

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

Vol. 4.

RALEIGH, N. C., FEBRUARY 26, 1889.

No. 3

DIRECTORY OF FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS.

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FARMERS WANT PROTECTION.

A petition presented in the Senate by Senator Morrill from Vermont urges Congress to increase the duties on various farm products. The farmers of the United States, the petition says, are undersold in many of our cities and towns by the products of ill-paid or unpaid foreign labor. Onions from Spain and Egypt appear in market as far west as Chicago. Tobacco raised by coolies in Sumatra and imported, the petition says, by tricks and frauds lessens the reward of American growers. Wool clipped by slaves, by convicts, or by creatures scarcely less degraded stops wool growing by an army of American farmers and sends six millions of sheep annually to the slaughter. Potatoes and cabbages by the cargo from places where women work daily in the fields come here as ballast, with eggs by the ship load from Holland, cattle from Mexico, and barley from Canada.

AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGES.

[By Gen. S. D. Lee, of Mississippi.]
No. 3.

Mr. Editor:—As I stated in the second article, the State of Mississippi, by legislative enactments, accepted the benefits of the Federal gift establishing colleges "to benefit agriculture and mechanic arts," and pledged its faith to appropriate the funds to the endowment of said institutions of learnings and to comply with the conditions specified in the law. Previous to the passage of the State law establishing the college (February 28, 1878) the interest of the fund accepted by the State had been divided between the State University at Oxford and Alcorn University. During the years the State University had the benefit of this fund very few students took the agricultural course, but most all in attendance took the other course prescribed or provided for. The farmers of the State protested against this misuse of the fund. This protest was repeatedly made by the Patrons of Husbandry (Grangers) who claimed that the condition of the Federal gift made it incumbent on the State to see that the college or colleges which might enjoy the benefits of the gift should make it a leading object "to benefit agriculture and the mechanic arts" by teaching such branches of "learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts." They stated that the leading object of the University at Oxford was to furnish classical, literary and professional education; and that the State should establish new colleges,

separate and distinct from the State University, to carry out in good faith the conditions imposed by the Federal law. The late lamented Capt. Put Darden, master of the State Grange, fought for the one object many years. It was in compliance with this demand of the farmers of the State that the Legislature established the A. & M. College.

The State law establishing the colleges, based on the Federal gift quoted from the law, and enumerated among the duties assigned to the board of trustees. "The establishment and maintenance of a first-class institution, at which the youth of the State may acquire a common school education and a scientific and practical knowledge of agriculture, horticulture and the mechanic arts and also the proper growth and care of stock. * * * They shall regulate the course of study, rates of tuition, management of experimental farms, the manner of performing labor, the kind to be performed by students."

These extracts from the State law show how the Legislature understood what was required in accepting the "land scrip" from the United States. Successive Legislatures (till the one of 1887 and 1888) have made liberal appropriations to carry out the conditions and in providing the necessary plant of buildings, experimental farm, grounds, equipments, apparatus, barns, sheds, silos, machinery, improved implements, etc., necessary to make the college what it was intended to be, a first-class institution, and have provided also for its support from year to year. The value of the college property is now \$206,986.35. This is a valuable State property, and stands in some relation as the State house, asylums and other buildings at Jackson, as a State monument in the interest of educating the farmer boys in the State. Also as the University buildings and outfit at Oxford, the leading institution and the oldest. The value of the plant at Oxford is about \$300,000. The expenditure at the A. & M. College (\$206,986) is not unreasonable when we consider that our State is an agricultural State and the farmers pay 82 per cent of all the taxes, and its establishment and support was a condition of acceptance of the partial endowment from the United States. The college near Starkville is essentially an agricultural college, the trustees perfecting this department first, because four-fifths of our people are engaged in farming, and this is the main industry to be lifted up first, to benefit the greater number. The college is now ready, and has so reported to the last two Legislatures, to add the mechanical department. This can be done at slight additional expenses, sufficient to erect shops for wood and iron and equip them with the latest tools and machinery for working wood and iron. But little change will be needed in any other direction. The same faculty will answer, with the addition of a mechanical engineer, which the United States government stands ready to furnish in the same way as the officer is furnished from the United States Army, to administer discipline and teach military science. A slight readjustment of studies, varying the course according as a student desires, an agricultural or mechanical bias, is all that is necessary in the curriculum.

The A. & M. College is now fully equipped, has all the necessary buildings, plant, apparatus, etc. The main expense to the State has already been met. All that is needed now is a support from year to year, just as is being done by the State towards her University at Oxford and her other State investments.

The college was established on the demand of the farmers with a contract made by the State and the United States and in the interest of agriculture and the mechanic arts. If the college is carrying out the object of the United States and State law it ought to be liberally supported. The State has been most liberal in its appropriation, and the record shows a large attendance, larger for the time of its existence than any institution ever established in the State. Like all new institutions, it has had and will continue to have enemies, men who are honestly opposed to its object and management. The system of education is different from that pursued in the older colleges, and like all new departures, it is opposed by the alumni of the older colleges generally. It must be remembered, at the beginning of this century, not an agricultural college was in existence. They nearly all date from the year 1840, in Europe, and 1865 in the United States. Most of them are only twenty or thirty years old, while the older colleges run down the centuries, with all their loyal attachments, sympathies, prejudices and

wealth, intensified by time, influence and power.

Congress passed the law establishing these colleges in 1862 (during the war). They have had to run the gauntlet of adverse criticism under unfruitful and disloyal surroundings. It has been difficult to get professors, except those educated under the old system, with their bias against the new education. Many of the older colleges, to get the benefit of the endowment of Congress, established departments or schools of agriculture and mechanic arts. This, as was expected, and in many instances desired, proved signal failures. As these colleges for their lifetime had been devoted to general literature, classical and professional education. Their leading object was loyalty to these departments, and not to the "new annex," which was generally "set in a corner" to languish, smother and die. The funds were used to build up the other departments of the college, and agriculture and mechanic arts were "poor kin" at the "rich folks' house." The failures were pointed to as evidence that the new system or departure in education was a great mistake. Yet all the time agriculture is languishing and other industries forging ahead to wealth.

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.

THE HATCH ACT.

In response to a number of inquiries for the act establishing the Experiment Stations in connection with the Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges of the different States and Territories, we give it below:

An Act to establish agricultural experiment stations in connection with the colleges established in the several States under the provision of an act approved July second, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, and of the acts supplementary thereto.

Be it enacted in the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in order to aid in acquiring and diffusing among the people of the United States useful and practical information on subjects connected with agriculture, and to promote scientific investigation and experiment respecting the principles and applications of agricultural science, there shall be established, under direction of the college or colleges or agricultural department of colleges in each State or Territory established, or which may hereafter be established, in accordance with the provisions of an act approved July second, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, entitled "An act donating public lands to the several States and Territories which may provide colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts," or any of the supplements to said act, a department to be known and designated as an "agricultural experiment station." Provided, that in any State or Territory in which two such colleges have been or may be so established the appropriation hereinafter made to such State or Territory shall be equally divided between such colleges, unless the Legislature of such State or Territory shall otherwise direct.

Sec. 2. That it shall be the object and duty of said experiment stations to conduct original researches or verify experiments on the physiology of plants and animals; the diseases to which they are severally subject, with the remedies for the same; the chemical composition of useful plants at their different stages of growth; the comparative advantages of rotative cropping as pursued under a varying series of crops; the capacity of new plants or trees for acclimation; the analysis of soils and water; the chemical composition of manures, natural or artificial, with experiments designed to test their comparative effects on crops of different kinds; the addition and value of grasses and forage plants; the composition and digestibility of the different kinds of food for domestic animals; the scientific and economic questions involved in the production of butter and cheese; and such other researches or experiments bearing directly on the agricultural industry of the United States as may in each case be deemed advisable, having due regard to the varying conditions and needs of the respective States and Territories.

Sec. 3. That in order to secure, as far as practicable, uniformity of methods and results in the work of said stations, it shall be the duty of the United States Commissioner of Agriculture to furnish forms, as far as practicable, for the tabulation of results of investigation or experiments; to indicate from time to time, such lines of inquiry as to him shall seem

most important; and, in general, to furnish such advice and assistance as will best promote the purposes of this act. It shall be the duty of each of said stations, annually, on or before the first day of February, to make to the governor of the State or territory in which it is located a full and detailed report of its operations, including a statement of receipts and expenditures, a copy of which report shall be sent to each of said stations, to the said Commissioner of Agriculture, and to the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States.

Sec. 4. That bulletins or reports of progress shall be published at said stations at least once in three months, one copy of which shall be sent to each newspaper in the States and Territories in which they are respectively located, and to such individuals actually engaged in farming as may request the same, and as far as the means of the station will permit. Such bulletins or reports and the annual report of said stations shall be transmitted in the mails of the United States free of charge for postage, under such regulations as the Postmaster General may from time to time prescribe.

Sec. 5. That for the purpose of paying the necessary expenses of conducting investigations and experiments and printing and distributing the results as hereinbefore prescribed, the sum of fifteen thousand dollars per annum is hereby appropriated to each State, to be specially provided for by Congress in the appropriations from year to year, and to each Territory entitled under the provisions of section eight of this act, out of any money in the Treasury proceeding from the sales of public lands, to be paid in equal quarterly payments, on the first day of January, April, July and October in each year, to the treasurer or other officer duly appointed by the governing boards of said colleges to receive the same, the first payment to be made on the first day of October, eighteen hundred and eighty-seven: Provided, however, That out of the first annual appropriation so received by any station an amount not exceeding one-fifth may be expended in the erection, enlargement, or repair of a building or buildings necessary for carrying on the work of such station; and thereafter an amount not exceeding five per centum of such annual appropriation may be so expended.

Sec. 6. That whenever it shall appear to the Secretary of the Treasury from the annual statement of receipts and expenditures of any of said stations that a portion of the preceding annual appropriation remains unexpended, such amount shall be deducted from the next annual appropriation to such station, in order that the amount of money appropriated to any station shall not exceed the amount actually and necessarily required for its maintenance and support.

Sec. 7. That nothing in this act shall be construed to impair or modify the legal relation existing between any of the said colleges and the government of the States or Territories in which they are respectively located.

Sec. 8. That in States having colleges entitled under this section to the benefits of this act and having also agricultural experiment stations established by law separate from said colleges, such States shall be authorized to apply such benefits to experiments at stations so established by such States; and in case any State shall have established, under the provisions of said act of July second aforesaid, an agricultural department or experimental station, in connection with any university, college or institution not distinctly an agricultural college or school, and such State shall have established or shall hereafter establish a separate agricultural college or school, which shall have connected therewith an experimental farm or station, the Legislature of such State may apply in whole or in part the appropriation by this act made, to such separate agricultural colleges or schools, and no Legislature shall by contract express or implied disable itself from so doing.

Sec. 9. That the grants of money authorized by this act are made subject to the legislative assent of the several States and Territories to the purposes of said grants: Provided, That payments of such instalments of the appropriation herein made as shall become due to any State before the adjournment of the regular session of its Legislature meeting next after the passage of this act shall be made upon the assent of the Governor thereof duly certified by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Sec. 10. Nothing in this act shall be held or construed as binding the United States to continue any payments from the Treasury to any or all the States or institutions mentioned in this act, but Congress may at any time amend, suspend, or repeal any or all the provisions of this act.

Approved, March 2, 1887.

COTTON SEED MEAL.

There is no more concentrated food for cows or fattening cattle (pigs are not included) than the meal of the cotton seed oil cake. It is too rich for careless use and should be fed with great caution. It contains nearly 50 per cent of nitrogenous matter and is consequently fully six times as nutritious in this respect as lean meat, as the latter contains about 75 per cent of water. This highly nitrogenous character makes cotton seed meal exceedingly stimulating, and as the excess of the nitrogen elements that are not digested must pass off by the kidneys, these delicate organs are easily overworked and the blood rendered impure by the absorption of urea. Hence, this meal should not be given in larger rations than two pounds daily, and never to cows that are approaching the termination of their pregnancy. Abortion may be caused, or if this is escaped milk fever will be imminent. Young cattle, especially yearlings, may have a few ounces of it daily with benefit. At the usual price of \$25 per ton it is the cheapest of all food, but its cheapness, estimated by its contrated nutritive character, should not tempt one to use too much of it. Cows will be very apt to be troubled with garget if fed at all too liberally with it. For pigs it is altogether too stimulating, and should not be used.—*American Agriculturist.*

HOW IT CAN BE DONE.

Below will be found a good plan for the organization of cotton factories on the building association plan, written by D. A. Thompson for the *Manufacturers' Record*, which is well worthy of careful consideration:

In North and South Carolina a number of cotton factories have been built in the last two years, the money for which has been raised in accordance with a plan that is interesting and which has been so far eminently successful. The plan is as follows:

A company is organized which is essentially a savings fund and building association. Instead of the usual object of such organizations, viz., to create a savings fund and build homes for the members, the object is to build a cotton factory. Subscriptions for the stock are obtained, the assessments on which are small monthly sums. Let us take the case of such a company as an illustration.

A company has had subscribed 1,000 shares at \$100 each. It is provided in the by-laws that the assessment on each share shall be, say, 50 cents per week. Upon organization 50 cents per share is paid by each subscriber to defray expenses of organization. Thus a member who may have subscribed for 10 shares would pay \$5 at the organization. Then at the end of each week succeeding the organization 50 cents per share would be due on each share. Thus on 1,000 shares the company would receive \$500, which for 52 weeks would make about \$26,000.

This would give ample money within the year to pay for a good building and make a good payment on the equipment, and with the enterprise in the hands of conservative men, would form the basis of good credit.

With five hundred dollars per month being paid into the treasury, the company could commence building very soon after organization. Upon the completion of the building, the money required to equip it with machinery will be far in excess of what the assessments bring into the treasury. The methods by which this money is raised are: First, to borrow it on the company's note endorsed by individual directors or individuals, or from a local bank, which might discount the paper at some money centre. Second, take notes from all subscribers for the full amount of their subscription; then discount these notes with the company's endorsement. A bond and mortgage may be executed on the company's property as a collateral with the above notes if necessary to accomplish a loan.

In Charlotte, N. C., two mills are now in operation, both of which were built on the above plan, the assessments on the shares of one of them being at the rate of 50 cents per week each, and on the other 25 cents. At

Rock Hill, S. C., and at several other points in the Piedmont region, mills are now being constructed on the building association plan.

The assessments continue of course until the entire one hundred dollars per share is paid in full. The plan serves not only the purpose of being a means to get a factory, but creates an excellent savings institution, much of the money which is paid into it being that vest-pocket money which goes nobody knows where.

At 50 cents per share per week about four years is required to pay the stock in full, and at 25 cents about double that time.

One of the companies at Charlotte will have a capital stock when paid up of \$125,000 and the other about \$100,000. Many a dollar is being put into them by men who pay regularly and promptly, but which would never be saved at all except for the obligation which this stock creates.—*Exchange.*

RESOLUTIONS OF FORESTVILLE ALLIANCE.

The following preamble and resolutions were adopted at a recent meeting of Forestville Alliance:

WHEREAS, W. B. Dunn has agreed to sell his plows and castings to the Alliances directly; and, whereas, some of the merchants have taken offence thereat and avow that they will have the same goods made elsewhere and sell the same in competition with his, thus manifesting an unfriendly spirit towards him for dealing with Alliance men, therefore,

Resolved, That this Alliance does hereby pledge itself to W. B. Dunn, or others who deal with us directly, that they may rely on our fidelity, and that we will not use any goods made and shipped to merchants to be sold in competition with his goods, as a retaliation on him for dealing directly with the farmers.

Resolved, That we earnestly solicit all Alliances who use Dunn's No. 2 castings to stand by us in this effort to protect a home industry and men who are willing to deal directly with us.

Resolved, That these resolutions be sent to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER for publication.

As the above resolutions show, a manufacturer has made terms with the Alliance, and the neighboring merchants are offended thereat. Sir, this seems to me to be a departure from what the merchants have claimed heretofore to be their feeling toward the farmers. I have been favorably impressed with the interest that the merchants have evinced in the welfare of the farmer. And I have given them credit for having sense enough to know that good will toward the merchant must prevail with their customers or failure with them is inevitable. It seems now that their apparent good will toward the farmer was painted in false colors, was only policy; and now that we are tapping their profits more severely than will warrant their comfort, they can no longer disguise their true sentiments, but gird on their armor for a well-defined warfare with us, not willing to allow us "equal rights," as vouchsafed to us by our forefathers. Now, sir, as our Alliance cause progresses, two things I observe; first, that there is an incalculable amount of good that we can accomplish; and, second, that nothing short of conflict will accomplish it. United effort, skillful management; in connection with that degree of pluck and energy which has long since characterized the Southern patriot, will prove equal to almost any emergency. That the merchant should say to us that we are not to buy direct from manufacturers, but that the goods must pass through their hands at a profit, in which the buyer has no voice, is an insult of the most damnable character; gird on your armor, brethren; our foe is formidable, and our struggle will be severe; but the glory of the victor is measured thereby. Those whom we have so long fed and fattened will die hard. Strive to do all the business through your Agent possible; ever keep your eyes on the cash system as our surest anchor; curtail your business with a view to that end. There is no use to talk of absolute independence with no money in our pockets, and we may as well give the merchants credit for knowing it.

Fraternally yours,

S. F. ALLEN.

Don't forget that the flavor of the milk that you sometimes attribute to some kind of weed in the hay, is due to lack of cleanliness on your part in the care of the cows.