

THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

A Little History Showing How It Was Formed and What It Came From.

The following is taken from an article which appeared some time since in The National Economist:

"The National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial union as a national organization dates from the first day of October, 1889, at which time it was formed by a proclamation of consolidation of two orders, one of which was the National Farmers' Alliance and Co-operative Union of America and the other was the National Agricultural Wheel. This consolidation had been provided for in December, 1888, by a joint meeting of the two national bodies, at which a national constitution had been agreed upon, and that the same should be submitted to the orders in the various states for ratification, and when three-fourths of the state organizations should ratify it was made the duty of the presidents of the two organizations to issue proclamations dissolving the two old organizations as then existing and consolidating them under the name of the Farmers and Laborers' Union of America.

"All this was properly done, and the Farmers and Laborers' union held its first regular meeting in St. Louis, Mo., in December, 1889, and changed its name to the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial union. The Farmers' was first started at probably the same time in two states—Texas and New York—about the year 1873, the Agricultural Wheel a few years later and the Farmers' union in 1885. The Alliance started in New York, spread westward as a non-secret organization, and took up a period of rapid growth and development about the year 1884 or 1885, which has resulted in a very strong organization north of the Ohio river and west of Pennsylvania.

"The Alliance in Texas was chartered as a benevolent association by the state in 1880, and as a secret organization it took on its rapid growth and development about the year 1883. In 1887 it contained a membership in that state numbering over 100,000, and united with the Farmers' union, at that time organized in Louisiana, 10,000 strong. These two organizations associated themselves together under the general laws of congress regulating the incorporation of national trade unions, and secured an article of incorporation in the District of Columbia as a national trade union under the name of "The National Farmers' Alliance and Co-operative union," and this order, as above stated, completed its consolidation with the National Agricultural Wheel on the first day of October, 1889.

"Persons engaged in any of the following occupations are excluded from membership: Merchants, bankers, brokers, commission merchants, cotton, grain or produce buyers, lawyers, city doctors, preachers and school teachers, land agents, book agents, peddlers, canvassers, livery stable keepers and saw mill men, all dealers, speculators and gamblers, and any others whose greatest interests do not harmonize with farming. When a person is engaged in farming, and in addition thereto follows one of the above named occupations that are not admitted, the law is that he can not be admitted, but the association is allowed to make some exceptions to this rule, under conditions prescribed in the laws of the order."

More Principle, Less Party.

A Hillsboro, O., special reports the following resolution: as adopted at the recent county convention of the Farmers' Alliance:

"Resolved, That we, as members of the Alliance, will support no man for any office in the gift of the people unless he be a farmer or is known to be in full sympathy with the farmers' movement: that if the party to which we as individuals belong does not put forth such a candidate we will then vote for the can-



Sioux City Corn Palace.—Opens Sept. 25; closes Oct. 11, 1890.

didate who is most in sympathy with our interests; that hereafter we will strive more for principle and less for party."

A resolution was also adopted stating that the Alliance is non-partisan, that a very large share of the support of newspapers is derived from the agricultural class, and they therefore respectfully ask that their movements be given proper consideration in their columns.

Bay State Tax Reformers.

Something is likely to come of the movement for the formation of a tax reform club out of labor organizations and farmers. A meeting held in Boston was attended by N. B. Douglas, master of the state grange; George R. Chase, of Medfield, overseer of the state grange, and Secretary Sessions, of the state board of agriculture, three of the most prominent farmers in the commonwealth; also Assistant Attorney General Henry C. Bliss, ex-Senator Qua, of Lowell, and Assessor Brett, of Lowell. The object of the club is to secure an equal division of the burdens of taxation, and to this end it is proposed to have assessed in its just proportion the \$80,000,000 of personal property in the state now exempt. This organization is likely to be an important factor in the fall election.—Springfield Homestead.

The farmers' movement in the south has assumed such proportions that it has now become necessary for newspaper correspondents to open their campaign of lying. The Washington fakirs who cook up specials for the New York dailies are loaded to the muzzle with charges against the "demagogues who work upon the cupidity of the southern farmer." It does not require much thought to discover how these fellows know so much about the daily happenings hundreds of miles away. The office holder is getting very uneasy.

The farmers of North Carolina have begun their campaign of attending the Democratic congressional conventions and securing the nomination of men identified with the Alliance movement. "Uncle" Baldy Williams has been nominated in the Fifth district. This fall nine congressmen are to be elected in the state.

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.

From The Greeley News.]

That Republican League Oath.

Since publishing the Republican League oath, some weeks ago, we have been beset on all sides by parties denying that the League administers an oath. We have been investigating the matter, and learn from various sources that the League does administer the oath as published in THE NEWS. One person who had joined the League, but who has since "got his eyes open," tells us that the oath, or obligation, is administered—in this way: when a person puts his name down on the membership roll, he subscribes to the obligation. From every source of inquiry we learn that we were right.

Noticing that the American Nonconformist published the oath—the same that we published—we wrote to the editors of that paper, also, asking them to give us the source of their information. They answered by sending us the following, which appears in the Nonconformist this week:

"Some of our exchanges that published the Republican League oath have been beset by so-called members of the League, denying emphatically the existence of an oath, and some even denying the existence of the League. Not to be bluffed by any such bravado, the Non Con. is quite free to believe that no such oath is to be found in the regular printed work of the League, but that they take an oath as the one published can be substantiated. To illustrate, in one of the cities of Kansas, after the Republican state convention of 1888, to send delegates to the national Republican convention, five delegates to that convention returned wearing League buttons in the lappets of their coats.

"One whom they wished to unite with them was with these delegates one evening, and was asked to unite with the League. Inquiring as to the conditions, he was informed that he would have to take an oath to obey the commands of the officers of the League, and a time was set to take him into the League, but he made a speech to a Union Labor club the next evening, and of course has never since had an opportunity of taking it, and that person is now one of our most trusted leaders in this state.

"In one of the southern central Kansas counties we have two men, in another county three men, all of whom are now leaders in the People's party, and each and all of them say they had to take the oath printed before they were admitted

to the League, and it was explained to them that the oath was not in the ritual of the League, but was only given in print to a few of the most trusted officers of the League, who always destroyed it as soon as they had the same committed to memory.

"Our informants are men of reliability, and their statements are to be counted on quite as much as those who are denying the charges. So far as what was published in these columns, we are ready to stand by and substantiate. Circumstantial evidence is all that's required to shoulder the killing of Clayton on the Democracy, and if we can't produce circumstantial evidence equally good on this point, why, then, the jig is yours, Mr. g. o. p. Having established the dynamite plot in this way, why not deny this as well as the League oath?"

So, you see, there is plenty of proof besides our own. You may depend upon it, what we have said about that oath is TRUE.

A Few weeks ago, the Omaha Republican came out in favor of the prohibitory amendment in Nebraska; and now comes the news that the paper has given up the ghost. In other words, the whisky fellows were too much for it. To keep it from hurting their damnable business, they bought it and suspended its publication. We are glad to know, however, that there are many more brave papers in Nebraska, which will stand up for the right in the conflict, and they are making a valiant fight. The present outlook is greatly in favor of the victory of the prohibition hosts in Nebraska.

If the government can lend money to the national banks free of interest, with absolutely no security, why can it not lend money to farmers at 3 per cent. interest on the best and most imperishable security in the world? Will so-called Democrats who oppose the farmers' demands answer the question?—Marlin (Texas) Signal.

And let so-called Republicans who oppose the farmers' demands answer the same question.

"The farmers can do more good staying at home cutting weeds, than they can going to the Alliance meetings." He is in the weed business just the same, and a few of the obnoxious political weeds, that have taken all the moisture from the soil, will be removed.—The Alliant, Concordia.

No man owes support to a party. He who thinks otherwise is a slave to a vicious custom that has ground out hundreds of millionaires and millions of tramps.—Liberty Bell, Sioux City, Iowa

"OVERPRODUCTION" is a thing of the past—at least for a while. What will the poor fellows do who have had no excuse to offer for the hard times but "overproduction"?

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.

SEE OUR OFFER TO CLUB-RAISERS.