

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

MRS. L. L. POLK. - PROPRIETOR. J. L. RAMSEY, EDITOR. I. W. DENMARK, BUSINESS MANAGER. Raleigh, N. C.

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To Correspondents:

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 of value, experiences of value, plainly and briefly told. One solid, demonstrated fact, is worth a thousand theories.

RALEIGH, N. C., JULY 11, 1893

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

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

Do you want your paper changed to another office? State the one at which you have been getting it.

In writing to anybody, always be sure to give the name of your postoffice, and sign your own name plainly.

Our friends in writing to any of our advertisers will favor us by mentioning the fact that they saw the advertisement in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

The date on your label tells you when your time is out.

"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

\*. One vessel from Australia went into the port of London last week with 700 tons of butter. Its value was \$240,000.

\*. New York had 55 fires on the 4th, perhaps half of them starting from fireworks. Raleigh didn't have a single alarm. So you see Raleigh is the safest town of the two.

\*. President Butler will speak at Rock Ridge, Wilson county, Thursday, July 20th, instead of 21st. The change is made a day earlier so he can reach an appointment in Forsyth county, at Spanish Grove, on the 22d.

\*. The Leaksville Herald needs a tonic. It says: "When an Alliance store goes under THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER always gets off something 'about it not being run by the Alliance.'" Please name an instance of this kind Mr. Herald.

\*. The Secretary of the Texas State Alliance reports that he has issued more new charters for Alliances during the past month than for any preceding month since 1888. Let every State keep up with the "Mother Alliance State."

\*. The paper firm of Louis Snyder's Sons, Cincinnati, made an assignment a few days ago. Their assets are over a million and total liabilities only \$300,000, but they could not borrow the small sum of \$7,000 from the banks and had to close doors.

\*. The National Watchman says Secretary Carlisle has already had plates engraved for the purpose of issuing new bonds. Carlisle is a great financier. Perhaps he intends to clear enough by such jobs to liquidate all his outstanding wine bills.

\*. Senator Martin, of Kansas, says the "great financiers of the country are always wrong on financial legislation." We believe he is right. They advocate measures in their own interest only. The people want just exactly what the financiers don't want.

\*. Several attempts have been made to burglarize Evangelist Fife's home at Charlotte. The burglar lads must think evangelists are rich. How long will it be until anarchists will be holding up homes and carrying off evangelists to plank down a hundred thousand or so.

\*. It is reported that a gang of counterfeiters in Union county stole the whistle from a steam engine and made it into silver dollars. We will join the administration in crying out against this sort of "depreciated currency." It is worth less than 53 cents on the dollar.

\*. On the 8th of August a well known paper will be revived in Washington City. It is the Congressional Record, and will contain thrilling stories by prominent authors who are paid \$5,000 and \$1,200 additional for a clerk. Also allowed the privilege of "coining" schemes through, for which some of them get two or three times their regular salary. Read the Record

and see how the authors of it get "applause," "great applause" and "tremendous applause" for saying the most commonplace things imaginable.

\*. If you are expecting to attend a first class school or college this fall, consult our advertising columns. You will find a number of the best schools advertised and more are to appear yet. Only those advertising in this paper are supposed to desire the patronage of our readers.

\*. By the demonetization of silver in India the value of the silver dollar in America is now said to be only 35 cents, having fallen in value from 65 cents. We are still receiving them at 100 cents on the dollar. Send 53 cent dollars and get THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER a whole year.

\*. Hon. Thos. Watson, of Georgia, says: "The Alliance is growing and deserves to grow. The People's party is growing and deserves to grow. And each can best grow by having its meetings separately." That is right. Alliance meetings and any party meetings should be entirely distinct.

\*. Do you think the reform movement is not growing? The number of new papers that are being started and the number that have been resuscitated shows that it is growing. There is no better index. We believe the Alliance will be as strong as ever numerically and otherwise in six months.

\*. The Conway, Ark., Populist says: "The unprecedented growth of the Alliance in many sections shows that people are thinking as never before and are reaching the point where they are ready to put their thoughts into action. 'The waters are being troubled and the people are beginning to step in'"

\*. We don't like to ask so many questions, but why is it that nearly all the big political organs of both parties said the country was enjoying "unprecedented prosperity" with the Sherman law in operation for two years, while for the past month it has been a "black Friday" every day. There is a big mistake so nowhere.

\*. The Washington, Kan., Republican tells of a bank president in that State who skipped with all the funds and forgot to put a notice on the door to the effect that "depositors will be paid in full." The Republican thinks he ought to be expelled from the bankers association for such an oversight.

\*. We notice that several very prominent agricultural papers devote most of their editorial pages to their own business notices—premiums of ferd—such as watches, Bibles and sewing machines. But the farmers are still being robbed and nothing is said against it by these farmers' papers. Too bad.

\*. We invite attention to the advertisement in our columns of Littleton High School and Business Institute. The catalogue shows 96 in attendance. For climate, location, and healthfulness, it claims to be unexcelled. A good place for a young man to prepare himself for college or the practical duties of life.

\*. Bros. H. C. Forney and N. C. English of the Alliance Legislative Committee have each published letters in this paper denying the statement that they asked for or desired any legislation in regard to the Alliance charter. Bro. J. J. Young, of Polenta, is the other member. Will he kindly let the brethren know where he stood in this matter?

\*. The Lenoir Topic has taken a Rip Van Winkle sleep. Now it rises up, rubs its eyes, and says: "It is enough to take a fellow's breath to pick up the papers and read accounts of so many banks failing. Why don't the Third party fellows suggest a remedy that will stop the failure of so many banks? We have been waiting patiently to hear from them."

\*. The Jonesboro Journal solves the problem this way: "One reason we have so much of 'hard times' in this country is because there are so many lazy sneaks lying around doing nothing except eating up what other people make. The old law, 'If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat,' ought to be revived and put in full force." How about overproduction? According to that theory we need more lazy eaters."

\*. Some of our political exchanges are still asking what caused the loss of \$2,731.10 in the transaction of the State Business Agency. It was caused by "non-partisans." Not a dollar has been lost on partisan Alliances, but there is mighty little dependence to be put in "non-partisans" as they term themselves. The "non-partisan" is something to be avoided. These "non-partisans" will not have another opportunity to cause losses in the future, and their organs may keep on until more secrets will be told.

\*. The Laurinburg Exchange says: "There is a big quarrel up now about who started the A. & C. College." There has been no quarrel. It is merely

a difference of opinion as to certain matters. All the discussion has been in a friendly spirit. When the Exchange says the 'poor, down-trodden, miserable, poverty-stricken hayseed keeps the wheels greased' we must conclude that it is opposed to the college. Will it name an institution that, according to age, etc., is doing more for the education of the young men of our State?

\*. Your Uncle Sam Jones writes as follows: "If there is not a change for the better in the next sixty days something has got to bend or break. From ocean to ocean, from the northern boundary of Canada to the gulf, this country is in a fearful condition financially. I care not for causes that led to it or names you may give the situation. The whole thing is 'out of whack,' and now the question is, can Congress put things in line again? The worst feature in the whole situation is the fact that all the silver mines are closing down in the west, and the large iron and coal industries of the east are closing down, thus throwing out of employment tens of thousands of men, and no work and no money, with distrust on all sides. There will be infinite want and trouble unless the causes can be removed and the country put in running order again."

IT'S UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

Only a few days ago the Chamber of Commerce in Raleigh and many other cities were urging President Cleveland to call an extra session of Congress at once, giving as a reason that the gravity of the financial situation demanded it. Two or three years ago the farmers petitioned Congress to pass certain remedial legislation, giving as a reason that the farmers were in a bad way. The statesmen in Congress said it was "unconstitutional," turned a deaf ear and allowed things to go on to ruin. Some of the very men who are now clamoring for an extra session, for congressional relief, laughed at the farmers, said ugly things about them; told them it was folly to expect help from Congress, 'go home and go to work and quit grumbling.' At last the bottom rail is on top. We can now twist the business and professional men with their "unconstitutional" twaddle and tell them to "go to work and quit all this grumbling." Gentlemen "you must not expect relief from Congress."

It is not pleasant to say so, but it is a fact that the farmers will be in better shape than many other people from now on. The thin crust has broken, just as we calamity howlers said it would, and tens of thousands of people, business, professional and otherwise, are being ruined financially. The farmers can pull through, for most of them have and can get something to eat, and their effects cannot decrease much more in value. But business is prostrate in many places. Now it can be understood that we calamity howlers were really thinking people and that we have been honestly trying to save the farmers from poverty, and at the same time save the great varied business interests of our fellow citizens. Reformers, take courage. The additions to the reform ranks are greater than ever before. The Alliance platform will yet be a part of the laws of our great country and then we will have "equal rights to all."

MORTON AS A REFORMER.

Early after the announcement that J. Sterling Morton had been made Commissioner of Agriculture, the American people learned that a consummate fool would fill that position. His latest is to recommend the system of "entail" to prevent the rush of farmers to the cities, which means a law to prevent farmers from selling their lands or effects to move to towns or cities. The politicians and city people are to be free, but farmers must continue in the old rut forever by keeping their noses constantly to the grindstone. This is simply another name for slavery and would hardly be tolerated even in Russia. Now friends you have some more samples of "Democratic reform," issued by one of the Cabinet. Really this is a reform administration. Now ain't you glad you voted for Grover and the balance of his crowd of autocrats last fall? Don't you feel good?

But J. Sterling didn't stop at this. In an interview with some reporter on the 26th of May J. Sterling said:

"The whole world has been plowed up and the profits of agriculture have declined because supply has run ahead of demand."

That was good, but he spoiled it all before he got three feet. The reporter asked him the cause of agricultural depression in the South and West and he said:

"What the South and West need is not more money so much as more commodities or produce with which to buy money."

If anybody can show us two more contradictory statements we will pass in our chips. Now don't you think J. Sterling is a dandy? And isn't he just as good as any of his associates?

THE POLICY FORESHADOWED.

Hon. J. B. Henderson, ex United States Senator from Missouri, has written a long article on finance to Secretary Carlisle. Mr. Carlisle has published the article in the Washington Post. This action leads us to believe that Mr. Carlisle approves of it, and that it foreshadows the policy of the administration when the extra session meets.

The article itself fills nearly three and a half columns in small type, and consists of a history of the various money panics, what caused them, etc. Mr. Henderson favors a gold standard and the unconditional repeal of the Sherman law. He is against silver in any form, and, from his article, one would suppose that a large number of his relatives had been recently poisoned by some one having placed a small quantity of silver in their food. He is willing to plunge the country further in debt, make it an absolute slave to goldbug bondholders, by issuing \$300,000,000 more 3 percent gold bonds. Many of us feel sure that the bondholders are now masters of the situation. If not, the additional \$300,000,000 will complete the job. But, to us, this is no surprise. President Cleveland, Secretary Carlisle and John Sherman have stated publicly that they don't differ in matters of finance. Hence a gold basis will be the result of the next session of Congress. As the money is now locked up it will then be liberated, and, for a few months times will apparently grow better, but soon another crisis will come and values will shrink more than they did in 1873 or 1893, the rich will grow richer and the poor poorer. Those who are now millionaires will become billionaires; those now in moderately good circumstances will be reduced to poverty. Read the following remedies suggested by Mr. Henderson, and you will see what the extra session will probably do:

First. The customs duties should hereafter be paid in gold alone.

Second. The silver bullion in the government vaults should at once be sold for cash in gold and the proceeds covered into the treasury.

Third. Three per cent gold bonds to the amount of \$300,000,000 should be promptly sold and the proceeds transferred to the treasury.

Fourth. A day should be fixed, not later than January 1, 1893, for the redemption and payment in gold coin of all circulating notes of every description heretofore issued by the government.

Fifth. At least half of the silver dollars issued under the acts of 1878 and 1890 should be sold as bullion and the remainder minted into subsidiary silver coins, and made legal tender only in payment of \$10 or less.

Sixth. Provision should be made for the use of the \$300,000,000 of gold bonds as a basis for banking, making the provisions as liberal as possible consistent with safety, but under government supervision.

Seventh. The basis of national banking should be so enlarged as to permit the issue of circulating notes on the deposit of other than United States bonds, the solvency of such bonds to be passed on by responsible government officials.

Eighth. All bank issues to be redeemed in gold coin on demand.

Ninth. All foreign gold coins should be made a legal tender for debt, and receivable for government dues at their value, as fixed by law.

Tenth. Previous to the first of January, 1893, the surplus funds of the treasury, either from loans or collections, to be placed with the banks in such sections of the country and in such amounts as may be determined by the secretary.

HOW TO ECONOMIZE.

A financial crisis so often predicted in these columns as inevitable unless a radical change should be made, has now appeared in full grown proportions. The South being poorer and more conservative, will not suffer as much as the North and West, though it has already been terrible. Most of our banks will pull through, though the depression is felt by every man and woman.

Now that the trouble has come our people should not lose their heads. The few people who may have some money deposited in banks that are managed by cautious, honest men need not rush in and withdraw their money. Creditors should not hasten to foreclose mortgages or force debtors to pay up. You will get your money easier and quicker by waiting until matters have assumed better shape. Crop prospects are only moderately good, but if prices are not too low this fall collections will be as good as they have been in five years or more. Our financial friends put too much stress upon "lack of confidence," but when a panic comes want of confidence causes much trouble. Most of the banks in North Carolina can pay their depositors on demand. Yet you can't borrow a dollar from any bank on gilt-edge security. Not because they have no money, but for the reason that their depositors might call for their money, and if it was loaned out it could not be paid at once. Hence money is tight. This will blow over in a week or two and money can be borrowed as usual.

In panicky times some people act as they do when a building takes fire. They rush for the exits as if there was immediate danger. Often many are killed and injured in this way. Yet if they had a cool head they would have walked out slowly, returned and walked out several times before there was great danger. Our advice is keep cool under all circumstances.

Economy is a good thing at all times. When times are unusually dull it is necessary. But people should pay their debts or any part they can and keep the wheels going. It is not economy to neglect to pay your debts. By economy we mean that no one should spend money for luxuries, such as whiskey, cigars, fine clothing, unnecessary traveling, or anything you can do without. It is not economy to quit sending your children to school or to discontinue your reform papers. Pinch a little closer and continue to educate yourself and family. It is not economy to neglect your Alliance meetings and the payment of dues. Try to find time and money for that. We throw out these suggestions to all our readers. Reform must come from the party in power or another one and you must educate and agitate to that end, but keep cool and act sensibly in all things and at all times.

COUNTY MEETINGS.

The regular quarterly County Alliance meetings will be held throughout the State this week and next, ranging in date from the 12th to 20th. Most of them will be held on the 13th.

These meetings will be very important ones, coming as they do just prior to the State meeting. As our farmers are now through with the busiest season of farm work, it is to be hoped that they are attending the Sub Alliance meetings and good delegates have been selected. Every delegate should attend the county meetings and should put on his thinking cap before he goes so he may be prepared to act intelligently. Harmony is very essential. The April county meetings were unusually harmonious. Let the same be said of the July meetings. Special care should be taken in electing delegates to State meeting. Let no party or religious lines be drawn. An Allianceman is an Allianceman no matter what party he has voted with. He may have voted against his own best interests, and those of the organization, but all of us have made similar mistakes at some time in our lives. Let the past bury the past. At this time all farmers should come together and stand by each other, even though they have gone apart in the past. The welfare of one farmer is the welfare of all—of everybody else doing a legitimate business.

Don't forget your State organ. Upon its success hinges much of the good results to be expected from the Alliance. Let some active brother present its claims vigorously in every meeting. We need and would be glad to get a good club from each county meeting, both of new subscribers and renewals. Let's see what county will send the most subscribers and renewals on the day of meeting. The same may be said of the local Alliance papers. Hold up their hands by giving them a hearty support and necessary encouragement. We hope to get a brief report from every county meeting. Don't forget that.

SOME SIGNS OF INTELLIGENCE.

Under the above caption the News and Observer gives an extract from the New York Evening Post, as follows:

"It would be difficult," says the Post, "to exaggerate the distress and anxiety which to day pervade the business world and are hourly becoming more acute. It has become almost impossible to borrow money on any security whatever, and this means, of course, that the crisis will soon reach the working classes through all the great agencies of production."

Then follows the News and Observer's comments, which are peculiar to that paper, and serve to prove the exact time when it began to agitate and educate along reform lines, and the difficulties it has found after so long and earnestly battling for the principles. It has at last seen some signs of approaching intelligence. That this important historical fact connected with this important reform movement may be preserved for the future historian we give it verbatim.

"This is exactly what we have been trying to get our Northern friends to see for a month past. But the New York papers would not notice anything outside of their town, nor would they pay attention to any other matter than silver."

This appeared in the News and Observer June 29th, 1893. Do not forget the date, and then note that "for a month past it has been trying to get," etc., but was it not discouraging to work for a month on those stupid New Yorkers who "would not notice anything outside of their town?" Then it breaks out again: "The banks have long since ceased

to exercise their functions as banks of discount. Trade and business are fast coming to a standstill. Payments are not being made. There is no cash afloat. Industries are in peril, mills are on the eve of closing, and calamity and disaster are seen as portentous clouds obscuring the horizon. We speak \* \* \* of the general situation throughout the country. The only people not threatened in the crisis which each day brings nearer and nearer, are the farmers whose proverbial independence finds a striking illustration in their exemption from the distress that puts trade, commerce and all active business in jeopardy.

The cause of this pervading distress is the currency. \* \* \* It is presented as a matter disconnected with speculators, silver, the quality of money or any theories.

It has relation only to the quantity of money, or rather to the want of a sufficient quantity of currency. To all this our New York contemporaries have been blind \* \* \* But we are thankful that at last they have reached the point where they can see that trouble is brewing outside of New York, and that they show some signs of intelligence in regard to it. The sign is hopeful. By prompt action the crisis may be averted."

What the editor says about our condition is true. Calamity and disaster have already obscured the horizon from many who have called us calamity howlers for the past six years for daring to warn them of the lowering clouds and the dangers ahead. They laughed at us; they ridiculed us; they said all manner of evil against us; they called us calamity howlers, anarchists, communists, idiots, cranks, fools, and if there was any other epithet of contempt that could be coined it was brought into use to show their utter abhorrence of us. They heaped up puny shovels of earth upon the Johns town dam, and heeded not the cry of those who warned of danger until the floods came, and the force accumulated by the added attitude of the structure carried death and destruction indescribable in its wake.

This is a serious matter, but we can not refrain from saying this statement is a gamasher. "The only people not threatened are the farmers." "All active business is in jeopardy." Still the proverbial independence of the farmer finds him exempt, he has nothing at stake, is not in active business, has nothing to sell, nothing to buy, therefore can stand aside and look on as a disinterested witness. Stand aside, farmer; you are not in it. This is our fight; we are running the business, all the active business, of this great, busy, business world. Your calling has not reached the dignity yet of being classified as "business." All these cries you have been howling in our ears for the past dozen years were none of your concern. All you are fit for anyhow is to make cotton for us. Keep your tongue and vote as we say." This is about the idea which inspires much of what is written these days.

But the News and Observer has evidently seen a vision, its eyes are opening. May the scales be completely removed still, as of old, when Saul of Tarsus, the Pharisee of the Pharisees, was converted and had had the scales completely removed from his eyes, even then he had to be vouchsafed before the christians would admit him into their meeting or impose confidence in him. And if Bro. Ashe is a convert he should spend a night and a day, at least, with Priscilla and Aquilla that they may instruct him more perfectly in the word. Having learned the shibboleth then let him go to the regions which need the truth and cry aloud.

YOU MEAN THE MOON.

One of our neighbor papers has had the audacity to bark at THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER last week. It looks like a dog barking at the ocean.—Our Home.

ELECTION FRAUDS.

In response to our request for facts about illegal transactions in the election last fall, Mr. Thomas P. Paschall, of Warren county, has sent us an account of how things were managed in his box. It appeared in our last issue and told how 139 voters were denied the right of suffrage in that township.

We do not know Mr. Paschall personally, but his letter shows that he is an educated man. He says he is 80 years old and has been a registrar for a number of years. We take it for granted that he is an old resident of his neighborhood by that statement. Yet this man, after living to the age of 80, was last year denied the right to deposit his vote as he thought best. Such doings are a disgrace to any State.

We hope some one in every locality where fraud of any kind was practiced will send us the facts in an intelligent, conservative letter, abusing no man or party. Send nothing that you cannot prove by good witnesses. Everybody ought to read THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER for the next few months and get the facts. Get up clubs of three and all months subscribers in every neighborhood.