

THE FARMERS.

The following is the platform of the Territorial Farmers' Alliance:

1st. To favor a railroad commission elected by the people.

2nd. To favor giving to the railroad commissioners, full power to fix maximum rates of fare and freights, provided that such rates be not reduced below a point to yield a reasonable dividend on actual investment to such roads when rates are equitably divided over the full length of said road.

3rd. To favor taxing all corporate property in this territory at the rates that farm property is taxed.

4th. To favor taxing all mortgages recorded in this territory, and exempting so much of the mortgaged property from taxation as shall equal in value the mortgage.

5th. To favor revising the insurance laws so that our citizens may be fully protected from dishonest insurance agents.

6th. To favor prohibiting the collection of attorney's fees upon any notes or mortgages.

7th. To favor fixing the maximum rates of interest at 10 per cent, and no agent to be allowed more than two per cent for negotiating, and to make it a misdemeanor punishable by fine and imprisonment to violate these provisions, and proof of usury to be a bar to the collection of any part of the debt or interest.

8. Resolved, That any person nominated for a legislative office who shall refuse to subscribe to these pledges is unworthy of the suffrages of any member of this order or the laboring or producing classes of this territory.

9. Resolved, That we will not consent to any motion looking toward the repeal or lowering of our present exemption laws.

10. Resolved, That we are in favor of such legislation as will secure us a free market for our produce.

11. Resolved, That we favor the passage of a law prohibiting, under penalty of fine and forfeiture of office, the acceptance by the members of our legislature and state and county officers and of members of the judiciary, of passes over railroads.

12. Resolved, that we request our delegate to congress to urge that the passage of the Standish bill, unanimously recommended by our last legislature, for the protection of our timber and mineral lands.

The above platform is carefully drawn, and appeals not only to the agricultural, but the mechanical and commercial interests of the country. The newly elected legislature is somewhat agricultural in its make up, and, unless some capital removal, prohibition, or woman suffrage bill is sprung upon the legislature, to distract attention, many of the planks will be endorsed by legislative action. The eighth section, which makes no allowance for an honest difference of opinion, and which is intended to damn the legislator if he will not repeat the creed of the Alliance, word for word, might better have been omitted. The farmers are not the only wealth producers. The merchant and manufacturer are as indispensable as the agriculturist. Should the merchants and manufacturers come forward with their platforms, and demand endorsement under pain of being "unworthy of the suffrage of the people," the only safety of the legislator would be in taking to the woods. For example the merchant would differ with the farmer as to the exemption laws, and while the COURIER believes that the exemptions should be maintained as they are now, it must be conceded that there are two sides to the question. Again, a serious disagreement might occur on the usury laws—very intelligent men have maintained that money is worth what it will bring. As to attorney's fees, the Alliance should remember that they are provided for in every state in the Union, as to mortgages and mechanics' liens. The established rule cannot be without argument in its favor. The Alliance here arrays itself against civilizations somewhat older and riper than that of Dakota. The plank may be a sound one, but the legislature should be allowed to inquire into it before taking action. As for the railroad commission, the bill of '85 was so badly emasculated before it had run the gauntlet of both houses, that it can be entirely remodeled with credit to the legislature, and profit to the people.

General attention is now directed to the heating of passenger coaches on our railroads. Each terrible holocaust, when a train is wrecked, urges on a reform. It is now generally conceded that safe heating is a possible thing; but an expensive thing. Each railroad company would rather carry its own insurance, and pay its premium upon the dead bodies of its victims, than to squander money in improved heaters in the protection of human life. President Moneybags, in his snug metropolitan office, is horrified when he reads the tale of the mother fastened to her seat in a blazing car—who hands her children out of the window and then awaits excruciating torture of fire, and death, but he uses cast-iron stoves, and oil lamps in his coaches, just the same. Steam (developed in a separate car) for heating,

and electricity, for lighting, will undoubtedly be used some day. It may take some time to properly develop this idea, upon which many are now working; but stoves of double boiler iron, with locked doors, and all openings protected by a wire netting, should be the only stoves used upon railroads, and every company should be required to use them, exclusively. The ordinary railroad magnate is a wholesale murderer, who murders by deputy, and he should be looked after.

Trapping Chickens.

Some farmers on the river are now trapping prairie chickens and grouse. The birds all take refuge in the valley during the winter—so that an area of ten square miles may contain every brood raised upon a half million acres of the adjoining prairie. Hungry and benumbed with cold, they are easily drawn into a pen rigged on the upper side with a trap door, which settles under the chicken, tumbles him in, and springs back to catch another, and then slaughtered. This kind of business means simply the extinction of the grouse and chicken, in this section. The farmer may argue that he is out of meat, and (his title to the birds being as good as that of any one else) he avails himself of his opportunity to capture as many as possible. This argument, while it is legally correct, is not correct, morally. The birds are harmless to the farmer, and afford good sport to the gunner. Amusements are only too rare upon the Dakota prairies, and he who deliberately cuts off one source of harmless amusement from his neighbor is not doing as he would be done by. Again a goodly amount of money is expended in the county each year by chicken hunters from abroad. This benefits the entire community, but when the birds are gone the sportsmen will seek other fields.

Mr. Tennyson, who is now known among the nobility as the Baron de Goosberry, or something "furrin" to our American notions, has written another volume of "poetry." In it he gives the world, "Locksley Hall—Sixty Years After," in which he treats of dynamite bombs, revolvers, etc. Youth is the season for poetry and romance. The Baron, could he live some years longer, might develop into a case hardened politician, but his poetic days have evaporated with the elasticity of his bones. *Sic Transit, etc!* Yet Longfellow, in the dry and bracing air of a new continent, did not so evaporate to beef and gristle.

In the Spring.

A general European war. Wheat \$1.00 per bushel. South Dakota operating as a state. A line of Northern Pacific steamers on the great lakes. Trains running from Winnipeg to Hudson bay.

The N. P. building toward Winnipeg. Foreign complications, and a new cabinet. General business activity throughout Dakota.

A failure of the winter wheat crop. Spring wheat very promising.

A Chestnut.

"Say, Doctor, have you any pretty mottoes for a parlor?"

"What kind of one do you wish, Mrs. Fightly—republican or democratic? Here is something very pretty: *Vote for Day. He is the Farmers' Friend.* We used that in the last election."

"Mercy! I couldn't have that hideous thing staring me in the face at all hours. Haven't you anything sentimental. The girls (you know I have three young ladies in the family), want *Welcome Sinner or Prepare for Death or God Bless our Home, or something recherche and cheerful.*"

"Ahem! Here is one that is very popular, *Insure in the Farmers' Mutual Strington & Miller, Agents.* How does that strike you?"

"I want something to show to company."

"Well, we are all out of *Prepare for Deaths or Something Recherche*; here is a little thing which we use ourselves, *Three for a Quarter!* How would that suit you and your daughters?"

"Sir, that does not suit me nor my darters. *Three for a Quarter!* indeed! Good day."

Hill, the author of the "Hill Bill" for admission as a whole, defeated for congress is coming to Dakota to live. What for? The offices are all taken here, and the mere introduction of a bill has not placed us under a burden of gratitude.

Day flattered himself that his endorsements for the governorship were the best in the house. Where was Zeitbach?

The Dakota Fine Stock Breeders Association, and the grand lodge of Good Templars were in session at Aberdeen, last week.

The Steele Herald, is offered for sale.

NEWS NOTES.

John E. Owens, the last of the old comedians, is dead. "We shall not look upon his like again."

Mining stocks have tumbled, and will soon be worthless again.

Nutwood, sired by a half brother of Goldsmith Maid, and whose dam is the dam of Maud S., was sold at Glenview, Kv., Oct. 12th, to F. D. Stout, of Du-buque, Ia., for \$22,000. He is 16 years old, 15 1/2 hands high, and weighs 1,190 lbs. He is the sire of Felix (2:18 1/2), Dawn (2:19 1/2), Manon (2:21), etc. The record of Nutbreaker is 2:18 1/2. Nutwood's suckling colts have sold uniformly at upwards of \$1,000.

Carrington—according to the railway surveyors—is higher up in the world than any station between itself and St. Paul. Its altitude is 1582 feet above the level of the sea—we are just—and only overtopped, by Sykeston, which soars to 1627 feet. Other lofty points are, New Rockford, 1529; Sanborn, 1490; Minne-waukan, 1457; Cooperstown, 1426; Jamestown, 1395. Altitude, purity, health happiness, are a natural consequence.—Carrington News.

The snow is two feet deep in Virginia, and eight inches deep in Dakota.

Romania, Servia, and Bulgaria, are to form an alliance, with an army of 4,000,000 men.

In his message to congress Mr. Cleveland fails to make any suggestions whatever for the relief of the mung-wumps.—Chicago Tribune.

Rev. Heber Newton, the distinguished pulpit orator of New York, in a sermon last Sunday, incautiously remarked that the increase of female influence in the church will hamper the intellectual growth of Christianity. If the women were taken out of Mr. Newton's congregation it is most likely that it would become a valley of dry bones, such as Ezekiel saw in his vision.—EX.

The report of the Dakota railroad commissioners shows that the year which ended June 30th was one of much activity in the railway development of the territory. The increase in mileage aggregated 551.77 miles, making a total of 2,898 miles in operation. The commissioners make several recommendations as to needed legislation, the most important being the abolition of the transit system, and requiring that hereafter all grain elevators and warehouses shall be public, and that all grain tickets shall be negotiable in character.—Pioneer Press.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—The President to-day, nominated Louis K. Church of Dakota, to be governor of Dakota.

Judge Church is forty years old, and was formerly a Brooklyn lawyer. He was an original Cleveland boomer, and was sent out here by the President, as a judge of our supreme court, about a year ago. It is now stated that this was in pursuance of a definite plan to make him governor, as the President had great confidence in him, and that Day, Zieback & Co., have been playing against a "dead snitch."

Chattel Mortgage Sales.

In the interest of the poorer classes—the small borrowers—the legislature should this winter pass a law requiring the publication in newspapers of chattel mortgage sales—at least where the amounts involved exceed a certain sum, say \$25. As it stands now, the poor man borrows \$25, and is compelled to give security on property worth five times that sum, sees it all sold for just the amount of his indebtedness, because there has been no proper advertisement of the sale. Notice posted on the wall of a building, or a fence post, is not an advertisement in any sense of the word, and the law should require publication, at least once in the newspaper published nearest where the sale is to take place. We believe such a law would result in the saving of hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to small borrowers. As the law stands now the debtor who cannot meet his obligations is left at the mercy of a class who knows no mercy.—Fargo Republican.

PETERSON'S MAGAZINE for January.—The colored design for painting on silk or satin, or to be worked in embroidery, would cost at a retail store fifty cents, yet it furnished gratis to subscribers for Peterson's as a New Year gift. The fashion-plate is a double size, engraved on steel, and colored by hand. The high character of Peterson's for its stories, is more than maintained, in this number. Mrs. Francis Hodgson Burnett, Mrs. Ann S. Stephens, Edgar Fawcett, Frank Lee Benedict, and the imitator of "Josiah Allen's Wife," being among the contributors. More than fifty woodcuts of fashion, patterns in embroidery,

etc., are also given. All this, for only Two Dollars a Year, with great reduction to clubs. Specimens will be sent gratis, to those wishing to get up clubs." Address CHARLES J. PETERSON, 306 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

To Editor of the COURIER:

Some one has characterized Americans, as poor conversationalists, but excellent debaters. I think the remark, a just one. I have often been thrown into a contact, with men who were thoroughly stupid in conversation, yet who evinced great volubility of utterance, and intense enthusiasm, when unconsciously drawn onto debatable ground. There seems to be certain pugilistic tendencies in human nature, which do their best work when antagonized. Now we all have convictions, and conviction is the mother of debate. A man may argue, without conviction. Argument is a matter of the head, and not of the heart. But men engage in debate for the sake of maintaining a principle, either true, or false. Debate is a strong word, and means to beat, or beat back. There's intellectual fight in the word.

The point which I have had in mind, is that every young man in Cooperstown, is a born debator. Not every one is conscious of it. There needs to be in our midst, some emergency, which shall quicken these dormant powers, and afford an arena, for their development. What shall be done? I respectfully suggest, (and back of the suggestion, lies the expressed wish of many of our young men) that there be formed in our midst this winter, a Debating society. The benefits of such a society, are many.

It would educate, or draw out, the faculties of participants, give direction to their reading—it would surplant pernicious amusements—furnish opportunity for every variety of talent.

Other results would grow out of such a society, in our town, but these I trust will be sufficient to commend the suggestion to every well-wisher.

A CITIZEN.

ONLY PERSONAL TAX.

By the treasurer's tax notice, published in your paper, must we pay our land taxes by Jan. 1st., or is it only the personal tax?

SUBSCRIBER.

Notes Due.

We have left for collection with Clark & Smart. All parties owing us are requested to come forth and settle same without delay, and save cost. Merrill Bros. & Luce.

Feed Mill.

Cooper Bros. are prepared to grind feed of all kinds at their elevator, in any amount, at reasonable rates.

Notice.

All farmers indebted to us, are requested to call and settle as early as possible, and oblige. Office in Palace Hotel. BOWDEN & BUCK.

Stranger, Pause!

I have four valuable new milch cows, which I will sell together, or singly, cheap for cash, or on approved security. Address, N. C. RUCKE, Lee, Nelson Co., Dak. 46-50.

Notice.

The partnership heretofore existing between A. L. Bowden, and C. C. Buck, has been dissolved by mutual consent. A. L. Bowden, assumes all liabilities of the late firm of Bowden & Buck, and will pay all out standing debts. A. L. BOWDEN, C. C. BUCK. Dated, Cooperstown Dak., Nov. 27th, 1886.

NORSKE MEDICINE.

(Guaranteed.) The Norwegian Lightning Sorehealer. The Norwegian Blood Purifier. The Norwegian Cough Syrup. The Norwegian Appetizer. The Norwegian Rheumatic Oil and Sundry Salt. Registered according to act of Congress. For sale by B. A. CLAUSEN, Cooperstown, Dak.

Notice.

To whom it may concern: The bank of Cooperstown, Cooperstown, D. T., Stevens & Pickett, proprietors, having made an assignment to me, all parties holding valid claims against said bank, are requested to file such claims in writing with the undersigned, within six months from date. Claims not filed within given limit, will not be considered. THEO. DRAZ, Assignee. St. Paul, May 10, 1886.

Notice of Dissolution.

Notice is hereby given, that the co-partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned, under the firm name and style of Cooper Brothers, has expired by limitation. Either partner is authorized to settle firm matters, and the farming, stock and elevator business lately carried on by said firm, is continued by Rollin C. Cooper. Dated, Cooperstown, D. T., Nov. 15th, 1886. ROLLIN C. COOPER, THOMAS J. COOPER.

Notice. Dr. Knapp, veterinary surgen, can be found at Helena, at all times. A locality of floating horses teeth. Twenty years experience in all branches.

Notice to Tax-Payers.

By turning to section 53, on page 475, of Levisse tax codes of 1883, the tax-payers will find the following important information.

"No demand of taxes shall be necessary, but it shall be the duty of every person subject to taxation under this law, to attend at the treasurer's office, at the county seat, and pay his taxes; and if any person neglect so to attend and pay his taxes until after the first day of January next, succeeding the levying of the taxes, the treasurer is directed and required to collect the same by distress and sale."

ANTON ENGER, Treasurer.

GENERAL REPAIR SHOP,

(Old Bank Building.)

Wagons, Carriages, Sewing Machines, Furniture, Farm Machinery, Engines, Locks, etc., repaired with dispatch.

Saw filing a specialty.

M. M. ROBINSON.

COOPERSTOWN, DAK.

Advertisement for DAKOTA MUTUAL Insurance Co. of HURON, DAK. Features include: "ALWAYS FIRST TO PAY", "INSURES at Actual cost", "Established by a People's Convention", "Operates on Business Principles", "Approved by Business Men", "Publicly Endorsed by Territorial Farmers' Alliance", "Risks Limited in Amount", "Insurance Well Distributed", "Collects Assessments Before Loss", "No Liability in Excess of Premium", "Does Business Everywhere in Dakota".

Advertisement for MUNN & CO. PATENTS. Features include: "ESTABLISHED 1846", "NEW YORK", "After forty years' experience in the preparation of more than One Hundred Thousand applications for patents in the United States and Foreign countries, the publishers of the Scientific American continue to act as solicitors for patents, caveats, trade-marks, copyrights, etc., for the United States, and to obtain patents in Canada, England, France, Germany, and all other countries. Their experience is unequalled and their facilities are unsurpassed.", "Drawings and specifications prepared and filed in the Patent Office on short notice. Terms very reasonable. No charge for examination of models or drawings. Advice by mail free.", "Patents obtained through Munn & Co. are noticed in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, which has the largest circulation and is the most influential newspaper of its kind published in the world.", "The advantages of such a notice every patentee understands.", "This large and splendidly illustrated newspaper is published WEEKLY at \$3.00 a year, and is admitted to be the best paper devoted to science, mechanics, inventions, engineering works, and other departments of industrial progress, published in any country. It contains the names of all patentees and the title of every invention patented each week. Try it four months for one dollar. Sold by all newsdealers.", "If you have an invention to patent write to Munn & Co., publishers of Scientific American, 361 Broadway, New York.", "Handbook about patents mailed free."

Minneapolis & St. Louis RAILWAY.

Aibert Lea Route.

TWO THROUGH TRAINS DAILY FOR ST. PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS TO CHICAGO

Without Change, connecting with the Fast Train of all lines for the EAST AND SOUTHEAST!

The Direct and only Line running through cars between MINNEAPOLIS and DES MOINES, IOWA, Via Aibert Lea and Fort Dodge.

SOLID THROUGH TRAINS BETWEEN MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. LOUIS and the Principal Cities of the Mississippi Valley connecting in the Union Depot for all points East, South and Southwest!

MANY HOURS SAVED and the Only Line running Two Trains Daily Kansas City, Leavenworth and Atchison making connections with the Union Pacific and Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroads.

Close Connections made in Union Depo with all trains of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba; Northern Pacific; St. Paul & Duluth Rail ways, from and to all points North and Northwest.

REMEMBER! The Trains of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway are composed of Comfortable Day Coaches, MAGNIFICENT PULLMAN SLEEPING CARS, and our Superb Palace Dining Cars!

150 Lbs. of Baggage Checked Free. FARE ALWAYS AS LOW AS THE LOWEST! For Time Tables, Through Tickets, etc., call upon the nearest Ticket Agent or write to S. F. BOYD, Gen'l Tkt. & Pass Agt., Minneapolis, Minn.