



~ NORTH CAROLINA ~

BUREAU * OF * LABOR * STATISTICS,

Raleigh, April 15th 1892

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Elias Carr, Esqr.

Old Sparta N.C.

My dear Sir & Bro:

I have noticed your letter and your position as to the St. Louis platform of demands. You put it correctly side by side with ^{the} Ocala platform, so as to show the absolute silence of the St. Louis platform as to the infamous Tarriiff laws of our National Government. This was left out for a purpose and I think Mr. Moses of Georgia is correct in his statement as to the purpose and the means used at St. Louis to ignore the Tarriiff reform demands of the Farmers' Alliance. You are entirely correct in your estimate of the importance of the Tarriiff Question in our demands for reform. It is, of all the evils from which we suffer, the "fruit" of evils.

The Demand for the Government ownership of Railroads



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Telegraphs, and Telephones, is, to my way of thinking, Anti Alliance in its entirety. One of the bed rocks of our principles is opposition to monopolies. This would give the U. S. Government a monopoly unequalled by any monopoly ever granted to any government, and with it the power (which would certainly be used) to crush out all opposition of whatever sort to the party in power.

We have fought the battle of Strict Control by the Government, State and National, of the Railroads. It was commenced by the Grange movement and has been kept up by the Alliance. Just as the victory begins to bear fruit, and before the laws have been allowed that time necessary for testing them and properly amending them, here comes this sweeping demand by the St. Louis Conference (?) (It was, in my judgment, any thing but a Conference), for Government ownership of Railroads, Telegraphs and Telephones, putting in the hands of the Executive Officers of the National Government



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and their party, 750,000 men in R.R. Service and enough in Telegraph and Telephone Service, with what they already have in Post Office, Internal Revenue, Customhouses &c. to swell the number to over 1,000,000 men. And fastening a debt upon the Country in addition to the present debt of over 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ billions of Dollars. This proposition is fraught with such enormous evils that it startles all thoughtful men and every intelligent and well balanced patriot. It is well calculated to, and does, set thousands of men against us, who, though not members of our order, have been sympathizers with our efforts at reform, and thus loses these men and their influence from the cause of much needed reforms for which we have labored and which they and we had hoped to bring about by the organized efforts of the farmers.

When it comes to saying that a Government cannot ^{without ownership} control property its creatures, created for the public good, along with the private interests of the creature, and that it can not compel its creature to meet its obligations to the community,



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according to its agreements, it seems to me the very saying is an argument that all democratic, republican government is a failure. I would resort to that, if at all, only as a last resort, and then with the conviction that in the end the liberties of the people would perish inevitably at the hands of the Government, by reason of this enormous engine of power placed in the hands of the executive officers of the Government, with the army and navy at their backs to force submission to their secret wills.

The attempt to carry the Alliance away from its moorings, into a party and political organization and to control the policies of the members of the order is a gross violation of the principles of our order and of the pledge given to every member before taking upon himself the simple obligation of our order.

I am with you, Mother, heart and soul! Save us from this danger and the quills thereof if you can! And what little help I may be able to give you shall be forth coming at your command.
Very truly, your friend & son, Wm. L. Scarborough