

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

Vol. 4

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No. 15

DIRECTORY OF FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS.

NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS' STATE ALLIANCE.

President—S. B. Alexander, Charlotte, N. C.
Vice-President—T. Ivey, Ashpole, N. C.
Secretary—L. L. Polk, Raleigh, N. C.
Treasurer—J. D. Allen, Falls, N. C.
Lecturer—Dr. D. Reid Parker, Trinity College, N. C.
Assistant Lecturer—D. D. McIntyre, Laurinburg, N. C.
Chaplain—Rev. Carr Moore, Townsville, N. C.
Door Keeper—W. H. Tomlinson, Fayetteville, N. C.
Assistant Door Keeper—R. T. Rush, Mt. Gilead, N. C.
Sergeant-at-Arms—J. S. Holt, Chalk Level, N. C.
State Business Agent—W. A. Darden.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS' STATE ALLIANCE.

Elias Carr, Old Sparta, N. C., Chairman; Thaddeus Ivey, Ashpole, N. C.; J. S. Johnson, Ruffin, N. C.
THE NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS' ASSOCIATION.
President—Elias Carr, Old Sparta, Edgecombe county.
B. F. Hester, Oxford, Secretary; S. Otho Wilson, Vineyard, and W. E. Benbow, Oak Ridge, Assistant Secretaries.

VIRGINIA STATE ALLIANCE.

President—G. T. Barbee, Bridgewater, Virginia.
Vice-President—T. B. Massey, Washington, Virginia.
Secretary—J. J. Silvey, Amissville, Virginia.
Treasurer—Isaiah Printz, Luray, Virginia.

LECTURER—G. H. Chrisman, Chrisman, Virginia.

Asst. Lecturer—J. S. Bradley, Luray, Virginia.
Chaplain—Wm. M. Rosser, Luray, Virginia.

DOOR KEEPER—B. Frank Beahm, Kimball, Virginia.

Asst. Door Keeper—G. E. Brubaker, Luray, Virginia.
Serg't-at-Arms—C. H. Lillard, Washington, Virginia.

STATE BUSINESS AGENT—S. P. A. Brubaker, of Luray, Virginia.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

E. T. Brumback, Jas. E. Compton and Geo. H. Chrisman.

COUNTY MEETING IN VIRGINIA.

MOUNT CLINTON, Va., April 19, '89.

MR. EDITOR:—I beg leave to submit the following for publication:

According to appointment a regular meeting of the Rockingham County Farmers' Alliance was held at Pleasant Valley Va., April 13, '89. There was a good attendance, and one had only to cast his eye over the body to be convinced that the Farmer's Alliance is beginning to mean something in Virginia and that it already embraces in its membership much of the most solid material in the State.

The same may be said of the delegation from Pendleton county West Va., which is operating with Rockingham county Va. We were so fortunate as to have present with us the President, the Secretary and the State agent, of the Virginia State Alliance.

A committee on trade arrangements was appointed as follows: Prof. G. H. Hulvey, F. K. Harnesberger, Maj. Geo. Chrisman, Ex-Senator Geo. B. Keezle and Col. Milton Taylor.

The Business Committee reported as follows:

Resolved, That we deem it expedient at present to authorize our Business Manager to make the best arrangements he can with local merchants for staple articles, allowing one rate of per cent wholesale, and nothing for retail customers; and that members of the Alliances obligate themselves to buy under such contract, as far as practicable, and in strict compliance with the secrecy and other requirements of this Alliance.

Resolved, That a standing committee of five good business men be appointed to advise with Business agent, and share with him the responsibility of such contract as may be made, and to suggest improvements on this arrangement at the next regular meeting of the County Alliance.

Resolved, That the President nominate suitable men for the above committee.

Resolved, That the several Alliances inform the Business agent as early as possible, what kinds of twine and how much they wish to use.

This report was adopted, and the delegates appointed to constitute the committee referred to in Resolution 2nd, are G. H. Hulvey, Geo. B. Keezle, T. K. Harnesberger, Milton Taylor and J. A. Herring.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That a Trade Card, for use of members in dealing with merchants, be adopted.

Resolved, That the different Alliances shall use the same form of Trade Card.

Resolved, That a committee of three

be appointed to draw up a form of Trade Card.

This committee consists of Dr. D. A. Bucher, Prof. G. H. Hulvey and State Secretary J. J. Silvey.

The committee on Trade Card reported and their form was adopted.

On motion the Secretary was ordered to have printed and to distribute to the several Alliances, the Trade Card blanks, paying for same out of county funds.

The following resolutions were read and adopted.

Resolved, That the Rockingham County Farmers' Alliance now in session, tender to the ladies of Pleasant Valley and vicinity our appreciation and acknowledgements for the kind hospitalities which they have just dispensed with such a lavish hand to the members of this body.

Resolved, That these resolutions be recorded with the minutes of this meeting and copies be forwarded to the editors of our county papers and THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, with the request that they publish the same.

Mount Crawford Va., was selected as the place for holding the next meeting.

Time for meeting second Saturday in July, at 10 a. m.

FRANK ROLSTON, Pres.
E. W. HEATWOL, Sec'y.

FROM CURRITUCK COUNTY.

POPLAR BRANCH, N. C., April 29, '89.

MR. EDITOR:—It has been sometime since you heard from our Alliance, No. 1,250. We are still gaining ground. We now number 74 male members. We now have a new Secretary for the County Alliance in the place of Dr. W. B. Ferring. G. W. Williams is Secretary now, and our Secretary made a statement in our Alliance last meeting that he has not seen in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER anything about any of the Alliances in Currituck county being paid up, and we would like to see it in your next paper that our Alliance has been heard from and show that we have paid our dues up to date—April 1st, as our Secretary has his receipt up to date in full from the Secretary of the County Alliance, and we want to hear from it so as to know that we stand good with the State Alliance, for that is what we are working for. We are a part of that grand army and we want to do our part in this grand work. Our members are becoming more and more interested in the cause. Our old men are interested, and also the young men. The young men have even gone to work and bought horses and are farming, and say they have no need to go West or to cities. They say there is room here in North Carolina to give every young man and old man employment without going West.

D. W. L.

FROM WASHINGTON COUNTY.

WASHINGTON, N. C., April 19, '89.

MR. EDITOR:—As Woodards' Alliance No. 1174 has no regular correspondent, its Secretary will endeavor to gather up a few items for your valuable paper. With this I enclose one dollar for the Alliance Organ. So far I have had the pleasure only of receiving a sample copy now and then, which is always highly appreciated, most especially when I see in its columns how the Alliance is on the boom all over the State, increasing in strength and number. Such tidings meets with a ready response from Woodards Alliance. Yes, she is not asleep, but is up in good spirit, marching in the front rank, bearing with it good material—such as will stem the flood and overcome all adversity.

Woodards was organized seven months ago with 11 charter members; now it enrolls 113, having initiated 120, granted 8 dimit, received one by demit, and only 4 on the list that are behind with their dues, and we can vouch for them.

Until recently our Alliance has been meeting every other Saturday, with good attendance. Generally some important work is accomplished, subjects discussed and resolutions acted upon.

At our last meeting, the subject of subscribing to the State Agency Fund was brought up, and after being discussed at some length, was laid over to be more fully discussed at our next. The disposition among the members is to take stock, but prefer using the funds we have on hand first, in consequence of which the Treasurer and Secretary is to report on the financial state of Woodards' Alliance at its next meeting.

Much credit is due our worthy President for his faithful efforts in carrying on the good work. He is highly esteemed by all its members,

a worthy citizen and a practical farmer, with an unbounded store of hospitality as has been well attested by the writer.

The Alliance of Beaufort county has not failed to accomplish a plan of co-operation in buying supplies, Mr. E. W. Ayers, one of Washington's best and most honorable merchants, having offered terms that was accepted by the County Alliance, which resulted in an agreement for the Alliances of the county to trade with Mr. Ayers. The agreement first being made for only six months, and now with an experience of five months it has proven so satisfactory that at the last meeting of the County Alliance it was unanimously agreed to renew terms with Mr. Ayers. At which, Mr. Ayers being waited upon by the Alliance, he expressed much satisfaction with his experience as an Alliance merchant and would accept a continuance of their trade with pleasure. Much could be said that would add force to what has been accomplished by the Alliance through its trading arrangement with Mr. Ayers, but perhaps space will not admit. It is sufficient to know that it is freely admitted by all, both Alliances and outsiders that great savings has been accomplished through the Alliance work. Yes, thousands of dollars to the county, and that for the short space of only five months. And this is only a stepping-stone to what we anticipate when the fund is raised, as it will be, which will add commercial standing to our noble order, and may God speed the work. With success to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, Fraternally yours,

J. M. C., Sec'y.

PETTIGREW'S BRIGADE.

MACHELAN, N. C. May 10, '89.

The blame for the loss of the battle of Gettysburg on the 3rd of July, has been falsely, by a good many people, thrown upon Pettigrew's Brigade. When the history of the battle shall be properly written it will be shown that if any troops deserve to be called "the heroes" on this occasion are those who have so long been slandered. But it is not necessary to wait for a vindication. The history of the Brigade during the remainder of the war is their own vindication and much stronger than can be made in any other manner.

A few days after this battle we find them placed by Gen. Lee as the rearguard to his army, on the principal route of retreat, which would never have been done had they behaved as falsely represented at Gettysburg. Here at Falling Waters the gallant Pettigrew received mortal wounds and no one has ever intimated that the behavior of the troops was anything but what it should have been. In all that retreat never for a moment was it thought necessary to send them to the rear to guard the prisoners or the wagon train, but they took their place in the most responsible position without any apprehension as to their conduct on the part of their commander. At Bristow Station when A. P. Hill "put in" two brigades against two corps of the enemy, and where the slaughter was as great perhaps as in any battle of the war. One was Cook's N. C. brigade and beside it was the old Pettigrew Brigade under the gallant Kirkland; the behavior of troops was never better. Through the Wilderness campaign it saw service equal to any in the army. At Reams Station when the brigades of Anderson (Ga.), Mahone (Va.) and Scales (N. C.) (what brigades stood higher in the army) failed to dislodge Gen. Hancock from his entrenchments on the Petersburg & Weldon Railroad and the second attack had to be made, Gen. Lee sent in troops whom he knew would accomplish it, and who were they? Cooke, Lane and the old Pettigrew brigade under the command of the gallant McRae, with the 2nd N. C. Cavalry, dismounted under Col. (Gen) W. P. Roberts. Gen. Lee was not disappointed, and he wrote a letter to Gov. Vance commending the activity of the North Carolina troops on that occasion. They captured (I think) as many prisoners as they took men into the fight. To the close of the war never was anything alleged against them, and the troops enjoyed the confidence of their commanders and commanders to a great degree. Now Mr. Editor when we see the true position which the Pettigrew Brigade holds in the annals of the army of Northern Virginia, will not some men who have styled themselves historians be more properly considered as writers of fiction?

Very respectfully,

WM. A. GRAHAM.

SOCIOLOGICAL VIEWS OF FARMING AND FARMERS AS A CLASS.

The Lamentable Lack of Proper General Information of the Masses Engaged in the Industry.

No. 7.

[By Maj. R. L. Ragland, of Hycoc, Va.]

One main reason why agriculture has not flourished is the want of information necessary for its successful conduct. The oldest of all the industries, it has not, as might reasonably have been supposed, kept pace with other industries, in the thorough equipment of its followers, for successful work. In the first place, the occupation is one of the most complex, and requires more extensive information than almost any other which has ever engaged the mental and physical powers of man. To understand thoroughly the science of farming, the husbandman ought to be a geologist, so he may know something about the soils on which he is cropping, their formation, constituent elements and adaptation to particular crops and their proper preparation therefor. He ought to be acquainted with botany, the science which describes and classifies plants, their characters, properties, peculiarities, etc. He should know something of chemistry, so as to enable him to properly prepare and apply manures best suited to soils and crops. He should know enough of biology to enable him to properly select and care for his stock. And enough of architecture to plan and arrange his farm buildings, and enough of topographical engineering to lay off the drainage, so as to relieve the soil of excessive moisture and prevent the washing and gullying of the hillsides. And all the better, if he knows enough of masonry, carpentry, blacksmithing, wagon and farm implement manufacture, to enable him to select the best and most improved implements with which to carry on the work of the farm.

What wonder, when we note the multiplicity of qualifications above enumerated, that so few attain to success and eminence as practical farmers! It is not necessary, however, that the successful farmer should be a graduate in all the sciences above named, but their knowledge will the better equip him for his work. Much can be learned by observation, inquiry and reading by persons who theoretically know nothing about the sciences. And this brings us to the practical part of the subject.

ORGANIZATION AND ITS ADVANTAGES.

The assemblages of farmers in council, club, society, Institute, Grange and Alliance—made obligatory by the organization of all other industries—constitute the best schools in which to gain and disseminate useful information among the masses engaged in husbandry. Here the best informed relate their modes and experience—how they achieved success here and failed there—to the learners, to enable them to start right, keep in the right track and to escape errors which would be inevitable to the un instructed. The old way of "Every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost," is being discarded for,

LET US PLAN TOGETHER, PULL TOGETHER AND SUCCEED TOGETHER,

which we suggest as a motto for a live Alliance.

THE PAST.

In the early days of the world, progress in the industries, arts and sciences was slow, mainly because the serf was stolidly ignorant, and the baron or ruler—ignorant in many respects as their vassals—was far more concerned and engaged in predatory activity and conquest than in efforts for the good of the masses or welfare of the State.

But in time the yoke of oppression was thrown off, and the people of nation after nation became free; new institutions were organized, new activities sprang up, and new ideas, sentiments and habits prevailed. The social revolution deposed robber kings and bandit barons, to the relief, advancement and improvement of the people, industrially, socially, intellectually and morally.

DIVISION OF LABOR.

One of the first notable changes in a free society, as distinguished from serfdom, was that labor became diversified and specialized, to meet demands which grew and widened, as intelligence created new wants, hence the division of labor became a recognized principle in sociology. For, as society advances, intellectually and industrially, it sub-divides, step by step,

into many parts, and establishes subordinate governing agencies for the industries and occupations of the people, separate from the civil government, but in harmony therewith. Industry, so soon as disenthralled and freed, set to work for self-control, in developing agencies, by which the processes of production, distribution and exchange are conducted; and it is only when these subordinate agencies encroach upon each other, that the government properly becomes the arbitrator in the settlement and adjustment of disputes between the different classes of its citizens.

That wonderful success has crowned the organized efforts of men in trade, commerce, manufacturing, mining, etc., is evidence of their efficacy, and are objects for example to the tardy industrial masses, still unorganized, or at least partially so. Union of thought and concert in action are necessary in an age of combination and concentration, to effect great purposes and beneficent results. And it is but reasonable, that where the social and industrial units have properties and interests in common, that the social aggregates which they form will have opinions in common, and a consensus of power sufficient to enforce them.

The industries are now all being organized, and the better the units are informed and educated to thoroughly comprehend the objects, motives and wants of their several organizations, the more efficient they will become in aiding their units in the accomplishment of their purposes and in securing the beneficent results for which said organizations were formed.

THE CHARACTER OF THE AGGREGATES TO DETERMINE BY CHARACTER OF THE UNITS.

An organization of intelligent, enterprising, thrifty units will soon be felt as a power for good in behalf of any industry to which they belong and serve. But to expect the effects of intelligence from an ignorant, thriftless people, or wise conduct from inferior citizens, is just as futile as to look for the generating of useful, serviceable power by a so-called perpetual motion humbug, for there is nothing or useful in either.

The farmer must be educated in his calling to make him competent to manage organizations which have for their main objects the improvement of the industry and the betterment of its followers.

Remedial measures for the betterment of any industry ought first to be formulated in council and should receive the consensus of the popular opinion before the aid of legislation is invoked to enforce measures agreed upon. The desire to get the greatest return for labor and expenditure on crops is laudable and should not be interfered with. The removal by law of restrictions or oppressions, coming through other social organizations, which prey upon or hinder that labor, is a legitimate object which the civil laws honestly and impartially enforced can and will successfully accomplish.

But farmers can, by wise and concerted action, aided by just laws, work out an industrial revolution without direct interference with or encroachments upon any other business, and thus accomplish great and lasting good for their industry and themselves.

SNOWDEN, N. C., May 8, 1889.

MR. EDITOR:—The Alliance in this immediate section is moving along not so fast as we could wish, but I think surely and steadily, but slowly. Our Alliance has gathered into its fold nearly all the available material in its neighborhood. Some few of the farmers still remain outside; it may be because they like the plan of "Our grandfathers' days" better. Such management of farms business will not do for this progressive age.

Our (Snowden) Alliance was organized by Dr. Sorrell, on the first day of last October, with eight members; we now number thirty, have lost during the time one member by withdrawal and one by demit, he having moved nearer to another Alliance.

We have not accomplished as much as could be wished in raising money for the State Business Agency Fund, but expect to put in our mite in a very short time. We have started a subscription among our members and it is being signed with alacrity when presented. The weather has been so unpropitious for the last two months or more that the attendance of the members has not been as prompt as we could wish.

The delay in forwarding our contribution may be excused for several causes. The first and most potent is the want of money in this section,

caused by our farmers heretofore depending almost entirely on one crop, viz: Indian corn, which produces money only at one season of the year, and the continuous low prices and the terrible mortgage system, with its natural shylock principle of taking the last pound of flesh, have left them at the end of each season with nothing to spare and really many of them in debt.

I am pleased to see that they are changing their plans and adopting new ideas; diversifying their crops, planting less corn, more small grain and grapes and paying much more attention to stock-raising; and though last, but not least by any means, they are trying to live without the great mortgage incubus, and as far as in them lies are trying to "pay as they go," thus lopping off many expenses. Although not a prophet or the son of one, I think the vista ahead looks bright for our farmers, especially the Alliance men. The order has been of great benefit in this section, although yet in its infancy.

Bro. Sewell told us, when here last autumn, that Col. Pickett would follow him and give us clearer views of our order. He has not yet put in an appearance and some of our brethren are anxiously waiting his arrival in our midst; we would be much pleased to see him and any other of our champions in the great cause, who could give us more information and rouse up our energies to the great and good work before us, and we hope you, Mr. Editor, through the columns of your very valuable paper will still continue to urge our cause to the front and let us know who, among our so-called Representatives and Senators are our friends and the farmers of North Carolina will soon put men in the places of our enemies, who will fill the seats at our capital, and then we will have no man "so-called," but real live representatives.

With my best wishes for the success of our noble cause and its fearless exponent THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, I remain,

Fraternally yours,
CARLOS.

NOTES FROM GUILFORD COUNTY.

ALLIANCE No. 1507, Mt. Pleasant Academy, Guilford Co.

MR. EDITOR:—The same revival spirit that has worked up the farmers of hundreds of other sections is being felt considerably around here. On the 17th of January, 1889, just seven men met at the Academy and pledged their means, energies and prayers for the bettering of the moral, intellectual, and social and financial conditions of the farming class in this community. The officers chosen are: Pres., D. F. Bennett; Vice-President, David Coble; Secretary, Jno. C. Amick. Since then the regular meetings have been every two weeks. There has been a marked increase of interest. Our membership has increased to thirty-eight; our meetings are well attended all kinds of weather. Already much benefit financially has been derived from the movement. But this condition has or should have the fourth position among the objects of the Alliance. If we look after the other three—moral, intellectual and social—with care, in proportion to their importance, for the movement not to accomplish great good will be an impossibility.

Please allow me a little more space to inform your readers somewhat of this part of the world. Southeastern Guilford is certainly well supplied from the hand of Nature. It is unsurpassed for its beautiful forests, principally of oak and hickory, and also for its abundant water power. On every hand you find creeks and brooks and rills and springs, soil gray tobacco, well adapted to the growth of tobacco, but for some very wise purpose not many of the farmers cultivate the filthy weed. And if anyone does not believe a man can live without it, surely these kind people can convince him that he is mistaken. Careful attention is paid to the orchards and gardens. No section more healthful can anywhere be found. Most of the people are of German descent. Some of them take a great deal of pains in educating their boys and girls in Sunday and secular schools. Fearing that you may not desire to hear from us again, I desist. Fraternally,

J. S. WILLIAMS, Cor. Sec'y.

Life's heroes and heroines are those who bear their own burdens bravely and give a helping hand to those around them.

Hasty words often rankle in the wound which injury gives, and soft words assuage it; forgiving curses, and forgetting takes away the scar.