

The Farmers' Leader.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY—

MALLORY BROS.,

PROPRIETORS & EDITORS.

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THE FARMERS' LEADER is owned by a company composed of nearly 40 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.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—Three months, 25 cents; six months, 45 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 admission to the columns of the paper. No attention will be paid to anonymous communications of any kind. Intelligent contributions on economy, finance, tariff, transportation, land, and other important 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 before Tuesday evening in order to secure publication the same week.

Address THE FARMERS' LEADER, Canton South Dakota.

THE DELINQUENT KICKERS.

So far the FARMERS' LEADER has refrained from saying anything in regard to the suits brought by some disaffected stockholders against the directors and the corporation of this paper, believing that the matter would be speedily disposed of by the court; but as the News has seen fit to refer to these cases several times, it is proper to correct its misstatements. That paper in its issue of July 3d, 1891, speaks of "the suit brought by THE LEADER Company," when the truth is that THE LEADER Company has brought no suit against any one. The first suit was one brought by some stockholders who insist on a remaining members of the corporation and refusing to pay their just proportion for the stock for which they subscribed. On this ground they sued in and boldly asked the court for an injunction and the appointment of a receiver. They seemed to think that they were not longer liable to pay cash like the other stockholders, but that they could remain on account of their valuable "influences," and when they discovered their mistake they went to law about it. In their complaint in this action they recklessly allege, in total disregard of truth or grammar, that "two thousand dollars has been improperly and unlawfully appropriated, squandered, and embezzled by officers and other parties connected with said corporation since its organization." The present directors can account for every cent that has come into their hands; and if the former board of directors, of which three of the men who make that charge were members, were guilty of any such offense they ought to go before the next grand jury and have themselves indicted, if not for the offense charged in their complaint, then for the crime of libel. The burden of their entire complaint, however, seems to be that the stockholders at their last annual meeting attempted to reduce the number of directors from nine to five, and failed to re-elect them as directors so that they could draw their two dollars each from the corporation for services as directors every time they came to town. They complain loud and long that there were "only five directors elected and no more." It is really too bad that the stockholders concluded to dispense with the services of these gentlemen who are so hungry for "more." This case was argued to the court upon a demurrer, when the plaintiffs discovered that they had brought the wrong kind of action. Without waiting for the court to make any disposition of the first case, these stockholders, who are so swift to sue and so slow to pay, brought a second proceeding against the present board of directors to show cause before the court on July 15th, 1891, why a new election of directors should not be ordered. At that time a hearing was had which showed that the present board of directors was duly elected at the last annual meeting by stockholders representing 326 shares out of a total of 505, which is all the stock that was ever issued. It was proven that the meeting was regularly called and that at least two of the present kickers were there, that one was an unsuccessful candidate for office in the corporation, and that about the only noteworthy service one of the others ever rendered the corporation was to put in his bill for salary due him as a director. Of the remaining two kickers one is delinquent two assessments, yet he has the gall to think he is entitled to vote his stock backed only by payments in check and wind as against stockholders who have paid cash for

their shares; and the other one insists on imposing on the people and his pants by peddling cheap insurance and bottoming a wheelbarrow in front of a neighboring hardware store. Such in brief are the kind and character of men who are allowing themselves to be used by the old ring in its efforts to break up this paper and muzzle the independent farmers' party. THE LEADER does not want to enter the lists of prophets, but it is willing to stake its reputation as a guesser that these parties who are allowing themselves to be used as a cat's paw by the old county ring will be ashamed of it to the longest day they live; but the farmers of this county will not forget it. What the result of these suits will be is as yet unknown as they are with the court under advisement, and we have full confidence in the impartiality of our able circuit judge; but whether a new election is ordered or not, it is safe to say that the action of the present board of directors will be fully sustained by the paid-up stockholders of the corporation, and that these would-be newspaper wreckers will discover that their shares backed by blow and bluster are not the equivalent of shares backed by cash.

Where does the administration stand on the silver question anyway?

Shares of stock in the Farmers' Leader Company must be pretty good property after all, if such desperate attempts are made to hang on to it.

What would Gifford and his gang of newspaper wreckers do without the help of the renegade farmer and the wheelbarrow statesman?

If Gifford had ever worked half as hard to help the farmers as he is working now to down the farmers, he would show a more proper appreciation of their past votes.

If Mr. Cleveland is President again he should see to it that the Baltimore Sun has anything it may want, as it has stood up him right manfully through thick and thin.

The baggage master who is alleged to have recently prevented Jay Gould's being run over and killed by a fast train assumed a mighty responsibility in saving Gould's life.

The thanks of the Leader are due to Jacob Holter, Esq., for permitting us to inspect the papers in the actions brought by certain disgruntled stock holders against the directors of this corporation.

Sam Jones is said to average about \$3,000 a week for trying to save souls. There's a pointer in this for some of the fellows around here who are actually paying for the privilege of losing their souls.

It was to be expected that Gifford and his gang of tax-eaters would try to break down a newspaper published in the interests of the tax-payers; but it is a sad sight when they use farmers' for their tools to work with.

As long as Gen. B. F. Butler's peppery reminiscences have been postponed until this late in the season, we would most respectfully suggest, in the name of perspiring humanity, that the book be not put on the market until the warm weather is over.

The Advocate has shown its courtesy as well as its good sense, by refraining from making any extended comments on the suits brought by the delinquent stockholders against the Farmers' Leader Company until it knew something about the matter. If the News knew more, it would say less.

The young man who was drowned at Long Branch while trying to save a servant girl was a greater hero than the commander of the world's most victorious army; the soldier's fame arises from the taking of human lives, while this brave youth died trying to save a life.

People fear that a greenback dollar under a paper money system would become depreciated and practically worthless, so that nothing could be bought with it. Those fears are groundless. If the government puts its stamp on a piece of paper, making it receivable for all taxes and legal tender in payment of all debts, it will circulate.

Talk about "counting chickens before they are hatched" why that's nothing to the conduct of Congressman Herbert, of Alabama, who is reported as travelling

around visiting the navy yards of the country familiarizing himself with things, because he expects to be made chairman of this committee on Naval affairs of the next House of Representatives? In view of the doubt as to who will be the next Speaker of the House it would be interesting to know which of the candidates has promised to make Mr. Herbert chairman of that committee.

Senator McPherson, of New Jersey, Edmunds, of Vermont, and ex-Senator Hampton, of South Carolina, have gone to Canada on a fishing expedition. No sensational newspaper has yet charged that their visit to the Dominion is in the interests of annexation, but such a charge may confidently be looked for before they return.

C. A. South is the party who swears to all the matters and things that Gifford can invent in his attempt to break down the Farmers' Leader. Shakespeare thought he had struck it when he said a thing was "as easy as lying," but Charley thinks now it don't begin to be as easy as bottoming a wheelbarrow. Then, Charley, don't lie so any more.

It is said that the reason Gifford is so mad at the Farmers' Leader Company is the fact that, among the shares recently sold for non-payment of assessments, were twenty shares belonging to the Judge which stood on the books of the corporation in the name of an absent Indian agent, who, it seems, had forgotten to attend to business. Sorry, Judge, but you can buy some more.

The old county-ringsters predicted when this paper was started a year ago last June, that it would not live six months. As it has been running for over a year now, and the farmers with only a few foolish exceptions are standing by it, these old ringsters are now trying to make their prophecies good by combining to wreck it with numberless laws-suits. It is safe to say that they will find out their mistake.

Do Wall Street influences control both of the old political parties? The democrats charge that the present National administration is dominated by that baleful influence, and the Ohio republicans propose, so it is said by men prominent in that party, to make the charge, that under Governor Campbell the affairs of the issues of the present gubernatorial campaign. The question with the masses is, are these charges true? If they are, neither of the old parties are worthy of support.

When a man who is a guest in a friend's house deliberately proceeds to dishonor the friend by debauching his wife he commits against society at large a crime which no honorable man or woman should overlook or forgive, and from the stains of which no divorce court and subsequent marriage ceremony can free him. Any code of morals which sets up a different standard from this should be frowned down, or it will in time undermine the whole social structure and lower us to the level of beasts.

Several persons have asked us who the kicking stock holders are who brought suit against the Leader Company lately? The papers we have seen, bear the names of C. A. South, W. J. Wimer, John Isackson, Ole Hokenstad and A. T. Sundvold as plaintiffs, though the first named is the only one that seems to have had the nerve to sign and swear to his statement. The others seem to be used merely for the purpose of filling up some aching void. Gifford and South seem to be the only active plaintiffs; and genuine farmers' friends they are, no doubt.

To show how insincere Gifford is in making the Farmers' Corporation's attempt to reduce its board of directors from nine to five a pretext for breaking up this paper, it is said that he admitted in the arguments before the court last Wednesday that five was a better number than nine, and that three would be even better than five. Yet he has captured five fool farmers and got them to kicking against this corporation because the stock holders attempted to reduce the board of directors from nine to five! Gif, evidently thinks that he can train a farmer to do most anything for him, and he don't have to catch him young, either.

Some may think that the People's party is beginning its campaign too early, and are afraid that the people will get

weary of it before election. But we are engaged in a campaign of education. That requires time. A short and aggressive campaign is possible for a party that has a tremendous barrel of money open on election-day. The People's party looks to intelligence and conviction for its votes. Besides the old parties have their organization all complete. For a new party that also requires time. But the dwellers under nine million mortgaged roofs will not loose interest in the campaign. The battle for bread and for honor is no dress parade.

If bank directors are not, under the law, responsible to stockholders for improper management of a banks funds, and the United States Supreme Court has decided that they are not; and railroad directors are not responsible for violations of law by the corporations over which they are presumed to preside, and a New York jury by direction of a judge has decided they are not, isn't it about time to demand some changes in the laws? Every man who has to do with the life or property of another man should be held to a strict accountability, else we shall soon find ourselves relapsing into the condition of feudal Europe, and might will always go as right.

Most of the stockholders who owed the corporation for delinquent installments had the decency to see and the manhood to acknowledge that if they failed to pay what they honestly agreed to pay for their stock, it ought to be sold or forfeited for what was justly due; but there were five foolish virgins, who, like their ante-types of old, wanted to fill their lamps with other people's oil, instead of getting and paying for some of their own. But the directors, representing the paid-up stockholders, have said, "Not so, lest there be not enough for us and you; and the door was shut." We are afraid, however, that before they get through these five foolish virgins will find that Gifford has seduced them.

Information for Immigrants. Edward Everett Hale thinks there is one book that would do as much good as even the publication of congressmen's speeches or the reports of the Smithsonian institution. He remarks in his notes in The Cosmopolitan that this book would be, in his estimation, a volume that told our hundreds of thousands of annual immigrants where they wanted to go. A summary of each state and territory, describing briefly its characteristics of climate, productions, manufactures, society, etc., would be of inestimable benefit to the foreigner landing upon our shores. Such books could be circulated at our seaports, also in Europe. Being prepared under government auspices, there would not be anywhere an ax to grind, and the immigrant could choose before he left his native shores the part of our broad domain that suited him best.

It seems as though the state governments might well take this matter in hand, especially the states wanting immigration. They could collect the information better than the general government could. But there is no doubt that reliable guides to immigrants of the kind indicated, published in the various languages, would help both the states and the foreigners. Much suffering, pauperism and insanity would be avoided, and each state could draw to itself just the citizens needed. The states themselves might unite and publish such a volume.

Perhaps the enforced resignation of the Italian premier, Crispi, was the best thing that could have happened for his reputation as a statesman. Italy is bankrupt. A financial crisis is on the country. Distress prevails everywhere, and thousands of workmen are thrown out of employment. Under the circumstances the anarchist party is rearing its head and talking freely, scaring the life out of the established order of things. Many of the rich Romans are endeavoring to find secure hiding places for their treasures in case of mob outbreak, and even the religious orders are taking measures to defend themselves. It is now believed that the terrific explosion at Pozzo-Pantaleo was the work of anarchists. Since things are as they are Italy can hardly afford to go to war with the United States. Further, that sunny land will be a good place for Americans to stay away from for the present.

The sentiment in favor of cremation or incineration instead of burial of the human body seems to be increasing. Proof of this is found anew in the incineration of the remains of both the Drs. Leidy, at Philadelphia. The fame of one of these, Dr. Joseph Leidy, was world wide. The other brother, Dr. Philip Leidy, was no less distinguished in Philadelphia as a practitioner. If eminent scientific authorities like these show in their own cases their preference for cremation the fashion will grow rapidly.

American travelers ought to let Italy severely alone for the present. The south of France is one of the most delightful spots on the globe for tourists, and Americans have never yet visited it in great numbers. Moreover, France is a republic.

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