

The Progressive Farmer.L. L. POLK, ————— EDITOR.
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RALEIGH, N. C., OCT. 6, 1887.

[This paper entered as second-class matter at the Post Office in Raleigh, N. C.]

ENDORSED BY THE CONVENTION.

The following resolution was passed by the Farmers' Mass Convention in Raleigh, January 26th, 1887:

Resolved, That THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, published by L. L. Polk, Winston, N. C., be declared the Official Organ of the North Carolina Farmers' Association, and that its Editor, L. L. Polk, be admitted to the privileges of the floor as an honorary member of this Convention.

We ask every Grange and Farmers' Club in the State to send us at once, the number of members in the organization, together with the name and post-office address of each officer.

PLEASE NOTICE.

In writing to this office to change the address of a paper, our subscribers will do us a favor by stating the office at which the paper is received, as well as the one to which it is desired to be sent. Failure to do this puts us to a great deal of trouble and the necessity of going through a long list of names, involving not only much work, but much loss of time, when time is valuable.

SUBSCRIBERS, READ THIS.

Is there a Cross Mark on the margin of your paper? We adopt this as the simplest and easiest method of informing our patrons that their terms of subscription have expired, and that the paper will be stopped if we do not hear from you. We know "times are hard" on everybody, and especially is this true of newspapers, and particularly agricultural papers. But we must help each other as best we can. If, therefore, you are not prepared to renew for the whole year, renew for a part of the time, and this will enable you to have time to make us up a club, for which you will get the paper one year free of charge. So if you see the Cross Mark, let us hear from you.

BOYCOTTING IN RALEIGH.**Boycotters Boycotted.**

As Gov. Vance said in the opening sentence of his Inaugural Address, January 1st, 1877—"There is retribution in history"—that is to say, things will come around occasionally.

An anonymous correspondent last winter said some sharp things in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER about Southern Pines, whereupon the managers of the R. & G. R. R. "got their backs up" and joined in the fight against the Farmers' Convention called through THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. But the Convention didn't "crush"—even with the ponderous weight of a great railroad on it, nor did THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. Both are still alive and kicking. Well, if the Farmers' Convention wouldn't crush, they would see, if its organ wouldn't yield; so they boycotted THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

The facts are these: We applied, in 1886, for an annual pass over the R. & G. and R. & A. R. R. We were informed that it was against the rules of the Road to grant passes to papers not operated on its lines. We then had our paper in Winston. After removing the paper to Raleigh we applied again to Maj. Winder. He gave a plausible excuse, but made no reference to any alleged offence committed by this paper. Some time thereafter we applied for a trip pass and suggested that if we were to have a pass over his roads that it would save

trouble and possible annoyance to have it issued—each time stating that we were willing to give the Road an equivalent in our advertising columns. Again came the plausible excuse, but no reference still to any offence given by the paper. During our absence, May 28th, our Associate, Mr. John E. Ray, applied for a trip pass to Weldon—then, for the first time, were we told that it would not be granted, because THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER "has seen fit to ridicule our efforts to build up a health resort at Southern Pines." This was the alleged offence for which THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER was to be singled out and suffer the dire displeasure of this Railroad, and in this we have been enabled to read the unwritten explanation of the active and earnest work of that Road against the Farmers' Convention which met in this city on the 26th of January, for the "ridicule" of our anonymous correspondent appeared before the meeting of that Convention.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, we presume, is the only paper in all Central Carolina, which enjoys the distinction of paying full fare for every mile it rides on this Road. But, possibly, "it will be all right when it dries."

A copy of this "bull of ex-communication"—this official manifesto against THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER—now lies before us in all its stately and appalling dignity, and we are made to realize the awful diminutiveness of our littleness. We are trying to settle in our mind whether or not we shall ever again say, or permit anything to be said, through these columns, against anybody, or anything, or any place in which, by possibility, the lordly R. & G. R. R. shall be directly or indirectly interested, and we have about concluded that—well, that we will act by the R. & G. R. R. as we would by any man or set of men.

And now we hasten, at the earliest opportunity, to express to the said R. & G. R. R. our sincere and profound sympathy. They now "know how it feels." The merchants of Raleigh, for reasons satisfactory to themselves, have boycotted the R. & G. R. R. They now ship their cotton and their goods by way of the R. & D. R. R. The said R. & G. Road waked up one fine morning last week to find the platform surrounded with scores of drays and wagons, and to see about 800 bales of cotton loaded and hauled off to the other depot in a jiffy.

And now a word of counsel to our friend in distress—the R. & G. R. R.: This boycott may be hasty, ill-advised and unjust, but "grin and bear it like a little man," as we did. It is true you got hold of a blade that cuts two ways and perhaps it is all right, after all. At all events, it may result in showing us a plan by which we can dispense with the boycott. It may be that the business men of the State, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and the one hundred thousand farmers whom it represents, may conclude that a railroad commission could regulate these little matters, and they may take it into their heads to send a legislature to Raleigh next year who will establish that commission. So let us all keep cool—and wait—and see.

Meantime we presume the R. & G. R. R. will continue to run, notwithstanding the boycott of the Raleigh merchants, and we presume THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and its friends will continue to paddle along notwithstanding the boycott of the R. & G. R. R. Let us all keep cool—and wait—and see. Some things can't be developed in a day, you know.

Kinston Free Press: Our North Carolina people are turning to the manufacture of sorghum molasses. The present crop of sugar cane in the State is said to be the largest we have had in twenty years and the article of syrup now turned out is, thanks to recent improvement in methods, the best ever made. Home supplies at home is to be commended heartily.

THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND CO-OPERATIVE UNION OF AMERICA.*It has Come to North Carolina to Stay—A Southern Institution Adapted to the Wants and Needs of Southern Agriculture—An Official Statement of Its Scope, Character and Purposes.*

Mr. N. H. C. Elliott, of Brownwood, Texas, arrived in this city a few days ago. Being regularly commissioned as National Lecturer and Organizer by the National Alliance, and coming with the highest testimonials as to his character and position, we sought an interview with him with the view of presenting some of the chief features of this young but powerful and rapidly growing institution, to the readers, of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. We found Mr. Elliott an intelligent, straightforward man, frank and unreserved in his manner and thoroughly confident of the ultimate and grand success of the order. We give our questions and his answers:

Q. "When and where did the Alliance originate?"

A. "It originated in 1872, in Lampasas county, Texas, among farmers and stockmen for protection against depredations of horse and cattle thieves and land swindlers?"

Q. "When did it begin to enlarge the scope of its purposes?"

A. "In 1875 it appeared in Parker county, and was then cultivating social and charitable relations among its members and also inaugurating in a small way a crude system of selling and buying together. It has grown and spread and developed until now we have 134 organized counties in our State, with a membership of 251,000, and a State Alliance, officered and fully equipped to manage the business and look after the interests of this large body of members."

Q. "To what do you ascribe the rapid growth of your order in Texas?"

A. "It is due to several causes, but it may be briefly stated, that the great depression in agricultural interests—the utter helplessness of the farmers to control the products of their labor—the general system of servile dependence which was gradually but surely fastening itself upon us. These crushing evils were growing upon us and excited deep concern, if not alarm among our thinking farmers, and they were anxiously looking for relief; so, they were not only ready, but anxious, to adopt just such measures of relief as are offered by the Alliance; hence they went into it by hundreds and thousands."

Q. "Is your order, in any sense, a political organization?"

A. "In a partisan sense. No. There are important reasons why it cannot be. The Alliance is of necessity a secret order, and we know that party politics introduced into a secret business organization would kill it, then we could not belong to any order that would require us to keep our political principles or action a secret. Of course we not only tolerate, but we encourage and require our members to study the science of economic government. It is a business and not a political organization."

Q. "You say it is of necessity a secret order; will you please explain why?"

A. "Simply to insure success. We are learning some lessons from other interests and other classes. One of the most important lessons is, that to succeed in any business, the plans and methods to be employed in its prosecution are not to be made public. Merchants, banks, railroads, corporations of any kind do not throw open their plans and purposes to the world, if they did they would never succeed. We, the farmers of the South, must adopt the same wise precautions. We are a secret order simply because the recognized successful systems of our age admonish us that it is the road to success in all business enterprise. The only secrets, I am free to say, that we have, are our business plans and some machinery by which we protect ourselves against imposition."

Q. "Who are eligible to membership in your order?"

A. "I will quote the language of our Constitution on this subject." And he read as follows: "Farmers, farm laborers, mechanics, country school teachers, country physicians, (not engaged in the drug business) and ministers of the gospel. All persons becoming members must be of good moral character, believe in the existence of a Supreme Being, be of industrious habits—must be a white person and over the age of 16 years."

Q. "Does your order in any way conflict with the Grange, the Agricultural Wheel, or the farmers' clubs?"

A. "It does not, but is in thorough accord with the general purposes of all these organizations. Indeed, the Wheel in Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri, have adopted our work, and now affiliate fully with us. The Farmers' Union of Louisiana and the Farmers' Relief in Mississippi, have adopted our work."

Q. "What is your aggregate membership, and chiefly in what territory?"

A. "About 1,200,000, chiefly in eight Southern States."

Q. "Are you not affiliated with the Alliance of the Northwest?"

A. "We are not. That was originated in Chicago, by Milton George, a brother of the noted Henry George. There is an open political organization, and there is not, nor can there be, any affiliation between us."

Q. "How was your order received by the press and the business men of your State, and how do they regard it now?"

A. "At first the business men treated the matter very lightly, and predicted its early and utter failure, and the press sympathized with that view, and assumed and declared that we were a secret political order, but now there is not a paper in the whole State that is not our steadfast friend, and the leading dailies are giving us their active and earnest support. The business men, as a rule, are most kindly disposed toward us and our order, and its success has their confidence and encouragement. Indeed we have over 100 Alliance cotton yards established in the State, and most of these were built for us with money and contributions of the business men in the towns in which they are located. As an inducement to establish our State Headquarters in that city, Dallas made a contribution to us in lots, lands, money, buildings, &c., amounting to not less than \$100,000. This shows what the business men of Texas think of us."

Q. "Well, have you had any trouble with political parties or politicians?"

A. "With the parties, as such, no. Chronic office seekers, political tricksters and disappointed sore-heads have given us some trouble, but we are now in a position to paddle our own canoe."

Q. "You say you have cotton yards of your own—will you give me the methods by which you run these yards, and something of the benefits you claim for them?"

A. "A detailed statement of the whole system, would perhaps be longer than you would like to have in your paper at this time, and as it is the duty of myself and all organizers to explain fully and in detail this system to your people, I will give you only an outline. Each of these cotton yards is in charge of a bonded officer—(by the way, all our officers are bonded, salaried men. We have no men paid in any way by commissions.) We have every facility that any cotton exchange or mercantile association has for obtaining the exact state of the market at any point in the world and at any hour, and our machinery is such that within one hour from the time our dispatches are received at State headquarters, every agent in the State knows the price of cotton for that day, and every farmer belonging to the Alliance can know what his cotton is worth if he will ask. So, a farmer bringing his cotton to our yard can take his sample and go on his local market (and we always encourage them to do so) and know whether or not he is offered its value. If he concludes not to sell, then we can send sample to State Headquarters, where we are thoroughly prepared to get him the best prices in the best markets. It costs him from ten to twenty-five cents per bale to have his cotton weighed and for storage—no matter how long he may want it stored. He pays, of course, the insurance, which is very little. We are prepared, under the same system, to handle our other products and our stock. Under this system, also, we have arrangements perfected by which we can and do make purchases for our members, and so perfect is the system that we confidently expect to

make a net saving of over one million dollars to our members during next year."

Q. "Well, you strike heavy at the "middle man" by your plan, do you not?"

A. "No, we do not propose to do away with the middle men—they are an important factor in our great social fabric and we could not well do without them. We make no war on any one. We encourage all men engaged in legitimate business and want to see them prosper and succeed, but there are checks and balances which are essential to the well-being of society, and we propose to see that middle men nor any other class shall absorb what justly belongs to us. The Alliance is founded on Truth and Justice, and justice is all we ask at the hands of the business world. This granted, and we will take care of ourselves."

Q. "Does the Alliance own and operate co-operative stores?"

A. "Yes, a few, but under our system, known as the "Macune Trade System" we, as a rule, find that we are able to make very satisfactory terms with our own merchants and for the present we recommend this system. It is very perfect and gives satisfaction to all merchants who deal with us. This will be explained fully to your people as we proceed in the work of organization."

Q. "Well are the financial advantages of your order confined to buying and selling?"

A. "Why bless your life these are only the beginning of a vast system of financial design, which we hope will permeate every department of our industries. We have already perfected a system for establishing manufacturing enterprises, and under which we have now in operation twelve fine Roller Flouring mills and five others in process of construction and several cotton factories projected, two of which we hope soon to have in operation. The South must become what Nature designed—a great manufacturing district,—we must work up our vast store of raw material, if we would become that prosperous and powerful people that we ought to be. We, of Texas, cling with filial love to the dear old South and we want to quicken her into new life, by grasping and utilizing new opportunities. We have the most abiding faith in the nerve and pluck of our people and in the scheme, which for eight long years we have worked earnestly to perfect, and it is with pride that we all recognize the truth that to the foresight, wisdom and indomitable pluck and loyal devotion of Dr. C. W. Macune, the President of our National Alliance, we are indebted for our success and the high plane we occupy in the business world. We not only wish to see the material development of the South, but we have other grand objects to accomplish. We want and must work for the moral, social and intellectual development of our people, and this is a part of our declared purpose."

Q. "What means do you use for bringing your order before the people, and for informing them as to your objects and purposes?"

A. "We use organizers, whose lectures are always public, but the great propelling power of the movement in our State is our Alliance organ, the Southern Mercury, which is largely patronized and extensively read by our ordea. It is the property of the Alliance and we could not do without it, neither can the Alliance prosper in any State unless it has an organ, patronized and read by the members. It is a silent but powerful and eloquent advocate of our noble principles and the father and his whole family are receiving "line upon line and precept upon precept" every week, and thus we educate our people to cherish and love the principles they have espoused. No alliance can live and grow and prosper that does not read its paper—this we have found by experience, to be strictly true. I am therefore gratified to see that THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER has been adopted thus far by the Alliances in your State and hope they will use it freely and liberally for the up-building of the order."

Mr. Elliott then went on to say that he was commissioned and sent to our State to organize a State Alliance and to push the matter of organizing subordinate and County Alliances until our whole State is brought into the order. He will attend the meeting of the National Alliance at Shreveport, in Louisiana, on the 12th inst., and return to our State and address himself vigorously to the work of organizing. He requests that counties and communities wishing an early organization will address him at Raleigh.—Care of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.