

The Alliance and the Tobacco Situation.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

The resolution passed by the State Alliance last week in regard to the tobacco situation is one of vital importance and should be immediately taken up by the Sub Alliances of the State that they may be prepared to act as a unit. Success or failure will depend on the unity of action of all the people, hence the necessity of enlisting every tobacco farmer especially, and all others who feel an interest in the welfare of their brothers. Open the doors of the Alliance to all who are eligible and induce them to come in and be one among us in our deliberations and in our efforts to maintain our independence.

This will be no pop-gun and cannon-cracker battle, nor battle of oratory. On one hand is determined manhood urged onward by a regard for home and loved ones and independence; on the other is a giant trust goaded by greed and a determination to conquer and enslave the people. The lines are drawn, the flags are unfurled. On the one is inscribed: "Home, Loved Ones, Independence;" on the other, "The Dollar, Greed, Power." Upon which side will you stand?

You may not raise tobacco, but your brother farmer does, and the Macedonian cry comes from him, "Come over and help us." Shall we turn a deaf ear to his appeal, or shall we strike hands with him against a common enemy—greed?

This fight is a fight for principle—self-preservation. We should take no false step, leave no unguarded place for attack, but move cautiously and wisely. We must be able to control ourselves, our own forces, before we can hope to control the American Tobacco Company. No army can hope for a successful warfare against an enemy until it has discipline in its own ranks, neither can we hope to accomplish our purpose in this struggle until we can control our own forces, and have unity of purpose and unity of action. It was this unity of action that enabled the Alliance and its friends in the fight to knock out the jute bagging trust. With the same determination and unity of action now that we had then, we can come out victors in this contest. We own the soil upon which the tobacco grows, we have the labor which produces it, and unless we bow to the trust and lay aside the teachings of the Alliance and forget the struggles for independence of our forefathers, we are bound to win in this fight. The man who refuses to give us his support can safely be reckoned to belong to the enemy.

The suggestion that the American Tobacco Company has a three years' supply on hand should not deter us in the least. If the report is true, we should remember that it is all high-priced tobacco and their struggle now is to cheapen their supply by laying in a stock at present ruinous prices. The fact, if it is true, that they are "loaded" with high-priced tobacco gives the independent

manufacturer who now comes on the market for the first time a show, for it is not at all probable that tobacco, for the next year, will be as high as it was last fall; nor should we be discouraged at that fact, but let us take hold with a determination, born of necessity, and push prices up as high as we possibly can.

Just here I wish to say I question the expediency of the boycott, and I hope no Sub nor County Alliance will hastily pass any such resolutions. The American Tobacco Company is the largest buyer of our tobacco. It has done more than all others to introduce our tobacco in the markets of the world and to increase its consumption. Let us give it credit for these things, and at the same time prove to it that it is dealing with men and not with weaklings; also we should encourage independent buyers and manufacturers, for it is well known that the more buyers on the floor the higher prices will tobacco bring. Then let us attract buyers and not repel them.

The committee appointed by the State Alliance will probably make its report immediately after the meeting at Rocky Mount. In the meantime let every Allianceman in the State be active in recruiting his Sub Alliance and reorganizing new Alliances all over the State, especially in the tobacco growing counties. Let none be idle, but push the work with all diligence. If we fail to measure up to our possibilities in this effort, we invite the attack of every trust that wishes to swoop down upon us and bleed us to their heart's content. This feature alone is worthy of deep consideration and should not be lightly passed over.

To conquer in this contest will have the effect of holding at bay any other trust that is looking at us with itching palms, and cause it to respect and fear us. Therefore let us quit ourselves like true American citizens, like men worthy of the name. The victory will not be won in a day nor in a season, but the end in view is worthy of a prolonged struggle.

T. B. PARKER.

[The committee report, which Mr. Parker refers to, appears in another column.—Editor.]

Organizing the Alliance.

I am just in receipt of letters from Institute, Lenoir County, and Smithfield, Johnston County, asking how to organize Sub Alliances. I have sent these parties instructions, and will be glad to have any one interested in the reorganization of the Alliance in other parts of those counties write to me at once. If the desire to reorganize is sufficiently widespread, and the interest sufficient to justify it, I will try to arrange for lecturers to go to them at an early date. Parties interested please write me fully as to interest, outlook, etc. Address

T. B. PARKER, Sec.,
Raleigh, N. C.

P. S.—I shall be very glad to hear from farmers in any section of the

State interested in the organization of the Alliance—whether Sub or County Alliances. Such correspondence is always welcome.

It is a foregone conclusion that Secretary Root will be succeeded by Governor Taft whose intimate knowledge of Philippine affairs will enable him to meet the many important problems with which the War Department will have to deal in the near future. It is the belief of the President and the Secretary of War that the army, under the new staff at least, will practically run itself, and that, save in time of war at least, the Secretary of War will be largely free to turn his attention to any other important matters which may arise. If Governor Taft is selected for Secretary of War, as is now expected, it will probably prevent his name being urged upon the Republican convention for the second place on the national ticket next year.

It is expected at the Raleigh and Cape Fear Railway will before long connect with the railway which is being constructed through Robeson County and which comes up from South Carolina. The Raleigh and Cape Fear has now reached a point in half a mile of Lillington. It is said that another railway, coming across Harnett County, will soon reach Lillington also.

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