

ZEKE BILKINS.



Zeke is at Work, but Mrs. Bilkins Talks Politics.

"Hello! Mr. Editor." "Good morning, Mr. Bilkins." "Say, I'm in a big hurry this mornin'." Betsy says I must do a big day's work, but I want to hear from the Statesville meeting."

OUR WORKERS.

We are under obligations to the following brethren for clubs sent in since last report:

- D. R. Parker 27-17 new
J. W. Burnes 25-20
W. B. Sellers 23-21
J. B. H. Boddie, Jr. 15-7
W. T. Griffin 13-10
J. M. Carpenter 12-3
J. W. Lawrence 11-10
J. J. Williams 10-10
G. A. Clendenin 9-5
H. L. Johnson 8-6
J. P. Callhurn 8-8
L. E. Tyner 7-7
A. M. Bumgarner 7-4
N. A. Stonestreet 7-7
R. W. Bigger 6-5
J. C. Loftin 6-6
P. P. Morgan 6-6
G. Fitzgerald 6-5
T. M. Bevis 5-4
S. T. Goforth 4-3
T. J. Atkins 4-2
S. W. Wilcox 4-4
P. B. Kennedy 4-4
L. Herring 4-4
W. P. Hailey 4-4
J. E. Story 4-2
M. G. Bryan 4-4
E. L. Sloan 3-3
Jno. King 3-1
E. T. Crawford 3-1
T. H. Taylor 3-2
P. P. Foster 3-3
J. C. Trexler 3-3
H. L. Loucks 3-3

We only name in this list those sending three or more names, but the many brethren and friends who have sent in their renewals have our thanks also. We want to make this list a whole column long every week. What are you doing to help us, reader?

ALLIANCEN AND THEIR LEADERS.

"Many Alliancemen have been so thoroughly drilled that they have implicit confidence in their leaders. They have such implicit confidence in some of their leaders that it amounts almost to worship--there are some Alliancemen that appear to have more confidence in Col. Polk than they have in God. This confidence has been built up by such leaders declaring and constantly reiterating that both old parties are thoroughly corrupt," says the Kingston Free Press.

We do not reproduce this for the purpose of trying to weaken the logic of the article. The Free Press evidently has hit the nail on the head. Alliancemen know that the parties are as corrupt as hell itself, and if a man don't want to be known as a second Ananias he will say so. However, the parties could be reformed if they were not under the management of men who are rapidly sinking them deeper and deeper into the cesspool of corruption. "Honest control" or "ownership" is what they need. How would "government ownership" strike you? If the great mass of voters could get charge there would be more honesty.

OUR LAW-MAKERS.

In the capitol building at Washington are two bar-rooms. The Committee on "Public Buildings and Grounds" have decided that more room should be given for the same purpose, and the room now used for printing may be turned over for this purpose.

A few years ago Congress left the whole matter in the hands of the committee on "Public Buildings and Grounds." They can say whether or not intoxicating liquors can be sold in the capitol. This committee at present consists of the following: Senators Stanford (Chairman), Morrill, Quay, Squire, Carey, Vest, Daniel, Pasco and Brice, and Representatives Blankhead, Abbott, Lewis, Tarnsey, Warwick, McKaig, Newberry, Warner, Williams, of North Carolina; Miliken, Shonk, Enoch and Sweet.

Recently a representative of the New York Voice dropped into the Statesville office about it: "I was in the capitol building at Washington and saw two bar-rooms. The committee on 'Public Buildings and Grounds' have decided that more room should be given for the same purpose, and the room now used for printing may be turned over for this purpose."

Mrs. B.--"I've been studying these matters a good deal. Our State Government has been conducted moderately well--it could be much better, but looking over national matters I find that both parties are as corrupt as hell. I've been quarrelling with the legislature, and force bills with their ugly mouths for putting their pockets into the pockets of the working people. I would like to see Mr. Bilkins with Mr. Bilkins, and I would like to see Mrs. B. with Mrs. B. I am at work trying to get out like all honest men. I'm running the State like every woman in the State. I have no sense, but I will teach them some, hereafter and don't say bye."

not to look in the restaurants so I will not see it. They have served liquors in coffee cups in years gone by, but now I hear it is sold the same as in any saloon. It is certainly a disgrace."

MORE BAR-ROOM WANTED.

So rapidly has the business of the House "restaurant" increased that more room is imperative, and the committee on Public Buildings and Grounds have about decided to give over to the "restaurant" the use of the room now occupied by the Committee on Printing, as well as another room on the opposite side of the hall.

DO YOUR EARS BURN?

We have a long list of those who owe us on back subscriptions, and sometimes we look over it and are surprised at the large number of good men we recognize there. And as hard times pinch us for debts we owe and we think how much easier it would be for 1,000 men to pay us \$1 each than it is for us to lose \$1,000, we can't help thinking hard thoughts. Pay up, brethren and friends, and come in a club for another year.

STRANGE VOICES IN THE EAST.

Allusion has been made more than once in these columns to the tremendous flood of reform literature now deluging the country, especially in the South and West.

These papers, pamphlets and books present the people's side of the economic questions of the day. Many of them are crudely written, but they show an earnest purpose, a love of justice and more or less knowledge of the case, combined with arguments which the opponents of reform have not answered to the satisfaction of the average citizen.

Until quite recently these publications had few readers in the East. That section has been almost entirely controlled by the views of the privileged classes--the owners of great fortunes, who are interested in molding the policy of the government to promote the welfare of the few at the expense of the many.

But within the past year strange voices have been heard in the East, and the common people hear them gladly. Even in Boston, where the newspapers, less than two years ago, spoke of the Alliance movement as an important affair confined to a few country people in the benighted South and the wild West, the reformers have gained a foothold, and in the very citadel of the goldbugs and plutocrats they have set up their printing presses and are sending out their printed sheets among the people.

The writer of this article picked up The Arena, the brightest of the Boston periodicals, last night, and a glance through its pages revealed some astounding things.

This magazine, published in Boston, where hardly anybody knew anything about the Alliance two years ago, now devotes most of its space to the great reform and its leaders. In the April number Hon. John Davis, an Alliance Congressman, discusses the money question. Mrs. Diggs has an article on the Alliance and its leaders. Hamlin Garland has a story on the Alliance side of the question. The advertising pages announce a fresh batch of reform literature, and the whole aspect of The Arena is revolutionary from a goldbug point of view.

Verily, this is progress! In this Boston magazine will be found advertised "The Abolition of Plutocracy," by Professor J. R. Buchanan; "A New Declaration of Rights," by Hamlin Garland; "The Farmer, the Investor and the Railway," by C. Wood Davis; "The Condition of Labor," by Henry George; "The Coming Climax in the Destinies of America," by Lester C. Hubbard; "Jason Edwards," by Hamlin Garland; "Bond Holders and Breadwinners," by S. S. King; "A Member of the Third House," by Hamlin Garland, and various other books upholding the rights of the farmers and the masses.

The advertisement of "Bond Holders and Breadwinners" is the twenty-second number of the Statesville Voice.

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twenty-one! In 1880 the twenty-one had 56 per cent. of the total population, and were able to keep but 23 per cent. of the total wealth gained. The nine had 29 per cent of the total population and were able to save 41 per cent. of the total wealth gained.

Isn't it infamous? Isn't it robbery? There is enough in that prospectus to set people to thinking, and their thoughts will not make very pleasant reading for Eastern capitalists.

The article on the money question by Congressman Davis is wonderfully clear and readable. Mr. Davis advocates a full legal tender paper currency and plenty of it. He shows that it ruled 20 per cent. above coin for 600 years in the Republic of Venice, that it carried England through the Napoleonic wars and enabled the United States to put down the seceding Southern States.

He thinks that such money is very good money, and backed by the credit of the government, and issued to the people without a national banking system to stand in the way, he is satisfied that such a currency would be safe and satisfactory. And why not? There is no danger of an unlimited issue. Congress would always stand ready to check the issue if it damaged the people.

Mr. Davis refers to the fact that the first \$60,000,000 in greenbacks issued by the government during the war were full legal tender notes, and remained at par with gold or above it all the time. Then, he quotes the following from Senator Ingalls for the benefit of the goldbugs:

No people in a great emergency ever found a faithful ally in gold. It is the most cowardly and treacherous of all metals. It makes no treaty it does not sooner or later betray. Armies and navies are not maintained by gold. In times of panic and calamity, shipwreck and disaster, it becomes the agent and minister of ruin. No nation ever fought a great war by the aid of gold. On the contrary, in the crisis of the greatest peril, it becomes an enemy more potent than the foe in the field; but when the battle is won and peace has been secured, gold reappears, and claims the fruits of victory. In our own civil war it is doubtful if the gold of New York and London did not work us greater injury than the powder and lead and iron of the rebels. It was the most invincible enemy of the public credit. Gold paid no soldier or sailor. It refused the national obligations. It was worth most when our fortunes were the lowest. Every defeat gave it increased value. It was in open alliance with our enemies the world over, and all its energies were evoked for our destruction. But as usual, when danger has been averted, and the victory secured, gold swaggers to the front and asserts the supremacy.

If this sort of talk is to make itself heard through the densely populated East, where millions of toilers are impatient under their many burdens, we may expect before long to see the masses of that section getting ready to vote with their brethren of the South and West.

Besides, The Arena, The New Nation and other Boston periodicals are enlisted in the cause of reform. In the South and West similar publications literally cover the face of the earth. Now, does all this mean nothing? Does it not show the drift of public opinion? There are Democratic leaders who ignore the signs of the times. They clamor for tariff reform as the single relief. They must know this, the people claim that they have been deceived time and again with the hollow sham of tariff reform, and will no longer join their faith to it as the supreme issue.

Democratic leaders know all this, and still some of them take no forward step. Very well--the perpetuation of Republican plutocracy by blind Democratic leaders will seal the doom of the masses.

STATE NEWS.

Main of the State Press--Drops of Turpentine and Grains of Rice from the East--Clusters of Grapes and Tobacco Stems from the North--Stalks of Corn and Grains of Wheat from the West--Peanuts and Cotton Seed from the South.

Tarboro is to have electric lights. Justice Davis of the Supreme Court is in failing health.

John Hardy, a colored boy, attempted to commit suicide at Salisbury last Thursday. Winston pays \$11,000 and secures the location of the Colored Agricultural and Mechanical College.

The Alliance Echo is the name of a new weekly published by Mr. J. E. Spence at Moncure.

Roxboro Courier: Mr. John A. Clayton told us a few days ago that he killed 200 crows a few days ago with three baits.

The Smithfield Herald reports that there has already been more corn shipped to that place this year than during all 1891.

Asheboro Courier: The cotton mills at Randolph spend a considerable amount of money every year for woodshuttles.

Mr. John W. Keziah, general merchant in Union county, has made an assignment. His liabilities are \$2,200, with assets of 1,500.

Murfreesboro Index: The fishermen are not doing a great deal this season. The catch of fish along the Chowan and Meherrin is small.

Norfolk Virginian: Officer Hoofnagle last night arrested an escaped convict from the Raleigh penitentiary, who had two years to serve.

Concord Standard: Rev. H. W. Bays D. D., will preach a sermon before the graduating class of Kinston College about the first of June.

Oxford Day: Evangelist W. P. Pife and Rev. Geo. C. Needham will conduct a series of Bible readings in Oxford, beginning next Sunday morning.

Last week seven prisoners escaped from the Mecklenburg jail, John Boyd, the train wrecker was among the number. Six captured, Boyd still at large.

One North Carolinian was hurt by the fall of the staging near the cruiser Raleigh at Norfolk Thursday, Mott D. Lee, a well known business man of Goldsboro.

Salisbury Herald: There are now ninety prisoners in jail. Wheat is looking exceptionally fine just now. Present indications point to a splendid yield this year.

A letter from Rutherford College says the attendance is large and increasing almost daily, and that fully 300 pupils are expected to be in attendance next term.

Dunn Times: We are sorry to announce the assignment of Mr. W. S. Jackson of our town. From the best estimate that can be made at present, his liabilities are \$2,000, while his assets are \$1,000 or \$1,200.

Charlotte News: Mr. A. Metger, the German miner, has begun gold mining operations on the lands of Mr. John P. Hunter, at Derita. He is getting out some rich gold ore, so he says, and Mr. Metger knows good ore when he sees it. Goldsboro Argus: We regret to chronicle the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Elmore, wife of Mr. J. P. Elmore. Her death occurred yesterday afternoon at the home of her husband in Saulton township in the 65th year of her age.

Greensboro Workman: The chair of chemistry, in the Central University of Kentucky, has been tendered to Prof. W. A. Weathers, of the Agricultural and Mechanical College, but it was declined, the professor preferring to remain in his present position.

Nearly 200 out of the more than 300 parties who made professions of faith in Christ at the Fife meeting in Wilson handed in cards showing their church preference. Those handed in showed thus: Methodist, 60; Baptist, 50; Presbyterian, 30; Episcopalian, 20; others, 10.

A Boston, Mass., man...

THE LATEST NEWS.

Sparks from the Wires--Most Important Events Throughout the World for a Week.

LONDON, April 8.--Fourteen lives were lost this morning in a collision of two steamers in the English channel.

OMAHA, April 8.--A blizzard of unusual severity, for this season, raging over the greater part of this State. The snow is several inches deep.

NEW YORK, April 8.--The World has a special that Hatfield, the leader of the celebrated Hatfield gang, was shot and killed by one of his gang in a row over cards.

SHELBYVILLE, April 8.--The Victor Flouring Mill, in this city, the largest in the South, was burned this morning. The origin of the fire is unknown. The loss is largely covered by insurance.

PARIS, April 6.--At Angers last night a dynamite bomb was placed on the window sill of the police depot and exploded. The building was badly shattered and one of the policemen was injured. There is absolutely no clue. Angers is a manufacturing centre and Socialists abound.

OLEAN, N. Y., April 6.--A terrific cyclone struck this city last night, wrecking ten houses and a church. One woman was killed and a number of people seriously injured. There were sixteen people in the church, which was lifted from its foundations and carried twenty feet away.

NEW YORK, April 5.--Lieut. George Backus, First Cavalry, whose station is at Fort Keogh, Mont., is missing. He arrived in this city two weeks ago and registered at the Sturtevant house. Nothing has been heard of him at the hotel for the last few days, and it is feared he has committed suicide.

ALEXANDRIA, La., April 6.--News has reached here that Patrick Kelley, aged 55 years, a peddler, killed on last Sunday on Little river, near Fishville, by a gang of eight negroes, that four of the negroes were caught by a mob and hanged, and the mob was in pursuit of the rest of the gang. The killing was for the purpose of robbery.

NEW ORLEANS, April 8.--The New Orleans rice merchants have organized a stock company with \$500,000 capital to fight the rice trust. A new rice mill will be erected here, as all the present mills are in the trust. It is thought the rice farmers will join issues with the new company to fight the trust.

FIVE FATALLY INJURED.

LONG ISLAND CITY, April 6.--The fire box of a locomotive on the Long Island Railroad exploded this morning while the engine was standing on the track near Blissville. Five men were fatally injured.

THE SAFE FOUND INTACT.

HEPZIBAH, Ga., April 8.--Mr. J. B. Fryer found the inner safe belonging to the safe recently dynamited; it was near his dwelling and was intact, deeds, bonds and etc., in a perfect state of preservation.

FIFTY ATE POISONED CREAM.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., April 6.--Fifty persons were poisoned by eating ice-cream at a church social held Monday. Two victims have died, and the others had a hard struggle for life. The others have already recovered, and are on the road to recovery.

SEVEN BURNED TO DEATH.

FORT MADISON, Mo., April 6.--Seven people lost their lives this morning in a fire which broke out in the brick building at 12-30 West. The building was consumed, and the bodies of S. V. Kitchen, L. S. Kitchen, and S. V. Kitchen, all were burned to death. A platoon of gun powder escaped. The cause was a horrid one. KILLING OF A WOMAN.

A Boston, Mass., man...

The Progressive Farmer... now until Nov...