

The Progressive Farmer.

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RALEIGH, N. C.

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THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, Raleigh, N. C.

RALEIGH, N. C., MAR. 26, 1889.

This paper entered as second-class matter at the Post Office in Raleigh, N. C.

The Progressive Farmer is the Official Organ of the N. C. Farmers' Association and N. C. State Farmers' Alliance, and the Virginia State Farmers' Alliance.

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ANOTHER ALLIANCE WAREHOUSE.

We admire and applaud the conservatism which characterizes the Alliance in our State in the matter of inaugurating new enterprises. In the main such action is guarded by caution and prudence, as it should and as it must be, if these enterprises succeed. The Alliance warehouses which have been established at Henderson, Reidsville, Oxford and Durham are all reported as doing well and their success has been satisfactory. They are prudently and economically managed. To-day we add another to the list which we have no doubt with its encouraging surroundings and with the excellent directory that is to control it, will be a success. The stockholders of the Capitol Alliance Warehouse Company met in this city and organized. The counties of Wake, Chatham, Nash, Vance and Franklin were represented. They elected as Directors W. B. Upchurch of Wake, J. M. Green of Vance, Thos. J. York of Nash, C. R. Scott of Chatham, G. L. Aycock of Franklin, and W. C. Stronach of Wake.

S. Otho Wilson was elected Manager, W. B. McGhee Secretary and Treasurer, and Z. T. Broughton Auctioneer.

The Company has secured the splendid Stronach Warehouse and will open for business on Monday, the 25th inst., and the grand special sale will take place on the 3d of April.

TWO FARMERS.

Their Methods for Making Money.

The first selects his best land for cotton. Depends on commercial fertilizers. Buys his meat, bread, hay, fertilizers and everything on a credit at ruinous profits. Is driven from the first of January to the last day of the year by his cotton crop, to the neglect of the improvement of his land, the improvement of his stock, houses, fences, &c. He is in debt, interest is accumulating and he feels that he must be able to count so many dollars in greenbacks as the proceeds of his crop. His idea of good and successful farming is to see at the end of the year a certain amount of money in actual cash as the result of his labor. He does not calculate the ruinous cost at which this money is made. He does not see that for every dollar he thus receives, he has paid one hundred and fifty cents. But he sits down at the end of the year in a cheerless home, wearied and dispirited and surrounded by ignorant children and complains to his faithful and over-worked wife that the merchants have ruined him and that he is living in the poorest State in the Union. He has worked hard, his family has worked hard and they have lived hard, but his money is all gone and he still is unable to lift the all-devouring mortgage. That man and his family are slaves.

The second starts out by fixing in his mind the determination to keep out of debt and to raise his own supplies. He does not believe that a farmer can get rich in one, or five, or ten years. He does believe that he can gain and improve every year. He knows that mankind must have something besides cotton. He believes that if his land and stock and houses, orchards and other comforts of home are improved every year, that he is accumulating wealth in its most solid and useful form, whether he ever produces a single bale of cotton or not. If he makes his own fertilizers, raises his own meat, bread, hay and stock

and multiplies the little comforts which go to make a home of pleasure and happiness and finds at the end of the year that his property has doubled in value, he has done well, although during that time he has not had at any one time as much as one hundred dollars in actual cash. He has time to sow grass and clover, wheat, oats and rye. He has time to look after his cattle, hogs and sheep. He has time to make manure and to improve his lands. He has time to keep his buildings, shelters, &c. in repair and to add to them. He has time to look after his orchard and other fruits. His wife, dear, devoted woman, in stead of wearing out her life in cooking for a lot of negroes to work cotton, has time to look after the adornment and beautifying of her home, to attend to her milk and butter, eggs, garden, bees, chickens and other poultry, and with all this they have a little time to spare socially with their neighbors and to go to church. Such a man is a freeman. He is an honor to his calling. His life and methods elevate and dignify the vocation. He has demonstrated to his boys that farming is not necessarily a life of drudgery and slavery. He thus educates his girls that the bronzed cheek of the farmer-boy sweetheart is not a badge of dishonor. Here is a picture of two classes of farmers. To which, dear reader, do you belong?

IMPORTANT INFORMATION WANTED.

WILL the farmers of your county increase or diminish the acreage of cotton or tobacco? Will they increase or diminish the use of commercial fertilizers? Has the acreage of wheat and oats been increased or diminished? What is the condition or prospect of these crops?

Are your farmers increasing the acreage of grass and clover? Are they economizing and trying to get out of debt, and how? Are they making as many mortgages as usual? What are the evidences that they are trying to make their farms self-sustaining?

What is the general condition of the Alliance in your county? What Alliance enterprises are started or are in contemplation in your county? What proportion of the farmers of your county belongs to the Alliance?

Every member of the Alliance in your county should possess the information sought by these questions. Every Alliance member in the State should have it. How can they get it? Take this paper to your county meeting and read these questions in open Alliance and discuss them and decide on the answer to each one. Select some brother who has the art of condensing and instruct him to communicate your answers to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. Thus we will have a bird's-eye view of the condition of the farmers and of the Alliance throughout the whole State. It will be not only interesting but exceedingly valuable to our farmers. It is just the information that all of us want and need. We trust every County Alliance will see to it that as accurate and full information on these points be furnished us as is possible. The brethren will find that the discussion of these subjects will be instructive, interesting and profitable to all.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER desires to be, at all times and in every way, as useful as possible to the farmers of the State, and it feels that it can render a very valuable service by devoting the necessary space to this object. Do not fail to let us have it.

THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

GOVERNOR FOWLE removed Mr. W. N. Jones as Commissioner and appointed Hon. J. C. Scarborough in his stead. This Bureau has been sustained by a fund from our Agricultural Department. The law provided for the sum of three thousand dollars to be expended on it last year, but that only two thousand dollars should be applied this year. There was a strong inclination in the Legislature to abolish the Bureau, but it was not done and the law was not amended. The salary of Mr. Jones was \$1,500, and of his Clerk, Mr. Broughton, \$1,000, leaving \$500 to pay for office expenses, stationery, printing, &c. But it leaves Mr. Scarborough in an awkward and we fear helpless condition. He has only \$2,000 from which the salary of himself and of his Clerk, Mr. W. S. Harris, is to be drawn and the expenses of running his office, which of course is impracticable. The Bureau either should have been furnished with necessary funds to run it, or it should have been abolished.

At your County Alliance meeting investigate the work done by your county organizers or the work that may be done. If there is a place in your county where an Alliance may be formed, ask the organizer to attend to it. If you have no county organizer and need one, select one and have the County Committee on the Good of the Order to recommend him to this office. The Alliance must have a solid foothold in every township in every county in the State. Brethren, look after this important matter.

COMMISSIONER ROBINSON GOES INTO PRINT.

He Covets the Honor of Having Killed the Agricultural Bill.

(Special to the Charlotte Chronicle.)

RALEIGH, N. C., March 20.—In the last issue of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, published by Col. L. L. Polk, Secretary of the Farmers' State Alliance, appeared an editorial as follows: "The bill to consolidate the Department of Agriculture and Mechanical College, and by which the Farmers' Fund was to be expended strictly in the interest of agriculture, and by which from \$8,000 to \$10,000 would have been saved to the college, was passed in the House by an almost unanimous vote and was promptly sent to the Senate. It was referred to the Committee on Agriculture. The friends of the measure used every effort to have it reported, but in vain. It was strangled and killed by the action of the committee. Even Commissioner Robinson worked day and night against it."

Your correspondent called upon Commissioner Robinson to know why he opposed the bill to consolidate the Department of Agriculture and the Agricultural and Mechanical College. He said he opposed it in the interest of agriculture, aside from any personal grounds whatever.

"Why, he said, if that bill had passed (and I am much obliged to Col. Polk for having given me so much credit in the matter) it would have destroyed the efficiency of the Department almost entirely. The bill changed the number of the board from 9 to 15, with the power to elect a chairman and three of their number as an executive committee, with the full power of the board vested in this committee, in the absence of the board. Every dollar of the fertilizer tax was to be applied to the College, except \$8,000. It changed the office of Commissioner to Secretary of Agriculture, with an assistant secretary. It was virtually intended to do away with the Department and have a new management entirely, with the board amenable to the College, instead of the College being amenable to the board."

"Who was the author of the bill?" was asked.

The reply was "Polk, Leazar and Primrose."

"Did you ever hear of any changes to be made in the officers, provided the bill had passed?"

"Yes, I heard it rumored that Col. Polk was to be the Secretary, Mr. Chas. McDonald, of Concord, to be Assistant Secretary, and Mr. A. Leazar, to be President of the College."

"Could the Department have been run at all on the \$8,000?"

"Under this change the Department could not have run, it would have been so crippled. As Speaker Leazar said to the Committee on Agriculture, 'It would be a tight squeeze.' In other words, the office might have been kept open, but no good could have been done. The organization of farmers' institutes would have to be stopped. The publication of the Bulletin would have to be suspended. We see nothing in the bill except to abolish entirely the entire Department so far as the present management is concerned. The new Secretary with his assistant, with unlimited power vested in three men, together with all the funds, could have done what they pleased to do. My action in causing the bill to be defeated, was not that I was opposed to the Agricultural and Mechanical College, for I am as good a friend to that institution as any man in the State, but when a party of men professing to have the Agricultural interests of the State at heart, go to work to do something great for agriculture, it does seem they should have conferred with or consulted the Commissioner of Agriculture. My opposition was purely for the interest of agriculture, and I am glad that I have received so much credit from the friends of the defeated measure. Other facts in regard to this matter will be brought out as the time allowed will permit."

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER most cheerfully admits to its columns the above interview for a two-fold purpose: First, to grant Commissioner Robinson a perfectly fair showing as a State official and as the self-asserted champion of the opposition which killed a most meritorious measure. And secondly for the purpose of showing the farmers of North Carolina how they are misrepresented, even by the Commissioner of Agriculture himself, according to his own boastful declaration. "My action in causing the bill to be defeated, &c.," says Commissioner Robinson. We thank thee for the words, Mr. Commissioner! This fixes the responsibility for the defeat of the measure and settles that question, if we are to believe the Commissioner.

But it is not our purpose to discuss the merits of the bill to-day. Mr. Robinson promises "to bring out other facts in regard to this matter as the time allowed will permit." We trust he will do so. We want not only "the truth, but the whole truth," in regard to it, and we hereby tender to Mr. Robinson space in the columns of our next issue for a thorough ventilation of the matter. Turn on the light Mr. Commissioner. We want "other facts" for facts are rather scarce in the above interview.

The reader will observe that the

only reference made to Commissioner Robinson in our article was in these words "Even Commissioner Robinson worked day and night against it." For which the urbane Commissioner says: "I am much obliged to Col. Polk for having given me so much credit in the matter." "Not at all!" "Don't mention it!" "You are heartily welcome!!!" But we beg to call his special attention to our words. We said: "Worked day and night against it," but we did not say what influence his work had or how much was accomplished by it. This, perhaps, will appear later.

He published to the world that "Polk, Leazar and Primrose" were the authors of the bill. [And with some people it would be considered a fairly good committee, Mr. Commissioner.] But it perhaps would do no harm to tell the truth about it and say that these gentlemen were all invited to a meeting of farmers of the Legislature in which forty-five of them were present, and were selected and appointed on a committee of five (the other two being Senators Lucas and Campbell) to draft the bill and that the bill was drawn in perfect accordance with the views of that meeting. The Commissioner in his exceedingly communicative mood even went so far as to publish what Madame Rumor had to say of certain gentlemen and made that venerable old Dame impute by implication, to certain of these gentlemen, sinister motives. The old lady had told him that Polk was to be Secretary, Mr. McDonald his assistant and Mr. Leazar to be President of the college. This is certainly news to us for we had never before heard it intimated and for the comfort of the Commissioner we desire to inform him that we are in no sense to be considered as an aspirant or a candidate for his position. We are entirely satisfied with the important duty of working and watching for the farmers in our present capacity, and could and would not accept any place in the gift of any Board, or official, of the State. We must stay where we can watch and expose the schemes for deceiving the farmers. No, Mr. Commissioner old Mrs. Rumor misled you—we do not want your place. We hope you will rest easy and sleep well, on that score.

When we come to discuss the bill which he boasts of having killed, we shall show that he was about as correct in stating its features as he was in the matters referred to and we may show why the party that "attempted to do something great for agriculture" should have been guilty of the unpardonable crime of not "conferring with or consulting the Commissioner of Agriculture."

"SHORT GRABS" ON THE WAR-PATH.

LICK LOG, March 22, 1889.

Great Scott! Mr. Editor, the air is just sulphurous! Its a perfect circus to go over to our postoffice. Blame me, if I don't believe some of our deacons and stewards will lose their religion, and if they are so badly stirred up you may guess the temperament of us outsiders. There are some expressions dropped about here that you don't find in Paul's letters to the Romans. You see, our people take several of the Raleigh papers and we are watching things. When we saw so many of the farmers were in the Legislature we felt good. Of course we knew they were all right, and as for the lawyers and others, we remembered how they read from our Alliance papers when they were making speeches and courting us for our votes, and how they did promise! They could just beat old Pharoah making promises. So we all felt safe and looked for something to be done. Well, we saw it. When your "Lobby Brigade" made that famous charge they scattered worse than a regiment of home "melish" when they were charged by Sherman's cavalry. But we make some allowance for it, as they were mostly raw recruits, and didn't understand the maneuverings of the wily old political leaders. After the boys got used to it we could see they improved, and it was not so much a want of backbone as it was a want of experience. The fact is, before they got through, the most of them showed that they could stand fire first-rate, and we are proud of 'em—not all of them, but the most of 'em. Some folks are mad and awfully disappointed because the farmers and Alliance men didn't just tear the earth up and make fools of themselves generally. But if you want to hear a lively rattle and almost feel the earth tremble just get in a crowd of our farmers down here and say—Railroad Commission! When I was a courting boy and my sweetheart would blush and her sweet little pink ears would turn crimson red, she would say some one was talking about her. If that's a sign, then that immortal "fifteen" and that immortal "thirteen" in the Senate who killed that bill had better wrap their ears in ice to keep them from melting from their heads. "Little Bill Jones, Jr.," as the boys call him, was over at the postoffice the other day when I went over to get my mail and I read to him the vote on the bill and he boiled over. You see he lives just over the line and voted for one of that crowd. My Senator was a lawyer, but he stood by the farmers and all the people like a man. And when I see how the lawyers

stood by us—some of 'em—and how some of the farmers deserted us; I am ashamed of the name almost. "But there is a 'sweet bye-and-bye' in politics, and don't you forget it. The great big majority that passed the bill in the House is entitled to the thanks of the people, but what do you suppose our 60,000 Alliance men and 60,000 men who don't belong to the Alliance, who wanted that bill to pass, is going to do about it? The Senate just said to the capitalist: "Come down here to North Carolina, and build as many roads as you please, where you please and how you please and run them as you please and charge what you please and make as much out of our people as you please and do as you please and pay what tax you please and 'none shall dare to molest or make you afraid.'" That's what the Senate says. What do the people say? You will hear later. We know how these men were elected and who elected them. When I was a little shaver I was in the shop one rainy day where my father was making a pair of plow-handliss, and talking about a neighbor who cheated him in swapping pigs, he said: "My boy, if a man betrays you one time it is his fault, but if he does it the second time it is your fault." There are several counties in this State where every voter ought to paste that vote inside his clock and write that sentence in big letters right under it.

SHORT GRABS.

THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND POLITICS.

By Hon. S. B. Alexander, President State Alliance of North Carolina.

In all the States in which the Farmers' Alliance has been organized, except Texas, it is comparatively a new organization. The rapidity with which it has been organized has astonished every one, and it is unreasonable to expect that its members should comprehend the full scope of this grand organization with the limited opportunities afforded them. The first section of the declaration of principles is misunderstood by more of our members than any of the others—caused by newspapers and persons not members of our order, designedly or otherwise. We frequently see statements like the following: "The Alliance must not go into politics;" "Keep the Alliance out of politics;" "Politics must not be discussed in the Alliance," etc., etc. Rice, sugar, wool and potatoes may be political topics one year, and the next their places may be supplied by other farm products. To hold that the Alliance cannot discuss laws or proposed laws that affect their interest is to deprive our members of the inalienable right of self-protection. The first section of the declaration of principles reads as follows:

"1. To labor for the education of the agricultural classes in the science of economical government in a strictly non-partisan spirit."

This declaration makes it the duty of Alliances to consider any laws or proposed measures that will either benefit or discriminate against the agricultural classes. This must be done in "a strictly non-partisan spirit," the object of the Alliance being to educate its members "in the science of economical government," so they can vote intelligently, and not depend upon the "taffy" of political speakers or the "one-sided tracts" of political legislature. The ballot is the great protector of the people, and unless our members investigate the laws under which we live and consider the changes proposed from time to time their ignorance will render them an easy prey to the educated politician, and they will be herded and driven by the political whip like the uneducated negroes of the South. "Knowledge is power," "Intelligence rules," "Money is influence," are proverbs of great significance. Knowledge, intelligence and money humanely directed are great blessings to mankind, but governed by rapacity they debauch the ballot and organize lobbies that procure the enactment of laws that make the rich richer and the poor poorer. "No force can arise except by the expenditure of a pre-existing force." So no class can become rich by legislation except by defrauding other classes. Monopolies, trusts, combines and pools flourish to-day to a greater degree than ever before in the world's history. The rapid increase of millionaires, some of whose fortunes exceed the assessed value of real and personal property of certain States, collected within the last thirty years, taken in connection with the scarcity of money among the agricultural classes, shows plainly that under the forms of law this country is drifting into two classes—the very rich and the very poor. Hence the necessity of every Alliance discussing the laws to ascertain wherein we suffer and how we may be benefited. No organized lobby was ever seen in Washington in the farmers' interest, and perhaps will never be seen there. It is only through organization and instruction that the farmers will be able to protect their interest. The Farmers' Alliance does not contemplate organizing a political party, nor does it recognize any political party; but it holds that any party or any man who makes war upon its principles or who discriminates against the farmers' and laborers' interest is

its enemy. The Alliance urges its members to uphold its principles, and if there should be any members "so clogged" by party ties that they cannot stand up like brave men, give them a withdrawal card; the Alliance is better off without them.—National Economist.

FROM OTHER STATES.

We clip the following from letters published in the Cultivator and Country Gentleman, to show our readers the general drift and prospects of farming throughout the country:

J. W., Ontario Co., N. Y., March 5th, says: "Many farmers in settling up their accounts for the year seem to be rather better off than last year, but there are some who want to rent or sell."

G. S., Kent Co., Md., March 7, says: "No demand for farm produce; prices very low. Unless prices are better, farmers will have to stop raising grain for market and turn their attention to small fruits, trucking and dairying."

W. H., from Rock Co., Wisconsin, writes: "Farmers are beginning to seem busy. I think the tobacco acreage will be in excess of last year. Tobacco seems to have become a staple growth in Southern Wisconsin. The crops are prolific and the quality good. This is a settled fact."

S. H. R. writes from Richardson Co., Neb., March 2: "If there is no change for the better, Eastern capitalists will have an immense acreage of mortgaged farms upon their hands, for it will be impossible for the farmers to pay either principal or interest."

On the same line we give the Chicago Express credit for the following from Illinois, Indiana and Nebraska:

J. Webster, Illinois: "The farmers in this county are in a truly pitiable condition, and their blindness to their true condition and the causes that produced them is unparalleled in history. The wealth producers are hopelessly blind to their own interests politically, hence their organizations, non-political, have about as much influence on our law-makers as pouring water on a duck's back, and their political prejudices every four years buries them deeper in this humiliating condition."

Helps county, Nebraska, had, at the beginning of the year 1888, 1,459 farms, and the number of mortgages in force on December 1, was 2,051. The assessed value of the land was \$596,542, and the amount of mortgages was \$1,091,929.

A very interesting letter from the Mississippi Valley in Home and Farm closes as follows:

"Grass and stock build up, while cotton pulls down soils. We are beginning to feel the effects of a long continued seeding of lands in cotton. Yields have fallen off until it is getting to be difficult to obtain half the former yields."

"This fact can be seen in the increase in acreage that has been going on for several years, notwithstanding the increase the yield is surely decreasing. The result of this will be to increase the number of large plantations and the tenant system. Small farms will be sold, and their former owners seek other business. This will be the worst that could happen, for a nation's greatest prosperity comes from the small farms."

"England illustrates the tenant system, France the other. In England the wealth is in the hands of the few. In France in the possession of the many." Homes breed patriots; boarders, anarchists. STEELE'S BAYOU.

And from the same paper we clip the closing paragraph of a long, well-written and very interesting letter from Illinois. Read it:

"In the country, if any murderer is hung, it is not by the courts, but by the people, who, for personal safety, seem to think it necessary to take the law into their own hands."

"Meantime there is a steady tide of the farmers flowing from the country into the towns. They see and feel, while remote from the towns, they are taxed for conveniences and luxuries they are denied the enjoyment of in towns."

"* * * * *
"In the country the land is passing into few and fewer hands. Land-owners are leaving and giving place to tenants; slovenly farming is increasing; redtop is crowding timothy out, and where bluegrass was all-conquering broomsedge raises its rusty front. In short, if affairs go on for the next generation as they have for the past, there will be some cause to repeat for Illinois the sonorous sentence describing the cause of the decay of the greatest empire of ancient times—*Latifundia sperdidero Romanorum*, "Large farms ruined Rome."
B. F. JOHNSON.

Bro. Strickland informs us that Cherry Grove Alliance, of Columbus county, at their last meeting, passed the following resolutions: "Resolved, That we plant more corn, potatoes and small grain and less cotton, and raise more manure at home, and, as far as possible, stop buying supplies on time. 2d. That we buy but half the quantity of fertilizer bought last year. 3d. That we give no loan or mortgage on anything but the crop where the guano has been applied."