

ALLIANCE DEPARTMENT.

This department of THE SCOUT is open to any one who wishes to contribute an article on timely topics of interest to the alliance.

THE PROTEST OF THE FARMER.

An Address to the Alliance by President L. L. Folk.

[CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.]

I have thus briefly adverted to some of the prominent causes and conditions which have forced into being one of the mightiest revolutions ever known to the world. The advocates and promoters of this great reform movement make war on no legitimate interests and extend the cordial right hand of fraternity and friendship to all men who are earnestly striving to make an honest living in the world. They seek to rescue agriculture and restore it to its just position among the other great industries of the country. They are not begging for charity, but they are demanding simple justice. They ask for no class legislation in favor of agriculture, but they demand for it an open field and an equal chance with every other great interest in the race of progress. They see in the perilous conditions confronting them—in the class legislation of congress, in the monopolistic combinations of money power, that we have demonstrated to the world that this government can be run in the interest of the few. They propose to solve the question as to whether it can be run in the interest of the many. They see it rapidly resolving our population into paupers and millionaires, and they propose to protect and preserve that great middle class which, in all ages, in all civilizations, in all countries, has always proved itself the surest and safest defender of civil liberty. As I walk the avenues of this beautiful capital city, and look upon its magnificent buildings; as I travel over the country and see its rapidly growing villages, towns and cities, our wonderful development and growth, our splendid fertile plains, our forests and beautiful rivers, I am made to feel that this is truly and indeed the greatest country on earth. But as I stand in this presence, and look into the faces of men who have always been the great conservators of the peace and liberties of the people, who have always been the breaker against the surging tides of fanaticism, whether in church or State, and reflect that within their quiet, unostentatious homes are inculcated those lessons of virtue and patriotism, which is the citadel of civil and religious liberty, I forget our splendid cities, our magnificent plains, and beautiful rivers, and mighty works of internal improvement, and say in my heart that after all, the greatness, grandeur, glory, and power of this country, and of our government, rests in the homes of the middle class of our people. In their ominous surroundings they read not only the threatened doom of agriculture and the enslavement of labor, but the rapid approach of dissolution and death, to the republic.

They have formulated and announced to the world a platform of principles which they believe will bring the greatest good to the greatest number, and will conserve the highest and best interests of all the people of this great country. Alliance men, democrats and republicans alike, believe that these principles embody the very quintessence of Lincolnian-republicanism and Jeffersonian-democracy. But we are told by presumptuous and arrogant partisans and self-constituted leaders, that farmers and other laboring classes "should not go into politics;" that we "will ruin parties and ruin the country." Who constitute parties in this country? To whom do political parties belong; to the people, or to the few who arrogantly assume to control them? Who has a better right to go into politics than the farmers of this country? Do they not clothe and feed the world? Do they not pay from their hard earnings 80 cents of every dollar of the taxes of the country? Of the ten hundred millions of dollars expended by the last congress, did not eight hundred millions of it come from their pockets? Without the farmers all our mighty network of railways would grow up in grass and weeds in ninety days; without them all progress would be paralyzed and all civilization would perish. It is not only their right, but one of their highest duties as citizens, to study politics, the science of government, that they may discharge the responsibilities of citizenship intelligently and wisely. One of the greatest

needs of the times is more genuine politics and less corrupt partyism. The organization of the National Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union is not, nor can it be, partisan in its character; it does not and cannot interfere or abridge in any manner the most perfect freedom of its members as to their political action. It seeks to inculcate a proper conception of the great and important responsibilities of citizenship and those essential principles of free government, which are founded in equity and justice, and leaves the member to follow the dictates of his conscience, and judgment, and patriotism, as to the best methods for securing the supremacy of these principles. Our Order has no more right to say that a member shall or shall not be a democrat, shall or shall not be republican, shall or shall not be an independent, than it has to say that he shall or shall not be a Baptist, a Methodist or Lutheran. But while it is not partisan, it is emphatically and essentially political in the broad and liberal sense of the term.

But if the picture I have portrayed of the condition of agriculture be not overdrawn, and if it be true that this condition is chiefly due to discriminating legislation, it is a duty he owes to himself, to his family, to his country, and to his God, to go actively and practically into politics with the determined purpose of securing these greatly needed reforms. He has appealed to congress for relief, but his appeals have been in vain. He has been beguiled with false promises and had his confidence and his highest interests betrayed and ignored. Hundreds of thousands of farmers during the past sessions of congress sent in their petitions and demands for relief, but all in vain. Hereafter he proposes to place his petitions, and resolutions, and demands, where they will be felt and respected—he proposes to place them in the ballot box.

In vain have the people plead for relief. In vain have they suffered and endured—patiently, submissively, uncomplainingly. Over one thousand years ago the old Sheik Ilderim, of Medina, said to certain Roman ingrates: "Do you dream that because the prophet of Allah dwells now beyond the bridge of Al Sirat, that therefore he is deaf, dumb and blind? I tell you by the splendor of God, that a tempest is brooding on his brow—there is lightning gathering in his soul for you."

Do men dream that because the sovereign and oppressed people of this country have thus suffered, thus endured, that therefore they have become deaf, and dumb, and blind? I tell them that the friends of freedom and of liberty will marshal their forces and come forth "more terrible than an army with banners," and led by the flaming sword of the avenging angel of outraged justice, as "a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night," they will rebuke treason and hurl from power those who have thus trifled with their dearest and most sacred rights and interests.

Had the heart and pen of the immortal Lincoln been divinely inspired, he could not have portrayed in more vividly truthful coloring the heartless ravages of the money power than was given in his wonderful prophecy. "I see in the near future," said he, "a crisis arising which unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned, and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the republic is destroyed. I feel at this time more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of the war. God grant that my fears may prove groundless." We read its terrible translation on the lintels of the home of every farmer and laborer in the land, and we hear it on every breeze in the heart-rending wail of poverty and distress.

The Fifty-first congress, but recently adjourned, was in session thirteen months. During that time it expended in round numbers one billion dollars of the people's money—a sum equal to \$77,000,000 per month, \$17,500,000 per week, \$2,500,000 per day, \$104,000 per hour, \$1,733 per minute, and \$28 per second! Let us bear steadily in mind that 80 cents of every dollar of this vast sum came from the agriculturists of the country. These suffering millions besieged the doors of the Capitol during that time, pleading for relief. They were turned away empty handed, their importunities disregarded, their entreaties ignored, and they were insolently admonished to "keep out of politics," to "live closer and work harder."

They asked for the free and unlim-

ited coinage of silver. Democrats in the alliance, and republicans in the alliance, simply asked their party friends in congress to redeem the pledge which both these parties had made before the world in their platforms, and in the most solemn manner. We know the result. At the dictation of Wall and Lombard streets, men of both parties stultified themselves and their parties before the world and defeated the just measure. The people asked that national banks be abolished and gambling in futures be prohibited, by issuing money direct to the people at a cheap rate of interest and in sufficient volume to meet the demands of the legitimate business of the country. They formulated and presented a plan by which this might be done. Promptly it was met with the assertion that "the government has no power under the Constitution to loan money," and therefore our bill was unconstitutional. It was asserted that it was "class legislation" and that the bill was "impracticable." "Class legislation!" Why, our statutory records are crowded with class legislation in favor of all classes, except the agriculturists. "Impracticable!" If true, whose duty was it to correct it? "Unconstitutional!" If true, whose duty was it to frame a bill that would be constitutional? What are the duties of modern congressmen? Are they to be confined continually and forever to the manipulation of party schemes by which to gain party supremacy, and to the neglect of the great interests of the country? It is perfectly constitutional to loan our money to banks, corporations, expositions and whiskey rings, but it is unconstitutional to loan it to the wealth producers of the land. When Wall street, through its heartless gambling on the brain, and brawn, and sweat, and muscle of honest labor, becomes entangled in the meshes of its own wicked devising, it has only to look to our secretary of the treasury and say: "Help us, Cassius, or we sink," and immediately that official flies to its relief on electric wing and pours into its lap \$10,000,000 of the people's gold. But it would be grossly unconstitutional to come, in response to the piteous appeals from eight millions of panic stricken homes all over the land, and provide relief. It is perfectly constitutional, in order to get \$180,000,000 from the vaults to the banks, to pay thereon \$12,000,000 in advanced interest, \$30,700,000 in premiums, and in order to get it into the pockets of the people to charge an additional 10 per cent of \$18,000,000. Perfectly constitutional to pay to speculators and monopolists \$60,000,000 in premiums and interest, to put \$180,000,000 in circulation, but it would be shamefully unconstitutional to adopt our plan of a direct issue to the people of this \$180,000,000 at 2 per cent, at a cost of only \$3,600,000, and which would go into our treasury to diminish taxation from other sources and thus save in the one transaction the sum of \$57,100,000. But no bill could be framed that would not be rejected by politicians as unconstitutional if it provided for an adequate amount of circulation at a low rate of interest. Money must not be issued direct to the people at a cheap rate, as that would always be "unconstitutional," and therein lies the objection to the sub-treasury plan with politicians.

[CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.]

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SHERIFF'S SALE. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT by virtue of an execution and order of sale issued out of the Honorable Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for Union County, do hereby date the 24th day of June, 1891, and to me directed and delivered upon a judgment and decree of foreclosure and sale therein entered on the 7th day of March, 1891, wherein the A. P. Hotaling Co. is complainant, and J. C. Clayburn et al are defendants, for the sum of Fifteen Hundred Dollars with interest thereon at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum from the 6th day of October, 1886, and the further sum of One Hundred and Seventy-five Dollars attorneys' fees, together with costs and disbursements herein and decreeing the sale of the following described mortgaged real estate, to wit: Commencing at the northeast corner of lot number twelve (12) in block number one hundred and fourteen (114) in Chapin's addition to La Grande, Union County, Oregon, running thence southwesterly along the east line of said lot twelve, twenty-two (22) feet; thence at right angles to said first line in a northwesterly direction ninety-four (94) feet; thence at right angles to said last line in a northeasterly direction twenty-two (22) feet to the alley line of said block one hundred and fourteen (114); thence at right angles in a southeasterly direction thirty-five (35) feet to a southeasterly direction thirty-five (35) feet to the place of beginning in satisfaction of said judgment and decree. Now, therefore, under and by virtue of said execution and order of sale as aforesaid I will sell at public auction at the court house door at Union, Union County, Oregon, on Monday, July 6, 1891, at 1:30 p. m. of said day, all the right, title and interest of in and to the above-described premises that the said J. C. Clayburn had therein on the 6th day of October, 1890, or has since acquired therein, and any and all persons claiming by, through or under him by right acquired since said 6th day of October, 1890, or sufficient thereof to satisfy said judgment, attorneys' fees, interest, costs, disbursements and accruing costs hereon. Terms of sale: Cash to me in hand in U. S. gold coin. Dated at Union this 30th day of June, 1891. By W. B. Vance, Sheriff.

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