



THE



PROGRESSIVE



FARMER.

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

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NORTH CAROLINA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

President—J. Van Lindley, Pomona. Secretary—S. Otho Wilson, Vineyard. Iredell County Agricultural Association meets in Statesville every two months. Julian Allen, President; T. M. Mills, Secretary; A. L. Barringer, Treasurer.

CLOD-HOPPER AGAIN.

EDITOR FARMER:—For some time after I connected myself with the Farmers' Alliance, there was nothing to inspire me with the hope that anything could be done to arouse the farmers from their Rip Van Winkle sleep; they seemed to be resigned to their degraded condition. In fact, the idea was freely expressed that nothing could be done; that they had lost so much of their former manliness and self respect that all efforts to inspire them to write and act together in unison for their good would fail. Many of the farmers, so I was informed, feared to be seen going into an Alliance. With quite a large number of members there was restless impatience and a desiring for the good, if any, to come quick, like old Capt. B. soon after the war closed. He said: "I believe that God will visit a just judgment on d—d Yankees for their treatment to the Southern people, but what I want (with emphasis) is to see it come quick." We all should want all evils corrected, and great evils we should want corrected quickly; but we poor down-trodden and oppressed farmers must not only unite ourselves together as a band of brothers, but we must make a steady, long and strong pull and a pull all together, and the thing will be done. In doing so, our

strength will not alone stand out to be applauded, but many of the evils which we are now groaning under will be removed. I find that many of the farmers see now what they never saw before: that they are perfectly ignored in politics, only to vote for the man or men whom political wire-workers and tricksters place in nomination for office.

The farmer's and laboring man's interest is a myth—don't forget this—in the hands of such men as now manipulate nominations for the many offices of counties and State. The farmers, as a general thing, are honest and unsuspecting, and they have no correct idea of the amount of political corruption that now exist. They are learning some important facts slowly but surely, and once they learn enough to fully arouse from their Rip Van Winkle sleep, then the lion will be bearded in his den. The farmers will not always submit to be simply voters—to be counted for or against any measure, which corrupt political leaders may feel should be carried or defeated, as the case may be. No, indeed. They are not such stuff. They have minds to think and reason, and some of them are doing these important things, and as time speeds along more of them will do likewise.

Would it do for a knowing one to tell all he knows of political corruption? There is no way of rightly estimating the good already done for the farmers by the Alliance, and unless I fail to see into the future, as I now think I do, the Alliance will raise the farmers above their now degraded condition and place them in a position that will once more make them feel that they are freemen, and free moral agents to think and act for themselves, a thing they have not been permitted to do for a long time past, politically. Who can deny this? So long as the farmers live for their own best interest in all things, it cannot be said in truth of them, that they are opposing any other profession. We are not striving to pull down, but to build up our waste places and love and worship God under our own vine and fig tree.

I feel that THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is to do a great and good work for the farmers, and if every one all over the South could and would take such a paper and read it carefully, then our organization would result in good, and good only, and we would realize the good, quickly.

Fraternally, CLOD HOPPER.

P. S.—Bro. Taylor is right—a rotten egg committee should be appointed, as he wisely suggests. Hope to hear from him again. C. H.

THE FRUIT FAIR.

The Fruit Fair to be held in this city on August 15th and 16th is the result of the labors of the State Horticultural Society in trying to teach, by object lessons, which are the fruits best adapted to the soils of the State.

If the commercial growers were more selfish, they would not hold another Fair, as by so doing they are teaching others the art of this important industry, and thereby building up competition directly against their own pecuniary interests; but an intimate connection with the Society from its formation to the present time has proven that the members of the State Horticultural Society are a noble band of patriotic citizens whose chief desire is to build up the country, even at the sacrifice of personal gain.

I therefore invite and bespeak for the Society the hearty support and co-operation of every good citizen in this work of turning on the lights, by bringing to the Fair their best fruits, regardless of the chances of securing premiums, as the taking of prizes is a very small consideration, when the good done is taken into account.

The work of the Society has done great good in advancing the horticultural interests of the State, which is enough compensation for all the labor bestowed.

S. OTHO WILSON, Sec'y.

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.

HENDERSON, Vance Co., July 31, 1888.

EDITOR FARMER.—Dear Sir.—I see by your progressive paper, that you are constantly receiving communications from subscribers respecting the working of the Alliance in their respective locations. You must find it a pleasant task to insert so many common-sense letters contributed by farmers to their own weekly journal. It is a convenient medium by which the tillers of the soil can exchange their individual views on their divinely instituted calling. It is also the centre of attraction of our new order. Without some such cementing influence it would be "mighty apt" to disintegrate, and, according to the predictions of some of our anti-Alliance friends, the "concern" would soon "fizzle out." There is one great subject that has recently been introduced on the Alliance carpet that I don't exactly understand. Members throughout the State have been advised to enter into a combination for the purpose of importing on a large scale, principally, the two chief articles of consumption, bread and bacon. Would not such a step be a violation of the fundamental law of the Alliance? and have a tendency to defeat the principal object its originators had in view, viz: That some farmers produce those two essential articles of diet for home use. If such a project is carried out, then the vital principles of the Alliance (while yet in its infancy) is assailed; its most appropriate title would be the "N. C. Importing Bread and Bacon Firm." What a spectacle! a nation of farmers banded together for the express purpose of imparting the essential necessities of life; giving our brethren in far less favored countries an opportunity to cast reflections on this, our boasted Sunny South, to which we are continually inviting them; but say we, this is a cotton and tobacco country, and as long as we can make four or five hundred dollars on an acre of tobacco, it would not pay us to fool with such an unimportant crop as wheat; then say our brethren of wheat growing sections, you must all have made your fortunes "down there," and have little else to do but to lie down and roll in your riches. Well no, not exactly the whole crowd of us, but you can put us in a position to give the "finishing touch," by sending a good supply of your stomach-appeasing produce for a little less money. We will then return the compliment by sending you a nice lot of our famous yellow tobacco. But do your cotton and tobacco crops occupy the whole of your land? O, dear no, not by a jug full; in fact we have tens of thousands of acres running to waste, a large porportion of which is being continually washed away to the sea. Then such is your appreciation of the greatest gift of Providence. Such wicked improvidence ought not to be encouraged. If you cannot take better care of the great Creator's property, then give it away to them that will. Out of pity we would suggest to you the propriety of taking into your special care, two, three or four acres at a time of your waste land, give it a good application of common-sense manure, and that amount of land will amply supply your homesteads with a year's bread, without in the least interfering with your market crops; we are not waiting for your orders.

England will take all the wheat we can produce, many times told. * * Has it been ascertained about what margin will be left on our projected importing transaction? We must have a responsible State Agent with a substantial salary, requiring the assistance of a numerous staff of subordinates. Raleigh would be his headquarters, where he must be furnished with an enormous store house; then, for the convenience of patrons throughout the State a branch agency would have to be established in each county town.] I will leave it to others to do the figuring. Advise the farmers to organize for the purpose of manufactur-

ing their own fertilizers under the direction and supervision of the State Chemist and Board of Agriculture. We should then get a genuine article. Instead of the spurious stuff that is often palmed off on us now; instead of patronizing foreign manufacturers to the tune of perhaps a million dollars a year, keep it at home and place the profits in the State Treasury, so as to lessen these enormous taxes. No doubt that such a lifting of the wheel of progress out of the rut of political custom, would be a great shock to the upholders of routine and red tapery, but a great benefit to the farmer. The subject of taxes and their appreciation will have to be powerfully handled at no distant day. There are many other important subjects to be taken up. The Alliance will have its hands full for several years to come. It will rise to the occasion, and come off more than conqueror.

Your humble servant, RICHARD MARSTON.

AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture is the great lever-power that moves the machinery of all the world. This fact has ever been recognized by the most eminent statesmen of all nations and climes, they well knowing the prosperity and success of a State or Nation depends largely on the fertility of its soil and welfare of its population. When this interest is depressed it in turn re-acts upon the State or Nation and all classes of society suffer to a greater or less extent. The capital the farmer invests is his labor, bone, sinew and muscle; the earth is the bank from which he draws his dividend. When this dividend is drawn in the shape of cotton and placed on the market, the price obtained barely covers the cost of production. No interest on capital invested. How long could a merchant transact business deriving no profit on capital invested or stock in trade? He would be snowed under the first year, and the place thereof would know him no more. Not so with the farmer; he must stick to his farm and pay his debts though he mortgages land to do so. Another decade of the suicidal policy as followed in the past by some growing all cotton and buying supplies, would end in the ruin of many cultivators of the soil; their farms owned by the alien and they wanderers, houseless and homeless in the land of their birth. The nabobs of Wall street rule the cotton trade, setting the price they intend to give for cotton by the time the crop is planted. Their calculations are based not on the average crop, but what is the utmost cent we can squeeze out of the South and keep them working for us. Power is ever stealing from the many to the few. Hence the necessity of secret organizations to counteract this influence. Were it not for secret organizations, the industrial classes of the world would be slaves to the money power. The Farmers' Alliance enjoins upon its members the necessity of often meeting together for mutual benefit and instruction. Improved systems and thorough education, diversifying the crops, cash and supply, selecting those giving the best results with the least amount of labor, cultivating clover and grasses to suit the soil, bringing the land under the highest state of cultivation. By improved methods of husbandry and home-made fertilizers, utilizing everything on the farm, the cotton plant, supplying the most important property as a fertilizer for itself, and all other crops making a support on the farm, so the cash crop be not forced on the market at starvation prices. Let supply and demand rule trade. The Alliance cotton crop in Texas of 1887 was handled by the State Agent, our brethren in that State realizing five dollars more on the bale than persons not belonging to the order, and selling in the usual way. The good time is coming, boys; the good time is coming.

The nabob says if this order cannot be broken up, there is an end to his money making in the cotton section.

In a multitude of council there is wisdom; in union there is strength; eternal vigilance is the price of safety. This order will act together as a unit, bound together by the same bonds, having the same interest and seeking to accomplish the same object. One of us acting alone may accomplish some good, but one hundred thousand of us in this State acting in unison, with judgment and determination, can accomplish almost anything we undertake. Where there's a will, there's a way. We have the will, we know the way; success is ours beyond a doubt. Hurrah for the Old North State.

WM. H. HAMILTON, Auburn Alliance, No. 41.

FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

The farmers of Surry county met in Dobson on Wednesday, the 25th of July, 1888, to organize a Farmers' Institute. It was called to order by the election of S. C. Franklin, Chairman, and W. W. Hampton, Secretary.

After a very instructive address by our Commissioner of Agriculture, Mr. Robinson, a committee of five farmers were appointed on permanent organization, to-wit: J. A. McCain, Ira Reece, W. C. Banner, B. A. Freeman and J. C. Cooper.

The committee made the following report on permanent organization: For President, S. C. Franklin, and Vice-Presidents as follows: Bryan township, W. H. Wolf; Dobson township, James Simpson; Eldora township, B. W. Badgett; Franklin township, Frank Armfield; Hotel township, John Park; Marsh township, Ira Reece; Mt. Airy township, B. F. Graves; Siloam township, W. M. Cwedeff; Stewart Creek township, Jno. T. Johnson; Westfield township, T. L. Sorrels; Pilot township, W. E. Stone; Rockford township, J. G. Burns.

For Secretary, N. J. Blockwood. Treasurer, W. W. Hampton.

Executive Committee, W. W. Lovill, R. S. Folger, Sexton Jones, A. L. Bunker, G. M. Burns, C. C. Cockerham, S. J. Atkinson, J. M. Jervis, McD. Boyd.

Chaplain, N. R. Richardson. Supt. of Experiment Farm, J. C. Cooper. Supt. Local Department, W. C. Banner.

It was ordered that the proceedings of this meeting be sent to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and Yadkin Valley News for publication.

It was moved that this body adjourn to meet on Saturday, the 25th day of August, 1888.

S. C. FRANKLIN, Chm'n. W. W. HAMPTON, Sec'y.

"I do not like to hear you talk about being placed where you can't be good, because goodness is a plant which does not depend upon the soil. And there are quite as many good people in town as in country places. We have a perfect right to find out where it is easiest for ourselves to be good. It is for guidance in this matter we pray, 'Lead us not into temptation.' Yet sometimes God makes it our duty to stay in the very hardest places."

Queen Victoria has been asked to receive Emperor William of Germany, who intends visiting London.

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, Nashville, Tenn. Free Speech, Beaumont, Texas, of the counties of Jefferson, Orange, Tyler, Hardin, Chambers, Liberty. Florida—Farmers' Florida Alliance, Marianna, Fla.