

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

Vol. 4.

RALEIGH, N. C., SEPTEMBER 3, 1889.

No. 30

DIRECTORY OF FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS.

NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS' STATE ALLIANCE.
 President—Elias Carr, Old Sparta, W. C.
 Vice-President—A. H. Hayes, Birdtown, N. C.
 Secretary—L. L. Polk, Raleigh, N. C.
 Treasurer—J. D. Allen, Falls, N. C.
 Lecturer—Thos. B. Long.
 Assistant Lecturer—R. B. Hunter, Charlotte, N. C.
 Chaplain—J. J. Scott.
 Door Keeper—W. H. Tomlinson, Fayetteville, N. C.
 Assistant Door Keeper—H. E. King, Peanut, N. C.
 Sergeant-at-Arms—J. S. Holt, Chalk Level, N. C.
 State Business Agent—W. H. Worth, Raleigh, N. C.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS' STATE ALLIANCE.
 S. B. Alexander, Charlotte, N. C., Chairman; J. M. Mewborne, Kinston, N. C.; J. S. Johnston, Ruffin, N. C.

OFFICERS OF THE VIRGINIA STATE ALLIANCE.
 President—G. T. B. Reeb, Bridgewater, Va.
 Vice-President—Maj. Marm Page, Brandon, Va.
 Secretary—J. J. Silvey, Arnisville, Va.
 Treasurer—Isaiah Prints, Stonyman, Va.
 Lecturer—J. D. Shepperson, Smithville, Va.
 Assistant Lecturer—P. H. Strode, Stephen City, Va.
 Chaplain—Wm. M. Rosser, Luray, Va.
 Doorkeeper—B. Frank Beahen, Kimball, Va.
 Assistant Doorkeeper, G. E. Brubaker, Luray, Va.
 Sergeant-at-Arms—Milton Pence, Forestville, Va.
 State Business Agent—S. P. A. Brubaker, Luray, Va.
 Chmn. Ex. Com.—E. T. Brumback, Ida, Va.

NEWS FROM WAYNE.

WALTER, Wayne Co., N. C., Aug. 19, '89.

MR. EDITOR:—I feel like I had done but a part of my duty. I have not seen anything from this point in your paper. I take it for granted that no one has written anything for you to publish.

Since my visit over to Fayetteville and having met so many of the good brethren there, and having had the pleasure of shaking the hand of that great, noble man, President Macune, and hearing his lecture, we have grown several degrees in self-aided estimation. Our visit was not only pleasant but profitable. We had the pleasure to tramp over the same old streets that our grandfathers trod a century ago.

The old city of Fayetteville where Presbyterianism was preached two hundred years ago and where its doctrines are still taught a Mecca to every North Carolina Presbyterian. We wended our way up to Hay Mount, one mile out of town to the west. There we saw the remnants of cruel war. One evening in March, 1865, Sherman's cannons frowned down over the city from this point and the sun of Fayetteville's Confederacy went down to rise no more forever. We stood and listened and looked while an old colored man pointed to where once the different parts of the old United States Arsenal stood, and tell how Mr. Sherman scattered things in a lively way. He told us that he was on that same hill when the earthquake came, and he said that it was more terrible than Sherman's army. A good view of Fayetteville to the east can be had from this point as it overlooks the whole of the city.

Crops along the line of the railroad to Fayetteville are very poor, or they look that way to us. Nearly every kind of crop has suffered by the continued rains, and are in bad condition, grass excepted.

Corn crops in Wayne county are generally better than they have been in several years, but not so good as was expected. On stiff, clay lands there is finer crops of corn; on light, sandy soil the corn crops are very different. The large amount planted will insure a full supply for home consumption. Wheat crops were good; oats (fall seeding) were fine; spring seeding, light. Potatoes promise well; the pea crop was never better; fruit has been nearly a loss, rotted by the rains. Cotton, oh king, what of thee. There is some very fine fields of cotton on stiff, clay land, while that on light, sandy soil is far below an average. Cotton is fully three weeks late and shows but little matured bolls, and has not taken on a full crop of blooms. The yield depends very much on what the next month is as to getting a full crop. Should it rust like last year the crop will be a very short one.

The Alliance is booming. It has become very popular and is often consulted by those outside. Good

ALLIANCE MEN KNOW HOW TO ANSWER SUCH INQUIRIES.

If you are friendly to the Alliance come inside; if not a friend just stand from under. The Alliance has sat down to stay.

Home Alliance, No. 512, has 70 members on its roll, every one solid. No jute in ours; not as a gift.

On the 7th of August, Home Alliance held a barbecue picnic. Now, brother, if you had never been at one of these Alliance dinners, we would tell you something about it. You may rest assured that Home Alliance does not do things by halves, and you can guess as to the result. A success, socially, which means a fulfillment of the first part of our order.

We have not said anything about the State Alliance; we thought that Bro. L. L. Polk would know how to fix that part of the proceedings in his happy style, and send it to the world through his paper. When we say world we mean the whole earth and the rest of mankind. If they do not all read your valuable paper they ought to. May your shadow never be less until rings and trusts are no more.

Yours fraternally,
 J. H. CALDWELL.

JUTE BAGGING IN GREENE.

We, the committee of the different Alliances of Greene county, having assembled together to consult the best interests of the farmers of said county in regard to the trust on jute bagging, be it

Resolved, That we reaffirm our determination to conform to the resolution of the Birmingham Alliance Convention; that we will use no covering for cotton except the cotton cloth, and we request all farmers, whether members of the Alliance or not, to use no jute bagging.

Resolved further, That all merchants in the county be requested not to buy any jute bagging for their trade, and we urge all members of the Alliance to patronize those merchants who buy no jute bagging in preference to those who do, and we as Alliancesmen will give the merchants and farmers who are not Alliancesmen all the aid in our power to produce the cotton cloth.

PRACTICAL SUBJECTS BY A PRACTICAL FARMER.

WAKE FOREST, N. C., Aug. 2, '89.

MR. EDITOR:—Will you, or some of your farmer readers, with practical experience, give us an essay on the benefits and utility of annual clover, more broadly known as crimson clover or German clover? I have experience with it of only one year. On last September I sowed three acres on land too poor to grow the common red clover; the last of April this year—1889—I had an abundance of fine clover two feet high or higher which was cut and let lay in the mow one day and then put into small shocks and let it stand two or three days and then put four or five of them together in larger shocks and let stand two or three days and then hauled to the barn. It makes excellent hay and makes it early enough for the same land to be planted in corn or cotton or tobacco. My opinion is from a short experience, that it might be sowed on all our farming land in September and get off an abundance of feed in time to plant the three crops—corn, cotton and tobacco—on the same land and have all the stubble and clover roots as a fertilizer for the crops.

The crimson clover seed will come up if sown over the corn field or clover field or wheat field or cotton without plowing. The seed will come up thrown out on the hard yard; indeed, think they would come up if sown on a flat rock, if in a moist time. Am satisfied we are not making the most of it, and would like to learn of those with more experience, such farmers as Jesse Taylor, who, I understand, has several years' experience with it and is improving his land with it.

I forestalled your chapter of advice on the cultivation of the turnip, and had broken an acre well, fertilized well, harrowed twice over with a two-horse harrow, sowed and then rolled with a hand roller. By July 30th I had a stand (in three days) and shall expect to raise turnips enough to feed eight or ten head of cattle, hogs and mules in winter. I have one acre well prepared and manured and rich compost enough to broadcast it, and will, in September, sow in lucerne.

My experience with all the grass family, rye, oats, clover and all grasses, sow in September, it gives it a better crop by putting it ahead of weeds in spring.

S. M. STONE.

FROM FORSYTHE.

LEWISVILLE ALLIANCE, No. 943, Aug. 12, '89.

MR. EDITOR:—As I have not seen anything in your most excellent paper from our Alliance, I will undertake to give you a few dots. We had quite an interesting county meeting and considerable business was done notwithstanding the weather was very unfavorable. We endorse the action of the legislature in regard to the incorporation, and also the action of the Birmingham convention, the consolidation of the Alliance and Wheel. We do not believe in many resolutions but keep steadily marching on to meet the enemy and resolve to conquer or die. This is the grandest effort the farmers have ever made. Organize, I say, and let us plan for ourselves and stop having so-called sharpers to dictate for us. Let us pull together, pull long and steady and we will reach the top before a great while. We need more good lecturers in every community and THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER in every family would be conducive of much good in turning men from their evil ways. Our lodge numbers 49 members. We have contributed \$30 to the business agency fund and sent it to Bro. Graham sometime ago, but have not received our certificates. Will try and do more in the future; would like to see the State Exchange established and in good working order.

We have had rain, rain. Water courses have been higher than they have been for years. Great damage to crops, mill property and bridges. With much success to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, I am,

Fraternally yours,
 J. R. HAUSER.

GRANVILLE RESOLUTIONS.

RIDGEWAY ALLIANCE, No. 132, Aug. 17, 1889.

MR. EDITOR:—I take up my pen as Corresponding Secretary of our Alliance to let your numerous readers know that we are not dormant, but alive to all the important interests of our noble order. We concur with the action of our conventions and primary assemblies that have so firmly made known their sentiments in condemning the various trusts and combines of the moneyed power, and do earnestly request each member of our numerous order to undergo some sacrifices to unite and refuse to patronize them by using the articles so greatly and unnecessarily advanced in price as the best means of defeating them.

At our last meeting the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously passed and ordered to be published in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER:

WHEREAS, We learn from different sources of a large combine or trust, entered into by wealthy manufacturers of tobacco, which we consider detrimental to the interests of both producer and consumer of tobacco; and a flagrant violation of our declaration of principles and the spirit of our free government, as it gives the few power to control the many, and thereby increase their power and strengthen their cords of anarchy and oppression. Therefore be it

Resolved, That we as farmers and producers will not calmly submit to such gross violation of our rights; that we will use all honorable means to subdue the monster before he binds us tight by the strong arm of his moneyed power.

Resolved, That we consider the internal tax on manufactured tobacco and the tariff on merchandise shipped to us by foreign powers the first items that require our best efforts to have repealed or greatly modified.

Resolved, That we insist and earnestly request our representatives in the Congress of the United States from this State, at its ensuing session, to renew their attacks and use their best efforts to consummate this important object, and greatly relieve the oppressed and diminish the great source from which the oppressors receive their power.

Resolved, That we pledge ourselves as members of the Farmers' Alliance, and earnestly request that all of our order in this State and all oppressed by these combines refuse to patronize these mammoth factories in any respect; that we discard their manufactured articles and urge our order to the importance of establishing and maintaining as many factories as possible, and the consumers of tobacco to sustain them by using their article.

We united, my brethren, and success will crown our efforts.

A. M. VRAZBY, Sec'y.

CONVICT LABOR.

Some months ago, in an article I wrote for THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, I undertook to show how convict labor could be made valuable to us. I then stated that if the convicts were divided pro rata among the counties, and the County Commissioners direct the labor, and have them repair our roads and build embankments along our rivers and creeks and deepen them, the value of such labor could not be estimated in dollars and cents.

I shall not go over the arguments made then, nor submit the data or statistics I then gave; but in the last six weeks I have been as far west as Morganton, as far east as the Atlantic, and from the northern border as far south as Fayetteville, and I have seen the lands along the rivers and creeks flooded, the crops in many places entirely destroyed, in others so badly damaged that the crops are abandoned.

The real loss is hard to estimate. Time, labor, capital all gone, and corn will have to be bought and shipped to us from other States.

This buying abroad impoverishes us. Suppose for the sake of illustration that only 100,000 acres of our best land has been overflowed.

At a low estimate that means 3,000,000 bushels of corn, and you all know what that is worth. We are not only poorer by not having the crop, but all the time bestowed on the crops, the feed and seed, all this is gone, worth the crops. In other words we are poorer by \$4,000,000 for every 100,000 acres of bottom lands so overflowed.

I think it is about time we quit donating convict labor to railroad corporations. They are growing rich at our expense.

We donate the right of way, we contribute of our means to build the road and furnish the labor and after we have done all this they charge you two prices for bringing corn into the State when we are almost on the verge of starvation. If the Mississippi river can be banked successfully I am sure our little rivers and creeks can be.

It has been suggested that we use our convict labor to make guano. That looks like a railroad scheme to me. Who is to make it? The State. We have had enough of State work—individuals—then what benefit will accrue to us? About the same that comes to us from letting them work for railroad companies. Besides no one will contend that if work cost nothing, that guano could be made cheaper than it can be made now. Steam power beats convict labor, even when you pay nothing for the labor, only having to feed and clothe it.

Besides the hard labor on a ton of guano is less than \$2 per ton, so that at the best it would amount to \$125,000 for our State annually.

It would only be necessary to reclaim 4,000 acres of bottom land to amount to as great a saving as to manufacture all the guanos used in our State.

Let me illustrate the idea further: If our rivers were banked as the Mississippi River is, the bottoms that are now comparatively worthless would grow more corn yearly than we ever have to bring into the State. Thousands of other acres that are cultivated yearly, but frequently at a great loss, would raise hundreds of thousands of bushels of wheat, oats and corn and supply us with all the hay we need.

If you will think of the vast amount of money that yearly is sent outside the State for wheat or flour, for seed oats, for corn or meal, and for hay, you can readily see why we are kept poor. I have said so much about importing men, that I am almost ashamed to mention it again.

Is not this of sufficient importance to arrest our attention?

I would make the following suggestions, and hope that our influential politicians, who love the dear people so much, will act on them, but I have but little faith in them:

Let our Congressmen and our Senators (who it was said could get appropriations so easily) be instructed to ask of Congress an appropriation for levees instead of having dredges to move out sand-bars.

Build the levees and the rivers will clean themselves.

Take your ditches where they are confined they cut deeper and deeper; when they are shallow and overflow, the water runs more sluggishly and fills up quickly.

The writer had the pleasure of being with Capt. Eads at Granby, where the Captain was interested in mining galena, and was told by Capt. Eads that he had gotten his ideas of deepening streams by noticing the action

OF THE WATER CUTTING THE LAND NEAR GRANBY.

He successfully carried out the idea in the jetties in the Mississippi River.

Let us have an appropriation for levees if Tanner leaves anything in the Treasury, and when our Legislature meets, let us put our convicts to work reclaiming the waste places.

OLD FOEGY.

PEANUTS AGAIN.

MR. EDITOR:—My letter in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER of July 30th has drawn out considerable comments on the same and some contradictions. Two peanut buyers told me that there was profit enough on peanuts at the present prices. Another trust peanut buyer said three cents per pound was the value of a pound of peanuts and all they ought to bring.

So with your indulgence, I thought I would give the cost of planting and housing an acre of peanuts as near as I can from my own personal experience. I have put the labor low, even on the pauper labor level of these parts, and I have the average production as high as possible and higher than the present average production. I have not put in for ploughing the ground but once and most all good farmers treat it twice; have said nothing about replanting which often is one-half as much trouble as the planting. Neither have I said or made any allowance for extra trouble and labor on account of wet weather, nor have I allowed anything for liming the land and all peanut land must be limed, neither have we taken in consideration that we have to keep our teams all the year and extra teams as when the time comes for them to be worked they ought to be gone over once every two weeks.

So you can see that peanuts at three cents per pound means loss to the farmer every time. And peanuts at 4 cents per pound means about pay for his work and that is all. And even these prices are more than the aristocratic monopolies are willing that we should make.

The Southampton County Farmers' Alliance at a call meeting held at Courtland on Aug. 16th, decided by a unanimous vote to put them up a steam peanut cleaner, and took steps to put the resolution into immediate action.

Fraternally,
 R. M. STENNETT.

NOTES FROM LENOIR.

CHARITY ALLIANCE, No. 449, INSTITUTE, N. C., Aug. 19, '89.

MR. EDITOR:—It seems to me that it is a reproach to our members of this lodge to read the number of glowing letters from other sections of our grand old State, but never see anything from home.

We are holding our own pretty well, I think, but brethren, don't you know that you cannot attend your meetings in the fall and winter only and be good Alliance men? No, indeed, you can not.

And again don't expect when you join the order to carry your jug and meal sack; we haven't got any "Alliance" molasses or meal on hand to furnish you with at the present.

I admonish you, brethren, pay your quarterly dues promptly. How can you expect your Secretary to make a good report when you have so signally failed to do your duty?

Do you not know that if you plant your crops and say that is an "Alliance" crop it will never arrive at goal for which you intended it. Because

He that by the plow would thrive, Himself must either hold or drive.

Brethren the taxes are indeed very heavy, and if those laid on by the government were the only ones we had to pay we might more easily discharge them, but we have many others, and much more grievous to some of us.

We are taxed twice as much by our idleness, three times as much by our pride and four times as much by our folly; and from these taxes the commissioners cannot ease or deliver us by allowing an abatement. If we are industrious we shall never starve, for at the working man's house hunger looks in but dares not enter.

Into this our great undertaking my friends some of the best talent in our land has been employed not only by the men alone has our success been achieved thus far, but noble women have taken hold with us as every person should know.

There is in every true woman's heart a spark of heavenly fire, which lies dormant in the daylight of prosperity, but which kindles up and blazes in the dark hours of adversity.

More anon.
 6, 13, 8.

THE FARMERS AND THE BAGGING TRUST.

[Special to the Associated Press.]
 RALEIGH, N. C., Aug. 24.

Col. L. L. Polk, President of the Inter-State Farmers' Association, returned here to-day from the meeting of that body at Montgomery. In answer to an inquiry as to the status of the fight between the farmers and the jute bagging trust, the Colonel said: "It is approaching a crisis. The Alliance is encouraged by the friendly action of the American Cotton Exchange—by a constant accession of mills that are going to manufacture the cotton bagging and by the unanimity and determination of the farmers throughout the South to fight it out to the bitter end. The Inter-State Association, not an Alliance organization, is solidly against the jute trust which has an active, shrewd, and zealous ally in the cotton speculators or gamblers in futures. They have sold large quantities of cotton to be delivered in the early fall, and they are dreadfully alarmed. Cotton is being held back by farmers and the price is advancing, and to-day, it is a singular fact that the spot cottons are actually selling at higher figures than their contract prices. These men must have cotton or they are hopelessly wrecked. They have sold and they must deliver, hence they are putting forth powerful efforts to force cotton on the market. It is ludicrous to read their dispatches, circulars and bogus letters, now crowding the columns of the daily papers. They magnify the growing crop and hold up present prices, and claim that they must decline. They parade the non-action of the Liverpool Exchange and positively assert that it will not recognize the cotton bagging. If the Liverpool Exchange has so declared, I have failed to see the official announcement. We do not expect the co-operation of Liverpool until it is forced. English capital, English shipping and English manufacturers and Liverpool speculators, of course, are all interested in the perpetual use of jute; but all this commotion in the cotton circles in America is the work of gamblers in futures, who have millions at stake and who are now standing face to face with financial ruin. They do not care how cotton is wrapped, for the terrible reality stares them in the face, that they must have sufficient cotton to fill their contracts and they must have it quick. So desperate have the speculators become, that they already have agents travelling from farm to farm in some Southern States, offering to buy cotton and advance money. This is a struggle, not for a temporary triumph over the bagging trust, but one for a great principle, and we will not relinquish the fight."

FROM OLD GASTON.

PLEASANT RIDGE, N. C., Aug. 26, '89.

MR. EDITOR:—I write to inform you that Pleasant Ridge Alliance, No. 1,207, is moving along with the faithful. We began September, 1888, with five members; we have now thirty-two of the best of members. We have all contributed liberally to the State agency fund. We have a seal and are doing business in a business-like manner. We are establishing a Farmers' Alliance store and expect to hire a business man to run it for us. We are also establishing a cotton exchange and hope to elevate the price of cotton this fall. We had a grand Farmers' Alliance picnic on August 24th, and speeches from the following gentlemen: Dr. W. H. Wilson, Milt, C. Arrowood, Beaty Smith and Jonas Stroup. Music for the occasion by the Clover Cornet Band. The speakers addressed the audience with great power and effect. The audience consisted of about five hundred men, women and children. After the speaking was over we all partook of a bountiful dinner and took up of the fragments several baskets full.

Crops look fine in this section of the country, and we are like a boat in Shanghai on a rickety hen roost—looking around for better times. Wishing you and your paper abundant success, I am,

Fraternally,
 M. G. KINGAID.

Every Subscriber to this Paper is requested to read a short article on our Second Page addressed to "Our Subscribers."