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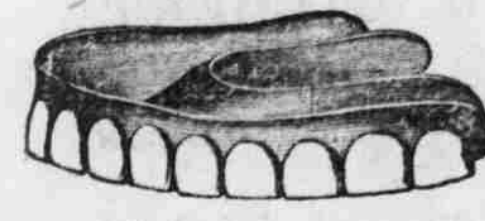
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FARMERS' DECLARATION INDEPENDENCE.

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for a class of people, suffering from long continued systems of oppression and abuse, to rouse themselves from an apathetic indifference to their own interests, which has become habitual; to assume among their fellow citizens that equal station, and demand from the Govern-ment they support, those equal rights to which the laws of nature, and of nature's God entitle them; a decent respect for mankind requires that they declare the cause that impels them to a course so necessary to their own protection.

We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life; liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights governments are instituted among men, deriving the just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever the powers of the govern-ment become destructive of these, either through the injustice or inefficiency of its laws, or through the corruption of its administrators, it is the right of the people to abolish such laws, and institute such reforms as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence indeed will dictate that laws long established shall not be changed for light and trifling causes, and accord-ingly, all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the laws to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a desire to reduce a people under the absolute despotism of combinations, that, under the fostering care of the Government, and with wealth wrung from the people, have grown to such gigantic proportions as overshadow all the land, and wield an almost irresistible influence for their own selfish purposes, in all its halls of legislation, it is their right—it is their duty to throw off such tyranny, and provide new guards for their future security.

Such has been the patient sufferance of the producing classes of these states and such is now the necessity which compels them to declare that they will use every means save a resort to arms, to overthrow this despotism of monopoly and to reduce all men claiming the protection of American laws to an equality before those laws, making the owner of a railroad as amenable thereto as the "varied beggar that walk the streets, the sun and air his sole inheritance.

The history of the present railway monopoly is a history of repeated injuries and oppression, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over the people these states unequalled in any monarchy of the Old World, and having its own parallel in the history of the Medieval ages, when the strong hand was the only law, and the highways of commerce were taxed by the Feudal Barons who from their strongholds, surrounded by their armies of vassals, could levy tribute upon the traveler as their own will alone should dictate. To prove this, let fact be submitted to a candid world:

They have influenced our executive officers, to refuse their assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for public good, and when such laws have been passed they utterly refused to obey them.

They have procured the passage of other laws, for their own benefit alone by which they have put untold millions into their own coffers, to the injury of the entire commercial and industrial interests of the county.

They have influenced legislation to suit themselves, by bribing venal legis-lators to betray the true interests of their constituents, while others have been kept quiet by the compliment of free pass.

They have repeatedly prevented the re-election of representatives, for opposing with many firmness, their invariance of the people's rights.

They have by false representations and subterfuge induced the people to subscribe funds to build roads, whose rates, when built, are so exorbitant, that in many instances transportation by private conveyance is less burd-some.

They have procured charters by which they condemn and appropriate our lands without adequate compensa-tion therefor, and arrogantly claim that by virtue of these charters they are absolutely above the control of legal enactment.

They have procured a law of Congress by which they have dispossessed hun-dreds of farmers of the homes that by years of toil they have built up; have induced others to mortgage their farms for roads never intended to be built, and after squandering the money thus obtained, have left their victims to the mercy of courts over which they held absolute sway.

They obstructed the administration of justice by injunctions procuring from venal judges, by legal quibbles and appeals from court to court, with intent to wear out ruin the persecutors, openly avowing their determination to make it so terrible for the public to prosecute them that they will not dare undertake it.

They have virtually made judges dependent on their will alone, and have procured their appointment for the express purpose of reversing a decision of the highest court of the nation, by which millions were gained to them, to the injury of the holders of the bonds and the breaking down of the last safeguard of American freemen.

They have affected to render them-selves independent of and superior to the civil power, by ordering large bodies of hireling to enforce their unlawful exactions, and have protected them from punishment for an injury they might inflict upon peaceful citizens, while ejecting them from their conveyances for refusing to pay more than the rate of fair prescribed by law.

They have arrested and summoned from their homes for trial, at distant points, other citizens for the same offense of refusing to pay more than legal fare, putting them to as great an inconvenience and expense as possible, and still further evincing their deter-mination to make it too terrible for the people to dare engage in any legal conflict with them.

They have combined together to destroy competition and to practice an unjust discrimination, contrary to the expressed provisions of our constitution and the spirit of our law.

They have virtually cut off our trade with distant parts of the world by their unjust discrimination and by their exorbitant rates of freight, fore-ing upon our hands a worthless sur-plus, or of giving three-fourths of the our customers pay for our products for their transportation

Under the false and specious pretense of developing the country, they have obtained enormous grants of public lands from Congress, and now retard rather than develop its settlement, by the high prices charged for such land.

They have converted the bonds fraudulently obtained from the govern-ment, into a great corruption fund, with which they are enabled to bribe and control legislatures, and subvert every branch of Government to their own base and sordid purpose.

They have increased the already intolerable burden of taxation, which the people have to endure, compared with which the tea and stamp tax which precipitated the war of the revolution, seems utterly insignificant, by the appropriations of money from the public treasury, while they have escaped taxation themselves by evading and violating the expressed provisions of their charters.

In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned our legislators for redress in the most humble terms. Our repeated petitions have been answered only by silence, or by attempts to frame laws that shall seem to meet our wants, but that are, in fact, only a legal snare for courts to disagree upon and for corporations to disobey.

Nor have we been wanting in at-tempts to obtain redress through Congress. We have warned them from time to time of these various and repeated encroachments upon our rights; we have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here; we have appealed to them as the Administrators of a free and impartial government, to protect us from these encroachments, which, if continued, would inevitably end in the utter destruction of those liberties for which our fathers gave their lives, and the reinstatement of privileged classes and an aristocracy of wealth, worse than that from which the revo-lution freed us. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and duty. We must therefore acquiesce in the necessity which compels us to denounce their criminal indifference to our wrongs, and hold them as we hold our legislature—enemies to the producer—to the monopolist friends.

We, therefore, the producers of this State in our several counties assembled on this the anniversary of that day that gave birth to a nation of freemen and to a government of which, despite the corruption of its officers, we are still so justly proud, appealing the Supreme Judges of the World for the rectitude of our intentions, do solemnly declare that we will use all lawful and peaceful means to free ourselves from the tyranny of monopoly, and that we will cease our efforts for reform until every department of our government gives token that the reign of licentious extravagance is over, and something of the purity, honesty and frugality with which our fathers inaugurated it has taken its place.

That to this end we hereby declare ourselves absolutely free and independ-ent of all past political connections, and that we will give our suffrage only to support such men for office, from the lowest officer in the State to the President of the United States, as we have reason to believe will use their best endeavors to the promotion of these ends; and for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.

THE NEW-PARTY MOVEMENT.

An impartial observer of current political events can no longer deny that the movement among the people for the formation of a new party to meet the issues of the day has assumed a tangible and vigorous shape. It has developed with unmistakable signs of health and energy in five Western States,—Iowa, Ohio, Minnesota, Wis-consin, and Illinois. In Iowa, Ohio, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, where State elections are to be held this year, the Democratic party is practically out of the field. There is nothing but the Republican party and the Opposition. In Ohio, the Opposition is called the People's party; in Iowa and Minnesota, it is the Anti-Monopoly party; in Wisconsin the call is made for a State Reform Convention; in Illinois, there is to be no State election this year, but

the Anti-monopolists are organizing by counties, are making nominations of their own, and are generally assured of success. In all the States, under whatever name or auspices, the move-ment has the same common aim. The leading declaration of all the platforms is, that neither the Republican nor the Democratic party can be trusted to reform the evils of which the people complain. The nominations are made without reference to former political associations. Projects for ascertaining the political complexion of conventions according to the old division are promptly voted down. Opposition to the grabs, and steals, and monopolies of the day is expressed in no doubtful terms. There is no spirit of compromise intended to conciliate political fossils, no concessions to attract the co-opera-tion of discontented Republicans or influential Democrats. The people, outraged by the political frauds that have been put upon them, and alive to the realization that they must save themselves if they would be saved at all, have come together, and, with such variations as local interests suggest, they aim directly at reforming political abuses, and at breaking down monopol-ies of all kinds.

The ground taken by the Minnesota Convention of Tuesday is the same as that already occupied by the Anti-Monopolists in Iowa and Ohio, and the same also as that which the call for the Reform Convention in Wisconsin dis-tinguishes to cover. It resolved that it is unwise to continue the old party organiza-tions after their race has been run; that the course of the monopolies must be checked; that taxes must be levied for revenue and not for protecting certain privileged classes; that the public servants of the people must not be paid of largely as to make office-holding attractive to human cupidity; that the corruption in the National Government as illustrated by Credit Mobilier, the Fort Snelling swindle, and similar transactions, and the corruption in the State Government, as found in the control of the State Treasury, must be held up to public scorn, and that those who are guilty must be punished; that the excessive fees now enjoyed by State and county officials must be produced; that the people must take politics in their own hands, and declares themselves free from party servitude. There is nothing in the platform that is not new and progressive. There is no allusion to the dead issues of the past. Party chains are broken; there is a new declaration of independence; and all men who want to be free have the doors thrown wide open to them.

Minnesota has suffered more than its share of spoliation. Its Government has been in the hands of a Ring. The State Treasury has been system-atically despoiled. A certain class demands its control. One of this class was a defaulter to the amount of \$40,000; his successor cost the people \$100,000; and the practice has obtain-ed regularly of loaning the public funds to political speculators. When this state of things was exposed, Mr. E. W. Dike was appointed State Treasury and proved to be an honest man. He refused to cover up the fraudulent transactions of his predecessors by carrying them over on the books. For this the regular Republican Con-vention refused to nominate him, and took a man from the very same class that had already furnished two corrupt in-cumbents of the same office. The Anti-Monopolists have nominated Mr. Dike for the position which he has honestly filled, and thereby have brought the issue of honesty vs corruption directly before the people. It is for them to decide whether they desire to have the State funds honestly handled or not. The other nominations made on Tues-day are equally indicative of honest administration. Mr. Ara Barton, the candidate for Governor has never been

prominent in politics, though he has been a member of the Legislature. He is now the President of the State Farmers' Association. Ebenezer Ayers J. H. Stevens are among the best men in Minnesota, the former one of the largest farmers in the State.

The most notable and most important feature of the opposition to the regular Republican party in these several States is, that it is no longer the Demo-cratic party. In Ohio, the Demo-cratic party has made regular nominations; in Iowa, it may still come to the front with a straight Bourbon ticket; but whether the Democratic party gives up the ghost or makes a pretense of living it has left no legacy to the new political movement, which is alike independent of both the old parties. The present success or failure of the new party in these States is insignificant in compar-ison with the fact, now thoroughly attested, that it has been established on a firm basis with the common purposes in all sections of the country, of break-ing down monopoly and corruption; of electing men with a view to their honesty and ability, and without regard to their past political connections, — *Chicago Tribune.*

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL MAN.

There is nothing more fortunate for moderate genius than to be born poor. The "silver spoon" class are a very comfortable people, no doubt, but the great trouble of them is, if they don't become very great they are extremely likely to become the very opposite. Poverty has helped men to solve some of the greatest problems of life. Half its brave deeds have been a necessity, and the most of its noble sayings have been born of a determined opposition. It does a man good to put him at his wit's ends. Emergencies make men. Any man can be a general or a pilot in a calm; but storms show the metal. Reputation is made more by boldness and will, than by ability and patience. Life is too short to wait for the tide whose ebb leads on to fortune. We must make the most of present opportunities, but we shall hardly do it, unless present opportuni-ties are in the main present necessities. The man who works out these to the full, least extent is the most successful man. — *Heald's College Journal.*

The man who wrote "I am saddest when I sing," was foolish if he sang much.

A Western genius has an idea which is an idea. He proposes to arrange church seats on pivots, so the devout may more conveniently examine the toliets of the back seat.

A Dutch Congressman remarked, "Ven I was elected, I thought I would find dem all Solomon down here; but I found dere was some as pick fools here as I was mineself."

What is that from which, if take the whole, some will remain? whole-some.

It takes to boys to go to school no-adays—one to study and the other to carry the books.

Our school boy remarks that when his teacher undertakes to show him what is what he only finds out which is swich.

Circus proprietors wish it distinctly understood that the term sawdust sawdusts" which occur so often in New York papers, does not refer to their exhibitions.

The proprietor of an English menag-erie has posted up the following notice "Ladies are requested not to remain stationary in front of the cages. It tiresthe monkeys."

A cannibal's epitaph—"Write me as one who loves his fellow-men.