

# PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

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No. 41

## DIRECTORY OF FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS.

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President—Elias Carr, Old Sparta, N. C.  
Vice-President—A. H. Hayes, Birdtown, N. C.

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Assistant Lecturer—R. B. Hunter, Charlotte, N. C.

Chaplain—J. J. Scott, Alfordville, N. C.

Door Keeper—W. H. Tomlinson, Fayetteville, N. C.

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### THE STATE LECTURER IN MACON COUNTY.

FRANKLIN, N. C., Nov. 5, 1889.

MR. EDITOR:—Col. Thos. B. Long, Lecturer of the State Farmers' Alliance, together with Gen. R. B. Vance, were announced to speak at a number of points in this portion of the State. Gen. Vance's many personal friends were pained to learn that he was prevented from meeting with us on account of sickness. Col. Long, however, arrived on the day appointed.

The beautiful day and the very large assemblage of the farmers of the county, were harbingers of a good time for the order. One could not fail to note the eager and expectant expression on the faces of our good farmers as they came pouring in from every quarter. The interest felt was shown by the rush to the court house on the ringing of the bell. The large court room was soon well filled with as respectable and intelligent a body of farmers as could be assembled, perhaps, in the State.

President Ammons, of the Macon County Alliance, was in the chair. Prayer being offered by Rev. Morgan, County Organizer, Col. Long was introduced, and for more than two hours held the undivided attention of his audience, although suffering very much from hoarseness, the result of speaking in the open air to large assemblies for days in succession.

It would not be fair to the Colonel for the writer to attempt anything more than the mere outline of his able address. He showed in the outset that the Farmers Alliance is non-partisan in all its aims and teachings, men of all political faiths could and did belong to the order,—no man's religious creed was a passport or a bar to admission, a belief in a Supreme Being alone being demanded of all. Its highest aims are to improve the condition of the farmer mentally, morally, socially and financially.

He showed further the necessity of organization as a means of protection against the remorseless trusts and money combines springing up all over the land, thereby controlling legislation, State and National, in the interest of the few and against the great mass of the laborers. He showed that while the cities and towns are growing rich the country is becoming poorer. In a single county in Georgia, according to Mr. Grady, of the Constitution, the towns were sixty millions richer and the country fifty millions poorer, and that this was a fair sample of the country at large.

These are only a few of the topics introduced by Mr. Long. They were thoroughly discussed in a fair and manly way, and gave great satisfaction to the friends of the Farmers' Alliance. The results will be seen in

our next quarterly report to the State Alliance. Col. Long shows by his manner that he is thoroughly in earnest in his advocacy of our principles. His language is strong and forceful, his arguments logical and convincing. Excuse this Long article. N. CANOR.

### RESOLUTIONS OF THE BURKE COUNTY ALLIANCE.

CHAMBERS, N. C., Oct. 29, '89.

MR. EDITOR:—Please publish the following resolutions which were passed at the county meeting of Burke Farmers' Alliance, at Rutherford College Oct. 4th, 1889:

WHEREAS, The farmers of Columbus, in convention with the other Sub-Alliances in quarterly meeting assembled at Gilboa School House, Jan. 5, 1889, did petition the Legislature of North Carolina to enact a law establishing a railroad commission; and whereas, our representative, J. H. Hoffman, did, and our Senators Briggs and Blair did not, vote for said bill; therefore be it

Resolved, That we thank our Representative Hoffman for voting for said commission.

Resolved, That we are unqualifiedly opposed to the way our Senators Briggs and Blair acted in the late Legislature, who, forgetting that there were other people in this world besides the railroad kings and magnates, forsook their constituents, the farmers, and went over to the great foe of labor—capital.

Resolved, That this is all their fault, but if they—Briggs and Blair—ever get to vote down another railroad commission bill, then it will be our fault.

Resolved, That hereafter we, the members of each Sub-Alliance, and Burke County Alliance, will enter the primaries of all political parties and see to it that men who are in favor of said railroad commission, and the farmers' interests generally, will be nominated, so that, whether a Democrat or a Republican is elected, we will have a railroad commission in North Carolina.

Resolved, That we propose to give the regular politicians a long rest in the quiet shades of the forgotten past by substituting men who will vote without taffy.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, Country Homes and Morgan Star for publication.

C. HOUK, Pres.

S. M. ASBURY, Sec'y.

### FROM PERQUIMANS COUNTY.

DURANT'S NECK ALLIANCE, No. 1,110, October 28, 1889.

MR. EDITOR:—We expect soon to add to our membership about fifteen females. Our Alliance has not, until recently, seen the necessity of having our lady friends united with us, but now we see the great necessity of their aid in this work of reformation and we propose to bring them in at once. We fear that the healthfulness of our eastern counties has been badly misrepresented in the West. Our Alliance was organized the 17th of August, 1888, and we have had only two deaths, and one of those was an old man who was very infirm. We have a fine farming country here in the east, where fish and oysters abound, and we have more advantages and fewer disadvantages than any other part of the State, we think. We have but little sickness, and what we do have is not of a serious nature. Many thanks to Bro. Tracy for his visit to us at the Farmers' Alliance Fair at Elizabeth City on the 17th of October. The public speech which he delivered at the Fair was rich and made up of facts and information which many of our Alliance brethren had not heretofore known; and it was highly appreciated by the large and attentive audience of ladies and gentlemen, among whom were many of our professional and business men. The private speech which he delivered at the court house in the evening to the members of the Farmers' Alliance, was full of information and enthusiasm. And now we move onward as on a new era amid all our disadvantages. Brethren, there is a great and noble work before us. Then let us gird on our armor of unity and harmony and resolve anew to work out the great problems of the future welfare of our Alliance and our country, as our aims are high and our purposes noble; let us ever keep before us and in our minds the golden rule as delivered to us by our Supreme Ruler: To do unto others at all times as we would have them to do unto us. We feel a great interest in the State

Agency, and I hope to see every member of our Alliance contribute to that fund this fall. While our crops are short, we hope to be able to do our whole duty at all times.

I will now close for the present by saying may the Lord bless our leaders and give them grace to sustain them in all their duties of this life. May THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and its able editor live on and live out a long and happy life and reap a rich reward for his labors in this life, and when our life-work is ended here may we all be enabled to exchange our labors and cares of this life for joys unspeakable and full of glory around our Father's throne in Heaven.

Fraternally yours,  
H. M. SPENCER.

### MECKLENBURG LETTER.

OAK GROVE ALLIANCE, No. 1, Mecklenburg Co., Nov. 5, '89.

MR. EDITOR:—Heretofore the members of Oak Grove Alliance have been content to work and say nothing, but now we want to see our name in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER just to see how it looks, if nothing else. But behind this there is the desire to reach out and join hands with the thousands of honest yeomen all over North Carolina who are fighting the same enemy that assails us, confident that in such union there is renewed strength for ourselves, and at the same time it may be encouragement for others. So with these motives clearly before us we ask for a little space in your valuable paper.

Our Alliance has about sixty members, including the ex-President of the State Alliance, and the originator of a plan, according to which the farmers throughout the South have been instructed to handle their cotton during this season, a plan which, if followed, would save to the farmers \$48,000,000 annually.

Of course we are proud of these men. Besides we glory in the fact that our membership is composed of honest men who while working hard and living close, join heartily in the mighty contest to break the galling fetters of oppressive combines. The men of Mecklenburg have already written one Declaration of Independence, and now for a second time they fight the good fight for freedom, with truth for their watchword, and the friends of truth all over our country for their allies, and who dare say they will not prevail?

We believe in the importance of the business agency fund, and besides a subscription of \$25 by the Alliance, individual members have subscribed and will subscribe enough to swell the amount probably to \$100.

Our attendance is very good, and the meetings usually are interesting. We expect to have at our next meeting an instructive discussion on the all important subject, "The best way of increasing and saving barnyard manures." We may have something further to say then. At present we will cease to try your patience.

W. C. D.

### LETTER FROM GUILFORD.

SHADY GROVE ALLIANCE, No. 1,448, Guilford County, Nov. 5, '89.

MR. EDITOR:—Our Alliance was organized in December, 1888, with six or seven charter members; we now number something over fifty, with some to initiate at our next meeting. We have contributed and forwarded \$10 to the State business agency fund, and I hope that the fund will be completed at an early date. If it is not I am sure there are some in our Alliance who are able and will contribute more yet, as we have as good a set of members as the country affords. The worst thing against them is carelessness in attending our regular meetings, and that brings me to a resolution which is as follows:

WHEREAS, The attendance upon our regular and called meetings have been small, therefore be it

Resolved, That when a member cannot attend at a regular stated meeting they are required to send a written excuse for their absence.

We are not much on resolving, but the above seems to me would be a good one for all lodges, or one similar.

We are not in a cotton country at all, but we rejoice with those who are over the downfall of the Jute Bagging Trust, and are working to accomplish the destruction of all trusts of whatever nature they may be that try to oppress the downtrodden sons of toil. Wishing you and THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER much success and long life, I am,

Fraternally yours,  
R. E. HONIG, Lecturer.

### TRUSTS AND MONOPOLIES.

Federation of Capitalists—The Centralization of Industries.

How Factories May be Closed and Stockholders Get Dividends—Production Cheapened and Prices Increased.

[From the Baltimore Sun.]

NUMBER VI.

What, then, is a trust? Not every device or scheme by which competition transmits itself into combination, but actually speaking such as are built upon the general lines sketched in my former papers. The trusts examined are types of which we have secured authentic photographs, and from these we may judge all others, for while their features differ as becomes sisters, the general family likeness is unmistakable. According to these types, a trust is an "arrangement" under which parties engaged in the independent and competing pursuit of the same line of business consolidate their properties, their business and their skill into one great organization, whose control and management are vested in a small central committee or board.

HOW TRUSTS ARE FORMED.

The general and approved method of forming a trust is as follows: The several concerns or companies become corporations, if they are not such already. The owners of the shares of stock in these corporations transfer all their stock to a small number of trustees, generally selected from the chief stockholders in the several companies. These trustees thus become the stockholders of all the companies, possessing as to each one the legal power and authority which belong to the stockholders of any corporation. They elect its officers and receive all its dividends. By previous agreement a capitalization is agreed upon for the entire organization that may be increased as new members enter, which generally represents not only all the properties put into it, but a liberal addition of water.

For this capital certificates of shares in the "trust" are issued and apportioned in the quotas agreed upon to the several companies for distribution to the former stockholders in the same, according to their respective amounts of stock held therein. The several companies preserve their identity and continue their business, each under its separate and independent management—at least in theory—paying their respective net earnings to the trustees, who receive and distribute them to the certificate-holders, who are now no longer stockholders in any particular company, but shareholders in all.

SUBTLETIES OF THE ARRANGEMENT.

This "arrangement," as it appears on its face, would seem to contemplate nothing more than a general pooling of earnings or profits in the hands of a committee for distribution upon a common basis, while every company pursued, as before, its own business career, for the trustees, being simply the common stockholders of these companies, can exercise their authority but once a year—at the annual election of officers, displacing an unsatisfactory or continuing a satisfactory management. But here appears one of the subtleties of the trust. In the board of directors of each one of the corporations will appear enough of the trustees to control its management. In all the deeds made public, and especially in that of the sugar trust, the power and authority of the trustees are left conveniently indefinite, appearing to be just what the law vests in the stockholders of a corporation. It was proved that these trustees had meetings, but kept no minute of their proceedings, had no office or known place of business, but gathered informally at the place of business of any member of the board. It was difficult to elicit anything definite as to these gatherings. A president of two of the sugar refining companies, who is also a trustee, denied that any vote was had, any action taken or any order given for the shutting down of refineries, the controlling of production, the rising or lowering of prices. In his words, the trustees "just felt each other," but took no action; hence there was no necessity for keeping minutes, all of which looks merely like "passing the time of day" between the individual stockholders in a number of joint ventures.

But the fact that these trustees were also officers in the several companies, and their meeting in the guise of trustees or stockholders was really a meeting of actual managers of the companies, will show that it was only necessary for them "to feel each other," without formal vote or minute,

to know what should be done as to running or shutting down each refinery, depressing or raising prices, and like vital matters, which the trustees, as trustees, indignantly deny their doing or ever intending to do.

CENTRALIZATION OF INDUSTRIES.

Omitting this last feature and taking the trust scheme in its general outline, it might really seem, as its friends and defenders are claiming, but another and healthy step in the concentration of industry in great establishments instead of small ones. This is one of the most familiar and significant tendencies of our day. The small mill, the local factory and the individual capitalist have vanished. In their place, and out of the ruin have grown up huge establishments at favorable points for production and distribution and great corporations.

This is largely due to the mechanical inventions, which have replaced and indefinitely outstripped human labor, the use of steam power, and the marvelous development of our transportation system, not omitting the still more marvelous advance of science. With greater command of capital come better administration, more minute economy, superior facilities for buying and selling, the increased skill and production that result from the specialization of labor, and the quick adoption of every improved invention and process.

Prices have been diminished to the consumer not only by reason of constantly cheapening cost of production, but because the producer has been compelled to content himself with a narrow margin of profit. This compulsion has been two-fold: first, as the condition of securing the larger market which he is obliged to have for his goods, and secondly, from the competition of rival producers.

Now, the very object of the trust is to relieve him from this last compulsion. Mr. F. B. Thurber, testifying as to the sugar trust, summed up the whole matter in these words: "A combination unquestionably can effect great economy. They can buy cheaper, work cheaper, and, if they choose, sell cheaper than scattered and disorganized forces." It is the chief purpose of the trust to vindicate and make sure its right to "choose" the price at which it will sell its products, and only its minor object to effect that great economy which results from large production. Indeed, it cannot be truthfully said to aim at large production, for the very mode by which it seeks to secure this power of "choosing" is through controlling and repressing production.

The public has received in the end, and generally very soon, the chief benefit of the skill and efforts of those who were bidding for its patronage. Through their rivalry it has secured the best service and the most reasonable rates, while in every line of business those who could not offer it that service and those rates have properly gone to the wall. The object of the combination is not to give it the service of the best only, and relieve it from the support of all others, but to force it to put up with average service, and for this average service pay enough to support and afford profits to all.

HOW THE PEOPLE ARE SQUEEZED.

"Have you made any money in your business in the last ten years?" was asked of the head of the largest firm that went into the sugar trust. "Lots of it," was his prompt reply, while other refineries were singing a different tune. If, at market prices of sugar, his firm could make "lots of money," while other refineries were unable to work profitably, it was positive proof that the public was paying enough for its sugar, and those who could not furnish it at the prices then prevailing should have given place to those who could. But the trust threw upon the consumer the cost of supporting and maintaining all these refineries, some of them even in idleness.

Can any one look at the phenomenal profits of these trusts in their brief history, so far beyond the ordinary and legitimate profits of industry as perhaps to call for some other name without knowing that whatever economies have been effected by them, through larger production, better processes and "a single, harmonious management," have been entirely appropriated to their own enrichment, and not as heretofore shared with the public? It has been stated that the sugar trust has since its organization been able to refine sugar one eighth of a cent a pound cheaper than under the system of independent refineries before existing. If so, who has appropriated all of it? The sugar trust itself. One-eighth of a cent a pound meant to that combination from two

to three million dollars. Why, too, did it go still further and add one-half a cent a pound to its profits through its power of "choosing" the price at which it would sell to the consumer? Another declared object of the trust is to prevent the debasement of the quality and purity of its products through excessive competition. But it has not entirely eliminated the rivalry of the different companies in the combination as to which will earn the largest dividends for the common purse, nor rooted out the desire of the combination itself to make the largest profits for its certificate-holders.

But we do not need trusts for these purposes. The public can take care of itself. By its inspection laws and other familiar means it can protect itself from the fraudulent practices of those who refine its sugar or its oils, or in other branches supply its demands.

Wm. L. WILSON.

### FROM SAMPSON COUNTY.

HAYNE, Sampson County, N. C.

MR. EDITOR:—I was requested at the last meeting of our Alliance to write and let the brethren know what we are doing. The Alliance is moving on rapidly in this section; it has some opposition, it is true, but what good thing has not? But that only tends to make us more united, and to persevere in trying to promote the good of the farmers. The Alliance has already been of some pecuniary benefit to us, but we are expecting more and greater profits from some measures that have been recently adopted for the good of the farmers. But while this is all right, and as it should be, we must not forget that the Alliance is intended to do more and greater good for us than simply to put money in our pockets; it is also intended to elevate the mind and bring variety and brightness to the rather monotonous life of the farmers. When we get our land improved so we can get better returns with less acreage, then the farmer will have more time to make his home attractive. Convenient out buildings, neat fences, etc., are pleasant features of a farm, and if things are kept in repair, with plenty smiling all around, we will hear less talk of dissatisfied boys going West, to Georgia or some where else to make their fortunes. Yes, a farm life can be made the happiest life on earth. Nature is prodigal of blessings; we have only to look around us to feast our eyes on beautiful things, and if we will cultivate and educate our minds and hearts to rightly appreciate them, how much more enjoyment they would afford us. It is the duty of those that have children to see that they have good instructors in the school room, but they will not receive much benefit from their efforts unless their parents take an interest in their progress. Home is the true school at last; the father's counsel and the mother's word of praise are remembered all through life, and has so much effect in shaping their course through life till it is never forgotten by them. How important, then, for parents to realize their responsibilities in the discharge of their duties to their children.

This is the first time I have ever written anything for publication, and if it is published I shall be surprised.

Fraternally yours,  
R. L. BUTLER.

### THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

The object of the Farmers' Alliance, expressed in one word is education, the word used in its best, purest and broadest sense; education that will reach from the cradle to the court, and will give us better homes, better schools, better politics, better legislation, and better administration of the laws; education that will give us better methods in the home, on the farm, in the store room, in the market places; education that will do away with every species of gambling in the products of labor, that will give the fullest freedom for trade consistent with the general welfare; that will secure reasonable compensation for labor and fair profits on its productions; education that will give the farmer an even chance with his fellow citizen in every department of life and work, that will aid him in his farm work, in his business affairs, in trade, in politics, in law; education, briefly, that will build up agriculture on a high, broad level, where farmers shall be in all respects abreast with the foremost men of the time.—Kansas Farmer.

Send in your renewal if you desire your paper to continue another year.