

*“Just Scads of Them”*

*Kearney Weekly Hub*

*1890*

Courtesy Nebraska State Historical Society

*In 1890, the Kearney Weekly Hub newspaper reported on a large rally of the Farmers' Alliance.*

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## **Just Scads of Them**

### **The Farmers Alliance Takes Possession of Kearney**

Whew! but there was a lot of them. It's the farmers we mean. They flooded Kearney Friday and the woods were full of 'em, figuratively speaking. The streets were anyhow. They did not show up very early in the morning, but there was a general impression that something was coming, and the wily merchant who wanted to catch the country trade hung out his flags, piled hay in his window and otherwise showed his love and sympathy for the dear people.

About 11 o'clock the first of the long line appeared in view... At the head of the line came the Kearney police, followed by the Midway Military band. A carriage full of children followed and then came the prominent speakers of the day. After this there was no use trying to keep track of the different alliances in the long string of vehicles. Most of them had banners.

It was a curious procession, not gotten up entirely on the ornamental order, for most of the vehicles were lumbering farm wagons or buggies. Several of the marshals wore hay around their hats and bodies, and had the article protruding from every pocket. A six mule hayrack was decorated on the sides with mottoes of this nature, "In Republicans We Trusted, and Now We Are Busted."

The procession occupied about an hour in its progress down Central Avenue but several times it was obliged to stop on account of trains blocking the crossing, and then you could hear the grangers cuss the railroad all along the line. By three different counts the number of vehicles of all kinds was 370 and horsemen 64.

After dinner a long programme of music and song and speeches had been arranged.

Many candidates reminded the potential voters, "Our farmers have been industrious, saving, but in spite of it all their farms are mortgaged."

As the afternoon was gone, the greatest gathering of farmers ever seen in Kearney largely melted away, greatly encouraged by seeing the rest of their crowd and swapping prophecies as to the size of the majority by which the independent ticket was going to scoop things.