



# THE



# PROGRESSIVE



# FARMER.

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

Vol. 2.

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No. 29.

### OUR FARMERS' CLUBS.

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

#### FORESTVILLE FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

A sub-alliance was organized at this place on the 18th ult. with fifteen members. H. V. Pace was elected President, J. A. Hartfield Vice-President, W. B. Smith Secretary. We hope to double our members in a short while. Will try to keep your readers informed as to our progress.

W. B. SMITH, Sec'y.

#### CROSS ROADS CHURCH, N. C.

Aug. 19, 1887.

I write to inform you that we organized a farmers' club in Liberty township on the 23d of July with 10 members and it has grown since to 20 members and all the members are alive to the work of organizing. The following are the officers of the club:

President—Will Reavis.

Vice-President—J. G. Reavis.

Secretary—N. S. C. May.

President's postoffice is Allgood, N. C. Secretary's postoffice, Cross Roads Church, N. C.

Yours truly,

N. S. C. MAY, Sec'y F. C.

Liberty township, Yadkin Co., N. C.

A letter from Mr. J. B. Barry, organizer of the farmers' alliance, informs us that the alliances of Harnett formed a county alliance on the 25th ult., and that the farmers of that county are fully alive to the importance of organizing their thoughts, their methods and their efforts, to better secure the legitimate results of their labor. He says, "Moore county will be organized in a few days and then we are ready for a State alliance, which will send out organizers into every county, and the matter of bringing the farmers of the State solidly together will be a question of only a short time. Twenty-six times I met the farmers of Wake and twenty-six times they organized. When the farmers of all the counties and of all the States shall do likewise (as I believe they will) then we may hope to see the great interest they represent elevated to that position it deserves."

One of the most intelligent and successful farmers in the State writes us a private letter, from which we take the liberty to make the following extract:

"I have just read in this week's PROGRESSIVE FARMER your article on 'Dr. Dabney's Successor.' I want to indorse every word in that article, and to commend its good temper and good sense. Every one can understand exactly your position. We want and must have the best man for that place.

I am in entire accord with your views on the agricultural college. I do not think it would be asking too much from the State to ask the legislature to appropriate the necessary funds. A school of this kind, fully equipped like the Mississippi College would be a credit and of usefulness to the people."

#### CATAWBA FARMERS SPEAKING OUT.

HICKORY, N. C., Aug. 20, 1887.

You will please publish the following preamble and resolutions passed at the last regular meeting of the County-Line Farmers' Club:

Whereas, This being one of the finest tobacco-growing sections in our State; and

Whereas, Many of our members are the leading tobacco growers of this section; and

Whereas, It is being commonly reported on our once bright, but now blasted market, that some would-be called statistician has reported to the Agricultural Bureau that there is being seven-eighths of a tobacco crop raised this year in Western North Carolina; therefore

Resolved, That, being convinced that the acreage of this section will

compare with any in this part of the State, we are safe in denouncing to the world the report as an imposition on the tobacco growers, and brand the reporter of the same with indelible contempt, as being either a fool or a knave, working in the interest of the buyers and manufacturers, against the interest of the producers; and we challenge all of such caliber to prove that there is being one-fourth of a crop raised.

Resolved, That we buy our fertilizers in the first markets and sell our tobacco in the last; where we can buy the cheapest and sell for the highest prices, and where we can get reduced rates on freightage, drayage and warehouse charges, &c.

To this end we suggest that a committee be appointed to correspond with leading manufacturers of fertilizers and warehouse men, and that the same be constituted agents for buying fertilizers and selling tobacco for all the members of the club and all others who may so desire.

The following committee was appointed: Louis Warlick, P. K. Morgan and H. A. Adams.

By order of the club.

H. A. ADAMS, Sec'y.

#### MEETING OF THE CATAWBA COUNTY FARMERS' CLUB.

July 23, 1887.

The club met at the appointed hour, the President, John W. Robinson, in the chair. The reading secretary being absent, on motion, J. D. Rowe was requested to act as secretary.

Thirteen of the fifteen subordinate clubs in the county were represented. East Catawba Club and Catawba River Club were not represented.

A committee on credentials consisting of J. F. Click, D. W. Moore and N. E. Sigman was appointed.

The Sherrill's Ford, the Catawba Valley and the St. James clubs were enrolled.

Reports of subordinate clubs showed a diminished attendance on their meetings. This was attributed partly to the busy season in which the clubs meet and partly to the diminished interest of some members.

Confidence and determination in carrying out the purpose of the organization was almost unanimously shown. The reports and comments were encouraging.

A letter to the President, from Dr. D. Reid Parker, relative to farmers' institutes, was read. The advisability of holding an institute in this county was discussed and referred to a committee consisting of Reuben Yoder, H. A. Forney, J. S. Bridges and J. F. Click. The report of this committee was as follows:

"We do not think it expedient to organize a farmers' institute this year, but recommend that the clubs in the different sections of the county unite and have farmers' dinners with addresses on agriculture at such times and places as they may deem best."

A committee appointed at a previous meeting of the club reported:

"Your committee appointed to devise a better plan or a more uniform system to be pursued between landlord and tenant, beg leave to submit the following report:

"Whereas, The present system is only local in its workings; is impracticable and impoverishing both to landlord and tenant, and also to the land; therefore

Resolved, That the landlords furnish less land and give more of the pro-

ceeds, and that tenants be required to more thoroughly prepare the land and cultivate the crops and to take more interest in keeping up the farm and in doing repairs on the same.

Respectfully submitted,

J. F. CLICK,

H. A. FORNEY.

After an interesting discussion, participated in by the members of the committee, J. S. Bridges and others, the report was adopted.

On motion, the chair appointed a committee of one from each township in Catawba county to more fully organize the county into farmers' clubs between now and the county meeting in October next; the officers of the county and subordinate clubs being added to assist in organizing.

The regular place of meeting was changed to Newton or such point as a previous meeting may determine.

The proceedings of this meeting were ordered to be published in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, with the request that the papers of this county favorable to the farmers' organization, copy.

JOHN W. ROBINSON, Pres't.  
J. D. ROWE, Acting Sec'y.

#### NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND CO-OPERATIVE UNION OF AMERICA.

What Is It?—An Authoritative Answer.

As there seems to be a general awakening to the importance of organization among the farmers, and a special desire to organize on the part of those who raise cotton, it is perhaps due the public and the farmers' alliance also, that some official statement should be published outlining some of the main features of that organization. It is due the public in order that all may understand the objects sought to be achieved, and in order that none may join for a purpose that is foreign to the real objects of the order. It is due the alliance that these statements be made in order that it may not be confounded with other alliances and similar organizations that have entirely different objects.

The farmers' alliance was started in Lampasas county, Texas. Mr. Garvin says in his history, sometime between 1870 and '75. It was chartered by the State of Texas as a benevolent association in October, 1880. In August, 1885, there were about 700 alliances organized and in one year from that time, August, 1886, there met delegates representing about 2600 alliances. This was a wonderful growth, and in fact was too rapid, because it was spreading faster than it was understood. People who did not belong to the order and could get no reliable information as to its objects, formed wrong ideas and began to antagonize the movement. Many joined the order who knew nothing of objects. They had a preconceived idea that it was to some extent intended to be political in its action and in some instances they so taught for a while. But during the last year a slower and surer method has been adopted, and gradually the merchants and other business men, as they see that the movement is not intended to antagonize them, are becoming friendly to the order. They are all truly anxious for the farmer to get as much for his cotton as possible. The political soreheads who joined the alliance (there were a few such) have found out their mistake, and as a rule have abandoned it in disgust.

The objects of the order as usually stated are to promote mental, moral, social and financial improvement, and this, boiled down, means that it is a friendly business association strictly. The meetings are friendly and sociable. They tend to make country life less lonely and more attractive, and the cultivation of friendliness and sociability has a tendency to bring out and develop the better part of human nature and make man less selfish—make him think more of himself and his fellow man. This is good and as it should be, and harmonizes nicely with the other and more important

object of the organization, that is, financial improvement. For if the alliance is not a business organization it is not anything, and right here arises the necessity for having it a secret society. No good business man heralds his business to the world. A successful horse trader even, keeps his mouth shut about his business until ready to divulge. It is well known that no manufacturer or large dealer will give any man or set of men, cuts on prices unless they have some assurance that the cuts given are not made public. Why, in one sense of the word all our merchants are organized into a secret society. We know they have no secret association, but they all use a secret cost mark and it is necessary in order to make a success of their business. Consequently it is held that in order to succeed as a business association a secret organization is absolutely necessary. But the very fact that it is secret must of necessity, absolutely preclude any tendency toward partisan political action. Nothing can be truer than to say that whenever you introduce any secret feature into a political party it will destroy the party, and vice versa. Whenever you introduce partisan politics into a secret society, the society will die, and should be avoided as contrary to the spirit of our government.

In January, 1887, the National Farmers' Alliance and Co-Operative Union of America was organized. It has since been chartered by the United States Government and now has State branches in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi. This National Association is organized with only one object, and that is clearly defined and well understood, and is of such universal application that it can be endorsed in all the States. The watchword—the central idea and full purpose is, Co-OPERATION. On this the National Alliance depends and leaves all local issues to local organizations. That is whenever a State alliance is organized in any State and chartered by the National Alliance, the State Alliance has all original jurisdiction within her borders and can make and defend such issues as to the people of that State seem proper and best.

Now to sum up: The alliance is a strictly white man's non-political, secret business association. It does not seek to force any issues on any people, but asks them to co-operate as cotton raisers and go into it themselves and meet such issues as they may have in any way they choose.

C. W. MACUNE,  
President National Farmers' Alliance and Co-Operative Union of America.

#### GREEN MANURING.

NUMBER 2.

The fact that land can be cheaply and profitably improved by growing a crop of clover, peas, rye, millet or even grass and weeds for the purpose of plowing under, has been proven beyond a doubt by many experiments.

The question with the farmer is: How can I obtain the best results with the least outlay of time and money?

Is it best to let the land rest alternate years, and to permit the growth of weeds and grass or, is it better to break the land and to sow cow peas or other crop for the purpose of plowing under for manure?

Is it best to plow the crop under during the summer, or fall, or winter, or wait until ready to plant in the spring, in order to obtain the largest results? Or shall it be burned off before breaking the land. This plan is practiced by many farmers because it is troublesome to plow it in. (These farmers should burn up their stable manure also for the same reason. It is easier to haul and spread the ashes than to haul the manure.)

Has any farmer tried the experiment of breaking a part of his sod land in the fall and a part the next spring, and watch the result? What is the value of a crop of pea vines to the land? What is the best disposition to make of them? Shall hogs be permitted to gather the pods and trample the vines, or should all be returned to the land?

Should a pea be turned under in the green state, or when?

Does the sun, wind and rain during the six months from October to March dmurge sod or plowed land most? Is a covering and shade protection during these months of any value to the land in this country, where there is no snow to cover it?

What is the most profitable crop to grow for manuring purposes?

What is the value of an oat or millet stubble to the land, as compared with a growth of weeds?

When should corn and cotton land be broken, in order to obtain the best results?

Can a money or forage crop be taken from the land and a manuring crop be made during the same year?

These are questions of very great importance to the practical farmer, for on just such matters the question of profit or loss in farming depends. One farmer makes four hundred pounds of cotton per acre, another never obtains over three hundred pounds. What is the reason? Is it not because the latter does not work properly? A.

#### TENNESSEE ON INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION.

The Legislature of Tennessee, on the 29th of last March, adopted the following resolution:

Whereas, The University of our State has so remodelled her policy and her courses of study as to make it her chief object to teach the branches related to Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts; therefore

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, That the institution aforesaid is hereby commended to all who are seeking industrial education; and the members of this Assembly are hereby urged to make all the appointments to which they are entitled, and to use their influence in sustaining the school and increasing its patronage.

So, the University of Tennessee is now essentially and truly an agricultural and mechanical college, and the resolution adopted and which commends it to the patronage of the people and which goes a step in advance of any legislature, in that it pledges all the legislators to go home and go to work for the college, is certainly an honor to the members composing that body. With such men to sustain it with their influence, and with such an able, enthusiastic and thoroughly practical President as Dr. Dabney, it is easy to predict the future of that institution. We hope to see such a spirit supporting such an institution in our state.

#### SAM JONES ON INGERSOLL.

Well, Ingersoll was lecturing—I believe it was in Milwaukee—and in his lecture he came to this assertion, and while he lectured there were standing up in the corner of the platform three or four drunken men standing there talking in an undertone. That crowd felt like they ought to take the amen corners on Bob; and all I want to know about any fellow is who takes the amen corners on him; and when you find Bob preaching you will find the amen corners filled with old red-nosed drunkards and other vagabonds of the town; they have rushed up and taken the amen corners on him. And while Bob was lecturing, when he reached the assertion, "There is no hell, and I can prove it to any reasonable man," he got the attention of that crowd, of course. They were interested at this point, and one of them straightened himself up and staggered up to Bob and put his hands on his shoulder and said, "Can you Bob?" He said, "Yes, I can." "Well," the fellow says, "do it Bob and make it mighty strong, for," he says, "I tell you that nine-tenths of us poor fellows in Milwaukee are depending on how you make that thing."

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