

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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EDITORIAL.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Speaking of Senator Peffer's return to the Republican party, an exchange says: 'Had Peffer ever displayed a sincere earnest conviction of the justice of the cause of the masses against the classes, reformers might regret his desertion to the corrupt Republican fold. But as he has always been insincere and vacillating the cause is better off without him.'

Dear reader, the dull summer months are upon us, and if the date on your label is behind the date of this issue, we earnestly request you to send at least a part of the amount due as early as possible. We are sure all delinquents can at some time during the summer send at least half the amount due without inconvenience.

In the newspaper field of this State the latest arrival is the Herald, of Jacksonville. Webster's Weekly has been increased in size and otherwise improved and Mr. Edgar A. Poe becomes associate editor of the Lenior Topic. Poe of The Progressive Farmer welcomes Poe of the Topic into the brotherhood.

The farmers of North Carolina do not take enough interest in public matters affecting their welfare. We are reminded of this by the discussion of certain proposed changes in the management of our Agricultural and Mechanical College.

The anti-trust law enacted by the last legislature continues to be the object of much ridicule, and a source of disappointment to those who expected better things of the General Assembly of '99.

We fear that our Alliance brethren do not write to their organ as often as they should. Many County Alliances have meetings of which we never hear a word, and when no report is sent to The Progressive Farmer the brethren in other counties are kept in ignorance of the meeting.

Letters containing original orders having been lost, we have secured duplicate money orders as follows: \$1 issued to Jabez Hamrick, at Snelby; \$5 issued to J. J. Carpenter, at Cherryville; \$2 issued to A. J. Edmundson, at Snow Hill; \$1 issued to J. W. Tiedale, at Old Fort.

The trust strikes at the very foundation of democratic ideas, is again shown by an article in the Cosmopolitan from a defender of trusts. To the trust supporters popular government is essentially wrong and the Cosmopolitan's contributor therefore plainly says: 'The accumulation of vast capital in the hands of a few men is not a public evil.'

Referring to the recent discussion over free silver, between the Charlotte Observer (gold Standard) and the Charlotte news (silver) Mr. W. S. Pearson (Democrat) writing in his paper, the Morganton Herald asserts that the dominant Democratic forces in this State are with the Observer. He says: 'Cleveland was your true counterfeiter and to intimate his kinship with Jefferson is a violence to the vernacular; but we wholly differ with Brother Dowd in thinking the average North Carolina Democrat looks at it this way. On the other hand the dominant forces of the party in this State are distinctly with the Observer and even in Mecklenburg this observation must have occurred to many and to none more strikingly than to Brother Dowd.'

The Belmont-Sloane scandal and other developments showing the degradation and sensuality of the 'upper 400' of New York's wealthy society causes the Nashville Christian Advocate to say: 'It is a great mistake to suppose that only very poor people are likely to be very vulgar in their tastes and lives. As a matter of fact, the very rich often excel in this respect. Mere wealth has no refining power. When it is acquired by doubtful means, and hoarded or used only for selfish ends, it is an instrument of moral and social debasement. The riotous animalism that displays itself now and then in the so-called "upper classes" of the great cities is a reproach to our humanity. Grossness is none the less base and repulsive when it clothes itself in purple and fine linen and faces sumptuously every day. For ourselves we prefer the unwashed and half starved drab or drunkard to the well fed and well dressed sinners who live in flagrant disregard of God's law. As a menace to society and civilization the vulgar rich are more to be dreaded than the vulgar poor.'

Those people who yelled "socialism" at those members of the last legislature who wished to impose a tax upon the gross earnings of railroads, should read the following from the pen of Governor Roosevelt:

'There is evident injustice in the light taxation of corporations. I have not the slightest sympathy with the outcry against corporations as such, or against prosperous men of business. To drive out of a community the men of means and the men who take the lead in business enterprises would probably entail, as one of its first results, the starvation of a considerable portion of the remainder of the population.'

'But while I freely admit all this, it yet remains true that a corporation which derives its power from the State should pay to the State a tax per centage of its earnings as return for the privileges it enjoys. This should be especially true for the franchises bestowed upon gas companies, street railroads and the like.'

And what makes this utterance of greater weight, the New York Republican legislature has just passed the Ford franchise tax bill, embodying this principle. This bill is well called "the most important tax reform law ever enacted by an American legislative body." And we go marching on!

TEXAS ANTI-TRUST BILL.

The Texas anti-trust bill as passed: First.—Defines trusts and monopolies.

Second.—The definition thereof covers all pools, agreements, combinations, confederations or understandings to regulate or fix prices on any article or commodity or anything whatsoever, as well as all agreements to fix and maintain fire insurance.

Third.—Denounces the sale of any commodity at less than cost with intent of driving out competition.

Fourth.—Declares the sale of any article manufactured by a trust or monopoly as illegal and void and releases the purchaser from the payment thereof.

Fifth.—Denounces the Associated Press and all commercial associations which tend to maintain prices, and subjects them to penalties of the act.

Sixth.—Denounces the control of any commodity in quantity and price by a monopoly and subjects such to the penalties of the act.

Seventh.—Provides that fees allowed prosecuting attorneys for prosecutions under this act shall be in addition to the fees already allowed them under the regular fee bill passed by the Twenty fifth legislature.

Eighth.—Provides an affidavit which must be sworn to, declaring that none of the above facts exist in any corporation seeking to do business in Texas.

Ninth.—The bill becomes effective January 31, 1900.

The versatility of the composers of the lighter and more popular forms of songs and instrumental music is amply shown by the variety contained in the new music for the current month. There is the song of the lovelorn and

THE ELECTION LAW AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

These matters were discussed in our last issue by Mr. D. H. Gill, of Vance county. We cannot endorse all of Mr. Gill's attacks upon the Constitutional amendment, but we are free to say that his attack upon our new election law is fully justified by the facts. We have yet to hear of a single man of any party who has examined it and will say it is fair. On the other hand men of all parties admit that it gives all the power to one political machine. In conversation with the writer recently, a man prominently spoken of as the Democratic candidate for a high office, admitted that the new election law is one of the most unwarranted and unfair laws ever placed upon our statute books. He found, he said, that fear of the election law was at the bottom of much of the sentiment against the Constitutional amendment. In the next campaign honest men in all parties should have their legislative candidates pledge themselves to vote for a fairer and better election law—one that will recognize more than one party in the appointment of registrars and election officers. Make your candidate define his position—give you something definite as to his idea of a fair election law. Nearly all the members of the last legislature were pledged to enact a "fair and just" election law, but they failed to define their ideas of justice and fairness and the result the world knows.

We think Mr. Gill errs, however, when he says that any considerable number of boys in this State have not sufficient educational advantages to enable them to learn to read and write the Constitution before 1908, or that any considerable number have not sufficient time to seize these opportunities. Great economic, social and political problems are to be solved by the young men of to day and the boys who become men within the next score of years. These young men should be prepared to vote and reason intelligently when these great problems present themselves for solution. The oppressors of the plain people will be educated—no doubt about that. The poor must be educated in order that they may not be duped into voting against their own interests.

The time was when to vote intelligently required no education. Then the political issues were comparatively simple. The most ignorant could decide whether he wanted or did not want a protective tariff. But such issues have sunk into insignificance. Nowadays the voter is called upon to solve greater questions and more intricate problems. To vote intelligently he must understand the causes and effects of trusts and monopolies; the advantages and disadvantages of free silver, and must know something of many other great questions of which the illiterate man cannot get a clear idea. Ignorance and prejudice are the two great foes of political purity—we might say they are one and inseparable, for ignorance inspires prejudice and prejudice fosters ignorance by preventing a desire for real enlightenment.

Education alone can conquer these two enemies of all real political progress. The Constitutional amendment may have some objectionable features, but we do not think that it requires an educational qualification for all voters who become of age after 1908 is an argument against it.

All must confess that the average voter does not value the privileges of citizenship high enough. This should be a matter of concern to every citizen for the voter who for money, or through ignorance or prejudice, helps elect corrupt or incompetent officers, not only suffers the evils of bad government himself, but also forces the officers of his choosing upon the minor ity. Let us impress upon the voters the power of the ballot and the responsibility resting upon those who use it; and let voters impress upon politicians the sanctity of the ballot and the righteous demand for fair and just election laws.

PROMISES, LIKE PIE-CRUSTS.

In the last National Republican platform was the following plank:

'The civil service law was placed on the statute book by the Republican party, which has always sustained it, and we renew our repeated declarations that it shall be thoroughly and honestly enforced and extended wherever practicable.'

In his Inaugural address, referring to this party pledge, President McKinley said:

'Reform in the civil service must go on. But the changes should be real and genuine, not perfunctory or prompted by zeal in behalf of any party because it happens to be in power.'

'As a member of Congress I voted and spoke in favor of the present law, and I shall attempt its enforcement in the spirit in which it was enacted. The purpose in view was to secure

the most efficient service of the best men who would accept office under the government, retaining faithful and devoted public servants in office, but shielding none under the authority of any rule or custom who are inefficient, incompetent or unworthy.'

The best interests of the country demand this, and the people heartily approve the law wherever and whenever it has been thus administered.'

WASHINGTON, May 29.—President McKinley to day issued an order removing absolutely from the operations of the civil service law about 5,000 of the most important of places among the 65,000 in the classified lists.

THE PROGRAM.

At last the gold standard leaders have clearly and publicly outlined their plan for "currency reform." The committee appointed by the Republican members of the last Congress for this purpose has made its report and its programme is summarized as follows:

- 1. The redemption of all obligations of the government in gold on demand. 2. Greenbacks, when once redeemed for gold, to be reissued only for gold. 3. Permitting National banks to issue notes to the par value of their government bonds deposited in the Treasury, instead of 90 per cent., as at present. 4. Permitting the minimum capital of National banks to be \$25,000, instead of \$50,000 as at present.

Such is the plan proposed by the National bankers and their allies. What are you going to do about it?

THE CRY OF THE CHILDREN.

Another important matter which received some attention at the recent commencement of the Normal and Industrial College was that of child labor. In an essay, entitled, "The Cry of the Children," Miss Susie B. Saunders, of Pitt county, very properly rebuked the voters of North Carolina for their failure to interfere with this form of slavery. Noticing this essay, Judge Clark said:

'We are building up a great manufacturing interest in North Carolina. We welcome the new era. We are glad to hear the busy hum of the factories upon a hundred hill sides. They are giving employment to thousands of our people who would otherwise be out of employment and are furnishing markets for the products of our farmers. But like my young lady friends, I have been pained in walking amid the long lines of whirling machinery to see the pale faces of children, 12, 10, 8 years of age and even less, chained to their toil for 12 hours a day, with their wistful eyes looking out through the narrow casements towards the sunlight which shines not for them, and stamped upon their poor, pitiful countenances I have seen the yearning, which God has placed there, for the fresh air, the green grass and the running brooks; and I have wondered if the mothers and sisters of this land possessed the right of suffrage, whether they also would cast their ballots without pity or would they not say to those who sought their support for seats in the legislature: "Sirs, ye shall see to it that they let these little prisoners go free. Ye shall see to it that some brief breathing space shall be set between the cradle and their assumption of the weary work of life; that there may abide with them for a few fleeting years the rosy radiance of that lost Eden which lingers only in the hearts of little children."

Judge Clark is right. Nothing is plainer than that North Carolina should follow the example of our great manufacturing States and prohibit the employment of children under a certain age in our factories. Not from a humanitarian standpoint alone is this form of child slavery to be condemned. The fact that these children, taken from play and from school at an age when they should be learning something of the great world about them, are to become, without further training or instruction, our fellow-citizens with all the duties and privileges of citizenship—this fact, we say, makes this a matter of concern to the whole people? Shall the cry of the children go longer unheeded?

A BRAVE ACT.

Talk about the days of chivalry when men ventured their life for the beautiful lady of their love—the Lancelots and Arthurs are not more worthy to be embalmed in song and story than the old Georgia Confederate who put his life in jeopardy in the attempt to save the life of an humble negro who he declared was innocent of the crime for which he perished. When a messenger from the mob advised Maj. Flowers to leave the town for his own good, the old gentleman made this reply that shows a heart as brave as that which beat in the bravest knight of King Arthur's court. "Tell them that the muscles

THE THINKERS.

A DANGEROUS POLICY.

Having disfranchised most of the negroes of the state because of their inability to read and write, it is now proposed to so change the school law of Mississippi that the negro's opportunities for getting an elementary education will be made much less than they have been. This is not good policy. The negro must be educated. The prosperity of both races depends upon. With the ballot or without it, a race condemned to perpetual ignorance cannot fail to be a menace to any other race with which it lives. With half its population ignorant, and consequently indolent and vicious, no state can hope to reach the full measure of prosperity. Besides this, it is far from democratic to deprive a part of the population of the rights of citizenship because of their ignorance and then take a way from them the possibility of enlightenment.

There seems to be a growing sentiment in North Carolina in favor of dividing the school fund to the races according to the amount of taxes paid by each. But such an arrangement would, we believe, be both unjust and unwise. The education of the negro is an essential part of the "white man's burden" in the South, and it must be borne at the peril of a greater. "The education of all at the expense of all for the good of all," is the only safe motto.

Hon. H. L. Whiffled, state Superintendent of Public Instruction of Mississippi writes us he does not favor the proposed change.—N. C. Journal of Education.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Every farmer in the land feels, or ought to feel, a deep and abiding interest in the public schools, for they are the school of "last resort" to the great majority of the future farmers. However important high schools and colleges may be, the public schools will long remain the finishing school for many farmers' children. The time has come when the elementary principles of science that underlie the successful practice of agriculture and horticulture, or "nature studies," should be taught in all our public schools, in order to cultivate a love for rural life and rural affairs among our children and thereby train them for the higher agricultural education in our agricultural colleges.—Prof. T. C. Atkeson.

The sudden and entirely unexpected death of Russell P. Flower last Friday night at Eastport, L. I., created a great stir in financial circles, and many who had been rich, as they counted it, became poor within a few short hours, and others are said to have been made rich as quickly. Mr. Flower was directing the "bull" campaign in Wall street. Behind him were many of the leading financiers of the street, and the week had been peculiarly exciting to Mr. Flower. The evening papers of last Friday were filled with accounts of his remarkable career. He had paid off \$5,000,000 in obligations during the few preceding days, they said, and was in better position than ever to "hold up" the securities with which his name was connected. "When the announcement of his sickness was received," said the voracious chronicler of events, "the bears began to pound Flower stock, and came nearly starting a panic"—a brotherly sense of obligation expressed in the beautiful way to which Wall street gentlemen are accustomed. Mr. Flower died that night and the next morning the "pounding" began. Not only did the stocks with which Mr. Flower had been particularly identified suffer, but others as well, and events in Wall street were in the highest degree exciting. Only the nerve and coolness of the Flower faction saved the day, but as it was, it proved a "black saturday" for many of the gamblers. The entire incident serves only to illustrate the inherent cruelty of this sort of commercialism. Manhood, brotherhood, all the finer feelings, those amenities which make life worth the living, are swallowed up in a selfishness which knows no limits. Is the game worth the candle?—Farmer Voice.

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in my legs are not trained to running tell them that I have stood the fire and heard the whistle of the minnie from a thousand Yankee rifles, and I am not frightened by this crowd." "The chivalrous men of my race who count the protection of their women above love of life, I call you to study the courage and chivalry of the "Old Rebel" who could go to a bloody grave if need be upholding the Anglo-Saxon love of obedience to law. The hero of the Georgia atrocity and chivalrous figure who will live in history, is not the leader of the mob who led to others infraction of the law, but the fighting Confederate who had the wisdom and courage to tell his infuriated neighbors that the best protection to Southern womanhood is to be found in lawful hanging, and not in the uncertain execution of a mob, even when that mob is animated by the natural indignation that every true man feels at the crime that transcends all crimes.—Julian S. Carr.

ROBBERS—ANCIENT AND MODERN.

Today's progress is based on tragedy, like religion based on tragedy of the crucifixion. In times gone by armies oppressed the people. Then we had Rannymedes and barons—Furze was then used. Now we have indirect, evasive oppression. To-night now conquers. The trust system is an example of indirect oppression. They cloak themselves under the theory of a combination, right of contract. They are all right in theory; in practice false. A monarchy in theory is right, if the theory includes a perfect man at the head of the government. But men are not yet perfect, therefore a monarchy means oppression. So it is with the trusts.—W. W. Kitchin.

FAILURE OF THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM.

Writing of Prof. Trent's lecture on "Cosmopolitanism and Parties" at Wake Forest Commencement, the Biblical Recorder says:

The boss system, the failure of municipal government, the corruption of Legislatures and of Congress, the degeneracy of the Senate, the failure to cope with the Trust problem, the unsettled race question, the blunders of the war, these and many more indications of folly and weakness were called to bear witness of our political follies. His analysis of the situation consisted of this: "To this situation he attributed the fact of the absence of men of heroic stature from the arena of American public life. The underlying cause of this situation, he undertook to maintain, is the two party system in our country. A man cannot vote for principles as he holds them. He can choose only the lesser of evils. Leaders are selected by bosses or upon the making of a successful speech. Our fundamentals are good, our machinery is not bad; but the system is at fault—that is the instrumentality for the transmission of power—the two party system—is the fault. We have failed to adapt our political machinery to the changed world in which we are living. The party system is waxing old; it becomes decrepit. There is no hope of reform. What is the remedy? The speaker vouchsafed no sure one. But he commended what he called the "Group system of Germany and France," the increase of independence, the increase of factions, the abolition of absolute party lines, the getting away from the idea that there can be only two parties. The moral of the address is that the state of affairs demands serious attention from the young man, the student; and the larger lesson is that all public action should be projected from a world wide sympathy.

The following center shot by Judge Powell, of Mississippi, hit the bull's eye in the middle. Hear him: "The reason of our poverty is not hard to find. Take our average citizen. He gets up in the morning and pulls on a pair of socks from Lynn, Mass.; puts on a pair of shoes from Boston; a suit of clothes from Philadelphia; goes in to breakfast, draws up a chair made in Chicago, and eats from a table which came from Cincinnati; sweetens his coffee from Rio with sugar from Louisiana; takes a slice of ham cured in St. Louis and butters a biscuit of Minnesota flour with oleomargarine which came from the L. I. rd knows where; he eats South Carolina or Louisiana rice, and even the very grits upon his mill; he goes to his stable and puts a set of harness on a mule from Kentucky; hitches it to a wagon from Illinois, and drives over to his neighbor's and complains of hard times. O course times are hard when everything people eat, drink, wear and drive come from somewhere else, and only the atmosphere which he breathes is a home institution."

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