The Progressive Farmer.

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Raleigh, N. C.

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RALEIGH, N. C., JULY 29 1890

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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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A SMALL FAVOR ASKED.

Will the judges, members of the State Senate and members of the Lower House who have refused to accept free passes from the different railroad corporations in the State be so kind as to drop us a postal card to that effect? We would appreciate this little act of kindness very much.

In response to the above the following members of the Legislature and Senate have gone on record as having refused railroad passes:

R. W. Scott, Alamance county; B. A. Wellons, Johnston county; J. D. Parker, Perquimans county; E. C. Beddingfield, Wake county; M. J. Ham, Wayne county; John Norwood, Orange county; N. Gibbon, Mecklenburg county; J. L. Anderson, of Hertford county.

COL. POLK'S TRIP.

FROM a private letter just received from Col. Polk, we quote the following:

"After a flying trip of a month through the States of Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, I am rejoiced as I approach the hour which will again place me on the soil of my native State. Riding almost every night and speaking almost every day and in the open air to vast crowds, sweltering in a temperature ranging from 95 to 104 degrees, I think I can truly say it has been the most trying and laborious task of my life. But it was made lighter and brighter by the cordial, fraternal and enthusiastic reception with which I have been honored everywhere and on all occasions. The people of the great Northwest never were more thoroughly aroused to their condition nor more determined to have relief. They are profoundly impressed with the belief that the farmers and bread-winners of the two sections should unite and make common cause against a common evil. Earnest, determined and enthusiastic as they are in promoting the great principles of our noble order, they have reached the conclusion that so long as the farmers of the North and of the South are arrayed on sectional lines, we can accomplish nothing. To remain divided is to remain helpless, and they appeal to the farmers of the South to covenant with them that henceforth the wealth producers of the land shall stand together for the common weal of a common country, and I believe that from every State, every county and every Alliance in the South will come a hearty response to this appeal for unity and fraternity. It is our only hope. A sectional organization embracing only the people or the States of a section will be powerless to obtain a redress of wrongs inflicted by a power whose agencies permeate every nook and corner of the whole land. Nothing short of a grand *national* organization, standing under one flag, enduring to one name, actuated by one purpose—the redemption of the country from the deadly grasp of monopoly—can give us justice and relief. I sincerely trust that the Alliance of my own and other Southern States, at their annual meetings, now near at hand, will make such response to these overtures of peace and good will on the part of our Northern brethren as will forever blot from our country the blight and stigma of sectional hatred and prejudice, and I confidently believe they will do it. Let the Alliance crown itself with undying glory by consummating this grand work. Among the foremost in acts of kindness and cordial greetings were the old Union soldiers, and it is a singular fact that in every instance, where a brother stood up with me to talk to the people, he was one who had worn the blue. Such kindness, such enthusiasm, such evidences of fraternal regard as marked the bearing of these people I can never forget. The cause is moving grandly forward all along the line. Tell the brethren to be of good cheer and to stand faithfully by their colors."

DO YOUR FULL DUTY.

ELSEWHERE will be found a letter from Dr. C. W. Macune, Chairman of the National Executive Committee of our order. He urges upon our delegates to the State Alliance meetings, which will take place in the different States soon, the importance of staying as long as necessary in order to accomplish everything undertaken, and that all make arrangements before leaving home for a stay of several days, provided the time is required.

Dr. Macune's letter explains itself fully and we hardly deem it necessary to add much to what he says. Every delegate will, or should, go with a determination to do something for the good of the entire order. It also is highly important that each one stay until the end of the session, for, as he says, all the unwise and extravagant work can be traced to the last day of the session when the members are in a hurry to go home. It is highly important that the brethren in each county suggest to their delegates any changes they think of so they can work intelligently.

SENATOR VANCE.

AS the readers of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER are aware, the editor in-chief has been absent for weeks on a tour of the Alliance States of the great West. So rapidly and so continuously was he forced to travel to meet his engagements and so arduous and exacting were his duties that he could give attention to naught else than the immediate and pressing demands upon him. Indeed until he reached Asheville, on the 20th inst. he had not seen a State paper since leaving Washington City, on the 24th ult., except one copy of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. Most naturally and very properly do the readers of this paper expect him to say something touching the attitude which THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER assumed towards the position of Senator Vance, as expressed in his recent letter, on the Sub Treasury bill and other matters. This he will do, but not until he shall have had opportunity to inform himself as best he may on the matters at issue.

He has, in a large measure, and for a quarter of a century been honored with the confidence and friendship of Senator Vance. In intellectual power, in broad patriotism in devotion to the interests of the whole people, he has proudly claimed that Senator Vance stood among the very foremost of living American statesmen. In his admiration, his esteem and his affection for him, he has stood by him and for him, through evil as well as through good report. But with all this he cannot forget that Senator Vance is a human being and is liable to err. He is not infallible. The writer believes that the Senator has committed an error—an error which will pain and grieve hundreds and thousands of his admirers and friends. Believing this, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER would be false to its high trust and responsibility as the organ of the State Alliance, if it did not say so promptly and plainly.

While this paper would be just to Senator Vance, it must also be just to the people whom it represents.

STAND FOR THE RIGHT.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER has, within the past three years, admonished the brethren frequently, to prepare for the approach of the time that would surely come, and which would test their manhood and their devotion to principle. In the heat of party strife, we are too apt to be diverted from principle—too apt to yield to the impulses of passion—too apt to become absorbed in matters purely personal in their character, and lose sight of the more important matter of propagating and maintaining principle. Remember that no man in your Alliance or in your party is, or can be, as important as your principles. Lay down your principles and have men to conform to them, instead of having your principles conform to men. This was the grand test applied by the fathers of the Republic, and this is the only rule which will surely secure to us these inestimable rights, which they bequeathed to us. Let us be faithful and true to principle.

At the great mass-meeting in Greensboro on the 24th inst. resolutions complimentary to President Polk and tendering to the brotherhood of the Northwest assurances of fraternal regard and fellowship were adopted unanimously and by a rising vote. They were forwarded to Bro. Clover, of Kansas, for publication in the papers of our order in those States. And thus shall the war of demagogical politicians end. So mote it be.

1,306.

The above is the exact number of new subscribers added to our list *since our last issue*. This gives us 2 396 new subscribers within the past three weeks.

FRIENDS—ONE AND ALL.

TO the scores of friends in all parts of the State who have crowded this office with letters, expressive of their kindly feeling, and to all those who have aided in multiplying the pages of our subscription books, we tender assurances of our most grateful appreciation. We said some time since that THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER must have on its list twenty five thousand subscribers by January, 1891. It is a paper "of the people, by the people and for the people," and whatever else may be said of it, we proudly claim that from its very first issue to date it has never betrayed or deserted those for whom it was established. And whatever may be its fate, it will stand loyally and faithfully by the people and their interests. One brother sent us *a club of fifty five subscribers*. Only a few more such would soon bring us up to the twenty-five thousand. Shall we not have them? Again, our grateful thanks, brethren and friends.

THEN AND NOW.

WHEN the writer was about eighteen years of age he became a regular correspondent of the Statesville *Landmark*. For six years this was kept up. During that time we wrote more or less upon matters of economy. The editor of the *Landmark* and the writer never could and cannot agree on such matters. Some times things would get dull and we would get up a row with Bro. Caldwell and fire into him to the extent of a column or two, in which we would proceed to tell him plainly what he was and what he ought to be. This may have done him good. Any way he is now one of the best editors on this continent, and though we have not gotten him fully converted, yet he is one of nature's noblemen. On one occasion, before the Alliance was introduced into this State, the writer wrote an article urging the farmers to organize and giving a number of reasons why it was necessary. One statement in this article was so extravagant that it caused a smile to appear on Bro. Caldwell's face which remained for some time. We made the assertion that it was possible for the farmers' organizations to become so powerful that our national legislators would not dare to refuse to enact such laws for their benefit as they should ask for, provided, of course, that these laws be in the bounds of reason and justice. We went so far as to say that instead of the farmers being entirely ignored as they then were, a simple request from the president of the national order for the enactment of this or that law would cause our Congressmen and Senators to get up at 3 o'clock in the morning, go to the capitol and put the measure through.

Of course we would hardly ask that of our representatives, but it is a fact that more legislation could be done in a month, if they would go at it in earnest, than has been done in the past ten years. We have not got to that point yet, but we are getting there. We will be compelled to clip off a few congressional and senatorial heads before they realize we are alive and kicking, but there is nothing wrong about that. When your hands do not work, discharge them. You always do that on your farms. Apply the same rule as to Congressmen and Senators and all will be well.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

*** At the solicitation of many citizens, Col. L. L. Polk addressed the people of this section to day (Tuesday) at Metropolitan Hall, in this city.

*** Don't forget the Grape Fair at Mt. Holly this week. A ton of fertilizer will be given to the Alliance making the largest exhibition of grapes. Be sure to go.

*** The "Monopoly Bureau," of Washington City, has issued a circular giving the "opinions of eminent statesmen and comments of the press upon the Sub-Treasury bill."

*** And now the Alliance of the great State of Illinois takes its place in the column. The State body was organized at Morrison on the 5th inst. by President Polk. The outlook in that State is most hopeful and encouraging.

*** The State Alliance of South Carolina met in Greenville on the 23d inst. It was a splendid body of men and was thoroughly imbued with genuine Alliance zeal. The order in our sister State is in admirable condition, and will do a noble work in the future. We will publish a list of the officers-elect as soon as obtained.

*** The State Alliance of South Carolina, at its session on the 23d inst. adopted resolutions of fraternal greeting and good fellowship, and ordered them to be transmitted by wire to Bro. B. H. Clover, President of the Kansas State Alliance, with request that they be communicated to the entire brotherhood of the Northwest. The "bloody shirt" business is waning.

*** Letters and resolutions are coming in by hundreds endorsing THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and censuring Senator Vance. We greatly appreciate all they say in our favor, but it is impossible to publish them It would take a paper three times as large as ours to publish them all. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER has spoken out plainly upon this matter. To publish these letters would just be a repetition of what has been said. No man is large enough for us to fight continually. We are fighting for the Sub-Treasury bill and the maintenance of our principles. Those who oppose us and our measures will kill themselves by their own actions in due time. But again we thank our friends for these expressions of confidence.

*** President Polk arrived in this city on Friday morning and will spend a few days with his family and to rest. Notwithstanding his constant and laborious duties for the past thirty days, during which time he traveled nearly 8,000 miles, he is looking well and is in fine spirit. He relates many interesting incidents of his trip and emphasizes his oft-repeated opinion that one of the grandest things to be wrought out through the Alliance is the unifying of the farmers of the North and South. It was estimated that at his three appointments in Kansas the aggregate number of persons to whom he spoke was forty-two thousand. At Emporia the procession was four and three quarter miles in length. They had three brass bands. The farmers constructed a kind of double-decked wagon on which sat young ladies representing each of the Alliance States. The South Carolina Alliance passed a resolution of thanks to the little black-eyed beauty who represented that State and forwarded to her. On another sat twenty-five little girls, aged ten to thirteen years, dressed in a uniform with bonnie caps of red, white and blue, and they sang the campaign song of the West—"Good-bye, my party, good bye." He states that the farmers of the Northwest are in much worse condition than are we of the South. They are covered with mortgages, which are held chiefly by eastern capitalists and on which, from the low prices of their products, they are unable to pay the interest, and that unless Congress shall do something quickly to put more money in circulation, thousands of those hard-working people must give up their homes. Their oppressed condition has given the country almost solidly to the Alliance cause.

THE GREENSBORO MEETING.

It was a Success.

THE Alliance Rally at Greensboro was all that was expected on the first day, but the rain on the morning of the second kept many people at home. However the crowd was a large one and Benbow Hall was filled from pit to dome.

On Wednesday the Alliance men were called together in front of the Benbow House at 10 o'clock by music by the Pilgrim Band, which is composed of Alliance men around Lexington, in Davidson county. A handsomer or more intelligent band of young men cannot be found in our State. Nine of these young men belong to the Alliance and the tenth would only he is too young, he being under sixteen years of age. This band has bought good instruments and nice uniforms and we doubt if any band in the State can make better music.

On Wednesday the members of the Alliance were provided with ribbon badges on which was printed a sheaf of wheat. The procession formed at 10:30 and marched to the stand in the western portion of the city. Chief Marshal W. C. Boren, of Pomona, led on horseback. He was followed by carriages containing the orator of the day and other gentlemen. The Pilgrim Band followed the carriages. Prayer was offered by Rev. Geo. E. Hunt, and the orator of the day, Hon. N. A. Dunning, of Michigan, outher of the "Philosophy of Price," and at present one of the editors of the *National Economist*, was introduced by Dr. D. Reid Parker, of Trinity College. Bro. Dunning spoke for two hours and twenty five minutes and his audience was more than pleased. As we could not be present on Wednesday we have culled the above from the excellent report of the days' proceedings found in the Greensboro *Daily Workman*. The following is from the *Workman verbatim:*

The speaker alluded to the fact that North Carolina was the first State to issue a declaration of independence, while quite near where he was then standing one of the first battles of the Revolution was fought. He was aware of the grave charges made by the South against the North, some of which were true, but not all. He was especially severe on those who for selfish ends and for the purpose of reaping a still further harvest of wealth, fanned the flames of strife that was ended twenty-five years ago. It was this harvest of riches that protracted the war, and tended to enslave the people both North and South. The carpet bagger, the politician and a subsidized press had kept blazing the fires of sectional strife.

"Do not judge the North," said he, "by the Federal office-holder." The North during the war was one vast beehive of industry and the schemes of designing men protracted the war, to enslave the whole people, North and South.

Trusts, corporations and combines, were the evils resulting and continuing.

Those who had money combined against those who had none. Instead of capital seeking labor, it was labor seeking capital. The ballot had been prostituted by insidious methods. Money was supreme and the will of the millionaire was the law of the Northern section.

The speaker dwelt largely on the curse of sectionalism and the great disadvantages under which the farmer lives. The great need was to have a united people in all things—conservatism and peace. The North wants it; the Alliance wants it. The speaker dwelt some time on the fact that the millionaires and the bond-holders of the North and political matters under their control, and that the people in that section were groaning under a burden and anxiously striving for deliverance. "It is," said he "the cunning of New England and Wall street."

The speaker then recited the fact that a letter had reached him to day from the far West, begging him for God's sake to lay aside the speech he had proposed to make, and tell the truth about Northern prejudice, that the Southern people might understand the situation.

"As to Southern outrages, about which so much 'has been written,' said the speaker, if what I have seen of it since I have been here be a fair sample, would that all our people at the North could have a taste of it."

Concluding this part of his address the speaker said: "We will now examine the situation and seek for a remedy."

Speaking of the ways of getting money out of the Treasury, he said there were but two ways, the purchase of bonds and the appropriation of money by Congress.

The startling statement was made that notwithstanding the almost countless millions that had been paid on the national debt, it was larger now in labor value than at any time heretofore. Senator Vance, he said, is an honest man, but he has made a mistake which he would gladly correct if he could. The party lash caused him to do what he did.

Speaking of Senator John Sherman, he characterized him as "the Prince of Thieves."

"The members of Congress, said he, "are the best fellows in the world when you have the advantage of them." Finally he said, "we are fighting Wall street and nothing else."

This is a very imperfect sketch, and leaves out the arguments of the speaker, which could not be given in any small compass, and which an attempt to give would do them an injustice. It was a very strong speech and was listened to with great patience by the large crowd.

Speeches were also made by Capt S. B. Alexander and President Holladay, of our State Agricultural College. On Thursday morning President Polk arrived from the South, and although dark and murky clouds poured forth incessant rain, Benbow Hall was crowded and packed to its utmost capacity with men from all parts of the State and from Virginia eager to hear him. He was warmly greeted with prolonged cheering and spoke for two hours and thirty minutes to his delighted audience. Many leading Alliance men were heard to express an anxious desire for President Polk to furnish a copy of his speech for publication and general distribution throughout the country. As to the manner of its reception, it is safe to say that of all that dense crowd not a half dozen moved or left the hall during its delivery. He was followed by Prof. Massey, of our Agricultural College, who seemed to delight in throwing solid chunks of wisdom at his auditors. His sentences are short but strong and full of deep practical thought. Not satisfied with the elaborate array of facts and figures to which they treated the day before by Bro. Dunning, the people called for that gentleman again to talk to them on the money question. He did it and did it well. He took occasion to confirm in touching language the report of President Polk as to the conciliatory feeling of the Northern farmers and their desire to end forever the "war of hate" between the sections.

The Rally was a success and the seed sown fell on good ground and will no doubt bring forth fruit abundantly. Everybody was pleased and all claimed to have been greatly edified and strengthened in the faith. Bro. D. Reid Parker handled the gavel with his accustomed ease and grace and Bro. Benbow aided greatly by his contributions to the comfort and pleasure of the people. Altogether the Rally at Greensboro will be long and pleasantly remembered.

The *Daily Workman*, which is edited by a most excellent Christian gentleman, publishes the following synopsis of Col. Polk's speech:

There are grave facts as to the situation, one of which is that small farms are being absorbed and crushed, and large farms being multiplied. In one decade the number of small farms had been diminished by 145,553, and large farms increased by 770 per cent. No one can fail to see in this decay ruin unless the policy be changed. There will be, as the result of this system, but two classes, the very poor and the very rich, annihilating the middling class, which have always been the bulwarks of liberty and the promoters of the general prosperity.

When I contemplate the christian farmer, said Col. Polk, and view him with his surroundings of peace and quiet, I forget railroads and cities, and I say, at last the strength and glory of a country is in its homes. These now are in a crucial condition.

The true doctrine for the age is, "the greatest good to the greatest number, and equal rights to all and special privileges to none." Why try to prove that the American farmer is in a depressed condition, working hard and growing poorer to-day than he was 25 years ago.

To settle this question, said the speaker I was satisfied with nothing less than a consultation of the best authorities. I went to the big Physician at Washington, who is supposed to know all about economic questions—Bro. Dodge. He said one great trouble was the need of a diversification of crops. I saw then that I had reached a point where I would need to make calculations for myself, some thinking of my own; to investigate what men say, and see if there is not a mistake. I found that diversification would not meet the difficulty, for in the great State of Michigan where that had been tried they have land mortgages to the amount of $130,000,000, and their fine farm lands decreased in value 50 per cent. in ten years. In New Jersey, with its favored location, the same depreciation in land values has occurred. I went to New Hampshire, which fifteen years ago bloomed like a garden. There I found 1,442 farms, having good dwellings, barns, rock fences and maple orchards—abandoned, and the owners gone to keep from perishing.

I then tried the Senior member of the Senate, Mr. Morrill, and he replied that the difficulty was in overproduction.

Since Mr. Morrill said those words the echo has gone all through the country—overproduction. Mr. Dodge's figures show how much wheat was reported, but not how many persons in our own country are hungry, and with pencil I reduced the wheat to flour, and apportioned it to the population, and there was none left to export after the mouths of the hungry had been filled. There are 5,000,000 in a state of semi starvation.

The American Congress is too far from the people to understand and appreciate the prevailing evil. Some do not know and others do not care. Its true that a dollar will buy more now than it ever would; but where is the dollar.

The political Dr. is mistaken. It is not the farmer's fault. It is the fault of a rotten and wicked financial system. There was a time here when the farmer had money to lend and to deposit in the bank. Not so now. The money manipulators of the country are controlling its finances in their own interest.

AN OPEN LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN MACUNE.

The State Alliances in nearly all the States convene during the month of August, and brethren who have been elected delegates at the recent meetings of the County Alliances, Wheels, or Unions should begin to ponder upon the duties and responsibilities devolving upon them. They have been chosen to represent the farmers of the county in a legislative capacity, and they will go to the State meeting with expenses paid and a fair remuneration allowed them for the time employed. They are under a very strong moral obligation, having accepted the trust, to go and stay till the business is all transacted. It is too common for brethren to begin applying to be excused that they may go home on the second day, and each day the number increases. Nothing much can be done in a body of one hundred members on the first day but organize, and nearly all the unwise and extravagant legislation that has been enacted can be traced to the last day of the session, when members were in a hurry to get through. A delegate's duty to his constituents is imperative that he make his arrangements before going, so that he can and will stay as long as their interests demand that he should. It is a good plan for the State body when first convened to pass an order that no delegate will be paid his mileage and per diem who does not remain until the session closes.

C. W. MACUNE,
Chm'n Executive Committee.

Bro. J. H. Foote, of Dellaplane, Wilks county, writes that Col. Thos. B. Long, has recently been in that county, and his lectures have done a great deal of good. Several new Alliances have been organized by the County Lecturer, who is a very promising young man. Bro. Foote says Col. Long is a fine speaker and never fails to arouse feeling in favor of the great cause he so eloquently advocates.