

The Dakota Farmer's Leader.

A Faithful LEADER in the Cause of Economy and Reform, the Defender of Truth and Justice, the Foe of Fraud and Corruption.

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THE STATE FARMERS ALLIANCE.

Complete Report of the Mitchell Alliance Convention—Much Good Work Discussed of,

Strong Resolutions Passed and a Platform of Legislative Demands Unanimously Adopted.

STATE ALLIANCE CONVENTION.

MITCHELL, Dec. 6.—Special Correspondence: No report of the last state meeting of the Alliance, which, assembled in this city on the 26 inst. has as yet appeared in your paper and I presume that an account of it would be of interesting to your readers.

The convention assembled with the usually large representation from all parts of the state. Among the most prominent members of the order in the state were president Loucks, Frank Leavitt, the irrefragable anti-monopoly war horse from your county, H. W. Smith, A. L. Van Osdel, E. A. Dye, S. W. Cozand, Z. D. Scott, J. R. Lowe and Chairman Goodfellow, of the Independent State Central Committee. Among the most interesting features of the convention was the address of President Loucks and the address of National Lecturer Ashley of Iowa. Mr. Louck's address was full of that candor and self-sacrificing disposition which characterizes the man, and as usual is running over with wisdom and good advice. Mr. Ashley's lecture was aggressive and sweeping in its denunciation of what he was pleased to call "an implied political test of membership." He spoke about an hour and a half but so far as your correspondent can ascertain, went away with less friends and sympathizers than greeted him on his arrival. His manifest determination to saddle the independent political movement of this state upon the back of the Alliance did not meet with many sympathizers and fewer friends.

During the session, discussions upon the leading topics of the hour were liberally interspersed with the business of the assembly and the discussions at this convention of farmers and laborers was more elaborate and more able than the discussions at any other convention ever held in the state. The general impression prevailed among the delegates that something must be done very soon, that the people who toil from morn till night, and who produce the bread for the nation, and are yet unable to provide themselves with a decent living, can extricate themselves from the terrible straits in which the present system of government has placed them. All the discussions which took place in the convention were replete with a clear consciousness of the fact that something is wrong and that unless some action is taken to bring on a revolution of the state of affairs, the country is going to ruin. There was no distinction of political affiliations, or religious beliefs, all agreed in the same opinion and had it not been for the extravagant departure from the customary modes of Alliance procedure of Lecturer Ashley, and the occasional appearance of a defeated candidate for office, no one would have thought from anything that occurred in the convention that such things as political parties ever existed. The convention re-adopted the resolutions adopted by the former conventions and expresses itself on the subject of irrigation in the following language:

That we are satisfied that an extensive system of irrigation by artesian wells is essential to the profitable development of agriculture in the state, and we are anxious that all practicable legislation shall be enacted to secure the same as early a date as possible, and we are grieved to think that the dominant political party of this state should refuse to provide such amendments to the constitution as would allow the state to contribute to such a system, and submit the same to a vote of the people at the late election for ratification and thereby make it impossible for the state to aid in the accomplishment of such a project for over two years to come. And we further deplore that our present representation in congress used such untiring energy in seeking and procuring appropriations for unneeded and extravagant public buildings and unearned services and not one dollar for the construction of a single well or for advancement of the industrial enterprise of the state.

A committee on legislative demands was appointed with F. A. Leavitt of Lincoln county as chairman, who reported the following demands:

That the Farmers' Alliance, of South Dakota, demands that the legislature submit to the electors of South Dakota at the next general election an amendment to the constitution forbidding the sale of any of the school and public lands, and providing for the proper leasing of the same.

2. That we are in favor of a uniform

series of text books for our public schools and demand that the state furnish them to the school boards at cost, and we demand such legislation as will carry this resolution into force and effect. And be it further resolved that we demand a fair English education for every child in South Dakota.

3. We endorse the Australian ballot box system of voting and demand of our next legislature proper enactments to carry the same into full force and effect throughout the state.

4. We demand such legislation as will forever prohibit the employment of armed bodies of men other than our state militia at the call of the governor of the state.

5. We demand a law fixing railway passenger rates at 2 cents per mile.

6. We demand legislation providing for the forfeiture of office of any state or county officer accepting a free railroad pass.

7. We demand the election of our railroad commissioners by the people and that they be empowered to make freight schedules for all state traffic, which rate shall be prima-facie evidence of reasonable rates.

8. We demand that the appraised valuation of railroads for purposes of taxation be fixed at the value they are bonded for.

9. We demand that our state be divided into congressional districts.

10. We demand that the law governing the time for redemption of real estate sold under execution or foreclosure be changed and extended to three years.

11. We demand the enactment of a law taxing mortgages.

12. We demand that the coming legislature appoint an investigating committee with power to send for persons and papers and compelling their attendance and production for the purpose of ascertaining if any elected office of this state has been implicated in attempting to influence the electors in the late election by the corrupt use of money, and that if the evidence shows any person guilty then we demand the immediate impeachment of such official.

13. We demand of the coming legislature that it enact such laws as will largely decrease the fees and salaries of the various county and state officials to the lowest possible limit consistent with the discharge of the duties.

A SUCCESSFUL ENTERPRISE.

The Producers Association of Beresford Makes a Very Satisfactory Showing.

BERESFORD, Dec. 1.—Special Correspondence: The stockholders of the Alliance Producers association met at the G. A. R. hall, at Beresford, on the 29th. After hearing the report of their business manager, Mr. Wm. Duncan it was found the management had done an extensive business in flax and wheat, which had saved the farmers hundreds of dollars and left a small balance in favor of the company.

It was thought by some of the members advisable to deal in live stock. No sooner said than the necessary funds were provided for and deposited with banker Shatzel and on Monday morning the Alliance of Union and adjoining counties will be in shape to sell their own grain and stock. This we think is a move in the right direction. We think the farmers are supporting to many agents. If one man can ship the produce for the farmers at a fair living salary, at a small place like Beresford why should they employ seven or eight which is the case to perform the same duty at salaries above what they are able to pay?

We hope the good work will not stop at this end of the deal, but we hope the company will co-operate with other similar organizations and place a man at the other end to receive and sell in the best market. A STOCKHOLDER.

BRIEF AND COMPREHENSIVE.

A Pertinent Question Pointedly Answered By One Who Knows.

RUNNING WATER, S. D., Nov 27.—EDITOR FARMERS' LEADER: P. J. Nelson, asks through THE LEADER of Nov. 21 the following question, "Can you tell the reason why the prices of wheat and produce drops so quick after election? I think it is on account of certain fellows that have an interest in the success of certain political movements," etc. etc.

My answer would be this: It is not the success of any political movement in itself, that they care a fig about. An old English adage is, "every man to his trade." The great creditor classes get their income by gift of legal statute, and politics is a trade to this end, for they must have the party in power that favors their demands, and had the giant corporations, banks, brokers, bullionists, board of trade and the transportation companies, combined their power to bear the markets for a period of three months before election, as they have since, the election would have overwhelmingly gone against them, and they knew it.

she republican press calls it a cyclone as it is. Further, please bear in mind, Bro. Nelson, that prices are high where money is plenty, and interest will be low. Prices will be low where money is scarce, and interest will be high. Those who control the money have control of the people, by controlling the price and movement of money.

Let us look at the situation as per the Chicago express of Nov. 15; deposits in Philadelphia, Oct. 27, \$74,225,000; Boston, Oct. 25, deposits, \$91,825,500; New York City, Nov. 1, deposits, \$395,229,000. In these three cities they have about \$562,000,000, which added to not less \$400,000,000 in the U. S. Treasury, leaves only \$482,000,000 for the people outside of Boston, New York City, Washington and Philadelphia, as there is only \$1,444,000,000 of all kinds of money in the United States.

In the cities of Boston, New York City and Philadelphia the people have \$37 per capita. The rest of the United States have \$8.77 per capita. When the people cultivate the political field as well as they do the cornfield, they will change this, and will get rich by raising half as much corn; but as it is we see the great cities thriving as never before, and that too at the expense of the farm. The city is clothed with gold and fine raiment and all modern comforts. The farm is clothed with discontent, poverty and debt, and life is a continual struggle for existence. The city grows up; the farm comes down. The first robed in splendor; the latter dressed in a common gown.

H. S. KEEFER.

AN EDUCATOR'S ADVICE.

He Objects to the Use of Tobacco in the Palace of Education.

CANTON, Dec 6.—TO THE MEMBERS OF FARMERS' ALLIANCE: Let me earnestly and sincerely request the members of the Farmers Alliance, who hold their meetings in school houses, No. 8 to abstain from the use of tobacco during their session. Tobacco filth should be the last thing to enter a place kept sacred for the education of our young people. Not only should the palace of education be the cleanest and neatest of places, but the most free from any of the agencies leading into bad habits. The tobacco stains and cigar stumps that are usually left behind are not the best attainable means of educating the young of our land, who are only too ready to imitate the bad example of their elders.

I sincerely trust this gentle reminder will be kindly received, for I bear no ill will against these well-meaning and earnest people who constitute the membership of the Alliance, and I hope they will grant the meager though important request I ask. Very Sincerely,
W. L. MEINZER,
Teacher.

TRUE TO FIRST PRINCIPLES.

The Baptist Church Refuses to Aid in a Scheme to Teach Religion by Law.

Baptists have not altogether forgotten the hardships which they in an early day endured in consequence of an established religion, or quite renounced their first principles declaring for religious freedom and total separation of Church and State. In the "Canadian Baptists" of November 13, 1890, occurs the following editorial note:

"The Presbyterian Synod for New York recently sent a deputation to the New York State Baptist Pastors' Conference, which met in connection with the State Convention in Lockport, asking their aid in an effort to secure the compulsory teaching of the essential doctrines of the Christian religion and morals in the public schools. The Pastors' conference, by a rising vote, adopted a report declining to accede to the request, and declaring that the state should have nothing to do with the teaching of religious doctrines. A Baptist Conference could have made no other reply."

If church and state are to be kept separate in this country, and religious freedom is to be enjoyed as the founders of our government intended it should be, no other reply should be made to such requests. The Baptists are evidently on the right side of this question. It is to be wondered, however, if those who favor compulsory religious instruction in the public schools, will now class the Baptists, as they have others who oppose the theory, with infidels, foreigners, saloon-keepers, and thugs, and say they are enemies to God, the government, good religion, and humanity. P. B. E.

"That featherhead who has been laughing at the new air ship about which we have just heard may yet live to take a voyage in it," is the latest prophecy as to air navigation.

Congress has not yet made any arrangement for the seating of a delegate from Alaska, yet that enterprising young territory has her delegate already elected and waiting, expecting all the time when he will be called.

THE MORTGAGE MONSTER.

The Bond and Mortgage Hog is Also Hanging Around Among Eastern Farmers.

Beaumont Tells How It Routed a New York Farmer Out of House and Home.

A DETESTABLE PORKER.

There are those who think that the bond and mortgage hog is only hanging around among the farmers of the west. But I am aware that he is burrowing around on some of the farmers of the east, and the southern tier counties of the state of New York have not been free from his blighting curse.

Some fourteen years ago I became acquainted with an intelligent farmer who resided on a farm of upwards of 200 acres in the fertile Tioga valley, in the county of Steuben. At that time I took him to be a very prosperous farmer, and I supposed that he is the owner of his farm and now in a fair way to enjoy life in his declining years. He was then turned fifty years.

In the month of April last this man made me a visit at my room in the city of Washington. He was stopping in the city for a few days. When he concluded his visit and was about to depart for his home he called to bid me good-bye, and to thank me for the small favors I extended to him during his short visit to the city. He was an old war veteran and had attained the rank of captain in the war of the rebellion. He has, since the close of the war, at different times represented his town in the county board of supervisors, and had also held the office of justice of the peace a number of years. So the reader may know that he was what might be classed as one of our most intelligent farmers.

As he is about to bid me good-bye he remarked: "Friend Beaumont, I did not say anything to you about my troubles when I first called upon you, but I will say it now. I have lost my farm." This remark on his part surprised me, as I had supposed that he was free from debt and was in condition to enjoy life. He replied: "I bought that farm soon after the close of the war, in 1870, and paid \$7,000 in cash and gave a bond and mortgage on the unpaid balance. Since that time I have paid \$11,000 in principal and interest on the same, and in the month of March me and my wife drove over to the home of the man who had held the mortgages all these years and gave him a deed of the property. I have raised a family of four children, two boys and two girls. The two boys have worked with me all these years upon this farm. One of them this spring left for a far western city, to work in a machine shop. The other one is at work by the day in one of the manufacturing cities nearer home. One of the girls is married and the other one is with me and my wife, and we are paying rent for a home to live in, and I am now crowding to sixty-five years of age."

This is the picture of a life of toil on a farm, of twenty years, not in the far west, but right in one of the most fertile valleys of the state of New York. This sober, industrious and intelligent farmer, with the aid of two sons, had run behind \$18,000 in twenty years, or a loss of nearly \$1,000 per annum. During that time the other fellow, who toiled not, neither did he spin, received the benefit of this vast sum of wealth, and the rate of usury that was taken was only six per cent per annum. Am I wrong in terming the man who did this, a hog, and the methods by which he did it, hoggish methods?

While the usurer was gaining this, the farmer was constantly losing vitality. He was twenty years of life out as well as the thousands of dollars. It was a losing game to start with. It was an unfair partnership. The money lender drove a hard bargain with his victim. The day will come when this system of slavery will be abolished. The day will come when the men who live upon usury, will be looked upon as robbers of their fellow man. It was the establishment of a system that protected the toiler from these kind of hogs, by the early colonists of Pennsylvania, that sowed the first seeds of discontent, which subsequently resulted in the revolutionary war.

The early settlers in the colony of Pennsylvania, in their governmental capacity, issued to themselves scrip. If the colony issued a land patent to one of their number for the value of \$100, he was lent from the exchequer of the colony, which was to be paid back at the rate of one-fiftieth every year. With this colonial currency the settler was able to build him a house, clear his land and many of the foundations of those fine old Dutch farms that lie between Philadelphia and Harrisburg were laid with the aid of this colonial scrip, as it was termed. And under this system the colony of Pennsylvania prospered far beyond any of her sister colonies. The money lending clan of the mother country saw that under this system the colonists of Pennsylvania were not dependent upon them, and succeeded in getting parliament to pass an act forbidding the colonial government of Pennsylvania issuing any more of her scrip. It was the passage of this law by the English parliament that started the first agitation that culminated in the revolutionary war. And when Benjamin Franklin went over to England he was asked by a committee of the English house of lords as to what was the condition of the prosperity of the colony during the time this colony's currency was in circulation, and he replied that the people were prosperous and that the poor man had meat upon his table three times a day. But, that after that currency had been withdrawn, houses were empty in Philadelphia, and that grass commenced to grow in the streets. There is no question but what the millstone around the neck of the agricultural laborers of today is usury. The fellow that has one half of the interest in the farm and performs no labor is getting too much for nothing. To be plain, the farmer has got to put a ring in the nose of hogs that are rooting him out of the troughs and getting the solid food out of it. Shall it be done in the form that was practiced by the colony of Pennsylvania that brought her so much prosperity in that day? There are a great many of the farmers of today that are considering that problem in a very serious manner. There was at one time in the house of representatives a buffoon from the state of Michigan, by the name of Roswell G. Horr. Upon one occasion when the wavers of the bloody shirt and the rebel brigadiers were having a pitched battle in the house, Horr jumped up and yelled out at the top of his voice: "What you rebels in the south want to do is to raise more corn and less hell." There are a large number of agricultural laborers that have come to the conclusion, that it is for their best interest to raise less corn and more hell, and this fall they have devoted a great deal of time to raising political hell, not only in the west but also in the south. In the state of Georgia, at the recent state election the Farmers' Alliance elected three-fourths of both houses of the Georgia legislature.—Ralph Beaumont in the Elmira Telegram.

FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

Jacob Holter's Letter Proves too to be Much for a Canton Man.

CANTON, Dec. 10.—EDITOR LEADER: You seem to have respect for all sides and opinions in your paper and appear to be willing to let all sides be heard. Therefore I ask for a little space to present my side of the case brought up in the letter of Jacob Holter in your last week's issue. Mr. Holter evidently regards it as appalling for Canton to vote upon itself a tax for water works bonds because he in some way has gathered the mysterious and miraculous idea that it is the farmers who have to pay this tax, and from that standpoint he finds sufficient reason to compare the people of Canton to those of ancient Sodom and Gomorrah. Now, I desire to say that I have nothing against Mr. Holter or any of his fellow craftsmen but he strikes at an exceedingly tender spot when he undertakes to slander the virtues of the people of Canton—not the men alone, but our wives and our sons and our daughters. It is well known that the sin for which the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah was punished was the sin against the seventh commandment and I can assure Mr. Holter or anyone else that we here in Canton, if we are a set of thieves and robbers—in Mr. Holter's estimation at least—I can assure him that for virtue and sobriety we can produce as good a lot of men and women in Canton as he can rake up in any part of the United States his own neighborhood in Canton township not excluded.

As for the water works tax, Mr. Holter's idea that the farmers have to pay this is as far-fetched as many other arguments we have heard on economic questions lately. His chief complaint is that the people in town produce nothing. Very well, but suppose they did. Suppose every man in this city and in every other city in the United States would go into the producing business. Suppose they would close up their banks, their law offices, their stores and their shops, and go to farming. Where would Mr. Holter be when he wanted to sell his wheat, or his hogs, or his cattle or anything he may produce? Yes, and last but not least, where would he be when he wanted to buy clothing, dry goods, boots and shoes or other necessary articles—on time? As the boys say "He would be badly left," for the prices for his produce would be lower even than they now are, because of a vast increase in competition caused by over-production. So you see, Mr. Editor, that the people who live in town, and vote water works taxes, and school house bonds, and sell dry goods, and loan money, even though they produce nothing, they are not standing in

Mr. Holter's way to prosperity as much as he imagines. Thanks for your space and time.
Respectfully,
A CANTON MAN.

NEWS, NOTES AND EXPERIENCES IN FARM LIFE.

The Magnitude Attained by the Seed Industry of the Country—Popular Practices Among Our Foremost Seedsmen.—A Word About Seed Catalogues.

Few persons, whether farmers or not, realize the magnitude attained by the seed business in this country. As compared with olden times when every farmer grew his own garden seeds or went without, unless he could borrow of a more provident neighbor, the increase in this branch of agriculture has been a phenomenal one. By common consent it seems to be understood that growing seeds, especially such as are to be used in flower and vegetable gardens, is best done by those who make it a specialty and, in addition to being large producers, provide themselves with all the appliances necessary for the proper harvesting, cleaning and finally putting in to acceptable packages the multitude of varieties now in the market. In no other business has the buyer to take so much on trust. Here, fortunately for both buyer and producer, a good name is the seedsmen's surest and quickest passport to success. Only by the convincing logic of good results exhibited in plants true to their names from trustworthy seeds have leading seedsmen gained widespread prominence.

One of the things to be guarded against in the use of seeds grown at a distance is the introduction of new varieties of noxious weeds. This danger attaches chiefly to grass and grain seeds grown by farmers for sale, but is yearly becoming less from the use of better machines for cleansing from impurities and the more critical inspection to which they are being subjected.

Many of our foremost seedsmen have discontinued the practice of distributing seed among small country stores, to be sold on commission. The old custom of receiving back all that remained unsold, and again sending out such varieties as under favorable conditions are known to retain their vitality for two or more seasons, has brought this system into disrepute. This is no more than should be expected from a system by which the seeds, while on sale are subjected to damaging exposures, sometimes standing out in the sun for months to attract attention. In the southern states a year must of necessity render seeds thus exposed very doubtful, if not wholly worthless. The tendency now among leading seedsmen and the demands of their customers are to restrict the sale of seeds to those of the last season's growth. The failure to germinate, of which complaints are so often made and which is so frequently charged to the poor quality of the seed, is quite often due to the manner of planting or unfavorable weather during the time for germination. Many plants prove better when the seeds are grown at a distance from the place where they are to be planted. This, however, is not of universal application, and ought not to deter farmers and gardeners from saving seed from their own crops when said crops have proven satisfactory and are free from disease.

Some of the seed catalogues devote large space to showy illustrations of mammoth fruits and vegetables. Others are veritable guides to field and garden culture, with their practical reading matter about the plants and seeds catalogued, and the simple but comprehensive directions given for planting, cultivating and harvesting the same. These catalogues, as a rule, are sent to any address free of cost on written application, especially when the writer remembers to inclose a stamp for return postage. The present is a convenient season for looking over these descriptive manuals, and making out one's orders for the seeds required for another season.

Success in Wheat Culture.

In a bulletin sent out from the Indiana experiment station it is reported that careful experiment and observation emphasize the importance of attention to the following where success in wheat culture is desired:

1. A fertile, well drained soil. 2. Rotation of crop, with stable manure, or in place of the latter green manuring, with commercial fertilizers that show good results. 3. Early, thorough preparation of the seed bed. 4. A hardy, prolific variety of wheat, suited to the soil and climate. 5. A liberal quantity of seed, deposited evenly and not too deep in the soil. 6. Sound, plump seed, absolutely free from all impurities, including the visible spores or germs of black and stinking smut.

How to Build an Ice House.

Now is the time to lay plans, if not the timbers, of an ice house, says American Agriculturist. One of the chief points to consider is location with special reference to good drainage. A side hill is preferable, and it is always best to lay a tile drain around the building three feet or so from the walls. The best filling is tanbark or sawdust, and for these a six-inch wall is sufficient, the material being put in as the boards are added, beginning at the bottom. Ventilation must be provided for by openings at the gables or extending as a chimney through the roof. Cut the blocks of ice evenly, pack closely and cover upon sides and top with six inches of sawdust. When straw is used the covering must be thicker.