

The Advocate

Devoted to the Interests of the Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union and Other Kindred Organizations.

VOL. II. NO. 28.

TOPEKA, KANSAS, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1891.

16 PAGES.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

Kansas Still in the Lead—The Order Organized in This State—The Rebel Brigadier Scare Exploited.

BY G. CAMPBELL.

In 1879-80 I again issued a similar circular to the foregoing, yet more of a local nature, and in addition called the attention of the people to the fact that the state school fund of Kansas was being invested in 3 per cent. bonds, while our farmers were paying from 10 to 60 per cent. for money, and advised the adoption of a system by which this money could be loaned to the farmers on real estate security, at 6 per cent. interest, similar to the New York system. In the meantime, the old Greenback movement came into being in New York, and Peter Cooper and several other persons established a paper, which was known as the *Advocate*. This paper was under the editorial control of Mr. Shupe, and was sent broadcast over the country to arouse the people. Mr. Cooper and his friends did a great work in this agitation, in arousing the people to the injustices heaped upon them by several acts of Congress in contracting and funding our currency into interest-bearing bonds, as the base for our present national banking system. The old Greenback movement served as an educator, and was a sort of "John, the Baptist," which prepared the way for the present Alliance movement. The old greenback organization never advocated loans to the people, but wanted the government to issue the treasury notes, made a full legal tender, in paying for works of internal improvement, until the per capita circulation was \$50. Peter Cooper, however, was sufficiently convinced of the propriety of the government making loans to the people that he published an open letter to the secretary of the treasury shortly after Garfield had selected his cabinet, asking the government to loan to the states, accepting the bonds of the state for the loan, and for the state to loan to the county, accepting the bonds of the county. He could not give up the idea, it seems, of a bond base. The defects in such a system are plainly visible. First, we don't want a bond base. Second, we don't want the currency controlled by the state; this would be a return to the "wild cat" banking system. Third, we want as a currency, gold, silver and paper, at the cost of paper alone. Fourth, we don't want a per capita limit to the currency. *How can such a system be provided?* The answer is simple—by a little common sense injected into our laws.

Pardon the digression, but here I want to say a word with reference to the money



COL. W. A. HARRIS.

We have the pleasure this week of presenting our readers with the portrait of one of the most successful breeders of short-horns in America—Col. W. A. Harris, of Linwood, Leavenworth county, Kansas. Respecting his success in this line the *Breeder's Gazette* of January 28, says:

To his sound judgment and earnest, personal devotion to his work the west is indebted for a herd of short-horns that is conceded by all well-informed breeders who have made the tour of Linwood pastures to stand second to no collection of cattle of the beef breeds on either side of the Atlantic. Success such as this, it is needless to remark, is no mere accident. The distinc-

tion achieved by "the Laird of Linwood" as a cattle breeder is based upon the simple fact that by intelligent management and unremitting personal attention he has built up a herd which in point of uniformity of type and adaptability to needs of the hour in the line of early maturity and thrifty habits, at the present time, probably without a superior in Great Britain or America.

Colonel Harris came to Kansas in 1865 and may therefore be classed as a genuine Kansan. He is a gentleman of intelligence, pleasant address and of unquestioned integrity. We take pleasure in introducing him to the readers of THE ADVOCATE.

government where it belongs, and gives us a uniform system. Now, in order to provide a currency of gold, silver and paper at the cost of paper alone; let the government, instead of coining bullion for individuals, purchase all the silver and gold bullion offered for sale; paying for the same in full legal tender notes; exchanging \$1.00 in treasury note for 25.8 grains of standard gold, or 412.5 grains of standard silver. This will be equal to free and unlimited coinage of both metals, and the bullion purchased

will be the property of the whole people and so much can be coined as is needed, in connection with a full legal tender treasury note, to furnish the people with their medium of exchange; and the people would, by adopting this method, have a mixed currency at the cost of a paper currency; and when it does not cost any more, why not have it? Then to keep the money from becoming too plentiful, let the government fix the rate of interest sufficiently high to govern the circulation. England and several other nations have demonstrated that money will not become too plentiful at 3 per cent. per annum interest, and with a 3 per cent. currency equal to the demands of business, England practically controls the world, and why not take our part of the world when an ample value of cheap money, always equal to the demands of business will enable us to do so? Let the government furnish the money to the counties as above provided, at 1 per cent. Then fix a uniform rate of interest throughout the United States of 3 per cent. per annum, 1 per cent. going to the government, and 2 per cent. to the county, which will relieve the people to that extent of taxation. Under such a system, while the rate of interest would really get their money at 1 per cent., for be 3 per cent., the people would the expenses of the county have to be paid, and paying in the manner indicated is better than direct taxation. The 3 per cent. interest will govern the amount of money in circulation and, as experience proves, it will range between \$40 and \$50 per capita, always governed by the demand. If money will pay a margin above 3 per cent., the people will borrow and use in the channels of trade, and when it will not net a margin above 3 per cent. it will be returned, and the amount of money in circulation will obey the natural law of supply and demand, and do away with business depressions, for no person ever saw a period of depression in business when the people were supplied with an ample volume of good money. Again, with such a system, there could be no bank failures, and money deposited would be in the hands of the government and consequently safe, and would not be hoarded.

Money of all things ought not to be limited to a per capita base. Anything that is limited can be cornered, and if the money circulation of the country is on a per capita base, it can be cornered, no matter if it be \$100 per capita, but if the amount in circulation is governed by the rate of interest, and always equal to the demand, we can make the circulation per capita just what we desire by raising or lowering the rate of interest, as ex-