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CENTRAL EXPRESS

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THE LEADER'S WISDOM.

"LET US ACT WELL OUR PART."

President Alexander's Address to the Farmers at Raleigh.

FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS' ALLIANCE:

Only last year the Farmers Alliance was introduced into our State. The first Alliance was organized in Robeson county, on the 20th day of April, and the State Alliance was organized in Rockingham, on the 4th day of October, with eight county Alliances and 132 Sub-Alliances. Now we have 52 County Alliances and Sub-Alliances. The unparalleled growth of our order has astonished every one. It shows that our farmers feel the necessity of organizing for their own protection and for the advancement of their educational, social and financial interests. It is my duty to make such suggestions to you as I may think proper for the good of our order. I have deemed it important to organize the State as thoroughly and completely as possible and leave the details of arranging the business interests of our order for your consideration. The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer will give you all the information you may desire in regard to the work done. The condition of our farmers is not satisfactory; they work hard from January to January, only to find another year of hard labor before them. The profits of farming are so small that the most rigid economy has to be used to save the homestead; and often a farmer realizes less profit than if he hired himself and family for negro wages and had lived on negro rations. Why is this? It is the great question for the Alliance to solve. Our State produces every species of plant that grows between Mobile, Alabama, and Toronto, in Canada. Yet with this great variety of soil and climate, we are forced by our environments to raise for markets two great staple crops, cotton and tobacco. To understand our environment, it is necessary to refer to our condition before the civil war. Then our State was a slave State, our labor was slave. We had only one town of over four thousand inhabitants; we had very few manufacturers of any kind. Slave labor cut down magnificent forests, wore out the land, threw it out to grow up in old-field pines, and cut more forests; to wear out the land in like manner. The slave owners did not desire large towns or manufacturers near them. They cared naught for the development of the State, and were content to live in comfort on the proceeds of slave labor. The war ended; slavery was abolished, and so great were the sacrifices of our people that but little property except land was left them. With no home market for anything, they were compelled to raise the only two crops that would bear shipment—cotton and tobacco. Fortunately these crops brought high prices, and many believed they would soon be richer than they were before the war. Supplies were purchased, based upon the Spring prices of the crop. The fall prices of the crop were so much below the spring prices that but little profit was realized; and thus it continued until the price of the crop has reached the cost of its production. The farmers generally believe the merchants are the cause of their not receiving due reward for their labor. They think the mortgage system and time prices enable the merchants to exact such exorbitant rates as to leave them no profit. It is true there may be a merchant here and there that has acted the Shylock. But it is not true that the merchants are responsible for the farmers' condition, for the system that causes farming to be unprofitable. We must look beyond them to find it. Politics engages the attention of our people to a very great degree, and the politicians know the people, and our politicians guide but very little of the practical questions that now

comfort us. While they have excited the people upon sectional and theoretical issues a great industrial revolution has overtaken us; even our laws made for a past era down to compass it. Steam and electricity have revolutionized the industrial pursuits and methods of mankind to a degree that has no parallel in history. Crops that were profitable in some sections are not so now. Even mines have been closed, and manufacturers forced to change their abode. To illustrate how it affects agriculture in North Carolina! Cotton costs us to raise it from 64 to 8 cents per pound. The Gulf States by reason of richer lands and six weeks' earlier season in spring and six weeks' later season in the fall, to mature the plant, raise cotton at 3 to 4 cents a pound. The railroads can transport cotton from any part of the Gulf States from 4 to 6 cents per pound. This, taken in connection with the fact that the Gulf States contain uncultivated land enough to produce more than double the crop of 1887, ought to convince any one that the present system of cotton culture in North Carolina will lead to bankruptcy and ruin. The culture of wheat is less profitable than cotton. Our wheat this year cost on an average one dollar per bushel; in favorable years it cost us from sixty to seventy-five cents per bushel. I am informed by a responsible merchant that he can have the very finest flour from the Northwest laid down at any depot in the State in car load lots at four dollars per barrel. So it is with oats, corn and hay; each delivered here at or below cost of production. This presents a gloomy future; yet we must meet it, and the only way I can see to meet it is to do like the farmers of Old England and New England have done—"throw out" the land that don't pay for cultivation and is unfit for pasturage, increase the number of acres of pasture, and by high manuring and thorough tillage increase the production per acre of the lands cultivated. Much of our land is too nearly worn out to make pastures for horses and cattle, but will support sheep; and sheep husbandry can be made the salvation of our agricultural interest. It is true we have no home markets like the countries referred to, but we are within twenty for hours of New York City, and can find a market there, and the great cities that intervene. North Carolina must become a great manufacturing State; those who may live to see it, will have a home market for a diversified agriculture. Until then we must by thorough tillage and high manufacturing increase our product per acre of the land cultivated, and keep other lands in pasture. Not only have the railroads and telegraphs forced a change in our agriculture, but they possess a power of taxation and patronage dangerous to the liberties of the people. They have centralized our government, and trusts, combines, pools, monopolies, are their offspring. A friend now past three-score years and ten related to me the following incident: "When I was a young man I visited Boston. I carried a letter of introduction to Mayor Quincy. He received me with that hospitality for which he was distinguished, and invited me to a banquet, given in honor of the completion of the first forty miles of railroad that entered Boston. In his speech at the banquet Mayor Quincy said: 'We have completed forty miles of railroad. If we can build forty we can build eighty; if we can build eighty we can build two hundred; we can build one to the lakes; if we can build one to the lakes, we can build one to the Pacific Ocean. Give me the transportation of a people and I will control them.' 'Prophetic words.' My friend has lived to see the prophecy of this distinguished Bostonian fulfilled. Patronage, free transportation and money can nominate any candidate for office higher than the Legislature, or failing to nominate can defeat their opponent. What department of the State or National Government is free from the taint of free transportation or telegraphic franchises? 'No man can serve two masters.' It is believed that some who are elected as representatives of the people are retained as attorneys of the corporations. Senator Beck, of Kentucky, introduced a resolution in the United States Senate forbidding any Senator to act as a railroad attorney in which the Government was interested. It passed, but the next day was reconsidered and defeated, thus giving the sanction of the United States Senate to any of its members to act as attorney for corporations, &c. It may be good for the corporations, but is bad

for the people. The motto of syndicates, trusts, combines, pools and monopolies is, 'no legislation is good legislation.' Hence their desire to retain members as attorneys to keep off legislation or to shape it so as to their interests. Our laws were made for a past era, and we have none upon our statute books that meet the era of steam and electricity. Some people believe a railroad commission will adjust everything. The railroads are above the State, and any law a State can pass may harass them, but the total tax required by the railroads of the people will be as great with the commission as without it. The National Government has tried a commission, and it has been found that a half-breed railroad attorney can drive a six-horse team through it, and so it will be with any commission law they pass. The railroads make no showing of books and manage their affairs in secret. How can it be otherwise? The Knights of Labor, many of them railroad men, have given as one of their declarations that the National Government should own every railroad and telegraph line. Many object to it upon the ground that it would give the politicians too much patronage. If this patronage be dangerous to a government, it is more dangerous in the hands of a syndicate, for it will control the government. But I see no need of the government having as much patronage then as now. Organize a transportation department and postoffice department by enlisting men for life or a term of years, and not allow them to vote. The army and navy are so organized and no one ever hears of trouble about patronage in either, or their interfering in any way with elections. The money system enacted during the war to sustain the credit of the government and raise money for war purposes, is unsound and burdensome to an agricultural people in time of peace. The only argument advanced in its behalf are that it is a safe currency, and that one dollar of it will buy more than one dollar would before the war. As to its being safe, any money the government should issue ought to be as safe or it would fail to accomplish that for which it was made. The purchasing power of the dollar is no criticism to judge by, for as you increase the purchasing power of the dollar you decrease the value of labor and property. If the purchasing power of the dollar is a true guide, then reduce the currency one-half and a dollar will pay for ten times as much labor or property as it does now. Then again, reduce it one-half, and a dollar will pay for fifty times as much as it does now; so that the purchasing power of a dollar would be on the side of money kings and against the prod. The National Banks are virtually given a monopoly of banking by the government, and they virtually determine the rate of interest wherever they are located. The rate of interest averages ten per cent., which is much more than an agricultural people can stand. The average of agriculture being less than these percent; for the last eight years. This is not the fault of the stockholders of National Banks, but the fault of the government. The banks were created by the Republican party, and it seems afraid to give them any relief, and the Democratic party seems to regard them as the Jews of old did the leper. In order to show it is the government, not the stockholders, that is responsible for the high rate of interest, let me illustrate: Say we wish to establish a National Bank, with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars. The first thing the government requires of us is to go and pay its potted bondholders \$28,000 bonus; that is, pay \$128,000 for \$100,000 of bonds. Then the government issues us \$90,000 of circulation; of that the government retains five per cent. reserve fund, \$4,500, and we start our bank with \$84,500 of the \$128,000 we started out with. The law requires 20 per cent. to be kept in legal tenders, so that we have 66,500 to commence with. Furniture, fixture, stationery, &c., will take at least \$4,000 giving a banking capital of \$62,500, or less than half of the \$128,000.

Ten per cent. on the \$62,500 would be.....\$6,250 Four per cent. interest on \$100,000 government bonds.....\$4,000 \$10,250 From which deduct expenses, taxes, &c., as follows: Rent and salaries.....\$4,500 U. S. tax on circulation 900 State, county & town tax, 1,800 \$7,200 \$7,200 Leaves profit.....\$3,050 or less than three per cent. on the \$128,000 paid out. The bonus of \$28,000 paid the bondholders will have to be made out of the patrons of the banks, or it would be lost in the stockholders when the bond reached maturity. This shows how dependent the National Banks are on deposits. If there is a tightness in the money market so as to induce depositors to withdraw deposits, interest is advanced, and in case of a panic, the banks are jeopardized. National Banks cannot lend money at a low rate of interest, nor can they loan money on long time without great risk, for they cannot tell at what time the depositors may call upon them for their money. A high rate of interest is a feast to monopolies, but is death to agriculture. Should a State reduce by law the rate of interest, it would drive out to other States a large amount of capital, and the remaining capital would be taken up by wealthy borrowers, leaving the masses without any showing for borrowing money to meet an emergency. There is another feature of the National Bank that is a dangerous power for a government to depart with. It is the power to contract the currency at pleasure, and without notice. The law gives each bank having a capital of over \$150,000 the privilege to reduce its circulation to \$50,000, and banks having under \$150,000, to one fourth their capital. This is done by placing legal tender notes in the United States Treasury and withdrawing the bonds on which the circulation was based. The Comptroller of the Currency reports October 31st, 1887, the National Bank capital at \$578,492,765, and the National Bank notes outstanding at \$167,283,343. This statement indicates that the National Bank circulation is contracted \$350,000,000; add to it the surplus of \$150,000,000 in United States Treasury, and we have a currency contracted by over \$500,000,000, a sum sufficient to add materially to the purchasing power of the dollar and depreciate labor and property. With such a money system, with syndicates controlling the transportation of the people with power to tax "all the traffic will bear," with trusts, combines and monopolies controlling not only the luxuries, but the necessities of life, where shall we look for relief? It will thus appear that the merchants are their unappointed and unwilling tax gatherers whose environments compel them to act as they do; and yet with all their labor, how few of them accumulated a respectable fortune? Steam and electricity have centralized our government. The National Government alone has power to correct these evils, and to it and not elsewhere must we look. In our State the burden of taxation falls most heavily upon the country people. They are required to pay all the tax for opening and keeping in repair all the public roads and highway. This tax amounts to more than all the other taxes levied for State purposes. It is the system originated by the Federal Barons in the dark ages, and introduced here by the slave-owners, and ought to have died with slavery, for next to slavery the condition of our public roads has retarded the development of our State. Those who uphold this law, assign as their reason that the poor white man and the negro pay but little of the other tax, and it is the only way to get anything from them. If this be true, why tax the poor white man and negro of the country and exempt the poor white man and negro of the towns? Why tax the rich man of the country and exempt the rich men of the towns? As well might the country people demand that the town people pay all the court and jail expenses because court-houses, and jails are located in the towns. Good roads to towns increase trade and reduce the cost of living to the people, and are as essential to them as to country people, for a town blockaded every winter with mud is helpless as a wagon without wheels. While we learn from week to week through a superb agricultural press, the improvements and advancements in agriculture, we should not forget that it is our duty to demand of the State and National Governments to give us that protection that will insure us the just benefits of our labor, and to remove from us burdens that we ought not to bear. With the control of railroads, telegraphs and the money system, it is possible syndicates, trusts, combines and monopolies to fob a people without owning the lands as completely as the Barons of old, who owned the land and claimed the people as vassals. Our danger is in being reduced to poverty and rendered helpless, and the danger of the great army of railroad and telegraph employees is in being dependent; they may become seivile. The great number of strikes made by them show

that they possess an uncommon manhood, but as the syndicates, trusts, combines and monopolies increase in power, the struggle is rendered more unequal. What the near future may bring forth, no man can tell. Let us act well our part. "There all the honor lies." DR. ABERNETHY RETIRES. He Says the Third Party Will Damage the Cause of Prohibition. "The Third party movement will not only imperil the white man's supremacy in the South, but it will damage the cause of prohibition almost incalculably." At the earnest solicitation of many friends, and after mature and prayerful reflection, I beg to withdraw my name as a candidate for superintendent of public instruction on the Prohibition ticket. In the lengthening shadows of evening, nearing my "three score years and ten," the esteem of my friends is more than ever dear to me. This, I am sure I should lose in a measure by my candidacy, while I am now convinced that evil would result thereby, both to Prohibition and to my friends and fellow citizens in the State. I think my friends in North Carolina will testify that during my life I have never hesitated to follow where duty pointed the way. The nomination came under the guise of duty, and I have accepted. I now plainly see that this present Third party will not only imperil the white man's supremacy in the South; but it will damage the cause of prohibition almost incalculably. Since the war, when I voted at all, my ballot has always been cast in favor of Democracy; and as I am now, and always have been, in full sympathy with that party on every question except that of license, if it is plainly to be seen, one of the old political parties must triumph in the contest, I shall not allow myself to be used as an instrumentality in putting my friends in North Carolina under the dominion of negro rule. Hence, I hereby decline the candidacy and withdraw from the Third party, and earnestly recommend my life-long friend and brother, S. M. Finger, who is a Christian gentleman, a Prohibitionist and a scholar, to all my Prohibition brethren in the State. In the present situation, I earnestly request the withdrawal of the Prohibition ticket in North Carolina, and the support of Democracy in the present contest. We cannot afford to impose negro supremacy upon our fellow citizens. In an off year, (next year, if you please,) I earnestly beg all good men of all parties to unite with me, out side of politics, in putting this infamy of all infamies, the liquor traffic out of our State. I am now an old man. Most of my life lies in the past; how it has been consecrated to humanity, the people know. And in this fight against the arch-enemy of earth and heaven, though my sword be powerless as Prain's, it shall strike for God and the Right. Yours truly, R. L. ABERNETHY. Yellow Fever. Hear what Dr. Cochran says: "People who use cathartic stimulants rarely ever recover if attacked." Men who smoke a great deal are not apt to take it and Dr. Cochran, alluding to this whole speaking of the germ theory says: "The tobacco smoke kills the germs before they are breathed into the lungs." Augusta Evening News. Here is some good advice to all preachers who want to run the election: The following is an extract from Bishop Duncan's address to the preachers at the Mooresville District Conference last week: "A preacher has one thing to do—preach or not preach. He has as much business in politics as he has in the moon. Brethren, if you will begin at the President of the United States and come down through all the channels of office till you reach the Coroner or Constable, you will find brains enough to manage the affairs of our country without the aid of the Methodist preachers, who have enough to do to preach the Gospel." Concord Times. "I'm a prohibitionist. I used to take forty-seven drinks a day, but now I only take forty drinks a day." "Yes, but how does that make you a teetotaler?" "Just the same as a man is a free trader who favors a reduction of taxes from 47 down to 40 per cent. Do you see?"

WASHINGTON LETTER. WASHINGTON, Aug. 20, 1888. The Republican liars are now trying to get in their fine work. A report was sent out from New York to the effect that Mr. Cleveland had requested Mr. Brice to resign as Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee, and that he had asked Senator Gorman to take the position. A more barefaced lie than the above was never published. Not only has Mr. Cleveland not requested Mr. Brice to resign, but he is entirely satisfied with his management and is in full accord with everything that has been done. Senator Gorman might have been chairman of the committee when it organized, but, owing to the prospective long session of Congress, he declined; but as a member of the committee he spends as much time as possible at the headquarters in New York, and Mr. Brice has had the benefit of his advice and concurrence in every move that has been taken. There is no clashing of any kind, either among the members of the national committee or between them and Mr. Cleveland. They are harmoniously working to bring about the election of Cleveland and Thurman and they have no doubts about succeeding. This is official and may be relied upon. Blaine has not the riot act to the Republican Senators, and has set them all by the ears. He wants them to adjourn without passing any substitute for the Mills bill and some of them are kicking in in an awful manner. They were having a regular monkey and parrot time anyway, in trying to agree upon a bill, but now that General Blaine has issued orders that they are not to report any bill at all, they are worse at sea than ever. There are quite a number of Senators who agree with Blaine, but a majority are in favor of reporting a bill. In the meanwhile, time, that waits for nothing, goes marching on, and what will be done remains in doubt. Representative Matson's desk was, on Saturday, adorned with a handsome silver water pitcher and goblets, the gift of the employees of the Government Printing Office, given as a testimonial of their appreciation of his efforts in their behalf in having passed the bill giving them an annual leave of thirty days. The fisheries treaty has been defeated. The Republicans having rejected it. If this action results in a war with England the Republicans will have to assume the responsibility thereof. This week the country is to be disgusted by a special exhibition in the United States Senate of the old and tattered bloody shirt. The chief master of ceremonies is to be Billy Chandler, who has given notice that on Wednesday he will call up and make a speech upon his resolution providing for a Senatorial investigation of the Louisiana State election. Billy Chandler is very brave now, but when the actual fighting was going on, he was filling a well paid position in the treasury department. Representative Forney thinks that Congress will adjourn by September 10th, and that the Senate will not act on the tariff bill. There is a proposition on foot among Democratic Congressmen to have Speaker Carlisle challenge Mr. Blaine for a series of twelve joint discussions on the tariff, to take place in twelve different cities. Mr. Carlisle has expressed his willingness but whether Blaine will agree or not is doubtful. The President has commuted the sentence of the hazing cadets to 30 days imprisonment on board of a Government vessel, and the loss of half of their annual leave. The original sentence was dismissal from the service. The Senate has passed a bill amending the postal crimes act June last. It is very comprehensive, covering about every case that can possibly arise from improperly using the mails. Secretary Whitney has ordered the United States man of war Galena to go to Port au Prince, Hayti, and to remain there during the present disturbances, to protect American interests. Senator Reagan made an interesting speech in the Senate Thursday on the President's message. He

took occasion to show the fallacy of Blaine's recent speech in favor of trusts. The reports that the large appropriations made by Congress had wiped out the surplus for the current fiscal year, is believed to have been started by the Republicans, in order to have some shadow of an excuse for abandoning their proposed tariff bill. Senator Beck says it is all nonsense; that there will be a big surplus this year, as usual, and that the appropriations have been, with the exception of the River and Harbor bill, under the estimate. Dockery and the Alliance. (State Chronicle.) The Farmers' Alliance is in session. Dockery is in Raleigh. These two items appear in a Raleigh daily this week. Do they, standing thus near together, mean anything? Have they any significance? Yes; they signify that Dockery, who belongs to the Alliance, is endeavoring to get the Alliance men to support him for Governor. Will he succeed? Yes; when the farmers turn fools and vote for their greatest enemies—advocates of a protective tariff. A leading member of the Alliance said to the Chronicle: "Some Democrats seem afraid that the Alliance men will defeat Fowle. They are very foolish. I came to the Democratic Convention an enthusiastic Alexander man, as did many others. By that very act I pledged my sacred honor to use all the efforts in my power to secure the election of the nominee of the Convention. It is an insult to the farmers to say now that they will be untrue to their duty. They will labor for Fowle equally as hard as for Alexander, because their honor, and their interest as well, are involved in the struggle." Another Alliance man said: "There are those who, if Fowle is defeated, will put the blame on the Alliance. For that reason, if no other, the Alliance men are going to see to it that he is elected. Personally I wanted Alexander, but I shall work for Fowle to avoid the suspicion of sulking. Choose Only Good Men for Office. (Concord Times.) Good men on evil platforms can effect but little; good platforms with bad men on them are worthless. Happily for the country, the Democrats adopted good, economic platforms with wise and worthy leaders to carry them out. They have chosen men who will stand by their principles, and we earnestly appeal to every voter to carefully view the situation, cautiously scrutinize the Democratic candidates, their records and past services to the country, and the principles by which they are pledged to conduct the State and national governments. Discard all prejudices, compare the Democratic candidates and Democratic principles with the Republican candidates and Republican principles, and then vote for your own, your children's and your country's interest. If you do this, the Democracy will be safe. Blaine says: "Trusts are largely private affairs with which neither President Cleveland nor any private citizen has any right to interfere." The Democratic platform says: "The interests of the people are betrayed when trusts are permitted and fostered which, enriching the few that combine, rob the body of our citizens." Citizens, choose between the doctrine of the Democratic party and the doctrine of James G. Blaine. The New York World of yesterday says: Senator Vance, of North Carolina, is much pleased at the progress his youngest son is making in politics. Young Vance is twenty-four years of age, and his father calls him the "baby of the family." He has been made a Presidential elector for North Carolina. A few days ago he made a brilliant speech in a joint debate with a Republican opponent. Afterwards his admirers presented him with a handsome cane. "Baby" Vance possesses many of his father's characteristics and knows how to make himself popular.