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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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THE STATE FAIR.

Never in the history of the North Carolina Agricultural Society has it been subjected to such a trying ordeal as the one through which it passed last week. The hopeful spirit of our farmers, the good crops, the thorough advertising, the cheap rates on railroads, the liberal premiums offered, all conspired to make the outlook for the most successful Fair ever held in the State, most auspicious indeed. But alas, for human hope and human calculation! Tuesday morning the "leaden sky" seemed to hover on the house-tops—dark, dreary, drizzling, dripping clouds drenched the earth, and thus it continued until Thursday night. Sweet young girls, gallant young men, sturdy farmers, horse-jockeys, draymen, hackmen, hotel and boarding house keepers, railroad men—all, at first looked perplexed. Weather vanes on public buildings were consulted to see if it was a "regular northeaster," weather bulletins were examined to know when a change would come, but all to no purpose. Still they came on every train by hundreds and thousands, as if determined to have a good time any how. Mud, slush, water everywhere; but they were not to be deterred. Never were so many umbrellas and wraps and drabbed dresses seen on the streets of Raleigh at any one time; still they laughed and joked and paddled on; still the hacks and street cars and hotels and stores and trains were crowded; still they would go to the Fair. Monotonous, dreary, drooping and murky weather, and jolly, joyful, buoyant spirit, characterized the occasion. The programme was utterly demolished, but the officers and people took it all in the best possible mood. "Nothing like it has ever been seen in the State, if it hadn't rained," was heard on all sides. But it was not all a failure. Floral Hall was well filled with most creditable exhibits of the handiwork of the ladies, displays of musical instruments, merchandise, agricultural products, &c., &c. The display of poultry was never better, and by those competent to judge, it is said that it was the best

collection of fine stock ever seen on the grounds.

Mr. J. L. Stone, one of the most successful advertisers in the State, adopted a novel and most admirable method of attracting the crowd to his magnificent display of musical instruments. Securing the 115 pound pumpkin of Mr. W. C. Stronach, he offered an organ as a prize to the fortunate one who should guess the number of seeds it contained, and of the thousands who guessed, only one, Mr. A. N. Butts, of Durham, happened to name the lucky number—612. One guessed 611, and five others 613. We learn that Mr. Stone will give away a magnificent \$400 piano at our next Fair.

Sauntering through the ladies' department, with its dazzling and almost bewildering display of handsome articles, we were especially attracted by feather work by Miss A. W. Duffy, of Newbern, which would have done credit to the skill of a professional Parisian artist. Miss Helen Moore, of Greenville, Pitt county, exhibited as handsome piano cover as was ever seen in the building. Little Mary Palmer Mills, of Raleigh, showed wonderful skill and taste in a crochet dress for a doll—all in one piece. Little Minnie Sewell, of Raleigh, without the aid of lessons or instruction, presented crayons remarkably well executed. Master Frank N. Cook, of Louisburg, son of Hon. C. M. Cook, aged 11 years, exhibited crayons and oil paintings which evinced remarkable talent. He should be cultivated under the best Masters. Some lace work by Mrs. J. N. Pogue, of Raleigh, attracted universal attention and admiration, as delicate a gossamer and as perfect as machine work. A crayon portrait of a child by Miss Roberta Best, daughter of R. W. Best, was so well executed that it looked like a thing of life. The delicate embroidery, the folds, and even the shades of the folds in the dress, were most beautifully and artistically brought out. We saw among the relics an all-wool coverlet, 150 years old, woven by a girl 16 years of age and wonderfully preserved. An elegant counterpane made by Mrs. Rebecca Williams, of Warren county, 100 years ago. We shall endeavor to notice some of the fine stock on exhibition as soon as we learn the winners of the premiums.

The gentlemanly bearing of Chief Marshal Jones and his fine looking body of assistants was a subject of remark at all times and places. Gov. Scales, Capt. Denson and Gen. Ransom all made happy little speeches at the opening of the Fair. The speech of Col. T. M. Holt, at the reception of the Trades Procession, we think was the best speech of his life, and we hope to publish it. The response by W. N. Jones was well timed and gave universal satisfaction. The reunion of the veterans of the 1st N. C. Cavalry was not largely attended, but it was a genuine old-soldier greeting.

We share the general regret that the untiring, unselfish and patriotic efforts of Col. W. F. Beasley, on behalf of the old disabled soldiers of our State met with no more encouragement. He has labored with a zeal and devotion in this noble cause, worthy of all praise and admiration. The State Farmers' Institute, although disarranged by the weather, was voted unanimously a big success.

Inspired by the evident and grand success which must have signalized this Fair in all its departments, but for obstacles beyond human control, the friends of the Institution must go to work at once with renewed energy and determination to make the State Fair of 1888 not only the best and biggest Fair ever held in the State, but to make it the leading Fair of all the South. It can be done and it must be done.

Letters of inquiry from all parts of the State show the deepest interest in the Alliance movement. The work of organizing will begin in earnest in a few days.

THE FARMERS' STATE INSTITUTE.

If any could doubt the deep and earnest interest that pervades the whole farming class of our people, such doubt must have been dispelled by the large numbers who came from all parts of the State last week, chiefly to attend the Farmers' Institute. We met gentlemen from at least a dozen counties, who told us that they "came expressly to be present at the Institute." And notwithstanding the continuous rain, day and night, and the slush and mud, they were on hand at each meeting and evinced the deepest interest. All were delighted with the proceedings, although the programme was disarranged by the difficulties growing out of the unfavorable weather. We are satisfied that hereafter the Farmers' State Institute is to become one of the prominent and most interesting features of the Fair. No session could be held on the grounds.

On the night of the 9th a large crowd assembled in Commons Hall and Dr. D. R. Parker, promptly at 30 minutes past 7 o'clock called the Institute to order, and in a characteristic speech introduced Dr. Bird, of Randolph county, who read an able paper on "Grass and Clover," discussing the peculiar merits and characteristics of such species as are best adapted to our climate and soils. His essay evinced a familiarity with his subject, which could have been acquired only by hard study, wide research and much experience. Lively after-talks on this subject were made by John Dorsett, C. McDonald, B. F. Hester, A. McIver, Dr. R. H. Lewis, A. Graves, J. J. White and others.

The Chairman then introduced Mr. Jno. Robinson, Commissioner of Agriculture, who read a carefully prepared paper on the great advantages of discussion among farmers of those subjects in which they are directly concerned, and of the absolute necessity of diversified farming in the South and spoke hopefully and encouragingly of the future of agriculture in the South. Suggested that the State Farmers' Institute be made a permanent institution, and was authorized to tender a portion of the Exposition Building for that purpose.

Prof. F. P. Venable, of our State University, was introduced, who read a most interesting and valuable paper on "The Chemistry of Wines," and stated he and Prof. Phillips had analyzed a number of wines manufactured in our State and would most gladly analyze any native wines sent them at Chapel Hill. He presented a table showing the analysis of a number of native wines.

The Institute then adjourned to meet again tomorrow.

COMMONS HALL, Oct. 20, '87.

Dr. D. Reid Parker opened the Institute promptly at 7:30 and presented a paper on "Plowing," by D. M. Payne, of Randolph, which was kindly read by that magnificent reader W. H. Burkhead, of the Tobacco Plant. We hope to present this philosophical and practical paper to the readers of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, for although the oldest of agricultural implements, and although every negro in the South thinks he is a superior ploughman, the reading of this paper will convince us that this old and familiar implement is not understood by one-tenth of the men who follow it.

This was followed by Dr. D. W. C. Benbow, of Greensboro, on "The Profits of the Cow," who dived right down into his subject and took his audience with him, and kept it with him until he finished.

Dr. R. H. Lewis, of Raleigh, was next introduced, who gave a splendid talk on the new but most important subject "Silos and Ensilage."

Dr. Lewis, without the slightest effort to "make a speech," has the happy faculty of holding the fixed attention of his audience. His talks are so smooth and well connected and so

clearly expressed, that a *verbatim* report of them would read well. He illustrated the silo and the filling it with a model which was sent to Mr. Primrose by Prof. Myers, of the Mississippi Agricultural College. In discussing the merits of different crops for ensilage, Dr. Lewis stated that corn gave the greatest yield, but in nutritive elements, clover or the pea vine were much richer. Numbers of gentlemen propounded questions which were readily answered.

"The Restoration of Worn-out Lands," by C. McDonald, was listened to with unflagging interest throughout. He took the high ground that we have no moral right to deplete, wear out, rob and destroy our lands. "Any fool," said he, "can wear out and destroy good lands." He used plain and strong English, and his audience were highly pleased.

W. S. Primrose was introduced and spoke on "Our Farmers' Boys and our State Agricultural and Mechanical College."

We present this admirable paper to our readers in this issue. Mr. Primrose is one of the Trustees of our Agricultural College and is applying himself closely to the great work entrusted to him and others, and his thoughts are interesting and instructive. That institution has no stronger advocate, or more earnest and enthusiastic friend, than Mr. Primrose.

The speeches and essays were all good, and the influence of the first State Farmers' Institute will be felt in all parts of the State and will stimulate our people to greater effort for the improvement of our agricultural and industrial classes.

MR. W. G. UPCHURCH.

The State Agricultural Society did itself honor in re-electing to the Presidency this most worthy gentleman and splendid farmer and business man. Under his administration, there will be no such word as failure. We believe that the unparalleled success which all felt must have marked the Fair just closed, but for difficulties beyond all human control, inspired every visitor with the fullest confidence in its management and will secure to President Upchurch the hearty co-operation and encouragement of hundreds in all parts of the State who have hitherto appeared indifferent to its success. Let the farmers all over the State and in all enterprises designed for their advancement, see to it that such men are placed in charge of it and it will not be long before they will see the agricultural interests of the State placed on a higher plane.

FARMERS' INSTITUTE AND STATE GRANGE IN EDGE-COMBE.

The farmers of the East are beginning to move. The State Grange will hold its annual session at Tarboro on the 15th and 16th of December. At the same time and place a County Farmers' Institute will be held. We hazard nothing in saying that this will be one of the most interesting occasions of the year. We are glad to note this fraternal action on the part of the farmers belonging to the Grange and of those not connected with it. It shows that a general conviction is fastening itself on the minds of all classes of thinkers among the farmers that we *must act together*, and we predict that the day is not distant when, even those distinctions among farmers which now apparently divide them, but which really exist only in name will fade away and one hundred thousand farmers in our State will be thoroughly and firmly bound together for the advancement of their interests. And we predict further that the farmers of Edgecombe will be among the foremost in bringing about this happy consummation. Let all the farmers of that section be present. It will do them all good.

A WORD TO THE ALLIANCE.

In the scope of its high aims and noble purposes—in its possible capabilities for lasting good to the masses, nothing has ever engaged the minds of American farmers of superior magnitude and importance to the Alliance movement. In all its plans, designs and features, it is essentially progressive. Improvement, enlargement and development must mark its every step of progress. This must come of investigation and study. Its true friend and sincere promoter will ever be on the outlook to perfect its designs and to increase its usefulness. Hence, when our State Alliance met and adopted our Constitution, it conceived that a more efficient and more economical plan for organizing Alliances could be devised than the one adopted in other States. We are satisfied that our State Alliance found that plan. It incorporated it into our Constitution. But it will take a little time to perfect and put the system in working order. Better lose a little time and do the work well and thoroughly. The Subordinate Alliances are the stones in the ground-work of the whole structure. They should be of the best material, in the best shape and placed in position in workman-like manner. If the foundation be defective, the whole structure must fall sooner or later. Hence we gain time in this most important matter, if we "make haste slowly." Be patient, friends and brethren. Our President is using every effort to put good, safe, intelligent organizers in the field. He is working hard to perfect the plans marked out in our Constitution, and we feel safe in predicting that the Alliance in North Carolina will advance and develop under this plan as rapidly as its most enthusiastic friends could wish. We ventured to challenge all our sister States, at the National Alliance, by saying that North Carolina would bring up a report at the next meeting that could not be surpassed, if equalled, by any other State. And we believe it will be done. It cannot be done by rash or inconsiderate work. If asked upon what the Alliance must rely more than anything else for success, we should answer—prudence, patience and fidelity. Letters are coming in by every mail asking us to send organizers. This will be done as soon and as fast as possible. Meantime, send on the applications. We keep them on file to aid our organizers in making out their programme.

BIG MEETING IN GREENSBORO.

The North Carolina Farmers' Association will hold its first annual meeting in the city of Greensboro on the second Wednesday in January next. As will be seen by reference to the proceedings of the Executive Committee held in this city last week, all arrangements for the accommodation of the farmers will be made—cheap rates at hotels and boarding houses and on the railroads. Each county in the State will be entitled to as many votes as it has representatives in the lower branch of the Legislature, but of course can send as many delegates as it may choose to cast that vote and to participate in the deliberations. The Constitution of the Association says those are eligible to membership only whose chief interest is in farming. Now let the farmers all over the State take steps at once looking to a full representation of their respective counties and see that they send their best men. Let the farmers of this good old State resolve that they will hereafter devote more of their time and attention to their own business, and let them show it by coming to our meeting in Greensboro. It was a grand success in this city on the 26th of January last, and we want it to grow and strengthen until it shall be recognized as a great power for good in our State.