

## The Progressive Farmer.

L. L. POLK, Editor.  
Raleigh, N. C.

—SUBSCRIPTION:—  
\$2.00 FOR ONE YEAR. \$1.00 FOR 6 MONTHS  
POST-PAID.  
Invariably in Advance.  
Special and Liberal Rates to Clubs.

Subscribers will be notified two weeks before their time expires, and if they do not renew, the paper will stop promptly.  
Active agents wanted in every county, city, town and village in the State. Write for terms.  
Money at our risk, if sent by registered letter or money order.

Advertising Rates quoted on application.  
On all business matters relating to the paper, Address

PROGRESSIVE FARMER, Raleigh, N. C.

To Correspondents:

Write all communications, designed for publication, on one side of the paper only.

We want intelligent correspondents in every county in the State. We want facts of value, results accomplished of value, experiences of value, plainly and briefly told. One solid, demonstrated fact, is worth a thousand theories.

Address all communications to  
THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, Raleigh, N. C.

RALEIGH, N. C., DEC. 15, 1887.

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

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

### 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. So if you see the Cross Mark, let us hear from you.

### THE S. C. FARMERS' CONVENTION.

This body met in Columbia on the 1st inst., and by its conservative and dignified bearing, "surprised" everybody. So says the *News and Observer*.

There are some newspapers and some men all over this broad land who begin to tremble with fear as though an earthquake were on the march, as soon as they hear that farmers are going to meet to consult for their own good. It was so in North Carolina last winter and predictions of calamity, disaster and ruin filled the air, but these prophets, too, were "surprised."

President D. K. Norris, an elegant gentleman from Anderson county, opened the Convention with the following pointed address:

#### THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

"Gentlemen of the Convention: A merciful God has permitted you to assemble again in the discharge of a duty that we owe to ourselves and to the high calling of which we are devoted followers, for the earnest, faithful and successful performance of which succeeding generations will bless you, and the grand scheme advocated and inaugurated by you for its betterment. That the farmers' share of the profits of the enormous crops grown since the war have been unjustly small all unbiased men will admit; that the agricultural interest of the State is languishing no one disputes; that the agriculture of the State is rapidly passing into the hands of the incompetent and shiftless no careful observer of passing events will deny, and that the time has come, and fully come, when something should be done to arrest this decadence in the State's largest interest all are perfectly agreed. To assist in putting into operation causes which will restore to the farmer prosperity, enable him by deep study of agricultural science and general education to build up again his lost fortune and abandoned hope, and to rival the advance in other lines of industrial progress, and save to the farm the intelligence of the country, is the task before you.

"At the last session of this Convention it was thought wise in behalf of the objects mentioned above to ask of our Legislature an enlargement of our board of agriculture and its re-organization upon a more liberal basis and the establishment of an agricultural college which would be worthy of and would have the support of the farmers

of the State. The former of these bills passed the House. In the Senate its final consideration was postponed until the present session of that body. The latter measure was not pressed for reasons which appeared sufficient. We are firmly convinced of the importance of these measures and of the great auxiliary help which they will give to the agriculture of the State, and they should be no longer postponed. It is needless to discuss these or their merits. Enough has been said through the press during the past year to establish them in the minds of all of our people who are not utterly blinded by self-conceit, dogmatism or a spirit of opposition to progress. Indeed there seems to be left very little question of the merits of the measures proposed, and the opponents, finding themselves without argument, would defeat their enactment by jarring the sensitive nerve, the pocket. If it were necessary, gentlemen, it could be pointed out how it is possible to inaugurate these measures without adding to the burdens of the people or detracting from the efficiency of the Government, but it would be presumptuous to do this to an intelligent Legislature which will pass upon them. Can a State which freely votes, perhaps \$25,000, for simple experimental stations; which affords a \$35,000 office for one of its servants, and such souvenirs as he has been able to collect around him; which enjoys an annual specific income from its farmers of \$28,000, from the National Government \$11,500, and \$15,000 for this very purpose; which alone of all the States of this Union has an annual income from its water-ways of over \$200,000, and whose purse is so well filled that it can afford delinquent taxes to aggregate \$396,000; whose officers are so generously paid that pending a canvass the average voter is bewildered with the number and richness of the material offered for the place; whose policy is to vote thousands of dollars annually to educate boys other than those who would engage in agriculture for the career of life—can such a State plead inability on the score of poverty? It is incredible.

"Sustained as we are by the right and having the moral support of the people at large, let us deliberate with calmness and moderation but with earnestness, and leave our conclusions and claims with those who have been elected to position to carry out the wishes of the people."

The Convention adopted a platform of principles, from which we extract the following:

1st. The Convention endorses the establishment of a separate agricultural college and the re-organization of the agricultural bureau. Referred to committee on resolutions.

2d. It is not the purpose of the farmers to make this Convention a political body. It is not intended to attack the integrity of the State officials. Nor to dictate to the Legislature.

3d. The farmers' movement is organized with the sole object of developing the resources of the State and advancing its agricultural interests.

4th. Regret is expressed at the action of some of the counties in declining to send delegates to this Convention. All farmers are invited to join us.

5th. The re-organization of the agricultural department is desired and the Legislature is respectfully asked to give their serious consideration to the bill already introduced looking to that end.

The Convention invited the Board of Trustees of the State University to confer with it on the subject of agricultural education, and Judge Haskell came before the body and delivered an address, from which we quote the following:

"Our report submits now to the General Assembly a wide university scheme, which will have in one college all and more than all which was ever contained in the South Carolina College. It will be a college of agricultural and mechanical art which will equal any college of agriculture or mechanical art now in operation in the Southern States, and we think in any State in the Union. [Applause.] That college is followed by a college of pharmacy which covers a class of wants, comprehends the necessity which has forced our young men up to this time to leave South Carolina and go elsewhere to acquire that profession. It comprehends a college for the instruction of teachers, a normal school which will train the young men of South Carolina in the art and science of teaching, it has a law school where

young men who are devoted to that profession can acquire their diploma. The graduates of the college of agriculture and mechanic arts will be as well prepared as they are in any institution of learning of that name anywhere in the United States to enter upon the pursuit of agriculture and mechanic arts. It promises to open to our young men a field for employment and promotion in the practical science of manufacturing, mining and civil engineering, which are a part and parcel of the manufacturing business and enterprises which promote the wealth of every State in the United States. Hitherto our young men have been unable to compete, and those who occupied these positions of elevation and strength are brought from abroad. The graduates in agriculture are to be trained in the highest schools of science in that department. The experimental farm is now in operation."

"Last Sunday's New York *Herald* devoted three columns of its issue to an effort to prove that the late reported rapid development of the South is a sheer chimera—a bubble which must burst ere long. May we not expect what the *Herald* ought to expect that it should look henceforth to other sections for support?"

The above we take from the *Charlotte Chronicle*, and the following from the *Wilmington Review*. If there be any two things on which Southern editors cannot make up their minds, they are, whether the New York *Herald* and Mr. Randall are enemies or friends of the South. Tug away at it, brethren, and when you find out, let us know:

"The New York *Herald* has of late years become the best friend that the people of the South have, North of Mason & Dixon's line. It is always ready to defend the South whenever any unjust aspersions have been made against this section, and when it speaks its voice is heard all over."

### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

[From Farm and Fireside.]

The third annual message of President Cleveland is a surprise to everybody and has created a genuine sensation in all circles, its brevity sharing with the contents in the general wonderment. It is a unique public document, and its author discussed the tariff question in an original way, entirely out of all harmony with the plan usually adopted by the astute politician. In speaking of the financial situation the President says:

"Our scheme of taxation, by means of which a needless surplus is taken from the people and put into the public treasury, consists of a Tariff or duty levied upon importations from abroad, and internal revenue taxes levied upon the consumption of tobacco and spirituous and malt liquors. It must be conceded that none of the things subjected to internal revenue taxation are, strictly speaking, necessities; there appears to be no just complaint of this taxation by the consumers of these articles, and there seems to be nothing so well able to bear the burden without hardship to any portion of the people.

#### CRITICISING THE TARIFF.

But our present tariff laws, the vicious inequitable and illogical source of unnecessary taxation, ought to be at once revised and amended. These laws, as their primary and plain effect, raise the price to consumers of all articles imported and subject to duty by precisely the sum paid by such duties. Thus the amount of the duty measures the tax paid by those who purchase for us these imported articles. Many of these things, however, are raised or manufactured in our own country, and the duties now levied upon foreign goods and products are called protection to these home manufactures, because they render it possible for those of our people who are manufacturers to make these taxed articles and sell them for a price equal to that demanded for the imported goods that have paid customs duty. So it happens that while comparatively a few use the imported articles, millions of our people who never use and never saw any of the foreign products, purchase and use things of the same kind made in this country, and pay therefor nearly or quite the same enhanced price which the duty adds to the imported articles. Those who buy imports pay the duty charged thereon into the public treasury, but the great majority of our citizens, who buy domestic articles of the same class, pay a sum at least approximately equal to this duty to the home manufacturer. This reference to the operation of our tariff laws is not made by way of instruction, but in order that we may be constantly reminded of the manner in which they impose a burden upon those who consume domestic products as well as those who consume imported articles, and thus create a tax upon all our people.

#### OUR MANUFACTURING INTERESTS MUST NOT BE IMPERILLED.

It is not proposed to entirely relieve the country of this taxation. It must be extensively continued as the source of the Government's income; and in a readjust-

ment of our tariff the interests of American labor engaged in manufacture should be carefully considered, as well as the preservation of our manufacturers. It may be called protection, or by any other name, but relief from the hardships and dangers of our present tariff laws should be devised with especial precaution against imperiling the existence of our manufacturing interests. But this existence should not mean a condition which, without regard to the public welfare or a national exigency, must always insure the realization of immense profits instead of moderately profitable returns. As the volume and diversity of our national activities increase, new recruits are added to those who desire a continuation of the advantages which they conceive the present system of tariff taxation directly affords them. So stubbornly have all efforts to reform the present condition been resisted by those of our fellow-citizens thus engaged, that they can hardly complain of the suspicion, entertained to a certain extent, that there exists an organized combination all along the line to maintain their advantage.

#### INDUSTRIES THAT ARE INDEPENDENT.

We are in the midst of centennial celebrations, and with becoming pride we rejoice in American skill and ingenuity, in American energy and enterprise, and in the wonderful natural advantages and resources developed by a century's national growth. Yet when an attempt is made to justify a scheme which permits a tax to be laid upon every consumer in the land for the benefit of our manufacturers, quite beyond a reasonable demand for governmental regard, it suits the purpose of advocacy to call our manufactures infant industries, still needing the highest and greatest degree of favor and fostering care that can be wrung from Federal legislation.

It is also said that the increase in the price of domestic manufactures resulting from the present tariff is necessary in order that higher wages may be paid to our workmen employed in manufacturing than are paid for what is called the pauper labor of Europe. All will acknowledge the force of an argument which involves the welfare and liberal compensation of our laboring people. Our labor is honorable in the eyes of every American citizen; and as it lies at the foundation of our development and progress it is entitled, without affectation or hypocrisy, to the utmost regard. The standard of our laborers' life should not be measured by that of any other country less favored, and they are entitled to their full share of all our advantages.

#### THE GREAT SHEEP AND WOOL QUESTION.

The farmer and the agriculturist who manufacture nothing, but who pay the increased price which the tariff imposes, upon every agricultural implement, upon all he wears and upon all he uses and owns, except the increase of his flocks and herds and such things as his husbandry produces from the soil, is invited to aid in maintaining the present situation; and he is told that a high duty on imported wool is necessary for the benefit of those who have sheep to shear, in order that the price of their wool may be increased. They, of course, are not reminded that the farmer who has no sheep is by this scheme obliged, in his purchases of clothing and woolen goods, to pay a tribute to his fellow farmer as well as to the manufacturer and merchant; nor is any mention made of the fact that the sheep-owners themselves and their households, must wear clothing and use other articles manufactured of the wool they sell at tariff prices, and thus as consumers must return their share of this increased price to the tradesman.

#### A THEORY.

I think it may be fairly assumed that a large proportion of the sheep owned by the farmers throughout the country are found in small flocks numbering from twenty-five to fifty. The duty on the grade of imported wool which these sheep yield is ten cents each pound if of the value of thirty cents or less, and twelve cents if of the value of more than thirty cents. If the liberal estimate of six pounds be allowed for each fleece, the duty thereon would be sixty or seventy-two cents, and this may be taken as the utmost enhancement of its price to the farmer by reason of this duty. Eighteen dollars would thus represent the increased price of wool from twenty-five sheep and thirty-six dollars that from the wool of fifty sheep; and at present values this addition would amount to about one-third of its price. If upon its sale the farmer receives his or a less tariff profit, the wool leaves his hands charged with precisely that sum, which, in all its changes, will adhere to it, until it reaches the consumer. When manufactured into cloth and other goods and material for use, its cost is not only increased to the extent of the former's tariff profit, but a further sum has been added for the benefit of the manufacturer under the operation of other tariff laws. In the meantime the day arrives when the farmer finds it necessary to purchase woolen goods and material to clothe himself and family for the winter. When he faces the tradesman for that purpose he discovers that he is obliged not only to return in the way of increased prices his tariff profit on the wool he sold, and which then perhaps lies before him in manufactured form, but that he must add a considerable sum thereto to meet a further increase in cost caused by a tariff duty on the manufacture. Thus in the end he is aroused to the fact that he has paid upon a moderate purchase, as a result of the tariff scheme, which, when he sold his wool seemed so profitable, an increase in price more than sufficient to

sweep away all the tariff profit he received upon the wool he produced and sold.

#### RULE OF THE MAJORITY.

When the number of farmers engaged in wool raising is compared with all the farmers in the country, and the small proportion they bear to our population is considered, when it is made apparent that, in the case of a large part of those who own sheep, the benefit of the present tariff on wool is illusory; and, above all, when it must be considered that the increase of the cost of living caused by such tariff becomes a burden upon those with moderate means and the poor, the employed and unemployed, the sick and well, and the young and old, and that it constitute a tax which, with relentless grasp, is fastened upon the clothing of every man, woman and child in the land, reasons are suggested why the removal or reduction of this duty should be included in a revision of our tariff laws.

In speaking of the increased cost to the consumer of our home manufactures resulting from a duty laid upon imported articles of the same description, the fact is not overlooked that competition among our domestic producers sometimes has the effect of keeping the price of their products below the highest limit allowed by such duty.

#### FOUR THOUSAND DUTIABLE ARTICLES.

Under our present laws more than four thousand articles are subject to duty. Many of these do not in any way compete with our own manufactures, and many are hardly worth attention as subjects of revenue. A considerable reduction can be made in the aggregate by adding them to the free list. The taxation of luxuries presents no features of hardship; but the necessities of life used and consumed by all the people, the duty upon which adds to the cost of living in every home, should be greatly cheapened. The radical reduction of

THE DUTIES IMPOSED UPON RAW MATERIAL and in manufactures, or its free importation, is, of course, an important factor in any effort to reduce the price of these necessities; it would not only relieve them from the increased cost caused by the tariff on such material, but the manufactured product being thus cheapened, that part of the tariff now laid upon product, as a compensation to our manufacturers for the present price of raw material, could be accordingly modified. Such reduction, or free importation, would serve beside to largely reduce the revenue. It is not apparent how such a change can have any injurious effect upon our manufactures. On the contrary, it would appear to give them a better chance in foreign markets with manufacturers of other countries, who cheapen their wares by free material. Thus our people might have the opportunity of extending their sales beyond the limits of home consumption—saving them from the depression, interruption in business and loss caused by a glutted domestic market, and affording their employees more certain and steady labor, with its resulting quiet and contentment.

The question thus imperatively presented for solution should be approached in

#### A SPIRIT HIGHER THAN PARTISANSHIP.

and considered in the light of that regard for patriotic duty which should characterize the action of those entrusted with the weal of a confiding people. But the obligation to declared party policy and principle is not wanting to urge prompt and effective action. Both of the great political parties now represented in the Government have, by repeated and authoritative declarations, condemned the condition of our laws which permit the collection from the people of unnecessary revenue, and have, in the most solemn manner, promised its correction; and neither as citizens or partisans are our countrymen in a mood to condone the deliberate violation of these pledges.

#### NO BANDYING OF EPITHETS.

Our progress toward a wise conclusion will not be improved by dwelling upon the theories of Protection and Free Trade. This savors too much of bandying epithets. It is a condition which confronts us—not a theory. Relief from this condition may involve a slight reduction of the advantages which we award our home productions, but the entire withdrawal of such advantages should not be contemplated. The question of Free Trade is absolutely irrelevant; and the persistent claim made in certain quarters, that all efforts to relieve the people from unjust and unnecessary taxation are schemes of so-called free-traders, is mischievous and far removed from any consideration for the public good.

#### THE SIMPLE AND PLAIN DUTY.

which we owe the people is to reduce taxation to the necessary expenses of an economical operation of the Government, and to restore to the business of the country the money which we hold in the Treasury through the perversion of governmental powers. These things can and should be done with safety to all our industries, without danger to the opportunity for remunerative labor, which our workmen need, and with benefit to them and all our people, by cheapening their means of subsistence and increasing the measure of their comforts."

These copious excerpts will give our readers a clear understanding of the President's position on the tariff question; and, whether men agree with him or not, all must concede that he has the courage of his convictions, and means to fight it on that line next year.

Subscribe to PROGRESSIVE FARMER.