

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.

PLEASE NOTICE.

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A FLUTTER IN THE COTTON MARKET.

There was a marked advance in the price of cotton last week. The reports of the Department of Agriculture in Washington showed a considerable shortage in the crop, and the speculators and gamblers became excited and the farmers, for once, reaped some advantage.

These speculators and cotton lords have their agents all through the South, to keep them informed as to all the details of the crop, from the time for preparation of the land to the end of the gathering, but by some means these agents miscalculated and it was only when the Commissioner of Agriculture, Mr. Coleman, got his report ready, that they discovered that the yield of the present crop would fall short of their estimate. Hence the sudden advance in price.

Here is a practical question for the farmer to solve: Why should not he who produces this crop know more about the acreage planted, the condition of the crop while growing, and the probable yield than any one else? Were he possessed of these facts he would know how to take advantage of the market. He would know whether or not to hold his crop. He ought to know more about these matters than any one else, and here is where the Alliance proposes to aid him.

When its business system is perfected and established throughout the cotton States, it will embrace a system for obtaining the speediest and most reliable information as to casualties to the crop, its condition, prospects, &c., from the time it is planted to the ginning and packing. Its Business Agents will be able to impart this information to the farmers wherever the Alliance is organized, promptly, and thus keep them so well posted that they may know as well, and even better than the speculators, what is the present or future outlook of the crop. This is one of the many practical benefits which the Alliance will give to its members. They may know every day as well as any cotton broker or cotton exchange, the exact condition of the markets of the world,

and they may know too, as well as the Wall Street Exchange, the condition and yield of the crop. With this information always at their command, and having their cotton handled and sold by and through their own exchange, the "bulls" and "bears" of Wall Street will not have them and their crop completely at their mercy. With the system of the Alliance in full force in each of the cotton States, and with the cotton farmers making their farm supplies at home, we will be masters of the situation and can control the crop. It will take time to perfect it, but it can and will be done. Texas has 116 Alliance cotton yards, and a State Cotton Exchange, which will handle over 400,000 bales this season for its members. Let us be patient, prudent and persevering and a better day awaits us. We must first organize and organize thoroughly before this system can be of much benefit to us.

LET IT BE UNDERSTOOD.

That the fundamental and primary object of the Farmers' Alliance is to improve the farmers socially, morally, intellectually and financially. It adopts such means and methods as are perfectly legitimate and as may best promote this object. It makes war on no man or men engaged in legitimate business. It will protect its members, as far as possible, against imposition and oppression, let it come from what source it may. It will manage and control, as far as possible, the products of its labor. It will encourage and foster education, and the industrial development of the country. It is strictly non-sectarian and non-partisan. It has nothing to do with a man's party affiliations, but it does have to do with those great political questions which override and overshadow considerations of a mere partisan character, and upon which the science of true economic government is founded. It asks for no special favors at the hands of government—all it asks is, for "a fair field and an even chance" with all other interests. Class legislation and unjust discrimination against the agricultural interests of the country, will be fought and fought earnestly and persistently. It demands equity and justice for the farmers of the country—it wants nothing more—it will take nothing less. It will aid and encourage its members to sell when they can get the best prices, and to buy where they can buy cheapest. It will foster closer fraternal relations between the farmers of the country, and thus cultivate and strengthen the bonds of union and co-operation. It will use all the means in its power to do away with the credit system and the lien mortgage system, which it regards as evil, and evil only to the farmers.

THAT ONE-SIDED TRADE.

Gov. Vance at Fayetteville.

"Farmers, what control have you over the products of your labor? Do you price your corn or wheat, or tobacco or cotton? Are you not compelled to take just the price which others see fit to offer you? Have you any voice in the matter? An old man named Roark lived up in the mountains. He was a great horse trader, and when, near the close of the war, Stoneman was making a raid through our western counties, Roark concluded he would ride out and make a reconnaissance. Mounting a good fat horse he started, and soon met the raiders, and the officer promptly ordered the old fellow to dismount. Roark got down, and about that time he saw a Yankee private sliding down off a terribly dilapidated animal. The officer commanded Roark to take off his saddle and put it on the Yankee's horse. Roark obeyed. "Mount!" said the officer. Roark mounted the Yankee's horse. "Now take the road for your home," said the officer. Roark gathered his reins and turned to the

officer and said: "Will you please allow me one word before I go? I've been a swappin' hosses for about sixty year, but darn me, ef this aint the first time I ever swapped in all my life and didn't have a word to say in the trade."

"How many of you are playing Roark every day in your business transactions? Get out of debt, organize and take care of yourselves and your interests."

ANSON COUNTY ALLIANCE.

President—Dr. J. A. McRae.
Vice President—Dr. A. A. Maynard.
Secretary—James A. McLaughlin.
Treasurer—D. M. Johnson.
Chaplain—D. C. Tillman.
Lecturer—J. C. Hines.
Asst. Lecturer—Z. T. Redfearn.
Door Keeper—R. P. Little.
Asst. Door Keeper—W. R. Diggs.
Business Agent—Ed. D. Gaddy.
Anson has twelve subordinate Alliances with an aggregate membership of about 350. The order is in healthful and vigorous condition and the membership is enthusiastic in the work. They feel at last that they have found something that will be of great benefit to the agricultural classes, and they intend to do all in their power to "get good" out of it.

[FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

CONCORD, N. C., Nov. 13, 1887.
The Mt. Gilead Farmers' Alliance, Cabarrus county (Concord postoffice) was organized with 19 members Saturday, Nov. 12th. The following officers were elected:

President—Allison Fink.
Vice-President—Michael Scott.
Secretary—E. P. Deal.
Treasurer—W. A. Misenheimer.
Lecturer—Geo. M. Walter.
Asst. Lecturer—Luther Walter.
Chaplain—E. C. Luther.
Door Keeper—L. W. Blackwilder.
Asst. Door Keeper—W. F. Barnhardt.
Sergt.-at-Arms—Adolphus Neisler.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE OF UNION COUNTY, N. C.

WHEREAS, The Bay State Shoe and Leather Company, of New York, declines and refuses to sell their goods directly to this Alliance; therefore

Resolved, That this Alliance and every member thereof will not purchase from any dealer or vender of the said company's goods or merchandise in the future. And it is further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent by our secretary to the Bay State Shoe and Leather Company, and also to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER for publication. W. A. AUSTIN, J. S. MARSH, Sec'y.

SENATOR VANCE AS A FARMER

"The farmer is the greatest and most important man in the world. Magnify your high office, and by studying your business in all its phases and relations, prepare to meet the demands which the world will make on you." VANCE.

"Congressmen are buttonholed and worried out of their lives, almost, by every class of people, who throng the lobbies and corridors of the Capitol, looking after their interests. But during the fifteen years I have been there I have never seen a farmer there lobbying for his interest. But the others are all there and always there." VANCE.

"You must organize and bring your voice to bear upon the legislation of the country. United and thrown into one volume it would be as the mighty thunderings of Niagara to the silent drippings from the waste-pipe of a moonshiner's whiskey still: You should make yourselves felt more at Raleigh and Washington." VANCE.

"I have seen men make fortunes since the war, but I have seen no North Carolina farmer get rich. I have seen some who thought they were making money when they were selling their tobacco at high prices, but they see now that they were not only selling tobacco, but that they were selling also the very cream of the fertility of their soils." VANCE.

"Some farmers turn up their noses at 'Book farming,' but science—agri-

cultural science, must and will be recognized as the great power in agricultural and industrial progress. Agricultural colleges and schools must be established and liberally patronized and create a new force in the agricultural world." VANCE.

THE COST OF FARMING.

As we have before and often stated, the *Argus* is peculiarly interested in the welfare of the farmers, because upon the prosperity of the farmers depends the prosperity of the country, hence we are constantly casting about for pointers in their behalf.

It goes without controversy that the farmers as a class do not sufficiently consult the cost of cultivating the respective crops to which our lands and climate are adapted and govern themselves accordingly; and this is a question that form a purely economical standpoint is worthy of the brightest consideration. The wise farmer should know the cost of every article he produces. It is as unwise to farm blindly as it is to conduct any other business blindly. The merchant who would sell goods without knowing their cost would probably soon find himself a bankrupt; and the farmer who desires success should farm on strict business principles. Great advances in this direction have been made of late; but it is evident either that the cost of producing variety materially in different sections, or that farmers themselves are unable to tell with any approach to accuracy what the real cost is.

But all our farmers agree that there is too much cotton planted in the South and too little attention given to the raising of grain, for breadstuffs; pork, hay, feed and other of the every day necessities on a farm. All these articles the majority of our farmers now have to buy, imported from the North and West, at immense expense, all the year round, and depend upon their fluctuating cotton crops to pay them out in the fall; and the consequence is that they are in debt all the year round, year in and year out; the "farm is mortgaged;" the crops are mortgaged; the stock, horses, cows, hogs, etc., are mortgaged; the house-hold and kitchen furniture is mortgaged—all for supplies to "run" them while they are raising their crops of cotton, the cultivation of which is year by year sinking them deeper and deeper in debt, out of which they will never, because they can never, pay.—*Goldboro Argus*.

LET THE GOOD WORK CONTINUE!

The development of the "small manufacturing" interests of the South during the past five years has been remarkable. Not a very great while ago nearly all the small wares, utensils, etc., used by the Southern people were manufactured North. Now there are small factories producing articles in almost every part of the South. Very many of these factories have been built up to considerable proportions, after having been started from very small beginnings.

It is not difficult for one to procure Southern made hubs, spoke, axe and hoe helves, currycombs washboards, etc., but still the bulk of these articles come from the North, and the prices paid for them are such as would make it profitable to establish many other small factories for their protection in this section. If one will step into house furnishing or a notion store his attention will be at once called to a thousand and one articles which are in daily demand everywhere, and which are sold at prices representing many times the cost of production. Such articles are made of wood, cast iron, tin, wire, glass, copper, brass, leather, cloth, thread and paper, and it would not be a difficult matter for even untrained amateurs to master the manufacture of many of them in a very short time.

Pluck, industry and tact are necessary for the success of small industries. These are more difficult to enlist in the enterprise than the pecuniary capital required. The finding of a regular market for the products is one of the most important requisites. This requires steady and persistent canvassing in all the centres of trade in the country. Some important advantages small manufactories have are that in seasons of unusual depression they can shut down, and little capital will be idle and few workmen out of employment, and they are not affected to any great extent by labor agitations and strikes. Every town and village in the South almost is a suitable location for such enterprises, and scores of them ought to be in operation in every Southern city.—*Headlight*.

WHAT WILL SAVE OUR FARMERS.

This is a very important question, and one that is asked almost every day by thoughtful men, as they gaze over scope of our farming country, was once beautiful, level, rich and splendidly cultivated, but which now presents year after year an aspect of declining beauty and fertility. There are two important questions for all those who feel an interest in the welfare of their county, to consider first what is the real cause of certain parts of our country so declining? Second, what will save the whole country from becoming worthless? In regard to the first, is it because the farmers do not work as hard as they did, or as steadily as they should? Such cannot be the case, for almost every farmer will tell you that he works much harder now than he did ten years ago, or before the war. It is because the general drift of things in these declining sections seems against farmers? Certainly not.

To express it in the fewest words it is simply because the farmers do not cultivate intensively and scientifically. The remedy, then, to restore such counties, so as to make farming profitable, is simply to farm on a scientific and intensive scale; or, in other words, to cultivate less ground and cultivate it better, adopting and using all the most improved method of cultivation. While it is true it will take many years of seemingly and perhaps unprofitable labor to restore such worn-out sections, yet there is but one way to succeed in doing so, and that is, as the old adage says, to stick to it, and finally by intensive and scientific work, by the necessary restoratives, the may bring his land back to its former fertility, and instead of decreasing in value, as now, it will yearly increase until it shall bloom like the rose, and the farmer's home spread an influence for in lustry, education and christianity throughout the length and breadth of the land.—*Pro Bono Publico, in Forest City News*.

THE FARMERS ALLIANCE.

The members of the learned professions show a professional courtesy for each other and a to great extent pool their differences, the merchants have their boards of trade, the Knights of Labor their guilds and lodges and the tillers of the soil must have their clubs and alliances.

The Farmers' Alliance has no political feature about it that we know of but in some quarters it has put itself on record against the High Tariff. We hope that every Alliance in the country will do this. If the farmers will not take up arms against this enemy who will? In the Farmers' Alliance does nothing more than reduce the Tariff and taxes of the government, it was not born in vain.

But we trust that the Alliance is just what the word means and that it will make the farmer a better friend to himself and the most independent being in reality as well as in name that the sun shines upon. The farmer is undoubtedly the coming man and the balance of the world is showing him more deference and respect day by day as he continues to hold or drive his cast steel plow that was once a wooden plow.—*Central Express*.

THE ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF ONE CENT.

It is almost impossible to attach any importance to one cent, but at the same time it is a very important coin at times, says an exchange. It will take a circular to California, and it will make you madder than a hatter and a March hare combined when you go to pay your fare on a horse car and find that you have but four cents and a ten dollar bill. One cent is very small, but when it is added to the rate of interest you receive on a stock, it possesses a stern, magnificent grandeur that carries you away like a strain of music. The penny, it seems, was made to put on church plates; and, although a man may say it amounts to nothing, he will strike matches and lift mats and crawl about in the straw on a horse-car to find the one he drops. It is so small a coin that you have to take off your glove to take hold of it in your pocket, and yet is so large when the baby swallowed it, the chances of the baby's living are, sometimes not worth a cent. Although one cent is less than ten cents, yet one cent is a great deal larger than a dime. Many a man has gone thirsty all day with four cents in his pocket. For the want of that one cent the four were as useless as the eleven men on a jury who ar held out against by one.