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## South Dakota Farmers Alliance Records

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# South Dakota Farmers Alliance records

## Finding Aid

South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections  
Briggs Library (SBL) Room 241 Box 2114  
1300 North Campus Drive  
Brookings, SD 57007  
Phone: 605-688-5094  
Email: [arcrefs@sdstate.edu](mailto:arcrefs@sdstate.edu)

## Collection Summary

### *Identifier*

MA 11

### *Title*

South Dakota Farmers Alliance records

### *Creator*

South Dakota Farmers Alliance

### *Dates*

1887, undated

### *Extent*

0.42 linear feet -- 1 document case

### *Language*

English

### *Repository*

South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

### *Access note*

This collection is open to researchers without restrictions. The materials in the Archives do not circulate and may be used in-house only.

### *Preferred Citation*

*Name of item.* South Dakota Farmers Alliance records. MA 11. South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

### *Abstract*

The Farmers Alliance was an organized agrarian economic movement amongst U.S. farmers that flourished in the 1880s. Despite its failure, it is regarded as the precursor to the United States Populist Party, which grew out of the ashes of the Alliance in 1892. This collection is composed of an address and proceeding from December 1887 convention of the South Dakota Farmers Alliance.

## **Historical Note**

In Chicago, Milton George, the editor of the *Western Rural*, had been denouncing railroads as discriminatory and a menace to the nation. He organized what became known as the National Farmers' Alliance. In February 1881, farmers in Yankton County obtained a charter for the first alliance in Dakota Territory. Spurred by a drop in wheat prices in 1884, the number of territorial alliances grew and mass meetings in Clark, Huron, Mellette and Redfield were soon denouncing railroads and demanding their regulation. In January 1885, a territorial railroad commission was created, although vigorous opposition left the new agency without any power to establish freight rates.

In February 1885, alliance delegates from 11 counties in Dakota gathered in Huron to form the Dakota Farmers' Alliance, affiliated with the National Farmers' Alliance. The movement grew rapidly and by mid-summer the number of local alliances in the territory had tripled.

## **Contents Note**

The South Dakota Farmers Alliance Records consists of an address of President Loucks, proceedings from a convention in 1887, and an advertisement for *A Book for Farmers*.

## **Related Resources**

H. L. Loucks and the Dakota ruralist: voices of reform by Thom Guarnieri  
Publication Date: Thesis (M.S.)--Journalism and Mass Communications Dept., South Dakota State University, 1981.

Call Number: Archives: LB2385 .G932

H.L. Loucks correspondence with R.F. Pettigrew collection  
South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs  
Library, Brookings, South Dakota.  
Call Number: Manuscript collections MA 23

The great conspiracy of the house of Morgan and how to defeat it by H.L. Loucks  
Publication Date: [Watertown, S.D. : H.L. Loucks], c1916.Call Number: SD  
Collection: HG2481 .L6g

## **Key Words**

Agriculture -- Economic aspects

Farmers Alliance. (S.D.)

Loucks, Henry Langford, 1846-1928

Populist Party. (S.D.)

South Dakota Farmer's Alliance

## **Administrative Information**

### *Conditions Governing Access*

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ultimately the responsibility of the researcher to properly use copyrighted material.

*Arranged and Described by*

Crystal J. Gamradt, 1998 June 24.

## **Container List**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
1	1	Address of President H. L. Loucks Before the Annual Meeting	1887
1	2	Book for Farmers, A—Dunning's Farm Ledger and Historical Account	undated
1	3	Proceedings of the Annual Convention	1887