

# THE FARMERS' VOCALIST.

VOL. 1. NO. 4.

TARBORO, N. C., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1891.

PRICE, FIVE CENTS.

## BRIEF OPINIONS.

The *Reflector*, published at Whiteville, N. C., is a new candidate for public favor. It stands firmly upon the Alliance platform and makes a good beginning. Long life to our new contemporary.

A well-estimated contemporary, the *Wilson Advance* has appeared in a neat and handsome new spring dress. It is a pretty paper and we hope our friend Claude Wilson will always be successful in his enterprise.

It is a source of the heartiest gratification to us, to note the handsome progress given of the *FARMERS' ADVOCATE* by many of our brethren of the press. We have worked diligently to give our readers a good paper, and hope to make the *FARMERS' ADVOCATE* worthy of the support and encouragement of the people of Eastern North Carolina.

The farmers should not lose sight of the importance, yet, necessity of doing what they consume, at home. It will never do for them to continue to buy their great houses and grain from the West. The lands of North Carolina are surely fertile enough to make any farmer self-sufficient. Let the farmers practice a discrimination of their crops.

That Ben Butler was forcibly ejected from the court room last week in Boston, while making an effort to address the court in behalf of his client, is a cause assigned was that Butler made disparaging remarks about the Judge. If men, of the Butler type, were ejected from public places, the country would be a thousand-fold better off.

The members of the Raleigh Bar met last week and many of them devoted most touching and eloquent addresses upon the death of the great man. The work they had done was lauded. Daniel G. Fowle, "Twas fitting that such marks of esteem should have been shown to the memory of the brilliant lawyer, eloquent orator and true patriot. We were much impressed with the tributes paid to the distinguished North Carolinian.

If there is anything for which we have cause to regret it is to be ignorant of the lukewarmness and inactivity of members of the Alliance. They should not be forgetful of their duty to their organization. Should any member remain at home from the meetings, it does not justify an order to follow his example. Go to meetings regularly, and never forget to send them a dime or two in the pocket.

The recent trip of President Harrison through the fair Southland and the handsome ovations tendered him, demonstrates the high regard the Southern people have for their President. He is far Democrat or Republican. The President expressed himself as well pleased with our people. He should stay among us awhile and then he would learn that Southern people are as prosperous, law-abiding and as courteous as any people on the globe.

The *Daily State Chronicle* announces that it will be enlarged to an octavo-size daily. Surely this is progressive journalism—exceedingly commendable. The *State Chronicle* is in a prosperous condition. It is one of the best papers in North Carolina, to-day and its editor is an unflinching champion of the best paper. We congratulate our esteemed friend Josephus Daniels, Esq., and believe that he will make a paper of which the whole State will be proud to read.

We devote our editorial columns this week to a sketch of the life of Major Gen. William Dorsey Pender. General Pender was one who, in our opinion, is distinguished by his brilliant achievements, unwavering and patriotic devotion to the great cause which the South espoused. We hope the history of his life will serve to glorify his brilliant military career and his high character and great devotion to the South. His life is a noble example for all men to emulate.

The criticism of Senator Carlisle by the government can have no effect on the farmers' that it is not repeated, is a most stale argument. The truth is, the first government has no money not to pay the farmers. The government simply propose a just and honorable method of issuing money, and will accept no adjustment that does less.—*National Economist*.

With money furnished direct to the farmers, on non-destructible property, the country would soon be in a business removed and the people could live in homes of their own. Instead of paying tribute to the government for what should be theirs, the benefits of the agricultural class would be enacted into a law, and the people would be happy and contented with the people.

## STATE NEWS.

### THE DOINGS OF OUR PEOPLE BRIEFLY AND PLAINLY TOLD.

#### HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK CONDENSED.

All the State papers reports the farmers as behind in their work. The Wake county cattle show takes place May 7. The horse show will be the main feature.

From the *Press* we learn that Prof. E. A. Alderman did his work in the Institution Windsor last week. A contest is going on now over the two wills of the late Mary Smith Morhead. This case is in the courts now.

Wilmington is preparing for the Summer months by having her ditches and low places cleaned, and well drained.

Henry Bradburn, the man who murdered the Italian of Charlotte, has been found guilty of murder and will be hanged.

It is a rumor at Rocky Mount that the A. C. Line will move their eating house from Weldon and put a large hotel at Rocky Mount.

It is rumored in Raleigh that the railroad shops of the Southern Air-Line are to be removed to a more central point.

The first work of the railroad commissioners is to have the Richmond and Danville road to run a year through from Point Rock to Goldboro.

Mr. Augustus Reppas of Beaufort county was instantly killed by lightning last week. He was seated by the fireplace, when the storm passed over.

The trial of Mike Jones, for the murder of Mr. N. B. A. Akin and mother of her work at Plymouth. The defendant was acquitted. He was tried in Hertford before a trial was granted him.

Mr. John G. Myers, a citizen of Bertie, aged 81 years, is a hale and hearty man. He works hard every day. He has lived with his present wife 57 years. His wife is well, hearty and active and does all of the cooking and house work pertaining to the farm.

Many of our farmers are planting cotton and some have planted their corn. Mr. A. W. Small, of Cashie Neck, state that some of his neighbors have come above the ground and growing finely. We do hope they will all reap an abundant harvest this year.—*Windsor Teller*.

A few days ago Mr. E. T. Miller, head horse, sat eating fodder near a creek in the fence. A fine grey calf 14 months old reached its nose through the fence for the fodder when the horse bit the calf's tongue off, and it was supposed to be the piece could not be found. He had to have the calf killed.—*St. Paul News*.

On Friday last while attempting to uncouple two cars of the Petersburg road at this place Mr. Millikin, a brakeman of the road, signaled the engine to back a little. As the engine moved back, the coupler of the cars being broken, the two came together catching Mr. Millikin's head between them, giving him a severe injury. It was a close call, but the man is now able to walk about.—*Weldon News*.

A day or two ago a convict, known as a trusty, at one of the camps between here and Raleigh, committed an outrage on a highly respected lady, 71 years old. This is one of the many cases of the kind that are being reported. The lady has been suffering terribly and had to be taken to the hospital. Her husband is a farmer and she is a widow. The man who committed the crime is a convict and is now in the State Prison.—*Greenville Reflector*.

There was some excitement in the Baptist church Friday night, so much in fact that it about broke up the service for the time being. While Rev. Mr. Hunter was preaching, some of the members to the large reflector flashed up and shot a flame out of the top of the church. The frightened congregation fled in all directions. There was no danger whatever from the reflector, as the oil tank could not possibly explode, and all needed was simply to lower the burner. But the stampede for the doors was exceedingly dangerous and several persons came near getting hurt.—*Greenville Reflector*.

Our town has not lately been so thoroughly indignant at any one of any citizen as it was the first of this week. It came in this way. Mr. Sylvester Fleming, one of the largest farmers in the county, had a colored overseer, John Brown, by name, and a bright little white boy, 12 or 14 years old, named William Fleming, who sold milk in town for Mr. Fleming, and did work also on the farm and around the barnyard. It appears that Mr. Fleming had whipped the boy several times last week, and had also authorized the colored overseer to whip him. On Sunday the little boy went on the water in a canoe, whereupon the negro, hired him of this clothing and evenly whipped him until the boy's flesh was lacerated and bleeding. As soon as it was discovered the news went over the town like a flash, and such indignation has been rapidly spreading.—*Washington Gazette*.

## THE DAILY NEWS.

### COLLECTED EACH DAY AND CONDENSED FOR THE GENERAL READER.

WEDNESDAY, April 28.—In Birmingham a dynamo engine ran over a little girl and cut her to pieces. L. Proga of San Antonio skipped for Canada with \$30,000 in his pocket after having sold 25,000 head of sheep, belonging to a banker. The King of Gambia has insisted the English government by backing up its representative and sending the prices of fish to the British Governor. An Alliance has been made between England and Italy. The banks of B. and A. Hamilton, London, failed for \$25,000,000. The death rate roll is reported as 251. Republicans sweep Montana. A gold mine has been discovered in the bed of Swift River, Me. Call has been elected Senator from Florida. Five men died from drinking water from an old well near Burlington, Iowa. The National Republican League Convention held at Kansas City this week. It is a wonderfully curious document, but seems to have created less comment than any letter ever before written by a man in such high position. Mr. Harrison's warmest friends and most ardent admirers are dazed and confused by the document. There were some good points in it, but they are not presented in such a way as to define the President's attitude toward the matters touched upon. Here are some of the sample points:

"Any dollar paper or coin, that is issued by the United States, must be made and kept in its commercial uses as gold of any other dollar. If we have dollars of different values, only the poorest will circulate. The farmer and laborer, who are not in hourly touch with the ticker or telegraph, will require, above all other classes of our community, a dollar of full value. Retentions and depreciations are always at the front of these classes of our community. The banker and speculator anticipate discount, and often profit by such fluctuations."

HOW CAN THE DOLLARS BE MADE GOOD. Of course, "All this is good. We know it before. But the question is, how can such dollars as are desired by Mr. Harrison be secured, and how can enough of them be put in the hands of the people? These are the grave questions, and Mr. Harrison does not answer them. The only plans now before the public for getting an increase of these dollars are the sub-treasury plan, the land loan plan (not the Stanford plan), and the free-coinage of silver. The "bankers and speculators" who "anticipate discount" are opposed to these plans. And their opposition arises from the fact that these plans really provide for such dollars as are for such a number of them as will make them safe and uniform and prevent speculation.

MR. HARRISON'S OPPOSITION. Mr. Harrison has been regarded as an opponent of free coinage, and it was fully understood during the session of the Congress that if a free coinage bill passed it would be vetoed by the President. He never attempted to correct that impression. But he says in his letter:

"I have always believed, and do now more than ever believe in bi-metallicism, and favor the fullest use of silver in connection with our currency, that is compatible with the maintenance of the party of the gold and the silver dollar in their commercial uses."

Most public men have always understood bi-metallicism to mean, in effect, equal rights in coinage of both gold and silver. This would mean, under existing circumstances, the free coinage of silver; for no one has offered objection to the free coinage of gold.

MR. HARRISON MAY BE ASKED TO EXPLAIN. Some leading Republican silver Senators have unreservedly announced their inability to understand the President's position. They are whispering it around that this letter was written some days before it was sent out and that it was submitted to a number of the President's friends who strongly advised against it being sent to the Commercial Congress. But the President sent it right along, and now it is on record pro-con. One Republican Senator has expressed his intention of writing an open letter to the President and asking him to state plainly and fully just what he means and where he stands.

THE OLD PARTY PROGRAMME. The next Congress will have a Democratic majority in the House. What will those Democrats attempt? One of the members, Gen. W. H. F. Lee, from the Eighth district of Virginia, has, honestly, but perhaps unwittingly, "given away" the whole policy. In a recent interview he said:

"As to our policy in Congress, it seems to me there can be but little doubt. What we should do is simply to assume and maintain a state of masterly inactivity. We should attempt to present no beneficial legislation, as that would only be giving the Republican Senate a chance to divide honors with us."

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## A PRESIDENTIAL LETTER.

### How It Befuddles and Confuses the President's Friends.

A Remarkable Feat of Standing No-where Accomplished. He May Be Asked to Explain. The Programme for the Next Congress—"Masterly Inactivity" to Be the Work—One Side Abroad the Other Side Will Divide the Honors of Legislation—News from the States—The Alliance Motto and Its Meaning—The Shadow of a Dodge—Twelve Months Behind Time.

(Copyrighted by the Reform Press Bureau.) PRESIDENT HARRISON WRITES A LETTER.—President Harrison has written a letter, which is the chairman of the great commercial convention held at Kansas City this week. It is a wonderfully curious document, but seems to have created less comment than any letter ever before written by a man in such high position. Mr. Harrison's warmest friends and most ardent admirers are dazed and confused by the document. There were some good points in it, but they are not presented in such a way as to define the President's attitude toward the matters touched upon. Here are some of the sample points:

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Mr. Lee's policy prevails, as it undoubtedly will, we are to have a Congress for two years which must maintain a state of masterly inactivity; attempt no beneficial legislation, because the Republicans might divide the honors. And by the same token the Republicans will maintain that same state of masterly inactivity, because they won't want the Democrats to divide honors; and hence nothing will be done for the people. But listen these Senators and Congressmen will cost the people as much money as an active Congress would cost. Perhaps they will vote away another billion of the people's money and let the oppressive tariff taxation remain as it is in order to raise the money; for of course if this masterly inactivity prevails, there can be no reduction of the tariff; there can be no free coinage; nothing can be done. Now, will the people be bamboozled and honestly sugared and deceived and misled by the partisan politicians any longer? If they will, they deserve nothing better than they have.

PROGRESS OF ALLIANCE WORK. The Ohio State Alliance was organized on the sixteenth instant at Columbus. National President Polk and National Lecturer Willetts were in attendance. Nearly every county in the State was represented at the Alliance meeting. The Alliance is having a phenomenal growth in the State and will be the great power in economics before the close of the year. The sturdy farmers are earnest and enthusiastic, and they have thousands and thousands of friends who are in sympathy with them.

IN PENNSYLVANIA. Cherry news of the increase of the Alliance comes from Pennsylvania. Seventeen organizations were effected in one day, last week, and between sixty and seventy sub-Alliances are now being organized per month. The famous old Keystone State is coming right up to the front.

MICHIGAN IS MOVING. President Cole, of the Michigan State Alliance, writes that the "work" has been going on in Michigan. We have now about five hundred sub-Alliances, and a large number of organizers at work. Everything is encouraging in that State.

IN MINNESOTA. More than eleven thousand members have been enrolled in Minnesota since last November, and sub-Alliances are now being organized at the rate of one a day. The total number of sub-Alliances is 2,315, with a total membership of 52,600.

OTHER STATES. The Alliance is going into the State of Washington. Five sub-organizations have been effected and interest in the movement is rapidly spreading.

In Idaho eleven Alliances have been organized, and the work has just been introduced into that State.

Arizona is falling into line. Already organizations have been effected and numerous applications for literature and organizers are being received.

In Oregon there is much enthusiasm in the Alliance movement. Forty-seven organizations have been effected and ten national organizers, besides a number of deputies are pushing the work forward. It was organized in California strictly by age, as he may be, that does not know what Democracy has accomplished. Do they recollect the years after the war? It was a time that tried men's souls. I am a Democrat from tooth to nail, always have been, and proud of it now. I am an Allianceman too. But must I forget all that I know and act the part of a base ingrate?

As I see the whole thing from my own standpoint, our Alliance is not exact to a cent a reform that is needed at once, but sets out what is required to be done, and will keep prominently before the people, pressing forward, neither to right nor left, but pushing for the prize at the end of the contest, good government for all the people.

ALABAMA.—The business managers of the Southern Farmers' Alliance Exchange held a convention at Birmingham, Ala. Measures were adopted regarding the handling of this year's cotton crop and the establishment of a cotton gin and other business of a practical kind was transacted.

MISSISSIPPI.—The *Albany County Farmer* says: The Alliance does not expect to get a reform that is needed at once, but sets out what is required to be done, and will keep prominently before the people, pressing forward, neither to right nor left, but pushing for the prize at the end of the contest, good government for all the people.

RHODE ISLAND.—The Nationalists of Rhode Island, who are anxious to join forces with the Farmers' Alliance, have nominated a full State ticket for the spring elections on a Socialistic platform. The candidate for Governor is an engineer, the candidate for Lieutenant-Governor is a newspaper editor, and the other candidates are mechanics or shopkeepers.

IN FACT I AM UNABLE TO SEE HOW the Democratic party of this nation can be held accountable for the present condition of affairs, certainly they are not to blame for the present system of tariff and the coinage business. They have not had control of national affairs since the war. True they had a President, but at no time, have they ever had complete control. How can they be blamed? If there are trouble and war in the land, it falls at some body else's door. And again it looks to me like the Democratic principles are more in harmony with the Alliance demands than any other party we have ever had.

There have been watching the movements of the Alliance very closely now ever since its organization and it is indeed a great organization. Its principles are broad, and none but a Democrat could have formed its constitution. I believe, just exactly what I have said and I am honest in my belief. If any man believes otherwise, let him speak out and declare himself. With all I have said, I do not think I have written one word against the Alliance, of which I am a member, and a true one too. I regard the present condition, a very deplorable one. Money is high, finances are badly managed, class legislation is damaging, and taxation is destroying. These are some of the evils of the present day, and time. They are blots in our political history. And it is all the work of greedy money-lovers, lobbyists and treacherous politicians. That a change for the better must be in the near future, when equal rights are for all, and special privileges for none, is the heartfelt wish of your humble and most obedient servant, THE TILLER.

NEARLY TWELVE MONTHS BEHIND TIME. The Indianapolis Journal this

week makes a frothing onslaught on speech of President Polk, made in Washington last week, and winds up by calling President Polk a "howling demagogue." Well! Most of the partisan papers in the West said this several months ago, and now they are all trying to "take it back." The Journal must have been very sleepy. It is nearly twelve months behind time.

CONSOLIDATED WITH THE ALLIANCE. The Patrons of Toil, of West Virginia, part of an organization having branches in several States, have followed the example of their Pennsylvania brethren and consolidated with the Alliance. This was done at Mountainville, W. Va., this week, at a joint meeting attended by President Polk and Lecturer Willetts.

H. W. AYER, Manager Reform Press Bureau, Washington, D. C.

## From North Edgecombe

For the Farmers' Advocate.

I have said it before, and now I say it again, that I am a man of conservatism. I have a disposition to stick to established institutions, until I am thoroughly convinced, that these institutions are injurious to the public in general, and should be changed. When a man understands his own position well, and too how he obtained it, it is natural for him to cling to it, as he would to truth. No man, knowing it, will take a leap in the dark, for as the saying goes, self preservation is the first law of nature, and this preservation refers to man in every condition, and his every relation with his neighbor, or else I will exhaust myself in the prelude. I believe in every man saying what he is, if he is honest in it, for the world hates dishonesty of every sort, and opponents, if they cannot like each other individually, certainly do admire honesty in each other. Now why do I say all this? Because, I relate to myself right here. I was a white man, before I was a Democrat. I was a Democrat before I was an Allianceman. I state these facts as an illustration of what I intend to say. Who are the Democrats in the State of North Carolina today? The majority are white men? Who compose the Alliance of this State? By far Democrats. Democratic-Alliancemen, nominated by Democratic conventions and elected by Democratic votes. And to my mind it is as plain as a knife on a log, that white men, Democracy and the Alliance of this State are all so entwined, so closely connected in interest, that to make a distinction between any would be impossible, yea as impossible as to take away the water and sugar from the brandy and call the drink a "toddy."

What has Democracy done for the State of North Carolina? Is it possible that there is a man in Edgecombe county today, over forty years of age, who may be, that does not know what Democracy has accomplished. Do they recollect the years after the war? It was a time that tried men's souls. I am a Democrat from tooth to nail, always have been, and proud of it now. I am an Allianceman too. But must I forget all that I know and act the part of a base ingrate?

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## The Alliance March is Onward.

MISSISSIPPI.—The Alliance of Bolivar county will support no man, who is opposed to the Salt Taxation Bill.

NEW ENGLAND.—Discussions on Alliance principles are growing work and exciting. The Press is in arms, and hot shots are flying.

MISSISSIPPI.—The Alliance in Mississippi is meeting with considerable obstruction, nevertheless the brethren are going ahead.

ILLINOIS.—T. D. Hinckley, an old correspondent of the *National Economist* has taken charge of the *Alliance Free Lance*, Springfield.

MINNESOTA.—More than 11,000 members have been added to the order in Minnesota since the November election.

TEXAS.—The camp gatherings at Waco, Texas, which featured the Alliance caps of Texas. It is believed will be great, and no doubt good will be the result.

NORTH CAROLINA.—We are glad to learn that Mr. Terrell's lectures in North Carolina have done so much good. They were well received everywhere.

MINNESOTA.—According to the Secretary of the Minnesota Alliance, there are over 50,000 members of the organization in that State; and both of the political parties are afraid of its power.

KANSAS.—The leaders of the Kansas Alliance are preparing for the local elections next month. The women are even more active in the political field than they were last year.

INGALLS.—The Kansas Alliance leader which lately hoisted the name of ex-Senator Ingalls as the Alliance candidate for President, has not yet met with any encouragement.

OREGON.—The National organizer of the Farmers' Alliance is now in Oregon, and he sends word that the wheat raisers there are flocking to the Alliance standard.

WASHINGTON.—The Alliance in the State of Washington, which held a convention lately, took no action in behalf of a third party, but favored the establishment of a produce exchange and co-operative mills.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.—Several branches of the Farmers' Alliance have recently been organized in New Hampshire. The charge that Senator Chandler has been negotiating with the Alliance is the subject of a great deal of speculation in both parties in the state.

MASSACHUSETTS.—The Boston Herald has obtained interviews regarding the Farmers' Alliance from a large number of the Old Grangers of Massachusetts. Nearly every one of them says that the Alliance cannot find favor in the New England States.

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## Facts About Trucking.

The *Messenger* is in earnest in its efforts to work up a more extended interest in the matter of truck farming. It is certain that it is doing something year by year in the section of North Carolina lying along the line of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad and east of it. It is equally certain that it is profitable to a great many who have embarked in it and have prospered wisely.

So important has trucking become in this great country that, as we have before mentioned, for the first time it was given a softer climate, the census of 1880. More than \$100,000,000 are reported as invested on June 1890. The total results of this investment, after paying all freight and commissions, were \$76,397,16. After all expenses, were met, including labor, seeds, fertilizers, etc., the net results were most encouraging, and reached the great sum of \$23,000,000.

North Carolina is very favorably situated for the trucking business. Its products find ready sale in the greater markets. If the truck farmers in Maryland and Virginia are able to realize from their labors very encouraging results, as they have done, surely those of North Carolina can do some better with a more genial and a softer climate. We learn that "an estimate made in 1879 placed the value of the vegetable and berry crops shipped from Norfolk at \$1,757,645, while for the entire year ending June, 1880, the value of the vegetable crop shipments alone rose to \$4,773,467; in addition there were handled at the same port nearly 900,000 melons."

In 1880 over 14,000 acres alone were devoted to melons in the United States. One farmer in Dawson county Ga., made \$1,700 clear on thirty-two acres of land. The sweet potato crop is becoming important, and the State can surpass Eastern Carolina in this delightful product. We learn that in other States in trucking as high as \$100 an acre on farms which formerly barely net expenses has been realized. One owner of 300 acres near Cape Charles, Va., cleared \$20,000 last year from his truck, or over 25 per cent on the investment.

Mobile county, Ala., shipped in three years vegetables aggregating \$1,639,964. Some of the negro truckers in States farther South have made from \$50 to \$75 to the acre. One white farmer working five men made on forty-seven acres \$2,423 per year.

We gather these facts and statistics hoping to stimulate Carolina truckers to renewed diligence and hope, and to induce others to try their hand at truck farming. There is money in it, and that means thrift and independence.

But if there is to be extensive trucking our people must learn to can their vegetables. Canned to the frigid North, with its short summers, for can goods. Put up your own vegetables. That is the important thing. Wilmington should have one or two canning factories.

President Polk's Home. The home of President Polk, in Nashville, at which his aged widow now resides, is advertised to be sold for city taxes amounting to \$1,000. The *Memphis Appeal*, "Mrs. Polk is amply able to pay the taxes, having a pension of \$5,000 and receiving nearly \$2,000 interest on her State bonds, and perhaps she does not know that she is in arrears." In the will President Polk attempted to keep the mansion in the family forever by bequeathing it to the first male descendant of the State of Tennessee, to be held in trust by the Government, or if he should decline to assume the trust, then such person as the Legislature might select, the house to be occupied and used by such of his blood relatives as have the name of Polk, preferring the nearest kin, but if there be none named Polk, then the house to be used by such other blood relations as may be designated. It is provided that whoever occupies the house shall keep it in repair and pay the taxes. The relatives with whom Mrs. Polk now lives are not blood relatives. It is contended that should the property be sold to some outside party for taxes and a deed be made, this would defeat the terms of the will, and the State could not carry out the trust imposed upon it. The property is very valuable, being two acres in extent and lying in the heart of the city.

Encouraging Action of the Railroads. The Bureau of Immigration is already receiving letters from railroad officials representing all the most extensive systems throughout the country offering generous aid and ample facilities to assure the success of the Southern Exposition to be held in Raleigh in October next. Their cooperation therefore displays itself in the offer of cheap rates and ample conveniences for the transportation of passengers and freight, and also for the quick and safe movement of articles designed for exhibit. They also propose to arouse