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The Progressive Farmer is the Official Organ of the N. C. Farmers' Association and N. C. State Farmers' Alliance.

PLEASE NOTICE.

In writing to this office to change the address of a paper, our subscribers will do us a favor by stating the office at which the paper is received, as well as the one to which it is desired to be sent. Failure to do this puts us to a great deal of trouble and the necessity of going through a long list of names, involving not only much work, but much loss of time, when time is valuable.

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Is there a Cross Mark on the margin of your paper? We adopt this as the simplest and easiest method of informing our patrons that their terms of subscription have expired, and that the paper will be stopped if we do not hear from you. So if you see the Cross Mark, let us hear from you.

WHO IS TO BE OUR NEXT GOVERNOR?

This question seems to be agitating the public mind, or rather the press of our State, just at present. The strength and availability of particular gentlemen is being presented by their respective friends. Judge Clark, Maj. Steadman, Col. Holt, Capt. S. B. Alexander, Judge Russell, Hon. J. Nichols, Judge Settle—each is the strongest and most available man in his party, according as he is strongest with the editor who does the writing. For instance, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, as the organ of the farmers of the State, has ventured the opinion that the truly typical North Carolina gentleman, the clear-headed legislator, the patriotic citizen and friend of the farmers of the State, Capt. S. B. Alexander, is a very strong man with the great mass of the voters of the State. But it may be that all we editors are a little premature in this matter. Suppose, therefore, the papers and the little squads about the cities, towns and villages of the State quit this "booming" business, and wait for an expression of choice by the people. If they can have a fair, honest and untrammelled expression of their will, we will be relieved of all this guesswork, for in that event we would know who are the strongest men. And by way of getting at that choice and getting the voice of the people, fairly and honestly expressed, suppose, instead of booming certain gentlemen, we all turn loose in our columns and advocate some good plan by which we can get at the wishes of the people? Suppose, instead of "primary meetings" or "primary conventions," which are too often manipulated by "wire pullers" in the interest of the few, without regard to the wishes of the many, we substitute primary elections. With a well-digested system of primary elections, where ever votery could, by his ballot, say who he prefers as delegates and candidates, we then would have, indeed and in reality, nominations by the people. Whether correct or not, there is a belief among the people that self-constituted political leaders have very little regard for their wishes, and that they do not and

cannot have a fair showing in these "primary meetings." And whether true or not, would it not be wisdom on the part of leaders to recognize the existence of this belief, and act so as to dispel it? We had a correspondent to say in these columns some weeks ago that: "The people have about made up their minds that, hereafter, they will have more to do with nominations, or less to do with the elections."

In our anxiety to advance the political interests of our friends, let us not forget that each one of the great army of voters of the State has a right to his choice, and that after all they are the ones who make parties and elect candidates or defeat them. We are approaching a political contest, which we fear, will be marked by its bitterness, and on behalf of the quiet, honest voters of the State, we would delicately suggest that they be consulted in the important matter of selecting the men for whom they will be asked to vote. Let the people speak, and let their voice be respected.

Elect your delegates to the Farmers' Convention and report your action to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

LOW-GRADE COTTON.**How Can It be Utilized?**

The Cotton Association of Great Britain has ransacked the world to find those climatic and other physical conditions that would produce a cotton which would compete with ours of the Southern States. But they have signally failed. It is safe to assume that for years, if not for all time, American cotton will hold the front rank in all the great markets of the world. Its superiority for manufacturing purposes will be more strongly defined, as the demands of material progress shall develop and expand. The peculiar adaptability of the Southern States to the successful production of a quality which the manufacturing world cannot do without, will increase the acreage to meet increasing demands. And should the commercial world call for 25,000,000 bales, we have the soil and the area to meet it.

But through the manipulations of capital employed in transforming the raw material into the various forms required by commerce, the price of it has been nicely narrowed down to the bare cost of its production. The Southern farmer finds that he is furnishing the land, the stock, the implements, the labor—in fact all the cost and expense of its production and gets none of the profits. He sees every one who touches it, after it passes from his hands, make money on it. He is beginning to cast about for plans by which he can get a just share of these profits. Hence, the Farmers' Alliance, and hence the plans it has instituted. Hence their demand on the American Congress for relief from the unjust and oppressive discriminations against this great interest in our tariff system. Hence, the cotton factories that are springing up all over Texas and other States, where the Alliance Co-operative Union is well organized. These are steps, all in the right direction.

But while we are discussing and developing plans by which the Southern farmers may have more control over the crop and its price, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER would venture to suggest to the Alliance the policy and expediency of utilizing the lower grades by weaving them into bagging with which to wrap the crop. It requires about 40,000,000 yards for our crop, which at two pounds per yard, is 80,000,000 pounds. This is an actual loss to our farmers, as the tare in the markets of Great Britain deducted from every bale of American cotton and covering fully that amount is an actual and dead loss to our farmers. Suppose we should wrap our cotton in cotton bagging, made of the poorer grades, it would command almost as much per pound, directly or indirectly,

for various purposes, as in a raw state. It would consume annually about 180,000 bales, and thus withdraw that amount of new material from the market. It could be manufactured here by the farmers through their co-operative system, and thus furnish a home market for that portion of the crop, and a market too which they could control.

Will your county be represented in the Farmers' Convention in Greensboro on the second Wednesday in January?

A NEW SCHEME.

We see in some of our State exchanges a "cock and bull story" from a correspondent of the Atlanta Constitution at Newman, Ga., in regard to troubles between the Alliance and the merchants of that place. We know nothing, of course, of the local trouble which this correspondent paints with high coloring. But we do know that no such ridiculous, absurd and preposterous fool-hardiness ever emanated from the Texas Farmers' Alliance as this correspondent ascribes to the Georgia farmers. Nor do we believe that any respectable number of respectable Georgia farmers were ever guilty of such folly as he describes. A careful reading of his letter convinces us of only one thing, and that is, that this correspondent is so full of bitterness and prejudice and hatred towards the farmers, that we would take even his sworn evidence in this matter with several grains of allowance. It would doubtless be interesting to know just who this correspondent is, and in what kind of business he is engaged (if any at all.) The only thing of the slightest importance in the whole matter is, that a communication, bearing so strongly and unmistakably, the dark impress of bitter prejudice against the farmers of Georgia, should have been admitted to the columns of the ordinarily fair minded and astute Constitution.

And we would say, for the benefit of such of our North Carolina exchanges as have laid before their readers this tirade against what is falsely termed the Alliance, that such an organization as is described differs as widely from the Alliance which is so strong in Texas, and which is now being organized in North Carolina, as anarchy differs from good order. But we must have other witnesses in this case. The lawyer said to an interested witness: "Stop! For Heaven's sake, stop! I like a liar sometimes, but you please me too well."

Whose business is it to call the meeting to select delegates to the Farmers' Convention? It is your business.

THE FARMERS' ANNUAL CONVENTION IN GREENSBORO.

The annual meeting of the North Carolina Farmers' Association will be held in the city of Greensboro on the 2nd Wednesday in January. The Secretary Mr. B. F. Hester, has received reduced rates on the railroads and at the hotels and boarding houses for the delegates. It is now only about six weeks until the time. The Christmas holidays will consume one week of this; this leaves us only five weeks in which to prepare for it. The County Alliance of Mecklenburg, and the farmers of Forsyth, are alive to the importance of this meeting, as was stated by us last week. Mecklenburg appoints not less than twelve delegates to represent that county. What steps have the farmers of your county taken to be represented? Have you held a county meeting and elected your delegates? If not, call the meeting at once and elect them. Have you a Farmers' Club, or an Alliance, or Granges in your county? Let them call the meeting at once. Remember that body, according to the Constitution, is to be composed of those only whose chief

interest is in farming. It is a farmers' association, and is to be composed of farmers. We confidently expect to see the best body of representative farmers ever assembled in the State. It will be an important meeting. It will be an interesting meeting. It will be an enjoyable meeting.

Each county in the State is entitled to the same number of votes as it has representatives in the lower branch of our Legislature, but each county can send as many delegates as it chooses.

Let every farmer in the State see to it that his county is well represented. Hold meetings and have delegates elected who will go and who will represent your best interests.

Do not wait until after the holidays to select the man whom you would have to represent you in the Farmers' Convention.

WE WANT A "NEW-YEARS GIFT."

Will not each reader of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER send us a new subscriber by the first of January as a "New-Years Gift?" Every one can do this. Will you not try? We have one thousand subscribers who could easily send us five new subscribers each, by that time. We have five hundred subscribers who could easily send us ten new subscribers by that time. Will you not do it? This would add ten thousand to our list. How our heart would go out in gratitude to our friends! It would place the paper on an independent basis, and we hereby pledge ourselves that we will give to our farmers the best agricultural weekly ever published in the South, if they will thus come to our aid. Will you not send us ten? Will you not send us five? Will you not send us one?

A PROPOSITION.

To the one who shall send us by the first of January the largest list of subscribers, according to our published club rates, we will send a Patch Corn Sheller.

It is simple, light and durable and will shell eight to ten bushels per hour. Shells easily and clean and separates the cobs from the corn. As fast as you procure the names of five subscribers, send them in with the money and notify us with the first remittance to enter you for this useful premium. If you do not want the premium, send us a list for the good will have for the paper and the great cause it represents. Will you not make an effort to strengthen your own paper and thus strengthen the farmers' cause in North Carolina?

Reduced rates on all railroads have been secured for delegates to the Farmers' Convention in Greensboro on the second Wednesday in January.

ALLIANCE LECTURER.

N. H. C. Elliott, National Lecturer and State Organizer, will deliver a lecture in the vicinity of Rocky Mount on Friday afternoon, the 9th day of December. He will remain in that section of the State until the holidays, if desired. Farmers in Nash, Wilson, Edgecombe, Pitt and Halifax, desiring him to visit them with a view of organizing an Alliance, will address him before the 9th of December at Rocky Mount, N. C., care of Mr. Geo. C. Battle.

Members of the Alliance, or those willing to become such, desiring to act as Deputy Organizers in any of the above named or adjoining counties, and who will come properly endorsed as to character and fitness for the position, will meet him and the Secretary of the State Alliance at Tarboro, on the 15th and 16th of December to receive instructions, outfits and Commissions in each of the above named counties, and others to canvass the adjacent counties. L. L. Polk, Sec'y N. C. Farmers' State Alliance.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE N. C. FARMERS' STATE ALLIANCE.

We give space this week to the publication of this important document, and hope our readers will peruse it carefully. The Farmers' Alliance has come to stay. We predict that in the near future more men in North Carolina will belong to our order than was ever before attached to any one organization. It is adapted to the wants and necessities of our farmers. It is practical and progressive. It deals straightout with those great evils which are crippling the energies of our farmers, and offers the only remedy for them—a strong and effective organization of the farmers.

The Alliance conceals none of its purposes or principles, but gladly proclaims them from the highways and the house tops. The men composing the Alliance are not the men to engage in unjust and oppressive combination against any class or interest. They simply want what is just and right—"a fair field and an even chance." We publish the Constitution for the benefit of our membership and for the information of the thousands in our State who are "seeking light on this subject."

File this copy of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, and thus keep a copy of the Constitution where it may be accessible at all times.

We advise all members of the Alliance to study it well and thoroughly and thus become familiar with our organic law. Every member should be thoroughly informed as to its provisions. File this paper and study it.

Do farmers complain that they "have no showing?" Let them see to it that they have good delegates in the Greensboro Farmers' Convention.

OPPOSED TO ANARCHY.

W. R. Williams, of North Carolina, on Socialism and Agrarianism.

At the recent session of the National Grange, held in Lansing, Michigan, Master W. R. Williams of North Carolina, introduced the following resolutions. No truer man ever lived than W. R. Williams:

WHEREAS, The grange ever acknowledges with regard and respect any and all people who organize themselves into societies for protection against the monopolists and their aggressive and often coercive measures, yet they view with alarm and regret such socialistic, agrarian societies seem to have for their chief design the subversion of law and the obliteration of good society; therefore

Resolved, That the National Grange here assembled in the city of Lansing, do condemn and denounce all such lawless societies as being dangerous to constitutional liberty and to human civilization.

Resolved, That we, the National Grange, do hereby renew our vows and pledge our devotion to our declaration of purposes, and on that basis invite all persons who labor and live by the farm, to unite with us in one grand National brotherhood.

Every Alliance should take an interest in its organ and work for it.

The facilities for reaching Greensboro by rail, and the mighty revolution that is going on among the farmers of the State, guarantees a large gathering of the farmers in that hospitable city on the second Wednesday in January.

The National Alliance, at its meeting at Shreveport, appointed Capt. S. B. Alexander President of our State Alliance, L. L. Polk Secretary and N. H. C. Elliott National Lecturer, a committee to attend the meeting of the Farmers' Convention at Greensboro in January, and lay before that body the aims, principles and purposes of the Alliance to the end that a co-operation of all the farmers may be secured in the great and grand work of improving and elevating the agricultural classes and interests of the country.