

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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Write all communications designed for publication on one side of the paper only. We want intelligent correspondents in every county in the State. We want facts of value, results accomplished, value, experiences of value, plainly and briefly told. One solid, demonstrated fact, is worth a thousand theories.

RALEIGH, N. C., APRIL 18, 1893.

This paper entered as second-class matter at the Post Office in Raleigh, N. C.

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

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"I am standing now just behind the curtain, and in full glow of the coming sunset. Behind me are the shadows on the track, before me lies the dark valley and the river. When I mingle with its dark waters I want to cast one lingering look upon a country whose government is of the people, for the people, and by the people." - J. L. Polk, July 4th, 1890.

N. R. P. A.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Northwestern Bank at Sibley, Iowa, closed its doors on the 7th. Great prosperity.

Dr. C. W. Macune, editor of the National Economist, spent a few hours in the city last Thursday.

President Butler will speak at Holly Springs, Wake county, on the 12th of May. Let all the people turn out.

The price of cotton continues to go down. We thought cotton was always a good price when Cleveland was at the helm.

If all the county meetings were as good as the one held by Wake last week, there is no doubt about things being on the hump.

Bro. Worth requests us to state that he has a letter from J. W. Ballance without any postoffice. Will he please send it at once?

John G. Carlile ought to try the Keely cure. Even if it should not effect a permanent cure it would give his boiler a chance to cool off.

According to the papers Col. Hoke Smith has been born in at least half a dozen counties in North Carolina. He must have as many lives as a cat.

A dollar of the coinage of 1894 sold the other day for \$1.20. That dollar seems to be able to hold its own, if it is made out of silver, says the Wilmington Star.

State Business Agent Worth received orders for one hundred and forty pairs of shoes, to be shipped to various parts of the State, last Friday. This all came in one mail.

It is strange that Congressman Bunn don't get his friend, Col. John Williamson, colored, some position under Cleveland. Bunn owes his election to the 2,000 votes that John got in the last campaign.

Before the election it was "give us a chance and we'll do the rest." Now all those who expect anything from the administration except office are called crazy fools. Already the papers are starting out on that line.

Tornadoes continue their fearful work. Robesonville, Miss., was wiped out last week and eighteen or twenty people killed. In Missouri and Michigan at least forty or fifty were killed by the same agencies last week.

The Lenoir Topic says: "The day of Alliance 'demands' has not passed though most people thought they had." Not by any means; they are getting worse and worse, and will continue until there is a change.

A contemporary asks: "Is cotton played out?" No, cotton is not played out, but those planters who keep on increasing their acreage and neglecting raising home supplies soon will be, says the Wilmington Star.

According to the partisan Democratic papers a partisan is one who has strong faith in one of the old parties. - Caucasian. We think you are wrong, Bro. Butler. We have learned, up here about Raleigh, that according to Democratic papers, office-holders and

office seekers, a partisan is one who belongs to the Alliance and has lost confidence in the old parties, while those who have kicked out of the Alliance and are hanging around for the promised reward for their treachery to the Order are "strictly non partisan."

Bradstreet reports fewer failures for the past few months, but they are of greater magnitude. Certainly they are. The little fellows had to go first and now the big fish are being caught in the great drag net of financial depression.

It makes us tired to see party organs talking about the opponents and saying, "Oh! they just want office. Well, don't all leaders, many of them at least, in all parties, want office? Why don't you bury that old chestnut?"

The news from the County Alliance so far is very good indeed. Rowan county shows an increase in membership. A correspondent from Wilson county informs us that every Alliance in the county was represented at the county meeting.

Bro. Z. T. Garrett, of Vance county, writes the Gillburg News that he has visited eight Alliances recently and found them prospering and taking in new members, and that every dollar taken from the Business Agency fund will be replaced.

The New York Standard is a monthly journal devoted to news of interest to jewelers and everybody. Among the many features are photos of prominent people and letters from them about the "first watch I ever owned." The mechanical work of the paper is very fine.

The Chatham Record publishes over four columns of lands advertised to be sold for taxes. It says some of the people over there are mad at the sheriff and paper both for advertising them. Of course they are. They probably had been led to believe that all trouble would be over and money plenty when Cleveland was elected.

The political papers are still talking about the recent municipal elections in the Northwest. They are rejoicing because the Republicans cleaned up the Democrats, the only municipal tickets run. The Populists had a few tickets and they made a good showing, but it's strange that Democratic papers are rejoicing over Republican victories.

The Atlanta Journal says the leaders of the reform party "are not fools," and that it "expects very little aid to the Democratic party from the men who recently tried to destroy it." You are right in part of that at least, and past events indicate that the people may expect but little aid from the Democratic party, so we suppose there is mutual feeling all around.

As an evidence of political lying and how easy it can be done, a dispatch sent out from Mound City, Kansas, about the recent city election will furnish an example. The dispatch stated that the "calamity howlers" were beaten out of sight by the Republicans and gave the majorities. The truth is only one ticket was run and there was no contest between any parties.

The Goldsboro Caucasian says: The legislature failed when it tried to cripple the Alliance by attempting to stop lecturing. The brethren all over the State see the mean and partisan purpose, so they are offering to pay the expenses of lecturers. If the legislature had the power it would probably have passed a law prohibiting Alliance papers from circulating through the mails.

Bro. E. A. Holt, of New Hill Alliance Wake county, was at the county meeting, Thursday, and having never contributed anything to the Business Agency fund heretofore, he planked down five dollars. That will knock the bottom out of any certificate that "non partisan" Alliancemen may present for payment. Bro. Holt has the pure grit and there are thousands more like him.

Tom Watson says it is reported that Senators Vest and Voorhes, of the Senate Finance Committee, have been converted over to Cleveland's side of the question, and that Henry Watterston has also made up his mind that there need be no remonetization of silver. Watterston is the great champion of tariff reform, and he don't say anything about that nowadays. Where are we at, anyhow?

Judge Ricks, of Toledo, Ohio, has rendered a decision that will have a demoralizing effect upon labor organizations. His decision in the Ann Arbor injunction case, in which Chief Arthur, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, was made a party, is that the whole Brotherhood is a conspiracy against the laws of the country, and therefore illegal. Of course such things are illegal in the eyes of Judges who belong to the corporations, and many of them do. But so long as the labor organizations vote with their enemies they should not complain.

Information that should be in the hands of every farmer and fruit grower in the land, is contained in a series of letter pamphlets published by Wm. Stahl, Quincy, Ill. They are "Spraying fruit; how, when, where and why to do it." "Spraying apple orchards." "How to prevent and destroy diseases and insects affecting grapes." "Insects and fungus diseases affecting all varieties of small fruit and vegetable crops." "Full directions for spraying fruits, vegetables, and flowers." etc. Clip this and send it with your address to Wm. Stahl, Quincy, Ill., and they will mail them to you free.

HERE'S THE RECORD

Last week we took the Charlotte Observer to task for blaming the farmers for the low price of cotton; and, apparently excusing the "plaid trust," the dealers in futures and other combinations who are keeping down the price of cotton and filling their pockets to overflowing. We also criticized it for writing that way when only recently it had been on the tobacco trust with both feet and said at the same time that "the plaid trust doesn't reduce the price of cotton; the whiskey trust doesn't effect the price of corn; the sugar trust doesn't depress the price of raw sugar; the book trust doesn't scale down the price of white paper, nor printers' wages; but the tobacco trust puts its own ruinous price upon leaf tobacco, and pillages the maker of the raw material as the very first step in its operations," etc.

At any rate the logic or something in our editorial was too much for the Observer and it adopts an old dodge in its issue of the 12th, leaves the question untouched and calls this paper "the mouthpiece of the Third party," and intimates that THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER has been unfair in the matter under discussion. This is not the first time the Observer has tried to crawl out of a close place by bringing up something foreign. We believe it once accused the editor of this paper of being "ugly" in order to change the subject. The Observer may print that accusation until the type gets hot enough to melt and get nobody in this country to believe it.

But to business. We are glad the Observer has given us a chance to not only emphasize our arguments, but to bring out the records and prove that we did not misrepresent the Observer's position. On the 28th of March the Observer clipped the following from the Laurinburg Exchange and commented editorially:

"The American Tobacco Company should be run out of the State, and it will be, or it will run everybody else out of the tobacco market." - Laurinburg Exchange.

That's what's the matter, and that's what makes the tobacco trust so infinitely viler, a so much greater public enemy, than any other. The plaid trust doesn't reduce the price of cotton; the whiskey trust doesn't affect the price of corn; the sugar trust doesn't depress the price of raw sugar; the book trust doesn't scale down the price of white paper, nor printers' wages; but the tobacco trust puts its own ruinous price upon leaf tobacco and pillages the maker of the raw material as the very first step in its operations. Other trusts skin the consumer; this one reaches back and robs the producer. If it were content with laying its hand upon those who smoke its vile manufactures, all would be well, even though it taxed them a dollar a dozen upon its offensive products; but this is no part of the trouble. The trouble is just what the Exchange points out; if it isn't throttled it will run everybody else out of the tobacco business."

Now, did THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER misrepresent or treat the Observer unfairly? The jury can take the case. It is a mighty good idea to have the files of some newspapers handy.

So the American tobacco trust is the "vilest." Now let's see. It is charged that the American Tobacco Company puts its own price upon leaf tobacco; that it reaches back and robs the producer. All right, we are not going to deny this. But don't the plaid trust "reach back and rob the producer" of cotton? It robs somebody at both ends of the line. It is a thousand times as much of a robber as the tobacco trust because it has a thousand or more times as many people where it can rob them. All the trusts rob either the producer or the consumer, or both. Trusts are not organized just for fun. They mean business. Those who go into them haven't got the physical courage to become highway robbers, but go into it under the guise "of trade" and "of law." This is what enables the cotton mills of the country to clear from 20 to 40 per cent. annually and what is bringing nearly all cotton farmers into bankruptcy. They are all robbers, no matter what particular business they are in, and if the Observer and all other papers would say half as much against them and say it half as emphatically as THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, this fair land would not be so rapidly becoming a land of a few hundred millionaires and millions of bankrupts.

HOW FARMING PAYS.

Farming continues to pay well in all parts of the country. In the South it pays the cotton and tobacco manufacturers. In the North and West it pays the railroads, the manufacturers, the bankers, the dealers in futures, the bondholders and a few others farmers who do not farm.

Swift & Co., one of the "big three" meat packers at the Union Stock Yards, Chicago, have recently increased their capital stock from \$7,500,000 to \$15,000,000, an increase of just one hundred per cent. We are further informed that "a great portion of this new stock will be taken by the present stockholders." This company was incorporated in 1885 with a stock of \$300,000. Eighteen months later the stock was increased to \$3,000,000. In June, 1888, the capital was made \$5,000,000. In August, 1890, it was raised to \$7,500,000 and bonds issued on the property for raising \$2,300,000 more. At that time a surplus dividend of thirty two per cent. was declared on the earlier capital of \$5,000,000. A surplus dividend of another \$1,725,000 has just been declared on the above named \$7,500,000, and on authority of one of the original owners, it is stated that the stock is now quoted and sold in Boston at 130.

In other words the profits of this concern are so enormous that during the past eight years a few men have grown in wealth from a working capital of \$300,000 to a working capital of \$7,500,000, and are able to issue as much more of water and because of their position in control of the live stock industry they will undoubtedly be able to sell the water at par because it is reasonably sure of prompt annual dividends. In the accomplishment of this success, but very little capital has been brought in from outside the ring that all the time have and do now control the whole concern.

Now some "calamity howler" will jump up and say "stock raising and farming does not pay now in the West." Why, bless your souls, it does pay. It pays Swift & Co., at Chicago; it pays thousands of other millionaires up there. But still it does not pay the men who farm. Well, we are going to tell you a secret. While you farmers have been voting for "protection," for "a reduction of the tariff," for "pensions," for a reduction of pensions, farming has been paying handsomely. It has paid thousands of men so well that they are now each worth millions. It has paid enough to build hundreds of railroads, cities, factories, churches, banks and other things. Now let's vote "to make farming pay" a few times and see what a change will be brought about.

COL. FAIRBROTHER IS "OFF."

The Durham Daily Globe, of the 11th, reproduces an editorial from our paper last week, which gave many facts about North Carolina, her natural advantages and diversified industries. In an editorial on the subject the Globe says:

Even while insisting that North Carolina is the greatest State in the Union and naming some of the wonderful resources and magnificent institutions which make it so, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER cannot miss an opportunity to howl about the poor oppressed farmer, whom it states is not prosperous, although it admits that he is not prosperous in other lines of business and doing well.

"Colonel Ramsey may deceive himself and people in other States who have been seeking information with a view to locating in North Carolina. But people who know anything about the State know that the farmers of North Carolina enjoy advantages equalled by the agricultural classes of no other State in the Union, and that if they are not prosperous it is their own fault.

"Any farmer who works and pays the same attention to his business as men in other trades and professions cannot only be prosperous, but amass a fortune in North Carolina."

What we said in praise of the State and its advantages the Globe cheerfully admits is true, but would accuse us of misrepresenting things in one particular only, and that the very one that would have been more likely to be avoided by the writer than all others, not only that but one we could not afford to say anything but the truth about. We could not afford to slander the agricultural people of this State, and the patronage this paper has had all its life is proof that it has not been done, though we have asserted the same in substance almost every week. But few real farmers will undertake to deny the assertion that for the past ten years the farmers of this State have not prospered, and that ninety out of every hundred are getting poorer every year. The same is true of every State in the Union for that matter. The Globe can say that is not true, but it can't establish the fact by facts and figures nor by any credible number of witnesses. We will not accuse the Globe of ignorance on any subject, but will remind it of the fact that the editor of this paper was raised in North Carolina and has been here at least ten times as long as the editor of the Globe. Not only that but he worked on a farm until he

was 24 years old, and while we did not get rich we made a living without begging, borrowing or stealing it. We know more about farming and the farms of North Carolina than the editor of the Globe will know in a thousand years if he should live that long because his mind does not run in that direction. The Globe knows something about Durham, which is situated in the best tobacco section of the State, and which is a growing city. But Durham doesn't depend on North Carolina. The money that is making that city is drawn, not only from every State in America, but from every country on the earth.

Other professions are doing better than the farmers. Many in all professions are getting vastly rich. That is what is draining the farmers. If you milk a cow twenty times a day she will not furnish much milk at night. The farmers are being milked too often. That is what we are preaching to them every week. There are exceptions in all cases, but the very fact that America is full of grain, tobacco, cotton, cattle and hogs does a way with the theory that the farmers do not work. The railroads, factories, magnificent cities and towns that have been built out of their labor in the past 50 years does away with all such charges. The Globe should sit down and think about five minu es each day for a month and then it would not attempt to demolish this emporium of facts.

MORTGAGES IN RHODE ISLAND AND CONNECTICUT.

We publish from time to time, as the census bulletins come out, the mortgage indebtedness, in condensed form, of the various States. Later on the States will be published in groups, as too many figures at one time are confusing to the mind.

In 1880 the people of Rhode Island incurred mortgage debts amounting to \$4,028,086. In 1889 the aggregate was more than double, being \$8,172,309. The increase in the nine years was 102.88 per cent., while the population only increased 24.94 per cent. On the first of January the total indebtedness during the ten years had been \$65,142,238. The total of debts existing on the first of January, 1890, amounted to \$36,778,243. The rate of interest on farm indebtedness averages 5.77 per cent., on town lots 5.71 per cent. Thus it is plain that little Rhode is experiencing "great prosperity."

In 1880 Connecticut people mortgaged real estate to the amount of \$9,196,506. In 1889 they were still more prosperous and they made debts to the amount of \$17,703,325. The increase of debts was 92.50 per cent., the increase of population only 19.84 per cent. From 1880 to 1890 a debt of \$138,483,732 was incurred, represented by 90,758 mortgages. Awfully prosperous, weren't they? The total mortgage indebtedness on the first of January, 1890, was \$79,921,071. "Awfully prosperous." Two counties have mortgages amounting to more than \$20,000,000 each. Connecticut's debts are \$107 for every human being in the State, which is more than any State's yet reported except Kansas, Massachusetts and Nebraska. The per capita debt of Alabama is only \$23; Tennessee, \$23. Yet Connecticut, Massachusetts, Illinois, Kansas and other non-producing cotton States are far worse off so far as real estate mortgages are concerned than any of the Southern cotton-producing States. Where is the man that calls the Southern farmers fools because they raise cotton? We want him to pay attention along here; also the people who call THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER a "calamity howler" and "disturber of the public peace. We are doing all that, but Robert P. Porter, Superintendent of the Census is coming right along behind with the figures and proving all we have said.

IS IT CONSTITUTIONAL?

On another page a correspondent makes a very strong case in favor of the theory that the Alliance legislation, amending the charter, is unconstitutional.

The writer is not a lawyer and does not undertake to decide the matter. However, we wish it could be decided in favor of the Alliance. In answer to a correspondent some time ago we said "the legislature probably kept within the bounds of the constitution," or words to that effect. We meant that it was our understanding that the courts had so held. In several instances the charters granted to various railroads have been amended, and that without the desire or wish of the corporations, and the courts have held that this was constitutional. But in no instance has the amendments been for a few individuals, but for the benefit of the general public.

Section 1, of article 8, of the Constitution of North Carolina says: "Corporations may be formed under general laws, but shall not be created by special acts, except for municipal purposes, and in cases where, in the judgment of the legislature, the object of the corporation cannot be attained under general laws. All general laws and special acts, passed pursuant to this section, may be altered from time to time, or repealed." This section, the courts say, gives power to the General Assembly to amend charters, and is the one under which it controls railroads and other corporations.

Section 32, article 1, of the State Constitution says: "Retrospective laws, punishing acts committed before the existence of such laws, and by them only declared criminal, are oppressive, unjust and incompatible with liberty wherefore no ex post facto law ought to be made. No law taxing retrospectively, sales, purchases or other acts previously done, ought to be passed." It seems that the above section relates to crimes only, and that we can only be guided in matters relating to corporations by section 1, article 8, as quoted above. Be it as it may constitutionally, the action of the legislature was dastardly, from a moral standpoint.

ETERNAL VIGILANCE, ETC.

For some time we have noticed that a certain ready print concern that gets out a great many patent outside and insides has a column of items headed "Alliance Notes." It is a rare thing for the word "Alliance" to appear in that matter. Worse still the matter is frequently out of all harmony with the organization. The papers that patronize that concern ought to kick and kick hard. Grant for sake of argument that there is nothing harmful about the matter, yet it is a fraud and will make a bad impression upon those who have any respect for the Alliance. Might as well have notices of prize fights and horse races under the head of "religious news" in a religious paper as such stuff in an Alliance paper. Brother editors, either watch your matter more closely or else pull down your sign.

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AMONG THE ALLIANCES.

What the Brotherhood is Doing and Saying All Around.

The Alliance is taking on new life in Kentucky and new Sub-Alliances are being organized all over the State.

In California the brethren are having Alliance speakings, ice cream socials, and a good time generally.

The Order is on a boom in Texas. Ben. Terrell has been speaking over the State and the people are doing the rest.

The State organizer for Washington has organized five new Sub-Alliances and one County Alliance in the past month.

Our California exchanges are very cheerful over the outlook for the Alliance in that State. The Order is very active there.

And now the papers say the Alliance is humping herself in Ohio. That is good news indeed. The country will be saved yet.

A grand Alliance rally was held at Kings Mountain recently. The meeting did not look like there was any thing "dead" in that section.

There seems to be a general disposition on the part of Alliancemen everywhere to pass fewer resolutions and carry out some of those already passed. That is right.

National Lecturer Ben. Terrell has been hard at work in Tennessee for some time. Much work is needed there and Bro. Terrell can do it. We hope our neighbor will give a good report pretty soon.

We are glad to note the good feeling that prevails among the brethren in South Carolina. The people of that State are free, but they are true. They seem to be entirely cool and deliberate in Alliance work and ahead of some other States that are making more noise than they are there.

The farmers of Louisiana have formed a business agency or union something after the plan of our State Alliance business agency. Why don't all the States stop experimenting and copy after North Carolina. Our State Agency is run on business principles, is safe and satisfactory.

Still more good news. The Alliancemen in Kansas have realized that the campaign was over several months ago and that the legislature has adjourned, and now they are working in Alliance harness the same as if they had not been divided. Warm weather does a good deal. We are eating new vegetables and fruits down here and working right along. Kansas must get all right as the birds begin to sing.

The Alliance in Texas is again on a boom. Political differences have almost wrecked the Order there two or three times, but it recuperates just as rapidly. We have direct news from there to the effect that the State organizer has organized 55 new Alliances since the 15th of February, and that new interest is being aroused all over the State. Judging from the number of good Alliance papers and leaders in that State the organization is bound to be strong.