

MASS MEETING.

McDowell County on the Upgrade—All Join Together for Reform. Mr. Editor:—In pursuance of a call for a mass meeting of the members of Crooked Creek, Sylvain, Bethlehem and Clear Creek Alliances, with all persons who were friendly to the Order, we met at Old Fort on Saturday, March 26th.

The meeting was called to order and Bro. A. J. Dula was called to the chair and Bro. J. L. Bird requested to act as Secretary. Your humble scribe was then called on to discuss the different planks in the platform, and as the speaking went on, the crowd, which was of good size at the beginning, grew to be very large, all shades of political opinion being represented, among them some who were known to be opposed to the Order, but all listened very attentively, and many of those who did not belong to the Order, spoke out in strong terms in favor of the demands and platform.

After the speaking, the following resolutions were adopted: Resolved, That we agree to all the address of the St. Louis Convention, as put forth by the committee on platform, and endorse the platform in full. 2. That it is the sense of this meeting, both Alliances and non-Alliances concurring, that we will vote for no man who does not get squarely on every plank in the platform, and that with both feet.

THE COAL COMBINE.

Rev. Mr. Dixon Speaks Of It In His Introduction. NEW YORK, March 6.—Mr. Dixon preceded his sermon in Association Hall this morning by a review of the recent combination of the anthracite coal kings of Pennsylvania. He said: "The most gigantic railroad deal in the history of the world has just been consummated in Wall street. The anthracite coal output of America is controlled by five railroads. Four of these roads have entered into a combination to the enormous amount of \$600,000,000. It is declared that the earnings of this trust will be over \$100,000,000 annually. We do not doubt it."

WALL STREET MANIACS. The scene on the Stock Exchange when the announcement of this deal was made beggars description. Men plunged and shrieked and jumped and yelled like maniacs. Millions hung in the balance of a moment. It was a day never to be forgotten even on the floor of this daily pandemonium. It was enough to move men to madness and transform a market into a hell of greed and speculative lust. These stocks, in spite of the burden of tons of water, leaped upward some \$8,000,000 within a few ticks of the clock. Visions of imperial splendor flashed before the surging crowd of genteel gamblers. Nor was there any decline in prices. Fabulous fortunes were made in an hour. It was an hour that should interest profoundly the whole nation. Those who have best reason to know declare that it means an advance of fifty cents a ton on the price of coal.

First—We demand a national currency safe, sound and flexible, issued by the General Government only; a full legal tender for all debts public and private; and that without the use of banking corporations a just and equitable and efficient system of distribution direct to the people at a tax not to exceed one per cent be provided, as set forth in the sub-treasury plan of the Farmers' Alliance, or some better system; also, by payments in discharge of its obligations for public improvements.

Second—We demand free and unlimited coinage of silver. We demand that the amount of circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than \$500,000,000. We demand a graduated income tax. We believe that the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and hence we demand all national and State revenue shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government economically and honestly administered. We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people and to facilitate exchange.

Third—Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity, the government should own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people. A telegraph and telephone, like the post-office system, being a necessity for transmission of news, should be owned and operated by the government in the interest of the people.

Fourth—We demand that the natural resources of wealth, including all the land and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes, and alien ownership of land should be prohibited. All land now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs, and all lands now owned by aliens, should be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only.

You can burn wood, oil, gas, electricity. THE REMEDY. Yes, there is a remedy. Just one. All other remedies only play with the problem and pile up wrath against the day of wrath. The time has come when the government must assume control of the people's highways and run them in the interest of the people.

SECOND DECLARATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

Platform Adopted by the Confederated Industrial Organizations at St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 22-24, 1892. PREAMBLE. This, the first great labor conference of the United States and of the world, representing all divisions of urban and rural organized industry, assembled in national congress, invoking upon its action the blessings and protection of Almighty God, puts forth to and for the protection of the nation this declaration of union and independence. The conditions which surround us justify our so operation. We meet in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, political, and material ruin. Corruption dominates the ballot-box, the legislature, the Congress, and touches even the ermine of the bench. The people are demoralized. Many of the States have been depopulated. The newspapers are subsidized or muzzled, public opinion silenced, business prostrated, our homes covered with mortgages, labor impoverished, and the land concentrating in the hands of capitalists. The urban workmen are denied the right of organization for self-protection; imported pauperized labor beats down their wages; a hiring standing army, unrecognized by our laws, is established to shoot them down; and they are rapidly degenerating to European conditions.

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