

Leominsterville N.C.

7-14-1890

Elias Barr Esq.

Dear Sir and Bro

The farmers of this <sup>country</sup> oppressed by the most cruel class legislation that ever disgraced the Statute books of a nation have united in one great brotherhood, and irrespective of party ties are demanding relief from this and other great evils, and nothing but lack of wisdom and undue haste will prevent us from accomplishing our purposes. There is no disagreement among us as to the necessity and wisdom of most of our demands, but the course that we should pursue in securing these



did not so well understood  
Some say that our demands  
can never be secured in  
either of the old parties  
that makes parties, it is voters  
and the wisdom, honesty and  
patriotism of the individual  
voter who compose them  
determines the character and  
policy of all parties. The  
efficacy, vigor and purity  
of all Democratic forms of government  
is in direct-proportion to the  
possession of these attributes  
in the voter. Then the first  
duty of the alliance is educational.  
Let it give the people generally  
a better understanding of  
political economy. Let it  
dispell all sectional, nor,  
and race prejudices, and  
teach the people that

"External vigilance is the  
price of liberty," and there  
will be no trouble in bringing  
about the needed reforms in  
either or both of the old  
parties. As true alliance men  
it is our duty, to lay aside  
all prejudices and vote  
for that party that comes nearest  
to our ideal government.  
Then await for time to give  
us what additional  
legislation we need.  
There is a disposition in  
some parts of the country, to  
run the alliance into third  
partyism, which I believe  
to be contrary to the letter  
and spirit of the constitution  
of the alliance, and if carried  
out will destroy the  
greatest organization that



has ever been gotten up for the  
protection of the rights  
of the laboring classes open  
up one hundred thousand offices  
with their \$2, 10, 5, + - thousand  
dollar prizes, and thousands  
of all these men will be so  
intent on winning the  
prizes, that they will forget  
some of the great principles  
of our organization. The care  
of the widow, and orphans  
to visit sick and comfort  
the sick + - give us the  
patronage of one hundred  
thousand offices and we  
will witness the same  
disgraceful scramble among  
us which has characterized  
some of the administrations  
of our U.S. Government,  
which is sure to engender  
discord and often disruption  
which has often been the fate  
of all political parties



to let us have no such  
discretionary officials within  
our organization to cause  
men to sleep lions of  
sympathy for us, whose  
tears are always dried  
with pocketing the salary.

But that which concerns  
us now at present, and that  
especially which causes us  
to write to you, is the course  
that we should pursue with  
men whom we would have  
represent us in the Congress  
of the United States, who  
refuse to accede to all  
of our demands, namely,  
Sub Treasury reform.

The Democratic party,  
with <sup>the</sup> exception of the Sub Tre  
reform, is on a line with <sup>us</sup>  
and our present Democratic  
members of Congress  
promise to labor for



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all of our demands with  
this single exception, which  
they claim, there is doubt  
as to the constitutionality of  
the measure, they also claim  
that it is cumbersome and  
impracticable an idea  
which, I believe, is gaining  
ground among alliance men.  
With Tom Reed and his  
followers, who hold the  
interest and prosperity of  
the people subordinate to  
party supremacy, on the one  
side; you & as a lover  
of liberty and good  
government; jeopardize it  
by retiring such Statesmen  
as Vance West Mills Corbin  
and others, who have  
spent their whole lives  
in the service of the people

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for no other reason, than  
they refuse to support  
a plan which thousands  
of alliance men themselves  
believe to be impracticable.  
For the sake of harmony and  
the good of the alliance I  
hope that you will advise  
that the sub treasury plan  
be not pushed forward  
in total disregard of all  
the other demands. We  
can afford to yield on this  
point - at least for the  
present; there is plenty  
of time - no great  
revolution is accomplished  
in a day. Let us not make  
the fatal mistake of being  
in too great haste.  
Is not victory on all the  
balance of our demands



