PLEDGING CANDIDATES.

The Farmers of North Carolina Ask Political Aspirants to Sign a Pledge.

Officers of the Farmers' Alliance in North Carolina present to congressional candidates who seek their support a document which "has been indorsed by a majority of the sub-alliances," and ask that it be signed. There are six demands upon the pledge.

The first one is for an abolition of national banks, and substitution therefor of legal tender treasury notes. The pledge under this demand, which like all the others must be signed in the presence of a witness, a special line being left for witnesses, reads, as do most of the other pledges:

"I approve of the above demand, and if elected to a seat in the United States congress will endeavor to have it enacted into a law."

The second demand is for a law to "effectually prevent the dealing in futures of agricultural and mechanical productions." The third demand is for free and unlimited coinage of silver. The fourth is for a law prohibiting alien ownership of land by persons or corporations. The fifth demand is that all revenue, national, state or county, shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government, economically and honestly administered.

The sixth and last demand and pledge deserves to be given in full. It reads:

"That congress issue a sufficint amount of fractional paper currency to facilitate exchange through the medium of the United States mail. I approve of the above demand, and if elected will endeavor to have it enacted into a law. I also approve of the purpose of the bill introduced into the United States senate by Senator Vance, and known as the sub-treasury bill, if it is not shown to be unconstitutional. I will vote for it and advocate its passage, and in the event of its being shown to be unconstitutional, then I will introduce and advocate a bill to abolish bonded warehouses for whisky, etc., and also a bill to abolish national banks, in accordance with the first demand on this case."

On the back of the card is this information: "This card is prepared for the purpose of pledging the candidates for nomination to legislative offices to support the demands which have been ratified by a large majority of the subordinate alliances in North Carolina. Politicians have so often deceived us by their verbal promises, which they break and then deny having made, that we have decided for the future to take their pledges in black and white."

Hard Times.

The expression is familiar to western ears. Pioneers have heard it before. Hard times are of the conditions that follow civilization. When the first settlers came to Illinois, and afterward to Iowa, and then to Colorado, they encountered "hard times." Sometimes they were so hard that bread was scarce and luxuries were quite unknown. But the wail that goes up at the present is not from hunger but from want of money. The farmers are in debt and they are distressed to pay their interest. They owe interest because they have been borrowing. Some have borrowed judiciously and some have not. The man who borrowed to improve his land, to build fences and ditches, borrowed judiciously and sometime will be able to pay; but the one who borrowed to pay debts, to buy pianos and fine buggies or high priced horses and cattle, has borrowed injudiciously and possibly will never pay. He is the man of all others suffering from "hard times."—Field and Farm.

How It Helps the Farmers.

By a generous provision of the McKinley tariff bill American tourists returning from abroad could bring in $500 worth of clothing free of duty—a practical saving of over $300. The farmers who are complaining about hard times might thus have a chance to diversify their minds by European travel, dress in swell English clothing and save a snug penny withal.—Philadelphia Record.

Assessed Too Low.

The race horses Axtell and Jersey Wilkes have been assessed at $8,000 and $3,000 respectively. The Farmers' Alliance is not satisfied. It claims that Axtell cost $105,000, earned $40,000 in the stud the past season and that $75,000 is his fair cash value. Axtell's owners threatened to move him from Terre Haute if the assessment was made high.—Terre Haute Special.

Timid capital and its boot licking servants begrudge the poor man the roof over his family's head given him by our homestead law. The railroads don't want to be obstructed in saying how much of his produce they shall take as freight, and the mortgage companies want to have the right to take the shirt from off his back.—Texas Farmer.

Georgia is the first state in which the Farmers' Alliance will have an opportunity to test its strength at the polls. The election of legislature, governor and other state officials takes place on the first Wednesday in October, and already the tremendous forces of the new political giant are in motion.

Seedling Peach Trees.

Trees that spring up from peach stones thrown out from the kitchen, and which fall in some corner of the garden by the side of a stone wall or outbuilding, seem to grow and bear fruit, while budded trees planted with care in the orchard are infected with borers, the buds get killed in winter or something else prevents fruiting. A correspondent in The New York Tribune says on this subject: "I have a hundred or more trees in my orchard of the fancy, highly recommended varieties, and while I have tried to give them the best of care they do not yield so well as some of the seedlings about the place. By saving and planting seed of the best varieties we are pretty certain of obtaining good, hardy trees and fair fruit, if not quite equal to the best in the market.

Some Drink Bills.

Dudley Baxter, in his work on the taxation of the United Kingdom, gives us the comparative share of the working, middle and aristocratic classes in supporting the drink traffic of that country. He tells us that the average consumption of liquor by families of fifteen journeymen printers in Westminster for one year was 105 gallons of beer and 2 gallons of spirits; among the families of the middle classes, with an income of £1,000 per annum, the average consumption is 30 dozen of wine and 6 gallons of spirits; while in the case of a wealthy family, with an income of £6,000 per annum, the consumption of wine amounts to 166 gallons, of beer 2,200 gallons and of spirits 51 gallons.

The above is another proof that drinking is not the result of abject poverty. The truth is that drinking is done by those who can pay for the drink, not by those who cannot.

Now Your Shoutin'.

Attorney General Kellogg has written letters to the Kansas congressmen to get a move on themselves in pushing the Wilson original package bill. That's all right, but what is the matter with Kansas having a congressional delegation that will push such measures as Kansas wants without being constantly prodded with a pitchfork?—Abilene Reflector.

Brave Basil Wilberforce.

Canon Wilberforce, who was to have spoken recently at Tunbridge Wells, England, for the Church of England Temperance society, declined to attend, and says he will not again stand upon the platform of that society until it disavows the leaflet published by it in favor of the government proposal of compensation to licensed publicans.

A Catholic Crusade.

The Catholic bishops of England have decided to call on all Catholics in England to unite in a determined crusade against intemperance. They have prepared a document to this effect, which when promulgated will be read from every Catholic pulpit of England on the first Sunday in every month.

DOES POVERTY CAUSE DRUNKENNESS

The London Lancet Points to the Fallacy of the Statement.

That our fellow countrymen who for ten or twelve years have been making great advances in temperance should use their increased incomes in increased consumption of spirits, especially rum, beer and wine, is particularly humbling to us. Defending, as we must, the legitimate use of alcohol against the intemperate attacks of teetotalers, we are still bound constantly to point the disastrous effects resulting from its use. We had almost hoped that it had become commonly accepted that all casual drinking, drinking for its own sake, and except as a part of a meal, was thoroughly bad.

But we are forced to the conclusion that the increased wages have been spent, not in articles of general family use, but in beer, rum and other spirits. If the selfishness of such a use of wages could be realized by the British workman we have no doubt that he would be ashamed of it; and we owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Goschen for his frank statement of the truth in this matter, and for his attempt to direct public attention to the deep alcoholic tendencies of the people and the means for their restraint.—London Lancet.

A Kick at Kansas.

And now another great damage to property by reason of Prohibition. The assessed valuation of Omaha is not as much by nearly two million as it was last year, all because they have got Prohibition down in Kansas. The bankers and business men must see to it that the thing goes no further. Kansas has always been making a fuss. First about the "nigger," and now about whisky. She had better be kicked out.—New Republic (Pro.)

Responsibility of Liquor Dealers.

Among the resolutions adopted by the prison congress at St. Petersburg, Russia, is one which reads as follows:

"That inebriety, accompanied by disorderly conduct, should be punishable; that the sellers of alcohol should be responsible for crimes resulting from their serving drunken men, and that the sale of liquors on credit or to children should be prohibited."

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SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT OF

Germania Fire Ins. Co. New York.

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Total Liabilities	2,207,073.14
Net surplus	758,083.[illegible]

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