

The Progressive Farmer.

L. L. POLK, EDITOR. D. H. BROWDER, BUSINESS MANAGER. Raleigh, N. C.

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

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THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION, THE NORTH CAROLINA NEGROES, AND MISSISSIPPI.

THE Atlanta Constitution charges, if not directly, at least by innuendo, that North Carolina is securing the emigration of its negro population to Mississippi.

We do not believe that a single man in this State, of respectability or influence has ever given the least encouragement to the exodus movement.

ON the 19th ult., according to a correspondent of the News and Courier, the town of Blackville, S. C., was thronged with wagons, all loaded with cotton that was in full dress of Alliance uniform.

SHOULD THE ALLIANCE BUILD A BAGGING FACTORY?

THE more the subject is discussed and investigated, the more the thinking men of the South, in and out of the Alliance, are impressed with the practicability and expediency of the Alliance idea.

IN instances where other merchants had liens or claims on this cotton they were allowed to take it at the figures offered by Mr. Brown, if they chose, but in nearly every instance they preferred Mr. Brown giving the cash and taking that in settlement.

We had as well begin to investigate these matters and prepare to share the advantages which will follow, as best we may.

So soon as the policy inaugurated by the Alliance shall become settled and is accepted by the whole South and the commercial world, and our mills shall cover our cotton, other reforms and enterprises will naturally follow.

pensive, extravagant and wasteful. No other crop, of whatsoever kind, is handled so carelessly or with such loss. It suffers constant loss from the gin to the spindle and the loss is sustained only by the producer.

THE WAY IT HAS BEEN DONE.

FOLLOWING up the article in our last issue on the subject of Trusts, we offer an extract from a document known as the "Hazard Circular," presenting the plan or policy to be presented by the capitalists of the United States for centralizing the money.

THE great debt that capitalists will see to it is made out of the war, must be used as a measure to control the volume of money.

THE WAY THEY DO IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

ON the 19th ult., according to a correspondent of the News and Courier, the town of Blackville, S. C., was thronged with wagons, all loaded with cotton that was in full dress of Alliance uniform.

"Then the excitement began. The Alliance clubs had already selected Mr. J. C. Matthews, one of our most thrifty, energetic and reliable farmers as their salesman for the day, and it was a waste of words to mention buying to any of them.

PAYING CASH.

IN instances where other merchants had liens or claims on this cotton they were allowed to take it at the figures offered by Mr. Brown, if they chose, but in nearly every instance they preferred Mr. Brown giving the cash and taking that in settlement.

BETTER HEREAFTER.

The Alliance men are in full spirits, and say that to-day is nothing to what they will do, and it certainly seems to be so, for after to-day no-one can say that they are not thoroughly organized.

We are informed of the death of Bro. Geo. W. Wade, of Live Oak Alliance, No. 1,165, of Carteret county which took place September 12th, 1889, in the 66th year of his age.

A GOOD SPEECH FOR YOUR LECTURER.

MEN are careless. They have defective memories. They become negligent. They need to be reminded of their duties. We know of no more instructive or profitable theme for the Lecturer of Sub-Alliances than is to be found in our obligation, and in the tenth article of our Constitution.

HOW TO BUILD COUNTRY ROADS.

EVERY farmer and everybody else is interested in more roads, better roads and cheaper roads. They can be had and must be had. The proper authorities must see to it. They can best learn by seeing.

COMING TO OUR HELP.

WE clip the following from the Mecklenburg Times, as showing that the Alliance, in its struggle to build up the great agricultural interests of the country, have hosts of friends outside who are co-operating with us most cordially.

Gen. Rufus Barringer, of this city, is one of the large land-holders of Mecklenburg county. Besides his stock and dairy farm near Charlotte, he has some 20 or 30 tenants, and, as he gives his numerous farms his personal care, he often resorts to short, pointed circulars to make known his wishes and instructions.

"I am not an Alliance man, but I favor its policy of 'holding cotton,' 'balancing in home wrapping,' and boycotting all supplies and merchandise covered by pools, trusts, etc. In cases, therefore, where tenants have arranged for continuing over, I will store cotton free of charge and insurance."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Shall the North Carolina farmers have a cotton bagging factory of their own? Why not?

Cotton bagging for the South—small, compact and neatly wrapped bales for the market, and Southern-spun cotton thread for the manufacturers, and then!

We congratulate the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley people on the early completion of their road to the city of Wilmington. We learn that the entire track will be completed and trains running through, by the first of January.

We gladly welcome our good friend H. C. McCall, with his able pen, to the field of Alliance journalism. He is editor of the Alabama Alliance Advocate, at Montgomery, the official organ of the State Alliance, and we shall confidently look for effective work on that part of the line.

Anti-Alliance farmer—"How are you fellows getting on with your jute fight?" Alliance man—"First rate. We are very well satisfied with the situation." Anti-Alliance farmer—"Ar'n't you losing about sixty cents on the bale by refusing to use jute bagging?" Alliance man—"No. But if we were, we are getting five dollars more per bale for our cotton than we would if there had been no Alliance, and you and all the farmers who are not with us are getting it

also. Don't you think it is wrong and selfish in you to thus reap the rewards of our labor, while you are standing aloof and won't help us?" And the anti Alliance farmer walked off as if he had a "flea in his ear."

It is the purpose of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER to give proper credit in all cases where it uses the matter of its contemporaries. It believes it is not only courteous to do so, but that it is just and right. It desires to thank such of its contemporaries as observe this rule and especially, the Rural Messenger and Pee Dee Alliance, who never fail to give full credit.

The Sanford Express, one of the very best weeklies in the State, enters the fourth year of its existence, under encouraging auspices. We read the Express with pleasure and profit. Bro. Sinclair, though young in age and in the profession, has developed in strong lines, some of those qualifications which are essential to success in journalism.

North Carolina never wants more than a fair showing. Give her that and she will never suffer. We are proud to note the compliment received by our good friend N. W. Craik, of Shore, Yadkin county, from the Paris Exposition. He is one of our best and most successful orchardists. His apples were given a prominent place and he received a gold medal on his wines, and this, too, in the land that is presumed to lead the world in this industry.

The editor, as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Alliance, goes to Washington to day to audit the books and accounts of the National Secretary and Treasurer, preparatory to the transfer of these offices to the National Farmers' and Laborers' Union, in December. He has urgent invitations to call at Luray and Staunton, Va., and address the people during the trip, and if practicable, he designs availing himself of this opportunity of shaking the hand of his Virginia brethren.

A prominent Alliance man in Alabama, bought a roll of pine straw bagging, but on reaching home he discovered that it was jute, dyed exactly the color of pine straw bagging, and had been sold to him for pine straw. Of course he sent it back to the merchant. We see that some merchant was kind enough to send our good friend Henry Hainie, of Anson county, a roll of jute bagging and he, like a true and loyal Alliance man, that he is, promptly sent it back. The Alliance is standing for a great principle in this fight.

Bro. Foote, of the Gazette, and Secretary of the Warrenton Fair, writes us that Gov. Fowle and State Auditor Sanderlin will speak on the first day of the Fair, October 9th, Capt. S. B. Alexander and Dr. D. Reid Parker on the 10th and on the 11th Hon. W. J. Green will address a grand reunion of the ex-Confederate soldiers from North Carolina and Virginia. Every Alliance man in all the country round about, has been specially invited. Last, but not least, The Progressive Farmer will be on hand to swell its subscription list.

A very old man, a subscriber, wrote us in August that he could no longer read our paper, owing to fading eyesight and expressed his great regret that he could not renew. We now receive the following from him: "I am the same old man, seventy-three years old, who stopped your paper in August last. I have felt ever since like one of the family is missing, so please send it again to me and I will send you the money." May our old friend be greatly blessed in his ripe old age and may he never again miss this one of his family.

The Charleston Cotton Exchange declined to send delegates to the New Orleans meeting, upon the ground that they thought that the question of tare should be left to the Liverpool and other foreign markets. But some how or other the majority of the American cotton exchanges, and a majority of the cotton farmers of the South, do not agree with them and seem to think that the people on this side of the water, have some rights and some opinions, which should be respected. But Charleston will be all right ere many moons shall come and go.

Athens, Georgia, is a good cotton market but it has not bought a single yard of jute bagging. One of its leading cotton operators visited Charleston last week and investigated the situation. He found very little new jute bagging on the cotton. He has no doubt that the farmers are winning their fight. He visited the compresses of Charleston, and also the wharves where the ships were being laden with cotton for shipment to Europe, and found that the bales packed in cotton bagging stood not only the pressure, but also loaded as well as the jute-covered bales. He says there is no truth in the report that the compress men are removing the cotton bagging and substituting jute. These bales are compressed and shipped just as they are received.

There are some bales packed in cotton sheeting that will not stand the pressure, and this, of course, taken off and jute substituted. Farmers had as well use the jute at once as any of this flimsy stuff, for it will not be received by the shippers.

The Alliance Fair, at Millbridge last week, was a most gratifying success. The stock was especially fine. We hope to see it repeated. It is a great farming section, and is occupied by as good people as can be found anywhere. The editor of this paper, Dr. G. W. Sanderlin, Hon. A. Leazer, Commissioner Robinson and R. B. Hunter, Assistant State Lecturer, made speeches. The brethren of Rowan are in earnest and they will be among the foremost in all good Alliance work.

ALLIANCE NOTES.

[Always give the name and number of your Alliance, your postoffice and your county, plainly, when you write to the President, Secretary, Trustee, Business Agent or Chairman of Executive Committee of the State Alliance.]

Bro. D. M. Graves, of Selma, writes: "Our people here are solid on the bagging question; we are determined not to use the jute bagging at any price. No weak kneed brethren in Johnston."

Edgecombe Farmers' Alliance has established an Alliance cotton agency in Tarboro, with J. M. Cutchen, as Agent. We predict that it will be a success, for Edgecombe farmers never do things by halves.

The following Alliances have passed resolutions since our last issue, denouncing jute bagging and declaring that they will use only cotton bagging in the future: Euphonia Alliance No. 903, Moore county; Auburn Alliance, No. 40, Wake county; and Snowden Alliance, No. 1247.

Cross Roads Alliance, No. 1,058, at last meeting passed the following: Resolved, That if any member of this Alliance shall be known to be engaged in the purchasing, manufacturing or selling spirituous liquors made out of molasses or syrup of any kind or purchasing the same after its manufacture, he or she shall be expelled from this lodge as an immoral character.

There will be a grand Alliance Mass Meeting on Wednesday night, the 16th of October, (Fair week) in the city of Raleigh at 8 o'clock sharp. Prominent Alliance men from this and other States will be present, and important matters will be considered. Alliance headquarters will be established on the Fair grounds, in full view of the entrance gate, near Agricultural Hall, in charge of L. L. Polk, State Secretary, and will be kept open during the week for the accommodation of the visiting members. Please have this read at your meeting on the 4th of October.

Lamb's Cross Roads Alliance, No. 646, of Wilson county, has resolved to expel any member who uses jute bagging or who patronizes a gin-ner who keeps jute bagging. The correspondent says: "You may depend on us to stand by the Alliance until death. We want none but true Alliance men in our lodge, and if we find a Judas we are determined to route him at once. I think I will be able to send you a good list of subscribers as soon as our members sell some cotton, for we are aroused as never before, and most of our members want your paper. Hereafter we propose to do our own thinking."

A brother writing from Rocky Mount, renewing his aid and other's subscriptions, says: "Our Juvenile Alliance met last Saturday in regular meeting. We had seventy-two members present and initiated ten more, among whom were two ladies. I find that we can keep better order since ladies have joined our lodge. Brethren, you must have ladies in your lodges. They are the flowers of discipline. We discussed several interesting subjects, among which was the propriety of establishing a cotton yard and exchange in Rocky Mount. I think we will be certain to have one. We want to employ an agent to attend to our cotton and order such goods as we need. I want to know if we can't buy our goods through the State Agent this fall. The time of harvest is right there, and it is time that we were up and doing. The farmers of this section are flocking to the Alliance with the expectation of getting some benefit this fall, and may they not get disappointed. The farmers of this section are united as they have never been before by the lash of the combinations and trusts. Railroad excursions are almost as bad this year as trusts. They have put the rates down in reach of anybody and thereby drawn thousands of dollars from the poor farmers."

THE BAGGING QUESTION.

Attempt of Some of the Buyers to Befog the Matter—The Case Clearly Stated.

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 21, '89.

To the editor of the Times-Democrat: It is evident that there is a concerted effort being made on the part of those interested in keeping down the value of cotton to misrepresent the results that will follow the enforcement of the resolution adopted at the convention of the cotton exchanges here and to befog and bewilder the farmers still further as regards the merits and demerits of the proposed and existing rules governing the tare question.

From the very fact that the opposition to the sale of cotton by net weight is strenuous on the part of buyers and exporters the farmer naturally suspects that the proverbial Ethiopian is concealed in some part of this particular woodpile. It does seem strange that cotton buyers should object so strenuously to having to pay for twenty-four pounds less weight on every bale of jute covered cotton than they are being charged for to-day.

As far as is known cotton buyers are not generally so philanthropic as to refuse an allowance of twenty-four pounds per bale for any sentimental reasons, and it is perfectly certain that they understand their own interests thoroughly, so that it may be taken for granted that they see their way to making more money under the present system of tare than under the twenty-four-pound and sixteen-pound rule.

Every one knows now that while no deduction in weight has been made to cover tare on cotton, a deduction in price has been invariably, though unwillingly, submitted to by the producer to protect the buyer in this respect, and whether the deduction be applied to the weight or the price the result to the producer is the same, for a buyer with a purchasing limit of 10 cents per pound of actual cotton pays to-day only 10 cents, less 6 per cent for gross cotton, or 9.40 cents per pound.

A 500-pound bale, gross weight, at 9.40 cents, will bring \$47, and 500 pounds, less 6 per cent, 470 pounds net at 10 cents, will bring \$47.

To compare the existing 6 per cent tare on price and the new fixed tare of 24 pounds per bale, it will be more convenient to assume that the deduction in both cases is made from the weight. The 6 per cent allowance was adopted when the average bale of cotton weighed about 400 pounds, and when 7 yards of 2-pound jute bagging were more generally used than is now the case.

The six ties and seven yards of bagging made twenty-four pounds or 6 per cent on a 400-pound bale. This tare was adopted by the buyers themselves, and was quite satisfactory to them then, and is still more satisfactory to them now.

For the average weight of the bale of cotton has increased steadily, and last year it reached about 480 pounds, while the percentage allowed (or rather appropriated) for tare has remained unchanged.

Six per cent on 500 pounds is thirty pounds of a deduction for tare, as against twenty-four pounds on 400 pounds. Now it is manifestly absurd to suppose that 100 pounds of cotton added to a 400 pound bale will necessitate the use of six pounds additional weight of bagging and ties. As a matter of fact twenty-four pounds is in excess of the average weight of bagging and ties used on the heaviest bales.

We have seen that a buyer with a purchasing limit of ten cents per pound of net cotton is enabled to buy a bale weighing 500 pounds gross for \$47 under the existing tare rules.

Take the same purchasing limit and the same gross weight of bale, apply the fixed tare of twenty-four pounds, and we find that the producer gets \$47.60 for the same bale of cotton that now brings him \$47, without the purchaser raising his price per pound or being called on to pay for cotton that he does not get.

Consequently under the existing usages, the producer loses 6 per cent on every pound of cotton over 400 pounds that he puts into a bale, and at 10 cents per pound the loss in this way last year amounted to about \$325,000.

This was a nice margin for the buyers, in itself, without calculating the additional margin they had on all bales covered with cotton bagging and other light wrappings.

And they take full advantage of this margin, for where the actual tare is ascertained in Liverpool is added short of 6 per cent bagging is added to the bale to make up the deficiency. It must surely be plain to our farmers from the foregoing statement that the existing tare of 6 per cent is excessive on any bale weighing over 400 pounds, and that if they wish to put up heavier bales without paying tribute to the cotton buyers for that privilege they must insist on the fixed tare of twenty-four pounds for jute and sixteen pounds for cotton bagging, and at the same time see to it that sufficient covering is put on their bales to make up these weights.

Six yards of 1 3/4-pound jute bagging and six ties will weigh only 20 1/2 pounds, and this is about the