VAN WYCK'S VIEWS.

Address Delivered at the Nebraska State Fair.

A Rousing Speech On the Living Issues of the Day.

At the instance of the managers, U. S. Senator Van Wyck on Wednesday delivered the following address at the fair grounds in this city:

This should be not so much the farmer's holiday, but rather the occasion for conference as to the manner of improving all the industries of the land because only through the development of all and the prosperity of each is his own prosperity secured. Not only to reason together about the system of husbandry, for he must learn that the best is the only kind which will be found profitable; that weeds and corn cannot grow on the same soil during the same season; that 100 acres producing 50 bushels per acre is far better than 200 acres producing 30 bushels per acre. That wheat in a large portion of the state should not be grown beyond home supply, the uncertainty of the crop and the large outlay for necessary machinery leaving but little to the producer. That the best grade of stock on the farm and in the market is that which is best cared for. The severe winter and the equally severe summer is teaching rather severely the lesson, that cattle cannot subsist without feed, and that less feed will be necessary where sheltered from the snows and winds of winter. And while discussing the treatment, feeding, watering and salting the herds and flocks, the growing wealth of this growing state, it will not be amiss to know the mode of watering other stocks and salting mines with minerals where none exist. Every year is bearing its testimony to the truths of the thousands gone before, that there is no true excellence without labor, either in the field, the arts and sciences, the forum, the bench, or the pulpit. That no addition is made to the actual wealth of the world except by the labor of hands. No pyramids in the deserts, no cities on the plains and by the sea, no mountains tunneled, no valleys filled, no aqueducts, no canals, no railroads, except by the toil of muscle and nerve.

Genius and brain have often come to relieve much of the drudgery; the screw, the lever, the wedge, were the first and simplest. Then steam, electricity, the printing press, the sewing machine, and the thousands of contrivances whereby labor is lessened and often made pleasant. Yet, the inventions of the past and present are of no avail without the toil and weariness of laboring hands around and behind them.

Beyond all these matters of husbandry, stock-raising, machinery and toil, are other questions equally important and affecting the material interests of the farmer. I know many are horrified at the thought of passing beyond what they would like to make the dead line between labor in all its ramifications and the privileges of special interests acquired by charter or combination; but many of the latter have become so grasping and aggressive that self-protection forces the consideration with the view of securing justice to the comparative few, and equal justice to the toiling multitude.

If we were only allowed to ascertain what county and whose farm made the greatest yield, whose creamery or dairy produced the best butter and cheese, which grade of cattle or swine made most meat from an equal quantity of grain, and by way of moral diversion, which horse, for no sort of use to the horse or its owner, could be forced into the greatest speed, or be amused with a balloon of huge proportions demonstrating the folly and possibly the injury and death of only one man, while the balloons of conservative inflationists, with pockets full of tracts, on stable currency; yet hands pumping and mouths full of material to fill balloons which impair the prosperity of the nation. If this were the extent of your mission then the chapter might be brief, but the productions of America are so extensive in the number of persons engaged therein the vast business interests they support, the nations of the old world they are helping to feed, that it becomes important we should widen the vision. Consider, at least, all matters connected with and depending upon agriculture.

Vast as are the railroad interests representing millions multiplied by millions, aggregating more than one-eighth of the wealth of the nation, yet their real prosperity is dependent upon the products of the soil. The prospect of bountiful crops gives life to their business, elevates stock. The bull of Wall street, borrowing the name of the leader of the herd, tosses his head and booms, while the grasshopper and chinch bug and drouth are watched with solicitude, and their coming depresses, only enlivening the sluggish, torpid bear, also of Wall street, who is hoping for crash and reverse that he may grow fat.

So, too, with the manufacturers and merchants, bountiful harvests mean an increased demand and activity in all trade.

This nation has tided over its greatest financial difficulty and achieved its greatest financial victory, and resumption made possible only because our surplus productions, needed abroad, called coin and bullion from nearly all the nations of Europe. From this stand point how plain that there is necessarily no conflict and should be no antagonisms between any branch of labor and between capital and labor. Although this is too often only sentiment and after due exhortation, the fact is apparent that from the natural belligerency of mankind the time for the lying down of the lion and the lamb, or the bulls and the bears exists more in hope than realization.

From the early times this has been a vast huckstering, traficking world, with individuals and nations each seeking advancement at the expense of the other. In trade this has been called competition; in govermental affairs, ambition.

Jacob did it when he watered stock, and to deceive Laban, his father-in-law, placed whoop-poles in the gutters of the watering trough. So did Pharaoh and Joseph when they sold corn at famine prices in Egypt. From the days of Cain an apology for defrauding or over-reaching is ever found in the heartless and criminal inquiry, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

Since nations have been breaking down the Chinese wall, which themselves had made in the guise of high tariff, and exchanging more liberally the productions of each, it becomes more necessary to study the changed conditions of trade and commerce. New channels and new industries necessitate new modes of thought. As well retain the tinder box, the flint lock, the battering ram as the dogmas of political economists of the past century.

The world has advanced as much in currency and finance as in production and transportation.

As well cross the ocean by sail and wind as to insist that gold can be the only circulating medium.

A century ago in transportation and currency no other factors were known, but the world's progress has given a more active power to propel and a more convenient medium of exchange.

Natural philosophy may not change, new principles may be evolved, but gravitation, light, heat, the movement of the heavenly bodies remain the same as in the age of Galileo, but political economy based upon and representing the most approved theories of the times when written, must change as nations develop and advance, and keep abreast of progress in manufactures, trade and commerce. The great economic writers of other days should be gratefully remembered, but if living to-day many of them would modify their own theories.

We should benefit by the changes of our national experience.

A few years ago, in the flush of prosperity, when legal tenders were basis of currency, when its volume rather than character made all industries active and profitable, many prophesied disaster, which was a safe thing to do, and made paper money the cause, and the only remedy a coin basis.

In due time we reached that point; soon came another wild mania for speculation. The same conservative philosphers who had denounced paper money next said we had too much coin, when it was flowing back upon us like the tide in exchange for the cattle and grain of the west.

Then the same financial philosophers, in order to inaugurate another panic from which they might increase their gains, insist that money is too abundant, and silver must be eliminated from the currency. This was the same struggle of the few against the many.

Then a portion of the press, controled in trade centers by the money interest, denounced the masses as silver lunatics and denounced the silver craze. Congress stood firm and sustained the people over the veto of a too willing president.

We were assured in the raid against legal tenders that a hard money basis would repress the spirit of gambling and speculation, yet this nation never witnessed such dangerous criminal and law violating speculation as since resumption.

These same philosophers who assume all knowledge and wisdom in financial concerns in their bankers' convention, a few weeks ago, admitted that a large proportion of the business of the country, probably nineteen-twentieths, was based upon paper and upon credit. When paper was based upon the credit and faith of a nation of 50,000,000 people, these men were instant in season and out of season prophesying evil. Now, when it is based upon the credit of speculators who, in a few years, or months, may be bankrupt, the air is not so full of warnings from that source and the sentinels on the watch towers are not prophets of disasters.

Very many of these financial philosophers, who often seek to put off their notions as embodiments of patriotism, are loaning millions upon collaterals of stocks and bonds, which they know at the first approach of danger will be worthless many of them fraudulently issued and in violation of law, known to be swindling, designing schemes to entrap victims, which will prove a fraud upon the banks and a still greater fraud upon the masses.

The bankers are helping this dangerous inflation—they are furnishing the light air to blow these bubbles. Without their aid the victims could not obtain money for margins, and without their assistance the schemers who build new roads or rehabilitate bankrupt ones with the open, notorious intention to defraud by placing two and often four dollars in stocks and bonds on the market for every dollar really expended, could not float their worthless paper.

Much indignation is manifested at the same system in adulterating other articles—by making greasy oleomargerine and calling it butter; by mixing glucose and white earth in sugar; a moderate sprinkling of corn juice in beer, or water, sometimes strychnine, in whisky; but the *adulteration of stocks and bonds* fourfold the value of the property, excites no alarm in the minds of conservative bankers, or at least not to the extent of withholding loans, thereby preventing this mad career of villainy.

Thus we see how important that each industry should understand and watch the other. Why not? Who are more interested in a sound currency and a stable credit than the toilers on the land—toilers everywhere—toilers in the workshops, toilers on the prairies? When the crash comes labor is most injured and powerless to protect itself.

The greatness of its numbers is a source of weakness. The banking interest can easily assemble in national convention and act in concert for a common purpose. The great railroads can be represented in the smallest parlor at Saratoga, so few in numbers are the controling spirits. When bank or railroad presidents meet in convention no outside interest attempts to checkmate their movements. No Jeremy Diddlers bold enough to seek to wool the eyes of these schemers. Who would hope that a national convention of producers would accomplish any practical benefit when a county and state organization is sought to be controlled in other interests and real antagonism to their own?

If finance is a legitimate question to be considered, so is the more important one of transportation. All human power, whether of wealth or of state, will be exercised at times arbitrarily. All people recognizing this fact have restrained by law the avarice, the greed and cruelty of money. The usurer has always been denounced. The class of Shylocks with keen scent for blood money, always descant about the value of property, that money like other property should regulate their rate of interest by supply and demand. In assumed superiority they deny the common mind the right to discuss or even consider so obtruse a subject as finance. They claim that should be left to the men who make it a life study.

So unrelenting and overbearing is the cent per cent. that the usury laws are frequently violated. Men will take the chances of the penalty, just as the pirate on the ocean and the smuggler in port.

Talk about antagonism of capital and labor; talk about strikes and communism. Does the pulpit and press ring out its fearful anathemas upon capital setting laws at defiance in its unholy greed to take the pound of flesh, and if not held by the throat would willingly take the drop of blood? The danger is not that the farmers and laborers will know too much in problems of government. If the masses are ignoranton these questions, that ignorance is a crime, and there is the danger.

Here is your mistake. You give too little attention to finance, to transportation and politics. Give these matters thought. Save a little time from the plow and field to study. Keep your children in school. Don't send them with the herd as soon as they can straddle the pony, or put them to the plow as soon as they can reach the handles. If you do, other interests will get the better of you. The struggle of this age is not with muscle, even on the field requiring muscle. You must have the brains as well as the brawn.

You are educating the soil into more generous harvests; you have improved the grade of cattle; even rounded out the form of the hog until it is exciting the diplomatists of all civilized countries. Now do as much for yourself and children. Education will give you better crops, better herds, better markets, and in the struggle with men who live alone by the brain, you can meet, if not on an equal field, at least not to a disadvantage.

We know the difficulties in the way of education are somewhat apalling. The father must toil from early morn to night fall to procure bread for the little ones, and then the little ones must toil to help get money to pay interest to save the homestead, to appease the tax-gatherer.

Will you then tell me it is wrong for the state to interpose and protect the toiling helpless laborer? that it shall insist that money, that corporate wealth, that banks, that railroads, that telegraph lines shall pay their just and full share of the taxes. Will you tell me that the state should not compel the usurer to be satisfied with the legal rate of interest? that railroads and telegraph companies should not double and quadruple the stock and bonds of its roads and then insist upon dividends for its watered stock and bonds.

Of late some railroad magnates, while denying or attempting to ignore this species of legislation, are clamoring for national interference to protect one class of operators from the shark-like propensity of another. It seems there is much of human kind in stock operators, the habit of devouring grows, after crunching all victims withing reach, they sometimes turn and rend each other. Some of the lamb-like creatures desire congress to interfere and prevent their destruction by the ravenous beasts that get in the fold, claiming that no obligations of honesty or honor can hold some men to a pool they have voluntarily joined, and they demand that the occasional outbreak of competition merely for gambling purposes shall be throttled by congress. This position is at least a concession of the power of the people to regulate and control. Thus the world moves. We rejoice in the indication of healthy action from the moral standpoint.

The most wonderful stock operator of the age, Jay Gould, obtained not long since a sprinkle of religion. It was a strange, weird place to obtain that commodity—down in Missouri, at Kansas City. Kansas accounts for it that he was so near the line of that state, and the holy influences lapped Missouri. He seemed then to be renouncing the allurements of Wall street when he said he had already secured of wealth—money—enough to satisfy all his reasonable wants; that his family was small and he had sufficient for their maintenance; that henceforth he would own, stock, and bond, railroads purely for the good of the country and love of the people. But alas the return to Wall street was too demoralizing. He fell from grace and went on watering stocks more vigorously than before.

Then that other wonderful operator, Vanderbilt, when he was away from the gambling dens of New York City he, too, had a twinge of conscience and seemed reaching for the anxious seat. Not so strange in his case, as he could more fully realize the fleetness of life when he saw Maud heetly dashing around the track; then away from the bulls and bears he could enjoy the more soothiing society of horsemen. Possibly the tranquil and sacred influences of Chicago had a happy effect in elevating the thoughts and heart sufficiently long and high to bewail the wickedness of the age when he proclaimed that the recklessness and villainy of the day in issuing stocks and bonds was unparalleled that no road was ever built or reorganized that did not fraudulently issue four times the cost of its construction.

Vanderbilt has returned to the east, but there is no record whether he has gone back to the abominations he denounced.

But the good work goes on. The Herald of Omaha, from which I am always proud to quote. (Has not our good friend Dr. Miller always insisted that it was the only religious paper in the west) has proclaimed the present railroad building making the republic one vast credit mobilier, by a construction company. An inside ring of the incorporators contract with themselves to defraud the future owners of the road, as well as the public. That a new telegraph line was organized and a contract made with themselves for construction at $300 per mile, when the actual cost could not exceed $100.

The Herald asks what is "the matter," and answers "that the line is built by subscriptions to capital stock, and the greater the cost the wider the margin for stock operations."

The Herald truthfully adds, "It will surprise a great many people to learn that some of the largest railway projects in the country have been undertaken and carried to completion without the expenditure of a dollar of their own money by the original projectors and largest owners. This is done by stocking and bonding the concern, to double the cost of construction, possibly three times the cost."

Speaking of Gould, the Herald says among his wonderful achievements "He purchased the Missouri Pacific for $5,000,000. To realize handsomely on this venture he issues $30,000,000 worth of stock, $25,000,000 of which was water."

At another time, the Herald says, "The Pullman Palace Car company has watered its stock $2.000,000, but keeps the price of bunks up just the same."

When these facts are boldly stated by those who claim to know, I trust we may be pardoned for an occasional allusion, and that no taunts of hayseed and demagogue may be hurled at those who are inclined to repeat the same.

With all this evidence, will it be claimed that the state should not interpose to protect, not the gamblers who are willing to buy and sell worthless stocks and bonds, but the people. There has been added in valueless stocks and bonds more than the national debt, on which is paid a greater rate of interest.

It is always safe to do right. When it was proposed by the Nebraska legislature of 1878 to reduce the rate of interest from 12 to 10 per cent., the representatives of the money interest protested that loanable capital would be forced from the state, but the legislature boldly acted, reduced the rate and money came more freely than before. So in 1880 a bill was introduced affecting slightly railroad management, so just that many of the special advocates of railroad interests voted for the measure so equitably as to provoke no adverse criticism, except it was suggested that if any railroad legislation were had no more roads would be built and eastern capital be banished. How different the result. Never so many miles built and projected as during the last year.

A fair, manly course on the part of the people and the legislature has inspired confidence on the part of eastern operators. They know that a state which has the manhood to do justice by its own people, to capital and labor equally, is a safe place to make investments whether in railroads, hotels, manufactures or real estate. No interest should be so generous and considerate to the people, for none had been so aided. The nation, the states, counties and precincts, have donated in land subsidies, and money even mortgaging the future, for generations to fill the treasuries of railroad corporations.

The world has made progress in more liberal interchange of the productions of different nations and our own notions in regard to tariff must be somewhat modified and the wise sayings of economic writers of a past age will not apply. The old cry about competing with pauper labor in Europe, and that we should have a market for our produce where our goods are manufactured cannot any longer strengthen the demand for high tariff, because the ports of the old world are substantially open, and we are feeding English operatives, and the price of our meats and grain is fixed, not at New York but at Liverpool.

The great portion of the American people believe in a judicious tariff, but such modifications are demanded as will accord with the changed and liberal advance of other nations. The rights of the masses are recognized in England, why not in America? Her people demanded cheap bread, and the obnoxious corn laws were repealed. It is claimed we can compete with foreign manufactures, then why so much tariff? Senator Miller, of New York, with a few others enjoying by a tariff the monopoly of wood pulp in manufacturing paper says that he can compete with foreign paper. Then why a tariff? He also says he can successfully compete with England in Brazil, if the government will subsidize a steamship line and carry his goods at small cost. Can any one to-day assert with reason that the present tariff should be continued on lumber shutting us out from the Canadian forests. The owners of our pineries have already become millionaires. Our pineries need no protection; not so much as the farmers of Nebraska. A few weeks ago, the bulls of the lumber market arbitrarily and without any possible necessity added twenty-five per cent to the price.

Continued on third page.

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Mrs Ogden, N. Division street Buffalo, says: "I cannot be too thankful that I was induced to try your SPRING BLOSSOM. I was at one time afraid I should never be able to get out again. I seemed to be a second edition of Job without his patience; my face and body were one vast collection of boils and pimples; since taking one bottle of your Spring Blossom I am quite cured, all eruptions have disappeared, and I feel better than I have in a long time." Price 50 cents, trial bottles 10 cents.

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