

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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Mrs. L. L. Polk, Proprietor
 CLARENCE H. POE, Editor
 BENJAMIN IRBY, Corresponding
 FRANK E. EMERY, Editors
 J. W. DENMARK, Business Manager.

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"THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARALLEL TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY," is the motto of The Progressive Farmer, and upon this platform it shall rise or fall. Serving no master, ruled by no faction, circumscribed by no selfish or narrow policy, its aim will be to foster and promote the best interests of the whole people of the State. It will be true to the instincts, traditions and history of the Anglo-Saxon race. On all matters relating specially to the great interests it represents, it will speak with no uncertain voice, but will fearlessly the right defend and impartially the wrong condemn. From Col. Polk's Salutatory, Feb. 10, 1886.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is the Official Organ of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance.

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Editorial.

ATTENTION, ALLIANCE!

Secretary Parker requests us to repeat and urge upon Presidents of county Alliances the importance of having a call meeting of each county organization that failed to meet in July. It is important that every County Alliance having one or more live Subs. be represented at the State meeting. Where for any reason a county meeting was not held at the regular time, let the president at once call a meeting to be held before State meeting, say Thursday, August 9th, or Saturday, August 11th. This is a matter that admits of no delay; let the call be made at once.

To make these county meetings a success, every Sub. must be represented. If your Sub. has not met in some weeks, have a call meeting at once, let every member be present, pay his dues, and send a good man as delegate to county meeting.

The campaign is over. Get your Subs. together; get county organizations in good shape, and all together for a great State meeting at Hillsboro, August 14th, and the great work of re-organization that is to follow!

The order is, that we go forward!

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The country's corn crop this year will be immense.

The Goebel murder trial is in progress. Thus far there have been no important developments.

It is asserted that Towne will be withdrawn from the Populist ticket. Bryan, if elected, will give him a cabinet position.

Bryan's notification speech will be devoted entirely to imperialism. Currency and trusts will have attention in his letter of acceptance.

The Legislature met here last Tuesday, only a few members attending, and no business was done. They adjourned to meet again Monday, 30th, but as we go to press only a few members have arrived and it is certain that no business will be transacted.

An advertising agency sends us an article in defense of the trusts prepared by the Rt. Rev. Samuel P. Jones. We will gratify the Rev. Mr. Jones' morbid desire for publicity only so long as it takes us to say that it is not our intention to publish any of his stuff.

The news from China is very, very unsatisfactory and stale. The daily newspapers use several columns each day to say that they know nothing about the situation and to tell why they know nothing. The outlook is very gloomy and an avalanche of horrible news is not unexpected. The alleged message from Conger given in our last issue is not considered reliable.

The election occurs Thursday. Go to the polls and vote your conscience and your convictions, allowing no man to swerve you from the course you believe to be right by threats or by flattery. Do all you can to preserve peace and order and to keep the "hot heads" in check. Disturbances on election days should not be tolerated in a civilized State.

Charity and Children, the paper which, in our opinion, has made more improvement during the past two years than any other one of our North Carolina exchanges, has just entered its fourteenth volume. It is an excellent paper. Some other religious editors will do well to study this paragraph from its last issue: "In the capacity of a citizen we have strong political convictions, and we do not hesitate to say what we believe, but as the editor of the Orphanage organ we have no politics and know no party."

The Progressive Farmer is sold upon its merits. We do not attempt to attract silly non-subscribers by guesses at the population of the United States, or other catch-penny schemes. If you subscribe for The Progressive Farmer you pay your money and get a paper worth it; then if you care to risk any hard and honestly won dollars in a scheme that has been so carefully planned by the promoters that it is next to impossible for them to lose anything, you are at liberty to do so.

The July or "Apple" Bulletin of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture has made its appearance. It is beautifully illustrated and is as useful as it is ornamental. Most of the work on this bulletin, we understand, was done by the efficient Secretary, Mr. T. K. Bruner. One of the most valuable features of the publication is Mr. George E. Boggs' paper on apple culture, to which we have already referred. If you have not yet taken our advice and had your name entered on the regular Bulletin list, send for a copy of the July number.

Recent outbreaks of small boy thieves in Raleigh have made many supporters of the reformatory idea. The best people of the State have been working for years for the establishment of such an institution for young criminals. But while Legislatures have appropriated many thousand dollars for less worthy objects, the reformatory is not yet in sight. And as legislative candidates this year have devoted themselves almost entirely to discussion of the amendment—a matter with which the Legislature will have nothing to do—it is not likely that many of them are pledged to any important reform.

Prominent members of the Alliance in each political party have written us this year on the Constitutional amendment and other political issues, but they have done so as individuals, making no attempt to drag the Order into the controversy. No contributor has pronounced its treason to the Alliance to hold opinions not in accord with his own, but "granting honesty of purpose and good intention to others," the issues have been discussed in a plain, straight forward manner. If there is any virtue that has more than its share of attention in the Alliance Declaration of Purposes, it is charity; and every member is urged to recognize the right of all men to think for themselves. "In things essential, unity; in all things, charity."

THE CAMPAIGN AND OUR POLICY.

Before our next issue the campaign will be over. "Serving no master, ruled by no faction, circumscribed by no selfish or narrow policy," The Progressive Farmer has preserved a non-partisan attitude, and has spoken only in the interest of truth, tolerance, peace, and moderation. We are under obligations to no party or party boss, and whether Democrats or Fusionists win, you may expect from us a fearless and impartial account of the manner in which they serve the public and conduct themselves regarding their platform pledges and all matters in which the people are interested. We know that we could have received from two to four times as much money during the past six months by adopting a partisan course as we have by the independent policy we have pursued, but we cannot shut our eyes to the truth wherever found nor condone a falsehood because upheld by some special set of men. We are still here—an unmuzzled paper for the masses, and our circulation is considerably larger than at the beginning of the campaign.

SHALL WE GO FORWARD!

Two weeks from the date of this issue of The Progressive Farmer the fourteenth annual session of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance will begin. We hope that every delegate and alternate and many other wide-awake brethren will be on hand. A State Alliance meeting is worth seeing, whether or not you are a delegate. If every Sub. could have one representative at the State meeting to get in touch with the faith, the enthusiasm, the determination there exhibited, the influence for good could hardly be over-estimated.

The meeting of this year is one of unusual importance. It is to determine whether or not the order shall go forward. There is no doubt that the farmers of North Carolina realize, more keenly, perhaps, than ever before, the need of thorough organization. The trusts and combines that have taken advantage of the farmer's unorganized condition to plunder him—the grinding oppression of the tobacco trust, the revival of the jute bagging trust, and the organization of trusts in nearly every industry—render the organization of the farmer a matter of absolute necessity. Those hitherto unwilling to acknowledge this have at last been forced to a realization of the self-evident fact.

There are many other facts that have rendered the organization of the farmers a matter of more vital importance ever before. The rapid development of manufacturing enterprises in North Carolina has made profitable branches of agriculture hitherto undeveloped; a more progressive and profitable system of farming must be adopted. For education in all matters, for a better social life among our people, for the general uplifting of agriculture and agricultural interests the Alliance is needed.

The charge of partisanship so often brought against the Order for years prevented reorganization, but this charge was completely knocked out at the last State meeting and with proper work on the part of the State Alliance and its officers there seems to be nothing to prevent a general Alliance revival. While, on account of the campaign, there has been little progress made as to an increase of membership this year, there has been perhaps less scattering than usual during a campaign, while the change of sentiment among outsiders from that of indifference or opposition to the Alliance to that of avowed friendliness has been quite marked and general.

Shall the Alliance seize the opportunity presented and by wise and judicious action and earnest work grow again to the strength it should have? Let the delegates to the State Alliance take the problem now and study it. So far as we have heard from them, they are good men—men anxious to build up the Order upon the principles of the Declaration of Purposes, who will go to Hillsboro without "prejudice, unhealthy rivalry, or selfish ambition" and work for this great purpose. The opportunity is ours. Let us "lay aside every weight and run with patience the race that is set before us." No time must be lost. As Bro. Parker writes us:

"The more I think about it, the more I see the need of vigorous work immediately after the State meeting. If we are to be tenants for the trusts, the sooner we realize it and adapt ourselves to the situation, the sooner we will get used to it and stop lamenting."

"There is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood leads on to fortune; omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries. On such a sea are we now afloat; and we must take the current when it serves, or lose our ventures." Let us act wisely.

It is evident that the great fight in the election Thursday will be over the Legislature. Each party is willing to sacrifice everything else, if necessary, to capture it.

If the reader has a limited amount of time wherein to keep in thorough touch with each month's doings in world happenings, then Cram's Magazine should be read. A mere glance over the richly laden table of contents for July proves that Cram's is a magazine that cannot be safely ignored by either the searcher after historic truth, or the mere reader for intense entertainment. Typographically, too, this month's issue shows wonderful improvement.

HAYING AGAIN.

Haying is one of the neatest and nicest operations on the farm. When good weather prevails there is nothing to do but cut, cure, and store the hay. It is a simple operation.

But there is more in it than seems, when the best quality of hay is to be made. Some one must determine when the grass is ready to be cut for the best and the most hay; other work must be done, or subordinated to the hay making, and the curing must reach a certain stage in order that the hay may keep well and come out of mow, or stack, bright and with that delightful new hay smell which perfumers try to duplicate. It must not be over cured either, for then the leaves are broken and lost and the hay is reduced in amount and quality.

But it is when other work is pressing and rains, or showery weather interferes, that the farmer's capacity is taxed and he often has to change plans and do quite different work during a part of the day than he lays out and starts on in the morning. This latter was the condition following what we wrote about haying last month. There had been rain after rain and hoeing crops was delayed and early grasses were cut over ripe and sometimes wet before the hay could be housed. The rains, however, were very beneficial to later grasses, and when other work was finally caught up and late timothy was ready to be made into hay the weather became settled into bright sunny days that rejoiced the hearts of hay makers and those who had grain curing.

For several years we have wished to see hay making done on a scale to use the side delivery rakes and hay loaders as shown in N. C. Exp. Station Bulletin, "Forage Grasses and Hay Making," No. 125. Haying with these implements is very fine, when they all work well. Sometimes just when one thinks things are moving along perfectly a break occurs and the dream that things are perfect is rudely broken.

Here on Biltmore Dairy Farm this year the nearest to perfectly smooth working of these machines that we have ever seen has been realized but even here there is one lack yet—the hay has to be put up into the shed mow by hand. The six-foot cutting mowers go over the ground pretty fast, but not so fast that the side delivery rakes cannot keep pace with them. With these in good weather tedders are seldom needed and scarcely ever would be used with the right kind of a mower. The loader takes the windrow up on the wagon as fast as the horses walk, and two men are required to keep it placed on the wagon so as to form a well shaped load. By this method of loading the hay is not easily pulled apart to be pitched off. The different makes of power forks comes in here to advantage. Slings cannot be used well because of disturbing the loading. We suggest slings to take off a whole load at one lift. This will make all the operations automatic and only the scatterings will need handling.

But with the implements in hand and no slings or forks more powerful than the four tined one* man forks, thirty to forty loads per day of nice timothy hay was successfully stored. Farmer Bradley can tell some manufacturers of implements in use how and where certain little additions can be put in order to make the machines perfect automatons under rather harder conditions than they seem to have been fitted for when sent out. Plans are now laid to make the work go even smoother and better next year than they have this, and we turn to cleaning the late corn, trimming up weeds, and threshing out the grain as soon as the latest can be cut stored and cured in readiness so the round of the farms with threshing machinery may not be interrupted. F. E. E.

"Good order prevails over all the islands, says Governor-General Wood of Cuba, "and there is not a sign of disturbance or trouble. The island is self-supporting, and at the close of the fiscal year there was an available balance of \$2,500,000. Thirty-one hundred schools have been opened, thirty-five hundred teachers are employed, and 30,000 pupils attended. Seven courts having trials by juries have been established in the larger towns. This is Cuba's first experience with trial by jury and the jurors are chosen from the qualified electors of the island."

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REMOVING CORN TASSELS.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

I am told that it pays to pull out about one-fourth of the tassels in a corn field. Please tell me whether or not there is any truth in the theory. A. M. D.

Duplin Co., N. C.
 (Answered by Corresponding Editor Irby.)

It does not pay to cut out these tassels indiscriminately. But the tassel on a stalk with one ear, or none at all, should be cut out, as the tassel is the male part of the flower. Thus the pollen or yellow powder from the inferior male will have as much influence as from the good stalks if they are not cut out. The principle is the same as removing inferior boars from the drove of hogs, or the inferior males of any kind from the herd.

The silk is the female part of the flower. Every strain of silk must have some of the pollen to fall on it to fertilize the grain, so an abundance of pollen is very necessary. The greater the amount, the more perfectly will the grain be fertilized. It would not be wise to cut tassels just for the sake of thinning them out, but to eliminate the inferior ones is the thing to do.

The Thinkers.

TWO VIEWS OF THE PHILIPPINE PROBLEM.

Whether one be in favor of or against expansion he must feel that he owes Henry Cabot Lodge a distinct debt of gratitude for the plainness of speech employed in his address before the Republican national convention last week in referring to his party's designs in the Philippines. He made no other pretense than that he was an imperialist, that is, that he believed in the holding of subject peoples without permitting them to enjoy the benefits and privileges afforded by the constitution, and at once put the whole question of the future policy we should follow before the people in such a frank light that it may be considered upon its merits. He declared plainly we were not in the Philippines for philanthropy, but for business. He said: "We do not mean that the Philippines shall come within our tariff system or become part of our body politic. We do mean that they shall, under our teaching, learn to govern themselves and remain under our flag with the largest possible measure of home rule. We make no hypocritical pretense of being interested in the Philippines solely on account of others. While we regard the welfare of those people as a sacred trust, we regard the welfare of the American people first. We see our duty to ourselves as well as to others. We believe in trade expansion. By every legitimate means within the province of government and legislation we mean to stimulate the expansion of our trade and to open new markets. Greatest of all markets is China. Our trade there is growing by leaps and bounds. Manila, the prize of war, gives us inestimable advantages in developing that trade."

It is something of a coincidence that about the very time Mr. Lodge was delivering his address at Philadelphia, a letter written by William Jennings Bryan to a Knoxville, Tenn., paper, setting forth his views as to the rights of the Filipinos, was published. In that letter Mr. Bryan said: "I believe that the rights of the Filipinos and the rights of the Cubans are identical. The recognition of the rights of the Cubans by resolution did not create those rights. They existed before. If the Filipinos have a right to their independence, the fact that they fought for it does not justify us in carrying on a war of conquest. It is no more humiliating for a nation to recognize the rights of an opponent than for an individual to do so. We would have had the same trouble in Cuba if we had treated the Cubans the same as we have the Filipinos. We would have had no trouble in the Philippine islands if we had treated the Filipinos as we have treated the Cubans. If we are going to give the Filipinos their independence we ought to say so at once, and thus avoid further bloodshed. How can we justify the sacrifice of American soldiers and the killing of Filipinos to show that we can whip them? The Bacon resolution received the support of nearly every Democratic Senator, and was adopted by a Democratic caucus in the house. This resolution promised independence. If it had been accepted and acted upon when it was first introduced there would have been no Filipino war. If it had been adopted at the time the vote was taken it would have stopped the war."

GOOD WORK OF ROWAN COUNTY FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

The July meeting of the Rowan County Farmers' Alliance has come and gone, but leaves upon record in the minds of some of the best citizens of Rowan county the memory of another social gathering, fraternal greeting and a meeting of business capacity.

This was July meeting, and the time for the election of officers which resulted in a general change, placing R. L. Brown in the chair and J. C. Bernhardt, of Salisbury, Secretary. This change was made, not because of any incompetency or neglect of duty, but the Alliance is still true to its principles and still opposes perpetual office holding by the same man. The Alliance influence has been felt, and some of the great political bodies of the present day have learned some valuable lessons from it. Yet they say the Alliance is composed of a set of dunces, simpletons, fools, dotes, ignoramuses, wiseacres, blockheads, numskulls, dullards, dunderpates, clodpols, chuckle-heads, jolt-heads, nincompoops, sap-heads, and as many other bad names as they can think of, yet they have bowed to the teaching of these dunces, and must confess that they have learned something from them.

Besides the regular order of business, the subject of independent thinking was brought up. Here again the Alliance has food for all good citizens. He who has no thought of his own is servant and slave to him who thinks for him, and is liable to be bought and sold, or cheated and robbed by his master. Such today is the condition of many of our honest citizens; their political bosses dictate and these good farmers do not think for themselves, but bow in humble submission, while their superiors suck the life-blood out of a good living.

Alliancemen are generally independent thinkers and the Alliance has in store many good plans by which the farmer could reduce his amount of labor, increase his amount of income, live more comfortably and prosperously. These are honest facts, and are within the reach of all the tillers of the soil. But these plans cannot be given out or brought into effect without combined effort or organization. Let it be stated again, that these advantages are in store for you if you will come through the proper channel to get them.

Another subject for consideration was the sub-store plan, i. e., let every Sub. adopt some plan by which it can receive and deliver to its members such articles as are most needed in the family. This might be done by making each Sub. a stock company; each one put in so much stock, and sell to outsiders as cheaply as they can get such goods anywhere else and to members of the Alliance for less. Something like this is practicable. It is human to count gains and losses; this would bring a gain to the stockholders, no loss to outsiders and an inducement to be a member of the Alliance. A central county store might be gotten up on a similar plan to supply these stores.

A beneficiary fund was also suggested. Something like this: let each Sub. have a beneficiary treasury, then let each member, or the boys or the girls, take a nickel or more and trade with it. This would be winning workers for the Alliance and instilling in the minds of the children a talent for business. When a sufficient gain is attained, use it for whatever object desired; say to buy Alliance literature, to teach a music school, or to keep it as a reserve fund, belonging to each member of the Sub.; this would hold the members together and a chance for others to come in.

The Alliance monument was not at all forgotten, or is in no way fell through. Instead of a plat of land two hundred feet each way, an acre is desired, which will make the place much more commodious and desirable.

Our next convention is to be with Alpha, where we expect another pleasant and profitable meeting.

And, by the way, I had almost forgotten to say anything about the sumptuous—yes, abundant, and luscious dinner. The people of Yost's certainly have something to eat—something good and plenty of it; all, too, of the farmer's own production, and the ladies knew how to prepare it. Here again, we see the farmer's power; he has the rations, and rations have a power to bring any man to subserviency.

R. L. BROWN, Cor. Sec'y.