

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

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LETTER FROM ORANGE.
BINGHAM SCHOOL, Orange Co., N. C., June 1st, 1889.

MR. EDITOR:—As I have been elected Corresponding Secretary for Chestnut Oak Ridge Alliance, No. 849, I will drop you a few lines. We have made some progress thus far. We number about forty or more. Most of them are good and truthful Christian men, and are going to stand by the Alliance and see that the middle man is knocked out of a position in our line of business as often as possible.

The time has come when we have got to speak for ourselves and stand for the same. We have had experience and somebody else the profit long enough. Our forefathers were oppressed in their native land, and that led them to seek a country that might be justly called the land of the free and the home of the brave. They prayed to the God of Heaven for deliverance. They sent petition after petition to their heartless rulers for relief, but to no avail. The only hope for them seemed to be in the newly discovered American continent. To them it seemed as a last resort; where they would be free from under the tyrannical oppression and have peace and prosperity. Now there is no country to which we can flee from oppression as our forefathers did. The time has come when we must take our stand and fight for our rights and liberties which are being taken from us by the monied men, either directly or indirectly. We have been still too long now for our good, and the sooner we get to work the better for us. We have listened to their silver tongues long enough. Such men as Cheek and others did all they could for us, but there were too many against the farmer. The time is not far distant when we will yet be heard.

Shall the farmers of the good Old North State be the last to declare their independence from under the combines, trusts and monied kings. She was the first to throw off all allegiance to the British Crown and declare North Carolina to be a sovereign and independent State. If she were in the lead in 1775, she should be in that same place to day. Manufactories have increased and have made their millions of dollars in the last twenty years. The farmers have worked long and late, through heat and cold, and how many of the average farmers have laid up \$100 per year for the last twenty years and can show it today in cash or solvent credits and say he owes nobody anything? I don't think you will find many. You can find plenty of manufacturers who make this much and more in one year and never do an hour's work. There

is plenty of room for more enterprises; they are needed, and should be conducted more upon the plan that the Alliance Warehouse has saved for one or two counties. If I make no mistake, and we could have had it ten years ago, we would have saved \$56,454.46.

That is the way our labor has been going. Talk about reform in farming; but as long as we have to pay two prices for everything we buy, and get only half price for what we sell, we may expect to remain poor. Fearing I may take up too much space in your valuable paper, I will close.

Trusting that you will receive your reward for speaking so bold for the good Old North State, I am,

Yours fraternally,
JOHN A. SYKES, Cor. Sec'y.

A LIVE ALLIANCE—SOME GOOD ADVICE.

RAY ALLIANCE, No. 603, Alamance Co., N. C., May 31, '89.

MR. EDITOR:—Not for the mere sake of getting in print do we write, but to encourage the faint-hearted and weak-kneed. Our Alliance was organized a cold, drizzly night by Deputy Organizer Senter, some one keeping up the light by burning a few broom straws till the service was read. There were only six charter members, not enough to fill the offices, so some of us were honored with two.

Since then we have initiated fifty persons, all males. We now have forty members, the others have been dimitted. We have raised \$70 for the Agency Fund, and we have thus far had nothing but peace and good will among the brethren. In a short time we will build us a pleasant and convenient hall. The attendance of the members is good. We don't resolve much. On the subject of using cotton bags, we were a little too previous, but only a year or two. Now, Bro. Polk, don't you think that inasmuch as we are doing so well and acting so exemplary and receiving so much good advice, that we are entitled to give some advice in return? Moreover, does not the Good Book say "exhort one another?" In the first place, I would say let peace abound and brotherly love continue. Let every presiding officer discharge the duties of his office with intelligence and preside with dignity. Let the membership read THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, as does Ray Alliance. Let each member of the Alliance, as God has prospered him, contribute to the State Agency Fund, for without it there cannot be much success. Let every member guard the honor of our order; speak not to the outsider of our business matters, aims or ends; antagonize no one without cause; do without what you cannot pay for; buy only half of what you think you cannot do without.

More anon. B. F. WHITE.

A VOICE FROM VIRGINIA.

HICKORY GROVE ALLIANCE, Norfolk County, Va.

MR. EDITOR:—Not having seen anything in your valuable paper from our section, with your permission I would like to occupy a small space informing the brethren that we, in the southern part of Norfolk county, are beginning to wake up, and are taking hold of our noble order in good earnest.

There are only seven or eight Sub-Alliances in our county, owing partly to the fact that in the trucking port near the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth, the Granges still maintain their organization; and who, by the way, have saved thousands of dollars by their co-operation in buying fertilizers, seeds, etc., and in reducing the charges of freight on their truck.

With us, in our immediate section, corn is the principal crop, though of course, we raise peas, potatoes, oats and some cotton, and now and then, you will find a farmer with hay to sell, and I am ashamed to acknowledge that it is the custom with a great many of us to go to Norfolk every spring and make arrangements with a commission merchant to run us during the crop season by pledging to ship him our crops, and often give mortgages to secure the advances made. At the end of the shipping season after paying commissions, the 9 per cent. and other losses, we find ourselves "barely up and nothing coming."

I take THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and am much interested in the letters from the brethren, and I notice that one or two Alliances in your State seem to condemn co-operative stores. Now, Mr. Editor, we are beginning to think we cannot

do well without a co-operative store. Some two or three Sub-Alliances in our county have made, or tried to make, arrangements with merchants to sell to them at wholesale or a lower rate, and have signally failed in every instance yet, so far as I am informed.

The N. S. R. R. runs through nearly the centre of our county with stations every two or three miles apart, and sometimes nearer; and our idea is to locate a store at some central point on this railroad, so that in buying goods of the manufacturer, or in selling our grain to the consumer, we could run it through to its destination without breaking bulk, thereby saving the extra cost of handling as well as the profits of the middle man.

We thought of dividing the stock into shares of five or ten dollars each, and elect a board of directors of five or more, or one from each Sub-Alliance that might be interested, then employ a suitable man as clerk, etc., etc. We would be much obliged to any of the brethren who have had any experience, or a good plan to suggest in regard to the matter, if they would make it known through our well-merited medium, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

Now, Mr. Editor, you will see by this that writing for newspapers is not my profession, but hoping to get some information from the brethren in regard to an Alliance store, etc., is what induces me to write.

Fraternally,
J. J. W.

FROM THE COUNTY OF CHATHAM.

RIVES CHAPEL ALLIANCE, No. 447, June 4th, 1889.

MR. EDITOR:—As it has been about a year since anything was written from our Alliance, I will write and let the brethren of the order know that we are yet alive. The last time I wrote to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER we had only twenty-seven members, now we have forty-eight. There are some working men in our Alliance. The wheat crops are very fine in this section.

I must say something on the Business Agency Fund. I think the first of all things is to get the B. A. Fund established. It seems that there has been enough said about it to arouse all Alliance men, although there are a good number that are standing back. Brethren, let us one and all put our shoulders to the wheel and push forward. We all should pay something and that will make the burden light. We have paid about \$48.56 to the B. A. F. and more is subscribed. I think the people in this part of Chatham are doing more work on their farms than they have in years. They are beginning to realize the necessity of making their home supplies. Let us try to make times better in our beautiful Southland, raise our home supplies as much as we can and practice economy at all times.

The following officers were elected at our last meeting, viz: J. M. Edwards, President; W. C. Burke, Vice-President; J. J. Johnson, Secretary; L. J. Dark, Treasurer; W. P. Dark, Chaplain; Capt. J. A. Fugh, Lecturer; T. M. Watson, Assistant Lecturer; D. F. Andrews, Doorkeeper; C. W. Burke, Assistant Doorkeeper; C. B. Temples, Sergeant-at-Arms.

I will close. Success to you and THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

Fraternally,
J. E. Down, Sec.

LETTER FROM RIDGEWAY.

RIDGEWAY, N. C., Smith Creek Alliance No. 351, May 27th 1889.

MR. EDITOR:—Our Alliance is progressing but slowly, but we hope to continue to climb step by step until we can reach the top round of the ladder, but we need not expect to accomplish much in some time to come yet, for until the Business Agency is raised we can hardly do anything. We are doing all we can at every meeting to get the amount raised. Some of the members of some of the Alliances in this county (Warren), I am informed, are beginning to get very impatient and anxious to see the Alliance do something for them. We would say to those wishy-washy weak-kneed Alliance brothers, that if they would attend their meetings more regularly and take more interest in its workings, and read THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER regularly they would cease to complain or grumble and would soon become better Alliance men. We do not think that they have ever heard an Alliance speech, those lukewarm members I mean. Brother, does this cap fit you? If it

does, take a true Alliance brother's advice and cease to grumble, be true to the cause and I hope you will reap your reward.

We have not yet been blessed with the presence of any ladies, but think they will begin to make applications soon. We will gladly welcome the presence of brother Harry Tracy, of Texas, provided he visits old Warren county, which I hope he will do, for an Alliance sermon will do a good deal towards strengthening the cause.

At our last meeting our Alliance endorsed by a unanimous rising vote the action of the Birmingham Convention held the 15th inst., to use only cotton bagging for a covering for our cotton.

Fraternally,
J. F. P. HORTON, Cor. Sec.

THE BRETHERN IN OLD BUNCOMBE.

MEMPHIS FARM, N. C., May 30, '89.

MR. EDITOR:—Perhaps you and your many readers would like to hear a little news from this part of old Buncombe county. The Farmers' Alliance is now thoroughly organized in our county and is in fine working order, and it would do your soul good to visit our County Alliance on July 5th and 6th, at which time our County Alliance meets in the city of Asheville. We are expecting President Alexander to deliver us an address on that occasion, and you may be assured that never has in the annals of Buncombe county before so many of our good farmers meet together as on that appointed time. It is publicly announced that Capt. Alexander and some other good speakers will meet with our County Alliance, and address our people on the good of the Alliance and from what I can learn the Sub-Alliances of the county will turn out to a man to hear our President of the State Alliance on that day. The ladies are also going to be on hand, and it would be quite a pleasure to many of your readers of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER to see you on that occasion; and why not attend and let us have one of the greatest days ever known among the farmers of Buncombe county? Our people are delighted with the Alliance, and see more good accomplished by the workings of the order than any organization ever in our county. The best farmers of our county belong to the order, and while a few outsiders say the Alliance is of but short duration, my opinion is that it has come to stay, and in a very short time all our counties in western North Carolina will be organized, and our section in this part of good old North Carolina will be a unit.

Now, Mr. Editor, I think the farmers in this part of our State see the importance of standing together and working for one common cause, for if ever a class of people since the formation of our State has been ignored, it is the farmers of North Carolina, and they begin to see it every day they live. It is true we have had men who pretended to be friends to our toiling farmers—that they were their friends and would do everything in their power in State Legislatures and other high places for the relief of the dear farmers, but our good people have given up all hope of the politician ever doing much for the relief of the people. Hence the necessity of our people standing firm and working together for the common good of our country.

Very respectfully,
J. H. HARRIS, Vice-Prest.

TO THE PEACH GROWERS OF NORTH CAROLINA.

The peach crop bids fair to be a very heavy one this year, and it is important that it should be handled in the most careful and judicious manner, in order to realize its full value. At a conference held a few days ago by a number of experienced fruit growers and shippers, with the Superintendent of the Express Company, and the Superintendent of the freight department of the R. & D. R. R. Co., this matter was fully discussed, and it was thought best that the N. C. State Horticultural Society should issue a letter of advice on this subject, for the fruit growers and shippers of the State. In accordance with this idea, we would present the following, as embodying what was said and done at that conference, and respectfully ask the newspapers of the State to give it space in their earliest issues.

When it comes to marketing, if you have any small inferior fruit caused by the neglect to thin, which is all important, if the trees are over-loaded, or small and inferior from any other cause, do not think it will be to your advantage to ship it, either

by itself as seconds, or by working it off with the finer fruit. Especially if you pack it, it is a very great mistake to think that if you put smaller fruit inside the package, where it will not be seen until opened, you gain anything. All inferior peaches thrown on the market are a direct injury to everybody concerned. They will not bring enough to pay you, but only help to glut the market, and bring down the price of the better grades. Therefore we strongly advise you to use at home, or throw to the hogs, everything but the finest. Carefully pack and ship those, and you will save money for yourself and your neighbor shipper. And you packers, who buy from the grower to ship, need this advice as well, and we do hope you will take it as kindly as it is given, and follow it.

While the Express Company will receive and ship cherries, plums, &c., in baskets, the managers say they will positively decline to receive peaches in baskets unless they are crated. Not tied or corded together, but packed in a firm crate or skeleton box. Peaches in crates of any size will be received. It is very important to mark crates on both ends.

The rates, per express, will be the same as heretofore, all our efforts to get a reduction having failed.

Hoping we may all realize a satisfactory profit on our fruit, we are, very sincerely, yours,

The N. C. State Horticultural Society.

J. VAN LINDLEY, President.
J. A. LINEBACK, Sec'y pro tem.

TRUSTS.

[By James F. Minturn, in Belford's Magazine, for June.]

Senator John Sherman said, during the last summer, in the Senate of the United States, "that combinations to prevent a reduction of price by competition may and ought to be met by a reduction of duty." Last spring the New York Tribune said: "Combinations to prevent competition are radically hostile to and defeat the very object of the protective system."

Judge Cooley, one of the ablest jurists of our day, in a speech at Boston last January said of them: "They are things to be feared. They antagonize a leading and most valuable principle of industrial life in their attempt to curb competition and bring it under strict control. And when we witness the heartless manner in which some trusts have closed manufactories and turned men willing to be industrious into the street in order that they may increase profits already reasonably large, we cannot help asking ourselves whether the trust as we see it is not a public enemy; whether it is not teaching the labor dangerous lessons; whether it is not helping to breed anarchy." On his return from Europe Mr. James G. Blaine set out to justify trusts by telling us that they were private affairs, and that we had nothing to do with them. We might have replied that the saloon, the liquor traffic, private property of all kinds, and the transaction by which I am relieved of my money by a foopad, are all private affairs, but but that we nevertheless undertake to regulate, suppress, or abolish them when once we feel that they invade the principal. *Sauis populis supra lex*; but the people simply laughed at it; and Mr. Blaine never repeated it, for, recognizing the *vox populi* against him, and with his known versatility he set out to prove instead that trusts after all were controlled by Democrats, and therefore were unquestionably public affairs and a fit subject for discussion, dissection, and destruction, if necessary for the restoration of Republican supremacy. Not only are the legislatures of the States, which are supposed to reflect public sentiment, enacting laws to crush them but the courts and judges throughout the land declare them illegal whenever the question arise for judicial determination. In the famous leading case of "The Monopolies" (2 Coke, 84) Lord Coke declared a monopoly illegal and void; that it led to three results: (1) An increase of price; (2) A decrease in quality; (3) The impoverishment of artisans and workmen. In 1711 the King's Bench declared that to obtain the sole exercise of any known trade through England is a complete monopoly and against the policy of the law. A New York act of the legislature makes it a conspiracy for two or more persons to do any act "injurious to trade or commerce." Ordinary laborers, organizing a strike have been prosecuted under the provisions of this act. It remains to be seen how the trust managers will evade it.

In Central Ohio Salt Case (35 Ohio

State Reports), a salt trust was organized, and the court in declaring it illegal said: "Public policy unquestionably favors competition in trade to the end that its commodities may be afforded to the consumer as cheaply as possible. The clear tendency of such an agreement is to establish competition in trade. It is no answer to say that competition was not in fact destroyed, or that the price of the commodity was not in fact advanced. Courts will not stop to injure inflicted on the public. It is enough to know that the inevitable tendency of such contracts is injurious to the public." In a Pennsylvania case five coal companies organized to control the output of a certain district of coal, and in Morris Run Coal Co. v. Barclay Run Coal Co. the court decided the arrangement a conspiracy.

In Arnot v. Pittston Coal Co. the New York Court of Appeals declared that such a combination was outside of the pale and protection of the law. In Louisiana a jute-bagging trust came up for review before the courts in India Bagging Co. v. Kock, and it was declared to be an agreement palpably and unequivocally in restraint of trade, contrary to public order, and unenforceable in a court of justice.

In Illinois, in Craft v. McConoughy the court said: "The four firms by a shrewd, deep-laid secret combination attempted to control and monopolize the entire grain trade of the town and surrounding country. That the effect of this contract was to restrain the trade and commerce of this country is a proposition that cannot successfully be denied."

In New York, in 1832, five lines of steamboats made a trust of the steamboat business. The Supreme Court said: "It is a familiar maxim that competition is the life of trade. It follows that whatever destroys or even relaxes competition in trade is injurious if not fatal to it." The Court of Louisiana, according to the New York Times, gave what that paper called a black eye to the oil trust. The suit was brought to compel a forfeiture of its charter on the ground that it had amalgamated with the cotton seed oil trust, and the court said: "Corporations have no power ordinarily and without express authority to consolidate or from partnerships with other corporations, and still less can they make such combinations in order to establish monopolies and unlawfully restrain the natural and legitimate course of commerce."

That these combinations are a menace to the liberties and material prosperity of the people seems unquestionable. Organized to control the very arteries of popular substance; in league with one another; supported by immense capital; unscrupulous in their *modus operandi* controlled by a bond of secrecy based on mutual self-interest; ready to cast their influence, power and wealth with the political party which may bid for their strength by sacrificing popular interests, they form a tower of strength against popular indignation. But the remedy is simple: without the encouragement of a paternal government imposing taxes on Peter to hand to Paul in order to assist him in his business, these monstrosities could never exist a year in a free land. And when once the system of legalized robbery known as a protective tariff, which makes these things possible, shall be repealed, its protegee, the trust, will fall like the walls of Jericho before the trumpet of foreign competition. "Trade restrictions," says Herbert Spencer, "are of the same race with irresponsible government and slavery; interferences with the freedom of exchange are as certainly their progeny as are the worst violations of human rights; they are constantly found in the society of these; and although not popularly classed as crimes, they are in both origin and nature closely related to them." JAMES F. MINTURN.

It is wonderful what strength and boldness of purpose and energy will come from the feeling that we are in the way of duty.

Our Idiomatic English.—Miss Langham (reading an American paper). "What a strange country yours is, to be sure, Mr. De Yank?" Mr. De Yank (of Boston). "I don't think it much stranger than yours. But why?" "Well this paper gives an account of a game of baseball (I think they call it), and it says that 'Chumpy saw a red-hot ball coming for him in centre field, but he promptly froze to it.'"—*Lawrence (Mass.) American.*