State Librarian

THE FARMERS' ADVOCATE.

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BRIEF OPINIONS.

THE *Falmouth Guide* (Falmouth, Ky.) says: When the farmers owned this country forty years ago, they controlled its legislation and rendered every class of business profitable. In 1892, when they own only 20 per cent of the wealth of the country, and every branch of the government has passed out of their hands, partaking of business of every character has followed, and it has become difficult for many to even obtain subsistence in a land of plenty. Farmers remember that the reins of government have simply passed out of your hands, but not beyond your control, if you make up your minds to influence their management or regain control of them.

THE *Labor Advocate* (Norfolk, Va.) says: Bank and mercantile failures are reported from all parts of the country, the depression in prices of produce being among the chief causes. These failures are throwing large bankrupt stocks of merchandise on the market, thus destroying the trade of merchants that might otherwise pull through. Politicians say that overproduction is the cause. They know what they say is false. They know that a lack of sufficient money with which to pay the debts and transact the business of the country is the prime and only cause of this wholesale wrecking of lives and fortunes. And the people know that the free and unlimited coinage of silver will remedy the evil.

THE Alliance *Herald* (Montgomery, Ala.) says: The syndicate of liars who are trying to make farmers believe that the Alliance is the cause of the low price of cotton are about as brazen-faced and reckless as any of the multitude of political prevaricators, who are making the State rock with falsehood. The Alliance succeeded the Grange, and the two organizations have been in existence since 1872. It is true that cotton has gradually gone lower each season since, but it is also true that the same gradual reduction in price commenced ten years earlier, when the contraction of the currency commenced, and as shown in an article published in this paper in December, under the caption, "The Red Flag," the volume of the price has continued in the same ratio as the reduction of the volume of money was made.

THE *Republic* (Hardinsburg, Pa.) says: It is strange that the merchants, doctors and business men are opposed to the Alliance movement, when it is a mission of the Alliance to place the business of the country on a cash basis. It would be better for the merchant and all concerned if the business of the country was done on a strictly cash basis, and this can only be done by putting a country plenty of money into the business of the country. In 1891 there were over 12,000 failures in this country representing indebtedness amounting to $1,000,000. It will not do to say that those who went down in this bankruptcy were reckless, and lacked enterprise and skill. It can only be attributed to the abominable financial conditions that today curses the land, by which the money is flowing richer day by day, according to the long list of millionaires on one hand and paupers on the other. Let every honest man who is going away such, express

[illegible] San Luis Obispo) says: What does the Alliance [illegible] is going to enter the politi[illegible] How strong is it? These and similar questions are often asked [illegible] we will say that the Alliance [illegible] the government administration in the interest of the people [illegible] interest of the money [illegible] state taxation equalized [illegible] the farmer will not have to [illegible] percent of the taxes of [illegible] country. They want a check [illegible] the oppressive power of corporations and capital. They [illegible] national banks abolished, [illegible] government wishes to loan money, to give all a chance who can [illegible] security. We are in the po[illegible] We are bringing about [illegible] in our own way. As [illegible] the Alliance has no [illegible] it is composed of a platform comprising members of all parties, and while no obligation of the Alliance can compel a member to support any political party, it is [illegible] natural that they will receive instruction and influence [illegible] in order to guide them in intelligently to a selection which will [illegible] their country's interest.

STATE NEWS.

THE DOINGS OF OUR PEOPLE BRIEFLY AND PLAINLY TOLD.

HAPPENINGS OF THE WEEK CONDENSED.

ALBEMARLE.—A Boston, Mass., lumber dealer was here last week buying lumber to ship north. He shipped some 50,000 feet or more. The freight on each car-load amounted to $140. He also gave J. M. Russell an order for one thousand window frames. Quite an item for Albemarle.—*News.*

GOLDSBORO.—An incendiary fire destroyed a nice dwelling house belonging to Mr. A. T. Uzzell, of New Hope township, Monday night, causing a loss of $1,000. No insurance.....A duel with Winchester rifles between Prof. W. R. Skinner and Mr. A. H. Daly, was prevented at Seven Springs Thursday night, by the timely interference of friends.—*Herdlight.*

SCOTLAND NECK.—A convict escaped from the camp at Great Falls, near Weldon, last Saturday.....On last Sunday night some one entered the store of Mr. R. J. Shields in Hobgood. He was so close upon the theif that he could do little plundering. Mr. Shields missed only 15 cents which was put into the drawer late Saturday night.....One night last week, the dry kiln of A. M. Inge near Weldon, was destroyed by fire. One hundred dollars worth of lumber was destroyed.—*Democrat.*

REIDSVILLE.—Two Reidsville boys Horace Whitsett and Edgar Williams, armed with pistols and bowie knives, set out a few days ago on a neighbor's horse, for the West, to fight Indians. Their parents used the wires and young Williams was caught up with at Madison. Whitsett, when last heard of, was heading toward Winston. The *Review* learns that Mr. Williams, after getting his son back home, had a very impressive interview with him in the back yard.—*Review.*

WILSON.—The pack house of Mr. C. A. Young, a mile and a half from town, containing a large quantity of leaf tobacco, was fired by incendiaries one night last week. The gates across a road which passes through Mr. Young's farm had been torn down several times, and notices threatening further damage if they were replaced had been postod near them. These were disregarded by Mr. Young and the miscreants resorted to the torch. The loss is about $9,000, with $3,000 insurance.—*Advance.*

HENDERSONVILLE.—On last Thursday, about one o'clock in the afternoon, Maggie, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Hampton, who resides six miles below Columbus, Polk county, drank carbolic acid from a bottle which had been kept around the house for several years. The poison took effect instantly. Dr. Landrum was summoned and administered all the known antidotes but without avail, as the babe died during the night in great agony.—*Times.*

MT. AIRY.—Wash Wright, colored is in jail at Dobson. He is a desperado and was arrested on the street of Mount Airy on suspicion of being the man wanted in Reidsville for shooting a cigar-maker in December, 1890. He drew a revolver and tried to evade arrest, but the police were too much for him. Wright committed burglary at Elkin.....A greenhorn in Stokes county attempted to make a sudden fortune by dealing with New York swindlers some days ago and got for his $3000 a large square brick bat and sawdust.

GREENVILLE.—Rev. G. F. Smith commenced a protracted meeting in the Methodist church Sunday, and preached to large congregations both morning and night.....It is not thought by the truckers that the stand of irish potatoes will be good. Some planted six weeks ago are not yet up. The weather has been too cold and damp for them.....Grifton is to have a barrel factory, and Bethel is taking steps to get a knitting factory.....Mr. Jesse Warren and a young Mr. Dawson, of Conetoe, came down to Greenville Sunday morning on their bicycles, making the run in [illegible] over two hours. The distance is about twenty miles. This is excellent bicycle traveling for ordinary roads.—*Reflector.*

WASHINGTON.—Our people have been puzzled for some days over a monstrosity which was expelled from the stomache of a colored man here last week. The man was sick and sent for Dr. P. A. Nicholson. When the doctor called he found the man man suffering from sick stomach, he gave the man a dose of Ipecac and left some other medicene and came off. In a few minutes he was sent for again as they were all very much excited. The doctor went and found that there had been expelled from the stomach of the patient a most wonderful monstrosity. It is hard to discribe it, but it is about three inches long and about as large around as one's finger, and is perfectly formed. It has a head resembling that of a dog's and it has neither feet or fins. It has the apperrnce on one side as if it had been attached tightly to some body. It was alive when expelled. The doctor has it in alchohol. The man has gotten well.—*Progress.*

GENERAL NEWS.

Sir Arthur Sullivan has had a serious relapse at Monte Carlo, where he has been endeavoring to recover from over work.

Four of the Walsall anarchists were convicted last week and two acquitted. Those convicted were sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from five to ten years.

The largest shipment of apples ever made from the United States left Portland recently in the steamship Labrador, which carried more than 13,000 barrels of fine fruit to England.

The last survivor of the battle of Trafalgar, Louis Cartigny, has died at Hyeres, aged 101. He was a powder monkey on the Redoubtable, and died the doyen of the order of the Legion of Honor.

The steamer Venezuela of the Red D. Line, which arrived at Watson's Stores, Brooklyn, last week, brought scanty news of the revolution in Venezuela. Such as it was, however, corroborated the cable reports received here.

The Illinois State building at the World's Fair Grounds was struck by a small cyclone last week. The tower and half of the Memorial Hall were wrecked. The loss is between $10,000 and $20,000. Two policemen near by were nearly killed.

Rubinstein, who is again playing in Europe, with a possibility of coming to this country, has adopted an effective plan to prevent encores. Before he comes back upon the stage in response to applause he has an attendant mount the platform and lock up the piano.

A St. Petersburg dispatch says: It is reported here that a steamer bound from the Persian coast for Baku, in the Black Sea, with two hundred passengers and cargo of cotton, has been lost with all aboard. It is said the disaster was due to the fact that the steamer was greatly overloaded.

Deeming still overshadows everything else in public interest. Last week he was placed among twenty other prisoners and was identified by upwards of fifty people who had known him under different aliases. He lost his head when this happened and attacked and struck one or two of the people who identified him. It is quite evident that Deeming is convinced that his race is run.

Insurance men are endeavoring to figure up the losses by yesterday's two fires at New Orleans, but owing to the large number of dwellings burned and their insurance, any possible estimate at the present time is impossible. It is estimated to-day that the insurance loss on both fires is $730,000, which will swell the actual loss to considerably over $3,000,000. Many people have been thrown out of their homes by the fire and among the poorer classes especially, much privation is to be noted.

A contest has arisen over the property of Louis Huller, who died recently while en route to California. Huller had large interests in Mexico. He married a Mexican lady and had a delightful residence in the suburbs of Tacubaya. By his will he left certain properties to children in Germany heretofore unknown. Now another wife has appeared, an American, who claims a portion of the property. Huller, she claims, married her in the United States and was never divorced from her there. The Mexican wife is by the Mexican law his legal spouse. Widow No. 2 will contest the will.

Dr. Parkhurst's life has been threatened if he persists in the crusade which he has pushed with such relentless vigor. He has been informed of his prospective fate through anonymous letters, but those which mean business are evidently written by one person. Dr. Parkhurst is afraid he will be killed on the streets at night. The letters are all written on one kind of stationery and in the same handwriting. They are also mailed at the same postal station. The chirography, which is evidently disguised, is thought to be that of an educated person.

Rev. Sam Jones, aided by Rev. Mr. Stewart, of Tennessee, and Prof. Excell opened a revival meting in Augusta last week. A large cotton warehouse has been fitted up for the occasion, with seats for five thousand people, and Prof. Excell has a choir of 150 voices. All of the Methodist churches in the city are closed during these meetings, the congregations uniting in the revival services. There is preaching three times daily. Standing room was at a premium to-night and Sam Jones said in his sermon that he never began a meeting under more encouraging circumstances. Never before in Augusta's history was so large a crowd assembled at a religious service.

The Bethelehem Iron Company, South Bethelehem, Pa., will make an extensive exhibit, including steel rails, a battleship shafting 125 feet in length, grain projectiles, an armor plate into weighing 100 tons, and various naval appliances. The company will also erect a full size model of its famous 125 ton steam hammer, said to be the largest in the world. It will be to all appearances a perfect duplicate in every respect. It will span the main avenue of Machinery Hall, and will rise to a height of ninety feet. At the last Paris exhibition great attention was attracted by a similar model shown by the Creusot works, but representing only a 100 ton hammer.

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WATSON SAYS.

He Is Pleased With the Result of the St. Louis Meeting and is Confident.

Washington Post.

Representative Watson, of Georgia—the candidate of the People's party representatives in the house for speaker, was compelled to remain in Washington to look after the legislative demands of his party and did not attend the St. Louis convention. He is earnest in his approval of all that was done at St. Louis, however, and thinks that the various industrial organizations are now fairly united on a common platform and into one political party.

"The result of the St. Louis convention," said he, "has been a revelation to the old politicians of the country. They have been predicting for weeks how we were to meet at St. Louis, fight Kilkenny cats, and then go to pieces and retire demoralized, but not a single one of their predictions has been realized. With less friction than is encountered in the usual national convention of either of the old parties, our people representing almost a score of different industrial and reform organizations, have met at St. Louis and agreed upon a platform and declaration of principles which are agreeable to us all and upon which the fight will be conducted all along the line and in every state in the Union in the coming campaign. I feel greatly encouraged by the fact that all these industrial organizations coming there from different parts of the country, each with its favorite plan and principles, were yet able to be harmonious, to pool their issues, and to make one declaration common to all, which will appeal warmly to the reform sentiment in their county.

"I regard the platform as a very strong presentation of substantially the same principles which have called these various organizations into existence, and upon which we have been educating the people for the last four or five years, and it will now command the full support of the industrial organizations of all classes I had, myself, no doubt that this result would be reached. Neither have I any doubt that the Omaha convention will keep 'right in the middle of the road,' nominate acceptable candidates, and that from the official beginning of this movement at St. Louis we will have a brilliant campaign which will bring the people into a more thorough understanding of the principles of their government and the changes that ought to be made than this country has known since the foundation of the government.

"The Omaha convention will put into official party shape that which was agreed upon at St. Louis by a convention of non-partisan organizations. But it follows as a logical conclusion that the campaign put on foot at Omaha will have to be based substantially upon the platform enunciated at St. Louis. I take it that the Omaha convention will merely reiterate the declarations of the St. Louis convention, and that our platform may be said to be even now practically before the people.

"As to who the candidates of the People's party will be," continued Representative Watson, "I really cannot say, but I think the candidate for the presidency will be some man who has been well identified with this great revolt against the existing state of affairs—some man who has made sacrifices for it, who is known for the fidelity with which he has served in this cause; and I think it is quite necessary that such a man should have a barrel. I think the only question should be, 'Is he identified with us; is he a man of good standing, and is he a man of broad ability, fitted to lead a campaign as a presidential candidate?' I do not think that our success depends on the amount of boodle that we put in the campaign. We are not a party of boodle and corruption. I believe that our strongest plan of campaign would be to appeal straight and frankly to the sense and conscience of the people, and to avoid as far as possible the machine methods of the boodle politicians against whom we have raised this revolt.

It is Time to Act.

For a hundred years, even in the most favored nations, tendency has been toward centers, where the enormous pressure of population has crushed millions, who sunk beneath the surface never to appear except in the records of almshouses, criminal courts and mortuary records. In the face of this colossal tragedy of the Nineteeth century, men playing the roll of statesmen have gone on enacting laws that intensify the congestion and cause many more millions to writhe in agony.

Such is the effect of the McKinley bill, and of all laws that authorize the government to take money from the many and give it to a few. It is idle to spin fine arguments to show the advantages of these enactments, so long as the number of those who cry for bread in the cities is increased and the poor victims from the outside are drawn into the vortex with irrisistible force. Loud and angry as the protest of the farmers is, it is nothing to the anguish of the poor needlewoman, who daily, in spite of painful and unremitting toil, far away from sunlight and at the expense of health, sees her children sinking from suffering into infamy. It is no wonder that in a condition like that some poor souls says there is no God.—W. G. Cooper.

Government Ownership of Railroads.

BY C. H. CREED, BATH, SOUTH DAKOTA.

Perhaps there is no other question or demand of the St. Louis grand assembly of the organized labor of this country that is dearer to the people of Dakota and the Northwest than that if the government ownership of the railroads, or as much thereof as shall answer the purpose and meet the requirements of the agriculturists of this portion of our county, which is necessarily a grain producing section, therefore, we take the privilege of offering a few thoughts on this question which has been so unanimously endorsed by the above named convention, and we may remark at this point that there is not the good feeling toward this question, and the deserved sympathy for the farmers of the great North west among their fellow farmers of the East, as there would be and ought to be, if they of the East could understand and fully appreciate the fact that it costs us from three to four times as much per mile to get our grain to market as it does the farmers of the East under the present monopolistic system of the freight traffic. I have said it costs the Western farmers from three to four times as much per mile to market his produce, and to get his coal, and in fact everything he buys, brought to him than it does the Eastern farmers. And to show that this is the fact, we will say that when the writer came to Dakota he paid on goods shipped from the East to Chicago, just half way, just one-third as much as he did for the second half, or from Chicago to Bath, South Dakota. I have also shipped apples and buckwheat flour over the same road, and always one-third less at Chicago than from Chicago to Bath. Why this is so we will leave for others than us to say.

Now the first point we wish to make is this: If the people, which is the government, should own the roads, everybody would fare alike. But the purpose of this article is to meet some of the objections which are brought forward by the plutocratic press to strangle this demand at its birth. First we are met by the objection, "it would cost the government nine billions of dollars to purchase the railroads;" they say it would bankrupt the government, it never could pay for the roads. Let us consider this objection for a moment. We find by the census of 1880 that the total mileage of roads in this country, running, projected and under construction, was 128,920 miles; we also find that 59,413 miles were in the Western States or the prairie country, and if we should include Ohio, Indiana and Michigan we would have considerably over half of the mileage of roads in the prairie country, but we will not count these States in our estimate. Now it is a well-known fact that the roads through this section did not cost, for track, over $8,000 per mile, but we have allowed $10,000 per mile for the 59,413 miles, and that would make them cost $594,130,000. (I will say here that according to the best authority we have now about the same mileage of railroads built and running as we had in 1880 built, projected and under construction.) Now in group 1, 2, 3 and 5, which embraces the rough and mountainous country, we have 69,567 miles, allowing the very liberal sum of 130,000 per mile to build track, we have the cost of the roads, which is $1,985,210,000. Adding the two we have the total of $2,579,340,000. Now by referring to the census we find this statement:

Cost of equipment	$418,015,458
Value of lands and buildings	193,339,845
Telegraph lines and miscellaneous	294,913,496
Stocks and bonds owned and issued by other companies	343,800,132

Making a grand total cost of every mile of railroad $3,650,418,631. But nobody demands that the government should purchase every mile of road. This idea was conceived in the fertile brains of some chronic objector, and the plutocratic press has with one accord seized upon it, and have built upon it a "straw man" which they are trying to knock down and demolish where they can drop the tariff question long enough to throw a stone at the idiotic scheme of the moss-backs. We think if the government should own the three roads across the continent, with perhaps here and there a branch it would be all that is necessary to secure protection to the great agricultural classes who are so heavily oppressed by the tax which they now have to pay get their produce to market. Should this be the plan of operating the road, then what have we? We have in the neighborhood of fifteen thousand miles of road which the government would purchase. Figuring it at their actual cost would amount to $84,945,000, allowing $5,643 per mile for equipping the road, lands, and buildings, and telegraph lines, and, miscellaneous, which is the cost per mile of the roads as given in the census. One other objection is this: They say that it would create such an army of government employes that the party in power could never be diverted of its power. We will consider this objection very briefly, and not trespass on your time or space in your paper. I find by the census report that there are employed in the service of the railroad 418,957 persons, including everything, from president down to the man who cleans spittoons in our stations. This would make the enormous army of fifteen thousand miles at three men to the mile 45,000 men. The same press that are so fearful of this vast army of government employes take great delight in the fact that our Postmaster-General wants to give us farmers a better and more serviceable postal system, by increasing the government employes double their number. But there are people and papers who can swallow anything labeled Republican or Democrat. In conclusion, let me say for our people here in South Dakota that we are alive to the great struggle which is going on, and which grows more terrible as time passes, and next November this State will be delivered over into the hands of its friends, and with a sweeping majority will take its place in the independent column, taking as our watch word of Patrick Henry, "Sink or swim; live or die; survive or perish;" We are for a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

The First "Crank."

Golden Days.

No word in the English language has been more abused than "crank." It is frequently applied to a crack-brained, visionary fellow, who is a nuisance and a bore, whereas its proper meaning is that of a enthusiast on one particular subject, which or may not be visionary. The origin of the name dates back to 1835.

In that year, Morse, the inventor of the telegraph, first made his appearance in Washington, and when Congress met he was on hand to try to secure an appropriation of seventeen thousand dollars to build an experimental telegraph line to from Washington to Baltimore. He brought along with him his wires, instruments and electrical generator.

The former he stretched in and around the Capitol building, with instruments here and there, and the generator, which was operated with a crank, he placed in a convenient location and secured the services of a man to do the generating.

The experiment created intense interest among the members of Congress, especially among the northern members of the Senate. They became so absorbed in Mr. Morse and his experiment, and they neglected their business in the Senate to such an extent, that that body was frequently without a quorum.

The center of their interest was the crank machine turned by the man in his operation of generating the electric current for the wires. The interest increased as Mr. Morse each day more clearly demonstrated the practicability of his invention, and the public's business in the Senate suffered accordingly.

Finally Senator Benton's patience became exhausted at the want of a quorum, and, rising in the Senate one morning, he said: "Mr. President, it is quite evident to my mind that we will never be able to proceed with business till this crank man and his bill are disposed of; and, with the object of hastening him to fold up his crank and get away from the Capitol so we may have the attention of the Senators, I move that the bill appropriating seventeen thousand dollars to construct a line between this city and Baltimore be put on its passage."

As soon as word went out that the bill had been called up, the northern Senators flocked into the chamber, and in a few minutes Mr. Morse was happy over the passage of his bill. But from that time on he was known as "Morse the Crank."

Not Antagonistic.

The impression that the National Farmers' Alliance attempts to oppose the farmers against other interests is wrong. No inteligent member of the Farmers' Alliance wishes to do any such thing. We are not antagonistic to the great mass of laborers of the country. We are in sympathy with labor. Everything that will elevate the workingman, give him better conditions of life, better wages and a happier home, has our support. We are not antagonistic to the merchants and business men of the land. We do not attempt to become merchants; that influential class whose business it is to attend to the trade of this country is necessary to our common well being. We do not wish to pull down an institution when we cannot substitute some thing better. We feel that the interests of the merchants and of the farmers are indentical, and the merchants have our hearty co-operation. We appreciate the services of the mercantile men, Strange as it may seem, we are also in hearty sympathy with the capitalists. We recognize the services of these men to the country and know that without them we could not do business. So we would not injure them. We sympathize with them and we know the value of capital—many times by its absence—and would not interfere with its distribution. For capitalists are not necessary bad men, and one whose principles prevent his falling into injustice is admirable.

We extend our sympathies also to the ministers and lawyers and doctors and professional men of the city of Chicago nay, even to the politicians of Chicago—and we say, "God speed every good work." Every movement for the suppression of vice, crime and degradation has the hearty co-operation of the National Farmers' Alliance.—President Powers' Annual Address.

Rapid progress was made last week in getting the steamer Missouri loaded with the flour and meal to be sent for the relief of the famine-stricken peasantry of the eastern portion of European Russia. It is reasonably certain that the vessel will sail Saturday for Libna, in the Baltic, the port at which the cargo is to be transferred for the long haul by rail to the foothills of the Ural Mountains.

U. S. SUPREME COURT.

Decision in an Original Package Case Adverse to the Liquor Dealer

The "Original packages" case which antedates the Iowa case heretofore decided in the United States Supreme Court was decided last week. This case was appealed from the Vermont Courts in 1786, but was not pushed with the same vigor as was the Iowa case. John O'Neil was a liquor dealer at White Hall, New York. He received orders for liquor by mail and otherwise from Rutland, Vermont, and vicinity, a prohibition locality. He shipped his goods C. O. D., and payment was made on delivery. He was indicted for violation of the law of the State of Vermont, forbiding unlicensed sale of intoxicants. The trial resulted in his conviction of 457 offenses against the law, and fines were rolled up to the amount of $9,140 and costs. One month's imprisonment was also ordered with additional imprisonment in case the fines were not paid. His conviction was sustained by the higher Courts of Vermont. O'Neil appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court, and this Court decided against O'Neil and dismissed the writ of error, holding that the sale took place in Rutland, Vermont, and not in White Hall, New York, and that there was no federal question involved of the violation of the Inter-State Commerce clause of the Constitution. Justice Field and Harland dissented.

A Coming Monarch.

New York World.

Recent reports from Samoa describes a situation of affairs that is full of promises as well as of interest. It is said said that Mr. Robert Louis Stevenson the well known friend of the South Sea Islanders, has obtained a hold on he affections of the Samoans which render his position in every way exceptional, and to such a situation there should be only one legitimate final.

The simple inhabitants of those romantic islands cannot feel any more sincere affection for Mr. Stevenson than he has shown for them. His deep interest in their welfare has been placed beyond question, and if his meditation will be accepted as a settlement of their difficulties, he may be able to do for them what would otherwise be hopeless; he may be able to save these lovable people from the doom of extenimation which hangs over the races of the South Sea Islands.

Of course they know no other government than that of a king, and Mr. Stevenson would have to accept, no matter how unwillingly, the honors of royalty. It would not be an unbecoming elevation and humanity would rejoice over the preservation of an otherwise fated race through the intervention of a monarch chosen from the Republic of Letters.

Silver as Money.

FRANCES G. NEWLANDS, BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COINAGE.

The United States ignorantly, but none the less effectively, was the first nation to strike down silver by the act of 1873, not only denying silver, of which it is the principal producer, coinage in its mints, but depriving it of its legal tender quality. The result of the action of the United States was that Germany demonetized silver a few months afterward, and later on the countries of the Latin Union, finding Germany was throwing her silver into their mints, finally stopped silver coinage. The financial depression between 1873 and 1878 following silver demonetization resulted in the Bland-Allison act, fully restoring silver as legal tender money, and partially restoring its coinage quality. Two international conferences had been held since then, resulting in nothing. It was humiliating to, an American to read those conference proceedings and find America in the position almost of a supplicant, begging European nations to help her to restore silver which she was the first to strike down. All persons realized that this is the age of "combines" and trusts.

Simpson on Possible Candidates.

"In my opinion," said Representative Jerry Simpson, of Kansas, "General Weaver, of Iowa, is most likely to be the People's party candidate for the presidency. At any rate, he has up to this time been the man most discussed in that connection. But I would not be surprised if the sentiment in favor of Ignatius Donnelly assumed formidable proportions. He developed great strength out at St. Louis, and the preamble to the platform (which was written by him) is, in my opinion, one of the most vigorous and at the same time classic productions of modern literature. That preamble has won Donnelly many friends, and he will be a prominent candidate, if he desires the nomination.

"As a matter of fact, I do not think that Weaver really cares for the nomination, although he seems to be a favorite and is the man most talked of among the Farmers' Alliance people. I think there is no question but that President Polk, of the Farmers' Alliance, will be the candidate for vice President."—Newspaper Interview.

At the earliest possible moment work is to begin on the colored Agricultural and Mechanical College at Greensboro, and the plan is to have it in operation by the time the fall term begins.—*Ex.*

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

CONDUCTED BY DR. J. W. JONES, LATE PRESIDENT STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

The Relation of Drinking Water To Some Infectious Diseases.

BY THEOBALD SMITH, M. D. Washington, D. C.

In discussing problems of public health, the student of hygiene may have to face two classes of readers. One class consisting of those who are easily alarmed by any disclosures which reveal possible dangers in their habits of life and environment. Another class, representing the other extreme, encouraged by the fact that nothing serious has happened thus far under prevailing conditions, display an assurance amounting to indifference and even gross negligence. The investigator is looked upon by such as an alarmist, who substitutes theory for experience, and who counts the tocsin at the approach of specires the creatures of his own imagination. But the advances made and the means suggested for the protection of human life should not be looked at from either of these standpoints. They can, at best, proceed but slowly and if they succeed in saving only a few lives each year from premature death, the compensation for labor and outlay is ample enough. It is from this middle point of view that the following remarks are made.

The numerous but still tentative strides which have been made within the last eight or ten years in the field of infectious or communicable diseases have demonstrated that a considerable number of such maladies are directly due to the invasion of the body by specified bacteria. Quite naturally it became necessary to examine our surroundings in order to learn whether any of these micro-parasites may be found among the numberless harmless bacteria, that lye in the water and the soil, on the surface of the body, in the mouth and the digestive tract of man and animals. In general the results of numerous patient unbiased observations have thus far proved negative. Disease germs do not exist in our environment in numbers sufficient to be detected by the methods of bacteriological research. The few that are constantly present, in the soil, and which are presumably the agents producing certain forms of suppuration, septicæmia, and tetanus, are little to be feard, excepting by the surgeon during operations, judging from the comparative infrequency of these diseases. On the other hand typhoid-fever germs have been found a number of times, within recent years, by carefully searching suspected drinking-water during and immediately after epidemics. Koch found during his researches in Calcutta, in 1884, cholera spirilla in the water of a tank which was, at that time, the centre of a localized cholera epidemic.

The scrupulous care which was exercise in the selection and preparation of our food contrasts strongly with the indifference which is exhibited with regard to the water we drink. Many of our large cities are supplied with river water which not only represents mere surface drainage, but also the diluted sewage of large communities and the refuse of manufactories. We do not hesitate to consume this in its rawest state, though we have learned to apply heat to most othor foods, not merely as a preliminary aid to digestion, but also to destroy any deleterious matter which may be attached to or incorporated with them. It has now become generally accepted among authorities in hygeni, that water containing a large number of bacteria should not be used as a beverage unless previously boiled or filtered. The bacteria are evidence that the water represents surface drainage, or filters through a very porous soil more or less impregnated with organic matter in living bacteria. These, it is now known, live in the largest numbers near the serface of the soil. At a depth of from nine to twelve feet they are either entirely absent or present in very small numbers.

We must assume, then, that water which in its flow over or through the soil becomes loaded with a large number of organisms may, under certain circumstances, gather up disease germs and thus act as a vehicle for a short time, especially during epidemics. The disease germs may be widely distributed before they perish. The maladies which are now know to be chiefly transmitted in this way are Asiatic cholera, typhoid-fever, and dysenteric affections. The localization of these diseases in the digestive tract makes it extremely probable, even if bacteriological evidence were wanting, that the specific bacteria are introduced by way of the mouth with food and drink. In Asiatic cholera the spirilla, now generally accepted as the cause, are found in the intestines only. In typhoid-fever they are not only present in the intestines, but penetrate thence into the internal organs, notably the spleen. Dysenteric diseases have not yet been thoroughly studied, so that positive facts are not at hand, but they also are, without doubt, caused by micro organisms introduced with the food and drink. Of these cholera need not claim our attention since it is to be hoped that it will not gain a foothold in our own country. Whatever shall be said in this article concerning the relation of drinking-water to disease, will apply with even greater force to this malady should it appear in our midst.

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