

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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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. - L. L. Polk, July 4th, 1890.

N. R. P. A. EDITORIAL NOTES

President Butler will speak at Tarheel, April 28th, Elizabethtown, April 29th. Don't fail to hear him.

Bro. Cyrus Thompson, State Alliance Lecturer, will have several appointments in Wake and Johnston counties after the 10th of May.

We understand that the last legislature made it unlawful to sell pistols, bowie knives, cartridges, etc., to minors. Cigarettes are also included.

Still more prosperity. A receiver has been appointed for the Alabama National bank at Mobile. The second Australian bank failure amounts to \$65,000,000.

Still the prosperity goes on. The Mechanics' Savings Bank, of Nashville, assigned on the 16th. This is the fourth bank that has gone under there in the past three weeks.

The Governor of South Carolina is now in Kentucky laying in a supply of "snake bite medicine." When he gets home again, he will say to the Governor of North Carolina: "It is a long time," etc.

The sentiment in favor of the free coinage of silver is growing even in England. In a recent test vote in the House of Commons, the silver vote amounted to 148, an increase since 1890 of more than 200 per cent.

When writing to the State Business Agent or Secretary-Treasurer, sending money or about other matters, enclose your subscription or renewal for THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and it will be turned over to us promptly.

An Australian bank failed the other day with liabilities amounting to \$40,000,000. Great prosperity must be getting in its work over there. Yet the daily papers declare that no reform is needed. "Nero fiddled while Rome burned."

A cotton mill to cost \$700,000 will be built in Columbia. That is all right. We want to see hundreds of cotton mills built, and wish them prosperity, but at the same time we want to see the farmers getting fair prices for raising the cotton.

Rev. F. L. Reid, editor of the Raleigh Christian Advocate, has been selected to fill the place of Dr. Dixon as President of the Greensboro Female College. Doubtless the College will prosper under his management, and its high character be fully sustained.

Cleveland claims that free coinage would mean more money and more money means panic and disaster. Then why not burn up all the money and allow the country to enjoy a little whiff of prosperity? Cleveland is the champion heavy weight prevaricator of America.

A week or two ago we mentioned the fact that Sterling Morton, the new Secretary of Agriculture, claims that he raised 1,500 bushels of corn on twenty acres and made fifty campaign speeches the same summer. We expressed the opinion then that if he didn't make a better Secretary than Jerry Rusk, he would be a bigger

liar. Now he is telling that he was the champion corn shucker in his county, and says he "thinks nothing of shucking 200 bushels of corn in a day." That not only beats Jerry Rusk, but would have knocked Annanias out in the first round.

Senator Peffer has served notice on the United States Senate and political parties that since the courts have presumed to decide on one phase of the labor problem, they must not stop till they have investigated further and decided whether there is another side or not worth hearing.

A Minnesota Judge has decided that a dentist cannot legally take a mortgage on false teeth that he makes for a patient. He says as long as they are in your mouth they are a part of your carcass and cannot be seized as chattel property. Now mortgage your teeth and cheat your creditor.

It is mighty funny to hear some papers talking about "purifying the Alliance." Why, good gracious, the very fellows that are begging for this to be done would themselves contaminate a hog pen. Morally and politically they are nothing but a wad of diseased microbes. They should ring off.

Defalcation is altogether too common. A long established good name and unblemished character, a lifetime of fair dealing, all the reputation which business men would once have spent years of self denial to obtain, begins to lose its commercial value. We look askance at everybody. We go about asking whom we can trust, says the Minneapolis Times.

Bro. J. T. B. Hoover, employed by the Business Agency, will make public lectures in Bertie, Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck, Gates, Hertford, Northampton and Martin counties between May 10 and June 10. Appointments will be published next week in the order in which they come on this list. Bro. Hoover is a good lecturer and carries samples to show the brethren and tells them how to trade through the agency and the advantages to be derived.

The Chatham Record one of the Ananias organs, hints that resolutions were sent out from Raleigh for the various counties to adopt denouncing the legislature. That is false. No copies of resolutions or anything of that nature was sent out, and no Alliance was asked to do anything in that direction. But plenty of good, honest Democrats voted for the adoption of resolutions in some counties in which the Legislature was unreservedly denounced. Now what are the Annanias organs going to do about it.

About 150 of the book and job printing concerns in Chicago have formed a trust. Why don't everybody do this and make a perfect pandemonium! The newspapers can form a trust and put up the price of the papers. The farmers can form a trust and make the public pay big prices for their products, say about 50 cents a pound for butter, 50 cents a dozen for eggs, 25 cents a pound for pork, \$2 a bushel for corn and everything else in proportion. Rome would howl then sure enough. But the farmers have been treated that way for some time and their so called friends in power don't help them any. Farmers sell at trust prices and buy at trust prices—robbed at both ends of the line frequently.

A GENEROUS CONGRESSMAN.

Congressman J. C. Sibley, of Pennsylvania, is a Democrat in name and practice. He is thoroughly in sympathy with the Grange and Alliance on all reform measures and received their almost undivided support in the last campaign, notwithstanding a majority of the voters of his district have heretofore been Republicans. He is an earnest, sincere man. One of the best speeches in favor of financial reform, in the opinion of the writer, at the free coinage convention in Washington in February was made by Congressman Sibley.

He has recently decided to give his entire salary for the next two years to the Grange and Alliance in his district. Of the total amount \$4,000 goes to the Grange of Crawford and Erie counties for the erection of a Grange building; \$2,000 for the Alliance of Erie county, and \$2,000 to the Alliance of Crawford county, also \$1,000 to each of the trade unions in the two counties. At the first glance it would be surmised that he is a demagogue, but when he has heretofore so easily defeated all opponents it is useless to say that he is preparing for the future in that way.

GROVER'S BAD MEMORY.

The South and the North have been storm swept, while North Carolina has escaped with but slight trouble. We hope the State will continue to be overlooked by the storm king, and be forgotten quite as fully as Cleveland seems to have forgotten her. - News and Observer.

THE COTTON SUPPLY.

The News and Observer, like all the papers that only has opinions that are cut and dried by the trusts and dealt out to mislead the public, is again talking about the cotton acreage. It evidently wants to create the impression that the farmers are entirely to blame for the low price of cotton, and blames the Alliance leaders for advising the farmers wrong. As we have often said the one crop system, no matter what crop raised, is wrong, and it will not be a success even under the most favorable circumstances. Therefore we advise all who are given to raising cotton and buying supplies to diversify. But that is no proof that the low price of cotton is brought about by natural causes. We want the News and Observer to answer a few questions. Why doesn't the low price of cotton hurt the owners of cotton mills and the dealers generally? Why every body else get rich in the cotton business except the farmers who raise it? How is it that the mills clear from 20 to 40 cent. annually spinning cotton while the man who raises it gets poorer? Why is it that cotton statistics for 50 years show that there has been a marked fluctuation in the price of cotton without regard to the crops raised. Sometimes the price is high, when according to supply and demand it should be low. The past history of cotton shows that a 4,000,000 bale crop is worth no more per pound than an 8,000,000 bale crop, unless the speculators and manufacturers see proper to raise the price. The farmers are absolutely helpless so far as prices are concerned. They have tried to stem the tide by working a little harder each year, but it is not remedied that way. Many have got in such a condition that they think they must raise more cotton to get out and still they fail. There is no lack of cotton, tobacco, wheat, corn, oats, meat, sorghum, peanuts, rice, vegetables, cattle, horses or anything else. Plenty of all these things are raised, even if some fail to diversify. There is no lack of consumers, for the countless millions are ready to consume it all and they pay good prices for it before they consume a pound or bushel of anything, but the farmers don't get the good prices. He sells his cotton at 7 or 8 cents. Those handling the cotton make as much commission as if the farmer got 20 cents for it. The railroads make a good profit on the freight charges. The cotton mill makes 30 or 40 per cent. clear. The merchants who handle the yarn or cloth make their profit; the railroads haul it back and forth again and declare some more big dividends. By the time it gets to the consumer he pays a big price and the poor farmer is wondering "where am I at?" If he buys some calico, domestic or a suit of clothes he has to pay from 20 to 50 cents for the very cotton he sold at 7 or 8 cents. The News and Observer would say: "Why all these people are entitled to a profit; they cannot afford to work and invest their capital for nothing." Of course they can't, and the farmer can't afford it either, but by the tricks that are now being played he does work and doesn't get a cent of profit.

HOW IT IS DONE.

Many papers and persons attribute the lack of prosperity among the farmers all over the country and the world, for that matter, to indolence and mismanagement. Doubtless some good people think this is true. It is only true of individuals here and there. As a class the farmers are generally thrifty. At any rate they make enough to feed and clothe the world and build up everything in it, and that is all God intended. Individuals among them are extravagant, but on the average they spend less than any other class. Even servants and street laborers in cities have as many and often more luxuries, dress better, and see more of the world. Newspapers often point out a few exceptional cases where a farmer is not only living well, but is actually laying up some money. That is true. We do not believe in "luck," as it is called, but it seems that some people are born lucky. Some people can go through an epidemic of cholera or yellow fever and never get sick. During such epidemics or during wars, nearly everybody are broken up, financially, while others get rich. This was proven in many instances during the civil war between the States. So it seems that some people are "born lucky."

Again it is true that men fail in all kinds of business. The most shrewd business men make investments that appear all right, but finally turn out wrong. Here is the trouble with the farmers, they are too good natured. They sell what they raise good naturedly, and the buyers generally have enough of what is called "human nature" to take advantage of this honest fellow. Then they buy "good naturedly," and the sellers take advantage of that. The farmers are getting over this. They no longer accept tomfoolery for facts. They are learning that over-

production and such things are frauds. They are learning that the next year's cotton crop has no more to do with the price of last year's crop than the next year's crop of coffee has to do with the present price of coffee. Suppose you live in a town. About Christmas you go to a grocery store and call for six dozen eggs and ask the price. The grocer will say "25 cents per dozen." Then you say "oh! hang such prices; eggs will be plentiful next summer and I can buy them at 10 cents per dozen." The grocer will soon tell you that next summer's eggs have nothing to do with the eggs he is selling at Christmas, as he doesn't know whether there will be an egg in the country next summer. That is just as true of cotton or anything else. No man knows whether the next crop will be 3,000,000 or 10,000,000 bales, and the speculators who keep the prices down for such reasons are liars and robbers.

The prices of nothing that the farmer sells is fixed, but all business is "fixed." If cotton is selling at 6 cents you pay as much for stopping at a hotel as if it was selling at 12 cents; as much for riding on the train; as much for the visit of a physician, or the fees of a lawyer are the same. Go into a store and say, "see here, Mr. Jones, cotton is selling at 7 cents; there is no profit in it; can't you sell me goods at or less than cost?" He will soon tell you that you are a fool. Suppose you ask the Sheriff to reduce your tax receipt on account of low prices. He will tell you that the taxes are "fixed" and he can't make any reduction. Walk into a bank with a good note for \$500 and ask the cashier to let you have the money at 4 per cent. He will tell you at once that the rates of interest are "fixed" and no bank can afford to "fluctuate in rates." Yet the prices on your products "fluctuate" unmercifully. The carpenter or brickmason gets his daily wages no matter what you get for your products. The printer at the case gets so much per thousand or per week; the engineer, conductor, mail agent, postmaster, office holder—all get their pay no matter whether you get 50 cents or \$1.50 per bushel for your wheat. This is the reason farming don't pay—those who farm.

SOWING GOOD SEED.

The transportation plank of the Alliance platform has been abused, ridiculed and slandered for several years. The political press have been unostentatious in the efforts to down the idea of the government owning and operating the railroads and telegraphic lines. But the sentiment is growing rapidly notwithstanding. Now comes the news that both branches of the Philadelphia city government have passed resolutions to petition Congress for the government ownership of all telephone and telegraph lines. The resolutions were adopted without a dissenting vote. Now what do you think of that? Philadelphia is one of the staunchest and most conservative cities in the world. Her business men are specially noted for their sagacity. After calling the farmers and thousands of others who favor these measures "wild impracticals" and "cranks," we wonder what the bought and paid for press will style the officials of Philadelphia.

FRESH TROUBLE IN THE MINES.

There is more warfare at the coal mines in Tennessee. A fight occurred Thursday between the troops and outraged miners. One man was killed and several wounded. We don't know the facts, but think the State is to blame for placing the convicts in competition with the miners. The miners object to working with them and to the reduction in the price of labor on that account. The miners may be rough men but they are what the State and the monopoly owned coal barons have made them. Doubtless they would be peaceable if the convicts had never been put in the mines. The miners should be law-abiding but they should have justice and better treatment, and the State should not disgrace itself by such outrages.

THE COUNTY MEETINGS.

We have reports from a number of County Alliances, and hope all will report in due time. The meetings so far have been the best held in twelve months or longer. There was a good deal of enthusiasm exhibited and a determination that means success. The leaven is at work and all needed is persistent work by those who can. There has been an increase in a number of Sub Alliances that is gratifying. All sections show that the people are getting over their political differences and reason is once more enthroned. Let there be a thorough campaign started to put Alliance papers in the hands of those who are not reading. That is the secret of success, for you cannot depend upon a member of any organization that does not take interest enough to read the organs of the same.

THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE AID.

Mr. Osborne, our new State Attorney-General, is doubtless an able lawyer and has an opportunity to win a greater name in his present capacity; but, strange to say, he apparently is allowing his prejudices too much scope.

Some effort is being made to put the National Alliance aid degree to work in this State, and Mr. Osborne claims that it is taxable. In a recent ruling he said: "I have to say that, in my opinion, the organization is not exempt from taxation, for that it violates the provision exempting benevolent organizations in the following particulars: It levies assessments for other purposes than to create a fund to pay the family of a deceased member; its officers make a profit from the business; it has not been incorporated under the laws of the State, and it solicits business through agents."

Now the Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Honor, Knights of Pythias and all other fraternal and benevolent organizations are exempt from taxation. The Alliance aid degree is exactly the same. No one can become an organizer or receive its benefits unless he is a member of the Alliance. The only object is found in section 3 of the by-laws as follows: "This degree is instituted for the purpose of aiding and assisting the families of deceased members of the order."

In brief it is exactly for the same purpose that the same degree is intended in all similar fraternal organizations. "Equal rights" demands that it be treated accordingly. It does not levy assessments for other purposes than to create a fund to pay the family of a deceased member. Its officers make no profit from it except on a similar basis and by the same means that officers are paid in the other fraternal organizations. The charges are fixed so there can be no accumulation of a surplus. The important officers or organizers of all fraternal organizations are paid for their time and labor, so are the officers of the Alliance aid degree. Lecturers and organizers are travelling all the time in the interest of the Masons and other organizations. They cannot and do not undertake to give their labor and time for nothing.

Mr. Osborne evidently misunderstands the whole matter. We think he had better look into it and render a decision in accordance with the facts.

THAT PENSION SYSTEM.

Some years ago General Black, of Georgia, got his name on the U. S. pension roll. He had been in the Union army and was some kind of a general in a small way. He produced proof to show that he was "mentally and physically disabled from any work," and has been allowed \$100 per month ever since. During Cleveland's first administration, notwithstanding General Black was "mentally and physically disabled from any work," Cleveland appointed him Commissioner of Pensions. The General was not "disabled" so he could not draw his \$100 per month as a pensioner and at the same time draw his salary as Commissioner. Last fall General Black was nominated by the Democratic party to oppose Thos. E. Watson for Congress in Watson's district. Watson was elected by several thousand majority, but the "great and only honest party" managed to get negroes enough to put over eleven thousand votes in the boxes in the city of Augusta when there was only 5,000 legal voters in the city, and in that way General Black was counted in and Watson was counted out. Now Black is drawing \$5,000 a year from the government as Congressman and his \$1,200 a year as a man who is "mentally and physically disabled from any work."

This is fresh evidence that the Democratic party is as rotten as the Republican party, and we shall, as an independent, truthful paper, continue to put the two parties in the same class.

GOLD TOO SCARCE.

For some time it has been hard to tell what party the News and Observer represents, or whether it had any pronounced views or any subject or not, but the two Australian bank failures, involving over one hundred million dollars, and having many branch banks, has caused it to declare that the English financiers ought to see that "gold is too scarce to form the only basis for money." It further declares that this will sometime "cause a terrible crash and wipe out all the smaller financial institutions in Europe."

This is what THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER has been arguing all the time, and while these great bank failures are to be regretted and the thousands of people who lose money are deserving of much sympathy, we hope the failures will cause the lawmakers and financiers of all the world to change their ruinous course. We cannot refrain from saying "it has been proven that THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is right again." But when the News and Observer

gets in its work so far away, it is guilty of criminal negligence, unless it tells all the truth. The financial institutions, large and small, will go down when their ancestors, as it were, in Europe begin to tremble. Indeed they are going rapidly already. The News and Observer is condemning its own work, its own policy. America is controlled by the gold basis men. Why not lecture them? The party that the News and Observer claims to be the organ of is run by gold basis men. President Cleveland is the rankest gold basis man in the United States. And here we find the News and Observer supporting, year after year the very men and the very policy that it declares will ruin Europe sooner or later, and it could have added with as much truth, America also. Such editors ought to be arrested for cruelty to themselves.

AMONG THE ALLIANCES.

National Secretary, Col. D. P. Duncan, of Columbia, S. C., writes that South Carolina is in line.

The South Carolina County Alliances meetings were all full and satisfactory to the most ardent members.

The Alliances in Virginia are ready for a boom. The State Lecturer is on the warpath and he will stir things up. Nebraska is said to have a fine lot of Alliance officers now and a number of good papers. We are glad to know that this far away State is getting in good trim for the future.

Bro. J. M. Richardson, State organizer for Indiana, writes the State organ that he has organized several new Alliances recently and that old ones are taking on much enthusiasm. Several have been admitting new members.

President Ellington, of the Georgia State Alliance, has just finished a tour of the State. He declares the organization is rapidly regaining its lost strength and membership, and will soon be stronger than ever before. He is very enthusiastic over the outlook. Hurrah for Georgia!

Word comes to this office from every nook and corner of the State that the Farmers' Alliance is taking on new life and energy. Up to this hour every resolution from Sub or County Alliance breathes the sentiment and determination to make the principles and demands of the Alliance the rule of action, and to continue the organization as an independent political school, with no official connection with any political party. Every patriot should rejoice. - Southern Mercury.

TAR DROPS.

It takes more religion to hold a man level in a horse trade than it does to make him shout at a camp meeting. - Davie Times.

A young lady in Wilson on Monday night spoke of her attentive beau as an intolerable bore. This does not augur well for the prospects of his suit. - Wilson Mirror.

Douglas, the three dollar shoe man, wants to be Governor of Massachusetts. He wants to get in office so that every one will be wanting to get in his shoes. - Durham Globe.

It does look a little presumptuous for the Alliance to make demands on the government; but no more than that of railroad corporations, manufacturers, whiskey dealers, bankers and owners of gold mines. - Hickory Mercury.

A Tennessee man gave President Cleveland a half dollar for luck. We don't believe in that thing, but we would be willing to give it an indefinite number of trials if some one will send on the half dollars. - Wilmington Star.

Brooklyn has just made the discovery that her aldermen have given away a railroad franchise for nothing for which they could have gotten \$250,000. But she has not yet discovered how much the aldermen got. - Wilmington Star.

"There is one thing I like about the religion that this here Sam Jones dishes up," said the man with red clay on his boots and hayseed in his beard. "It don't interfere none with the language a feller uses when he is a drivin' mules." - Charlotte Democrat.

North Carolina has the reputation of offering up more candidates for consularships than any other State of its size. Such is the willingness of North Carolina politicians to serve their own country that they are willing to go to other countries to do it. - Winston Sentinel.

The reports from the meeting of the County Alliances, Thursday, have the same familiar wherewithal, now there-fore and resolves as of old. At the July meetings we shall doubtless have the accustomed "demands." - Charlotte Observer. Of course they will; why not?

If Congress has the right under the Constitution to issue paper money, it was given them to be used by themselves, not to be delegated to individuals or corporations. - Andrew Jackson.