

HOW THE MERCHANTS AND BANKERS OF DALLAS HAVE "BOUNCED" THE STATE ALLIANCE EXCHANGE AND HOW THEY GOT "BOUNCED."

Brother Macune's Able and Comprehensive Answer to the False Reports Circulated by the Enemies of the Exchange.

EDITOR MERCURY:—As our Exchange develops new and conclusive evidences of success, the various forms of opposition and antagonism become more active and bitter, and show a tendency toward coalition or a combination of all those forces that oppose the Alliance in a common cause to destroy the organization. That a very active and determined ring of opposition had recently been organized and groomed in commercial circles, was better known in those circles than in the Alliance. The sub-Alliances were totally ignorant of the matter, and the Exchange only surmised the existence of such conditions until they themselves gave it away to the brethren in McLennan county, they took it for granted that organized opposition meant destruction to the order, but they never made a greater mistake in the world.

The Executive Committee of McLennan county, upon receipt of the information, immediately issued the following call:

WACO, Texas, April 24.—On the 16th inst. the following circular, signed W. Harris and William Lamblyn, executive committee, was promulgated at Waco, addressed to the officers and members of the sub-Alliances of McLennan county: "In the absence of the president of the county Alliance and the impracticability of getting word to him in time to answer the purpose and meet the present emergency, the executive committee of the Farmers' Alliance of McLennan county in special called meeting in Waco today, at which every member was present and voted aye, hereby call a special meeting of the county Alliance, to assemble at Elgin Hall, Waco, on Tuesday, April 24, at 10 o'clock a. m. It was deemed necessary to call the county Alliance together soon after its regular meeting, just adjourned, on account of information received to-day of a combination of merchants and bankers to thwart our efforts to help ourselves through the State Exchange at Dallas. The information we have is from an entirely reliable source, and is to the effect that the bankers and merchants of Dallas have held a meeting and decided that the Alliance State Exchange of Texas was chartered by the State as a charitable institution and consequently was not responsible before the courts of the country for any debts it might contract, and upon this decision the banks refuse to let Brother Macune, our State Business Agent, have any more money upon the mortgages sent up by the members of the sub-Alliance, thus practically establishing a boycott against the Farmers' Alliance of Texas. This meeting is called for the purpose of taking immediate steps to relieve those of our members who have given these mortgages to the State Exchange and thereby shut themselves out from any hope of relief from the local merchants. Members of the Alliance who have the success of our enterprise at heart, and are able in point of financial standing, and can possibly spare the time, should have the backbone to come forward and set their faces against the gigantic effort on the part of combined capital to place their hands upon our throats and choke us off from this grand effort we are making to relieve ourselves from the monopolies and middlemen, who have been and are sapping us of our substance, and in the end would heartlessly drive our wives and children from their homes, and leave them and us penniless and homeless, and abject slaves to their iniquitous will and greed.

"Come to this meeting, regardless of whether you are a delegate or not, and put your shoulder to the wheel and show to the people of Texas and the world, that the members of the Farmers' Alliance of McLennan county mean business, that they know their rights and dare maintain them in the face of any opposition from whatsoever source.

"Now, brethren, don't falter. This is the crisis; the crisis, perhaps, the solution of which will decide the weal or woe of our beloved order and the institution we are endeavoring to build up."

Pursuant to the above call, the Alliance people are in session at Odd Fellows Hall. About 400 are present. Reporters are excluded, but sounds of

loud oratory and heavy applause can be heard. It is evidently a rousing meeting.

In response to which, the delegates and those most interested, came pouring in from all parts of the county, and gave the Exchange the strongest endorsement possible, and asserted their determination to live on bread and water if necessary, in defence of Alliance principles. These brethren have shown their loyalty and deserve great credit for their prompt and decisive action, but they were misinformed to some extent as to the condition of affairs in the line of battle. In regard to the Exchange being a charitable institution, that could not sue or be sued, that was a base falsehood, circulated by one of the commercial agencies for purposes best known to themselves. It is impossible to charter under the laws of Texas, with a capital stock and avoid the responsibility of being sued, that is fixed by the statutes and that same agency knew it and had a copy of the Exchange Charter in their office, and when they first started this damaging report the Manager of the Exchange went to them and called their attention to its falsity and to the fact, that such a condition was impossible under the law, this they admitted and promised to counteract the evil done by contradicting same. They afterwards circulated the original lie after having as above stated its falsity and promised to correct it. The Exchange Charter is as perfect a document as can be made under the law, but even if it was not the law provides that no defect of charter can be plead in a suit to interfere in any way with any contract made by a corporation and that a charter will be held good to cover all acts performed under it until it has been adjudged inadequate by due process of law. As to the combination spoken of it is but justice to state that the banks have not shown any unfriendly disposition to the Exchange but quite the contrary. If opposing merchants had divided out the banks between them and engaged credit equal to the amount they used for such purposes, and then failed to use the lines thus engaged, they were imposing on the banks for the purpose of hampering the Exchange and their results did not justify the effort because it only bothered the Exchange for a few days and then only because it was a surprise but it will be a great drawback to the city, because should an unfriendly feeling between Dallas and the State at large be developed, her boom would burst and become as ethereal and attenuated as the middleman's love for the one-gallused farmer.

The brethren in some other portions of the State received vague rumors of trouble and immediately assembled and passed similar resolutions and in one day seven county Alliances sent up resolutions to the effect that they would stand by the Exchange to the end, even if it became necessary for the sake of the principles involved to do without one dollar's worth of supplies.

It will therefore be a pleasure to the Alliance to learn that with their prompt support the Exchange marches serenely and majestically on her course as utterly unconcerned about these calumnies and falsehoods as the chaste and pure harvest moon is to the yelping of the proverbial yellow cur. Business was delayed a few hours but has for some days been progressing with more vigor than ever. A purchase of five hundred barrels of ribbon cane syrup has just been consummated on the plantation and it is now in process of shipment as are all other kinds of goods recently ordered from the Exchange. C. W. MACUNE.

INSECTS AND PARASITES.

Prof. Cook, of the Michigan Agricultural College, has reached the conclusion that the different species (so called) of *Anthomya*, which attack the cabbage, radish and onion respectively, are really the same species. The proofs are, first, that though they differ somewhat in appearance, all gradations have been found between them; second, that the cabbage maggot has been grown upon the radish and vice versa; third, that onions were badly affected on ground where cabbages were affected the previous year. The maggot seems to prefer the cabbage, but will attack the onion when that is not to be had. It has also been observed on several plants which are not cultivated. The only practicable remedy is to change the location of the crop when the maggots become troublesome.

Rome has not so many Catholics as London.

FARMING FOR TO-DAY.

Large farms, broad fields, expensive machinery driven by steam or managed by large, heavy teams, agricultural implements requiring hundreds of acres of grain to make their use profitable, all belong to the West. Our many Western subscribers will know that we do not forget these facts. We glory in those large reaches of wheat and corn, which there justify the largest expenditure in implements and machinery. Steam plows and heavy harvesters and everything of the largest and best and most costly belong to the large farms of the West, many of which are about equal in fertile acres to some of the principalities of the old world.

And notwithstanding all this we wish to speak particularly to the farmer readers of our magazine in the States along the Atlantic Seaboard, and to urge upon them a few of the ideas which have been growing stronger and stronger in our mind as the years pass by. In these States, the time of large fields of grain we believe to have passed away, if any real profit is desired by our farmers. Something must take the place of these and a very different method of farming must be pursued. This has become a settled conviction with us, and the only question is, what shall this method be for the farming of to-day, and how shall it be carried forward?

Our first idea is to cultivate much less ground with the plow; but make what is cultivated rich and productive to its full capacity. In this grow such crops as will be the most profitable in the best markets of the country; and whatever is needed for home consumption. In carrying out this idea, where much land has heretofore been under the plow, seed it down to grass and keep stock for the larger portion, and turn many acres into orchards of the best fruit in pears, quinces, apples and peaches.

Carry much stock of various kinds and of the best character, not forgetting the value of ensilage in their keeping. Stock under these circumstances can be made to supply nearly all the fertilizer you will need on the acres which are broken up, and are themselves a source of revenue of no mean character. Bear in mind that the fertilizer from them almost equals the value of the feed you are obliged to supply for them, and the growth and increase become nearly all profit.

The land in orchards will always be profitable if the fruit is judiciously chosen, the orchards properly cared for and a little attention paid to the marketing of the fruit. For many years to come, longer than any of us now living may number, the demand for all the fruit of good quality which can be raised will remain good. The natural increase of the population is vastly greater than the increase of the standard fruits and is likely to remain so. If this country should, however, be overstocked; we have a foreign market continually calling for our produce of this character. The world is open to us. Apples only moderately fine have brought by the barrel at least a dollar a bushel all winter. Orchards are destined to be a good investment.

Then comes the great field of small fruits; but we must not enlarge upon this subject now. We would refer to former numbers of the magazine for particulars. A great source of profits for labor bestowed is certainly here, and a very small attention to this branch of farming has hitherto been given.

But the best source of profit to the farmer of to-day is to be found in truck farming. The cultivation of comparatively few acres, brought to a high state of productiveness, put into crops of vegetables of various kinds, such as sweet corn, potatoes, tomatoes, onions, beets, cabbage, celery, asparagus, peas, beans, &c.—and placed on the market in an attractive manner.

For the Atlantic seaboard, this outline gives very briefly the true farming of to-day. And we believe the time is very rapidly approaching when successful farming here cannot be done in any other manner. Grain farming must be thrown aside, for it does not now pay for the commercial fertilizer which must necessarily be used upon it—it can only be raised here at a loss.

Specialties, if not depended upon as sole crops, will always repay study and labor. Grapes may be made a specialty; but they will sometimes utterly fail. Peaches may be of great value; but they too cannot always be successful. Berries will occasionally be smitten by the frost or perish as a crop from prolonged drought. Orchards during some years are quite bar-

ren. Any particular vegetable crop might prove a failure. It is not any one of these therefore as a specialty that can be recommended; it is the combination of all of them in the system of farming of to-day that should be our reliance. Each specialty, well understood in all its requirements, is certainly a desirable thing on the farm; but when all are united, no danger can menace the farmer, and he can rest assured that he has in his hand some arrow which will reach the mark and bring him a reward for his labor.

Plow less ground. Make it garden ground. Grow there large crops of marketable produce, of a great variety. Allow the balance of your lands to support stock, to grow fruits in orchards, to rest in fields of grass and pasture, until it can be made of like richness and profit as your garden acres. This must be the farming of to-day.—*Maryland Farmer.*

THE MULE.

The mule certainly is not akin to religion; yet the ones who condemn the mule, like those who condemn religion, are the people who have had no experience with it, or have not given it a fair trial. Very rarely is the mule given a fair trial. From his birth he is maltreated because of a reputation not founded on any natural traits of his, but on misapprehension of his character. Let the mule be treated as is the horse and he is more docile and trustworthy than the horse. To this I can testify from personal knowledge. The best and most agreeable team I ever handled was a span of mules. They had been raised right and trained right. They never kicked at me; and I could drop the lines and leave them safely for an hour. Unless the mule's temper has been soured by abuse he will not kick so readily as the horse, because he is not so easily alarmed; and for the same reason a mule that has been properly handled is less liable to run away. The mule is not near so apt to be sick as the horse; will eat without question inferior food; will endure hardships better, being less nervous, and wastes less of its strength; eats less than the horse and will do more work. In short is much more economical and even more agreeable to handle when you know how to handle it. And the way to handle a mule is the way to handle a horse—by kindness and intelligence and firmness.

The mule is longer lived than the horse. I have handled a span of mules that when thirty-five years old did as much work as any team. They had been kept hard at work ever since they were two years old.

As for the longevity of the mule, who has not heard that "the mule never dies?" The mule lives longer because it frets less, being less nervous, because its breeding and conditions for many centuries have made it less subject to disease. It does not therefore break down as soon as the horse, its hoofs are tougher, so is its hide—the flies have a poorer show on it.

The Southern planters found the mule just the animal for hardships, lack of care, abuse, and for ignorant and careless drives. The negroes were both ignorant and careless. There is no need to argue whose fault it was, the fact is certain; and for decades the mule was in the hands of men incompetent and known to be incompetent to handle horses. The negro roundly abused the mule. More than this the negro likes fun, and naturally in his then condition fun to him was often the torment of some animal; the mule from the time it first stood upon its feet was tormented.

Now the mule, though patient and docile as few animals are, under good treatment, has a wonderful memory for ill usage and a passion for revenge.

Like all other animals, just as it is capable of appreciation of good treatment and of return therefor, so is it capable of appreciation of bad treatment and of return therefor; and subjected to the torment for fun humor of the darkey, and his disposition to be lordly over what he could, it is not strange that the animal did many scandalous things that gave him a bad reputation extending throughout the South and into the North.

Luckily matters have been radically changed, and under decent conditions the mule is rapidly obliterating the prejudice against himself.

The mule is justly reputed to be stubborn. Stubbornness is simply will power diverted to wrong uses. This diversion is due usually to some fault of man, not of the mule. So long as will power is kept in proper channels, the more the animal has the better. Whenever the greater will

power of the mule is kept in proper channels, by training and treating the mule properly, the mule is stubborn only in this, that it insists in wriggling the wagon out of the mud hole, that it insists in keeping the reaper rattling though the sun is low, that it won't get sick or refuse coarse fare.

The mule may be put to work—commonly is—when two years old. Up to this age it has cost less than the horse, and from two years of age will pay for its keep. But it is a common mistake to put the mule at hard work as soon as it is trained. Its work until it is three years old should be light, pulling light loads or doing easy plowing. Stunting does not pay in mule breeding any more than it does in horse breeding.—*J. M. Stahl, in Am. Rural Home.*

A GREAT DANGER.

It is hardly possible to exaggerate the danger that confronts our country in the financial combinations now so generally known as "Trusts." They are the invention of those fertile brains which wish to accumulate fortunes without work and in the shortest possible space of time, regardless of the rights of others or the obligations they are under to their fellow men. In our sight, they are wholly averse to moral principle, and against the genius of those principles which lie at the basis of our country's institutions. They disregard the obligation of good to the masses, and prey upon their substance without a moment's thought of the havoc they make in the homes of the poor and dependent classes.

In a mild form they have existed for a long time in the different combines to sustain prices of the different commodities required for general consumption; but this without the pooling of capital leaving each dealer at liberty to carry out his own plans, and do his business in his own methods. Even these, however, often bore very heavily upon the poorer classes who suffered in the purchase of coal kept up to an arbitrary standard, or who were forced to do without some of the ordinary provisions of common life.

These "trusts," however, are a vastly greater instrument of monopoly and torture. They gather millions of capital with the avowed purpose of oppressing those who will not join them, and of raising the prices of all the common necessities of our daily lives. With their millions of money they are enabled to brazenly defy the investigations of legislators until nothing tangible can be depended upon as a remedy from State or Congress. At least, the delay in supplying a remedy is now so prolonged that the people see no end to their impositions and no prospect of legal relief.

We are blessed with the vision of "trusts" connected with every article we use, or are forced to purchase, piling up the prices to the consumer and at the same time grinding down the producer till the latter is in despair and ruin, while the former is worse off than any serf in the old world or any slave in the new.

This work promises, also, to go on until the masses shall rise in a revolutionary spirit and overthrow or demolish these vast monopolies, causing a more gigantic war than our last one; for the aggravation is fully as great and the masses affected are vastly more intelligent and more generally distributed throughout the country. It is giving a foothold to those who are ever ready to plunge any people into the abyss of anarchy.

We have indeed a greater danger in these "trusts" and it is time that this danger was realized by our legal bodies in all our States, and measures taken to ward against it. The great fact stands against "trusts" that they are unprincipled, inhuman, immoral; that the very ground upon which they are built up are that they have no responsibility to regard the wishes of man or the laws of God. They are at war with the good of society and with every humane consideration, only looking to their own selfish profit, though it be brought about by the ruin and anguish of myriads—the ruthless crushing out of every interest opposed to theirs.

A fearful danger is menacing the peace and prosperity of the country and we cannot too soon have a remedy against it.—*Maryland Farmer.*

TAFFY.—Take two cupfuls of white sugar, put in a stewpan and pour over the sugar half a cupful each of water and vinegar. Do not stir it. Let it boil until done. Then put in a piece of butter the size of a walnut. Pour into a buttered pan, and when cool pull it as confectioners do candies.