

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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The Progressive Farmer is the Official Organ of the N. C. Farmers' State Alliance

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THAT CIRCULAR.

THE NEWS AND OBSERVER.

The Old Inimic - A Long Time and Faithful. Advocates the Sub-Treasury bill. Advocates unlimited coinage of silver and the issue of \$500,000,000 more paper money. Advocates distributing \$100,000,000 of the money now in the Treasury to the States on the basis of their agricultural products to relieve agricultural depression.

OFFICE-SEEKERS.

Partisan methods encourage and even require men to seek office. "You are bound to hustle if you expect to win in these times" is the current business expression which the politicians have seized and appropriated. And they do "hustle," and they generally win—at least they have been winning up to this time. Their conquest of the offices, however, has not been a victory for the people. They have hustled for the offices and the people have had to hustle for themselves.

without debate, but nominated candidates upon a war record to carry them out. We must be particular about securing the right men to enforce the right measures. A Congressman must be selected solely with reference to his qualification respecting the main questions before the people. Do not ask what he did in the last war, but what can he do in this war now on us. The questions to be fought out now are greater than those of the other war, and it requires as much courage to fight in this as in that.

They are not only the office-seekers but the office-seeker's friend. They are birds of a feather, and each wants and expects something for himself. It is an unwritten law among office-holders now to reward their friends and sometimes even their families with the patronage of office. It is much easier to pay for personal service with the people's money than with their own, and as nearly all do it, it is dangerous not to do it.

If a man advocates the main issues with more ability than others, seek him out, (for if he has any virtue you will have to seek him,) and put him, by your united efforts, where he can do the most good. It is treason to the people and to truth to put a lessor man there if the other can be had. It is casting the children's bread unto dogs to give to office-seekers the places which others can better fill. The people have always wanted a railroad commission but they never could get it with a purely partisan legislature, though instructed by them as to their wishes. Something always happened to prevent the passage of the bill. At last the Alliance took the matter up and looked a little into the personnel of the members composing the legislature, and lo, the bill became a law! Now let men be selected for Congress mainly with reference to their ability to invent and advocate financial relief for the people.

THE REFORM PRESS.

In North Carolina we have ten papers that have joined the reform movement. Very few if any of them are new recruits, their editors having been engaged in Alliance work for some years. Most of these papers have been started or purchased with the view of advocating the reform movement. In most cases our farmers were very anxious that these papers be started, knowing the great influence of the press when directed right.

Now the reform press has certain duties to perform. It must be plain to all. The editors of such papers must be honest, truthful and fearless. There should be no extremist in the editorial chair, but at the same time a milk and cider man has no abiding place in the office of a reform paper. Any paper failing to come up to the requirements will be dropped from the list of reform papers. A paper should stand by our demands and work to change our conditions. But at the same time these papers should represent all classes.

What is the duty of the members of the Alliance and the general public? The members of the Alliance own and are interested in the success of these papers financially and in the success of the reforms they advocate. Hence it is apparent that they should give the papers the most liberal support possible. Self-protection is the first law of nature, therefore these papers are entitled to the support of farmers first of all. Our National and State organs are entitled to liberal support, and great issues ought to be discussed in their columns. But the local papers should have more liberal support than they ever have had. These papers cannot depend on a little meat from politicians and others; they depend entirely upon a legitimate subscription list and advertising patronage. Another thought right here. Our people must stop sending such a great mass of matter for publication to the State and National organs. When a man begins an article for publication he naturally wants it to reach as many people as possible. Owing to this the larger reform papers are crowded almost out of existence. Now send some of your thunder to your local Alliance paper and try to air your views among your home people. This will not detract anything from the efficiency of the State and National organs, for they are always full to the brim, and may add interest to the local paper. Above all give your local paper more liberal support. Don't pay your money for plutocratic papers that don't care whether you are slaves or free citizens. Spread them among the people and make them interesting. If you mean business do this, if not get out of the reform movement and go to work on the other side.

A STRANGER WITHIN OUR GATES

Hon. Alonzo Wardall, one of the members of the National Alliance Executive Committee, from far away Dakota, spent a part of last Wednesday and Thursday in Raleigh.

Bro. Wardall is a fine-looking man physically and a strong one mentally. He lives in the northern part of Dakota, surrounded by Indians. They are friendly ones, however. Eighteen hundred of them live on a reservation which joins Bro. Wardall's farm. They have just sold the reservation for over \$5,000,000, or more than \$10,000 for each family. They are a part of the Sioux tribe.

The climate is very cold in Dakota. The principal products are wheat, oats, rye, hay, flax and cattle. Dakota raises more flax than any State in the Union. Bro. Wardall informs us that the wheat crop is immense and will go a great way toward setting the farmers on their feet again, especially as the crop is so short across the ocean and prices are going to be high. Farmers there are holding their wheat for the rise. Wheat is sown in Dakota in March and harvested in July. The crop this year will average about 20 bushels to the acre throughout the State. Millet is sown for hay. Clover does not do well. Millions of cattle are raised in Dakota on the natural pastures. Corn will not mature that far North and horses are raised, fine ones, too, without ever eating any corn. They have but little timber in the State, and depend on coal for fuel, though some wood is shipped from Minnesota. Rain seldom falls in that country, but the grass grows luxuriantly the year round. Bro. Wardall says he has seen fire sweep over the prairies when the grass looked perfectly green, but it was as dry as tinder. The natural grass there is much better for cattle and will fatten them after it is entirely dead.

We hope Bro. Wardall will continue to have a pleasant time while on his Southern tour and that he will come back again soon.

STAND BY THE DEMANDS.

The more we read the comments of the press of both parties, says the Advocate of Tarboro, and note its attitude toward the Alliance, the more united and determined we should be in our efforts to secure the reform measures which the Alliance has inaugurated. There is an under current that is sweeping against the foundation of our Order with such a force that unless vigilantly watched and earnestly resisted, will have the effect of destroying much of the power and influence of the organization. While our brethren are sanguine of accomplishing many things for the good of the organization, they should not be forgetful of the fact that the mightiest forces arrayed against us are to be resisted; and in order to resist them successfully we must be united in one solid line. We must hazard almost anything in order to secure the utmost unity and harmony in the organization. The most essential prerequisite to the securing of any reform in which the masses of the people are interested is unity, and we admonish our brethren throughout the country to stand by the demands as adopted at Ocala, Florida. They are the embodiment—the essence—of the principles of honest, just, wise and economic government, and it is our duty to maintain them. After calm and deliberate reflection they were formulated for adoption by that great convention, and seeing in them the embodiment of wisdom and justice, they were adopted as the platform of the Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union of America. We have espoused a great cause—one that requires gigantic efforts on the part of an oppressed and downtrodden class of people to throw off the fetters of the enormous money powers of the country, and let not petty jealousies and bickerings estrange you in the fight against these monsters.

YOUNG MEN IN OFFICE.

It has been a part of the game of the sectionalist, North and South, to keep young men out of all important offices, because they refuse to speculate in the dead issues by which the old party leaders have kept themselves in office so long. Before any nominations were made for the last election Col. Polk said publicly in a speech in Raleigh that both the old parties had shamefully neglected the young men. He said although there were five thousand college-bred young men in North Carolina, the best educated the State ever had and the best qualified to fill the offices of honor and trust, and a thousand self-made young men who were better educated than the college bred men, not one of them had ever held a high and responsible office in the State.

The partisan press took care not to report this part of his speech. They preserved a dignified and ominous silence. But the people caught on at once. Several young men were very soon nominated and elected to high

offices. Beddingfield, Crawford, the two Winstons, McIver, Alderman, Butler and several others have been put into high and responsible places since this agitation for young men was commenced by Col. Polk. The proscription of young men will be ended as soon as the Alliance breaks the back-bone of sectionalism which has always stood in their way to promotion.

The young men have acted wisely in not seeking office, but now the office is beginning to seek them. If some of our people will not forget the war, let us put men in office who were too young to know anything about it.

The longer this agitation continues the better will be the class of young men attracted to the service of the State and Nation. At first the party bosses, if they find the young man's boom too strong to be resisted, will trot out and boom up young men in sympathy with them and their methods and attempt to palm them off for the genuine article. After their contemptuous neglect of young men for a quarter of a century, any they will now take up or any who will be taken up by them may well be suspected. Let us send unsectional men to Congress if we have to go down almost to the cradle to get them.

THE SALISBURY RALLY.

Last Tuesday was a big day at Salisbury. President Polk, Jerry Simpson and other speakers of note were expected and had been advertised, but owing to a misunderstanding and misconstruction they failed to come. But Maj. W. A. Graham was there in the forenoon and made an excellent speech two hours long. All expressed themselves as well pleased and quite a number said it was the best Sub-Treasury speech they had ever heard.

After his speech came the dinner, which was one of the best public dinners ever spread in North Carolina. All eat and were filled. After dinner Dr. D. Reid Parker, of Trinity College, spoke for an hour. He was nearly worn out travelling and speaking, but his audience were both amused and instructed. The Pilgrim Cornet Band, which is composed of good looking and in every respect fine young Alliance-men, made music for the crowd during the day.

The citizens of Salisbury aided in making the meeting a success by contributing a liberal amount of money and otherwise. Notwithstanding the great disappointment in not seeing the far off speakers, the day passed off pleasantly and all were benefited. If possible some of the national speakers will attend the Piedmont Alliance Fair to be held at Salisbury this fall.

THE BOSTIAN BRIDGE DISASTER.

All the details of the terrible wreck near Statesville have been published generally throughout the country. It is found that 22 persons were killed and 26 wounded. The Coroner's jury were not able to show that the track had been tampered with by malicious persons, but think it had been. The railroad company was condemned for allowing tools to be carelessly left where they could be gotten at by any person, and for having rotten timbers on the bridge. They also condemned fast running over bridges. A number of circumstances appear to show that the track was tampered with. Bolts were found out of the rails with the threads in perfect condition. A suspicious looking stranger asked a reputable citizen of Statesville "if he was going to cross the bridge that night." Some think he had something to do with it. Two attempts had been made to wreck a train at Salisbury quite recently. Since the disaster at Bostian's Bridge some one attempted to wreck a passenger train on the East Tennessee division of the same road by placing cross-ties on the track. The same night efforts were made to wreck a freight train. So it is possible that some fiend in human form is at the bottom of it all. Some advance the idea that robbery was the object, but it seems that no organized effort was made to rob the victims of the wreck until after convicts came to remove the debris. They were searched and valuables and money recovered.

Railroads do business recklessly in some respects, but it is absurd to say that they carelessly allow anything to occur that entails such a great loss. The well-dressed stranger may be the fiend who has done the work. He may be a "Jack the Ripper" kind of a fellow who thinks his mission here is to wreck trains. The company has offered a reward of ten thousand dollars, and we trust that if wrecking was done he may be captured. "Murder will out," and if this wholesale butchery was the work of a murderer, the mystery will be cleared up some time.

The A. & M. College is in fine condition as to teachers and buildings, and the boys are coming in from all sections of the State.

ZEKE BILKINS.



He is on His Usual Tour for Information.

"Hello! Mr. Devil." We knew the above voice and knew what was coming.

B.—"Look a-here, Ramsey, I want to have a long talk with you."

R.—"All right, Uncle Zeke, fire away."

B.—"I want to know what has become of the newspapers that hez bin fightin' THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER."

R.—"Well, I can't tell you what has become of them. I notice that they have turned their guns in other directions. In other words, they are fighting each other. It is a case of "you hold me and I will hold you," or "if you don't hold me, I will kill somebody, sure."

B.—"Why do they fight each other?" R.—"It is easier. They have it understood that no hard hitting is to be done."

B.—"Has the News and Observer published them letters from the Milwaukee reporters yet?" R.—"No; not yet."

B.—"I want to know what Mr. Jerry Rusk has got to do with the weather. I see where you say he has been floodin' the country, or sumptin' like that."

R.—"Uncle Jerry is one of those 'friends of the farmer,' and he is always studying how to keep on good terms with us without doing us any real good. He's made a contract with a smart Aleck who brings down rain by throwing rockets up. The result is that they have flooded the entire country. Uncle Jerry thinks that the thing, and already has a presidential bee buzzing in his night-cap with a noise like a saw-mill."

B.—"Say, Ramsey, ain't that about the way all the politicians have been doin'?" R.—"Don't they all do just what we don't want them to do?"

R.—"Reckon you are about right, Uncle Zeke. But what are we going to do about it?"

B.—"Well, I was tellin' Betsy what I thought about it, an' she agreed with me. We decided that it would be best to retire all them fellows who are forever prodjickin' erround pretendin' to be our friends."

R.—"You and your wife are just about on the right track."

B.—"I want to know somethin' about these captins and kernels and majors who are talkin' about Col. Polk's war record; were they in the war?"

R.—"Some of them were, but the most of them were not. Most of them stayed at home and robbed the women and children while Col. Polk and others were at the front fighting."

B.—"That is what I told Betsy. I told her that they got their title after the war was over and that if they ever get justice they would wear the stars and stripes instead of pretendin' to fight under them after the war is over. Blamed if I don't know some of them who are called Kernel so and so and the only fightin' they did was sellin' ginger cakes to the soldiers, an' I know some more of them that hired substitutes to go ter the front and fight for them. I told Betsy the other day that I was goin' to quit votin' for the old soldiers anyway, for if they were honest and fit all through the war they had done enough for their country, and if they wasn't honest and robbed wimin and sold ginger cakes instead of fightin', they ain't fit to legislate nohow."

ABOUT ENEMIES.

The Statesville Landmark, though edited by a young man who never fought, bled or died in the war, thinks the Alliance is not doing much good by breaking down sectionalism. It says: "What good does it do to make friends in Arizona and make enemies at home among your neighbors," or words to that effect.

"Really we don't see that we have made any enemies at home. Perhaps a handful of politicians and bondholders and the like have some bad feeling toward the men composing the Alliance, it is natural that they should. But they have been and will be laid on the shelf. God did not make this country with its fertile soil, its pure running streams, its high mountains, its beautiful flowers to be ruled forever by such selfish, egotistical men. The men who have cleared the land, built

houses, and indirectly built towns, factories, railroad, churches, schools, and fought for its independence, are going to take a hand. The war is over. Perhaps both sides were to blame, but it had to come, and it is over. Before the last gun was fired selfish men in this country and England put their heads together and through the national banking system and by sectional prejudice have well nigh ruined the fairest land on earth. It is human nature to work for self, but the man without conscience is more liable to work entirely for self. We are sure that there must be reform. In order to do this the country must first become united. The politicians and the partisan press of the North and South can continue their fight. Most of them were invisible in war and now are invincible in peace. But the reform editors and the farmers of the two sections are turning over a new leaf. Our interests are the same. We cannot afford to quarrel. We care more for our thousands of friends in Arizona, Dakota, Kansas or New Jersey than for our dozens of plutocratic friends in North Carolina. Take your choice.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

* Bro. Marion Butler, our new State President, spent Saturday in town. If he don't make a good President we will be badly deceived.

* Our State Secretary requests us to state that the new State Constitution are now ready and the proceedings of the last meeting will soon be off the press for distribution.

* A number of smart papers in this State and elsewhere have severely criticized the Alliance and have never even published the demands, and some of them have never read them.

* We are pleased to learn that Bro. H. C. Deming, a prominent Alliance man from Pennsylvania, who was hurt in the wreck at Statesville, is improving. His wife is now with him.

* Just watch the antics of the herd who have been displaced in North Carolina. It is mighty hard for them to realize that honest men have taken the reins and are doing some good driving.

* We see the Agricultural Advocate for the first time in several weeks. It is published at Goldsboro by Bro. A. L. Swinson. It is filled with good reform reading matter and deserves a large patronage.

* If there is a better or more readable paper in North Carolina than the Tarboro Farmers' Advocate, we have failed to see it. It stands by the Alliance ably and fearlessly. It is well edited and newsy.

* Mr. D. G. Crandon, of the staff of the Boston Daily Advertiser, was in the city first of last week. He called in to see THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. He expressed himself as being much pleased with what he has seen in North Carolina.

* The burning question is: How much do the boodlers pay for the space occupied in certain papers to advertise the Alliance? Anything is bound to succeed that gets as much advertising as the Alliance does, and it is all paid for by outsiders!

* It is now pretty certain that many of the farmers who oppose the Alliance are not at all acquainted with its doings or objects. They accept the biased statements of partisan papers without making any investigations or without studying the matter. This is very unfair.

* Mr. Curtis Dunham, of the New York Advertiser, made this office a visit last Monday. He is making a tour of the South gathering all the information he can relative to the Alliance. Mr. Dunham was connected with the New York World at one time and is a trained journalist.

* It is needless to notice most of the lies that are now being told on the Alliance and its officers. Most of them are old stories that have been proven false years ago, while the others are too absurd to notice. Hence we just dispose of the whole matter by branding the scoundrels as they deserve.

* The Lenoir Topic says: "The howling swell at Blowing Rock this season, the man with the finest equipages, the most popular leader of the german and the man on whom the women smiled, was a hayseeder, a raiser of wheat, corn and tobacco." This is further proof that the "hay-seeders" are slowly but surely getting there.

* We do not know who the guilty parties are, but we are of the opinion that the most contemptible methods are being resorted to by someone to bulldoze Polk, and, without any regard to the case in question, our sympathies are with him in this hour of persecution. We like fair play, and this is very far from it, says the Charleston World.