

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.

VOL. I. NUMBER 27.

CANTON, SOUTH DAKOTA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1890.

\$1.00 PER ANNUM.

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.

[CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.]

Ocala, Fla., Dec. 15.—Special Correspondence. The session of Wednesday the 9th was animated with enthusiasm and good work was done. A committee was appointed to investigate the charges preferred against President Polk, Doctor Macine and President Livingston of the Georgia Alliance. The charges have been made against these men that they have taken undue interest in the recent senatorial election in Georgia. They are of course without foundation and the committee, in their report completely exonerate the gentlemen.

At the afternoon session Wednesday, Mr. McCallister, of the Mississippi delegation introduced the following resolution, which created quite a ripple upon the surface of the convention, but after mature deliberation the resolution was adopted by a large majority:

Resolved, by the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union of America, that we do most solemnly protest against the passage of the Lodge bill and earnestly petition our senators to employ all fair means to defeat this unpatriotic measure, which can result in nothing but ruin to our common and beloved country.

The resolution received considerably open support among the northern delegates on the ground that there is prevalent in that section a feeling that the alliance was a southern organization, and that the passage of such a resolution would give color to the opinion and impede the growth of the order in the north. Among the opponents of the resolution were Ward, and Loucks of South Dakota, Deming and others of Pennsylvania and all of the delegations from Illinois, Wisconsin, Texas, Missouri and other states. The council also adopted strong resolutions denouncing the Louisiana lottery and favoring the idea of submitting to a vote of the people an amendment to the national constitution prohibiting the chartering of lottery concerns in any state of the union.

On Thursday the 6th inst., the council was visited by the National colored Farmers' Alliance, who attended the morning session in a body. During the afternoon a delegation representing the Citizens Alliance of Kansas attended the convention. Most of them spoke in support of the Farmers Alliance movement and stated that their organization was deeply interested in the success of the farmers movement and that they could see no reason why merchants of all kinds should not unite in promoting this movement. They asked for a committee of conference to arrange for closer relations and the committee was promptly appointed.

There was a good deal of indignation among the associated press correspondents, Thursday afternoon, over the failure of the press committee of the convention to give out information for publication. The strictest secrecy was maintained in the proceedings of the convention, and it was next to impossible to secure complete accounts of the proceedings. The chief object of this was to prevent any misrepresentations of the proceedings being made by the numerous correspondents in attendance. As a general thing the proceedings of labor organizations are so badly colored and so recklessly doctored to suit the occasion, that there is reason for keeping the official proceedings secret until they can be first published in the official papers of the order.

At Thursday evening's session CONGRESSMAN PICKLER, who has one eye on the soon to be vacant senatorial seat in South Dakota, scored a point in his favor, by getting the ear of the convention. He made an able speech in support of the sub-treasury bill and said that it was the key-note to the prosperity of the country in the future. He advocated the free coinage of silver and spoke in favor of alliance principles on the railroad question.

During the afternoon the secretary of the national alliance submitted his report which showed that during the year, 1,069 new charters were issued to sub-alliances as follows: West Virginia, 252; Colorado, 152; Indiana, 133; Michigan, 106; Virginia, 95; Illinois, 87; South Carolina, 83; Ohio, 61; Pennsylvania, 59; New Jersey, 20; Minnesota, 5; Oregon, 1; Oklahoma,

1; State charters were issued to the following states: Indiana, Illinois, Colorado, Michigan, West Virginia, and North Dakota.

A resolution was adopted Thursday afternoon expressing the belief that the recent United States census returns touching farm mortgages, was grossly incorrect and providing for immediate steps toward securing and publishing the correct figures. The resolutions were unanimously adopted. The principal feature of

THE ST. LOUIS PLATFORM. of 1890 were also again embodied in the platform of the national alliance. The following is the platform as now adopted:

1. The abolition of national banks; the establishment of sub-treasuries in the several states to loan money direct to the people at a rate of interest not to exceed 2 per cent. per annum, on non-perishable farm products and real estate, with proper limitations upon the quantity of land and the amount of money; that the amount of circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than \$50 per capita.

2. Congress shall pass laws to effectually prevent dealing in futures on all agricultural and mechanical productions, preserving a stringent system of procedure in trials to secure prompt conviction of offenders, and such penalties as shall secure the most perfect compliance with the law.

3. It condemns the silver bill recently passed and demands free and unlimited coinage of silver.

4. It demands the passage of laws prohibiting the alien ownership of land, and that congress shall take prompt action to devise some plan to obtain all the lands now owned by the aliens and foreign syndicates, and that all lands held by railroads and other corporations in excess of what are actually used and needed by them, shall be reclaimed and held for actual settlers only.

5. Believing in the doctrine of equal rights to all and special privileges to none, we demand that our national legislation be so framed in the future as not to build up one industry at the expense of another. We further demand the removal of the existing heavy tariff tax from the necessities of life that the poor of our land must have. We further demand a just and equitable system of graduated tax on incomes. We believe the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and demand that all national and state revenues be limited to the necessary expenses of the government, economically and honestly administered.

6. We demand a most rigid, honest, and just state and national control, and supervision of means of public communication and transportation, and if this control does not remove the abuse now existing we demand government ownership of such means of communication and transportation.

Col. Livingston, of Georgia, from the committee on organization, made a report to furnish a basis for ultimate union between the National Farmers' Alliance and the Industrial Union and Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association. Under this plan the benefit association is to still maintain its separate organization, but will be entitled to representation in the National alliance council. The executive committee of each organization to meet hereafter and arrange the details of the union. The report was adopted.

Dr. Macine, chairman of the national executive committee, in his report, referred at length to the sub-treasury bill. The committee's mission with this bill, he said, was virtually ended because the alliance had elected several congressmen who would look after pushing the bill through the national legislature. If not the report recommended the reduction of salary of all national alliance officers and the removal from Washington of the president's office, inasmuch as the retention of it there entails an expense not commensurate with its usefulness.

The annual election of officers occurred yesterday afternoon and the following officers were elected: Col. L. L. Polk, president; B. H. Clover, vice-president; J. H. Turner, secretary; J. S. Willits, national lecturer. H. L. Loucks, of South Dakota, is on the executive committee.

A communication from the Chicago World's fair commission, granting the alliance request for co-operation in securing fitting exhibits for the exhibition, was received yesterday afternoon and a committee was appointed by the convention for that purpose. T. V. Powderly, A. W. Wright and Ralph Beaumont, members of the executive committee of the knights of Labor have been among the distinguished visitors at the convention and Mr. Powderly addressed the members of the convention last night. Among other things Mr. Powderly said:

"Let me say to you, greeting is the most cordial and heartfelt. We feel we are a part of your organization. Let us all agree upon your platform. If it is to agitate and do hard work upon that platform, we are with you, and if we are to vote with you upon it we will stand by you at the polls."

The convention adjourned at one o'clock this morning. The next annual meeting will take place in Washington, D. C., the first week in November, 1891.

THE THIRD PARTY MOVEMENT. During the convention a call was circulated among the delegates and other sympathizers in the third party movement, for

[Continued on fifth page.]

THE FARMER IN CONGRESS.

try of
The Views From the National Capital as it
Effects the Interests of the West-
ern Farmer.

The New Apportionment Bill and the Fed-
eral Elections Bill on Their Way
to Glory.

Senator Farwell Springs a New Finance
Scheme to Save the Necks of Na-
tional Banks.

MORE BONDS AND MORE CONGRESSMEN.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Special Correspondence: Senator Pettigrew today introduced a bill in the senate making it a crime to sell to or by any means placing fire arms in the hands of Indians. Several other propositions of this character have already been made at the present session of congress, indicating a determination on the part of our statesmen here to put a permanent stop to the matter of Indian disturbances in the United States.

There are some doubts expressed at the prospect of passing Senator Pettigrew's bill, owing to the fact that the business of the session is very voluminous and it is not likely that half the work that is considered of greater importance than Mr. Pettigrew's bill, will be disposed of; but there is a prevailing opinion, especially among the senators, that something must be done to settle this disturbance among the Indians, and as the Pettigrew bill is looked upon with much favor among the western senators, it may pass. Senator Manderson, of Nebraska has also an aspiration to make a point in the scale of distinction, by providing the *ne plus ultra* in the Indian troubles, and he has introduced a resolution transferring the care of the Indians from the Interior department; and further, providing for their disarmament and being kept under constant military control.

Representative Pickler returned, a few days ago, from Ocala, Florida, where he went to make a speech to the National Farmers Alliance, who held a ten day's session there commencing Dec. 2. Pickler was there a good deal of the time and it is believed in political circles that he was there for political purposes. There is a new senator to be elected in Pickler's state next month, an incident in which the farmers will have a good deal of say, and it is the general belief here that Pickler has his eye on the senatorial seat now held down by the attorney of the Homestead mines in the Black Hills. The latter does not stand very high in the estimation of the members of the Farmers Alliance, and while he and his friends pretend to be confident of his return, there is an undercurrent of appearance that betrays a good deal of lack of confidence in consequence whereof many who are acquainted with the situation predict that when Senator Moody goes home next March, he will go home to stay. There is no one, who understands the probability of this better than does the Major; and he knows, further, that a if republican is again returned to the senate from South Dakota, it will have to be done by the aid of the democrats or the independents—the alliance men—a fact in which he realizes the necessity of talking sweet to the farmers.

The republicans in the senate are still in hot water over what is known as the "Force bill,"—or the national elections bill introduced at the last session. The democrats are making a united and determined effort to defeat the bill for the reason—the republicans say that it is directed at a pure ballot and a fair count, and for this reason tends toward preventing election frauds in the southern states. The republicans have but little opposition to this bill in the last session and the only reason it did not pass was because the republicans feared the democrats would talk it to death. The same thing is troubling them today and they realize that the only hope there is in passing the bill is to adopt a rule by means of which the previous question can be ordered on short notice. The committee on rules are now having a scheme of this kind under consideration and it is expected that when they report next Tuesday they will make the republican election reformers happy with a well chosen closure rule that will effectually help them out of their difficulty. In view of this fact it looks as if the elections bill could be passed.

Senator Stanford, of California, the father of the now famous Stanford bill, addressed the senate in support of his land currency bill yesterday and made many strong points in support of this measure. In the course of his speech the Senator said that land was the best possible security as a basis for currency, in a sufficient quantity for the needs of the country. He said that the rate of interest in the bill was fixed at 2 per cent but experience would teach the government

that the rate could be considerably reduced. The plan had been compared to a system adopted in the Argentine Republic, said the senator, while there was in truth no analogy between them. To compare the working of the measure of that republic, of say 3 million people, to that of our own country, with its enlightened 60 millions, is like comparing the methods of some irresponsible banker to those of the Rothschilds. The bill was then referred to the finance committee where, it is expected, it will rest until the farmers, who have a direct interest in the measure, learn to think enough of their welfare to send men of their own class and kind here to bring it to life again.

The republican congressional apportionment bill pending in the house will in all probability pass as it now stands. Its adoption will increase the number of representatives from 332 to 356, a net increase of 24. Most of the increase will come from the republican states and the democrats have promised to wage a bitter war against the proposition on this account. While the republicans are very well pleased with the bill there is great dissatisfaction over it among the farmers and labor people here and from expressions coming in from other parts of the country, it is the same everywhere. The laboring classes are to a man averse to anything that will increase the expenses of the government, and as congressmen are, of themselves, expensive pieces of furniture, to increase their number at this time is contrary to the expressed principles of the labor reform movement. They estimate that the average congressman costs the government \$7,500 per year and the increase of the present number to 356 would work a handsome bay-window attachment to the present congressional expense bill amounting to about \$1,500,000 per year; and as the new apportionment will stand for ten years, the estimated increased expenditure will be in the aggregate \$15,000,000. This sum fairly makes the farmers' mouths water, and the laboring men, too, think it is worth saving, and as congress can get along very well without any addition in membership, they express themselves favorable to a decrease in the number of representatives, rather than an increase.

Senator Farwell, of Illinois is still on hand with a patent finance bill with a national bank attachment. The Chicago senator seems to part with the national banks with unusual reluctance. At the last session he was the father of a scheme proposing to perpetuate the national banks by authorizing the deposits of county, state and municipal bonds as security for their currency, and last week he introduced a similar bill in the present session. The plan he now proposes provides for the re-funding of the entire national debt in an issue of 2 per cent bonds running fifty years. The bonds are to be made the basis of national banking circulation, the same as now, the only difference being that the banks shall be permitted to issue currency for the full amount of the bonds deposited. Mr. Farwell's idea is that this must be done because, he thinks, the country can not get along without the national banks, and his proposition to let them issue bank notes to the par value of the bonds deposited, is done in the interest of the increase of the circulating medium of the country. He also proposes to abolish all the existing sub-treasuries, with a view to let all the money collected by the treasury department go out into circulation. Mr. Farwell thinks it the sub-treasury system could be abolished, money would be more plentiful in the channels of trade and there could no longer be any complaint of contraction of the circulating medium. The scheme is a taking one among the republicans and while they appear confident that no finance legislation will be enacted at this session, there is a prospect of the new Farwell becoming a law.

PAUL HARPER.

It is the policy of our present economical form of government of the treasury department to buy bonds at a high premium, and even pay the interest on other bonds a year in advance every time the money market becomes close in Wall street. Of a recent date, among the bondholders of government bonds to whom interest was paid before due, were the Standard Oil Company, \$20,000,000, the Bleeker Savings Bank, \$9,000,000, the Vanderbilt \$26,000,000. This was getting money into circulation among the people with a vengeance. Rob the treasury to fill the millionaire's pocket, and then when the tolling masses ask for this whole-sale robbery to be stopped by legislation, a broad grin will come over the faces of these legislators, and they will only say, "Poor devils, what are you going to do about it?" Men, men, are you blind and cannot see, are you willing to bow in mute humility to these money kings as though your strong right arm had dropped paralyzed to your side, or are you going to the polls in November and show these Shylocks that by your vote what we poor devils can do about it, a strong arm and a strong vote.—*Labor Tribune.*

BEAUMONT'S POWERFUL SPEECH.

Continuation of the Address Delivered by
Ralph Beaumont at Canton, Octo-
ber 18, 1890.

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

NUMBER VI.

Article IX, is as follows:
"The abolition of the contract system on national, state and municipal work." We simply mean by this, that if the government has a post office to build in this city, that it shall go ahead and build it, and not let the job out to a contractor for say \$100,000, and he steal \$50,000 of that sum, and then ask for an appropriation to make the same good before the building can be completed.

Article X, reads as follows:
"The enactment of laws providing for arbitration between employers and employed, and to enforce the decision of the arbitrators?"

This plank we believe arises from the present method we have adopted of carrying on our enterprises. Associated capital has by the aid of acts of legislation been given advantages over the rest of society. We realize that between the cost of raw material and the manufactured article there is a certain increase of value. Capital, by law and association, has been enabled to reap the largest share of this increased value, and through this fact, labor has been compelled to concentrate its forces into organized bodies in order to secure an equal division of the increase. And in the struggle of these two organized forces a conflict takes place. Sometimes it is a strike on the part of the help, and at other times a lockout on the part of capital, and in both cases heavy losses result to both the contestants. Now, in order to avoid these losses and their accompanying misery, we desire that whenever there is a difference of this character, that either side, as a matter of illustration, shall appeal to the judge of the county wherein such exists for the appointment of two arbitrators, and these two shall appoint a third one, who shall examine into the merits of the case and render their decision; and we, the members of the organizations, agree to abide by the decision of the arbitrators. I am often asked, "How are you going to compel the parties to abide by the decision of the arbitrators?" Those who make this inquiry forget that this board of arbitration is appointed by the decree of court, and as such has the power of such court, and in case of failure of either side to the contrary to abide by the decision of the tribunal, it would make them guilty of contempt of court.

"XI. The prohibition by law of the employment of children under fifteen years of age in workshops, mines, and factories."

"That which I have just read is Article XI, and we mean by it that when a man or woman becomes grown the state exacts of them that they shall abide by and live up to the law. Now, we hold that if the state exacts this of the citizens it is the duty of the state to see that the child is possessed of sufficient education so that when it grows, to manhood or womanhood it will understand the law, and not willfully violate the same.

The twelfth plank is as follows:
"To prohibit the hiring out of convict labor."

I can best illustrate the evils of this system by alluding to a few facts. From 1876 until 1881 I worked at the shoe trade in the state of New York, and every year during that time there were employed at the trade in the penal institutions of that state an average of 2,600 criminals, whose average term of sentence was two years, so that there were crowded into the shoe trade of that state about 2,600 of the dregs of society. And then people wondered why shoe-makers were such mean chaps. Now, I have no objections to taking my share of the criminals in my trade, providing they will give lawyers, doctors and ministers their share. And I am of the opinion that, if a theological student served his apprenticeship hammering religion into criminals, he would be able to discount Sam Jones on a good revival when he came to do a job outside. Besides all this, the examination of the contract system in that state by a legislative committee during those years reached the fact that some of the contractors in five years made as high as \$150,000 in profits on a capital of one-fifth of that sum invested, besides being able to undersell other manufacturers engaged in the same business.

"XIV. That the importation of foreign labor under contract be prohibited." We believe in this plank for the reason that in numberless instances, whenever a dispute has arisen between employer and employed, the employers have sent their agents over to foreign countries and hired help in those countries, and brought them

over here to replace their help. The result of this system is to reduce the standard of intelligence of American labor. And, in many instances, after these greedy and unscrupulous manufacturers have succeeded through starvation in compelling their American help to accept the low standard of wages they have established through this competition, let the imported help go adrift to become paupers and vagabonds in the community. Hence, we say that the welfare of the nation demands that laws shall be enacted that will prohibit this heinous competition.

Let me read you Article XVII.

"That in connection with the postoffice, the government shall organize financial exchanges, safe deposits and facilities for deposit of the savings of the people in small sums."

Those eastern capitalists are very shrewd and wise fellows. They are off the same cut of cloth as those "Credit Mobilier" fellows I spoke about in the fore part of my remarks: They build a lot of cotton and woolen mills, and fill them up with human bees; and set the bees to gathering honey; and they notice that the bees have a little surplus honey, that they do not use to feed, clothe and house them, and they say, "We might just as well have that—the bees don't want it." How do you suppose they go to work to get hold of that surplus honey my friends? Let me tell you: They are like those Credit Mobilier fellows that I referred to awhile ago. They organize a wheel within a wheel. The directors in the cotton and woolen mills become directors in a savings bank, and they say to the bees, put your money in this savings bank, and we will give you four per cent per annum for it. Then the directors send it out west and loan it to the western farmers at ten per cent. Then the western farmer raises wheat, and just before he sells it he adds that ten cents to his selling price. When he has sold it he forwards that ten cents to the bank. The wheat is shipped east and the bees eat it, and when they have done so they have eaten their own four cents and the other fellows six with it and are that much worse off than when they started in at the game. Then again, they place one of their number to take care of this money. They call him a "cashier," and every once in awhile we pick up our morning paper and find out that one of these fellows has skipped over to Canada with money in his pocket. Now what we want is, that the government should take charge of the savings of the people in small sums, and we think that it will be an impossibility for the government to get over to Canada "between two days" without us knowing something about the moving when it is going on.

I have been traveling through the states of Nebraska, Dakota, Iowa and Kansas, and I find a level section of country. Still you have a great many side hill farms. Perhaps you who live in this level country don't know what a side hill farm is. I live in a very hilly section of country, I will tell you what a side hill farm is in my section. There was a wag in my town who was always blowing about his father's farm. He said that his father had the most productive farm there was in town. Another wag became tired of hearing Bill blow about his father's farm, so one day he said to him, "Bill, what is there about your father's farm that makes it so productive?" "Well," said Bill, "it is a side hill farm." "But," said the other man, "there is not any thing peculiar about a side hill farm in this section." "Well there is about this one," replied Bill, "How is that Bill?" "Well, you see we stand it up on its edge and plant both sides." "How is that, Bill? Is there no danger of the farm blowing over in a good strong wind?" "Oh no," said Bill, "But how is it, Bill?" "Well," explained Bill, "I will tell you: It is propped up with mortgages on both sides so it can't fall!" I opine there are lots of such side hill farms out here in the west.

The Bureau of Labor statistics of the State of Michigan compiled the mortgage indebtedness in ten counties in that state in 1888, but the State officials stopped him when he had gotten that far. But placing the same ratio on the whole State reveals the fact that there is \$123,000,000 of mortgages on the farms of the State of Michigan. Take that open village and city property, including bank documents, and it is one hundred and twenty-eight million more, making \$256,000,000 of debt on the State of Michigan. That is one million people in Michigan. That means \$20 dollars in usury, annually, on every man, woman and child in the State. Michigan is a favored State. She has not been subject to the high railroad freights like Dakota, she has seven hundred miles of natural water course to ship her produce to market. Besides that she has been drawing from the virgin forests the accumulation of a thousand years—and yet finds herself two hundred and fifty-six millions in debt.

(Continued next week.)