

The Lincoln Courier.

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MR. HENDERSON TO MR. HOLMAN.

The Farmers' Alliance Demands—Our Congressman Does Not Sign Them—The History of the Democratic Party Invoked to Show That It is the Consistent Friend of the Farmers.

Hon. Jno. S. Henderson has written a long letter to J. B. Holman, President Iredell County Farmers' Alliance, in reply to the demands made by the Alliance with reference to Subtreasury Bill, &c. The letter is replete with patriotic sentiments and wise suggestions and should be read by every farmer. The COURIER, however, only has space for the following extracts:

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 14, 1890.
John B. Holman, Esq., President Iredell County Farmers' Alliance:

MY DEAR SIR:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st ult. I would have replied to it immediately if duties in Congress of extreme urgency had not constantly demanded my earnest and undivided attention. Besides, I wished to give your letter the most thoughtful consideration. I did not wish to speak hastily or unadvisedly. In a time of great public peril like the present, I felt that I needed to weigh my words, lest in the hurry of the moment I might say something calculated to cause division among our people, when it was my duty to do everything I could to unite them. What I witness in the halls of Congress every day thoroughly convinces me that unless the patriotic and good men of the South will stand together in an unbroken phalanx to resist the assaults of their enemies and to defend the liberties and honor of the Southern people, it will be but a short time before the same tyrannical and corrupt party, which cured the Southern people in the days of reconstruction, will again put the yoke upon our necks. The carpet-bag governments were forced upon the Southern States by Federal bayonets, but the new reconstruction which is now threatened will be the inevitable result of unhappy divisions among our own people. Nothing can prevent such a calamity but the united resistance of our people.

I cannot sign my name to the card of demands which you sent me, and I don't suppose that you would wish me to do so, but in response to the inquiries contained in your letter, I will say that upon every subject relating to public matters connected with my duty and conduct as a representative of the people, I am ready at all times to give to every one of my constituents that which they are entitled to. In this letter I shall speak unreservedly. My record in Congress furnishes the best evidence of my position upon nearly every question embraced in the resolutions or demands of the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union, which you have sent me for my consideration.

1. The resolution in reference to national banks is substantially an embodiment of Democratic doctrine. These institutions were established against the votes and remonstrances of the Democracy. The Democratic party has never favored them. You will search in vain for any endorsement of national banks in the historic platforms and utterances of the Democratic party. One of the demands in the Democratic national platform, adopted in the year 1852, was expressed in the following true and prophetic words:

"That Congress has no right to establish a national bank; that we believe such an institution one of the deadly hostility to the best interests of the country, dangerous to our republican institutions and the liberties of the people, and calculated to place the business of the country within the control of a concentrated money power, and above the laws and will of the people."

The votes which I have given in Congress have been in accordance with these ideas. I have opposed extending the privileges of the national banks, and I favor their abolition as soon as it can be done without injury to the people. I am opposed to the discrimination which exists in favor of the national banks over State banks, and I have introduced in this and the preceding Congress a bill for the repeal of the tax of 10 per cent. on the circulation of the State banks. This tax when first imposed drove out of existence in an incredibly short period of time every State bank of circulation in the United States. The taxing power of the Federal government was unjustly used to destroy State banking associations and to promote the wealth and prosperity of the banks created by the Federal government. If this tax could be repealed the several States of the Union could supplement the currency now in circulation through the medium of State banks of issue, and such money as a home currency would be a great convenience to the people. This money would remain in the States and would not flow to the money centers, there to be hoarded, expanded or contracted by the money power. No good reason can now be given why currency notes should be received and issued by national banks on bonds of the government deposited in the United States Treasury. This system was devised during the war to build up the credit of the government, but it is no longer needed and ought to be abolished. The retirement of the national bank currency which is constantly going on is productive of great injury to the people. The contraction of this currency, regulated by no law but the will of the bankers, works great hardship to the people. This is all wrong. For every dollar of such currency heretofore or hereafter redeemed or destroyed a new legal tender Treasury note should be issued by the government in its place. The Comptroller of the Currency, in his report to the Fifty-first Congress, dated December 2, 1889, says that, "Notwithstanding the accession of new banks to the system and the consequent deposit of bonds and issue of notes the outstanding circulation steadily decreases from year to year, the chief cause being the surrender of circulation by banks desiring to reduce and regain possession of their bonds." No wonder the people complain of a scarcity of money when \$185,812,988 of national bank notes were retired during the six years ending October 31, 1889, the annual average rate of decrease in the circulation being \$30,968,831.

2. I favor the passage by Congress of such laws as will effectually prevent future speculation and dealings in agricultural and mechanical productions. But it will be necessary for the several States to act in the matter. The jurisdiction of Congress over this subject is mainly through the taxing powers conferred upon it by the constitution. The Batterworth bill pending in the House, if favorably acted on by Congress, will, it is hoped, go very far to extirpate this system of speculative gambling, so injurious to the agricultural interests.

3. I am strongly in favor of the free and unlimited coinage of silver. Every effort has been made by the Democrats in Congress to secure the enactment of legislation which will restore silver coin to its rightful constitutional position as the equal of gold. All the power of the Speaker of the House and all the machinery of the Republican party caucus has been used to defeat the proposition and to substitute for free coinage a measure which demonetizes silver. Silver coinage will soon be permanently suspended under the operation of such a law, and the Secretary of the Treasury also has the power to expand or contract the currency at his pleasure, within the limits of the law. There will be no real expansion, however, for if \$4,500,000 is issued monthly, as contemplated, that amount need not be an actual addition to the volume of the currency and will not be sufficient to supply the business needs of the country; and the probability is that the bill as

passed will not only not add to the volume of the currency as much new money as the Bland Silver Act of 1878 has done and is doing, but will cause a permanent and dangerous contraction.

5. The resolution in regard to the doctrine of "equal rights to all men and special privileges to none" is a part of the ancient Democratic creed. The proposition is thus stated in the Democratic national platform of the year 1884:

"All taxation shall be limited to the requirements of economical government. We demand that Federal taxation shall be exclusively for public purposes and shall not exceed the needs of the government economically administered. We hold that it is the duty of the government in its dealings with the people to mete out equal and exact justice to all citizens. I believe that all unnecessary taxation is unjust taxation, and that taxes not needed by the government, whether Federal, State, county or municipal, should not be collected from the people, but should be left in the pockets of the people. Outside of the protected classes, no citizen and certainly no tiller of the soil gains any advantage from unjust and excessive taxation. By the favoritism of an unequal system of taxation the cost of the necessities of life is certainly increased to all the people. Good government and a happy and contented condition of society can only be maintained in any country by guaranteeing equal laws and equal privileges to all classes and to all men, with special favors to none. And this has been the vital and saving principle of the Democratic party from the Declaration of Independence until this very hour.

"The 'Sub-Treasury bill,' numbered S. 2806, introduced in the Senate by Hon. Zebulon B. Vance, in its present shape will never pass Congress unless it is improved by amendments nobody can support it. But I am not opposed to the principle and purposes of the measure. It may not be improper for me to say that the bill as introduced in many respects does not command the approval of its framers. Everybody admits that the bill cannot pass Congress in its present form and without amendment in many important particulars. The bill makes provision for the storage of cotton, tobacco, wheat, corn and oats only, while it is admitted by its authors that the principles involved will justly demand a like recognition for all products of labor. Dr. C. W. Macune, who is the ablest expounder of the bill, and who is thoroughly familiar with its provisions, admitted in his speech before the Senate committee on agriculture that the prices of grain and cotton in America are fixed by the prices at Liverpool, and that the holding of the crops in warehouses in the U. S. will not tend to make prices any higher. It is a curious fact, too, that under the provisions of the bill, as introduced, not one of the counties in the seventh congressional district would be entitled to a sub-treasury building or warehouse, for it cannot be shown that the average gross amount of cotton, wheat, corn, oats and tobacco produced and sold in any county of said district for the last two years exceeds the sum of five hundred thousand dollars per annum at current prices. And this is true of a large majority of the counties in the United States. I merely mention these difficulties, but not in any contentious spirit. It is obvious, however, that they will be insuperable obstacles to the adoption of the bill in its present form. It cannot fail to be noticed that the articles which the bill proposes to protect against low prices are limited to five products, while there are many other articles which will equally demand the same protection.

Of the 96 counties in North Carolina the Cotton and tobacco crops are the only ones which would enable any of them to take advantage of the bill, and there were, as shown by the census of 1880, only fifteen that, under any circumstances, could claim warehouses. There were twelve counties which produced above 10,000 bales of cotton each; and at \$50 per bale, they would claim the benefits of the bill. These counties were Anson, Edgecombe, Franklin, Halifax, Johnston, Mecklenburg, Nash, Northampton,

Pitt, Richmond, Wake and Wilson. And there were only three tobacco counties, at a high range of prices for tobacco, that could have claimed the right to store their products in warehouses. These were Caswell, Granville and Rockingham. The other 81 counties, though suffering more, perhaps, than these 15 which produce larger crops of the staple products, would be, as they say, "left out in the cold."

The first practicable step in the way of restoring prosperity to the farmers, and to all classes of the people, is to overthrow the Republican party, with its unjust tariff laws and class legislation, its demoralization of silver and its infamous force bill. The farmers need the widest market of the world for their grain crops, their cotton and tobacco, and whatever else they produce for sale. They need a volume of currency adequate to the vast business of the country, and they need above all things home rule, with free and fair elections, conducted by themselves, in pursuance of the laws of their own States.

The people of the United States have nothing to expect from the Republican party. There is no bad law on the statute book that was not put there by the Republican party. The people are demanding financial reform: They cannot have it unless the financial system established by the Republican party is overthrown. The people are demanding the free and unlimited coinage of silver. And the Republican party has passed a law which after one year will stop the coinage of the silver dollar. Silver coins constitute more than one-half of the current money of the world, but while it is good enough for the people it is not good enough for the Republican millionaires and bondholders. The purpose of the Republican party is to make money scarce and dear and to make public debts and private debts heavy and hard to pay. All this was foreseen and planned by the Republican conspirators who fraudulently demonetized silver in 1873, and all this has been accomplished.

Every Democrat recorded his vote against it. Not many years ago the Republican party attempted to impose upon the South a civil rights bill. The bill became a law but the Supreme Court decided it to be unconstitutional. The Democrats were also united in their opposition to this civil rights bill. The Democratic party, to which you and I belong, is the only hope of the people at this crisis. It is the party of the people of the United States. Its voters outnumber the Republicans more than 100,000, and if we leave out the negroes the Democratic majority of the popular vote is over a million. Do not be deceived. This is no time for division in the ranks of the friends of constitutional liberty in the South. The issue is upon us. If the Republicans in Congress shall pass a Federal election law, the horrors of reconstruction will have returned, and we may soon expect to see Federal troops at the polls with bayonets in their hands to drive free American citizens away from the ballot box.

The Federal election bill passed the House by a vote of 155 to 149 a majority of six. Enough seats were stolen from the Democrats by admitting Republican contestants to give the Republican party their majority, to which were added five Representatives of four new States North and South Dakota, Montana and Washington. The present administration and the Republican majority in both houses of Congress are the representatives of conspiracy and fraud. Their proposal to keep themselves in power by surrounding the ballot-boxes with troops, supervisors and deputy marshals, in order to intimidate the electors, is an insult to the people, and will destroy our government itself. The day of reckoning may be postponed, but if we are united and true to ourselves, it is sure to come, and when it does, the Republican party, the author of all our woes, will be buried beneath the ballots of an indignant people, beyond all hope of resurrection. God speed the day!

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New Way to Apportion Congressmen.
We do not wonder that the people begin to understand more and more of the election bill now under consideration in Congress the excitement in regard to it is on the increase. It is a revolutionary scheme beyond question. If adopted it virtually places in the hands of a political party the entire control of the majority of the representatives in Congress. We do not oppose it because it has been introduced and urged by the Republican party. We think the leaders of that organization are more disposed than their rivals to rule with a strong hand, and that they are likely to exercise any power placed in their control to perpetuate their hold of the Administration, without much regard to the means, so long as the end is attained. We have no more faith in the unimpeachable virtue of the Democrats than of the Republicans, but the former have never gone to such extremes as the latter for mere party aggrandizement, and we do not believe they could be successful in such measures if the situation was reversed. The Republican is more radical and less conservative in thought and action than his political opponent, and that party would not have accepted peaceably the treatment it has bestowed upon the opposition since the last presidential election.

If the Federal judges, as a rule, were Democrats, and this party was in control of Congress, and proposed to enact an election law exactly similar to the one now under discussion

[Continued to Fourth Page.]

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