

It is now going the rounds of the ring press that the Grange went into politics, and that killed the Grange movement. The statement is not true if it is meant that the Grange went into a separate political organization. The Grange died because it had nothing to live for. Its only move made was upon the merchants. The Grangers talked politics, but continued to vote as directed. Their talk only produced talk; or, rather, wind produced wind. The slick-tongued demagogue was around (the same as now), and made all sorts of promises, but not a promise was kept. The Granger was lulled to sleep on political questions, and finding that the merchant was not his enemy, he disbanded. The Grange had nothing to live for. It was too costly for a farmers' club, and too conservative for action—and yet it did good. In a sense, it was the forerunner of the present movement—a link in the chain—and when its history shall have been written, it will be found that the movement was only temporarily suspended, and that for the reason that it did not go into politics.

It sounds like hypocritical cant for the president to say that he is opposed to the free coinage of silver because the religious press is so opposed. Mr. Harrison is influenced by religion far too much to be the associate of the corrupt Quay, the "blocks of fly" Dudley, or the iridescent Ingalls. Mr. Harrison either wants an excuse to do wrong, or he is ignorant of the first principles of our government. Mr. Harrison ought to know that this is a government of the people, by the people, for the people, and the only questions that a president is called upon to answer, in being for or against a measure, is, whether or not a majority of the people desire the measure, and whether or not the measure would prove to be beneficial. Any man or set of men who go so far out of the way, or council, are not fit to hold office of any kind, and the sooner the people teach the officeholders, from the president down, that they are the servants of the whole people and not the tools of classes, rings and corporations, the sooner will the people be relieved from the oppression of systems hard to be borne. In religious matters, the religious press may be received as authority, but that it is authority on finance legislation is too new to be received without objection, especially when that authority is directed against one of the most needed and popular measures of the day.

SOME of the farmers' papers are trying to boom Chas. Robinson for the governorship. This is a decided mistake, for two reasons at least—one is an avowed opponent of prohibition; the other is that he is a standing candidate for office. Farmers, have a care.

THERE was a big farmers' picnic at Osawatimie, last Saturday. A. F. Allen, the People's candidate for congress from the Second district, was present and addressed the multitude, and made for himself a host of friends. Other able speakers were present.

ORGANIZE and stand together.

**Welda Farmer on Trusts.**

EDITOR AGITATOR: In looking over the proceedings of the 19th annual meeting of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, Edwin Snyder, of Oskaloosa, Jefferson county, Kansas, has an article on the Farmers' Alliance, and I take exceptions to some of his remarks, but will answer only one or two. He says:

"Competition was always a blind god. To-day it is dead beyond all possibility of resurrection. Combination is on the throne," etc.

He also says, although the Standard Oil trust, the steel (steal) rail, window glass, white lead, wire, and scores of other trusts have made colossal fortunes for their members, it is believed by many intelligent men that these articles are produced better and sold cheaper than would be possible under competition. And then he advises the farmers to combine and form trusts—just what we are trying to down and demanding congress to pass a law making it illegal.

Now I take exceptions when he says that competition is a blind god, etc. The old saying is that competition is the life of trade, and when he says the Standard Oil trust is making a better and cheaper article to-day than under competition, I not only doubt it, but think the gentleman is a little off, to say the least. Your correspondent has superintended the building of a number of oil refineries and has been employed by John D. Rockefeller, president of the Standard Oil trust, and I recollect when they formed the trust and commenced to freeze out all the small fry who dared to make oil without their permission, and I honestly believe if there was competition in the business to-day we would get just as good an article and cheaper, and as it is, it is at the option of the trust just what we shall pay. Unless we gain our point in making combinations and trusts illegal it will not be long before we will have to pay more for our oil. At the time of the war John D. Rockefeller wasn't worth over three hundred thousand dollars. To-day his daily income is \$18,715. How did he make it in so short a time? I'll tell you—by forming one of the most villainous trusts and preventing honest competition, and your correspondent knows of more than one honest refinery in New York which were crowded to the wall by downright legalized robbery perpetrated by a horde of vampires who constituted that combination. And let me say right here, that any government that would make it possible for a set of (I was going to say men) but say blood-suckers to prey on the people in that manner, such a government cannot be changed too soon.

Now in regard to honest competition making articles cheaper, I will say: At the time of that other most villainous trust (the sewing machine combination) your correspondent was employed by a firm independent of the combination, and what they would call bogus. But notwithstanding, we manufactured sewing machines for less than half the price the combination charged, and in every particular just as good and reliable, and still made a big profit. This was in war times. There were thousands of poor women who were employed in making uniforms for the soldiers, who could not afford to pay \$75 or \$100 for a machine, but were compelled to sew by hand unless they were fortunate in getting one of our "bogus" machines, as they were called by the trust. And in war times, when everything was supposed to bring

war prices, the actual cost of a sewing machine in good running order and warranted was \$15, the trust would charge you from \$75 to \$125, according to the gilding and cabinet work. The cheap machine was just as good for all practical purposes as the high-priced one, and when they tell you that one machine is better than another as regards material and workmanship, I say it's all bosh. And I say this as a pointer for anyone who wishes to buy a machine: don't be fooled; the extra price is on the cabinet and in the decorations; as all machines are duplicated and made just alike; and as I said before, the sewing machine was in the hands of a combination who would brook no opposition. They employed an attorney at a salary of \$10,000 a year, and woe unto the poor devil of a man if he is caught making machines so that a poor woman could afford to get one. They had their patents extended time after time through bribery, and I recollect when they tried to get it extended for seventeen years more, the people wouldn't stand it, as it had been proven that the thieving trust had made over \$250,000,000 out of the people, and still they cried, "Give, give, more, more." Now then, farmers and laborers, see what we can do if we stick together and mean business. We downed them, and the result is, you can buy a good machine to-day for \$10. Now I ask Bro. Snyder if he thinks this would have been possible if their patents had been extended? Not much. But when the business was opened to competition the people began to put sewing machines in their homes, and I really think they are in every respect better than ever. He says that combination is on the throne (just as if we didn't know it), and if the agricultural and laboring classes will not recognize the fact, they must remain in their present condition of servile dependence, etc., and then he turns around and advises the farmers to combine and form a trust, and calls competition a blind god. Now I ask him if he thinks the trust would ever have made it possible for the commonest laborer to own a sewing machine? I think the question is answered by the trust themselves, in spending over a million dollars trying to get an extension of their patents, whereby they could swindle the people out of millions more. No, don't let us advocate a trust, monopoly or whatever name you may call it, but arise in our might, put decent men in office, invite honest competition, pass such laws as will protect the small manufacturer or dealer from the greed and avarice of the vampires and leeches who would suck out our very life blood. But let us proclaim, live and let live, equal rights to all, special privileges to none, all of which we can accomplish if we will only work together in harmony and resolve that we will all stand together shoulder to shoulder on election day, in one grand combination of free and independent voters, and the only trust we want is a trust in an All-wise Providence to make our votes effectual in freeing us from oppression. WELDA FARMER.

As soon as you read this paper, hand it to some neighbor, have him read it and hand it to another neighbor, and keep the ball a-rolling.

FARMERS, you can help to make the AGITATOR interesting. Send in short letters or items.

ONLY fifty cents for fifty-two solid shots of the KANSAS AGITATOR.

**An Old Man Talks.**

EDITOR AGITATOR: I had thought I would write no more on the down-trodden situation of our country, but leave it to younger men and more vigorous pens than mine. But lately there has fallen under my observation a pamphlet so full of misrepresentation and 'puppyism' I must notice it. It might deceive some young man, but one whose memory runs back sixty-five years, and read both sides on the questions that divided the political parties of that day, can but feel astonished at the misrepresentation contained in that work "Protection and the Farmer" by S. M. Cullom, United States senator. He says: "Every president from Washington to Jackson endorsed and advocated a protective tariff." I will here say that the senator knows is true—that not one of them ever advocated a protective tariff. Protection as used in his quotations of their speeches was from insurrections and foreign invasions, and the senator knows it as well as I do. If he don't, let him turn to congressional speeches in Jackson's second term, when congress divided up the surplus revenue, because the Constitution empowered congress to impose duties only to meet the current expenses of the government. Nor was it ever contemplated to tax one industry to build up another. That kind of legislation would ruin any nation; as indeed it has ours. True, they discriminated between our infant manufactories that would soon rival foreign manufactories, and those that never could compete with them.

The south complained that congress discriminated in favor of northern enterprise—perhaps not without some cause.

AN OLD MAN.

**DIED.**

**Mrs. Lydia Kelley.**

Mrs. Kelley died at her home, in Welda, July 12th, of consumption. She came with her husband, Dr. Kelley, to Welda some two months since. Although with us such a brief period, yet, by her amiable disposition, and especially by her christian walk and life, she endeared herself to us.

Her parents were of Quaker persuasion, but as there were none of that denomination here, she identified herself as a christian by a public profession of her faith. She connected herself with the United Presbyterian church of this place. Her remaining days were spent in peace and composure of mind. While passing through the furnace of affliction, an unseen hand stayed her. She found much comfort and peace in resting on God's precious promises. Although no prophet spake to her, yet she had "her house in order" and was anxiously awaiting that blessed change. It is our hope that, like a weary pilgrim, she laid her head down to rest, and sweetly sleeps on the bosom of her Saviour.

**SOLDIERS!**

Parties desiring to apply for **Pensions** under the Late Law can do so before me. I have made special arrangements to attend to this class of business.

**J. A. MOORE,**  
914 Greeley, Kas.

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