

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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N. R. P. A.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Now is the time to discuss Alliance matters and read up on all the reforms contemplated.

Gladstone is in the saddle in England. What will he do for the country? Is the burning question.

Rock Ridge Alliance, Wilson county, will have a large meeting on next Saturday evening, the 10th, at 1 o'clock.

The Savannah, Ga., Cotton Exchange will oppose all anti-option bills. They say that dealing in futures is absolutely necessary. Bah!

The New York State Alliance advertises for 50 organizers to go to work in that State at once. The entire State will be organized this winter.

Bro. Howard F. Jones, Secretary of Warren County Alliance, writes: "We are determined to push on with the grand Alliance educational work. We are yet firm in the faith."

Messrs. Flake & Green have recently started a new Alliance paper at Beaver Dam, N. C., called Our Home. It is a neat and well edited paper. We wish it abundant success.

A bill has been introduced in the Georgia legislature allowing State banks of issue in the State, provided Congress repeals the 10 per cent tax on State banks which it is not likely to do.

The farmers have nothing to complain of, so far as the weather is concerned, this fall. It has been fine for gathering crops and plowing. Remember that every day's plowing done now will be worth a great deal.

The State Board of Canvassers, which met in this city Friday, investigated the election cases in the Fifth Congressional district and declared Thos. A. Settle, Republican, duly elected to Congress in that district.

Some time ago the Washington Gazette told the public that a gentleman was "building a well" in that locality. Now the Weldon News reports that a company is building a "peanut factory" near that place. What next?

The great overshadowing curse of America to day is the monopolist. He puts his hand on every bushel of wheat, every sack of flour and every ton of coal, and not a man, woman or child in America but feels the touch of the moneyed despotism.—Talmage

Bro. Green is correct when he says in Our Home: "We have been impressed that during the heat of a political campaign is no time to conduct educational work. Bull dozing and appeals to passion and prejudices produce such an effect as to render it well-nigh impossible to convince by any process of reasoning."

Now is the time to revive the interest in the Alliance. Every member should see to it that the meetings are held regularly and made interesting. See to it that something more than the regular routine work is accomplished. Discuss the different issues, local and others, that is of interest to all alike. Secure a few books as a circulating library, and above all induce all your friends and neighbors to join in with

you, thereby aiding in the social enjoyment of your meeting, which should be made social and interesting.

Another big trust has been formed. It is a beer trust this time, and the profits will be \$750,000 a year. The Rothschilds are into it. The President of the combine is to get a salary of \$75,000 per annum. Of course beer is a luxury. But the principle is the same. Why can't the bankers attend to their business? Their profits are bad enough without helping others to form trusts and rob the people.

Some of our exchanges are making a squeaking kind of noise about the Executive Committee of the State Alliance refusing to pay the expenses of two delegates to the National Alliance. The Executive Committee have nothing to do with such matters. The National Alliance seats delegates and pays their expenses to meetings and if some people knew day from night, such absurd reports would not get out. Oil your squeakers and come again.

When prominent papers and men can boldly and persistently support and defend what they are convinced is destruction to the best interests of the people, in order to achieve success for a political party claiming their allegiance, and then, when their party is defeated, utter their honest convictions not only without shame or humility, but with boastful vanity, we may well consider if this nation is not on the verge of moral ruin, says the Kansas Commoner.

CAN IT BE NON-PARTISAN.

Our exchanges are discussing the question: "Can THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER be non partisan since the People's party has adopted the Alliance platform?" The awkward way many of them go at it is proof that they will never settle the matter. They are filled with prejudice and blinded by the same monster.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER didn't cause the People's party to endorse our principles. They did it of their own free will and accord. If either of the other parties had done so, we would have had nothing but kind words for them. There is the whole matter in a nutshell. That is why THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and many other Alliance papers and officials have been accused of being "partisan" and being "in politics." Gentlemen, get your brains in better shape, dismiss that monster, prejudice, and you will be more charitable in your discussions.

MAKING SMALL FARMS PAY.

The American Cultivator says: American farmers almost always desire more land than they can work. If they do not make money they generally think the reason is they have not land enough, and often run in debt for more. But the mortgage runs on unceasingly while the land produces only in the growing season. So in the end the mortgage usually wins, some one else takes the farm, and the old process is repeated with new actors in the programme. This fact oft repeated has set many farmers to thinking. Possibly they have been mistaken in believing that more land was the requisite condition of prosperity. Fewer acres and better tillage gives better promise of success.

Unless farm methods radically change the advocates of the large farm are right. If the small farm is only half tilled its product will not meet the necessary expenses of even the most economical living, and the man, be he farmer or engaged in any other business, whose expenses regularly exceed his income is sure sometime to fail. Temporary causes may postpone failure, but the end is certain.

It is entirely true that if the small farmer grows only the crops which modern harvesting machinery enables the large farmer to grow successfully he cannot compete. In the cost of such machinery the small farmer has to pay as much as one who owns several hundred acres. He does not get a tenth part of the use from it. Hence he is at a great disadvantage, the only relief from which is the cooperative owning of such machinery by a number of small farmers, and devoting most of the land to crops where more labor may be required, but where such expensive machinery need not be purchased. There may be, probably will be, far more expense per acre, but it will result in enough larger sales to make it a profit, which cannot be done on the large farm as such farms must almost necessarily be managed.

Most of the abandoned farms of the Eastern States, and, indeed, we may say all of them, were made unprofitable by attempts to grow grain or other crops in competition with the West. The Eastern farmer has lost in such competition. Yet this land is worth more if equally fertile than that of the Western farmer. Not worth more, perhaps, for growing grain, but for growing something in which the man cultivating hundreds of acres is less likely to compete.

FREE COINAGE OF SILVER.

Now is a good time to read up on the question of free coinage. During the past few months the Alliance papers and books have shed much light on the subject, but there is much to learn yet. The gold-bugs try to mystify the money question, and leading papers that lean that way poo poo anything said in favor of free coinage or an increase in the volume of currency, by any method suggested.

Statesmen, philosophers and political economists from the time of Aristotle to the present day have always agreed upon two points—that money is the creation of law, and that to destroy or withdraw one-half of the money in circulation doubles the purchasing power of the half that remain in circulation. The efforts is felt rather than seen in the decline of prices. In 1864, the Supreme Court of Iowa handed down the following decision: "When the legal test is applied each dollar of every mode or form of currency, declared to be legal tender, has the same value, without reference to the material of which it is composed."

In the legal tender decision the United States Supreme Court covers the same point. After saying that 100 eagles coined after 1834 would pay a debt of \$1,000 contracted before that date, though they contained no more gold than ninety four eagles at the time the contract was made, it says, "and this not because of the intrinsic value of the coin, but because of its legal value." Two values are recognized by the court, a bullion value and a coinage value.

Up to 1873 silver had been a full legal tender for all debts public and private. At that time this quality that had been conferred upon it by law was taken away and has never been restored. Silver is money now only in the sense that paper is money and for the same reason. Neither is a full legal tender. Both represent gold which alone is money. In gold standard countries gold does all the work of money.

Having settled the question of "what constitutes money," its "legal value," the next thing is to consider the effect of demonetization. The methods adopted to secure the passage of the bill in 1873, by the use of English boodle, and the insertion of a word after the bill was disposed of, ought to be looked upon as crimes of the blackest hue by all honest people. That Congress has failed to remedy the wrong since is another crime.

We have shown in these columns already how cotton fell in price about \$2 per hundred since 1873, until it became impossible for farmers to raise it and live. The demonetization act no doubt had much to do with it, but there are other causes, most of them growing out of the same legislation.

It is the same thing to say that it takes more wheat, cotton, beef, etc., to pay a debt than it did before; and that is the same as to say that the dollar is harder to get—it takes more work to get it—than before. The natural effect is to dwarf enterprise, cramp business, oppress labor, prevent the debtor from paying his debts, stagnate agriculture and reduce the value of all real estate. The value of land must decline as the value of the produce of the land declines. Here is where the laborer, farmer, mechanic, banker, merchant and professional man all find a common interest in the silver question. By the fiat of law we have decreed a short crop, an artificial famine of money. As with a short crop of anything, so with this; what there is, is more valuable because it will exchange for more of other things. As money increases in value, everything else decreases in value.

FARMERS FAIL IN ENGLAND.

From all accounts the farmers in England are not getting along any better than they are in some parts of America. The London correspondent of the American Agriculturist says a large number of farmers are selling out everything to pay debts and many are bankrupt. That should not be where there is no tariff, see? The wheat crop there is about 18 per cent below the average yield. That loss is estimated to be not less than one hundred million dollars. Now if it be true that supply and demand has anything to do with prices, the price of wheat ought to go up to make up this shortage in quantity. The correspondent adds that fine horses cannot be sold, and the price of wool and other products is too low to be profitable. Many tenants are beseeching the landlords to reduce rents. This is a pitiable state of affairs in what should be the easiest place in the world to live.

England, like America, has produced many millionaires. The lords and noblemen there live in splendor. Their coffers are filled to the brim. After this is done they come over to America and buy up our lands, railroad and telegraph stock, lend money and buy everything in sight. This has drained the common people there, and

now we are feeling the effects of their monopolizing tendencies here. It is no wonder that agriculture is depressed in England. It is becoming more so every year and the farmers in England and America will all go down if some steps are not taken soon to remedy the existing evils. Friends, think about these matters. The destiny of the nation hangs suspended by but one little thread.

HELP BRO. BUTLER.

We trust that our friends are making every effort possible to assist President Butler to start his paper again. We know that times are hard, but if the reform press is not kept up the chances to remedy matters will be greatly lessened. Go to work in each Alliance and see how much can be raised. Due credit will be given for any contributions sent to this office, and the same will be promptly turned over to Bro. Butler.

LOOKS THAT WAY.

Whenever a railroad becomes entangled up in business affairs, the government is asked to come to its assistance and help it out. The government does as requested, appoints a receiver and runs the thing until it can keep its head above water, when it is turned over to the owners. If the government can run a poor railroad, don't you think it could run a good one? The government should own the railroads.—Labor Herald (Fort Wayne.)

NO HURRY NOW.

Some of our exchanges are already preparing to crawlfish on the tariff issue. They think there is no hurry for a reduction, and gravely hint that "a radical reduction would injure business." Now if the high tariff is so much to blame for the ills of which the country complains, as these journals have heretofore preached, why not push up your sleeves and go at it with all your might. If half they have alleged is true, the manufacturers could afford a "radical" change, for they have become vastly wealthy. Let the howl for tariff reform grow stronger and longer. We want to see what effect that sort of reform will have. No crawlingfish now.

QUESTION AND ANSWER.

WOODLAND, N. C., Nov. 30, '92. MR. EDITOR:—I saw sometime ago in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER that C. E. Cole, of Bucner, Mo., had sent you a sample of the coffee berry so you could test its merits. Please tell me what you think of it as a substitute for coffee.

Yours fraternally, R. W. BLANCHARD.

I took the sample home with me and we gave it a test which proved anything but satisfactory at my home. I have also learned by showing the bean sent that it is nothing more than the soja bean that has been planted by several farmers around Raleigh and they could not make it profitable. We would not advise our readers to purchase seed, especially at the price Mr. Cole advertises. He has evidently been imposed upon. J. W. DENMARK, Business Manager.

DRIED PEACHES.

A few days ago the Business Manager of this paper called at his grocer's and asked the price of dried peaches, and was informed that they were retailing at 20 cents per pound. This reminded him of what he heard a farmer say about a month ago. He said that he raised on a few trees this year more peaches than the family could eat and that at least one hundred bushels of the very best lay upon the ground and rotted under the trees. Now suppose this farmer, and this case is no rarity in North Carolina, had properly dried and saved these peaches, would they not have well paid him for his trouble either on his own table or on the market? How much is going to waste on our farms and how little do we realize? The time is at hand when everything grown on a farm must be saved if we expect prosperity to follow our labors.

A SENSIBLE VIEW OF IT.

KEITH, N. C., Nov. 27, 1892. Editor Wilmington Messenger:

Please allow me as a solid Democrat to enter through the columns of your excellent paper a protest against the treatment which some of the Democrats have given our People's party friends. I consider the practice of burying and burning in effigy both unkind and heathenish and should never be indulged in by civilized people. We should be charitable toward those who differ from us. Our political opponents have fought us and have been defeated, and, so far as I can see, they are accepting their defeat as gentlemen. Can we not accept our victory in the same way? Instead of insult and abuse let us give them their dues—love and relief. This is all they ask; this we have.

F. THOMAS

Do you owe this paper anything? If you do send at once. We have waited long enough.

THE GREAT FINANCIER DEAD.

Jay Gould died at his home in New York City at 9:15 last Friday morning. It is said that pulmonary consumption carried him off. He was born in Roxbury, N. Y. He began life as a land surveyor and by that business accumulated \$5,000. Later on he engaged in the tanning and lumber business, which he continued up to 1857. After that he became a broker in New York and invested in Erie railroad stock, also telegraph stock. At the time of his death he owned more miles of railroads, telegraphs and bonds than any living man, perhaps. His operations had wrecked the fortunes of thousands of other men. By a single movement he could affect the stock markets of the entire world. If he went off on a business trip or became sick, some change was sure to occur in the stock market. He sometimes attended church, but was not considered pious. At the time of his death his relatives were all present, and it is said that the end was peaceful. We can only hope that he experienced a change of heart at last, and is now in a better world.

FROM EVENING STAR.

Bro. D. D. Barnes, Corresponding Secretary of Evening Star Alliance, No. 1,895, Washington county, writes that his Alliance was organized three years ago with nine members. It now has 40 male and 15 female members, all of pure Alliance grit. They have recently lost one of their members by death, Bro. M. A. Phelps, who died of pneumonia.

HOW MANY BUSHEL?!

Some busy person has recently been asking questions through the State Chronicle as to how matters are conducted at Alliance headquarters in this city. This person would create the impression that something is wrong if he could. If this anxious inquirer puts any confidence in the Executive Committee he would not ask such insinuating questions, since the committee has recently been in session here three days without finding anything "rotten."

We will ask this questioner a question or two. Were you ever a candidate for the position of Business Agent? Were you ever a candidate for the position of State Secretary? If these questions were answered, then the motives that prompted the other inquiries might be plainer.

The questioner next says that the State Business Agency costs the farmers of the State \$3,700 per annum, and asks some "calamity howler" to figure out how many bushels of low-priced corn it will take to foot the bill. There are several thousand other business concerns in North Carolina. The average cost per annum would not fall far below \$3,700 each. These are run at the expense, directly and indirectly, of the farmers. Now figure out what several thousand times \$3,700 amounts to and then compare it with the cost of the State Alliance Business Agency. The State Agency costs less and is of more benefit, from an economical standpoint, than any 1,000 other concerns in the State that cost as much or more each as it does. Now figure that out, Mr. Questioner. The State Business Agent does an annual business of from four to five hundred thousand dollars. Is there any other concern doing that amount of business at even twice or three times \$3,700 expenses?

POVERTY AND FRANCHISE.

The Spirit of Reform, organ of the New York State Alliance, has this to say about the purchase of votes in the recent election:

"An empty stomach and the cry of hungry children does much to perpetuate old political creeds. Extreme oppression creates poverty and he who has the fatherly feeling for his children, can with difficulty resist the temptation to accept the bribe and be false to himself, his fellow men and country; and cast his ballot at the dictation of the enemy. Immediate need blinds the eyes of men to future welfare and food or clothing obtained with money gotten for the sale of franchise is as acceptable as that obtained by the returns of labor. The raising of large campaign funds is a sure indication of an oppressed people. Money for the sale of the greatest privilege afforded to man is loathsome to him who is in circumstances of ease and comfort. No greater campaign funds were ever raised than at this last election, proving beyond a doubt that it could be used to good advantage among the laboring people, especially in cities."

AS TO MORTGAGES.

The Rural New-Yorker tells the following incident about a mortgage that has been running for 83 years:

"The propensity of American farmers, as a class, to pay interest, often at exorbitant rates, upon mortgages year after year, is phenomenal. The burden is oftentimes so heavy that it seems almost impossible to lift it. Yet there are many instances in which a little extra exertion, a little more self-denial, a little closer figuring and better planning would have removed the incubus, and cut off the interest that is eating the very life out of all that is best and noblest in the farmer's existence. An

illustration of this, and a most vivid one it seems to us, is afforded by a mortgage foreclosure just consummated in Saratoga county, N. Y. In the year 1808 a mortgage for \$50 was executed upon 91 acres of land, the interest has been paid upon this for nearly six months in all to \$14 10, or \$14 10. This year, the owner of the mortgage, in interest, and the mortgagee, in certain: this must be an extremely poor farm, or the owners must have been sadly deficient in that quality of interest on, so what are we to conclude as to the enterprise of men who go on paying interest on such a ridiculously small sum for such a long term of years? To be sure this is an extreme case, but it only presents the case of thousands of farmers, in a stronger light."

TRIBUTE TO COL. POLK.

At the national meeting of the Alliance at Memphis, during the Polk Memorial meeting, Dr. C. W. Macomber made an address in which he said:

"I feel deeply the solemnity of this occasion. If any one can tell me how to frame words that will describe a Christian gentleman, a model husband and father, a true patriot, a martyr to a glorious cause, an orator, a statesman, a friend, a brother, and a man who possessed every other virtue that apply that description to our dead chief and it will fit."

"He was a typical Alliance man; he conceived something above and beyond cooperation for personal gain. He saw in the Alliance a power for the good of the Alliance, and he used it to the conception of the idea of spanning the river of sectional hate, and in a large degree carrying it out. Col. Polk accomplished the grandest life work of any man I ever knew, and as such a man he should be honored. From his mighty brain and generous heart emanated the principles which are to emancipate mankind. In paying a tribute to him as a martyr to the cause of reform, we give him no more than he deserves."

BUTLER ON POLK.

We clip the following from the report of the Avelanche Appeal of the Polk Memorial meeting at Memphis:

"At the conclusion of his address, Marion Butler of North Carolina, one of the best orators of the Alliance, was introduced and spoke as follows:

I do not wish to address myself to those who knew our dead leader, but rather those who did not. Their ideas of him are doubtless as far from correct as my first ideas of him were. They were formed when I was a boy 10 years old. I was present when he was being discussed by some prominent politicians and legal lights. They said he was a dangerous man, one to be feared above all others. I thought if these men, who are my ideals of courage and wisdom, fear him, what a terrible man he must be. This impression vanished when I met Col. Polk. I studied the man all the harder for having once feared him, and found him to be a man who never spoke an unkind word against any one, who had given his life to protecting the interests of the downtrodden. I found him to be a devout Christian and a grand humanitarian. When I learned this of him I asked myself why he was feared. It was because he stood on the watch tower of the people's rights and gave warning when they were infringed upon. I found that he was respected by all but those who, from their corrupt practice, had reason to fear him. If Providence ever moulded a man for special purpose, L. L. Polk was that man. His mission was to break down Mason and Dixon's line. Let me say to patriots that you owe a debt of gratitude that will be hard to pay. Pay it by action and not by words. Our mission now is to break down the line between town and country, and the way will be open for reform and for good government."

CLIMATOLOGY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

The above is a title of a publication of 184 pages just issued by the N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station. It embraces all of the meteorological records ever taken in North Carolina from the earliest times to the present. The first record is in 1820 at Chapel Hill and was taken by Dr. Caldwell, President of the University. One hundred and seventy-one separate sets of observations are embodied in the report taken in seventy counties. From the results of these observations it is ascertained that the mean annual temperature of the whole State is 59 degrees, and almost exactly the same as the mean annual temperature of the whole northern hemisphere. The mean annual precipitation is 53 3/4 inches.

Among the tables of contents is included a brief history of the N. C. State Weather Service in co-operation with the U. S. Weather Bureau, a report of work done in 1891, annual summary for 1891, tables of normals for all temperature and precipitation at all stations from 1820 to 1892, tornadoes in North Carolina from 1820 to 1892, the sketch of the physical geography of the State, a general sketch of the climate of the State.

It is believed that few States have ever issued any publication of such permanent value and interest as this present one, and it shows that North Carolina is fully abreast of the times.

An exchange remarks that one of the "twins" of plutocracy has been wiped out in this campaign—the Republican party. It predicts that the party will now go to pieces as did the Whig party in 1853. Time will show.