

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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Winston, N. C., Jan. 19, 1887.

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Read our advertisements. And you will do us a great favor when you speak or write of them, to mention THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

GOV. SCALES ON FARMING.

In his message to the legislature Gov. Scales, referring in justly commendatory terms to the work of the Experiment station and the necessity for its establishment, says: "The great object in view was to promote the farming interests in the State upon which all her material interests depend. Our lands, much exhausted, as the result of slave labor demanded strong and stimulating fertilizers."

We quote this last remark to express our regret that such a fallacious theory—long since exploded by the most practical and successful agriculturalists in this and other States—should be again brought forth under the sanction of such high authority. We esteem our worthy chief Executive most highly and regret that a sense of duty to the farming interests of the State forces us to dissent from his theory. The teaching that exhausted soils demand strong and stimulating commercial fertilizers has cost the farmers of North Carolina millions and millions of dollars since the war and has well nigh bankrupted every one who has relied upon it. "Exhausted" soils are not the kind upon which to use these "strong and stimulating fertilizers," but thousands of our farmers have followed this delusive idea to their ruin. If a man, after long and excessive fatigue and hunger becomes exhausted, should we give him plenty of good nourishing food or should he have a stimulating drink of whiskey? As well might we expect to satiate his hunger and restore his strength with the whiskey as to give strength and vigor to exhausted soils by the use of "strong and stimulating fertilizers."

We acknowledge the kindness of our esteemed representative, Mr. Henry E. Fries, in sending us public Reports.

THE TWO CONVENTIONS.

What Does It Mean?

The Newbern Journal, always to be found among the very foremost of our State papers, in advocacy of whatever pertains to the advancement of the industrial interests of our people, in a recent issue, notices the calls for two Farmers' Conventions, and very naturally asks: "What does it mean?" The Journal says one is called by Gov. Scales on the 18th—the other by the Editor of the PROGRESSIVE FARMER on the 26th. In this, our esteemed contemporary gives us undue prominence and importance. While the PROGRESSIVE FARMER, from its first issue, has advocated an annual Convention of the Farmers, yet, in the matter of calling the Convention, it has acted simply as the mouth-piece of the farmers, just as did Gov. Scales in the capacity of chairman of the Board of Education. The Journal admonishes Gov. Jarvis, as the possible leader in the State campaign of 1888, to adjust the seeming conflict and restore harmony, if he expects to triumph.

We beg to assure our good friend, the Journal, that so far as the PROGRESSIVE FARMER, or the great mass of farmers, whom it is proud to represent, are concerned, there is no conflict, nor will there be any, so long as their rights in the premises are properly respected.

Justice to them, however, requires a plain statement of facts, in answer to the question, "What does it mean?" as doubtless the situation has suggested the question to thousands of others throughout the State. The matter has been discussed with earnest interest, through private correspondence, through this and other papers, and in farmers' clubs and farmers' meetings, for months. In August last, the Forsyth Farmers' club, composed of ten sub-clubs, issued an address to the farmers of the State, strongly urging a Farmers' Convention. In November, the club, in response to what evidently appeared to be the sentiment of the farmers of the State, adopted resolutions, suggesting a Mass Convention of the farmers of the State, on the 19th inst., at Greensboro. In response to this suggestion, resolutions were adopted by clubs and numerous letters were received from prominent farmers in all sections of the State, all endorsing the Convention, but showing a decided preference for Raleigh as the place at which it should be held. Before the time that the place and date (Raleigh, the 26th) was finally decided upon, a notice from Gov. Scales, as ex-officio chairman of the Board of Agriculture, was mailed to all the papers of the State, announcing that the Board "had set apart the night of the 18th, for a 'joint meeting' of the farmers with the Board at Raleigh, 'for the discussion of topics appertaining to the material interests of the State.'" We were fortunate in having changed the date as well as the place of meeting, since it was plainly evident that those who attended the meeting of the Board in Raleigh on the 18th, could not possibly have attended the Convention at Greensboro on the 19th, nor was it contemplated by the Board, so far as could be judged by the notice published, that the meeting was to assume the proportions of a Convention, for it "set apart" only one night for the "joint meeting," and that was fixed on the 18th—the night before the proposed Convention at Greensboro.

In the address of the Forsyth county Farmers' Club, quite a number of very important matters were suggested as proper subjects for consideration by a Convention, and which would, most probably, consume several days. One of these matters was to consider a plan by which the Department of Agriculture could be made more useful to the farmers of the State. Another, and prominent matter, was to perfect a plan of permanent organization, so as to secure an annual Convention of the farmers of the State; besides there are a number of other and equally important matters which will engage the attention of the Convention. Presumably, many of these matters could not be considered in a meeting called by the Board. It certainly could not be done in one night, nor in a day.

The farmers want a Farmers' Convention, pure and simple. It was a matter of public knowledge, that the farmers were actively organizing—it was well known that the matter of a Convention was be-

ing earnestly discussed, and if the time or its meeting is to extend beyond one night, the public has not been informed of it—it was an entirely new departure for the Board to call a joint meeting to confer with the farmers—it was well known to the Board, at the time it issued its call for one at Raleigh on the 18th, that the Convention at Greensboro on the 19th, had been suggested, and yet this movement, originated by these farmers' organization, received no recognition at the hands of the Board. It would seem that the Board might, at least, have conferred with the farmers with the view of securing united action, if it were desirable.

We trust that it may have a full and profitable meeting, and that it will institute some reforms, especially in the Department of Agriculture, and such reforms as will meet the hearty endorsement of the farmers of the State.

Our readers, and the thousands of farmers throughout the State who have honored us with their presence, will bear us witness, that we have not indulged in harsh or unjust criticism of the department of Agriculture, nor will we do so now. Indeed, we cannot refrain from congratulating the Department on this new departure, which we accept as an indication of a gratifying change in its views as to Farmers' Conventions. We well remember that, three years ago, the farmers sought to make some changes in the Department—one of the most important was, that the Board should call an annual joint Convention of the farmers, and they were fought day and night, for weeks and weeks, by members of the Board and officers of the department. It is but just to the Board to say, however, that but three of its present members were arrayed in that fight against the farmers. Now, if the agitation of a Farmers' Convention shall result in giving us two Conventions, where we failed to get one before, it is certainly progress in that direction. We say it is a most hopeful sign and we trust that the very earnest effort put forth by the Board to secure a large attendance and distinguished speakers, will result in some good.

Meantime, there are many good men all over the State, who are looking forward with interest to the Convention on the 26th. They expect, and they demand, that this Convention will, as far as possible, represent the views and interests of the great mass of farmers throughout the State. And we hazard nothing in saying that this will be done zealously and faithfully. The men who will meet in Raleigh on the 26th, will come from the fields, and they will come profoundly impressed with the terrible and deplorable condition of the agricultural interests of our people, and they will seek relief and remedy in a spirit of earnest, honest, large-hearted patriotism.

SOUND VIEWS.

Mr. W. R. Williams, of Pitt, is Master of the State Grange, a member of our State Board of Agriculture and also a member of the Senate branch of our Legislature. In his recent annual address before the State grange, we find the following sensible and pointed remarks:

"The grandeur, magnificence and perpetuity of this wonderful nation of ours will not depend upon her rich and populous cities, her busy manufactories, her nickel plated rail roads, nor almost endless telegraphs, nor her fertile fields of highest culture, nor disciplined armies, nor proud navies that 'walk the waters like a thing of life'—but her glory will be in her citizens;—in the moral character, elevated intelligence and enlightened culture of her sons and daughters. Our free schools should be closely watched and nursed; our University sustained and the farmers should immediately demand the establishment of an agricultural College. The University annually has an appropriation of \$7,500, money that has been improperly diverted from the way it was intended. It is the interest on the donation that was given to the State for an agricultural and mechanical college by the United States in 1862. The farmers should demand that every dollar should be re-paid them for the purpose intended."

—Mr. H. E. Fries, representative of Forsyth county in the North Carolina House of Representatives, is chairman of the committee on Agriculture.

THAT NUMEROUS DEPARTMENT.

What the Demizens of Blue's Gulley Think and Say—More of the Subs and the Nest for Nepotism.

BLUE'S GULLEY } Jan. 17, '87.

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—One of our young men has just returned from Raleigh, whither he went to sell a load of old hens, says while there he went up to the capitol and got a good warm by the House of Representatives' fire. He says that all the white men have colds in their heads and spend most of their time in blowing their noses and sneezing, or running into the cloak room, while the colored members looked happy and slick, and seemed to be enjoying the meeting—that a Mr. York, from your section, was leader of the meeting and seemed happy. From what he heard, at least six of the twelve sub-departments of the Department of Agriculture, will be curtailed. He heard much about salting the Albermarle sound and the building up of the departments of Southern Pines and Prof. Patrick. Some members thought Southern Pines ought to be made a sanitarium, and thought that "Prof" Patrick and his railroad partner should do the building, and persuade as many sick Yankees to come down here as possible, as the soil there was suited for burial purposes only, and the railroad got half of the money, but others thought that the department of Southern Pines and "Prof." (he says he heard him called "Prof.") Patrick should both be suppressed or abolished, as the great State of North Carolina, with its thousands of churches and schools, should not tolerate another humbug, such as Pilgrim Ashby and Rev. Bibles got off when they mapped out the Dismal Swamp, laid it off in boulevards, covered it with churches and flower gardens, and sold it to some ignorant Frenchmen. All the people in these parts think so too. That both are arrant humbogs no one who ever saw either of these sub-departments ever had a doubt, except the Commissioner from Prof. Patrick's native section.

The young man who warmed by the fire, says he heard a great deal of talk about some of the other departments, such as the "The Department of Dr. Battle," the "Commissioner" and "The Clerks." From what he says, the "Department of Dr. Battle" is the most important of all the sub-departments; indeed, that this department controls all the other departments and runs them in the interest of its numerous family, including its uncles, its cousins and its aunts. He heard one man whisper to another, that at least nine of the family were in the department and that the head of the family named all the offices and sub-offices and devoted about as much of his time to looking after his relatives in the department as he did to the University; that he always attended the meetings, though there was a legal doubt of his right to a seat, and was ready at all times to oppose everything that in any way tended to the interest of the farmers, and to name a relative for every office created, so much so, that the ex-officio head recently suggested to him "that for the sake of appearances, he had better leave the nomination to the Commissioner after he had told the Commissioner whom to name for the place."

The Exhibition Department has recently considerably collapsed, greatly, no doubt, to the regret of our itinerant ex-Gov., who, with the Richmond and Danville syndicate, made much reputation of it. The refusal of the editors of the State to endorse that \$15,000 trip to Europe, seems to have thrown a damper on the exhibition department. I at times regret the action of these few editors as I rather think it would have been a good thing to have shown Queen Victoria Prof. Patrick, now that her Gillie Brown is dead, and to have allowed our Commissioner to address the Lord Mayor in English farming in the thirteenth century. All this would have possibly given the disconsolate widow joy and greatly enlightened the noble lord.

The report of the Prof. was beautifully printed by the wholesale and liberally distributed, so much so, that I infer that even the PROGRESSIVE FARMER got one. It was an elaborate document and was a great credit to the Prof. It gave the number of immigrants, what each was worth, what each had done with his money since reaching N. C., how far

their coming had reduced the taxes on the people, and how much the taxes would be reduced in years to come by their coming. It so happened that I had seen some of these immigrants, Scotch Crofters and others, and all I saw put together could not have purchased a lot 60 x 100 in the sands of Southern Pines. There used to be a jolly man from Durham down to these parts years ago, when not talking tobacco, would hum a tune about having \$10,000—in his mind." He is dead now. It struck me as a good place to have \$10,000 when a fellow had nothing but a broken back jack-knife in his pocket, and I have thought, possibly, these immigrants had the hundreds of thousands they brought into North Carolina in "their minds." Certainly, they had it not anywhere else. The Department of Immigration is not popular in these parts. Some of our older men were in the war, and some, who have settled here, are from parts devastated by the armies of 1863 and '64, and these men have decided that it would be better for North Carolina to have as she has always had, a homogenous people of two classes only, white and colored, and that we should follow the example set us by that church that increases its membership from the inside, or by rearing as large families as possible. For this reason, all in these parts rejoice in twins, and especially in twin boys. In our opinion, the sub-department of immigration is a good thing for Prof. Patrick and his partner, and not worth two rabbit skins to the rest of the people of the State.

But what will be done by the Legislature is one of the things that "no fellow can find out." It may dispense with some of these sub-departments, or cut the dirt from under some of the clerks and samplers, or it may, through the great influence of Dr. Battle, turn the whole shebang into a sort of asylum for faded beauty and decaying greatness. That such an institution is needed, there is not room for reasonable doubt, but whether the farmers of North Carolina are willing to pay for it, has made many of the members of the Legislature, in the Senate branch, sad. The young man, who went to Raleigh, says he peeped in there and it looked so much like a prayer meeting that hung fire, that he quit. I am sorry for them. They have a great responsibility resting on them—the carrying of the twelve departments of the Department of Agriculture is a heavy load. STRAIGHTTOUT.

HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE

Footprints of the Grange.

History is getting a little mixed. Last Summer, at the opening of the experiment farm, his excellency, Gov. Scales, gave the credit of its conception to Dr. Battle. He said, (if we remember correctly) "Ten years ago Dr. Battle urged the establishment of this experiment farm." "Ten years ago" was before the Department of Agriculture had an existence, or we had a State chemist. The experiment station was located at Chaped Hill in 1877; the establishment of an Experiment Farm was urged in 1878, and although Dr. Battle was a member of the Board, his Excellency would be slightly troubled to find in its records any evidence that Dr. B. "urged its establishment." This announcement by his Excellency, was received as a joke by those who were informed as to its history.

And now our vigilant and fair-minded contemporary, the Tarboro Southerner, comes forward and thus spoils another little historical story:

"Dr. Battle, the very highly esteemed President of the University, is reported to have claimed the credit for being the pioneer in the movement to establish a State Industrial School. The credit does not belong to Dr. Battle, but the Battleboro Grange, No 30, as the following communication copied in the Southerner on June 18th, 1875 from the "State Agricultural Journal," the Grange organ at that time, shows."

Yes, the Grange originated one Department of Agriculture, and the address of the Battleboro Grange shows that they advocated industrial education in 1875. Had the Grange remained united, and had exercised its just prerogative of overlooking the Department of its creation, there would be less complaint among the people to day of its inefficiency. It was designed for the benefit of our farmers, and they should have control of it.

college