

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER.

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THE ARMIES OF HOBOES

Donated That Hard-Working Men and Women Shall Support Them.

Kansas City Journal.

It is no doubt true that during the piping Democratic times from which the country is just now emerging, the ranks of the unemployed were augmented by large numbers of efficient workmen, but this does not justify the conclusion that the army of tramps, drifting from one part of the nation to another, belong to the industrious class, and would take work if they could get it. These lachrymose humanitarians belonging to the Populist party who are constantly weeping over the woes of the "millions of honest men who have been forced to turn tramp" might learn this fact after an enduring fashion if they would but turn their eyes towards Kansas and her towns and wheat fields.

There came to the exchange tables of the Journal every week five or six hundred Kansas weekly newspapers. We find in them all a story which varies only in minor details. It is to the effect that harvest hands have been in great demand, and that very large wages are willingly paid for the most indifferent sort of labor. And right along side of this story is almost certain to be an account of how some farmer attempted to employ the tramps who infest every Kansas town at this season of the year, without being able to secure a single one who would work under any sort of inducement. No better testimony could be secured in support of the belief that the greater part of the tramps are but worthless loafers, who prefer to prey upon the almost limitless generosity of the people than to stir their lazy bones in pursuit of an honest living.

There is no other race or nation of people on earth that treats beggars with such prodigal alms-giving as may be found in this country. It may be more than suspected that the generosity of the American people has been the prime cause of raising up an army of professional alms-seekers who move from town to town and insolently demand food and clothing as if by inherent right. And it is the free-handed giving of the people is not sufficient to convince them out of the possession of the right, any lack of education in that direction is certain to be supplied by demagogues of the stripe of the Populist leaders, who are continually prating about every man's right to a living, whether he works or not. Take, for instance, the famous "tramp circular" by Governor Lewelling, which wept and moaned and anguished over the condition of the hobo, and adjured the officials of every Kansas town not to put them at work upon the rock piles or lodge them in jails, for they were the unfortunate victims of a financial policy, and not in any manner accountable for their own condition of idleness. We imagine that if the Populist farmers of Kansas, who have lately been jeered and derided when they sought to employ some of Lewelling's jets in the harvest field, would unearth that circular from its repose among the sacred scripts and scrolls of Populism, it might commence to dawn over them that they had been made the tools of a slyster or the playthings of a fool.

What is true in Kansas, in a greater or less degree, is true elsewhere; the moving, aimless masses of the unemployed are for the greater part professional vagabonds and thieves instead of the unfortunate victims of depressed times. In saying this, we do not desire to depreciate the worth of the multitudes of honest men who have been wholly or partly out of employment in the recent past. But for the greater part, these unfortunate sufferers struggled on in silence and misery, staying close to their families and hearthstones, and hoping and trusting for the better times to come. They did not take to the brake-beams of cars and go touring over the country, refusing work at good wages, and frightening timid women with their back door demands for alms.

That the tramp problem has become a huge one in America is a thing nobody can deny. That it will eventually be solved in such a way that hard working and industrious people will not be called upon to sustain an army of professional beggars is a consummation devoutly to be hoped for, but very much in doubt, at least so long as political demagogues continue to martyrize the loafer class.

BRAVEST OF THE JOHNNY REBS.

Jake Bennett Saved the Life of His Sergeant in Preference to His Own.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

Jake Bennett was about 19 years old, and was probably the most awkward man I ever saw. He was long and angular and had a bony head, with strong jaws. His great white teeth were always shown when he smiled, and he always smiled when he was in a fight. In camp Bennett was a slouchy, unprepossessing fellow, and his feet, which were unusually large, were always in somebody's way. He was shy and never intruded himself, but when it came to riding and shooting he was in his glory.

I have seen him many times on the back of a fast horse, with the bridle rein in his teeth and a pistol in each hand, charging like mad and shooting with remarkable accuracy. He had the reputation of killing three or four men every time there was a chance. He was then in charge of a detail on foraging expeditions and got in many skirmishes along the road. Later he was unanimously chosen captain on account of his bravery.

Indeed, he was like unchained lightning in a hand-to-hand fight, and it was in one of these that Bennett distinguished himself. There were 1,500 soldiers lying between Alexandria and Liberty. We had no chance on the field, and had to content ourselves with harassing the enemy and cutting off their wagon trains and making it difficult for them to forage. The two armies lay confronting each other before the engagement at Murfreesboro, and I was sent with a detail of scouts to waylay any that I could.

Being only 180 men all told, we determined to take advantage of the hilly road and the rocky hillside, which were thickly covered with cedars. Across the road were a few felled trees, and while we were all mounted, it was comparatively easy to keep out of sight. While we were thus ambushed a Federal wagon train came slowly along the road, guarded by three files of infantry. There were 80 wagons in the train, and we attacked them suddenly and boldly, realizing the necessity for quick work. The fight was close and hot for a few minutes, but when the infantry came rushing up we saw that the conflict would now be between pistols and guns.

At this point Bennett's sergeant was unhorsed and had fallen to the ground. Just as he jumped up, however, a Federal soldier plunged at him with a bayonet. At the same instant another soldier raised his gun to kill Bennett. In this terrible situation the alertness and courageous generosity of Jake Bennett prompted him to shoot first the man who was attacking his sergeant and then the man who was threatening his own life.

I consider that this instance, where a man could so suddenly conceive the idea to defend his fellow-soldier before him self, illustrates the innate nobility and generosity of the man. The great soul of the awkward Jake Bennett responding to the impulse and his self-sacrificing act was the highest example of heroism that I witnessed during the war.

Increase of Gold.

Mr. Preston, director of the United States mint, estimates the gold production of the world for 1896 to have been \$205,000,000, of which sum the United States contributed over \$53,000,000. For 1897 it is believed the world's gold product will reach \$240,000,000, an increase of \$35,000,000 over 1896.

"That the world's gold product will continue to increase for a number of years to come," says Mr. Preston, "is self-evident, as new mines will be opened up in all parts of the world, and with the improved appliances and methods for extracting the gold contained in the ores it is believed that by the close of the present century the world's gold product will exceed \$300,000,000."

Burning, itching skin diseases instantly relieved by DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve, unequalled for cuts, bruises, burns. It heals without leaving a scar. Simmons' Drug Store.

POPULIST ADDRESS.

It Tells of the Work Accomplished and Indicates the Plan of Next Year's Campaign.

The Populist State committee met in Raleigh last Wednesday and on Thursday gave out the following address, the views being those held by Senator Butler:

Your committee into whose hands the direction of the People's party has been placed, now that the storm and strife of the political battles of last fall are past and the result is seen, desire to congratulate the party on its wonderful success at the polls, and its marvelous achievements for good in the legislative, executive and judicial departments of county and state.

We have secured to the citizens the right to cast one vote at all public elections and to have that vote counted as cast.

We have taken the public schools out of the hands of partisan politicians and restored them to the people.

We have given the right of local self-government to every county in the state.

We have reduced the state's educational, charitable and penal institutions from the thralldom of political bias.

We have removed the judiciary of the state to a safe distance from the arena of partisan politics.

We have lifted the state government out of the old ruts of Bourbonism and placed it in the hands of the people.

By our endeavor those fundamental principles and primary rights of American citizenship have been re-established in our state with many others of kindred nature which flow therefrom.

But your committee would be derelict in its duty if it did not warn you that if these blessings are to be preserved to us and transmitted to posterity it must be done by and through the organization of the People's party.

The policy of the general government, established alike by both old parties, has built up monopolies and these monopolies have in turn preyed upon the material interests of the country until there is great destitution, oppression and want in this land of plenty.

And the cry of distress has reached the ear and heart of the American people.

In 1892 a long suffering people rejected at the ballot-box the Republican party which had inaugurated a revenue and financial system fostering trusts and combines. But the Democratic party being again in power fed the people on broken promises while they carried out the policy of the Republican party.

And now that the Republican party is in again in control of national affairs there is but little ground to hope for better times.

It is growing more apparent each year that if relief is ever given by national legislation it must come through the People's party.

In view of these facts and the logical conclusions to be drawn there from the duty of the hour is clearly seen.

The battles which we have so gallantly fought for the last few years must be continued until all organized opposition to good government shall have been overthrown.

To accomplish this much desired end there must be the utmost harmony, united action and persistent effort.

Those who are not for us are against us, and all those who stand upon the People's party platform are Populists.

No petty difference on local policy or personal pique should be allowed to mar the harmony in our ranks.

Let us be united and stand as one man for good government and the best interests of all the people.

The People's party is a young giant—scarcely five years old.

Its achievements in this state in establishing the rights of the people are equal to those of the barons of England at Runnymede in extorting from King John the Magna Charta.

That we should have made mistakes is but human. No conquering army ever came out of the battle without something to regret, and no

victory was ever won without incurring unjust criticism from the vanquished. With this showing of the work done and the work to be done, and our willingness and ability to do it, and in consequence of the fact that the principles and measures embodied in the People's party platform, state and national, are finding lodgement in the minds of the great mass of people, we earnestly believe that if every true Populist in the state will actively push the work of organization our party will attract to its ranks thousands of others who are disgusted and dissatisfied with the conduct of the two old parties. We believe the sentiment of the people of the state to be in favor of a reduction of freight and passenger rates to a low figure, corresponding with prices prevailing under the gold standard, which was foisted upon the people of the country by means of fraud and bribery.

We re-affirm the condemnation of the "99-year lease" of the North Carolina railroad, and we shall use our best efforts to have said lease annulled until its validity shall have been passed upon by our state courts.

For a more effective and equitable control and reduction of the encroachment of railroad corporations, we suggest that railroad commissioners should be elected by a direct vote of the people.

In national matters we shall continue to labor zealously for the complete remonetization of silver at the legal ratio of 16 to 1, for the destruction of monster trusts that are today sapping and undermining the life of the republic; for government ownership of the railroads under a rigid civil service law, to the end that the people's rights and liberties shall not be trampled upon, as under present management, by said corporations; for the abolition of national banks and the issuance of all money by the national government.

To make good the foregoing declaration of principles we shall in the next campaign use every lawful means to aid us in accomplishing these reforms, and to that end we invite the co-operation of men of all parties, that we may be successful in the prosecution of this work.

Best on Earth.

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Reuben C. Beavers, of Campbell county, Ga., is the champion long-distance office holder of the United States. He has been holding office since he was twenty-one years old, and as he is now ninety-five, has a record of almost three quarters of a century as a public officer.

"Uncle Reuben," as he is called by all residents of the county, secured the position of clerk of the first court held in that part of Georgia. After two years the Legislature established an inferior court in Campbell county and Mr. Beavers decided that he would be clerk of that court. His ambition was gratified, and when, a few years later, the Court of Ordinary was established, he was elected the clerk of that court. He has held that office almost continuously ever since.

By common consent it is now admitted that Uncle Reuben owns the job. It is his private property, and at the election he is the only candidate for the office. No one questions his right. Last fall the Populists decided to nominate another candidate, but no man could be found to contest Uncle Reuben's claim, and again he was elected without any opposition. Despite his age his sight is acute, his hearing as good as ever and he performs his duties well. He says that he expects to continue holding the office and drinking mint juleps until he dies.

Perhaps the inconsistency of his man nature (as we some times find it) was never better illustrated than by the experience of a country editor as told in an exchange. Having written a strong article in advocacy of patronizing home industries and local merchants, the next day he received a note of thanks from a storekeeper of his town written on a letter head printed in an office a hundred miles away. Comment is unnecessary.

The economical wearing of pants means wearing the best. The best jeans pants are the BUCKSKIN BREECHES. They are made of good jeans, sewed with the best thread and the know-how make the fit and look and the low price. There's a guarantee with each pair—look in the pockets.

John J. Ingalls' daughter Constantine ran an electric street car in Atchison one evening recently.

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