Now is the time for action. The enemy is sowing tares. Let the people sow good seed. Five copies of the CAUCASIAN 3 months for $1.00. Twelve copies 3 months for $2.00. Send a club quick.

New Offer to Meet Demands. Five Copies Caucasian 3 Months For $1.00---12 Copies 3 Months $2.00.

THE CAUCASIAN.

Everybody put a shoulder to the wheel now. The goldbugs are sowing the country down with their misleading literature. Let's meet them. Send $1.00 for five copies of the CAUCASIAN 3 mos.

VOL. XIV. RALEIGH, N. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 1896. NO. 41

GUTHRIE AND DOCKERY

The Greatest Convention Yet--The Representatives of the People Come Together in the Grandest Phalanx on Record.

INSPIRING SIGHT OF PATRIOTS BENT ON REFORM.

Some Spicy Incidents in the Proceedings—A Ringing Platform Declaring For the Peoples Rights All Along the Line—Full Report of What the Delegates Did—A Ticket Named That Means What the Peoples Party Says.

STATE TICKET.

For Governor:
W. A. GUTHRIE.
For Lieutenant-Governor:
O. H. DOCKERY.
For Secretary of State:
CYRUS THOMPSON.
For Treasurer:
W. H. WORTH.
For Auditor:
HAL W. AYER.
For Supt. of Public Instruction:
CHAS. A. MEBANE.
For Attorney General:
(To be named by State Committee.)
For Associate Justice of Supreme Court:
WALTER MONTGOMERY.
(One Associate to be named by State Committee.)
For Electors at Large:
Z. T. GARRETT.
(One Elector to be named by State Committee.)

PEOPLES PARTY STATE PLATFORM.

The Peoples Party platform of North Carolina, in convention assembled at Raleigh, on the 13th day of August, 1896, hereby reaffirms its unqualified allegiance to the principles of the party, and hereby approves the platform of the Peoples Party adopted at its National convention held in the city of St. Louis, July 22nd, 1896.

THE ELECTION LAW.

We hereby reaffirm our fixed determination to support and maintain a free ballot and a fair count in all elections held in North Carolina; and the election law passed by the General Assembly of 1895 meets our hearty endorsement and approval; and we hereby pledge the Peoples Party to the policy of upholding the principle of free and honest elections provided for in said election law, and warn the voters of the State against the threats which have been made to repeal the same.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

The act of the last General Assembly restoring to the right of local self government by the election of their county commissioners and justices of the peace by the vote of the people in the respective counties, and the safe-guards therein provided, meets with our hearty approval, and we pledge the Peoples Party to the continued support and maintenance of that legislation, and warn the voters of the necessity of preventing injurious changes in that act, and of the danger of electing members of the General Assembly hostile thereto.

LEGAL TENDER MONEY.

We favor the exercise by the State of North Carolina of the reserved constitutional power to make all gold and silver coins of the United States (including the trade dollar) a legal tender for the payment of debts, and that this right be inforced by the passage of an appropriate act by the General Assembly.

GOLD NOTES AND MORTGAGES.

We believe that all money demands should be payable in the lawful money of the United States without preference or discrimination, and therefore favor the passage by the General Assembly of a law to prohibit the taking or giving of gold notes, bonds and mortgages in this State, and the making of all money demands solvable in any kind of lawful money of the United States.

INTEREST.

We pledge ourselves to maintain the six per cent. interest law enacted by the last General Assembly.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The action of the Peoples Party members of the last General Assembly has demonstrated, beyond question, that the Peoples Party has been true to its antecedent platform declarations in favor of public education. We demand still further improving and broadening the public school system of the State as rapidly as a proper regard for the interests of the tax payers and the resources of the State will permit. We also favor such revision of our present school system as may increase the efficiency of our public schools and insure the most competent and effective supervision. We think that the committee on Education of the next General Assembly should invite and secure, as far as possible, the co-operation of the leading teachers and educators of the State in framing and perfecting the school law.

JUDICIARY.

Our judiciary should be lifted above the plane of partisan politics.

REFOMATORY FOR YOUNG CRIMINALS.

We favor the establishment of a State institution for the reformation of young criminals.

DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION CONDEMNED.

We condemn the Democratic administration in North Carolina for its failure to execute the anti-trust laws of the State now on our statute books, and call the attention of the people to the fact that official action in this regard is not in harmony with the ultra anti-trust sentiment heretofore and now being expressed by the leaders of the Democratic party.

RAILROADS.

We favor the establishment of such equitable and low freight rates and charges for products shipped from North Carolina as will enable shippers and producers to realize at least a fair remuneration after costs of such shipments have been deducted.

We call especial attention to the possibilities of the trucking industry in Eastern North Carolina, an industry which, but for the extortionate tariffs of the common carrier, would increase an hundred fold, carrying with it the greatest prosperity to that highly favored section it has ever known.

We earnestly recommend to our State Railroad Commission that they use all the powers they have to bring about such reductions; and especially that they urge before the Inter-State Commerce Commission all complaints of extortion and discrimination with such vigor and continuity that should they fail to secure remedial action by the Inter-State Commerce Commission, all the people would know where to place the responsibility for existing outrages; and if their facilities for fighting the battles of the people before the Inter-State Commerce Commission are inadequate for that purpose, that they make recommendation to the General Assembly of amendments to existing laws, to the end that low and fairer rates may be established, both in the State and Inter-State jurisdictions.

Resolved, That we recommend a constitutional prohibition of the purchase, lease or rental of parallel or competing railway lines.

FREE PASSES.

We favor a law forbidding the giving of free passes to public officials, and forbidding their receiving the same.

NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD LEASE.

We condemn the lease of the North Carolina Railroad to the Southern Railway Company for ninety-nine years, not only as a bad business transaction in which the interests of the State amounting to the large sum of $3,000,000 invested in good paying property yielding an income, were sacrificed; but we also, in most emphatic terms condemn the hasty and secret manner in which it was done several years before the former thirty years' lease, by its terms, would have expired. We call the attention of the people of the State to the fact that some mysterious power has prevented an investigation through the proper legal channels, of this transaction, which was so universally condemned by the press of the State and all classes of our citizens, when it first became known. We therefore demand that the next General Assembly fully investigate this transaction, and to the end that the interests of the State may be fully protected as far as it can be done, such legislative action shall be taken as to counteract, as far as possible, this unwise and secret transaction.

REMOVAL OF CASES.

The removal of cases from the State courts to the Federal courts for trial wherein the plaintiffs are poor persons and defendants rich foreign corporations, on application of defendants, is a growing evil in North Carolina, and in its practical operation frequently amounts to a denial of justice to poor suitors, and therefore should be condemned. We demand, therefore, that the next General Assembly shall pass such a general statute on this subject as to take from such corporations doing business in this State the privilege of carrying on business in North Carolina, and withdrawing the protection of the State extended to their business, if they persist in escaping the jurisdiction of our courts when claims are sought to be enforced against them therein.

We advocate such legislation as will insure a just listing and taxation of all evidences of debt, and make an equitable adjustment of the burden of taxation between the debtor and a creditor.

REDUCTION OF SALARIES.

In order to keep our public servants in thorough touch and sympathy with the oppressed masses, and to check to some extent the scramble for office, we demand a reduction of salaries until such time as through an increase of the currency the price of property and products will justify the present rates.

It was the greatest and best convention of all.

It was a gathering of representatives direct from the people, knowing the people's wishes and bent on complying with those wishes as far as possible.

Of course there were differences of opinion. In this world of human imperfection it is impossible to get together a large assemblage, the individuals of which are all of one mind. These differences caused some friction in the convention because every man felt and knew that he had a right to express his opinion and that in doing so he would not be listened to unless he advocated something inconsistent with the purposes and declarations of the Peoples Party. In that event he was summarily "sat down upon" as he ought to have been. There were only two or three instances of this kind.

The delegates began pouring into the city on Tuesday. They came by every train from everywhere in the State, and when the hour for calling the convention to order arrived there were more genuinely elected and accredited delegates present than have attended any other political convention held in this State this year.

The number far exceeding the seating capacity of Metropolitan hall in which there are five hundred chairs Arrangements were made for seating some delegates on the stage (about fifty) and yet there was a row about a want of seats. Then the delegates from the Eighth district were moved into the south gallery and the delegates from the Seventh district into the north gallery (about one hundred and fifty) and still there was a call for more seats on the floor. Extra chairs were placed, the window sills utilized and finally the big crowd seemed to be provided for in a way that was endurable, if not altogether desirable. And then the convention went to work.

CALLED TO ORDER.

State Chairman Butler called the Peoples Party State convention to order at 12:15 o'clock on Thursday, August 13th. He faced a grand assembly of American patriots—and their patriotism and earnestness were by no means melted by the torrid heat of the hall. Coats had been shed, a thousand fans were in motion, "ice water" boys passed continuously up and down the halls and galleries and everything possible was done to distract the attention of delegates from the heat so that their entire attention might be given to business. The large gathering of strong, honest and in some instances, firm and rugged faces, showed that the convention was a magnificent representative of the backbone—the bone and sinew—the mainstay and support of human life and existence of civil government. It was the only convention yet held which was not almost entirely composed of professional pie hunters and official pap suckers.

Chairman Butler said: "I had the honor of calling the first and second Populist State conventions to order, and I feel prouder of being a Populist now than ever before. I have the honor to announce the temporary chairman, the Hon. L. C. Caldwell, mayor of Statesville."

Mr. Caldwell came to the front and was enthusiastically received. He made a happy little address of acceptance in which he said that for some time past something had been working within him which began to make him feel better. He had begun to want to do right, and when he had fully made up his mind to take the right course he found he was a Populist. (Applause.) There is no prescription for making a Populist except a wish and determination to do right. I look into the faces of freemen to-day—into the faces of men who want to give this State a chivalrous ticket The Populist party is the ONLY PARTY that wants to do right."

Mr Caldwell instantly sprang into high favor with the convention. His honest, intellectual face and happy personal and impressive presence had the effect of flinging him into immediate touch with the delegates and he was what might be termed one of the "favorites" of the "boys" throughout the sessions of the convention.

Messrs. Boling, of Chatham, and Penny, of Wake, were appointed convention doorkeepers.

Districts were next called for the formation of the following committees composed of one member from each district.

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

1st District—J. S. Mitchell, of Hertford.
Second District—A. L. Swinson, of Wayne.
Third District—Zeb. T. Kruett, of Harnett.
Fourth District—J. M. Williams, of Randolph.
Fifth District—Dr. Wm. Merritt, of Person.
Sixth District—R. W. Elliott, of Mecklenburg.
Seventh District—J. F. Westmoreland, Davidson.
Eighth District—J. G. Hamrick, of Cleveland.
Ninth District—W. D. Henry, of Buncombe.

COMMITTEE ON PLATFORM.

First District—T. E. McCaskey, of Martin.
Second District—M. L. Wood, of Bertie.
Third District—Cyrus Thompson, of Onslow.
Fourth District—A. C. Green, of Wake.
Fifth District—J. A. Walker.
Sixth District—S. A. Edmunds.
Seventh District—A. C. Shuford, of Catawba.
Eighth District—Frank McDowell, of Burke.
Ninth District—J. M. Candler, of Jackson.

COMMITTEE ON PERMANENT ORGANIZATION.

First District—Col. Harry Skinner, of Pitt.
Second District—W. E. Fountain, of Edgecombe.
Third District—W. H. Smith, of Craven.
Fourth District—J. M. Kelly, of Vance.
Fifth District—T. B. Lindsey, of Rockingham.
Sixth District—W. H. Odom, of Anson.
Seventh District—G. Ed. Kestler, of Cabarrus.
Eighth District—S. M. Asbury, of Gaston.
Ninth District—A. D. K. Wallace, of Rutherford.

DISTRICT VICE-PRESIDENTS.

First District—John Brady, of Gates.
Second District—J. T. B. Hoover, of Wilson.
Third District—W. K. Pigford, of Sampson.
Fourth District—D. T. Massey, of Johnston.
Fifth District—Dr. Wm Merritt, of Person.
Sixth District—W. R. Henry, of Mecklenburg.
Seventh District—L. C. Caldwell, of Iredell.
Eighth District—J. W. Spears, of Forsyth.
Ninth District—Geo. E. Boggs, of Haywood.

The convention then, on motion of Senator Butler adjourned, so that the committees might be able to make reports.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Temporary Chairman Caldwell called the convention to order at 3 o'clock.

The committee on credentials made the following report through Mr. Hendrick, which was adopted.

"We, the committee, beg leave to report:

1st, that Theo. White is authorized by the county of Chowan to cast its vote in this convention, and R. A. Cobb is authorized by the county of Watauga to cast its vote in this convention.

"2nd, that proxies given by delegates who are not in attentance be not allowed, when regularly authorized delegates from the same counties are present.

PERMANENT ORGANIZATION REPORT.

"The committee on permanent organization beg leave to report as follows: For permanent chairman Hon. Harry Skinner.

For secretaries, Hal. W. Ayer, of the Caucasian, and J. L. Ramsey, of the Progressive Farmer, as principal secretaries, with the editors of all reform papers in the State as assistants.

Col. Skinner was escorted to the chair by Capt. J. B. Lloyd and Mr. Peace, the committee appointed by the chairman.

Col. Skinner said that before doing anything he thought the blessings of the Almighty should be asked in order to convene the convention permanently, and asked Rev. H. W. Norris to pray.

Rev. Mr. Norris came to the platform and made an eloquent and earnest invocation asking that an allwise Providence might divest everybody of prejudice, and that this year should be long remembered as a year of great reformation wherein the masses of the people should be freed. There were several "Amens at this plea.

COL. SKINNER'S ADDRESS.

Col. Skinner as permanent chairman addressed the convention and was attentively listened to. In the course of his remarks he said:

"In the beginning, we ask the blessing of Providence. It is now my duty to call the convention permanently to order. I regard it as a distinguished privilege to preside over such an assemblage of American patriots, not less patriots than the men of 1776. You had the courage and enthusiasm at Omaha four years ago to issue to the world our second Declaration of Independence, and to the human race its first declaration of freedom from the tyrannical mono-metallic dollar. The people then organized in their own cause to fight for their own property. It was to my mind the brightest hour that ever beamed in American politics. It was the solemn appeal of a suffering people for better conditions. It was the protest against the then moving and now appalling conditions. Yet there are some reasons why we should recall and remind the country of the present political status we now live in: and I think without controversy with Democrats and Republicans, I can say that if the farmers had not organized we would not have this condition to-day. If there had never been a Peoples party every white or black man would have marched to the polls and cast his vote for one of the old parties committed to gold. Our party, born in principle, had been carried out in principle. Four years ago I stood here and refused the nomination for Governor because I did not want to turn over the State to the rule of ignorance, and now standing here on the same platform, I say, that by our action for principle, never deviating to Democracy or Republicanism, in four years we have forced these two parties to take sides upon the great pivotal issue in this country. We have forced the Republican party to align itself on the gold side of this question. We have compelled the Democratic party to quit straddling and adopt our platform. The Peoples party has swallowed the Democracy. We have compelled them to nominate for President a man who is more Populist to-day than any Populist in North Carolina. We have built up a great party in North Carolina upon the principle that the people wanted relief rather than offices. We have taught, beginning with the Alliance, that the cause was above party. We said we would take relief if we could get it through the Republican or Democratic parties, if not, to stay in the middle of the road and demand relief in a separate organization in the name of justice.

"There is a great difference in the promise of the Democratic party for free silver and free silver itself. We must demand some collateral securities. (Cheers.) We have demanded a very small collateral security. I am surprised that the Democrats of North Carolina didn't come and say, 'We'll take Tom Watson.' I want to say here that there are some things that are making to divide the silver vote.

"The politician who devises any scheme to split the electoral vote in North Carolina and turn it over to McKinley is an enemy to the cause. I want to say to the Populist and Democratic committees that if they let the State go for McKinley they should both be wiped out.

"Some one has asked me whether we were going to take down Tom Watson or Sewall. We are not going to take down either. Wherever it is necessary to run Bryan and Sewall, or a joint ticket, or Bryan and Watson it will be done. But the effect will be to elect Mr. Bryan President. If our cause means anything it means that.

"But when we come to North Carolina, and consider local conditions it is different. We must not deviate from the principle of free silver, sixteen to one, from our promises of a free ballot and a fair count, and I care not what co-operation is necessary to attain these, I say let it come. If we must co-operate with the Democrats to secure silver, let us do that. If we must co-operate with the Republicans to secure local self-government, let us co-operate.

"But whatever we do we must recognize that the white man must yet for a while rule in North Carolina. The time has not come for the negro to rule and govern the white people of the State. He is not yet qualified for that great work, and if he should undertake it he would even endanger his own liberties."

COMMITTEE ON PLATFORM.

The report of the committee on platform was called for and read. It was the report which appears above with the exception that the following amendment offered by Prof. John Graham was referred to the committee and adopted:

"Resolved, That we recommend a constitutional prohibition of the purchase, lease or rental of parallel or competing railway lines."

Other amendments were also offered—one by Mr. Macon, of Franklin, providing that salaries of State officers be reduced 25 per cent., and one by Mr. Rowland, of Vance, providing that failure to list solvent credits for taxation should be a bar to their recovery. Both amendments were referred to the committee on platform. The committee reported that these amendments were already covered by the platform as already read, and recommended that they be not accepted. The report of the committee was adopted.

GETTING BREEZY.

While the committee was out discussing the amendments, the convention began to call for speeches. There were calls for Butler. These were supplemented by a call from

(Continued on third page.)

N. C. FARMERS' STATE ALLIANCE.

The Annual Meeting Held at Hillsboro, August 11-12--Fifty one Counties Represented.

PRES. THOMPSON'S SPEECH

A Masterly Address and Enthusiastically Received—Reports of Secretary and Lecturer—The Alliance in a Prosperous Condition—Resolutions Passed Condemning the 99 Year Railroad Lease.

The North Carolina Farmers' Alliance met at Hillsboro, August 10th, President Thompson opened the Alliance at 2 o'clock p. m. An interesting session was also held at night.

The next morning after opening, several new delegates reported, making 51 counties represented. And it was a good looking delegation of representative men from every section of the State.

The President delivered his speech this morning. It was given up by all to be one of the grandest addresses ever delivered before the Farmers' Alliance. President Thompson received many flattering congratulations on his speech. It was ordered published in all papers friendly to the Alliance.

The officers then made their reports, all of which being good, showing that the Alliance is rapidly gaining in efficiency for good in every department of its work.

Especially should the success of the Business Agent's work be commended. In their report, the Executive Committee stated that the State Alliance had made $5,000 in the last year.

The report pertaining to the property purchased and the repairs made on buildings, the farm and manufacturing enterprises begun and still in progress, was satisfactory.

The remaining morning session was devoted to the introduction of resolutions, which were all referred to the proper committees; except a few which were passed under the suspension of the rules.

Among these was one thanking the Executive Committee and the officers for their excellent work done.

Also the following resolution introduced by John Graham was unanimously passed:

"Whereas, Attorney-General Osborne did in a letter dated February 22, 1896, refuse the representative of a special committee of Alliancemen, acting upon their own responsibility as citizens, permission to bring suit to the validity of the lease of the North Carolina railroad to the Southern Railway in accordance with the permission granted him by the Supreme Court of North Carolina, to wit: 'Leave to bring action in the name of the State for the purpose of vacating the charter of the North Carolina Railroad or for such other relief as the court may see fit to grant in the premises, and did threaten to dismiss the action unless confined to the vacation of the charter of the North Carolina Railroad.'

"Now, be it resolved by the Farmers' State Alliance in convention assembled at Hillsboro, N. C.

"1. That we denounce this action of the Attorney-General as unworthy of the great office he holds.

"2. That while we recognize the great benefits conferred upon the commonwealth by railways, as servants of the people, we dread the consolidation of our high commercial highways in the hands of any one corporation as subversive of the liberties and rights of the people.

"3. That to prevent this overwhelming calamity to North Carolina we urge all citizens of our beloved State to unite regardless of parties in demanding the amendment of the lease of the North Carolina Railroad to the Southern Railway Company.

"4. That we favor a constitutional prohibition of the purchase, lease, or rental of competing or parallel lines of railways, and that the North Carolina Railroad, the Southern Railway, the Seaboard Air Line be defined as competing lines.

"5. That we pledge ourselves as Alliancemen and urge all citizens, regardless of party ties to refuse to vote for any candidate for Governor, Attorney-General or member of the legislature who will not pledge himself to use his best endeavors to secure the enactment of the sentiment of these resolutions into law."

At 11 o'clock a request from the town for a public speaker to address the large crowd attending court during intermission, was received from the citizens of the town. The President was invited but the business was such he could not go. Rev. J. T. B. Hoover was sent in his place, and gave them a good speech.

At the night session the present officers were unanimously re-elected to serve for the ensuing year:

President—Dr. Cyrus Thompson, Richlands.
Vice-President—Jno. Graham, Ridgeway.
Secretary-Treasurer—W. S. Barnes, Hillsboro.
Lecturer—J. T. B. Hoover, Elm City.
Steward—Dr. V. N. Seawell, Villanow.
Chaplain—Rev. P. H. Massey, Durham.
Door-keeper—Geo. T. Lane, Greensboro.
Assistant Door-keeper—Jas. E. Lyon, Durham.
Sergeant at-Arms—A. D. K. Wallace, Rutherfordton.
State Business Agent—T. Ivey, Hillsboro.
Trustee Business Agency Fund—W. A. Graham, Machpelah.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A. F. Hileman, Concord; N. C. English, Trinity; James M. Mewborne, Kinston; John Graham, Ridgeway; W. B. Fleming, Ridgeway.

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

John Brady, Gatesville; Dr. J. F. Harrell, Whiteville; T. J. Candler. Acton.

Address of Dr. Cyrus Thompson.

To the delegates of the N. C. F. S. Alliance:

We are met it this, our tenth annual session under circumstances essentially different from those that have surrounded us on former occasions.

Our session at Cary one year ago looked forward to a permanent location for headquarters and the establishment of a tannery and a shoe factory.

The property we then examined and contemplated purchasing fell by legitimate sale at a better price than we could offer, into other hands and your Executive Committee was forced to seek a suitable location elsewhere. After a very careful examination of other places, and due consideration of many favorable propositions, they decided upon the purchase of this property and located our headquarters here.

They then set forward as rapidly as circumstances would permit, with repair of the premises, the establishment of a tannery, and the manufacture of shoes as the work of North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance. Whatever difference of opinion may have existed hitherto among brethren, I am inclined to believe that a more eligible location could hardly have been chosen. In the historic town of Hillsboro, centrally located and conveniently to whatever our business may require, we are in the midst of friends who desire our prosperity and permanence, and here we are not likely to suffer any unjust discrimination that we should have avoided elsewhere.

The credit for the accomplishment of what is before you is due to your Executive Committee and resident officers. When you have heard their detailed reports of progress and plans, you are expected to pass your judgment upon their labors and to direct their future operation. The possibilities of this enterprise as it may be extended and developed are too great, both the upbuilding of the Alliance and as a factor in the industrial development of the State, not to claim very earnest and mature consideration at your hands. For if we succeed in this small beginning, as we shall if we are so determined, this venture will mark a new era in the life of our organization, and illustrate the possibilities of co-operative industrial enterprise.

We are now upon the eve of a political campaign which promises to be a very remarkable one in our country's history. The importance of the issue, the uncertainty of the event, the gratification which every Allianceman feels that the lines of battle are drawn at length upon his fundamental contention of financial reform unite to surround the campaign with unusual activity and interest, while perhaps little, therefore, could be done in the way of reviving and reorganizing the Order until after the election, too little, I fear, could be done even then with our present disregard of the value of the lecture system. Deeming this a matter of the utmost importance, I urge that you shall not close this session until you have devised some plan to keep the lecturer constantly in the field during the coming campaign.

The direction of the Agricultural Experiment Station has recently requested through the Progressive Farmer that each Sub-Alliance appoint an agricultural committee to communicate with him upon questions of farm interest. This was done after consultation with me. I hope the membership will avail itself of the information so freely offered.

If we may not thereby increase the market price of our product, we may learn to lessen the cost of production, and a lessened cost is equivalent to an increase of price in so far as it may add to our profit.

Conditions just now confronting us seem to be unusually favorable for renewed growth of the Alliance. Until four years ago this organization was in fine favor with a majority of our agricultural people. This favor was not withdrawn to be replaced by misrepresentation and persecution until the existence and teachings of the Alliance had begotten intense convictions to the hearts of a large and unimpeachable portion of its membership. The unbiased study of economic conditions and problems gave rise to a body of sincere men who, through bitter experience, had lost all confidence in the honesty and helpfulness of existing party organizations. These men were four years in advance of a vaster host that could be numbered today. We had presented our demands to national conventions and legislatures of these existing parties, we had urged upon them the justice of our claims to substantial recognition and effective remedy, we had declared our willingness to strengthen the party that would care for our interests, and we had received nothing better than scant courtesy for the moment, with ridicule and contemptuous disregard. If State and local conventions seemed to acquiesce in our demands, it was only to give us the place of a neglected platform, while our shrewder enemies were given too often the body and soul of the candidate. The lack of good faith on the part of party leaders in whom we had confided became disgustingly evident to many, to whom there seemed left no course consistent with their convictions but to ally themselves with a new party of protest, professing friendliness to their interests and incorporating their demands into its party platform. Then began at the hands of dominant partisans in North Carolina a campaign of cruel and bitter misrepresentation of the Alliance and of the motives that actuated the majority of Alliancemen of a later day.

Former Alliancemen, of too much brain not to comprehend the injustice and falsity of their own utterances and the ruthless purpose of our enemies, declared from platform and through the press, that the organization had "left the principles and gone into politics." Upon the false plea of defection from original principles, they justified their own abandonment of the Alliance and drew away with them thousands of confiding and sincere Alliancemen. From the beginning, the Alliance was not designed to be a mere agricultural club, or an annex to any political party.

Feeling the necessity of popular political education, its originators set it forth on this special mission. In withdrawing our support, therefore from a party we deemed untrue to our best interests, we went into politics only so far as our original principles contemplated and justified.

Under such circumstances we encountered the terrible shock of the campaign of 1892, a campaign which for intense conviction, desperate determination, and educative effectiveness is without a parallel. When the smoke of that battle had cleared away, the partisans who desired the destruction of the Order because, instead of a harmless plaything, it had become a powerful menance to continue unfaithfulness, declared with a strange mixture of feigned regret and evident satisfaction, that the Alliance, having gone into politics, had killed itself. Nevertheless the Order survived that terrible onslaught. Your lecturers took the field the following year with a determination to rebuild.

They inspired new hope and fresh courage in hearts that felt the continued need of the Alliance, which they loved better than they loved any political party.

A ceaseless campaign of political education in the face of whatever difficulties, was waged undaunted in every section of the State.

It is characteristic of the Alliance to wage ceaseless campaigns of political education and to apply its teaching according to individual judgement at the ballot box. Therein lies its power for good and its terror to its opposers.

Should not the sovereign citizen be well taught in the science of economic government? Or were it better that he be left ignorant and pliable clay in the hands of destructive potters?

If we went into politics, therefore, has not our action been fully justified by the course of events? What we declared Clevelandism to mean in 1892, is sadly realized in 1896. The crushing stone which we then rejected is not now set as the head of the corner even by our former calumniators.

For our course, therefore, we have no apology to offer in any effort to increase our membership. We are not the prodigal. We have not wandered into any far country to waste our substance in riotous living. For these four years we, who are charged with going into politics are in no sense chargeable with the ruin which the financial policy of our nation has wrought. And now among the sincere men who were led away from us, will it not be confessed that, without our protest and bucking of party ties, our continued efforts among the plain, common people, whom we have taught to study, to think, to read by countless humble firesides, the prospect of early triumph of helpful principles of government would be far less encouraging. Friends always if every species of education, we have largely fashioned public thought and expression. Pioneers in the field of popular political education for truth's sake, we give to the country a more intelligent, independent, and patriotic citizenship than it ever before knew. The principles which we have studied, the problems we agitated for a decade, are just now being taken seriously to heart by the commercial classes to whom we had no access. The pamphlets to which we gave rise, the press which we originated and maintained, are just now pending a restatement of our vital contentions in a press that finds new audience. Our city populations, who thought themselves the better informed, are now in the stress of conditions we have striven to avert, eagerly poring over questions that have for years engrossed the thought of the humble toiler at his country fireside, and the consequence to them, as it was to us, is that party affiliations, life-long or ancestral, wherein has been sung to them many a damning political lullaby, are breaking away with a new sense of danger, a better conception of human relations, a clearer view of the essential unity of every industry.

When some future historian shall recount whether in a more prosperous or calamitous time, the forces that strive for a peaceable and equitable adjustment, in behalf of our common humanity, of all the evil conditions of this agitated time, if he is unprejudiced enough to be just, he will write down this organization as a foremost factor. The sectionalism and bitter hatred, upon which as an evil heritage from the war, parties throve and plundered, have been swept away under the humane of this organization to every section of the Union. A new sons of brotherhood arose everywhere in the magnetic pathway of L. L. Polk, whose memory is sacred as the divinest preacher of this decade. But for the labors of this organization, the tariff would still be sounded as the battle cry of equally plundered but contending men, and the cruel and blasphemous assertion of overproduction would still satisfy a multitude, not apparently fools, in their helpless contemplation of individual and National bankruptcy.

But the reputed causes no longer satisfy since our school master is abroad in the land. We are making progress. No campaign can now be fought on sectional lines.

No party will find a population so ignorant as to believe the tariff the main issue in politics. The money question in which are involved all the essential factors effecting human progress or decay, comes in this Presidential year as the ridge pole of all political controversy. But a little while ago two great parties denied our contention and spurned our urgent appeal for monetary reform. To-day only one great party, which counts for the most part as the unearned wealth and luxurious idleness of the nation ignores our teaching and labor's appeal, while three great parties are striving to co-operate for the success of our most urgent and vital demand, and wherever the Alliance has had its way most largely, there the financial question is most difficult to evade. There the masses in all political parties are most likely to be intelligently abreast of the wisest and most humane economic thought. May we contend, therefore, that the Alliance is not only a useful, but an indispensible organization as well? If its membership remains small after the shock of two friendly campaigns and a period of pernicious financial stringency, still the Order lives, and there is every reason why it should grow. Our mission is perpetual. There are other great questions upon which the people need to be educated, and others to arise in the process of time.

No Populist should neglect the Alliance because the People's Party espoused the cause. He should rather for that reason remain steadfast to the Alliance and see to it that this new party prove not faithless as the old. The element that cannot thwart a good cause in open combat is prone to attack itself to it in apparent friendliness to accomplish by this means what it could not openly. It was such an evil genius that would have rendered the Alliance useless by steering it clear of political study and practice.

It was such an evil genius that stranded the old Democratic ship upon the shores of Shermanism. Is it not possible for the People's Party to suffer sometime a similar fate?

The thousands of Alliancemen who, affiliating with the Democratic party, left the Alliance "because it went into politics" four years ago, can have no excuse for remaining out of it now. The Democratic party in control of every department of the government, counting securely upon their unquestioning allegiance to party, gave them nothing of their principles, after all its success. Its history the past four years shows how untrue a political party, unfettered by independent public sentiment, may prove, and how cruelly contemptuous of blind allegience. We want to see these men return to the order and help us to rebuild it to its former magnitude. We need them and we feel that they need us. They left us because we went into politics in 1892, and in 1896 their National platform has put them into the same politics that we went into. Why should they not find us very genial companions. And so to every eligible man in North Carolina, whether Populist, Democrat or Repulican, who believes in the wisdom and necessity of the non-partisan political education of the votes, that herein lies the safety of our common country, I extend a cordial invitation to connect himself with us. An intelligent and patriotic citizenship is the only hope of the Republic, and that which we think we learn in a campaign when hotly contending for the mastery of a faction is not as likely to be the saving truth as that which we calmly discover when in quest of truth for its own sake. For the citizen there is no education so valuable as that which is political and for our agricultural population there has been no other such educator as the Alliance.

And to those who follow useful occupations that render them ineligible to membership in the Alliance let us appeal for kindly recognition and a friendly hand. Whatever their calling the Alliance is not an enemy to them. If we seek primarily the prosperity of our own calling, we seek as a necessary sequence the prosperity of every other industry. For only upon a prosperous agricultural can you predicate the prosperity of the merchant, the manufacturer, or any class of helpful labor. This is the divine foundation which cannot be safely disregarded or despised. The impoverishment of the farmer and the destruction of the value of his product is followed inevitably by loss, failure and bankruptcy in other pursuits.

It was a pretty old, but none the less eloquent truth uttered by Mr. Bryan at Chicago: "Burn down your cities and leave our farms, and your cities will grow up again, but destroy our farms and the grass will grow in every city in the Union."

And it is a sad fact, no less eloquently true, that with an impoverished, ignorant, degraded and spiritless rural population, such as it is the progressive tendency of present conditions and policies to produce, there is no new blood for the city's reinvigoration, and no independent nucleus of "a bold yeomanry, its country's pride," around which to gather in some possible final struggle for a country's freedom. It is too much to hope that other industries will yet come to rate the farmer and his efforts at their true value in the progress of the world? May we not hope that the patriotic, the humane, the Christian, of whatever political party, or helpful calling, whether in town or country, will begin to recognize the value of our work and the need of our permanence, and, ceasing all opposition, bid us God-speed in the further efforts to educate and bless the toiling farmer? Surely it is not an unreasonable hope at this juncture, and so the Alliance shall enter upon the labors of another year.

REPORT OF SECRETARY-TREASURER.

The year just closing has been a most important one to the Alliance. While our reports do not show an increase in membership, yet the principles of the order have continued to grow throughout our State and Nation. The want of money—the failure to secure remunerative prices for the crops raised—in many parts of the State have had their effect in not keeping the membership in good standing. A year after year sees the farmer's products depreciate in value. How much longer this will continue no one can tell.

The meeting at Cary one year ago made it possible that the Alliance should take a "new lease of life"—that a grand step for our betterment could be made. The Alliance members everywhere were anxious that something should be done to give the members a more direct benefit. Our papers and members talked shoe factory, and many placed funds in the hands of your Secretary-Treasurer for the purpose of building or starting a factory of that kind. Not enough, however, has been received for the purpose as per plan organized by the last State meeting. We have received for that purpose about $3,000

The removal of your offices from the city to the country is a grand stride for agricultural freedom, and the independence of the Alliance organization.

The establishment of these headquarters with the tannery and shoe factory by your executive committee will, we believe, have more to do with breaking down prejudice against the order, and rebuilding it than anything that could have been done.

Every Alliance will be interested in this property and work; and will, without doubt, help sustain them and push them forword.

It is with you brethren to say whether the Alliance shall go forward in this grand stretch for freedom or not. It is with you to say whether or not the Alliance shall go forward and your place become the mightiest co-operative manufacturing establishment in the South. Let there be no bickerings, no strife, but let each officer and delegate do his utmost to see how he can say and do to make this beginning one grand final success. Right here we wish to say that a house divided against itself cannot stand. Let there be no division in the Alliance work.

Since our removal here we have received nothing less than the good will of the citizens in and out of the Alliance.

It is due especially to Major John W. Graham, a brother of our worthy trustee, and to Mr. D. M. Parks, both of Hillsboro, that we are owners of the property here. They assisted your Secretary in his search for a good location, and your executive committee when they came upon the grounds to make the purchase. We do not believe we could have selected a place where your organization and its officers would have been more kindly treated than here.

We regret that more progress has not been made in getting our insurance before the people. We have only one active member, Bro. J. M. Roberts, of Cleveland county, who has done much work for the National Aid. Several agents have been appointed, but they have not met with success.

I think it well for our brothers to investigate thoroughly the plan before returning home, so that each county can get the information from its delegate.

I think the plan of permitting members who are behind more than one quarter to return by paying one quarter's dues should be no longer permitted. I believe it is a detriment to the strength of the order.

In conclusion let me urge upon the members present to so push our organization and the enterprises started that we may be able to establish at least one new enterprise every year hereafter.

The following are receipts and disbursements for the year ending August 10, 1896:

Amt. on hand Aug. 11, '95	208 70
Amt. received, fees dues and otherwise	1,922 65
	$2,131 35

DISBURSEMENTS.

Expenses State meeting, 1895	$ 199 00	
Printing, stationery	230 70	
Offices, expenses, etc	39 45	
Ex. Com. meetings	47 77	
Paid Nat. Sec. bal. dues of 1895	290 98	
Paid Nat. Sec. on dues for 1896	100 00	
Paid for Rituals	5 00	
Paid W. S. Barnes, salary	1 000 00	
Paid J. M. Mewborne, balance salary as President	50 00	
Paid Cyrus Thompson on salary	65 00	
Paid postage	125 00	2 042 00
Balance on hand		$ 89 35

STATE LECTURER'S REPORT.

To the Officers and Members of the North Carolina Alliance:

BRETHREN:—In obedience to custom and to the requirements of the Order I hereby beg leave to make this my annual report as Lecturer for the State. It is a source of much regret to me to have to report that but little has been done on this line in the absence of any appropriation. I have been unable to carry and send the great truth of the Alliance to any new quarters or to visit even those places in which we have our greatest strength. I find, however, in the places that I

[Continued on 2nd page]