

The Progressive Farmer.

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Raleigh, N. C.

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The Progressive Farmer is the Official Organ of the N. C. Farmers' Association and N. C. State Farmers' Alliance.

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ON THE WING.

ATLANTA, Ga., Oct. 10, '87.

Atlanta merges into view this beautiful morning under the soft, mellow glow of a glorious Indian summer morning, and all is stir and bustle. The crossings, avenues of travel, entrance to public and prominent buildings, balconies and every place where flags and bunting may be displayed, are radiant with gorgeous colors. Hon. Sam Randall is here to formally open the Exposition, and his speech will be closely scrutinized by Free Traders and Protectionists alike.

President Cleveland will arrive next Monday night, and Atlanta will greet him with its most charming smile and with "open arms" and in such a way as not even to excite the jealousy of his devoted wife.

The Exposition is a big thing, run by a big people, and will be visited by the biggest crowd that ever crowded Georgia's pet city. But the hour has arrived and I must "hie me away" to Shreveport, where we may possibly and most probably will do something more to advance the interests of the farmers of the South. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and its readers shall hear from my trip and our work.

WESTWARD BOUND.

October 11, '87.

Taking the train on the Georgia Pacific, we dash through a country resembling in all its characteristics that of Chatham and upper Moore, and we reach Birmingham at 10, at night. A two hours' rest allows us time to look around and see the "magic" town "under the gas light." Two things we learned—they have an abundance of liquor shops and they know how to make you pay for a lunch at their "leading" restaurant. The hotels that it was our fortune, or misfortune to strike in all this section, understand thoroughly, the art of feeding light and charging heavy. At daylight we are skimming along over the vast and beautiful Mississippi country—but the gleeful and happy plantation songs of the old-time are heard no more, and thousands of acres of those rich farms are given over to Bermuda grass, on which we

were pleased to see hundreds of fine cattle and many herds of splendid Jerseys. Vicksburg—what memories gather round the name! Across the "Father of Waters" we are in the wild bottoms of Louisiana and away we fly to Shreveport, twelve hundred and sixty-five miles from Raleigh.

Shreveport, on the Red River, is an old town of about 15,000 population, and seems to enjoy a good trade and is evidently growing. Here we meet Macune, Warren, Wilson and others with whom we spent pleasant hours in Atlanta at the Inter-States Convention and at once we "buckle down" to work. So nothing more for THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER until we shall have finished the task.

HOMEWARD BOUND—ON THE TRAIN.

Before the Alliance adjourned, we are forced to tear away, for our own State Fair is on hand and we must be there. Down the Red River, on the Texas Pacific R. R., we speed our way to New Orleans. Looking out over those magnificent sugar-cane plantations, stretching away as far as the eye could reach, with the steam and smoke of huge sugar mills and refineries on all sides, and happy negroes stripping, cutting and hauling the cane, we for the first time appreciate the true sentiment of the old plantation song "Away down upon the Swanee River." New Orleans reached and we while away the six hours we are forced to spend here in looking at the sights. The old Exposition grounds are marked only by the fast decaying fence that encloses them, and Horticultural Hall, which is still occupied and cared for. Many new and pretty and stylish residences are going up, but they all are modeled as to size, after the lordly old Southern mansions of slavery times. The Cotton Exchange, the Custom House and St. Charles Hotel, are imposing and costly buildings, but we are not impressed with the city as a desirable place of residence.

Off we go for Atlanta. The one cent rate, or President Cleveland or the Exposition, or perhaps all combined, fills and crowds the trains on all the roads, with thousands of people, even on the Sabbath day. Wonder if some of these good people never signed a petition to the Legislature to stop the carrying of freight on these roads on Sunday. But Atlanta is reached, and the crowd that is crowding the streets and hotels and boarding houses! A thousand negroes fill the thoroughfares to gaze in wonder at the thronging thousands who are pouring in on every train. The Salvation Army, with drum, brass horns and tambourine, the military and accompanying bands, the roar of vehicles on the paved streets, the din of ten thousand voices, the ringing of engine bells and the bellowing of whistles, makes Atlanta a Bedlam, and we impatiently await the hour when we shall take the track on the home-stretch. "Train going North, on Piedmont Air Line," rings out above the heavy hum at the Markham House and we elbow our way to it and away we go. It may be all a notion, but we feel more comfortable now that we are seated in an elegant coach on this splendid road, and which is noted for the admirable manner in which it looks after the ease and comfort of its patrons. Besides, we know that we have reached the land of good water, good victuals and living prices. But that Atlanta Exposition is a big thing, and where they are going to put the crowd that will be there, is the great and absorbing question with the management—but Atlanta has always been equal to any emergency.

We were proud to hear so many complimentary remarks about North Carolina tobacco, which is exhibited by that young and enterprising tobaccoist of Winston, Mr. B. F. Hanes, and of which we shall say more at another time. L. L. P.

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THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE.

This body met in Shreveport, La., on the 12th inst., and was composed of delegates representing Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. It was an able body of earnest, patriotic men, who were thoroughly impressed with the importance and magnitude of the great work they have undertaken—the social, moral, intellectual and financial improvement of the farmers of the South and of the country. That the principles and purposes of the Alliance are adapted to the wants and necessities of the farmers, is evidenced by the fact that such State organizations as the Farmers' Union, of Louisiana, the Agricultural Wheel, of Arkansas and Missouri, and the Farmers' Relief, of Mississippi, had endorsed them, and that at the present session, the Agricultural Wheel, of Kentucky and Tennessee, came into the order and is now thoroughly affiliated with it.

The PROGRESSIVE FARMER will furnish its readers from time to time, and as rapidly as possible, the official proceedings.

We are enabled to give some matters which are of interest to our North Carolina farmers and brethren. The following, looking to the development of a more perfect and efficient co-operation business system, was adopted:

"Appreciating the supreme importance and magnitude of this subject in its relation to the financial prosperity and industrial development of the States represented in this body, no less than to the industrial success, independence and happiness of the great body of farmers of the South, we cannot too strongly urge upon the members and subordinate organizations of our Order, the absolute and indispensable necessity for a well-digested and thoroughly organized co-operative business system by and through which we may mitigate, if we may not entirely rid ourselves of unequal burthens and unjust oppressions and evils, which are paralyzing the energies and absorbing the profits of our farming interests. We, therefore, earnestly commend to the early and favorable consideration of State, County and Subordinate Alliances, and to the individual members of our order, the following outline of a general plan, to be perfected and developed in detail, as the necessities and local conditions of the several States in which it is adopted, may require, but confirming as nearly as practicable to the general plan, to the end that, ultimately and at the earliest practicable time, we may bring together and direct our business methods, business resources and business interests under one general and harmonious plan of co-operation through a National Agency of the National Alliance.

"We recommend to the various State and subordinate organizations of the N. F. A. & C. U. of A. the plan adopted by the State Alliance of Texas, at its regular session Aug. 12th, 1887, at Waco, and known as the Farmers' Alliance Exchange, of Texas, as a general guide for the organization of such business agencies, said plan to be furnished at the earliest practicable time, to the Secretaries of the various State organizations by the Secretary of the National Alliance.

"We recommend that the Business Agents of such State organizations as may desire to create a National Agency shall meet in the city of Dallas, Texas, on the second Tuesday in February, 1888, and organize themselves into a National Business Directory, and shall have power to elect a National Business Agent, provided the Business Directory and the National Business Agent shall exist no longer under this organization than the next regular meeting of the National Alliance.

"The National Business Directory shall have power to locate the office, define the duties and fix the salary of the said National Business Agent, provided he is paid from the fund of the respective State Treasuries represented in the Business Directory, subject to the approval of the President and Executive Committee of their respective State organizations.

"Within six months after his election, it shall be the duty of the said National Business Agent to visit the several State Business Agencies, who constitute the National Business Directory and aid in perfecting and devel-

oping the system—to aid in negotiating purchases and sales of commodities and products, and such other business as may require his experience and services.

"Prudence and experience show that it is impossible to succeed in business enterprises if the plans, methods and purposes of such business be made public; therefore, we recommend to the various State and subordinate organizations, that if any member shall divulge any of the private business plans, prices or private business arrangements of the order, such offending member shall be promptly expelled from the order."

It will be seen that the plan of the Business System, as operated in the State of Texas, will be furnished, under these instructions, to the secretaries of the State organizations, to be considered and adopted as far as it may apply to the respective States. As soon as received, the State secretaries will furnish it to the County and Subordinate Alliances for their consideration. Under this system the State Alliance of Texas has established its Business Exchange and it is now in full operation. But our people must remember that it has taken years of thought and labor and the expenditure of considerable money to accomplish this work, and while we may be greatly benefited by the experience of our Texas brethren, and our efforts greatly facilitated, yet it will take time to organize our State and get our system in good working order.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:

- President, C. W. Macune, Texas.
- First Vice-Pres't, L. L. Polk, N. C.
- Vice-Pres't for Ala., H. P. Bone.
- Vice-Pres't for Ark., W. H. Moore.
- Vice-Pres't for Fla., Oswald Wilson.
- Vice-Pres't for Ky., S. B. Irwin.
- Vice-Pres't for La., Linn Tanner.
- Vice-Pres't for Miss., R. T. Love.
- Vice-Pres't for Mo., A. B. Johnson.
- Vice-Pres't for N. C., S. B. Alexander.
- Vice-Pres't for Tenn., I. H. McDowell.

- Vice-Pres't for Tex., M. D. K. Taylor.
- E. B. Warren, Texas, Secretary.
- A. E. Gardner, Tenn., Treasurer.
- Rev. J. C. Jones, La., Chaplain.
- Ben. Terrell, Tex., Lecturer.
- J. A. Tetts, La., Asst. Lecturer.
- Newt. Gresham, Ala., Door Keeper.
- H. C. Brown, Ky., Asst. Door Keeper.
- T. E. Groom, Miss., Serg't-at-Arms.

The full official proceedings will reach us, we hope, at an early day, when they will be given to our order in this State through these columns.

The next annual meeting of the Alliance will be held at Meridian, Mississippi.

We found, as had been represented, that the kindest feeling existed between the business men and the Alliance, and that there was now no clash or conflict between them. When the people shall realize that the farmers of the country are simply trying to attend to their own business, and to take care of their own interests, and that they propose to do so by proper and legitimate methods, we opine that here, as in Texas, the Alliance will be recognized as the one thing the farmers have needed for these long years.

"OUR PROBLEM."

We give space today to an ably written article which we find in the *Tarboro Southerner* touching some of the grave problems in government and political economy which confront us. Whatever we may think of his premises and conclusions on the matters discussed, on one thing all thinking men will agree—they are matters of grave import and should be pondered and discussed among our people seriously and dispassionately. Again, we give it a place in our columns the more readily since we, like the *Southerner*, want to stimulate and encourage investigation into those questions of direct and immediate concern to our people—questions of domestic concern, in which the social, moral, intellectual and financial well-being of our people, is involved. We would have our people to turn their backs upon the dead issues of the past and turn their

faces towards the real, living issues of the immediate future. We would have less of "1868-69" and more of 1888-89. We are not living, nor will our children live, in "68 and 69." If we could, we would blot forever from the fair name of our dear old State, that foul stigma—but as that cannot be, we would advert to it simply as a danger signal, warning those who are to follow us, against its danger. We want to hear less of dead and impracticable issues, and more of those things which are real grievances. We want more of a live, aggressive and progressive policy, which will relieve us of dead weight, and which will infuse into the whole of our industrial system, new life, new blood, new thought, new energy and new aspiration. We need less of political clap-trap and glory and more of sound statesmanship and dollars. The South works for political glory and our neighbor Yankee works for dollars, and there is where they have outstripped us.

FARMERS' INSTITUTE IN ROCKINGHAM COUNTY.

A Farmers' Institute will be held in the town of Wentworth, Rockingham county, on the 3d and 4th days of November. We learn that a most interesting programme has been arranged for the occasion, and that a number of able speakers and essayists are invited and will be present. We are gratified to note this onward step in that grand old county and we hope every farmer in the county will attend. Let the young men and young ladies turn out in full force and let everybody contribute something towards the success of this first Institute in Rockingham. It will do good and all will be benefited. We hope it will be our privilege to attend.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION.

The New York papers announce that the city has taken the step of introducing Manual Instruction in the Public Schools of the great Metropolis.

Now let the friends of our A. & M. College take new courage, and even let the authorities of our Common Schools be looking into the question.

The following is a concise statement of the movement:

"It is generally felt that the Board of Education has done a good and wise thing in deciding to introduce manual training in the public schools. The system will be established on an experimental basis, with the idea of making it permanent if the results justify such a step. A test will be made in six schools for boys and six schools for girls. Instruction will be given in carpenter work, or the use of wood-working tools, for boys; modeling in clay for boys and girls; construction work in paper, pasteboard and other suitable material, for boys and girls; sewing for girls; cooking for girls. The test of the plan, it is estimated, will cost \$13,000. Manual training has proved a great success in the schools of Baltimore, St. Louis, Boston, and other cities east and west, to say nothing of the wonderful things which have been accomplished under the system in the schools of France, Belgium and Germany. It has long since passed the experimental stage in all these countries."

SOUTHERN FARMERS, GROW OATS.

It is with no hesitation that we recommend our planters to grow their own oats. Prepare the land well, sow in October two bushels per acre of genuine red rust-proof oats, scatter broadcast with the oats 450 pounds of a mixture of two parts of cotton seed meal and one part of acid phosphate, harrow them both in and open well your drains. In the spring you may confidently expect an excellent yield. If this crop be gathered by a reaper, or better, a self-binder, the time and expense of harvest will be small. As soon as the oats are removed sow the lands in solid peas and it will be in excellent order for the fall planting of cane, or for a spring crop of cotton or corn.—Director W. C. Stubbs, Louisiana Experiment Station.