

Raleigh N.C. March 4<sup>th</sup> 1899

Hon Elias Carr, Pres N.C. S.A. & S.W.

Dear Sir & bro

Your recent ruling on the  
a County Alliance

not only calculated to  
financial benefit by Co op. pur  
not in keeping with <sup>the</sup> general spirit  
which the order is founded. It is not in har-  
mony with the analogies which have governed  
men in all other associations whether, political  
ecclesiastical, or social. If the position taken on  
that point be correct, then we have joined an  
association which goes beyond all precedent  
and says, our liberties to use our own means  
for our own individual and collective benefit  
is forfeited. And why? Because our Constitution  
does not provide for each specific case, there-  
fore it is not lawful for Alliance men to  
do anything for which an express provision is  
not made in a 24 page 48<sup>mo</sup> Constitution. The id-  
by this ruling is reversed, "that where there is  
no law, there is no transgression."

read it thus. Where no

come to move or do. If

We have sinned woefully! For at our  
meetings we have said and done many things,  
which there was no special provision in our  
const. Cooperative factories, Cooperative stores,  
Cooperative purchases, for which there is no special  
provision in our const!! Alas! Alas! What a difference  
it makes whose ox is gored! Whence come the 5%  
per capita tax for the National Union?

If that ruling be correct, all those agreements  
by Sub Alliances to raise funds among  
members with which to defray the expense  
of dinners and public  
violations of our  
because no specific law  
provided for it!!

It may be that  
we have been too much of a block head to  
rightly construe our organic law on this parti-  
cular point, we ~~thought~~ thought that if there  
was a provision in our law against assessment  
that it was with a view of preventing any trouble  
arising on that line by the officers assessing  
or increasing the fees or dues of members. We  
had never thought that it was to be construed  
that members could not assess themselves voluntari-  
ly for their collective benefit. We thought that  
if a Sub Alliance in a neighborhood saw proper  
to assess themselves one or five dollars each for  
the purpose of keeping a school open for 4 months  
thru the year, that they could do so without violating  
our Const. It led Wake County Alliance  
keeping a County  
of Raleigh, the members  
could save Ten Thousand Dollars in  
a year, to consult together and devise a plan  
by which they might pay that Agent a living  
Salary, seeing that the utility of the State agency  
was beyond the reach of many of our weaker  
brethren. To this end the County Alliance was  
called in two Special Meetings within the  
last two months, and after a few c

and free discussion of the matter, and after the experiment had been tried for one month, it was almost universally agreed that each member should contribute one month towards the County Agent. And in a Sub Alliance agreed to contribute to \$25, each to that Agency, seeing we did that it would prove of vast financial benefit to many of our farmers. Of course there were a few, I repeat a few who are not at all in harmony with the principles of our order, who opposed the measure, and God knows as well as ~~we~~ that they have opposed everything! I contend, and you will admit it, your good judgement will compel you to admit, that a Sub Alliance, or a County Alliance can do anything that is honorable and just, for the benefit of the members, provided it is not in conflict with the State or National Const, and further, if there is any law in the State or National Const, that

bars from uniting  
either for mutual benefit  
of justice, the sooner we abrogate our  
stitutions, the better for us. If you will look at  
the declaration of purposes on which the Union is  
founded you will find seven, in number, and  
yet strange as it may appear, there is no expressed  
specific provision in the Const, for carrying into  
effect a single one of them; and, Why? We  
answer, simply for the reason, that the members

everywhere might enjoy the liberty of using their discretion in adopting such regulations and practices (not in conflict with expressed constitutional restrictions) as would best subserve their ends in carrying out their purposes. A State, a County, a Sub Union may have their own Constitutions; provided they do not conflict with National Const. A review of the Constitution, and the minute details of its accomplishment, by the Alliance Commission, reveals the fact, that for the accomplishment of by far the most of it, there is no expressed specific provisions in the Const.

"The Constitution does not authorize or permit any tax levy or assessment except such as are provided for in said Constitution." It does not authorize or permit, the establishment of any business agencies supported either wholly or in part by members, and yet it is done, and Why? For our financial benefit!

It does not authorize or permit the publication of any periodical or paper owned and controlled by by one of its members, to be known as the organ of the Alliance in the State, and yet it is done, and Why? Because it is both expedient and necessary for the good of the order. It does not authorize or permit members to pool their resources, and invest in any cooperative enterprise, and yet it is done in hundreds of places, Why, it is for the good of the order.

It would have the effect of rendering every ruling of the President, for ~~it~~ <sup>to apply</sup> the same principle, if no where provides for the President to rule on all points of unexpressed or implied points of Statutory Law. And yet, it is practiced.

Can we not compromise differences, and say that Alliance men can do anything for their moral mental and financial good or improvement, that does not conflict with expressed Const. provisions? Fraternally, D. P. Allachan