

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

MRS. L. L. POLK, Proprietor. J. L. RAMSEY, Editor. CLARENCE H. POE, Asso. Editor. J. W. DENMARK, Business Mgr. RALEIGH, N. C.

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N. E. P. A.

The Capitol at Washington was blown up at 5:20 p. m., Sunday. The upper Court Room was totally destroyed. The fire is believed to have resulted from a gas explosion, caused by a leakage of a meter. No life was lost, but more than a million dollars damage was done besides the loss of the splendid Supreme Court Library, itself valued at about \$1,000,000.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We regret very much to hear of the serious illness of Mrs. Ramsey, mother of our editor-in-chief. He has been traveling in Western North Carolina for several weeks in the interest of the State Museum, but is now at her bedside. We wish her a speedy recovery.

If there are no troops at any point November 8th and bloodshed occurs, the Democratic machine will say that fusionists are to blame for the loss of life. If troops are used, the Democratic machine will say that fusionists are attempting to intimidate Democrats. To attempt to please them is useless.

A negro, B. B. Steptoe, from Halifax county, swore to what appears to be an utterly false charge against Hon. Buck Kitchin and some other gentlemen. They were tried and acquitted. Some people seem to believe that Steptoe was hired by the Democratic machine to make the charge in order to make campaign thunder for them.

We have a letter from a prominent Wilmington gentleman who says: "I consider no man safe here who dares have an idea different from the gang who are attempting to get control." Yes, the gang of pig hunting hoodlums are getting hot. One A. M. Waddell uses language that would do credit to an anarchist. Here is one of his recent incendiary utterances: "You may remain indifferent if you want to but we do not intend to submit to it, if we have to choke the current of the Cape Fear with carcasses."

NOTICE.

Mr. J. L. Ramsey's duties as Secretary of the Board of Agriculture keep him so well employed that he has very little time to devote to newspaper work. Hence, for several months the editorial work of the paper has evolved, and for the next several months will probably devolve, almost entirely upon the associate editor.

I feel that this explanation is due Mr. Ramsey, who should not therefore be held responsible, if the paper has of late lacked its usual brilliancy and vigor. CLARENCE H. POE, Associate Editor Progressive Farmer.

"NIGGER RULE"

There is not a county in all North Carolina the majority of whose county commissioners are negroes.

There is not a town in all North Carolina the majority of whose board of aldermen are negroes.

There is not even a school committee in all North Carolina the majority of whose members are negroes. And yet they tell us we have "negro rule!" Great Caesar!

WATCH.

North Carolina Democrats may not admit it, but Democrats in other States do admit that if the next Legislature is Democratic the illiterate voter will go. Says the Democratic correspondent of the Democratic Atlanta Journal:

"The Democrats are striving for only one end to elect the legislature. If they do that the State will once more resume its old time prestige among the Southern States. It has been afflicted as no other State has. It did not do as the lower Carolina and Mississippi did when it had the chance—pass a law restricting the franchise by an educational qualification. It allowed the chance to go by until the old carpet

bagger got into the saddle and dragged up the negro behind him.

"The Governor of North Carolina has no veto power. For this reason the election of the legislature makes the passage of a law establishing an educational qualification a certainty."

This may not mean that the legislature will say in so many words that no illiterate man shall vote. They may simply pass a law that only one voter shall be allowed in the voting place at the time, that all ballots shall be kept in this voting place, and that no man shall assist a voter in preparing his ballot. As a remedy against illiterates, this would be as effectual as the Mississippi law. To the uneducated: Look before you leap.

ARE THE PEOPLE TO BLAME?

Charity and Children, speaking of "a criticism of the management of the State Fair for allowing the fakirs and frauds space in which to practice their imposition upon the people," says: "Every word he writes is true, and yet are not the people themselves to blame for swallowing every nostrum thrown to them by a lot of wily rascals?"

Now, while this question at first glance may seem pertinent, a little thought will show that it is entirely irrelevant. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER does not blame the Fair management for the ignorance for which they are not responsible, but we do insist that they must not assist these fakirs in fooling people by declaring that their shows are honest and moral. Every man who is not blind, or who did not shut his eyes when walking from Floral Hall to the Grand Stand, knows there were swindling schemes and immoral shows at the Fair. And yet the Fair managers declared these shows were honest and moral.

Did they say to the people: "We will admit anything, however fraudulent or immoral, and if you are swindled out of money or purity, do not blame us!" No. They said: "We will admit nothing immoral or unclean and no games of chance."

Did not then each man as he stood by the door of one of those impure, immoral, and indecent shows understand the Fair managers to say to him: "Go in. This show is clean and moral. We admit nothing questionable?" Certainly he did, if English means anything.

And so did not every man who stood by and heard the persuasive voice of the fakir with his shrewd yet apparently simple swindling scheme understand the Fair managers to say to him: "Try this game. It is no game of chance. You are sure to lose nothing. It is now swindling or gambling device. We admit nothing of the kind." Certainly he did, if English means anything.

And this is what we object to. If swindling schemes and immoral shows are to be admitted for the managers put up a placard at the gates warning people against swindlers, sharpers and libertines. When that time comes—when the Fair managers no longer set the seal of honesty and morality upon every exhibition; when they no longer cooperate with and assist libertines and gamblers by recommending them and their shows to the people as "honest, pure and moral"—then, and not till then, may we properly ask: "Are not the people to blame if they are swindled by wily rascals?"

HALT! WHO GOES THERE?

Hello, there! We're after that fellow whose name is on that little red slip of paper on page 1 of this issue. He's the gentleman with whom we wish to talk. We know him, and here he is. No dodging now. Look the date on that label straight in the face, and say seven times: "THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is run on a cash basis, and needs the money for every renewal, and needs it today." Can you say it? If not, please renew at once. Do you promise to do this before the sun sets again? If not, we cannot let you go. Trust all there is about it, and we shall have to keep our promise. Decid-quickly!

TAKE A DOSE OF YOUR OWN MEDICINE.

A poor deluded fellow who was slightly wounded in the Ashpole affray was down at Wilmington last week exhibiting his bruises and the nigger yellors immediately set up a howl about a "horrible example of the effects of fusion."

Now, we do not believe that the State government is responsible for race riots, but for sake of argument, let us admit it. Then if "fusion" is to blame for the little riot at Ashpole, the Democrats are to blame for much worse disturbances in Democratic States.

The little Ashpole riot was on October 23.

On the same day at Dallas, in Democratic Texas, a white boy was killed by

three negroes, and a lynching narrowly averted.

On the same day at Lafayette, in Democratic Alabama, a negro was lynched for the murder of a white farmer.

On the same day in a riot at Chattanooga, in Democratic Tennessee, a negro soldier shot a white man.

And the next day in a big race riot at Harpersville, in Democratic Mississippi, eleven negroes and one white man were killed and three white men and one negro seriously wounded.

Now stand up gentlemen like little men and take a dose of your own prescription. All we ask you to do is to stick to your original statement. Do not change—stand firm, bite your tongue, and swallow your dose if you die in your tracks. Will you do it?

WORK FOR CONGRESSMEN.

One of the most important bills that come before the next Congress will be one to restrict immigration. We hope the friends of this measure will not weary in well doing but will work on until success crowns their efforts. American citizens must not be forced to compete in the labor market with the ignorant and degraded serfs of Europe. Many of these foreigners live pretty much like brutes and if they are to come to this country in droves then the American laborer will be compelled to descend to their level in order to work as cheaply as the foreign laborer. This means that the American workman will soon be as degraded as the European serf.

We hope that every North Carolina Congressman will do all in his power to remedy this evil. Something must be done.

DISGRACEFUL TREACHERY.

The most disgraceful incident of the many disgraceful incidents of the campaign is the shameless treachery and hypocrisy exhibited by one W. E. Fountain, late Chairman of the Populist Executive Committee, in announcing himself an independent candidate for Congress against Hon. J. B. Lloyd. Let it not be forgotten that Fountain has until recently been Lloyd's campaign manager, has, of course, the names and addresses of Lloyd's most earnest supporters and can therefore do him the more injury. Before our last issue was printed we heard a gentleman predict that Fountain would desert Lloyd a few days before the election and would announce himself a candidate. We did not believe him; we had more confidence in Fountain's integrity. But we must now confess that our confidence was misplaced. The incident reminds us of the treacherous savage who volunteered to guide a traveler through the forest, only to kill him and rob him of his treasure. Surely no honest man, be he Democrat, Republican or Populist, can support such a traitor.

And this incident does something else. It proves the hypocrisy of the machine Democratic nigger howlers. Although they have wept crocodile tears and bewailed the humiliation of having a negro Congressman from North Carolina, they are now doing all in their power to divide the white vote—to get Democrats to vote for Fountain.

THEY KNOW THAT TO DO THIS MEANS THE ELECTION OF THE NEGRO WHITE, BUT THE MONOPOLISTS WHO CONTROL THAT PARTY HAD A THOUSAND TIMES RATHER HAVE A NEGRO WHOM THEY CAN CONTROL THAN A WHITE MAN WHO WILL NOT DO THEIR BIDDING.

This is the sum and substance of it all. Be not deceived. The treacherous wolf has thrown off his disguise. Stand together, patriots, and victory is yours.

Only twenty eight—little more than half—of the forty four Democratic State Conventions, have endorsed free silver. Isn't this convincing proof of the fact that the G. O. P. is drifting back into the harbor of gold-bugism?

Who is W. E. Fountain? He's the man who in 1896 against the advice and pleading of such Pops as Dr. Thompson and of J. B. Lloyd, we believe had negroes put on the Pop Edgecombe ticket. Now he howls "white supremacy."

The News and Observer pretends to believe that there is no such person as W. D. Bright whose affidavit regarding J. W. Atwater appeared in this paper last week. The writer happens to know Mr. Bright. If the News and Observer wishes to write him, his address is Stork, Chatham county, N. C.

To editors: It is easy enough and kind of soothing to your conscience to give proper credit to the paper from which you clip an editorial. Only last week we noticed in three different papers of the State portions of the leading editorial in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER of the previous week without any credit whatever. These things ought not so to be.

FOR BETTER AND LONGER SCHOOLS.

We have just received a copy of "Recommendations to the General Assembly of North Carolina," by C. H. Mebane, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and we sincerely hope that these suggestions will be read and heeded by every member of the next legislature and by every one interested in the cause of education. This little pamphlet gives new evidence of the fact that our "fusion" Superintendent of Public Instruction is the ablest we have had for years. It shows that this office is now held by a man whose heart and soul is in the work.

Every voter and every parent should read it—all of it. For the benefit of those who cannot do so, we will give a brief review of it.

Among Mr. Mebane's most important recommendations we note:

"One of the most sacred duties the legislature has to perform is to enact a law which will stop the squandering of the public school fund for school supplies."

How important this matter is may be seen from the immense amount of money annually wasted for high-priced charts, globes, etc. No legislature true to the people can afford to neglect this matter. Next:—

"No man should be eligible to the office of County Supervisor unless he is a graduate from some college, or if not a graduate, he shall, at least, first be required to take the examinations for life certificate, and if not competent to pass this examination, he shall not be eligible to this important office. We have some well educated, well qualified Supervisors, men who have done faithful work and are prepared for this work; some men who are making themselves felt among their teachers and the people of their counties, but we have not ninety six such men, and this is what we want and must have."

Another important and wise suggestion is contained in this paragraph: "Elsewhere I have advised that we have separate committees—one for the white schools and one for the colored schools. No man should be eligible to the office of School Committeeman unless he can write his name, is qualified to do ordinary business, and is known to be in favor of public education. Where colored men who are qualified cannot be found to serve as committeemen, then in such townships white men should be appointed to manage the colored schools. The committee should not be allowed to divide the school of any one year into two terms, as is now done in some places."

And in this: "I advise that the text books be adopted by the State Board of Examiners, which is composed of educators, of school men."

But important as these recommendations are, they are overshadowed by Mr. Mebane's suggestion that the gross receipts of the railroads in the State be taxed for the benefit of the public schools.

Mr. Mebane says: "I advise the General Assembly to impose a tax upon the gross receipts of the railroads in North Carolina for the benefit of the public schools. It can be done. It ought to be done. We find taxes upon the gross earnings in fourteen States. Why not have it in North Carolina."

"The gross earnings of the railroads in this State are more than eleven million dollars. Suppose we had a law like Minnesota, taxing the roads 3 per cent. on gross earnings? What a handsome sum, of more than three hundred thousand dollars, to give in education and intelligence to the great army of poor boys and girls now groping in darkness, and who must, under present conditions of our educational facilities grow into manhood and womanhood burdened with all the disadvantages of the ignorant."

"If the insurance, telegraph and telephone companies are taxed on gross earnings in our State, and I am informed they are, then why not the railroads pay a similar tax?"

"We reasonably conclude that the natural increase in railroad business for the next year or so will be equal to and even greater than the last year. A tax of 3 per cent. on gross earnings next year would amount to about three hundred and sixty thousand dollars. In addition to this, let us have the same tax on gross earnings of telephone companies, telegraph companies, express companies, insurance companies, and then we will have a school fund from these sources of about four hundred thousand dollars. Think of having four hundred thousand dollars added to the school fund by the general assembly of 1899. Remember this tax would be annually."

This will raise a howl from the corporations, and Mr. Mebane will doubtless be branded as a "long haired, anarchistic, communistic, socialistic Populist," and the lobbyists will howl calamity until their throats are sore. We only fear that these flustering, in-

sinuating lobbyists will be able to drown the urging of that still small voice—the poor school children's only lobbyist. But this will not happen if the legislature is true to the people.

NOTICE.

The subscriptions of many of our Campaign subscribers expire with this issue. We hope now that they have become acquainted with the paper that they will send in their subscriptions for a whole year. For those, however, who care to take the paper for a shorter term we will say that the paper will be sent to any address until March 15, 1899, (just after the legislature adjourns) for only 35 cents—or to any three persons until that date for \$1. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER proposes to give you all the news, and to keep up with the members of the legislature from your county. There's some important work to be done and you can't afford not to be "posted." Let us have \$1 from you to-day.

A NEW TOBACCO TRUST.

A syndicate has been organized for financing the proposed organization of a company to be called the Continental Tobacco Co., which company will acquire the following concerns: John Finzer & Bros., Louisville; P. H. Mayo & Bro. (incorporated), Richmond, Va.; Daniel Scotten & Co., Detroit; the P. J. Sorg Co., Middletown, O.; Hardy Weissinger Tobacco Co., Louisville; the P. L. Lorrillard Co., Jersey City; the Drummond Tobacco Co., St. Louis, and the plug tobacco business of the American Tobacco Co., of New Jersey. All the property, rights and assets, etc., of the various companies will be taken, except in the case of the P. Lorrillard Co., where all the common stock stock, consisting of the par value of \$3,000,000, is purchased, thus giving the Continental company control of that company, its organization being maintained, and in the case of the American Tobacco Company, the Continental purchases from that company the plug tobacco business and assets pertaining thereto, the American retiring from the business of manufacturing plug tobacco.

The chief business of the new trust is to manufacture plug tobacco and a leading tobacco journal says that the aggregate annual plug output will be 12,000,000 pounds. Commenting on the formation of this new combination the Southern Tobaccoist, published at Richmond, Va., says:

"What will the leaf man do? What will be left for them or the farmer now or for the future, and can they exist separated? These are pertinent questions surely. What's the Exchange's use, or of what use is it to members? Hadn't the leaf trade better combine to reduce expenses, etc., by cooperation, too? One man and one office and one exchange can do the work of a score, on a score of economy. The manufacturers' combine means a leaf combine sooner or later, or both will be followed by one trust."

In another column in the same paper we find this very rational and able view of the question of trusts:

"They seem to thrive on the very soil of dissatisfaction of the masses. We must repeat that which we have often said in these columns, that as long as the law paves the way for them, opens its gates to them, invites and induces them, fosters and protects them, whether right or wrong, what impotence these exhibit who are kicking against the pricks! It is notably true that where condemnation is easy and ineffectual that so many of us indulge in it, yet withhold not a single rational remedy has been brought forth or taken up or taken hold of the united trust people that will hold. We do not despair, however. The anti-trust sentiment is with the masses, who suffer, however it may be that many are benefited. Robbing Peter to pay or please Paul is not a fair game. Rob the producer to pay profits to self and then put the price down to please the masses, is often the pleaded good that trusts do, forgetting that the power of great capital will rule raw material, costs, labor, freight and charges, with a discrimination against all these individuals. Tobacco can be sold very cheap to the consumer when the trust has the power to level the price to what it pleases to pay the farmer, and so on.

"The trust accumulations are piling up capital and making millionaires and princes of money power among the aristocratic few, while on the other hand, small industries are killed and capital once used to go to their upbuilding is idle in banks and will find employment some way.

"In the meantime there is a possibility of the law's equity and action on the matter; possibly induced by the fear that the government itself, its election of officers and judges would altogether be trust formations, which is believed nevertheless to be true now, so much so that little opposition is needed to any trust measure."

We take this to a plain common-

sense view of the case. There could be nothing truer than that as long as the law "paves the way for them, opens its gates to them, invites and induces them, fosters and protects them," more fretting and grumbling is ineffectual—simply a waste of breath. The only remedy is the right of the use ballot and just how this is to be accomplished while the farmers are scattered and disorganized we do not know. There is much truth in the old adage: "You must fight the devil with fire," and before our farmers win their great fight against wrong and oppression they will learn that they must fight combine with combine, organization with organization, influence with influence. The demands of the trusts are re-pressed by legislatures and by Congress, because when a legislator fails to respect them, a systematic, organized effort against him is made by the trust and while the farmer, in their unorganized condition are not prepared to make any such effort to enforce their demands. They are left out in the cold and when the campaign comes around are whipped into line—white ones by the "nigger" bugaboo, and colored ones by the equally silly scarecrow, "Party that freed you." We repeat: you must fight the devil with fire. The only remedy is organization.

SECRETARY NICHOLS SHIFTS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO OTHER SHOULDERS.

Last week we severely criticized the management of the State Fair for giving indecent shows and games of chance men almost absolute control of the amusement section of the Fair, stating that they were the more reprehensible because the Executive Committee had promised the people in a resolution adopted last July that—

"1. * * * under no circumstances will privileges of a questionable nature or of a demoralizing tendency be sold, or in any manner tolerated on the grounds or in the buildings, nor will any privilege be sold or permitted, where the business is conducted in any other than a legitimate, decent manner. * * *"

2. No privilege shall be sold, granted, or in any manner tolerated for the operation or exhibition on the grounds or in any of the halls, buildings or booths, of any gambling device, lottery or games of chance of any character whatever.

"Renters will note that any business, trade or occupation that is in violation of the above will be rigidly excluded, and violation after admission will be punished by forfeiture of privilege and ejection from grounds."

These are their exact words quoted from page 9 of the official premium list. We do not know who is to blame, but we know some one is, and any one of the managers who protested against breaking faith with the people is welcome to space in this paper to say so. Mr. John Nichols, the Secretary of the State Fair in an interview published in the Raleigh Post says:

"President Cunningham appointed Messrs. George Allen, N. B. Broughton and Joseph E. Pogue a committee to visit the site shows and see that there was nothing objectionable. This committee did so, and they made no complaint to the secretary."

"Their furthermore appointed two or more 'private detectives'—the chosen men of the committee, one of whom was a nephew of one of the committeemen, Mr. Broughton, and another an employee of another member of the committee, Mr. Pogue.

"Learning this fact, the secretary supposed, and very naturally so, that the committee had taken full charge of the side shows, and if their trusted 'secret service' men did not report any improprieties going on, certainly the secretary could not be blamed. If they did not do their duty, how can the secretary be censured for any remissness on that score?"

"The only duties left for the secretary to perform were the collection of the rents, etc."

"There were at least two concerns admitted to the grounds which I persistently refused to admit," continued Mr. Nichols.

"These parties appealed from my decision to the committee on privileges, of which the part owner of The Recorder, Mr. Broughton, was one, and this committee, by a written order, directed the secretary to admit them."

"This written order is now in the hands of the secretary, and he hopes the committee will call for its publication."

We are glad to give Mr. Nichols space to explain his connection with the affair, and will accord anyone else interested in the matter the same privilege. We have no interest in the matter except this: The people wish to know why the solemn pledges made to them by the Executive Committee were broken, and who broke them. This is what we have set out to learn and "only this and nothing more" is our object.