

The Progressive Farmer.

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THE QUESTION WILL BE SETTLED AT ST. LOUIS.

It is expected that the Presidents of the various State Alliances will meet in St. Louis on the 2nd prox. to consider the important matter of a permanent covering for our cotton in the future and the matter of a definite and fixed tare on the same.

AN OFFICIAL COOK AT A FOREIGN COURT.

We have received a copy of a national cook book, published by the United States Government and issued under the great seal of the Department of State.

Rice soup and baked haricot beans.—One-half pound rice, 0 3/4; bone, 1d; vegetables, 1d.; one pound beans, 1 1/4; onions, 3d.; two ounces dripping, 0 1/4; salt and pepper to taste. Total cost, 5 1/2d.

Mulligatany soup.—A calf's head and feet, 4d.; pepper, salt, carrot and turnip, 1d.; apple, 1d.; onion, marjoram, thyme, curry powder and sugar, 1d. Total cost, 7d.

Consul Underwood gets a salary of \$3,000, and over \$17,000 in fees are attached to his office, and yet one of the high functions of his position is to ascertain how to make a dish of stews palatable to the poor dependent working people of his country.

Gracious, magnanimous and merciful government! It has pandered to monopoly and forced the price of the dollar up and forced the price of labor and its products down.

POLITICAL RIGHTS OF THE FARMER.

If we claim that the great industries of the country are out of balance and must be readjusted, some political Solon, will gravely inform us that this savors somewhat of politics

If we say that the agricultural interests are oppressed by unjust and discriminating legislation; we are told that this can only be corrected by political methods, hence the farmer should have nothing to do with it.

If we claim that the legislation of the country, State and National, is controlled by interests and by men that are devouring our substance and destroying the spirit of our manhood, and that the farmers should be represented more largely and more faithfully, and especially in our National Congress, we are calmly admonished that the farmers should not ask for class legislation.

If we show that all the great industries of the country are outstripping agriculture in the race of progress, and that it is due to the manipulations of corrupt and mercenary men who influence the policy and shape the systems by which this great inequality is produced, we are told, with a wave of the hand, that our relief is to be found in working harder and living closer.

If we say we want a farmer for Governor, for Senator or for Congress, we are told that the farmer must not go into politics.

If we want any great economic or political reform, we are told that when the farmer begins to dabble in these great questions he will ruin everything.

COTTON STALK FIBRE.

It will be remembered that early last spring an article appeared in this paper from Mr. S. M. Thomas, one of our energetic and enterprising farmers of Richmond county, advocating the utility of cotton stalk fibre for the manufacture of bagging.

We saw at Atlanta, bagging and rope made of the fibre. It was of superior quality. A Georgia farmer has invented and patented a machine for gathering the entire fibre from the stalk.

WHAT ABOUT IT?

The farmers of New England have been told for years that the prosperity of the agricultural interests of those States could only be secured by building up and fostering the manufacturing interests.

GAIN WISDOM WITH STRENGTH.

In the great movement of the farmers for reform, they must not forget that the stronger they grow the greater the temptation will be to overstep the bounds of prudence.

SYSTEMATIC ROBBERY.

The smallest child in America who has gone through any of the simple arithmetics taught in our schools would say "24 sheets make 1 quire," and with a little calculation would tell you that there are 4 pages to each sheet, 24 times, 4 or 96 pages to each quire.

COUNTY SECRETARIES PLEASE REPORT AT ONCE.

The State Secretary, was ordered by the State Alliance, to publish a directory of the County Secretaries, County Presidents and County Business Agents and State officers, with their postoffices, for the use of the order.

If either of these offices be vacant, ask the County Alliance to fill it at its first meeting and report. Report all changes promptly to this office.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The official programme for the Centennial exercises at Fayetteville announces as speakers Gov. Fowle, Senator Ransom and Senator Vance.

Gov. Fowle has issued his proclamation naming Thursday, the 28th inst., as a day of thanksgiving and prayer.

The office of Bro. W. H. Worth, our State Business Agent, is one busy place, and the work is growing every day.

In 1867 the wheat crop of this country sold for \$1,284,000,000. In 1887, twenty years later, when the acreage and the yield had been more than doubled, the crop sold for \$1,204,000,000, a decrease of \$79,711,000!

We learn from the Southern Alliance Farmer that a goodly number of the Ga. Legislature are Alliance men and that they have been holding meetings regularly every Tuesday night during the whole session, which have been very enjoyable and "which have held the brethren together in love and friendship."

There is sore disappointment in the outcome of the crops this season in all eastern North Carolina. The excessive and continued rainfall

during the months of June, July and August, cut off the cotton crop, according to the estimates of our best farmers, from one third to one half. This means a continuance of hard times for at least another year to them.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES.

The great mistake in connection with our agricultural colleges, is the fact that in many cases a classical course is a part of their curriculum.

An agricultural and mechanical college should be devoted to this specific object and no other. The country has sufficient classical colleges to supply advanced education, and these State and United States institutions are designed for the masses and intended to provide them such an education as will fit them for success in agricultural and the mechanical arts.

When connected with classical studies, the students in agriculture and mechanics are always at a disadvantage, if they fail to join in the higher studies.

We have become so well satisfied that this is the result, that we are disposed to advocate that the moneys supplied by the general government shall be devoted to the support of an institution which shall be agricultural and mechanical, and otherwise entirely free from any connection with those classical and literary courses of study which are not necessary.

In this connection it is proper to state that we would not even seem to underestimate the value of those literary and classical colleges which are an honor to our country.

It is in fact in danger of becoming a curse in that by joining with professional studies, the latter are given the prominence and the best element of the farming population are seduced from the farm and urged into other occupations.

We call this bestowing a curse instead of a blessing upon the farmers. It is perverting a generous gift into an evil of enormous magnitude.

What is the fact? They go to one of these pie-bald, mongrel institutions, where the smallest part of the studies are devoted to agriculture; where the very least possible practical acquaintance with the actual work of farming is afforded them; where every influence is against their ever making farming their life-work.

overcrowded ranks of the toilers in city occupations.

We want the Agricultural Colleges devoted to agriculture pure and simple. We want the farmers' sons taught to love the farm, to rejoice in farm work and farm life.

We are sure this cannot be when the greater amount of the money received is devoted to support professors who have nothing to do with agriculture, who perform the old round duties in the teaching of dead languages and living non-entities.

The field of agriculture is large enough to occupy all the work which the largest appropriation of the State or United States will warrant.

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.]

The Alliance wedding at the State Fair is said to have been an interesting and impressive scene, and the high contracting parties have received the congratulations of many distinguished men of the State.

President Evan Jones has appointed as Executive Committee of the National Farmers' and Laborers' Union of America, J. H. McDowell, Nashville, Tenn., Chairman; G. L. Clark, Stephenville, Texas, and J. A. Tetts, Ruston, Louisiana.

A brother writing from Grade, Alexander county, N. C., reports Alliance No. 1,046 as being in fine working order. The brethren are in harmony with each other and everything seems to work well.

It looks to us like it will be advisable to increase the weight of cotton bagging to one and a half pounds per yard, thereby requiring twice the cotton to make it, and insuring the strength and weight to be sufficient to satisfy the cotton exchanges.

M. H. Hawley, Secretary of Alliance No. 108, Moore county, says his lodge is moving steadily along.

There is no reason why there should not be in every cotton producing State a cotton bagging factory. If the jute trust has got to be killed by the Southern farmers, let it be done by building up factories in our country.

The Secretary of Owens' Alliance, No. 1,489, Rowan county, writes as follows: "It becomes my duty to inform you of the death of Bro. E. M. Coble, aged about 45 years. He died at Forest Hill, Cabarrus county, on the 21st of September, 1889, of typhoid fever."

For the information of our patrons, who prefer to make remittances to this office in postage stamps, we will inform them that by simply rubbing the gummed side of the sheet of stamps over the hair of the head they will prevent them from sticking together, when folded and placed in the envelope.

Bro. E. H. Ray, President of Stony Hill Alliance, Wake county, enclosing a club of nine subscribers, says that they had a royal time at their picnic on the 29th ult. and a splendid speech from Bro. D. P. Meachum.

work in hand and is greatly stimulated by the solid talk of Bro. Meachum. Bro. Ray will accept our warmest thanks for his kind labors on behalf of our order.

Secretary A. J. Moorefield, of Dan River Alliance, No. 728, Rockingham county, says: "I am directed to say that we have adopted the Act of Incorporation passed by the last Legislature. We are not growing numerically but those who joined for the good of the brotherhood are growing in faith. Those who connected themselves with the Alliance just through curiosity—and I am sorry to say there were several—have fallen out, until now we have only true Alliance men at our meetings."

Bro. J. H. Scroggs, of Viola Alliance, No. 835, Iredell county, says: "We take three copies of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER in our Alliance which has been of more benefit to us than anything we have yet done."

Bro. J. G. Layton, of White Lake Alliance, No. 983, renewing his subscription to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER says: "Would that all my brethren and sisters of the order were blessed with the opportunity of reading THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. It would enthrone them to a more vigorous prosecution of the work before us."

Bro. John W. Downing, of Lake Alliance, No. 738, of Bladen county, writes as follows: "We were organized about one year ago and we have been coming along but sure and we are now beginning to see day break."

Bro. J. B. Freeman writes as follows: "October 22d was a gala day for Green Mountain, in Henderson county, in the land of the sky. Six Sub-Alliances met, with their baskets filled with the luxuries of our mountain section. The people came from the towns, villages, mountains and mountain gorges, until two thousand people stood on the ground. The stand was decorated with beautiful flowers, and such fine cakes as none but our own fair Alliance sisters can make, together with apples, turnips, potatoes, etc. and last but not least, we had pumpkins, one of which weighed 142 pounds. After singing and prayer, Col. T. B. Long, our State Lecturer, was introduced. And oh, shall I attempt to describe the eager, attentive audience as the elegant speaker told of the great deliverance that has come the poor, oppressed, cast down, dejected farmers, for the space of one hour. We believe we have the right man in the right place. Then dinner, with hand shaking, pleasant faces and fraternal greetings, were in order. We forgot Democrats, Republicans, Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, stock law, etc., and resolved ourselves into a committee of the whole for the transaction of important business pertaining to the farmer. We simply meant business. After dinner Gen. Bob Vance, in his easy and elegant style, held the people spell bound for an hour, and we were made to feel that our lines had fallen in pleasant places. Much good was done."