

**THE FARMERS' MASS CONVENTION.**

The convention assembled at 12 o'clock on Wednesday in Metropolitan Hall, Raleigh, and was called to order by Col. L. L. Polk. H. C. McAllister was made temporary chairman and S. O. Wilson, secretary. Rev. Dr. Nelson opened the meeting with prayer. The following were appointed a committee of credentials, W. S. Burgwyn, Alex. McIver, T. B. Lindsay, D. McN. Mc. Koy, Dr. D. Reed Parker.

The committee on permanent organization nominated for permanent chairman Elias Carr, of Edgecombe, and S. Otho Wilson, W. E. Benbow, and W. H. Nicholson as secretaries. The vice presidents were D. R. Parker, C. McDonald, W. F. Green, L. W. Anderson, Willis R. Williams and A. T. Mial. Mr. Carr on taking his seat spoke briefly, expressing the wish that all the actions of the convention might further the interests of agriculture,—the chief interest of the State.

D. N. McKoy introduced a resolution that no one should be entitled to vote in the convention whose chief business interest was not farming. This resolution aroused considerable opposition, but was finally passed.

On motion of Mr. John Nichols, congressman-elect, a committee of three waited upon Minister Jarvis and invited him to address the convention. He made an address lasting about an hour. He urged the farmers to aid the State University and the Department of Agriculture and recommended that the latter be consolidated with an agricultural and industrial school, and that \$25,000 additional be taken from the State treasury and put into the fund with the Department's money.

Committees of five each were appointed on the following subjects:

1. Homestead, mortgage and lien law.
2. Commercial fertilizers.
3. Constitution and by-laws, and declaration of principles.
4. State Department of Agriculture.
5. Industrial education.
6. Public roads.
8. Immigration, to which all resolutions pertaining be referred without debate.
8. Other propositions and resolutions.
9. Stock and stock laws.

Gov. Seales was away in Virginia, but Mr. E. W. Kerr, of Sampson, responded in his behalf to an invitation to address the meeting.

At the beginning of the afternoon session a telegram was read from a Farmers' Convention at Asheville, asking that the work of the State Agricultural Board be enlarged, with special regard to the sub-department of immigration.

The following resolutions were introduced: To regulate warehouse charges on tobacco; to work public roads by taxation; to demand of the legislature a reduction of all public salaries, fees and appropriations to one-half the present amounts; to appoint a committee of three or five good men to take charge of the Governor's mansion and let it out to be finished to the lowest bidder, and that each of the committee receive ten dollars when the work is finished; that no farther appropriations be made for the State University; that temperance, hard work and economy will benefit the farmer more than legislation; that the tax of \$500 on each brand of commercial fertilizer be abolished and a ton

tax imposed; that the tax to be imposed by this session of the General Assembly do not exceed 20 cents on the \$100 worth of property; that convicts be employed to mine phosphate and make fertilizers from it; that a committee of nine be appointed to determine where and on what terms farmers can borrow money at lowest interest on good security; to encourage immigration; to urge farmers to make less cotton and tobacco and more grain and grass; to protect sheep; to reduce expense in the state departments and penitentiary, and appropriate the savings to industrial and agricultural schools; to tax every dog one dollar for the benefit of sheep growers and the free schools; to abandon commercial fertilizers; to establish agricultural clubs; to urge the General Assembly to repeal the present homestead and lien laws.

By resolution the *Progressive Farmer* was made the official organ of the farmers of North Carolina. A message from the Knights of Labor was received, warmly commending the objects of the convention. By resolution of Mr. G. Z. French an appropriate answer was returned.

Dr. C. W. Dabney was called upon to address the meeting and did so at considerable length, defending the Board of Agriculture against adverse criticisms by showing that it had too much to do, and that it might more properly be called the Board of North Carolina Industries.

At the night session a resolution was introduced by Col. L. L. Polk, that the organization of the State Department of Agriculture should be placed under the control and management of the practical farmers of the State, and should consist of a board of nine only, one from each Congressional district, each of whom shall be practically identified with some one of the leading industries of his district and two-thirds of whom shall be practical farmers. The Governor should be ex-officio chairman of such board.

The fund should be relieved of the burdens of making coal explorations, immigration, analyses of stomachs, oyster surveys, fish propagation, &c., and all other matters not strictly agricultural.

That for the benefit of the children of farmers, we should have an Agricultural college which should receive \$20,000 annually of the fund of the Agricultural Department, \$25,000 annually from the State treasury, and \$7,500 annually from the land scrip, now applied to the State University, to maintain said Agricultural College.

A resolution was passed asking the General Assembly to turn over to the farmers the \$125,000 of land scrip now in the hands of the University, and bearing \$7,500 interest a year, to the maintenance of an agricultural and mechanical school.

The convention chose the name of the North Carolina Farmers' Association. It will hold its annual session in Raleigh each year when the General Assembly meets.

Mr. Elias Carr, of Edgecombe, was chosen president, with nine vice-presidents, from the various congressional districts, as follows: 1st, Willis R. Williams, of Pitt; 2nd, Capt. W. A. Darden, of Greene; 3d, G. Z. French, of Pender; 4th, Col. W. F. Green, of Franklin; 5th, H. E. Fries, of Forsyth; 6th, J. S. Reid, of Mecklenburg; 7th, W. H. Hobson; 8th, Burwell Blanton;

9th, W. H. McClure, of Clay. Secretary, B. F. Hester, of Granville; assistant secretaries, S. Otho Wilson, of Wake, and C. McDonald of Cabarrus. Treasurer, W. E. Benbow, of Guilford. Executive committee, Dr. D. R. Parker, of Randolph, Prof. A. M. McIver, of Grange; D. McN. McKoy, of Harnett; L. L. Polk, of Forsyth; and C. McDonald, of Cabarrus.



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7. *Red Court Farm.* A Novel. By Mrs. Henry Wood, author of "East Lynne," etc.
8. *The Lady of the Lake.* By Sir Walter Scott. "The Lady of the Lake" is a romance in verse, and of all the works of Scott, none is more beautiful than this.
9. *In Cupid's Net.* A Novel. By the author of "Dora Thorne."
10. *Amos Barton.* A Novel. By George Eliot, author of "Adam Bede," "The Mill on the Floss," etc.
11. *Lady Gwendoline's Dream.* A Novel. By the author of "Dora Thorne."
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13. *The Budget of Wit, Humor and Fun,* a large collection of the funny stories, sketches, anecdotes, jokes, and jokes.
14. *John Bowerbank's Wife.* A Novel. By Miss Mulock, author of "John Halifax, Gentleman," etc.
15. *The Gray Woman.* A Novel. By Mrs. Gaskell, author of "Mary Barton," etc.
16. *Sixteen Complete Stories* by Popular Authors, embracing love, humorous and detective stories, stories of society life, of adventure, of railway life, etc., all very interesting.
17. *Jasper Dane's Secret.* A Novel. By Miss M. E. Bradton, author of "Aurora Floyd," etc.
18. *Fancy Work for Home and Parlor,* an entirely new work upon this subject, containing easy and practical instructions for making fancy baskets, wall pockets, brackets, needle work, embroidery, etc., etc., profusely and elegantly illustrated.
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25. *Called Back.* A Novel. By Hugh Conway.
26. *At the World's Mercy.* A Novel. By Florence Warden, author of "The House on the Marsh," etc.
27. *Mildred Trevanion.* A Novel. By "The Duchess," author of "Molly Raw," etc.
28. *Dark Days.* A Novel. By the author of "Called Back."
29. *Shadows on the Snow.* A Novel. By B. L. Farwell, author of "Broad and Cheesed-Kisses," etc.
30. *Leoline.* A Novel. By Mary Cecil Hay, author of "Brenda Yorke."
31. *Gabriel's Marriage.* A Novel. By Wilkie Collins, author of "No Name," etc.
32. *Keeping the Whirlwind.* A Novel. By Mary Cecil Hay, author of "Old Middleton's Money," etc.
33. *Dudley Carleton.* A Novel. By Miss M. E. Bradton, author of "Lady Audley's Secret," etc.
34. *A Golden Dawn.* A Novel. By the author of "Dora Thorne," etc.
35. *Valerie's Fate.* A Novel. By Mrs. Alexander, author of "The Wooting O'it," etc.
36. *Sister Rose.* A Novel. By Wilkie Collins, author of "The Woman in White," etc.
37. *Anne.* A Novel. By Mrs. Henry Wood, author of "East Lynne."
38. *The Laurel Bush.* A Novel. By Miss Mulock, author of "John Halifax, Gentleman," etc.
39. *Robinson Crusoe.* A thrilling narrative of Daniel De Foe, describing the adventures of a castaway in the South Pacific Ocean.
40. *How to Make Poultry Pay.* A practical and instructive series of articles by Mr. P. H. Jacobs, Poultry Editor of "The Farm and Garden," Pittsboro, N. C.
41. *Parlor Magic and Chemical Experiments,* a book which tells how to perform hundreds of amusing tricks in magic and instructive experiments with simple agents.
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