

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

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DIRECTORY OF FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS.

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THE INIQUITOUS TOBACCO TRUST.

What Shall we do About It?

MIDDLEBURG ALLIANCE, No. 432.
MR. EDITOR:—It may well be asked what we are to do in regard to the tobacco trust. It behooves every grower of tobacco to commence thinking what action should be taken in order to defeat their object. That action, immediate and decisive, is necessary, no one can for a moment doubt. Then, brethren, what shall that action be? We all know with what success the united action of our grand order has been crowned in the fight with the jute trust. Now, to my mind, the present trust on tobacco can be much more easily, quickly and effectively put down than the one which has been so successfully defeated. But some brother, perhaps, will ask how is it to be done? Well, my object in writing this is to put every one to thinking, and let us see whether or not some one, or all of us together, cannot devise some plan by which the desired end can be accomplished. Violent diseases require prompt and decisive treatment. Then let us commence at the root of this matter and see whether or not we can discover the necessary remedy and then apply it as vigorously as possible.

To begin at the beginning, suppose every Allianceman constitute himself a committee of one, whose immediate and urgent duty it is to go to work and try to induce every man in his vicinity, who is outside the Alliance, to join forthwith, and urge all who cannot join to act in concert with us, for it cannot but be evident to the dullest mind that all, whether in or out of the order, are equally interested in the matter. This being done, let every Alliance within the bright tobacco belt, and indeed in the whole country, call a meeting at the earliest time practicable and proceed on the following or some similar and equally decisive plan, viz: Draw up a preamble setting forth the grievances we wish redressed, and such a set of resolutions as is necessary to the accomplishment of that end; resolutions not merely to be resolved and dropped without further thought, (as I fear is too often the case) but to be vigorous and persistently pushed. Something, for instance, similar to the following:

WHEREAS, It has come to our knowledge that certain parties have formed themselves into what is known as a trust, with a capital of \$25,000,000, for the purpose of crushing out fair and open competition, and threaten to boycott all buyers who dare bid against them, and that in the very teeth of the law forbidding such combinations, therefore it, by this Alliance, Resolved, That we will not, under any circumstances, knowingly, allow any member of said trust, or any of their servile agents, to buy our tobacco at any price whatever.

Resolved, That we will not, from this day forward, use any cigarettes, cigars, cheroots or tobacco of any kind manufactured by any company or persons who belong to, or are in any way interested or connected with, the trust.

Resolved, We will not buy goods of any description from merchants who keep for sale the goods of said trust.

Resolved, That after we have killed the present trust on tobacco, we will not allow any man or firm who may hereafter admit into partnership with them or in any way give employment to them in their business any person or persons who are now in any way connected with the present trust, to buy our tobacco, and resolved further that we will not henceforth patronize any warehouse man we know, or very strongly suspect, of being in sympathy with the trust unless they can prove conclusively to our minds that our suspicions are incorrect.

Resolved, That we earnestly ask the prompt and hearty co-operation of all the Alliances throughout the whole country and also that of all good citizens outside the order.

Resolved, It seems to me to admit of no doubt whatever that some such action, adhered to by us as one man, would most effectually wipe out the trust, and deter others from again attempting a renewal of anything of the kind. And now it may be asked by some, what are we to do with cigarette tobacco after we may have whipped out the robber trust? Be not uneasy about that for there are plenty of other good, honest men who would be ready to engage in manufacturing it.

But, brethren, why not establish our own factories and work up our own raw material? There seems to me no sort of doubt but that we could do it with almost no cash capital or at least a very small amount, comparatively. Suppose we start factories and let every man, instead of selling his cutters to others, subscribe them at fair valuation as stock in the factory. What if to prevent our success in such an enterprise? I really can see nothing to prevent it.

Inclusion let me urge immediate and prompt action in some way in the matter. There is no doubt we are better able to cope with the trust now than we will ever be hereafter if they carry out their plans, for if we allow them to whip us in this contest, we will as certainly grow rapidly weaker as time passes. Then let us go to work with determination while we have every chance of success.

FROM BLADEN COUNTY.

COLLY, N. C., Nov. 27, 1889.

MR. EDITOR:—I have concluded to write you a few lines. The people in this section are about done gathering crops. Corn is hardly an average, sorghum is short, about one-fourth. A. B. Brooks, a member of our Alliance, made 290 gallons of syrup upon one acre, and about 300 bushels of corn upon five acres in Lyon Swamp, Bladen county, and I believe his entire field in the same swamp would have gathered 40 bushels to the acre and there are thousands of acres of the same kind of land in this section that can be bought at from five to ten dollars per acre. That being the case, why should our young or old men leave the State? I was conversing some time ago with a gentleman that had traveled through several of the Southern States, and he said he had never seen any land South that would yield more to the acre than the Lyon Swamp lands in Bladen county. It is also very good for potatoes and field peas, and if a man should fail to make his meat, occasionally, he can go into the swamps and kill a bear, like one of my neighbors did about two weeks ago.

But, Colonel, our lands won't produce jute worth a cent, for they would not have a jute bag if it was given to them. Good-bye old friend jute, you have been a good friend but you are controlled by the wrong company. And now adieu, King Jute, we are going next for Queen Coffee. Now, Colonel, let all the Alliances pass a resolution and stand to it that we will not use coffee but once a day for six months, and the coffee trust will soon have more coffee on hand than they can hold, and as a consequence it will go down to ten cents a pound. Colonel, you can just put Furman Alliance down as solid on all that pertains to the good of the order and especially on resolutions passed by the National and State Alliance in respect to combines and trusts. Brethren, let us stand as firm as the rocky mountains, and the day is not far distant when we will be a free people. Colonel, I will send to the State

Business Agent soon another good sum to swell the business agency fund, and it is to be hoped that those Alliances that have not contributed anything yet will wake up to their duty and help to raise the business agency fund as soon as possible, for it is certain we will then be able to get goods just as cheap as the largest merchant gets them North.

Colonel, your speech at Atlanta has made for you lots of friends outside of the Alliance (I say outside) for you have nothing but friends in the Alliance.

Colonel, tell your Pitt county correspondent that we agree with him when he said it was unjust and unconstitutional to tax the whites to educate the colored race. They have had their freedom now about twenty-four years, and if they have not accumulated anything in all this time it is not our fault, and I for one (speaking, too, I believe, the sentiment of at least eight-ninths of the white people), do here and now enter my protest against that unjust, and, I believe, unconstitutional law.

Long may the editor and PROGRESSIVE FARMER live to advance the interests of the farmers and laboring men of this country.

Fraternally yours,
A. J. BORDEAUX, Sec'y.

INSURANCE "AGAIN."

RIVERDALE ALLIANCE, No. 1,303,
Thurman, N. C.

MR. EDITOR:—On opening my paper last night, my eyes immediately saw "insurance again, by Old Hickory," and after reading, I thought it is possible that a brother who calls himself an Allianceman, could have written such. "Old Hickory" perhaps has never read the 7th paragraph on 1st page of the Constitution. Perhaps he does not remember his obligation. "Old Hickory" claims the promise of God, "He that tilleth the soil, verily shall be fed." I believe there are many widows and poor fatherless children who are not able to till the soil. The Bible commands us to help such, and as God-fearing and God-loving and Christian hearted Alliancemen, I think it our duty to aid the helpless and bereaved, and although "Old Hickory" may be worth lots of money, and may not need the aid of the "tramp and deadhead," still it is his imperative duty to aid those of our bereaved ones, whom death and misfortune has made desolate. I know of no better plan to aid those in distress than some well conducted insurance. I do not intend for the seat of my pants to be patched for indolence, and hope by the help of God, that at my death my family will not be paupers. Yet I feel like we ought all to help the needy, and I for one am willing to pay my *pro rata* to help support the helpless. I believe God would prosper us more if we would give more of our means to charitable purposes. I would say to our brother, "Old Hickory," Come over and help us. If you are wealthy, we need you the more.

Yours fraternally,
GABRIEL L. HARDISON, Sec'y.

FROM VANCE COUNTY.

WILLIAMSBORO, N. C.

MR. EDITOR:—We organized Flint Hill Alliance, in Vance county, with fourteen or fifteen members, about two months ago, with the best men in the community, and they are men of nerve and backbone. We have the work of the Alliance at heart, and are willing to stand by and defend its principles unto death. Most of our members read THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, and are wide awake to all questions that are being agitated by our State organ.

We are heartily in favor of the insurance policy which many of our leading brethren are thinking and writing about of late, and hope that soon some plan will be formulated that will be just and equitable. Why not the Alliance be a great insurance company? We are a unit in standing by our noble order in opposing monopolies and combines; sometimes some of our brethren become eloquent on the subject. We think the Alliance next in importance to the Church of the living God, and God speed the day when we shall triumph over those who oppose us.

There is a move on the part of the sisters to join our Alliance, which I think is a move in the right direction. There will be ten who will join our Alliance at the next meeting. When we get all the farmers and working men, with their wives and daughters, in one solid phalanx, combines will have to crumble.

J. A. T. SHOTWELL, Sec'y.

FROM SAMPSON COUNTY.

HAWLEY'S STORE, Nov. 20, '89.

MR. EDITOR:—If you will give me space in your valuable paper I will let the brethren know that Cedar Hill Alliance, No. 830, is yet alive, and stands by the true principles of Allianceism. At our last meeting we resolved not to patronize any trading agent except he be authorized by the Alliance so to act. Our lodge is in good order and may be said to be prosperous. We have seventy-seven members in good standing, and they are of as good citizens as the county affords. They are men eminent for truth, honesty, good sense, morality and religion; and, composed of such material, of course they are as true to the Farmers' Alliance as the needle is to the pole.

I am pleased to know that the order is making rapid progress throughout the State, and I am satisfied that if the brethren will remain steadfast and faithful we will gain a grand and glorious victory over our enemies in the near future, and peace, prosperity and plenty will again smile upon our sweet, sunny land. Our enemies have heretofore had both ends of the rope, while they have kept us in the middle, but it really begins to look as if we had slipped from them one end and that we are now in possession of the biggest half of the rope. There must be no let up, and in a very short time the procession will begin to move in the opposite direction.

So, brethren, be encouraged; be firm in your resolutions, never yield an inch. Brethren, work with your hands and work with your brains and we will be sure to succeed.

Alliancemen, don't leave out God, but get Him into your homes, then into your Alliance hall; learn of Him His will to do and we will surely prosper. With best wishes for the success of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, and the earnest, heartfelt hope that an all wise God will bless the Alliance in its efforts to do good, I am

Fraternally yours,
J. A. JACKSON, Asst Sec'y.

LIFE INSURANCE AGAIN.

I have noticed recently that there is a disposition among the brethren to establish a plan for life insurance for the benefit of the members of the Alliance.

Now it would be a very nice thing indeed for our wives and children if such a plan could be put into successful operation, but I am of the opinion that it cannot be done, and I am afraid that any attempt to turn the Alliance into a big life insurance association would result in great injury to the Alliance. Other organizations have tried the same thing, and have not been benefited thereby, but on the contrary some of them have been very much crippled. I notice, too, that life insurance associations that are formed on the assessment plan usually fail.

If any life insurance association or company expects to be successful their business must be conducted in a skillful, business-like manner and they must be backed by capital.

Now if the Alliance feels rich enough to contribute a fund to start with, and will only insure such candidates as could be insured in any first-class insurance company, then I think the business can be made a success; but if the brethren think of insuring all the aged, sick and consumptive who now belong to the order, or who might join hereafter for the benefit of the insurance, and depend on passing the hat around to raise the money, they will find that it will not work.

To show you the magnitude of the undertaking: in the very paper which contained the proposition for each Sub-Alliance to pay \$1 every time a member died, also contained, I think eight or nine obituaries. Since that time obituary notices have taken up so much space that the editor of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER has been obliged to state that hereafter he can only insert a short notice. Now if the average is only eight per week, it will amount to 416 deaths per year. At \$1 each, every Sub-Alliance would be taxed \$416. Pretty heavy isn't it?

Well, one brother at least has seen that his proposition will not do, and so he has come to the front with a new one, to wit: When a member of the Alliance dies each survivor shall pay three cents for the support of the deceased brother's family.

That sounds possible and three cents does not seem to be a very large sum, but let us look into it a little. Suppose there are 60,000 members in the State, and suppose one in every

50 dies each year. That will amount to 1,200 deaths, and at three cents each will make a tax of \$36 to every member of the Alliance.

The brethren either have not counted the cost or else they have unlimited confidence in their ability to raise money; if the latter I would respectfully suggest that they let the insurance idea alone, and turn their attention to the State business agency fund. It is upon that fund, more than any one thing, that the success of the Alliance depends.

ALLIANCEMAN.

FROM LINCOLN.

ALLIANCE No. 1,377,

NORTH BROOK, N. C., Nov. 23, '89.

MR. EDITOR:—Not having seen anything in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER relative to the North Brook Alliance, and at the request of our brethren, I endeavor to send you this communication to enable all the brethren to know what we have and are doing. We are much behind in the great cause of our order, but by true principles and faithful labor we expect to climb the ladder so long as the Alliance lives, (which is, we hope, forever) until the climax is reached.

We were organized only one year ago with 16 members. We have continued to increase until our lodge numbers 48 members who are men of the right grit. We have contributed by individual subscription to the business agency fund \$10. And at the call for every Alliance to send as much of Treasury fund as possible, we responded with \$5 more, and today our list of subscription is completed by every member paying \$10 additional which makes \$38, with a total to business agency fund of \$53. We hope and trust that each Alliance may do their best and the fund will be raised. Then, and then only, can we manage the objects for which we are earnestly laboring.

We are glad to know our oppressors in a great measure have been whipped out, and by our co-operation and union we may be enabled to keep them out.

Now, brethren, let us work in union and with such men only as the Alliance advocate we may be knit together and feel as if we are one brotherhood, fighting the battles of those trusts, combines and monopolies under one national flag. We have men who are true, strong, determined and of pure fidelity. The enlightening, the moral and social development of our order is being felt throughout the country, and in all Alliances resolutions against profane swearing, drunkenness, etc., are having its desired effect.

With much love for the Alliance and success to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, I am,

Fraternally,
T. PATE JENKS, Sec'y.

FROM WATAUGA COUNTY.

BOONE, N. C., Dec. 2, 1889.

MR. EDITOR:—Not seeing any communication in your paper relative to the Farmers' Alliance in Watauga county, I have decided to write a few facts about the history and progress of the work. The first two Alliances were organized early in last April by Bro. J. S. Davidson, of, or near, Charlotte. He was in a hurry, and could not remain to prosecute the work. Last of May, without any solicitation upon my part, but at the unanimous request of both Alliances, I was commissioned organizer for the county. As opportunities offered I made appointments, and talked to the people from my limited fund of Alliance information, and organized five other Alliances, making seven in all. I then invited Bro. W. A. Graham to visit us, make a public address, and assist me in organizing a County Alliance. This he did to the entire satisfaction of all, greatly enlarging my stock of Alliance doctrine.

After the meeting of the State Alliance in Fayetteville I was commissioned, and have organized seventeen Alliances in all, making 19 in the county, with one or two more to organize. The smallest I organized was with five, and the largest 42. I think the report of the County Secretary at next meeting of the County Alliance will show us five hundred strong in the county, and growing every week. Possibly we have made the same mistake that nearly all others have made by getting in material that ought to have been kept out. However we have, as yet, had to suspend or exclude but very few, and none have withdrawn, so far as I know. We need very much the visit of a good lecturer to better inform

our members in Alliance principles, and I hope some of the brethren will come this way next spring. We have the promise of Bro. Polk next summer, but must have some one earlier than he can come. The greatest fears I have are that some of our brethren will be impatient of results, and lose interest. This great movement is not the work of a day or year, but of years, and we must be content to hold on, and must tighten our grip, year by year, instead of losing it. Great reformations have generally come slowly but surely, and will be so with this. I believe the Lord of hosts is in this great Alliance movement, and we must look to him for guidance, and not forget our dependence on him.

We have not yet done anything for the business agency fund, but feel sure as soon as our people get a little more information and more light they will do their part. I am encouraging our members to take the great disseminator of Alliance light, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, and already several copies are coming to the county. I hold that no Sub-Alliance can ever develop in intelligence and become a power for good without the information that THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, or some other paper devoted to the same interest, brings from week to week. Every Sub-Alliance should take at least one copy. I. W. THOMAS.

ONSLOW ITEMS.

CATHARINE LAKE, ONSLOW CO., N. C.,
Nov. 25, 1889.

MR. EDITOR:—It has been a long time since I have written anything for your paper thinking it best to give way for such valuable articles as come from the pen of Old Fog and others.

No 241 holds her own yet. We heartily endorse the insurance feature. Our Alliance seems to think that one cent per head would be about right, though we are willing to abide by the decision of the majority. One thing I do know, this small amount would leave the most of us better off than we are at present. We want the brethren throughout the State to take hold of this matter right away. Can't it be settled at the county meeting in January. Our next county meeting of the ONSLOW County Alliance will be held at Catharine Lake.

Crops are at least one-third short; lots of people won't be able to run a crop another year; can't begin to pay out.

The ONSLOW railroad is drawing all the able-bodied hands from the farm. Should it last next year somebody's land will rest.

A heavy wind storm passed over this section last week doing considerable damage to houses, fences, timber and stock.

Our lodge will send about twenty-five dollars to the agency fund soon. I will close by saying our order is proud of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and its noble editor, and we intend to prove this by paying up our subscription soon.

Very truly, etc.,
JOHN THOMAS.

AN ERROR.

The notions which so closely connect the invention and application of machinery with the non-employment of labor are among the results of a want of knowledge most devoutly to be deprecated.

Could the machinery of this country be by one stroke of a giant arm annihilated, what tongue can tell the results, the tremendous results, of misery that would instantly be realized? No siege of a city, however protracted; no war, however bloody and desolating; no revolution, however wild and ferocious, has ever shown a parallel for the misery that would instantly descend upon the heads of millions, could any such idea be realized. The means, not only of clothing, but of food and migration, would instantly fail us; we should be shut up from the result of the world; we should be reduced into a state in which it would not be strange if even cannibalism were to ensue. The hostility to machinery, to be consistent, must be universal. Each class of workmen has the same right; and if the agricultural laborer be justifiable in destroying the threshing machine, the weaver has a right to destroy the powerloom; the printers' pressman would be right in destroying the steam-press; and so, throughout the whole compass of society, we should be thrown back into a state of privation, helplessness, and utter barbarism.—N. Y. Ledger.

Virtue and honor are more valuable than gold and diamonds.