

The Progressive Farmer.

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Raleigh, N. C.

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To Correspondents.
Write all communications, designed for publication, on one side of the paper only.
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THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, Raleigh, N. C.

RALEIGH, N. C., OCT. 2, 1888.
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The Progressive Farmer is the Official Organ of the N. C. Farmers' Association and N. C. State Farmers' Alliance, and the Virginia 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.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Again we want to say to our correspondents that they must give us their real names if they expect us to publish their articles. We must have their names as a guarantee of good faith. And again, we must ask our friends—all to condense what they have to say—boil it down. We are anxious to give as great variety as possible to our readers, and to do this the articles should be short and to the point.

"The meeting of the National Alliance is postponed to the 16th of January next." So reads a telegram received from Bro. Warren, Secretary of the National Alliance. This action was necessitated by the prevalence of yellow fever in the South.

"TURN ON THE LIGHTS."

The North Carolina Tobacco Association organized at Morehead City in August, 1887. At its first annual meeting August last it adopted a resolution, forbidding warehouse men from making more than two bids on tobacco sold by them and granting them the right to reject all bids and hold the tobacco. We notice that Richmond dealers say they will withdraw their bidders from any and all markets, which do not faithfully observe the rule.

Our tobacco farmers are writing us and complain that the rule is unjust and arbitrary and will operate most unjustly against their interest. Is this so? THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER opens its columns and asks the tobacco farmers and the warehousemen to ventilate the matter. Let us get at the truth. This great interest must be guarded in the field, in the warehouse and in the factory. There is a profit, a large profit in tobacco and the farmer who produces it must have his fair share of that profit or there will be trouble in the camp.

We have seen no official explanation from the Association to the farmers of the necessity of the change made in the custom. We assume that the warehouse men made the rule originally for the protection of their farmer customers, and it is natural that the farmers, in the absence of any official explanation, should, to say the least of it, look upon their change with suspicion. In this connection we quote from an intelligent correspondent of the Durham Recorder of the 26th ult., who says that Mt. Pisgah Farmers' Alliance, of Chatham county, adopted strong resolutions protesting against this rule, and that they intend

to resist it. He says: "The warehouse is leased by every planter for the sale of his tobacco; the auctioneer is his agent; he pays his auction fees; the sale of the tobacco is always under the control of the planter; he can turn the tag down without assigning any reason."

"The Farmers' Alliance are going for an open, unstaffed market, free-trade and planters' rights on the warehouse floor without any puffing or by bidding on one hand, or stifling on the other. I do not belong to the Farmers' Alliance; had nothing to do with their action, but they are right; and will make a right lively fight for a free and fair market. I am with them on that question, and will stand by them.

Plain straightforward dealing, prudence, good common sense, and good temper on the side of the combine and also the planters, will solve the difficulty."

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER would deprecate any conflict between the different departments of this great industry. It would have the man who grows the tobacco, the warehouse man who sells it, and the manufacturer who manipulates it, each, to enjoy his just and rightful proportion of the profits, but the farmer objects to this rule and we ask on his behalf that the matter be explained.

And that there may be a better understanding as to the tobacco markets, we present another matter in this connection, which in justice to the warehouse and the local markets which they respectfully represent, should be explained. We confess our utter inability to comprehend a system of reports, presenting such apparent inconsistencies as are found daily in the reports of the tobacco markets. To illustrate: We take three classifications, Cutters, Smokers and Wrappers, and two grades—Common and Fine, as reported last week in the chief markets where our farmers sell their tobacco:

	CUTTERS.	
	Common.	Fine.
Durham,	\$11.00 to 15.00	\$20.00 to 35.00
Asheville,	12.00 " 15.00	25.00 " 30.00
Henderson,	14.00 " 18.00	25.00 " 30.00
Winston,	12.00 " 16.00	30.00 " 40.00
Danville,	10.00 " 12.00	25.00 " 30.00
Raleigh,	10.00 " 15.00	25.00 " 30.00

	SMOKERS.	
	Common.	Fine.
Durham,	\$3.00 to 4.50	\$12.00 to 14.00
Henderson,	3.00 " 5.00	12.00 " 18.00
Asheville,	4.00 " 8.00	20.00 " 25.00
Danville,	4.00 " 6.50	15.00 " 20.00
Raleigh,	3.00 " 4.50	12.00 " 15.00

	WRAPPERS.	
	Common.	Fine.
Durham,	\$16.00 to 22.00	\$40.00 to 55.00
Henderson,	12.00 " 18.00	37.00 " 45.00
Winston,	23.00 " 26.00	55.00 " 65.00
Asheville,	12.00 " 15.00	40.00 " 50.00
Danville,	15.00 " 20.00	40.00 " 55.00
Raleigh,	10.00 " 15.00	35.00 " 55.00

To say the least of it, these reports are misleading. Common Cutters are worth \$10 to \$12 in Danville, and \$14 to \$18 in Henderson; Fine Cutters \$25 to \$30 in Henderson and \$30 to \$40 in Winston; Common Smokers, \$3.50 to \$4.50 in Durham and \$4 \$8 in Asheville; Fine Smokers, \$12 to \$15 in Raleigh and \$20 to \$25 in Asheville; Common Wrappers, \$12 to \$15 in Asheville and \$23 to \$26 in Winston; Fine Wrappers, \$37 to \$45 in Henderson and \$55 to \$65 in Winston. We quote these figures to emphasize the necessity for a better and clearer system of quotations. It is due the markets that this should be done. Whether by soils, climatic conditions and processes of cultivation, curing and handling, the difference is in the quality and intrinsic value, we are not informed. It must be this or it must be ascribed to a want of systematic classification in grading. In either event we say it is due our market, and especially those quoting the lowest prices, that these great differences be explained. We trust the Association or some of our warehouse men will "turn on the light."

—A zealous brother writing us from Cool Springs, says: "Our people are trying to get to the cash basis in making their purchases. Many are opening their eyes as never before."

AS GENEROUS AS GRACEFUL.

The people of no two States are more closely allied, perhaps, in sentiment, or are bound together with a more cordial and fraternal regard, than are the people of Georgia and North Carolina. The "Tar Heels" stood steadier, or advanced more confidently, in line of battle when they knew that they were supported on the flank, by gallant and heroic Georgians. And now, as then, we feel more comfortable when we have that same support. The Farmers' Alliance of our State defied the Trust and Georgia said to us: "We will stand by you." We are just in receipt of a business letter from a prominent citizen of that State, from which we make some extracts. He says: "Our farmers are of the same disposition as yours. They will use anything except 'trust bagging.' We have read your paper carefully and must say its effect on the farmers of your State has been something wonderful."

The farmers of North Carolina have decidedly more backbone than those of any other State in the Union. When they determine to do a thing, we know it will be done, and when they say they "won't" we know they "won't." When they move we know there will be no flickering along the line. We have greatly admired their manhood since the rebellion. In our opinion, the fight with the trust is whipped and the victory won. Coming at the time it did, it gives the Farmers' Alliance a magnificent send off, and the farmer's victory in this contest will be a brilliant feather in his cap. With our very best wishes for your success and for THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER—the liveliest Alliance paper in the South, we are, &c." THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER most gratefully appreciates the generous words from our Georgia friends, and it assures them that these cordial expressions of friendship and regard for our people are most warmly and heartily reciprocated.

OUR STATE BUSINESS AGENCY AND FUND.

As will be seen, Bro. W. A. Graham, State Alliance Trustee, announces that he has filed his official bond with the State Executive Committee and is ready to receive the contributions of the brethren to the Fund. Please note his instructions and govern yourselves accordingly.

The State Secretary has returned the notes filed in his office, to the Secretaries of the Sub-Alliances by mail, as per instructions of the Trustee. He sent also a blank receipt for the same to each Secretary, with the notes, and asks that they be filled out promptly and returned to him, that he may know the notes have been received by the Secretaries.

Let all the officers of the Alliance throughout the State give our business matters their earnest support, and see to it in the beginning, that everything is done promptly, methodically and systematically. We have only to stand firmly and confidently by each other to succeed.

OUR PREMIUMS.

Read our offer on next page at the head of the first column. One Ton of Raleigh Standard Fertilizer to the one sending us the largest list of annual cash subscribers, by the 1st of December.

Ten Dollars in Gold for the second largest list.

Five Dollars in Gold for the third largest list.

The lists will be carefully filed away as they are sent in and on the 1st day of December at 4 o'clock p. m. they will be counted by two disinterested persons and the awards made to the successful competitors.

Two months in which to work, and you may easily make a ton of splendid fertilizer when you can be doing

nothing else. What nice Christmas presents the gold premiums would buy and how nicely some active, enterprising young ladies could take them from our male friends if they will try. The interesting question for the next two months, with our readers, will be: Who will get THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER Premiums?

MR. D. MCN. MCKAY.

It is with profound sorrow that we announce the death of this most estimable gentleman. He died suddenly at his home in Harnett county on the morning the 18th inst. He was one of the most successful and intelligent farmers of the State, and a model North Carolina gentleman. Of modest and retiring disposition, he always shrank from that prominence which his talents and genuine worth so well merited. His selection at Atlanta by the Inter State Farmers' Association as its Vice-President for North Carolina (and which was against his protestation), and his recent selection by the good people of his county as a candidate to represent them in our next legislature, and with a unanimity which would have honored any man, were but fitting tributes to one whose broad views, noble instincts and lofty purposes, had singularly marked his life as a citizen and neighbor. He was truly one of earth's noblemen. May God protect and comfort the widowed mother and the fatherless daughter.

OUR LAST COTTON CROP.

The statistician of the New York Cotton Exchange has made up his statement of our last crop, and it has been published by the Exchange. It shows that it was the largest crop ever raised in the South—exceeding that of 1882-'83, by 96,000 bales, and that of 1885-'86, by 527,248 bales. The crop aggregated 7,046,883 bales. His returns from 98 per cent. of all the spindles running in the South shows that the Southern mills used 55,940 bales more than in any previous year. This aspect of the exhibit is gratifying and encouraging, but how much of that vast crop was sent North to pay for meat, corn, flour, hay and guano? What shall it profit the South if it raise fifty millions bales and it gives it in exchange for those things which it should produce at home?

COME TO THE FAIR.

There are hopeful and significant signs of a splendid Fair this year. Everybody around Raleigh believe it will be a success. There will be a larger and more complete exhibit in all the departments than ever before, more native stock, more agricultural products, more and faster horses on the track than ever before. The officers say that the fastest home horses will be here and they will show a record never before made by North Carolina horses. Applications for space and entries are being made daily. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is interested in the Five-Ton Guano Premium offered to the Alliances. What Alliance will get it?

A PLEASANT OCCASION.

Underwood, Lemon Spring and Shallow Well Alliances, together with all the good people of the community, had an elegant Farmers' Harvest Dinner at Hunt's Spring, in Moore county last Friday, Capt. S. B. Alexander, J. W. Scott, Jr., Dr. McCormick and the writer made speeches. A better behaved crowd, a better dinner, and a better conducted affair, generally, we have never seen. It was good to be there.

—Middle Creek Alliance, No. 207, at its last meeting, passed resolutions condemning the bagging trust and returning thanks to the merchants of Raleigh for securing for them a substitute for trust bagging.

A WORD ABOUT FAIRS—CALL A HALT!

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER enters its earnest protest, against the evident tendency in the management of our agricultural Fairs, to change them into exhibitions of political stump speakers. We have long thought that one of the humbugs of modern times is an agricultural speech at an agricultural Fair, but what a farce is a political harangue on such occasions! Politicians warn, admonish and implore the Alliance "not to go into politics," and now we ask the Alliance to demand that our agricultural Fairs shall not be changed into political bow-wows. If politicians cannot be gratified by the accommodating and generous programmes of the Executive Committees of their respective parties for airing themselves before the dear people, let them at least refrain from accepting invitations to speak at agricultural fairs. We suggest to the officers of these fairs that they run them in the interest of agriculture, and not in the interest of party politics and politicians. Gambling and partisan political speeches will kill any Fair, and ought to do it.

REDUCING THE SURPLUS.

What is Congress doing? What has it done? Why is it, that a test vote shows so often, that a quorum is not present? Where are the missing members and what are they doing? There are about 10,000,000 of taxpayers in this country who would like to have a truthful answer to the above questions. They are paying over two thousand dollars a day to run that institution and they are interested. Our opinion is, that the American Congress is getting too far away from the people.

—Do not let your subscription lapse. Remember, we have promised to enlarge THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER when our circulation will justify it, or when we have ten thousand subscribers. With a little effort on the part of our brethren throughout the State, we can easily have this number by the first of January, 1889. The label on your paper will give you the exact date on which your subscription expires.

HE LEAVES WASHINGTON IN DISGUST.

It will be remembered that the State Alliances sent delegates to the City of Washington some weeks ago to confer with representatives in Congress as to methods for protection against the Bagging Trust and other legalized robberies. Bro. W. A. Darden represented North Carolina and that old Alliance Roman, Bro. Evan Jones, President of the Texas State Alliance, was there. He having remained a few days later, wrote Bro. Darden the following characteristic letter:

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 11, '88. W. A. DARDEN, SPEIGHTS BRIDGE, N. C.:
Dear Sir and Brother:—In compliance with my promise I write you a line. We have made a most signal failure in our effort to secure any legislation looking to relief in the bagging trust robbery. Quite a number of Senators and Representatives have promised us a bill in the near future, defining trusts and a law to punish the same. The truth is, partisan politics stand in the way of legislation for the people. The Representatives are seeking to make party capital and to make political records for themselves.

They sit and watch each other and when one bows his neck, the other shakes his head. This is the game that is being played here by Congress, while rings, combines and trusts are consuming the earnings of the people and the country going to ruin.

We start home to-morrow, impressed more than ever with the absolute and imperative necessity of organization, education and co-operation among the industrial classes of this country. The people must be educated to rise above mere party politics, if we ever break the chains which greedy monopolistic power is fastening upon us. Let us organize, educate and above all, co-operate. Fraternally yours.

EVAN JONES.

1,209 Alliances to-day.