

## Petition of the farmer's convention

This article relates the news from a Farmer's Alliance convention held earlier in January. The participants in this convention had written a petition that was presented to the Kansas House of Representatives on Tuesday, January 24, 1881. This petition addressed the greatest concerns of the Alliance, including their recommendations that the government "secure the people the free use of these public highways (railroads) upon the payment of just, uniform, and reasonable rates of toll," and that "the rate of interest be fixed at not more than 7 percent." The Farmer's Alliance movement would eventually merge with the Knight's of Labor to form the People's (Populist) Party.

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### THE DAILY CAPITAL

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26. 1881.

#### Petition of the Farmers' Convention.

A petition of which the following is an abstract was presented to the house Tuesday:

TOPEKA, Jan. 15, 1881.

To Hon J B Johnson, Speaker of the house:

SIR: We whose names are signed hereto, a committee designated by the Farmers' Convention, do herewith very respectfully transmit the action of said convention requesting that the same shall be by you laid before the house of representatives for its consideration and action thereon.

Very respectfully yours,  
THOMAS H. CAVANAUGH,  
J. L. McDOWELL.

The petition recommends the appointment of three commissioners by the governor to be confirmed by the senate whose duty shall be to ascertain the actual cost of construction and present value of the railways and their equipment in the state, the amount of stock issued by each company, to investigate the system of each railway, on the subject of freight and passenger charges local or transient, the difference between the occasional and ware house shipper, and to investigate everything in connection with railroads in the state, with power to administer oaths and compel the attendance of persons, and the production of books



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and papers, and report to the Governor.

In regard to voting bonds, they ask the legislature to repeal all acts in reference to voting bonds by municipalities to private corporations, and ask the submission of a constitutional amendment prohibiting municipalities from making donations or becoming stockholders in any private corporation, or issuing bonds for any such purpose.

Inter-state commerce—recommend that the general government exercise its constitutional right and establish such regulations as will secure just and impartial rates for the transportation of freight and passengers, and asking the legislature to co operate in their behalf. Recommend the bill of General Keifer of Ohio, on the subject of contagious diseases of domestic animals. Requests the legislature to pass laws which will effectually prevent the introduction into our state of any cattle infected with Texas or Spanish fever. Requests the legislature to pass laws for the protection of sheep against wolves and dogs. Requests the repeal of the present law in reference to selection of school books, and to pass such laws as will remedy the existing evils on that subject. Requests the passage of a law providing for the inspection of coal oil, and that the standard test shall not be less than one hundred and fifty proof. Demands a reduction of thirty-three and one-third per cent. of the salaries of state and county officers and employees. Requests that the rate of interest be fixed at not more than 7 per cent., under a penalty of forfeiture of principal and interest. Requests that the state be redistricted into judicial districts so as to equalize the same, and if possible to reduce the number of judges, and to modify the code of civil procedure so as to require the attendance



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of jurors only a sufficient time to try the criminal and common law cases, demands such legislation as will secure equal facilities for transportation to all persons, including the loading of cars from wagons. Calls upon the legislature of the state to assert the supreme power of the state for the protection of its citizens by the passage of such laws as will secure the people the free use of these public highways (railroads) upon the payment of just, uniform and reasonable rates of toll. Requests protection at the hands of the legislature against adulterations of food and drink.

Reported to committee on retrenchment and reform with instructions to apportion the subjects contained in the memorial to appropriate committees.