

# 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 ALLIANCE CONGRESS.

The National Farmers Alliance Hold  
The Annual Convention at  
Ocala, Florida.

Over Two Hundred Delegates Attend  
To Emphasize Former Pleas  
for Public Reform.

Col. Polk Re-elected President and  
South Dakota Recognized in  
the Official Rooster.

### ENTHUSIASTIC "HAYSEEDS."

OCALA, Fla. Dec. 6.—Special Correspondence. The annual meeting of the National Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union of America, assembled in this city last Tuesday and was called to order by President Polk in the afternoon. The convention has about 200 delegates representing all but a few states of the union and at this writing is pronounced the most enthusiastic and most interesting annual meeting ever held. In addition to the regular delegation from each state Alliance, there are large numbers of other members of the order present and it is estimated that about 1500 Alliance men are in constant attendance at the convention and a still larger number keep going and coming from day to day, remaining only as long as their slender purses will permit of the extravagant hotel rates that are exacted from them as a tribute.

### PRESIDENT POLK'S MESSAGE.

Much of the time Tuesday afternoon was taken up in reading the annual message of President Polk, which is very detailed and comprehensive of the year's work. Reviewing the present situation of the country, President Polk says:

The great and universal depression, under which the agricultural interests of this United States are suffering, is, in view of our surroundings and conditions, an anomaly to the student of industrial progress. No country or people in all history have been so favored and blest with opportunity and favorable conditions for the successful and profitable prosecution of agricultural industries. With soils, climate and seasons admirably adapted to the successful growth of all the great staple crops, demanded by our people—with a people justly noted for industry, frugality, and progress—enterprise, and characterized by an aggressiveness in material development which has no parallel in history—with transportation facilities, inland and upon the seas, equal to the productive power of the country—with development in railroad and manufacturing enterprise, and in the growth of villages, towns and cities—marvelous in its expansion—with the rapid accumulation of colossal fortunes in the hands of the few—why, instead of the happy song of peace, contentment and plenty, which should bless the homes of the farmer and laborer of the country, should we hear the constant and universal wail of "hard times?"

To solve this significant and vital question in the light of equity, justice and truth, is the underlying principle, the holy mission and inspiration of this, the greatest industrial revolution of the ages. \* \* \* This great organization, whose jurisdiction now extends to thirty-five (35) states of this union, and whose membership and co-workers number millions of American freemen—united by a common interest—confronted by common dangers—impelled by a common purpose—devoted to a common country—standing for a common cause and guided by the dictates of an elevated patriotism will, in the exercise of conservative political action, strive to "equal rights for all and special privileges to none," and secure indeed "a government of the people, for the people and by the people."

No patriot can view, but with feelings of gravest apprehension and alarm, the growing tendency, under the fostering care of our politico-economic systems, to the centralization of money power and the upbuilding of monopolies. Centralized capital, allied to irresponsible corporate power, stands today as a formidable menace to individual rights and popular government. This power is felt in our halls of legislation, state and national—in our popular conventions—at the ballot box, and in our temples of justice, and it

arrogantly lays its unholy hand on that greatest and most powerful lever of modern thought and action the public press of our country.

### PROGRESS OF ORGANIZATION.

Since our last annual meeting in the city of St. Louis, the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, North Dakota, California, Colorado, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Oklahoma have been added to the roll-call of our Supreme Council. Organizers are at work in the states of Washington, Oregon, Ohio, New York, New Jersey and Arizona. And in all these states the fields are ripe unto harvest but the laborers are few.

I cannot too earnestly urge upon you the importance of devising means and methods for the prompt occupation of these, and other states, with competent and active organizers. During the year I have visited officially twenty-four (24) states, and everywhere I found a zealous and harmonious spirit among the brotherhood. Indeed the order was never in finer spirit or more united in purpose than it is today.

In this connection the president urges the question of lecturers which he regards as the most essential to the upbuilding of the order. He recommends the policy of employing state lecturers at fixed salaries to be paid out of the national or state treasuries, and in sufficient numbers to canvass the whole field thoroughly during the next year.

### THE PRESS

By far the most potent and influential power underlying this great revolution of industrial and economic thought," says the president "has been the reform press. At the earliest practicable moment the supreme council should devise a plan which will give to every family in the order a thoroughly reliable paper devoted to the interests of the Alliance.

### REFORM LEGISLATION

President Polk further recommended the organization of a national legislative council whose duty it shall be to have charge of such legislation as may be of interest to agriculture. His idea is to have this council composed of the national president of the Alliance as ex-officio chairman, and of the presidents of all the states represented in the supreme council; and that the legislative council should hold its regular annual meeting at a designated time and place, for deliberation and to transmit to the membership of the order in each state, all measures or bills such as they may decide should be enacted into law.

### CITIZEN OR DOLLAR.

The message dwells with great stress upon the importance of the finances of the country, saying let us not be diverted through the machinations of political intrigue, from the great and paramount issue now before the American people.—Financial Reform.

Let this be the slogan and the rallying cry of the people until relief shall come. We cannot hope for relief if we accept the financial policy adopted and practiced for a quarter of a century, by the two great political parties of the country.

Never in the political history of the country was there such universal interest among the people and such urgent demand on the political parties for financial reform, as characterized the recent campaign, and yet the great effort of the leaders of each of these parties and of the partisan press, was to give overshadowing prominence to questions and issues, partaking largely of a partisan character to the exclusion of the one great vital, living issue.—Financial Reform.

Indeed, the evasion of this great issue has been prominently characteristic of the two great parties for the past twenty-five years.

The great absorbing question, let me repeat, before the American people, is not whether the democratic or the republican party, with their evident subservience to the will of corporate and money power, shall be in the ascendancy, but the question is, whether under our republican form of government, the citizen or the dollar shall be the sovereign.

A system of finance which recognizes and secures to every citizen of this country an equitable, fair and just right to share its benefits and which will furnish a volume of circulating medium, adequate to the legitimate demands of the country, at a low rate of interest, is the greatest and most urgent need of the times.

### SECTIONAL LINES BROKEN.

After the reading of the message President Loucks of the South Dakota Alliance made a short but eloquent address touching the subject of sectionalism in the message. Your correspondent has seen Mr. Loucks at his best in many a campaign speech but never has he heard the invincible Dakotan speak with greater fervor. An old confederate soldier from Indiana moved that all exsoldiers in the hall who indorsed this sentiment expressed by Mr. Loucks arise to their feet, and 75 or 100 arose amid great enthusiasm.—Continued next week.

## BEAUMONT'S POWERFUL SPEECH.

Continuation of the Address Delivered by  
Ralph Beaumont at Canton, October 18, 1890.

A Detailed Explanation of Some of the  
Principles of the Knights of Labor  
Organization.

### NUMBER V.

Now remember, with all the meanness that labor organizations have been charged with, they have yet to be accused of being mean enough to sell the home from the family. Yet society does that annually. "But," they say, "you fellows are awful mean; you will not let any one work with you who doesn't belong to your union." Are we the only fellows that will not allow anyone to work that does not belong to the union? Let us see. There are the lawyers, do they not have a union? I think they do. Now, let me tell you, I can go into the workshop of a lawyer—the county courthouse—of my county, and I can plead a better case than nine out of ten lawyers in my county. And I understand more common law than nine out of ten of those fellows. Because common law is based on common sense, and there is only one in ten of those that are possessed of any. At least they never use it in their business, if they have any. Let any two of you men get into a dispute about your line fence, and go to a lawyer at your county seat, and ask him to give you a little common sense advice to straighten you out. Will he give it to you? Not a bit of it. What will he do? He will go to his library and pull down a book and tell you what a judge said two hundred years ago on a case like that, and charge you five dollars apiece for it! Now let us take a case for illustration. Supposing my neighbor Johnson gets into a dispute with his neighbor Jones. He comes to me and says, Mr. Beaumont, I have got into a disagreement with my neighbor Jones about a piece of land and we propose to settle it in the county court. I would like you to plead my case for me. I replied all right I will do it. The day of the trial comes. Mr. Jones' lawyer states his case and sits down. I then address the court, saying, Your Honor, I am here in the interest of my client, Mr. Johnson. The judge says, what is your name. I reply, my name is Ralph Beaumont. He: Have you got a union card? I reply, I do not know what you mean, sir. Do you belong to the lawyer's union, the bar of this county? I reply, no, sir. He then points to the court constable, saying, remove that man from the room; he is a scab. A lawyer has a law incorporating his unions, and when a non-union man goes to work in his shop he puts him out by law. But in times past when we union men have undertaken to keep non-union men out of our jobs, because they would not pay taxes to keep up the wages, it has been customary for the governor to call out the military, and hold him there at the point of the bayonet. Thanks to organized labor, that day has gone by. No governor in America dares to do that today. He knows that he could not get elected again if he did. That is the difference, "my friends, between having your union incorporated under the law and not having it incorporated. I once asked one of these limbs of the law how it was that he had his unions incorporated, while he denied the right to have mine receive the same benefits. He replied that it was necessary in order to have good lawyers. I informed him if that was the reason the law was made it was time it was repealed, as it was a miserable failure in that respect; that if there were as many botches in the shoe trade as there are in the law I would disown my trade.

The next, Article VII, reads as follows: "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."

In order to explain this section, I will have to relate an incident that came under my observation some few years ago. In 1876 I resided in New Jersey, and within eighteen miles of where I resided there were that number of glass manufacturing establishments. The employees in these factories only received their pay once a year. That was when their fires went out for the two hot months in the year—July and August. Now, my friends, how do you suppose the people managed to live during the year. Well, let me show you. If one of these men wanted to purchase an article, he went to the company's office, and the book-keeper gave him a printed due bill with the figures five, ten, and so on up to fifty, making five hundred in all, and he then took this due bill to the company store. And if he bought a five cent cigar he handed the due bill to the clerk who took it and pulled a punch out of his pocket

and punched out five cents, and if it was ten, he punched out ten, and when he had punched out the whole thing, he had punched the poor fellow out of five dollars. Now, fellow citizens, west of the Allegheny mountains there existed at that time another lot of glass manufacturers who paid their help in cash every Saturday night. These manufacturers found that the Jersey manufacturers were coming into the Western market and underselling them in the market. How do you suppose, my friends, they were able to do this? Well, now, let me show you how they were able to do this. These manufacturers were selling glass at cost without making any profit. Now you will naturally ask me how they were able to do this? Let me illustrate: There is a firm employing three hundred hands, whose wages were \$100,000 per annum. Under this due bill system, every dollar had to be taken out in the company store, which charged them 20 per cent more than they could have bought the same amount anywhere for cash, and ten per cent legitimate profit outside of that, making \$30,000 per annum profit on the store, so that they did not have to make anything on glass. We desire a law compelling corporations to pay their help every Saturday, in lawful money, so that the help can buy the cheapest.

Now in Pittsburg and the west there was another lot of glass manufacturers. They belonged to the American Glass Manufacturer's association. Their help belonged to local assembly 300 of the Knights of Labor, that composed every window glass blower in America. All at once the western manufacturers notified the members of our organization that one of two things had to take place: We either had to come down twenty per cent, in our wages or that Jersey workmen come up twenty per cent on his—otherwise the western manufacturers would loose the market as the Jerseyman was underselling them in the market. After they told us that, what do you suppose we did? I want to tell your workmen who do not belong to unions, what we did. We went down into our pockets and pulled out the half dollars and twenty-five cent pieces and filled up the treasury. Then we sent a lot of Labor agitators down to Jersey. You have seen what the great daily papers have been saying to you about these labor agitators for the past few years. They have been picturing him out to you as a man having horns, with a torch in one hand and pockets for making dynamite in every pocket that he had. They have been telling you that he was a dangerous fellow. Now I am one of those fellows. Don't I look dangerous? Well I desire to say right here for the benefit of editors and what small ones there may be in this vicinity, that it is not what we have got in our hands and pockets that they are afraid of, but it is what we have got in our heads, such things as I am telling you today.

Well we went down and talked with those Jersey workmen and told them that they were being robbed out of twenty per cent of their wages. Why, my friend, there are lots of people who are being robbed today and they don't know it; and the worst thing about it is, that a majority of that class get mad if you tell them of it. But we finally got them to see it. When they inquired what they were to do about it, we replied: "Form an organization, just as your employers have done. Don't let our orders, we will help you along." Then they all joined our organization, and we used to meet with them in halls for two or three hours one night in the week, and they soon saw how badly they were being robbed. And then they got mad, and said they would not be robbed any more, and they all marched down to the company's office together one Saturday night. When the book-keeper saw them coming he made out one of the due bills and handed it to the first fellow that came along. When the fellow said he did not want that, the book-keeper asked him what he wanted, and he replied that he wanted his pay. The book-keeper informed him that they did not pay only once a year in that factory. Then the workman said that that was played out. "Why," said the book-keeper, are you not going to work on these conditions?" The man replied that he was not. The book-keeper retorted that he could not work at that establishment then. "Well," replied the man, "then we won't work." Then all the capitalistic press of New York and Philadelphia put it out in big display type that "All these Jersey glass workers were on a strike." Why, capital had been striking them out of twenty cents on the dollar for ten years before that, and there some papers had never found it out. Well, do you suppose that they paid us every Saturday night? Oh no! They sent over to Belgium and brought a ship load of Belgian glass workers to work in our places. What do you suppose we did? Why, we went down into our pockets and pulled out the half dollars and quarters and filled up the treasury again. Then we sent another lot of agitators down to Jersey. They were not fellows like we, this time. They were fellows that could talk Dutch. Those were Dutchmen that they had brought over. Every night these agitators would talk Dutch to a few of them, have their passage paid back to Germany out of those half dollars and twenty-five cent pieces. Finally we got them all back to Germany, and the bosses could not get anyone else to work in their mills. They then put us back and paid us every Saturday night, and now they have got used to it they do not mind anything about it.—To be Continued.

## FARM, FIELD AND GARDEN.

Selected and Original Article on Various  
Topics of Interest to Rural  
Reader.

Practical Information, Submitted by Practical Men for the Use of Stockmen and Farmers.

### SEVEN YEARS' EXPERIENCE.

Seven years' experience with silos at the Michigan Agricultural station leads to the following conclusions: The silo should be built of lumber, and located as near the feeding place as possible, and on the same level. A silo 23 feet deep, 10 feet wide, and 14 feet long, will be sufficient for six months' feeding of ten cows weighing 1,000 pounds each, which will consume 600 pounds of ensilage daily. For the silo the corn should not be harvested until well matured. A great deal of the feeding value has been lost in the past by cutting while too green and succulent. Silage corn should never be fed alone to obtain the best result, nor in too large proportion when combined with other fodder. Silage and cover hay combined make a most excellent mixture for coarse fodder. These, with bran, shorts, corn meal, etc., in proper proportions, make the most economical food for young cattle and for making milk and beef.

### BALING HAY.

Some of the states have passed laws that hay shall not be baled before September, and with others the rule is generally observed. Formerly less care was taken, and the interiors of the bales were spoiled and the market injured. Country Gentlemen says on the subject. The fitness of hay for the baling depends strictly on the degree of dryness rather than on the time. In hot and dry weather hay will dry more in a few days than in a much longer when the weather is cool and damp. For baling, hay requires more thorough drying than when thrown loosely into the bay. When made solid by baling, the damp vapor cannot escape from the interior, and it is therefore necessary to give sufficient time for the dampness to pass off. This period would vary with seasons and with the ripeness of the crop, but as a general rule, to be observed in all seasons, five or six weeks are usually allowed.

### THE ACTION OF LIME.

In some soils we find a large quantity of organic acids, to the great injury of land. Such soils are termed "sour," and the presence of the acids can be told by the character of vegetation, which is always harsh and of little value. The beneficial action of lime in such cases arises from the lime combination with the acids, which makes the land sour, and thus neutralizing them, turns them into a condition that is harmless. The combination forms carbonate of lime or some other salt of lime.

The effect of lime upon inorganic matter, says Ohio Farmer, must not be forgotten, for these are all important. In very many cases it liberates potash and soda from a dormant state and renders them available to plants. The most important action in this respect is the formation of double silicate of alumina and soda exists in soil, and lime is added, the silicate gives up the soda and takes up the lime, forming silicate of alumina and lime. If potash be added the lime is given up and the potash taken up, forming silicate of alumina and potash. If ammonia comes in contact with it the potash is cast aside for the ammonia, forming silicate of alumina and ammonia.

As clay consists very largely of silicate of alumina, the action of lime on clay soils is seen to be important. Applied to clay lands, lime disintegrates, or breaks up the hard, tenacious, "pack" character, and makes their tillage much easier, when caustic or quicklime is applied to sandy soils it makes them more adhesive, more compact and more retentive of moisture. Lime does not exhaust soils, except as it prepares unavailable plant food so that crops can take it up. It is the crop that exhausts, not the lime. The latter really adds to the soil, as lime is a plant food itself.

An English authority sums up the advantages of lime as follows: It encourages decomposition of organic matter, neutralizes injurious acids, liberates alkaline matters, promotes the formation of double silicates, favors the production of nitrate of potash, contributes food essential for the perfect growth of plants, and improves the physical character of the soil and promotes healthy growth.

### MANURES FOR WHEAT.

In an experiment made by the North Carolina experiment station a series of plots was laid out in such manner that one end of each plot should be on land on which cow peas had been previously plowed under. The whole was sown to wheat, and kainit, acid phosphate and cotton seed meal were applied to the several plots, singly and in combination, two

plots being left without any fertilizer. The result was that on the land which had had no fertilizer the highest increase of any of the fertilized over the unfertilized plots was four bushels per acre (for 300 pounds cotton seed meal,) while on the green manured land the increase from the pea vines was from six bushels at the least to fifteen bushels per acre, averaging ten bushels.

### PUMPKINS AND MELONS.

Michigan Farmer tells of tests that have been made to ascertain the truth of the belief that new and fresh seeds of squashes, pumpkins and melons produce plants which run to vines more than those from old seeds. About 450 were grown, all of which were accurately measured and the fruit accurately weighed. There was no evidence whatever that older seeds give shorter and more productive vines. In fact there was no uniformity of behavior between seeds of like ages. All the variation was evidently due to heredity of the individual seeds, or to other conditions than the age of the seeds.

### LESSONS OF THE WHEAT CROP.

A careful examination of the report of the harvesting of the winter wheat crop throughout the whole country leads to the conclusion that there will be a heavy deficit in the crop. Not only will this be caused by a reduced area, but by a heavy reduction in condition. This reduction in area and condition is coincident in many places with splendid crops greatly above the average in condition. Inquiry into the matter shows that to a very great extent the reduction is to be attributed to poor preparation of the land and to the sowing of bad seed. Now both these causes are preventable and should be corrected.

To secure a good crop of wheat it is necessary that the land, in good heart, should be selected. A clover sod is the seed bed. This should be plowed down early, and it should be done carefully so as to obtain a firm seed bed. Too often the plowing is carelessly done. The sod is not thoroughly turned and laid compactly. The result is an uneven bed, partly light and partly solid. No subsequent harrowing or working can correct these defects. The light soil holds the water and freezes quickly and the seed is thrown out. Wheat, perhaps, more than any other cereal, requires a firm seed bed. Into this its roots penetrate and fasten and are able to resist the winter frosts.

The great area of winter killed wheat might, to a very large extent, be prevented by careful plowing. The prevention for loss in condition is good seed sown early. Good seed means a good stand. Sown early it means a good sod, a well tilled crop, and it means further a frost resisting crop. These are the main factors in securing a good yielding crop at harvest time. Light, poor seed means a defective stand, a weak plant, easily frosted, and light, poor heads upon that, which survives.—Southern Planter.

### TRADES AND OCCUPATION.

The Youth's Companion for 1890 will give an instructive and helpful series of papers, each of which describes the character of some leading trade for boys or occupation for girls. They give information as to the Apprenticeship required to learn each, the wages expected, the qualities needed in order to enter, and the prospects of success. To new subscribers who send \$1.75 at once the paper will be sent free to Jan. 1, 1891, and for a full year from that date. Address, the Youth's Companion, Boston Mass.

### FARM NOTES.

To have a succession of peas and corn through the entire season, plant of each at intervals of eight or ten days. A little care in this way will add much to the comfort of living on the farm.

We farm too much land for the amount of crops we raise, and we raise too large crops for the price we get for them. Here's the great trouble with farming. Overproduction is swamping us.

Don't let that costly machinery stand out in the weather. It would be just as feasible to throw a few bushels of corn or oats into the mud every month or to occasionally go out and shoot a pig, just to save the trouble of feeding it.

Treat your hired man as a man, and not as a slave, and you will find it will pay. Ill nature and gruffness are not indications of wisdom or superiority, and no employe who has sense enough to be useful ever understands them as such.

See if there is not some crop you can raise and sell to better advantage than the common ones. By doing this you reduce the surplus production by so much and at the same time are making more money for yourself. Fertilize your fields a little with brains.

### AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

Grapevines planted in the chicken runs and trained to the fence afford shade to poultry; and also fruit to the farmer in autumn. The vines should be trained high up.—American Agriculturist.