

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

RALEIGH, N. C., SEPT. 19, 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 Bell Cartright Company, Cleveland, Ohio, has assigned. Liabilities over \$100,000.

A revolution is on in Brazil and two American warships have been sent there to protect American interests.

Remember that the greatest annual output of silver on record is only equal to the interest on the public debt of the United States.

Col. C. F. King, the live "Kodacker" of the enterprising Atlanta Journal, was in the city Saturday. He is always welcome in Raleigh.

Mr. Geo. Wearn, of Charlotte, says he is going to vote for Vance in the next Presidential election no matter how many candidates are out.

The most hopeful sign we see is that the farmers have put on their thinking caps and will no longer allow the towns and cities to absorb everything they have got.

Near Calumet, Mich., Friday, four men robbed an express train and secured \$75,000 in cold cash, making their escape into Canada soon afterward. This is one of the largest robberies on record.

The Wilmington Messenger has started a bread fund for the poor of that city. One day recently bread was furnished to 146 adults and 223 children. Better be working for good laws and prosperity and then the poor can feed themselves.

"The assumption that men are traitors because they ally themselves with one political party rather than another, is no longer to be accepted anywhere outside of an asylum for aged and decrepit politicians of a past generation." - N. Y. World, Jan. 8, 1891.

Hon. George C. Douglass on "A Money Famine in a Nation Rich in Money's Worth" and Hon. W. H. Standish on "Seven Facts About Silver," both in September Arena. These are two of the most notable papers that have appeared in any magazine during the year.

Mr. J. D. Whitham, Kingston, New Mexico, writes us that the action of Congress has entirely paralyzed business there. That is a silver mining country, and the mines are closed. Property worth thousands of dollars will bring nothing now. Shame on the goldbug administration.

Some of our State papers are afraid to say anything complimentary of Senator Vance and others copy what other papers say in a trembling way. Once more we wish to ask: Did Senator Vance ever think that his supposed friends would desert him simply because he is an honest man?

Dr. Manning, of the Henderson Gold-leaf and other guardians of the public peace in newspaper circles, should look after the Statesville Landmark. The Fallstown correspondent of that paper informs it that the people in that section "will get shut of hauling up their cornstaps from the lowlands. He further deposes and says that cotton has the 'black rot' and that Mr. Lee Freese 'has some cotton that is white.'"

IMPORTANCE OF FREE COINAGE.

The Roxboro Courier refers to an assertion made in a speech by Col. Polk some years ago when he said that the passage of a free coinage bill would not be sufficient financial legislation, as it would only put some thirty odd cents per capita in circulation annually. The Courier will correct itself in that he said "per annum." True that doesn't seem much, but if the government had coined all the silver mined since the demonetization act passed, about twenty one years ago, the thirty odd cents per capita annually would now amount to about \$7 per capita. As we did not have free coinage, there are now \$498,000,000 worth of uncoined silver lying in Washington. Add \$20,000,000 of coined silver to that and we have \$518,000,000 in silver lying idle in Washington. We only have about \$3 per capita in circulation in North Carolina. If we had the \$7 per capita of silver money added to the \$3 we would have \$10 in this State, where we now have but \$3.

The Courier can figure it out for itself. We feel sure that free coinage would not be sufficient, but it would put three times as much money in circulation in the South and West as we now have and go a long way toward the desired end. That is why the Alliance is for free coinage, world without end.

With free coinage we would have gone forward instead of backward during the past twenty years. Farm products would have been much higher, so would real estate, people would have been less in debt. The past years cannot be recalled, but what has been omitted during these years should not be during the next twenty, and will not if the honest people of the South and West stand and vote together for free coinage and other good legislation.

By putting one figure too much in \$78,000,000 was made to read six hundred and seventy eight million at one place in Senator Vance's speech last week. Such errors will occur now and then, even if careful attention is given.

MORTGAGES IN COLORADO

The superintendent of the U. S. Census office is a humorist. If he was not he would not start out with each State record of mortgages in this way: "The real estate mortgage movement in Colorado from 1880 to 1889 was a decided progressive one, beginning with a debt of \$9,160,958 in 1880 and ending with \$4,218,578 incurred in 1889." Certainly it was progressive. Very rapid progress has been made toward bankruptcy.

During the ten years a total debt of \$198,176,243 was incurred. The increase of indebtedness amounted to 491.84 per cent. while the population only increased 112.12 per cent. Of this amount 59.66 per cent. is on town and city lots and 40.34 per cent. on farms. The per capita debt in Colorado on Jan. 1, 1890, was \$206. This is far ahead of any other State. Even Kansas stops at \$170. The existing debt at present is \$85,058,793.

Now be it known by all men present, and men who say that cotton raising is the trouble in the South, that no cotton is raised in Colorado. Being a comparatively new State, much of the indebtedness was incurred when a boom was on. But like the older States, the decadence began with the demonetization of silver in 1873 and has rushed forward with startling rapidity.

Compared with South Carolina, a cotton State, the per capita debt of Colorado is \$206, South Carolina about \$430, or about \$50 to \$1. The population of Colorado is a little more than one-third that of South Carolina. In other words, Colorado is about fifty times as much in debt as South Carolina.

The goldbug papers still claim that the exportation of gold caused the panic, and that the Sherman law caused it all. There is now more gold in the United States than there was three months ago and the Sherman law is not yet repealed by the Senate. It is time for the goldbug papers to start a new falsehood, as the old one is threadbare.

BE CONSERVATIVE.

We should be conservative at all times, in all things. But we find it just as hard to be conservative all the time as it is to be good all the time. The best people will make mistakes.

In recent years the souls of men have been tried. Reform comes slow and serious obstacles arise at every turn. Traitors and cowards are met within and slanderers and ostracizers without. Just now it makes the blood of every true American citizen boil when he sees the liberty that our ancestors fought eight years to gain rapidly vanishing. A majority of our representatives in Congress have turned us over financially to England. Our forefathers had far less to complain of than we have to-day. Yet they determined to gain their independence and did. In order

to gain their independence at that time war was inevitable. But not so now. The necessity for independence is greater now, but war will not fit the case. Wicked, treacherous legislators have got us into the trouble by legislation. Honest, patriotic, brave legislators must get us out of it. To get such the campaign of education should be waged with greatly increased vigor. The people must be made to realize how they have been deceived. Reform papers and speakers should be put in the reach of every man and woman.

Newman & Co., wholesale importers and dealers in clothing, New York, are in debt to the tune of \$1,622,550 and are trying to get an extension of time. We suppose they are one of the "business men" who have been clamoring for the repeal of the Sherman law, and have about got themselves repealed. Eleven other "business troubles" were reported from New York on the 14th.

BUSINESS TROUBLES.

The business men (poor misguided mortals) continue to meet in little squads and petition for the repeal of the Sherman law. "Banks and factories are starting up again (on paper) and the failures are not so numerous," is the news the papers give. But the gold bug organs are magnifying things.

For last week Dun & Co., one of the leading commercial agencies, report 323 failures. Of this number 262 were for less than \$5,000 and only four were for more than \$100,000. The failures for August were more than that each week, but of course the weaker concerns all went under in June and July. The fact remains that the failures I've grown from 556 in 1886 to more than 15,000 each year for a year or two past. The increase has been rapid since 1873. At present it looks as if the number will reach 16,000 or 17,000 for this year. Yet Congress is doing all it can to swell the number.

Dun & Co. inform us that there were nearly 2,000 failures during August, and the total liabilities will amount to \$60,000,000. While the commercial agencies try to give this information impartially, it is to their interest to make things as bright as possible, hence the information is more likely to be understated than magnified.

The failures for last week were about double the number for the corresponding week last year and the liabilities nearly four times as great, as it is larger concerns that are failing. Reader are you for reform or for destruction?

"THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER reprints Vance's speech in full. His views comfort the Third party more than the Democratic party," says the Winston Sentinel. As Vance is a true Democrat we judge that if his speech pleased the Third party so much it must be the real Democratic party. But to be still more conservative, we will say that we think his speech pleased every real Democrat and every real Third party man and every real Republican and every other man who has not gone after the Wall street jack-o'-lantern.

MIGHTY QUEER TALK.

The Atlanta Journal says: "The business of a country never thrives by legislation. Let Congress recognize this and at once settle the currency question."

That is a curious assertion. What is Congress for anyway? What is legislation for? The country never thrives by legislation, yet the Journal is clamoring for the repeal of the Sherman law, for a settlement of the currency question by legislation six days in every week.

Many newspapers and pro tem statesmen told the Alliance often that Congress could do nothing for us, yet they were the first to call for immediate legislation. If legislation does not affect the country why have elections, why blame the opposition party for passing bad laws or anything else? If all who say foolish things were lunatics it would take an asylum as large as Texas to hold all of them.

ALL GOOD PEOPLE ARE WELCOMED.

Mr. L. Reece, one of our subscribers, living at Bridgetown, Barbadoes, West Indies, writes to ask our opinion as to the best part of North Carolina for a colony of West India planters to locate.

There is no better place in the world for any people than any portion of our State. We have a climate almost equal to that of Florida or sunny Italy in the eastern part of the State. In the hilly country a great variety of cereals can be raised. In the mountains the Ohio climate is met. The West India planters can find any kind of soil or climate they desire. They might engage in rice culture, truck or fruit farming, raise vineyards, raise cotton or stock. Hop raising and sugar beet culture can be made profitable.

We don't know whether the West Indian people would be desirable citizens or not. But if they are industrious and behave themselves they can live here in peace.

EARLY IMPRESSIONS.

When the writer was a mere boy we read "a verse" in Webster's blue-back spelling-book something like the following: "A judge must be a good man." From that we formed an opinion that cannot be changed easily. Somehow we still think judges are better than other men. In the first place they ought to be good lawyers and good men before they are elected. A position of so much importance, their vast power for good or evil, and many other things ought to naturally make a judge of the superior or supreme court an honest, just official. But some are not.

Many people feel the same way about other high officials, political or otherwise. They cannot understand how a man whom the people have elected President of a great nation can be anything but a great and good man. Early impressions are responsible. Some newspaper editorial or prominent speaker made that impression upon your mind. Perhaps their living depended upon their saying what they did say. Who knows?

It is hard to believe that Senator Jones or Congressman Smith has been elected by our votes and have since become traitors. Our early impressions were too good for that. We will not believe that either of them voted against a good bill for a few paltry dollars. Well, they didn't. But, perhaps they did sell you out for a few thousand. A great many do not sell out. Many vote right. If all of our national representatives had been true to their constituents the free coinage bill would have passed. One hundred and twenty-four voted right. Yet we are not sure that they are all saints, or that Wall street lucre was no temptation. We are not sure but that if their votes had been needed the lucre or the promise of administration patronage would have corrupted them. The lobbyists in Washington are smart. If they find that they have a decided majority on their side, they then arrange a little tableau. For instance Congressman Jones, of North Carolina, represents a district where the people are strong for free coinage. Then, as Congressman Jones is not needed to defeat silver, he has permission to vote for free coinage. The moral of it all is: Do not take it for granted that all public men are honest. Some of our Southern representatives would have voted for the goldbugs had their services been needed.

THE WATERS MUDDED.

There is great excitement in North Carolina revenue circles. It is reported that Senator Vance and all the silver Senators will fight against the confirmation of Messrs. Kope Elias and F. M. Simmons, the Collectors for the Eastern and Western districts. It is said that Simmons is charged with being a party to frauds in the last election. We hear no specific charges against Mr. Elias, and don't know what the racket is about. But the waters are troubled and those who have gotten relief, and others who are expecting it from the Collectors, don't know what a day will bring forth.

We have no comments, no suggestions to offer, but the news was too exciting to hold back and concerns all our readers. The fun is coming on in earnest.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

A friend in Nash county asks that we answer the following question through the paper:

1st. What is the meaning of "free and unlimited coinage of silver at the legal ratio of 16 to 1?"

Free and unlimited coinage means that any silver owner can take or send silver bullion to the United States mint and get it coined into silver dollars and put them in circulation when and where pleases. He may not be a miner, but can purchase silver from anyone else and have it coined, just as you would take wheat to a mill to be made into flour. To make the coin sufficiently hard it is necessary to put ten per cent. alloy in each coin, the alloy consisting of pulverized glass, etc. For mintage the government charges 10 per cent., hence the alloy just makes up for the toll and you get a dollar's worth of silver in a dollar. The legal ratio is fixed by law at 16 to 1, which means that there is exactly sixteen times as much silver in a silver dollar as there is of gold in a gold dollar.

Gold is coined on that basis now. Any owner of gold can carry it to the mint and get gold for it. You need not and do not get your own gold or silver, but after your metal is weighed, found pure, etc., you get the full value of it in new coin and some other man gets your grist of metal in his coin.

Silver was demonetized in 1873. Since that time very little silver has been coined. In 1878 the Bland silver law was passed. A limited amount of silver, \$2,000,000 per month, was coined under that law. Our friend can now understand the difference between free and limited coinage. During the period

some fractional silver was coined, such as dimes, quarters and halves. Prior to 1890 the clamor for free silver coinage became so strong that the goldbugs decided to make some concessions. In February of that year Senator Sherman pushed a scheme through and it has been called the "Sherman law" since. It provided that the government should purchase about 4,500,000 ounces of silver monthly and store it away, issuing silver certificates therefor, and only so much silver should be coined as would be required to redeem these certificates. But the goldbugs were on the alert and many of the certificates were redeemed with gold coin. The natural consequence is that the government has about \$496,000,000 worth of uncoined silver lying in its vaults, which, under free coinage, would have been coined and sent on its way paying debts and helping everybody along.

Our correspondent next asks if "India's supply of silver would injure the United States?" It would not. All the silver in India would not be a "drop in the bucket" if brought to the United States. The goldbugs have tried to frighten our people with such a "force bill scare." But it is false. There is no more sense in that than to say that a man would starve if he got two dinners instead of one. We need more silver instead of less, and if we didn't the people of India would be cranks to bring it over here unless they got value received, and if they did we would be benefited. There is no danger of "over-production" of money or anything else that requires toil.

Our friend also wanted the meaning of "a graduated income tax." It means that a man having an income of so much, say over \$2,000 per annum, shall be taxed so much. For instance your income is \$5,000 per annum. You might be taxed for all over \$2,000 at the rate of 10 per cent. If over \$5,000, 15 per cent; over \$10,000, 20 per cent. The object is to make the very rich pay more taxes for the support of the general government and relieve the very poor of that much. It would keep so many from getting vastly rich hereafter, and if put in force now the millionaires would have to pay enough to run the entire government without the tariff or internal revenue taxes. This demand of the Alliance is growing in favor and has many advocates in all parties.

THEIR DAY IS OVER.

The day of platforms that are made, not to become statutes, but to fool the people, and the day of the demagogue who makes promises and accepts platforms to obtain office, is fast coming to an end, and we may well thank God for it. - Biblical Recorder.

We hope that the Recorder has made no mistake about this. It all depends upon the people. If they are willing to be fooled again it will be done.

NATIONAL BANKS.

The Alamance Gleaner has this to say of the national banking system and how some banks cheat the public:

Not a few regard the national banking system as the greatest monopoly in this country. Things that have transpired recently go a long way toward confirming this opinion. For instance, it is stated that certain New York national banks made more than \$1,000,000 during the present money stringency by selling currency at a premium, while refusing to pay depositors' checks. It is true, we believe, that these banks charged a premium on currency and refused to cash depositors' checks, and that they used the situation and withheld other people's money contrary to law and justice to advance their own financial interest. That such conduct is grossly wrong, on the part of an institution fostered by the government for the benefit of the people, is admittedly true; and the government should pass such laws as will regulate national banks by imposing suitable penalties that would prevent them from preying upon the confidence of the people. The banks have legitimate methods of earning money and they should not be permitted to despoil the people when money stringencies arise, without being amenable for their conduct.

KANSAS AFFAIRS.

The Rural New-Yorker has got its eyes open at last. Things are not going right with its patrons and daylight is dawning. It says:

"A large proportion of the political papers to the east of the Mississippi have lately exhibited a 'ghoulis glee' in deriding the political, economic and financial experiments advised or put in operation in Bleeding Kansas, and ridiculing the men, women and party at present managing the politics of that State, and spreading its doctrines abroad. In spite of everything, however, the Sunflower State is prospering wonderfully in material ways. The returns of the State Board of Equalization, just published, show that her prosperity has increased more than \$11,000,000 in value since last year, while her taxes have been reduced from 3.95 to 3.0811 mills. Then again, the mortgage indebtedness of the farmers of the State is being rapidly and steadily decreased, and the clamor for stay laws and other expedients for avoiding or delaying the payment of honest debts is no longer heard in the land. Even in this season of general depression and gloom the 'calamity howler' appears to have unusually few and insignificant causes for his hullabaloo in Bleeding Kansas."

THE PROSPERITY HOWLER.

The last issue of the Prosperity Howler was as uncertain in tone as the preceding one. It speaks for itself as follows:

We hear that 75 people went to J. T. B. Hoovers' speaking in Person county. We didn't think there were 75 anarchists left in the State. But we will bet 74 of the number were good Democrats, and only one of them a Third party anarchist.

"If the Sherman law caused the exportation of gold, we wonder what the repeal will do. Things get harder every day and property is depreciating. We have twenty five cents in gold and will leave for Europe in a few days to save it. It's a poor scare that won't work both ways.

"We again tell our readers that they must not read Alliance papers or hear Alliance speakers. That organization is dangerous and you will have your mind poisoned by reading the papers or hearing the speakers. No decent man can belong to the Order—unless all the members vote Democratic."

"The Prosperity Howler is Democratic to the core, but would like to ask the Richmond Times and a dozen other Democratic dailies how they hope to profit by a gold basis? We understand that they are not making expenses and think it strange that they talk so when they have no gold laid away.

"Our 'highly esteemed and erudite contemporary, the News-Observer-Chronicle-Avalanche voices our sentiments when it excoiates the New York World for saying that the majority of the people ought to rule in a free country. This is Populist doctrine and we are surprised to see a great Democratic paper like the World fooling with such nonsense.

"THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is for free coinage, an income tax and several other good things. But our contemporary is an anarchistic sheet. We are in favor of the same measures, but hope to get them through the Democratic party if it ever gets in power. (Gosh, that is a mistake it's in power power now, but 109 Congressmen vote with the R-publicans.) We mean we will get those things when—when we get them.

"About three years ago a delegation of Farmers' Alliance members visited the Howler office and asked us if we wouldn't act as their organ. We told them that the Howler was Democratic and if the Alliance was Democratic we would act as their organ. They said the organization was not a partisan one and members of all parties belonged to it. So we refused to be their organ and ever since to keep them out of politics have tried unless they would all be Democratic.

Another plutocratic scheme! One hundred and nine Democrats and one hundred and seventeen Republicans recently joined hands, put their heads on each other's shoulders and defeated the wishes of the people by defeating free coinage. Now what do we see? Democrats introducing bills to repeal all the Federal election laws and plutocracy standing behind saying "sick him Tige!" and the same Republicans and Democrats are pretending to be fighting each other. This is not only a damnable scheme, but serves also to distract the minds of the people from the crime lately committed.

WE ARE ALL INTERESTED.

The Goldsboro Caucasian states the case just as we see it in the following able editorial:

There are people among us who contend that the South is not interested in free silver because we have no silver mines; and that it is class legislation to allow free coinage of the metal because it will enhance its price. They do not take into consideration the fact that gold is admitted to free coinage and the owners of the yellow metal are enjoying class legislation according to their own argument. There is no force or sense in the argument that it would be class legislation to restore silver to its ancient position as a money metal. If all of the silver and gold were owned by one man, the fact that our constitution says that these metals shall be money makes it incumbent on the government to use them. And the restoration of silver will mean higher prices for farm products and enhancement of the value of farm lands. The silver miners are interested to the extent of about 20 million dollars while the Southern and Western farmers are interested to the extent of about 150 million dollars, because the price of their products is regulated by the price of silver. England with a gold dollar buys \$1.27 worth of our silver which she coins into Indian rupees and then purchases products from the Indian farmer, making 37 cents by the transaction. She uses India as a competitor against the United States, and our farmers are compelled to accept prices regulated by the Indian products, whereas if we restored silver by free and unlimited coinage its value would be enhanced and England could not make any such profit by sending over here for it. The bullion value of our silver would then be about 90 or 95 cents and England could not make any profit by buying silver then from us."