The Camden Chronicle

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Editors and Proprietors.

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CAMDEN, S. C. APR. 15TH, 1892

EDITORIAL

COMMENTS AND CULLINGS.

WE PREDICT that the Democratic ticket will be Cleveland and somebody or somebody and some one else.

THE LION and the Lamb must manage to lie down together in "peace and harmony." The Lamb however should not be too frisky.

WHILE we should stick to our friends in politics and grapple them with hooks of steel, can we not so conduct the fight in our state campaign as to be able to shake hands with our "friends the enemy" after it is all over?

THERE is to be a big speechification so to say, tomorrow (Saturday) at Greenville between Sheppard and Orr, and Tillman and Gary. The hero of a hundred stumps is not likely to be routed by a Sheppard and a Shanghai.

WHAT the people need first of all is fearless, devoted representation in Legislatures and Congress, that their interests may be protected from piracy. Just laws will not discriminate against capital, but will see that labor has a fair field.

COL. LIVINGSTON, another member of the St. Louis conference adds his testimony to the fact that the third party platform has that pension plank in it. He says that Powderly and Miss Frances Willard confirm his statement. What think ye, Democrats of the South, of such a party as this?

THERE is an ugly outlook for the Democracy of Louisiana. It is hopelessly split, according to reports, with chances for Republican success. There is also much danger of a similar condition in Alabama. In Georgia the third party threatens disaster. Let the warning be heeded in South Carolina.

EVERY ONE knows that the chief demand for our cotton comes from Europe. If by means of the tariff we shut out the products of Europe from our ports, can they afford to buy our cotton? Commerce is mutual. If we do not buy from them, they are so much less able to buy from us. May it not be that the McKinley bill has been a great cause of the low price of cotton?

THE INDICATIONS of the club meetings held throughout the state last Saturday are that but little change has occurred in the political situation. Lines were sharply drawn between the factions, Tillmanite and Anti. The counties that went for Tillman two years ago will go for him again, with probably the addition of Georgetown. The feeling on each side is hard and unyielding. The best to be hoped is that election day may pass without a permanent breach in the ranks of the party.

More Light, Please.

In this issue will be found Maj. Magill's address before the County Alliance at Westville on the 6th. inst. The kernel of the address is found about the middle of it. In diagnosing the reason of the depression existing, he assigns two causes: first, contraction of the currency; second unjust national taxation, by which farmers pay 80 per cent. of the burden. We agree largely with him here, only the second cause should have been first. For the year 1892 the Republican congress appropriated $681,000,000, which is 89.00 per capita upon our whole population, or ten millions on South Carolina alone in one year. This is enough by itself to account for the angry protest of every farmer in the land. But it is of first importance that the true cause be recognized, and the proper means of relief adopted.

We also heartily agree with the address in regard to the income tax. It is notorious that the richer a man gets, the less tax he pays in proportion. We are in for this measure, heart and soul, as promising relief from the burden of federal taxes.

Therefore, it is with unfeigned concern that we read the following paragraph in the address, which we hope does not voice the sentiments of the rank and file of the Alliance in Kershaw county, or the State.

"Free coinage of silver is one of our demands. A platform that ignores this demand and a candidate that opposes it could not expect the approval or support of Alliancemen."

Now, as a friend, we ask Major Magill if he means to say that he and those of this way of thinking would oppose Cleveland should he be nominated at Chicago? Why single out silver from the Ocala demands as the one test? We thought at one time the Sub-treasury "plan" was to be the touch-stone. Does any one dream that the Democrats will endorse this latter plank of the St. Louis platform?

The Major intimates that the Alliance is only going to vote for that party which endorses its demands. The third party alone has done this, or will do it. The inference follows naturally.

PRES. MAGILL'S ADDRESS.

DEAR BRETHREN:—I congratulate you upon the unity of the Alliance, on the Legislative demands of the order, and upon the unanimous endorsement of said demands by all labor organizations in the United States. The representatives of 4,000,000 farmers, artizans and laborers, representing all division of organized industry, (in town or country) assembled in a National Congress at St. Louis in February last, and endorsed our financial, transportation, and other reform measures. We also congratulate you upon the success of our efforts to secure Congressmen in sympathy with our demands. The whole power of monopoly is aroused at our success, and are combined against us in a vital struggle. By unity and the power of numbers (which is irresistable in a free government) we can successfully repel their aggression. The money changers, aided by every device conceivable, are trying to divide us and destroy our unity. In our State the plunderers of the industrial classes have ignored the true principles of democracy, and have threatenened to drive us out of the democratic party, unless we repudiate our legislative demands, which are based upon principles advocated by Jefferson, Jackson and Calhoun. But their efforts are fruitless, our principles are democratic, and we will always be found consistently advocating such principles, regardless of party lash, or political bosses. Party fealty is due to party principles, but not to party bosses. Four years have passed since our demands were formulated at St. Louis. The opponents of these demands, with all the legal and political talent their ill-gotten money could buy, have utterly failed to convince the producers of wealth that their demands are unjust, impractical, or undemocratic. The enemies of industrial organizations will leave "no stone unturned" in their efforts (in the campaign of 1892,) to divide and destroy the Farmers' Alliance, and thereby perpetuate their control of political parties through which they will continue to control the legislation of State and National governments. The activity and zeal manifested by representatives of the industrial classes in the present Congress, has struck terror into the ranks of shylocks and monopolists. Another accession of such congressional representatives would relegate to private life plutocratic members, and give us a government by the people, and for the people. Instead of a government controlled by the money power in favor of centralized capital, produce gamblers, transportation companies, protected industries and land sharks. Already we hear the old familiar song that has greeted us in every presidential campaign since 1882. We are told that New York, New Jersey and Connecticut are indispensible to democratic success, and unless we allow the Northern and Eastern states to dictate the party platform we will lose the presidency. "What does it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" And what doth it profit the South and West if they gain the presidency on a platform dictated by interests adverse to their own? Financial reform is one of the great objects of the Farmers' Alliance. Free coinage of silver is one of our demands. A platform that ignores this demand and a candidate that opposes it could not expect the approval or support of Alliancemen. True democracy is a government of the people, by the people. Not a government of the people by party bosses, to secure office to those who will pay these bosses for party service. Party platforms should represent the true principles of the party, and if no party can elect a president without ignoring their principles and formulating platforms dictated by the money power, then the sooner the masses of the people who produce the wealth of the country are informed of the fact, the better it will be for all parties. The money of Wall street will be used freely in the South and West to destroy the unity of the Alliance, and secure the electoral vote of these section for a candidate who antagonizes our demands "and bends the supplient knee (to the money power) that thrift might follow fawning." The evident purpose of Eastern capitalists to use all means that money will command to defeat our demands by destroying the harmony and unity of our order, makes it my duty to warn you of their nefarious purpose, that being forewarned you may be doubly armed to meet and repel the assaults of shylocks mercenaries. We have reached a period in our existence, as an organization, that might be termed critical. We are a recognized factor in shaping the destinies of 65,000,000 of as brave, patriotic and intelligent a people as exists on earth. This power is inseparable from great responsibility. In a free government the power of organized numbers, acting in unity and directed with intelligence is irresistable. A strict adherance to our declaration of purposes, "To labor for the education of the masses in a strictly non-partisan spirit", "and to develope a better state mentally, morally and financially" and give a wise berth to office-seekers and political bosses who would drag our noble order through the cesspool of partizan politics for self aggrandizement will deserve and secure success. Each individual member should recognize that he has a duty to perform. That success only comes to them that work for it. The officers have their duties assigned them. The duties of private members are equally as necessary to be performed. What general ever gained a victory without the faithful performance of duty by the privates in the ranks? Every member must "hoe his own row" if we would reap a harvest worthy of the purposes of the founders of the Farmers' Alliance. In vain we appealed to Congress to enact into law our formulated demands. Forced by necessity we elected members to Congress in sympathy with these demands in order to have them presented, explained and discussed by our national lawmakers. It was natural that Alliancemen would be selected for such service. But should the strength of our order induce men to join it who are not in sympathy with our purposes and whose object is political preferment, such men could be easily identified by their past record and should receive no encouragement from the membership of our order. On the other hand there are men in full sympathy with the object of our order who are ineligible to membership. We should avail ourselves of their services in official positions as readily as we would that of our own members. The organization does not propose to antagonize any class of our citizens who are engaged in legitimate business. They hopefully look forward to the day when existing predjudice against the order will be removed by the full developement of its purposes, and the Farmers' Alliance be recognized by all classes as a public benefactor, that only demands "equal rights for all classes and special privileges for none."

POLITICS.

In politics the Alliance is non-partizan. The friends of the plutocrats have tried hard to force us into partizanship by charging our Southern members with a want of fealty to the Democratic party, and our Western members with a want of fealty to the Republican party. As an organization we owe no fealty to any political party. As individuals our fealty to party is not changed by our connection with the Alliance. As an organization we propose to unite the farmers for the protection of their interests—political as well as industrial. In each locality the members will endeavor to enforce reform measures formulated and agreed upon by the Alliance—through the political party with which they are connected. In this way we secure unical conviction or local predjudice, But we do not propose to endanger the success of our formulated demands by submission to the dictates of self constituted party bosses or local predjudices that have enabled these bosses to rule political parties in the interest of corporate power to the detriment—not only of the farmers—but of all classes engaged in lawful business, and unprotected by special laws granting special privileges.

AGRICULTURAL DEPRESSION

The fact that such depression exists is patent to all, and has been so often demonstrated by statistics showing the immense mortgage indebtedness of the farmer, that it is unnecesssary to go over the same ground again. We are more interested in solving the question of the causes of depression, and how to remove them. The first great cause is the contraction of the currency, which lowers the price of our products. Second, unequal taxation, by which 80 per cent. of National taxes are paid by the farmers who own about 22 per cent. of the property of the country. A graduated income tax would place the burden of taxes on property where it rightfully belongs. The abolition of National banks and the issue of money direct to the people would prevent contraction and expansion of the currency by which speculators are enabled to fix the prices of our products. The passage of a law to prevent dealing in futures would be a move in the same direction. The removal of the tariff on cotton goods by the passage of the bill introduced in Congress by Bro. Stackhouse would save consumers of cotton goods $160,000,000 annually, only $14,000,000 of which goes into the treasury of the United States and $140,000,000 of which is paid by consumers to protected manufacturers. If the tariff was taken off cotton goods, it would enhance the price of cotton in Liverpool and consequently relieve depression by improving prices in the home market.

THE EFFECT OF FREE COINAGE OF SILVER ON PRICES.

In the Camden Journal of June 12, 1890, its able editor in discussing the demonetizing of silver, says:

"Its effects on the fall of prices has been startling. We can only give a few statistics: The price of cotton in 1873 in gold or silver (then of equal power) was 16¼ cents, In 1889 it was 9 1-9 cents. Had silver not not been demonetized the crop of last year, 7,000,000 bales would have brought at the price of '73, $574,000,000 instead of $345,000,000 showing a debt and tax paying power of this vast difference. It is absurd to say that overproduction caused the shrinkage in price, for the present corner in cotton shows that consumption has passed production even as large as it is" This editor was no "Haysed," but was well posted on political economy. In the Journal of July, 17th 1890, in commenting on speeches of the friends of free coinage he says: "They deride the gold barons and the pusillanimous conduct of republican senators in denying the just rights of the farming and laboring classes of the entire country." In conclusion he says the effect of the bill (denying the right of free coinage) will be to put money into the pockets of the speculators, and depreciate silver." This sounds like the voice of a "Haysed," but it is not. It is the voice of a statesman, uninfluenced by personal considerations, party expediency or presidential aspirations. This contest has been going on for ages between the people and the money changers, even before Christ overthrew their tables and drove them out of the temple, and will continue while man's greed has more power over him than his conscience.

LOW PRICES OF COTTON

The cause of the present low price of cotton is a problem of difficult solution. On the first of October, 1891 the weather bureau reported that his previous estimate of 25 per cent. decrease in the cotton crop is fully sustained. This meant a decrease of 2,000,000 bales, yet the price was only 8 cents. The Cotton Plant in its issue of Oct 3, 1891, says: "The local bank, like the local merchant who deals honestly, is a public benefactor. The tightness of money is not his fault. It is due to the deliberate policy of the New York Trusts, that have locked up $250 per capita. They will not let the money out because they say they want to teach the fool farmers a lesson. That is what they have said to old customers who have gone there to get money as they had done in the past. 'Whom the Gods would destroy they first make mad.'" If the New York Trust has cornered the price of cotton and reduced it below the cost of production, their efforts to teach the "fool farmers" a lesson will result in the depression of all industry in the United States. The great stimulus to commerce, manufacturers, mining, transportation and other legitimate business is remunerative prices for our foreign exports—a very large portion of which is cotton and other farm products. Let combines and trusts pause and reflect before carrying their corners beyond the danger line, else they may find themselves in a corner from whence there is no egress. There is a difference of 1,000,000 bales in the estimate between the Agricultural Bureau and commercial circulars. Which is correct? The bureau is disinterested, the circulars are gotten up in the interest of dealers in cotton. If the bureau's estimate is correct a gigantic fraud has been practiced on the producers by speculators who have exploited them out of the true value of their cotton by false estimates of the amount of the crop, and by partial laws that enable them to control the currency in circulation. In this connection I would call your attention to the fact that we have a few faithful sentinels on the "watch tower" at Washington who are working earnestly for financial reform. They are strongly seconded by other industrial organizations—notably the Grange. Mr Whitehead, of the Grange, in writing of "the Grange before congress" says: "There was a day when when we had only "Farmer Aiken" of South Carolina to stand up alone for the Grange, with all that it represents for the American farmer—would that he could come back and note the change. A few years since we had eleven farmers on the roll of the House of Representatives, and not one in the United States Senate. Now six brave champions fairly startle the 'Millionaires club,' our House of Lords, with their outspoken words, asking justice, and only justice, "a fair field and no favors" for the tillers of the soil; while sixty-five farmers fill seats in the House of Representatives.

PARTY AND FACTIONS.

Washington in his farewell address warned us "in the most solemn manner, against the baneful effects of the spirit of the party generally." He says further: "It exists in all governments more or less stifled, but in those of the popular form it is seen in its greatest rankness and is truly their worst enemy." "The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities is itself a frightful despotism" * * * The common and continued mischiefs of the spirit of the party, are sufficient to make it the interest and duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain." In the present condition of factional strife which imperils the harmony of the political party with which our members are connected it is well to seek counsel from the good and great men that have gone before us, none of whom were more eminently qualified that "the Father of his Country." Let us heed his warning and avoid factional strife by "exercising charity" and "granting honesty of purpose to others" and a strict adherence to principles rather than partizan subserviency. Preserve true democracy as formulated by its founders. Never give up the principles of the party because of factional strife, but by moderation and firmness bring back the wanderers to their first love.

REFORM BILLS IN CONGRESS.

I will briefly call attention to bills introduced by Alliance members and friends of reform:

"A Bill for the free coinage of silver and other purposes." Introduced by Mr. Bland. 2. "A bill to provide an adquate volume of legal tender coin and paper money, etc.; by Hon. O. M. Kone, of Nebraska. 3. A bill directing the Secretary of the Treasury to call in at once and cover into the national treasury all moneys now deposited with national banks and drawing no interest; by brother Clover, of Kansas. 4. A bill to facilitate exchanges through the U. S. mail; by brother Alexandre, of North Carolina. 5. A bill for the relief of certain mortgage debtors, and for other purposes; by Mr. Davis, of Kansas. 6. A bill to change our monetary system, reduce interest and provide for loans upon land; by Hon. I. G. Otis, of Kansas. 7. A bill to enable cities to deposit bonds in the United States treasury, and have issued to them legal tender notes, to be expended for public improvements said bonds to be basis for said issue of currency; by Hon. B. H. Clover, of Kansas 8. A bill to increase the circulating medium by issuing treasury notes based on gold and silver coin and bullion, and to amend the coinage law accordingly; by Senator Peffer, of Kansas. 9. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution of the United States relating to marriage and divorce; by Senator Kyle, of South Dakota. 10. A bill taxing all transactions in futures; by Senator Washburn. A bill to provide for the relief of the agricultural population of the United States and to promote and encourage agriculture; by Hon. Jerry Simpson. A bill to make all gold and silver coins and all United States notes a legal tender in payment of all debts; by Hon. O. M. Kone. A bill to create an income tax; by Hon. T. E. Watson. A bill to prevent the payment in advance by the Secretary of the Treasury of interest on bonds by Mr. Watson. A bill to reduce expenditures from the United States and for other purposes; by Hon. B. F. Grady, of North Carolina. A bill to repeal the sections of section 14 of an Act approved Feb. 12, 1873, which the gold dollar the unit of value; by Hon. Jerry Simpson. A bill to repeal the duties on manufactured cotton goods and for other purposes; by brother Stackhouse. A bill for the redemption of the bonded debt of the government, and for the enlargement of the volume of currency; by Mr. Johnstone, of South Carolina. A bill creating a graduated tax on incomes is in course of preparation; by Bro. Stackhouse. These nineteen bills besides others of like nature are the result of Alliance agitation and education. This is encouraging. Rome was not built in a day. The evils that oppress farmers have been growing for 27 years. We can not eradicate them in a year; it may take ten years; but the progress we have made should incite us to renewed effort and determination never to give up the fight until victory is ours, and we secure equal rights to all and special privileges for none.

JAMES H. MAGILL,
K. C. F. A.

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Horse Brushes, 10 cents to 40 cents.
Bridle Bits, 5 and 10 cents.
Hammers, 5 cents to 50 cents.
Hatchets, 10 cents to 50 cents,
Saws, 25 cents to 75 cents.
Coffee Mills 10 and 15 cents, the same that sell for 25 cents for.
One pint tin cups 2 for 5 cents.
Shoe brushes 10 cents to 50 cents.
Coffee Pots 5, 7, and 10 cents to 30 cents.
Tin Buckets 5 cents to 40 cents.
One gallon Glass Oil Cans 30 cents, regular price 40 cents sometimes 50 cents.
We carry a nice line of household goods, but can not mention everything here. Come and see for yourself. We will save you money.
How is it that we can sell goods so cheap? We are asked that question every day.
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Everybody is perfectly good when they make a bill to be paid for when they please, but when pay day comes they may be dead, busted, drunk or in Georgia.
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