

The Progressive Farmer.

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WORKING ON THE GREAT PROBLEM.

The Race War in Ohio.

THE NEW YORK Times of the 31st ult. shows a bad state of affairs in several of the counties of Ohio, growing out of the law abolishing separate schools for the colored people. "School rows" have been frequent and the court dockets are crowded with cases growing out of them. In one place a man was shot, several wounded and a house demolished, in an effort to forcibly eject the colored children. In New Richmond, a town of 3,000 inhabitants, there are about 700 white and 200 colored school children. All the blacks consented for their children to remain in separate school rooms except one, who was determined to force his children into the white rooms. It resulted in his suing the superintendent and thirteen prominent citizens for \$5,000 damages, and the court gave him one cent and costs. Whereupon the colored people created such a row that the board declared the schools closed until September, though three months of the present term remains, and all the teachers will sue for their salaries for the remainder of the term. The dispatch to the Times indicates intense feeling and great excitement.

Here is an out-break founded in open resistance to a plain statute, and in open defiance of a professed sentiment which for long years has been proclaimed from the press, the rostrum, the pulpit, and from the house-tops of all the Northern States, and that outbreak is located in the State of Ohio, and is the legitimate outgrowth of race prejudice, pure and simple.

We do not transfer the picture to these columns for the purpose of taunting our Northern brethren with an inconsistency, which from any standpoint of their position on the social and political status of the negro, cannot be explained or justified, nor to discuss the significant silence of the Northern press on this ordinarily fruitful theme of Northern editors and orators.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER would ally, rather than irritate sectional feeling. It would fraternize and strengthen, rather than alienate and weaken the bonds which should draw us together in a great national brotherhood, and it refers to this unfortunate occurrence simply to reiterate and emphasize its conviction that this great question—the race problem—has simply been stated on the blackboard of destiny. No advance has been made towards its solution, and we stand to-day confronted with the most stupendous question that ever engaged the minds and hearts of a people in all history.

To the people of the South, it is a question of great moment, involving our civilization and our destiny. Two peoples, with distinctive race characteristics, living in the most intimate industrial contact and upon terms of absolute civil equality, the situation to us, means more than to those of the North, who view it from a purely theoretical standpoint. Especially is the Southern farmer forced to brood over it hourly and constantly. He breathes and moves and lives in a stifling atmosphere of uncertainty, and so it will be, so long as the two races shall maintain their present anomalous relations to each other. To him, there can never be any marked improvement or permanent prosperity in the agriculture of the South, so long as we must depend on free-negro tenantry for the cultivation of our fields. The complex and complicated conditions arising from this forced and unnatural experiment, by and through

which, a pseudo-philanthropy would wipe out the God-ordained differences between the races, cannot and will not be appreciated until they are presented in practical shape as in the case with the people of Ohio. The North has much to learn and we of the South much to unlearn about the negro.

"M. Quad," the astute, observant and able representative of the Detroit Free Press, recently made a tour of our State for the purpose of looking specially into our industrial condition and progress, and speaking of this subject says:

"When we of the North refer to the South the negro always comes into the question. His status and his future are regarded by us as a great problem. We are much worried over it at times. It is a matter which should be and can be left with the South to take care of. The Southern negro is a theory with us. He is a solid substance to the Southerner. He knows more about him in a day than we do in a year. He has got more excuses for his failings than any Northern man dare urge. He treats him more kindly than we do the same race at the North."

WILMINGTON--A NEW DEPARTMENT.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER trails with pleasure any movement in any portion of our State looking to the advancement and betterment of our people. It is peculiarly gratified to note, what it regards as the wisest and most advanced step on the part of the city of Wilmington, in this direction, that has occurred in our State. This city obtained the enactment of a law at the recent sitting of our Legislature to allow it to pay to any manufacturing enterprise established within its limits, a bonus equal to the amount of city taxes levied on such enterprise, and the Act was submitted to a vote of its people and was ratified almost unanimously.

Wilmington realizes that street railways, electric lights, water works, opera houses and paved streets, important as these are, do not and cannot make active, thrifty and prosperous towns and cities.

With its already splendid shipping facilities, by land and water, and which, in the near future, are to be enlarged by the addition of two new railroads, with its delightful climate and charming resorts at Wrightsville and Carolina Beach; with its intelligent and public-spirited people, it needs only the quickening pulsations of active, industrial enterprise, which this new departure will surely bring, to make it one of the foremost and most attractive and most flourishing cities on the South Atlantic coast.

It richly deserves it all and more. None have made more noble and unselfish sacrifices for the advancement and development of our State, than the patriotic and large hearted people of Wilmington and of the lower Cape Fear, and their every effort to win success will be attested by the best wishes of all our good people.

IS IT NOT A MISTAKE? CAN IT BE TRUE?

THOUSANDS of our readers will share with us a feeling of incredulity if not surprise, when they read, on this page, the communication signed "Double X." Is it true that we have had such a law on our books for seven years? Is it true that it has been ignored, disregarded and violated? Is it true that the Legislatures during that time, not receiving these reports, have failed to call for them? Is it true that our Governors have not called for them? Is it true that no suits have been brought to enforce the law? Is it true that in all the discussions of commission bills, during the last and previous Legislatures, such a law has entirely escaped notice? Is not "Double X." mistaken? If such a law was enacted in 1871-72, as he says, has it not been repealed? If his assertions be true, then THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, on behalf of the tax-payers of the State, would most respectfully but earnestly request, our worthy Attorney-General to explain this important matter. We respectfully call his attention to that communication and call upon him as the law officer of the State to show, either that "Double X." is mistaken as to the facts, or why the law has not been enforced.

THE BAGGING TRUST.

THE NEW YORK Times of the 27th ult. says: "The Jute Bagging Trust people are evidently intending to run things with a high hand this year. Last year they controlled the product pretty well, but they had neglected to secure all the jute butts in the market and the result was that prices did not go higher than about 12 cents a yard. * * * The people of North Carolina were more bitterly opposed last year to the trust than those of any other State. Several million old bags were sent to North Carolina from New York city alone, one dealer having shipped as many as 500,000 old sugar, grain and potato bags—anything that had weight to it—the producers being willing to pay almost as much for old as for new bagging rather than buy of the trust at its prices." That is North Carolina style. Our

people are slow to move, but the history of their whole past shows that no people are more ready or willing to make sacrifices in resisting what they conceive to be oppression, and none will fight it with more determined stubbornness.

The Bagging Trust is going to try us again. It has control of all the jute butts in Calcutta and in this country and all that are afloat. It has practically the control of the twenty-five bagging mills of this country. So, the only means of thwarting it is, to begin now. Just how it should be done it is not for this paper, nor any of the Alliance people to say, publicly. We may say, however, that steps are being taken by which we think the South can and will be supplied. A most interesting letter from Bro. Clayton, of New Orleans, appears in this paper on this subject. It shows that our people are doing some earnest thinking. Our brethren may rest assured that the officers of the Alliance are not idle. Correspondence is going on that we think will surely deliver us from the grasp of this trust. Meantime, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, as it did last season, admonishes every member who produces a bale of cotton to be firm and unyielding. Make no noise about it, indulge in no complaints, keep cool and keep your own counsel and make up your mind not to use a single yard of trust bagging and stand by it. Remember that you can do without bagging as long as the world can do without your cotton.

A THREATENED INVASION. SOMEBODY over in the Democratic camp has been threatening to read the Statesville Landmark out of the party and Bro. Caldwell, as is his custom, uses some plain, proper, timely and manly language in regard to it. And this spirit of arrogance and domineering, it seems, is not, to be confined to the political camp. Certain political papers and politicians are donning their trappings and they propose to come over into the Alliance camp, and with their little boss-whip, drive certain men out of the Alliance and to take charge, generally, of the Alliance machine and run it to suit their own sweet little wills. They threaten dire demolition and wholesale annihilation to the "leaders" (whoever they may be) of the Alliance. We would respectfully suggest that they bring along several days rations, for they are going into a big job. The Alliance thinks it has come to stay. It thinks it knows its duty to the government. It will do a little more of its own thinking hereafter. It will heartily acquiesce in all measures for the advancement of the general weal, but it will not, be dominated and driven by self-constituted political bosses.

We find the following in all of the Charlotte papers, of last week: WHEREAS, The Alliance has been assailed by the Charlotte Chronicle, and its officers accused of using it to further their political interests, and, WHEREAS, We believe it is said to try to bring about dissatisfaction in our ranks. Therefore be it Resolved, 1st. That we stand firm by our leaders.

Resolved, 2nd. That we denounce the charge as a base slander and falsehood. J. S. DAVIDSON, Pres't. J. M. HANNA, Sec'y Beach Cliff No. 216.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

* * * One of the leading business men of Wilson says that the Alliance is doing more to bring that county into a good, healthy shape than anything and everything that has occurred since the war. He says that he is not making so much money, but that he is glad of it when he sees that it is due to the system of economy which has been inaugurated by that order. And so it will be all over the South when our principles and purposes are well understood by our people.

* * * Statisticians have figured out the corn crop in the United States in 1880 at 2,000,000,000 bushels, raised on 75,567,276 acres, valued at \$700,000,000. The Iowa State Register explains for the benefit of its readers, that this enormous quantity of corn would load 3,000,000 cars with 662 bushels each, requiring 60,000 locomotives to draw it, and at the speed a train is allowed to make through Chicago, it would take one year for these cars to pass through the city; that the train would reach more than around the globe.

* * * One of the most hopeful and encouraging signs of the times is the space and thought devoted to the discussion of great economic questions in our leading political journals. Notably among these is our able and clear-sighted contemporary, the Wilmington Star, whose columns abound with sound views and eminently practical and conservative suggestions to our farmers on very many questions of direct concern to them. It says, of the article in the April number of Belford's Magazine, to which we referred last week, "Decline of the Farmer," and which we begin to publish to-day: "It is pregnant with facts and a strong blow at monopoly." Quoting some of the author's statements, the Star says: "How sadly, sadly true! The Star has taken occasion to warn its readers against being deceived by

the roseate pictures of Southern prosperity based upon manufacturing development. While there is a gratifying and cheerful development along this line, it is a sad and deplorable fact that the farmer is not prospering and is not the power in the government that he should be."

* * * Senator A. L. Moore, of Rockingham county, asks us to say that he voted against the Railroad Commission bill regulating freights and tariffs, as he felt that it gave too much power to the Commission, but that he voted for the Cooke bill. He says he voted for the bill prohibiting the giving away of convict labor and every other measure which he thought of interest to the people of the State. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER most cheerfully gives Mr. Moore the benefit of his statement, as it would not designedly misrepresent any one. It wants the people to know the record of their representatives.

* * * New York and Boston are eating cabbage imported from Denmark. One shipment of 2,000 crates sold in New York in March at \$5 to \$6 per hundred head. In this connection the American Cultivator says: "The best cabbage is now coming from Portland, Me., but the supply is not equal to the demand, and prices are likely to reach even higher figures. Generally speaking, most of the bunch goods received from the South do not find favor in this market. The produce is invariably poorly packed, and does not reach this city in marketable order. All the lettuce used in Boston is locally raised, none being shipped from Southern markets."

* * * Col. R. E. Park, of Macon, Ga., a prominent farmer and a leading citizen of that State, favored us with a call during the past week. We asked him—"what do the people of Georgia think of your Railroad Commission?" "They like it," he replied. "What do your railroads think of it?" "They like it—in fact, it gives general satisfaction to the people and the roads. Our railroads are in a healthy and prosperous condition." "But," said we, "it was argued with great earnestness during the discussion of a Commission bill, similar to yours in our Legislature, that such a bill would deter capital from investment in railroads and would put a stop to their construction and would ruin existing ones." The Colonel smiled and said: "Well, our experience has been just the reverse of all that. We are now constructing a railroad from my city to Palatka, Fla. One hundred and fifty miles is completed and its stock is to-day worth \$2.26, and will, it is thought, go to double that price."

* * * Whether are we drifting as a people? Hear what the NEW YORK Times has to say on the Legislature of that great State, which is now in session: "From this time forth the utmost vigilance will have to be exercised over all legislation, for the session has reached the point where corruption will influence the passage of bills that more directly affect the interests of the people. This will be a great week for this Legislature. The Railroad Committees of the Senate and the House will go through the farce of reporting Mayor Grant's Rapid Transit bill Monday night, and will then ask that the bill be recommitted to the respective committees in order to let Jay Gould and railway wreckers like him propose such amendments and make such modifications as will please him and the interests he represents. Legislation has reached that point where the interests of the State must be rendered subservient to those of corporations. The people have no rights that corporations, legislatively speaking, are bound to accept."

ALLIANCE NOTES.

Members of the Alliance, when writing to us, will greatly favor us if they will always give the No. of their Alliance. We have given the sixth and seventh pages of our paper to the exclusive use of the Alliance. Use them, brethren. For all official orders, rulings, notices, &c., the brethren will examine these pages.]

—St John Alliance, No. 1,281, formally declared against high-priced guano at its last meeting.

—A brother writes that a majority of Powell Alliance, Wake county, have reduced their cotton crop at least one-third from that of last year.

—Business Agent, John Rodrick, of Mt. Pleasant Alliance, No. 1,227, Morganton, N. C., says he has 1,200 bushels of corn to sell to Alliance men. Any in need of corn are requested to communicate with said Business Agent.

—S. A. Hauser, Deputy Organizer of Forsyth county, reports three Alliances organized in one day, and says: "I have made arrangements to travel this summer and preach the Alliance gospel to lost sinners, who have not heard the good news."

—The following contributions to the relief of Bro. William Andrews, have been received: State Line Alliance, No. 1,134, \$1.40; Center Point, No. 813, 50c.; Silver Spring, No. 493, 50c.; Mt. Pleasant, No. 19, 75c.; Hood Swamp, No. 650, \$1.00.

—Bro. Hopkins, of Monroeton says: Our Alliance met last Saturday, March 23d, and transacted some important business. Secretary Jones made up a club for THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and you will find your hum-

ble servant among the number. I am in hopes it will be in the hands of one hundred thousand farmers before 1890. One or two words about the farm, then I will stop. The wheat crop is looking as fine as I ever saw it. Less guano will be used this year than for many, and more compost.

—At a called meeting of the Columbus County Alliance, the brethren pledged themselves for the future to make more compost and domestic manure and use less commercial fertilizer; to plant more grain and other table comforts and less cotton, and strive to obtain better prices for their labor and the products of their soil.

—J. E. Hampton, organizer of Yadkin county, reports the organization of Harmon Alliance on the 23d of March, at Harvel School House, with J. W. Pass, Secretary. The organizer says: "We now have eight Sub-Alliances and a County Alliance. The county will now be organized at an early date. The farmers of Yadkin are beginning to realize the necessity of organizing for protection. May our grand and noble order grow and flourish until its influence shall be felt in every nook and corner throughout the Old North State."

—Shiloh Alliance, No. 807, on the 16th of March, adopted the following: Resolved, That we will pay no attention or give any support or countenance to any of those "sharks" who advertise, in many of the papers we pick up, that they will give such liberal terms to agents, or, if you will send them 25 or 50 cents or one dollar they will send you five or ten times the worth of your money. 2d, That we recommend that every Alliance in the State adopt the same or a similar resolution. 3d, That in the future we will pay more attention to the raising of grasses, clovers, oats and all root crops suitable for stock.

—A brother writing from Alliance, No. 1,433, Boomer, Wilkes county, says: "Our Alliance is in a prosperous condition. We organized with eight and we now have twenty-seven. We have the best material in the neighborhood in the Alliance and more good men are coming. We were looked upon with suspicion at first, but are now beginning to be considered an honorable body engaged in an honorable cause. We have passed several resolutions which are bringing us value received. The Alliance has a grand work to perform and farmers and professionals are beginning to feel and realize the importance and magnitude of its bearing."

—Spring Hill Alliance, No. 566, Wilson county, met March 19th in call session, and after reading a communication from W. A. Graham, Trustee of State Alliance Agent Fund, and after a free and full discussion of the same, and our present depressed condition as farmers, and the necessity of giving our Agent a commercial standing, the following resolutions were adopted: Resolved, That we, the members of Spring Hill Alliance do order the Secretary to draw on the Treasurer of said Alliance at an early day for the sum of ten dollars and apply the same to the said fund, and 2d, that we ask the aid and co-operation of all Alliances throughout the state.

—On March 5th, the Rockingham County Alliance, in regular meeting, adopted the following preamble and resolutions: "Whereas, we the members of the Farmers' Alliance, of Rockingham county, feel that we have been unmercifully imposed upon by fertilizer companies and their agents in the way of unjust and exorbitant commissions; and, whereas, we deem it impossible for us to realize the merited reward of our labors under such oppression, therefore be it resolved, that we will not buy any fertilizer from agents this year if there is any possible way to avoid it; and be it further resolved, to further this end, that each Sub-Alliance be instructed to make out its amount of fertilizer and report to the Secretary of this Alliance; and further resolved, that we will select a man of our order to buy our fertilizers for us from first hands, and that we will buy no fertilizers at an advanced price."

—The Secretary of Alliance No. 577, writing under date of March 16th, says: "Our regular meeting to-day voted unanimously to use no more Premium Guano now and forever: This was the sentiment of Bluff Alliance without a dissenting voice, and if one of the members so far forgets himself as to use it, as soon as this Alliance learns the fact he will be dealt with. On the 18th of March, 1888, this Alliance was organized with 12 charter members; there are now 64 on the roll; three have been granted dimits and one a withdrawal card. We are surrounded by lodges, but are at work and have recently initiated five members. We have paid \$85.75 to the State Business Agency Fund and are at work to raise more. I was elected Corresponding Secretary soon after we organized, but seeing so much good matter in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, I preferred reading it to my lodge than making an attempt at writing articles for publication. Alliance men everywhere ought to be a unit in all business transactions, and subscribe to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and read it. Much success to you, the paper and the order."

WHY HAS NOT THE LAW BEEN ENFORCED.

Criminal Neglect of Duty Somewhere. MR. EDITOR:—By an act of the General Assembly, passed at the session of 1871-72, it is made the duty of every railroad corporation to make an annual report to the Governor of the operations of the year ending on the 30th of September, to be filed in the office of the Secretary of State by the 15th of November, of each year, which report shall state:

The amount of capital as by charter; the amount of stock subscribed; the total amount of capital stock paid in; the total amount of funded debt; the amount of floating debt; the average rate per annum of interest on funded debt; and in detail the cost of road and equipment; characteristics of road; doings of the year in transportation and total number of miles run; expenses of maintaining and operating the road; receipts during the year from freight, passengers and other sources; dividends on stock, amount and rate per cent.; the number of persons injured in life and limb, the cause of the injury, etc., and many other things too numerous to mention.

It is the duty of the proper State officers to arrange the information contained in such reports in a tabular form and compare the same, together with said reports, in a single document for printing for the use of the General Assembly on the first day of its session.

Though this law has stood un repealed on our statute books for seven years, I venture to say that some of our railroads have never paid any regard to it, and that all of them have for the most part ignored it. Why have they done so? Why do they so continually and persistently violate this law? Are they afraid to turn on the light and let the people see what they are doing? If this law was faithfully complied with, would these reports show such facts as would be damaging to the railroads?

The law further provides that any railroad corporation which shall neglect to make this report shall be liable to a penalty of five hundred dollars, to be sued for in the name of the State of North Carolina in the Superior Court of Wake county. Why have not these suits been brought? Is it not clearly the duty of the Attorney-General to institute and prosecute these suits?

Suppose there are, say, ten of these railroads that have each for ten years failed to make these reports required by the law; the State might recover in penalties fifty thousand dollars, if the officer whose duty it is to institute and prosecute these suits would only attend to his duty.

The Governor who is now in the executive chair has not been in office long enough to become thoroughly informed as to all his duties, and is not to be blamed for failing to call to the attention of the Legislature the almost entire failure of the railroads to make the reports required by law, and the complete failure of the proper officer to sue for the penalties prescribed; but somebody has been exceedingly remiss in the plain and simple performance of their duty.

I have much more that ought to be said on this subject, but will stop for the present for fear of making this article too long. DOUBLE X.

Diversify our whole system of farming and our sons will take to farming, and give up town pursuits. No one could blame them for choosing the towns to the cotton fields. Make farming interesting, and they will come back to the farms.—Maj. John H. Dent in Southern Cultivator for April.

THE FARMER AND POLITICS.

We are glad to believe the Farmers' Alliance has disappointed a good many people. First, it has lived longer than many people expected; second, it has not strayed into politics as many people said it would. The most persistent efforts were made last summer to bring this order into disrepute, when Capt. Alexander, its State President, was a candidate for the nomination for Governor. Had Col. Dockery been elected Governor, not a few would have been ready to say that it was the work of the Alliance. Capt. Alexander's relations with the Alliance and politics have no doubt been honest, but there are some place hunters in the State that have depended upon the Alliance to help them and have certainly been disappointed. The Alliance has purposely disappointed the professional and the unprofessional politician of which every patriot ought to be glad. A politician and place hunter need not join the order and appeal to the farmers, "I am a member of the Farmers' Alliance," with the assurance that he will be rewarded for that. Those on the outside need not ridicule at the order "as a school of ward politics." It has lived wiser and better than its enemies predicted, and has prevented its pretended friends from taking advantage of its influence in most cases.

The Alliance is teaching the demagogue on the outside and on the inside valuable lessons by its disinterested course towards either.—Sanford Express.