

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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N. R. P. A.

REFORM WORKERS, ATTENTION!

The Progressive Farmer will be sent to anyone from now till the election for only 25 cents, cash in advance.

The Progressive Farmer will be sent to all new subscribers from now till March 1, 1899 for only fifty cents cash in advance. We make this offer because we are willing to lose a little money rather than allow the people to go without the truth.

Offer No. 2 means that you will get a complete history of the war, all the campaign and election news and a complete record of all the acts of the next legislature, besides our regular agricultural, literary and State news features for only 50 cents.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Mr. Simmons' reply to Mr. Mewboorne was crowded out of our last issue. We were even compelled to slightly condense Mr. Mewboorne's letter in order to give it a place.

College Trustees and religious journals may quirm, but the fact remains that they are not in a position to oppose trusts so long as they accept the blood money wrung from the public, and it is but natural that these trusts can have an influence in shaping the policy of these colleges.

The County Union published at Dunn in Harnett County is a funny paper. In its issue of July 27th it advises the negroes of Harnett County to demand recognition. It says they are entitled to part of the county ticket and in the same issue and same column it calls upon the people of the county to organize what it terms "White Supremacy Clubs."

The Agricultural Department paid into the State Treasury during the year ending June 1st, 1898, \$58,033.72 which was the largest year's work of the Department. The amount turned in for the two years, from June 1st, '95, to June 1st, '97, was \$100,172.90, or an average of \$50,086.45—\$7,947.27 less per year than last year.

An editorial in last week's issue of a certain religious paper in this State surprised us—surprised us, first, because of the style, which did not come a religious paper; second, because it was bitterly partisan, which in a religious paper is disgusting, and third, because an attempt was made to cover up this dirty partisan work with the spotless cloak of Christian education, which made it disgraceful.

The Biblical Recorder of last week, speaking of the controversy between this paper and it, says that we "surrender" and "back down," thereby leaving the erroneous impression on the minds of its readers that this paper did attack "Christian education," and while still opposing it, was compelled to "surrender."

The Fourth District Populist Convention will be held in Raleigh, September 8th.

Bro. Tuck will doubtless capture the bachelor vote by that plank favoring a reduction in price of marriage licenses.

"Simmons" get better after after frost bites them. Wonder if Chairman Simmons is a better man since Mewboorne's frost settled on his budding hopes?

Democratic management of the State Penitentiary shows more than double the deaths and five more escapes from the prison than during 1897, while in pardons the '97 management shows a net gain of only one half a man.

In 1895, three convicts were killed by the guards while attempting to escape. In 1896 one suffered the same fate, and one killed himself to better his condition, while in 1897 one succumbed to the shot of the guard. Have the ex-pieaters anything to brag on in this?

We are apologists for no man's public sins. We ask, however, why should there be such a falling off in the death roll at the State Penitentiary? There were 43 deaths in 1895; there were also 43 deaths in 1896, while there were only 20 deaths in 1897. Why this difference? Were the prisoners treated more humanely? Is that a sin?

The expiring crow heavily on the pardons by Governor Russell. "About to depopulate the institutions," they say. The truth is in 1895 there were 37 pardons, in 1896 there were 34, while in 1897 there were just 36, only an average of a half a man a year above the last two years that the State was under Democratic management.

"Escaping convicts" has been the cry of the Hypocrite organs for some time. Let just one get away and the "Fusionists," the "Russell Butler crowd" catch it from Murphy to Manito. But see here, boys, did the News and Distorter ever tell you that there were 38 escapes in 1895, 52 escapes in 1896, and only 40 escapes in 1897? These are facts, and they show an average saving of 5 convicts per year by the management of 1897.

Bro. Johnson, of Charity and Children, says: "The Postoffice Department is more inefficient than we have known it in three years. We never exercised greater care in mailing Charity and Children and we never heard more complaint. The fault lies at the door of the new postmasters, we suppose, who have not learned their business yet." About the same way with us. If any of our readers fail to receive papers regularly, however, we hope they will notify us, as we may be able to help them.

LATEST WAR NEWS.

No answer has been received from Spain on the peace question, and while the delay is provoking, it is believed that she will accept our terms.

The Maria Teresa, one of Cervera's sunken vessels has been raised and repaired and will sail for Norfolk under her own steam in a few days.

ON TO PORTO RICO!

As the First North Carolina Regiment is to go to Porto Rico, the description of that island on page 3 will be of especial interest to our readers. Persons who have been frightened by the reports of a possible yellow fever epidemic in Santiago, have no cause for fear of such a catastrophe among soldiers in Porto Rico, for it is the healthiest of the Antilles. Johnson's Encyclopaedia says: "Water is abundant and vegetation very rich. The island is remarkably free from beasts of prey and serpents, but is infested with rats, thousand legs, mosquitoes and other tormenting insects. The climate is hot, especially in the valleys and coast land, but not unhealthy."

DAY DREAMS.

The editor of the Charlotte Observer evidently has formed the habit of taking a nap just after dinner to "dream dreams." The issue for the 5th contained an editorial telling of the fearful and wonderful decadence of the Populist party in the West and portions of the South, all of which has been heard before. The Observer predicts that in two or three years the Populist party will be completely forgotten. Then it says: "We hope that the Populists of this State will be warned in time and will seek a safer habitation before the crash comes."

We presume that the above is a threat. The Observer thinks that if the Democrats can succeed in carrying the State they will resurrect all their old schemes of brutality, and make it so hot for the Populists in this State that they will be glad to escape from the borders into some other land. It is certain that a very large number of Democrats entertain such hopes, and if the Observer is not in hearty accord it is a well wisher. Not long ago a Democrat said to the

writer: "All we want is to carry the legislature once more. We will then fix things so no other party nor combination of parties can carry the State." Of course he meant that they will pass an election law that will enable the minority to carry the State. And this man has been a Democratic officeholder and is a prominent and active church member. We imagine that the management of State affairs will have to become very bad before the people will consent for such a crowd of law-breakers and liberty crushers to get in again. Men who are willing to adopt dishonest methods to carry the State and retain possession cannot and will not give good government. Every one of them ought to be wearing stripes.

Is the Charlotte Observer willing to endorse such methods? Does it really mean that its crowd hopes to get in and make it unbearably hot for the Populists in this State? We hope not, but fear that it has reached that low notch in the scale of politics. But the Populists will "take warning."

LET THE RECORDS TELL.

Much smoke is being raised of late about the penitentiary. We believe in fair play and truth. As claims that the penitentiary has been self-sustaining under past administrations have been persistently made, and perhaps believed by many, we wish to call attention to a few figures from the records.

The Superintendent of the Penitentiary in his report for the year 1891, says he began that year "with a cash balance of \$113,069.98." Add to this the appropriation of 1893, \$25,000, and the appropriation of 1895, \$44,158.71. This shows that the institution had in closing the balance started with \$182,228.69, which it did not earn during the years 1891-2-3-4-5 and 6. Then it is evident that, if the penitentiary was self-sustaining all this time, it should, at the end of 1896, have had a cash balance on hand of at least \$182,228.69. We find from the records, however, that the cash balance in hand when Mr. Leazar reported for the year 1896 at the close of his term, was:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Farm products, \$28,346.68; 2,659 bales of cotton at \$29, \$77,111; Less drawn on same, 29,000, 48,111.00; Cotton seed, surplus, 1,225.00; Bricks, 5,717.27; Cash, 8,494.45.

Making a total balance, \$91,694.40. Deduct from this an advance by the State Treasurer of \$5,000 which is not mentioned in the report, and you will see that counting every thing in sight at his own figures, he had only, all told, \$86,694.40. Subtracting this balance from what it should be, if self-sustaining, there appears a shortage of at least \$95,534.29. What has become of this? Who will explain? Don't try to hide it behind smoke.

Note—The \$113,069.98 included unused balances of all appropriations to the beginning of 1891, and was by no means an evidence that the penitentiary had supported itself up to that date.

NOW YOU HAVE IT.

The News and Observer of the 6th contained an editorial a column and a half long headed, "The Present Election Law is Infamous."

That editorial needs no comment. The heading tells where the News and Observer stands. The only law the News and Observer can approve is one that permits a few men to carry the State and disfranchise, if they wish, eight tenths of the voters of the State. And that crowd think they ought to be given control of the State! But the News and Observer minority will not be able to fool the voters.

COMING HOME TO SAVE THE STATE.

The News and Observer announces that Mr. N. E. Jennett is coming back from New York and will do cartoon work on that paper for three months to help redeem the good old State. If Mr. Jennett does not meet with better success than did Mr. Daniels, the good old State will have a rocky time.

But we are glad Jennett is coming back. He is one of the brightest of the many bright boys who have been born here. He began to make cuts with a pocket knife in Sampson county a few years ago. Later he did some very good work for the News and Observer. A year or two ago he went to school in New York and added knowledge to his natural capacity for cartooning and so fast did he learn that he has been able to take a place in the front ranks of skillful cartoonists, his productions appearing regularly in some of the leading papers of New York.

Yes, we are glad Jennett is coming back. His wood cuts illustrating current events and taking off individuals were about all that has appeared in the News and Observer under the present management—at least all that was natural and reliable. Open the way for Jennett.

NOT PERFECT BUT A GREAT IMPROVEMENT.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER doesn't believe in smothering truth in any form. We do not believe in trying to cover up or hide any of the shortcomings of the present administration. Whenever a fault is discovered, it should be corrected at once. A perfect administration was not expected, for to err is human, and we suppose that no voter considered any candidate the incarnation of the angel Gabriel. Still, without denying that our present administration has its faults, we must say that we consider it far superior to former ones. The State no longer loses several thousand dollars per month in the Secretary of State's office; there has been no secret midnight lease, nor hobnobbing with corporation lobbyists; the Governor is not a corporation tool; no oyster frauds have been approved; there is no drunken incompetent in the capitol; so far as we know no Democrat has ever stated that the Treasury, Auditor's or State Department were ever better managed; the death rate at the penitentiary has been reduced about 40 per cent; no able Superintendent of Public Instruction have we had for years—but we have not the space to enumerate all the important reforms even in the Executive Department. Of improvements in our judiciary and legislative departments we might also tell, but it is not our intention to deprive our Democratic friends of all campaign thunder until later in the campaign.

We are informed that an appropriation of \$25,000 was made to enable the Department of Agriculture to make an exhibit of the State's resources, etc., at the Columbia Exposition in Chicago. We learn also that \$15,000 of this appropriation was spent in Michigan for show cases in which to make this exhibit, and we are told that these show cases were brought to our State Museum after the close of the exposition, and that they may be seen there by any one who wish to see them. The question is why should Michigan wood and Michigan labor to make show cases at such exorbitant figures have been given the preference in these exhibits? Didn't we have wood suitable and workmen competent at home? And could not the show cases said to have cost \$15,000 in Michigan have been made for less than \$5,000 in North Carolina? Who will answer? Compare the Michigan made show cases, in the Museum, and remember that North Carolina made cost less than half as much as those from Michigan.

HAD THE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE BORROWED IT?

On November 30th, 1896, the then Secretary of State paid into the State Treasury what the auditor's voucher accompanying the payments said was collections on the accounts to which credited "to date." This was his last payment into the Treasury.

When Dr. Cy Thompson was inaugurated January 12th, 1897, the same outgoing Secretary of State turned over to Dr. Thompson on the same accounts (which, as the last payment Nov. 30th was "to date," should have been for the amounts collected on these accounts between Nov. 30th, 1896, and January 12th, 1897) the sum of \$3,304.05. The books in the office of the Secretary of State show that on these same accounts the total collections between Nov. 30th, '96, and Jan. 12th, '97, were only \$35.98. These being facts, it is evident that \$2,968.07 of the cash turned over to Dr. Thompson was collected before Nov. 30th, 1896, and should have been turned over to the State Treasurer then or before, and the mystery is, where was this \$2,968.07 on Nov. 30th, 1896? It is easy to account for smoke to hide such facts as these. We are simply seeking after the truth, and THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is ready to publish any satisfactory explanation.

Subscribers will do well to preserve their copy of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, as it contains some facts and figures which the Hypocry of the State wish to smother. But we propose to keep hammering away on this line all summer and fall. Just get a club of subscribers from your neighbors and put the truth before all voters. A few minutes work may bring forth much fruit.

WHAT THINK YE OF IT?

It is not our custom to publish announcements of candidates for county offices, but we have received from Bro. N. N. Tuck, of Person county, his announcement as candidate for the legislature and in it he advocates reforms about which we should like to hear from our readers. The legislatures of 1895 and 1897 did some good work but they were not perfect, and as we will see from reading Bro. Tuck's letter there is still room for improvement. In announcing his candidacy he says

that he endorses the Populist platform and will do all in his power to have the following additional legislation enacted, to wit:

To abolish biennial sessions of the legislature and substitute quadrennial sessions.

To reduce the number of Senators from 50 to 25 and the number of Representatives from 120 to 50.

To abolish the present Railroad Commission and have its duties devolve upon the Secretary of State, Auditor and Treasurer, who shall be Ex Officio Railroad Commissioners, without additional compensation.

To constitute the Superintendent of Public Instructions Ex Officio Secretary of the Commission without additional compensation.

To abolish the office of County Treasurer and have his duties devolve upon the Sheriff without additional compensation.

To abolish the Court Cost against the County for County Officers and Solicitor.

To reduce the term of Superior Court Clerk from 4 to 2 years like all other County Officers.

To tax the Railroads according to their Capitalization.

To tax all Railroads one per cent upon their gross incomes in addition to valuation tax.

To tax all other Corporations both native and foreign doing business in this State, in the same manner and at the same rate as railroads are taxed.

To reduce the Officer's Fees on Crop Liens from \$1.05 to 30 cents.

To reduce Marriage Licenses from \$3.00 to 25 cents.

To provide for four months public schools in every district every year.

To provide for the State to pay over to the County an amount equal to the Terrell fund.

To provide for the Board of Education and County Supervisor and School Committees to be elected in Person county by the people at an election to be held for that purpose on the 1st Monday in May, 1899, and at every regular election for county officers thereafter.

To provide for the patrons of Public Schools to elect their Public School Teacher.

To provide for the election of the Superintendent of the Home for the Aged and Infirm by the people.

To confirm the action of Gov. Russell in suspending from office the two Wilsons as Railroad Commissioners.

To enact an effective Anti Trust Law—so effective that it will drive every trust from North Carolina soil within thirty days after its enactment.

To provide for the election of United States Senators by the people at primary elections to be held at the same time and place as the regular election for members of Legislature who will be required to elect a United States Senator.

To tax legacies and inheritances.

To withdraw all appropriations from the University and all other Colleges until a four months term of the Public School in every district shall be provided for.

We do not agree with Bro. Tuck on everything but as a whole we must say we believe this is the best platform for a legislative candidate that we have seen this year.

Many of these reforms have been but little discussed, and we should be pleased to have our readers give us their opinion of the laws proposed by our Person county brother.

TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS.

We do not have to leave home to find funny typographical errors, but it comforts us to know that "there are others."

In a Missouri newspaper office, recently, the boy who "makes up" the forms got the galleys mixed. After putting the first part of an obituary into the form, he, by mistake, took the next handful of type from a galley containing a description of a fire. The paragraph thus made read as follows: "The pallbearers lowered the body to the grave. It was consigned to the flames. There were few, if any regrets, for the old wreck had been an eyesore to the town for years. Of course there was individual loss, but that was fully covered by insurance."

And in a religious newspaper of this State last week we find the following amazing statement:

"By scorching the scriptures you may learn how a sinner may be saved and how a Christian may become stronger in spiritual things."

Of course, we know that editors get pretty hard up during the summer months, but until this appeared we supposed that none of them had tried to cook the Bible. Perhaps this editor has a long list of delinquents, too.

But, after all, we expect he wrote, "By searching the Scriptures," etc.

Nothing is politically right that is morally wrong.—O'Connell.

THE THINKERS.

A little, short doctor of divinity in a large Baptist convention stood on a step and said he thanked God he was a Baptist. The audience could not hear and called: "Louder!" "Get up higher," some one said. "I can't," he replied. "To be a Baptist is as high as one can get." But there is something higher than being a Baptist, or a member of any other church, and that is being a man.—Success.

Charles Dudley Warner, in the Outlook, tells the story of his encounter with a bear last summer. Brought into close quarters, some very serious thoughts quite overwhelmed him. "As I was cocking my gun, I made a hasty and unsatisfactory review of my whole life. The sins came out uncommonly strong. I recollected a newspaper subscription I had delayed paying, years and years ago until both editor and newspaper were dead, and which now never could be paid to all eternity. That is a warning that ought not to be neglected. It may set some people to thinking of bears and unpaid subscriptions. We shall be awfully sorry if a bear shall come out of the mountains and devour any of our friend this summer.—Central Methodist.

The railways of the United States, and their equipment, represent about \$2,700,000,000 of actual money, but are capitalized for over \$11,000,000,000. Think of it! Over eight billion dollars of counterfeit capital drawing the same interest and dividends from farmers, merchants, manufacturers and other patrons of railways, that the real or genuine dollar gets. And this in our boasted "land of the free and home of the brave."

To contemplate, when paying 90 cents for a railway ticket, that 60 cents of it goes to pay interest on counterfeit capital and 30 cents to real capital, does not tend to lift the eyebrows and raise the corners of the mouth.—Farm Stock and Home.

George Gould is trying to evade his fair share of war taxes. He says that the \$7,000,000 bequeathed him by the late Jay Gould was not a gift but a salary of \$500,000 a year for a period of ten years. The New York Journal estimates this piece of trickery properly and says:

"Mr. Gould is trying to show how one law may be cheated. Yet none would cry louder than he if the legal rights of his various corporations were invaded and set at naught for the public. He would discern anarchy in an effort to take the elevated railroads into public ownership, and an effort to reduce the tax which he levies on the public is to him a grave injustice."

In a few years Mr. Gould may learn how it is possible to tax his salary at the rate of \$500,000 or more a year. There is nothing like precedents.—The New Time.

Should we enter an Anglo American Alliance? Much may be said on both sides. A formal, iron-clad confederacy seems unwise. Washington's words express good sense still: "Enter into no entangling alliances." Should the Anglo Saxon race form a union, the Latin races might do the same. We should not antagonize France, our ally of the Revolution. We should not antagonize Russia, our friend in the Civil War. We want to keep a frank, generous openness toward each of the whole brotherhood of nations, as heretofore.

A cordial understanding we can rejoice in and promote. For us it has borne fruit already; we shall not ungenerously forget. Arbitration, within reasonable limits, and carefully guarded, may be adopted. Between the cabinets, certain projects of large moment, like the Nicaragua Canal, might be amicably discussed, and agreements entered into. An Anglo American council might annually, or oftener, consult upon current politics.—Success.

Fiction occasionally makes history, or, what is the same in effect—what passes for history with the uninformed. A striking illustration of this fact may be found in Mrs. Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" which for fifty years has been accepted by millions of American readers as historical truth. That it did contain a certain coloring of truth, no candid reader will deny; that it was a true representation of the institution of slavery in our Southern States, no intelligent reader will dare affirm.

It is not my purpose to defend slavery as it was; its justification was in the fact that it existed long before America was a nation, and that it was recognized and protected by the Federal Constitution of 1783, although the word "slavery" does not occur in that instrument. All the colonies imported Africans, and held them in their midst. In the northern colonies they were unprofitable. South of Mason and Dixon's line they were a source of wealth. The northern people did not want an unprofitable investment for their money, and got rid of their slaves; the southern people found profit in slaves and held on to them.

This is history. It is not only his-tory, but it is universal history.—Self Culture, Akron, Ohio.