

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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RALEIGH, N. C., MAY 4, 1897.

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.

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 14, 1890.

N. R. P. A. EDITORIAL NOTES.

Gen. Weyler and Gen. Gomez have reached the "you are a liar" stage at last. We may now look for some slight skirmishes in Cuba.

A Democratic meeting to nominate city candidates in Charlotte, recently, broke up in a free fight. Wonder if they were Populists in disguise!

It is said that the late Grover Cleveland loiters around the depot at Princeton, N. J., and watches the trains come in just like any other common loafer.

A Wilmington darkey has been adjudged insane and sent to the colored asylum at Goldsboro because he thought he was Mayor of Wilmington. "There are others."

At last a remedy for baldness has been discovered. Piano and violin music will make the hair grow like grass in springtime. Just employ a musician and sit by and watch your hair climb out of the top of your head.

The Charlotte Observer is trying to revive its old question for debate: "Do a many goat have horns?" When that is settled Joseph Pie will proceed to masticate his "relief" lunch, which turns out to be his retention on the asylum board at Morganton.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Mebane is about to have a rucus with some school chart agents. We think the Superintendent is right. A ten dollar school house don't need a \$17 chart. The average school house can get along without such appurtenances.

It is said that the Secretary of the Treasury will recommend a reduction in the tax on whiskey and an increase in the tax on beer. It is said that the increased tax on liquor—from 90 cents to \$1.10 per gallon, has multiplied the number of moonshine stills until there is no chance to control the illicit output.

Tonnage tax receipts at the State Treasury Department show that 189,728 tons of Fertilizer have been sold in the State the first 5 months of the present fiscal year, since December 1, 1896. This is a larger quantity than was ever before sold in a whole year. At \$25.50 per ton, it will take \$4,268,880 to pay for this guano.

As announced elsewhere President Graham declines to call a special meeting of the State Alliance. We hardly think it necessary. It is only a matter of a few weeks now anyhow, and perhaps it is well enough to save the expense of an extra meeting and convene the State Alliance a little earlier than usual, if it is thought best to do so.

The Dun and Bradstreet agencies both report business "disappointing" last week. We are real sorry for those commercial agency fellows. They lied the country into trouble and are now trying to get it out by telling the truth in a line or two of their reports and lying through the balance of the rot they get out. Better tell the truth and be done with it.

DEFECTS AND DEFECTS.

Some of the Democratic newspapers in this State have displayed ghoulish glee when any defective legislation enacted by the two last legislatures has been found, and we may say that there has been entirely too much of that kind of legislation—more than there ought to have been. But it seems that there is a possibility of a discovery of bungling work in a famous Democratic measure, which has been allowed to pass muster. We refer to the civil service law, which has given more consolation to gloomy Democratic hearts than anything in the world, for that party is so rotten nationally that it hardly expects to ever regain power, and Cleveland was authorized to "popularize" the law during his administration by keeping many Republicans in and getting as many Democrats in as possible, at one and the same time. It was supposed that the law was exactly right, hence a Democratic House and Senate did not examine it for possible defects. A Washington dispatch says:

"It appears, from an interview with one of the civil service commission, that if an employee of the government is removed from office for a political or other cause, his reinstatement in that office may be ordered by the civil service commission. But what if the official who removed the employee and is ordered to reinstate him, refuses to do so? Will the heavens fall? Hardly. The utmost the commissioners could do is to recommend to the President of the United States that he remove the head of the contumacious official. And how if the President will not remove? Then the case stops there; there is no relief for the removed employee; and the only chance remaining of having the vacant office filled with a man of the same political faith as the one removed, lies in the possibility of there being none of opposite faith on the list of those who have passed a civil service examination, and can be recommended by the civil service commissioners."

If this turns out to be true, there will be weeping and wailing from Wall street to Point township, Florida.

As a matter of fact, a more transparent fraud than the so called civil service law was never perpetrated upon the American people, and surely we have had the cream of the frauds. It is a long step toward monarchy and anarchy. It is filling the government service with incompetent men and they cannot be gotten out, even when the administration changes. Only mere boys can stand the examinations, and many of these now going in don't know enough to "bell a buzzard." If they are just out of school they probably can answer the questions in geography, write a few sentences correctly, and work out a few mathematical problems, etc., but lack many of the requisites for filling this or that position, and frequently doing so to the detriment of deserving party workers.

PERHAPS MORE BONDS.

Are we to have more bonds (to pay)? It looks like it. On last Friday \$4,000,000 in gold were drawn from the U. S. Sub Treasury in New York for shipment to Europe. At this rate the \$150,000,000 gold reserve will all be gone in less than forty days.

The Treasury officials say there is no cause for alarm; that there is always an outgo of gold at this time and a return of it in the fall. But we all remember that the same excuse was made when the trouble began in 1893. Yet Cleveland went ahead and ordered bonds, and kept it up until the purchasers of the bonds either got ashamed of the fraud they were practicing or got out of money.

No, there is no cause for alarm (they say). Well, we are not alarmed. Let the good (bad) work go on. The bond scandal of '93 and '94 opened more eyes than anything else could have done, and if the present administration wants to give us another grand spectacular display of crime, deception and brazen thievery, let the die be cast. It will only hasten the time for the people to again rule, and they probably need some severe object lessons.

THE IMPERATIVE MANDATE.

Some of the machine political papers of this State have recently tried to make fun of the Initiative and Referendum. Imperative Mandate is now up for their shafts of ridicule. Let's see what it is.

The Imperative Mandate gives a majority of the people the power to depose a public officer at any time. If any officer betrays his trust, he should be deprived of his office. Under our present system, if a man is elected to office for two or four or six years, he cannot be removed until the expiration of his term no matter how disgraceful or dishonest he may act. When the people of a district elect a legislator, they give to him all power and authority to legislate for a given time, and, until the expiration of that time, he has absolute power, even to

voting contrary to the wishes of a unanimous constituency. A United States Senator, for example, when he gets to the Capitol may act as he pleases, he may vote as he chooses, he may shirk his duty, he may disgrace his constituency most shamefully, and there is no remedy for perhaps six years. The people are at his mercy. And how often he takes advantage of his position. It is a common complaint that public officers do as they please; that they disregard the wishes of the people; that they work for their personal gain; that they accept bribes to defeat the very measures they were elected to enact. In short they betray their trust and exceed their authority, and yet some people must submit.

How would it be with the Imperative Mandate in force? The officer would try to please his constituency. He would ascertain their wishes before proceeding to act upon any measure. He would realize that he could only hold his position so long as he performed his duties satisfactorily. If he failed in that, or for any reason was unworthy of his position, a citizen or an organization of citizens could draw up a petition, demanding his removal and circulate or have the same circulated among the constituency, and, if a majority favored removal, then, upon notice, the proper authority would vacate the office and call a new election to elect a successor.

The people would not find it necessary to exercise the privilege very often, for the officers would be more careful in their acts.

The Morganton Herald says that when the news that the Supreme Court had sustained the lower court reached the Western Hospital, located at that town, the patients waved handkerchiefs from windows and there was a general demonstration of joy over the fact that the old officers are to be retained. But then, you know, the patients are nearly all crazy.

JAPAN IS ALL RIGHT.

It seems that the report that Japan had adopted the gold standard was untrue. It was stated, no doubt, by the goldbugs, for they are the most reckless liars in all the earth.

Japan has solved the problem of intrinsic value and met most of the objections, reasonable or otherwise, to practical bimetalism. Instead of doubling the size of the silver dollar, or "yens," as they are called there, they simply make two dollars out of the metal in the gold dollars or yens, and there you are. This is an object lesson for the United States.

Now it would seem that this course would please the goldbugs immensely—this making their gold worth twice as much as it was. But that is contrary to their logic. They are not satisfied with getting their snouts into the trough, but hog like, want all four of their cloven hoofs in the trough. In other words, they want a complete monopoly. They wish to wreck rail road companies, factories, mine and farm owners so they can take their high priced, scarce gold, and buy three or four dollars' worth of property with one, and then miser-like gloat over their possessions, which they bought cheap, but cannot realize much profits from on account of the general depression in business.

The editor of the B-revard Clipper accuses the editor of the S. J. Van Valley News of a few things. Among others, that the editor of the News sets type on Sunday morning while the Clipper man is at Sunday school; that the News man catches fish Sunday evening when the Clipper man "is mingling with the respectable;" that the News man is an ex tramp and ex drunkard. Come, boys, you may fall out if you keep that up.

STORIES ON TOBACCO MEN.

Some years ago, before tobacco raising became general in any part of South Carolina, a farmer in that State applied to the Raleigh Board of Trade "for a quart or so of tobacco seed." He stated that he wanted "to try his hand on a little patch." As a couple of quarts of tobacco seed will produce enough plants to set out an entire county, only about a spoonful were sent. Toward fall the Palmetto man sent a letter of complaint in which he said that the seed must have been defective in some way, for not one of the stalks had "any sign of a plug on it."

A North Carolina tobacco farmer tells a good one on a Georgia man who was experimenting with the filthy weed. The Georgia man selected the right kind of land and cultivated his tobacco crop pretty well. During the early fall the North Carolinian was in the vicinity and the amateur tobacco farmer invited him to inspect his crop, stating that it was "fine," equal, he was sure, to any ever raised in North Carolina. When they arrived at the tobacco field it didn't take the North Carolinian but a few seconds to see that the tobacco had never been "copped," and was in full bloom, that is, the slender stalks were, for there was but little tobacco in sight.

SOMETHING WORTH KNOWING.

Mr. John A. Sims, Chief Clerk in the Auditor's office, says bruised peach tree leaves make the best application for the wound made by a rusty nail in the foot. In winter the bark of the roots of the peach tree broken up fine will answer the same purpose. He says he has never known serious results to follow when this remedy was used in time. Use a liberal quantity and put fresh ones on several times a day until the wound heals. A strip of cloth must be bound around to keep the poultice in place, of course.

One of Mr. Sims' sons stepped on a nail a few days ago, which penetrated his shoe and foot to a considerable depth. Peach tree leaves were applied and the wound is healing up nicely.

A wound from a rusty nail is very dangerous, often causing lockjaw and death. Hence it will be well to remember this remedy and use it promptly.

NO SPECIAL MEETING.

Only Nine County Alliances Have Asked for it, and the President Thinks it Unnecessary.

RIDGEWAY, N. C., April 29 1897.

To the Alliances of North Carolina: DEAR BROTHERS:—As only nine County Alliances have expressed a wish for a special meeting of the State Alliance, and as the Constitution lodges discretionary power in the President, no special meeting will be called May the 3rd.

Your Executive Committee meets May the 7th, and it may recommend an earlier session of the State Alliance for this year than our regular time of meeting.

A full statement of our financial condition, including all receipts and disbursements on account of the shoe factory and tannery, will be forwarded to the various Subordinate and County Alliances immediately after the meeting of the Executive Committee.

The seven thousand dollars of your fund, invested in N. C. 4 per cent. bonds, set apart by the last State Alliance as a special reserve fund to maintain the credit of your Business Agent in case of the failure of our manufacturing enterprises should never be encroached upon. Twenty five thousand dollars have been invested in real estate and machinery at Hillsboro.

The profits of the Business Agency, supplemented by other funds now on hand, and such contributions as we should raise without any trouble will, in my opinion, enable us to operate our factories. Your Executive Committee will recommend such action as it may deem fit to raise the necessary additional fund, and will apportion the same to the various counties. Unity of purpose and action on your part will insure success.

Fraternally yours, JOHN GRAHAM Pres. N. C. F. S. A.

A LIFE PICTURE.

Diary of the Office Seeker of the President at Washington

March 2—Just arrived. Washington a nice town. Wonder if it wouldn't be as well to stay here as to go abroad?

March 4—Saw Maj McKinley inaugurated. We folks who nominated him will be all right now. Think I had better take an assistant Secretaryship. The administration wants good men who know something about politics. Besides, I am getting to like Washington.

March 8—Big crowd at the White House. They ought to give the President time to settle himself. Have sold my excursion ticket and will stay awhile. Too many people make a hotel uncomfortable. Have found a good boarding-house.

March 11—Shook hands with the President in the East Room and told him I would call on a matter of business in a few days. He seemed pleased.

March 15—Went to the Capitol and found Senator X. He was sour. Said the whole State was here chasing him. Asked me what I wanted and said, "Better go for something in reach." Maybe an auditorship would be the thing.

March 23—Took my papers to the White House to day. Thought I'd wait and have a private talk with the President, but Secretary Porter said I'd have to go along with the rest. What an ill mannered set they were. E bowed me right along just because they saw the President wanted to talk with me. Will have to go back and finish our conversation.

March 27—Got some more money from home.

March 29—Went to the White House, but the chap at Porter's door wouldn't let me in. Said it was after hours. He ought to be fired.

April 3—Saw Mark Hanna after waiting five hours. Asked him why my letter had not been answered. He said he was getting 400 a day and his secretaries would catch up some time next year. I always thought Hanna was overestimated. Now I know it.

April 5—Had an interview with the

CREAM OF THE PRESS.

Hard Hits, Bold Sayings and Patriotic Paragraphs From Reform Papers.

"The Alliance never advocates wrong of any kind. It is the champion of right and justice.—Pa. Alliance Advocate.

Precious metal money has been the curse of the world, and the more precious the metal the greater the curse.—Advance Guard.

"In the multitude of councillors there is safety." Therefore meet at some central place and council together, it may result in great good certainly it will do no harm.—People's World.

A correspondent of the London Times observes the fact that Cuba is nearer the United States than Crete, and that sympathy begins at home. Good point. When an Englishman has any sense, he sometimes has lots of it.

The New York Evening Post boasts that Mr. Cleveland left more money in the treasury than he found there. Yes, he did leave part of the \$200,000,000 he realized from bond sales. It's borrowed money. We are paying interest on it. But he left it there.—Iowa State Register.

An Iowa man was fined forty dollars for squeezing a woman's thumb. We didn't suppose there was so much ignorance abroad in Iowa. A man who mistakes a woman's thumb for her waist ought to be fined not less than four hundred dollars.—Orange Observer.

The Nebraska Legislature adjourned this afternoon, after a session extending fifteen days beyond its allotted time. The last bill passed was the initiative and referendum, which went through the Senate just before closing. This bill applies only to Omaha.—Mo. World.

Somebody should wake up Judge Simonton and remind him of his duty. The druggists of Wilmington are engaged in a cut rate war and they are no doubt losing money valuable money and he seems never to care. Isn't it time he was issuing another injunction?—Columbus News.

WOMEN'S EXPOSITION.

Will Open May 11th at Charlotte, N. C. Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

The comprehensive and attractive programme for the Women's Exposition of the Carolinas is nearly complete. The doors will be thrown open the evening of May 11th, with a reception to the public. Mrs. Sallie Southall Cotten, one of the South's leading women, whose address on a National training school at the Mothers' Congress at Washington attracted such wide spread attention, will deliver the opening address.

A number of addresses by prominent Southern and entertainers of various kinds will extend through the entire month. "Gala Week," the week of the 20th will be crowded with events. In addition to the numerous attractions afforded by the Exposition, the fastest bicyclists in this country will be here at the meet of the National racing circuit; the competitive firemen's races and displays, and various other organizations will have a place in the celebration.

Special rates have been granted the Exposition from all points in North and South Carolina and nearby points in the neighboring States. The rate including Norfolk, Suffolk and Danville is one fare for the round trip. For May 19th and 20th as low rates will prevail as have ever been given in the State, the rate being one cent a mile. This will enable all to attend. The Century Poster Co. exhibit, probably the finest in world, including all the private collection of Mr. W. Ellsworth, Secretary of the Century Co., all works of the finest French artists, arrived this morning.

Some fifty paintings from Washington artists have arrived, and many of the leading art exhibits will be here in the next few days.

The work on the building is about complete, and the rooms are being given the finishing touches; the building presents a handsome appearance, is well situated, and the arrangement is as good as could be desired.

One of the features growing in interest daily is the exhibit of the colleges of the State. The University of North Carolina will send a most creditable exhibit, including the famous death mask of Napoleon, valued at \$30,000.

Greensboro Female College, the State Normal School, St. Mary's, Guilford College, Salem Academy, Elizabeth College, and other institutions will be represented. Parties of students from the various institutions will visit the Exposition; indeed, the plans are to arrange special excursions from these schools and colleges, a real gala day affair.

The month of May will be crowded with events in Charlotte, and indications point to the largest crowds in the history of the city.

It is evident that the General Assembly, by saying "Every person, firm, company or corporation who shall engage in the business of selling or offering for sale by a drummer or drummers, with or without sample, goods, wares or merchandise of any description, in this State, shall, before so selling or offering for sale any such goods, wares, or merchandise pay to the State Treasurer a tax of fifty dollars (\$50), and obtain a license which shall operate one year from its date."

It is further evident that as the section was intended to apply to all drummers alike, and cannot apply to foreign drummers, it should not, and cannot justly apply to resident drummers. It is, also, evident that the legislature intended to put this tax upon a class. If their power fails as to a part of the class, there is no reason to believe it was intended to be in force as to the rest. It is not rational to ascribe to the legislature a purpose to impose a burden upon a portion of that class resident within its borders, and except that portion of the same class who are non-resident.

I hold, therefore, that section 51, Revenue Act of 1897, inasmuch as it cannot apply to all drummers alike as clearly intended, it cannot apply to any drummers, and is therefore inoperative and void.

Respectfully, W. H. WORTH, State Treasurer.

Treasury Dept., Raleigh, April 23, '97.

THE OLD GUARD.

Subscriptions, Renewals and Kind Words Extracted From Letters.

We are indebted to the following friends for subscriptions and renewals during the past week: E. G. Johnson, Robeson county, (2); D. J. Williams, Cleveland; D. A. G. Hatley, Stanly, (2); F. P. Trivett, Ashe; J. W. Atwater, Chatham; J. F. Brower, Randolph, (2); John Ammons, Madison; J. Odum, Robeson, (2); J. W. Bason, Alamance, (2); E. G. Butler, Vance; E. J. Saunders, Pender; Joel K. Jonts, Davidson; J. R. Buchanan, Granville; Thomas Mead, Pasquotank; Samuel Foster, Davie; S. M. Brothers, Pasquotank; Wiley H. Early, Bertie.