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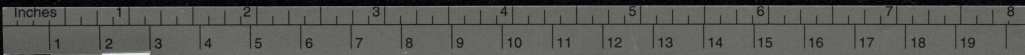
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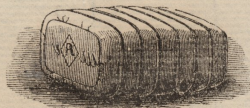
North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance

Raleigh, N. C., 189



Since last addressing you as President of the State Alliance, it has been my great pleasure to watch the healthy growth of our Order, ^{by} the rapid development of the principles we have inculcated. ~~and~~ On the 30th. of April 1887 the first subordinate Alliance was organized at Ashpole in ~~Cross~~ ^{Roberson} County. Just a year later there were 728 Sub. Alliances. During the second year the growth was such that April ~~the~~ 30th 1889 there were 1654 Sub. Alliances. April 30th 1890 there was a still further gain so the number was 2062. On our last anniversary, the ground being effectually covered by the thorough organization of every County, it was not a matter of surprise that the increase was less, showing a total number of 2,281 Subordinate organizations with a total membership of 100,000 thousand.





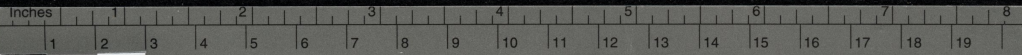
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Raleigh, N. C., 189

The unprecedented political upheaval of last November was the natural outcome of the doctrine taught by the Alliance and despite the protest of our enemies we can take unto ourselves the credit of that more than glorious onslaught. Truly it was a great work and well may we feel honoured, since it was a most salutary lesson to the greed of capital, the rottenness of government and the ravings of political demagogues. But though the future seems bright, there is much yet to be done. Indeed when I view the dangers, which even at the present time, surround us, I think I may be pardoned for saying that the work seems scarcely yet begun. We are assailed on every hand by demagogues, chiefly those in office, whose sole object is to perpetuate their power and it matters little by what means they effect their purpose. Sometimes we see them masquerading as





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Raleigh, N. C., 189

friends of the farmer but in reality ~~are~~ employed by soulless Corporations to sow the seeds of discontent among us. And sometimes they are the hirelings of the great trunk lines which like a gigantic octopus are ~~slowly~~ ^{slowly} but surely absorbing and paralyzing what little blood and energy now left unto us.

We have nothing with which to fight this redoubtable combination, sore honest hearts, willing hands and that spirit of independence which has ever characterized the husbandman, from the time of Cincinnati even unto our own, I think then I do not miss the mark when I say, that as a class we are patient and willing, much abused and never murmuring, yet when we are aroused, as I now trust you all are, the act bears more than ordinary significance. But what meets this our last resort, if our energies be not united, if we be not a unit in our actions? Shall we



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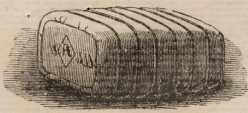
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Raleigh, N. C., 189

profit by the experience of the past? The road
to defeat, the road to victory lie equally plain
before you. The choice is of vital importance.
Something must be done. It is no longer a
matter of condition. Relief must come.
Our condition is such that delay would
be fatal among us and the consensus
of opinion is that that relief must come
through the legitimate and peaceful channels
of legislation. We have held up to the scorn
and contempt of honest men the existence
of trusts, combines and corporations. Out
of what benefit has this exposure been
to us? The work of robbing still goes
on. Why is this? Why have we accomplished
so little? The answer is an open secret —
it is because the vast majority of the
producing class are as yet untaught,
uneducated, deaf to the appeals of reason
and experience and callous to the cry of
those who preach the importance of
thorough organization. Is it not strange

5



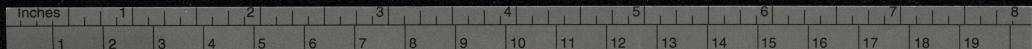
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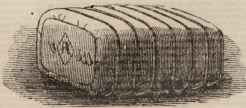
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Raleigh, N. C., 189

That so many of our fellow men utterly ignore the very first law, the law of self preservation, and the fact that a complete and thorough organization is the only safe means whereby we can be assured of our rights? On every hand we hear boasts of our great progress and our civilization, but since good government, "the government of the people, for the people and by the people," - the secret of all happiness - has ^{not} kept pace with the other sciences, we see great reason for asserting that this boasted civilization is not shared in by the working man, who here, as the world over is the pith, the marrow, the backbone of the country. And how is he to share therein handicapped as he is in the race of life, in the severe struggle for existence? Handicapped by his own ignorance which he so unfortunately evinces when he asserts his opposition to that bill, which now in any





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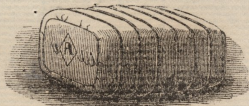


Raleigh, N. C., 189

Thing but a spirit of fairness is being
discussed throughout the country. I mean
of course the Sub-Treasury - and touching
this I do not think it a mis to say
that we are not wedded to that particular
philology which now characterizes the
bill. We do not pray for the passage of
this bill unaltered and undiscussed, for
that would deprive us of the opinions
and experiences of - others, but we are
attached, yea, even committed to the
principles involved and are convinced that
only after a full and free discussion
can we arrive at a satisfactory solution
of the subject. There is precedent sufficient
of government's loaning money to
the citizen with and without security
and thus is established the power to loan,
which is indeed all sufficient. The kind
of security does not enter into the
case, the government can select what
it considers ~~sufficient~~ ample and best

ELIAS CARR, President,
OLD SPARTA, N. C.

W. S. BARNES, Secretary,
RALEIGH, N. C.



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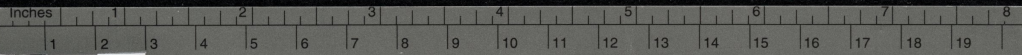
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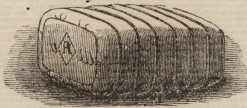
Raleigh, N. C., 189

calculated to relieve the wants of the people. It is unaccountable, indeed I can not understand how a man dependent upon the sweat of his brow for his daily bread, can oppose the principles involved in this plan. The very fact of the intense hatred which the monopolists and their hirelings throughout the country bear not only the bill but its authors should convince the laboring man that its passage would produce not only a radical change, but that that change would most probably operate to his benefit since it is so bitterly opposed by the ultra monied classes. Our quarrel, let me say here, is not with the State which has even been mindful of our necessities, but with the national government and particularly those branches of it, which are responsible for the present iniquitous protective system and the demoralization



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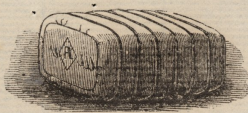
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Raleigh, N. C., 189

of silver. The demand for the increase
in the circulation of this metal, will if un-
heeded only intensify the conditions which
even now the American laborer finds almost
intolerable. I will not touch upon ~~that~~ ^{these}
~~great wrong~~ ^{circumstances} of that great wrong, the
demonetization of silver, which was per-
petrated upon the people of these United
States, because you are all no doubt
acquainted with the details. But I do not
think it out of place to add that it
is now generally believed that the passage
of that act, in 1893 was one element
of a great conspiracy to turn over
the finances of this country to the banker
and speculator. Grant himself had
not he had signed such a bill, and since
no senator or congressman could be found
who would tell aught of its passage
the suspicions of the people have been
confirmed.

9



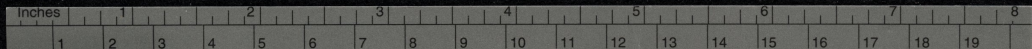
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Raleigh, N. C., 189

Such action on the part of Congress is inexplicable in the light of the progress of the nineteenth century, a stain upon the pages of its civilization which as one turns them back over the past twenty five years he finds them deep dyed with the toil and sweat of poverty stricken millions. The existing national bank law is the shape the robbery assumed - I say robbery because the government delegates to a class, the bankers, the power of contracting and expanding the currency, thereby conferring upon them, the unnatural prerogative of fixing the price of the necessaries of life. The pernicious effect of this system can but be realized when we reflect that within a few short years the vast majority of the wealth of this country has passed into the hands of less than five thousand men. Is not something radically wrong with a system of finance, under which within twenty years the proud laborer





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North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance



Raleigh, N. C., 189

of this Country have lost more than one-half of their entire holdings? And that too in face of the fact that the Country is one of inexhaustible resources and the Government at peace with all the world. Our civilization has an undercurrent of fearful threat a moral plague has struck society through to its very core. Honor and charity are slowly being eliminated from man's make up - faith no longer exists between capitalist and labor, and a vulgar materialism is stalking throughout our broad land. The whole Country seems to be swiftly drifting to some fearful crisis. And how can it be otherwise since all questions are merged into the problems of labor and Capital, and men enjoying the highest honors of the Republic openly assert that "purity in politics is an iridescent dream"? The lust for gold which burns in the veins of the politician has made our era as



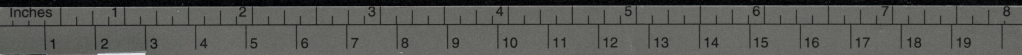
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Raleigh, N. C., 189



Melancholy as it is wonderful. The reign
of luxury which breeds effeminacy and
which was the ruin of Rome is with us!
May the spirit of heart of the American laborer
save us from the untimely fate of the once
greatest work of the children of men.
I touch upon these features of our social
and political life, not because they are
unknown to you, but because we can
not hope for success till every producer in
the land is acquainted with the shortcomings
of that system which has forced him in
a position but a shade removed from
that occupied by the Grecian helot of old.
Education, the power to think, the capacity to
draw a conclusion from a premise, are the
practical lessons that should be taught. The
hard worked, ill paid and unfortunate
member of this ~~order~~ great order. The ballot
with which this man is armed is a terrible
engine of destruction, as well as the only
hope which at the present time smokes



102
SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

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Raleigh, N. C., 189



life worth living. In the hands of the ignorant the lives and liberties of the citizens are endangered, but in the hands of the enlightened it is the destroyer of oligarchy, the preserver and bulwark of our freedom, and the nation's peace and happiness. Until a large element in a Republic is honest and enlightened, it is a Republic only in name. Men who have no honor to uphold are entrusted with the power and responsibilities of the most dignified offices. They have nothing to recommend them save their worldly possessions. These they have wrung from the producers and then do they lavishly expend in the passage of laws which still further arm them with the power of binding the laborer hand and foot. Matters grow from bad to worse and at last we awake to realize that the monster we have created is oligarchy, oligarchy in its most terrible form.

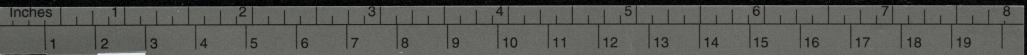
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Raleigh, N. C., 189



Our law makers for years past have been losing sight of the main point, which is that a Republic is a form of government wherein the laws are made looking to the welfare of a majority of its citizens. If this be true, there is one government improperly called a Republic. The majority of the citizens of the states are agriculturists, and the tariff which seems to be the supreme law of the land protects only the manufacturer. If we were exclusively a manufacturing people, there would be justice in existing conditions; but since only one man, we may say, out of five thousand is a manufacturer, a very little consideration will show that four thousand nine hundred and ninety nine are taxed for the benefit of the one. Pursuing this principle to its greatest extreme you should find the wealth of the country





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Raleigh, N. C., 189.....

Centered in the hands of a few. And such is actually the case. I repeat that eighty per cent of the entire wealth of the country is either controlled or owned by combinations numbering not more than 35000. Does not this state of affairs smother mightily of the grand system of the middle ages? One of the greatest men America ever produced Abraham Lincoln saw this picture when he said "You can fool all the people part of the time, a part of the people all the time but you can't fool all the people all the time". He used these words in condemnation of the trusts and combines which were already establishing themselves and which he foresaw would surely sap the life blood of the Republic. He is not yet wholly a prophet for he predicted the downfall of the state if such cancerous growths were allowed to exist.

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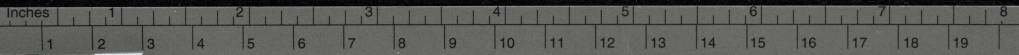
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Raleigh, N. C., 189

Time may yet prove him a prophet indeed.

Since the very foundation of society it has been the province of the bread eaters to solve the political and social problems of the day. It seems however that they are now powerless in the face of the complications growing out of their own inefficiency. That prerogative now falls to you, the bread winners, in whose tact, judgment and moderation I have the most implicit confidence.

In conclusion then I beg leave to express to you my sincere thanks and appreciation for the honor and courtesy which have ever been bestowed upon me by you all, individually and severally, both as a private citizen and in my official capacity. With best wishes then and with well grounded hopes for the future success of the Alliance, with heartfelt sympathy



ELIAS CARR, President,
OLD SPARTA, N. C.

16

W. S. BARNES, Secretary,
RALEIGH, N. C.



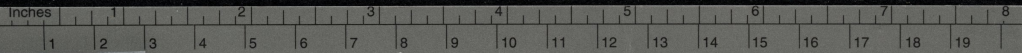
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Raleigh, N. C., 189.....

for the worthy struggling men and
women whose shoulders bear the great
responsibility and with the firm belief
that justice will at last prevail I
herewith return to you the scepter of
authority.



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