



THE ALIEN LAND LAW

We note with pleasure that members of the legislature who voted for the Alien Land Law are standing squarely by their records and show no disposition to back down. If Governor Hogg embraces the subject in his call for an extra session, as is probable, we have no doubt that a law, substantially the same, will be re enacted.

A great deal of bluster, ridicule and denunciation has been indulged in by some of the press and by a few individuals here and there through the State at the expense of the legislature which enacted the law, but on the other hand, the members of that body are proud of the fact that the great mass of the people, fully seventy-five per cent, endorse their course in the matter and confidently expect that the law will be revived on the first opportunity.

To arouse prejudice against the measure every resource known to the fertile mind of the town boomer has been appealed to. Opponents of the law cried out that capital was all leaving the state, banks failing, business demoralized and even cotton had declined as a legitimate sequence of such a legislative monstrosity.

When called on for facts and figures, these calamity howlers could give none. No one can truthfully assert or by figures and facts show, that any legitimate business has been embarrassed by the enactment of this law. Texas is not the only state which has such a law. There are others, and in 1887 congress passed a similar law, which stands to-day, for the Territories of the Union.

Besides, the fiftieth congress reported favorably a bill to apply to all the States as well as to the Territories. This is and has been the policy of all nations. Can a foreigner own realty in England, in France, in Germany or any of the continental countries?

It is time to plant English peas. We mention this fact for the benefit of that agricultural prodigy who edits the Texas Farmer, alias Farmer Shaw. "Farmer Bill Shaw" of Texas Farmer speaks of Col Mills "being a friend of the liquor power" and gives that as a reason for opposing him for the United States Senate.

Those who know Col Mills and "Farmer Shaw" know that "Farmer Shaw" has done and is doing, as a thousand to one, more to sustain the liquor power than Col Mills can possibly ever do.

THE Waco Day observes that a flock of geese will keep a field cleaner of grass than two hoe hands. If the Day knows this to be a fact it should have kept it to itself just at present. What is needed now is more grass and less cotton and the man who will hit on some plan to accelerate instead of checking the growth of grass is a greater benefactor than he who takes a city.

ELSEWHERE we publish an interview with Col Mills which will be found to be good reading. He comes out boldly on Mr. Finley's attempt to read the sub-treasurysites out of the party and declares that he has no right to make such a test. Finley's program to disfranchise a large element of the party has turned out to be a brilliant fiasco.

Very few have any respect for it, poor, or if they do, they are keeping very quiet, and we have an idea that Mr. Finley himself is ashamed of what a fool he made of himself. Even Bill Shaw has abandoned his efforts to sustain Mr. Finley's ruling.

WE see that Governor Hogg is conducting an investigation of the cotton weighing business in Galveston and other places. If the Governor wants a full and fair investigation why don't he throw open the doors and let the public see and know who are responsible for the way in which this business has been conducted down there.

Col. Mills Talks

HIS POSITION CLEARLY DEFINED. HE FAVORS FREE COINAGE.

But Thinks That the Tariff Should Take Precedence in the Coming Presidential Contest.

HE SAYS WEBB FINLEY HAS NO RIGHT TO EXCLUDE ANY DEMOCRAT FROM THE PRIMARY.

A WESTERN MAN FOR PRESIDENT. In His Opinion, Should be Placed at the Head of the Ticket.

CORPUSACA, Tex., Jan 9.—The name of Roger Q. Mills is one that always awakens profound interest in Texas. In 1888, when Henry W. Grady made one of the three great speeches of his life, there were 10,000 people to applaud him. When he hinted at the division of Texas, for political purposes, it fell flat. Following this, he jumped to the tariff issue and uttered the words: "The lion of the tribe of Judah, Roger Q. Mills." The scene that followed will never be forgotten, for 10,000 people can make a great deal of noise when they feel like it.

It was an all-Texas crowd, and showed that Mills was strong with the people. The people have had occasion to think a great deal about Col. Mills lately. The remarkable speaker-ship contest in which he was even a more prominent figure than the successful candidates, his defeat, and following defeat, his serious illness and reports of his death, have each kept up a lively interest in this one Texas, and then, his candidacy for the senate, too, makes it safe to say that no man has of late engrossed the minds of Texans so thoroughly as has Roger Q. Mills.

When the News reporter called on Col. Mills he was not in a mood for talking. He simply said: "I do not feel that I should say anything at this time. I am very weak and have come home to rest and get well. My visit home has no significance at all. I am just anxious to regain my strength."

This was not an encouraging start for an interview. Col. Mills was thinking more of hunting and driving than anything else, and he soon got in his buggy and drove over to his home to see how everything was there. The house has been closed for several months, and an old darkey that used to be a slave of Col. Mills' father watches the place while the family is in Washington. Returning from his house Col. Mills went to his room and laid down, and it was then that he consented to answer a few questions.

In reference to his candidacy for the United States senate, he said: "I shall be before the extra session for the short term, if such a session is held and will go before the people for the long term if I regain my health. My friends have complete charge of my candidacy for the short term and I am not here to either assist or direct their efforts. I am in no condition to enter a campaign at present, and will not do so. I expect to be in Washington within ten days."

"A number of papers assert, colonel, that you are opposed to the free coinage of silver. What is your position on this question?" "I say what I have said all the time: I have spoken often in congress and out of congress for the free coinage of silver and have always voted for it. I do not believe that it would in the slightest manner relieve the distress of the country. But I think that both gold and silver should be in the circulation of the world to the fullest extent possible. The people in the east of all parties and all classes firmly believe that free coinage would be disastrous to them. The people of Texas, at least many of them, think it would be a great advantage to them. In my judgment both opinions are groundless. If we persist in the agitation of the question and demand it in our national platform, we will lose in the fall elections all the eastern states and gain none in the west. The result will be the election of a republican house, senate and president and the passage of a force bill giving the military control over elections in the south. I have, therefore, to avert such a disaster to the southern people, advised the postponement of the further agitation of the subject until the tariff is reduced.

On the tariff issue we can gain the country and control it and put many times more money in circulation than by free coinage. If a free coinage bill is reported in congress I shall vote for it as I have always done, but I will not advise the report of such a bill. If the tariff was reduced to a revenue basis it would put in the pockets of the people a million dollars more than a thousand million dollars. If our mints were open to free coinage the circulation would not be increased \$10,000,000. Besides reduction of the tariff can be accomplished and the other cannot. A reduction of the tariff to 25 per cent, about the revenue basis, would increase our imports \$300,000,000 and that amount of exports would have to go out to pay for the imports. Eighty per cent of these exports are agricultural products, of which cotton is the largest. We have produced this year 3,000,000,000 pounds. Such an increased demand would increase the price 4 or 5 cents per pound, and that would add to the pockets of the cotton growers in one year \$150,000,000, while free coinage would not add one dollar to their purses. The great monumental evil that is destroying not only the prosperity of the people, but the political institutions of the country, is excessive taxation on the products of labor. It is concentrating the wealth of the country into the hands of a few thousands and condemning millions to hopeless poverty. The whole attention of the country ought to be directed to this abuse, and every effort should be made to tear it out by the roots.

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