



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

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

Vol. 2.

WINSTON, N. C., FEBRUARY 23, 1887.

No. 2.

OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

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

NEW CLUB IN HARNETT.

HARRINGTON, HARNETT CO., N. C., }
February 15, 1887. }

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—At the meeting of the farmers of this vicinity on the 2nd day of February, 1887, at Leaflet Academy in Upper Little River township, a Farmers' Club was organized to be known as Leaflet Club No. 3, with the following officers:

President, W. H. Holder.
Vice-President, J. A. Bullard.
Secretary, H. McLean.
Treasurer, A. M. Cameron.

The President appointed the following committees:

On Finance.—D. A. Patterson, D. R. Stewart, Dr. J. H. Withers, J. M. Hudson and W. J. Mason.

Executive Committee.—D. McD. Withers, J. L. Porter and M. F. Wicker.

We enrolled 29 members. The prospect for a large and prosperous club is flattering.

Interesting speeches were delivered by the President and other members.

H. McLEAN, Secretary.

ENDORING THE ACTION.

KNAP OF REEDS,

Granville county, N. C. }

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—We enclose you the following with a request to publish:

WHEREAS, we, a portion of the farmers of Dutchville township, Granville county, in club assembled, having been favorably impressed with the action of the Committee of Farmers which assembled in the city of Raleigh on the 26th of January last, therefore

Resolved 1st. That we heartily endorse the action of said Convention, believing the measures recommended, if adopted by the legislature, would promote the interest of the farmers of the State.

Resolved 2nd. That we earnestly request the several committees appointed by said Convention to work diligently and endeavor to have the action of the legislature on the most important subjects at its present session.

Done by order of this club February 5, 1887.

A. M. VEAZEY, President.
M. W. B. VEAZEY, Sec.

SHERRILL'S FORD CLUB.

We learn from the Newton Enterprise that the farmers of Sherrill's Ford, Catawba county, met last week and organized a Farmers' Club, of which Dr. W. B. Ramsay was elected President; J. N. Sherrill, Vice-President; W. A. Day, Treasurer; J. A. Sherrill, Secretary; M. W. Sherrill, J. W. Sherrill, J. N. Sherrill and J. A. Sherrill, Executive Committee. The regular meetings of the club will be held on the first Saturday of each month.

CONOVER CLUB.

Conover Farmers' Club, in Catawba county, had an interesting meeting on 12th inst., at which a number of new members were added to the roll.

The subject under discussion was, "the best method of preparing manure and compost and of applying them to Spring crops."

C. W. Herman said every farmer must have stock before he can make manure successfully. Gave theories for making manure. Asked how to decompose forest leaves. Said object of manuring land should be to get clover. Gave experiments with salt as fertilizer on corn and wheat, said salt prevents rust.

J. F. Herman said the best mode of preparing manure for corn and cotton was to compost it. Said this gives the farmer an opportunity of increasing the quantity and not diminishing the quality. The best

mode of applying for corn and cotton was to put it deep in the ground; for clover and grass near the surface.

M. M. Holler said he agreed with J. F. Herman in his ideas. J. P. Cline said he empties stalls every month and keeps manure under shed. Gave experiment with manure on corn last year. Farmers should keep as many stock as can feed well and put the manure on wheat in fall, sow clover in spring. Said concentrated lye would decompose leaves. Thought farmers ought to cut green litter and put on manure pile.

M. J. Rowe said so many farmers made manure, sowed the seed and reaped the grain because they saw their neighbors do so. Said what the farmers needed most was to think. Was pleased with what had been said, but it would be of no benefit unless put in practice. Had almost come to the conclusion that top dressing was not the best.

S. E. Killian endorses most all has been said. Read from "Country Home" apiece on subject under discussion. Endorses J. P. Cline's plan as to making manure and applying to wheat in order to seed clover.

Subject for discussion at next meeting. "Best mode of preparing land for spring crops and best mode and time for planting."

S. E. KILLIAN, Pres.

J. F. HERMAN, Sec.

—Newton Enterprise.

NEW CLUB IN CATAWBA.

We condense from the Piedmont Press notice of the organization of the Minerva Farmers' Club, in Catawba county, on 12th inst.

Mr. R. Yoder presided and H. G. Seitz acted as Secretary.

The Constitution and By-Laws, as published in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, with slight changes and a few additions, were taken up and adopted item by item. The subject of Truck Farming was chosen as special subject for next meeting, and Saturday before the first Sunday in each month the time for regular meeting of the club.

The election of officers resulted in the choice of G. M. Yoder and H. G. Seitz, President and Vice-President, R. Yoder, Secretary, C. D. Abernethy, Treasurer, and A. P. Seitz, Marshal.

An Executive Committee of three—H. G. Seitz, Elbert Bollinger and A. P. Seitz—were elected to transact business appertaining to the club.

Next meeting will be held first Saturday in March.

MARK'S CREEK FARMERS' CLUB.

The farmers of Wake county are falling into line. On the 10th inst. a club was formed bearing the above name. Mr. A. R. Hodge was elected President, H. H. Knight, Vice-President, and Dr. J. B. H. Knight, Secretary, J. W. Pair, Treasurer. Executive Committee: N. P. Jones, E. P. Wiggs, C. S. Williams, to which were added the President and Vice-President. The meetings are very interesting and the outlook for a large and useful club very encouraging.

MALLARD CREEK FARMERS' CLUB.

President, F. E. Query; Vice-President, W. T. Alexander; Secretary, A. A. Garrison. Mecklenburg will be among the foremost counties in the great work of organizing the farmers of the State.

A new club has been organized at Union Church, Moore county, of which A. G. McDonald is Secretary.

—Nearly every farmer one talks with declares either that he will use no guano at all this year or that he will use very much less than he has done for several years past. We are strongly of the opinion that if they would stick to this resolution it would be the making of them. But whether they will is another matter.—Statesville Landmark.

SOME PLAIN TALK.

Why The Farmer is not Represented as He Should Be.

HARNETT COUNTY, N. C., }
February 21, 1887. }

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—We often hear the expression that "this is an age of progress." Every body admits the truth of the aphorism; but if the question was asked, and, especially of our farmers, what great power is it, by the exercise of which this progress is produced, the answer would not be so self-evident.

On reflection, however, every intelligent farmer who has given it a thought, would answer without any hesitation, that this power is inherent in organization—that it is the power of associated efforts—that it is the great power of co-operation among men.

Whenever great results have been obtained—whenever great difficulties have been removed and great obstacles surmounted, mankind, everywhere in this enlightened age resort to this wonderful power of co-operation. So universal is the utilization of this force in modern times that it might be said, it marks the age in which we live. We observe it in every department of human effort—we see it operating in the moral world and the material world—we see it in the developments made in the arts and sciences—we see it in politics every day—we see it in every trade, in every occupation and in every profession of man with the solitary exception of the profession of farming.

Is this not a fact? Is it not as true as it is lamentable? Has it not been as ruinous to the farmers of North Carolina as it has been disastrous to the State itself? Why is it so? Is it because of our ignorance? Is it because the judgment of our farmers is so obtuse that we can't comprehend the utility of this power? No. It can't be owing to our ignorance.

Men of observation and men of wisdom have long since discovered and so declared it that wherever you find a successful farmer, you will see a man possessed of every single qualification necessary and essential to guarantee him success in any other occupation. It cannot be denied that we have some successful farmers in North Carolina. Hence, it can't be owing to ignorance. Then why is it that every class of men resort to the use of this power in co-operation but the farming class?

I think it is about this: It is the slavish submission of the farming class to the arrogant dictation of men in the professions. If I am correct the question arises, why the submission? Can it be possible that we are an abject class of numskulls? Apparently, I must confess that interrogation seems to be a logical conclusion, but an explanation of an old custom "hoary with age," so old that the memory of man runneth not to the contrary, will so modify the proposition that the farmers will be exonerated and the custom only will be condemned.

Owing to the peculiar circumstances surrounding the farming profession, their insolation and necessary home life, heretofore when it became necessary to consult the voice of the people for legislative purposes or otherwise, the farmers delegated their right of representation to the men of other professions, and these false representatives having a keen eye to their professional and individual advantages, benefited themselves and misrepresented the farmers.

To prove this assertion, take the Agricultural Department for an illustration: Ten years ago this Department was established for the express benefit of the farmers. It was designed to be a farmers' institution. The farmers pay for its support, and remember that nobody else is taxed for this purpose but farmers. It is presumed that every one knows how this fund is raised.

It is said that it amounts to a princely income, and it is. Forty odd thousand dollars is what we pay yearly.

Now, how are our farmers represented in their own department of Agriculture? From his Excellency, the Governor, all the way down to the dude city negro, who gets his Thirty dollars per month, including men of all the so-called learned professions with all the literary titles attached to them, such as A. B., A. M., M. D., D. D., L. L. D., and these men are—College Presidents, Lawyers, Printers, Artists, &c. Now, these are the farmers' representatives in their Department of Agriculture, professing to teach them practical agriculture! Don't it suggest the idea of selling doves in the Temple at Jerusalem nineteen centuries ago? For antique curiosities our department rivals the Boubak museum of Cairo. As now constituted, it is a perfect menagerie of the genus homo, and if a single one of them ever plowed a day in his life, I don't believe it. As far as a knowledge of practical agriculture, the whole posse committatus know about as much of it as a negro of Ujiji, in Central Africa, does of the Christian religion.

This presents a true illustration of the way farmers are represented in everything where this sovereign right has been delegated so long, by custom, to unfaithful representatives.

The question arises now, after endurance has ceased to be a virtue, how shall we remedy our grievances? Our only hope is in that Archimedean lever, that powerful force which moves the world itself, co-operation.

In the recent steps taken by the farmers of North Carolina on the 26th, in Mass Convention, may be seen a movement in the right direction. The good, candid and honest men, irrespective of profession, have applauded the farmers for their noble effort to render themselves worthy of success, and many, too, wish us God-speed in our undertaking. From these we expect nothing but encouragement. We thank them cordially. But from croakers of ill-omen to every enterprise, not promotive of their individual welfare,—from demagogues who professed to see nothing in the Farmers' Convention but the States General of France in 1789—we want nothing but fair play and their continued opposition. As to those men in our present legislature, who have imagined that the only opposition and dissatisfaction of the farmers of the State to the Agricultural Department is in the extravagance of the same, and more especially the gentleman in the Senate branch who feeling sure this was the fact did declare to his colleagues in open debate, "Fix the expenditures, and you will shut the mouths of the farmers," we would simply remind him that nineteen-tenths of his constituents are farmers, and that representation precedes taxation. He may have forgotten that is a principle as old as our government, and that it took 7 years of war to establish it as such. It came to stay.

The farmers have, unmistakably, declared their wishes to the legislature. They may heed them if they desire, but the fiat has gone forth that, touching their professional interests, the farmers of North Carolina are masters of the present situation.

If their Convention meant anything, it was the inauguration of a new departure. It was a declaration that farmers had some rights as well as other people, that whether exercised by themselves or delegated, they would have just such legislation as will benefit them, and they would be their own judges. If such was not their decision, then, in the language of Cleveland, it was certainly a "pernicious activity" in that direction.

D. McN. McKAY.

State Items.

—The J. M. Odell Mfg Co., will at once double the quantity of Machinery at Bynum's.—Chatham Home.

—Our friends from the country tell us that wheat is looking very well. All that we have seen looks promising.—Concord Register.

—Arrangements are being made for the tobacco factory. Both chewing and smoking tobacco will be manufactured.—Franklinton Weekly.

"Oats are coming out amazingly," and in some sections a good crop will be harvested, if no further accident happens to them.—Monroe Enquirer.

—The Farmers' Club had an interesting meeting last Saturday. They decided that the use of guano does not pay. Glad of that conclusion.—Scotland Neck Democrat.

—Farmers say that farm work is behind hand, but they admit that home made manure used will exceed that of former years. In this item alone most farmers can save enough to make farming profitable.—Tarboro Southerner.

—Work on the Roanoke & Tar River railroad is progressing rapidly. The track will be laid to the Meherrin river in a few days, and work on the bridge, which we are informed will be an iron structure, will soon commence.—Potomasi Patron.

—It is believed by those best qualified to judge that there will be as much tobacco raised in Stokes this year as last. Many farmers say they will make but little, but others say they will make more.—Danbury Reporter.

—It is gratifying to know that the farmers of this section of the country are fast dropping the mortgage system of farming. There is not one half the mortgages given this season there was this time last year.—Fayetteville News.

—Our people are excited over mad-dogs, and when some of them meet a dog in the road, and the dog don't get out of the way, they do.

—In conversation with a great many farmers, we learn that the acreage in tobacco will not be as large as it was last year. Nearly all say that they do not expect to buy any fertilizers.—Mocksville Times.

—John Etheridge and Frank Tedford, the only survivors of the gallant life saving crew who went out to rescue the crew of the illfated ship Elizabeth, each received last week from the Maritime Exchange of New York, a check for \$100 as an acknowledgment of their heroic conduct in risking their own lives to save those of others.—Elizabeth City Economist.

—We learn that Capt. Marion Smith contemplates running a stock farm near Gibsonville.—Mr. W. C. Bain, the enterprising contractor from Graham, N. C., has been in the city and informs us that he will soon build an addition to the "Onedia Cotton Mills," located at this place. The building will be 50x120 feet. There will also be a lapper house 30x50 feet.—Greensboro Patriot.

—The report has again gained currency that the Jordan brick warehouse is to be converted into a cotton mill, and that one of the Holts, of cotton mill fame, will be the prime mover in the concern.—A stock company, to be known as the "Modern Barn Smoking Tobacco Company," has been organized for the purpose of manufacturing smoking tobacco at this place. All the stock has been taken and the company will put their factory into operation as soon as possible.—High Point Enterprise.

—Mr. Manning, Secretary of the Treasury, will retire March 15th, to accept the presidency of a new bank started in New York.