

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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SUBSCRIPTION: Single Subscriber, One Year, \$1.25; Six Months, .75; Three Months, .50; Five Subscribers, One Year, \$5.00; Ten, One Year, \$10.00. One copy free to the one sending Club of Ten.

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., AUG. 15, 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

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

The Arbuckle coffee mills, Brooklyn, N. Y., have shut down, throwing 800 men out of employment. The only redeeming feature is that the coffee trust is getting it in the neck along with the balance of us.

Secretary Barnes requests the brethren to send cash in registered letter or postoffice money orders when remitting to his office, as the banks have lost confidence in each other and don't care to cash checks.

Your Uncle Grover continues to prate about depreciated silver. If he would stop fishing and take a trip and learn how much he has depreciated in the respect and confidence of his constituents, he would have an eye opener.

Only a short time ago the plutocratic solons announced through their organs that debts and mortgages were an evidence of prosperity. It is about time for the same rascals to declare that broken banks, merchants and factories are also an evidence of prosperity.

The Winston Sentinel says: "The tariff is an important issue, but the condition of the country makes the financial question far more important." For twenty years the song has been reform the tariff and the finances will be all right. Why change your old songs for new ones?

There wasn't much lack of confidence while there was no agitation to repeal the Sherman law. Doesn't it look like the agitation has caused the panic? If the mere agitation brings such bad results, what will it be when the law is repealed? To make less money means less confidence.

Farms and lots to the number of 665 are advertised to be sold for taxes in Davidson county. Davidson is considered one of the best counties in the State, very little cotton is raised, and yet the Sheriff's hammer is raised above the heads of over six hundred families in the county.

Mr. W. H. Chapel, Superintendent of Public Instruction for Wake county, will examine applicants for admission to the A. & M. College as county students for this county at the court house in Raleigh, on the 19th inst. Every young man in this county who wishes to enter the college should be present on that day.

The Baltimore Sun admits that every complaint made by the People's party in Virginia is true, but says the remedies proposed are not perfect. We have read the platform and find that it is exactly similar to the Democratic platforms from 1872 to 1888, the same platforms that the Sun stood upon. We suppose the Sun has taken the Cleveland gold cure.

The New York Herald regrets to see substantial banks, business houses and factories breaking after Congress has assembled. It thinks they ought to be able to hold out a little longer. Well, they can't, and that settles it. More than that, the present Congress is no encouragement at all. Wait until the people elect a Congress and then confidence will be restored. A Wall street President and a Wall street Congress doesn't encourage us any.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND'S MESSAGE.

We publish President Cleveland's message to the extra session of Congress, this week, in order that our readers may see just what he says brought about all the trouble and how it may be remedied. The message, like all former ones written by President Cleveland, is brief, and will please Rothschild and associates in France and England immensely. Few men can write better English than Mr. Cleveland. No man can say more in a few words to please English financiers than Mr. Cleveland. We believe that the recommendations in his message are more damaging to eight tenths of our people than can be found in any similar document ever put forth in America.

The President understands the situation fully, it seems, and so states in the message. By reading closely you will notice that he avoids many things long regarded as vital by his party. His explanation of the details of the Sherman law and the evils that have grown out of it is very plausible. If the use of wheat for making bread had been forbidden by our government in 1873, as the use of silver for money-making purposes was forbidden, the result would have been similar to what it has been in regard to silver. We will suppose that John Sherman, in order to prevent the passage of a free wheat bill, had introduced a bill allowing the sale of a limited amount of wheat, not to be made into bread, but to be bought and stored by the government and the government allowed to issue rye instead of the wheat. The result would have been the same. The government would have had a great quantity of almost worthless wheat on hand, just as it is loaded with depreciated silver. The value of any metal or commodity can be depreciated by law. If iron had been legislated against in favor of steel, iron would not be worth one cent per pound. If the Sherman law was repealed and free coinage substituted, money would become more plentiful and the price of silver go right up with other prices. But Mr. Cleveland is for a gold basis, knocking silver out of the ring entirely. The natural result will be that all the gold and other money now locked up will be turned into circulation, the banks will declare the panic over and times easier. But that will not last—it cannot. Instead of panics once in ten or twenty years we will have them every year—all the time, in fact. Farm products will drop as low or lower than at present and other business will be fully as unprofitable. Land will depreciate, become unsalable. At first it will be "hard times," but later on the people will have to go back to primitive methods. In this progressive age prices must be high and money easy to keep the machine going, or else nine-tenths of the people will be reduced to serfdom. True, people can adopt primitive modes of living. They can raise their own food, and ought to, can make their own clothes, can walk or stay at home. But when that style of living becomes necessary, and it will with a gold basis, the railroad trains will no longer run, the wagon or buggy factory will stop in fact every factory in the country must close its doors, so will three fourths of the merchants and bankers. But few newspapers can be published, telegraph communication can only be kept up between large cities. People may raise, chew and smoke their own tobacco in corn-cob pipes, for the cigar or plug factory will no longer be able to run—most of them are standing still now—things considered necessities to-day will be known as magnificent luxuries then. The towns and cities will rapidly decay—are doing so now. In short, the progress we have made in the past hundred years will be forgotten as we get poorer and progress backward. Schools and churches will soon close, which means millions of ignorant serfs and a few thousand aristocrats who will roll in idle splendor something after the fashion of uncivilized foreigners. We hope that Mr. Cleveland's policy will not be carried out, but if it is and continues, a few years will be enough to prove that a gold basis means about what has been described above.

Of the earnings of the Sugar Refining Company * * * it is known beyond a doubt that the company is lending \$7,000,000, and has about \$1,500,000 in bank at the present.

This is conclusive evidence of the ability of this concern to take care of itself. It pays all the expenses of running its business, pays the largest kind of dividends to its stockholders, and enormous salaries to its officers and attorneys, and seems to be able to do all this without the aid of the government. And yet the government steps in and gives them seven and a half million a year to lend out, and they can lend every cent of it and still have a million dollars in the bank. This is but the first year's experience, and this thing is to go on for fourteen years. Will it grow less, or will it grow stronger and more demanding and defiant? We shall see. If our Congressman are patriots they will end this fraud speedily. It should be stopped at once. In fourteen years the animal will be able, with its billion and a half or two billions of bounty, to defy the government. Our people of all classes, colors and conditions, irrespective of parties, should speak out with emphasis and at once and demand the immediate repeal of this infamous law.

Times will not be any better, there will be no such thing as reform, until more influential newspapers stop filling their editorial columns with editorials on prize fighting, baseball games, bicycle clubs and patent medicine advertisements, etc., instead of sensible editorials on the issues of the day, and these papers will not quit that as long as plutocracy smiles upon them for doing so, and as long as people patronize their disreputable business. Reader, are you supporting such papers?

BUYING MONEY.

We have been led to believe that the section of country north of Washington and east of Chicago is as rich as cream. True there is an immense amount of money in that area, but it is in the hands of a few banks, other corporations and individuals. The stagnation in business, failures of banks and closing of factories have been greater in that section than elsewhere. Even in New York City bank and commercial failures have been remarkably numerous. This northeastern portion of the United States has many advantages. Great cities are scattered throughout the territory, many of them only a few miles apart. Every railroad station is a manufacturing town or city. Riding on any of the many railroads you look out and see great factories on every side. The farms are the most magnificent in America. In Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, New Jersey and some other States the soil is very rich in addition to high artificial improvements and scientific cultivation. The population is composed of Yankees in every sense of the word. They are shrewd, industrious, economical and intelligent. Yet all that country is plastered with mortgages and the wretched financial condition existing is making a wreck of everything. Strange to say the greedy millionaires and the newspapers (they are generally owned by millionaires) insist that Congress complete the disaster so plainly visible. Only a few days ago bankers in New York were buying money! Yes, it is true. Small currency and change became so scarce that they actually went on the market and bought it at a premium. For \$1,000 they would pay \$1,020 in large bills or checks. This is one instance where bankers got hold of the wrong end of the string, but they can stand it for a while. But if it should continue a few months perhaps they would not clamor for the repeal of the Sherman law and a lessening of the small currency and silver dollars. A few carloads of the hated silver dollars would come in handy there now, as well as in the South and West.

THE SUGAR BOUNTY FRAUD.

On Oct. 1st, 1890, an act was passed by Congress entitled, "An Act to reduce the revenue and equalize duties on imports and for other purposes." This act provides that on and after July 1st, 1891, and until July 1st, 1905, the Treasurer of the United States shall pay from any monies in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated, to the producers of sugar produced within the United States from beets, sorghum, cane or pure maple sap, testing 90 degrees, a bounty of 2 cents per pound. If testing less than 90 but more than 80 degrees, 1 1/2 cents per pound. Under this law we find, by reference to the 1892 report of the Commissioner

of Internal revenue, page 187, the amount of bounty paid for the first fiscal year of its operation was \$7,342,077.99, and that the further expense to the department in disbursing this bounty was \$147,831.61, making, in round numbers, a cost to the people of seven and a half million dollars. Now where does this money go to? The people of this country are not averse to helping any worthy object; they have abundantly proven this by submitting for so long to the infamous and exorbitant exactions of a tariff for the protection of so called infant industries. But here is a new infant of giant proportions, stepping beyond the tariff and demanding and receiving a bounty; and where, we repeat, is it going? The New York Sun of a recent date published a column editorial booming stocks of various kinds under the head of "bargains in stocks." The Exchange, the official organ of the New York Stock Exchange, of July 27, copies the whole editorial from the Sun and thus makes it official. We find in this article the following statement:

"Of the earnings of the Sugar Refining Company * * * it is known beyond a doubt that the company is lending \$7,000,000, and has about \$1,500,000 in bank at the present."

This is conclusive evidence of the ability of this concern to take care of itself. It pays all the expenses of running its business, pays the largest kind of dividends to its stockholders, and enormous salaries to its officers and attorneys, and seems to be able to do all this without the aid of the government. And yet the government steps in and gives them seven and a half million a year to lend out, and they can lend every cent of it and still have a million dollars in the bank. This is but the first year's experience, and this thing is to go on for fourteen years. Will it grow less, or will it grow stronger and more demanding and defiant? We shall see. If our Congressman are patriots they will end this fraud speedily. It should be stopped at once. In fourteen years the animal will be able, with its billion and a half or two billions of bounty, to defy the government. Our people of all classes, colors and conditions, irrespective of parties, should speak out with emphasis and at once and demand the immediate repeal of this infamous law.

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OUR NEW OFFICERS.

It is hardly necessary for us to give our readers even a brief introduction to the new officers of the State Alliance, for they are well known, tried, able and true members.

Bro. J. M. Mewborne, of Lenoir county, was elected President. He has held different offices in the Alliance in his own county, and to the satisfaction of all. For several years he has been a member of the Executive Committee of the State Alliance. President Mewborne does not lack executive ability, good sense, honesty nor courage. That covers nearly every inch of the ground. He will allow no one to surpass him in zeal for the upbuilding of the Order. He is as true as steel. Our membership can always look to the front for the banner while it is in his hands. While not a brilliant orator he is a fair speaker and will greatly improve with practice, being able to meet any man on the stump in defense of our principles.

The same may be said of the other new officers elected. The old officers re-elected need no recommendation at our hands. Col. J. S. Bridges, of Catawba, was elected Vice-President; W. S. Barnes, re-elected Secretary-Treasurer; W. H. Worth, State Business Agent; W. A. Graham, Trustee; Dr. Cyrus Thompson, Lecturer; J. T. E. Hoover, Assistant Lecturer; Rev. T. T. Speight, Bertie county, Chaplain; John R. Hancock, Guilford county, Sergeant at Arms; Geo. T. Lane, Guilford county, Doorkeeper; H. E. King, Onslow county, Assistant Doorkeeper. Executive Committee—Marion Butler, Wayne county, J. J. Long, Columbus county, A. F. Hileman, Cabarrus county, Judiciary Committee—N. M. Culbreth, Columbus county, John Brady, Gates county, John Graham, Warren county, Delegates to National Alliance—M. L. Wood, Bertie county, J. H. Sherrill, Catawba county.

EX-PRESIDENT BUTLER.

Having served two terms, President Butler was not eligible for re-election to the Presidency of the State Alliance. He was elected to serve on the Executive Committee, and in that capacity can render almost or quite as much valuable aid to the organization as when President of it.

WHAT IS A PLATFORM FOR?

The Richmond Dispatch is much exercised over what sort of platform the Virginia Democracy shall adopt this year. If a platform is not binding, as the Dispatch holds in regard to the national Democratic platform, why go to the trouble of making one?—Webster's Weekly.

The Dispatch thinks that a platform is not intended to last for a hundred years, or ten years, or five years. How long, then? Circumstances must determine. Who would say the Democrats of Virginia are now bound by the platform of 1874? N. body. This year a platform is imperatively demanded. Whether it will be such a one as will be binding next year or not, we cannot now foresee.—Richmond Dispatch.

The Dispatch either misunderstands our question or is dodging. We want to know, and would still like for the Dispatch to inform us, why the Virginia Democracy should go to the trouble of making a platform if a platform is not binding and every Democrat is free to set it aside like the Dispatch. The Weekly does not think a platform is intended to last for a hundred years, but it does say unhesitatingly that until a new national convention is held, the party is bound by the platform of the convention of 1892, also bound by every sentence and expression thereof. It has made its contract, and it cannot honorably or feasibly try to get out of it by saying that it has changed its mind, or would make a different contract now. Of course, the declarations of a national convention are not "infallible" in the sense of being free from error and the possibility of error, but error or no error, they are authoritative and final until the next convention.—Webster's Weekly.

DO YOU KNOW IT?

Did you know that North Carolina paid \$2,383,656.85 internal revenue taxes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1892, and that the total amount paid by this State up to that date was \$50,365,707.33?

Did you know that the amount of sugar bounty paid for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1892, was \$7,500,000, and that one company drawing this bounty has \$7,000,000 loaned out and \$1,500,000 in bank?

Did you know that of the \$1,693,501,685 of national bank notes that have been put in circulation, all have been retired and destroyed but \$130,000,000?

Did you know that while the national banks had (Sept. 30, 1892) locked up in their reserve fund and taken from circulation \$578,092,783, they had in circulation only \$130,000,000, which shows a net contraction of the circulating medium on national bank account of \$448,092,783, or about one third of the whole circulating medium?

Did you know that the total stock of gold, both coin and bullion, in the United States, Jan. 1, 1893, was only \$651,460,042, and that the balance of exports against us since then is more than \$62,000,000, leaving us now, say, \$589,000,000?

Did you know that the exports of gold from the United States for the last six years was \$317,764,907. Imports for same time \$8,386,113.

Showing net exports \$326,378,792. Average annual loss \$58,063,132.

Did you know that while the average net annual balance of gold exports against us for the past six years has averaged \$58,063,132.

Output, all our mines averg. 32,999,166.

Exp'ts over prod'n pr'y \$ 5,063,969. Did you know that the product of gold in this country for the last ten years was \$67,405,000 short of what it was the last ten years next preceding?

Did you know that the coinage of the world for the past three years has been, of gold, \$437,307,398, and of silver, \$425,783,498 or only \$11,523,900 the three years, or only \$3,841,300 per year more of gold than of silver?

Did you know that while in the past 20 years the United States mints have coined, of gold, \$809,917,453, our mines have produced only \$708,505,000, showing an excess of mintage over production of \$92,322,453, or an average of \$4,616,122.65 per year?

Did you know that the average annual product of the precious metals for the last twenty years has been: Gold \$107,853,800. Silver 117,325,938.

Total of the two \$225,179,738. Excess of silver over gold \$ 9,472,138. This difference would give 3 cents to each fiftieth person of the world's population.

Did you know that of the precious metal the world was indebted to the United States for 33 1/2 per cent. of its gold and 45 per cent. of its silver?

Did you know that of the total gold stock in the United States, Jan. 1, 1893, \$238,482,082 was in the U. S. Treasury and \$173,932,133 held in national bank reserves, leaving for circulation among the people, and to fill the reserve demands of all other banking and insurance and trust institutions which evidently hold it, only \$293,038,827?

L. D. H. Johnson, Excelsior Alliance, Johnston county, writes that the membership of his lodge has doubled in three months. Careless members are coming back and they have new applications every meeting.

THE STATE ORGAN.

Resolved, That the State Alliance in session assembled, return our thanks to the Editor and Business Manager of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, the Organ of the Farmers' Alliance of North Carolina, for the many and open support of the Order and for their generosity in according so much space to the interest of the Business Agency.

2d. That in recognition of this valuable service we request our brethren to subscribe for it and give it a more extensive circulation.

THE PROSPERITY HOWLER.

The following able editorials are extracted from the last issue of the Prosperity Howler for the benefit of those who want both sides:

We notice that the Populists in Virginia have made a platform. It seems to us that a party without leaders, without votes and with no object in view, might have got along without a platform. The Chicago platform is good enough for us and anybody who thinks otherwise is a rascal.

The State Alliance is in session at Greensboro this week. We intended to give it a more extended notice, but our space is taken up with the baseball score. A thorough Democratic paper like ours can't afford to waste time with these calamity howling organizations.

Congress has met and good times are already here. Wheat has gone up from 35 to 40 cents a bushel and may go to 45 if the Sherman law is repealed. The demand for wheat in Europe has nothing to do with this rise.

Col. John Robinson, our handsome and chivalrous Commissioner of Agriculture with other gentlemanly assistants, have been holding Farmers' Institutes throughout the State. The farmers of North Carolina are deeply indebted to his urbane and patriotic gentleman for his untiring efforts in their behalf. Had it not been for Col. Robinson our farmers would have been in debt and they might not have sold their farm products for anything like their full value. Long may he flourish.

Trade has improved very much in Bugletown since Congress met. Eggs are now bringing eight cents per dozen. They would not sell at all before Congress met. We told our friends all the time that Grover would bring us through. Owing to the short cotton crop we expect the price will jump up to seven cents before Christmas. Who says there is no money in farming?

DISHONEST NEWSPAPERS.

Recently the Baltimore Sun contained an admirable editorial on sensational and dishonest journalism. The Sun claims that many newspaper proprietors know nothing about the business and their only object in running a paper is money-getting. The writer has often expressed the same opinion and charged that much of the political abuses of modern times can be traced directly to this source. Millionaires directly or indirectly, openly or secretly control perhaps eight-tenths of the great newspapers in the world. Many of these papers are enterprising, bright, newsworthy and free from low, sensational matter. But that makes them all the

more powerful and dangerous. They may defend virtue, but wink at political bribery and party treachery. They may condemn anarchy and advocate the causes of it. They do not openly endorse rascality, but keep silent when they should speak out. In one of our leading cities the two leading newspapers are owned by the same man. One is Democratic, the other Republican. Many of the metropolitan papers are in the open market. If a municipal, State or national scheme is on foot, they remain silent until a few thousand dollars appear and are dropped in the slot. Both North and South prominent papers take up the cause of certain presidential aspirants and boom them for a stipulated amount. Corporation papers are found in every city. They do not appear to be the mouth-piece of any particular corporation. Indeed they often severely criticize the corporation at one time and when the proper time comes they, porcupine-like, turn their bristles out and work like beavers for the "boss." We make the following extract from the Sun's editorial:

"And this brings readers who care to go beneath the surface to the true cause and source of the abuses with which they are so familiar. They are the results in nearly every instance of the fact that men have come into the profession as proprietors who are absolutely without newspaper training, without respect for the calling or acquaintance with its true purposes or its best traditions, and often without either personal or political principle. To them it is a business, and merely a business. There is in it only for the money that there is in it. The beginning and the end of their creed is summed up in Iago's advice to Rodorigo, 'Put money in thy purse.' They follow this motto without conscience and without scruple, careless of public or private consequences, so that it fills their cash boxes and swells their bank account. Intellect is prostituted into the unclean slave of the greedy money getter, and the newspaper is converted into a business agency for a speculation in morals. Their avowed business methods, too, are as dishonorable and contemptible as the system upon which they conduct their news and editorial columns, which are frequently for sale to the highest bidder."

There has been no pension reform, there will be none. The pensioner is generally a voter for the party in power. Most of them are Republicans. The present administration has suspended five thousand persons drawing pensions, but if they promise to vote right they will be taken back and thousands will be added. Five hundred pensioners have already been added in the shape of congressional clerks.

Seventy eight counties were represented by duly elected delegates and nearly every county made full reports.

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President Butler's administration has been an agreeable disappointment to thousands of his friends all over the State. He was not very well known to many of the brethren when first elected. Many said he was too young to pilot such an organization through the shoals. But they had not measured the man correctly. The splendid executive ability, brilliant leadership, pure unselfishness, untiring energy and pluck displayed from the very start won the constant admiration of friends and demoralized all opposition completely.

Man is not perfect. Perhaps President Butler made mistakes, as anyone else would have done. If so, we believe they were mistakes of the head and not of the heart. When the entire force of the money power and the organs of monopoly were thrown against the Alliance structure, demoralizing the membership by misrepresentation and by persistent and ingeniously prepared plans to create prejudice. President Butler did not weaken. When these schemes had apparently been successful and the organization seemed to be without a future, he only worked harder and bore the taunts of plutocratic newspapers with martyr-like patience. The membership of the Alliance has grown less. It is not the fault of the State officers but owing entirely to the work of outsiders and a few traitors within. The Order has recovered much of the lost ground and will go upward all the time now. What the Alliance has been in the past and whatever it may be, Bro. Butler will be one of the first men in it and rise or fall with the organization, and ever be found in the thickest of the fight.

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