

The Farmers' Leader.

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A. J. WIMPLE, PRESIDENT;
JERE GEHON, VICE PRESIDENT;
E. W. OWENS, SECRETARY;
JOHN ISACKSON, TREASURER.
J. F. COOLEY, EDITOR AND MANAGER.

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THE FARMERS' LEADER is owned by a company composed of nearly 400 of the most progressive farmers of southeastern South Dakota. It is a fearless advocate of the rights of the farmer, mechanic, day laborer and artisan and as such it will use its best influence toward the upbuilding of the Farmers' Alliance, the Knights of Labor and kindred organizations, and, incidentally, toward the support of the principles of the independent party.

The paper is conducted under the direction of a board of directors composed of the following named gentlemen: A. J. Wimple, Jere Gehon, E. W. Owens, John Isackson, Henry Bradshaw, Ole Brye, Neils Larson, Ole Hokenstad, A. T. Sundvold.

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NEW CREDIT DEVICES.

From the Dakota Ruralist.

The clipping under the above from the Pioneer Press is given that our readers may see the inevitable tendency of affairs in our present monetary system. It is confessedly a device to find a substitute for money founded upon the confidence inspired by the power of aggregated credit. It is no less than a proposition to make a gigantic trust or a combination of the united collaterals of the entire national banking system into which pool all the convertible wealth of the nation is to be speedily absorbed. The ostensible object of this combination is to prevent the ruinous depreciation of banking securities in time of panics; but the real object is by far greater and broader than this. It is no other than the absolute and irresistible domination of the "clearing house" over everything that "lives, moves or has a being" in this land of ours. Study carefully the lines of this device and see how certainly Wall street will dominate every commercial transaction in all the land. There will be absolutely no credit anywhere except at the will and pleasure of the plutocrats enthroned there. The Press, with satanic subtlety, seeks to sugarcoat this culmination of the power of money to oppress, upon the plea of stability. When this is accomplished, not a wave of trouble will ever disturb the haughty plutocrats of America. Every limb will be bound and every nerve palsied, and the ironclad mortgage of perdition will close down forever over the pulseless hopes of American freemen. Sit still? No, base sons of noble sires, and contemplate what you will be when this merciless inquisition has perfect mastery over every transaction of trade and commerce. They will buy and sell and work and rob you like cattle. Beware in time. The alternative to this is plain, practical and sufficient. The device of credit is a complete confession of all that we demand. It boldly states that "this combined credit is a substitute for money. There is not money enough, else why the need to substitute credit? Until this vacuum is filled there could be no inflation by reason of the government meeting this demand. They simply propose to make their credit take the place of the nation's credit. They do not pretend to base their credit on any intrinsic values. It is their proposition to stamp their certificates with the fiat of the clearing house. The certificates are issued in place of money upon collaterals judged by the clearing house to be sound." But suppose some dark day the collaterals be adjudged unsound—what then? Who will redeem these wildly inflated certificates of the clearing houses? The issue will now be more plainly comprehended by the people than ever before. Shall Wall street control the finances of this country, or will the people do it through the government, which is created by the people? The "device" will be an eye opener.

BONDS AND MORTGAGES.

CANTON, Dec. 2.—EDITOR FARMERS' LEADER: "They ate and they drank, they gave to marriage and they took to marriage until the flood came and took them all away."

There was a time when bondage was a dread but not so now. Under a free republican government bondage has lost its thorn, people will go voluntarily into bondage, bond themselves, their fellow men, their independence, their prosperity and their children and children's children forever.

Why complain of hard times, of oppressive money power, of monopoly and usury when man himself voluntarily makes all this evil. God made this world and the fulness thereof with good intentions for the benighted and comforts of man-

kind, and he endowed man with faculty and power to subdue the natural forces and make them serviceable to his convenience. This land of ours, especially is richly and bountifully gifted with nature's blessings, and its inhabitants might dwell in comfort and plenty if the spirit of virtue and righteousness could prevail.

Man makes his own destiny, as all the work of man is imperfect, the result of his deeds are corruption. The modern mania is to go into bondage under money power; our laws have made this road broad and easy, and our government has not only set the example but in a great measure forced the citizen onto this road.

Generous advisers are always ready to dissuade the farmer from incurring himself with debts and mortgages. Townsmen and editors exhibit a special zeal in this line; but "it is a poor rule that won't work both ways," our cities are manifestly prolific in the fabrication of bondage.

What about the virgin city of Canton? A \$10,000 bonds for a schoolhouse, and that bond in six years growing to \$14,000. Four years more and her citizens have paid interest on their school house bonds equal in amount to the original debt. The debt increasing at the same ratio for the next four years, the bonded principal will be \$17,000 and the yearly interest \$1,190.

But this don't hinder the good citizens of Canton from re-voting around their own necks a new bondage of \$17,000 more. This is easy to carry you know, only 6 per cent interest \$1,020 a year, the two bond items will only make an annual interest of \$2,210, it all helps to feed the New York money broker. Still it is undisputedly proven that productive industries do not yield over 2 to 3 per cent. But the city of Canton produces just at the point of nothing. From whence then comes the interest with which she is to meet her bonded obligations? Together with her \$4,000 to \$5,000 yearly current school expenses, her individual debt and interest thereon, her taxes, insurance and the daily subsistence of her citizens? The new waterworks, with our manufacturing projects, will produce this, says her senior editor. We shall put an interrogation point at that. But the same editor also has an other expedient: "Her unsurpassed agricultural surroundings." Pin this in your hats, ye strudy, horny-handed sons of toil.

Our venerable editor is a good old timer, a patriotic ex-soldier, a farmers' friend? To a man at a distance it also looks as if he were in league, with the money power. At the 4th of November election he gives this advice to the voters. "The question of state debt should command the earnest thought of every taxpayer. On this question the News believes all should vote 'yes.' Of course, bondage, bondage till you can't move. Treat the money broker well if you starve yourself—follow Canton's example and place the money broker in the lead of your municipal as well as county, state and national management, and you shall never suffer from want—want of bondage."

The Lord beheld the wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah and said "I will destroy thee." But Abraham plead with the Lord until the Lord promised to not destroy the city of Sodom if he found ten righteous men there. But the city of Canton has 15 and will surely obtain the grace of God.
Now I don't blame Canton for wanting water works. She certainly needs it; but I do blame her for laying herself and her tributaries prostrate at the feet of the money power, while we have presented to her a fair and just proposition to adjust the circulation of the people's currency in such a way as to take that legalized but unrighteous advantage of interest-sucking out of the hands of greedy, gambling money-brokers, and place it with the people where it undoubtedly belongs.

A little over a year ago the farmers earnestly discussed the feasibility of starting a binding twine manufactory; they have also discussed other projects, but wisely have come to the conclusion that interest on hired money will place any such enterprise on a scaly foundation with our present money system.
They have therefore determined to go to the root of the evil; for the only true solution of this problem is to place the people's money in their own hands untrammelled by that iniquitous interest drawing arrangement.

But Canton says "no" to this and to the tune of 200, against 14, says "you shall not meddle with finances; for we just now want to place a set of new bonds, you shall secure them for us, and you shall pay them too. Finance you don't understand anyhow, you cranky know-nothings, you go home and work your farms. If you want merchandise you just bring it on you produce, we will tell you what it is worth. When we have got our margin sufficient to pay our interest, bonds, taxes, rent, insurance, pleasures and conveniences you can have the balance, if you are not satisfied you can go to the dogs, there is where you are going anyhow." Glorious antidote, you have the cure.

But Mr. Editor, I must stop and apologize for my intrusion on you space.

J. E. HOLTER.

In another column of this issue will be found a letter from Miss Josephine Gerber, of Worthing, protesting against the article in THE LEADER of last week, relating to the inefficiency of the mail

service at Worthing and elsewhere. The Communication is not published by way of a recognition of any merits in Miss Josephine's case but because of a disposition on the part of this paper to let all sides be heard. No one will probably be surprised to learn that Miss Josephine maintains that the Worthing office is conducted in the best manner possible. There is probably no postmaster under heavens who would not claim the same thing. He would inform Miss Josephine, however that she is much mistaken in her idea of THE LEADER's correspondent at Worthing and who he is. The communications received from that point have come from several different parties.

New Jersey Scandalized.

Bound Brook, N. J., had a Sunday school festival. It was one of the most delightful of its kind. Between recitations, music and pantomime the time passed on wings. The united congregations of Greenbrook and Chimney Rock were happy. The entertainment had netted them \$400.

The audience were however thrilled with the highest pitch of delight on being informed that the greatest pleasure of all was left to the last, like the raisins a child leaves to be eaten after the rice, at the end of the pudding. What that was nobody knew exactly, but everybody knew it must be something very wonderful. The New York Evening Sun describes how they found out as follows:

Professor McGehay announced with much impressiveness that he had a surprise for them, and everybody smiled in anticipation, while the professor sat down to the piano and struck two preliminary chords, and then came two beautiful young persons with absolutely bare arms and necks, and in dresses which were actually cut off just above the knee. The audience was too much surprised to do anything but laugh at first, while the mothers of the little pupils felt warm waves of indignation swelling up under their bonnet strings and suffusing their faces.

Seriously unconscious that anything was wrong the two girls, professional ballet dancers, advanced to the footlights and began to pirouette and to sing. "We hate to tell, but then we must."

Fancy the scene at a Sunday school entertainment! What next happened is thus described by The Sun:

They had only reached the third kick when a very large lady, with a somewhat sheepish looking husband, rose and called down the aisle and out at the fifth kick two more women, with three little girls in tow, followed her example, and then all over the hall the indignation and horrified members of the congregations of Greenbrook and Chimney Rock rose and silently withdrew.

But there was a leaven of the ungodly among the young men present, and they made up for the absence of the others by the noise they made. They applauded and shouted and cheered, and the skirted women kicked and turned and threw beautiful tigers blown by a summer's breeze, and all this while Superintendent McEab sat and shivered with indignation against Professor McGehay.

Professor McGehay has been busy ever since explaining that he had telegraphed to a theatrical agent for two lady bell ringers, and the abandoned villain had sent on the ballet dancers instead, by what it is charitable to suppose was a mistake.

A Southern Republican's View.

A. W. Shaffer, chief supervisor of elections in North Carolina, writing in The North American Review, handles the Lodge election bill without gloves. He says of it that it is: at once structurally weak and calculated to stir up violence. It is impossible of enforcement to begin. The kind of a time an official who honestly attempted to see it enforced in the south would have is set forth in a quotation Mr. Shaffer makes from a speech of Senator Vance at Raleigh. The senator remarked:

"A southern man who supports the force bill ought not to be allowed to live among us. Don't understand me as advocating violence, but there is such a thing as driving such men out by force intolerance and contempt, and they deserve all that can be heaped upon them."

Some of the points in which the Lodge bill is hopelessly weak are mentioned by Mr. Shaffer as follows:

The bill contains structural infirmities which ought to be fatal. Of these, three are worthy of special consideration, to wit:

First—The disfranchisement of fifty citizens in every election precinct, town, parish, city, county or congressional district, and 100 in every city of 20,000 inhabitants, asking for the supervision of election. (See sec. 6.)

Second—The gross inequality of compensation provided for services performed by the various officials. (See sec. 14 and 24.)

Third—The excess of penalties provided beyond the limit of prosecutions upon information in lieu of indictment. (See penalties.)

In the closing portion of his paper Mr. Shaffer says:

In conclusion it has dawned upon the intellect of those who have borne the brunt of the political crimes of the last twenty-five years that their experience and opinions are neither sought nor desired in a large place upon a subject that when they have asked for bread they have received a stone; and when they sought a national system of congressional elections—a system that would be neither evaded nor annulled—there is tendered this miserable caricature of a long dead and forgotten statute, valuable only for the sportsman and fairly reeking with fraud, violence and blood, because both threatening and impotent. Who shall judge them if, in the bitterness of deferred hope and violated promises, they cry aloud for deliverance from these their friends!

Gladstone will be 82 years old this December. Spite of the declaration of his opponents that he is declining mentally he has never shown grander power than in his campaign speeches this fall. Never in his life have his addresses been more full of fire and enthusiasm, more eloquent and convincing. He has shown also a degree of physical activity and endurance as he skipped from town to town that would have been commendable in a man of 40. Doubtless, too, if he should write a magazine article his sentences would be as long and ponderous as ever. No; Gladstone is not declining, either physically or intellectually. He is still the leader.

California, besides having the largest trees in the world, has certainly also the largest grapevine. It was planted

seventy years ago by a Mexican woman from a cutting of a mission grapevine. The vine is now three feet around, and produces six tons of grapes a year. Some of the bunches weigh seven pounds. It would be interesting to know how long a grapevine will live, and how large it will become. The California vine covers a space of 12,000 feet, and is still growing.

Bismarck, after swaying the destinies of nearly all Europe for twenty years, will now sway the destinies of a big brewery at Friedrichshagen. Thus the greatest man on the continent of Europe has petered out. Will he, perhaps, run his brewery on the blood and iron plan?

Along with the other November election surprises was the announcement that for the first time in the history of Baltimore, a colored man, Harry S. Cummings, had been elected to the city council. Mr. Cummings is a lawyer.

Another fine vein of coking coal has been found in Virginia in the southwest part of the state. It is twenty-two feet thick and pronounced to be of excellent quality. A few more discoveries like this will bring back to the old state, but in a far different way, some of the prosperity of bygone times and perhaps help pay her debt after a while.

The Halifax Herald takes an original view of the McKinley tariff law. It declares that the law was passed with the "avowed purpose of coercing Canada into severing her connection with the British empire and becoming a part of the United States. It is, therefore, in its nature an act of war on the British empire to bring about its dismemberment."

Ex-Governor Gilpin, of Colorado, may possibly yet see before he dies the consummation of his great scheme for building a railroad around the world by way of Alaska and Behring straits. The plan has been pronounced by engineers feasible and really capable of being carried out on the lines proposed by Governor Gilpin, except at one point. Gilpin advocated building a road from island to island across the straits. Capt. Emery, of the Thetis, thinks it would not be possible to use at all seasons of the year a road built across the islands, on account of the cold. But he says a tunnel can be constructed under the straits that could be used by trains the year around.

THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

To the public: The alarming development and the aggressiveness of the power of great capitalists and corporations under the present industrial system will inevitably lead to the pauperization and hopeless degradation of the toiling masses. It is imperative, if we desire to enjoy the full blessings of life, that unjust accumulation and this power for evil or aggregated wealth shall be prevented. The much desired object can be accomplished only by the united efforts of those who obey the divine injunction: "The sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread." Therefore we have formed the Order of the Knights of Labor for the purpose of organizing, educating, and directing the power of the industrial masses.

It is not a political party, it is more—for in it are crystallized sentiments and measures for the benefit of the whole people; but it should be born in mind, when exercising the right of suffrage, that the most of the objects herein set forth can only be obtained through legislative and that it is the duty regardless of party, of all to assist in nominating and supporting their votes such candidates as will support these measures. No one shall, however, be compelled to vote with the majority.

Calling upon all who believe in securing "the greatest good to the greatest number" to join and assist us, we declare to the world that our aims are:—

I. To make industrial and moral worth, not wealth, the true standard of individual and National greatness.

II. To secure to the workers the full enjoyment of the greatest, the most salutary, and the most leisure in which to develop their intellectual, moral and social faculties; all of the benefits, recreations, and pleasures of association in a world to enable them to share in gains and honors of advancing civilization.

In order to secure these results, we demand a virtuous use of the law-making power of State and Nation:

III. The establishment of Bureaus of Labor Statistics, that we may arrive at a correct knowledge of the educational, moral, and financial condition of the laboring masses.

IV. That the public lands, the heritage of the people, be reserved for actual settlers—not another acre for railroad or other speculators, or alien landlords; and that all lands now held for speculative purposes be taxed to their full value.

V. The abrogation of all laws that do not bear equally upon capitalists and laborers, and the removal of unjust technicalities, delays and discriminations in the administration of justice.

VI. The adoption of measures providing for the health and safety of those engaged in mining, manufacturing, and building industries, and for indemnification to those engaged therein for injuries received through the use of necessary safeguards.

VII. The recognition, by incorporation of order and other associations organized by the workers to improve their condition and protect their rights.

VIII. The enactment of laws to compel corporations to pay their employees weekly, in lawful money, for the labor of the preceding week, and giving mechanics and laborers a first lien upon the product of their labor to the extent of their full wages.

IX. The abolition of the contract system on National, State, and Municipal works.

X. The enactment of laws providing for arbitration between employers and employed, and to enforce the decision of the arbitrator.

XI. The prohibition, by law, of the employment of children under fifteen years of age in a mine, to prohibit the bringing out of convict labor.

XII. That a graduated income tax be levied.

XIII. The establishment of a National monetary system, in which a circulating medium in necessary quantity shall issue directly to the people without the intervention of banks; that all the National issue shall be full legal tender in payment of all debts, public and private; and that the Government shall not guarantee or recognize any private banks or create any banking corporation.

XIV. That interest-bearing bonds, bills of credit, or notes shall never be issued by the Government but that, when need arises the emergency shall be met by issue of legal tender, non-interest-bearing money.

XV. That the importation of foreign labor under contract be prohibited.

XVI. That, in connection with the post-office, the Government shall organize financial exchanges, safe deposits, and facilities for deposits of savings of the people in small sums.

XVII. That the Government shall obtain possession, by purchase, under the right of eminent domain, of all telegraphs, telephones, and railroads; and that hereafter no charter or license be issued to any corporation for construction or operation of any means of transporting intelligence, passengers, or freight.

And while making the foregoing demands upon the State and National Government, we will endeavor to associate our own laborers.

XIX. To establish co-operative industrial systems, such as will tend to supersede the wage system, by the introduction of a co-operative industrial system.

XX. To secure for both sexes equal pay for equal work.

XXI. To gain some of the benefits of labor-saving machinery by a gradual reduction of the hours of labor to eight per day.

XXII. To persuade employers to agree to arbitrate all differences which may arise between them and their employees, in order that the bonds of sympathy between them may be strengthened and that strikes may be rendered unnecessary.

The Boom Still On!

Although my competitors are doing all in their power to destroy my credit by reporting to the public that I am buying Unlimited Quantities of grain and paying AWAY ABOVE MARKET

VALUE and

GIVING AWAY GOODS

AT

Less Than Cost.

I am still prepared to take

All the Grain

Offered at the same old rate,

And as for Goods,

Have just brought in a car load and can sell Felt boots and Overs for \$1.50 per set.

Overshoes for 75 cents.

White bed blankets for \$1.25 per pair.

Pretty dress Prints for 4 1-2c a yard.

Coats thread for 4 cents a spool.

And Groceries:

Are away down.

Granulated sugar, 14 lbs. for \$1.

Pure Java coffee for 25 cents a pound.

Pure Maple Syrup from the barrel at 95 cents a gallon.

And Clothing

Nothing fine, but good warm goods cheap.

Christmas Goods.

The largest supply ever offered. 100 different styles of albums alone; just look in and see.

AND NOW ABOUT JEWELRY.

I have decided to close out my Post office Jewelry store and will give you

WATCHES, RINGS, SILVERWARE, Etc.,

Cheaper than you ever thought of buying.

Pretty New Clocks,

Just drop in and ask for prices. But I must close with,

Bring in your Grain

and

Buy your goods.

D. J. CARPENTER