

## WASHINGTON EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Every time I attend to the disagreeable duty of sitting a whole afternoon in the gallery of the house I feel just vindictive enough toward the Democratic and Republican voters of Kansas to wish that they were obliged to come in a body and stay through one entire session (and the long one at that) and see for themselves just what sort of ninnes they have been to keep a set of men in congress for the sole purpose of perpetuating two old party organizations and granting special privileges to favored individuals and powerful corporations.

I came away from the house yesterday fairly blue, with tobacco smoke (members smoking right on the floor of the house) and discouragement, to think that it is out of my power to charter a few special trains and bring the loyal Democrats and Republicans here that they may hear with their own ears and smell with their own noses the corruption and the foulness of national legislation.

For a long time it did seem as if there was about to be one piece of legislation not specially for the benefit of any clique or corporation. For a long time many of us studied the Paddock pure food bill wondering how it came that a measure seemingly meritorious could emanate from such a source. It was impossible to find the catch until now that the bill, which has been pushed before every body of farmers and laborers in the country at much cost of time and money, is nearing the time when it may become a law. At last the colored person in the elevation of wood has protruded his head in the shape of an amendment which explains its entire purpose. It is proposed to add to the department of agriculture a new bureau of food inspectors, consisting of chemists, clerks and laborers, whose duty it shall be to analyze and certify to the exact character of every article of food and every drug in the market. It hath not yet entered into the heart of an unsuspecting people to consider what an army of government employes this new bureau would necessitate, all of whom would be appointed under our present vicious system of patronage and thus give more of the power of patronage to the disinterested (?) patriots whose concern is so great lest the dear people have pure food, that they have no interest in trying to correct conditions under which thousands of men are unable to get food of any sort, pure or impure.

A new census bureau is proposed that also will call for many appointments and much patronage. A thousand dollars has just been appropriated to be expended in "investigation" to determine whether or not we ought to have this census bureau.

The house committee on mines and mining is favorable to a bureau of mines and mining, with of course, a brand new secretary and increased clerical force. Oh, there's nothing "paternal" about all this performance. The "paternalism" all comes in when the people propose to own and operate their own highways. See?

Yesterday, the discussion in the house was on the appropriation for new battle ships. The Democrats don't want to appropriate for more than one ship now. Why? Because there's a presidential campaign coming and this Democratic congress must make a better record for economy than the wicked congress which preceded it. After awhile, i. e., when the campaign is safely tided over once more, why then the Democrats are willing to give us a little more navy. The Republicans who talked in favor of three battle ships want the appropriations made right now, quick. Why? Because

there's a presidential campaign coming and they want this congress to use up just as much of the people's money as they did when they had a chance. Oh, it makes one glow with patriotic pride to sit in the house and hear congressmen openly charge each other with being actuated by just such motives. Please, good Kansas Democrats and Republicans, come to congress and listen, so that you can glow also.

ANNIE L. DIGGS.

## THE CAMPAIGN IN GEORGIA.

To the Editor of THE ADVOCATE.

I have been reading your paper for some time and I want to assure you that I appreciate very highly the firm and manly stand you have taken in behalf of the people in their efforts to bring about the reform so sorely needed and so much desired by the laboring and tax ridden masses of this country. Down here in Georgia the people are in line and the battle is being opened quite furiously. The Democrats, seeing that they were losing every day and their party going to pieces, sent for Livingston and Moses to come home from Washington and help save the Democratic party, and their first effort was to try to vanquish Col. C. C. Post, who is the leader of the People's party in Georgia. They assailed him with all manner of vituperation, trying to create prejudice against him so as to stop his influence. They also accused him of trying to break up the Democratic party in the interest of the Republican party. But such old slanders as that have been used too long here to be of any service now. The Democrats are feeling the force and power of Post's arguments and they scringe at every blow. They seem to think that to destroy Post would destroy the People's party and the Farmers' Alliance in Georgia at one and the same time. There was an appointment made for Post to speak at Carrolton on the 5th, and the Democrats telegraphed for Moses to come home from congress to meet him. Well, they met, and notwithstanding the Democrats had caused all their forces to come in on the cars from the little towns around and from Atlanta for the purpose of whooping up Moses and drowning out Post, yet Post scored a grand victory.

Then again, on the 13th, at Douglasville, the Democrats brought out their best forces for joint discussion among whom was Livingston, he too has been called from congress. When they met the committee men for the Democratic side would not agree to a fair division of time and when it was found that they could not be brought to that, the announcement was made that all the People's party speakers would go to the warehouse. Then with a yell the crowd started off singing as they went, "Good Bye, Old Party, Good Bye," taking off about 1,000 or 1,200, and leaving about 150 to listen to the old, old cry, "Don't leave the grand old Democratic party," and about one-third of those left were People's party men. Such is the true statement of the "grand Democratic victory" reported in the Atlanta Constitution and Journal.

J. W. H. RUSSELL.

Rett, Ga., April 26, 1892.

## THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND THE FARM LABORERS.

To the Editor of THE ADVOCATE.

In the daily Capital of April 15th, may be seen a terrific shower of words by one W. E. Kearns, of Topeka, who, as he infers, is a farm hand by profession. By thoroughly sifting his voluminous article we have managed to draw from it the following meaning: That the Farmers' Alliance is an enemy to the farm hand and is working and plotting against him; that the Alliance alone is what consti-

tutes the People's party, which is a surprising bit of news to us all, and last, but not least prominent, that the writer of the article wants a "plum" from the Republican party and will, no doubt, feel greatly flattered to have this party pat him on the back as they did all farmers who denounced the Alliance during the last campaign.

Let us ask, "Who are the farm hands of this country?" The majority of them are farmer's sons who were reared on the farm, who have left the old folks on the little, old homestead, either because the old farm was too small to longer furnish them steady and lucrative employment, or because they have become dissatisfied with the circumstances and opportunities of the parental roof and choose to seek their fortune by starting out for themselves "on their own hook," and who expect some day, by practicing economy, by trading and maneuvering, to become actual farmers and land owners. To-day a farm hand, to-morrow the proprietor of a farm and the overseer of farm hands; or to day he may be a farm hand and to-morrow the renter of a farm and an employer, or he may be both proprietor and farm hand at the same time. So we quickly see that it is almost impossible to discern where to draw the line between the actual farmer and the farm hand. Our sons are our neighbors' hired hands, our hired hands are our neighbors' sons. So closely are our interests related that it would not be wise for us to be at variance. In fact we cannot, and the fact that a large number, perhaps a majority of the farm hands are already members of the Farmers' Alliance, goes to prove this assertion.

However, if those who can classify themselves as strictly farm hands by profession, believe that their interests are distinct from the farmer proper, why not get themselves together and organize and make their demands as all other classes of labor have done?

The recognition which labor is now able to command from capital and legislation is entirely due to organized and united labor. Not only are most all classes of labor organized, but capital and all American industries. Then why should not the farmers form an alliance, and who will object to a union of farm hands?

In accusing the Farmers' Alliance of working to promote the interests of other laborers excluding farm hands, the Capital's correspondent says: "The Nebraska legislature enacted an eight hour law which applies to all excepting domestic servants and farm hands. Of course this measure was championed by the Alliance." The farmers endeavor to work for the interests of all other classes of labor because the average farmer is himself nothing more or less than a laborer, and he considers all other laborers his co-workers. Any farm hand who has been a farm hand long knows that the farmer cannot at all times regulate his work so as to have certain hours for beginning and quitting work. Perhaps he is interrupted in the morning by a shower, or perhaps in the evening there are indications of rain and a job must be finished, or it is Saturday evening and he has work which will not bear leaving until Monday.

Again, the work of the city laborer and shop girl is of altogether a different nature. It is generally the case that they are closely confined during the entire period of working hours, and their work is generally of a steady sameness, and grows very monotonous, while the farm hand enjoys the freedom of the out door air, and his work is of a great variety. The farm hand is also working under al-

together different conditions; he gets his board and lodging thrown in and does not have to live from hand to mouth as the city laborer. Again, in regard to a pay day of which he speaks, it does not always lay within the farmer's power to have the ready cash at the end of each week to pay off hands.

If the Capital's worthy correspondent will examine his article closely, he will probably discover that he gets slightly mixed, especially when he says: "But in reality no party ever came before the people with a platform and a declaration of principles so completely at variance with the real sentiments, thoughts and spirits which prompts action among the masses composing it, or with public promises of ultimate purpose so entirely unwarranted by the real aims, desires and hopes which bind the people to the party, as this same Alliance party." Mind you, he informs us that the People's party is a strictly Alliance party! Then he continues further on: "Their platforms fail to reflect the true nature of the party. They have been made with the view to catch the real reformer and deceive the unwary."

Now, does the gentleman mean to say that the platform is better than the party, or that the party is better than the platform? How is it that the platform is at "variance with the real sentiment of the thought and spirit which prompts action among the masses composing it," and at the same time is so good that it catches "real reformers?" If he means that the party is better than the platform and does not express their sentiments, then why will the party adopt and stand by such a platform?

In regard to the Alliance being the sole framers and indorsers of this inferior or superior (which?) platform, we ask Mr. K. If the Farmers' Alliance is the only industrial organization that adopted this platform? If this is all he knows of the real facts in the case, we would advise him to stop writing to advise others until he can read up a little, and we take this opportunity of informing him that this platform was adopted by leading representatives of every prominent labor organization in America which constituted the great St. Louis convention.

In regard to the land aristocracy of which he speaks, we only need to refer him to this platform and many of the declarations of the Alliance to inform him what their standing is on this subject.

Returning to the farm hand once more, we will say to the correspondent that the farm hand cannot expect his just dues so long as those upon whom he is dependent do not receive the same. But if our correspondent is a broad gauged, deep thinking man, he should by this time be ready to see that of all of the many evil evils which are hampering the social and commercial interests of Americans, the one that is the most disastrous is the scarcity of a sufficient amount of the medium of exchange to carry on the business of the country. Give us more of the poor man's money. We must have money.

J. R. MCKEEVER.

Topeka, Kan., April 18, 1892.

## Third Annual Rally.

The Washington County Alliance will hold its third annual picnic and rally at Washington, Kan., August 4th and 5th, 1892. It is expected that Ignatius Donnelly, Davis, of Texas, Mrs. Emery, and other national orators will be present, besides the best talent in Kansas. Would like to correspond with other sections of Kansas expecting to hold meeting about that time.

G. E. HATHWAY.

Washington, Kan.