

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. MRS. L. L. POLK, PROPRIETOR. J. H. RAMSEY, EDITOR. J. W. DUNMARK, BUSINESS MGR. R. W. SOSSAMAN, ASS'T BUS. MGR. Raleigh, N. C.

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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, value, plainly and briefly told. One solid, demonstrative fact, is worth a thousand theories.

RALEIGH, N. C., FEB. 12, 1895

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 25th, 1890.

N. R. P. A.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Mrs. Lillie D. Blake, of New York, addressed the members of the General Assembly at the Capitol Friday afternoon. She advocates the doctrine of woman suffrage, and made an ingenious argument.

Gen. Rufus Barringer died at his home in Charlotte last Monday. He was 73 years old. Gen. Barringer took a conspicuous part in the late war. He has since been prominent in public affairs, was a lawyer of ability and a prudent business man. In his death the State sustains a great loss.

Our readers will kindly overlook the absence of a considerable amount of matter this week—editorial, news, and correspondence. We have handled such of the proceedings of the National Alliance as are made public, the memorial address and the legislature. To do this, much other matter had to be omitted.

The Senate has made a start in the right direction by cutting down the salaries of the railroad commissioners from \$2,000 to \$1,500. The salaries of some other State and county officials might be reduced. Large salaries must come down in proportion to price of farm products. This will tend to bring politicians to their senses. Let the good work go on.

We began the publication of the State Business Agency price list and other matter relating to the business department of our organization last week. The matter was imperfect as to arrangement and quantity, but presents a better appearance this week. It is proper to say that the State Business Agent is not responsible for most of the imperfections, as they are caused by our inability to get such a large amount of small type and figures in the paper in one week. But these difficulties will be mastered and the price list will be of great interest to our readers.

THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE.

A more harmonious meeting has never been held. The attendance was not as large as at some other meetings, but the work done was fully up to the standard. Severe cold weather was the only obstacle in the way. Slight changes were made in the platform, but that means no backward step. The constitutional changes were doubtless wise ones.

The officers elected are all thorough farmers and well acquainted with the work. President Willits has been National Lecturer and has held prominent positions in the Kansas State Alliance. He has marked ability and will be true to the cause. Vice President Snively is one of the largest farmers in Pennsylvania, and has been an active reformer for years. He stands very high among the Alliancemen of his own State. Col. D. P. Duncan, of South Carolina, was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer. He and the members of the Executive Committee, as well as the retiring President, Bro. Butler, are all well known, and require no introduction. Now let us all put our shoulders to the wheel and start afresh.

WHAT THE PEOPLE WANT.

We have published platforms and editorials showing what the people want time and again. Below are some of the changes wanted, and the attention of our legislators, regardless of party, is again called thereto:

- First. A new and honest election law. Second. A six per cent. interest law, with sufficient penalties and no loopholes. Third. At least four months' free schools for both races annually. Fourth. Effective anti-trust laws and solicitors and judges who will see that they are enforced. Fifth. A State reformatory for the reformation of youthful criminals. Sixth. A complete change in the present county government system, either repeal or radical modification. Seventh. Steps to wipe out the infamous homestead law, the father of the diabolical chattel mortgage system and a complete business and credit demoralizer. Eighth. Either repeal or enforce the present State income tax law. Ninth. Appoint a Code Commission with enough common sense and legal honesty combined to simplify and shorten the Code so ordinary minds can understand it. By so doing the Supreme Court will not split into two or three factions, for there will be fewer knotty cases to decide. Tenth. Reduce expenses, lop off fees wherever practicable, and follow the golden rule in everything. The gentlemen who forget to carry out the wishes of the people will be requested to keep off the grass hereafter.

The legislature has devoted about enough time to local legislation. It should tackle the more important bills, consider them carefully, and "play ball."

THE GREAT BLIZZARD.

For several days the weather has been "out of the banks," so to speak. In the North the cold was extreme, accompanied by a heavy fall of snow. Business was suspended and trains could not run. In some places the thermometer registered 30 degrees below zero. It extended all over the South. Snow fell at New Orleans and in Florida for the first time in years. The cold reached zero at Atlanta. Four above zero was the lowest at Raleigh, being two degrees colder than the coldest weather during the winter of '93. Great damage has been done to strawberries and truck crops all over the South, but, of course the loss is not as great as would be caused by cold weather later in the season. There has been much suffering among human beings and animals.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is nine years old this week and is quite a lively youngster. We thank our friends for past favors and respectfully ask for a continuance of their liberal patronage. Let's try and see if it will not have more readers this year than it had last year.

SOLICITOR SEAWELL.

We congratulate our young friend, Herbert F. Seawell, of Moore county, in his successful fight for the office of Solicitor of the Seventh Judicial district, to which he was elected by a handsome majority. His political opponents tried to turn him down, but his young manhood asserted itself and victory and right at length prevailed. Herbert, who is now the youngest Solicitor in the State, is the son of that staunch Allianceman, Dr. V. N. Seawell, who, it may be remembered, was dubbed the "Cyclone Alliance organizer" by Col. Polk. While yet in his teens, young Herbert was assistant to his father in organizing the State of Virginia and placing her in the Alliance column, and although a youth, many a gray-haired veteran in that State was charmed with his youthful eloquence and natural oratory. It was in this way he laid the foundation for the prominence he is making in his profession. Like his father, he is unwavering in his devotion to the cause of reform. The father, Dr. S., has endured much on account of his adherence to the reform cause. For his zeal in the Alliance cause he excited the ire and venom of the bourgeois in his county and many and ridiculous were the slanderous falsehoods perpetrated upon him through hatred of the Alliance. So outrageous did these become that the Doctor at last sought redress through the courts, but with a Democratic Judge and Democratic counsel on both sides, and all other attaches of the court of the same complexion, what could a man expect? Nothing. The Doctor, however, thoroughly vindicated his own character of the foul charges and proved an unsullied character, even by his traducers. We hope the son may not have to endure what the father has for the sake of honest opinion.

MEETING OF NATIONAL ALLIANCE.

Delegates Present—Visitors—Mayor Badger's Address—Speech of Welcome by President Mewborne—Responses by Others—Some of the Proceedings Made Public—Laying of the Corner-Stone—The Banquet.

FIRST DAY.

The first meeting of the National Alliance convened in Metropolitan Hall, tendered by the city, on Tuesday, Feb. 5th, at 3 p. m. Among the officers and prominent delegates were: Marion Butler, N. C., President; D. P. Duncan, S. C., National Secretary and Treasurer; B. C. Dupree, S. C., Assistant Secretary; J. W. Denmark, N. C., Chaplain; W. S. Barnes and J. M. Mewborne, N. C., Stewards; O. H. Wilson and H. E. King, N. C., Door-keepers; H. C. Deming, Pa.; Mann Page, Va.; I. E. Dean, N. Y.; H. L. Loucks, S. Dak.; Mrs. M. J. Southworth, Col.; T. S. East, Ind.; L. H. Griffith, Ia.; S. L. Oakes, Ind. Ter.; W. J. Wright, Neb.; W. P. Bricker, Pa.; Harry Tracey, Tex.; J. H. Hobson, Va.; Eltweed, Pomeroy, N. J.; D. K. Norris, S. C.; J. H. McDowell, Tenn.; Harry S. Gail, N. Y.; J. F. Willetts, Kans.; N. C. English, W. A. Graham, J. M. Mewborne, and others.

Among the visitors who are not delegates are: A. Wardall, Mrs. J. M. Johnson, and S. D. Cooley, Kans.; Gen. James Norton, editor of the Cotton Plant, Columbia, S. C., and N. A. Dunning, editor of the National Watchman, Washington, D. C.

The Council was called to order by President Marion Butler, and opened with prayer by Rev. John Armons, a State Senator, and ex chaplain of the State Alliance.

President Butler then briefly addressed the Council and said: "Among the most distinguished names of the State of North Carolina is that of Badger. A gentleman of that family and name is now the Mayor of the city of Raleigh, and I have great pleasure in presenting him to the Council."

Mayor Badger said: "Mr. President and Gentlemen of the National Farmers' Alliance: In behalf of the citizens of Raleigh it affords me, its chief officer, unalloyed pleasure to extend to you a cordial welcome to the City of Oaks."

"North Carolina is an agricultural State—perhaps too much so for its own permanent prosperity. The welfare of our people, whether residents of city or of country, is intimately bound up in the prosperity of agriculture and those kindred branches of labor which it is the province of the National Farmers' Alliance to foster and encourage. Especially ought this organization to receive an unaffected welcome here. No one can recall without a moistened eye its honored first President; his devotion to the cause of which he was the first chief; his ability, his zeal, his purity of heart and rectitude of purpose. We are glad that this National Assembly will, at its present session, erect an enduring monument to perpetuate the name and character of Leonidas L. Polk. And its present chief officer—young, indefatigable, fixed of purpose, eloquent of speech, of whom perhaps propriety forbids that I should speak no more in his presence. I am not entitled to participate in your deliberations, but I must be pardoned for expressing a single wish. While I know it is foreign to the purposes of the Order, still it too frequently happens that unworthy members on the one hand, and malignant opponents upon the other, have each from his own standpoint labored to bring about a spirit of hostility between the resident of the town and his fellow citizen in the country. God forbid that there should be sown the seeds of any rancor or of an unworthy jealousy. I am sure, Mr. President, that I may be pardoned for expressing the confident hope that the deliberations of your body shall bring about a broad, catholic and generous feeling of kindness between the laborer in the city and his brother who works in the clear sunlight of the open field. We cannot afford to divide in the presence of those whose purposes, whether known to themselves or not, would seem to menace the prosperity of the entire agricultural section of this Union. "Again I bid you a cordial welcome to our city."

President J. M. Mewborne then came forward and welcomed the delegates and visitors on behalf of the State. He said in part:

"As a representative of the men who are now seeking out scanty sustenance on their farms, I welcome you. I welcome you in the name of the plow boy from Anson county, L. L. Polk, who led the great and effective movement in this country of breaking down the wall of separation and prejudice between the different sections of the country. I welcome you to our magnificent State, and I bid you see and examine its marvelous resources."

Responses on behalf of the Supreme Council were made by Mr. H. L. Loucks, of South Dakota, ex-President of the National Alliance, and Mr. I. E. Dean of New York, known the county over as "Farmer" Dean. The addresses of these gentlemen were a revelation to many of the visitors and onlookers at this opening meeting. The force and eloquence of the truths they presented had magic effect on the listeners.

Mr. Lucks, in the course of his remarks said: "I looked forward with pleasure to coming to Raleigh, the seat of Alliance inspiration, to attend this meeting."

Nothing is more true than the fact already alluded, that one of your citizens has been the most potent factor of the age in eradicating sectional bitterness and prejudices. For years the people were torn asunder and kept separated by what appeared an unsurmountable wall of sectional prejudice and dislike. There was a design in all this, and the promoters of discord and separation profited by their efforts. All the benevolent associations of the country, with their combined influence, could not break it down. Even the church failed as an arbiter of peace in this unfortunate matter, and could create no impression on existing ideas, and was never able to bring about a reconciliation. It remained for the farmers of this country to study the existing conditions from a non-prejudiced standpoint; and when they began that study, what a change comes over the country! The man who inspired that study; the man who made the first effective effort to break down the wall of hate and separation was from Raleigh, N. C. That man went through the North and West, stopping at many different points, and left no record at any place except such as would inspire brotherhood and fraternalism in the hearts of men. The spirit of that fraternal love will go on and on, and will eventually unite the people in a common brotherhood for the common good."

Mr. Loucks touched economics, and pointed out that the Alliance had said, long since, that the conditions of oppression now prevailing would come. He declared that the existing systems of government would only serve to aggravate these oppressions and depressions, and said with force and emphasis: "We have not seen the worst yet!" He elicited hearty applause when he declared that a just regulation of all matters affecting the public weal could never be accomplished until the demands of the Alliance had been enacted into operative laws. He referred to Mayor Badger's eloquent plea that there should be no antagonism between the workers of the country and city, and emphasized that plea; "but," said he, "any existing antagonism is no fault of ours. It has been created by the political schemers of cities, who have set forth that the efforts of the country people and farmers was to increase the price of products of the farm, and thereby make the cost of the necessities of life heavier to the laborers of the city. This has had the effect of increasing what antagonism may exist."

He referred to President Butler of the North Carolina State Alliance, saying he had watched his course with interest. He thought the good name of the man had been influential in enabling him to command the confidence of the people; but when the "hiredings" of political power and the "barnacles" of political ridicule saw fit to call him "Mary Ann" Butler, the whole people knew he was a good thing and a good man and appropriated him for their own.

Mr. I. E. Dean, of New York, made the second response on behalf of the Alliance. He was pleasantly introduced by President Butler, and his remarks were very eloquent and effective. He said:

"I want to acknowledge that I have more feeling in this work than in any other with which I have ever been connected; and yet I would, perhaps, never been in it but for a citizen of your city and state. When it was proposed to hold the meeting of the Supreme Council here, and during the meeting to lay the corner-stone of a monument to that citizen, I determined to be present, even though I had to walk. Brothers (for I have a right to call you brothers); brotherhood was instituted by Him who taught us to say 'our Father who art in Heaven.' If he had said 'my Father,' Christianity would have been only a small incident of the history of eighteen hundred years ago. But he made us brothers by saying 'our Father'; and I believe the spirit of that kind of brotherhood was what inspired L. L. Polk to come from the Sunny South, like a blaze of glory, through fogs and films of prejudice and sectionalism, and speak of the brotherhood of man. When he spoke, men, women and children who heard him were willing to take his hand, and to welcome him to their hearts, and to say with faith, fervor and power, God bless you!"

Mr. Dean spoke of the comparative conditions of his State and North Carolina. With a population of 6,000,000 souls they were mortgaged for an average of \$268 each, while in North Carolina, the per capita mortgage debt was only \$13. Three million of the people of New York were absolutely without property—personal or real; and many who would be members of the Alliance cannot afford it, though the dues are simply nominal. This organization is trying to do what no other organization on earth is attempting; that is to show these people—and people elsewhere who may be in the same condition—how to dispose of their labor and the products of their labor in such way as will give them a living. "We are banded together for this purpose, and we must get these people up, we must get these people up, or we must go down with them, Patrick Henry is said to have remarked, when talking of the Declaration of Independence: 'We must all stand together now, or we will hang separately.'"

ately.' And we must stand together to solve this problem, for if we scatter in our efforts, and can use no cohesive power and influence, we must all go down separately. I shall never forget the words of L. L. Polk, when making a speech at Indianapolis for brotherhood and co-operation, with a view to uplifting the whole people. He said: 'Forgotten and forgiven, be the animosities engendered by the late war, in the presence of such a problem.'"

Mr. Dean referred to the monument to be erected to the memory of L. L. Polk, and said that was proper; but his idea was to eventually erect a lasting memorial building in honor of that man—one which would stand for him as Cooper Union, in New York stands for Peter Cooper.

President Butler appointed the following committee on credentials: J. H. Hobson, Virginia; W. P. Bricker, Pennsylvania, and D. P. Duncan, of South Carolina.

Invitations were read from the principal of the Deaf and Dumb and Blind Institute and from Peace Institute, to attend concerts at those places.

The Council then adjourned till 8 o'clock p. m., for the regular organic work of the Alliance.

RESOLUTIONS ON THE CURRENCY.

At the evening meeting the Council adopted the following resolutions:

Whereas, It is currently reported that another bond issue has been determined upon by the President of the United States; and

Whereas, In our opinion existing statute laws do not authorize such issue; neither do present emergencies require it; and

Whereas, The power is now reposed in the general government to meet such pressing contingencies by the plain terms of existing laws; therefore

Resolved, That this National Council of the Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union, in regular session assembled, enter our solemn and most earnest protest against such issue.

Resolved, That instead, the administration be urged to employ the option allowed by law, and pay out silver, as well as gold, when coin is demanded for the treasury notes.

Resolved, That if this does not end the present emergency, that the government be requested to issue non-interest bearing full legal tender treasury notes.

SECOND DAY.

The Alliance was called to order by President Butler at 10 a. m.

Attention was first given to reports from the National Lecturers. Of these there are four, and of the four Mr. J. F. Willits, of Kansas, and Mrs. R. A. Southworth, of Colorado, were present. They gave extended accounts of their work during the past year, and illustrated the facts that the Alliance in most sections of the country was in good condition, and that it was generally making substantial gains.

A partial report and some recommendations of the National Executive Committee were next heard, and the matters presented created some interesting discussion. One of the recommendations was that the Alliance endorse the Phillips bill, which was introduced in the National House of Representatives on January 14, 1895.

The bill provides for the appointment, by the President, of a non-partisan commission to collect information, and to consider and recommend legislation to meet problems presented by labor, agriculture and capital. It is to be called "The Industrial Commission," and is to be composed of 21 members. The President will appoint five men representative of labor, five representative of agriculture and five representative of business. Each one of these divisions of five members is to appoint two additional members, thus making the whole number of the commission twenty-one. A majority of the Presidential appointees shall not belong to any one of the political parties which took part in the last Presidential election, and the divisions of five shall not make their appointments of two members each from the same political party. The President is empowered to remove any member of the commission for sufficient cause. Each division may employ one legal adviser, and shall be allowed one secretary at a salary of two hundred dollars per month. The commission shall convene in the city of Washington sixty days after its appointment and shall elect one of its members president. The duty of the commission shall be to investigate questions pertaining to immigration, to labor, to agriculture and to business, and recommend to Congress such legislation as it may deem best upon these subjects, and shall suggest such laws as will harmonize any conflicting interests and be equitable to the laborer, the employer, the producer and the consumer. The salary and mileage of the commission shall be the same as that of members of the House of Representatives, but the total cost of the commission shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars per year.

After some discussion the Council endorsed the bill.

Another matter laid before the Council by the Executive Committee was the plan projected by the National Federation of Farmers, organized at Chicago recently, for merging into one body all the various farmers' organizations of the country. This matter was merely suggested, and the Council declined to take any action concerning it.

The most vigorous work of the day was a step forward putting the National Council in a solid and efficient financial condition, and pending discussion of this subject the Council adjourned.

An incident of the day's session was a visit of a committee of Atlanta citizens, who appeared before the Council in the interest of the cotton States and International Exposition to be held at Atlanta this year.

The Committee on Platform has its work well in hand and will make a report this morning. It is thought that there will be no material changes in the Omaha declaration of demands.

THE BANQUET.

What proved to be a pleasant incident of the session of the Council was an elegant banquet given in its honor at the Yarboro House at 9:30 o'clock. Covers were laid for one hundred and fifty persons, and every seat was occupied. The menu was profuse but delicate, and engaged the attention of the participants for some time. A celebration was put to the practical discussion of gastronomy, however, by Maj. Mann Page, who rapped for attention, and announced that it was his purpose to announce some toasts and to call for responses. This declaration was carried out, and the following toasts and responses made up the programme.

TOASTS, ETC.

The following were the toasts: Our Guests—J. M. Mewborne, North Carolina.

Home, Fraternal and Social Features of the Alliance—A. Wardall, of Kansas.

The Business Features of the Alliance—W. H. Worth, of North Carolina; W. P. Bricker, of Pennsylvania.

The Relation of the Alliance to Politics—I. E. Dean, New York.

The American Farmer—Mr. Hobson, of Virginia.

Our Minerals and Gems—H. C. Deming, of Pennsylvania.

Bimetallism—J. M. Devine, of Nebraska.

The Women of the Union—the Mothers of Heroes, the Wives of Patriots, the Sweethearts of our Sterling Youth—D. P. Duncan, of South Carolina.

Industrial Education—A. Q. Holladay, North Carolina.

The Homes of the Masses the Safety of the Nation—Harry Tracey, of Texas.

Alliance Literature—N. A. Dunning, of Washington, D. C.

The Overproduction Fallacy—Mann Page, of Virginia.

The Union of the South and West the Hope of Good Government—H. L. Loucks, of South Dakota.

THIRD DAY.

The Supreme Council of the National Alliance met in Metropolitan Hall at 10 o'clock. Only a brief session was held, which was chiefly devoted to the report of the executive committee.

Mrs. Ann Elizabeth Wardall, of Kansas, was seated as a delegate.

Mr. E. M. Wardall, of Monrovia, California, arrived and presented his credentials, and was also seated.

According to appointment, the Council, at 12 o'clock, in connection with the Grand Lodge A. F. and A. M. proceeded to the locality of the monument to be erected to the memory of Col. L. L. Polk, and laid the corner-stone of the shaft. The Council, individually and collectively, gave vent to expression of appreciation for the dauntlessness of the Grand Lodge in facing the prevailing terrific weather and conducting the ceremonies of the order so thoroughly, earnestly and eloquently.

The following resolution, with reference to that fraternity, was adopted: "Resolved, That the thanks be and are hereby tendered to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Most Worshipful Grand Master and other officers of the Grand Lodge of the State of North Carolina, for their official services in laying the corner-stone of the monument to Brother Polk."