

# PLOW, FORGE & GRIP.

VOL 1

LINCOLN, N. C., FRIDAY, DEC. 4, 1891.

NO. 1

## Professional Cards.

**Dr. G. G. Costner,**  
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.  
Offers his professional services to the citizens of Lincoln and surrounding country. Office at his residence adjoining Lincoln Hotel. All calls promptly attended to.  
Ang. 7, 1891

**J. W. SAIN, M. D.,**

Has located at Lincoln and offers his services as physician to the citizens of Lincoln and surrounding country. Will be found at night at the residence of B. C. Wood.  
March 27, 1891

**Bartlett Shipp,**

ATTORNEY AT LAW,  
LINCOLN, N. C.

Jan. 9, 1891.

**Finley & Wetmore,**  
ATTYS. AT LAW,  
LINCOLN, N. C.

Will practice in Lincoln and surrounding counties. All business put into our hands will be promptly attended to.  
April 18, 1890.

**Dr. W. A. PRESSLEY,**  
SURGEON DENTIST.

OFFICE IN COBB BUILDING, MAIN ST.,  
LINCOLN, N. C.

July 11, 1890.

**Dr. A. M. Alexander**  
DENTIST.

Cocaine used for painless extracting teeth. With THIRTY YEARS experience. Satisfaction given in all operations. Terms cash and moderate.  
Jan 28 '91

## GO TO

BARBER SHOP.

Newly fitted up. Work always neatly done. Customers politely waited upon. Everything pertaining to the tonorial art is done according to latest styles.  
HENRY TAYLOR, Barber.

## Advice to Mothers.

Wm. W. Wood's *Warranted* should always be used when children are cutting teeth. It relieves the little sufferers from the most distressing symptoms, soothes the inflamed and swollen gums, and regulates the bowels, and is the best known remedy for all these troubles, whether arising from teething or other causes. Twenty-five cents a bottle.

**E. M. ANDREWS,**

Carries the LARGEST STOCK OF

FURNITURE, PIANOS & ORGANS

to be Found in the State.

BABY CARRIAGES AND TRICYCLES.

Buy in Large Quantities Direct from Factories and can and will give you LOW PRICES.

WRITE FOR CATALOGUE AND PRICES.

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14 and 16 West Trade St.

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# CASTORIA

for Infants and Children.

"Castoria is so well adapted to children that I recommend it as superior to any prescription known to me."  
H. A. Anderson, M. D.,  
111 So. Oxford St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

"The use of 'Castoria' is so universal and so well known that it needs no word of recommendation to endorse it. Few are the intelligent families who do not keep Castoria within easy reach."  
CARLOS HANSEN, D. D.,  
New York City.

Castoria cures Colic, Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhea, Feverishness, and all the ailments of Infants and Children. It is a safe and pleasant medicine, and is the best for all the ailments mentioned above.  
Warranted to be pure and of the highest quality.  
Prepared by J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.

"For several years I have recommended your 'Castoria,' and should always do so. It is the best medicine I have ever used for the ailments mentioned above."  
EDWIN F. FARMER, M. D.,  
1234 Broadway, New York City.

"The 'Warranted' is the best medicine I have ever used for the ailments mentioned above."  
THE CASTORIA COMPANY, 17 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK.

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## PRESIDENT POLK'S MESSAGE.

His Address Before the Indianapolis Convention—A Scathing Array of Facts and Figures.

To the Supreme Council of the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union:

Assembled here as the accredited representatives of the farmers of almost every State and Territory in the Union, you can not be unmindful of the weighty responsibility which attaches to your position.

Entrusted with the high duty of legislating for a great organization whose success or failure may depend on your action, I feel assured that you will address yourselves to the task with that deliberation and patriotic purpose demanded by the situation the stupendous interests that have been committed to your charge.

Upon no body of men, perhaps, in our history, since the meeting of Continental Congress has greater or graver responsibility devolved than upon this assembly. There is the high and exalted duty of establishing a republican form of government; yours, the no less grand and patriotic duty of preserving it.

Their demands for equal rights before the law were no more the just protest of a liberty-loving people against the exactions and usurpations of monarchical tyranny, than are yours which were declared at St. Louis and reiterated at Ocala against those inequalities and discriminations which threaten to undermine the liberties of the people and to destroy the great agricultural interests of the country.

But you are to be congratulated that, like our continental fathers, while confronted with formidable forces and difficulties, you have the invincible power of right, of justice, of equity and of truth to inspire and sustain you. Moreover, you have a unanimity and solidity of sentiment among the great conservative masses of the country as a mighty reserve power, and which, if directed aright, must ultimately and inevitably achieve for our cause a glorious success.

Wonderful as has been our growth and development as an organization in numbers, no phase of our progress has been so marvelous and gratifying as in the education of the masses in the true principles of political economy. The gray-haired sire, whose sinews and muscles have been toughened and hardened through a life of toil and labor in the production of wealth, has been forced by unjust and oppressive legislation, to address himself to the no less important problem of securing a just and equitable distribution of that wealth. Diligent, honest and earnest research and investigation as to the causes which have brought the American farmer to the verge of bankruptcy and ruin has forced upon him the alarming conviction that many of the most sacred and important functions of government have been usurped and appropriated for the benefit of the favored few, to the detriment and ruin of the neglected millions.

## THE SITUATION.

The gravity of the situation, the great unrest which is agitating the public mind and the magnitude of the interests involved, demand the most candid and deliberate investigation and consideration. What are the alleged grievances of the American farmer? Are they real or merely theoretical.

Let the record answer. During the decade from 1850 to 1860, farm values increased 101 per cent. From 1870 to 1880, farm values increased only 9 per cent. But notwithstanding this alarming decline in this great industry, the aggregate wealth of the country, from 1870 to 1880, increased 45 per cent, and the agricultural population increased over 29 per cent. From 1850 to 1880 agriculture led manufacturing 10 per cent in increased value of products. From 1870 to 1880 manufacturing led agriculture 27 per cent, showing a difference of 37 per cent in favor of manufacturing.

The ten staple crops of the country, wheat, corn, rye, barley, buckwheat, hay, oats, potatoes, cotton and tobacco, for the year 1884, brought less than 2 per cent more than the same crops in 1866. Our cereal crops of 1887 from less than half the average and half the amount brought the farmers \$79,711,000 more than the same crops 1887, notwithstanding that during this period the average and number of farm hands had doubled, and agricultural machinery and implements had been vastly improved. The farmer is alarmed to find that within the last decade agricultural lands generally have decreased from 20 to 40 per cent in value.

Owing less than 22 per cent of the wealth of the country, the farmers pay over 80 per cent of the taxes levied and collected. Two-thirds of the wealth of the country is not assessed one farthing for purposes of taxation, and yet the government has the power to force every taxpayer in the land to offer his life in defense of that untaxed wealth. With all his facilities for transportation, which are equal to the demands of the productive power of the country, and his accessibility to markets, he is forced to sell his products at prices barely covering the cost of production.

Despite the theory that diversification of crops and home markets would conduce to his prosperity, he sees thousands of New England farms, within easy reach of great aggregations of consumers, absolutely abandoned to the briar and brush.

In the great agricultural State of Iowa the mortgaged indebtedness on farms alone is \$104 per capita; in Kansas, \$165 per capita; in Illinois, \$100 per capita; and from Maine to the Rocky mountains, and from the lakes to the gulf, the farmers are overburdened with debt. He derives little comfort, and it is not flattering to his philanthropy and patriotism to rest his hope for relief in better prices for the products of his labor, to the precarious or occasional misfortune of his fellows in other and less favored lands.

He fails to understand why a United States bond, brought for less than 60 cents on the dollar, bearing a 4 per cent interest, should command a premium of 26 cents on the dollar, bearing 4 per cent interest, should command a premium of 26 cents on the dollar, while a note secured by a mortgage on the average farm at half its value, bearing 8 per cent interest, and due at the same time could not be sold at its face value. He is confounded and amazed to find that we have paid on our public debt since 1866, in principal, premiums and interest, almost double its original sum, and that it would now require more of the products of his labor to cancel the remainder than it would, to have paid the original debt. As producer and consumer, he stands the helpless victim of an iniquitous system of taxation, which, while it enhances the cost of all the products of his labor, forces him to pay an unjust and onerous tribute to a favored class.

These gross inequalities and ruinous discriminations have aroused him to comprehend the startling truth, that agriculture, "the art of all arts, the science of all sciences and the life of all life," the true basis of all wealth and of substantial progress, is rapidly declining and is threatened with paralysis and death, and that, too, in a period of the most wonderful development and growth in our country's history. Profoundly impressed that his generous confidence has been basely betrayed, his interests neglected and his reasonable appeals for justice ignored, he has resolved, in a spirit of manly determination, guided by patriotic motive and exalted purpose, to rescind this great interest from impending ruin and restore that equilibrium between the great industries of the country which is absolutely essential to its well being and prosperity.

He has resolved to present his case before the supreme tribunal of public opinion and ask for its de-

cision through the ballot-box. Appealing with confidence to that lofty sense of justice and exalted patriotism which, in all times, of peril, have proved to be the crowning glory of American character, his pleadings shall not be in vain. A readjustment of these conditions so as to best subserve a uniform, healthful and harmonious growth of all the elements of our civilization, is the sublime office of christian statesmanship—the supreme duty of the hour.

The existing conditions are not to be ascribed to indolence or thriftless improvidence on the part of our farmers, we point to their broad and well-tilled fields and the abundant harvest which crown their toil and which, with an exception of two years, have furnished annually since 1850, over 70 per cent of all our domestic exports. Is it due to overproduction? The broad world is our market and is teeming millions our ready customers, and all over our own fruitful and God-favored land gaunt hunger, poverty and distress stalk in unconcealed and appalling horror.

These are the conditions and this the situation which confront us as a people, and they must be met.

## OUR DEMANDS.

Patiently submissively, and uncomplainingly the farmers of the country coiled and struggled against the aggressive approach of invading poverty, and hoped in vain for aid and succor at the hands of those to whom they had confidently entrusted the guardianship of their interests. Addressing themselves anxiously and earnestly to the causes of the anomalous condition of affairs and aided by the light of history, they reached the solemn and deliberate conviction, that these oppressive conditions and environments are due to unjust and discriminating national legislation. Upon and in accordance with this conviction, they formulated their demands at St. Louis in 1889, and laid them before Congress. These demands were reiterated and reaffirmed by us at Ocala, Fla., in 1890, and while that body was yet in session, they were discussed by the people with an interest and earnestness seldom given to any subject in all our history. They were advocated and indorsed by our Order with a unanimity unparalleled in popular agitation.

For the first time in the history of the country the tillers of the soil through their accredited representatives and by petition, appeared at the door of our National Capitol and asked for relief. Under instructions from your body, a bill was formulated and presented to Congress. While no measure was even presented to Congress with stronger indorsement or more earnest unanimity, yet we accompanied it with this declaration: "We submit this bill with due deference to the intelligence, judgment, and wisdom of your body. We do not claim that it is the best or the only measure through which relief may be brought to our oppressed, suffering, and distressed people but we submit it as the best we have been able to devise. We would be only too happy to receive at your hands a wiser and better measure. But these suffering millions must have relief. They ask for bread and they will not be contented with a stone. They are not asking for charity, but they are demanding justice."

How was this fair, frank, earnest, respectful and reasonable appeal of the people received by that body? This first appeal from these, who, while owing less than 22 per cent of the wealth of the country and a large proportion of which is encumbered with debt, yet who pay four-fifths of all the taxes—from those who support the mighty framework of our governmental fabric—from those to whose generous but misplaced confidence a majority of the members of that body were indebted for their seats—how was this approval of the sovereign people received?

Was their bill discussed by the committees to whom it was referred? No. Was it reported to either House, either favorably or adverse-

ly? No. Was any resolution offered in the Senate calling for a report? No. Was any amendment proposed to the bill? No. Was any substitute offered for it? No. What became of the bill and petitions of a half a million farmers asking for its passage? They were quietly laid away to the sleep of eternal legislative death. And what was the answer to these appeals and petitions? They served only to elicit denunciation, misrepresentation, ridicule, slander and abuse. Virtually the answer to us was: "You do not know your needs. Go back to your homes—work harder and live closer and keep out of politics, and all will be well." Was it just, was it generous, was it kind, was it even respectful, to thus spurn this first and earnest appeal of an oppressed and suffering people? Have these men, who are indebted to the people for whatever of prominence and official dignity and power they may enjoy—have they forgotten that they are servants and not masters of the people? After a session of thirteen months, employed for the most part, as the records indicate, in party maneuvering for party advantage, and expending \$1,000,000,000 of the people's money—\$500,000,000 of which came from the sweat and toil of these same rejected and insulted petitioners, that body adjourned, leaving not one single act on its record for the benefit of the people.

In the light of a plain lesson of history—that all the civilizations worthy the name that have lived and passed away—perished under the iron hand of money power—that those who control the money of a country control the destinies of its people, is it not our imperative duty as a people to establish such barriers and limitations as will arrest the evident and alarming tendency to centralize money power in this country?

This was one of the grand purposes of the measure presented to Congress. It would have supplanted our iniquitous unjust and oppressive national bank system by securing to the people an adequate amount of money direct from the government at a low rate of interest to have met the legitimate demands of the country. But in justification of the silent contempt which characterized the reception of this measure, and with the artfulness, sophistry, and adroitness of skilled demagogues—assaults—vehement and persistent assaults on its minutest details have been substituted for many arguments as to its underlying principles. But the discussion and investigation of our demands has added constantly to their favor and strength, until to day they stand as the unqualified expression of the sentiment of our Order in thirty-four States of the Union.

More and more are the great masses of the people learning to comprehend the duties, functions, and powers of the government as their general agent. What right has that general agent to issue the people's money to corporations at a cost of 1 per cent, and license those corporations to loan it to the people at a cost of 8 to 24 per cent? We believe with John C. Calhoun—that the people should not be required to pay interest on government reduced while said credit could be extended to them without interest. We believe with Thomas Jefferson—that "the power to issue money should be taken from the banks and restored to the people and to Congress, to which it rightfully belongs." We believe James G. Blaine, not only that the one defective element in the national bank system is that it requires the permanence of national debt as the basis of its existence, but that any such system is inherently false and wrong and cannot be justified on any principle of justice or equity. We believe that Abraham Lincoln could have uttered no truer prophecy had his hand and pen been guided by inspiration when he wrote: "The money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed."

The Constitution declares that Congress shall have power to regulate commerce among the several States. What are the essential elements or factors of commerce? Money, transportation and the transmission of intelligence. Does Congress regulate these? Does Congress regulate money—the value and volume of money? Organized capital demanded that Congress should degrade and destroy our legal tender currency and establish in lieu thereof national banks of issue, which should be based alone on interest-bearing government bonds. Congress obeyed. Organized capital bought the bonds at about half their face value, and thus monopolized the basis of our banking system. Organized capital demanded that Congress should tax State banks out of existence. Congress obeyed. Thus capital monopolized the control of the volume of currency. Organized capital demanded that Congress should outlaw land as security for loans from these banks. Congress obeyed. Thus the securities upon which these banks must be operated were limited, chiefly to stocks, bonds and personal notes, whose values were to be manipulated, regulated and dictated by organized capital through its stock exchange in Wall street. Thus the power conferred upon Congress by the Constitution to regulate money, its value and volume, was virtually surrendered and transferred to capitalistic combination.

But the Constitution further confers upon Congress the exclusive right to make money. Does not this reservation of the exclusive right to make money carry with it the unavoidable obligation to furnish it in sufficient amounts to supply the requirements of the legitimate demands of the country? What has been the effect of conferring upon capital these extraordinary privileges and powers? Just what it has been in all the ages and in all countries of the past—the fearful augmentation of centralized money power, to the impoverishment and robbery of honest industry.

At the close of the war, with a population approximating 37,000,000, we had about \$2,000,000,000 in money. There was no undue or injurious inflation. Labor in all departments of industry enjoyed remunerative prices for its products, and prosperity, peace, contentment and plenty abounded throughout the land. Every artery of business, of trade and of enterprise thrived with the healthy and invigorating flow of an ample supply of money. To-day, with a population of 63,000,000 and a corresponding growth in all departments of industry and enterprise, the volume of currency has been reduced to about \$600,000,000, with the uniform and inevitable result which has always and everywhere followed an undue contraction—high-priced money and low-priced products, entailing distress, poverty, suffering and ruin.

In 1880 we had 2,000 national banks with a circulation of \$317,500,000, and yet their loans and discounts amounted to \$1,041,000,000—or an amount in excess of their circulation of \$723,500,000—or 828 per cent. In 1890 we had 3,567 national banks, with a circulation of \$125,176,000, and yet their loans and discounts amounted to \$1,970,000,000, or an amount in excess of their circulation of \$1,844,824,000—or 1573 per cent. On what principle of equity or safety can individual or corporate credit be thus substituted for money?

We demand governmental control of transportation; we demand the retention of our public domain for the use of our own people; we demand the prohibition of gambling in futures of agricultural and mechanical products; we demand that no class of interest shall be taxed to build up any other class or interest; we demand the election of United States Senators by the direct vote of the people; we demand a graduated tax on incomes; but more important than all these, broader and deeper than all these, and first of all these, is the transcendently  
(Continued to last page.)