

# The Argus.

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## WHAT "REFORM" HAS DONE FOR THE PEOPLE.

Charlotte Observer.

The *Progressive Farmer*, organ of the State Alliance and one of the chief shriekers of "reform," had this editorial in the early days of the session of the Legislature:

We have published platforms and editorials showing what the people want, time after time. Below are some of the charges wanted, and the attention of our legislators, regardless of party, is again attracted to them.

First. A new and honest election law.

Second. A 6 per cent. interest law, with sufficient penalties and no loopholes.

Third. At least four months' free schools for both races annually.

Fourth. Effective anti-trust laws and solicitors and judges who will see that they are enforced.

Fifth. A State reformatory for the reformation of youthful criminals.

Sixth. A complete change in the present county government system, either repeal or radical modification.

Seventh. Steps to wipe out the iniquitous homestead law.

Eighth. Either repeal or enforce the present State income tax law.

Ninth. Appoint a code commission with enough common sense and legal honesty combined to simplify and shorten the Code so ordinary minds can understand it.

Tenth. Reduce expenses, lop off fees wherever practicable, and follow the golden rule in everything. The gentlemanly and honest way to carry out the wishes of the people will be requested to keep off the grass hereafter.

Beginning at the end, we have to remark that "the gentlemen" who composed the late Legislature certainly did "forget" to carry out the wishes of the people, and, unless these have lost their senses, "will be requested to keep off the grass hereafter."

Now, let us see how things have gone, even judged by the "reform" standard:

(1) We have a "new" election law, whether it shall prove to be an "honest" one, time will disclose. (2) A 6 per cent. interest law has been enacted; whether there are loop-holes in it, and whether it will do the State more good than harm, we shall find out hereafter. (3) The school tax has been increased 2 cents, and as an "offset" to whatever good might have been accomplished by this increase, the head of the system in every county has been destroyed—county superintendents and boards of education abolished—and the schools left to drift about without a hand to direct them. (4) No new anti-trust laws were enacted nor any amendments made to those already in force. (5) A State reformatory has been provided for at an expense of \$25,000 a year to begin with and \$10,000 a year thereafter for support—this statement upon the authority of the *Caucasian*, though our own reading led to the understanding that the reformatory bill had failed. (6) You have your "change in the present system of county government," though it lacks much of being "complete," seeing that the Legislature is still electing magistrates, but such as it is we dare prophesy that you will see enough of it before you are through with it. (7) "The infamous homestead law" not "wiped out" nor amended in any particular. (8) "The present State income tax law" not repealed nor any additional provision made for its enforcement. (9) No code commission, with or without common sense, appointed. (10) No expenses reduced, no fees lopped off, no golden rule observed.

Then the *Progressive Farmers* files ten "demands," and it will claim that three of them have been answered: election law, 6 per cent. interest law, county government law. It may turn out that provision was made for a reformatory, and that 18 cents school tax, against 16 cents now, will give four months schools, though we don't believe it, nor do we believe that four months of so-called schools under the new system, without any one to give direction to them, would be as efficient as the two and a half or three months schools are now. The *Progressive Farmer* can make no sort of claim that its other five "demands" have been met or that there was any sort of effort to meet them, and it should, upon its own showing, turn in and help us and all other good citizens to keep this gang off the grass hereafter.

There was no pretence at doing five of the ten things that this organ of "reform" declared to be necessary legislation, but if it will give us its ear for a moment we will call its attention to some things that were done that it did not ask for.

The State tax was increased, for general purposes from 22 to 24 cents; for all purposes from 4 1/2 cents to 4 3/4 cents—a total of 4 cents on the \$100 valuation, and odious and discriminating special taxes, never before heard of in the State, were levied. A criminal court circuit was established under the protest of

every county in it, in order to give a place to a partisan lawyer and Senator. The expenses of the legislative session were increased \$50,000 over those of the Democratic Legislature, and the sons and daughters and wives of members of the Legislature were quartered upon the State, at the same tables with buck negroes. Resolutions in honor of a negro miscegenationist were adopted and an effort made afterwards to tie out of it.

Time would fail us to tell of the deeds of a Legislature the most infamous of any but one—and pushing that one closely—that has ever sat in North Carolina.

Its members, while candidates, vaped about extravagance, and have increased the public expenses. They insisted on the stump that salaries and fees should be reduced, yet made a reduction in no single instance. They refused to reduce their own per diem. They voted down a resolution which provided that no member of the Legislature should fill a place of its creation and filled up almost every place created or that was made vacant, with its own members, to its own shame and to the public scandal. The party of the opposition has inveighed for years against the free pass evil and yet the Fusion legislators bit at passes like pike.

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## AT BENTONSVILLE.

The Beautiful Monument Erected by the Goldsboro Rifles is Unveiled on This Field To-Day. It is Said to be one of the Most Beautiful in the South. General Wade Hampton Will be the Orator.

Thirty years ago yesterday they lay dead and dying on the field at Bentonville, which was fought the day before between the left wing of Sherman's army and the remnant of Gen'l Joe Johnston's gallant troops, several hundred of the immortal heroes of the Gray. Among the dead was the young son of Gen'l Hardee, who saw his first service in that fight, having reached the command of General Hampton to which he had been assigned on enlisting, only two hours before the battle.—This information we received from General Hampton yesterday, who was present at that memorable battle, in which Johnston came out gloriously victorious, driving Sherman's routed forces flying for refuge into this city, as our older citizens will remember, while Johnston made only a feint at following them, drawing off his troops in the opposite direction toward Greensboro, hoping to join and reinforce Gen'l Lee in Virginia, but was cut off by superior numbers of the enemy and surrendered near Durham.

Yesterday—thirty years after—the valiant spirit of the South, that never dies nor forgets, made itself manifest on the same field by unveiling there a beautiful shaft of imperishable marble, deeply imbedded in the earth, and the sacred dust of the deathless heroes whose fame it commemorates, and pointing heavenward whence their immortal spirits have flown, and telling to the passing generations—"till the last syllable of recorded time"

that the Southern people honor the heroes of the Gray and the names of Lee, of Johnston and of Hampton as the heroes of the hallowed occasion. He arrived in this city Tuesday morning and after taking breakfast at the Hotel Kennon and being the recipient of many cordial handshakes, was escorted by the committee, the military corps of young ladies, many married ladies and scores of citizens on to Bentonville. General Hampton spoke as follows:

Mr. Chairman, my comrades and friends: You meet here to-day to perform one of the most pious and sacred duties which human hearts can feel, and human hands can discharge, that of doing honor to our noble dead who fell in defense of a lost but, to us, a patriotic and just cause. In thus honoring the memory of these brave martyrs, you do honor to yourselves, but the dedication of this noble monument will be a memorial to posterity, and its foundation laid deep in the earth that holds the ashes of our dead comrades, it may defy the tempest and the corroding touch of time to tell to future generations that the brave sons and noble daughters of North Carolina erected it to mark the spot where Confederate soldiers

"For faith and for freedom, Lay slaughtered in vain."

It may accomplish all these worthy objects, telling at the same time of the love and veneration in which you hold the memory of our heroic dead, but he was studying how to run up expenses. They may continue in nominal session as long as they choose, and their per diem and expenses are to be paid by the State as long as they profess to sit.

The record of this session of the Legislature has not yet been half told. When it is fully made up and exposed in all of its hideous deformity a deceived and outraged people will turn from it with disgust and loathing.

Presiding Elder's Appointments.

Quarterly meetings for Newbern District will be held as follows:

Morsehead circuit, at Mt. Carmel, April 9-7.

Grifton circuit, at Gum Swamp, April 9-7.

Kinard circuit, at night, April 7, Goldsboro circuit, at Mt. Carmel, April 13-14.

LaGrange circuit, at Beston, April 30-21.

St. John's, at night, April 21.

Strait's circuit, at Banks, April 27-28.

Seamont circuit, at night, April 28.

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Do not allow yourselves, my friends, to be misled by the whole plan of the enemy, that false doctrine, false to your faith, to your country and to your God—which tells you that as your cause has failed, the principles of the Republic are forever obliterated. Any human undertaking, however just it may be, may fail; but the eternal principles of right and justice can never be buried. A great truth like the God-head whence it emanates is eternal, and it will live

till the "last syllable of recorded time." It is often told that, as our cause was submitted to the arbitration of the sword, no appeal lies from the verdict which was rendered.

This doctrine is as pernicious as it is false, and if we accept it, we shall have no right to grieve, as well as to live, as traitors, branding all alike with deserved infamy. Will the living soldiers who followed the stars across the continent in the name of the Republic, so proudly as that banner "braved the battle and the breeze," ever consent to denounce their dead comrades? Will the sons of these men forget the sufferings, the sacrifices, the heroism of their fathers? Will the women of the South, who for a quarter of a century have so tenderly and reverently cherished the memory of our dead, ever be willing to brand them as traitors? Ah, No! These things can never happen as long as truth, patriotism, honor, virtue and the heroic courage which were the glory of the men in gray rolls sounding down the ages, as long as the page of History is made lustrous by the names of Lee, of Johnston and of Jackson!

Let me not be understood as wishing to reawaken sectional animosity, now happily dying out, nor as counseling one act of disloyalty to the restored Union I recognize, as every true patriot should do, the supremacy of the Constitution, the integrity of the Union, and all the obligations which it imposes upon us. The South is now an integral part of this great Republic, the flag of the stars and stripes flies from the rock-ribbed coast of Maine to the golden gate of the bright Pacific and far off Alaska, from the snow-capped peaks of the Rocky Mountains to the orange groves of Florida; and it is the duty of every patriot to make this country of ours one and indivisible, and to stand by the Constitution, the integrity of the Union, and all the obligations which it imposes upon us.

Yesterday—thirty years after—the valiant spirit of the South, that never dies nor forgets, made itself manifest on the same field by unveiling there a beautiful shaft of imperishable marble, deeply imbedded in the earth, and the sacred dust of the deathless heroes whose fame it commemorates, and pointing heavenward whence their immortal spirits have flown, and telling to the passing generations—"till the last syllable of recorded time"

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History vindicate us if we condemn the faith taught by our forefathers, if we prove worthy of that faith, we shall not have fought in vain; for though we can no longer display our cause with our swords, we can justify it before the great tribunal of History, and posterity will do us the honor to know, as we know, that we have suffered and lost. But by a merciful dispensation of Providence, nature offers some compensation for nearly every sorrow, and this blessed law