



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

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ADDRESS

TO THE FARMERS OF NORTH CAROLINA.

By The Forsyth County Farmers' Club.

At the first regular meeting of the Forsyth County Farmers' Club, held in Winston, N. C., Aug 7th, 1886, and composed of representative farmers of our county, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, 1st, That a committee, composed of one member from each club here represented, be appointed to prepare an address to the farmers of our State, presenting the object and purposes of this organization, to the end that we may secure their co-operation in promoting the same.

The plan of organization adopted in our county is very simple, yet we believe sufficiently comprehensive to serve as a basis for an effectual and permanent organization of the farmers of our State. Briefly, it establishes township clubs, from these the county club is organized and from the county club a State Association is to be established. The township or subordinate clubs are the foundation of the whole structure, the county and State organizations to be representative bodies, the ratio of representation being impartial and uniform throughout. Membership is restricted to such persons only as are practically engaged in agriculture.

This organization is intended in no way to interfere with the religious opinions or party affiliations of its members. No fees are imposed. All the proceedings of all the clubs are open to the public. We have nothing to conceal.

ITS OBJECT.

The object and purpose of this organization, in the language of our constitution is "to improve the condition of the farmers and to promote the interests of agriculture." The undersigned committee, appointed in pursuance of the resolution quoted above, beg respectfully to submit briefly for your careful and earnest thought some of the considerations which prompted this movement.

The agriculturalists of this country constitute 51 per cent. of all those engaged in the various occupations and pay 80 per cent. of the taxes of the country. Last year our domestic exports amounted to \$726,000,000, of which \$530,000,000, or 73 per cent. of the whole, were the products of agriculture. What is done by the Government to encourage and foster this great source of its wealth and power? What is done to uphold and strengthen the hands of those who feed and clothe its sixty millions of people and the products of whose labor and skill constitute the very life of its commerce? How does it compare with other governments? In 1885, France, for the promotion of her agricultural interests, appropriated \$20,000,000; Brazil \$12,000,000; Russia \$11,000,000; Austria \$5,000,000; Japan \$1,000,000 and the United States gave \$650,000 to the support of our National Department of Agriculture. During the past six years, from 1881 to 1886 inclusive, our government has appropriated \$2,482,700 (about one-ninth of the amount given by France in one year) and a sum about sufficient to pay for the eggs which were imported into this country in 1885.

The legislative branch of our government should be the guardian power to which we should look for encouragement and protection. Of whom is it composed? Of the 401 members of the House and Senate of the U. S. Congress only eleven farmers are found on the roll! One representative to every 697,317 persons engaged in agriculture. Every 10,708 physicians have a representative in Congress—every 294 Bank officials have one—every 188 Rail Road officials have one—every 209 lawyers and professional office holders have one; or to state it differently:

the 7,670,493 agriculturalists of the country have only 11 representatives in Congress, while the physicians have 8; Bank presidents 15; Railroad officials 11; and the lawyers and professional office holders have 307; or twenty-eight times as many as the agriculturalists.

On these remarkable facts we have no comment to offer. They should speak in terms more eloquent than any language we could employ.

In 1880 we had in our State 480,187 persons engaged in all kinds of occupations. Of these, 360,937 were engaged in agriculture, or 75 per cent. of the whole. It is not only the occupation of three-fourths of the people in the State belonging to our industrial classes, but it is the great foundation on which rests the hope, the prosperity, the glory and the very life of the State. It behooves every citizen, therefore, of whatever condition or relation, to aid and encourage by every honorable means, the healthful growth and development of this great industry. Especially is it incumbent on the farmers of the State to bring to its support all the available forces which have or may be supplied by experience, by research, by industry, education, science and legislation.

We recognize the stern fact that the farmers of the country must arouse themselves to a true comprehension of the situation. In matters of public concern, affecting their interests directly, the farmers of the South especially must be more vigilant, do more of their own thinking, rely more on their own judgment and stand more manfully and loyally by their own interests. The most conservative in character and the most powerful at the ballot box, of any one class of our people, we should strive to preserve and foster that harmony of action between all the great interests of the country that is so essential to our prosperity and happiness. We should elevate and dignify our vocation and thus build up a higher type of manhood and womanhood among the masses. And how are these desirable ends to be accomplished? Manifestly and only by co-operative effort.

Co-operation is the watchword of the age. It is the mighty power that is moving the world—the very essence of progress. We must not—cannot longer ignore this powerful agency, so effectually employed by all other interests for their promotion and advancement. It is a law of Nature—a law of God—that must be systemized, consolidated and directed by organization. All classes and all interests, except one, throughout the civilized world recognize its potency and are fostered, encouraged and strengthened and protected by it, and that one is agriculture—the greatest and most important of all. Miners, printers, mechanics, artisans, professionals, merchants, tradesmen, manufacturers, speculators, shippers, bankers, railroads, each and all have their organizations. They each have a common principle of action. They each know that "in union there is strength." We, as farmers, are segregated, isolated, divided and a helpless prey to all who may take advantage of us. Without organization we cannot co-operate and without co-operation we can have no system, without system we can have nothing. Look at the miserable character of employed labor in our State to-day. Utterly unmanageable and almost worthless and daily growing worse. The South is the only agricultural community in the civilized world where labor controls and shapes the policy of the land owners. Why? Simply because there is no co-operation of effort on the part of the farmers to direct and control it.

Under the so called tenant system, our lands are butchered and destroyed and our sons are thus driven from the old homestead with all its endearing associations to seek a home elsewhere. With such a

State of things need we wonder that our sons seek the villages, towns and cities, to avoid the slavery and drudgery of contact with such labor with all its attendant trials and vexations? With such a state of things need we wonder that many of our most enterprising farmers, owners of fine lands, should take their money and their families to the towns to educate their children? With such a state of things need we wonder that to a large majority of our farmers life is burdened with care, and "vexation of spirit" instead of the bright, cheerful, hopeful, happy existence that God designed it should be? Without system, without co-operation, without organization, how can we hope to command or enforce respect for our rights?

With classes, communities, states and nations, as with individuals, they must show that they respect themselves before they can hope or expect to enjoy the respect of others. We often complain, and justly, that our rights and interests are ignored, but do we put forth any effort to prevent it? Take, as an illustration any of the great questions of industrial economy in which we, as farmers, are directly and vitally concerned, questions which in their dignity rise above considerations of a mere partizan character, and how are the views and wishes of the farmers to find expression and have influence?

Many of us believe that our public road system should and could be vastly improved.

We believe, too, that our convict labor should be employed on the public roads of the State, thereby removing it from the field of competition with honest free labor, and confining it to a work so greatly needed in the State and where it would be a direct relief to every tax payer of the State.

But how are we to formulate our views and impress them? By organized action.

Again: We believe that the time has arrived when North Carolina should have an Agricultural College, where the youth of the State may acquire practical knowledge and be fitted by proper training for the vocations they may fill in the various branches of industry.

We believe that the Land Scrip Fund donated by the general government for that purpose should now be applied as directed by the Act of Congress and thus give us an institution where the farmers may give their children that practical, industrial training so greatly needed among them. But how and by whom is it to be done? It must be done by the farmers of North Carolina and in the same way that it was done in Mississippi, Missouri, and other States whose fund, like ours, was given to their University in disregard of the rights of the farmers and in violation of the Act of Congress. We must demand its transfer from the University to a school which in truth shall be for the industrial training of our youth.

Again: We believe our State Department of Agriculture could and should be made more useful to the farmers of the State by whom and for whom it was mainly established.

But how and by whom is this to be done? Suppose that forty thousand, twenty thousand, ten thousand farmers in the State should, in their organized capacity, "agree touching these things," or any other question affecting their interests and rights, who can doubt that their wishes would be respected.

Humiliating as is the confession yet candor and truth compel us to say that we are largely to blame for many of the grievances of which we complain.

But apart from all this, do not the concerns of farm life, of farm husbandry, matters with which we are in daily and constant contact, demand the fostering aid of co-operation? Should we not learn to profit by the experiences and knowledge of others? Should we not improve our

lands, our stock, our crops and all our systems of work? Should we not strive to relieve the farming community of the deadly incubus and curse of the mortgage system?

How, are all these matters to which we have so briefly referred to be accomplished? Would we have better labor, better tillage, better systems, better crops, better stock, better roads, better education for our children, better laws for our protection, better and more comfortable homes; would we lift the aspirations of our boys and girls to a higher plane of thought and of action; would we commend our calling to the rising generation and to a higher regard among all other classes; would we make the world feel as well as confess that honorable labor is manly and elevating; then we must accept the lessons of nature—of God—of the experience of the world in all the departments of human effort for ages past and avail ourselves of the only agency by which it can possibly be done:

BY CO-OPERATION AND ORGANIZATION.

The farmers throughout the whole country are organizing. Notably is the movement assuming prominence in South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Arkansas and Texas. The farmers of the North and North-west are growing stronger daily, through the organizations of the "Grange" and the "Farmers Alliance." We all have the same grand object in view, viz.: To improve the condition of the farmer and to promote the interests of agriculture.

We appeal earnestly and with confidence to the better judgment of the farmers of North Carolina, to organize at once their township clubs, their county clubs, then their State Association, and let us think, work and act together for our common good and for the advancement of all the interests of our good old State.

In pursuance of the following resolution passed by the Convention, the Committee respectfully request the press of the State to publish the above address.

Resolved, That the Committee be instructed to furnish a copy of said address to the papers of our State, and to the *Southern Cultivator*, Atlanta, Ga., and respectfully request the publication of the same.

- A. A. CRATER,
- JOHN D. WADDELL, JR.,
- A. E. PFAFF,
- JOHN HOLDER,
- EDGAR LINEBACK,
- J. H. REICH,
- W. C. LASSITER,
- R. L. COX,
- THOMAS RING,
- E. T. LEHMAN, President.
- T. J. VALENTINE,
- A. W. BEVEL, Vice-Presidents.
- E. C. DULL, Secretary.

Committee.

OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

What our Farmers are Doing and How the Work of Organizing is Progressing.

"LITTLE DAVIE" FALLING INTO LINE.

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—At a primary meeting of the citizen farmers of Jerusalem township, held on the 11th inst., a Farmers' Club was organized. A temporary organization was effected by electing E. S. Morris chairman and T. S. Butler Secretary.

Permanent Officers:—W. H. Hobson, President; T. S. Butler, Vice-President; E. S. Morris, Secretary; H. L. Foard, Treasurer.

Executive Committee:—H. F. Lefler, T. M. Bessent, W. F. Pickler.

The Constitution and By-Laws, as issued by the PROGRESSIVE FARMER, were unanimously adopted. We meet in our club room at Jerusalem old church every two weeks, on Saturday at two o'clock, p. m., sharp. We had a most harmonious meeting and are greatly encouraged at our hopeful and auspicious beginning. The PROGRESSIVE FARMER shall hear

from us. We hope soon to see our county thoroughly organized and take position by the side of Forsyth in the noble work of elevating the agricultural interests of the country.

E. S. MORRIS, Sec'y.
Sep. 20, 1886.

MOUNTAIN CREEK FARMERS' CLUB.

This club now numbers 64 members and is in a prosperous and healthy condition. One of the reasons of its success is the very great help they derive from agricultural literature. They take the PROGRESSIVE FARMER and other first class agricultural journals.

BLACK JACK TOWNSHIP CLUB.

This is the name of a new club recently formed in Richmond county. J. H. Robinson President and W. Roberts Secretary.

CHEEK'S CREEK FARMERS' CLUB.

This club, as we learn, recently organized at Pekin, in Montgomery county, is made up of first class material and promises to do well. President, R. Rush, Jr.; Secretary, J. H. Turner. We hope to have some notes soon from these new clubs for the PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

FARMERS' HARVEST DINNER.

What has become of the proposition of two of our clubs made some weeks ago through THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER to have a "Farmers' Harvest Dinner" at some central point in the county, where all the clubs could come together with their families and spend the day? Such a gathering would do good. It is a capital suggestion. In several counties in the State it has been the custom for years, for the farmers of the county to meet at some central point and spend the day in social pleasures, speaking, &c. It is pleasant and profitable to all, and no occasion during the whole year is looked to with more pleasurable anticipations than the "Farmers' Harvest Dinner." It should be a fixed institution in every county in the State.

What say the clubs of Forsyth county? Shall we have it?

PITT IN MOTION.

Our friend Mr. Andrew Joyner, of Greenville, Pitt county, writes us that a movement is on foot to organize a County Farmers' Club, and that the farmers of that county are moving in earnest. Keep the ball in motion.

CLUBS IN CATAWBA COUNTY.

Mr. F. L. Herman, one of the live farmers of Catawba county, writes us that the club at Hickory, which was organized last Spring, the first organized in the county, now numbers forty members, with the following officers: J. W. Robinson, President; F. L. Herman, Vice-President; J. P. A. Herman, Secretary; W. L. Killian, Treasurer; O. L. Lowe, Marshal. It meets once a month, and much interest is manifested in the proceedings. Three or four clubs have been organized since, and steps are being taken to organize a County Club.

ANSON COUNTY FARMERS' CLUB.

We see by the *Wadesboro Intelligencer*, that the township clubs of old Anson have organized a COUNTY CLUB. Let the good work go on until every county in the State is organized. Other counties, we learn, will soon be ready to fall into line. We must have a State organization, and must have a grand FARMERS' STATE CONVENTION, as soon as practicable.

—The *Greenville Reflector* says there is an unusual amount of bilious fever in that section this fall and the cases are much more difficult to control than in former seasons, requiring double the amount of medicine.