

# PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

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No. 12

## DIRECTORY OF FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS.

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**  
E. T. Brumback, Jas. E. Compton and Geo. H. Chrisman.

**FARMERS MANUFACTURING THEIR PRODUCTS.**

OXFORD, N. C., April 17, '89.

MR. EDITOR:—In your issue of the 16th inst. I see an article by Bro. Geo. E. Hunt, which expresses views on the subject of farmers manufacturing their own produce that seems to me to have the right ring. If Bro. Hunt and others who entertain similar views will take the trouble to look on the 6th page and the 4th column, they will see an advertisement to the Farmers' Alliance of North Carolina and of the South, that the Granville County Farmers' Alliance is doing in part, at least, what they desire. All things being equal and to our mutual advantage, we are ready to supply your wants. Let us have your orders.

Yours fraternally,  
A. J. DALBY.

**DAMAGE BY FOREST FIRES.**

AURELIAN SPRINGS, Halifax Co., N. C., April 18, 1889.

MR. EDITOR:—Having had nothing to say from our Alliance, No. 897, in some time, and the brethren are becoming impatient, must say something or I may lose my office. Our report will not be as encouraging as our last for we have had a good deal to contend with in the way of unworthy members. There was so many that joined when we first organized who, it seems, expected the earth, and because they did not get it, have become lukewarm, and others have quit it, seems altogether as they do not attend our meetings, but the majority of our members are as true as steel and are willing to help in every time of need, every man that read the Alliance papers is a good Alliance man. We are doing all we can for the Business Agency Fund. It must be raised.

Wheat and oats are looking well, and a much larger acreage growing than for some years, corn is being planted, some have finished, guano is not as extensively used as was last year. A good many farmers are getting out of the old rut of farming and have commenced to diversify their crops. It seems that last Friday was fire day, the woods in this whole section is burnt over and a good deal of fence was destroyed. Mr. A. Brinkley's mill caught fire from the engine on the same day but was luckily put out, only burning a portion of the top. I must close by asking all of the brethren to let us all come together and raise the State Business Agency Fund. We will want something to wrap up cotton with this fall. Let us be in time. Success to the farmer.

Fraternally,  
Cor., A. S. F. A.



JOHN D. ALLEN, TREASURER OF THE N. C. FARMERS' STATE ALLIANCE.

Mr. Allen was born in Wake county, N. C., June 16th, 1839. Has been on the farm all his life. He volunteered and served in the First Regiment, N. C. State Troops, until his capture at the Battle of the Wilderness, and remained in prison at Point Lookout and Elmira thirteen months, reaching his home in June, 1865. Like thousands of our Southern men, he found himself stripped of all his property and with indomitable pluck rolled up his sleeves and went to work. For seven years he toiled as a tenant and field laborer. By strict economy he was then enabled to buy a small piece of land to which he has added from time to time. He now owns one thousand acres of as good farming lands as may be found in Wake county, and all paid for on the earnings of his farm. He has always observed the safe and sensible rule of raising his farm supplies at home. Mr. Allen is a Deacon and clerk of a Baptist church and has always been an active Sunday school worker. He has been a magistrate for a long term of years and was a member of the Legislature in 1884-'85. He was among the first to join the Farmers' Alliance. At the organization of the State Alliance, in October, 1887, he was unanimously chosen to the responsible position of Treasurer, and at its annual session in August, 1888, he was re-elected without opposition. Mr. Allen is one of the most amiable of gentlemen, an upright and patriotic citizen, and is highly and justly esteemed for his many good qualities.

## LETTER FROM COLUMBUS.

DEY'S MILL, Columbus Co., N. C., Bear Creek Alliance, No. 1,101.

MR. EDITOR:—Having been requested to write something concerning our Alliance for THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, I will jot you a few lines. Our Alliance was organized September, 1888, with nine members and strong opposition by the masses, but time moves on, and with it opposition is disappearing. We are gradually growing and we now number thirty-three, with several applications for initiation at next meeting. While financially our Alliance is very weak, as a whole we are quite independent as to the mortgage system for supplies. We are a grain-growing Alliance and our members have plenty of "Hog and Hominy" and some to spare. While we have not passed sentence on the commercial fertilizers, as many of our order has done, we venture that there are none that has used less than we have; if so, they have used none. Several of our members have erected a "washboard factory." At first it was thought by many to be rather a small thing, but they have proved to those who had doubts that it will pay, and that handsomely, too. We too often look too high for our pockets. We should learn not to "despise the day of small things." As to the Business Agency, we have urged its importance at nearly every meeting, and we were made glad on the 11th inst. at our meeting, when, by a unanimous vote, the Alliance made a subscription from its fund and some private sale will follow soon. I fear we have some in our order who are not good reasons; they joined expecting to be benefited as soon as initiated. To such we will say: You seed your wheat, plant your cotton and corn, cultivate and await the results. So it is with our order. We are planting (and we are not done yet) and cultivating, and when our Business Agency Fund reaches \$150,000 or \$200,000 we will begin to reap; and unlike the crops of corn, cotton, &c., that is gathered only once a year. We will be reaping every time we make a purchase, from a paper of pins up to a two hundred horse-power steam engine. We are anxious to hear from "Woolverine" again. He says we ought to hear him growl. Now, brother, I am perfectly willing that you growl, and would like for you to

come down to the Old State and train some young woolverines, as we certainly are in need of them, and I trust that "Old Fogey" is a young man, and that he will have many days yet to live and continue to give the readers of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER a letter every week. As this is my first effort, I will close with my best wishes for the progress and welfare of the Farmers' Alliance.

I am yours fraternally,  
JOHN H. MOORE, Sec'y.

## ORDER IN GASTON COUNTY.

CATAWBA CREEK ALLIANCE, Gaston Co., N. C., April 22, '89.

MR. EDITOR:—As we have not given you anything from this part of the Alliance fraternity, I shall now try to write you a few dots to let you know that we are alive and hopeful. We have on our roll sixty-six members, but have demitted thirty to another organization. This number includes most of the available material of this neighborhood. Everything is working harmoniously and all seem thoroughly interested in the work of the Alliance.

We have no grievances to interrupt the household. Our membership is composed of the working men, the horny-handed sons of toil who are proud of their avocation and not ashamed to admit that they are farmers and whose farms show that they are admitted by their owners. The young men have among them the spirit of rivalry, each trying to surpass the other in the possession of good stock and crops and fine farms. The negro problem don't disturb us up here. We cultivate our farms ourselves and are proud to be able to be independent. We have one member who has seven sons also, members of the Alliance and good farmers. Let the Southern men imitate the example of these young men and prosperity would smile on us more bountifully and fewer cries of hard times would echo through our hills and vales. I will close by saying that our little band is in full sympathy with the organization and hopefully await the accomplishment of the grand purpose of the organization. The emancipation of the tillers of the soil from the oppression of the unjust combinations of capital. More anon.

Yours truly,  
AMCUS.

## AN ARISTOCRACY OF ACCUMULATED CAPITAL.

Through an Organized, Centralized and Dominating Money Power, Demolition of Silver—The Money of the Industrial Classes—Dominates Legislation, in Contracting and Controlling the Currency, in the Interests of the Few Against the Many, to the Immense Danger of our Civilization and the Subversion of our Institutions.

No. 6.  
[By Maj. R. L. Ragland, of Hycoc, Va.]

While many things have been used as money—the medium of exchange, domestic and national—silver and gold, possessing intrinsic value and convenient forms, long ago became the most universal. Under the Jewish economy, silver is constantly referred to as money. Abraham was rich "in silver and gold," and purchased a tomb for Sarah, his wife, with "four hundred shekels of silver, current money with the merchant." Joseph was sold for "twenty pieces of silver," and there was found in Benjamin's sack "three hundred pieces of silver." The Bible says nothing about gold being used as money, though much valued and extensively used as ornaments and for decoration of temples, altars and palaces.

The Lydians coined money nine hundred years B. C. Greece, about 100 years later; and Rome, not till 281 years B. C. Silver and gold passed as legal tender—the first for over 3,000 years and the latter for 2,000 years. England ceased to coin silver as legal tender in 1815, and the United States demonetized silver in 1873, by a fraud in legislation. The last act was an outrage on popular rights, and a travesty upon justice, for the United States to follow England's example in demonetizing white money, so long the satisfactory and popular circulating medium. The commencement of monometalism in the United States was signalized by the most disastrous financial crash and stringency of modern times.

Every mint in Europe was closed against silver in 1876, and most disastrous results followed. Industrial extremity makes capital's opportunity to cram its insatiable maw with ill-gotten treasure. Thus big fortunes are made while the people groan.

## MONEY AND CIVILIZATION.

The Israelites, at the height of their glory and prosperity, were abundantly supplied with money. The same may be said subsequently of Greece and Rome. The arts, sciences, learning and industries flourished then, as never before. "The history of the Roman Empire is a history of conquest and the accumulation of gold and silver." A careful historian estimates the money of the Empire during the reign of Augustus at \$1,800,000,000, besides hundreds of millions of gold and silver in ornaments, decorations, etc. The same historian estimates the gold and silver in the countries once comprising the Roman Empire, after eight hundred years, as reduced to about \$160,000,000, showing a decrease of \$1,660,000,000.

"The loss of money was followed by extreme poverty, feudal slavery and barbarism. There was no power in the people to resist oppression, for they had no money." The wear and loss of the precious metals and the cessation of coinage, between the reign of Augustus and discovery of America, had nearly extinguished civilization, and reduced the people of Europe to feudal serfdom.

Buckle says Rome fell because the rich contracted her currency for their own benefit, and thus impoverished the people and robbed them of their manhood. One of the clearest thinkers of this age on this point asserts that "the dry-rot began by allowing the land to pass into the hands of the few, thus impoverishing the people."

The political economy of any nation, based upon laws which hinder production and promote or connive at the unequal distribution of the proceeds of wealth accruing from labor, is as false as it is dangerous.

So long as the production of gold and silver kept pace with the increase of population, and afforded a sufficient supply of money for the necessities of trade, commerce and industry, the country prospered. But, from 1810 to 1850, population grew faster than the coinage, and the consequence was, money became stringent; "reaction, stagnation and depression followed the inadequate supply of money in all parts of the world." The balance of trade in this country was soon against

us, forcing additional stringency by the exportation of gold and silver, to liquidate that balance, and thus added to the stringency and distress of our home industries.

**MONEY AND PROSPERITY.**

Then came the discovery of gold and silver on the Pacific slope, and soon afterward gold in Australia, and at a time "when civilization was at a standstill and the wheels of progress clogged for want of money." The average annual product of the mines of the world, in 1850, was \$40,000,000—now \$200,000,000, five times greater now than forty years ago! Enough to vitalize and revive all of our industries. It turned into legitimate channels.

But for the demonetizing of silver in Europe and the United States, the currency of the world would be far more adequate to the wants of the people than it is under monometalism. The financial legislation of the United States and of Europe, in favor of the creditor class—the holders of and strivers after accumulated wealth—in the treatment of silver, has checked industrial progress and lowered the price and income from labor; causing industry and enterprise to languish by enhancing the value of money and securities in contracting the circulating medium.

The volume of currency now in the United States is entirely inadequate to the necessities of the people—less than 35 per cent. of what it was in 1865. It was then \$46.37. Now only \$17.29 per capita. Any wonder, then, this money stricture has throttled industry to swell the profits of capitalists? A little more contracting and tightening of the financial rope, and the goose which has laid golden eggs will have all the life squeezed out of her?

## HISTORY IS AGAIN REPEATING ITSELF.

As the money and wealth of the nation's centre into the hands of the few. The first act in the progress backward was by England's ceasing to coin silver in 1815. But what else could we expect of an aristocratic Parliament, unrestrained by popular representation, but to obey the behests of the money power? The purchasing power of gold is increased, as money becomes scarce and the products of labor cheap, in the ratio of contraction in the circulation. "England is largely a creditor country, of debts payable in gold, and any change which entails a rise in the price of commodities generally; that is to say, a diminution of the purchasing power of gold, would be to her disadvantage."

Money scarce makes money dear. DEAR MONEY MAKES LABOR AND PRODUCTS CHEAP.

A financial policy which enriches a few favored drones, at the expense of the great hive of humanity, is as criminal as it is suicidal. In this age of advanced civilization, the people will not long tolerate legislative favoritism to preferred classes. The leaven of universal freedom and the spirit of equal justice, national, State and municipal, to all classes, creeds and callings, are working all over the world, permeating and elevating all ranks and conditions of mankind; and they will ere long cease to tolerate the semblance of favoritism and nepotism, high or low.

The people of the United States, as nowhere else, see the situation and are setting about to rectify some very unequal, unjust and impolitic past legislation. They see clearly, that the medium of circulation should be made to keep pace with the increase of population, and the necessities of the people; that silver should be restored to its former standing as money; and as a nation we should be financially, as politically, independent of Europe, to promote our commercial and industrial interests and standing.

**SUMMARIZING THE MONEY QUESTION.**

As the home interests of the people over-ride all other considerations, and to emancipate themselves and posterity from financial servitude is vital and indispensable to permanent relief, the farmer and the mass of bread-winners should unite, as one man, to labor unceasingly for its accomplishment.

## TO DESTROY CATERPILLARS.

ROCKINGHAM, N. C., April 17, 1889.

MR. EDITOR:—Please tell the readers of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER that kerosene oil will effectually destroy caterpillars in fruit trees. Apply with a mop made by tying old cloth or waste cotton around a broom handle or other stick of suitable length. Any worm touched by the oil will die in thirty seconds.

## ALLIANCE WAREHOUSE AT HIGH POINT, N. C.

The Rich Fork Farmers' Alliance of Davidson called a meeting and were joined by the Alliances of Randolph and Guilford, and decided to open and run the Anchor Brick Warehouse as a Farmers' Alliance Warehouse, having perfected all the necessary arrangements, they secured the services of T. A. Miles as Manager, who has been running the same house as the Anchor for some time and has, by hard work and patient endurance, added considerably in building up the High Point market. The Alliance Warehouse opened here on the 14th of March. The farmers seem confident of success, and are determined to build up a first-class fine tobacco market here. The lands of Davidson, Guilford and Randolph are finely adapted to the growth of fine yellow tobacco, and the prices realized on this market has greatly encouraged them to push on and enlarge their crops. The demand here is good. The manufacturers of leaf and order men are paying outside figures for all grades here. Every advantage and all the facilities looked for can be found here for manufacturing tobacco. We have a growing town, and besides the tobacco interest here, other manufacturing establishments are going up in every direction; buildings are going up, both business and residences, colleges, schools and churches. In fact everything necessary, with the energy and pluck combined, is here for a city in the near future. W.

**SENSIBLE VIEWS.**

GREAT MARSH ALLIANCE, No. 136, April 16, 1889.

MR. EDITOR:—As there has not been anything written from this Alliance in some time I will endeavor to write something and let the brethren know we are still alive and kicking. Although we have said nothing for so long a time, I can assure you, we have not been asleep. I think that it may be encouraging to the brethren, as it certainly is to us, to know that we have managed to give our Trade Agent a financial standing. Such as will enable him to purchase the bulk of our supplies for this year from wholesalers at cash prices, thus saving to us a considerable per cent. Then we have agreed to purchase as little as possible this year, which will be another saving to us. Thus by little savings here and there, we hope to better our condition. So let us all, to meet a bad crop in the fall (should it be the case), practice close economy in the spring and summer. If we, as farmers, expect to prosper, we must try to make farming pay, and this is what every farmer desires. There is certainly a cause why farming in North Carolina, and I may say the whole South, does not pay better, and one cause I think is this; farmers pay too little attention to the raising of manure. The farmers should raise all the manure possible on the farm, and buy just as little commercial manures as he can get along with. The money paid out by the farmers for commercial fertilizers is fearful to contemplate, and this money goes so far away that it can never get back. Just think of it, the farmers pay yearly thousands of dollars to the manufacture of fertilizers, and what do these concerns buy of the farmers? Nothing! We must raise more manure on the farm and buy less guano. Then here is another heavy drain from the farm. Everything we use, farming utensils, cooking stoves and kitchen utensils, sewing machines, clothes and hundreds of articles too numerous to name, are made hundreds of miles away from our farms, and we have to pay cash for them (freight added) while the manufacturer of these goods and wares buy nothing scarcely from us in return. This is a enough in itself to keep the farmers poor. We must get these factories near us, so we can sell the products of our farms to the laborers employed in them. We are enriching the Northern manufacturers, and the truck farms around them, while we grow poorer year after year. Brethren, we must have manufacturing establishments, for all we need from a sewing machine down to a repairing link, right here in our midst, so that we will have a market for everything we can raise, or the cry of hard times will never cease in our beautiful Southland. These, I think, brethren, are the main causes why we remain poor and "hard up." Don't you think so too? Yours fraternally,  
NOVICE.