

**The Farmers' Leader.**  
 -PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY-  
**FARMERS' PUBLISHING COMPANY,**  
 -INCORPORATED-  
 HON. H. BRADSHAW, PRESIDENT;  
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 EDGAR WARDWELL, SECRETARY & TREASURER.  
 J. F. COOLEY, EDITOR AND MANAGER.

Entered at the post office in Canton as second class mail matter.

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 supervision of a board of directors composed entirely of farmers. The following is the present membership: Hon. H. Bradshaw, Nelson Larson, Edgar Wardwell, J. E. Halter, O. M. Iverson.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:—Three months, 25 cents; six months, 50 cents; one year, \$1. Payments for subscription to the paper may be remitted directly to the publication office or to any officer or member of the board of directors.

Correspondence is desired from every county in the southeastern part of the state and especially from the towns and townships in Lincoln county. Correspondents should write their manuscripts as plainly as possible and write on one side of the paper, and should at all times confine themselves to the news. It is also important that a correspondent's name should be attached to a communication in order to secure admittance to the columns of the paper. No attention will be paid to anonymous communications of any kind. Intelligent contributions on economy, finance, tariff, transportation and other subjects of current questions of the day, are invited from all parts of the country. Contributors are requested, however, to make their communications as brief as possible. Communications of any kind, must be in or on before Tuesday evening in order to secure publication the same week.

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**CHRISTMAS.**  
 Today is Christmas: a day of general comfort, gladness and merrymaking; a day of happiness and good cheer; a day consecrated above all others, to the feeling of love and good will. It is a day on which the heart of mankind opens its narrow portals of earthly contractedness and talks to God of His goodness and buries the pains, sorrows and despondencies of a year, beneath an avalanche of heavenly grace.

Christmas is set apart from all other as a day of feasting, and universal rejoicing. It is indeed a gloomy heart that cannot laugh on Christmas and it is truly a desolate freestone that is not surrounded by glad hearts and cheerful countenances on this day. The home that is today filled with plenty and comparative prosperity, will hardly realize that there are any who cannot enjoy any of the rich blessings and multiplying luxuries of the annual Christmas day. But there are plenty of our fellow creatures, who are in want, destitute of the necessities of life; only a crust of bread to appease their increasing hunger and insufficient clothing to cover their unhappy and unfortunate selves. Ask where they are? Go out upon the prairies of the great west, into the hovels of many an honest son of toll, who labors all the year round to find bread for the world to eat, and you will find them; go into the city, from the palaces of the Goulds, the Vanderbilts, the Depews, the Armours, the McCormicks, the Shermans, the Blains and the Harrisons, all rolling in richness and splendor; children in the height of their glory and in want of nothing the human heart could wish for; yes go from there to the lowly, one-room hut of many a toiler in the same city, and you will find penury and hunger; degraded, wretched humanity in misery as deep and superabundant as the luxury you have just left. Go to these places and you find the mother's pale face, the father's heart smothered with anguish, the little boys and girls, not understanding the situation, bitterly sobbing to quench the disappointment inflicted upon them by the heartless Santa Clause, who, they say "never tails at our house." Poor, wretched creatures! Christmas has no charms for them. The pangs of hunger sting worse for them on this day than on any other. No one who has not had the experience can adequately sympathize with the thousands of destitute, wretched human beings, made wretched by a corrupt and deplorable system of government. Thank Heaven, South Dakota has not so many of them this year as last, but there are plenty of them yet, and many of these wretched creatures have been brought to want through the heartless conspiracies of the shysters, the monopolists, the money grabbers of every kind. Sad picture, this to contemplate on Christmas day. Thank God, some progress has been made the past year toward wiping it from the face of the earth, and while we who have plenty today, enjoy our blessings, let us resolve to push on in the work of reform in this country, that every living brother and sister, may soon enjoy with us all the good things that make Christmas longed for in the hearts of man.

**KNOW THEIR WANTS.**  
 The action taken by the national convention of the Farmers' Alliance has demonstrated more clearly than ever the fact that the farmers not only understand the causes of their financial distress, but also know what is needed to produce a speedy, effectual and permanent cure. No one can any longer say that the farmer is a bull-headed blunderer who neither knows what ails him nor what he wants.

Among the important resolutions adopted by the convention was the following touching the financial condition of the country:

We demand the abolition of the national banks and that the government shall establish national sub-treasuries, or depositories, in the several states, which shall loan money directly to the people at a rate of interest not exceeding 2 per cent per annum, on non-perishable farm products, and also upon real estate, with

proper limitations upon the quantity of land and amount of money. We demand that the amount of the circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than \$50 per capita.

The protracted discussions upon the subject embodied in the above resolution, which have taken place among the agricultural classes all over the country, together with the final adoption of this as the first plank of the Alliance platform, indicates clearly that the farmers have come to realize that it is the money question, more than railroads or any other one thing that injures their prosperity. They are no longer in doubt as to the destructive evil that has a hold upon the roots of their prosperity, and from the vigorous way in which they strike at the hellish demon that is gnawing at their existence, they mean to redeem themselves as speedily as possible.

That the farmers alliance, in the above resolution, have hit upon the correct idea of the cause of their threatened ruin, cannot be disputed now, for it has been generally admitted, even among politicians of the older parties, that the money question is really the important question of the hour. Reform in this direction is needed more than reform in all other departments of the government and industrial affairs of the country. To increase the volume of the circulating medium of the country, will be the watch word of every true reformer until the desired object, so clearly and vigorously expressed in the alliance platform shall have been accomplished. The gold kings, the money mongers of the east, who are all equally interested in keeping the volume of money as limited as possible, and thus increasing the difficulty of the west to pay its debts, thereby multiplying the rates of interest to be exacted, have feasted upon the sweat of other men's brows so long that their gigantic coffers of wealth have created the suspicious of the people and they have set themselves to studying the economic questions of the government for themselves. Now the impostor will no longer be successful in making the people believe his doctrines of dear money, he has so ostentatiously peddled around the country through the practical politicians; and "when people begin to think for themselves" says one "the day of dear money has reached its sunset and the morning of better times is dawning."

**INDEPENDENTS IN THE LAST LEGISLATURE.**

While the last legislature has managed pretty well, weather intentionally or otherwise, to keep its tracks covered from the observation of the people, and while in this way it managed to keep a great many things forever from public knowledge, yet they were not entirely successful, and during the past year there have a great many things come to light that were hardly dreamed of at the time of their occurrence.

The latest trick which has come to the knowledge of this paper is House Bill No. 50, a measure which, if passed, would have fastened upon the unfortunate backs of South Dakota tenant farmers, a condition worse, if possible, than that now squeezing the life out of accursed British slaves in poor old Ireland. Section two of this bill provides:

"That it may and shall be lawful so and for every lessor or landlord, or his or their agents, bailiffs, receivers or other person empowered by him, to take as a distress for arrears of rent any and all property of the lessee in and upon any part of the premises demised, leased or holden, and to sell or otherwise dispose of the same towards the satisfaction of the rent for which such distress shall have been made."

The bill further provides that the property of the tenant occupying leased premises, shall not be exempt from sale for the satisfaction of rent due or becoming due.

This terrible piece of legislative work was engineered through the house by the Hon. Maris Taylor, late candidate for governor on the democratic ticket, and by means of that superior ability of which his democratic friends have boasted, that distinguished gentleman succeeded in getting the bill twice through the house.

The first time it was reconsidered and after that was considered dead, but the attorney of loan companies and landlords was not so easily discouraged, and subsequently seized the opportunity to pass the bill the second time when its opponents were not on guard. Being through the farmers' hands in the house, it easily passed among the lawyers senate. It went to the governor, who happened to be just then laying his ropes for a reelection, and of course he wanted no better chance to make capital than he had in vetoing this bill. Of course he did it and by this means was defeated. THE LEADER is glad to say this much in praise of Gov. Mellette.

From an examination of the record, it will be found that all but a few of the opponents to this bill in both houses, are now members of the independent party. This shows conclusively in what respect the action of the last legislature would have been different had there been more independents sent there. True, these men were then republicans or democrats, but the fact remains that their hearts were of the independent party principle which declares hostility to all propositions favoring capital against labor; and it was this that actuated their opposition to such damnable piece of work as the Taylor Landlord bill.

May the day be not far distant when we can have a full house of independent hearts in every session of the state legislature.

**TOO MANY NOW.**  
 The present session of congress will probably provide for a change of some kind in the apportionment of congressional representation. To that end a number of bills have been introduced in both houses and the indications are very favorable that the 52nd congress will have on its pay roll at least a dozen more representatives than the 51st. At least twelve and probably 24 more politicians will harbor around the government crib

for the next ten years, than there were the past decade. Not less than \$600,000 and probably \$1,200,000 will be dished up in fat salaries to fine-haired politicians in the United States, more the next ten years than has been dished up to them in the past ten. At least twelve more practical wire-pullers provided for at public expense; twelve more recruits to help swell the stack of bills in congress, already as high as the capital, to the height of the Washington movement. Twelve more customers for Washington whiskey shops, twelve more professional poker-players, twelve more statesmen versed in the art of solving that important problem, how to reduce the surplus in the United States treasury. Twelve more railroad passes a year for the next ten years and twelve more private secretaries twelve more capitol seats to cushion, twelve more fellows to supply with stationary; twelve more bunks supply at Washington fine-haired boarding houses, twelve more towels to wash at the capital laundry; twelve more stumbling blocks in the way of public business and twelve more lawyers to spin congressional yarns for the benefit of \$5-a-day printers setting type on the congressional record.

That is right. The public have no other means of expending their funds and the increased prosperity that President Harrison writes of, might not set well with the people if some means were not supplied to relieve them of it. It is, indeed refreshing for the dear people—the precious "constituents"—to have among their number, men highly skilled in the art of providing ways and means to relieve humanity of its burdens of wealth; and the wonder is that ministers, in giving thanks to God in the pulpit Sunday mornings, for his great goodness, do not give special thanks for the Divine blessing realized in the professional treasury-surplus-reducer.

But this is the way the people's money goes. Twelve thousand here, fifty thousand there; half million here and a million somewhere else. The way congressmen throw around the thousands fairly makes a poor man forget his poverty for the moment he thinks of it, and dream that he has been laboring under a delusion; that all about him is made of gold and silver and that he has been a fool for not discovering his stupidity long ago. To think of all this useless extravagance of the peoples wealth, is simply to wonder how long it will last and where it all will end. Instead of increasing the congressional representation 12 or 24 members, congress could have done the people a greater service by reducing it that number. If anything, the number of representatives in congress is too large now, and a reduction instead of an increase of 24 would make a difference of 48, and a saving in salary alone of over two million dollars.

**"CAPITAL WILL WITHDRAW."**  
 No! you don't say so! God bless you, is that possible? Happy day for farmers when the Eastern Bloodsweeper wipes his crimson jaws, and says, "No more money for that state!" Halcyon promise for toll when it becomes impossible to mortgage another farm! Capital—foreign or eastern capital! Why, the daily plutocratic spittoon-cleaners imply that capital importations are a blessing! Blessing! Yes, in the same sense that pirates are—they keep money "in circulation"—and blood too.

Farmers, don't mortgage that farm now! Look out! You know well the breakers are beating against the shore—and in a few hours your craft will strike! Let the west teach the east the want of value in a leech when there is no blood to suck.—Great West.

The democrats in congress, who are opposing the passage of the federal elections bill almost to a man, are doing so with a great deal of conspicuous inconsistency. Like all honest statesmen, they claim to favor any measure that conduces to the interests of the country, yet their opposition to the elections bill is based upon nothing else than what they term as the few black supremacy over the whites. THE LEADER has no disposition to be in the least suspicious in small matters, but if it is indeed true, as the democrats have always told us, that the elections in the south are as fairly and honestly conducted as they are in the north, how can the new bill be the means of giving the negroes any political advantage over their white neighbors? Does the democratic opposition to the proposed measure not indicate that there is something wrong? Do they not act the boy who has stolen a big red apple from his ma, and refuses to have his pockets examined? THE LEADER is opposed to the passage of this measure, but certainly the action of the democrats looks as if it were needed.

Hon. F. A. Leavitt has been busy recuperating alliance work in this county the past few weeks, and as usual he succeeds well. Last week he started two new alliances, one at Banner, in Dayton township and one at the Falde school house in Fairview township. The alliance in Dayton has taken the pretty and appropriate cognomen of Riverside alliance, with Henry Bradshaw, president, John Juel, vice-president and A. L. Syverud secretary. The Fairview alliance, of Fairview township has elected M. D. Harris for president, and John Falde for secretary. Let the good work go on—there is plenty of it to do.

**THE PUBLIC QUESTION BUREAU.**

Under this heading THE FARMERS' LEADER will publish answers to all reasonable questions that may be asked by its subscribers or regular correspondents. All communications for this department must be made in writing on or before Monday of the week in which they are intended to be published. Available space for the use of the department is limited to half a column per week and all matter received in excess of that limit will be carried over and given precedence, the following week. No attention will be paid to questions coming from others than regular subscribers or correspondents nor from parties who do not give their names. Neither will it knowingly decide bets or impart information concerning lotteries, gift concerns or other gambling devices.

I have been trying for a long time to get hold of some reliable statistics on the gold and silver imports and exports in the United States for the past ten years. Can your paper help me out? If so please do so. H. H. S.

Answer: The exports and imports of gold and silver from 1879 to 1889, a period of ten years, was as follows: 1879, exports, \$4,997,441; imports, \$30,596,000. 1880, exports, \$17,142,919; imports, \$30,034,310. 1881, exports, \$19,406,847; imports, \$10,575,497. 1882, exports, \$49,417,479; imports, \$42,472,350. 1883, exports, \$31,830,333; imports, \$28,489,391. 1884, exports, \$67,133,383; imports, \$37,436,392. 1885, exports, \$43,231,595; imports, \$43,242,323. 1886, exports, \$72,463,419; imports, \$38,592,537. 1887, exports, \$35,997,691; imports, \$30,170,722. 1888, exports, \$46,414,183; imports, \$39,337,986. 1889, exports, \$90,641,555; imports, \$28,962,072.

Will the LEADER have the kindness to give the statistics of the financial failures in the United States since 1885: J. W. F.

Answer: The number of failures in this country in 1886 numbered 11,311 with liabilities \$297,343,437; in 1886, 12,292, liabilities, \$229,288,236; in 1887, 15,042, liabilities, \$335,121,888; in 1888, 13,344, liabilities, \$247,839,956.

Please give a statement of the amount of reduction of the public debt during the ten years ending June 30, 1880: H. H. S.

Answer: In 1870, at the close of the fiscal year, the public debt of the United States, was \$2,480,672,487. At the close of the fiscal year in 1880, the debt amounted to \$2,130,415,370, which figures out a reduction during the ten years of \$350,257,057.

1, where is the national headquarters of the Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union, and where is the Western Rural newspaper published? 2, which is the national organ of the Farmers Alliance, the Western Rural or National Economist? O. S. S.

Answer: 1, the head offices of the Alliance are in the city of Washington. The Western Rural is published in Chicago. 2, the National Economist is the Alliance organ.

**Christianity and Politics.**

Some newspaper young man has been writing to a number of distinguished people asking whether, in their opinion, a politician can be a Christian or a Christian can be a politician. On having the question put to him Dr. Chauncey M. Depew answers with the utmost cheerfulness and mellifluous flow of words that a politician certainly can be a Christian, not a shadow of doubt of it. We infer that possibly Dr. Depew would like to add, "If you don't believe it just nominate me for president."

George H. Hepworth, editor of The New York Herald and retired doctor of divinity, who presumably knows something of what he is talking about, says, "I have not seen enough Christianity in the politics of the day to run an infant class in a Sunday school." Cardinal Gibbons falls back on the theological prerogative of non-committalism, and says that while there have been many noble Christians who were also great politicians it is to be deplored that at present there seem to be so many politicians who are not Christians. A more diplomatic answer could not be devised.

Hear agnostic Senator Ingalls: "Can a politician be a Christian? Everything is possible with God." Frances E. Willard believes that at the foundation of a great political party those who pioneer it can be Christians, for they have to endure contradiction, curses and contumely enough to make them turn to a higher power. In the middle life of the party, when the tough times are over and the party has wealth, power and prosperity, it will still be possible for a politician in its ranks to be a Christian, if he tries hard. But when the party is on the down grade, and its adherents must resort to trickery, fraud and vote buying to prop up its rotten, tottering pillars, then heaven help the politician belonging to it who professes to be a Christian!

It depends on the definition of the word politician, says Gen. Howard. Ex-President McCosh, of Princeton, presents the point of view both logical and theological when he says decidedly, "Every politician should be a Christian, and he will thereby be a better politician, as actuated by moral principle." "Politician actuated by moral principle" is rather good.

It is observable that most of those who are or have been office holders are sure a man can be a politician and a Christian, too. This unanimity is marked. O. B. Frothingham writes, "Certainly, why cannot a politician be a Christian?" Well, we give it up.

A Berlin dispatch says that the dwellings for workmen which the government proposes to build in North Berlin will cost \$1,600 each. They will be purchasable on terms equal to a deposit of \$75 and weekly payments of \$1.25.

The Same Old Robber Game.  
 The struggles of today are nearly on the same lines they have been for thousands of years, the strong to control the weak, the wealthy still more absorbing the earnings of the multitude. Every million added to the millionaire class is another million abstracted from producers and laborers.

Form of government, culture, even Christianity, changes, modifies or mitigates but little the inexorable and sometimes inhuman laws of trade. The trite aphorism that "business is business" is the foundation and justification as well for the barons who in medieval times at the cross roads robbed or terrified the tradesmen of commerce, or in Christian Europe or free America secured superiority by all the devices which legislation can give, or by combinations and trusts, in violation of laws and in opposition to protest or resistance from the masses who toil.—Speech of Hon. C. H. Van Wyck.

**STRAW BROTHERS**  
 Have some special bargain's in boys, youth's and men's clothing to offer this week.

Mens all wool suits from 35 to 42 size, from \$6.00 to \$8.00. Boys suits 5 to 13 years for \$1.00.

We will sell anything in our line of business for 20 per cent less than anyone else can. Call and see for yourselves.

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We take pleasure in thanking our friends and patrons for their many favors; and wishing them all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, we remain,

Very Respectfully,  
**HELMMEY & KELMAN.**