

# PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

Vol. 4

RALEIGH, N. C., DECEMBER 24, 1889.

No. 46

## DIRECTORY OF FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS.

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**DOES CONTRACTION AFFECT VALUES?**  
BY OLD FOGY.

The statements of any one man without facts as data, however great he might be, ought to have but little weight on the burning questions of the hour.

What we need is to approach the subject, not with a preconceived theory, but with the sole view of reaching the truth, by collating all the facts. Theories follow without effort.

All governments of and by the people are but aggregations of individuals who express their will by their representatives. From this principle, by those interested, the following deductions have been made:

1st. The farmer and laborer has nothing to sell or exchange but his labor, or its results.

2d. If the government were to grind out millions of what is called "flat" money, it would go into the National Treasury and the farmer could only get it by stealing, by labor or products of labor.

3d. The corollary—that it makes no difference what the volume of currency is, so long as there is sufficient to pay us for our crops; and if enough to pay us for our crops, the volume is sufficient for practical purposes.

When Major Ragland, of Virginia, was contributing his very valuable series of articles to our paper, I took the position just cited with the hope that he would develop the ideas that I shall now undertake to elucidate, knowing that he could do so much more clearly and forcibly than I could possibly do.

The facts are, if this theory be true, we have no need of a fourth part of the currency we now have. A system of exchange on the principle of a clearing house with our gold and silver would be ample.

I assert without fear of successful contradiction that we need a volume of currency equal in worth and value to the value of all the products of value of our country.

Two other corrections and I give the facts in the case. The fact is, we have labor, the results of labor and legislation; these are the methods of getting money into or out of vaults, either private or public.

It is by legislation that pensions are paid soldiers, that public buildings are erected, that river and harbor appropriations are made that tariff is exacted; all these, and all they imply, are mediums of circulating currency. We hoard and disburse millions yearly by legislation.

The second error lies in the statement that money as a circulating medium has intrinsic value. The

truth is money has a commercial value.

Now to the facts:  
"At the beginning of the Christian Era, the metallic money of the Roman Empire amounted to \$1,800,000,000. At the end of the 15th century it was less than \$200,000,000. With the contraction of currency, population, commerce, arts, wealth and freedom, all disappeared." See report of Silver Commission.

"As the memorable 1st of May, 1823, drew near, bankers as well as the Bank of England prepared themselves by narrowing their circulation.

The distress, ruin and bankruptcy which took place was universal, affecting both land and trade, but upon those whose lands were mortgaged the effect was most disastrous.

Estates encumbered for half their values, when sold would not satisfy the mortgages." See the Financial History of England.

The following tables from U. S. statistics are given as arranged in The Philosophy of Price and they present an object lesson we ought to study:

Year.	Currency in Circulation.	Results.
1811	\$ 28,000,000	Hard times.
1816	110,000,000	Good times.
1818	40,000,000	Panic.
1827	150,000,000	Booming times.
1843	58,000,000	Panic.
1857	105,000,000	Good times.
1857	215,000,000	Booming times.
1858	150,000,000	Panic.
1863	1,631,382,372	Booming times.
1873	738,210,749	Panic.
1877	698,443,394	Prostration.

I now call your attention to facts cited by Henry Clay in a speech in the U. S. Senate.

In Ohio, with all her abundance, it was hard to get money to pay taxes. The sheriff of Muskingum county sold at auction 10 hogs at 61-4 cents each; 2 horses worth \$50 each at \$2 each; 2 cows at \$1 each, a barrel of sugar for \$1.50 and store goods at the same rate.

The sheriff of Pike county, Mo., sold 3 horses at \$1.50 each, a large ox at 12 1/2 cts., 5 cows, 2 steers, and 1 calf, the lot for \$3.25, 24 hogs for 25 cts., the lot and 7 hogheads of tobacco for \$5.

These are facts, not theories, and we challenge those who advise "work hard and save" to contradict them.

Reduce the currency one-half and you will see all this repeated.

I want to ask why it is that men who have money to loan are so anxious to have less currency? Read the following from Donbley's History, and you need look no further for an answer.

"By the contraction of money in England from 1816 to 1825, more than four-fifths of the land owners were robbed of their estates."

One fact is worth a million statements or theories, and I defy any one to show that any country was ever prosperous when currency was limited, less than the needs of the community or nation.

It has been said that economists teach differently. Suppose they did, would that alter a fact?

Scientific men taught that the earth stood still, that the blood in our veins did not course through our systems, but their teachings did not prove they were right.

Scientific men laughed at Fulton, denied Moore, sneered at Columbus and crucified our Saviour. But is it true that political economists teach that a small volume of currency is better for us—that is—a cash basis for certificates, which in this country we call greenbacks. Hume in his Essay on Money taught differently.

Crawford, Secretary of the Treasury in 1820, Hunter, U. S. Senator in 1852, agree that decreasing currency produces poverty and want. The greatest per cent. of our political fathers so taught.

Seyd, Fauchet, Rothschild, Prof. Laveleye, Smith, Mill, Prof. Jevons, Wayland, Bowen, Thompson, Ricardo, Tooke, Perry, Prof. Chevalier, Jacobs Walker, Smye, Linderman, Faucett, Carey and a host of others, all the great economists of authority agree that contraction of currency is fatal to the poor, to those that are in debt, and detrimental to a country's prosperity.

I should be glad if some of the "Gold Base" theorists would undertake to refute these propositions.

The fathers of our country thought that

"Funding is simply robbing the people on a great scale." JEFFERSON.

"Anything that the government will receive in payment of public dues is money, and good money, no matter what the form may be." HENRY CLAY.

"To annul the use of either of the two metals as money, is to abridge the quantity

of circulating medium, and is liable to all the objections which arise from scant circulation." HAMILTON.

From these facts it is clear that a contracted currency is disastrous to the poor, and fatal to those in debt. We challenge refutation.

**A PLEASANT LETTER FROM A SISTER.**

OWENSVILLE, Sampson Co., N. C., Dec. 9, 1889.

MR. EDITOR:—Occasionally I see a letter in your worthy columns from some of the sisters, and I thought I would, in my feeble way, give you a few lines from our Alliance. We are moving slowly along; do not pass many resolutions but always endorse everything that we think is for the good of the order. We have enrolled about fifty males and forty-nine females in our Alliance, but am sorry to say that some of our male members stand suspended. But we have some as good material as can be found in the county who will stick to the order till the last day, so long as we have such men as Col. L. L. Polk, S. B. Alexander and others to lead us.

Every week I read of the death of some brother or sister in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, and we feel that God, in His unbounded wisdom, has been more than kind to us, inasmuch as He has not laid His icy hand upon us nor taken from our ranks a single member.

We have had only one marriage, our worthy Lecturer, Mr. Street Brewer, to Miss Rensie B. White.

The insurance question has not been brought before our Alliance yet but some of the brothers favor it. I think Old Hickory a crazy old bachelor with no one to care for, and no one to care for him.

Inclosed I send you a list of six subscribers; hope to send more in the near future. A long and happy life to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and its worthy editor.

S. J. COOPER, Sec'y.

**FROM BRUNSWICK COUNTY.**

EXCELSIOR, N. C., Dec. 9, '89.

MR. EDITOR:—I take pleasure in saying through your paper that Capt. W. A. Darden has been down here in old Brunswick dealing out the plain unvarnished truth of the Alliance, and we are more than happy to state that we believe that his arguments have been generally accepted. We had the pleasure of attending his meeting at Union Chapel, which was quite an interesting occasion. The church house was densely crowded, and for an hour or more Bro. Darden entertained the audience with a very happy speech, setting forth graphically the condition of our country. First, that the farmers were oppressed; organization was necessary to relieving the farmers in their oppressed; that by such organization the farmers did not mean to antagonize other professions, but that they simply meant to take care of themselves better than they had been doing heretofore. He pictured the dilapidated condition of farms and buildings in the country, and contrasted it with the evidences of progress which may be seen in towns and cities, and urged such as incontestable evidence of where we are drifting to. But an attempt to outline his speech is gross injustice to the speaker. We will therefore desist from any further attempt, so patient and elaborate was his portrayal of our country's condition and the position occupied by the Alliance. Therefore suffice it to say that his speech was both instructive and conciliatory, and will, we predict, have much to do in showing to the world that the Alliance means only to build up and not to tare down, as has been claimed by its opposers.

And now, Mr. Editor, please indulge a few remarks about our lodge (No. 408). We are doing very well, considering. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is read by our members; also the Economist is read and handed around, which are two of the best school masters for our membership that we could have at such small expense, and I take pleasure in urging the importance of reading these two papers. Brethren everywhere, don't neglect this important duty, it will do you good and make you stronger in faith. Fearing that a want of every saving quality (save length) would consign this to oblivion, I will close for the present.

Hoping success to the Alliance and to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, its noble advocate and defender, I remain,

Fraternally yours,  
W. S. MILLIKEN, Cor.

The inventor of the roller skate made over \$1,000,000.

## HARNETT COUNTY TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

SUMMERVILLE, N. C., Dec. 13.  
MR. EDITOR:—The Teachers' Institute, held in this county during the present week, was a decided success. The attendance of teachers was, on an average, fairly good, there being about thirty-five or forty present. People who are interested in public education turned out en masse at the public exercises, and were highly entertained. The Institute was conducted by Prof. E. R. Alderman, a gentleman fully competent to discharge the duties of his position.

On Friday he delivered a public address at Lillington in the presence of a large and attentive audience. His lecture was full of interesting facts and figures, and believing that your readers would be glad to know what good Prof. Alderman is doing for the cause of education in this State, I give below a brief synopsis of his remarks on that occasion.

In the outset he discussed several general propositions in which he claimed that it was the duty of the State to provide means for the education of its children, and that these children had the right to demand that they be educated. He took the position that if the tax on property for public education was not a legitimate tax then all taxation was mere robbery, and that men who were opposed to public education had no logical position among men. According to his argument we have to face and settle the great question of the education of the masses. The schools were here to stay and they either had to be improved or abolished. He showed in a very comprehensive manner how important the child was to the State. In this State, he said, the average number of days of the public school was sixty-three which was much lower than some of the other Southern States. Eleven-twelfths of the children in the State go to the public schools, while only about 20,000 in all attended private schools, and hence the great question of the home was the importance of the public school.

The number of voters in 1888 in this State who could not either read or write he placed at 145,000, and of these 58,000 were white and 87,000 colored. He advocated six months schools, the employment of good teachers, and the building of substantial and comfortable school houses. His description of the average country school house created much merriment, yet at the same time it was nothing but the truth. In some of these school buildings, he said, a farmer would not allow his boys to go for fear that they would break their legs or otherwise injure themselves in trying to make their exit through the holes. The hogs could be protected while the poor children had to suffer. He advised the people to act in harmony and appeal to the legislature for relief. When that body saw that the people were in earnest they would enact laws that would furnish better educational facilities. He gave those men who opposed taxation for public education some hard raps. He said they were doing nothing themselves to make the schools better. There was a certain privileged class, he said, who did not want the people educated because they would not then submit to their methods and practices.

In his remarks to the school officers he gave them some wholesome advice. In the first place they should select suitable buildings, then elect competent teachers and by all means not to interfere with them. He was unalterably opposed to letting out schools to the lowest bidder, and in order to secure competent teachers they should lessen the term if there was not money enough to justify a good teacher in accepting the position.

In discussing the "negro problem" he said it was folly for some men to be saying that they were opposed to being taxed to educate the children of the negro. In this they were simply cutting off their noses to spite their faces. If all the negro labor was drawn from the State, it would have to be replaced with some other which likely would be more objectionable than the negro element. When these foreigners were put in the negroes' places the people would have to pay to help educate their children. So, it was simply six of the one and a half a dozen of the other.

Prof. Alderman advocated the endowment by the State of an institution for the education of women. There was no such institution in the State, and as many of the public schools were taught by ladies, he thought that one was sadly needed.

Prof. Alderman's work here has had a wonderful effect. It has awak-

ened a desire for better public schools, and I have no doubt that the teachers have been greatly benefited by his instruction. There were about a dozen applicants for State certificates, but the names of the successful ones have not yet been made public.

SPECTATOR.

## RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE SCOTLAND NECK MEETING.

By request we publish the following preamble and resolutions adopted by the farmers' meeting held at Scotland Neck, Halifax county, N. C., Dec. 6th, 1889:

WHEREAS, Owing to the almost total failure of crops, there prevails at this time in this section of the State and in this community, a feeling of depression and uneasiness, and this being an agricultural community, many of the people are uncertain as to how they will be enabled to carry forward their farming operations the coming year; therefore we, the merchants of Scotland Neck, in convention assembled, believing that it is the duty of all men to unite for the common good of their section, and believing that each community will have to find the remedy for the present distress within itself, and in order to relieve this feeling of depression and uneasiness and to give our assurance of aid,

Resolved, That whilst the condition of this section is without a parallel in its history, and the burdens upon us all are heavy, there is no cause for alarm and uncertainty and loss of hope.

Resolved, That the situation demands the strictest economy and the exercise of prudence and wisdom upon the part of all, and absolute candor and fair dealing between debtor and creditor.

Resolved, That we can and will aid all of our customers and patrons the coming year as we have done in the past, and we promise that we will make sacrifices for them, knowing that they will measure their demands upon us by their necessities.

Resolved, That we desire all our friends, both farmers and laborers, to feel that there is no cause for alarm and that there will be plenty of work for willing hands to do.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the News and Observer, Star, Messenger, Chronicle, Southerner, PROGRESSIVE FARMER, Roanoke News and Democrat with the request that they be published.

D. EDMUNDSON, Chm'n.  
E. I. WHITEHEAD, Sec'y.

## FROM IREDELL COUNTY.

FAIRFIELD ALLIANCE, Statesville, N. C., Dec. 12, '89.

MR. EDITOR:—As you were so very kind as to allow my first, uninteresting epistle to be published, I feel greatly encouraged to "try again."

Our little lodge is still in the land of the living, but sometimes I fear that some, and a "good sized some" of our members are—I don't know when, but I do know they are seldom at the meeting of the Alliance. Only the meetings previous to the last our President, Mr. J. C. Lentz, (and not Fenty, as it was printed before), had forgotten all about it being Alliance day and consequently didn't go out that evening, and on the very same evening our Lecturer, Mr. Kimball, stayed at home to pull up grubbs. Those are two of our enthusiastic members that I spoke of. Bro. J. F. Eagle was elected Chaplain of our lodge about a month since, and has never put in an appearance since, though we all know he is a good, pious man, and is not afraid to pray. So he is not scared away by any means. Our Secretary, Bro. J. W. White, is very faithful and attached to the great cause. He is always ready and willing to do "whatever his hands findeth to do," though it was rather amusing in our last meeting to see him bounce up like a "spider on springs" and say: "I make a motion that we elect Belle Barkley Corresponding Secretary," and of course as he is a great worker the house would submit to almost any proposition he would make, although they do it reluctantly, though I fear he, as well as others, will see wherein they have made a great blunder.

Well, while I have been censuring our good brethren for their tardiness in attendance, allow me to say that to see a half dozen of the 21 female members there at one time would scare every man off the place, notwithstanding we have members who are not afraid of ghosts, cyclones, earthquakes or anything of the kind. But why should the good sisters have

a great desire to attend? If she gives her opinion in regard to anything that may be under consideration, some pert young gent will say, "she does think she is so smart," or something of the kind.

Our Alliance has not come to any agreement in regard to the insurance plan, as some are seeming to "sorter" pull back. What do you think about "Old Hickory's" letter in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER of last week? I simply think that the good farmers ought to take him "behind the house" and make his pants need a "patch on them."

Well, what shall we do for a merry Xmas? With best wishes to the dear old PROGRESSIVE FARMER and all our band of christian workers, I am,

Very respectfully,  
B. B. Cor. Sec.

"The true and only cause of the stagnation in industry and commerce now everywhere felt is the fact every where existing of falling prices, caused by a shrinkage in the volume of money."—Report Silver Commission, p. 121.

## FROM HENDERSON COUNTY.

PUMP, N. C., Dec. 14, '89.

MR. EDITOR:—We, the farmers of western North Carolina, are looking forward to better times. We are looking and longing for the time to come when we can work twelve months in the year and get a return for our labor. At present we do not work more than one half the time and we have at present a surplus of corn, cabbage, potatoes, beans and onions, fruits of all kinds, both green and dried, and a vast amount will have to rot and go to waste for lack of a market, all on account of the greedy claw of the bloated railroad kings. I want the brethren all over the State to give their support to the man who will go teeth and toe-nail for a railroad commission. We could live by farming if we could market our surplus, but the freight is so awfully high it pays us better to dump the produce in the manure heap. Bear Wallow Farmers' Alliance is proud to know that the National Farmers' and Laborers' Union has chosen one of our best and wisest leaders to preside over that grand and noble body. There is no other words that this Alliance can utter more appropriate than these: May God bless him in the great effort he is making to save America from the curse of monopoly, and Alliance No. 1,629 answers, Amen. Fraternally,

"HICKORY."

"Diminishing money and falling prices are not only oppressive upon debtors, but they cause stagnation in business, reduce production and enforce idleness. Falling markets annihilate profits, and as it is only the expectation of gain that stimulates capital to invest in operations, inadequate employment is found for labor, and those who are employed can only be so on diminished wages."—American Review.

## OVERPRODUCTION.

If there were two overcoats for sale in Newton and only money and credit enough to buy one, our street corner politicians would of course be obliged to conclude that there was an overproduction of overcoats, although half the men were without. They would of course say that supply and demand control the market for all commodities and therefore conclude that when the overcoat was sold for which there was a "demand" that the supply had exceeded the demand, without for a moment considering that if the money supply had been smaller, and prices necessarily and correspondingly lower, that even one overcoat could not have been sold, no matter how severe the weather or great the need of "protection."

The control of large capital destroys the theory of supply and demand completely. Suppose for instance that a millionaire should come to Newton and engage in the business of merchandising, build a big warehouse, keep all classes of goods and undertake to "run out" all competition, and this is the way business is already being done, to a great extent, on the Pacific coast—he could sell one class of goods for less than cost and still "make money" and in this way "corner" supply and control demand. And this is precisely what is being done today in our great markets and just what we are coming to in all our smaller towns if the present control of the national finances continues.

Nothing in the "money question" Wait and see.—Kansas Commonwealth.