

Responsibility's the Word  
And run what you have proposed

DO YOUR DUTY.

ORANGEBURG, S. C., March 16, 1891.

Dear Brother:

You have been made lecturer of your Alliance. Do you realize the responsibility laid upon you? Have you read in the constitution that "the lecturer's duty shall be, at each meeting, to deliver or read a short address on some topic of interest to the Order?" Is this your duty and responsibility. Do you meet the responsibility? Do you meet the Council, and the legislative body, to your dignity as well? The importance of the lecturer has been recognized, and a chance has been opened to him. The order has opened a new business, and at the same time a goal for honorable ambition to raise yourself in the esteem of your brethren.

The order expects of you in return for the dignity and opportunity it has conferred, full proof of your ministry and fidelity. Do not permit a meeting of your alliance to pass without reading or speaking to them upon matters of interest to the order. What will you talk about? Well, that is just what this paper proposes to give you. Appended you will find the demands of the Alliance, adopted at Ocala last December, with brief comments intended to suggest to you a good method of presenting them. But whether you adopt the suggestions made, or adopt a plan of your own (which is better) do not let an opportunity pass without presenting these demands after some method. Let some one of these demands be your text and your opportunity.

1. We demand the abolition of national banks.

We demand that the government shall establish sub-treasuries or depositories in the several States, which shall loan money direct to the people at a low rate of interest, not to exceed two per cent. per annum, on non-perishable farm products, and also upon real estate, with proper limitations upon the quantity of land and amount of money.

We demand that the amount of the circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than \$50 per capita.

[The object of this demand is to restore the circulation of money to the basis of years ago when many of the debts of the country were contracted. The bonds upon which the National Banks were based, for instance, were bought

1st of ours to go to every S. C. and Ark.  
Lecturer in State -

with money that was very much below gold in purchasing power. By reason of the contraction of the volume of the currency, and the unjust adoption of the gold standard alone, those same banks can now sell their bonds for nearly double what they cost originally.

Under the present system, too, of furnishing money to the people through the banks, the banks pay the government at the rate of 1 per cent per annum and then lend it to the people at 9 and 12 per cent. We maintain that the banks are a creature of the people and can be controlled by the people, should lend the money to the people through the banks; provided the banks have the same security that they have now, and the interest is reasonable and just, and the money is lent to the people on imperishable security. We hope to increase the circulation of money per capita instead of less than \$10

present.

2. That we demand that Congress shall pass such laws as shall effectually prevent the dealing in futures of all agricultural and mechanical productions; preserving a stringent system of procedure in trials as shall secure prompt convictions, and imposing such penalties as shall secure the most perfect compliance with the law.

[This demand aims to prevent speculators from combining to force the farmers hard-earned products below their true market value; buying them up at the reduced valuation and then cornering the market so as to force prices up above the true value of the products. Thus the farmer has been robbed in what he had to sell, and then robbed in what he had to buy. Thus he has been kept with his nose to the grindstone, while our lordly speculators have lived in luxury upon the profits that should have rewarded the farmer.]

3. We condemn the silver bill recently passed by Congress, and demand in lieu thereof the free and unlimited coinage of silver.

[The free and unlimited coinage of silver is no new, untried measure, as the opponents of the measure would have us believe. It was the policy of the government from 1793 to 1873 when silver was surreptitiously demonetized. In demanding its restoration, the Alliance is simply getting back to first principles from which the government has been diverted in the interest of the moneyed classes. This is one of the most important demands that the Alliance has made, and one that we cannot afford to recede from.]

4. We demand the passage of laws prohibiting alien ownership of land, and that Congress take prompt action to devise some plan to obtain all lands now owned by aliens and foreign syndicates; and that all lands now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of such as is actually used and needed by them be reclaimed by the government, and held for actual settlers only.

[This demand was framed on account of the vast areas of public lands that have been given by the government to various railroad corporations. Some of these lands are held on conditional, and the conditions have not been restored. Lands have not been restored to foreign companies and individuals to purchase whole townships for agricultural purposes. Our demand is for the possession of these forfeited lands for actual settlers only, also to prohibit the sale of lands in this country for speculation by individuals who may hereafter wish to settle upon them.]

5. Believing in the doctrine of equal rights to all and special privileges to none, we demand that our national legislation shall be so framed in the future as not to build up one industry at the expense of another; and we further demand a removal of the existing heavy tariff tax from the necessities of life that the poor of our land must have; we further demand a just and equitable system of graduated tax on incomes; we believe that money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and hence we demand that all national and State revenues shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government economically and honestly administered.

[This is a demand so closely in accord with justice and right that its bare statement would suffice to commend it to right thinking people. But besides this claim, the tariff has been the subject of such constant and exhaustive discussion that there can be no lack of arguments, as seen in the daily and weekly papers.]

6. We demand the most rigid, honest, and just State and national government control and supervision of the means of public communication and transportation, and if this control and supervision does not remove the abuse now existing, we demand the government ownership of such means of communication and transportation.

[This demand does not include the ownership of railroads and telegraphs, unless the government fails to control them in the interest of the people. It is believed that they can be controlled if the government goes at it with a will. It is maintained and justly that the railroad and telegraph companies enjoy their privileges as a gift from the people.]

It is only by the consent of the people that they could exist, and hence the people have a right to expect that they themselves shall be fairly and honestly dealt with. That the people have been grossly imposed upon by their beneficiaries is only too true, and demands for redress are reasonable and just.]

7. We demand that Congress of the United States submit an amendment to the constitution providing for the election of United States Senators by direct vote of the

the St. Louis list by the last  
 ing more and more impor-  
 ill effects of the present  
 eadwork in the Illinois  
 e already failed to result

impossible were the election to  
 ide by direct, and then the present system  
 moves the Senator too far from his people. He does not  
 feel his responsibility to the people so sensibly when the  
 legislature stands between him and them. The object of  
 the Alliance is to make both Houses of Congress representa-  
 tive bodies, to make Congress thoroughly democratic in  
 other words.]

If you will take these suggestions and use them in connection with such matter as you can get from the Alliance organs, you will accomplish great good for the order and at the same time build up yourself with the Order. I cannot attempt a full discussion here of all demands. I can only suggest the lines that you may occupy. The discussions in full must be gotten from our organs.

The order of advancement will very likely be from the  
 ship to the county lectureship, from the county  
 district, district to State, so there is possibility of high  
 advancement for each sub-lecturer if he will qualify himself  
 and be diligent. Naturally the one who develops into the  
 best sub-Lecturer in his County, will be made County Lec-  
 turer. The County Lecturer who develops most energy  
 and ability will be made District Lecturer, and so on.  
 We confidently expect a good report from your work at  
 the county and district meetings—therefore be diligent  
 and redeem the time.

Fraternally,

J. WM. STOKES,  
 President S. C. S. F. A.

P. S.—If information or assistance is wanted at any time, do not hesitate to write to this office your needs.