

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

Published Weekly at Raleigh, N. C.

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SUBSCRIPTION

Single Subscription One Year... \$1.00 Six Months... .50 Three Months... .25

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.

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

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We invite correspondence, news items, suggestions and criticisms on the subjects of agriculture, poultry raising, stock breeding, dairying, horticulture and gardening; woman's work, literature, or any subject of interest to our lady readers, young people, or the family generally.

Before the end of this year North Carolina should have at least 150 rural free delivery routes instead of 11 as at present; and 500 rural school libraries instead of 104 as at present.

LOCAL INTEREST IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Not only must the citizens of North Carolina, as a mass, support the cause of popular education, but the people of each neighborhood, as a distinct body of citizens, must feel an independent, unconnected interest in their own public schools, and stand ready to remedy any short comings on the part of the State.

And if the State has failed to provide for maintaining the public schools a sufficient length of time, let the patrons supply the deficiency by maintaining a subscription school.

Quite a lengthy introduction is this we have written, but these thoughts were suggested by the following paragraph from the Ashboro Courier, and we give it in full:

"It is a mistake to depend entirely upon the State for full support of the public schools. There must be local help. The thing needed most is local taxation to supplement the public school funds.

"WIDE-OPEN" FAIRS.

The position of The Progressive Farmer upon the "wide-open" fair is well known. More than once have we felt it our duty to protest against the resultant evils in North Carolina State Fairs—evils, however, by no means confined to our commonwealth.

"The Civic Committee of Boston has sent a series of questions to the Secretaries of all the State Boards of Agriculture, asking whether in their opinion the purely legitimate agricultural fair or the 'wide-open' fair pays better in the long run financially, socially and educationally.

"Without exception these four officials say that the purely legitimate agricultural fair pays better financially in the long run; that the 'wide-open' is not a financial success, that it is offensive to the better class of people on whom the fair must rely for continued support, and is demoralizing to the surrounding community.

"As to whether 'circus' features to absorb time, strength and interest of patrons to any disadvantage, the exhibition of farm, home, school and factory products, the majority believe that they do, and, therefore, should not be encouraged. One-half of the writers lean to the view that entertainments, foreign to the real features of the fair, should be done away with as fast as the people can be educated to appreciate the fair for its own sake."

READING ROOMS FOR MILL EMPLOYEES.

We note with much pleasure the progress of a movement to establish first class reading rooms for mill operatives residing in and near Charlotte. The Progressive Farmer does not reach a large number of mill owners or mill operatives, but as we are interested in all educational progress, and especially that progress which comes in touch with classes heretofore neglected, we wish to commend to others the good example that is being set in old Mecklenburg.

"It is now proposed to establish public reading rooms at a number of the mill settlements about this city. The plan as now outlined is about as follows: Rooms will be secured at each mill where a reading room is to be established, and this will be placed in charge of competent persons living in the neighborhood, who will act as librarians during the hours when the room is open.

"The plan so far has secured the hearty approval of all to whom it has been mentioned. The first reading room will be opened next Monday at the Louise Mills, where an excellent location and room have been donated by the company, who have also agreed to provide the necessary furnishings for the room. The other reading rooms are now being projected, and will likely be opened within the course of a week, and it is proposed to have others in operation at an early date.

"This plan will place within reach of the factory employees all of the best reading matter obtainable, including the daily newspapers, the best weeklies, and also a large number of literary magazines, and scientific and industrial publications. The plan will be pushed to its utmost extent by those who have the matter in charge.

STRIKES.

The great strike of steel workers now on gives added interest to all literature regarding the strike problem. One of the best short articles on the subject that we have seen appeared in the Christian Sun several months ago.

"The strike is a species of war and war grows out of real or presumed injustice. The employee of to-day strikes, not because his wages are less or his hours of service longer than formerly, for they are not. But the proceeds from labor and industry are known more about than formerly. To-day the laborer knows something about the income to his employer of his labor.

In our reading we have within the last few months found three paragraphs, one each from three well-known authors, any one of which may well serve as "a guide post on the foot-path to peace," as Dr. Van Dyke puts it.

THREE GEMS.

"To be honest, to be kind, to earn a little and to spend a little less; to make upon the whole a family happier by his presence; to renounce where that shall be necessary, and not to embittered; to keep a few friends, but these without capitulation; above all, on the same grim conditions, to keep friends with himself—here is a task for all that a man has of fortitude and delicacy."

The second was written by William Henry Channing:

"To live content with small means; to seek elegance rather than luxury, and refinement rather than fashion; to be worthy, not respectable, and wealthy, not rich; to listen to stars and birds, babes and sages with open hearts; to study hard; to think quietly, act frankly, talk gently, await occasions, hurry never; in a word, to let the spiritual, unbidden and unconscious, grow up through the common—this is my symphony."

The third and last embodies the whole-ome philosophy of one of the best of living American authors, Dr. Henry Van Dyke:

"To be glad of life, because it gives you the chance to love and to work and to play and to look up at the stars; to be satisfied with your possessions, but not contented with yourself until you have made the best of them; to despise nothing in the world except falsehood and meanness, and to fear nothing except cowardice; to be governed by your admirations rather than by your disgusts; to covet nothing that is your neighbor's except his kindness of heart and gentleness of manner; to think seldom of your enemies and often of your friends, and every day of Christ; and to spend as much time as you can, with body and spirit in God's out-of-doors—these are little guide posts on the footpath to peace."

BOOK NOTICE.

THE OLD PLANTATION By James Battle Avirett. Published by F. Tennyson Neely Co., New York.

The author of this book, it is perhaps unnecessary to say, is a North Carolinian, and all the scenes are laid in our State. The splendid civilization of the ante-bellum South as typified by the life on "the old plantation" is what the author seeks to portray. Entirely too little has been written about this period—so very different from the present as to seem much further removed from us than it really is.

When the proposition for the establishment of a reformatory for youthful criminals was under discussion in the last General Assembly, it was quite generally agreed that no better building and no better location for the purpose could be found than the Alliance headquarters near Hillsboro.

A new feature in Alliance work, long practiced with good results in the Grange, will be inaugurated as a result of the passage of this: "WHEREAS, The problem of simply re-organizing Sub-Alliances is overshadowed by the problem of interesting the members in the work after they have been induced to join.

MEETING OF THE STATE FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

The North Carolina State Farmers' Alliance held its fifteenth annual session in Hillsboro last week, beginning Tuesday morning and adjourning Wednesday night. The number attending was about the same as last year. The utmost harmony and earnestness prevailed, and the meeting was pleasant, profitable, successful.

The resolutions passed indicate the nature of the work done. The chief topic of discussion, we believe, was the fertilizer question, regarding which three resolutions were passed. The first caused considerable discussion, but was finally adopted as follows:

"WHEREAS, The fertilizer trust is assuming proportions that are becoming alarming to the farming interests of the State by a prospective refusal to allow farmers to purchase raw material for the manufacture of home-made fertilizers—that is, kainit and acid phosphate. Therefore

The following resolution in regard to home mixing was then adopted: "Resolved, That the State Alliance earnestly urge that the county business agents solicit orders for such chemicals as may be profitably used in the mixing of home-made fertilizers, and that these orders be forwarded to the State Business Agent for the purchase and shipment of those chemicals to the counties.

"2. That the State Business Agent be requested to prepare and furnish formulas for the use of the farmers in mixing their chemicals at home."

The cotton seed problem also occupied a prominent position, owing to the trust of cotton oil mills. The upshot of this discussion is seen in the following: "Resolved, That the members of State Alliance will use their best endeavor to get all cotton farmers of the State to club together and sell their surplus cotton seed this fall and winter through our State Business Agent."

With all Alliancemen, however, the education of our people is regarded as a matter of so much importance that no other is allowed to long overshadow it. Such was the case at this meeting. President Graham's address was devoted almost entirely to educational subjects. The A. and M. College, the outgrowth of agitation by farmers' organizations, and the only educational institution in North Carolina teaching agricultural science, naturally received attention. Two resolutions regarding it were adopted, the first as follows:

"Resolved, That the thanks of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance are hereby tendered to His Excellency Hon. Chas. B. Aycock, for putting the Agricultural and Mechanical College under control of the Board of Agriculture, and appointing farmers only as members of that Board."

The other resolution was one of more importance. It reads: "Resolved, That this body ask the Trustees of the A. and M. College to establish a club house at the A. and M. College, so that students may board themselves, as is the custom in other colleges."

It appears to us that at the A. and M. College, supported almost exclusively by farmers who make their own supplies, such a club house or "mess hall" could be made of even greater service than at any other college in the State. We hope that this resolution will be favorably acted upon by the Board of Trustees.

When the proposition for the establishment of a reformatory for youthful criminals was under discussion in the last General Assembly, it was quite generally agreed that no better building and no better location for the purpose could be found than the Alliance headquarters near Hillsboro. This being true, a resolution was adopted early in the session last week suggesting that Sub-Alliances discuss the advisability of selling the property for this purpose. This matter will then be acted upon at the annual meeting next year.

A new feature in Alliance work, long practiced with good results in the Grange, will be inaugurated as a result of the passage of this: "WHEREAS, The problem of simply re-organizing Sub-Alliances is overshadowed by the problem of interesting the members in the work after they have been induced to join.

"Resolved, That for the purpose of interesting members we suggest and request that the Secretary of the State Farmers' Alliance, the Trustee of the Business Agency fund, and the editor of The Progressive Farmer select for each month some interesting topic for discussion in the Sub-Alliances of the State."

This was the first meeting of the State Alliance after the death of Mrs. L. L. Polk. On Wednesday the following expression of sorrow was adopted by a rising vote: "WHEREAS, The North Carolina Farmers' Alliance has learned with deep regret of the death of Mrs. Sarah P. Polk, widow of our lamented leader, Col. L. L. Polk, and for nine years proprietor of our State Organ, The Progressive Farmer. Therefore be it

"Resolved, That we hereby express our deep sorrow at this sad dispensation of Providence in removing from our midst so faithful and noble a friend of our Order, and we tender our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family."

The brethren, by subscriptions and by kind words, expressed their good wishes for The Progressive Farmer. For these and for the following resolution they have our thanks: "Resolved, That the Alliance heartily endorses The Progressive Farmer as our organ, or means of communication, and heartily commend Bro. C. H. Poe's course as editor. We tender Bro. Denmark our thanks for purchasing the paper and his efforts to preserve it to the use of the Order. We pledge him our earnest aid to sustain the paper and extend its circulation."

Having served two terms, Maj. W. A. Graham was ineligible to re-election as President. The Alliance made no mistake in the selection of his successor—Capt. W. B. Fleming, of Warren county, a prosperous farmer and trucker and a man of sterling worth. Bro. T. P. Johnson was chosen Vice-President, succeeding Bro. J. T. Paschal. All other officers were re-elected, the list for the ensuing year, therefore, being as follows: President—Capt. W. B. Fleming, Ridgeway, Warren county. Vice President—T. P. Johnson, Salisbury, Rowan county. Secretary-Treasurer and State Business Agent—T. B. Parker, Hillsboro, Orange county. Assistant Lecturer or Steward—Jno. M. Mitchell, Wayne county. Chaplain—Rev. W. S. Mercer, Moyock, Currituck county. Door-keeper—Geo. T. Lane, Greensboro, Guilford county. Sergeant-at-Arms—R. H. Lane, Aurora, Beaufort county.

This is an excellent body of men, and we hope that the Order will go steadily forward under their leadership.

The distinguishing feature of this meeting, in our opinion, was the awakening to the fact that the great work before us is not so much the simple re-organization of Subs as the work of providing interesting or profitable work for the members after they are induced to join. This is a vital truth. We purpose writing further in regard to it in the near future.

Some suggestions as timely as they are valuable are made by Rev. O. T. Edwards and Harry Farmer in this number. Read their letters.

RURAL FREE DELIVERY AGAIN.

Within a few months nineteen new rural free delivery routes—more than are now in operation in the entire State—will be established in this, the Fourth, Congressional district. The official inspector, with headquarters at Raleigh, is now investigating routes. Verily, we are at last going forward. With proper effort North Carolina can get 150 routes by the end of the year.

The average condition of corn in the United States declined 27.3 points during July and on August 1 it was 33.5 points lower than at the corresponding date last year, 35.9 points lower than on August 1, 1899, and 33.6 points below the mean of the August averages for the last ten years.

Miscellaneous.

CORN AND CORN KINGS.

King Corn improved under the genial showers of Sunday; but the corn king, George H. Phillips of Chicago, does not seem to have been benefited thereby. Phillips' career has been meteoric, and, as in the case of most meteors, the friction may have been too much for him. We are told that there is nothing serious the matter with the George H. Phillips Co.—only a slight congestion resulting from too much business. But the business has got so far ahead of the bookkeeping that Mr. Phillips has admitted: "I do not know whether I have anything left or not. I thought I was a rich man when I went to New York a few weeks ago, but it is possible now I have nothing." That's the way that fortunes come and go on stock and produce exchanges. We are apt to think of the broker as a comfortable and well-fed person, who drives good horses and gets a lot of fun out of life. But on the whole he probably pays for his fun in worry, and the game is fairly even in the end. The Phillips concern is said to have been earning at the rate of \$40,000 a month on a capital of less than \$300,000, to have overpaid customers in the May corn deal (through defective book-keeping) some \$100,000, and to have owing it \$347,000, which it probably can't collect.—Country Gentleman.

NUMBER OF NORTH CAROLINA TROOPS.

Prof. Hill Shows What Maj. Neathery Really Did Say About It.

Some one has recently started on the rounds a statement attributed to Maj. J. B. Neathery, Private Secretary to Governor Caldwell, that North Carolina furnished only 80,000 men to the Confederate army. This statement has disturbed some of our editors. Among these, that venerable editor whom all true North Carolinians delight to honor, Dr. T. B. Kingsbury, of the Wilmington Messenger, has called for its refutation. Now Dr. Kingsbury has done so much for the truth of North Carolina history that he cannot remember all that he has done. Fortunately much of his good work has been printed. Twenty-seven years ago he first published Maj. Neathery's figures, but he published what Maj. Neathery did say, not what someone has reported him as saying. I find in "Our Living and Our Dead" for June, 1875, an editorial signed by Dr. Kingsbury, in which the doctor uses these words: "When we were connected with the Raleigh Sentinel, we stated that we had heard it estimated that North Carolina had furnished as many as 103,000 troops (independent of Home Guards and Reserves) and then asked if any one could supply us with the exact number. This inquiry brought us an answer the next day from John B. Neathery, Esq. We avail ourselves of the statistics kindly furnished, as we wish to place them among permanent records of our magazine."

"On November 19th, 1864, Gen. R. C. Gatlin, Adjutant General of the State, made an official report to Hon. Z. B. Vance, then Governor, in which the following numbers are given:

Number of troops transferred to Confederate States according to original rolls on file in this office... 64,636
Number of conscripts as per report of commandant of conscript, dated September 30, 1864... 18,585
Estimated number of recruits that have volunteered in the different companies since the date of original rolls... 21,608
Number of troops in the State service for the war... 3,203
Total number of troops... 108,032
To these must be added:
Number of Junior Reserves... 4,217
Number of Senior Reserves... 5,686
117,935
Number of troops in unattached companies and serving in regiments from other States... 3,103
121,038
Home Guards and militia... 3,962
125,000
This official report from so accurate an officer as Gen. Gatlin ought to settle this matter for all time.

D. H. HILL.
Raleigh, N. C.