

PICKENS SENTINEL.

PICKENS, C. H., S. C. J. E. ROGGS & Co., Proprietors. Entered at Pickens Postoffice as Second Class Matter.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 13, 1894.

CONCORD ALLIANCE MEETING. On the 6th inst., the meeting was called to order by President W. T. O'Dell at 11:30 a. m., and at his request was opened with prayer by Rev. G. W. Singleton.

The President: "We are to discuss alliance issues. I am sorry so few are present. The meetings which the worthy lecturer has held over the county have not been well attended. The busy season has commenced. I take pleasure in introducing to you Col. D. K. Norris."

Col. Norris said in substance: "I know the causes of this small audience. The people have not been satisfied with such meetings—not exactly like this, but practically so in character. Those campaign meetings were strictly political. This only partly so. No one not having the foundation principles of the alliance at heart would come here today as I have, after having spoken at so many campaign meetings. But I am not here for votes. All those have been caught. I come to discuss our interests as alliance men—us farmers. I am just going to talk facts and figures—official census figures. I shall make no attempt at oratory or rhetoric."

In the '80's, as you all remember, as our crops were marketed and did not pan out as in years previous, the newspapers said "overproduction." That there was more wheat, corn, cotton, &c., than was needed for consumers, hence prices have gone down. If there are twenty overcasts in a town or community where only ten are needed, the twenty must be sold for less than their intrinsic value. We were confronted with this condition in farm products. It was bad. About 1888, some said that the State was responsible for it. On that idea the farmers movement was born. We made a college for farmers the basis of our fight. Richardson wanted to be nominated. He succeeded. We lost. But I am off of alliance matters and you might rap me down, but I want to show you what led up to the action of the alliance. As I said, we lost on the college basis. In 1890 we met to consider whether to drop the fight or no, on the bad condition of the farmers and on the establishment of a farmers' college. We wanted another plank in our platform. On that platform we won the State and have held it since. What we have accomplished? We have brought candidates for the U. S. Senate, the highest office in the gift of a State, face to face with the people. But one of the best planks we had we have not stood upon yet.

"We have reappointed the representation of the various counties in the house and Senate on an equal and just basis. We have made railroad banks list their property for taxation same as citizens. (Voice Pullman Car Co. not on yet.) We have refunded the State debt at a saving of \$80,000 per annum while the debt lasts, in spite of the assertion that it would not be done. We are not here to backbite each other, but how can the opposition deny these things.

Another thing which of itself is sufficient to compensate for every sacrifice we have made. We have built a college where poor boys can procure an education as well as the rich. I had two brothers educated at the South Carolina College. I had their bills to pay. \$300 is the minimum for board and tuition, besides spending money on top of that. A boy can go to Clemson for \$100 or less. Many who cannot spare \$300 will be able to pay \$100 to send their boys to Clemson. Since this college has been built, Columbia is advertising board at \$8.00 per month.

There is another thing which will carry the name of reform shing down to posterity. It is the college for women at Rock Hill. The highest and best interests of the mothers of this country has been overlooked from 1804 to the present. This glory was left for the reform movement to regale itself with.

We have also settled the vexed question of a State constitutional convention. There has always been opposition to it. It is a matter of great importance. Some of our pledges cannot be redeemed till the constitution is changed. One is biennial sessions of the legislature. Out of forty-four States only six have annual sessions, and South Carolina is one.

Under our present constitution, our free schools are starved. Schools in cities are not affected, because they add to the two mills, and run their schools for nine months. But the country only has the two mills and that divided with the negroes. There are 234,000 taxpayers to support in school 431,000 pupils, and 55 per cent. of them negroes. This will warrant every sacrifice.

The people by their representatives have endorsed four educational institutions, not to mention the negro school at Orangeburg. We are pledged to them. Now what have we done? Five boys in one hundred see the inside of a college. Now what have you done for your boys and girls?

Under this administration there has been generally increased industrial activity. This has been denied in figures and newspapers, and it has been stated that capital is slumping the State on account of the reform government. This is not true. I state here to refute it that factories are doubling their capacity, charters are being issued to new companies, and one-third of the railroads built in the United States in the last twelve months, was built in South Carolina, and Texas is large enough to make nine of us. These are some of the doings. Now I revert. As farmers, not as reformers, we found cotton going down, down. Wheat and other products doing the same. The alliance came. The reform it brought corrected and cured abuses, but it did not answer the great questions. "What is the matter," said the South, and the Northwest answered. We came together in St. Louis. Is it thriftlessness? Those who said it are ashamed to say it any more. Increased production denies it. What is it? I'll give you facts and figures as I see my friend is putting me down.

The people are industrious. Crops are marvelous, hence we are charged with overproduction. This has been charged in the last few weeks. I sometimes charge this myself. We are certainly producing too much for the present rate of consumption. If we make 9,000,000 bales of cotton and only 8,000,000 are needed, there is too much. But give us the means and the country will consume 10,000,000 bales. You believe there is nothing in overproduction and you are right.

When the United States made almost 10 bushels corn per capita in 1880, it was 95 cents per bushel. In 1885 it was 6 bushels per capita and the price was 77 cents. In 1890 it was 6 bushels per capita and the price was 33 cents. In 1893 it was not quite 6 bushels per capita and the price was 53 cents. As the crop decreased the price decreased.

In 1880 the cotton crop was 56 pounds per capita at 10 cents per pound; in 1895 it was 56 pounds per capita at 10.6 per pound; in 1889, 59 pounds at .099 per pound; in 1890 it was 70 pounds, at 10 cents; in 1893 it was 40 pounds at 7 cents.

These figures controvert overproduction. What then? Produce more? This was the question in 1889 in St. Louis. Col. Polk said: "We protest with reverence that it is not God's fault, nor the fault of the farmer; it is the financial system of our government." This is the conclusion of the alliance. The system is used and worked in the interest of the money classes. We have promulgated principles to combat this usage of it. The principle of the subtreasury is to put all on same footing. You and I should be at no disadvantage with men of large fortunes. Monied men buy bonds, deposit them in Washington and get 90 per cent on them to carry home to circulate at such advantage to themselves as they can squeeze out of us. They pay one per cent tax. Government gives nine tenths to them as capital. It is not right to give them this advantage over us because we are not favored. The poor people who are denied this would be the first in the army to defend the country, and add more to its wealth than all the bankers. The pick, the hammer, the saw, the hoe, the plow, add to our wealth. Bankers do not. 6,000,000 farms support 30,000,000 people and furnish 74 per cent of our exports. "Morton is another Cleveland. He is one of his big fish. Borrowings of Mich. said there has been 30 billions added to our wealth since 1860. Where has it gone? Henry Grady said in one decade in Georgia, the country lost 80 per cent and the towns gained 50 per cent. Look at New York, Chicago, Boston, how they glitter. I defy you to find any of that in the country. Are we ever to be puppets? I have done well since the war, but for the last five years I would have fared better, had I done nothing. The Northwest has lost millions. The crops brought money, but where has it gone? The final report on the crop

of 1893 shows some facts which I want to burn into you, that you may see how the crop was sacrificed. Corn 37 1/2 cents, Wheat 64, Rye 51, Oats 23, Potatoes 67, Tobacco 7 1/2. Cotton .069 against .084 in 1892. Products without an exception gone down. You know know flour is. The best patent flour at the mills \$2.70 per bbl. How can they live? I intended my speech to be all figures. In 1888 agricultural interests employed 44 per cent of the population and had twelve billions invested and made \$5,600,000,000 profit. Our income was 6 per cent. The income of the others was 200 per cent. Here we are devoted to this government. Are we going on at this rate? Now you see where your money is going. It is going to the glare and glitter of the towns. Your children have a school two months, Town children go to school all the time. They are educated. Yours are ignoramuses.

"In the last campaign people asked the candidates this, that and the other question, but did not ask the important question. The Alliance had projected a scheme—the Sub-treasury, the principal of which is this government shall not favor one set of men more than another. If we can make it safe, why should not the government lend money to you and me? Some people are opposed to the government lending money. I do not care whether it lends it or not so it treats all alike. If withheld from one it should be withheld from all.

This is the sub-treasury scheme, to get money out of the control of the banks and have it issued direct to the people. It is right, correct and just and must prevail. This is all that is contended for and it is bound to come. I have a word of censure but cannot use it here—you do not deserve it. Farmers in other places have stood by and done nothing. We have six of our men in Congress and one in the Senate. I censure Ga., Ala., Tex., La., Ark., Miss. Cleveland was made President only by seven votes. If one of those states had stood by South Carolina he would not be president today, Cleveland is the friend of capital. Carlisle turned against the people after devoting twenty years of his life to their service and went into Cleveland's cabinet, also a friend of capital. Morton was appointed to overlook the interests of thirty million farmers, and the first thing he did in the agricultural department was to lower its dignity, for which we fought and for which Aiken fought, by cutting down its expenses \$369,000. He is going to trim it down. The farmers of republican New Hampshire asked the President to remove him. Not a southern state but a state nesting in the mountains of the North.

When I go to the national alliance, I shall see that derelict States are brought up. When that is done, you will see such changes in Washington as will make you think this is a government of the people.

Joel H. Miller, the worthy lecturer, was then presented. He said: "I will not take up much of your time. I want to call attention to a few things. The sub-treasury has been well explained. The alliance thinks the government should own the railroads. The newspapers tell us of great annoyance between the railroads and their employes. The government would stop that. Much trouble to the country would thus be spared, and it would be better for all concerned. We allow public roads to pass over people's land because their use is for the public. Railroads get the use of land the same way. Because it is for the public good. Then if it is for the public good, let the government own and operate the railroads. Years ago when Chicago was burning, they took dynamite and put it under people's houses and stores and blew them to pieces to stop the fire because it was for the public good. Thus millions of property was destroyed. Another reason. John Sherman said the real cost of the railroads in the United States was \$2,000,000,000. Now they are watered up to \$7,000,000,000. If that be so all who have property are helping to pay dividends on \$5,000,000,000. Otherwise we would have to pay on \$2,000,000,000. Forty-five per cent. of the railroads are already in the hands of receivers, so the government has possession of nearly half now. Railroads owe the government millions of dollars today for their equipments. Lands have been donated to them—about 211,000,000,000 of acres to fifty-eight roads. They owe the government \$25,000,000, and the interest now runs the sum up to \$45,000,000. Olney, the attorney general, the railroad attorney, has asked the government to lend them the money 100 years. We can get these roads now. Just close them out like we are closed out when we can't pay.

I am glad Col. Norris came. His talk will put us to thinking, then we will talk. The meetings held this week were to put us to thinking for our own salvation. We could all vote better tomorrow. It is not the fault of this State that we have not these things. Our people are not posted, is the reason we have not the majority for the right. Hosca says for lack of knowledge my people are destroyed. Read the 10th chapter of 1 Kings. It was then like it is now. There are great questions to be solved. The Queen of Sheba tried Solomon with hard questions. The secret of the whole thing is in the 26th and 27th verses, by his making silver as stones and cedars as sycamores. When she heard it she came to prove him with hard questions. One thing Norris did not touch. The farmer with one bale of cotton should be favored as much as one with a million. Thus he could sell on a protected market as well as buy on a protected market. But it is the opposite. His selling market is unprotected and his buying market protected. Lawyers, doctors and other professions have the sub-treasury by which they protect their fees. Our sub-treasury would make us the same way. When we want law, we have to pay what we are asked. When the people want corn and cotton, they should pay what we ask."

The meeting was then declared adjourned.

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