



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

Vol. 2.

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No. 39.

OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

What our Farmers are Doing and How the Work of Organizing is Progressing.

FARMERS MEETING.

The farmers of No. 2 township are requested to meet at Poplar Tent Fair grounds on Saturday, 19th of November, at 10 o'clock. Prominent speakers will be present to discuss the propriety of farmers' organizations and corporations. Every farmer is invited to attend, and to bring their wives and daughters with them.—*Concord Times.*

The Branchville Farmers' Alliance, of Robeson county, N. C., was organized in May by M. T. Sealy, with 19 members. The following officers were elected:

President—Jno. A. McRae.
Vice-President—Murdock McRimmon.
Secretary—J. L. Lassiter.
Treasurer—W. A. McRae.
Chaplain—S. F. Willard.
Door Keeper—S. Smothers.
Asst. Door Keeper—D. A. Murphy.
Lecturer—Malcom McLean.
The meetings have been well attended and much interest manifested. The membership has increased to 65, and still they come.

J. L. LASSITER, Sec'y.

HECTOR'S CREEK ALLIANCE, BRADLEY'S STORE, HARNETT COUNTY, N. C.

This Alliance met Oct. 29th. After initiating three into the order, and transacting all other business, the following subject was discussed: "Will it pay the farmers of this community to raise wheat at the present prices of flour?" The general sentiment of the farmers was "It will."

The following subject will be discussed next meeting: "What is the best plan of raising manure to improve our lands?"

We think the brethren of the order everywhere should discuss such subjects that will be a benefit to the farmers. We think this is the best plan to keep up an interest in our Alliances. We should not meet merely for the purpose of going through a form, but for the benefit that can be derived from consultation. We hope to hear from the Alliances all over the State through these columns.

Much success to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and the Farmers' Alliance everywhere. D. H. SENTER, Sec'y Harnett Co. Alliance.

[FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.]

KNAP OF REEDS, Granville Co., N. C., Nov. 7, 1887.

At Ridgeway School House, in Dutchville township, on the 25th day of September, we organized an Alliance with seven members. Since that time several new members have been added to our number. I think that the Alliance will meet the approbation of the farmers much better than any organization of the past, judging from the enthusiastic spirit expressed in this State and our sister Southern States. We are on the road to a permanent organization that will be efficient in bringing the farmers out of the old ruts of oppression and setting them higher up on the plains of success and financial prosperity.

M. W. B. VEAZEY, Sec'y.

[FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.]

CUMBERLAND COUNTY FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

On the 5th day of November inst., a mass-meeting of the Cumberland County Farmers' Alliance was held at Fayetteville, and the following resolutions were adopted and ordered to be sent to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER with a request for publication:

Resolved, That we have unwavering confidence in the Farmers' Alliance, believing that without union and concert of action among farmers, no important ends for promoting their interest can be accomplished. Our motto is, "In things essential unity; in all things charity." Our order is founded on Truth and Justice, and

justice is all we ask at the hands of the business world.

Resolved, That we deem it of the utmost importance that the churches and schools of our land should be sustained; that they are the two bed-rocks upon which rests the future prosperity and safety of our country, and that they are most essential agents in upholding and perpetuating our free institutions.

Resolved, That we believe in the advice so often given, that every farmer should first raise all supplies necessary for his own use. Here lies the independence of the farmer. He can grow every crop suited to his wants, so far as his soil and climate permits, under his own eye. He is not dependent upon any one for the necessities of life, or even for many of its luxuries. Recognizing the fact that some crops fail, or partially fail every year, we earnestly recommend diversified farming as the surest remedy against such failures, for the reason that all kinds of crops seldom fail the same year.

Resolved, That we are impressed with the conviction that farm laborers to be successful must be directed by a level head. They can never arrive at the standard of successful farmers until they become thoroughly acquainted with their business. The agricultural paper is a most important agent in this work, and no paper will accomplish as much for our farmers, of this State especially, as THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

J. P. McLEAN, Sec'y.

GREEN MANURING.

NUMBER 12.

What is the effect of a given crop upon the land, and what is the reason that one crop seems to damage the land more than other crops? are questions of vital importance.

A farmer of experience stated to the writer that he planted a fifteen acre field, with five acres each of field peas, corn and sweet potatoes. The corn was gathered at the usual time; the peas were picked, and the vines allowed to rot on the ground. The sweet potatoes were dug in October, and the vines left on the ground. The entire fifteen acres were plowed during March and planted in cotton, using Commercial Fertilizer.

There was a marked difference during the whole season in the size and appearance of the cotton, and also in the yield. The portion on which peas had been grown the previous year produced nearly as much lint cotton as was produced on both the corn and potato land. The corn land gave nearly twice as much as the potato land.

What was the cause? Does a sweet potato crop impoverish the land? It is evident that the pea crop benefited and manured the land, and left it in fine condition for a cotton crop. The corn crop did not improve the land, and the potato crop seems to have actually damaged it, although a large amount of manure was used in growing the potatoes, while no manure was used with the peas, and only a small quantity on the corn land. The pea vines and potato vines were both returned to the land.

It is the opinion of the writer that the cause of damage by sweet potatoes is the necessity of turning up the land in October or November and leaving it open and loose during the fall and winter, subject to the sun, wind and rain. Would not a covering of pine straw spread at once on the land prevent the difficulty?

Another farmer states that he had a field covered with grass and weeds; he plowed a strip an acre wide across the field from corner to corner early in November, and was prevented from completing the breaking until February. The next and the succeeding crops showed the effect of the fall plowing by smaller weed and diminished cotton crop on the portion plowed in November. Is fall plowing in this climate ever beneficial, unless it is made for a small grain crop?

A.

[FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.] THE OAK GROVE FAIR.

Supposing that your many readers are interested in the welfare and success of Farmers' Clubs and Fairs, I desire to give a condensed description of the Bershavia Farmers' Club Fair, which took place on the 21st ult., at Oak Grove School House.

The day was a beautiful one, and early in the morning scores of vehicles, loaded with farmers, their wives and children, and with the manifold goodies and beauties of art and nature, poured in from every direction.

This is not only a vegetable and grain-growing section, but tobacco flourishes in all of its varied colors and qualities. A fair demonstration of this fact was made on a huge table near the center of the many other magnificent exhibits. Upon this table we noticed 40 different grades of the golden leaf as fine as can be produced in the State of North Carolina. Near this, four other long tables were groaning beneath the weight of numerous vegetables, fancy cakes, jellies, preserves, butter, fruit in its green state, as well as manufactured in every conceivable preservation.

While it was a county Fair, by the kindness of the splendid managers a huge table was previously prepared for Capt. N. W. Craft's exhibit from Shore, Yadkin county, which was a grand and beautiful display of fine, vigorous fruit trees and a large collection of handsome fruits, such as pears and apples and large ears of corn and remarkable mammoth turnips and a case of the most beautiful domestic wines that had ever been placed before a Farmers' Club. The wine was exhibited in nice clear flint glass wine bottles, showing a beautiful contrast between a dark red wine and a vivid rose color, while some of the hues were of a soft snowy white. One of the most striking features of Capt. Craft's display, and one which attracted more attention than any one object of the Fair, was two large clear flint glass jars filled with pure spring water, in which floated and swam some beautiful specimens of that famous fish the pure scale German carp. Old and young, men, women and children, gave this curiosity of natural beauties their special attention.

These farmer Fairs, which are so interesting and instructive to the masses of the people, doubtless would have never been instituted had it not been for the publication and distribution of your well-edited journal, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

Evidently Forsyth county has been stimulated and revived through your earnest admonition until she stands, in an agricultural point of view, side by side with any county in the State.

AN EYE-WITNESS.

A GOOD MOVE.

On last Thursday quite a number of intelligent farmers and enterprising gentlemen met at Siler City and organized "Siler City Agricultural Society," with the view of giving an Exhibit at that place on the 1st and 2nd days of December.

The following officers were elected: Pres't Rev. A. H. Perry; Vice-Pres't, W. J. Caviness; Sec'y, E. R. McLean; Ass't Sec'y, J. D. Dorsett; Treas. T. C. Dixon; Directors for Chatham, G. P. Alston, W. H. Segrove, Jessie H. Henly, Rev. O. T. Edwards, J. J. Talley, W. J. Womble—From Randolph, H. B. Lambert and J. W. Staley.

These gentlemen mean business and business too in the right direction. Let them have the aid of the whole community. There is no telling how much good it will do for the farmers to bring together their best stock, their best poultry, specimens of their best field and garden products, and for the women to show what excellent pickles, preserves and jellies and bread and cakes they can make; and to show how deftly they can use the scissors and the needle. Let the ladies take a interest in this Fair and it will be a success.—*The Home.*

We note with pleasure that the farmers of this section are boldly taking the advice that has been given them by those who know, for many years and have seen at last the folly of the one-crop system and are now raising grain and grasses as their main crop. With plenty of meat and bread, a farmer has little need of a money crop, comparatively.—*News and Farm.*

HEALTHY AND UNHEALTHY OCCUPATIONS.

The English Registrar General has made a comparison between healthy and unhealthy occupations. Assuming the normal average death rate of the community as the unit of comparison, and calling it 1,000, particular occupations may be regarded as healthy or unhealthy, according as the death-rates among those pursuing them fall above or below that figure. The most healthy occupation appears to be that of ministers of religion, whose rate is 556. Next are gardeners and nurserymen, 599; farmers and glaziers, 631; agricultural laborers, 701; school masters, 719; and grocers, coal merchants, paper, lace, and hosiery manufacturers, wheelwrights, ship-builders and coal-miners, with all of whom the average death-rate is under 775. The most unhealthy occupations are the trades connected with the liquor traffic and hotel service, with which the death-rate is 2,205; following these are general laborers in London, 2,020, costermongers, bankers and street sellers, 1,879; innkeepers, etc., 1,521; and brewers, 1,361. After the trades concerned with alcohol, the highest rates are furnished by occupations that involve the breathing of dust—other than coal dust—and exposure to lead poisoning. The death-rate among butchers is also high, 1,170.—*Popular Science Monthly.*

DEMANDS OF THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE UPON CONGRESS.

Below we print in full the demands made by the National Farmers' Alliance in convention at Shreveport.

They are sound to the core and show in ringing language the more important purposes of this great body, and the ends they propose to achieve.

This body was composed of farmers representing all the Southern States, and the resolutions appended were passed unanimously.

Resolved, That we the National Farmers' Alliance and Co-operative Union of America, in convention assembled, advocate and endorse the following principles as in accord with the sentiments and demands of the tillers of the soil:

1st. We demand, first, the recognition, by incorporation, of trades, unions, co-operative stores and such other associations as may be organized by the industrial classes to improve their financial condition, or promote their general welfare.

2d. We demand that the all public lands be held in small bodies, not exceeding three hundred and twenty acres to each purchaser, for actual settlers, on easy terms of payment.

3d. That large bodies of land held by private individuals or corporations, shall be assessed for taxation, at such rates as they are offered to purchasers, on a credit of one, two and three years, in bodies of one hundred and sixty acres or less.

4th That whereas, large bodies of our public lands, have been sold to foreign capitalists, thus tending to the establishment of a landed aristocracy in this country, similar to that which has reduced the people of Ireland, and other monarchical Governments, to a condition of abject serfdom; we demand the passage of laws forbidding the ownership of lands, by aliens, whose allegiance belongs to other nations, and that the public domain be held as the heritage of our own people and our children after us.

5th. That all lands forfeitable by railroads or other corporations, immediately revert to the government and be declared open for purchase by actual

settlers, on the same terms as other public lands.

7th. We demand that all fences be removed, by force if necessary, from public lands unlawfully fenced by cattle companies, syndicates, or any other form or name of monopoly.

8th. We demand the extinguishment of the public debt of the United States by operating the mints to their fullest capacity, in coining silver and gold; and the tendering of the same without discrimination, to the public creditors of the Nation, according to contract.

9th. We demand the substitution of legal-tender treasury notes for the issues of national banks; that the Congress of the United States shall regulate the amount of such issue by per capita circulation, that shall increase and keep pace with the growth of the country's population, and the expansion of her business interests. We further demand the repeal of the present National banking system.

10th. We demand that the department of agriculture be made one of the departments of State; that it shall be increased in scope and efficiency, and in connection therewith, there shall be established a bureau of labor statistics.

11th. We demand the enactment of laws to compel corporations to pay their employees according to contract, in lawful money for their services, and the giving to mechanics and laborers a first lien upon the products of their labor to the extent of their full wages.

12th. That the laws relating to the suppression of the transmission of immoral, profane or obscene literature through the mails, be made more stringent; and be extended so as to suppress the transmission of such literature by any public carrier.

13th. We demand that the U. S. Government purchase, by right of eminent domain, the telephone and telegraph lines, and operate them as adjuncts of the U. S. postal service.

14th. That in view of the fact that the delegates to this body represent a majority of the cotton producers of the cotton belt of America, which belt produces over two-thirds of the cotton of the whole world, and in view of the further fact that two-thirds of the cotton in the cotton belt is demanded and used for export to a foreign power, which fixes the price on every pound of our cotton; and in view of the fact that the said power is debarred from returning to this country a single yard of manufactured cotton, thereby making said power interested in crowding down to the lowest figure the price of cotton; we hereby demand that the U. S. Government adopt a speedy system of reduction of the import duty on manufactured cottons, in such a way as to do justice to this, the greatest of all classes of producers.

14th. We demand such a revision of the tariff as will lay the heaviest burdens on the luxuries and the lightest on the necessities of life; and as will reduce the incomes from imports to a strictly revenue basis.

15th. That as a remedy against the unjust accumulation and encroachment of capital, we demand a graduated income tax.

16th. That as upon the intelligence of the people depend the stability and perpetuity of our own free government, we demand for the masses a well regulated system of industrial and agricultural education.

17th. That we oppose the continued influx of pauper labor from the monarchies of Europe, whose anarchic views and communistic doctrines are breeding discontent, and disloyalty to law, order, peace and good government; and by an overplus of worthless labor, reducing our own laboring classes to starvation, we therefore demand more stringent laws to prevent this country being further used as an asylum for the communists and paupers of other countries.

18th. We demand that the constitutions, both State and National, be so amended as to provide for the election of U. S. Senators by direct vote of the people.