

perience shall dictate, without making it possible for the money kings to control it.

In 1883 I published in the Mound Valley Herald, under the caption "Russia and America," the following article, which will be observed embraces all the features of the sub-treasury bill, a measure which has become famous as a subject demanding Congressional legislation:

According to a letter of recent date from our consul at Russia, one of the demands of the nihilists is the loan of money from their government on their grain. It is claimed that their money lenders charge them, not only exorbitant rates of interest, but as soon as the crop is thrashed, they demand payment and force the peasant to sell his grain at much less than it costs to produce it. To prevent this injustice to the farmer, the nihilists want the government to construct warehouses and receive the grain, and loan them rubles to the amount of 80 per cent. of its value, and then when the crop is sold the government shall reimburse itself for interest and storage, and the balance of the proceeds of the sale goes to the peasant.

This would not be a bad system for the farmers of the United States. Suppose the government would construct a warehouse in each county at a central location, or in the cities for that matter, and would receive the grain of the farmers at the warehouse or at the nearest railroad station and advance them loans to the extent of 80 per cent. of the market value. This would enable the farmer to hold his grain, and when the grain shall have been sold at prices to justify production, then let the government reimburse itself for transportation, storage and interest on the loan of money upon the grain at a low rate, and the balance remaining of the proceeds of the sale, be returned to the farmer producing the grain.

This system would enable the farmer to hold his crops until the market would justify a sale with fair remuneration to labor; and while the government is assisting nearly all other branches of our industrial system, why not assist the farmers, who constitute an industry employing more labor than all the other industries combined.

This article, with some modifications, was published in *United Labor* of 1887 in No. 34 of the series on file in the office of the historical society at Topeka, Kansas.

(To be continued.)

Address L. L. Polk, president of the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union, at 344 D street, Washington, D. C. (Reform papers please copy.)

#### Notice.

C. O. Fee, organizer for the National Citizens' Alliance for Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri, will answer all calls for services of organizer promptly. Address Leavenworth, Kan.

The National Economist Hand-Book of Facts for 1891 is now about ready for delivery. This book is published by The National Economist, the national organ, of Washington, D. C., and it should be in the hands of every true reformer. This is the same publication as The National Economist Almanac, which had such a great sale last year. Every one seeing this notice should make application at once for the number of books they want. The price is 15 cents single copy, or two for 25 cents. This book will be of the greatest interest to the Order, as it has been carefully compiled, and contains information on all points that effect the prosperity of the farming and laboring classes. The publishers of this book authorize us to say that they will receive orders from the sub-secretaries and ship the books, and they can remit after distributing them to the purchasers, but when convenient send as much money with the order as possible. This book contains the proceedings of the Ocala meeting, and every member should have a copy.

#### KANSAS LEGISLATURE.

Wednesday, February 18.—The Senate attempted to act upon House concurrent resolution No. 16, the text of which is as follows:

Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring therein, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to speedily introduce a bill to abolish the national banking act, or that part thereof which compelled national banks to purchase United States bonds, and request that our members in both the upper and lower House of Congress use all honorable means to secure the passage of the same, and that the chief clerk of the House be instructed to send a copy of this resolution to each of our members in congress.

Senator Moody moved that the Senate non-concur in the resolution, upon which the vote was yeas 13, nays 15.

Senators voting in favor of the motion to non-concur were: Messrs. Bentley, Buchan, Emery, Forney, Kelley of McPherson, Martin, Moody, Osborn, Roe, Schilling, Tucker, Wilson and Wright.

Senators voting in the negative were: Messrs. Berry, Carroll of Miami, Harkness, Hays, Kelley of Crawford, King, Mechem, Murdock, Norton, Rankin, Rush, Senior, Smith, Wheeler and Woodward.

Senator Kelley, of Crawford, then moved that the Senate concur, upon which the vote stood as follows: Yeas 16; nays 10.

Senators voting in favor of concurring in the resolution were: Messrs. Berry, Carroll of Leavenworth, Carroll of Miami, Forney, Harkness, Howard, Kelley of Crawford, King, Mechem, Norton, Rankin, Rush, Senior, Smith, Wheeler and Woodward.

Senators voting in the negative were: Messrs. Bentley, Buchan, Elliston, Emery, Gillett, Hays, Kelley of McPherson, Lockard, Long, Martin, Moody, Osborn, Roe, Schilling, Tucker, Wilson and Wright.

Senators absent or not voting were: Messrs. Johnson, Kimball, McTaggart, Mohler, Murdock and Richter.

The motion was lost.

Senate concurrent resolution No. 23 was read and adopted:

Whereas, The public domain which is fit for agricultural purposes is fast disappearing, and

Whereas, We have millions of acres of public land known as arid and semi-arid lands, that can be made into good farming lands by being irrigated; and

Whereas, There now exists a wide and spreading demand in the public mind that some action be speedily taken to the end that public opinion be organized on the irrigation question in all the states and territories interested in the same; and

Whereas, Kansas is largely interested in securing an adequate system of irrigation for the western portion of the state; therefore

Resolved by the Senate, the House concurring therein, That Kansas initiate the movement for public expression of what is needed to secure such action by the federal government as will at an early day secure a proper system of irrigating what is known as "arid lands" in this western country; and that the Governor of Kansas is hereby requested to call a mass convention in the sole interest of irrigation, and that he invite the several neighboring states and territories interested therein, to send delegates to such convention, and to participate in its deliberations, the time and place for holding such convention to be on the 27th day of April, 1891, in the city of Topeka.

Resolved, That the state printer be authorized to print the proceedings in pamphlet form for distribution, at a cost not to exceed three hundred dollars.

Thursday, February 19.—The House committee on mines and mining, through its chairman, Mr. P. H. Dolan, submitted the following report concerning coal

rights at Lansing, near the state penitentiary:

First—We find from the testimony that the coal from under some of the land in dispute has been removed, and that in other places we find that a royalty has been paid, where, in our opinion, it was not really necessary.

Second—We find that the state has 396 acres of coal land in fee simple, and has the coal rights under 636 acres additional, making a total of 1,032 acres; 145 acres have been mined, leaving 887 acres of coal lands yet unmined, not including the coal under the river bottom, and we are of the opinion that that is all that the state really needs for the present, or for many years to come.

Third—The testimony of Mr. Lamm, the mine superintendent, showing that he mines from twenty to twenty-five acres per year, and even if the mine was crowded to its fullest capacity, the coal could not be mined from under more than thirty acres.

Fourth—It is probable from some of the testimony taken before your committee that it was necessary at a previous time to mine under lands not belonging to the state, and for which a royalty had to be paid, in order to make a connection with other lands belonging to the state; and from the maps and profiles furnished us, and from the expert testimony given, we are of the opinion that it is not necessary for the further mining of coal under the lands not owned by the state.

Fifth—Concerning the bill which has been introduced asking for an appropriation to pay certain parties a certain amount per bushel for coal, we find that it would be better for the state to make such purchase, for the reason that it would give them free access to land previously purchased by the state; but we prefer to leave this matter to the judgment of the House. If such coal could be purchased with the proviso that one-third of the money be paid down, one-third in two years, and the balance in four years from the date of such purchase, it would be a matter that we think you should thoroughly consider.

Sixth—So far as buying any land on the river front is concerned, either for farm or mining purposes, we are opposed to it, for the reason that the state now has at least one-half mile of river front, and it will take them at least twenty-five years to reach that locality.

Seventh—We find concerning the output of the mine at the penitentiary, that it does conflict with not only the local mines at Leavenworth, but with those in other parts of the state.

Eighth—In addition, we herewith submit the report of the four experts who were empowered to investigate the condition of said mine and make such recommendations as they saw fit.

P. H. DOLAN,  
Chairman Committee on Mines and Mining.

#### REPORT OF EXPERTS.

To P. H. Dolan, chairman of the House committee on mines and mining of the Legislature of the state of Kansas, year 1891:

Your sub-committee of experts appointed to accompany your honorable committee to Leavenworth to make certain investigations concerning the workings, management and condition of the state mines at that place, beg leave to make the following report and recommendations:

As to the mechanical arrangements of the shaft, we have been able in the short time permitted to visit and inspect only a portion of the penitentiary mines; that portion we find in first class condition. We find ample opening in the coal now owned and leased by the state to employ from two hundred and fifty to five hundred men for years to come. We find that there are three veins of coal beneath the one now in operation, of greater thickness, which would give one hundred year's work at the present output of the mine.

We therefore recommend that no appropriations be granted, neither for the purchase of more coal territory, nor for the purchase of cables or electric motors, or any improved system of machinery of underground haulage, or light to assist in increasing of the production of coal. There is an ample surplus of labor employed to do all the necessary work of hauling, and labor at forty-three cents per day is cheaper than

the wear and interest on the cost of additional machinery. We find the machinery for screening and cleaning of coal in excess of anything we know in that district. The coal is prepared with so much expenditure of machinery and labor that it becomes superior and more valuable in the market—fully twenty-five cents per ton.

There is at present practically no system of accounting for all the coal mined. We recommend that a scale be put on the top of the mine. Every box of coal hoisted should be weighed according to such scale, and what is called a weigh scale should be kept, giving each convict miner a number, and showing the accurate amount of coal mined by him. This quantity should tally daily, weekly, monthly and yearly with the amount of coal sold and used in the penitentiary. These weigh sheets should be in the possession of the superintendent to form a check against any waste or loss of coal.

As to the cost and distribution of the coal, we find that from the evidence of practical men adduced at the investigation that the product of convict labor at the present contract system is forced upon the market in disastrous competition to free labor and free business, and should be abolished. We are satisfied that the mine owners in Leavenworth are damaged, and also the coal miners, on account of the coal being sold by contract at a less price than what it would be produced by free labor, and that the state is losing money by the transaction. If a check weighman was appointed at each coal shaft, and the miners were paid for all the coal they mine, and the present mine owners had to compete with the penitentiary at the present price, it would close every mine in the city of Leavenworth.

The parties who suffer most by the present manner in which the state coal is sold are the coal miners. They are paid four cents per bushel for mining, but they only receive this amount for what passes over the screens, and as 25 per cent. passes through the screens, their price is reduced to three cents per bushel, so that a coal miner has to dig fifty bushels per day to make \$1.50. Seeing that they only average three days in a week, according to present arrangements, if a coal miner wants to be well cared for and have a comfortable home, he must commit some act against the law for which he will be sent to the penitentiary.

It is true that the state of Kansas has a very good property in the state coal mine, too valuable in fact to be cast aside, and we believe men who commit crime and are sent to the penitentiary ought to be compelled to work. We make the following suggestions, which would provide the convicts with work, keep them from competing with the coal miners of the state, and would distribute the benefits of the state mine throughout the state: Let all the state institutions be supplied with coal, let every court house in this state be supplied with coal, and also the country school houses; then let the balance, if any, be divided in equal proportions by taxation or population in every county in the state and supplied at cost price for distribution by the county commissioners to the poor people in such county.

If the above in your judgment is not advisable, we recommend that at the expiration of the present contract, the state by law empower and authorize the superintendent to sell the surplus coal, after supplying the state institutions, at not less than the cost of same computed on the following basis: First, the management shall be charged with each and every bushel of coal mined by the convicts, at the same price as is paid per bushel to the free miners in the Leavenworth district. Second, the management shall be charged with all the dead work, yardage and day work, to be estimated by the superintendent, at prices to equal prices paid free miners for like work in that district. Third, to the above should be added the cost of all material used in the operation of the shaft. Fourth, interest on the investment, cost of the shaft and 6 per cent. on \$150,000. Fifth, 2 per cent. of the cost of the shaft as a sinking fund. Sixth, a royalty of not less than two mills per bushel for all coal mined, computing the cost of the coal as above mentioned. The superintendent shall sell the coal at not less