

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

Vol. 4.

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No. 4

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E. T. Brumback, Jas. E. Compton and Geo. H. Chrisman.

THE QUESTION OF SALE OF TOBACCO—PATRONIZE ALLIANCE WAREHOUSES.

BLACKWELL'S ALLIANCE, No. 731, February 16, 1889.

MR. EDITOR:—Ridge Farmers' Alliance was organized the 25th of April, 1888, with thirteen members. Its membership has steadily increased until it now has enrolled thirty-three members, composed of many of our leading farmers and best citizens. While we cannot point to any great feats accomplished in the history of our Sub-Alliance, yet we feel we are doing some good work and a vast deal yet remains to be done. Like the most of the agricultural districts, the "one crop system" has been the utter ruin and impoverishment of the greater portion of our farmers. Being situated in the old bright tobacco growing districts of North Carolina, our farmers have made themselves complete slaves to his one product. The great fluctuations in the price of tobacco of late years have had such an injurious effect upon the old tobacco growing districts that many have, from force of circumstances, been compelled to quit hiring but very little labor for the production of this article. We feel that the warehouses, through the newspapers, have done us a very great injustice (not from any unworthy motives towards us, but simply to push their own business) by continually advertising some big prices received for tobacco and not saying a word about the thousands of pounds of tobacco sold every day for less than half the cost of production. While, as we have said, we do not blame the warehouse men for pushing their own business, yet we feel that it has had a very injurious effect upon the old tobacco growing districts of Virginia and North Carolina by stimulating the production all over the world. Consequently the supply is so much in excess of the demand that we are unable to realize a bare living from the profits of our tobacco crop. Yet there can be no doubt but what tobacco must ever remain the chief product in the portion of the country for the realization of money to supply the needs of every household. All other crops must remain of minor importance compared to this one as a marketable product. While tobacco has been so remunerative to most of the manufacturers of it, all should wish the producer should have at least a reasonable share of the profits realized from this crop. We pay at least from six to seven per cent. to warehouses just to sell our tobacco. As much as the rate of interest on money for one year. Our County Business Agent some-

time ago was instructed to wait upon the warehouse men of Danville, Va., to see if we could not make some arrangements (by the centralization of our trade to a certain warehouse) by which we could get our tobacco sold at a less rate per cent. than we had hitherto been paying. Our Agent reports that the warehouse men in that place had obligated themselves in a bond of several hundred dollars that they would not reduce their rate per cent. or rebate any charges. Notwithstanding, these same men are paying some of their employees extravagant prices for their supposed trade, when they could get fully as competent men to do the same business for one-half the wages, only they are not in the "trade." In some cases they let off a man certain districts and give him one-half their charge on that trade, just to "draw" it for them.

Now the aims of the Farmers' Alliance has been to centralize its own trade so that the money which is being paid out to these so-called "drummers" may go where it justly belongs—in the producer's pocket. Such discrimination against the "horny-handed sons of toil" should not sour or dismay us, but it should be the means of stirring our noblest ambition, inspiring our loftiest hopes, and standing fabric of other great minds, and standing upon the dignity of our own manhood, we predict that in the near future, a new era of prosperity will dawn upon the agriculturist who is now being ground down in poverty and shame. MEMBER OF ALLIANCE.

THE FERTILIZER QUESTION.

HADLEY'S MILLS, Feb. 18, '89.
Resolved, by Dry Creek Alliance, No. 637, that we will not use any guano at any price if we cannot buy it through our County Agent.

I also add, as Secretary of Dry Creek Alliance, that no Alliance man ought to patronize any company that will not sell to them through an Alliance Agent. As farmers have constituted the Alliance and are the ones who use all or nearly all of the fertilizers that are manufactured, I think we should be very careful about who we buy guano from, as some of the companies are so particular who they make their agents. We have just as good men among the farmers as any class of people in the land and would make just as good and faithful agents as any they can get. If we succeed we will have to close down on such companies as repudiate us, and the sooner the better. In my judgment we would be better off without guano than with it.

Dry Creek Alliance was organized about the first of April, 1888, with nine members and has increased slowly until we now have 25 good men, and are all willing and anxious to unite with the brethren in any cause that will benefit the poor farmer.

PLANTING CHUFAS.

COL. L. L. POLK.—Dear Sir:—I saw in your paper of last week that some brother wanted to know how to plant and cultivate a chufa crop. I have had some experience with chufas: My plan is to break the land good, and manure well; lay off the rows three feet wide with a cotton plow, about three or four inches deep, then drop the chufas in the row, say eight to twelve inches apart. Then ridge the land in the same way as cotton land and let it remain until the chufas begin to sprout. Then drag the ridges off with a heavy drag, that will destroy all young grass and weeds. As soon as the chufas get large enough, side as I would cotton. Two plowings and harrowings are all that is required. I pull out the shoots and replant in missing places; but if you will put the chufas in water and throw off all that rises to the top, you will not have any to replant, with favorable seasons. The best land is old field well rotten or new ground, that has been cleared from one to three years, of a light and sandy soil. Plant from first of May to first of June. I would not advise any one to plant chufas on land that is to be put in corn for the next three years. There is a bug that follows chufas that is destructive to corn. I have known the bugs to go two hundred yards from where the chufas were raised the year previous. They are a large black bug with a long bill; they stick their bill through the corn stalk while young and suck it to death. It is called the corn bill bug.

We have two members sick, and one of them dangerously so. We are moving slowly but steadily.

Fraternally,
JAS. W. BATTIS.

IGNORANCE, LAZINESS AND EXTRAVAGANCE.

ENNO, N. C., Feb. 14, 1889.

MR. EDITOR:—It has been some time since I wrote to you about Middle Creek Alliance, No. 207, Wake county, and as some of the members want me to write again, I will send you a few lines this afternoon. We are still moving on and I think some advancement. Nearly all the male population who are eligible have joined. Some of the "weak-kneed" are a little careless about attending to paying their dues, but we have a plenty of the right grit who are as true as the needle to the pole. Our meetings are quite interesting and I think profitable; especially so was the last one. It seems to be the fixed determination of our Alliance to buy less guano, less coffee, less meat, less corn and less everything else, except what our actual necessities require, and raise more home-made meat, home-made manure, etc. We are tired of having our meat house, corn crib, manure pile, etc., in Baltimore.

We are trying to instill in our people that they must work out their own salvation, else they will remain "hewers of wood and drawers of water."

As I see it, the three greatest causes of oppression among the farmers are ignorance, laziness and extravagance. These evils we are trying to remedy and think we are making some progress. Many other things we are trying to accomplish. Our business plans, for the present, we propose to keep to ourselves.

The farmers ask for nothing but what is right and just—this all honest men, regardless of profession, will accord. When the farmer goes down, all professions will follow. They are the bottom rail in this world.

They demand (while they are the foundation upon which all stands) that their rights shall be heard; that they shall, to some extent, be remunerated for their services, and not forever be the mud-sill without being sheltered by the superstructure. This they demand—this they will have.

We are watching closely the Farmers' Legislature. We hope to see much needed legislation.

We are glad to see THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER in a new suit. I trust when it is four years old it may be able to buy another, and have every member of the Alliance a subscriber.

Death has not as yet claimed for its own any of our Lodge.

Long may THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER live to wield its influence for good over this fair land of ours.

Yours fraternally,
B. W. BURT.

THE GUANO QUESTION.

February 11, 1889.

MR. EDITOR:—You will find, by the changes which I wish you to make in my mail, that I am again roaming around, and our people are always treating me kindly and giving me work to do. In my wanderings it was my good fortune to fall in with Alliance, No. 444, a few evenings ago, when they unanimously passed the following resolution in regard to guano which they requested your correspondent to put in shape and send to our organ for publication:

Resolved, That we will not buy guano at the present high prices.

They discussed the subject well before voting, and many declared that the stuff manipulated at present would not pay for the hauling and handling, much less the money that annually goes out of our pockets to pay for it.

We feel, Mr. Editor, that we have been managed by designing manufacturers and merchants until we must call a halt or the whole of us will go into the ditch.

Mr. Editor, why is it that we can't put guano and their side shows (acid, kaint, &c.), on an equal footing with meat, corn, &c., that the farmers have to sell. For instance, if we take our meat to market and sell it to a merchant or anyone else, (it is smoked nice and looks well, and as our old friend Korngay says, "smells good"), the buyer finds after cutting into it that nearly all the joints and tainted around the bone, or the cotton is gin-cut, trashy or stained, or some low scoundrel has watered a bale. Now, sir, what do they all do under these circumstances? They raise such a howl that the poor old farmer sticks down his head and has to run his hand down in his pocket and satisfy the damages or be dragged up into court and made to feel the heavy hand of the law; that says you farmers must trust every man as you would have him trust you.

Now, sir, put guano on this basis

and our people will hear less grumbling.

We were pleased with Thunder Swamp Alliance, No. 444; most of them are young men, good farmers, with enough good old settled heads to keep everything well balanced; they seem to be working harmoniously. If there be any private bickerings it is all laid aside for the good of our order and they are standing shoulder to shoulder under the Alliance. One thing I failed in, and that was to find out their position as to the State Agency Fund, but will before we come again.

Yours in the faith,
S. E. D.

CO-OPERATION THE FARMERS' ONLY HOPE.

FALLSTON, Cleveland Co., N. C., February 14, 1889.

MR. EDITOR:—Actuated with a desire that Fallston Alliance, No. 1,047, be represented with those that are struggling for freedom; we therefore solicit space for a short communication, hoping not to be an intruder in the columns of your most excellent paper.

Our Alliance now numbers fifty, all true, energetic and irreplaceable Alliance men. It is an evident fact that, by the co-operation of the farmers, much good has been accomplished, not only financially but socially. Its reforming tendency has made itself apparent. Harmony, not variance; love, not ill-will; liberality, not selfishness, is a very conspicuous element that the great movement has brought about. We believe that the organization is indispensable for the prosperity of the agricultural interests of the South. If we foster the infamous clandestine leagues, who by their preposterous, rascally tyranny, have stayed the prosperity of the farmers, it is reasonable to conclude that we will ever remain an ill-fated people. Shall we submit to combines and succumb to monopolistic power? Shall we yield to trusts and comply with the demands of the pernicious money kings? We must not—the order must be independent.

While commerce, manufacturing, merchandise and all other professions would be profitless were it not for agriculture, yet we are groveling in ignorance and poverty. The cause of this is obvious; they have been working for self-interest and the farmer has been working to the interest of others. They have been united, while the farmer has been without organization. They have been elevated socially and financially while the farmer has been degraded. But now we are invited, and in unison, we should work together to advance and elevate agricultural interests. We must get up from the dust of oppression. We must dwell in unity and brotherly love, ever giving strict adherence to the motto, "In things essential unity, and in all things charity;" and soon we will shout victory over all unjust conspiracies and the agricultural and laboring classes will be emancipated.

H. H. B., Sec'y.

A LETTER FROM ROWAN.

February 18, 1889.

MR. EDITOR:—I received my first PROGRESSIVE FARMER last week and was very much pleased with it. I like to hear from the different Alliances and I expect Coal Chute would be further along if we had subscribed for it sooner, but we, like others, did not do so for want of money. We have been organized a little more than a year and are moving about as others. I hope we are learning something every time we meet. We are trying to learn as fast as possible how to get along with as little commercial fertilizer as possible; how to make more home-made manure; how to diminish our cotton and increase our grain crops; how to get clear of the credit business and become more and more independent. We want to get so that when we break our wagons down they will break with the tongue pointing towards town and that not with cord wood. I am pleased to see how many of the Alliance are of the same mind. That is just the way we should be; all must pull together if we would succeed.

We should be cautious how we pass resolutions, and when we do pass them stick "till the wool slips;" that's my motto. But I see, too, farmers in other places are like they are here, rejoicing at the low price of corn, flour, and meat. Of course, under present circumstances, it's all blessing, but it's all backwards; farmers ought to be producers as well as consumers of such things. I don't believe it pays any farmer to raise cotton to buy corn. But, Mr. Editor, I didn't intend writing a letter; I only wanted to tell you

that on February 9th the members of Coal Chute Alliance adopted as a whole the resolutions of Chatham County Alliance in regard to high salaries, &c., and ask you to mention the same in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. Come to our County Alliance at popular Tent in April. Success to THE FARMER.

Fraternally yours,
E. R. G. PLASTER, Sec'y.

AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGES.

The Theory and Management of the Mississippi A. & M. College.
No. 4.

[By Gen. S. D. Lee, of Mississippi.]

In this article we propose to examine the theory and management of the Mississippi A. & M. College, and to see if it conforms to the spirit of the State law, which is based on the Federal law. Among the duties assigned the Board of Trustees we find "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; also the proper growth and care of stock, without, however, excluding other scientific and classical studies, including military tactics."

"They shall regulate the course of study, rates of tuition, management of experimental farm, manner of performing labor and the kind of labor to be performed by students." These quotations plainly define that the "leading object" must be to benefit agriculture and the mechanic arts. Should other studies be taught they must be secondary, or after provision is made for what is especially provided for, and as aids to more readily understand the sciences which underlie agriculture and the mechanic arts. The organization must be such as to familiarize students with and to educate their minds and tastes to agriculture, horticulture, the care and growth of stock, management of farms, manner of performing labor, &c. The college must provide for the industrial classes a general education, combined with such scientific and practical knowledge as will make them familiar with the nature of the objects and forces with which they have to deal. This necessitates that special stress be laid on the sciences intimately connected with agriculture, such as chemistry, botany, geology, zoology, entomology, physiology, mechanics, physics, &c. To comprehend these studies requires considerable liberal culture. The varied conditions contributing to an intelligent understanding of agriculture as a science and an art, comprehends an education almost as broad and liberal as that needed to master any subject. This education must also be practical and industrial in its training, and must strive to create a taste for agricultural pursuits.

The Board of Trustees in the organization of the college and its equipment have had these views before them. Through the liberality of the Legislature a first-class institution has been established, a farm of near 2,000 acres purchased, buildings have been erected, such as a college building, dormitory for 260 students, chemical laboratory, mess halls, professors' houses, barns, stables, cow sheds, engine house, creamery and dairy buildings and the equipment for managing an experimental farm as the law provides. The college herd is made up of about four hundred head of "cattle of thoroughbreds, grades and common cattle. The chemical laboratory, museum and other departments of the college have been supplied with an outfit for illustration of the sciences taught. All this property is valued at \$206,986.35, and makes up the plant of the college or what is necessary for its proper establishment. This is an investment which is permanent and will last for a long time. It is similar to the expenditure of the State in the establishment of the State University, the plant of which is valued at \$300,000.

The Board of Trustees has arranged for both a preparatory and a collegiate course (one and four years) to the youth of the State the opportunity of acquiring, as the law directs, a common school education and a practical and scientific knowledge of agriculture. It is remembered that many farmer boys in the country have poor school advantages; the preparatory course is to meet their wants and to be also a feeder to the college classes. This class (one-third the attendance) is taught such studies as grammar, composition, arithmetic, algebra, geography, United States history, penmanship, declamation, &c. They are also taught by text-book and lectures

the elementary principles of the theory of agriculture, such as composition of matter, of soils, of plants, of manures, of fertilizers; about plant food in soil, farm drainage, preparation of land for crops, cultivation of crops, about live stock, &c. Work and contact with the experimental farm, college herds, creamery and gardens, illustrate what is taught, and gives even these beginners a good idea of improved and progressive agriculture and horticulture.

The college course is four years in length—English, mathematics and other studies run through the four years, and by gradual advancement build up the liberal culture, enabling students to comprehend and to master the sciences related to agriculture, and already enumerated in this article. Great stress is laid on English and mathematics, and they are thoroughly taught, and their practical use fully brought out to be in line with the practical illustrations in other studies.

Besides the sciences strictly underlying or related to agriculture, horticulture and agriculture are also taught, both as a science and art, applying in the different classes, what is learned in the related sciences, and as they become applicable. To go more into detail, the Freshman class is taught six months mainly about the characteristics of all kinds of stock breeds, and care of, about butter making, and such studies, about the management and care of gardens, manures, planting, grafting, &c., which are taught by lecture and text-book, and practically demonstrated on the farm and gardens. This, too, in connection with their other studies, English, algebra, philosophy, drawing, geometry, history, book-keeping, &c.

So I might go on and illustrate for the Sophomore class, which is thoroughly taught chemistry in a well-equipped laboratory, three months theoretically, and six months, two hours a day, at desk with practical work with blow pipe, reagents and other adjuncts necessary in analysis. They are also taught surveying to enable them to use the instruments, and to work in the field. In agriculture, the principles of drainage, cultivation, tile laying, use and care of farm implements.

The Junior and Senior classes, as they still further advance in liberal culture and the knowledge of anatomy, physiology, drawing, veterinary science, botany, entomology, agricultural chemistry, and such studies, are instructed on the more difficult problems of breeding, management and treatment of sick animals, garden, nursery, and orchard economy, varieties for different soils, pruning and training of trees, farm economy, values of different nutritive rations for feeding for butter, milk, or beef, composition of manures, values of different foods, manures, farm buildings, &c., in fact, a thorough application of all the sciences related to agriculture.

The studies are illustrated by students working on the well-equipped farm, with crops, cattle, improved machinery—in the creamery and dairy, in managing feeding experiments; as an illustration, the Senior class manage many of the feeding experiments connected with the Agricultural Experiment Station, which is a department of the College, having learned the sciences theoretically, knowing what is wanted from the experiments, they do the practical work, and make the application.

It is claimed that the College is doing its work in accordance with the spirit of the State law. Is not only giving a good practical education, suited to the masses, but also a scientific and practical knowledge of agriculture and horticulture, also of the proper growth and care of stock, without, however, excluding other scientific and classical studies, including military tactics. As explained, the mechanical department cannot be established till the Legislature provides money to erect shops for wood and iron, and to equip them. The military feature runs through the College, as required by both Federal and State laws, but is kept secondary to the industrial features of the College. Military discipline is the discipline of the College, and is administered by an officer of the United States Army, under the supervision of the President.

Combination will be useless if we raise a poor product by antiquated and uneconomical methods. High culture and progressive methods, resulting in a superior product at least possible cost, will be comparatively unavailing unless we join hands for our own protection. High class soil-tilling and co-operation are the inseparable requisites of success.—Florida Farm and Fruit Grower.