

## The Progressive Farmer.

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Raleigh, N. C.

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

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### THE SOUTH SHOULD CALL A HALT.

We believe that it is time for the South to call a halt in some matters. This paper doesn't meddle in the policy of parties but it regards with patriotic solicitude the effect which the action of parties has on the general interests of the country. And it can but deplore what it conceives to be a great error and evil, into which both the political parties of the South have fallen. We refer to the practice, if not now the established rule, especially in positions of high trust and dignity, of constant routine rotation in office. Take, for example, our representation in the lower House of Congress. Whatever may be his qualifications, intellectually or morally, however faithful to his duties, and whatever may be his growing influence, yet under the party rule, at the end of his second term at most, he must stand aside to give the place to another. The men who can go to the American Congress for the first time and in two terms attain to a position where they can command influence, are very rare among us. Hence it is that the glory and dignity and power of old-time Southern statesmanship is not felt in the House of Representatives. It was not so in the days of the Clays, Calhouns, Toombs, Stevens, Mangums, Alstons and Culpepers. The North seems to recognize the fact, that for a member to have weight and influence, he must have legislative wisdom—to have this he must have legislative experience, and to have this he must have time. When we find men who by their moral and intellectual qualifications may be developed into men of power and influence we should retain and cultivate them. Lightly as we may regard it, there are very few four-year-old Congressmen who can be developed into statesmen of influence and power. But rotate in office and degenerate in statesmanship seems to be the policy of the parties.—PROGRESSIVE FARMER, Oct. 13th, 1886.

We wrote and published the above in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER fifteen months ago, and we are induced to re-produce it at this time by the numerous complaints among our State exchanges as to the treatment of North Carolina by Speaker Carlisle in the appointments of committees. We are not surprised and do not complain, for we believe that North Carolina, and not Speaker Carlisle, is to blame, if we have failed to get creditable positions on the committees. The work of Congress, in the main, is done through its committees, hence the tax-paying patrons of this paper have a direct interest in the influence which these committees exert in that body, and hence it is our duty to protest against the unwise and suicidal policy of this constant rotation in the election of our representatives. What influ-

ence has this grand old State in the lower House today? Let an intelligent Washington correspondent of the *State Chronicle* answer. He says:

"The more I think about it, the less I censure the speaker. The State is to blame for the position and influence she will have in the 50th and 51st Congresses. Messrs. Henderson and Johnston had a right to expect the chairmanship of small committees. Length of service determines these things primarily. A second consideration—but it is one that counts for a great deal in the long run—is the character and ability of the representative. It is the custom in North Carolina to give a man two terms in Congress and then retire him for some other aspirant who prefers his own aggrandisement to the good of his district or State. This is all right so far as the aspirant goes. I am the last person on this earth to decry ambition—even though it vaults beyond the utmost capacity of the individual possessing it. But the constituents and the nominating conventions are to be blamed and they will suffer for sending, continually, raw inexperienced and incompetent men here as long as they do it. The fact that North Carolina is one of the original thirteen States makes her situation less excusable. She ought to learn some things from experience. She has another ridiculous custom which I hope she will abolish at once, though it has been honored until it has become an unwritten law in nearly every district. It is this: If an incompetent Congressman slips in accidentally and serves two years, he must come back two years more because "custom" requires it! The "custom" is too ridiculous and illogical to bear comment. If by mistake, an incompetent man comes here, the sooner he is relegated to his proper place, the sooner the mistake is remedied."

### THE FARMERS' ASSOCIATION.

Mr. Josephus Daniels, the able editor of the *State Chronicle*, attended the meeting of the Association in Greensboro, and wrote a most interesting account of the meeting to his paper from which we extract the following:

"The first session of the Farmers' Convention was held in Raleigh just one year ago. It was organized with a view to securing needed co-operation among the farmers of the State who feel the need of a standing together in advocacy of those measures which will help the tillers of the earth. The call was first made, after consultation with leading farmers, by Col. L. L. Polk. Its success was problematical. Another convention, which proved a failure, was called by other parties at the same time. Failure was predicted for this Farmers' Convention, and in certain quarters it was ignored and ridiculed; and it was said that nobody would attend. The day came for the holding of the convention: Raleigh was full and running over. There had never been, in the history of North Carolina, so large a number of intelligent, progressive and earnest farmers gathered together. The result of the work of that convention is known of all men. It was called, in attempt at derision, "Legislature No. 2," because it devoted so much of its time to a discussion of legislative questions that affect the farming interests of the State. But, however much the "Legislature No. 2" was laughed at by smart Alecks, this is true: Its recommendations had great weight with legislators and received the endorsement of the people of the State. The chief work of that first convention was to declare for a reduction of the expenses of the Agricultural Department. This was done. And second, for starting the work of erecting an Agricultural and Mechanical College. This was done. The other recommendations were considered, and some were adopted.

Having made so great an impression by their first convention, the second session of the Farmers' Convention was looked forward to with interest. It met in this town Wednesday, Mr. Elias Carr, a prosperous and popular farmer of Edgecombe (they talk of running him for Governor) was re-elected President and presided during the session. Hon. D. F. Caldwell ("Uncle Frank" is the familiar title which hundreds of men give him) welcomed the farmers to Greensboro in a characteristic and ringing speech. Col. L. L. Polk, who has the rare talent of knowing how, at all times, to say a pleasant thing pleasantly, responded to the address in a felicitous manner."

### ECHOES OF THE CONVENTION.

One of the most gratifying and striking features of the Convention was the prominent part taken by the younger members. Neal, of Mecklenburg; Norris, of Wake; Ivey, of Robeson; McIntyre, of Richmond; Wilcox, of Moore; Cronly, of Forsyth; Kerr, of Alamance; Davis, of Mecklenburg; Nobles, of Jones, and others whom we cannot now recall, took a lively interest in the proceedings throughout. Of all the speeches on the floor, that of Gen. Rufus Barringer on the resolution endorsing the Agricultural and Mechanical College, was the best by common consent. It was frank, manly, broad, liberal and patriotic. We regret that we were so absorbed in the spirit and so captivated by the earnest, impressive manner of the speaker that we omitted to take notes of it. It should be printed and placed in the hands of every young man in the State.

Dr. D. Reid Parker, of Trinity, was "the man of all work" of the Convention and acquitted himself handsomely. He made a ringing speech on behalf of Farmers' Institutes, and exhorted the brethren—"every one of you"—to go home and get up an Institute, and not to wait for or depend on the Agricultural Department or any one else. "This thing of waiting for some one else to do our thinking, our talking and our work, is just one of the troubles with us today."

Capt. S. B. Alexander, they say, is not a speaker. We have seen him in conventions, in the Grange, in various meetings and in our State Senate, and we can say for him, as a speaker, more than can be said of some of our "orators." We never saw him rise to address a crowd anywhere that he did not receive the most respectful and earnest attention. He never rises unless he has something to say—he says it in a plain, practical, impressive way, and stops. He always commands attention and never speaks "for the fun of the thing." He discussed the report of the committee on the Homestead law, and presented the idea that every man who wished to avail himself of the homestead should be required to register it before it should be of any effect. If a man registered his homestead, it was at his own option, and it would be a public notice of the act. If we have a homestead at all, he favored one on which a man could live. His speech on the public roads of the State was full of well-digested thought and practical suggestion, and we hope he will allow us to publish it.

The committee on homesteads, liens and mortgages reported the resolution of L. L. Polk and unanimously recommended its adoption. This looked to a reduction or modification of the homestead. H. B. Norris, of Wake, wanted the whole thing wiped out and wanted the Convention to ask the Legislature to pass a bill submitting the question to the people, and he offered a substitute to that effect. He thought the homestead was an unmitigated evil. He knew of no friends to the measure except speculators and lawyers. The average legislator is as afraid of it as he is of a dog law. Politicians are afraid of it because they fear they might lose votes. He made a plain, pointed, strong speech.

J. C. Blocker counseled a conservative course. Don't put the coultter too deep. If the farmers of the State and country would only stand together they could do anything, and in whatever we do let us do it as one man.

L. L. Polk had introduced the resolution endorsed by the committee. Believed that the homestead in its present operation was the prolific mother of untold evil to the poorer classes of our State—that it had placed a form of slavery on the poorer classes

as humiliating and degrading as that endured by the African in antebellum times, and is a mighty millstone, weighing down the energies and paralyzing the manhood of the country. He wanted it so modified as to do away with liens and mortgages and place every man's credit where it should be—on his honesty, his industry and integrity. And while he believed all this, yet the condition of the debtor class was such that he feared that a total repeal of the law would act most disastrously to them. He was for taking them from under the yoke, not to make it more burdensome. He believed, if we could get a legislature who comprehended the situation and had the moral nerve to take hold of it, that it could be done to the great relief of the country. Something must be done, and he believed that a law that was fruitful of evil to the very class whom it was honestly designed to benefit could not and would not stand when the public mind was awakened to the enormity of the evil it produces.

Now that our people are more inclined to diversify their crops and to improve on old methods, to depend less on cotton and tobacco and more on the cereals and root and grass crops, we want to do all in our power to aid them in their new departure. We enquired of a very successful farmer last year what he regarded as the percentage of increase in the yield of wheat as a result of harrowing in the spring, and he said his experience would put it at twenty per cent. Now we doubt not that a large number of our readers harrow their wheat in the early spring, and others harrow and roll it, some with and others without manuring it. We would be glad to publish the experience and views of these farmers on this subject, for the benefit of others.

Should wheat be harrowed in spring?

At what time?

What kind of harrow and how should it be done?

Should it be rolled and when?

What is the cheapest form of a roller?

Should it be manured?

What kind of manure and how much per acre?

We would be glad to have at least a dozen of our good wheat raisers to send us answers to the above questions at once, so they may be published in time for the present crop.

### THE TOBACCO TAX.

The question of abolishing the Internal Revenue is now agitating the politicians, the manufacturers, and the tobacco farmers, the Congress of the United States, and the Cabinet, and we publish below a resolution which should have a significant bearing with our representatives in Congress. It will be remembered that a convention of representative manufacturers and leaf dealers from all parts of N. C. was held at Morehead City last August, and organized the North Carolina Tobacco Association, Mr. J. S. Carr, of Durham, was elected President, Mr. J. E. Pogue, of this city, and a large manufacturer, introduced the following resolution and it was adopted unanimously—without a dissenting voice:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this Convention that the time has now arrived when the Internal Revenue tax on manufactured tobacco should be abolished; and to that end we, the Tobacco Association of North Carolina, in Convention assembled, hereby appeal to the Congress of the United States and especially to our own Senators and Representatives to bring to bear and concentrate their best endeavors to secure this result.

To which every tobacco farmer in North Carolina will say, Amen.

We have today 312 Farmers' Alliances in the State, 75 of which have been organized since the first of the present month, or an average of four per day.

### NEW PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY AT WAKE FOREST COLLEGE.

This chair was filled with signal ability by the late Prof. Duggan. His death was a loss to the College, a loss to Science and to the great cause of general education in our State.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, has supplied his place by the election of Dr. Charles L. Reese of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia. He took the degree of Ph. D. at Heidelberg Germany, and comes to us with the highest testimonials as to his efficiency and attainments, but the best guarantee to this, perhaps, is the fact that he has for some time been teaching chemistry in Johns Hopkins University.

### NORTH CAROLINA FARMING.

We publish on our fourth page the awards of premiums for field crops, by the judges at our State Fair. The Executive Committee very wisely required the successful competitors to file a statement of the methods &c. by which these large yields were obtained, and we present below that given by Mr. L. Banks Holt of Alamance who carried off several splendid premiums. Mr. Holt is one of our most intelligent and progressive farmers. He cut 10,582 pounds of hay from one acre. He says of it:

"Soil red; the land had been used as a truck and corn patch for several years; was sown in oats in 1886, and in orchard grass seed at the rate of two bushels of seed per acre, and got a good stand. Mowed a crop of hay in the fall of 1886. This piece of land has been mowed this season three times; the last week in May it yielded 4,100 pounds of dry hay; in the middle of July it yielded 3,210 pounds, and the last week in September it gave 3,272 pounds.

### COST OF THE CROP OF HAY.

Two bushels orchard grass at \$1.50, \$3 sowing same, 50 cents; mowing one acre in May, 75 cents; horse-raking, 50 cents; hauling to barn, \$3, mowing one acre in July, 75 cents; horse raking, 50 cents; hauling, \$2.75; mowing one acre in September, 75 cents; horse raking, 50 cents; hauling, \$2.75; total, \$15.65. Value of hay at \$1 per hundred, \$105.82; cost of same, \$15.65; profit, \$70.17."

Mr. Holt also averaged 24 bushels of wheat on five acres for which he was awarded the first premium and he says of it in his report:

Soil, red clay loam, with good subsoil. Had been in orchard grass and mowed for seven successive years. Manured heavily when grass seed was sown. Top dressed with ashes once, at the rate of 40 bushels to the acre; and manured once with 20 two-horse loads to the acre; each year yielding from two to three and a half tons of good hay per acre. Land plowed with a two-horse plow in August. Harrowed twice, and drilled September 30th, at the rate of one bushel per acre with Fultz wheat, using on two acres, 400 lbs of Star Brand guano at 200 lbs per acre, on two acres Durham Bull fertilizer, (200 lbs per acre) and on one acre 200 lbs Raleigh Standard guano. Did not see any marked difference in fertilizers.

### COST OF CROP.

Rent of land, \$2.50; cost of ploughing, \$2.50; harrowing, \$1.25; drilling, \$5.50; cost of fertilizers, same, each 1,000 lbs, \$14.50; five bushels wheat, \$5.00; total \$28.00. Straw and chaff pays for harvesting and threshing out with a self-binder June 6th, 1887. Production, 121 1/4 bushels wheat at \$1, \$121.25; net profits, \$93.00.

We would gladly give to our readers every week the experience of some of our successful farmers on our red-clay lands, in the cultivation of the grasses and cereals. The agricultural success of the red clay lands of North Carolina depends on small grain and the grasses and clover. To repeat what we have so often said: To make these lands what they ought to be, we must have manure, to have manure we must have stock and to have stock we must have clover and grass.

To our many friends throughout the State, who are working so well for our paper, we desire to express our sincere thanks.