

PLAIN TALK

At the Sessions of the State Farmers' Alliance.

Adoption of a Platform Yesterday that Has a Sound Ring to It.

Wednesday's Session in Detail—Remarks of President Ingersoll.

The Addresses of Allen Root and Others of the Leading Members.

Suggestions by Secretary Burrows as to Work for the Alliance.

The Business Transacted at the Meeting Generally.

THE PLATFORM

Special Dispatch to the Bee. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED YESTERDAY. HASTINGS, Neb., January 26.—The state farmers' alliance completed its labors here to-night. The news of Giteau's conviction was received during the day. There were great demonstrations of joy. Three rousing cheers were given for the jury.

The following resolutions were adopted without a dissenting vote: Resolved, That we advocate and will support and defend the rights of the many against the privileges of the few; that corporations, the creation of the state, should be controlled by the state; labor and capital are allies, not enemies; in accordance with these principles we affirm that the public welfare and safety demand the following measures of relief:

First. Laws compelling transportation companies to pass their charges upon the cost and risk of service, with a fair profit added, instead of the new theory advanced by them of what traffic will bear; the laws to prohibit the establishment, through construction companies or other devices, of a fictitious cost for works of a public nature, prohibiting unjust discriminations against citizens and localities; railroad commissions, state and national, with adequate powers to see that these laws are enforced; a liberal policy toward our water ways which during the season of navigation are potent in preventing exorbitant charges by railroads.

Second. More efficient laws against the crime of bribery and for the protection of the purity of the ballot and prohibition of free passes.

Third. A public service founded on capacity and integrity.

Fourth. The public lands, the common inheritance of the whole people should be reserved for actual settlers.

Fifth. Currency, the measure of values whether metallic or paper, should be equal to coin and be issued and controlled by the government only.

Sixth. The known benefits of the postal systems of other countries to be adopted in the United States, including the postal savings bank, the postal telegraph and the telephone.

Seventh. A free press, the bulwark of our free institutions, must be maintained. Leading journals have been purchased by monopolists who are endeavoring to control the thought of the nation; the journals which are not thus controlled should be sustained by the people.

Resolved, That it is the sense of this alliance that a legal rate for passenger tariff shall in no case exceed two cents per mile, for freights shall not exceed two cents per ton per mile for distances of 100 miles or less, and one cent per ton per mile for greater distances; that any person accepting a pass from any railroad in this state shall be held criminally liable, and the company offering such pass shall be equally liable and punishable as the law shall direct, and that the legislature be requested to enact such laws as shall conform to the foregoing resolutions.

Resolved, That as a large portion of the railway lands of this state pay no tax, even after they are sold, but the party buying said land is taxed upon his payments as personal property, that we memorialize congress upon the question that the railroads be required to either pay their just portion of tax on lands held under the grant of congress or that said lands revert to the government and be thrown open to homestead and preemption.

Resolved, That the state alliance unequivocally condemn the bill introduced by Representative Valentine providing for a contingent congressman from Nebraska with back pay from March 4th, 1879, as such a measure would be fraud upon the people, reflect discredit upon the state, and confer no corresponding benefit.

Resolved, That we heartily commend the action of Senator Van Wyck in his efforts to protect the rights of the settlers on the St. Joe & Denver railroad.

Resolved, That the arbitrary and tyrannical treatment of individuals by the railroad corporations when their interests conflict, excites our lively indignation, and that the ease with which our courts are made their supply instruments excites our profound alarm.

its organization, and was called to order by President Ingersoll, of Tecumseh.

On motion the following committee on credentials was appointed: Messrs. Matteson, of Fillmore, McGraw of Adams, Berguson of Hamilton and Upton of Thayer. Upon the departure of the committee to prepare its report

President Ingersoll briefly stated the object of the meeting. He said that the farmers of this country had been justly reproached with shirking many of their duties. Others had said "Let the tailor stick to his gossam and the farmer to his plow." He thought all farmers had the God given right to think, speak and act upon every question that could possibly come within the range of human thought and action. He thought Senator Van Wyck had given them some good suggestions in his address at the state fair at Omaha last fall and had also given them some just criticisms—not less politics but more politics for the farmers had been the senator's advice. Any question concerning the welfare of mankind could be strained into a political question of the effort were made. Many of the evils complained of grow out of the neglect of organization. He had been requested to prepare a paper on the subject of organization and had done so, which paper he would present later in the proceedings.

Allen Root, of Omaha, being called for, said that it was unnecessary for him to discuss in a doctrinal point of view the principles of the alliance; they had come here to discuss the question of "how to do it," not "how not to do it." They had to-day drafted ways and means to carry out their views. The question must predominate in the minds of those present whether they should have a separate and distinct organization. [Applause.] If you wish to make a compound, it is necessary to select the ingredients, put them in a mortar and pound them up. Some of the counties in the state are already prepared to make their compound, but he would say to those counties, "Hang up your herbs and let them dry until other counties get ready their herbs to go into this compound." The ingredients are composed of republicans, democrats and greenbacks; take them away from their old political haunts and villainies. [Applause.] Have them get out, and let us have something that is of the people, for the people, and by the people. Let us wait until sixteen or seventeen other states are ready to move; let not your compound be made until all your other ingredients are prepared. The whole object of this meeting was to set in motion some means whereby those counties can be organized. I would say, "Get your organizations first, and then at our next annual meeting, in September, arrange to make selections from the other tickets of state and county officers." In our last senatorial election we made no fight, but out of the muddle came one good man. [Applause.] Though it was the merest chance that Senator Van Wyck was elected, he stands before the people of the state of Nebraska in just the attitude we desire. [Applause.]

We don't want farmers' organizations only, but we want to include other business interests—the laborer, mechanic, business man and merchant. We wish to have others besides lawyers represented in the business of the nation. To-day every man in the cabinet is a lawyer. Are there no business interests in this country but those of lawyers? Put into the cabinet, the democratic, and the greenback conventions as many a farmer as you can. If those parties will not nominate alliance men after you have asked them to, then it is they who have driven you from the party. [Applause.]

E. S. GILBERT, of Cass county, being called for, said that he had been in Nebraska for six years, and for four of them had been working with his neighbors, urging them to array themselves against the oppressions of monopolies. When the proposition was made in 1881 to organize Lincoln with a petition, but found, upon consulting with Mr. Eaton, editor of The Lincoln Globe, that considered one of the organs of the alliance, that he was in advance of Mr. Eaton in his views.

He was in favor of squeezing every drop of water out of railroad stock. The bonds and lands of railroads were not in the right, but were simply a basis of security for the man who should choose to furnish the money to build those railroads, and he did not want the railroad men to be allowed interest on those bonds or on money due them on lands. He had bought a piece of railroad land and had paid a good rate of interest for it; he had paid out and having gone through the mill he didn't care a cent for the railroads any more interest in that way. He wanted that railroads should receive interest only on the amount of money they had actually invested. It had been stated to him that the sum of fifty million dollars had been given the B. & M. road by the people of Nebraska.

However that may be, he was satisfied that enough money had been given that road in Nebraska and Iowa to build it from Chicago to Kearney and fully equip it, paying for every piece of brown paper used by the company.

The speaker had fought in the anti-slavery ranks for forty years under the most discouraging circumstances. He had witnessed the anti-Masonic conflict and had been a democrat—not a technical democrat—but such a democrat as our Savior was. He believed that a public sentiment against monopolies could be successfully created, but the organization of a political party was a slow and expensive process. Four thousand million dollars are arrayed against the alliance and that sum cannot be successfully fought by ten cent contributions.

In Cass county there are 6,000 people who have no interest in favor of the alliance. If we are forced into an independent party we are killed dead as a mackerel. The railroads are robbing Cass county of \$400,000 annually in passenger and freight over and above a rate which would return an interest of from 10 to 25 per cent, which is a great deal more money than farmers are making on their investments. He thought the passenger rate should be reduced to 2 1/2 cents per mile, and he wanted the freight tariff reduced two-thirds.

The support of the press of the state is a very important matter to the alliance, and the attempt to form a separate party now might deprive the alliance of that support. If Mr. Roosevelt, of The Bee, were present, he would like to know what position his paper would take in case an independent party were formed. To fight without newspapers would be like attempting to carry on war without arms or ammunition. During the war there had been a great cry of "On to Richmond," and Bull Run and disaster to the union army was the result.

President Ingersoll said that the enforcement of section 1, article 2, of the state constitution, all that was required in the way of affording to the people of the state information as to what the railroads were realizing upon their investments; that an attempt had been made by the legislature last winter to enact a law to carry out the provisions of the constitution in that regard, but that the railroad experts had managed to whip around until the object arrived at had failed of accomplishment.

Secretary Burrows stated that he had prepared a short report, giving the status of the organization, the objects of this meeting, etc., and that perhaps this would be a proper time to present it. He then presented the following:

HISTORY OF THE ALLIANCE. A little more than a year ago the state alliance was organized at Lincoln. By a portion of the press of the state, which derives its inspiration from railroad managers, it was called a foolish, weak-brained movement, and its promoters were denounced as fanatics or demagogues, but the verdict of the farmers of the state has been of the opposite character. They have rallied to the support of the movement with a unanimity that has been surprising. Fully 300 subordinate alliances have been organized in Nebraska in the year just passed, embracing a membership of between 11,000 and 12,000.

A year ago the active formation of alliances was just beginning. Now they have an existence in the states of Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, New York, Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri, Indiana, Illinois and Minnesota, while there are state alliances organized in Nebraska, New York, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Indiana. There are probably 1,200 subordinate alliances formed, with a membership of about 30,000. This growth is simply prodigious. And when we consider that the large majority of the farmers of the country, whether members of the society or not, are fully in sympathy with its objects, and ready to join at any time when opportunity offers, we discover still further occasion for congratulation. When we consider, also, that the alliance apparently attacks an interest which all concede forms the basis of not only one well-being but our very existence as communities in the west, it will be plain to the most superficial observer that there must be some real and glaring evils existing in that interest which form an almost intolerable burden on the shoulders of the people to induce them to unite so generally for defense.

There are at this date in Nebraska 332 chartered subordinate alliances. A portion of these are not, perhaps, in active operation; but in such cases the organization exists, and forms a ready means of communication between its members and the state alliance, and an emergency will at any time call it into activity. The alliances are distributed through the counties of the state as follows:

Table listing alliances by county: Adams 27, Kearney 7, Antelope 2, Knox 3, Banner 18, Madison 10, Butler 8, Merrick 14, Cass 2, Nemaha 1, Clay 2, Seneca 2, Colfax 2, Nuckolls 2, Custer 2, Otoe 2, Dawson 1, Phelps 2, DeSage 2, Platte 10, Fillmore 24, Richardson 6, Franklin 3, Sibley 10, Fremont 10, Wayne 12, Gage 2, Saunders 2, Gosper 2, Seward 16, Hall 3, Thayer 13, Hamilton 19, Wayne 12, Howard 1, York 27, Johnson 11.

It will be seen that of the 64 organized counties of the state 41 have alliances within their borders numbering from one to twenty-seven, and twenty-three have as yet no alliances. This summary is exclusive of county alliances. Such bodies were not authorized by the state constitution until our late annual meeting, and then by an oversight in the revision of the constitution, it was not made incumbent on their secretaries to report their organization to the state secretary. I have therefore no means of making an exact statement of their numbers. I believe, however, that about twenty-five are now organized in the state.

chargeable with the lack of their existence in these counties.

STOOGES AS TO WORK. The work to which your attention is invited at the present meeting is, first, the devising of some effective method for organizing the alliance in those counties in which it has as yet no foothold, and extending it where it has gained only a feeble hold. It has been thought that a state organizing committee, consisting of one member from each county, with a chairman elected by this meeting, who may or may not be additional to the members, would be perhaps one of the most effective means of carrying forward this work. The committee man for the county can have an advisory supervision over the work in his county, it being his duty to stimulate organization and encourage members to continue in the good work. The State Secretary will thus be afforded a reliable medium of communication with each county in the state, and a ready means of disseminating information.

It is also recommended that there should be established a county organizing committee, consisting of one member for each precinct, whose duty it shall be to see that at least one alliance is found in each precinct in the county.

It may be well, also, to require each subordinate alliance in the state to appoint a committee to enroll every farmer in its precinct upon blanks of a uniform character, to be furnished by the state secretary, and forward the same to him, to enable the state alliance to perform extensive missionary work for the accomplishment of its object, should it at any time become necessary.

It would also, in my opinion, be advisable for the county committee in connection with the members of the state committee, to take measures to ascertain and report to the state secretary for publication the former political record of every person who may declare himself a candidate for any important office during the approaching campaign, and that the state committee, through the signature of its officers, recommend the defeat of all candidates whose records are adverse to the objects of the alliance, or who are of such a character as not to inspire confidence in their professions.

You may also think it desirable, after discussion, to appoint a committee to suggest subjects upon which you desire enactments by the next legislature, and perhaps to formulate bills upon all or a portion of such subject. The extreme shortness of the session under the constitution, and the fact that an election of United States senator is to take place, which will probably for a time distract attention from other work, renders it almost impossible to mature important legislation during a single session. But the signature of such a committee, and the subjects entrusted to it should be expressly stated. It would be better that no committee should be appointed than one which would perform its duties in an improper manner.

Should you determine to make special efforts to push the alliance into those counties in which it is not yet organized, it seems indispensable that a special fund should be provided for that purpose. One meeting in a county, with sufficient previous preparations, would set the ball in motion. Such meetings would probably contribute a portion of the expense. The expenses of a speaker going into such counties must be provided for, and the good made up by local meetings would have to be found elsewhere.

The report was adopted.

WM. STARBUCK, next addressed the alliance in response to loud calls. He said he came here with the conviction that this was to be the most important meeting ever held in this portion of the state. It is not necessary to state why we are here. You all know that you are being ground to dust by railroad and other corporations, and what the remedy for these evils is the question to be considered. One of the gentlemen conveyed the idea that we must not get out of the old political parties, that if we did we should certainly fail; that to take independent political action at the present time would be premature. I regretted to hear my friend, Mr. Root, say we should hang up our herbs and let them dry; that is like the old woman who warned her son to not go near the water until he had learned to swim. [Laughter.] Have we principles in this matter? If we have, let us carry out those principles [applause], and not trundle down and ask if it is policy or not. [Applause.] During the campaign last fall I saw the privilege of speech at several school houses and I was surprised at the unanimity of opposition to the two old parties. It is my impression that you will never get the redress you are looking for in the present political parties. Most of us have heard of Jay Gould. At one time he controlled the New York & Erie road; there was an investigating committee, called the Hepburn committee, investigating the management of that road, and in answer to questions as to whether he had used money in influencing elections or in bribing legislators, he did not deny it, but he said they had a better way than that—that when they went into a democratic district they were democrats; in a republican district they were republicans; in an independent district they were independents, but were all the time for Erie.

"Mr. Gould, have used money in this connection?" "Yes, sir." "How much?" "I don't know." "Do your books show?" "Yes, sir." "Under what head?" "The India rubber account." [Laughter.]

That same Jay Gould has stretched his rubber band over our state and you are charged ten dollars a ton for coal and you are taxed three bushels of corn for carrying one bushel to market—you are charged all the traffic will bear. A more handsome country than Nebraska the sun never shone on. In one direction we see vast herds of cattle, making such beef as the stall fed cattle of England can not rival; in another direction are flocks of sheep, shearing the finest wool. Go to your own homes; on your own tables are found some of that beef or mutton, and as for clothing, you are satisfied with a pair of seventy-five cent cottons or overalls, but you are taxed to pay seven and a half per cent interest on watered railroad stock. [Applause.] Jay Gould and the men who own these roads work through the present political parties, and do you think you can gain redress through those parties? Senator Sharon said, in a speech he made, that the republican party must of necessity uphold railroads, banks, and other monopolies. He is a republican and know what he was talking about. It has been suggested that it is possible to reform these parties, but history has never recorded such a case; all reforms come through individuals who leave their parties and form new ones. They all say they want nothing more to do with the old parties (applause); they want their own convention next fall. In our county last fall we had 600 majority, (a voice, "700 majority.") and we elected every man on the ticket except one, and that case is being contested now. (Applause.) In Thayer county they had the same experience.

The foregoing report embraces about half of yesterday's proceedings. A rousing meeting was held last night, with a crowded house, and the alliance meets again at 9 a. m. to-day.

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The Mormons propose to show the private record of some of the congressmen if the question of polygamy is pushed. They have had detectives working on the personal records of members who are loudest against polygamy and claim they have become possessed of most of the facts.

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Assistant Secretary of State French is still ill.

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He Prepares a New Address for Publication, Whereat Scoville is Wrathful.

Scoville at Work on His Motion for a New Trial and Writ of Error.

Joyful Reception of the Verdict by Giteau's "Few Cranks."

How the News was Received by His Victim's Widow.

National Associated Press. WASHINGTON, January 26.—The criminal court room was a deserted place to-day. The officials who have been kept busy by the trial of Giteau are falling already into more manner of routine. The district attorney in receipt of many congratulations on the result of the trial. The jury were paid to-day. It is generally understood that Juror Hamlin was the only man against conviction when the ballot was taken, and hesitated not a moment when he found he stood alone. Scoville had a consultation with Judge Cox; he will file his motion for a new trial on Saturday. When asked about associate counsel, Mr. Scoville asked: "I don't know whether Mr. Reed will continue with me or not. I have no right to ask him. He volunteered his services during the trial, and I don't suppose it would be right or convenient for him to view other engagements. The preparation of motions and the writ of error will take my time. I am as deep in the mire now as I ever have been since I came here. I suppose I will have to work as hard during the next two weeks as at any time during the trial. I will have to do all I can, and if I fail, of course, he will have to be hung. I think either before his death or after that people will understand that this man is insane. I believe they will come to my conclusion, that he is half fool and half crazy." He has not yet seen a copy of the proceedings of the last two days, and cannot yet perfect his writ of exceptions. He has some idea of writing a book on the trial. Mr. Scoville is very much disappointed at the result and broken down. The prisoner is not much broken down, though he rested poorly last night. He tossed and tumbled in his cot till an early hour, when he fell into a feverish sleep. The jail officials say his appetite has declined, and that of late he has toyed with the food set before him. They endeavor to keep his spirits, but his face has become drawn and haggard since the verdict was rendered. A couple of reporters called on him at the prison this afternoon. The privilege of a double cell is no longer allowed him. He was found in the first cell of the silent corridor. There was a wild expression in his eyes, which bore out the theory of the officials of want of rest and loss of appetite. He came to the grated door and greeted his visitors with something of his old courtesy. In answer to a question he said: "I didn't sleep well last night. I was troubled with a headache. It was a long session yesterday and there was great excitement at the close." Referring to Scoville's attitude since the verdict, he broke out into his snappy remarks: "Oh! He always had a depressed view of my case, but it will come out all right. I expected Scoville to see me this morning. He will file his motion for a new trial Saturday and I suppose he is getting ready for that." The reporter said John W. Giteau had given up all hope. "Oh,shaw," said Giteau, "John's opinions are not worth anything. He isn't authority on anything."

In further conversation he said that he expected to have two or three first-class lawyers. He didn't agree with Scoville's theory. He admitted that Scoville did his best, but he needed experience in this kind of work. "The verdict was a surprise to me. I expected disagreement. I am decidedly of the opinion that I shall finally escape. The American people don't want to hang me. I don't expect to be hanged. I expect that Merrick will be consulted in regard to my new trial. I understand that he has prepared a brief on the question of jurisdiction. I am in good health and my spirits are not depressed."

At this point Giteau slyly slipped a package of manuscript into the hands of one of the reporters and hastily said: "I am just as sanguine now the duty will vindicate me as I ever was. I never had any doubt about that. I think the jurors were not the right kind of men to be on that jury. One of the morning papers says (reading): 'We (that is, the jury) all had a drink with each meal and cigars afterwards. Now that class of men don't represent the great Christian nation of America, and yet they were the kind of men that brought a verdict of guilty last night. That's all I can say now, gentlemen.' With that, the prisoner turned away. The reporter who obtained the manuscript showed it to Gen. Crocker, who said Giteau had promised not to make any further statements without his sanction. Scoville came in while the warden was listening to the latest production of Giteau and protested vigorously against such statements being issued. He said they prejudiced the case and threw serious obstacles in the way of those striving to

save him. "I wanted him to keep still from the beginning, not only in the press but in court, but I could not control him. If he does not stop now I will end the case. I would prefer that the jury had found him insane. That, however, does not alter my opinion, but under the circumstances he should discontinue such practices." Scoville was handed the document. He read it carefully over to himself, breaking out into comments every now and then, showing the impudence of the prisoner in penning such communication to the press. "It will," exclaimed the counsel, "be difficult to get a jury again, even in Washington, and this thing must stop. Here is something he wants to go to the public (reading): 'Scoville does not understand my case, and I will have nothing more to do with him. I think it is time he should be treated like other prisoners and interviewers kept away from him. I suppose when the time comes he will be hung like anybody else and I want him kept like any one else now.'"

General Crocker remarked he would see that writing materials were kept from Giteau in the future. He warmly believed in continuing all after reading further. "That all he has to do is to send these communications to the public and money will flow in to him and he will be able to engage the best lawyers in the country. He says he does not want anything more to do with Reed and myself, if he is encouraged by the publication of such articles and neither of us can do anything for him. He says: 'At any rate, I cannot be executed until July, and I might die a dozen times before then.' After a little importuning Scoville consented to the publication of the address, stating it should be the last to come from the prisoner's cell. General Crocker