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VIRGINIA STATE ALLIANCE

Its Officers and Their Post-Offices

President—Mann Page, Brandon.
 Vice President—J. Brad, Beverley, The Plains.
 Secretary—J. J. Silvey, Amissville.
 Treasurer—G. T. Barbee, Bridgewater.
 Lecturer—Robert Snavely, Wytheville.
 Assistant Lecturer—J. R. Garland.
 Chaplain—Rev. Aldridge Grimsley.
 Doorkeeper—B. Frank Beaman, Kimball.
 Assistant Doorkeeper—T. T. Goldsmith.
 Sergeant-at-Arms—Wilton Pence, Forestville.
 Executive Committee—Chairman, Geo. Chrisman; Chrisman; J. M. Ruffin, Old Church; J. H. C. Beverly, Loretto; H. M. Magruder, Charlotteville; W. J. Compton, Ceres.
 Will meet in Richmond third Tuesday in August, 1891.

COUNTY ALLIANCE DIRECTORY.

1. Rockingham, C. R. Harman, Mt. Clinton.
2. Page, Wm. Rosser, Luray.
3. Rappahannock, T. R. Kemper, Amissville.
4. Wythe, S. D. Steffey, Rural Retreat.
5. Halifax, J. D. Hankins, Basses.
6. Princess Anne, W. L. Whitehurst, C. H.
7. Nansemond, W. A. King, Suffolk.
8. Southampton, Robert M. Edwards, Bower's Mecklenburg, T. V. Allen, Skipwith.
9. Pittsylvania, P. C. Keecey, Keching.
10. Norfolk, L. M. West, Cornland.
11. Brunswick, J. A. Browder, Smoky Ordinary.
12. Isle of Wight, J. A. Johnson, Windsor.
13. Sussex, G. W. Jackson, Yale.
14. Surry, R. T. Marable, C. H.
15. Shenandoah, J. W. Hallen, Lautz Mill.
16. Frederick, Samuel Baker, Opequon.
17. Smyth, A. D. Freeman, Rural Retreat.
18. Prince George, C. H. Marks, Garyville.
19. Dinwiddie, J. C. Smith, 26 Pine street, Petersburgh.
20. Charlotte, W. S. Morton, Hillsdale.
21. Rockbridge, M. Lindsay, Engleman.
22. Montgomery, W. S. Smith, Riner.
23. Bland, R. C. Copass, Ceres.
24. Washington, W. W. Rickets, Abingdon.
25. Chesterfield, M. A. Cogbill, C. H.
26. Hanover, Rev. S. S. Hebron, Old Church.
27. Culpeper, S. W. Thompson, C. H.
28. Powhatan, I. S. Winfree, Sublett.
29. Fauquier, W. W. Teats, Bealton.
30. Appomattox, T. J. Spratt, Spanish Oaks.
31. Albemarle, H. M. Magruder, Eastham.
32. Elizabeth City, R. H. Watson, Hampton.
33. Amherst, C. J. Campbell, Amherst.
34. Tazewell, D. A. Daugherty, Shawver's Mill.
35. Greenbrier, J. H. Cat, Emporia.
36. Loudon, N. T. Brown, Lincoln.
37. Louisa, H. J. Harris, Apple Grove.
38. Henry, W. J. Wells, Preston.
39. Henrico, C. W. Chidley, Solomon's.
40. Nelson, R. H. Randolph, Colleen.
41. Goochland, C. H. Powell, C. H.
42. New Kent, J. N. Harris, C. H.
43. Prince William, Wm. M. Wheeler, Wellington.
44. Caroline, J. J. Williams, Milford.
45. Prince Edward, J. J. Adams, Farmville.
46. Amelia, George K. Taylor, C. H.
47. Fluvanna, C. S. Thomas, Columbine.
48. Campbell, R. E. Reid, Rustburg.
49. Lunenburg, T. C. Matthews, Lochlevin.
50. Orange, R. O. Halsey, Unionville.
51. King and Queen, L. R. Bagby, Stephensville.
52. Essex, B. B. Brockenborough, Tappahau-
53. Nottoway, Geo. Dunn, C. H.
54. Buckingham, W. W. Haskins, C. H.
55. Augusta, J. H. Connell, Staunton.
56. York, W. H. Evans, Messick.
57. Greene, W. N. Parrott, McMullin's.
58. Grayson, R. J. Cumming, Stevens Creek.
59. Pulaski, J. B. Buckingham, Snowville.
60. Bedford, Stephen Allen, Oiney, Coleman's Falls.
61. Franklin, George C. Gravely, Snow Creek.
62. Madison, T. L. Carpenter, Haywood.
63. Clarke, M. L. P. Reed, Boyce.
64. Charles City, S. D. Mullord, Wilcox's Wharf.
65. James City, F. W. Hammond, Toano.
66. Craig, J. W. Caldwell, Newcastle.
67. Floyd, I. J. Vest, Terry's Fork.
68. Giles, M. F. Farier, Newport.
69. Stafford, C. A. Bryan, Courthouse.
70. Spotsylvania, J. H. Biscoe, Granite Spring.
71. King George, Dr. J. Sydnor Massey, C. H.
72. Scott, W. L. Hiltons, Hiltons.
73. Accomack, B. F. Gunter, Jr., C. H.
74. Northampton, W. B. Wilson, Bay View.
75. Wlse, G. W. Bond, Guest's Station.
76. Westmoreland, W. C. Marmaduke, Mont-
77. Russell, L. M. Bays, Elk Garden.
78. Botetourt, J. H. Rocaburn, Fincastle.

OFFICIAL.

NOTICE TO SECRETARIES.

Always give the name and number of your ally, your post-office, and your county when writing to the President, Secretary, Business Agent or chairman of executive committee. It will save time and trouble in looking up your name.

We are now prepared to furnish rituals at 50 cents per dozen; the revised constitution at 50 cents per dozen; sub constitutions in sheet form at \$1.50 per hundred; trade cards at 50 cents per hundred. All orders will be promptly filled if the money accompanies the order. You can remit either by postoffice money order, postal note, registered letter, or bank draft. Money sent any other way is at your risk. We don't want any more stamps.

J. J. SILVEY,
State Secretary.

NOTICE TO ORGANIZERS.

Organizers working in counties where County Alliances have been organized will please report to the County Alliances all they organize, with the postoffice address of the secretaries. All reports must be mailed to this office within three days after organization has been perfected. After having received a commission, if you find that it will be impossible to work the territory assigned you, you will please return your commission to me.

J. J. SILVEY,
State Secretary.

NOTICE.

County Secretaries should send a duplicate of their reports to Geo. Chrisman, Chairman of the State Executive Committee, Chrisman, Rockingham County. Secretaries of sub-Alliances must notify me promptly of all rejections, expulsions and deaths; also whenever change is made in the office of Secretary. We are constantly sending out important matter to the Alliance, and it is very necessary that we communicate directly with the Secretaries.

J. J. SILVEY,
State Secretary.

NOTICE TO ORGANIZERS.

I am requested by Major Mann Page, President State Alliance, to notify all organizers who held a commission under Col. Barbee, to apply to me and have their commission renewed, if they wish to continue in the work of organizing. I will not recognize any reports from Organizers after their commissions have expired. County Secretaries will please give me at once the name and postoffice of their Lecturer so that I may send him a commission as Organizer for the county.

J. J. SILVEY,
Secretary Va. State Alliance.

81. Alleghany, W. H. Cather, Covington.
82. Dickenson, D. B. R. Sutherland, Stratten.
83. Warren, N. S. Waller, Front Royal.
84. Gloucester, M. C. Richardson, Hay's Store.
85. Warwick, W. Y. Jones, Warwick C. H.
86. Highland, W. H. Matheny, Monterey.
87. Bath, T. S. McClintic, Shanklin.

COUNTY BUSINESS AGENTS' DIRECTORY.

88. Albemarle, W. Gordon Merrick, Glendower.
89. Amherst, G. B. Higgins, Sandies.
90. Appomattox, Homer C. Babcock, Mineral.
91. Bland, Elias Repass, Ceres.
92. Brunswick, J. R. Mason, Jr., Valentines.
93. Charlotte, James D. Sheppard, Smithville.
94. Chesterfield, Thomas Davis, Robins.
95. Campbell, C. C. Goggins, Leesville.
96. Culpeper, C. T. Fowler, Brandy Station.
97. Dinwiddie, J. N. Beck, Sutherland's.
98. Fauquier, J. S. Mason, Marshall.
99. Frederick, J. I. Larrick, Middletown.
100. Floyd, P. Shelton, Basham's.
101. Greenville, John H. Cafo, Emporia.
102. Grayson, James P. Carico, Stephens Creek.
103. Hanover, J. M. Ruffin, Old Church.
104. Isle of Wight, John F. Ramsey, McClellan.
105. King and Queen, W. H. Walker, Walkerton.
106. Lunenburg, T. Y. Allen, Skipwith.
107. Montgomery, J. W. Rumburg, Big Tuanel.
108. Madison, James W. Banks, Woltown.
109. Nansemond, Bruce Smith, Somerton.
110. Norfolk, W. A. West, Cornland.
111. Page, C. W. Broyles, Luray.
112. Pittsylvania, J. T. McLain, Statesville.
113. Prince George, G. W. Williams, Newville.
114. Prince Anne, John L. Babcock, Norfolk.
115. Rappahannock, W. G. Rudasill, Woodville.
116. Rockbridge, E. L. Kirkpatrick, Alone.
117. Rockingham, Maj. Geo. Chrisman, Chrisman.
118. Shenandoah, J. W. Hollard, Lantz Mills.
119. Smyth, C. T. Snavely, Marion.
120. Southampton, J. J. Thrasher, Sebrell's.
121. Surry, J. L. Hargrave, Surry C. H.
122. Sussex, John D. Owen, Wakefield.
123. Warwick, Geo. H. Sykes, Warwick C. H.
124. Washington, W. J. Kendrick, Moab.
125. Wythe, Wm. M. Coley, Rural Retreat.
126. York, J. J. Nottingham, Grafton.

J. J. SILVEY,
Secretary Va. State Alliance.

NOTICE.

Resolved, "That the County Alliances be called upon to pay five cents additional per capita out of the County Alliance treasury to defray the expenses of the National Alliance; and that the additional tax be engraven in the State constitution; and that when there is no County Alliance the five cents be paid by the State Secretary out of the money remitted to him by the Subordinate Alliances." The attention of the County Secretaries is called to the above resolution which was adopted at the last annual meeting of the State Alliance. So each County Secretary is expected to remit to me, with his next quarterly report, ten cents dues for each male member reported to him in good standing; five cents of which goes to the National Alliance.

J. J. SILVEY,
Secretary Va. State Alliance.

We will ask the brethren to be patient with us for a reply to their letters. We have not yet finished answering the bulk of letters that accumulated while we were in attendance at the State meeting. The proceeding and constitution will soon be placed into the hands of the printer, and just so soon as they reach this office, we will mail a copy of each to each Secretary and delegate. We have sent an order to THE ECONOMIST Publishing Company for 5,000 copies of the new rituals, and will mail four copies to each suband County Alliance immediately on receipt of same. Delegates should not fail to exemplify the secret words to their county President, Secretary, and Lecturer, as given them at Lynchburg, so that all irregularities may be corrected and the work made uniform throughout the State.

J. J. SILVEY,
Secretary Va. State Alliance.

SEALS.

The State Secretary has made arrangements to supply the Alliances with seals delivered free for \$2. All orders should be sent to J. J. Silvey, Amisville, Va.

STATE LECTURER Robert Snavely writes: "I am pleased to inform you that THE ECONOMIST holds a high position in the estimation of many Virginians who are not members of our Order, while among Alliance men it stands paramount. My recent journey to Eastern Virginia was most delightful. I was greeted by audiences numbering from 1,000 to 3,000 people, who gave me the kindest attention. God bless the big hearted of Old Virginia."

THE Coldwater (Mich.) Sun says:

From every source of information within our reach we gather that the general result of the work of the Farmers Alliance for the year has been satisfactory. The State Alliance meetings are nearly all adjourned, and encouraging reports come from all over the field. The people have never been so awakened on the subject of reform as now, and they are taking hold of the matter regardless of old party ties.

FORT SCOTT (Kan.) Industrial Union tells what is exactly true:

The best writers on political economy and finance of the world agree that the productive capacity of the earth will not pay over 3½ per cent on capital, or to make it more plain, the average annual increase of the wealth of the world is not over 3½ per cent. The average rate of interest in the United States for the last thirty years has been more than three times that amount, which explains the cause for the mortgage on the farms and homes of the people. Take the power away from Skylock to rob the people through usury by placing the money control absolutely in the hands of the people, the Government, and place upon it the same regulations as that of postage stamps, then the people will commence paying off their mortgages and beautifying their homes.

J. J. SILVEY,
State Secretary.

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J. J. SILVEY,
Secretary Va. State Alliance.

SUPPLEMENTAL PAGES

The Cotton Bagging Convention.

The convention of the National Alliance which was called by President L. L. Polk, met at Atlanta, Ga., March 19, at the Alliance exchange. President Polk called the meeting to order, and without delay the delegates commenced their labors. Several matters of great importance were discussed. It was, however, decided to appoint a press committee, who should give out only such information as was considered proper. The convention held three sessions during the day, only adjourning long enough to take their meals. It was nearly eleven o'clock at night when they concluded business for the day.

Whereas, at New Orleans, in September, 1889, a conference was had between prominent representatives of the cotton growers of the South, and members of the cotton exchanges in the United States, an agreement was entered into which was to take effect on the first day of October thereafter, fixing the tare on cotton covered bales at sixteen pounds, and on jute covered bales at twenty-four pounds, which was satisfactory to all. Delegates should not fail to exemplify the secret words to their county President, Secretary, and Lecturer, as given them at Lynchburg, so that all irregularities may be corrected and the work made uniform throughout the State.

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J. J. SILVEY,
Secretary Va. State Alliance.

of one class of producers and only benefit a monopoly that by no means manufactures a pure article of hog's lard, and members of Congress are hereby most respectfully and earnestly requested to oppose the passage of said measure.

It was also resolved that the above resolution pertaining to national legislation on the compound lard bill shall be printed in THE NATIONAL ECONOMIST, and be placed on the desk of each Senator and Representative.

Resolved, That the State presidents of each Alliance or Union be requested to assist in every possible way J. F. Tillman, the national crop statistician, in securing accurate crop reports.

Resolved, That our president, L. L. Polk, be instructed to assure the brethren in the cotton States that the outlook for the manufacture and supply of cotton bagging is much better than for the past year, and will probably be equal to the demand.

The above resolutions were unanimously adopted.

BRADSTREET says: "For the purposes of the new railway tariffs Hungary has been divided into fourteen zones, by which the fares are regulated, the effect of which has been a great reduction in the amount paid for traveling and a consequent increase of traffic, which up to the present has yielded a considerably enhanced total revenue, in the net, as well as the gross, the larger amount of work having been conducted without any material addition to the cost. The London Railway Times adds: 'The effect of the change has been to reduce most of the fares by from 20 to 50 per cent, and in some cases by as much as 75 per cent. The zone system came in operation on August 1 last, and a month had scarcely elapsed before it became apparent that a decided step in the right direction had been taken. In that period the volume of passenger traffic increased by nearly 100 per cent, but as the comparison which showed that result was with the previous month, some allowance had to be made for the fact that August was the height of the traveling season, and that there was consequently a great deal of pleasure traffic from other countries flowing over the Hungarian lines. Still, if we carry the comparison back to the corresponding month of the previous year, when similar influences were at work, we find that the number of passengers increased nearly threefold, while from August to December, inclusive, more passengers were carried than in the whole of the year 1888 or in 1887. The returns for 1887 were 5,538,000 passengers, for 1888 5,381,000, and for 1889 9,079,000, of which total 5,548,000 were carried between August and December, and this in face of the fact that a bad harvest and the prevalence of epidemics had combined to restrict the growth. Notwithstanding the enormous reduction in fares, the receipts for 1889 exceeded those for the previous twelve months by 904,200 florins. From the results thus far accomplished M. Gabriel Baross, the minister of communications, to whom the credit of the movement has to be given, believes that he is justified in estimating his receipts for 1890 at 2,000,000 florins higher than those of 1888; and, as to the question of extra expense,

Unconstitutional Franchises.

Railroads; "but the law has permitted these undertakings to be conducted with so much concealment, misrepresentation and actual fraud, etc."—H. C.

"The franchise of an elevated street railway is as great a travesty on honesty as the sale of a Caucasian girl in the seraglio is on morality."

"The whole railroad system is a stupendous fraud, known as a legal franchise."—J. S.

For a general answer to your letter we submit the following:

Burk said: "When bad men combine, the good must associate, else they fall one by one an unpitied sacrifice in a contemptible struggle."

"They had strength enough to oblige him (King John) to a solemn promise of restoring those libertes and franchises which they (the people) had always claimed."

Let this remark be noted: If associate resistance to increasing franchises is not soon begun we too will fall one by one till all is lost. The very germ of liberty is being given away in franchises to individuals and corporations.

Of definitions. Franchise—"A right reserved to the people by the Constitution."

Franchise inheres to the people. It is a part of sovereignty which is in the people, to be exercised by all the people. To bestow franchises upon individuals or companies of individuals is to establish a tyranny over the people. Rights reserved to the people cannot be granted as franchises. To do it is to subvert free institutions. A franchise comes from the government, and a government granting them becomes the tyrant of its own people and the destroyer of liberty. These rights originally in the people, the people reserve to themselves, by the Constitution. And for the government, under the Constitution, to clothe individuals and companies of individuals with these elements of sovereignty, is to trample its own Constitution down and become a despot.

"In England, franchises are very numerous; they are said to be royal prerogatives in the hands of a subject."—Bouvier.

Franchise—"In law, a species of incorporeal hereditament, synonymous with liberty; which is defined."

"A royal privilege subsisting in the hand of an individual."—Brand.

Here is the nest in which this serpent was hatched. The king grants royal privileges to a subject, gives one a franchise, "liberty to one to destroy the liberty of another."—Coke.

This so-called Government of freemen grants to companies of individuals franchises; grants the reserved rights of all the people to a class of the people. The thing granted is as sacred to the people as liberty, is synonymous with it. This thing, a franchise, is bartered by law to corporations, combines, and trusts, a violation of the Constitution and in opposition to justice. We have heard much of the "king's prerogative," a thing as monstrous as can be conceived of, and has been used to dishonor God and curse humanity as no other of the vile appendages of royalty. This devil-fish, this "royal prerogative," has been appropriated by this Government, and is given out to its favorites as brazenly as "lecherous kings" endowed their "creatures" or bribed their courtesans. Read this, ye so-called freemen, "but willing serfs."

Franchise—"A royal privilege, or branch of the king's prerogative, subsisting in the hand of a subject."—Webster.

That means the king has granted to some favorites the sovereign right to rob you of your prosperity, your liberty, your life, and if you resist, then punish you. This so-called republic is doing the same thing in granting franchises. Applied to us it reads:

Franchise—"A special privilege, a branch of the government prerogative, subsisting in the hand of a corporation, combine, trust." To call a government the "home of the free," that grants franchises of rights to individuals and companies of individuals, is a burlesque on language, a libel on honesty. Every government on earth that has in the past, or is doing it now, is a satire on liberty, a death warrant to hope.

Webster says: "Franchise," properly, "liberty, freedom."

That makes franchise a reserved right of the people, never to be bartered away. Liberty and freedom are birthrights; nothing can ever be allowed by a government to trench upon them. From this definition is drawn the conclusion: "Hence, a particular privilege." "The right to establish a bank is a franchise." "Exceptions from duties and burdens to which others are subject." *Somni esti alla.*

To grant to any man a privilege, a franchise, that is inherent in all, and allow him to enjoy it, is to enslave those outside of the franchise. To exempt by franchise any man from a duty, or burden incumbent on all, is to lay on those outside the franchise more than they can bear. Both these acts are tyrannous, whether done by royal prerogative or government prerogative. Governments thus acting become self-destroying. All past governments have perished at this ford of death. All modern governments are nearing the same ford. It was in view of this very fact, running through the annals of the past, that Jefferson said: "Equal and exact justice to all men with special privileges to none." To lay unequal burdens is injustice. To grant special privileges is tyranny. Every government that attempts it will find at last written—"Weighed and found wanting."

One word spans the arch of the past, as applied to nations.—Ichabod.

To illustrate: The oceans are the highways, franchises of the nations. The lakes and rivers of a nation are highways, franchises of the people. This franchise, "reserved right," is in the people, and the government is estopped from farming it out to any class of people. The use of the waters of these highways must be equally free to all. And no class, by franchise, can be allowed to impair their usefulness at all. Therefore, to grant the privilege, the franchise, of a railroad company to run alongside of the waters, is to practice a tyranny in the interest of the few to the detriment of the many. This special legislation in behalf of a class, endangers the liberties of the masses. A public highway can not, of right, be a personal franchise. A government that authorizes them, by law, becomes an oppressor—forfeits its right to live.

The one who has sovereign privileges is superior to the one who has not. Hence, to grant any of the reserved rights of all the people, to be exercised by any one or any company of the people, less than all—is to enact unright into law, which is a violation of justice and contrary to God's commands. A railroad,

a telegraph, a telephone, or through the whole family of corporations, combines, trusts are all franchises. All belong to the "reserved rights" of the people, and the government farming them out, "is allowing the use of a sovereign function by an individual which is an act of subversion."—Concludendi.

If civilization is to continue, the whole family of privileges—franchises, the use of sovereign functions by a chartered few, will have to give place to the broader view of humanity. Man is a sovereign, hence, all sovereign functions must be exercised by the Government, his agent, in his interest and at cost of maintenance. This will solve the problem of the age. It will cut the gordian knot—the combines—which are a satire on honesty, a libel on justice. This entos of iniquity—a combine—has its eye on the centralization of air, light, water and land into one solid trust, and make the earth like it was at the beginning, formless and void—death's engedi. Let the spirit once more brood over the mass and remove this blight, and by the mandate of law, the consent of the governed, say: "All gifts of the Creator to man, air, light, water and land shall, be so used as to increase happiness, strengthen liberty and unify the race." This is God's franchise, man's reserved rights, the world's hope.

J. HARPER.
818 N. Gilbert St., Danville, Ill.

As Stated in South Carolina.

The World, Charleston, S. C., prints the following letter from J. Wm. Stokes.

In your reply to "Alliance's" article on the sub-treasury plan of furnishing a currency, as set forth in Senator Vance's bill, you effect the familiar military maneuver of turning my flank, and so force me to shift front to ground of your choosing. As already stated, this agricultural warehouse or sub-treasury plan is a present pressing issue, and deserves calm consideration on merit alone. If it meet the present exigencies, is constitutional, and violates no well grounded principle of enlightened political economy, it devolves upon those who oppose it to show reason why it should not prevail. The fact that I do not accentuate your shibboleth of State rights like you do, will not be an adequate test. Whether I belong to Ephraim or Gilead in this case is utterly irrelevant. The issue is not between these two. This agricultural warehouse bill is really a bill to provide money for the people of the United States; and the provision of money is one of the powers specifically and exclusively delegated to the general government by the States. It is equally difficult to discover the pertinency of the World's centralization idea—which is, in fact, but a restatement of its States rights proposition, and entirely outside the purview of this question. The true test of the matter lies in the application of well-established principles of political economy. I will endeavor to make this application so compactly as to bring it within the limits of even a newspaper article. Money is of two kinds—real, such as gold and silver coin, and bills of credit, such as national bank notes. Real money has an intrinsic value; the value of paper money (bills of credit) is purely extrinsic—in this country it depends for its value upon faith in the value of that which the paper represents. Both kinds have just two functions:

1. As a universal standard of value, like a yard-stick or bushel measure.

2. As a medium of exchange of values, like a wheelbarrow, a wagon, a train of cars. This comprises the whole matter of money.

We are concerned, however, only with paper money, to which class the proposed currency belongs. It is universally conceded by political economists that a safe paper money must represent some real value, or be secured by some other bill of credit of unquestioned acceptability. In recognition of this the Government provides national bank notes secured by its own bonds, and treasury certificates secured by gold and silver coin actually deposited in the treasury. And this is essentially what the Vance bill proposes—to issue a paper currency based on the non-perishable agricultural products of the country as collateral—said products to be deposited in sub-treasury warehouses, just as the gold and silver dollars are deposited in the vaults of the treasury as security for the gold and silver certificates; or as United States bonds are deposited with the national treasurer as security for national bank notes. Can anything be simpler or conform more perfectly to the conditions of a safe currency?

The value of national bank notes rests, in the last analysis, upon my and your faith in the Government bonds which secure them. The value of gold and silver certificates depends ultimately upon our faith in the statement that the treasury has deposited gold and silver dollars corresponding to each certificate; and so, having faith in the statement of the proposed sub-treasurer or the warehouse certificate that \$10 worth of cotton or grain has been deposited with the Government, such certificates would have all the qualities of a safe paper currency, and would perform both functions of legitimate money equally as well as national bank notes or any other now current. Indeed, they would perform the second functions of money, as a medium of exchange, more perfectly than any other, for the reason that the volume of the currency would run pari passu with the commodities to be exchanged by it. An extraordinary volume of products to be exchanged demands an extraordinary transportation arrangement. The volume of this currency, its carrying capacity, will be exactly equal at all times to the products to be exchanged; no more, no less. But it may be pertinently asked, why disturb the present status?

There are many reasons why, but if there were none other, this is sufficient, that at the present rapid rate of retirement of United States bonds, national banks must either suspend or there must be additional legislation for their benefit. Senator Farwell's bill, proposing to make approved city bonds acceptable collateral for national bank notes, looks in that direction, but it is obnoxious to the same objection as the present arrangement; it is too expensive to the people. If Charleston's credit is good enough to serve as collateral for the banks to get money at 1 per cent; it should by every token be good enough for Charleston herself to get the money at the same rate without the intervention of the banks.

Senator Stanford's proposition to issue money on approved real estate mortgages recognizes the desperate straits of the people for money to effect their legitimate exchanges.

The sub-treasury or warehouse plan, involving the same principles as the existing plan, is better than all these, because it not only provides abundant se-

surity, notes being issued for only 80 per cent of value, whereas national bank notes are issued at 90 per cent, it provides a flexible volume of currency, swelling to meet the needs of exchange of products, and shrinking naturally when these exchanges have been effected. It is in fact the only perfect currency yet proposed, in view of the two functions of money already set forth. It provides for increasing the yard-sticks and bushel measures (dollars) when a heavy crop or volume of products is to be measured; for multiplying wagons, and engines, and cars (dollars) when unusual amounts of values are to be transferred in the exchanges of business.

The sub-treasury plan is superior to all others in another respect. It removes the currency out of the control of a few corporations and distributes it directly among the people, the producers. It deprives those corporations of the power to manipulate the money of the country for speculative purposes. Besides, and above all this, it gives the producers the advantage of 1 per cent rate of interest per annum—a privilege heretofore reserved specially and exclusively for national banks. To summarize this, the currency proposed by this bill fulfills all the conditions of a safe currency, viewed from the standpoint of political economy; it is constitutional, being strictly within the scope of powers granted to the general Government; while answering every purpose of money, it deprives the few of the power to manipulate the volume of money for the purpose of artificially depressing or enhancing values.

Limited Opportunities, or Abundant Facilities?
BY MERLINDA SISINS.

In the early settlement of this country people had few conveniences, as compared with the present time, and yet their situation in life was far more happy and prosperous. Then the forest had to be cleared away before anything could be raised, in many sections the ground had to be cleared of stone; now the fields are cleared and ready for the plow. Then the roads, bridges, court-houses and other public works had to be built; now these are all furnished. Then they lived in the log cabin, with a straw covered shed for out buildings; now they have houses, barns and fences complete. Then they had to draw their grain two or three days' journey with ox teams to find a market; now they have a market in from one to three hours' drive. Then they plowed with wooden mould-board plows, dragged in the grain with a brush, cut it with a sickle, bound it by hand, threshed it with a flail and cleaned it by throwing it up against the wind; now they have the best improved riding plows, cultivators, and drills to put in the grain, the self-binder to harvest with, and improved steam threshers and fanning mills to prepare the grain for market. Then they mowed the grass with the scythe, raked it into winrows by hand, and pitched it with a fork; now they ride to mow and rake it, load it with self-loaders, and mow it away with the horse fork. Then they spun and wove the flax and wool, and cut and made all the cloths by hand for the family; now all this is done by the factory. Then the people were prosperous and happy without poor-houses or insane asylums, without drunkards, prostitutes, or crowded prisons, and without daily papers filled with accounts of burglary, arson, murder, sui-

cides, mortgage foreclosures and chancery sales. They had enough to eat, drink and wear, while the nightmare of debt and hunger that now hangs like a dark pall over this country was then unknown. You ask, why were they so prosperous and happy with such limited opportunities, and now such burdens of debt and want in the midst of improved facilities? Let us see. Then they were enjoying the blessings of a new and unpolluted government, one that stood upon the broad foundation of "equal rights, equal privileges, and equal burdens to all," and upon whose highest pinnacle was inscribed "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." But in later years those whom you have entrusted to make the laws and act as your guardians, have sold your birth-right to the scheming gold changers, land sharks, and transportation kings. The Congress of these United States has become a cesspool of cringing servitude to the wiles of the money power. They kneel and bow with uncovered heads, as the golden idol is borne through the passageways of the Capitol of a free (1) people by shylocks, kid-gloved conspirators. Under these and other influences, special franchises and exclusive privileges have been given to the money power, wherewith they could rob the industrial classes of the fruits of their labor, leaving them barely enough to keep soul and body together. You plod at the plow, at the bench and in the mine, while your children are crying for bread, and you can not tell where the trouble is. Here lies the evil that is sucking your life blood. Your Congressman goes to Congress a poor man on a salary of \$5,000 a year, and in a short time is a millionaire. John Brown garrisoned himself in an old building, and made a feeble attempt to free a few slaves. He was tried and hung for high treason by the old commonwealth that gave birth to Patrick Henry, Jefferson and Washington; but to-day shylock can stalk through the halls of Congress and influence the guardian of the sacred blood-bought rights of a free people to fasten the manacles of white slavery upon 20,000,000 freemen, and it is not called high treason. It is called business. Oh, God! how long will the patience and long suffering of a crushed people endure? Free-men, you have nine votes out of every ten; you can elect every law-maker in this nation from your own ranks. Will you do it before this land is baptised in the red hot blood of a vindictive people? May God help you.

THE Evangelist (New York) takes a sensible view of the situation:

All through the West and Northwest industrious and skillful cultivators of the soil complain that they are making nothing. The agricultural interest is depressed as it has not been in many years. No country can be called prosperous when its largest class of producers is becoming embarrassed. Local traders suffer with their customers, and in due course of time the dealers at central distributing points will feel the effect of the decline of local trade.

THE Pioneer Exponent (Comanche, Tex.) would be a good thing to try:

Government ownership of railroads, thus enabling one-third the present freight rates to prevail, and carrying passengers at a half cent per mile, should be the slogan of the reformer. Such a measure would enable people to travel for enlightenment, information and pleasure, and would go farther to break the bonds of prejudice than any other one thing possible to be done.

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIST.

WASHINGTON, D. C., MARCH 22, 1890.

THE FARMERS ALLIANCE.

WHAT IT IS—WHERE IT WAS STARTED—WHAT ITS OBJECTS ARE—BY WHAT METHODS IT OPERATES—WHAT IT HAS DONE—HOW A FARMERS ALLIANCE MAY BE ORGANIZED—AND OTHER INFORMATION CALCULATED TO INTEREST THOSE WHO SYMPATHISE WITH THE ORGANIZED FARMERS OF AMERICA.

The Farmers Alliance or Union is an organization of farmers, in which no person is admitted unless he (or she, for ladies are admitted to full membership) be over sixteen years of age, and be either a farmer, a farm laborer, a mechanic, a country doctor, country preacher, or a country school teacher, and believe in the existence of a supreme being who rules and governs the universe. These associations can not be organized in incorporated cities.

Persons engaged in any of the following occupations are excluded from membership: Merchants, bankers, brokers, commission merchants, cotton, grain or produce buyers, lawyers, city doctors, preachers and school teachers, land agents, book agents, peddlers, canvassers, livery stable keepers, and saw mill men, all dealers, speculators and gamblers, and any others whose greatest interests do not harmonize with farming. When a person is engaged in farming, and in addition thereto follows one of the above named occupations that are not admitted, the law is that he can not be admitted, but the association is allowed to make some exceptions to this rule, under conditions prescribed in the laws of the order.

ORIGIN.

The National Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union as a national organization dates from the first day of October, 1889, at which time it was formed by a proclamation of consolidation of two orders, one of which was the National Farmers Alliance and Co-operative Union of America, and the other was the National Agricultural Wheel. This consolidation had been provided for in December, 1888, by a joint meeting of the two national bodies, at which a national constitution had been agreed upon, and that same should be submitted to the orders in the various States for ratification, and when three-fourths of the State organizations should ratify, it was made the duty of the Presidents of the two organizations to issue proclamations dissolving the two old organizations as then existing, and consolidating them under the name of the Farmers and Laborers Union of America. All this was properly done, and the Farmers and Laborers Union held its first regular meeting in St. Louis, Mo., in December, 1889, and changed its name to the National Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union. The Farmers Alliance was first

started at probably the same time in two States, Texas and New York, about the year 1873, the Agricultural Wheel a few years later, and the Farmers Union in 1885. The Alliance started in New York spread westward as a non-secret organization, and took on a period of rapid growth and development about the year 1884 or 1885, which has resulted in a very strong organization north of the Ohio river and west of Pennsylvania. The Alliance started in Texas was chartered as a benevolent association by the State in 1880, and as a secret organization it took on its period of rapid growth and development about the year 1883. In 1887 it contained a membership in that State numbering over one hundred thousand, and united with the Farmers Union, at that time organized in Louisiana, ten thousand strong. These two organizations associated themselves together under the general laws of Congress regulating the incorporation of national trade unions, and secured an article of incorporation in the District of Columbia as a national trade union under the name of "The National Farmers Alliance and Co-operative Union," and this order, as above stated, completed its consolidation with the National Agricultural Wheel on the first day of October, 1889. The name of the national order is "The National Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union." The names of the State orders are not uniform; some are State Alliances, some State Unions or State Wheels, as they may choose, consequently the county or subordinate bodies may be either Alliances, Wheels, or Unions, or anything else they may choose, but all are conforming to the constitution of the national, and use its secret work and work under a charter from it. It will be seen from the above that the system of government patterns closely after that of the United States, and is national, State, county and subordinate.

OBJECTS.

The prime object of this association is to better the condition of the farmers of America, mentally, morally and financially; to suppress personal, sectional and national prejudices, all unhealthful rivalry and selfish ambition; to return to the principles on which this Government was founded by adhering to the doctrine of equal rights and equal chances to all and special privileges to none; to educate and commingle with those of the same calling to the end that country life may become less lonely and more social; to assist the weak with the strength of the strong, thereby rendering the whole body more able to resist, and to bequeath to posterity conditions that will enable them as honest, intelligent, industrious producers to cope successfully with the exploiting class of middlemen.

METHODS.

The methods of this Association are of three kinds, social, business, and political. The social methods are such as may be secured by meeting together and becoming better acquainted with neighbors and a friendly exchange of ideas as to the practical detail of farm work. The business methods take a wide range and depend upon co-operation in county and State business efforts to secure the highest price for the produce raised for sale and the lowest price on the commodities that must be purchased. The political methods are strictly non-partisan, and must ever remain, so because every candidate, before taking the

pledge, is assured that it will in no way conflict with his political or religious views. All political parties are represented in its ranks and all are expected to work in their respective parties to secure a just recognition of the rights of the farmer. The motto of the order is—"In things essential unity, and in all things charity." All questions in political economy will be thoroughly discussed, and when the order can agree on a reform as necessary they will demand it of the Government and of every political party, and if the demand goes unheeded they will devise ways to enforce it. The most essential reforms must come from legislation, but that does not necessarily compel the responsibility of choosing candidates and filling the offices. Such a course may become necessary, but it will not be resorted to under any other circumstances.

IT HAS ACCOMPLISHED

much during its short existence, as the farmers in all the organized States will testify. Many of the States have their business effort organized as a State Alliance Exchange, with a strong capital stock paid in that enables them to purchase machinery and commodities at wholesale prices and assists them in the sale of their produce, and these efforts, besides the actual saving they are to those who trade with them, save the farmers millions of dollars every year by the effect they have in reducing the general profits of the merchant and middleman. The most marked results, however, that have attended this great movement are the result of the political education which has attended it. Scarcely a vestige of the old sectional prejudice of a few years ago is now visible within its ranks, and the membership have gone earnestly to work to solve the great questions of the day. The demagogue politician who now attempts to array sectional prejudice in order that he may keep farmers equally divided on important questions, in order that he and his partners may decide such questions to their own liking, will be met by a superior intelligence that will soon convince him that his occupation is gone. Evidences of the truth of this are everywhere apparent.

HOW TO ORGANIZE AN ASSOCIATION.

If a regular organizer can be secured, that is the best; but when one can not be secured, any number over five who are eligible to membership may assemble and proceed to organize themselves as follows: First, elect a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and a doorkeeper; second, each member pays the secretary fifty cents initiation fee; females pay no fees or dues; third, fix the time for regular meetings; and, fourth, pass a resolution instructing the secretary to apply to L. L. Polk, President of the National Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union, at 511 Ninth street N. W., Washington, D. C., for a dispensation to be recognized as a subordinate body until such time as he can send an organizer to confer the secret work and report you ready to be regularly chartered. There is no charter fee. The organizer's fee is \$6 for each subordinate body organized. The National Secretary, J. H. Turner, 511 Ninth street N. W., Washington, D. C., should be furnished a full report of your organization, including roll of members, with occupation and list of officers. He will issue you your charter, and for \$3 will send send you, postpaid, an outfit as follows:

One charter, 1 secretary's record book, 1 secretary's account book, 1 treasurer's account book, 1 form book, containing 320 blank forms (consisting of 60 applications for membership, 80 delegate's certificates, 100 secretary's receipts, 40 warrants on treasurer, 30 dimits, 10 withdrawal cards); 4 rituals, 25 subordinate constitutions, 6 national constitutions, with statutory laws; 1 working bulletin, 6 blank reports for the use of the executive committee, 1 sample page showing manner of keeping the minutes, 25 copies national financial platform.

THE SUB-TREASURY PLAN.

HON. FRANKLIN DYE,
Secretary of Agricultural Committee,

Trenton, N. J.

DEAR SIR: Herewith you will please find enclosed an argument in favor of the sub-treasury plan and a copy of the bill that has been introduced into House of Representatives and Congress of the United States, and I would respectfully ask that, if same meets your approval, you would convey to the Representatives from New Jersey such instructions as would secure their aid in passing the measure.

An approval or recommendation from your honorable committee to the legislature, with their approval, will have great weight.

Truly, OSWALD WILSON.

Agriculture is not a local enterprise, nor are the causes and effects brought to bear upon it, but national in its truest and broadest sense. Our nation derives its great wealth from mining and agriculture, and anything else that affects either adversely or favorably will affect our national prosperity. As the nation suffers, so each locality or State is in a greater or less degree affected. Under the laws of nature our country produces crops that are peculiar to each section. The South, cotton to clothe the world. The North and West are storehouses for our food supply. With a country so blessed, it would appear that we are prosperous as a nation, and while we have made gigantic strides, yet prosperity has not flowed to the wealth producers, but to only a favored few, and from the investigations you have instituted I am sure you will find that agriculture does not yield to its followers a fair remuneration for the skill and labor expended and capital employed in the production of food and clothing, and the same is true, not only in New Jersey, but in every State in the Union. The inquiry naturally arises, why? I am sure the farmers exercise as much skill and care in the preparation of the crops as are necessary, and it would be useless to expend time in telling farmers how to farm. The next is distribution, and we believe all our evils are attributable to this alone. The annual production of wealth from agriculture presents an amazing array of figures. The distribution of our wealth is the most stupendous problem of the present age. It overshadows all others, and is of such magnitude that no individual or locality can solve it, hence we appeal to our national Government. As I have indicated, the different sections of the United States produce crops that are peculiar to each particular section, and in order that each may be supplied with all the ele-

ments for the demands of society in the comfort and preservation of life, these different commodities must be exchanged. The farmer of Georgia must have the wheat, corn and bacon of the farmer in Minnesota in exchange for his cotton, and vice versa. It would not be wise or profitable for either to undertake to raise the crops of the other. This exchange or domestic importation creates a necessity for two branches of industry: Transportation, which embraces railroads, steamboats, and other methods, and mercantilism, which embraces cities, towns, merchants, bankers, and their adjuncts.

If this position is correct, and I believe it is, the policy of all should be to bring agriculture to the highest state of productiveness; but the reverse is too true, and what you have learned about the condition of the farmer in New Jersey will apply to the farmer in Texas, Georgia or Minnesota. They are all drifting into bankruptcy; their farms are under mortgage, and have depreciated in value to such an extent that relief must come, or the next century will see this glorious republic a moneyed monarchy, and landlordism and tenantry at will; where freemen now own their farms.

You will observe that railroads are an important element in the distribution of the products, and a factor in a greater or less degree in establishing values. They are necessary to the well being of society, and can exert a powerful influence in ameliorating the condition of agriculture. Before this is brought about, their policy must change; their earning capacity must not be regulated by speculation on Wall street, or controlled by men who can depreciate or increase the value of their capital stock at will, thereby affecting the rates which are based not on the actual cash value involved, but the fictitious values set by speculation. Under the present system of distribution the farmer is forced to put his crops on the market within a few weeks after harvesting, although a large per cent is not needed for consumption until many months afterwards. This puts a heavy traffic on the railroads for a short season, while at other periods they have but little, requiring extra service, both in the matter of rating stock and employees, which in the dull seasons lie idle, thereby adding an increased tax upon agriculture, which would not exist if there was a regular traffic distributed throughout the year. The most important factor in the distribution of wealth is "mercantilism."

This embraces all the agencies that come between producer and consumer that by manipulation control both the reward of labor and the finances of the nation.

Have they aided in the development of agriculture? It is true that they set a value upon our products, but is it a value in accordance with justice? Volumes could be written, but we will call your attention to only one or two articles.

The farmer in Florida produces Sea Island cotton at a cost of 25 cents per pound, under the present system, but is forced to take 20 cents. When the New Jersey farmer wishes to use this cotton in the form of thread he must pay \$1.80 per pound. Certainly it does not cost \$1.60 to transport the Sea Island cotton from the depot in Florida to the manufacturer, and from him to the New Jersey farmer. Again, the farmer in New Jersey raises wheat at a cost of \$1.00 per bushel, but sells for 75 cents; while

the farmer in Florida pays \$1.75 for that same wheat in manufactured flour. Is there not too much difference between these extremes?

In the northwest, the great grain fields, the difference is even more marked.

The farmer of the south produces the bulk of short staple cotton for the world, and receives 8 cents per pound, when it cost 12 under the present system for its production. But when bought back in calico for the wife, he pays from 24 to 36 cents per pound. Does it cost 16 to 24 cents to manufacture it?

What produces these conditions and forces the farmer to sell his wheat, corn, cotton at a loss, yet pay such an enormous increase for manufactured goods? The only answer is—our financial policy, which is controlled by speculators. No section in the world produces Sea Island cotton equal to Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. Free trade England says it is worth only 20 cents per pound, and protected America says thread is worth \$1.80 per pound.

The same in regard to our short staple, which is the longest item in commerce. We must sell our wheat in a free trade market and buy flour in a protected one, both controlled by speculators.

Money is an article of commerce only, and speculators to further their own ends have made an inflexible volume thereof. To move the great staple crops requires more money than at present in circulation, but mercantilism, disregarding the fable of the "golden eggs," have almost killed the goose in their greed. At the seasons of harvest money is scarce and dear, and the farmer, in order to realize upon his products, is forced to sell all, when only a part should be turned loose. Upon the other hand, when the farmers are consumers, money is cheap and commodities dear. Every one is more or less familiar with the sugar trust and speculation in coffee. Both flourish and prosper under our present financial system, and the only relief we can obtain is to have money as a circulating medium based upon wealth produced, which would give us a flexible volume.

The National Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union, at present the largest and strongest organization of agriculturists in the United States, has evolved the sub-treasury plan, which, briefly, is based upon the principle upon which national banks are operated; that is, the Government to build fire-proof warehouses in the different agricultural counties throughout the Union in which farm products may be stored, upon which full legal tender money is advanced to the amount of 80 per cent of their value. Upon this amount so advanced the Government receives interest at 1 per cent per annum. The remaining 20 per cent is represented by a certificate showing the date of storing, amount, estimated value, amount advanced, cost of service, storage, etc.

This would enable the farmers to establish prices instead of speculators. The manufacturer and consumer would then buy certificates as each needed the commodity. We would see no seasons of rush and dullness, but there would be a stability and equilibrium to commerce that could not fail to benefit every legitimate interest. There would not be the great disparaging differences between the raw and the manufactured article, nor the vast fluctuations in values of farm products at different seasons of the year, particularly after the farmer has been forced to sell, and it has passed into the hands of the specu-

lator. As the farmer buys about as much as he sells, of course the price he must pay for every commodity enters as an important item in the production of his raw material. If the farmer in New Jersey could get his cotton goods cheaper the cost of raising his wheat would decrease, and *vice versa* for the cotton farmer; and we believe this sub-treasury plan will lessen the cost of manufactured goods and increase the price of farm products.

The Conger Lard Bill.

BY ALEX. J. WEDDERBURN,

Chairman Legislative Committee Virginia State Grange.

Since some of our Alliance brothers seem inclined to oppose the Conger lard bill, doubtless from a mistaken idea as to the intent and action of the bill in question, I desire to say that the claim that this bill, when enacted into law, will affect the price of cotton seed one dime is fallacious, unless it be to increase the price by increasing the demand for the pure product, the vegetable oil. The figures of the Agricultural Department for 1882 (see Bulletin 13, part 4, page 112) show that the manufacturers of this product cleared some \$3,820,000. When compared with the figures given by Mr. Webster, of Armour & Co., we can calculate that the industry has increased about 25 per cent since then, but to be safe I will calculate the net profit for 1880 at only \$5,000,000. The output of lard compound as stated by the same authority is 320,000,000 pounds. These manipulators claim to use 20 per cent of cotton seed oil in their product, but suppose we give them the benefit of the doubt and say 25 per cent, and we find that that they use only 80,000,000 pounds (which, they also say, is about one-half of the entire product): this 80,000,000 under the Conger bill would be taxed 2 mills a pound, or \$160,000. Does any one suppose that a tax of \$160,000 will utterly ruin and destroy a business that pays an annual profit of \$5,000,000 on an investment of \$28,000,000? Do the men who set up this whine (*I won't say howl*) suppose the Southern farmers easily deceived, or do they presume to assert that these same Southern farmers are dishonest? If they assert it, I deny their charge, and can prove it by the petitions and resolutions of thousands and tens of thousands of honest and intelligent cotton seed raisers in all the Southern States. The National Grange has fully discussed this matter for three years, and at each session indorsed the Conger bill. Members of subordinate Alliances and Granges have also taken the same stand in defense of honesty and proper handling of these goods, and I will assert here that no one will do otherwise after investigation (of course, persons hearing only one side, that of the whiners, who are robbing them are excusable for joining Blanche, Tray, and the rest of the pack), for the following reasons:

1. The Southern farmers are the only farmers in this country who buy their food, and having to buy lard, want to get it pure.

2. If they desire to buy cotton seed oil (which, being a nutritious, healthful Southern product, they should buy), they do not care to buy it as lard, but as cotton seed oil.

3. To build up and develope the cotton seed oil industry, it becomes necessary to let it stand upon its merits, be sold as such and not have it depend upon

a lie for its disposal—for so long as it does, just so long will the price be kept down and the planter be robbed of his seed for the benefit of the Trust.

4. The men who control the cotton seed supply and manufacture the oil, and make, as has been shown, \$5,000,000 out of their industry a year, at the expense of the raiser of the seed, are the same or very closely allied with the Chicago gang who control the meat supply of country, who rob the western farmers of their herds and hogs as well as the southern farmers of their cotton seed. They seem determined to control the carbon supply of the human food products. A set of men who defy the lawmakers of our country and laugh at the committees of Congress and allow their lawyers to boldly proclaim that they will spend \$100,000 sooner than allow the Conger bill to pass, and who in a few years, have amassed hundreds of millions of dollars while depressing the price of the farmers' beef, hogs and cotton seed.

5. Since the advent of these philanthropists (?) the southern people have seen their local mills one after another disappear, and all who have investigated the methods of these modern Dick Turpins know they have crushed out competition, except that of their allies, and have put down the price of cotton seed to just about \$1.00 a ton more than the provident farmer can afford to give for it, to use as manure on his land, paying the producer (for whom he is so solicitous) hardly enough to induce him to sell it rather than do what should be done with it, namely, enrich the soil.

6. The whole business of selling under a false brand (as this was sold for years and defiantly proclaimed before Congress by these men) an article is a fraud that should be stopped. All agree to this, even the counterfeitors themselves, who now brand their mixture "Lard compound." If this is so, and all agree to it, the question is simply one of supervision, and as supervision costs something, who is the best able to pay this expense of \$160,000—the men who make \$5,000,000 a year or the people?—especially if the people are taxed besides. In other words, which is the best, that these millionaire monopolists pay 2 mills a pound on their compound, and properly designate it, so that the most uneducated person can tell what he is buying, or that the people should have to pay from 2 to 3 cents more per pound for the compound which is sold to them as pure, and which will continue to be sold as pure until there is government supervision and laws to prevent it?

These are facts easily substantiated. I have stated the case as fully as I can without further trespassing upon space so valuable as yours; but no question appeals more directly to the interests of the farmers of our country than the prevention of frauds in the food supply, and I trust your readers and the grand army of battling farmers in the Alliance will unite with the millions of people in this broad land who are demanding of Congress pure lard, pure food, pure drugs. The demand is one that appeals to the practical economist, the philanthropist, the scientist and Christian.

The Rural World (St. Louis, Mo.) says:

If the name good citizen always meant the same as good politician, how much better off the world would be; and if the two were reversed, and the good politician was equally good citizen, what a millennium would exist in the political world.

WASHINGTON, D. C., MARCH 29, 1890.

ACTUAL AND SPECIFIC VALUE.

Their Means of Determination, and the Impossibility of an Inflexible Standard.

By T. E. WILLSON.

Actual value, like actual heat, cannot be measured. There is not and cannot be a "standard of actual value" any more than there can be "standard of actual heat." The actual amount of either in a piece of hot iron cannot be measured. There is no practicable unit for either value or heat.

Some things contain in themselves more heat than others; some things have (or contain) in themselves more value than others. We speak of measuring the heat, can we not measure the value? We do measure one kind of heat, and we can measure the same kind of value, in the same way. But it is not actual heat that we measure, and it is not actual value we can measure. When any one understands clearly how heat is measured, he has solved the problem of measuring values.

We can not divide up the quantity of heat and say that an iron bar contains so many units. All we know is that it contains more or less heat than something else. Temperature is only the tension of heat; a pin's head may have the same as an 80-ton casting. We take an unknown (because unmeasurable) amount of heat contained in a known amount of water, and the unknown amount necessary to raise the temperature of one pound of the water one degree we call a caloric. When we say of a piece of hot iron or a furnace that it holds 421 calorics, we have not the faintest conception of the actual amount of heat contained in it, but we have an exact knowledge of the proportionate amount. It is as much as will raise one pound of water 421 degrees, or 421 pounds of water one degree. To call this caloric a "unit of heat" is to confuse thought and justify Elihu's rebuke to Job. It is not a unit of heat, only of proportion of heat, and the scientific student, to avoid this confusion, calls it a unit of specific heat, not of actual heat.

We do the same thing to get the specific weight of bodies. We have two kinds of weight—actual weight and specific weight (gravity). We can divide the attraction exerted by the earth into units, and a certain known quantity of attraction we call a pound. That amount of attraction is always required for one pound, and the piece of iron which holds it at the sea level does not hold it on the mountain top. The iron weights used in New York can not be used in Denver. They contain less attraction in one place than another, and when we take them to the farm of Antizana we must increase their number to have them

weigh a pound. The iron discs are not the weights, only receptacles for holding it.

But there is another kind of weight—specific weight—which is the relative amount of attraction held in certain bodies, bulk for bulk, and it is this in which science is most interested. If we could not divide the force called attraction into absolute units, called pounds, we would then be in the same condition with weight that we are now with heat and value. We would take then the unmeasurable amount of weight in a cubic inch of water and call it a unit of specific weight or libritas. A cubic inch of iron would then weigh 7 libritas, of gold, 19 libritas; a pint of iron would weigh 241 $\frac{1}{2}$ libritas; of gold, 663. The number of libritas would not indicate the actual, only the relative weight—the relation or percentage of weight in the metals compared with the weight of a similar bulk of water. We do this now. That is what is meant by "specific gravity"—the proportions, bulk for bulk, between water and all other things. When we compare bulk for bulk and say that iron has a specific gravity of 7.8, silver of 10.7, lead of 11.3, gold of 19.2, or iridium of 23.0, no one imagines this means actual weight. If we compare bulk for bulk and say that their specific heat is .13, .05, .03, .02, no one misunderstands this for actual heat. But when we compare bulk for bulk and say that their specific value is .02, 10.00, .01, 1.92.00 and 214.00, every one, almost without exception, misunderstands. He thinks actual value is meant, that we have used a unit of value, although he knows we have not used a unit of weight or a unit of heat, and did not mean actual weight or heat.

We take water as the standard of comparison for specific weight and specific heat, and there is no special reason why it should not be taken for value, except that it would be less convenient than gold and silver. To measure specific (not actual) value we proceed exactly as we do to measure specific gravity and specific heat. We select a known quantity of something containing an unmeasured amount of actual value, and compare the amount of value in it with the amount of value in the known quantities of other things (practically, bulk for bulk), to see how many times one value is contained in the other value. We may not know how much water a pitcher or a goblet will hold, but we know how many goblets the water in the pitcher will fill. Usually, a known amount of gold (25.8 grains) is taken and the unmeasurable amount of value in it is used as a standard for comparison—or common denominator for a series of irregular fractions, which can not be added or subtracted until reduced to it.

Giving that unmeasurable amount the value 1—as in specific heat we gave the unmeasured amount of actual heat in a pound of water the value of 1—we find that a bushel of wheat has a specific value of .92; of corn, .43; of potatoes, .76; or a pound of iron, .02; of copper, .14; of coffee, .20; of sugar, .08; of tea, .50, and so on. It is not actual value, only the relation of their value-holding capacity to the special thing that has been used. If we took one pound of coffee and gave it the value 1, then wheat would be "worth" 4.60; corn, 2.15; potatoes, 3.80; iron, .10; copper, .70; sugar, .40; gold, 5.00. The specific value of the thing taken with which to compare others can not increase or diminish. It is always 1, although its

actual value may fluctuate in the wildest manner. The specific gravity of water is always 1, although its actual weight is not the same in any two places.

When we take gold to measure the specific value, we call 25.8 grains a "dollar." This word is only another way of writing 1. In specific value we use dollar, as in specific heat we use caloric, merely to express the relationship or percentage which many things bear to one—and to one another. It does not express actual value, or any value, but merely the known percentage of bulk or quantity between two unknown and unmeasured amounts.

Gold and silver have been taken by the general consent of all mankind in all ages as the proper bases for a comparison of value. The amount of silver in the world is about sixteen-times that of gold, and in this proportion the two metals have been used interchangeably in obtaining the proportionate value of other products. Whether 25.8 grains of gold, or 37½ grains of silver were taken as the unit holding the unmeasured quantity of value, did not matter. Each holding exactly the same quantity of value either would serve as a unit for comparison, and they were interchangeable in that ratio the world over. Being interchangeable one for another at 16 to 1, the coinage or use of each being limited only by the demand for either, the unknown or unmeasurable amount of value held by all the silver in the world was exactly equal to the unknown or unmeasurable amount of value held by all the gold in the world, and no possible increase in the quantity either of the gold or of the silver, while freely interchangeable at agreed ratios, each being divided into the same number of units, would or could disturb this relation; each would continue to hold one-half the joint actual value of both. This union of the two metals, this blending of them into one standard for practical use, is improperly called a "double standard," for in reality it is a single standard of two metals, exactly as a combination of 1 part water and 16 parts molasses would give us but one standard of specific gravity. The specific gravity of bodies measured in this compound would be different from what it is now when measured by water alone—iron would be 6.38 instead of 7.78—but each body would then have as now but one specific gravity. So the union of the two metals, equal in actual value each for each, and the bulk of each divided into the same number of units, gives us but one standard for the comparison of specific values. If we take only the unknown and unmeasured amount of value held in all the gold in the world, and divide this up into so many parts or units, we have a gold standard with units of unknown actual value. Do the same with silver and we have a silver standard.

But two standards can not exist at the same time in specific value any more than in specific gravity. If we take water we can not also take molasses, because specific gravity, like specific value, means "relationship to one." We may take water, or molasses, or both joined, but we can not use them separately. We can not give iron two specific gravities—7.78 and 4.98—without knocking science on the head. So we may take silver, or we may take gold, or we may take both joined, but we can not use them separately, giving wheat two specific values of .91 and .68, without knocking trade on the head.

The actual value of any product of labor depends upon the use for it and the amount of it; and while

that actual value can not be expressed in value-units, we know that it may increase or decrease, and we can measure the increase or decrease in proportion to its volume or intensity. It may be one-half, or one-fourth, or one-eighth now what it was some time ago. We may not know how many quarts of water there are in a pond, but we know when half of it has been run off.

The actual value of any product is determined mainly by its chief use, and not by the subsidiary uses to which it may be put. The chief use of gold and silver is as a standard for measuring specific values by coinage into official units for convenience of reference in cases of doubt or dispute. Their use is the same as the standards for weights and measures kept in Washington and the State capitols—only more are required. The ancient use of precious metal coins as a medium of handy exchange has entirely disappeared, the custom surviving only in base metal minor coins for car fares or children. Gold and silver coins even for small trade uses are universally held to be a nuisance, while the use of the "precious" metals in the arts and manufactures is simply a fashion and a fad, dependent entirely upon their coinage value for official units in case of doubt or dispute. If not used as official standard units for measuring specific value when two persons can not agree as to proportions of value in the products of labor transferred, and if restricted to the arts and manufacture, silver would probably be interchangeable with copper and gold with nickel. The amount of actual and unmeasured value which they hold is thus determined by their use as official measures which may not be disputed by the captious, the doubting and the quarrelsome.

The main reason for taking gold and silver is because the amount in the world remains about the same from year to year, the use for the units or official measures remains about the same, and the unknown actual value of all in the world is not subjected to any violent fluctuation by increase or decrease in the quantity or the demand. Whatever increase or decrease there may be in the amount of actual value held by them is very slow and only to be seen by comparing one century with another.

Let us understand clearly what we mean by specific value. We take the unmeasurable actual value held in all the known bulk of gold and silver, and after dividing up this known bulk of metal into specific parts or units, each one containing an unknown quantity of value but each having the same amount of this unknown value, we call the unmeasurable amount contained in each 25.8 grains of gold or 37½ grains of silver one dollar, representing it as \$1. Then we compare the unmeasurable bulk of value held in this official unit with the unmeasurable bulk of value in a bushel of wheat. The wheat holds almost as much as the gold—90 per cent. A bushel of corn holds less than one-half, or 45 per cent. A pound of tobacco holds only 9 per cent. A quart of peanuts contains only 6 per cent, while a ton of hay holds twenty-one times as much. We do not know how much actual value either one contains, because we can not measure their bulks. All we know, all we can find out, all we want to find out, is how much more value one thing holds than another, whether its bulk is twice, four times, six times, or only one-half or one-fourth. As every product of labor must be bought or sold for

another product of labor—exchanged—that is all we want to know, and all that will be of any service to us.

If we divide the dollar into hundredths and call each hundredth a cent, then the specific value of the wheat is called 90 cents instead of 90 per cent; corn 45 cents; tobacco 9 cents; peanuts 6 cents; hay \$2.1. This percentage of the relative bulks of value held in each is called price. It is not actual value, and the figures represent only the numerators of a new series of fractions with a common denominator of gold—or the relationship between the unmeasurable actual value in the farm products and the unmeasurable actual value in the mine products—as determined by the amount and use made of each.

Now, it must be clear that if the amount of real value held in all the metals used to determine specific value should decrease, while the real value of the others should remain the same, that these proportions would change. Suppose the unknown value of the metal should be decreased one-half. The size of the dollar would not be changed, because it is intended to represent merely an unknown amount of value in a known amount of gold, without reference to how much or how little the value may be, for whether much or little we can not find out, and it does not enter into the problem. We do not even want to know. The wheat would now hold in value \$1.80; the corn 90 cents; tobacco 18 cents; peanuts 12 cents and hay \$42. Suppose the unknown value of the metal should be increased 50 per cent. Then the proportion between it and the farm product would be increased. The specific value of the wheat would be 60 cents, of the corn 30 cents, of the tobacco 6 cents, of the peanuts 4 cents, of the hay \$14. The proportions or relations between the values of other products remain the same, but anything which increases the unknown amount of real value in the metal decreases the specific value of all other products of labor by increasing the difference between the unmeasured value held in the metal and the unmeasured value held in the other products. Specific value is merely the statement of this difference—put in percentage. This is what is commonly meant by "value" and "prices"—the difference in percentage between certain unknown amounts.

Wealth consists mainly of ownership of good debts for products lent. However much a man may own of the products of labor, he only uses and enjoys a very few. The remainder he lends at interest, to be repaid, not necessarily in kind, but in others of equal value. If he lends a bushel of wheat worth 90 cents, he is not necessarily to be paid in a bushel of wheat, but in 90 cents worth of anything, whether that means one bushel or ten bushels. Jay Gould owns \$100,000,000. He keeps \$99,000,000 lent out at interest. Mr. Astor owns many houses. He lives in one and lends the others at interest. Mr. Vanderbilt's wealth has for its evidence a few pieces of paper called bonds, but which are "promises to pay" or evidences of indebtedness. Wealth has little relation to the number of official units of gold and silver a man may have. The rich do not have them, or keep them, or want them. They are kept stored away in official storehouses called banks and treasuries, for any one to use who needs them. In all the United States they comprise but 1 per cent of the wealth. Men do not borrow these official measures. They do not lend these official measures. They bor-

row and lend credit, the amount of which is or has been measured by or expressed in these official units, and the credit a man may own and have to lend; his wealth is merely the unknown value of the products he owns expressed in these units. The credit a man may lend is transferred to the borrower by a private transfer check or an official transfer check, the latter being called a legal tender when used in transfer for repayment.

If the rich could in any way increase the amount of actual value held in the total amount of coin metal, they could increase the actual value of each unit if it remained the same size. This would increase their products when pay-day came, for the value-holding capacity of the units would be increased. The man who had borrowed \$1,000 when it represented 800 bushels of wheat would repay only \$1,000, but it would now represent 1,200 bushels of wheat. The man who would be hurt would be the man who had to pay by his labor, for the debt which originally represented 400 days' work now represents 600. Wherever the debt had to be paid by work, the decreased specific value of labor products would increase the amount of work necessary.

The rich have done this. Here is how they have done it:

The actual (though unmeasurable quantity of) value in the coin metal of the world is increased or diminished by its amount and use. Any sudden and enormous increase of its amount would reduce that value; any sudden and enormous decrease in the amount of the metal would increase its value. There has been an enormous decrease in the amount of metal used to determine specific value. The plutocracy of the world—the wealth of the world united to legislate for its own ends—has reduced the amount of metal used for determining specific value to one-half by stopping the interchange of silver with gold at a regular ratio. To increase the (unmeasurable) actual value of all the gold in the world it was necessary only to put upon it the whole work of measuring specific values. Having double work to do, the demand for its use necessarily doubles and the actual value held in each unchanged unit increases.

England, the United States, Germany, France, stopped the interchange of the two metals and adopted a gold standard of specific value. The full effects of this were not felt until the United States, by the act of 1878, finally "shut the doors of our mints," as Secretary Manning says. Every country has now a single metal standard, and either gold or silver is "mere merchandise in every country of the world."

The farmers of the United States comprise one-half of the working males. They bear one-half of the burden. They are the chief borrowers. They must pay their debts by labor. If with them we include those engaged in the trade and transportation of farm products—who sink or swim, survive or perish with them—nearly three-fourths are interested in agriculture, and are in the same classification. Every cent that is made by the rich through this dislocation of gold and silver must be lost by the workers, the producers, and the farmers must pay from one-half to three-fourths.

The mill owners are out of this fight. They are protected from the effects of such measures by control of prices in the closed market a kind Government has given them, and many, if not the most of

them, are themselves plutocrats, reaping the reward of the silver panic. What help they can give the plutocrats they do give them, and they are fighting the farmer in front while the plutocrats are bushwhacking him in the rear. Well may the farmer cry,

Which way I fly is hell.

The tariff war that is waged upon him by the mill owners is at present of more importance than the "prices" war waged by the plutocrats, for the reason that the former is local, sharper, keener. He can see his tariff foe. He can defeat him if he will. His other foe he cannot see. He is in Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, South America. The "prices" war is world-wide. The American farmer can not hit the plutocrat. He can not find him. He is powerless to return the shot he receives in the back. He wastes time and leaves himself open to the mill owner's attack by paying attention to it.

Some portion of the sharp decline in farm prices since 1880 is owing to this plutocrat war—that portion of the decline which is world-wide. But that portion is comparatively small. Loaded down as the American farmer has been with a 30 per cent tax on the payment he receives through the custom-house for all farm products sold abroad, raising an enormous surplus in excess of the demands or eating capacity of this country, this decline in prices abroad has broken his back. But for the domestic burden the protected mill owners impose, it would not have worried him. He could have carried it easily. But the two combined are too heavy a load. The decline in the foreign price, caused by the dislocation of silver and gold as a joint medium for determining specific value, has swept away any margin of profit after paying his custom house fine of 30 per cent. He could not export. The domestic market has been glutted. Prices had to fall, not only to compete with the fall abroad, but to carry that custom house tax of 30 per cent on all exchanges and 48 per cent tax upon exchanges of surplus farm products for what the people wanted—manufactured goods.

The mill owner tells the farmer: "I am your friend. You must fight only the plutocrat, and I will help you by telling you how to do it. See, is that not his shadow? You must fight him by getting out more legal evidences of debt. If you would change your private evidences of debt to him for legal evidences of debt to him, then you could smash him. He will not take a check certified by a bank; he wants a check certified by the Secretary of the Treasury. Don't you know that 99 per cent of what is used for the handy exchange of commodities and for debt paying are personal and individual checks? Stop using these private checks and force the Government to issue ninety-nine times as many official checks on the treasury as it now has in circulation to take the place of your checks on banks. This substitution of one piece of paper for another piece of paper will win your fight for you. If, while you are doing this, I just take for my advice your slice of the domestic market for manufactured goods, which you now supply by an exchange of your surplus farm products for foreign manufactured goods, it's all right. I will see you later and more than make it up."

Will the farmer believe him, or will he fight them both—the mill owner now, while he can get at him, and the plutocrat when he can?

New Tariff Bill.

That all sides may be heard, the following communication is given space just at this place, bearing as it does upon the conclusion reached in the article which precedes it:

A careful study of the comments of the press upon the prospective tariff bill indicate clearly partisan spirit is not dying out and that sectional jealousy will make it extremely difficult to introduce a bill that will not more or less meet with local opposition. The history of half a century warrants the opinion that the best trained and most experienced minds may be disappointed as to just what effect the new measure may have upon the prosperity of the country. While it is a self-evident proposition that every dollar of revenue collected by the Government above its actual needs is damaging to its prosperity, it is difficult to measure the actual demands of the Government of a great and growing nation. A nation that purchased its right to exist in a long and tedious war, and since that time has three times called upon her citizens to maintain her honor in deadly conflict. A Government that numbers its wounded and disabled soldiers by the hundreds of thousands; that has thousands of miles of sea coast, with its almost innumerable harbors to improve and protect; her merchant marines to build up and encourage until they are second to none in the world; her vast waterways to dredge and confine within their channels; with a large area of arid land to be watered and improved; with an ever increasing demand for public buildings and other appliances for the maintenance of Government; and hundreds of millions of revenue annually to collect and disburse. In a great and growing nation there can be no question but its revenue laws should receive from time to time careful and systematic revision. That any marked or material reduction should be made I do not believe.

The history of this country has long since demonstrated the fact that it is not the amount of money raised, but the wise and judicious distribution of what is raised, that gives plenty and prosperity to the people. Had it not been for the gradually increasing quarterly distributions from the pension bureau for the last few years, we should have seen such a financial panic as would have shook the Republic to its foundation. And now, while the cry comes from all over the land that rates of interest are burdensome, unsatisfactory prices received for the productions of the soil, labor unrewarded and without demand, I confess that I am unable to see any possible relief in the proposed reduction of the revenue to the amount of \$60,000,000, even if it were true that the amount of revenue, or "tariff tax," as some are pleased to call it, was an actual tax, paid by the consumers, which I neither admit nor believe. Would it not be far better to expend it developing our resources and in meeting just demands upon the Government. Especially when, if wisely collected, it would give encouragement and protection to American labor and receive the approval of all intelligent American citizens. If in place of meeting pledges made, and upon which restoration to power was secured, the cry of "extravagance" and "wiping out the surplus" shall prevail, and the bugbear of tariff reform control the action of legislators, the righteous and just condemnation of the people will most assuredly follow.

OBSERVER.

THE FARMERS ALLIANCE.

WHAT IT IS—WHERE IT WAS STARTED—WHAT ITS OBJECTS ARE—BY WHAT METHODS IT OPERATES—WHAT IT HAS DONE—HOW A FARMERS ALLIANCE MAY BE ORGANIZED—AND OTHER INFORMATION CALCULATED TO INTEREST THOSE WHO SYMPATHIZE WITH THE ORGANIZED FARMERS OF AMERICA.

The Farmers Alliance or Union is an organization of farmers, in which no person is admitted unless he (or she, for ladies are admitted to full membership) be over sixteen years of age, and be either a farmer, a farm laborer, a mechanic, a country doctor, country preacher, or a country school teacher, and believe in the existence of a supreme being who rules and governs the universe. These associations can not be organized in incorporated cities.

Persons engaged in any of the following occupations are excluded from membership: Merchants, bankers, brokers, commission merchants, cotton, grain or produce buyers, lawyers, city doctors, preachers and school teachers, land agents, book agents, peddlers, canvassers, livery stable keepers, and saw mill men, all dealers, speculators and gamblers, and any others whose greatest interests do not harmonize with farming. When a person is engaged in farming, and in addition thereto follows one of the above named occupations that are not admitted, the law is that he can not be admitted, but the association is allowed to make some exceptions to this rule, under conditions prescribed in the laws of the order.

ORIGIN.

The National Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union as a national organization dates from the first day of October, 1889, at which time it was formed by a proclamation of consolidation of two orders, one of which was the National Farmers Alliance and Co-operative Union of America, and the other was the National Agricultural Wheel. This consolidation had been provided for in December, 1888, by a joint meeting of the two national bodies, at which a national constitution had been agreed upon, and that same should be submitted to the orders in the various States for ratification, and when three-fourths of the State organizations should ratify, it was made the duty of the Presidents of the two organizations to issue proclamations dissolving the two old organizations as then existing, and consolidating them under the name of the Farmers and Laborers Union of America. All this was properly done, and the Farmers and Laborers Union held its first regular meeting in St. Louis, Mo., in December, 1889, and changed its name to the National Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union. The Farmers Alliance was first started at probably the same time in two States, Texas and New York, about the year 1873, the Agricultural Wheel a few years later, and the Farmers Union in 1885.

The Alliance started in New York spread westward as a non-secret organization, and took on a period of rapid growth and development about the year 1884 or 1885, which has resulted in a very strong organization north of the Ohio river and west of Pennsylvania. The Alliance started in Texas was chartered as a benevolent association by the

State in 1880, and as a secret organization it took on its period of rapid growth and development about the year 1883. In 1887 it contained a membership in that State numbering over one hundred thousand, and united with the Farmers Union, at that time organized in Louisiana, ten thousand strong. These two organizations associated themselves together under the general laws of Congress regulating the incorporation of national trade unions, and secured an article of incorporation in the District of Columbia as a national trade union under the name of "The National Farmers Alliance and Co-operative Union," and this order, as above stated, completed its consolidation with the National Agricultural Wheel on the first day of October, 1889. The name of the national order is "The National Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union." The names of the State orders are not uniform; some are State Alliances, some State Unions or State Wheels, as they may choose, consequently the county or subordinate bodies may be either Alliances, Wheels, or Unions, or anything else they may choose, but all are conforming to the constitution of the national, and use its secret work and work under a charter from it. It will be seen from the above that the system of government patterns closely after that of the United States, and is national, State, county and subordinate.

OBJECTS.

The prime object of this association is to better the condition of the farmers of America, mentally, morally and financially; to suppress personal, sectional and national prejudices, all unhealthful rivalry and selfish ambition, to return to the principles on which this Government was founded by adhering to the doctrine of equal rights and equal chances to all and special privileges to none; to educate and commingle with those of the same calling to the end that country life may become less lonely and more social; to assist the weak with the strength of the strong, thereby rendering the whole body more able to resist, and to bequeath to posterity conditions that will enable them as honest, intelligent, industrious producers to cope successfully with the exploiting class of middlemen.

METHODS.

The methods of this Association are of three kinds, social, business, and political. The social methods are such as may be secured by meeting together and becoming better acquainted with neighbors and a friendly exchange of ideas as to the practical detail of farm work. The business methods take a wider range and depend upon co-operation in county and State business efforts to secure the highest price for the produce raised for sale and the lowest price on the commodities that must be purchased. The political methods are strictly non-partisan, and must ever remain, so because every candidate, before taking the pledge, is assured that it will in no way conflict with his political or religious views. All political parties are represented in its ranks and all are expected to work in their respective parties to secure a just recognition of the rights of the farmer. The motto of the order is: "In things essential unity, and in all things charity." All questions in political economy will be thoroughly discussed, and when the order can agree on a reform as necessary they will demand it of the Government and of every political party, and

if the demand goes unheeded they will devise ways to enforce it. The most essential reforms must come from legislation, but that does not necessarily compel the responsibility of choosing candidates and filling the offices. Such a course may become necessary, but will not be resorted to under any other circumstances.

IT HAS ACCOMPLISHED

much during its short existence, as the farmers in all the organized States will testify. Many of the States have their business effort organized as a State Alliance Exchange, with a strong capital stock paid in that enables them to purchase machinery and commodities at wholesale prices and assists them in the sale of their produce, and these efforts, besides the actual saving they are to those who trade with them, save the farmers millions of dollars every year by the effect they have in reducing the general profits of the merchant and middleman. The most marked results, however, that have attended this great movement are the result of the political education which has attended it. Scarcely a vestige of the old sectional prejudice of a few years ago is now visible within its ranks, and the membership have gone earnestly to work to solve the great questions of the day. The demagogue politician who now attempts to array sectional prejudice in order that he may keep farmers equally divided on important questions, in order that he and his partners may decide such questions to their own liking, will be met by a superior intelligence that will soon convince him that his occupation is gone. Evidences of the truth of this are everywhere apparent.

HOW TO ORGANIZE AN ASSOCIATION.

If a regular organizer can be secured, that is the best; but when one can not be secured, any number over five who are eligible to membership may assemble and proceed to organize themselves as follows: First, elect a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and a doorkeeper; second, each member pays the secretary fifty cents initiation fee, females pay no fees or dues; third, fix the time for regular meetings; and, fourth, pass a resolution instructing the secretary to apply to L. L. Polk, President of the National Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union, at 511 Ninth street N. W., Washington, D. C., for a dispensation to be recognized as a subordinate body until such time as he can send an organizer to confer the secret work and report you ready to be regularly chartered. There is no charter fee. The organizer's fee is \$6 for each subordinate body organized. The National Secretary, J. H. Turner, 511 Ninth street N. W., Washington, D. C., should be furnished a full report of your organization, including roll of members, with occupation and list of officers. He will issue you your charter, and for \$3 will send you, postpaid, an outfit as follows:

One charter, 1 secretary's record book, 1 secretary's account book, 1 treasurer's account book, 1 form book, containing 320 blank forms (consisting of 60 applications for membership, 30 delegate's certificates, 100 secretary's receipts, 40 warrants on treasurer, 30 dimits, 10 withdrawal cards); 4 rituals, 25 subordinate constitutions, 6 national constitutions, with statutory laws; 1 working bulletin, 6 blank reports for the use of the executive committee, 1 sample page showing manner of keeping the minutes, 25 copies national financial platform.

Sound Financial Doctrine.

BY GEO. M. JACKSON, OF JEFFERSON, KY.

"Our friends, the enemy," who are fearful that the sub-treasury plan would produce the wildest inflation of the currency, are not consistent, for they are crying aloud for the unlimited coinage of silver, and the issuance of silver certificates. Now, what is the issuance of these certificates but the demonstration of the utility of the sub-treasury plan, for the silver is but a commodity, and the vaults are but warehouses. Now, we claim that wheat, cotton, corn and other staple products of the farm have as fixed a value as silver or gold as for that matter, and hence are as good security for the Government to issue "warehouse receipts" upon and to make loans on as gold or silver. We farmers are more modest than the "gold bug" who asks that the Government issue to him 100 cents on the dollar's worth of his commodity. But the cheekiest and most brazen fellow is he who demands that the Government issue to him 100 cents for 72 cents' worth of his silver. We farmers say we will not be so unreasonable; we will be satisfied with 80 cents on the hundred. There can be no such thing as inflation or depreciation so long as the basis is sufficient to redeem that which may be issued on it. The gold men claim that it would make no difference how much currency might be issued so long as there was gold to redeem it. So we claim that it would make no difference how much money the Government might issue to the farmers so long as there was deposited in the elevators wheat to redeem it, "or behind it," as some express it. The only difference between the sub-treasury plan and the system that we have now is that the Government will loan the money direct to the people at 1 per cent on their products instead of loaning it to the banks at 1 per cent, and the banks then loan it to the elevator and commission men, and they loan it to the people at about 12 per cent. The system that we have now is substantially the same as the plan we propose, and it makes no difference how much cotton, wheat or corn is shipped to the compresses, elevators or warehouses, the banks will make the loans and carry the whole crop of the country. Then why not the Government do this direct for the people, saving all the immense interest and cost we now pay banks, elevators and warehouses? Let the farmers study this question, and they will see that the only way to save themselves from the present slavery is in the sub-treasury plan with its elevators and warehouses. Do not be afraid to try new methods, especially when the old ones have failed. Some of our friends are mystified by the proposition for the Government to build and own elevators and warehouses. To make the system clearer, we will suppose the Government to-morrow should take possession by lease of all the cotton compresses, warehouses and elevators in the country, and should issue a notice "that the business will be carried on at the old strand as heretofore," and liberal advances (80 per cent) will be made on all consignments, and that the rate of interest has been reduced from 12 to 1 per cent per annum, and that the storage charges have been reduced more than 75 per cent, and if this shall be found to more than cover the expenses of handling there will be a still further reduction. This is the way the sub-treasury plan would work, and it can be done.

Why Farming Does Not Pay.

BY LYNN TANNER, OF CHENEYVILLE, LA.

If the question were asked, what vocation in life at the present time requires the most toil, the greatest amount of patience, the most skillful management directed by brains and forethought, the answer would毫不犹豫 and truthfully be made, farming. Again, should the question be propounded, what calling pays the least for labor expended, it could be responded to with the same answer—farming.

The farmer's work extends from the beginning to the end of the year. He is called upon to endure the inclemencies of winter, the rains of spring, the heats of summer, and to encounter an intermingling of all the seasons during the autumn months. It is useless for him to lay plans for the future by which a sure and lasting benefit or success can be assured, for being a "child of circumstances" he has no ken or knowledge by which he knows that success will crown his efforts, and he oftentimes verifies or realizes the truth contained in the couplet—

"The best laid plans of mice and men
Oft gang aglee."

We sometimes hear, however, of some individuals who pursue this line of business as having made prominent success, but notwithstanding such rare exceptions, we know that thousands fail where one succeeds, even in obtaining a competency. As to the few individuals who claim that they make this business profitable, they are so few in number that they should be considered as exceptions to the general rule, and perhaps if placed upon the same footing as those who are not successful they might share the same fate. Oftentimes has the writer made inquiries into some of these phenomenal successes which have been heralded by the agricultural press as samples, or proof of the assertion that farming pays, and with scarce an exception he has never found that the success boasted of was due solely to the unaided skill or energy of the party mentioned. In nearly every instance it was found that some extraneous causes not enjoyed by all farmers served as a cause to which such success could be traced, and the "lucky" farmer, as he might be called by his neighbors, or the "skillful-farmer," as the agricultural journals would term him, possessed some advantages over the rest.

A goodly supply of money, or property obtained through a gift or legacy, or the favorable situation of his lands for easy drainage, or the close proximity to ready market in which his produce could be easily disposed of with but little cost or inconvenience, or a high state of fertility of the soil produced by natural causes, and dozens of other advantages which are never mentioned when he is spoken of as proof that farming pays, therefore, we must conclude that farming without some such advantages does not prove lucrative. It is not uncommon to hear of a successful farmer being spoken of as a brainy man, while all of the aids which kind nature has given him for accomplishing his purposes are never thought of; and we find writers who argue that farming does pay, bringing him forward as a sure proof of their assertion, when at the same time his neighbors and friends know that such an one has but a modicum of brains and still less energy. Every one will readily admit that farming ought to pay, and pay well. What, then, can be the reason that it is otherwise; that we

find 47 per cent of the population of the United States who are so engaged, so hopelessly in debt, or, at best, but getting a bare subsistence from the fruits of their toil? Some one is, perhaps, ready to aver that it is because the farmers of the United States produce too much. This assertion will not bear a close investigation. What has become of the crops of cotton, wheat, corn, oats, etc., which have been produced in the last ten years? Have they been allowed to rot or moulder because of an over-supply? Not at all. We find a demand for every article produced; none are allowed to lie over for another season. Do we find the sixty-five millions of our people all well fed and well clothed, and with something to spare? Do we find the cotton mills stopping their wheels and looms because there is no demand for their manufactured goods? Oh no; they work full time usually year in and year out, and two-thirds of the people are but poorly clothed.

Why, then, are the farmers so ill paid for their labor? We answer for this reason: the necessities of the people can not be relieved because of the great want of money. Who is to blame for the people not having money? The Government. Who is the Government? The two g. o. p.s of this nation known as Democratic and Republican. For what are they to be blamed? For legislating at all times in the interest of commerce and capital, and to the total neglect of agriculture. In what way have they done this? They have established a monetary system which ignores the agricultural interests, while it seeks every possible way to enhance the cost of trade, transportation, manufactures, and money.

What did Andrew Jackson say should be the chief aim of Congress? To legislate so that commerce should be the hand-maid of agriculture. Is that Democratic doctrine? It once was, but is not now. Why? Because both parties have forgotten the teachings of the fathers, and are worshipping strange gods.

Who at present rules this country? The national banking system in league with the money power of England.

What would the name of either party, Democratic or Republican, have to do with causing the people to submit tamely to a change from a republican form of government to that of an aristocratic?

To answer this question, I can safely aver that four-fifths of the people have been taught to believe that their liberty and that of posterity is wholly enshrined in the name of one or the other of the two parties mentioned. Their task masters, who for years have been training them "how to vote," have always and at all times placed more stress upon the importance of the name than upon principles; the consequences are there is but slight knowledge existing among the voting people as to what a Democratic or Republican party is or ought to be. Who are the task masters of the people? The millionaire bankers and bondholders, the land monopolists, the railroad managers of the United States; the various trust companies which have sprung up by the hundred in the last few years, and the insidious but powerful effect of English gold, which greedily fastens upon and propagates everything which promises to trample American liberty under foot, and make our people subservient to British capital. How do all these work to accomplish their aims? Through a

subsidized press and a trained corps of officials, who serve their masters for the pay and for the spoils of office.

How would Judas Iscarriot compare with all such? He would be a gentleman; though, if living, the American politician would denounce him, not for his crime, but because he accepted such a small bribe.

What is the duty of the press? Its duty is to teach what is right, to denounce what is wrong, and to labor to correct all abuses which threaten the welfare of the people.

A New Idea of Insurance.

J. F. Ruhlen, in the Kansas Commoner (Newton, Kan.) says:

Under this caption (insurance) much might be said and done to benefit the industrial classes. It is said that the insurance companies pay a trifle over one-half of the premiums collected to the policy holders for losses sustained. Why could there not be a law passed forever prohibiting private corporations from insuring property in the State of Kansas? In lieu of such a law there could be a law passed permitting townships and cities to levy a tax sufficient to pay all losses sustained in the same ratio as insurance companies do two-thirds of the loss sustained. This would reduce insurance to a minimum instead of a maximum.

Statistics and insurance companies tell us that at the head of the list of causes of losses sustained incendiarism is first and defective flues is second. Now, if losses were paid by taxation, it would at once cause every tax-payer to be interested in his neighbor's property. Therefore he would do all in his power to protect it. The same law would of necessity give people the power to see that no defective flues were permitted. Another advantage and a great one too would be. There would never a dollar go out of the State to enrich a private corporation, and return to us in the form of mortgages, sapping the industry of the people. Some may say, we have no right to tax our neighbor to pay our losses. Equally as well might it be said, we have no right to tax our neighbor to educate our children or keep and maintain our paupers.

Mutual companies may be cheaper than the old line companies, but are they not very risky? Who pays the losses and debts of a mutual company? The company, of course. Who is the company? All the policy holders, and they are liable for all the debts. Otherwise, where could a policy holder get his pay if he sustained a loss?

Where large sums of money and notes accumulate in the hands of a few, the temptation is always great to squander it in high salaries, defalcations and absconding. By the above plan there would be no need of solicitors at large commissions, or high salaried officers. All the work could be done by the township and city officers, with but slight additional pay. I give these thoughts in the hope of creating public thought and discussion, thereby correct views are obtained.

The Kansas (Topeka) Farmer ably and energetically defends its State and people. Do so some more:

Papers representing the creditors' side of the financial discussion now in progress insist that the de-

mands made by Kansas farmers are equivalent to repudiation. There is no repudiation about it, and these people know it as well as we do. The writer of this understands the situation quite well; he is among the people a good deal, and he knows that there is no talk of repudiation among the people. They are in debt, and are in dread of losing their homes unless they are allowed time to get out. Present prices are too low to encourage anybody. The people are honest, they want to pay and will pay if it is possible for them to do it. They are now as deep in debt as most of them can go, they have renewed and renewed until the end has come. The mortgage has done its deadly work; it has wrought ruin in thousands of homes. Relief of some kind must come, or within five years a hundred thousand Kansas farmers' homes will be sold by the sheriff. This is an ugly picture to look at, but it is before us. We have said many times that the people have been systematically robbed. It has gone far enough. The people see it, and they have called a halt. They will take charge of legislation next winter, and they will rule after that in Kansas until all our good laws are re-enacted with such new ones as we need. Justice will be done, and then we shall have peace, but not till then.

Senator Voorhees introduced the following resolution in the Senate March 18th. These are the sentiments people want to hear from that locality. Stanford on one side, Voorhees on the other. Who next:

Whereas the deep and widespread depression and decay of the agricultural interests of the American people, the enormous and appalling amount of mortgage indebtedness on the agricultural lands, the total failure of home markets to furnish remunerative prices for farm products, the palpable scarcity and insufficiency of money in circulation in the hands of the people with which to transact the business of the country and effect exchanges of property and labor at fair rates, are circumstances of the most overwhelming importance to the safety and the well-being of Government; Therefore,

Be it resolved, That it is the highest duty of Congress in the present crisis to lay aside all discussion and consideration of mere party issues and to give prompt and immediate attention to the preparation and adoption of such measures as are required for the relief of the farmers and other over-taxed and underpaid laborers of the United States.

MILL says: "If the bulk of the human race are always to remain as at present, slaves to toil in which they have no interest and therefore feel no interest—drudging from early morning till late at night for bare necessities and with all the intellectual and moral deficiencies which that implies—with-out resources either in mind or in feeling—untaught, for they cannot be better taught than fed; selfish, for all their thoughts are required for themselves; without interests or sentiments as citizens and members of society, and with a sense of injustice rankling in their minds, equally for what they have not and what others have; I know not what there is which should make a person of any capacity of reason concern himself about the destinies of the human race."

The Ellis County Mirror (Waxahachie, Tex.) says:

The fellow who would reconcile poverty to its condition is in a poor cause, be he preacher or politician. * * * Yes, get out of debt and stay out. But if a government would teach her citizens a wholesome example, oughtn't she get out of debt?

OFFICIAL.

The following changes are made in the appointments of Brother Ben Terrell, National Lecturer, for the State of Indiana:

Paolia, April 18.
Bedford, April 21.

Shoals, April 23.
Bloomfield, April 25.

On the 26th of April Brother Terrell will meet the delegates from the various County Alliances in the city of Indianapolis, Ind., and will organize the State Alliance and Industrial Union.

Richmond, April 28.
Newcastle, April 29.
Anderson, April 30.

Tipton, May 1.
Logansport, May 2.

By order of

L. L. POLK,
President N. F. A. and I. U.

J. H. TURNER, Secretary.

THE ANTI-TRUST BILL.

Among the first bills presented in the Senate this session was one looking toward the control of trusts and monopolies, by Senator Sherman. A few days since it was brought up for consideration. Of all the hollow mockeries which even this Plutocratic House of Lords has ever indulged in during the past quarter of a century, the discussion of this bill disclosed the worst. It proved conclusively the entire want of sympathy, that heartless unconcern and utter disregard for the welfare, needs, or rights of the people that has been charged to that body for many years. It showed how completely the power of greed, self, and money held the Senate within their grasp.

No one anticipated that the bill would pass, but the result showed that a respectful hearing was denied. With a record of financial disasters each day that no other nation could survive, with nearly 3,000,000 of unemployed asking for work in order to live, with the land loaded with mortgages, and with all business, save usury and eviction, at a standstill, these men chosen, as they are supposed to be, for their wisdom and statesmanship, crack jokes, say witty things and laugh, while this, one of the most important measures to the debt-ridden people, is brought before them. It is said that Nero fiddled while his own city burned; what are these plutocrats doing?

As proof of the seriousness with which this much-needed legislation was discussed, the Record gives the following:

Mr. Hoar—Will the Senator from Vermont allow me to make a statement as to these bar associations, that are very common and almost universal? In the early days in Massachusetts, I have seen the records of one to which some very eminent lawyers belonged, including a gentleman afterwards the Attorney-General of the United States in Mr. Jefferson's time, where they agreed never to charge less to a client for advice than \$1. [Laughter.] I do not know whether the Senator from Vermont ever belonged to that association or not.

Mr. Edmunds. I never did. I never got up to a dollar. I gave most of my advice free gratis, as the saying is. [Laughter.]

Mr. Sherman—I do not care what words are used, but it is one of those cases certainly where words ought to be found to define exactly the difference between a gambling contract and a contract made by a broker.

Mr. Blair—The dictionary is right over in the corner. [Laughter.]

Senator Vance—I heard of a Senator who once occupied a seat in this body who boasted that he was no milk-and-cider man, that he was a man of decision on all subjects. Said he, "When a question comes up before me I either vote for it or I vote against it, or I squat like a man." [Laughter.] Mr. President, the country has found out that when we desire the death of a bill and are not particularly anxious to put ourselves on record as having directly stricken the blow which cause the demise we refer it to the Judiciary Committee [laughter], where it sleeps the last sleep known to the literature of this Senate.

Mr. Blair—Would the Senator have any objection, also, to inserting words which would include those engaged in the cod-fisheries and the manufacture of boots and shoes? There is a good deal of that done up in New England. We do not raise a great deal of wheat and corn, but we do catch cod-fish; and there is a good deal done in my State in the boot and shoe business, and I am afraid, if we except those engaged in production out West, and I vote for that and do not include in the exception those manufacturing boots and shoes in New Hampshire, I shall get beaten next fall and never come back to the Senate again. [Laughter.] Down in Massachusetts they are in the cod fish business, and I think the Senator from Massachusetts ought to look after that.

Mr. Platt—I should like to inquire of the Senator from Ohio whether he understands by this language agricultural products would include wool. They have, I believe, a wool-growing association.

Mr. Blair—There are not many sheep in Connecticut.

Mr. Sherman—I think it would include their own wool. [Laughter.]

These extracts will disclose the carelessness and levity with which this demand on the part of the people was treated by that autocratic body. Search the Congressional Record through and not so much as one line will be found devoted to such hilarity while considering the national bank legislation.

Senator Platt said most truly—I am sorry, Mr. President, that we have not had a bill which had been carefully prepared, which had been thoughtfully prepared, which had been honestly prepared, to meet the object which we all desire to meet. The conduct of this Senate for the past three days—and I make no personal allusions—has not been in the line of the honest preparation of a bill to prohibit and punish trusts. It has been in the line of getting some bill with that title that we might go to the country with. The questions of whether a bill would be operative, of how it would operate, or whether it was within the power of Congress to enact it, have been whistled down the wind in this Senate as idle talk, and the whole effort has been to get some bill headed "A bill to punish trusts" with which to go to the country.

The whole discussion was a sham. It was begun with ill-concealed seriousness and ended in a farce.

One of the principal ideas maintained throughout the entire debate was that all labor organizations must be considered in the eye of the law the same as trusts, syndicates, and combines. That the Farmers Alliance, Wheels, and Knights of Labor must be put in the same class with the Standard Oil Company, the jute trust, or Phil Armour. The conclusion reached was that they were all seeking the same object and there was no law by which they could be controlled.

Senator Edmunds voiced the sentiment of the majority of that body when he said—

I do not think, therefore, Mr. President, that we need concern ourselves about any popular impulse at this present moment of time, about any outcry in the newspapers, or at meetings, or at alliances, or whatever methods the people have of getting together to express their views concerning what we ought to do or ought not to do.

The Senator well knew that the courts would determine the proper bounds in strict accord with the wishes of the moneyed aristocracy. He further said—

I think it is better to endure a present evil of even the most grinding and most stupendous of monopolies than to step by one inch or attempt to step by one inch over the clear boundary line that has been established and continued between the Congress of the United States and the legislative and judicial powers of the States in respect of such subjects.

This was an acknowledgment that Congress had no power to act in this matter, and nothing else. When it is remembered that the anti-trust bill passed by the Missouri Legislature has recently been pronounced unconstitutional, it is about time for the people to consider the situation as becoming serious. The Senate of the United States has virtually admitted that trusts, corporations, and combines are beyond the reach of Government control, and that no law can be framed that will rescue the people from being robbed and plundered. To corroborate this conclusion the bill was sent to the Judiciary Committee, where, by the declaration of numerous Senators, it will die a natural death. In this ignominious manner passes from sight the first attempt of the present Congress to deal with the brigands of trade and commerce. By this action the people can discover how completely they are bound to the chariot wheels of plutocracy. The whole discussion might be characterized as an attempt by the Senate to stigmatize, misrepresent, and malign the entire movement of organized labor.

OBITUARY.

[All obituaries occupying more than ten lines' space will be charged for at the rate of 10 cents per line.]

Died at Bayou Chicot, La., March 8, 1890, at 2 o'clock P.M., Eugene F. Sudduth, aged thirty-two years.

Cut down in the bloom of life, our friend and brother has passed from among us. Death in any case is a sad event; the aged who go from amongst us, crowned with honors won in life's battle and prepared by their works on earth to lay down peacefully for the eternal rest, have all our heart-

felt feelings of grief and tender respect for their memory. But to see one die amid the brightest prospects of a young and useful life, when a high order of usefulness and esteem were united and acknowledged in the hearts of all who knew him well, traits that so beautify and adorn the character of man, brings a feeling of regret and a deeper grief than we experience at the loss of those whose days have been long upon the earth. A kind and noble man in all of his intercourse with men, a warm and devoted friend, a kind neighbor, an affectionate father and husband, we cannot help, while bowing to the will of Him who gives and takes away, feeling a spirit of regret that he was so suddenly cut off from his large circle of friends, his fond wife, and five little girls. Sleep on, dear brother, loving hands may complete what thou has undertaken and strew thy grave with the flowers of spring. * * *

A called meeting of the Farmers Alliance Lodge, 287, was this day held, and the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas Almighty God in his providence has seen fit to remove from among us our worthy and estimable brother, Eugene F. Sudduth, therefore be it resolved,

1. That we humbly bow to the divine will, knowing that our Heavenly Father ever provides in the tenderest manner for his children, and when He wounds us it is to show His mercy in healing.

2. That in his manly and upright disposition he was endeared to us all, and that in his death we have sustained an irreparable loss.

3. That we strive to imitate all his virtues in this order, and to realize that though it be sad, yet God has called him away for his own good and a warning to us.

4. That a copy of this memorial and these resolutions be sent to the grief-stricken family, and a copy be sent to the St. Landry Democrat and THE NATIONAL ECONOMIST.

Done in the committee of the whole at a regular meeting of Black Bayou Union, No. 636, Ascension Parish, La., held March 15, 1890, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas the Heavenly Father has in His inscrutable wisdom removed from our midst our brother, John McMorris, on the 10th day of March, 1890; therefore,

Be it resolved, That while we bow with submission to the will of providence, we hope that his loss to our order is his eternal gain. Over our brotherhood sets a pall of sorrow; a link is lost in the golden chain; a jewel has dropped from our coronet of friendship, love and truth; a place is vacant in our hall; but another voice has come to join the immortal of heavenly sons, sweet voices whispering of a better land.

Relentless death couldst not thy hand forbear
To rend that holy bond of union dear,
Nor thy insatiate dart a father spare,
When helpless ones implore thy pitying care?
Oh, couldst thou not revoke that stern decree
That snatched from earth a father, husband, friend;
That crushed the ivy as it fell the tree,
And made the pliant shoots in sorrow bend.

Be it further resolved, That our Union hall and charter be draped in mourning and our members wear badges for thirty days, and that these resolutions be spread on the minutes of our order and that a copy be sent to THE NATIONAL ECONOMIST for publication.

ALICE BOURGEOIS, Secretary.

From Toisnot, N. C.

At a regular meeting of Toisnot Alliance, No. 986, the following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas our Senator, Z. B. Vance, has introduced into the Senate of the United States a bill for the relief of the farmers of this country, known as the sub-treasury plan of the Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That by this act our Senator has endeared himself to the Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union of North Carolina and the whole United States.

Resolved, That we extend to him our thanks for this effort in our behalf.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to Senator Vance, and a copy furnished the Progressive Farmer and NATIONAL ECONOMIST for publication.

THEO. B. WINSTAD, Secretary.

QUESTION COLUMN.

Question. In the great reform movement, I write you for an explanation of section 6 of the sub-treasury bill. I do not understand by section 6 that there is any allowance made for the transfer freights between sub-treasurers. Also, the redemption of the produce can be made in paying into the sub-treasury the amount due it in any lawful money of the United States, and then the Secretary of the Treasury shall make a record of the transaction and cancel and destroy the money so received. Now, suppose I had 1,000 bushels of wheat stored, and had drawn \$500 on the same in those Treasury notes, and in three or six months I went back to the sub-treasury and redeemed my wheat by paying back the \$500, together with the other charges, and that I paid part in gold, part in our present greenbacks, and the balance in such Treasury notes as we would receive when deposited. And, if it is not asking too much, I should like a little fuller explanation of section 3, I will now give my reasons for asking this. I have been taking THE NATIONAL ECONOMIST since last December, and I have followed that sub-treasury scheme very closely and have written two letters on it; have talked it all winter; have induced about twenty to take THE ECONOMIST, for I do think it is the best national educator in America, and when I start to talk about a measure I desire to be acquainted with the details. This bill is to be discussed at our next meeting; therefore, I would ask an early reply. Our people are becoming alive to this question, and we trust our members from North Dakota (both in the Senate and House) will give it their earnest support.

Yours fraternally, N. G. MASSY.

In reply to the above it is proper to state that section 6 is intended to authorize persons holding certificates of deposit to present those certificates at a different sub-treasury from the one in which the grain is deposited, and there pay all charges against it, and give an order for shipment. It is not intended there should be a transfer of the grain, but that the grain should remain in the home sub-treasury until demanded by the consumer. This would save money now spent in local freights. For example, you might store 1,000 bushels of wheat in Dakota, draw 80 per cent of its value in money, and take a warehouse receipt representing the balance of its value. This receipt you would sell to a buyer when the price suited you, and he in turn might sell to another as many times as he chose, and when these receipts reach the mill in Minnesota, Illinois, or Ohio, or whatever point it might, and the mill wanted to grind the grain, it would present that receipt at the nearest sub-treasury to the mill, returning the 80 per cent you had received from the Government and paying all charges the face of the receipt showed as running against the grain. Then the sub-treasury at that point would order your sub-treasury to ship the grain as the miller might direct him.

As to the other question, in regard to the destruction of money that comes in, of course the sub-treasury notes being destroyed would leave the matter just as it was at the start, before deposits were made, and the destruction of the silver or gold certificates would leave the Government that much silver or gold to be paid out. For the gold and silver actually received, a like amount

of paper currency on hand, or that which would soon come into the Treasury, would be destroyed. In the meantime such coin would be withheld from circulation until such destruction took place.

There is one point here. We have a law on the statute books of the United States that forbids the destruction of greenbacks. This would not conflict, because the Treasury notes issued would be greenbacks pure and simple, and there would be no difference. If some of the old were brought in and destroyed, some of the new ones would be in their place, so the volume would be kept up.

The liberty is taken of publishing your question and this answer in THE ECONOMIST, as it may be the means of furnishing desired information to many readers.

The True Solution of the Transportation Question.

BY L. J. WOOLFOLK, OF KOKOMO, IND.

The interstate commerce law does not work. For all the purposes had in view in its enactment, it is now recognized as a failure. A strong pressure is being brought to bear in many quarters to repeal its most important features—the long and short haul clause. The failure of the interstate commerce law does not arise out of the long and short haul clause; but from the lack of certain provisions in the law which are essential to the efficiency of the measure. The interstate commerce law attempts to solve the transportation question by two provisions: (1) That the railroads shall not charge a higher rate on a short haul than on a long haul; and (2) that the railroads shall charge all persons the same rate, "under similar conditions." The railroads make the first provision an actual injury to the farmers and business men by keeping up the rate on short hauls, and raising the long hauls to the same rate, which is so high that the Nebraska farmers are burning their corn for fuel, because it will not pay freight to market. On the other hand, the second provision does not compel the railroads to charge equal rates to all shippers; for the "conditions" are never "similar" between the common shipper and the favored class of shippers. Here lies the root of the evil in our system of transportation, which has never been discovered by the American public.

The great capitalists who own the railroads have perfected a system which places the entire traffic of the country in their hands. Instead of the railroad companies building cars enough to carry all the freight of the country, they allow certain great capitalists to build cars for themselves, in which to ship, either their own commodities or the commodities of general traffic. And the railroads haul these cars of the favored capitalists at merely a nominal price. Thus Armour and other dressed beef magnates, are allowed to build their own cars, and the railroads haul them at special rates. The Standard Oil Company is allowed to build its own tank cars for shipping oil, and special rates for hauling the cars are given, which are so low as to make competition impossible by persons not rich enough to build cars for themselves. The interstate commerce law does not prevent this discrimination, because shipments by shippers owning cars and those made by shippers who have to ship in cars owned by the railroads, are not "under similar conditions." This discrimination extends its influence much further. Great capitalists organize them-

selves into transportation companies, and build for themselves thousands of cars; in which, by the greater cheapness of transportation, they can carry all the products of the country—cotton, rice, wheat, corn, live-stock, coal, iron, and lumber. Their cars being hauled at merely nominal rates, others who have to ship on cars owned by the railroads are unable to compete with them, owing to the higher rates charged them. The favored shippers are the only persons who can ship the produce of the country. And, consequently, they are the only persons who can buy rice, cotton, wheat, live-stock, and all the other products of the country. They are the only persons who can successfully operate lumber mills and coal mines. And this greatly cheaper freight gives these car-owning capitalists equally superior advantages for shipping dry goods and groceries to great mercantile establishments owned by them. In a word, these car-owning capitalists have been enabled by their greatly cheaper freights to take possession of the entire traffic in the products of the country; and they are now rapidly monopolizing into their own hands all the mercantile business.

There can be no doubt that the capitalists who own transportation lines of cars are also the owners of the railroads, for the advantages are too great to be yielded to others when the owners of the railroads might themselves reap them. The system is a *hocus-pocus* arrangement by which the capitalists who own the railroads divide themselves into two companies: one for the ownership of the railroads, and the other for the ownership of the transportation cars; an arrangement by which they charge themselves almost nothing for hauling their own cars, while they charge the business public so much that no outside parties can compete with them in buying and selling the products of the country, and in dealing in merchandise.

Another evil: More than half of the freight traffic of the country is carried on by parties who get these special rates—rates on which the railroads make little or no profit. And the railroads make up the loss on this part of their freight by charging the general public a higher price on all its freights, to bring up their profits to the standard. If the railroads charged all persons alike a fair rate for freights, the rate of charges need be little more than half what they are at present. The rates are high to the general public, to make up for the low charges made to favored capitalists.

The remedy for this state of things is very simple. The railroad companies are common carriers. It is their duty to build cars enough to carry all the freights of the country, and to furnish them to all shippers alike, at equal freight rates. Their owners should not be permitted to build cars for themselves under another company name, and then get special rates of freight, enabling them to take full possession of the purchase of all agricultural products, and the sale of all merchandise.

To stop this great abuse will do more to remedy the industrial evils caused by our present railroad management than any other legislation that can be adopted.

One other remedy is needed for industrial evils caused by railroad management—to make the railroads share with the farmers and business men in any depression of prices. A railroad has no right to charge the same freight for corn when selling at 22

cents a bushel that was charged when corn was selling at 60 cents a bushel. The only way to effect this is to allow the railroads to charge only a certain percentage of the selling price of the freight. By this means the freight rates will be on a sliding scale, rising with high prices, and falling with low prices. This is just. The railroads should share the prosperity and the depression of the other classes of business, instead of the railroads making, as now, increased profits, while the farmers and merchants can not make expenses.

One other thing is necessary, in order to the proper settlement of the railroad question. The interstate commerce law only regulates hauls between the States; it does not control railroads with regard to hauls which are within the limits of a single State. Such hauls can only be regulated by State legislation.

If Congress will amend the interstate commerce law in the points herein suggested—and if the several States will enact similar legislation for hauls within their limits—the railroad question will approach solution.

Executive Committee of the Georgia Alliance.

To Alliancemen: The executive committee of the Georgia State Alliance, with president concurring, do most earnestly urge upon all alliances in the State to demand of any candidates for any State office, or seeking to represent them in the Georgia legislature, or the United States Congress, to pledge themselves, if elected:

1. To support and do all in their power to further legislation in compliance with the foregoing adopted resolutions. [The resolutions referred to demand the enforcement of paragraph 4, section 2, article 4, of the constitution of Georgia, forbidding combinations between corporations to defeat or lessen competition, and apply to railroad regulation.]

2. To a revision of the present public school system, thereby affording more extended facilities for common education.

3. To such changes in the penitentiary system as will ameliorate the condition and treatment of the convicts, and as soon as possible the system to be so changed as that all able-bodied male convicts shall be worked on the public highways, and that special provisions be made for workhouses for women and children.

4. To a reduction of State and national taxes. Asserting that only should taxes be levied for revenue, and that to an economical and judicious administration.

5. That in the revision of the protective tariff, the burdens now resting on the agricultural and laboring classes, shall be lessened to the greatest possible extent.

6. That our representatives in the national legislature shall advocate the passage of such laws as will prevent speculation and combines, that seek to interfere with prices of prime necessities and productions.

7. To an abolition of the national banking system, and the substitution of legal treasury notes in lieu of national bank notes, and in sufficient volume, in conjunction with gold and silver, to do the business of the country on a cash basis.

8. That the sub-treasury bill of the National Alliance now pending in Congress, or some better system for the relief of the struggling masses, be passed.

OFFICIAL.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE,
March 15, 1890.

The order is hereby notified that the National Legislative Committee has given its endorsement to the following bills:

H. R. 7162. To establish a system of sub-treasuries, and for other purposes, (or S. 2806, to the same effect.)

H. R. 838. To repeal the restriction upon the coinage of the silver dollar.

S. 3213. To make the Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries an officer of the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

S. 2716. To provide for the completion of the improvement of the entrance to Galveston harbor, Texas.

S. 1 (substitute). To protect trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies.

H. R. 8051. Permitting farmers and producers of tobacco to sell leaf tobacco in any quantity to unlicensed dealers, or to any person, without restriction, and repealing all laws inconsistent herewith.

H. R. 7641. To provide for the establishment of a postal telegraph system.

These bills are presented with the request that all who concur with the committee in favoring their passage so notify their members of Congress, both by letter and petition.

The National Legislative Committee further present the following bills as having received their disapproval, and believing their passage is not to the best interest of the nation, present to the public and Order at large, requesting that all such as agree with the committee in opposing the passage of these bills will so notify their members of Congress, both by letter and petition:

H. R. 8242. To regulate elections of representatives in Congress.

H. R. 4668. To promote the efficiency of the militia. [A most dangerous bill, and should be defeated.]

There have been over 10,000 bills introduced, and as fast as they are examined, those which are directly in the interest of agriculture will be noticed, and those opposed to these interests will receive attention. These will be added from time to time.

Sub-treasury petitioners and all others sending petitions to this office will please state in their petitions the State and county in which the petitioners reside. This is absolutely necessary that they may take the proper course and be properly recorded.

Fraternally,

J. H. TURNER,
Sec. N. F. A. & I. U.

A Short, Sweet Bill.

Mr. Culberson, of Texas, introduced early in the session what appears to be the best of the many silver bills. It is given in full:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all laws or parts of laws which limit the coinage of the silver dollar be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

THE ANTI-TRUST BILL.

Senate bill No 1 has been passed by that body and is now before the House. As amended it reads as follows:

A bill to protect trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies.

SECTION 1. Every contract, combination in the form of trust or otherwise, or conspiracy, in restraint of trade or commerce among the several States, or with foreign nations, is hereby declared to be illegal. Every person who shall make any such contract or engage in any such combination or conspiracy, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, shall be punished by fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding one year, or by both said punishments, in the discretion of the court.

SEC. 2. Every person who shall monopolize, or attempt to monopolize, or combine or conspire with any other person or persons, to monopolize any part of the trade or commerce among the several States, or with foreign nations, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, shall be punished by fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding one year, or by both said punishments, in the discretion of the court.

SEC. 3. Every contract, combination in form of trust or otherwise, or conspiracy, in restraint of trade or commerce in any Territory of the United States or of the District of Columbia, or in restraint of trade or commerce between any such Territory and another, or between any such Territory or Territories and any State or States or the District of Columbia, or with foreign nations, or between the District of Columbia and any State or States or foreign nations, is hereby declared illegal. Every person who shall make any such contract or engage in any such combination or conspiracy, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, shall be punished by fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding one year, or by both said punishments, in the discretion of the court.

SEC. 4. The several circuit courts of the United States are hereby invested with jurisdiction to prevent and restrain violations of this act; and it shall be the duty of the several district attorneys of the United States, in their respective districts, under the direction of the Attorney-General, to institute proceedings in equity to prevent and restrain such violations. Such proceedings may be by way of petition setting forth the case and praying that such violation shall be enjoined or otherwise prohibited. When the parties complained of shall have been duly notified of such petition the court shall proceed, as soon as may be, to the hearing and determination of the case; and pending such petition and before final decree, the court may at any time make such temporary restraining order or prohibition as shall be deemed just in the premises.

SEC. 5. Whenever it shall appear to the court before which any proceeding under section 4 of this act may be pending, that the ends of justice require that other parties should be brought before the court, the court may cause them to be summoned, whether they reside in the district in which the court is held or not; and subpoenas to that end may be served in any district by the marshal thereof.

SEC. 6. Any property owned under any contract or by any combination, or pursuant to any conspiracy (and being the subject thereof) mentioned in section 1 of this act, and being in the course of transportation from one State to another, or to a foreign country, shall be forfeited to the United States, and may be seized and condemned by like proceedings as those provided by law for the forfeiture, seizure, and condemnation of property imported into the United States contrary to law.

SEC. 7. Any person who shall be injured in his business or property by any other person or corporation by reason of anything forbidden or declared to be unlawful by this act, may sue therefor in any circuit court of the United States in the district in which the defendant resides or is found, without respect to the amount in controversy, and shall recover three-fold the damages by him sustained, and the costs of suit, including a reasonable attorney's fee.

SEC. 8. That the word "person," or "persons," wherever used in this act shall be deemed to include corporations and associations existing under or authorized by the laws of either the United States, the laws of any of the Territories, the laws of any State, or the laws of any foreign country.

A SENSIBLE MEASURE.

The following bill has been introduced in Congress by Representative Washington, of Tennessee:

A bill (H. R. 8051) permitting farmers and producers of tobacco to sell leaf-tobacco in any quantity to unlicensed dealers or to any person without restriction, and repealing all laws inconsistent therewith.

Be it enacted, etc., That hereafter all farmers or producers of leaf-tobacco shall be, and they are hereby, permitted to manufacture cigars, snuff, chewing, or smoking tobacco; to put up tobacco in bunches, bags, boxes, or other packages, and to sell or in any manner dispose of leaf-tobacco produced by them in any quantity to any person, whether licensed dealers or not, without payment of tax or any restriction whatever.

SEC. 2. That all of that portion of the sixth clause of section 3244 of the Revised Statutes of the United States embraced in the following words: "*Provided*, That nothing in this section shall be construed to exempt from a special tax any farmer or planter who, by peddling or otherwise, sells leaf-tobacco at retail directly to consumers, or who sells or assigns, consigns, transfers, or disposes of, to persons other than those who have paid a special tax as leaf dealers or manufacturers of tobacco, snuff, or cigars, or to persons purchasing leaf-tobacco for export," be, and the same is hereby repealed.

SEC. 3. That all laws inconsistent with the first section of this bill are hereby repealed.

The Georgia Alliance and the Railroads.

The following is the report of the sub-committee of the Georgia State Executive Board, unanimously adopted by the board and approved by President Livingston.

Whereas, Paragraph 4, section 2, article 4 of the constitution of Georgia declares: "The general assem-

bly of this State shall have no power to authorize any corporation to buy shares or stock in any other corporation in the State or elsewhere, or to make any contracts or agreements whatever with any such corporation which may have the effect, or be intended to have the effect, to defeat or lessen competition in their respective businesses, or to encourage monopoly; and such contracts and agreements shall be illegal and void."

Your committee respectfully suggest the enforcement of the above constitutional clause in its full and original intent, to wit: That corporations shall remain competitive, not for given points or localities, but for the whole people and the entire State, and that the powers of the interstate and State railway commissions be so enlarged as that they may co-operate one with the other in regulating classifications and rates, and the warehouse features of railway cars and depots. And these regulations should be based upon a reasonable cost of construction, equipment, and running of roads, and not upon watered stocks or high prices paid for stocks for purposes of consolidation and control.

Railroads must recognize the interest and rights of the people in chartered corporations, and the laws of the State should be such as to empower the railroad commission to enforce the same, and the commission should be made to its whole duty in the premises.

The Colorado Farmer (Denver) has its idea of what is wanted:

"The smoke of every corn fire writes protection on the sky," says the New York press in a burst of generous eloquence. We fancy ten thousand corn fires burned daily in Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado during the past winter; and we are tempted to ask (apologizing parenthetically to the protectionist for so doing) what benefit the barefooted boys who carried that corn from the fields received from looking at the sky all written over with the word "protection"—written in smoke at that? Did such elevated and unsubstantial "protection" warm their naked feet? Did it buy protected shoes and stockings? Did it add in the least to their comfort? Or, rather, did it make the cold less bitter and the poverty less pinching? But it was not alone the tariff or the want of a higher tariff that made it necessary to burn corn within a hundred miles of coal mines where men were begging for work to earn the money to buy corn. Markets have been unsettled by men who were willing to rob and oppress the producers of necessities that they—mere handlers of products or speculators in values—might grow rich on the labor of others. The railroads, especially the bond-aided roads, have charged exorbitant rates for carrying the products of the farm to market. The custom has been to charge "all the traffic would bear." The money loaners have taken advantage of borrowers' necessities, and have fixed interest rates so high that only men of extraordinary business ability have been able to meet their obligations. These things have combined to make the lot of the Western farmer a very hard one. The smoke of every corn fire does not write protection on the sky. But the light of every corn fire as it is reflected from the clouds of disappointment that hang above the grain fields and pastures lands of the West, marks where a bale-fire burns to warn honest men and lovers of right to arouse themselves to action; it marks where men and women and children suffer for wants of the comforts of life; it marks where the producers and possessors of the real wealth of the country—the grain that furnishes the food for the millions—are robbed of the means and power to use what they have produced. Out on a protection that robs the world's workers to fill the money-chests of robbers! Out on public servants who violate every manly principle that they may share the spoil that is taken from defenseless men and women! It is not protection that the farmers need. It is justice. The protective tariff may be a good thing for part of the people; free trade might be a good thing for part of the people; fair trade would be just to all.

The Georgia Alliance and the Railroads.

The following is the report of the sub-committee of the Georgia State Executive Board, unanimously adopted by the board and approved by President Livingston.

Whereas, Paragraph 4, section 2, article 4 of the constitution of Georgia declares: "The general assem-

What Shall Lazarus Do?

BY W. R. LIVELY, OF ATLANTA, GA.

Two men were left on the earth; one a lawyer, the other a laborer. The lawyer passed a law that the earth was his and the fullness thereof, and the laborer agreed thereto. The lawyer, whose name was Judas Dives, after passing this wise and beneficent law, proceeded to accumulate all the gold and silver he could find, and locked it up in a big vault, and told his neighbor, whose name was Lazarus, that if he wanted to continue on the earth he would arrange matters so that it would be possible for him to do so. "There is a very nice little cabin near my house which you can live in at a nominal rent," Dives said, "and I will let you work some of my land, and pay you enough to live on."

Lazarus moved into the cabin and went to work to make bread for him and Dives to live on. Dives had a big storehouse where Lazarus put all the produce he made, and D. gave him paper certificates based on the alleged value of the gold and silver stored in the big vault. These certificates D. received in exchange for whatever he happened to need to live on. Over the door of the warehouse where the supplies were stored, D. nailed a copy of three of the ten commandments, and every time L. looked at them he trembled, for he feared God greatly. In the course of time L., by close economy, saved enough of the certificates to buy a small lot of land and some lumber to build a house, but while he was building his house he got out of certificates and supplies. He went to his landlord and stated the case, and D. agreed to loan him some certificates and take his note, secured by a mortgage on the lot. L. finished his house and moved into it, feeling quite elated over his good fortune. A short time after moving into his new house he fell sick and betook himself to bed. D. came over immediately to see what had become of his neighbor, and finding him in bed, told him that he had taken a very inopportune time in which to get sick. L. said that he was sorry, but that he could not help it. "You will have to do the best you can for yourself, as I will now have my hands full doing your work and mine too," D. said. "But I am not only sick," replied L., "but out of certificates, and can get no medicine or food." "That's bad," D. said grimly, "but of course you can see that it is not my fault." "I did not say that it was your fault," L. meekly answered. "I only stated facts." D., now seeing that there was a possibility of being left to work for himself, changed his tone, and said that he was sorry to see his friend so sick, and hoped that he would be about in a few days, and that he would bring him some medicine and food, and wait for the pay. This kindness on the part of D. quite overcame L., and he said that he hoped the Lord would reward him for his charity. L. was sick quite a while, but finally got out and went to work. In the meantime the note fell due, and besides that he owed D. a large sum for attentions, medicine, and food while sick. The consequence was that D. foreclosed the mortgage, and told L. that he would have to move back into the cabin, as he couldn't pay the rent of the new house. It was clearly obvious now that L. would not live long enough to pay D. what he owed him, and was therefore D.'s bondman. D. was secretly greatly elated over this result, and on Sundays preached to L. (for he was also a preacher) about how

wicked it was even to think about stealing, killing, or coveting what he did not have. After one of these sermons D. would ride home and partake of a good dinner, while L. walked to his little rented cabin and ate a rasher of bacon and dodger of corn bread.

Years passed by, and in spite of all that L. could do his indebtedness to D. increased. All this time D. labored to make laws which would help L. to get out of his difficulties, but curiously enough the laws were all so framed that they worked in D.'s favor, keeping L. hard at work and D. in the house making big speeches or preaching great sermons. Human endurance having a limit L. at last reached that limit and got on a strike; but after starving nearly to death and being threatened with expulsion from the cabin went back to work. L. then petitioned D. to increase the volume of certificates. D. agreed to this after much argument, pro and con; but by a remarkable coincidence the price of supplies was also increased. As D. controlled both the supplies and the currency it was no trouble to manipulate them in such a way as to keep L. just where he wanted him. The case grew more and more desperate, and L. finally began to think of helping himself to what he actually needed of the things he had made. It would be easy enough to get into the store-house, but there was God's law right over the door which said, "Thou shall not steal; thou shall not covet." "It would not do to break God's law," L. argued with himself. "Now, if D. was only out of the way then everything would be free," he continued to argue, "but the law says 'thou shall not kill,' so that scheme won't do. Then L. cried out in his great agony in prayer to God; but he got no relief, so he got the Bible and found nothing in it but condemnation of himself. He went to D. and told him that he was in great trouble. D. knelt down and prayed for him and then advised him to resign himself to the will of God, who doeth all things well. There was some comfort in being sympathized with and prayed for, but this could not last long on an empty stomach, so he went back to the Bible, and turning the pages with trembling fingers a passage of Paul's writing caught his eye. It was this: The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. There was light here. D. assuming to be the rightful owner of the earth had taken God's law and put it between the producer and that which he produced. How did he do it? Captured the supplies with the certificates which were backed by a fictitious value contained in the vault. Here was D.'s power, his strength. "By means of that gold and silver," said L., "I am worked to death. My labor is all that is of any active value on the earth, and if any certificates are to be issued they should be backed by an actual instead of a fictitious value. But D. has all the supplies backed up under the law, and what can I do?"

Aye, what can Lazarus do?

Very Curious.

BY N. D. GUERRY, OF ASTORIA, MISS.

I would regret exceedingly to lose faith in my fellow man, but I declare, when I read the resolution lately offered in the United States Senate by Senator Stanford, and think of all I ever heard of him, particularly of how it was said he came to be elected to the United States Senate, I can't keep from wondering what in the world is coming to pass. What

could have waked him up? With no poor kin, and lots of money, enough to keep his seat in the Senate for the rest of his life, and provide for one or more sons to succeed him for a century, what could have brought his great mind round to thinking of the condition of the agricultural masses? Lend them money, indeed! and at 1 or 2 per cent on their land. How generous; how national would he have this great government become. How wondrous kind in him to stop the great business of President-making just long enough to write several whereases and a ten-line resolution directing the Finance Committee to inquire into, etc. What in the world could have induced him to do all this work, and make that great explanation, is the question which troubles me so much, and, as I say, arouses my fears lest I lose faith in my kind, which I would dislike so much to do. I once thought a seat in the United States Senate was one of the grandest honors which man could attain to, but somehow the observations of the last twenty-five years have changed my idea a little, and I have about come to the conclusion that it is not so much the place as the man who fills it, after all, which confers the honor, and the man who is on the watch to see which side of the fence the "inconvenient multitude" is likely to get, and is training to jump over quick and get there before them, is not much man after all. But that can't be said of the distinguished Senator. He has, it is said, a dead sure thing of it, and as long as his money holds out, it makes no difference to him where the "inconvenient multitude" may go; makes no difference to him whether the Finance Committee ever comes round to his idea or not, he will keep his seat warm every winter. This is what makes it so hard to decide what his real object can be.

The Senate or House either, as now composed, will pay no attention to his or any other plan which may be offered to help the agricultural classes; such a thing would be too much like work for the distinguished members of those honorable bodies. It would break in too much on the delightful amusement of settling parliamentary usages in which some of them seem to take so much pleasure, and to the fact that the votes of these same agricultural masses, this "inconvenient multitude," put them in the Congress, and are expected to continue them in whether the Government ever lends them any money or not, makes the honorable members sublimely indifferent to all such propositions. Talk about Mr. Pickler's sub-treasury bill in the House or Senator Vance's bill in the Senate. Does anybody really expect this Congress to pass either? Never, at least while there is such a life struggle to keep the ins in and the outs out.

The "inconvenient multitude" will have to do more than "howl" on the outside before Congress can ever be brought to put on its common-sense cap. The trouble is all our Congressmen are candidates for the Presidency and they haven't got time to think about such common-place things as changing the financial conditions of the Government, so as to lift up the oppressed agriculturist and help them to resist the combinations which have and are grounding them to powder. The "multitude" must get into Congress itself somehow before anything tangible will be done for them. This year this "inconvenient multitude" will have to vote for Congressmen again. What are they going to do about it? Re-elect these same

Presidential candidates, of course. That's about what will be the outcome of it; at least so it has been going for so many, many years. To be called the "brown-fisted yeomanry," the "bone and sinew" of the land, with other like elegant and beautiful names for the honest, toiling countryman, and a few well-selected and well-told anecdotes is enough for them, so up go their hats, in go their votes, and Mr. Smith goes back to Congress again. That's about the way of it, and you may write yourself blind telling of the advantages of the sub-treasury plan; its justice and equity, its constitutionality, and the duty of the Government to provide some relief for the agricultural and laboring masses of the country who are having the life blood drawn out of their vocations by unjust banking and tax laws, which, by the way, I indorse every word and letter of it most heartily, but it will be wasted thunder if the "multitude" don't get into Congress some way. I see no reason why they do not go to Congress through their Representatives, would be there now, if the men in Congress were really their representatives, and had not fooled them by those same funny anecdotes. The "multitude" must stop howling on the outside and must go into Congress before relief will come. How can they be got there is the question? Answer, by reading your paper and their several State organs; these will wake them up so that next fall they will send their votes up to Washington in the pockets of men who know what these voters need and have the courage to demand for them the fullest recognition by the Government. There is no use writing or speaking of the wrongs bad legislation and corrupt officials have brought on us, so long as the men who made those laws and those who execute them are kept in office by our votes. Who is to repeal the national banking law and remove as far as possible the outrages which have grown out of it? Certainly not the men who enacted it, or those who are gathering the dollars from it. The man is green enough for corn food who for one moment believes that any man who is reaping a rich harvest from the national banking law will favor its repeal. God didn't make men that way. So of the railroad monopolies, and every other means of grinding money out of the less-favored classes. The Scripture says, "Where your treasure is there will be your hearts also," and no greater truth was ever uttered, and the "inconvenient multitude" need never expect anything from men whose interest is so antagonistic to theirs. If, therefore, they want those obnoxious laws repealed and the corruptions of the Government washed out they must put men in Washington who will do it. We have been talking about this thing for two years; the time has about come now for action. What will be the result? Who can tell?

The Florida Alliance (Lakeland) is fully identified with the movement in that State. It posts its readers as follows:

The organizers of the National Farmers and Laborers Union have been commissioned and sent into the States of Michigan, Montana, Wyoming, California, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. Ben Terrell, the noted lecturer, is now on a tour of the States of Texas, Arkansas, Indiana, Wisconsin, Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, Indian Territory and Missouri, which will employ his time up to the middle of August. The president of the order, Col. Polk, goes south to meet important emergencies in Georgia, Arkansas and Missouri. He says that the cause is stronger and the order growing more rapidly than ever before in its history.

OFFICIAL.

To the members of the Farmers and Laborers Union, and the Farmers State Alliance of Arkansas.

BRETHREN: The above organization being both under the jurisdiction of the National Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union, having the same objects, aims and purposes, and secret work, but being under different State organizations, it is earnestly urged upon the membership of said organizations, that they cultivate and practice the warmest fraternal feeling and fellowship, and that we heartily co-operate in all things conducive to our mutual benefit, or to the welfare of the toiling masses of our own loved Arkansas.

JOHN P. H. RUSS,
President F. & L. U., of Ark.

PAUL T. DAVIDSON,
President F. S. A., of Ark.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., March 26, 1890.
Attest: W. B. W. HEARTSILL,
[SEAL.] Sec. F. S. A., of Ark.

Sub-treasury petitioners and all others sending petitions to this office will please state in their petitions the State and county in which the petitioners reside. This is absolutely necessary that they may take the proper course and be properly recorded.

Fraternally, J. H. TURNER,
Sec. N. F. A. & I. U.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE,
March 15, 1890.

The order is hereby notified that the National Legislative Committee has given its endorsement to the following bills:

H. R. 7162. To establish a system of sub-treasuries, and for other purposes, (or S. 2806, to the same effect.)

H. R. 838. To repeal the restriction upon the coinage of the silver dollar.

S. 3213. To make the Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries an officer of the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

By mistake Senate bill No. 2716 was included in this list last week. It should not have been.

S. 1 (substitute). To protect trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies.

H. R. 8051. Permitting farmers and producers of tobacco to sell leaf tobacco in any quantity to unlicensed dealers, or to any person, without restriction, and repealing all laws inconsistent herewith.

H. R. 7641. To provide for the establishment of a postal telegraph system.

These bills are presented with the request that all who concur with the committee in favoring their passage so notify their members of Congress, both by letter and petition.

The National Legislative Committee further present the following bills as having received their disapproval, and believing their passage is not to the best interest of the nation, present to the public and Order at large, requesting that all such as agree with the committee in opposing the passage of these bills will so notify their members of Congress, both by letter and petition:

S. 2689. To extend the time of payment of loans to the Pacific railroads, etc.

H. R. 8242. To regulate elections of representatives in Congress.

H. R. 4668. To promote the efficiency of the militia. [A most dangerous bill, and should be defeated.]

There have been over 10,000 bills introduced, and as fast as they are examined, those which are directly in the interest of agriculture will be noticed, and those opposed to these interests will receive attention. These will be added from time to time.

The Fish Commission.

Bill S. 3213, by Mr. Paddock, is as follows: A bill to make the commissioner of fish and fisheries an officer of the Department of Agriculture, and for other purpose.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That on and after the first day of July, 1890, the commissioner of fish and fisheries shall be an officer in and of the Department of Agriculture, and all the powers and duties heretofore or hereafter to be exercised and performed by said officer shall, on and after said first day of July, 1890, be so exercised and performed by said commissioner of fish and fisheries under the supervision and direction of the Secretary of Agriculture.

SEC. 2. That all officers and employees of the commission of fish and fisheries shall, on and after the first day of July, 1890, be subject to appointment and removal by the Secretary of Agriculture, and all official records and papers and all properties of every kind and nature in the possession and under the control of said commission shall, on said first day of July, 1890, be turned over to the Department of Agriculture and be thereafter under the control, management, and direction of the Secretary of that Department.

For the purpose of answering numerous inquiries the above bill is printed in full. The time has arrived when, in the opinion of those best able to judge of the situation, this commission should be placed under the control of the Agricultural Department. There are many reasons for this change, and, in reality, a few silly excuses against it. It is claimed that the scientific branch of the commission would be crippled, which is an unfair imputation upon the ability and intelligence of those in charge of the Department of Agriculture. It is safe, however, to presume in the face of this assumption, that neither the scientific, practical, or executive branches of this commission, or even its beneficial results would suffer in the least degree by the proposed transfer. Again, it is said by those opposing the change that it would be fatally injured by the political environment which is supposed to surround the Agricultural Department.

This is as unkind as it is untrue, and will surely have a different effect from the one intended. The fact is, large expenditures are being made by this commission. Expensive experiments are being conducted, all under the direction of one man, and this

man responsible only to Congress. It is a loose way of doing the public business, and should not be encouraged. It is the duty of this Congress to place it under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture, that the people may know what is being done, and for what purposes this large expenditure of money is being made.

Alliance Resolutions.

The following resolutions were passed at the regular April meeting of the Wilkes County, Georgia, Farmers Alliance, April 8, 1890:

1. That we will support no candidate for the legislature who will not pledge himself to vote for and use his influence to have the law so amended that hereafter a member's pay shall not exceed \$200 for one session, and that no member shall receive pay during his absence from his post of duty; furthermore, that any member who receives a free pass upon any railroad shall thereby be disqualified for serving longer as a member of the legislature.

2. That we will support no one for the national legislature who will not pledge himself to vote for and to use his influence for the removal of all tariff from the necessities of life, and for the establishment of a tariff for revenue only raised on the luxuries of life; also to have the volume of currency largely increased and the removal of tax from State banks.

Resolved further, That the county secretary forward these resolutions for publication to the Washington Chronicle, Washington Gazette, of Wilkes County, Ga., and to THE NATIONAL ECONOMIST, Washington, D. C., and to our State organ, the Alliance Farmer.

E. M. ANTHONY,
Secretary W. Co. F. A.

Grove Hill (Kan.) Union, No. 494, unanimously adopted the following:

Businesses which are in their nature monopolies are properly part of the functions of the State, and should be assumed by the State. There is the same reason why the Government should carry telegraphic messages as that it should carry letters; that railroads should belong to the public as that common roads should.

The following resolutions, introduced by Bro. J. W. Creighton before the Jackson County Alliance, of Georgia, were unanimously adopted April 3, 1890:

That having read the sub-treasury bills presented to our national legislature by Representative Pickler and Senator Vance, we most heartily approve of the same, but prefer the House bill to the Senate bill, inasmuch as the House bill gives to the people the right of electing the manager of the sub-treasury, while the Senate bill places the appointment of that official in the hands of the Secretary of the Treasury.

That we hereby tender our thanks to Senator Vance and Representative Pickler for the interest they have manifested for the agricultural interest of the country.

That we will support no candidate for Congressional honors who will not give his unequivocal pledge in the public prints to use his utmost endeavor to secure

the enactment of said bills or some similar measure, provided neither of said bills shall become laws in the meantime.

That a copy of the above be sent to our National and State organs for publication.

Can a Name Be Given?

An elder in The Alliance, Brother N. C. Wright, of Belle, Miss., writes:

I now lack but a few days of having reached my three-score years and twelve, you must, therefore, know that I have passed through many vicissitudes, and while I have always occupied a high-private's place in the lower ranks of political economy, yet my eyes have all the time been open so that I could see wickedness in the high places in this Government. Yes, I might say with truth I have seen this wickedness in the very highest place, yet the people have borne it with all the meekness of the lamb. It used to be the case in my early manhood that we elected men to office that they might serve us; but now and for many years back, whether we intended it or not, we elect officers that we may serve them. This seems to be the case even down to the constable. During a canvass, and until the polls are closed on election day, candidates will meet us with a hypocritical smile on their countenance, and imprint a thousand and one Judas' kisses on our cheeks, but so soon as they find they are put in power by the good people they will sell every sacred interest these same people possess for a few pieces of silver, and even barter off their birthright for less than a respectable mess of potage. This is a grave charge, you may say, to bring against the most intelligent portion of the citizens of my country. This is true, but I aim it not at every individual whom we elect to office. Some of them may have been honest while they were citizens in common with us, but there seems to be a kind of atmospheric or contagious disease in and around the Capital of this Union, and it has spread until it has permeated every nook and corner of this broad land, from the capital of each State down to every little election precinct throughout the Government. I have searched every lexicon, of which I have any knowledge, for an appropriate name for this malady, but have failed to find a term sufficiently appropriate. The medical fraternity may have this name hid away in the archives of medical science; if so, Mr. Editor, I hope you will name the monster that the rest of us poor fellows may be able to call the thing by its proper name. I make this request of you, because I understand you (heretofore, at least,) have borne the title of M. D.; therefore I am satisfied if you have an appropriate name in your vocabulary, that you have the magnanimity of soul sufficient to induce you to reveal it for the benefit of suffering humanity.

HON. W. E. FARMER has taken hold of the Texas Labor Journal (San Antonio) as editor and business manager. The Journal has always been one of the liveliest of the reform papers, and deserves to prosper. The salutatory says:

The Journal will continue to be an advocate of organized labor wherever found, and the different labor organizations will always find it their friend and fighting their battles for political, social and moral reform.

TO RELIEVE AGRICULTURE.

Hon. L. P. Featherston, of Arkansas, has introduced H. R. No. 9224, which appears to be the best of the propositions yet made to recognize land as the basis of circulation. It is in the line of the Coles county bill, pending in the Senate, and recognizes the principle which attaches certain privileges to the homestead. It is a working farmers' bill as against any measure which might benefit speculators.

To provide for the relief of the agricultural population of the United States, and to promote and encourage agriculture.

Whereas the agricultural interests of the country are now greatly depressed, and consequently the farmers, farm laborers, and those dependent upon them are impoverished, and the present financial and economic conditions are such that many crops are grown at an actual loss, compelling the farm owners to mortgage their homes and farms to greedy usurers at exorbitant rates of interest, and many of their homes are passing into the hands of great landed proprietors or financial corporations; and

Whereas it is the duty of the representatives of the people, the law-makers of the nation, to recognize existing conditions, and to provide remedies for existing evils; and

Whereas immediate action is demanded to alleviate this depressed condition, and give prompt relief to the agricultural classes, besides providing for the encouragement, greater development, and future prosperity of that great industry. Therefore,

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any citizen of the United States, or any person who has declared the intention of becoming a citizen, who owns and resides upon any tract of land containing not less than ten and not more than three hundred and twenty acres of land, and who has at least one-half of said tract of land in actual cultivation, shall be entitled to apply for and receive from the Treasury of the United States a loan, in amount not to exceed one-half the assessed value of said tract of land and the improvements thereon.

SEC. 2. That all loans under this act shall be for a period of not less than five nor more than ten years, at the option of the borrower, and shall bear interest at the rate of 2 per cent per annum from the date of the loan.

SEC. 3. That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and directed to establish in his Department a "Bureau of Loans," to be under the charge and direction of a commissioner of loans, who shall be appointed by the President, by the advice and consent of the Senate, and who shall receive a salary of \$5,000 per annum. Said bureau shall have charge, under the Secretary, of all business relating to the loans herein provided.

SEC. 4. That the Secretary of the Treasury shall cause to be prepared by the law officers of his Department a blank form of mortgage with instructions as to the proper manner of filling the blanks in said form. Said mortgage shall contain a clause binding the mortgagor to keep the land mortgaged free from all claims for taxes, and the improvements insured in some responsible company for the protection of the Government. The Secretary shall also have prepared such other blanks as may be required under this act.

SEC. 5. That the President shall appoint, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of the Treasury, a loan agent for each Congressional district in the United States composed wholly or in part of agricultural lands. Said loan agent shall be an actual resident and qualified voter in the district for which he is appointed, and shall receive a salary of two thousand five hundred dollars per annum and necessary traveling expenses, and shall give a good and sufficient bond for the faithful performance of his duties.

SEC. 6. That upon the receipt of any application for a loan as provided for in this act said application shall at once be transmitted to the loan agent for the Congressional district within which the applicant resides, and said agent shall be supplied with copies of the blank form of mortgage as provided for in this act.

SEC. 7. That it shall be the duty of said loan agent, upon the receipt of any application as herein provided, to examine

into the title and assessed valuation of the tract of land upon which said loan is asked, for which purpose there shall be furnished him an abstract of the title from the proper recording officer of the county in which the land is situated, and a copy of the last two preceding assessments, and a certificate of the actual residence and cultivation required by this act. The fee for obtaining said abstract and certificate shall be paid for by the owner of said land.

SEC. 8. That when the said loan agent shall be satisfied that the title to the land upon which the loan is asked is in the applicant free from all incumbrances, and that the applicant is a bona fide resident thereon and cultivator thereof, he shall ascertain from the last two assessments the maximum amount that can be loaned thereon under the provisions of this act, and shall then prepare in duplicate two of the mortgage blanks herein provided, and have the same executed by the applicant before some duly qualified officer. One copy of said mortgage shall be forwarded to the commissioner of loans, and he shall cause the same to be placed on file and recorded in the bureau of loans, and the other copy shall be filed and recorded in the proper office in the county where said land is situated, said record to be made at the expense of the mortgagor.

SEC. 9. That upon receipt of any mortgage as hereinbefore provided the commissioner of loans shall immediately draw his warrant for the payment of the sum named in said mortgage, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and a draft for the same, payable in coin certificates, legal-tender notes, or other lawful money, shall be sent to the mortgagor.

SEC. 10. That the interest on all loans made under the provisions of this act shall be paid annually at the office of the loan agent for the district, and he shall transmit the same to the Treasurer of the United States. The failure to pay interest for two consecutive years shall entitle the Government to foreclose, and all proceedings for foreclosure shall be attended to by the loan agent, and conducted according to the form of procedure in the district where the loan is made, and all lands reverting to the Government by foreclosure shall be added to the public domain and held for sale to actual settlers at the amount loaned thereon, with 10 per cent added thereon.

SEC. 11. That to enable the Secretary of the Treasury to carry into effect the provisions of this act, he is authorized and directed to issue as fast as may be required, in denominations of "one," "two," "five," "ten," "twenty," and "fifty" dollars, coin certificates or United States notes of full legal tender value, to an amount necessary to provide for the payment of all loan contracts that may come under this act, which certificates or notes, when issued, are hereby appropriated for the purpose of loans upon farm mortgages; said certificates and notes shall be similar in all respects to the United States certificates and notes now in use.

SEC. 12. That all laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

SEC. 13. That this act shall take effect from and after its passage.

"The Lecturer."

BY J. H. ROBERTSON, MT. VINCO, VA.

Owing to the false education of producers in regard to economical questions which touch their material interest, "The Lecturer" holds, perhaps, the most important office of our order. It being his special province to aid in the destruction of those relics of barbarism, those ancient idols, whereby the many are enslaved for the benefit of the few; as also to teach the brethren the superior advantages of a currency based upon the real wealth of the nation, and made the only legal tender for debts and taxes; and to show them that their first duty to themselves, to their children, to their brethren, is a true allegiance to the principles of our order, upon the success of which the prosperity of the country depends.

Now, seeing that so great a weight hangs upon this office, the organs of our order can not do a better work for themselves or for the order than to stir up these, their most efficient aids, to the proper discharge of their official duties.

WAGE EQUALIZATION.

Between the Tax-Payers and the Tax-Consumers.

BY GEO. C. BRECHER, OF SYRACUSE, N. Y.

The great decrease (contraction) of money and other currency, since 1870, proportionately increased the purchasing power of the wages of official tax-consumers and the burden of the tax-payers. A comparison of the wages of those who are engaged in productive industries, with the wages paid their public servants, is timely, just, and necessary, now that the organized tax-payers are about to demand expansion of the currency, or reduction of the wages of their public servants.

Before 1860 the \$25,000 wages of our Presidents would, on an average, purchase in the New York market about 25,000 bushels of wheat. From 1860 to 1872 the yearly wage, \$25,000, of our Presidents would, at the average market price in said city, have purchased only about 12,500 bushels. The wage—\$50,000 per annum—received by our Presidents from 1872 to 1888, would have purchased in said market about 37,000 bushels of wheat, and since 1888 about 58,000 bushels. The wages paid President Harrison would buy every year about 33,000 more bushels of wheat than President Buchanan could have paid for with his year's wages, and about 46,000 bushels more than President Lincoln's \$25,000 a year would have then paid for. Either President Lincoln's wages were too little or President Harrison's wages are too great. Therefore to hereafter secure even and exact justice to and between the tax-payers and the tax-consumers, and submit "to all whom it may concern," the following outlines of a wage equalizing plan.

Without other change in the wages paid by the people to their public servants, we would make said wages greater, or less, as the staple farm products of our country were high or low. As an illustration, we will suppose this new wage system is based on a zero price of \$1 a bushel in the New York market for wheat.

Then, when wheat is \$1 a bushel, the wages of our public servants will remain unchanged; but whenever the average yearly market price either rises above or falls below said \$1 a bushel for wheat, the wages of said public servants for the next year shall be proportionately increased or decreased. Thus President Harrison's wages this year, regulated by last year's price of wheat, would be \$50,000; but next year, regulated by this year's price of wheat, about \$45,000.

Under the above system, the tax consumers, finding that they had a community of interests with the tax payers, would, thereafter be impelled to so make and administer the laws as "to conserve the common weal."

When the people cravenly recognize other rulers than majorities, the time will come, and not till then, when they will silently consent to be taxed to pay excessive wages to pamper the pride and prop the pomposity of their public servants.

"The voice of the people" demands more money! or, reduction of official salaries!

Extracts from David Urquhart's "Standard of Value."

"Currency laws are an ingenious contrivance by means of which on the accident of a short crop or

anything else, in any part of the world, a few men, possessing large capital, can double their banker's account and ruin the country."—Lord Ashburton.

The decline of the precious metals no more affected the Roman empire than their increase had formerly done. Observe and mark the breakers that for you will soon raise their head from out the sinking tide. The Roman empire had no debt. The taxes were paid in corn rents and by local assessments in kind; the obligations of man to man were equally so adjusted; the ounce of gold was not taken as a standard. The money was reduced in proportion as the metal became dear. Suppose the Roman empire had been overwhelmed with a debt to be paid in a certain weight of gold—would it have required the aid of our ancestors to overthrow Rome? Suppose monetary laws had taken money itself as the standard of itself, and so fixed all contracts between man and man, all assessments, all rents—would it then have been left to England (and the United States) and the nineteenth century to reveal the phenomenon of pauperism?

Gold and silver are the commodities that most fluctuate in value. No others have to the same extent varied in quantity and worth, there having been in one age no less than twenty times as much of them as at another age, and the difference of their exchangeable value against products being no less at one period than sixteen times what it has been at another. If the quantity of goods in a country augment, the money remaining the same, the latter will increase in value, and *vice versa*, in other words, prices are high or low, in proportion to the quantity of the money in circulation. When you fix a standard of value and have reduced to it taxes, rents, bonds, debts, then every fluctuation of the value of gold on every contraction or extension of the paper in circulation convulses society. When paper becomes money by government authority, then is it liable to be increased or diminished by a secret and irresponsible power, and become the most terrible of scourges ever devised by or inflicted on man.

The consequences are too intricate for observation; too mysterious for exposure; they may be compared to private robberies committed by or on each individual throughout the land. If there were equality in the number of sufferers and balance of profit and loss, still would this be atrocious and inconceivable; but what is it when millions are sacrificed for the benefit of tens, and the wealth so accumulated is smitten with barrenness! It is a matter of congratulation, rather than of regret, that hundreds of millions wrung from the sweat of pauper-branded brows have been sunk in foreign loans and projects. * * *

We are slaves and of a novel breed. Other slaves suffer because they cannot get redress; other slaves have tyrants over them; we, inviting the extremes of wealth and misery, find neither power in the one nor courage in the other. We do the work of inquisitor and victim and furnish ingenuity and flesh. The tongue has done it all. The roar brings forth the monster. At the close of the seventeenth century the word credit system brought forth public debt. At the beginning of the nineteenth standard of value stalked forth, and behind him comes the realities he engenders—panic, monetary crisis, bankruptcy, and revolution.—"Standard of Value," by David Urquhart, written in 1844.

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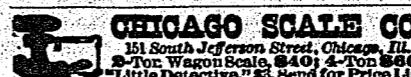
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One of South Dakota's New Laws.

The Bradstreet's and Dunn commercial agencies are making considerable noise over the passage of a bill by the South Dakota legislature, which they claim practically prohibits them from transacting business in the State. It is hard to see wherein injustice lies. The law provides that no company, association, individual, or association, whether incorporated or not, shall, directly or indirectly, transact the business either of commercial agencies, credit companies, or guarantee associations, without first receiving a certificate from the State auditor. The State auditor shall not issue the certificate unless the company or association has a paid-up capital of \$300,000, and in addition thereto deposits the sum of \$50,000 with the treasurer of the State, or with the chief financial officer of the State in which the company is organized, said deposit being duly assigned to said officer, and subject to the judgment and garnishment of persons injured financially or otherwise by the company or association making the deposit. The company or association shall file with the State auditor of South Dakota the name of a resident of the State, who shall be an agent upon whom process may be served. The company or association must make an annual statement of the business done, and pay to the State a specific tax of 2 per cent on all business. The law also prohibits commercial agencies from having reporters circulate in the State without giving their names to the State auditor, and securing a certificate issued in his name. This applies also to agents and representatives of all other companies. The penalty to this law is a fine of \$250 and six months in the county jail.

In commencing to read this article, one supposes Mr. Black has discovered a by-path to profit, but the suggestion of "over-production" comes on in the end. Mr. Black had best quit raising alfalfa seed. Fort Collins Courier says:

P. P. Black, who last year rented thirty acres of alfalfa ground, allowed the crop to go to seed, and harvested seven bushels to the acre, one of the largest crops of seed raised this year. Desiring to know how he would come out on the venture, he has kept a correct account of expenditures and receipts. At the present low price of seed, after giving one-third of the threshed grain as rent, he has lost an even hundred dollars.

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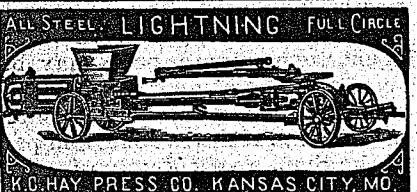
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We speak from personal knowledge, as we have dealt with this firm. [Ep.]

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