

WASHINGTON EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.
THE FARMERS' CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONALISM.

Defining Nationalism according to that which will doubtless be the outcome of the various socialistic, educational tendencies of the present time, we may say that it will be a condition in which the industries and activities upon which large numbers of people depend will be conducted on a large and systematic scale, with the benefits, the profits and the labor distributed among the workers and consumers in a just and equitable proportion.

It is not pretended that this definition includes all the theories or aims of persons calling themselves Nationalists. But the definition will be accepted as a partial statement, and if it be regarded as unfinished or juvenile Nationalism, it has at least the merit of possibilities for extension.

Claiming merely this much for Nationalism it will seem clear to most people that it is the inevitable of the not hopeless future.

Of the large enterprises already in some essentials nationalized the railroads and telegraphs are conspicuous, and that they will not long hence follow the postal service, is as clear as the noonday sun. With these purposes attained, and with their leverage as object lessons, the progress toward further systemization, economy and good service in other business will be accelerated.

Following unescapable prevalent tendencies the farmers have gone into organization. Their consultations beget handshakings with the laborers of the cities, mines and factories, who have long been asking many things never to be given for the asking by themselves.

The homeless urban laborers are being reinforced by their rural brethren. They are becoming hopeful. They will become invincible.

Besides the non-resistable tendency to organization the farmers are being borne along by those other resistable tendencies, consolidation and corporation; these they are applying to their own distinctive occupation. Already there is fruit in a measure known as the sub-treasury bill, introduced in the last Congress.

Briefly stated this measure looks to the establishment of warehouses for the storage of farm products, where they may await the call of the real demand of consumption—not to be shuffled off as now by gamblers, according to the fiction of supply and demand. The depositor, if he needs or wishes, may obtain an advance payment, a percentage of value of the deposit. The advance payment will come directly from a government sub-treasury, the produce remaining warehoused as security against the time of sale. Another and by far the most important feature of this bill is its provision for a flexible currency corresponding to the amount necessary for handling and marketing the products of the farm, swelling with the increase of produce following harvests and retreating when the products upon which it is based are consumed.

That some such measure is in harmony with Nationalism is apparent, since it provides for system, order and method in the transactions of the business side of agriculture.

It has been to the detriment of the prosperity of the entire nation that the farm business has been conducted at haphazard. That the one division of the world's work upon which the whole people are more dependant than any other should have been for all time a beggar in market places, is attributable to the

individualistic and unorganized condition of the farmer class. The farmer is twice a question in all his business transactions, both as a seller and a buyer. He asks, how much can I have for my wheat, my butter, my stock? How much must I give for my coffee, my calico and my shoes?

The farmer has carefully tilled his soil, raised his stock, carted his produce to market, and just at that point he has turned over all regulation, supervision or adequate understanding of business to transportation companies, to speculators, grain gamblers and beef combines, and these in conjunction with vicious financial legislation have at length impoverished the farmers.

Using the phraseology of the devout, one might call it providential that the farmers of America are awake to the danger of their situation; that they are coming to an understanding as to remedies. Farmers are learning that they must unite with laborers of all classes for the overthrow of unfriendly legislation and for the enactment of just laws. Along with this they must employ such modern business methods as will place agriculture on an equal footing with mercantile, manufacturing and other great industries.

It may be fairly claimed that the two destructive features of this farmers sub-treasury plan will in some form and by some means become established, and the result will be no inconsiderable contribution to nationalistic conditions.

Another advance in a similar direction is the growth of the Farmers Stock Exchange. This enterprise is destined to bring the marketing of live stock under the intelligent supervision of the men who raise the stock. The business of the Farmer's Kansas City Stock Exchange, which is an adjunct of the Farmer's Alliance of Kansas, has already assumed proportions formidable to the competing yards of corporate companies. Another symptom of the gravitation of the farmer class toward systemization.

The broad and generous system of insurance now vigorously pushed by the National Farmer's Alliance is educational in the direction of homogenous work. It will be found adoptable and ready to go into the nationalistic provisions for the society and the comfort of the nation's laborers.

A little more than a year ago, when the awakening of thought among the farmers of Kansas which culminated in the political revolution began, there was much written and said about the advisability of a national "schedule of farm products."

This proposition involved a general consultation and co-operation. Its discussion was begun by Mr. John G. Otis, now Congressman-elect from Kansas. Mr. Otis, an exceptionally well informed and well read man, was at that time a farmer dairyman, and the person who then would have suggested that Mr. Otis would inside of a year be called by the people to represent them in Congress would have been well ridiculed.

It will thus be seen that ideas are current which when incorporated into practice will bring order out of the chaos of farm business.

Still another much talked of measure was that set forth in a little pamphlet by Senator-elect Peffer, entitled "The Way Out." The main feature of this was issuance of money direct to the people at cost of making and handling. The disbursing agencies, or genuine national banks, to be located at all points necessary for convenient transaction of business. The amount of issue to be determined by the business need of the country.

The elaboration of "The Way Out"

constituted a large part of the discussion on the principal of finance during those remarkable months preceding the fall campaign. Senator Ingalls in his campaign speeches omitted serious discussion of this little book and seemingly tossed it aside with the flippant witticism that Peffer's "Way Out was but a shrewd attempt to find a Way In."

A regulation of the national currency based upon the propositions contained in "The Way Out" would reduce money to its only legitimate or safe function; that of a medium of exchange, a convenient substitute for cumbersome barter of commodities. The establishment of such a simple and general system would be in the line of evolution toward the utmost thought of nationalism.

The foregoing are some of the tendencies which in some form or other are either the expressed or the latest determination of the farmers and laborers of America, and when more fully digested and subsequently crystallized into legislation they will constitute the farmer's contribution to nationalism.

There appeared recently in the New York Times an editorial remarkable for its open acknowledgment of the methods by which Congress is manipulated by the money speculators of New York. The editorial says: "There is no doubt that in the next House of Representatives there will be a strong majority in favor of free, unlimited, independent coinage of silver." This measure is looked upon as so inimical to the interests of the "business men of New York" that the Times appeals in the strongest possible fashion to "make use of the ounce of prevention rather than to assume the responsibility of securing the pound of cure." The Times exhorts these business men to engage in a campaign of education, and to make use of multiform and intimate business relations with all parts of the country to enlighten public opinion. What has once been done can be successfully done again—so thinks the Times. The manner in which public opinion was once enlightened is set forth as follows:

During the recent session of Congress, after the free coinage bill had passed the Senate and while it was yet pending in the House, there was one man, as we happen to know, who through his business correspondents set on foot a series of protests by business men against this legislation that in a few weeks had a very decided effect. The voice of the conservative and informed element in a dozen cities in all parts of the country was made to find expression in a way that party leaders could not ignore and did not care to defy. If this could be done by the well directed activity and intelligent zeal of one man in a few days, what could not be done by organized and concerted effort by the large number of business men in New York, with like associations and opportunities? The work to be done is important. The way to do it has already been pointed out. No time should be lost in entering upon it.

Would it not be highly interesting to the people if the Times could be induced to give the name and the occupation of this "one man" who through his business correspondence brought about the defeat of free coinage in the last Congress?

Is it not a somewhat startling revelation that one man working upon "a dozen cities" could produce results "which party leaders could not ignore and did not care to defy?"

Now was not this a fine exhibition of one man power? A dozen cities control Congress! Verily we are nearing that "patriotism" which is the nightmare of our political enemies.

The reform press of the country will

doubtless take pleasure in reproducing and analyzing these letters from New York business men which are designed to educate the people in the true principles of finance in the editorial columns of Republican and Democratic newspapers; they will seem to be the spontaneous and profound expressions of editorial conscience, but they will bear the ear marks of the one man who educates cities by the dozen. They will be recognized by their deep concern lest the "depreciated currency" consequent upon free coinage of silver may ruin the common people; and they will never omit the wall over the widow and the orphan whose little all has been invested in western enterprises.

Happily for this nation a campaign of education concerning finance is being conducted by those who are not speaking from the one man standpoint.

Colonel Polk is home from his Iowa trip. He was enthusiastically received. The masses are everywhere awake to a knowledge of the fact that their interests have been betrayed by the men whom they have trusted.

Jerry Simpson left Washington to-day for the purpose of assisting in the Connecticut Alliance movement. He is in receipt of the most urgent calls from several states. The Kansas idea is marching on.

Senator Peffer delivered a temperance address in the Congregational church yesterday afternoon in response to an invitation from the district W. C. T. U. His remarks were highly gratifying to the temperance element here. A lady remarked to me this morning that the new Senator from Kansas seemed to represent Kansas' sentiment more truly than the one who preceded him.

Readers of THE ADVOCATE will be interested to learn that Benjamin Harrison McKee held a reception in the elegant parlors of the White house a few evenings since. The event was elaborately described in the city papers. Master McKee doubtless shares his grandpa's belief that this is a prosperous nation. It is doubtful if the young ragamuffin whom I saw this morning digging in the ashes in the engine yard looking for a few cinders entertains the same roseate views of life which the President's grandson cherishes.

President Harrison stated recently to a newspaper man that a reaction had set in in favor of the Republican party. The President's cheerful view of the situation is strengthened by the declaration of Governor Osborn to a Washington reporter that "Kansas is still a Republican state and will cast its vote for the Republican nominee." Governor Osborn furnished the further information that the Alliance in Kansas as a political power is waning.

It is really remarkable what slight comprehension those high in political circles have of the extent and the meaning of the revolt of the people against the favoritism, the corruption and the extravagance of the political parties which have mismanaged affairs of state in the past quarter of a century.

It is quite current talk here that Mr. Blaine is out of the question as a Presidential candidate owing to his failing physical condition.

It is of course the purpose of those who manage national conventions to nominate Mr. Harrison. "He is giving us a safe and clean administration." This is the current phrase which everybody utters concerning President Harrison. Of course I mean the everybody who favor his second term.

ANNIE L. DINGS.