

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

Vol. 4.

RALEIGH, N. C., MARCH 12, 1889.

No. 5

DIRECTORY OF FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS.

NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS' STATE ALLIANCE.
President—S. B. Alexander, Charlotte, N. C.

Vice-President—T. Ivey, Ashpole, N. C.
Secretary—L. L. Polk, Raleigh, N. C.
Treasurer—J. D. Allen, Falls, N. C.
Lecturer—Dr. D. Reid Parker, Trinity College, N. C.

Assistant Lecturer—D. D. McIntyre, Laurinburg, N. C.
Chaplain—Rev. Carr Moore, Townsville, N. C.

Door Keeper—W. H. Tomlinson, Fayetteville, N. C.
Assistant Door Keeper—R. T. Rush, Mt. Gilead, N. C.

Sergeant-at-Arms—J. S. Holt, Chalk Level, N. C.

State Business Agent—W. A. Darden.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS' STATE ALLIANCE.

Elias Carr, Old Sparta, N. C.; Chairman; Thaddeus Ivey, Ashpole, N. C.; J. S. Johnston, Ruffin, N. C.

THE NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS' ASSOCIATION.

President—Elias Carr, Old Sparta, Edgecombe county.

B. F. Hester, Oxford, Secretary; S. Otho Wilson, Vineyard, and W. E. Benbow, Oak Ridge, Assistant Secretaries.

VIRGINIA STATE ALLIANCE.

President—G. T. Barbee, Bridgewater, Virginia.

Vice-President—T. B. Massey, Washington, Virginia.

Secretary—J. J. Silvey, Bridgewater, Virginia.

Treasurer—Isaiah Printz, Luray, Virginia.

Lecturer—G. H. Chrisman, Chrisman, Virginia.

Asst. Lecturer—J. S. Bradley, Luray, Virginia.

Chaplain—Wm. M. Rosser, Luray, Virginia.

Door Keeper—B. Frank Beahm, Kimball, Virginia.

Asst. Door Keeper—G. E. Brubaker, Luray, Virginia.

Serg't-at-Arms—O. H. Lillard, Washington, Virginia.

State Business Agent—S. P. A. Brubaker, of Luray, Virginia.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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

AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGES.

The Theory and Management of the Mississippi A. & M. College.

No. 5.

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

MR. EDITOR:—The A. & M. College, since its establishment in 1880, has not interfered with the attendance of students at Oxford, and has given such an impetus to education in the State as to increase the number of students at the Baptist Denominational College at Clinton by about an average of 69 a session and also to increase largely the attendance at normal colleges and schools throughout the State. It has had an average attendance of 311 students a session, and in the session of 1887-88—more students than at Oxford—and this, too, on an appropriation of \$5,428 less than received by the University.

In spite of these facts, the last Legislature gave the A. & M. College \$21,284 less than that given the State University for its support for the sessions of 1888 and 1889. A discriminating apportionment law also passed requiring that Mississippi boys, in excess of the quota from the respective counties, should pay a tuition fee at the A. & M. College, and this, too, when students from Tennessee, Louisiana, Arkansas and other States were given their tuition free at Oxford. The money given to the A. & M. College for its support was hampered, taking from the trustees the power given them to fix the salaries of president and faculty, and disburse as in their judgment they thought best. The act reduced the salaries below those paid similar officials at the State University. Nothing was done about the salaries at the other State colleges.

In spite of a better record than any other State institution, these adverse discriminations were made against the A. & M. College and violent attacks were made on its management.

I propose to examine some of the objections made in the Legislature, and by others through the public prints, believing that a misinformation as to facts exists, and that the opposition in most cases was honestly entertained. Every public institution has enemies, but public criticism and examination will only strengthen those that are properly and economically conducted.

1st. It was claimed that a great debt of \$40,000 has been saddled on the State by the establishment and support of the college for the eight years of its existence. The same Legislature which established the A. & M. College "acknowledged a debt to the University of the State of \$544,061.

The State either had to refuse a bonus of \$227,500 from the general government, or, if accepting it, obliged itself to establish the college. She only had three years in which to decide; she accepted the conditions of the gift and has established the college. One of the conditions of acceptance was to establish a college, "when the leading object should be to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and mechanic arts, etc." * * * The value of this college property is now over \$206,000 an investment of the State, for the law prescribed that the State must provide buildings and outfit. Then was the State debt also created "in enlarging the asylum at Jackson, in building the new asylum Meridian and in starting the J. H. C. at Columbus and increasing the common school fund.

2d. It was claimed that the students attending the A. & M. College were not equally proportioned to the different counties, but that twelve counties had one-half of the students attending, and twenty counties were not represented. Some counties appreciated education more than others and send more students to all colleges and schools; and no law can compel counties to send students unless they want to do so. One thing is certain: no county has ever been refused room for students, equal to its quota, if they could otherwise comply with the conditions of admission. This was claimed as a great crime in the management. The facts are, the A. & M. College was ahead of the University of the State in equal distribution and ahead of colleges in Alabama and any other State, and even had a better record than the three most largely attended A. & M. Colleges in the United States. Oxford had one-half attendance (1887) from seven counties and other States and twenty-seven counties not represented.

The A. & M. College of Alabama and also the University do not show as good a record as our A. & M. Michigan Seven counties and thirty-four States have one-half and thirty-four counties not represented. Kansas—four counties and other States one-half and twenty-five counties not represented. So it appears that this objection had no foundation by comparison. If it is a crime and needs legislation to correct it, why not apply to all State Colleges receiving support from taxation?

3d. It was claimed that only wealthy boys can attend the A. & M. College. The record shows that \$124 will cover all necessary expenses, and over \$25 of this a year is really for clothing, which is not included in the necessary expenses of other colleges in their published catalogues.

The Board of Trustees carefully looked into this matter. They say: "After careful enquiry, we are satisfied that, while the college is open to all, yet the son of no rich man attends it; the boys here are either wholly destitute of means or are the sons of farmers of very limited means; it is emphatically a school for the poor, and we intend, as far as we are able, to make it subservient their interests." The fact is any live, industrious boy can get through on from \$75 to \$100 a session for board, books, medical attention, fuel and every expense. These official facts are certainly more reliable than reckless, careless assertions.

4th. It is claimed that the sons of farmers do not attend the college. The record shows that in the last session 82 per cent. of all the students attending were the sons of farmers, and the balance were mostly sons of men engaged in industrial pursuits.

5th. It was claimed that the salaries paid the president and professors were too high, although they were paid the same salaries as paid at Oxford and at most first-class colleges. The reduction made by the Legislature caused the college to lose several of its best professors, who had mainly contributed to build it up. The salaries of the professors were reduced from \$2,000 to \$1,500. Texas took one and paid him \$3,000; West Virginia took another and paid him \$2,500. One of our graduates was receiving \$800 as assistant professor and the college wanted him for one of these vacancies. Texas offered \$2,250 and took him. Another graduate was receiving \$480; Kentucky offered him \$1,200 and took him. Larger salaries were offered to two other professors, but they determined to remain by the Mississippi College, believing the next Legislature would correct the matter, and could and would pay her officers as much as other States. The board had to fill the vacancies with younger men of less reputation and experience. Even these gentlemen cannot be kept at their present salaries, but will be carried to other States

in the near future. A few more such experiments and radical changes will break up the institution or reduce it to a second rate college. A man or commodity is worth what he or it will bring on the market. Mississippi cannot keep first-class institutions unless she pays the same price for professors as other States do for the same grade of talent. The most important part of any college is a learned, earnest and competent faculty. Why discriminate against the faculty of the A. & M. College? Why should the State not be equally liberal to all her institutions? Are they not all supported by taxation? Is this any good reason why the sons of farmers should have second-rate teaching and the sons of others have first-class teachers? The State should hold the scales equally and treat all her sons alike.

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.

THOSE THREE LETTERS.

MR. EDITOR:—Of the many interesting articles in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER of the 19th instant—which, by the way, is the best number I have ever read—there are three to which I wish to call the special attention of all casual readers, viz: "Diamond," "Fogy" and J. B. Smith's. "Diamond's" would be a gem of the first water, but for the "sand," which many think ought to have been left out. The deep "growl" of "Fogy" is the sort of music to which we farmers ought to dance. It is the right letter in the right place; but as to his "wire grass," I would like to know whether it is not about as hard to keep inside the pasture as the "fat cattle and sheep" that luxuriate upon its juicy joints? as a slight experience convinces me that when it breaks out and anchors in a fellow's "crap," "All the King's horses can't pull it up." I quite agree with him that "crab grass" for hay is the best. I have never had enough of it—except at hoeing time.

Brother J. B. Smith's letter very naturally leads one to conclude that he drilled in the wars, where to "hep," "halt," "right dress," &c., was the "order of the day;" and whilst many will agree with him in the main, they will doubtless think all the same that a little independent "skrimage" now and then would greatly enliven the troops. Does he not well remember how the battle of "First Manassas" encouraged the victorious "Old Rebs" who had not been thoroughly organized? I, too, participated in the "late unpleasantness" and can testify that some of the best fighting I ever witnessed was by gray-headed "Tar Heel" conscripts, who joined us on a march to the battlefield. I believe, with "Fogy," that "County, State and National Alliances are and can only be what the Sub-Alliances make them." Bro. S. evidently thinks the Sub-Alliance that "resolved to use no guano put up in other than cotton sacks" was most too previous, inasmuch as no such order had been sent down from headquarters. If necessary "for the good of the order," I could refer him to a Sub-Alliance that, for its own convenience and benefit, set on foot an enterprise which has naturally benefited many Alliances in three counties. "Tall oaks from little acorns grow," therefore let us "despise not the day of small things." The Sub-Alliance that waits for the thorough organization and co-operation of the several branches of the "Industrial Army" will be left in the lurch.

Fraternally,
SUB-ALLIANCES.

TALKS BY AN OLD FOGY.

No. 2.

The condition of the public roads in any country is an index to its prosperity. This proposition all tourists will tell you cannot be controverted. To illustrate what I wish to impress, I will take the first county on the Roanoke that has large areas of bottom lands. By the census of 1880, Halifax had in round numbers one-fifth of the population of this State. If the convicts now in the penitentiary or sentenced thereto were divided *pro rata* among the counties, Halifax county would have twenty-five convicts. Quite as many more would be added from short jail sentences. This would give Halifax fifty convicts—and three hundred days to the year would give the commissioners 15,000 days work in one year. Yes, I heartily favor each county using her own convicts on public roads.

"All roads lead to Rome."
Put in first class order the roads leading to the county seat—to the various railroad depots—to our factories and mills. When once properly

graded and rounded, they would need but little repairs for years.

It certainly is not just to require a citizen who owns no land to work the roads three, six, or more days in the year while the citizen who is over forty-five and runs teams and wagons over the roads almost constantly does not contribute one hour's labor towards putting them in good condition. Building roads is done at the expense of the county—the cost of the land and labor is raised by an equitable tax imposed on all alike, just in proportion to their means. Not so when once declared public highways. Then the tax is no longer equal or just.

7,500 days work with a road scraper and one team would make the roads of Halifax like boulevards.

I see hundreds of carts and wagons pass where I now write, yearly. The carts generally have 600 pounds of fertilizers or one bale of cotton for a load, the double teams have about 1,200 pounds of fertilizers or two bales of cotton for a load.

One of your correspondents referred to the roads of Ohio, before they were piked. I have seen four horses hitched to an empty wagon and could not move it. The roads were in spring time almost impassable. They were gravelled or "piked" at a great expense but the lands increased in value from 20 to 40 per cent.

A good team ought to pull 3,000 pounds, they do it easily in the North on roads quite as hilly as any in Wake. Now, the expense of placing a bale of cotton at the railroad station where it takes a day to go and return is about \$1.00. If the roads were properly graded and rounded it would not be over 40 cents per bale for the same distance. This is a loss of 60 cents per bale, and in moving the cotton crop of the county we have taken an example amounts to more than it would cost to provide for the convicts (her share) and guards for six years. Perhaps we think the policy of "saving at the spigot and letting it run at the bung" a good one.

When the roads were all adjusted properly you may ask, what then? I answer. Let them be employed in putting up levees or dams along the Roanoke river and other large streams to protect the adjacent lands from overflow. In a Hand Book published for distribution by this State, I find: From Weldon to Palmyra is 60 miles by the river, and the amount of acreage that the Roanoke overflows and renders comparatively worthless, I am informed by one of the ablest men in Eastern Carolina, is about 60,000 acres. These lands subject to overflow are now worth from \$5 to \$10 per acre, but would be very cheap at \$50 if the river was kept within bounds. That is to say, lands now at the highest estimate that are only worth \$600,000 would then be worth \$3,000,000. But further: Halifax has about 450,000 acres and a little over one-fifth of its entire area is rendered comparatively worthless by reason of its streams overflowing. If its streams were dyked the real property of Halifax would be worth \$6,500,000 more than now.

The time will come, and that soon, when if for no other reason this work will be done from a sanitary standpoint. Nine of our Eastern counties, with lands as rich as the Mississippi bottoms, have a combined area of over 1,000,000 acres that to-day is worth nothing, breeding malaria, a pest, a stench in the nostrils of the State.

The reclamation of these lands would add \$50,000,000 to the wealth of the State, more than all the debt, more than the cost of our railroads.

I have purposely taken a county where the largest area in the State forms the boundary line; because I have heard it said if this were done Bertie would suffer correspondingly. That old idea is exploded. The Roanoke, when doing its best, does not carry one-tenth part of the water the Mississippi does, and Capt. Eads deepened the channel by jetties so that where once was a bar, now we have 26 feet of water. Holland has dyked the sea and its wave power is as 1,000 is to 1 compared to the Roanoke at the foot of the falls at Weldon. All the water that flows down the Potomac at ordinary stage passes under one span of the chain bridge at Washington, D. C., about 100 feet in width, but it has cut a channel as deep as it is wide. Let this policy be pursued, and without aid from the government our rivers would be navigable and commerce would largely increase. Ten years' labor, intelligently directed, by the convicts of this State would increase the real valuation of this State by over \$100,000,000.

I have no axe to grind. I have no interest in a foot of land that would thus be dyked or drained. It would

benefit every citizen in the State. To double the taxable property of this State would be to lower the tax rate 50 per cent. Will you oppose a measure because Mr. A or B will receive greater benefits than you? If these lowlands were enhanced in value, your uplands would also be worth more than now.

Think you the people in the Western States have grown rich by their superior farming or because of the richness of their lands? I know this is the general idea, but there is much of error in it. I have travelled over all the Western States; I have seen them develop into greatness. Where cities are now, I have camped and slept, while the coyote howled the night long about me. I have seen the poor settler suffer as you have never seen your most indolent negro. No, sirs; they grew rich by reason of their environment. A civil township is six miles square, and if you and I, kind reader, were the only two that lived in that township the lands would only be worth \$1.25 per acre—the government price. But when each section is occupied, each quarter tilled—though the tiller only makes a scanty living—yet his land rises in value and is worth forty-fold. Is land in the city of Raleigh worth any more than twenty miles away? If so, why? Simply because of the greater aggregation of the race.

North Carolina, freed from the narrow policy that now dominates, would leap into prosperity. Her capabilities are not dreamed of; her possibilities are read aright would sound more marvellous than Arabian Tales.

Brethren of the Alliance, to you, and to you alone, we look for the disenchantment of the Old North State.

OLD FOGY.

FROM "OLD" NASH.

SAPPONY ALLIANCE, No. 724,
Nash County, N. C.

MR. EDITOR:—Our Alliance was organized with thirteen members; we now have about sixty of as good members, I think, as any Alliance in North Carolina. We are fast working up all the good material in our reach and have not yet had any trouble of any kind. We take hold of things cautiously but surely, and we know no such word as fail. We intend to raise everything at home; make no debts that we can reasonably avoid and give no mortgages; buy little or no guano; make our lands rich with our barnyard, stable litter, scrapings from our waste places and by carrying in decomposed matter, and a proper survey of unlevel land with hillside ditches properly arranged. We intend to make more cotton on less land; plant more land in grain, raise more stock and better stock and not patronize any trust or combine designed to oppress the farmer. We are determined to stand together as a unit in all our important dealings, and we are sure that a brighter day is just ahead.

Fraternally yours,
B. H. HESTER.

COUNTY ALLIANCE ORGANIZED IN VIRGINIA.

COURTLAND, Southampton Co., Va.,
February 16, 1889.

MR. EDITOR:—Notwithstanding the incessant rain, G. T. Barber, of Bridgewater, Va., President of the Virginia State Farmers' Alliance, filled his appointment at Courtland, on the 16th inst., where he met a goodly number of his brother delegates, representing the Sub-Alliances of the county and organized a County Farmers' Alliance, with the following officers, viz: G. W. Miller, President; J. T. Turner, Vice-President; W. W. Ellis, Secretary; C. Everett, Treasurer; R. N. Williams, Chaplain, J. R. Bryant, Lecturer; John Pretlow, Sr., Assistant Lecturer; G. W. Williams, Doorkeeper; W. W. Webb, Assistant Doorkeeper; W. E. Edwards, Sergeant-at-Arms, and L. H. Gay, Business Agent, after which this body adjourned, to meet at Courtland at 10 a. m., February 27th, 1889. That is the way the noble work is progressing and it will continue to grow and flourish as long as we have such men for our leaders as G. T. Barber, our State President, and Col. L. L. Polk, editor of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. Brethren, if you wish the Farmers' Alliance to be a success, you should work incessantly for subscribers to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. I, for one, would not be without this paper for any consideration.

Fraternally yours,
W. W. ELLIS,
Sec'y V. F. A.

Silence is the fence around wisdom.

LETTER FROM MICHIGAN.

A Western Hoosier Solves the Southern Fertilizer Question.

DAVISON, Mich., Feb. 19, 1889.

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER.—Dear Sir:—I am in receipt of a sample copy of your paper, for which accept thanks. It is quite acceptable, giving, as it does, an insight into the affairs of a region of country of which we, in this section, know about as little as we do of the Transval. The article on "Alliance Factories," that by Gen. Lee, of Mississippi, the work and aims of your farmer societies are very able and interesting. The Alliance is something I know nothing about. I am a farmer and despise our climate. A blizzard prevails today, with snow flying at the rate of forty miles an hour. I am surprised at the small amount of land advertised for sale. How are lands down there for price? In looking over your columns, one of the most noticeable features is the frequent mention of fertilizers, chiefly commercial. It strikes me the South has an inexhaustible mine of fertilizers lying unworked at her doors.

With us all the refuse of the great slaughter-houses is compounded with some heavy and cheap substance as sand, &c., and sold to the farmers. Leached ashes are shipped from here by car-loads, to be mixed with something else and retailed at \$40 a ton. Farmers sell the ashes to buyers at a bushel for a bar of soap. State farm analysis places the value of hard wood ashes at \$1 a barrel. Quotations put the soap at two to five cents a bar. I do not doubt that this kind of fertilizer is shipped even to Florida at as high as \$40 a ton.

We are foolish for selling the unleached ashes—you are as simple for buying the leached—for on your border lies the great golf, full of animal life. If dried blood, a little bone and acid, with whole heaps of sand and leached ashes are good, fish composted must be worth something.

There are enough sharks off your coast to keep you in fertilizers, and more are hatching. It wouldn't require an immense capital to put a schooner in the business of catching them off the Indies for fertilizer manufacturing.

It would not require a very costly dynamo to kill them, with an electric current, when they have taken the bait; still less to kill them with a dynamite cartridge and electric spark, when the bait is swallowed.

Couldn't this fishery, just for fertilizers, be made as profitable as whale fisheries?

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER speaks of Alliance factories. Can't your Alliance start a co-operative fertilizer factory and draw the flesh material from the gulf?

Get to the front of the procession; "there's millions in it."

Sell me a piece of land, some of you, while I come down and truck-farm and help you boom truck, canneries and shark-fishing for manure!

ERNEST HOLLENBECK,
Davison, Mich.

N. B.—Have you any Agricultural Colleges down South? Get the Professor of Chemistry to make an analysis of shark meat and see what its value is. From my reading I judge it is not very oily, is never fished for its oil product—not bony. It must be muscle, and, therefore, nitrogenous—just what your soil needs. It is worth investigation. I believe it can be made a vast industry and the goods sold North, too.

A RELIC OF THE WAR.

An Old Check Book of the Quarter-Master General of the Confederacy Found.

In a bundle of papers purchased by Mr. E. E. Wheeler, of Washington, the other day, an old war relic was discovered. It was the check book used by the quarter-master general of the Confederacy during the last days of the war. They were drawn on the treasurer of the Confederacy, and the dates ran from January 26th to April 1, 1865. Seventy-nine stubs remain in the book, representing over \$6,000,000 in checks. The largest check was to the treasurer of the Richmond and Danville road for the transportation of troops and supplies, while the Atlantic and Gulf Company got one check for \$583,857.46 for the same purposes. A check for \$47,934.54 was given to pay a telegraph bill. In some cases the stubs show that the creditors had no confidence in the checks and demanded and got specie by submitting to a discount of 40 per cent. Nearly every railroad company on the eastern coast of the late Confederacy received checks.