishing Company of Boston, is a book with a purpose, a purpose that adds interest to every page. It is a mystery to us how people can go on reading the same sort of fiction forever, books that give the reader nothing new to think of, nothing worth remembering, nothing to enlarge the mind.

OUR Populist senators defeated the confirmation of Hornblower, the Cleveland railroad attorney nominee to the Supreme Bench. If they had voted for him the vote would have been a tie and the vice-president's vote in his favor would have given him his seat.

How does the banker get ahead of the community? By buying their debts at a discount, and selling them his credit at a premium. What is his credit? His debt to the government, and to depositors. Why should we pay interest on our debts, and the bankers draw interest on their debts? Because they are a superior class of beings whom we were created to sweat for, vote for, fight for and generally worship.