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Matthews N.C. June 27/96

Hon Elias Carr.

Mr Sir. Yours of recent date received, and I was certainly very glad to hear from you. I know the Alliance has lost whatever power it may have had for good and I agree with you that it has as a political organization become a "stench in the nostrils of all good people" but I still think that the farmers of the South might unite in an organization strictly business that would be of benefit. Now I allude to cotton producers, the farmers of the South land, we are differently situated from farmers of other sections. we can grow almost any crop grown anywhere else and to this extent should be independent of any other sections except the ties of sympathy which form a sort of bond between all persons following the same

Occupation

Now we all know that raising our own supplies will give us something to eat and thus render us independent so far as that goes, but then what money we may have depends upon the price of our cotton and over this we have no control whatever. Now can any good reason be given why a farmer should not have a reasonable profit on his investment as well as any one else. No other class of men do business in the same way as a farmer. We give what is asked and take what we can get. Now is this right? If it is not why not try to right it? Does any one suppose that the billions of money invested in machinery for working up cotton would stand idle because forsooth cotton should be worth ten or twelve cents per lb.

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Now I do not think this cutting down
acreage will ever amount to much
nor do I think it matters much whether
we make 6 or 10 million bales provided
only a certain amount is placed on
the market. I admit that to carry out
my idea would amount to something in
the nature of a trust and I almost hate
that word, but still it is said there is
a certain proverb that "if you fight
you must use fire." Now I think ~~that~~
that enough of determined men can
be found in the south men who are
able to hold their cotton perhaps indefinitely
and allow only a certain per cent to go
on the market, that sooner or later
would raise the price. a four years
war raised cotton to unheard of
prices now why not a combination
bring about the same result

Suppose that north & south Carolina or Georgia was the only state producing cotton, could not be fix the price if she determined to do so. now let be represent an individual. then what an individual can do. could not a community of individuals do.

Surely there must be some way out of this haphazard way of doing business.

It does seem to me that is unreasonable and the most unreasonable thing in the world, that farmers, the producers of the very necessities of the world, can have no say so in what they are to receive for it. Capital we know is always organized and organized of course in its own interests, now if we are in any to protect the product of our labor we must in some way organize to me it seems a necessity.

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I know that the solution of the money question, and the settlement of our currency may and will benefit us to some extent, but still if all the silver in the world were coined without organization, farmers would fall far short of getting their share of it for their products, and such will be the case so long as the products of our labor must be laid at the feet of mercilefs speculation.

I am glad however to know that your Excellency is such a warm advocate of silver, and I agree with you that if we ever get the free coinage of silver it must come through the Democratic party, and I do think it time that the democrats of N.C. I mean the silver element were taking some steps towards organizing

the Silver forces. It seems to me that a convention of Democrats declaring for Silver, would tend to bring back to the fold many of our populist friends, and perhaps thwart the fusion game for I must think that there are many populists that would prefer fusion with the Democrats rather than Republican. I know that the Goldites will make a desperate effort to capture our regular State convention and it seems to me that a declaration now would to some extent paralyze their efforts and give us plain sailing next summer besides bringing many populists to our ranks. Will be very glad to hear from you at length.

Very respectfully,

J. Sol. Reid

One word more. I am inclined to think that the convention held in Raleigh was perhaps a mistake in that it opened the door to outsiders and they entering and demerets standing aloof, the convention was at least partially controlled by Populists.

I may be mistaken in this. One thing more. I notice some of our papers and many of our democratic friends profess to favor Silver and yet declare their intention of supporting the nominee even though he be a quack. I must confess I cannot understand how we are to get Silver by voting for Greaser. I fail to see any consistency in such a course as before stated I think it must come through the democratic party and by electing Silver demerets.

truly &c. J. S. R