



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

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

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NOT CONVINCED YET THAT THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF WORKING PUBLIC ROADS IS JUST.

In THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER of May first is published a communication from Polenta, N. C., replying to mine of April third upon the road question, in which the writer begins with the startling assertion that the views entertained by me upon this subject are about as extreme as the Henry George theory of taxation. Now, I propose in this article, to show, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the position held by your Polenta correspondent in reference to this question of public roads, and the theory enunciated by the notorious Henry George, are practically and substantially the same in principle, and that mine is totally different.

If I am correctly informed, the fundamental principle of the system of taxation as promulgated by Henry George, it is, in substance, that all taxes should be imposed upon real estate, and that all land should be equally taxed without regard to situation or improvement. That is to say, a tract of land twenty miles from a market or railroad, and unimproved, shall be taxed the same as one of equal size, favorably located, and highly improved. Or, a lot in a city, with no improvements, as much as one with valuable buildings. The theory of your correspondent is that the pub-

lic high-ways of North Carolina, important as they are to the prosperity of the State, should be kept up by the agricultural class, between the ages of 18 and 45, without any regard whatever to individual interest or ability. Is it not perfectly apparent to any one of ordinary intelligence that his theory—at least upon the road law—is virtually the same as that of Henry George?

My position is, that a perfect system of working the roads is a matter of paramount importance to the general prosperity of the entire State, and, therefore, the only possible way to meet the ends of justice is to raise a tax universally imposed for this especial purpose. To say that such a theory as that is the same, or in the least similar, to the Henry George idea, is equivalent to admitting that one is utterly ignorant in regard to the theory of that distinguished character.

The argument made by your Polenta correspondent to show that the road law is not unjust because it requires all able-bodied men between the ages of 18 and 45—with certain exceptions—to work them is a fallacy that does his intelligence an injustice. His argument can be correct only on the presumption that all men are equally able to bear a burden for the general good, which he knows is not the case.

Besides comparing my theory to the absurd idea of Henry George, I am accused of inconsistency because I stated that the poor man has, individually, no interest in the roads, and also stated that all classes would be benefited by good roads. Now, is it not remarkable, indeed, that a man of his usual good sense should think that an individual interest and a class interest the same thing?

The whole gist and burden of the argument made by the Polenta correspondent has been an effort to prove the justice of the road law, and that the farmers are in no condition to have their taxes increased. I wonder if it has never occurred to him what an enormous tax the farmers of this State pay, indirectly, in consequence of the almost impassable condition of roads during that part of the year in which they have to do at least nine-tenths of their hauling? In my opinion, it is one of the greatest hardships that afflict them; but simply because it is not collected by the sheriff, it is disregarded. The damage done to wagons, harness and stock is beyond calculation. Your correspondent looks with perfect horror upon the idea of paying a few dollars into the treasury, for a great and urgent need, and submits with sublimed resignation to the loss he sustains, annually, in broken-down wagons and mules. Farmers can well afford to have their taxes largely increased in order that they may have the blessings of good roads; besides, if they were worked by taxation, the money thus appropriated would be paid to thousands of the toiling masses who would circulate it as rapidly as received which would be vastly less oppressive than if paid to high-salaried officers.

J. M. TURNER.
 Lemay, N. C.

LETTER FROM VANCE.

FLOYD ACADEMY ALLIANCE, Vance Co., N. C., April 26, '88.
 Our Vance county farmers are so quiet and unobtrusive that one would hardly know, from reading your excellent paper, that the F. A. Association was under full headway here. There is probably no county in the State which can boast of a more thrifty and progressive lot of farmers. We have never had to go very much on the mortgage system; in fact, I doubt if there is a farm in the county that is mortgaged for supplies. In this section of the county the majority of the farmers divide their money crop between cotton and tobacco, one or the other being very apt to be profitable every year. But the greatest boon that has ever come to our people, is the F. A. Association, which

has completely revolutionized things in this section. The amount that has already been saved to our people by the Alliance is enormous, and would scarcely be believed by an outsider. But this is not all by any means that the farmers gain by our order. It is something more than dollars and cents, directly. They meet together monthly, or oftener if they wish, discuss farm topics and give one another the benefit of their experience in the various experiments they may from time to time make. I think this dissemination of ideas of incalculable benefit, as it gives the dullest farmer the ideas and experience of the brightest and most intelligent. The great drawback heretofore has been a want of union among the farmers. They could never stick together long enough to make any demands and were always the worst abused class on earth. They will now have some "say-so" about what affects their material interest, and having tasted some of the good things in store for them, they will not be apt to turn loose their hold and drift back into the old order of things. Everyone should rejoice at this, for any one who knows anything at all, must know that what benefits the farmers must benefit every other interest.

I must say that THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is doing a great and noble work. It should be taken by every farmer in the land. Farmers should read, for by so doing they get the ideas of experienced men, which it would take them years to find out in their original, plodding way. I am glad to see you have quite a large list of subscribers here. It will grow, as nearly all the farmers in this section have joined the Alliance, and what few are left will be in by the fall.

CROPS IN YADKIN COUNTY.

SHORE, YADKIN CO., N. C., April 30, 1888.

COL. L. L. POLK.—Dear Sir:—Some days have passed since any frost, and now we are having nice summer weather. A careful examination proves to us that we have a plentiful supply of peaches. On some farms the crop is light, but on others it is very heavy. It was supposed for a while that the peaches were nearly all killed by frost, but the present examination proves a two-thirds crop at least. Apples, pears, plums, strawberries and grapes will be a full crop if no accident to them hereafter. Wheat crop is fine, also winter oats; spring oats not so promising. Prospects now are for a large corn crop being planted.

Yours truly,
 N. W.

PLEASANT RIDGE, N. C., April 24, 1888.

EDITOR FARMER:—Allow me a short space in your columns. In a previous article I stated that there was no other profession so widely separated as the farmers. I think the declaration correct though on a review, the expression appears a little harsh and probably needs some explanation, although it should be understood that I included myself. Farmers seldom if ever, until quite recently, meet to discuss farming and the farm interest, suggest plans, &c. Seldom will one farmer adopt the plan of another brother, though he knows his neighbor's plan is much best. Rather than adopt such plan he will go on in his own hard-necked way; make nothing, and worse, suffer his fields to wash out in deep gutters and become a useless soil scum plat of once fertile land only to remain in the way. Farmers should never meet to discuss other men's business and complain that all other professions try, and do beat them on every corner. It is said that all other professions operate in unison; if so or not so, let the farmers try it awhile. Let all the farmers of localities and neighborhoods form a compact and buy together and sell together, and see if they can't sell for more and buy for less; I will guarantee success. The rule is among farmers to slip off one at a time and sell and

buy, and try to conceal the prices received and paid from his neighbor, and say hard things of manufacturers, merchants, lawyers, doctors, and even sometimes of preachers.

BOB PEAK.

CARE AND HANDLING OF MILK.

A Scottish authority, Mr. J. A. Stephenson, in a lecture lately delivered upon butter-making and marketing, has this to say about milking and the record of milk:

In addition to having suitable food and pure water, dairy cows should be provided with properly ventilated houses, constructed in such way as to resist the heat of summer and coldness of winter, and to ensure a circulation of fresh air without drafts. Uniformity of temperature is very largely conducive to a regular milk yield, and if its quantity is dependent upon the kind and amount of food consumed, its quality is affected by the kind of air inhaled. So far as concerns the purity and flavor of milk and butter, there need be no hesitation in asserting that the expense and study devoted to a proper system of feeding is largely thrown away in the case of cows kept in an ill-ventilated building and breathing a vitiated atmosphere, charged with carbonic acid gas and ammonia—the products of decomposition. A due proportion of oxygen in the air breathed is essential to the purity not only of the blood of the animal, but also of the milk, which is a secretion from it.

The milking should be done in a gentle, thorough and cleanly manner. Milk or "strippings" left in the udder through careless or incomplete milking, are either re-absorbed into the system, tending to the fattening of the cow and her spoliation as a milker, or become sources of irritation and disease. Were any conclusive investigation practicable, it would probably appear that diseases of the udder have very largely resulted from this cause alone. In order to proper cleanliness, a pail of water should be provided, in which the milkers may frequently rinse their hands.

As an item of good management and economy, the weighing the produce of cows at every milking is very strongly to be recommended, which, with the appliances now to be had for the purpose, can be done with the minimum of time of trouble, and with the following advantages:—(1) It provides an effectual check on the work of the milkers, which, in consideration of what has just been said about the consequences of inefficient milking, is a matter of vital importance, especially in the larger dairies, when hired milkers are employed. (2) It furnishes a reliable indication as to the general health of the cows, the milk yield of which is affected by the slightest ailment. (3) A most valuable result obtained by the regular weighing of the milk, is the exact estimate it enables one to form of the comparative values of individual cows in the herd, not only in regard to milk yield, but when a proper test is regularly applied, of butter production also, a matter of the utmost importance in selection, which is at the very foundation of the dairy farmer's success, the use of inferior cows resembling the working with imperfect machinery, at a sacrifice both of labor and produce. (4) The daily milk yield of the cow, supplemented with particulars of the butter contents of milk in ounces per gallon (a natural system having been perfected by means of which the necessary testing can be done in an accurate, inexpensive and expeditious manner), these together provide the details for a record of much value, not only for the determination of the merits of individual cows, but also furnish the basis for a system of proportional feeding advocated by Sir J. B. Lawes, and the details of which have since been worked out for practical use.—Farm, Field and Stockman.

In Connecticut there are 85,507 acres of oyster beds.

AN ALLIANCE ENTERPRISE IN TEXAS.

At a meeting of the Camp County Alliance held at Hepsibath, Texas, on April 12th, 1888, the following articles of agreement and resolutions were adopted looking to the formation of a joint stock company to engage in the manufacture of the Putman cultivator and such other articles and implements as they may see fit.

Art. 1. This corporation shall be known and do business in and under the name of the Alliance Implement Company.

Art. 2. The works and office of this company shall be located at Pittsburg, Camp county, Texas.

Art. 3. The officers of this company shall be a president, secretary, treasurer and a board of directors, the same to be elected annually by the share holders.

Art. 4. The stock of this company shall consist of four hundred shares of the value of twenty-five dollars a share.

Art. 5. Stock may be subscribed for in this company and paid in the following manner, viz:

1st. In money, to be paid in thirty days after permanent organization of the company, to the treasurer.

2d. Good note bearing 10 per cent. interest payable to the order of the board of directors, due January 1st, 1889.

3rd. Machinery, materials and other property that may be needed by the company subject to the inspection and valuation of the board of directors.

4th. Labor, subject to the direction of the officers of the company.

Art. 6. Operations shall begin as soon as half the shares are taken. When the president pro tem shall call a meeting of the subscribers, when an election for permanent officers shall be had, and to attend to such other business necessary to a permanent organization of this company.

On motion, Wm. McAlister, Jno. Laney, R. Devenport, Z. Bailey and W. W. Fedrick were elected directors and agents to solicit stock for the company and act as board of directors until the company is regularly organized by stockholders.

Resolved, That each member of the Alliance give the directors their hearty co-operation, and if possible take stock in the Alliance Implement Co.

J. M. BRISON, Pres't.

D. B. SMITH, Sec'y Co. Alliance.

Wm. McAlister was elected President pro tem and will act as secretary until organized permanently by shareholders. Correspondence by Alliance men desiring to take stock attended to promptly by him. P. O. address, Pittsburg, Camp Co., Texas.

D. B. SMITH, Sec'y Co. Alliance.

SCARCITY OF TIMBER IN RUSSIA.

So scarce is the timber that in most sections it is scrupulously preserved. For this reason there are few fences in the country. The fences are made, too, in a way peculiar to the country. They are of nine foot slabs, two or three inches thick, six or eight inches wide, and are driven three feet into the ground, leaving the fence six feet in height. The tops are squared off with a saw and the fence is not only durable but slightly.—Moscow Cor. Cleveland Leader.

OFFICIAL ORGANS OF FARMERS ALLIANCE.

National Alliance—Southern Mercury, Dallas, Texas.
 Alabama—Alliance Banner, Athens.
 Arkansas—State Wheel Enterprise, Little Rock.
 Mississippi—The Farmer, Winona.
 North Carolina—THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, Raleigh.
 Louisiana—The Union, Choudrant.
 Tennessee and Kentucky—The Toiler, Union City, Tenn.
 Free Speech, Beaumont, Texas, of the counties of Jefferson, Orange, Tyler, Hardin, Chambers, Liberty.
 Florida—Farmers' Florida Alliance, Marianna, Fla.