

L. L. POLK,

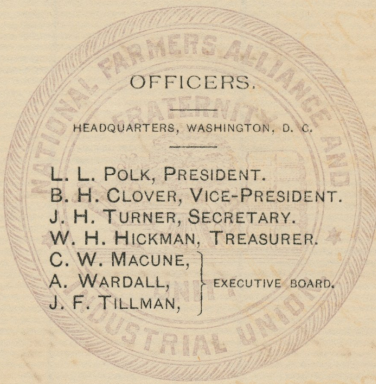
President.

National Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union,

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

3/10.

1890.



Mr Elias Carr

Old Sparta, N.C.

My Dear Sir + Bro:

Yours of 6th enclosing letter, herewith returned, has been carefully noted.

My opinion is, that a County Alliance has no power to impose any tax on the membership of the subordinate Alliances, without the assent of such membership. The Constitution authorizes a tax of 50 cents initiation fee, 25 cents quarterly dues and 5 cents per capita tax. Any tax in addition to these, would be unconstitutional, unless it were levied by the consent of the members. A County Alliance cannot do what a State Alliance would be debarred from doing. But a State or County Alliance may levy a tax on the subordinate Alliances, which, if ratified by the membership would be legal + valid. Our form of government is founded upon the principle that "all power is vested in and derived from the people." You do not ask for an official ruling on the question, hence, any answer in this hasty + informal manner.

Glad to hear that Bro. Alexander has consented

Gov. Vanree says the scheme grows on him as he investigates it, & I hope he will take hold of it. Members are exceedingly courteous & deferential to us. I shall try to work some plan by which a crowd of them will hear us before the Committee. All reach Raleigh Friday, 11th inst.

To go to Atlanta. All the Cotton States (11) will be represented. An important meeting will be held there Wednesday the 12th to which I am urged to go. But the work here will not permit. I go home later part of week & go thence to Atlanta, next week, thence to Ark & Mo, & probably Texas. The situation is interesting & encouraging, but I am hampered for the funds due, Kans & Ga. the only States, paid yet.

I & Macure will go before Congressional Committee as soon as I return from the South & we will give them some thing to think about. The Sub. Treas. bill, is a puzzle to them but they fully realize (many of them) that something must be done. I hope we may be able to present such a diagnosis of the Case, that all will feel so. If we can succeed in getting a report on it & then have it brought before the Country in a discussion, we will have some hope. Two members will be to see me this p.m. about it. They say we are so silent & quiet & dignified that they don't understand it. They fear that it is a consciousness of a strength & power behind us, that they have not comprehended. Generalship & diplomacy are indispensable in tackling Congress & we are doing our best.

We mail 50,000 circulars this week to alliances all over the Country to get up petitions (in & out of the alliance) of voters only, to be mailed to this office where we can make a record of them & send back to the people, & we will hand them to the members & take their receipts. Big work on me & it grows daily. N.Y. Penn. Mon. Wyoming Nebraska Ohio N. Va. Ill. Mich. Wis. & Ind. all calling for organizers. Faithfully & Fraturnally L.L. Poek