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The Texas State Alliance. From the Southern Mercury.

The following from the published proceedings of the Texas State Alliance contains solid food for reflection for the people of this and every other state in the Union:

The committee on industrial depression made the following report, which was adopted and ordered printed in the *Southern Mercury* and all papers friendly are requested to copy same:

To the President, Officers and Members of the Farmers' Alliance of Texas:

"We have made inquiry as far as we have been able, into the general condition of the working people. The questions that we have kept steadily in view are: Do those who labor and produce receive a just portion of the profits or surplus wealth they create? Has the vast increase of productive power, which is the result of advancement in science and the multiplication of inventions to lessen labor and increase production, and to facilitate and cheapen transportation and the transmission of intelligence, resulted in corresponding benefit to the producer, by giving him better opportunities in life to enjoy its comforts and improve his financial condition.

We find the answer to these queries in the present conditions everywhere apparent throughout the length and breadth of our country. The extremes of wealth and poverty are becoming more marked.

Organized charitable institutions in the large cities confess they are utterly unable to relieve the rapidly increasing mass of pauperism, while the cry of starving men, women and children comes from mining valleys and towns.

Ostentations, vulgar wealth on the one hand and squalid, disgusting poverty on the other; the unflinching characteristics of decaying civilization meet us on every side.

In the empire state of the Union monopoly has made millionaires by the hundred, but it has also made one out of every seven of its population either a pauper, a criminal or a lunatic.

One corporation, the Standard Oil company, by monopolizing a single natural product—a free gift of nature to all—has divided four hundred millions of dollars in profits among its few stockholders, while thousands of sewing women in the city are slowly starving. A few scores of individuals have amassed hundreds of millions of dollars by manipulating and wrecking railroads while producers are robbed by high freights and laboring men degraded by low wages.

Of the 900,000,000 of acres of public lands held at different times by the national government in trust for the people, and which should have been disposed of to willing labor for honest, productive purposes, only about one-third has been given to real and

nominal settlers; the other two-thirds excepting comparatively small areas still held, have been squandered in different ways, with little thought of the public good and less of the present and prospective needs of landless labor. The result is that millions of workers are now homeless, the helpless dependents upon precarious daily wages, while land monopoly, founded

and fostered by national legislation has assumed serious and mercenary proportions. Alien landlords already own large areas of American soil and are increasing the extent of their domains, day by day, through purchase or mortgage foreclosure. Our American sovereignty is thus fast fading into a vassalage to alien landlords and foreign money-lenders, while our toiling producers look on with ox-eyed meekness or fatal apathy. Indeed some of them seem to rejoice at their passage into the service of foreign masters, and point with pride to every sale of our life-sustaining natural resources to foreigners as an indication of our prosperity. They fail to see that they and their offspring pass with those natural resources into foreign ownership and control.

"Those who own the land will rule the country" said John Adams. Another has said more forcibly that "Those who own the land own the people who live upon the land."

The founders and fathers of this republic resisted Britain's right to tax them; rose in rebellion and secured their independence after untold hardships and innumerable sacrifices.

The American people to-day have to pay every six months to British capitalists and landlords more than Great Britain exacted from American colonists in the one hundred and sixty-nine years from the founding of Jamestown to the Declaration of Independence. We still have political liberty, but it is more of shadow than of substance, as long as producers remain in industrial and financial dependence upon foreigners. And at the present rate of acquisition, it will be but a comparatively short time until the complete financial and industrial subjection of our producers to foreign domination is effectual; not only are foreign monopolists acquiring our lands, but our railroad, manufacturing and other industries are also passing into their hands. This however, is only the natural result of our national legislation for the past quarter of a century. Ours is, in theory a representative government; in practice, however, only certain classes have been of late years, represented in the national congress and legislation has been shaped in the interests and to the aggrandizement of those classes, no matter how disastrous to the masses. For the interest of those classes the currency was contracted at the close of the late war, although it brought crushing disaster upon

millions of debtors; for their interest silver was demonetized, although it brought on the panic of '73, made hundreds of thousands of business men bankrupt and millions of workers homeless wanderers, for their interest contracts were arbitrarily changed, currency funded into bonds and the bonds refunded, specie payment resumed regardless of sacrifices and losses to the public, and debt, degradation and misery inflicted on the people. Many of the overburdened producers and debtors have for years protested against this cruel injustice of class legislation and asked for relief, but in vain; the spirit of shylock was at the helm and relentless.

The money in circulation has been kept at a minimum, usury at a maximum and humanity sacrificed to monopoly. In the purposely created money famine and consequent low prices the country has been mortgaged and, to a large extent, sold outright to home and foreign monopolists. The means by which this monopoly has been secured to a class and all that misery to the man suggests the remedies. Equal opportunities, as far as possible, must be secured to every individual; efficient measures must be taken to prevent land monopoly and every means available used to secure to the workers access to the natural resources.

A medium of exchange must be provided that will effect the exchange of products at cost, instead of, as at present, confiscating a large part of their value through usury.

The public highways must be controlled and used so that the transportation may be effected at equitable rates, approximating as nearly as practicable to actual cost. If this cannot be secured under private ownership of those highways then it must be secured under public control. Private corporations should not be any longer permitted to levy arbitrary tolls on labor, industry and enterprise.

It is unnecessary here to enter into details as to practical measures to secure those much needed reforms. This state Alliance at former sessions has already made specific legislative demands embodied in the resolutions adopted at Cleburne in 1886, and in the report of this committee adopted at its last annual session. Those demands should be kept before the public and pressed for legislative and congressional action.

Unless organized labor addresses itself to this practically, persistently and consistently it is useless to organize. These are questions that laboring people must study, not as questions that involve the success of this or that political party, but as vital issues, involving the welfare, the social position and the intellectual and moral advancement of themselves and families. The voice of labor is at

present seldom heard in legislative halls and still more seldom heeded. It is railway kings, and land grabbers and the money monopolists whose words are weighed and whose demands are acted upon.

It is more than twenty centuries since Aristotle said, "It is almost an irresistible tendency of democracies to merge into plutocracies." This tendency in our government is too painfully plain.

It is the mission of organized labor to arrest this tendency and make our republic a really representative one in which the people will make laws for the equal protection and benefit of all, instead of wealth dictating them in the interest of monopoly as at present.

We warn the laboring people against the baneful influence of demagogues and blighting effects of blind partisan prejudice. We desire to emphasize the recommendation to the people of the Alliance to study economic questions, for this is the great object of our order as set forth in the first clause of the declaration of purposes of the Farmers' Alliance—"To labor for the education of the agricultural classes, in the science of economical government, in a strictly non-partisan spirit." Cast your suffrage for those who are in sympathy with you; beware of those whose instincts and inclinations are in antagonism to the vital interests of labor.

In conclusion let it be remembered that we cannot expect to obtain or maintain equal justice until we have a real representative government. We cannot have a real representative government until the voters are independent thinkers, who study and understand the practical, economic and political questions as they exist or may arise for solution or settlement. It is impossible to have a representative government or to secure substantial justice while masses of voters are the mere echo or puppets of others.

Respectfully submitted.

- J. M. PURDUE,
- R. J. SLEDGE,
- D. M. RUMPH,
- T. M. SMITH,
- C. A. McMEANS

The Mitchell county (Ga.) Alliance has arranged for an imposing funeral bagging funeral some time this month. The pall bearers have been selected and all the details arranged. Rev. Mr. Hoggar will preach the funeral. —*Progressive Farmer.*

A shower of raw beef has fallen in Illinois. It is supposed that a mule had some trouble with a meat cart one of the northern counties. —*American Liveryman.*

There are nineteen hundred fortythree Alliances in North Carolina up to date. —*Progressive Farmer.*