

THE TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE.

Properly Parts of the Postoffice System—A Wide Difference Between This Idea and that of the Government Ownership of the Railroads.

[Correspondence of the Landmark.] In framing the Federal Constitution, it was wisely provided that "Congress should have the power to establish postoffices and post roads."

When cheaper postage and a uniform rate were demonstrated to be advantageous by the example of the English postoffice under Sir Rowland Hill, Congress promptly applied the same in our own postal service.

It has not failed to adopt them because it is unconstitutional to do so. This is too plain for argument. It would be easy to fill pages with citations of legal authorities showing its constitutionality.

Nor can it be said that it would be an experiment. Every civilized country with the sole exception of ours has long since made the telegraph a part of its postal service and in all it has worked satisfactorily.

It is very certain that the telegraph and telephone as parts of our postal service would not only wonderfully improve the means of intercourse but it is believed that a very cheap uniform rate—probably five cents a message—would pay a handsome revenue to the government.

In the presence of exorbitant rates to which we are accustomed this will seem hazardous, but reflection will show that it is not. Telegraph wire costs less than 28 per mile; poles in our country are not expensive, the cost of erecting them light; the chemicals for use of the wires are inexpensive.

It may be noted that the telephone patent expires next March. Now is the time for Congress to adopt it for the postoffice and establish a telephone at every country postoffice.

hanging around the court house. A telephone message to the nearest railway station would ascertain whether expected freight had come and the farmer would be saved a needless trip of his wagon over bad roads.

The use of the telephone would deprive of validity the only arguments of any weight which have been used against the adoption of the telegraph by the postoffice.

1. That the telegraph would be used by 5,000,000 of people, and that the other 57,000,000 would have to pay for it. Aside from the fact that the telegraph here, as in England and elsewhere, when used by the postoffice and placed at a moderate uniform rate would pay a profit, we have the additional fact that by the adoption of the telegraph at country postoffices the rural masses would be users of the new agency of intercommunication as well as the business men of the cities.

2. It is urged that the number of employees of the government would be vastly increased. This argument, too, loses its force, if it has any, by the addition of the telephone. For all distances under two hundred miles the telephone can be used and the present postmasters can of course use them. A few telegraph centres, one or two for each State, could be established, to which all long distance messages would be sent to be there dispatched by telegraph.

3. The argument as to the expense of delivering messages would also be destroyed by the use of telephones, since in country districts the message would simply go to the postoffice, and in towns and their suburbs the universality of private telephones which will come into general use on the expiration of the telephone patent, would make it easy to deliver messages; besides, government could and would have numerous telephone sub-postoffices in every place of size.

The Western Union and its champions always adroitly couple opposition to governmental ownership of the railroads with its ownership of telegraphs. This is to avail themselves of the strong opposition and the forceful reasons which can be given against the latter measure. But the two measures have nothing whatever in common.

Whatever the demerits or merits of the cry raised in some quarters for government ownership of railroads, it has no connection with this matter. If railroads were used solely for the purpose of transmitting mail matter, the case would be parallel and the government could take charge of them under the power to establish post roads.

It is an anomaly which cannot last that we should strain every nerve and increase expenditure to save from one to two hours in the rapid carriage or delivery of mails when a single enactment of Congress all such messages as require the hastily-sought expedition could be delivered almost instantly by the use of electricity and at the rate, say, of five cents per message.

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the sending of mail or messages for others.

The public demand in this direction for adoption of these, the cheapest and speediest means of intercommunication, by the government, is beyond question. It can be ascertained by conversation in any gathering where the subject is discussed.

At one time it distributed \$10,000,000 of stock to its shareholders. Its capital stock now, by virtue of successive waterings, is nearly \$100,000,000 and that sum it pays dividends that make it one of the best paying investments in the country.

After this showing can there be attached any weight to the arguments of its newspapers and attorneys or any doubt of the need by the public of a governmental telegraph?

As has been well said "of all the monopolies the telegraph system of this country, substantially owned and controlled by one man, is the worst and most dangerous of them all. It is no longer safe or expedient to entrust into the hands of one overpowering monopoly the telegraph business of this country."

The proposition for the government ownership of the telegraph and telephone will come up with renewed emphasis before the next Congress. Like Banquo's ghost, it is a question which "will not down."

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WALTER CLARK, Raleigh, N. C.

BURGAW, Pender Co., N. C.

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ports these papers mainly if it is not the farmers and laborers of our land, and we would say to them beware how they use the pen lest it be done to their own hurt.

Resolved by Branch Alliance, No. 971, in council assembled, that we do heartily condemn the partisan press for the bitter manner in which they are fighting our national officers and Alliance principles which we hold to be as sacred as gospel truths.

R. L. PLAYER, Sec'y.

W. B. PLAYER, Pres't.

FOR THE FARMERS.

Careful estimates, made by those competent to judge, fix the yield of the present Kansas wheat crop at not less than fifty million bushels. If sold within the next sixty days it will not command to exceed 75 cents per bushel, which would bring the farmers \$37,500,000.

I would like some of the advocates of our present financial system to point out wherein the above illustration is fallacious, or wherein the Sub-Treasury plan, as illustrated in the above, would be detrimental to the best interests of the country.

RESOLUTIONS FROM PAMLICO COUNTY.

We, the undersigned committee appointed at our last regular meeting of Trent Alliance, No. 1,374, to draft resolutions,

Resolved, That we heartily endorse our worthy President, L. L. Polk, and will stand by him as long as he can endorse the Ocala platform.

2. That we believe that the cause of the low prices of products is by the scarcity of the currency in circulation. We believe in the free and unlimited coinage of silver and the Sub-Treasury or land loan or something better.

3. That we favor the low tariff but do not think that alone will bring relief.

4. That we consider the present national banking system both ruinous and injurious to the farmer and laboring classes, and we do demand the repeal of the present banking system, also we demand a return to the old banking system prior to the last war.

5. That we are opposed to sending any delegate to the national convention who is not in favor of the free coinage of silver, or who will cast his vote for any candidate for the presidency who is opposed to the free coinage of silver.

6. That a copy of these resolutions be sent to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and other papers that are in sympathy with the Alliance please copy.

P. J. DANIELS, JAMES SPRULL, J. E. CAROON, Committee.

S. B. LANE, Chm'n.

T. J. SAWYER, Pres't.

SOCIETY IN BIG CITIES.

Famous Social Leaders to Tell Exactly What it is Like.

The social life in our large cities is one of the most fascinating studies in the world. The women who comprise it are naturally the most beautiful and the most brilliant of their sex. Never have we, however, seen this whirl of society through the eyes of those who are its leaders.

COMPARISON OF SUB-TREASURY AND NATIONAL BANKING SYSTEM.

Our friends, the bankers, would do well to note the following points of comparison between the Sub-Treasury plan and the national banking system. They both involve the collateral with the government to secure the redemption of the note issued by the government as money.

AN ADDRESS.

To all citizens of the United States.

GREETING:—The undersigned have been appointed a committee to issue an address setting forth the objects and purposes of the great conference of producers which has been called to convene in St. Louis, on the 22nd day of February, 1892.

The call for said conference originated with the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union at Ocala, Fla., in December, 1890, as follows: "This body gives its sanction and call for a meeting to be held about February, 1892, to be composed of delegates from all organizations of producers upon a fair basis of representation, for the purpose of a general and thorough conference upon the demands of each, and to the end that all may agree upon a joint set of demands just prior to the next national campaign, and agree upon the proper methods for enforcing such demands."

That we believe that the cause of the low prices of products is by the scarcity of the currency in circulation. We believe in the free and unlimited coinage of silver and the Sub-Treasury or land loan or something better.

That we favor the low tariff but do not think that alone will bring relief. That we consider the present national banking system both ruinous and injurious to the farmer and laboring classes, and we do demand the repeal of the present banking system, also we demand a return to the old banking system prior to the last war.

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RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were passed by Mt. Carmel Alliance, Rockingham county, N. C., Dec. 26, 1891:

Resolved, That we will stick to Col. L. L. Polk as long as he sticks to the Order, and that we pronounce such attacks as cowardly, and each attack upon the Alliance or its officers makes us stronger in the faith.

That we will not vote for Cleveland if he is nominated, nor for any other man who will not pledge to support the Alliance and especially the Sub-Treasury.

That all members that will love either of the old parties more than he does the Alliance ought to quit the Alliance and be true to his colors.

That we reaffirm our allegiance to the Alliance and promise to stand by its demands against all opposition.

That a copy of these resolutions be sent to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and Webster's Weekly with request to publish.

The object of the coming meeting is, under the blessing of God, to confer and agree upon the wisest, fairest and most just means of relief in the interest of the whole people, and to announce a declaration of principles upon which all are agreed to stand and demand laws to carry out.

The purpose of the meeting will be developed when the delegates of the people assemble. It is idle to suppose that they will adopt a set of demands without making adequate provision to enforce them.

C. W. MACUSE, HERMAN BAUMGARTEN, THOMAS W. GILBRETH, JOHN P. STEELE, Committee.

A MILLION A WEEK.

The Net Clearings of the Railroads During the Year 1890.

The advance sheet of Poor's Manual of Railroads for 1891 show that about 5,500 miles of new road were built in the United States in 1890, making the total mileage but little less than 167,000.

The liabilities of the companies are 104 millions, of which over 44 millions are capital, over five millions funded debt, one-third million unfunded debt, and a little over one-quarter million current debt.

On the other side of the balance sheet is found \$4 millions as the cost of road and equipments, 1 1/2 millions in real estate, stocks, bonds and other investments, and one half million in cash, bills receivable and current accounts.

Over 520 million passengers were carried about 25 miles each, and 70 1/2 million tons of freight were carried about 100 miles each.

The passenger earnings were 27 1/2 millions, freight 740 1/2 millions, other sources 72 millions, a total of over one billion.

The operating expenses were 744 1/2 millions and the net earnings 311 1/2 millions. Other receipts, including rentals were 113 1/2 millions, making a total available revenue of 455 1/2 millions. The payments on fixed charges amounted to over 4 1/2 millions, leaving the excess of available revenue about one million a week for the year.

ENCOURAGE BUSINESS AGENT.

Mr. Editor:—For the benefit and encouragement of the brethren, I wish to say that I have saved at least 25 per cent. on some articles in buying through our State agency.

Brethren, this is one of our plans to save middle men's profits, and bring the manufacturer and consumer together. Brethren, let us patronize our own business agency, and thus encourage and strengthen the Alliance cause and thus help to accomplish one very important part of the work which we as Alliance men have undertaken.

Bro. W. H. Worth is endeavoring to do his whole duty, and I am gratified to know, that he is succeeding splendidly. In fact, he is just the man for the place—one of the very best business agents.

Brethren, every dollar we trade through this channel helps us in a two-fold way.

APPOINTMENTS IN RUTHERFORD COUNTY.

Mr. Editor:—If you will allow me a small space in your most valuable paper I will announce to the readers of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER that District Lecturer J. S. Davis will address the people at the following times and places:

Henrietta Mills, Jan. 18, 1892. Logan's Store, Jan. 19, 1892. Holly Springs, Jan. 20, 1892. Bro. Davis will pass from here into McDowell county.

The Rutherford County Alliance will meet with the Shiloh Sub Alliance, No. 893, on the 19th and 15th of January, 1892. We expect a good time then. Brethren, please excuse me just here as I am hardly able to set up. With best wishes for the Alliance and its organ, I remain, etc.,

MARION J. GREEN, Sec'y Rutherford Co. Alliance.