

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

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THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

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NATIONAL BANKS AS A MEANS OF FURNISHING CURRENCY.

MACPELAH, N. C., Feb. 18, 1890.

MR. EDITOR:—The amount of treasury notes (greenbacks) is limited to \$346,000,000; gold coinage is free; silver coinage is limited to not less than \$2,000,000 nor more than \$4,000,000 per month. Both parties have observed the minimum. The National Bank is therefore the only means of increasing the currency. Mr. Windom, in his report, recommends that the banks be allowed to increase their issue to the par value of the bonds deposited to secure circulation in lieu of ninety cents, as now authorized, and this would seem feasible, as the security is ample; but have the banks given the people the ninety cents as authorized? By reference to the report of the Comptroller of the Currency (1889) we find on page 31 of his report that the capital of National Banks is \$612,584,095, and would authorize a circulation of \$551,325,685 National Bank notes, or \$465,538,130 more than exists, i. e. over three times as much as we have. This would give in North Carolina \$2,183,400 in lieu of \$611,255. A reduction of the currency in less than seven years of \$160,627,754, or about \$21,000,000 less than half.

Thirteen banks with a paid-up capital of \$13,050,000 have not a dollar in circulation. Whole number of banks in the United States Sept. 30, 1889, 3,319; paid-up capital, \$620,174,365; circulation, \$202,023,415; but there is \$72,437,560 in the hands of the Treasurer of the United States for redemption purposes when the notes come in. This deducted leaves only \$129,585,855 and the banks have the power to reduce this to \$85,767,555.

In North Carolina 1889: 19 banks, Capital \$2,426,000, Circulation \$611,255. Increase 150,000, Dec'r Circ'n 32,490. i. e. inc'ed \$20,210, dec'r \$145,700, net dec'r 32,490.

In the United States Oct. 31, 1889: National Bank capital stock \$620,174,365, which could have bought at least \$550,000,000 bonds, on which they could give a circulation of \$495,000,000 in lieu of \$202,023,415 that we have. Many of these banks got their bonds at par or a very small advance.

In North Carolina: National Bank capital paid in, \$2,426,000, would have bought \$2,000,000 bonds and given a circulation of \$1,800,000 in lieu of \$611,255, and still decreasing. The currency has been decreased as the number of National Banks and the amount of paid up capital has increased. It reminds us of the darkey who in Confederate times went with \$10 to buy a pair of shoes and found the price \$15. A few weeks after, having acquired the lacking \$5 but found the shoes were \$25; later he got the \$25, but the shoes were \$40; whereupon he remarked: "Bress de Lord, I never seed sich money; de mo' of it I gits de wuss off I is!"

So with National Banks as a fountain of currency; the more banks and capital we have, the less money they give us.

If the system is to continue, let the law be amended so as to compel the issue of the notes allowed and to prevent retiring except in small amounts at stated intervals. The banks are no longer necessary as a market for the bonds of the government; if they are continued in order to supply the people with a currency, they should be compelled to do it or the States allowed to authorize it to be done through State banks.

But when the government gives from \$125 to \$129 for a \$100 bond on which it only allows the banks to issue \$90, and especially when it loans banks \$50,000,000 or more per annum free of interest, is it not using its power to destroy the only means it allows of increasing the currency?

W. A. GRAHAM.

LETTER FROM EDGEcombe.

MAPLE SWAMP ALLIANCE, No. 482.
MR. EDITOR:—Just a little room, please, for we have been silent so long; however our silence did not arise from any lack of interest, but because we feared we would intrude. Among our little band we have some loyal-hearted brethren whose enthusiasm imparts itself in a measure to all; brethren who are as true to their cause as "the boys who wore the gray" were to theirs.

Our members are awake to their deplorable condition, and are unanimously struggling for their lost freedom, though not with rapid strides, incautiously made, but slowly, steadily, surely; they were not enslaved in a day, neither will they be emancipated in one.

In the annals of time there will not be found inscribed a record of any rebellion more noble or honorable than this which our farmers have made for liberty from the galling chain of oppression.

May God grant that some day in the near future we may see the brows of that struggling, suffering army of farmers wreathed with laurels; may see them with victorious tread march gallantly into the fort of success, with the flag of triumph waving proudly over them.

So fight on, ye noble farmers, Till no such thing will be From the Atlantic to the Pacific, As a trust or monopoly.

And when at last you bid To every trust, defiance, Forasmuch as that gallant band Will march Maple Swamp Alliance.

BELLE JOHNSON, Cor. Sec'y.

LETTER FROM NORTHAMPTON.

NORTHAMPTON CO. ALLIANCE, No. 1,006.

MR. EDITOR:—Having seen nothing in your valuable columns from any of the Alliances in Northampton county, I ask a short space. At our meeting in January there was a resolution offered calling a meeting of the County Alliance to be held on the first Monday in February to take preliminary steps for furnishing the members of the different Sub-Alliances, those who are not able to obtain supplies of merchants. The Alliance met according to appointment at the court house in the town of Jackson. There were a great many present, though our much esteemed President, W. J. Rogers, was absent. The Alliance was opened in due form by Vice-President, Dr. Daniel S. Ellis, who is always pleasing and ready to perform any duty imposed upon him by the Alliance. After explanatory remarks a report was called for from the committee of investigation that was appointed at the January meeting.

They reported and to my great surprise there were only six in the Alliance, out of a membership of over five hundred, that were unable to secure advances. Then a resolution was offered that each Alliance in the county should have the opportunity of subscribing to a fund for the contingent members. This is right, brethren, look after the needy, help the poor, encourage the weak; but not in cloth, but stimulate, and let us do all within our power to comply with the obligation that we have taken one with another.

Times are very hard in old Northampton county. We have asked at the hands of the Chief Executive, but no assistance as yet has been vouchsafed unto us, so we as good and true Alliancemen, true to the principles of our order, in spite of the Governor or any other authority of the State, do not and will not allow any of our brotherhood, in good standing, to suffer if within our power to prevent it. So, brethren, we are on the right

side, and the great ruler of the universe will always help those that try to help themselves, for the Bible has plainly said by the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat bread, and as this seems to be a general thing throughout this entire State, I would suggest that we buy less, talk less, stay at home more, work more, and above all, lets quit, henceforth and forever this everlasting and eternal grumbling. Take things as they come. We Southern people make the times hard with us in various ways, and let us, as farmers, present ourselves to the world as politicians, claim that we are during a campaign. The demagogue tells us that we are the bone and sinew of the land. If that be true, brethren of the Alliance, let us be the bone and sinew of the land not in mere name by him who desires your votes, but in a true sense. One more suggestion and I am through. Let us learn to raise our own supplies; more hog and hominy, less cotton and other things that we cannot use as food.

The Alliance in Northampton county is alive and up to duty in some things, but others I fear are waiting for some great revolution. The revolution has come, and the year of 1889 will be a year long to be remembered by all.

The County Commissioners held a meeting recently for the purpose of trying to help the needy. Their action at this writing I have not learned. This is my first attempt, and for fear of the waste basket, I close.

Sec'y No. 1,006.

A SOUTH CAROLINA BROTHER'S NEW YEAR REFLECTIONS.

MR. EDITOR:—Who, oh who can number the murdered hours, how many unpardoned sins, how many broken promises and vows, how many falsehoods how many bitter oaths, how many broken Sabbaths, how many disobediences to parents, how many vain and idle thoughts, and thousands of unsettled wrongs of different kinds there are locked up in gone-by years that will burst our race when the key of the future shall unlock them all in the resurrection morn?

New years bring new trials, difficulties, losses and crosses, temptations; and even death will rob this new year of thousands of whom it can now boast. There are those who are expecting to see many years come and go, who will sleep beneath the green sod before 1891.

Have we improved the past? What are we doing now? Shall we all meet in Heaven at last, Or under Satan bow?

Years to come seem long, but fly Swift as eagles in the sky; But when they pass like summer showers, They seem to us as but few hours.

May the Giver of all good help us to improve each moment of this new year, as it comes to us, as we shall all wish in death we had done, and may we all be elevated to a higher plane in the divine life.

Unlimited success to the grand and high-toned PROGRESSIVE FARMER and may it always keep in the stream that never runs dry.

Fraternally,
G. B. W. DUNN.
Red Hill, S. C., Feb. 18, '90.

GARFIELD'S WORDS.

I am glad to have the opportunity of standing up against a rabble of men who hasten to make weather cocks of themselves.

Who of us would not be communists in a despotism?

If the power to do hard work is not talent, it is the best possible substitute for it.

The laborer has but one commodity to sell—his day's work. It is his sole reliance. He must sell it to-day or it is lost forever.

A monopoly of popular honors is as much of a tyranny as a monopoly of wealth.

The men who succeed best in public life are those who take the risk of standing by their own convictions.

If you are not too large for the place, you are too small to fill it. Great ideas travel slowly, and for a time noiselessly, as the gods whose feet were shod with wool.

I fail to believe that the genius and energy that have developed these new and tremendous forces will fail to make them not the masters, but the faithful servants of society.

The word "statistics" itself did not exist until 1749, whence we date the beginning of a new science on which modern legislation must be based in order to be permanent. The treatise of Achenwall, the German philosopher who originated the word, laid the foundation of many of the greatest reforms in modern legislation. Statistics are State facts, facts for the consideration of statesmen, such as they may not neglect with safety.

Is it not of more consequence to do something for the farmer of the future than for the farmer of today?

Political parties, like poets, are born, not made.

Real political issues cannot be manufactured by the leaders of political parties, and real ones cannot be evaded by political parties.

FERTILIZER ANALYSES FOR 1890.

MR. EDITOR:—Experiment Station Bulletin No. 69 will be ready for mailing Feb. 28. It will contain all analyses of fertilizers, sampled by the official inspectors, which have been finished up to date.

The fertilizer season this year for a variety of reasons is an exceptionally late one. Not until the latter part of January, owing to late shipments, was it possible for the inspectors to find the brands on sale. And as the value of our whole fertilizer inspection depends on the fertilizer samples being taken after the goods are shipped into the State and offered for sale, necessarily if these shipments are delayed, the analyses in consequence will be retarded.

This bulletin contains, therefore, a limited number only of the brands licensed, but they are published at this time with the desire of accomplishing as much good as possible, by giving to the farmers some analyses at least which may aid them in their purchases.

Valuations for 1890 have a different meaning from the values of previous years. Heretofore it has been attempted to give by the commercial value, an approximation of the retail cost of the mixed fertilizer for cash at the seaboard. That is, the price which a man at the seaboard ought to give for the complete fertilizer. This plan was to some extent unsatisfactory, and gives place this year to the new system. The commercial value as given to a fertilizer this season (1890) means the actual retail cost for each of the ingredients in bags at the seaboard. It does not include the cost of mixing these ingredients, nor of branding the bags, nor of handling the mixed fertilizer, nor any expenses contingent upon the management of an extensive fertilizer manufactory. A farmer when he buys a fertilizer this year, by glancing at the commercial valuation, as given by the Experiment Station, can see what is the actual cash worth of the ingredients composing it at the seaboard. For interior points, freight to those points from the seaboard must be added.

The valuation for the three ingredients for this year by this system will be: For available phosphoric acid, 5 cents per pound; for ammonia, 13 cents per pound; for potash, 5 cents per pound. This system, and this valuation, has been adopted by the combined States of North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina.

Bulletin 69 will be sent to each name on the mail list of the Experiment Station. Those who are especially desirous of getting this bulletin at once, will do well to request the same by postal card; as necessarily, with such an extensive mailing list, it must be some days before all the names can be supplied from it.

H. B. BATTLE, Director.
Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 21, '90.

POWER OF THE PEOPLE.

There is no danger in trusting the people, and it is not a question as to whether they are Democrats, Republicans, Knights of Labor, Greenbackers or members of a Farmers' Alliance. When the politicians see that you mean they shall perform their duties honestly, they will break their necks to get on your side. When Jumbo has his leg tied to a tree he is an object of sympathy. That is the way these men look upon you men to-day. They think they have you chained, and they will continue to think so until you love your family better than your party [cheers], and I say better than all parties.—Gen. Jas. A. Weaver before farmers and Knights, St. Louis.

THOMAS A. EDISON.

The Wizard of Electricity Chats About North Carolina.

Yesterday afternoon a *Chronicle* reporter met Mr. Edison, the world famous inventor of the telephone, the phonograph, and several hundred other valuable things, strolling around Charlotte, quietly observing the city and the people.

In conversation with the reporter, Mr. Edison said that what North Carolina is most in need of is geological maps of the State. Pennsylvania and New Jersey have both been carefully surveyed. Every hill 20 feet high is down on the maps. There are many persons seeking investment, but they do not know the mineral and timber resources of North Carolina. This State should have a complete geological survey made, especially with regard to the commercial minerals; so that when one is looking for investment, he can take a geological map of North Carolina, and see just what the State offers. North Carolina needs white immigration. You cannot get people here without your offering them something definite; and you all here do not yourselves know fully and thoroughly what you have to offer.

How much would such a survey cost? queried the reporter.

Well, said Mr. Edison, one competent geological surveyor and four or five assistants would be sufficient. It would take that force about five years to complete the State survey in a satisfactory manner. I should think \$6,000 a year would cover all the expenses.—*Charlotte Chronicle*.

THE COST OF ELEVATORS.

A correspondent of the *Rural World*, E. W. K., writes from Higginsville, Mo., as follows:

It costs \$7,500 to build an elevator with a storage capacity of 50,000 bushels. Such an elevator would elevate about 1,000 bushels per hour or clean 500 bushels per hour; of course the cleaning capacity can be easily made 1,000 bushels, the same as the elevating. The above includes an engine and everything complete, and by adding \$7,000 more the storage capacity can be readily increased 50,000 bushels, thus making the total capacity of storage 100,000 bushels, and at a total cost of \$14,500. The expense of operating such an elevator, if run on economical principles, should not exceed \$1,500 per annum, or say 1 1/2 cents per bushel. This includes everything, even insurance, which need not be excessive. The profits of an elevator from one source are this: During the months of July and August (in this section, Central Missouri) two thirds of the grain (wheat) is threshed from the field, or out of the shock, and brought directly to market. The consequence is that the grain being new and soft, it does not grade No. 2, thus losing from 4 1/2 to 5 cents per bushel in grading, or whatever difference there is between Nos. 2 and 3, and sometimes even No. 4. Here is one source of profit that would be saved were the wheat stored in an elevator until at least this difference in the grade could be saved.

From the above estimator, which seems to be a fair one, the cost of building the proposed sub-treasury warehouses can be made. The entire amount of all kinds of cereals produced in the United States for 1889, may be put at 3,400,000,000 bushels, the largest in the history of the country. Of this amount there was wheat, 490,560,000 bushels; oats, 751,515,000 bushels; corn, 2,112,892,000 bushels. The exports of all kinds of grain for the same year was about 210,000,000 bushels. Of this amount there was of wheat and flour 88,822,462 bushels; corn and cornmeal 70,241,674 bushels. The great bulk of the grain produced in this country was therefore consumed at home, and by far the largest part of the coarse grain must have been fed to stock on the farm. Bradstreet's reports from more than 1,000 different points east of the Rocky Mountains show grain in store as follows:

February 1, 1890.—Wheat, 49,691,000 bushels.	
Corn, 18,490,000 "	
Oats, 9,490,000 "	
Barley, 2,298,000 "	
Rye, 1,991,000 "	
82,150,000 "	
In store on Pacific coast, 7,645,000 "	
Total, 89,795,000 "	

The total amount of wheat in store and about for the same time in the entire world was only 105,533,415 bushels. With this data an approximate calculation can be made of the probable amount of grain that would be warehoused at any one time. If the present amount of grain in store, say

90,000,000 bushels, is increased to 270,000,000 bushels, or three times the amount actually in store, it probably would be an outside figure, for the number of bushels that would be required to warehouse at any one time, at least for the present. The cost of building good and sufficient warehouses to store this amount of grain at the estimate quoted above, 15 cents per bushel storage capacity, would be but \$40,500,000. The cotton crop of 1889 is given at 6,938,290 bales. The cost of building cotton warehouses is estimated at \$1 per bale storage capacity. If the whole crop is taken into the calculation it would amount to \$6,938,290, which would build those for tobacco also. If these figures are correct the entire cost of building the necessary warehouses for sub-treasury purposes would amount to only \$47,500,000 in round numbers.

Certainly \$50,000,000 would warehouse all the grain, cotton and tobacco contemplated in the sub-treasury plan, and likely to demand storage at any one period for some time to come. In this calculation the number of warehouses is not considered, but the whole amount to be stored is provided for. The expense of the undertaking cannot be urged, therefore, as an objection. There is to-day in the United States treasury \$25,000,000 of minor coin, classed as unavailable assets, for the payment of any government claims. The *National Economist* will take this sum and build half of these warehouses, and use no other kind of money. The mechanics of this country will not stand on the size of the coins; it is the amount that is doing the mischief. The above is a fair statement of the cost of the warehouses, and it is hoped that the friends of the sub-treasury plan will read it carefully.—*National Economist*.

FOUR ELOQUENT EDITORS.

The Charlotte Chamber of Commerce banquet is not of special importance to our readers, but we will clip for them, from the *Charlotte Democrat*, what Christian says about the speeches of four editors who ate, drank and were merry at it:

Joe Caldwell, scared to death, speech crammed, and bumped like Bill Nye's brain during the grip against the rafters of his cranium. But just the same he got there and talked good, gritty sense for the space of five minutes on the subject of the State Press. He had his speech down fine, took his time, and took his audience. He was felicitous, sensible and of pathetic touch. Joe Caldwell, the man is so beloved in Charlotte that he is half of an eloquent speech in himself.

Robert Haydn: This gentleman arose after vociferous calls in a "biled" shirt and a spiked tailed coat, the only one in the room. He had a full ebullient and a short speech and a face much like and as handsome as De la Roche's Napoleon. His speech was ra y, timely, and cut off in three minutes, and to tell the truth took the town. It was considered the gem of the evening, and came from a man who, with proper appreciation, will in time to come be to Charlotte what Grady was to Atlanta.

W. E. Christian was called on; he arose, spoke, and to the delight of his audience, sat down.

Wade Harris was called on enthusiastically and made an eloquent address, but unfortunately not a word of it could be heard by the audience. Dear old Wade, we don't love him for his enemies, but for his friends who are unanimously so in this burg.

The Statesville *Landmark* says: "Mr. Haydn made the brightest speech of the evening and negated the prevalent idea that a man cannot both write and speak well. The manner as well as the matter of his speech was admirable, but really his person is so good to look upon that one loses much of what he says through the physical man."

The personal qualities of the animals to be used in breeding are more important than those of their ancestors; the qualities of parents more important than grandparents, and vastly more important than those of any more remote ancestors. The offspring resembles the parent much more frequently than it does some remote ancestor.

Among all the efforts that have been made by the great dailies and small weeklies to discourage or ridicule the "farmer in politics" not one of them has committed the absurdity of suggesting that any harm could come to the country thereby.—*Faulkner County Wheel*.