

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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To Correspondents

Write all communications, designed for publication, on one side of the paper only.

We want intelligent correspondents in every county in the State. We want facts of value, results accomplished, and experiences of value, plainly and briefly told. One solid, demonstrated fact, is worth a thousand theories.

The editor is not responsible for the views of correspondents.

RALEIGH, N. C., JUNE 21, 1898.

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

The date on your label tells you when your time is out and serves as a receipt for all money sent us.

"I am standing now just behind the curtain, and in full glow of the coming sunset. Behind me are the shadows of the past, 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 5th, 1890.

N. R. P. A.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

There is smallpox in Statesville, but it is not epidemic.

A negro has been nominated by negroes for Governor of Alabama.

The Odd Fellows claim that one fifth of Uncle Sam's soldiers are members of their order.

Isho Prohibitionists have nominated a woman for Governor and another woman for State Auditor.

Already nearly \$2,000 has been raised for a monument to the late Ensign Worth Bagley, largely in sums of \$1 and less.

We are sorry to learn that the printing plant of the Chadbourne Truckers' and Printers' Journal has been destroyed by fire.

It has been reported that Col. William J. Bryan's regiment, known as the "silver battalion," is to be mustered into United States service this week.

Ex Senator Peffer, of Kansas, has been nominated by the Prohibitionists for the Governor of that State. The platform favors war with Spain, prohibition and woman suffrage.

In the Seventh Kansas District the Populist nominated Jerry Simpson for Congress and the Democrats have endorsed him. Jerry stands for reform with both feet, even if he doesn't wear socks.

In Minnesota the Populists, silver Republicans and Democrats have fused. A number of Populists bolted their convention when it decided to fuse and have nominated a State ticket with L. F. Long for governor.

Speaking of the number of Southern Railroad attorneys on the Democratic Executive Committee, Webster's Weekly, a Democratic paper, says: "Why not publish the list and set the matter at rest? We should be glad to do so."

Private Robert Volts, of Carteret county, is not dead as at first reported. Quite a sum of money had been raised for a monument to his memory when a letter from him brought the surprising information that he is still residing on his planet.

The following item from the News and Observer seems to indicate that tough crew is making it anarchical: "The Durham Herald advocates the purchase of the water works by the city. That's right. Every town and city ought to own its water and light supplies. Wilson is a good example of how well it pays."

War does really cost high. The Chinese Government has paid over to Japan a nice little check in settlement of the indemnity claim of the latter. The check was for \$11,008,000, equivalent to \$53,278,730 of our money. Quite a nice check for Japan, but hard on China, who had her own war debt to pay besides. As the Chinese-Japan war was a small affair as compared with our war with Spain, you may look for a bankrupt Spain when she settles with Uncle Sam, and the longer Spain resists evidently the larger will be the amount of indemnity this country will demand.

We noted the loss of our "devil" in last week's issue, but it seems that the Concord Standard must keep a full supply of 'em on hand. For a head for a contribution the editor wrote: "For the Summer Shades." But S No. 2 did not show up, and ye perspiring editor found the head still more seasonable as it read: "For the Summer Hades."

One Brigadier General is to be appointed from this State. There are many candidates, but it is probable that Col. W. H. S. Burgwyn of the Second Regiment will receive the appointment. Col. V. S. Lusk, of Asheville; Gen. W. P. Roberts, of Gates; and Col. J. F. Armfield are also in the race, however, and the plum may fall to one of them.

In New York State a new law provides that a county may vote as to State roads. If a majority want such a road, the State engineer is to build it, the State paying half, the county 85 per cent, and the locality 15 per cent. of the cost. This strikes us as being a very fair way of solving the problem of bad roads. Why does not the Good Road Congress push this plan to the front?

This is June. In July the County Alliances meet, and at the July meeting of the County Alliances officers for the next year are to be elected. Now, brethren of the Sub-Alliances are earnestly urged to choose with caution their officers; gentlemen whose hearts are in the work and who will be at every meeting, and who have judgment, and who will reflect credit on your Order. Then in selecting your delegate to your County Alliance, send the best business man you have in your Lodge to the County Alliance, and then by Alliances let the very best, most even tempered business man in your County Alliance be selected and sent to the State meeting in August. Begin right at the bottom and continue right all the way up in the selection of your officers, and you'll find your Order will take on new life. The State meeting this year will be one of the most important ever held in many respects. The work already done to be renewed, and plans for the future perfected, and you will all agree that it takes good hard common sense, sound judgment, a right heart and backbone to plan and execute wisely. Let every Sub Alliance rally now and be exceedingly careful in the selection of officers and delegates, and there will be no cause to regret it.

APPOINTING ARMY OFFICERS.

Officers are too often given not to the best men in the party but to the men who, by means fair or foul, can carry most votes for that party. This practice should be condemned by all, and while it is a great evil in time of peace, in time of war it becomes doubly important that only the criterion of merit shall rule in making appointments that affect the lives of those who have gone forth to fight for their country. In making appointments in the army every officer should think of the responsibility upon him. He should cast party politics aside. The fact that a man is a Republican, a Democrat, or a Populist will not cause one man to be killed and will break no mother's heart. But the fact that he is unfit for the position to which he is appointed may cause the loss of many lives and bring disaster upon us. Let the President remember that on the battlefield a father's fame counts for nothing and that no soldier will die easier because the mistakes of an inexperienced, dudish son of a former general caused his death. No soldier who loses his life because of the mistakes of an incompetent officer, will die easier because he and that officer belonged to the same party.

There is very general satisfaction at the appointments made by Gov. Russell, and we are glad to see that he has not allowed party politics nor the military fame of a candidate's father to influence him. Let the President and other Governors do likewise. We are sick and tired of hearing that "the son of Fitzhugh Lee," "the son of Vice-President Hobart," "the son of ex-President Harrison," "the grandson of Gen. Grant," etc., etc., have received important positions in the army. Let those who have proved themselves heroes receive the places of honor and let the great army of dudes who can boast of nothing but their fathers' fame, enlist as privates and work their way up.

This is not merely a matter of simple justice. It is a matter that affects America's honor, the peace of thousands who have friends in the army, and, last, but not least, the lives of some of our country's bravest and best citizens.

"I hear that Mrs. Gobang has entirely lost her mind." "I expected it. She gave every one a piece of it when she had the chance." —Town Topics.

"VANCE STILL LIVES."

In the Democratic State Convention, the Democrats said: "We favor free silver, but we will chastise it and attempt to kill it by refusing to help elect free silver Congressmen." It was such hypocritical Democrats that Vance ridiculed in his great speech in Congress, September 1, 1893. Said he: "I shall try common sense a little while longer. \* \* \* It shall not be said of me, 'Greater love hath no man than this that a man killed his friend that he might save his life.' Great indeed must be the love of these men for silver that they would chastise it even unto death." O, for a Vance to rebuke with his biting sarcasm the hypocritical Democrats of 1898.

But as Grady said in the Democratic Convention which refused to aid the cause of silver: "Vance still lives!" Grady spoke better than he knew. Vance does live still, and the above is his striking message to the silver men of North Carolina. His message to them in 1893 is good in 1898: "The money changers are polluting the temple of our liberties. To your tents, O, Israel."

TAMMANY, TOO, IS "HYPOCRATIC."

It will be remembered that a short time ago when the Democratic State Executive Committee issued an address in which it congratulated Tammany on its success, we insisted that Tammany was a goldbug organization. The Kingston Free Press took us to task and assured us that there were few better free silver Democratic organizations than Tammany. While speaking of this, we wish to call attention of the Free Press to the following item which we clip from the Richmond Times:

"Another significant item in this connection, which we mentioned the other day, is that Tammany, which has pretended to be for free silver, has decided that all bonds issued by the city of New York shall be payable, principal and interest, 'in gold coin of the United States of America of the present standard, weight and fineness.'"

FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

The reason of "laying by" crops, picnics, and Farmers' Institutes is at hand. The Department of Agriculture will double make some effort to hold these meetings this year as it has done in the past. The Farmers' Institute seems to be popular nearly all over this country and has been called the farmers' school. It may also be called a miniature farmers' parliament where no real laws are made, but where members may obtain information by which to shape their own affairs.

What form of organization shall be given the important primaries is of much moment and of interest to all concerned.

It seems to be generally agreed by those who have given the Farmers' Institute the most thought that they are of value beyond their cost only, when held at places where a call for such a meeting is popular and where there is a general turn out of local people to take part in it.

Accordingly the work of organization and preparation needs to be undertaken simultaneously from two directions. The people of any given locality who wish to hold an Institute should correspond with Secretary of the Board of Agriculture and while he is keeping up a connection between different points, harmonizing dates, and arranging for assisting every Institute with one or more speakers the people who propose to hold an Institute call a local meeting appoint a committee to call on local speakers and arrange a program and to fix on the exact date with the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, to arrange for the place and other local details. The printed programs can be issued, and circulars printed by the Secretary for circulation by the local committee.

All these things require time and work, and the meeting will be all the better when held if all the arrangements have been well attended to and speakers given a little time to think over what they are to present.

It is important that the institutes cover the short time when there is least to do on the farm, and to this end they should be carefully planned and as many outside speakers put in the field by the secretary as are needed to cover the appointments quickly and leave his time for the preparation of an institute bulletin, and then for the plans for the next campaign.

A FAIR SAMPLE.

It is plain that the rank and file of the Democratic party were but poorly represented in their State Convention, and this small representation completely surrendered to the machine. A fair sample of the kind of delegates that refused to endorse Bryan and so pleased the goldbugs is the Chatham county

delegation. The Chatham Citizen gives the following sketch of them:

"Do you want to know who represented the farmers of Chatham county in the recent Democratic State Convention? Here they are: ex officeholders, lawyers, doctors and merchants: M. T. Williams, ex county commissioner; T. W. Segroves, ex-store keeper and gauger at government still; J. D. McIver, ex-U. S. deputy marshal; A. F. Gilbert, lawyer; H. A. London, lawyer; James O'Kelly, a doctor; R. J. Yates, merchant; L. E. Bollins, merchant, John Barringer, merchant; and J. J. Peoples, a defeated candidate for the legislature of 1895. Perhaps we should not have thought of their occupations had it not been that the Chatham Record is so generous in telling how many Populist officers attend Populist meetings. In fairness to the Record we submit the above. (We forgot to mention about H. A. London being President of the Pittsboro Railroad, director of a bank, ex attorney for the county commissioners and a defeated candidate for the legislature of 1897.)"

Our Republican friends are most pronounced and enthusiastic goldbugs, every one of them. Yet at their convention here last Saturday they instructed their delegates to vote for Mott for Solicitor when Marshal is most unequivocally in favor of silver. What sort of consistency do you call that—Danbury Reporter.

UNCLE SAM'S NEW POSSESSION.

Last week the House of Representatives passed the Newlands resolution for the annexation of Hawaii by a vote of 209 to 91. Associated Press dispatches say:

"The debate which has continued without interruption since Saturday, has been one of the most notable of the Congress, the proposed annexation being considered of great commercial and strategic importance by its advocates, and being looked upon by its opponents as involving a radical departure from the long established policy of this country and likely to be followed by the inauguration of a pronounced policy of colonization, the abandonment of the Monroe doctrine and participation in international wrangles. More than half a hundred members participated in the debate."

Those voting for annexation we find the names of Skinner, Pearson, White, and Linney for this State.

The North Carolina representatives voting against annexation were: Shuford, Strowd, Kitchin, Martin, and Fowler.

RAILROAD OWNERSHIP OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Every one knows Rev. Henry M. Field as one of the very ablest divines in this country. He is brother of Judge Field, of the U. S. Supreme Court, of David Dudley Field, the great lawyer, and of Cyrus Field, who laid the Atlantic cable. He is also editor of the Evangelist, from which we clip the following striking article from his pen. Read it and ask yourself, if you know the inside history of North Carolina for the last 25 years, whether we have not the same experience. Have not the railroad officials and lobbyists, and not we ourselves, governed us also?

Some months ago I had the pleasure of a visit to Hartford, which I have long admired as one of the most beautiful cities of the country. It is not an university town like New Haven; nor are its streets arched with elms; but it has a noble situation, on the banks of the Connecticut, with a background of hills, crowned by the homes of wealth and of taste and refinement. So captivated was I with all this that I could not restrain my admiration, in talking with a distinguished resident, who sat by me on the return to New York: "How happy you must be to live in such a city, and what a grand old State Connecticut is!" Just then we were passing the new Capitol, whose white marble seemed to be a fit emblem of the purity and virtue of these sons of the Pilgrims. And greatest marvel of all, it was built, from the foundation to the top stone, within the limits of the original appropriation! Was there ever such a thing known before? What a contrast to our Capitol at Albany, which is a monument of lavish expenditure; in which the State has been cheated out of millions, with the prospect of being cheated out of millions more! "Here you have something to show for your money, and to illustrate the character of your people! How proud you must be of your plain, honest government!"

I observed that my fellow-traveller was silent till he heard the last word, when he could not restrain himself any longer, but gave way to this amazing outburst: "Government! Gov-

ernment! We have no government of our own! The State of Connecticut is only one of the assets of the New York and New Haven Railroad Company, which chooses our legislators for us; and those whom it does not buy beforehand, it buys after they are here! Long before the election it has its agents in the field, looking out for the nomination of Senators and Representatives, so that with its persuasive influences, added to its 'moral suasion,' it seldom fails of a working majority. But if by accident it should be a little short, a few thousand dollars distributed 'where it will do the most good' will open the eyes of country members to see things in a new light, so that either way 'the Company' is always in a state of calm repose. So notorious is this control of the legislature, that members of it make no mystery of it among themselves, and indeed boast of it. One of them, chuckling over it, said to a friend of Mr. — that 'a farmer who came from the country to the legislature was a fool' [I omit the profane word which he used to emphasize what he said,] 'if he went home with a mortgage on his house or farm! A fool indeed if he did not carry home in his gripsack bills enough to lighten the burden that was hanging heavily on his declining years! A corporation can afford to be generous, when it has millions to spend—and one million would be ample to provide for 'legal services' and other 'services' necessary to complete control! But no wonder that it was with a cringe of shame for the state of which he was an inhabitant, that my friend had to confess that a foreign corporation was its master and governor!"

Am I telling tales out of school to cast shame on the good name of old Connecticut? Are the people of that State of a lower moral grade than those of Massachusetts? By no means. On the contrary, if I were to pick out from the six States of New England, the one that has the most uncorrupted Puritan blood, I think I should choose Connecticut, for Maine and Massachusetts, and perhaps Vermont and New Hampshire, have a large infusion of the Canadian French. But the people of Connecticut have not been spoiled by any foreign mixture. As their virtues are their own, so their weaknesses are their own; but the whole body of the inhabitants are not to be stigmatized because men who are poor, and who work hard all their lives to earn a bare support for themselves and their children, cannot resist the glittering temptation of thousands of dollars dangling before their eyes, all to be had for a single vote!

Nor is Connecticut the only State that is owned by a rich corporation. Here in New York we have nothing to boast of. One has but to visit Albany in the winter when the legislature is in session, to see that it is very docile in the matter of legislation on some points, while vehement in declaring its high standard of righteousness on others. If the statement of those best informed be believed, the corporation that runs its Empire State Express through the State runs right over the legislature at its will. The upper Hudson swarms with leeches which draw blood from the swollen veins of the rich corporations, whose huge bodies stand out with fatness. Sometimes they win a little, but soon learn to take their "leeching" quietly, instead of provoking their tormentors, and so running the risk of a public exposure!

Is it any better in Pennsylvania? One man is said to carry the legislature in his pocket, a confession that would be humiliating if he were a Daniel Webster, and a man of the highest integrity; but in this case the man who is said to "own" Pennsylvania, is openly charged with being a defaulter to the State, as having taken the public money to the amount of some two hundred thousand dollars, and appropriating it to his own use—an accusation that has been repeated again and again in the public papers, but to which he has never deigned—or dared—to make any reply. And not only does this defaulter demand his own election, but gives orders to the legislature to elect as his colleague a man with no reputation whatever; and that over the head of one of the most distinguished men in the Commonwealth! And this is our boasted Republican government, that gives us for our rulers, not the best men but the worst; the sneaks who wish to live on the labor of others; who are in peace what the bummers were in war—a rabble of idle, leazy creatures, that drift in the rear, never fighting a battle, but living on the spoils won by better and braver men.

When we hear of these things, not merely as idle reports, but from men who know them to be true, we may well ask. Is there not something rotten in the State of Denmark? And how long is the rottenness to continue sapping the vitality of all our institutions, till from the State governments it shall creep into the National Government, eating its way into the very

marble of the Capitol, till its lofty pillars and the great dome itself come tumbling to the ground!

LET CANTRENS ALONE.

Under the above title we find an editorial in the Raleigh Post every word of which we endorse. If the government is thus to encourage the use of intoxicants by our soldier, there are many patriotic mothers who will plead with their sons to stay at home. Says the Post:

"We are opposed to the establishment of what are called in army nomenclature 'canteens,' but in plain every-day English, beer saloons, in connection with our regiments. The argument used in favor of such a regular army is that it enables the men to get good beer at actual cost, a drink they have been used to and will have at any cost, to be regulated as to amount. Each soldier is allowed to spend \$2.00 per month for beer at the 'canteen.' If their 'being used to it' is an excuse for the regulars, mostly people from the North where beer is very generally used by the masses, especially by the class who join the ranks of the regular army, it does not at all apply to our soldiers. Not one in fifty, we dare say, are so 'used' to the drink as to require it regularly, even if it were not harmful. To be thus practically encouraged in its use is but to develop a taste, not a thirst, for such stimulant, and it is but a very short step from this lighter beverage to that which all admit is destructive. There is no physical necessity whatever for a soldier to indulge in this or any other such beverage. There is every reason, aside from any moral considerations or fears of evil tendencies, why soldiers should abstain altogether from such indulgences. Having served a time in the camp life and other duties of a soldier, we know whereof we speak. Every interest of health precludes the use of intoxicants. And, as we say, our boys, not having been used to beer, cannot have a thirst for it, and being allowed its use, even to the extent proposed, is simply to permit them to cultivate a taste which will lead to injury in every sense and particular. Ninety five per cent. of our regimental membership are young men. But very few, we hope, have cultivated a taste for intoxicants—far fewer for beer. Restriction on those who have will be a God send to them, as soldiers, and men as well. To prevent others from cultivating such a taste is as high a duty as those in command can render these young men, and so far as these young men are concerned, their country.

Let the 'canteens' alone, young soldiers. You will best serve your God, your country and yourselves by doing so."

HUSH! LISTEN!

Will any Democratic paper in the State deny that the railroad lawyers had TWENTY FIVE times as many delegates in the State Convention in proportion to population as the farmers had?

OF A PERSONAL NATURE.

SPEAKER REED'S LITTLE JOKE.

Recently Speaker Reed wished to be a man on some pending legislation, and telegraphed for him to come to Washington. The man took the first train available, but a washout in the night made it impossible for the train to proceed. Going to a telegraph station he sent this dispatch to the Speaker: "Washout on the line. Can't come. Reed sent back this reply: "Buy a new shirt and come my way."

WHEN CHURCHILL WAS IN PHILADELPHIA.

When Lord Randolph Churchill was last in America he visited Philadelphia, and, while collecting statistics relating to the State Prisons of Pennsylvania, he was referred to the head of the Prisons Board, Mr. Cadwallader Biddle. Before calling, Lord Randolph fell into the hands of wags of the Union League Club.

"You've got the name wrong," said one of these merry jesters; "it's not Cadwallader Biddle, but Bidcollader Addle."

"Don't mind what he says," Lord Randolph, exclaimed another; "his real name is Wadcollader Caddie."

A third member took the ex-cellar of the Excquer aside and imparted to him in confidence that he was being gulled.

"The actual name," confided the fourth friend, "is Didcollader Widdle."

And when Lord Randolph drove to the Prisons Board that afternoon he was so much upset that he stammered:

"Will you take this card in my hand? Bid-cad-wid-wad-did-dollader-what's his name? I mean the Chancery combination." — Saturday Evening Post.

Strong as Sampson, Sobley as a woman, what more Dewey want? asks the Charlotte News.