

The Progressive Farmer.

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

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THE UNEXPLORED EL DORADO.

FROM official sources it is learned that there are to-day over three hundred thousand native North Carolinians living in other States. It is fair to assume that they left their State to better their condition, and that they were reasonably certain that the advantages offered in their native State would not justify their remaining here. But had they carefully and intelligently investigated the matter, thousands of them, doubtless, would never have gone. Many of them abandoned fortunes of which they had never dreamed, to go where only toil and disappointment was to be their reward. A striking case in point has just come to light. It is said that a discovery of gold in Montgomery county justifies the belief that it is the richest mine ever found east of the Mississippi, and that it is on property of men who left it years ago for the State of Texas. We have just received from our friend, Mr. W. H. Hearne, in the adjoining county of Stanley, a beautiful specimen of slate just discovered, "which," says he, "is in large quantity and may be taken out in large sheets of any desired thickness." Time and again THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER has directed attention to this section of our State. Nearly three years ago we called attention to the fact that here in the centre of our State was an area equal in extent to the State of Connecticut, in which were to be found the finest timbers in greatest abundance, and better water powers than could be found in New England, and which abounded in richest deposits of minerals—a good grain section; a d one of the finest fruit regions in all the South, with mill-stone, grind-stone, granite-stone and other valuable stone, and that there was no section which would develop more rapidly into a prosperous agricultural, mining and manufacturing community, if facilities were afforded. We have long felt that the Atlantic and North Carolina road should be extended to Charlotte, for one very important reason—that it would necessarily traverse this grand country on a central line and thus open it up to enterprise and development. It has been agreed, but we think erroneously, that such a line would impair the value of the North Carolina Road from Goldsboro to Charlotte, and thereby depreciate the value of the State's interest in that Road. We do not agree with this view, but we will not argue that question, as we simply desired to again call attention to this section of wonderful resources and great natural wealth, with the hope that it might stimulate investigation which may lead to the inauguration of such agencies as would develop its splendid capacities.

WE most heartily and cheerfully endorse the following from the Alabama Alliance Advocate: The National Economist has recently completed its first volume. Its publishers essayed to cover a wide and highly important field of journalism. To supply the literary want of a class impoverished by unfavorable political, economic and physical causes was a task of no little magnitude. But the success of the Economist in this laudable undertaking has been both phenomenal and gratifying. The Economist, like Minerva, springing full fledged from the brain of Jupiter, entered the

combat for organized agriculture fully equipped for the contest, and has fought valiantly for the rights of the farming classes. Its management was peculiarly fortunate in securing the services of Dr. C. W. McCune as editor. He is both capable and honest, with mental endowments sufficient to grasp and solve the many complicated agronomic problems that confront the farmer of to-day, and with a devotion to principle that is admirable as it is rare, he faithfully and fearlessly guards the interest of his patrons. Our esteem and admiration for Dr. McCune may cause our comments to be too laudatory, but we cannot refrain from expressing the belief that as infinite Providence provided a Moses to lead the children of Israel out of the Wilderness, and a Washington to secure independence from British tyranny, it also supplied a McCune to organize wronged and impoverished farmers to wage a holy crusade against trusts, combines and monopolies, and enable him to plant their victorious banners on the crumbling walls of opposition and oppression.

THE BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION.

THIS body met in the hospitable and flourishing town of Henderson on the 13th inst. It was organized by the election of L. L. Polk, President, Dr. G. W. Sanderlin, 1st Vice-President, Hon. J. C. Scarborough, 2nd Vice-President, and Dr. C. A. Rominger 3d Vice President.

Secretaries: N. B. Broughton and Rev. G. W. Green. Treasurer: J. D. Boushell. Auditor: W. N. Jones. Corresponding Secretary, Rev. C. Durham.

Quite a number of gentlemen eminent in their respective departments of denominational work, were welcomed as visitors, among them Rev. Dr. C. C. Biting, of the American Baptist Publication Society, Dr. A. E. Dickinson of the Religious Herald, Prof. W. H. Whitsett, of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Dr. Thompson of the Western Recorder, Dr. I. T. Tichenor, Secretary Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Rev. A. J. Diaz, the great missionary of Cuba, Rev. T. P. Bell, Assistant Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Remarkable progress has characterized the denominational work during the past year, but in none was it more notable than in State and Foreign Missions. The Convention pledged \$15,000 for State Missions for next year, an advance of \$2,500 over last year.

Perhaps no subject elicited more interest than the report of the committee on the Baptist State Female College and the discussion of that most important subject. The speeches were of the highest order and it was remarked by old members that this impromptu discussion was perhaps never excelled in the Convention. The Convention, without a dissenting voice and with enthusiastic unanimity continued the committee and increased it to twenty-five, with full authority to act in the premises and constituting it a Board of Trustees whenever the work is sufficiently advanced to need such a body. So the next great step forward for the Baptists of the State is the establishment of a first class Female College of high grade.

Perfect harmony and unity and a strong zeal in all the work, characterized the proceedings throughout. It was a strong body of earnest devoted Christians and their aggressive progressiveness will, without doubt, impress itself upon the next year's work and on the denomination.

We cannot close even this brief account without acknowledging the great and uniform hospitality of the warm hearted people of Henderson, which will not be forgotten. The writer desires especially to express his warm appreciation of the great kindness and genial hospitality of his estimable host and hostess, Col. and Mrs. Burgwyn, in their charming home. It was delightful to be with them.

WHO RUNS THE COUNTRY?

RECENTLY the press of the State country has been publishing a list of millionaires to show "who owns the country."

We give below a statement, taken from official records and we may ask with propriety: Who runs the country?

OCCUPATIONS OF AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN—FORTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

Table listing occupations of congressmen: Lawyers (302), Merchants (20), Journalists (10), Bankers (10), Brewers and Distillers (9), Shipowners (9), Railroad Presidents and Agents (5), Farmers and Planters (5), Physicians (5), Manufacturers (15), Professors (1), Engineers (1), Professional Politicians (4), Clergymen (2), Surveyors (2), Mechanics (1), Builders and Contractors (1).

According to the census of 1880 there were 64,137 lawyers in the United States. They have 302 members in the American Congress, or one to every 212 of their members. They have three fourths of the entire

membership of the American Congress. At the same date, there were 7,670,493, engaged in agriculture, in the United States. They had 21 members in Congress and several of these are only nominally engaged in that pursuit. So while the legal profession has one representative in Congress for every 212 of its members, agriculture has one member for every 365,261 of its members.

Of the 76 members of the Senate, from the most reliable information obtainable, forty one of them are millionaires, and twenty-seven years ago not one of these was a millionaire.

Will some one give us the name of a single farmer, in or out of Congress, in all these United States, who is a millionaire?

While millionaires have multiplied by hundreds within the past thirty years, can any one give us the name of a farmer whom it is reasonably probable to suppose will become a millionaire within the thirty years to come?

Is it not time for the farmers to sit down and do some calm, deliberate thinking?

Is there an intelligent farmer in all this country who can read these facts without a feeling of humiliation and shame for his noble calling? Is it not a disgrace to the intelligence, the patriotism and the manhood of the American farmer? Who runs the country? And if it be run in the interest of capital and irresponsible corporate power, ask yourself, your children, your country and your God, when you give the answer.

Farmers, read, read, read; educate, educate, educate; think, think, think!

STAFF CORRESPONDENCE.

TROUTMANS, N. C., Nov. 7, '89. The damage to the cotton by frost is greater in Iredell than in any section I have traveled. It will be hard work for our cotton farmers to make ends meet. But pluck and energy will conquer every time. We should remember that the crops might have been much worse. Corn was quite good in this section; so was wheat and oats. This will all be a great help.

Doubtless, this fearful visitation will tend to bring our people closer together in Alliance matters. All these misfortunes are for some grand purpose. Iredell has 30 sub-Alliances and the membership is growing slowly but steadily. Her membership has the intelligence but lack enthusiasm. What a grand thing the Alliance is where there is intelligence and enthusiasm combined! But where one or both are absent it is a crop planted but not cultivated. My brother if you have not sufficient grit to help work out the crop, crawl out and give others elbow room.

A great deal of wheat has been sown in this section of the State this Fall. This is right for there are people now standing ready to take advantage of the failure of the cotton crop. The sooner our people reduce the cotton acreage the better, for this plan of raising an all cotton crop at low prices and being nearly a failure at that, will eventually ruin any people. All cotton and meat and bread on credit, mortgages, high prices, lawsuits and the attending evils combined always create a perfect pandemonium which should be avoided.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A meeting of the Maryland State Farmers' Alliance was held at Upper Marlboro' on the 13th inst. President Hugh Mitchell presided. Dr. Joseph A. Mudd, chairman of the committee on credentials, presented a draft for a constitution, which, after a few slight amendments, was adopted, and was ordered published and distributed to the subordinate Alliances in the State at as early a date as possible. A plan for a State Alliance Exchange, to be located in Baltimore, was presented. Although no formal action was taken, there was among the delegates an undercurrent of sentiment hostile to any action upon the part of the Alliance in favor of any political organization, the prevailing opinion being that the farmers should stick strictly to business. The next meeting of the State Alliance will be held in Baltimore on the second Tuesday in August, 1890.

We are gratified to learn that the Secretary of the State Fair will issue a special premium list for the next State Fair, early in January next. This is proper for it gives the farmers and Alliances better time to prepare for such crops as they may desire to enter for premiums. In this connection we may note that the Gold Leaf, the Greenville Reflector and the Washington Progress are doing some plain talking in regard to the gambling schemes which have been notably prominent at some of our Fairs this season. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER wishes to add its voice to protest against the admission of any gambling or swindling device or scheme into our agricultural Fairs. It cannot be justified from any standpoint, and should not be countenanced or tolerated. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER earnestly and respectfully appeals to our State Fair authorities to lead in this greatly needed reform by announcing in all its premium lists and

publications, that nothing of the kind will ever again be admitted to their grounds.

The Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations began a three days' session at the National Museum, Washington last Tuesday. Geo. W. Atherton, of the Pennsylvania State College, is president of the Association, and Chas. E. Thorne, Director of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, is secretary. Among the subjects for discussion are the relations of the colleges and stations to agricultural exhibitions and farmers' institutes, and needed amendments of the Hatch act, under which the stations are organized. Gen. Morgan, commissioner of Indian affairs, made an address, in which he urged the colleges to prepare teachers of industrial arts for the Indian schools. Resolutions were adopted looking toward the co-operation of the stations and the Department of Agriculture in the testing of varieties of flax, hemp, jute and rames and of fibre machinery. Mr. Willis, of the geological survey, explained to the association what the survey was doing in mapping the soils of the country preliminary to their more thorough study by agricultural investigators.

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. McDowell, of Tennessee, informs us that a meeting of the National Board of the Farmers' and Laborers' Union will meet in the city of St. Louis on Saturday, the 30th inst.

Bro. D. Reid Parker, District Lecturer, we are glad to learn, is making splendid progress in our work and especially in the important matter of increasing our business agency fund.

Bro. S. C. Brown, of Catawba county, writes that the cotton crop has been out off at least one-third—that the farmers of that famous wheat county are seeding more than ever before and will make and use of more compost than ever before.

We see that the reception committee to arrange for the reception of the delegates to the Farmers' and Laborers' Union, which meets on the 3rd prox. in the city of St. Louis, has arranged terms with the St. James Hotel at \$1.25 per day.

P. Q. Kiger writes as follows, dating his letter Mana, Yadkin county, Nov. 11th: "If you will allow me a little space in your valuable paper, I will give you some idea of what the farmers of this section are doing in regard to the Alliance. Mr. John Hampton, the Organizer of this county, was with us Saturday night last and succeeded in organizing a Club at this place to be known as the Ennon Farmers' Alliance, with the following officers: S. T. Conrad, President; John Brinkly, Vice-President; J. H. Smith, Treasurer; J. H. Sailor, Lecturer; H. T. Bran, Assistant Lecturer; John Knot, Doorkeeper; C. D. Knot, Serg't-at-Arms. The prospect is good for a large lodge within a short time.

Jas. R. Wright, of South Shore Alliance, No. 1,887, Tyrrell county, says the sister Alliances, South Shore, Lone Star, and New Foundland, have established an Alliance store in the centre, with Capt. J. W. Harnett as clerk. We expect to make it a great help to us. We are nearly all poor people, but are going to do all we can in the cause. We can't do much this year, however, as our crops are badly cut off by the wet season. We hear some say, outside, it will not amount to much, because there are no moneyed men in the order, but I think we can do better without them than with them, for they keep poor men's noses to the grindstone. I would say to the brethren, stand to the guns until the last trust, combine and other enemy falls to rise no more.

Bro. D. M. Arrowood writes from Little Salem Alliance, No. 1,301, and says there is a traveling agent around through that country selling a plow sulky. It is manufactured by the Cahill Manufacturing Co., Clarksville, Tenn. They are selling a very great number of them at very high price, either for cash or credit. A good many of our brethren are buying them. Brethren, is not that against our principles? Have we not a State Business Agent? If you want the Cahill Manufacturing Co.'s goods, why not get them through our Business Agent? I think our principles demand that we should not buy at all; our order will do us no good, financially, while we patronize these traveling agents who go over the country seeking whom they may drag into their coils.

Bro. Elbert A. Woods, Secretary of South Durham Alliance, No. 750, of Durham county, writes that his Alliance is still alive, with some good members and some bad ones. One member carried his cotton five miles out of the way in order to get it wrapped in cotton bagging. "At our

last meeting I received a one-dollar subscription from a member who deserves great credit and honor for her devotion to the cause. The subscriber is sister Mary Pickett, the first to subscribe last spring to the fund to be paid the first day of November. She is a widow lady, her husband having died in the army, of typhoid fever. He left her with six children to battle for; God prospered her, and she has raised them all. She was among the first sisters to join our lodge and has always been and is now ready to assist in the good work. Brethren, come forward and do your duty as sister Pickett has done, and we will have nothing to fear.

Secretary Craddock, of Alliance No. 577, dating his letter at Hobton, renews his subscription to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and says: No Allianceman should try to do without it, as it is almost an impossibility to keep the order on the track without it. We have call meetings every Thursday night to keep our Alliance posted in regard to the cotton movement. Cotton crop is very short in this section, some farmers being hardly able to pay for their guano and provisions. It would be a blessing to them to abandon the former, also the latter on time. Better live as nude as the primitive man and eat their bread on the head of a barrel than go in debt these rigorous times. Hogs are rapidly dying of cholera a few miles off. A Goshen Alliance farmer lost about 60 in a month, others are correspondingly losing. The epidemic is fearful to contemplate. We have about 20 staunch members in No. 577, the rest are careless in attendance. I am doing all I can to raise more funds for State business agency and have succeeded in collecting a "mite" and more to collect. May God in His infinite mercy protect, preserve and prosper the Farmers' Alliance throughout the world. Much success to you, your most excellent journal and your loved ones.

Resolved, By Red House Alliance, No. 761, that the Subordinate Alliances of the State are earnestly requested to use less space in the columns of our State organ, in passing resolutions, in order that the editor of that paper may devote more of its space to general, State and National news, and thus make it the best family paper in the State. T. W. Long, President, J. E. Jordan, Secretary.

[We thank our brethren of Red House Alliance for the above resolutions. It gives us an opportunity to say that we are frequently urged to publish resolutions in regard to local grievances, which should not be known to any except those directly interested. Again through the persistent importunity of brethren we are often led to publish resolutions which are of little interest to the general reader. We try to be accommodating and desire to give all a hearing in our columns, but brethren will please remember that if their resolutions do not appear, that the editor thinks either that they will do the cause no good, or will be productive of actual harm. And do not forget the responsibility on the editor in these matters and that he is in a position to survey the whole matter and best do what, in his judgment is best for our noble order.]

CAUSES OF THE DEPRESSED CONDITION OF AGRICULTURE.

[Extracts from a paper read at the Farmers' Institute Tuesday, Oct. 16th, during the State Fair, at Raleigh, by Capt. Charles McDonald, of Cabarrus.]

Tramps are to be seen daily tramping the country, and we wonder that men can be so lost to all self-respect as to go tramping over the country, begging their daily food. We read of the anarchists of the large cities and of their revolutionary teachings and acts. We execrate them and regard them as enemies to society; we hear of the strikes of the workmen in the industrial pursuits—some of which are of colossal proportions—and we are amazed that men should resort to this method of righting their wrongs. Yet the tramp, the anarchist and the striker are the natural product of existing evils in our social organization. They exist in accordance with natural law—are the outcome of the operation of nature's law. Farmers are organizing throughout the country because they recognize that there exists an unnatural and unhealthy condition of things in this great interest. From all quarters of our broad land comes the cry of unrequited toil, ever increasing farm debt, the aggregation of land in the hands of the few, the rich becoming richer, the poor poorer and more dependent upon the few. We are sowing, but not reaping; we are planting vineyards, but others are eating the fruit thereof; the wealth we create is for the use of others.

The increase of the wealth of this country from 1870 to 1880, according to the census report, was about \$13,500,000,000. In the present decade it will reach at least \$15,000,000,000. Taking the number of those employed in producing this wealth at 12,000,000, we have an annual production of \$125 per capita of this employed population. Where has it gone? Thomas G. Shearman, in the Sep-

tember number of the Forum, says that as lately as 1847 there was but one man in this country who was reported to be worth more than \$5,000,000. Now 25,000 persons out of a total population of 60,000,000 own \$31,500,000,000 of the property of this country. "This estimate," he says, "is far below the actual truth, yet even upon this basis we are confronted with the startling result that 25,000 persons now possess more than one-half of the whole national wealth, real and personal, according to the highest estimate (\$60,000,000,000) which any one has yet ventured to make of the aggregate amount." And I will add in connection with this statement the significant fact that the largest and most conspicuous of these immense fortunes are held by railroad men; a fact you will do well to ponder over and remember when you come to select candidates for the next Legislature. These facts of Mr. Shearman's have been reproduced in many newspapers, but they are so important in their significance, and show so conclusively the robbery under the form of law by the non-producer of the wealth producers, they should be placarded before your eyes until they are embedded in your memories not to be forgotten until you have risen in your might, and blotted forever from the state books every vestige of law under which these robberies have taken place, and placed in their stead laws, constitutional and statutory that will forever prevent the recurrence of such a condition of things. I assert that no man can accumulate a fortune of a million dollars without having wronged and virtually robbed his fellowman.

Lincoln foresaw the rise of this moneyed power while yet the war was in progress, and with prophetic vision foretold the very state of things now existing and trembled with anxiety for the fate of the Republic, "as it," he said, "meant the destruction of the liberties of the people." The downfall of all the nations of antiquity, attaining any degree of civilization, dated from the time when their wealth began to accumulate in the hands of the few. And it needs no prophet to predict the fate of our Republic, should not a check be given and that soon to the rapid accumulation into the hands of the few.

The real primary cause is the centralization of capital with and without chartered privileges, but the more especially with chartered privileges, in carrying on our modern industries. This concentration of capital was made possible, in the first place by unwise legislation—yes, more than unwise—criminal, and capital has gone on reproducing itself with accelerated speed as only capital can do, until now concentrated in the hands of the comparatively few, in the form of corporations, trusts, combines and monopolies, it has become an immense power, being unjustly used to extort from labor an inadequate recompense, and from the farmer an unjust share of his profits; or in other words to rob labor of its just share of the wealth labor produces, thus sitting aside, at will, the natural law of supply and demand. The causes, as can be readily seen, are wholly of an artificial character, and are found in the first place as I said, and wish to emphasize, in the unwise distribution by legislation, State and National, of franchises which afforded the means of making immense sums of money. In this State, as an illustration, all of the railroads are combined to prevent free competition in transportation. The natural law of supply and demand in this respect is set aside and the people of the State must obey the sweet will of these combined railroads with their chartered privileges. In the language of one of their officials, "they have got a good thing and are going to keep it."

Hume says in his history, "that these grievances were the most intolerable for the present, and the most pernicious in their consequences that were ever known in any age or under any government."

The remedy for these wrongs is in the hands of the people, for "when ever a law is found to be injudicious, or grants or permits powers or privileges to be used to oppress rather than to benefit society at large, it is the privilege as the duty of the representatives of society to repeal or amend such laws, constitutional or statutory by withdrawing said perverted powers and privileges."

The evil effects of this centralization of capital, with the accompanying power to set aside the law of supply and demand and thus control the prices of commodities, were first felt upon agriculture, the leading wealth producing industry of the country and the purchasing power of the farmer became impaired by taking from him an undue share of his profits. With this reduced purchasing power of 50 per cent. of our population, the industrial enterprises found prices falling, and a reduction of the wages of the operatives naturally followed, and their purchasing power became impaired. Thus another element entered to further impair the purchasing power of the farmer. When this condition was reached both the farmer