



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

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THE CAUSES OF DEPRESSION.

OAKS, N. C., April 3, 1888.

Everybody knows that something is wrong. What is it? The Alliance, the Knights of Labor, the Wheel and other organizations, are trying to ferret out and remove the cause of discontent. It is much better to remove the causes of the disease in the body politic than to apply healing remedies; it is better to remove the causes of pauperism than feed the poor—to remove the conditions of poverty than feed beggars.

In looking for the causes of discontent, we will examine the plain facts of every-day observation and draw our conclusions from what we see. First. We see that the merchant charges from forty to fifty per cent. profit on all the goods, wares and merchandise which he sells on time, secured by mortgage or crop-lien. We also see that in many parts of the State the people buy nearly everything they eat or wear. I do not blame the merchant. He could not incur the risk without compensation. What I complain of is that the law allows such extortion—I do not mean illegal, but legalized extortion. Five millions of dollars would be a small estimate of the amount of taxes which the people pay every year by reason of this defect in our law.

Another cause of depression is the want of a proper administration of justice in our courts. Now-a-days a

case in court requires three or four lawyers on each side, with a fee of from one hundred to five hundred dollars each. If the litigants are men of means, there may be great assurance that the case will continue in court till both sides are well pleased. The opposing counsel, as a matter of deference to the request of some one of their number, agree to continue the case, and his Honor, through courtesy to the bar, so orders and blandly informs the witnesses and parties who have been in attendance several days that the case is continued, and that "they are discharged till the next term of the court." Similar experiences are had at subsequent terms till both sides, badly worsted, either compromise their case or get a trial, to the great detriment of all concerned, except the court and the bar. In criminal cases the guilt or innocence of the party is more a question of finance (or family influence) than of law or evidence. If the party has plenty of money, he will be almost sure to be found innocent; if he has no money, he will be very apt to be convicted.

In like manner, what a doctor may charge, if he does not happen to kill you, will depend not so much on the labor performed as on the amount he may happen to need or you may be able to pay. The salaries paid to some of our worthy ministers of the Gospel might lead to the inquiry whether the loaves and fishes or the pure Gospel constitute the greater incentive to their work.

In 1835 the delegates to the State Convention, to amend the Constitution, fixed their per diem at \$1.50. In 1875 it required the power of an amendment to the State Constitution to restrain our law-makers from paying themselves more than \$4 per day for their services, and they paid themselves as high as \$7 per day at one time since the war. The same seems to hold good in the case of all salaries, fees, &c. In fact, office-holding and professional service is now about the only money-making business in this country, except extortion antagonized by law.

The Farmers' Association at Greensboro said: "Commerce, with its steamships, its railroads, its monopolies, its syndicates, its trusts, its banking corporations sustained by the government of the United States has towered above every other interest, and has laid them all prostrate at its feet. Unless we are paralyzed by the presence of this giant, we can check its progress, and unless we intend to be slaves, we must check it."

Now the greatest trust or combine that I know of is that which constitutes political bossism in this country. It multiplies offices, it levies taxes, corners the emoluments of every office and luxuriates in hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars every year, while the laboring masses of the people are getting nearer and nearer to the borders of want and suffering. It is said that a large part of the population of Europe are born to pauperism; that poverty is their destiny; made so by their surroundings. How long will it be before the same will be the case in this country? It will not be long, unless you can break the power of the great combine that is now pressing so heavily upon the laboring masses. Over-taxation, and the permission given in our laws for extortion are the evils that must be remedied, and the ballot box is the only power in this country that can remedy them.

We say the people must be educated. Yes, they must be educated, not so much by levying taxes and founding schools and colleges as by leading them to think for themselves and to vote their honest convictions. There is no safety in the ballot box unless men will think and vote intelligently. The farmers in their declaration of principles, say: "We will seek legislative relief not through separate party organization, but through the two political parties already organized. We will present this declaration of

principles to them at their nominating conventions and ask that they incorporate them into their platforms and discuss them before the people, and that we will vote for no one who refuses to advocate and support our principles."

The farmers and laborers, with all good citizens, should now better themselves and fill the ranks of delegates to their nominating conventions, and see that their principles are incorporated into the platforms of both the political parties. When this is done, see that the proper men are placed upon these platforms. It is immaterial whether they are farmers or politicians, or lawyers, or business men, or doctors, or mechanics. The only question should be, are they honest, are they capable? Will they faithfully guard the best interests of all classes and conditions of the people? Will they carry out in good earnest those principles which will elevate labor and industrial pursuits? If we believe they will, we may feel confident that the industrial era will dawn upon us as we begin the second century of our National life. ORANGE

TEXAS WOOD COTTON.

In reply to the inquiry about Texas Wood Cotton, made through the columns of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER recently, the following is furnished us for publication:

DEAR SIR:—We have what is called Texas Wood Cotton, which gives a very large yield of lint. The seed are very small and mostly smooth and black, and yields from 36 to 40 pounds of lint to the 100. It makes a small yield of seed to the bale.

Yours respectfully,
 J. R. GILCHRIST,
 Laurinburg, Richmond Co., N. C.

A TREAT IN STORE FOR THE ALLIANCE MEMBERS OF ROBESON COUNTY.

Col. Green Having been Invited to Address Them, Replies as Follows:
 FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.,
 March 24, '88.

MR. JOHN H. MORRISON, MORROSINIAN:
 My Dear Sir:—Your esteemed favor of 20th inst. is at hand, in which you request me to address the Farmers' Alliance of Robeson county, and the public generally, at Maxton, at a time to be decided on, "On the advantages that may arise from a thorough organization of the agricultural classes." Permit me to say in reply that the reasons for such organization are so obvious and self-apparent that it seems to me the mere statement of the text given would be sufficient to carry conviction without superfluous comment. In these days of "trusts," "syndicates" and "combines," such an organization, to my thinking, is not one of simple expediency. It is one of imperative duty. "Self-preservation is the first law of nature," says the proverb, and it is here brought home. The greatest of all interests in this great land, if not in a dying, is certainly in a comatose condition. Something must be done, and done right speedily, to save it from the canker of dry rot, which now seems imminent. Action is essential. To act intelligently and effectively, there must be concert of action. Reason sanctions it, home and home ties enjoin it; patriotism demands it, monopoly understands it, and is profiting by the knowledge whilst singing the Syren's song, of "All's well," to further delude the most populous as well as most oppressed class between the two oceans. No! Organization is not a mere "advantage." It is, I repeat, a necessity, as imperative as the plank to the drowning man, fuel to the freezing, or a sop to the starving.

They know nothing of—or at least cannot appreciate—the patriotism of the rural classes, who would faintly intimate that such association argues aught unfriendly to the existing political order of things in our old State. Such insinuation is no less an insult to them than it would be to the lawyers, doctors, divines, as well as

the several handicrafts who have their societies and unions for mutual benefit and protection. There are none more interested in good government than they are, for they know full well that it is essential to material prosperity, and they know, too, the race in whose hands it should be reposed. Yes, it will afford me pleasure to talk to our brothers of Robeson on the subject assigned me, although with full consciousness of inability to do it that justice which its importance demands. Owing to pressing private matters, it is impossible to name the day at present, but will try and do so within the next three or four weeks, if that is agreeable.

Thanking you and my other friends for the honor implied in the invitation, I am,
 Yours fraternally,
 W. J. GREEN.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

No. 4.
 Census, Enrollment, Attendance, &c.

According to the last returns the whole number of white and colored children between the ages of 6 and 21 years was 566,270. The white children, during the last four years, increased from 321,561 to 353,481; total in four years 31,920 or 9.92 per cent. During the same time the colored children increased from 193,843 to 212,789; total 18,946 or 9.77 per cent. Thus it will be seen that the rate of increase is very nearly the same for both races, the whites having increased only 15 per cent. faster, or 15 in 10,000.

Last year there were enrolled in the white schools 57.2 per cent. or 202,134 out of 353,481 children; in the colored schools 57.8 per cent. or 123,145 out of 212,789. The average daily attendance in white schools was 35.2 per cent., and in the colored schools 33.5 per cent. Looking back over four years of figures show that there is a small increase in both the enrollment and average attendance of the whites and a small decrease of the colored. I state this because it is sometimes said that the colored people attend the public schools better than the whites. This may be true for some communities, but it is not so for the State according to the returns made to my office. Besides, the whites have a much larger proportional attendance in private schools than the negroes have.

Because there are enrolled in our public school only 57 or 58 children out of every 100 there is an opinion among many people that the remaining 42 or 43 do not attend at all. This is not the fact. Our school age is from 6 to 21 years, a period of 15 years. During any one session a large number of small children within school age will not be enrolled who at some subsequent time will be; and also a great many, say from 16 to 21, drop out of the public schools to engage in work or pass into the private schools and colleges and are not enrolled in the public schools. The fact is that during the short time our schools are in session we have enrolled in them a larger per cent. of population than Massachusetts, Connecticut, or New York. We have enrolled 20.03 per cent. of the whole population including men, women, and children, of all ages, or one person in five, while Massachusetts has only 18 per cent., Connecticut 18.71 per cent., and New York 19.28 per cent. These figures are taken from the last report of the Commissioner of Education and are based on the United States census of 1880 and the latest school census of the States compared. And further, our daily average attendance in proportion to the whole population is better than in New York or Connecticut.

I am free to say that quite a large number of our children do not avail themselves of the facilities they have, but the greatest difference between the educational status of our State and those I have named above, and other Northern States, consists in the length of annual school terms. North Carolina has 60 days per annum, (just about the same for both races)

Massachusetts 172, Connecticut 179, and New York 178. With nearly the same rate of enrollment and average attendance and, say, three times as long terms, the public educational forces in these three States are three times as great as are those of our State, granting that our teachers are as well prepared for their work. We are indeed far behind in the educational race, but still our public schools are improving in efficiency and attendance, and our many private schools are giving valuable help both in the instruction of children who are not included in the public school enrollment, and in providing higher education to those young persons who have passed beyond the public school course.

In estimating our educational facilities I have taken the average for the State. We must not lose sight of the fact that, while the average school term is 60 days or 3 months, some counties have only about 2 months, and others have 4 months or more. This results from several causes:

1. A difference in valuation of property in the different counties.
2. Closer collections of school funds by officers of some counties than of others.
3. Receipts from license of retail liquor dealers, which are large in some counties and small or nothing in others.
4. Special levies for schools by some County Commissioners and none by others.

S. M. FINGER,
 Supt. Public Instruction.

HOW TO RAISE ONIONS.

I prefer a dark sandy soil that is well drained and slopes gradually to the south, enough to drain well. Then plow the ground from four to six inches deep with inlands four or five rods wide and leave the furrows open to carry off the surface water. I then harrow and drag the ground till it is well pulverized and level; then rake with a steel hand rake. As soon as this is done the seed can be sowed, and this should be done as soon as the ground can be got ready in spring. It can best be done with the hand seed-drill. I sow from 4 to 5 lbs to the acre and from one-half to one inch deep and in rows from 12 to 16 inches apart. As soon as the onions are up so I can see them in the row, harrow with a hand harrow. Then I start the wheel hoe and follow with the weeding. I weed them two or three times, as required, and plow them every week until the tops commence to fall. I have never failed to get as good a crop as my neighbors. I use the Planet, Jr., garden tools and think them the best. I would like to hear from others on the subject of gardening.—J. T. Worshman, Coles county, Ill. in Farm and Home.

The Rio de Janeiro News has a startling story to tell about the position of coffees. There is said to be 1,000,000 to 1,250,000 bags of the old crop surplus at up-country points, and the News estimates the new crop at 5,000,000 bags Rio and 3,000,000 Santos. If this is true there is a market supply for 1888-'9 of over 9,000,000 bags. This indicates low-priced coffee.—Pittsburg Post.

OFFICIAL ORGANS OF FARMERS ALLIANCE.

- National Alliance—Southern Mercury, Dallas, Texas.
- Alabama—Alliance Banner, Athens.
- Arkansas—State Wheel Enterprise, Little Rock.
- Mississippi—The Farmer, Winona.
- North Carolina—THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, Raleigh.
- Louisiana—The Union, Choudrant.
- Tennessee and Kentucky—The Toiler, Union City, Tenn.
- Free Speech, Beaumont, Texas, of the counties of Jefferson, Orange, Tyler, Hardin, Chambers, Liberty.
- Florida—Farmers' Florida Alliance, Marianna, Fla.