

The Progressive Farmer.

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Raleigh, N. C.

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RALEIGH, N. C., DEC. 24, 1889.

This paper entered as second-class matter at the Post Office in Raleigh, N. C.

The Progressive Farmer is the Official Organ of the N. C. Farmers' Association and N. C. State Farmers' Alliance, and the Virginia State Farmers' Alliance.

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A WORD TO MY FRIENDS.

HAVING been elected President of the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union at the recent meeting of our order in St. Louis, I have tendered, to our State Executive Committee, my resignation as Secretary of our State Alliance.

At that meeting the practical consolidation of twenty-three States and Territories was effected, which gives us over two millions of members. It was deemed wise that such a large body (and which, most probably, will soon be doubled in number) and covering an area, reaching from New Jersey to the Pacific coast, should have permanent headquarters, accordingly, the Supreme Council required its President, its Secretary and the Chairman of its Executive Board to have its national office and their residence in the city of Washington. I go to Washington at an early day, to enter on the duties of my office. I shall retain my membership in Oak Ridge Alliance, No. 24, and my relation as editor of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and my citizenship as a North Carolinian.

In the future as in the past, the peoples' cause shall be my cause.

In the future as in the past, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER shall be true to the best interests of the whole people, fearlessly assailing the wrong and boldly defending the right. And with the growing strength of our great organization, it will be my earnest purpose to give my patrons a better and more valuable paper than it has ever been.

May Heaven's richest blessings rest on our cause, our State and our common country.
L. L. POLK.

CORRECTION.

IN the call for the Alliance Convention at Oxford, N. C., published in the last issue of this paper, an error was made as to day of meeting. The meeting will take place on Thursday, the 9th of January, instead of Tuesday, as erroneously stated in our last. Please note the correction.

THE TIME AND PLACE TO MAKE DEMANDS.

SO important and so sacred did our forefathers regard the right of petition that they incorporated it in our Bill of Rights. This was on the assumption that in our republican form of government, where "all power is vested in and derived from the people," their voice would be heeded and respected, when presented in the form of petition, but Congress has placed itself so far away from the people that their voice is not heard. And even the legislature of North Carolina has so far forgotten its obligation to the people as to utterly ignore their petitions and to treat them with contempt. This defiance of the public will was conspicuously exhibited by the Senate branch of our last legislature in the important matter of a railroad commission, when that body contemptuously ignored and trampled under its feet the petitions of over 60,000 of the voters and taxpayers of the State. Will it be done again? Yes, if the people are so blind and cowardly as to send such men again to misrepresent them. With the average politician, resolutions and demands are not worth the paper on which they are written. The guarded whisper of one

railroad magnate is more potent and powerful to the ear of the marketable legislator than the united voice of all the voters of his county or district. We are tired of "demands" on paper. The practice is un-American and unmanly. The time and place to make demands is in primary meetings, nominating conventions and at the ballot box. Let the people select, nominate and elect only such men as they will not need to make demands upon to secure attention to their rights and interests.

ALLIANCEMEN, GO TO OXFORD.

IT is generally understood among the tobacco growers of the State, that the cigarette manufacturers have combined and have arranged for controlling the price of the particular class of tobacco used by them in the manufacture of their cigarettes. It is charged that they have parcelled out those markets among themselves, in which the particular and desired quality of tobacco is sold, and will not send their buyers or agents to any market to compete with each other.

This and other grievances, will be looked after in the meeting of the tobacco growing counties which is to be held in the town of Oxford on Thursday the 9th of January. Let every county in the tobacco belt, take immediate action to be well represented in that meeting and let every true Alliance man throughout the State and the county, stand by our brethren in their effort to maintain their just rights. The tobacco men stood loyally by the cotton men in their fight with the infamous jute trust, now let the cotton men stand manfully and faithfully by our good brethren in the tobacco belt. The cause of our State is the cause of all the States. The cause of one man is the cause of all the men in our order, and let our enemies and the world so understand it. Let there be a rousing meeting at Oxford on the 9th.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ST. LOUIS CONVENTION.

WE cheerfully give space to the publication of the official proceedings of the National Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union. We regret that the copy was received too late to give it entire. It will be interesting reading to all and valuable especially, to the members of our order. Preserve, carefully, the copies containing this record. Read and study the constitution and the laws enacted in pursuance thereof and which will appear in our next issue. We beg to direct attention, in advance, to the report on the monetary system, which was adopted. We regard it as the most important action taken by any body of men in this country, since the adoption of the Federal Constitution. Read it, study it, investigate it.

The constitution and laws will be ready for distribution at the earliest practicable moment.

STAFF CORRESPONDENCE.

GASTONIA, N. C., Dec. 12, '89.
Two months ago the live farmers of Cabarrus county were about done seeding what. In Mecklenburg and Gaston a good many are sowing now—many of them plowing it up, like burying the seed never to rise again. Who will harvest the most grain?

Gaston is a fine little county. All of the crops raised in western North Carolina do well here. Gaston has more cotton factories than any county in the State. In most counties in our State the county seat is the leading town in commercial importance, but not so with Dallas. It is a pretty village, but looks like it had been left, and in fact it was. When the Atlanta and Charlotte Air Line was built Dallas was left just 4 miles from the railroad. Gastonia, the largest town in the county, is but 4 miles from the county seat and is a trading point of some importance. A large cotton mill and two door and sash factories are the leading industries. There are cotton factories at Mountain Island, Mt. Holly, McAdenville, Kings Mountain, Gaithers, Wilsons and two or three other points in the county. A new factory is in course of erection on the south fork of the Catawba. At each of these factories some lively villages have been built so the people have markets very conveniently situated. Gaston has the advantage of a good railroad outlet. The Carolina Central crosses the northern part of the county, the Richmond & Danville through the central from east to west and the Chester & Lenoir narrow gauge from north to South. The narrow gauge road is a "daisy." It starts at Chester, S. C., and never stops until it gets to Lenoir. Trains run on this road at the rate of 25 and 30 miles per hour. A year or so ago an engineer of a construction train tried 60 miles an hour with a load of cross-ties and it was but a little while until he dammed up a creek with cars, cross-ties and dead negroes. The company built a new trestle and instructed their men to make haste more slowly.

Gaston has a good many good Alliance men. They have a business agent and cotton-buyer and are running a store at Gastonia.

Many of the farmers have lost their hogs with cholera this fall.

Gaston is a manufacturing county in another way. It has about 55 whisky distilleries, licensed and unlicensed.

Many farmers are doing their winter plowing now. That is a good sign. The time should soon pass when our farmers will wait until the sap rises in the spring, so they can get hickory bark to mend their harness, before they go to plowing for the next crop.

Jefferson Davis spent the last year of his life in literary work. He wrote an article on Andersonville for the North American Review, exonerating the Confederate government from the charge of wanton cruelty toward the Federal prisoners. On the publication of his reply to Lord Wolseley in the North American Review (which Mr. Davis charged, was mutilated by the American editor in the interest of the English government), Mr. Davis refused to permit the American to publish his article on Andersonville unless the editor should agree to publish it uncut. The editor refused to give that pledge. Mr. Davis thereupon withdrew his article and transferred it to Belford's Magazine. It will appear in the January number. In the same issue Belford's will publish a brief autobiography of Mr. Davis, written a short time ago. A few weeks before his death, Mr. Davis completed for the Belford Company "A Short History of the Confederate States." It will be issued at an early date.

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.]

A Farmers' Alliance was organized at the Agricultural and Mechanical College last Wednesday night. Prof. Holladay, president of the college, was elected president of the Alliance. The body was addressed by Mr. D. H. Rittenhouse, ("Old Foggy") on the new plans and principles announced by the Alliance at its great meeting in St. Louis.

Bro. L. H. Wilson, Secretary of Eden Alliance, No. 1,744, Forsyth county, informs us of the death of Bro. A. J. Snider, which occurred on the 11th day of December, 1889, in the 70th year of his age. In his death the Alliance has lost one of its best and most useful members and the neighborhood one of its best and most charitable citizens, who was ever ready to help those in distress.

A brother writing from Goldsboro under date of Dec. 16th, 1889, says: "Expressive of their gratification, Salem Alliance, No. 513, of which I am a member, send you a list of ten subscribers accompanied with the cash. The premium copy we ask you to send to Bro. J. T. Smith, who got badly crippled by a runaway team some time ago, and has not been able to do any work since. Bro. W. A. Darden lectures here on the 28th inst., and we expect to have a large crowd of farmers to hear him.

A Memorial Committee of Raft Swamp Alliance, No. 44, informs us of the death of Bro. John A. Powell, at his home near Lumber Bridge, N. C., on November 5th, 1889, of typhoid fever, in the 37th year of his age. He leaves a wife and four children, two sons and two daughters, to mourn the loss of an affectionate husband and father. Besides a good and energetic member of Raft Swamp Farmers' Alliance, he had been a consistent member of Saddle Tree Baptist Church for the term of eighteen years prior to his death.

Bro. J. R. Roberson, writing under date of Nov. 25th, says: "We had a fine time at Oak Grove, Pitt county, last Saturday. Bro. E. A. Moya, of Greenville, who is Superior Court Clerk and County Secretary of Pitt Alliance, delivered a fine address at 11 o'clock, after Elder H. Winfield had preached an able sermon; and later, there was spread on a table about forty yards long a sumptuous Alliance dinner. The day was as lovely as could be. Fully 400 persons partook thereof, and a great deal was gathered up to carry home. Not a jar or discord of any kind occurred during the whole proceeding."

Bro. R. S. Barnett, Secretary of Hopewell Farmers' Alliance, No. 331, Mecklenburg county, writes as follows: "At a regular meeting of Hopewell Alliance, 331, the following paper, introduced by Bro. E. C. Davidson, was unanimously adopted and ordered to be forwarded to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, for publication, viz: This Alliance is in complete harmony with Wake County Alliance in extending her congratulations to President L. L. Polk, for the distinguished honor conferred on him at the late St. Louis convention, in electing him President of National Farmers' and Laborers' Union. Every true North Carolinian ought to appreciate this preference, to which the recipient is so justly entitled; we know that all Alliance men will. Hopewell Alliance will not yield the palm of

appreciation to any one of her sister Alliances in the State. The only regret is that time was too limited to permit old Mecklenburg going down to clap hands and unite hearts with old Wake in her appropriate manifestations to North Carolina's distinguished son. Well, the mantle has fallen upon the shoulders of one among the many of the fittest, and will be gracefully and efficiently worn. The farmers are in deep tribulation and their only hope is in the National Farmers' and Laborers' Union, of which Hon. L. L. Polk is the honored and worthy President.

Bro. T. F. Guy, Secretary of Sweet Home Alliance, No. 1,769, of Fredell county, writes: I have been reading Alliance notes from all over the State, but have never seen a scratch from our corner yet. I suppose they are all waiting for some one to brake the ice, and as I am the one, I hope that I may get over safely. Our Alliance is very small yet, but means what she does, and is doing all she can to press forward this grand and noble work. We have sixteen members, mostly all good men, some preachers and, no ladies, but I think we will have some ladies before very much longer. We again need a "staring up" from some good brother like Dr. D. Reid Parker. We would be glad if he would come around again. We need some good lecturer to visit this part of the county often. We are taking three copies of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, and they are helping us out wonderfully. Hurrah for the Alliance and the editor of the organ.

LETTER FROM A FARMERS DAUGHTER.

AMBOY, N. C., Dec. 14, 1889.

MR. EDITOR: If you will allow me space enough in your valued paper, I thought I would write, to let you know that we are still in existence. Since I have been reading THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER I have read many pleasant and encouraging letters from different alliances throughout this grand old State, but not one word have I seen from our Alliance or even our county. Do not think sir, that we are not doing anything simply because we do not bother you every mail with some article or another. We are all poor, hard working farmers, yet we are as true to our order as true can be.

We have about 70 male members and 23 females making in all about 93 members, the most of whom are of the pure Alliance grit, while there are a few others who are careless, good-for-nothing members. But we will not bother them any longer than it will take to get rid of them. I think the best thing we could do with brandy sellers would be, to get rid of them as soon as possible. Some of them do not have any more respect for themselves, nor any one else, than to go to our regular meetings smelling like a brandy barrel, and their noses looking like a red pepper pod.

We have ardently been fighting trusts and monopolists ever since the organization of our alliance, and having truth and honor as our watchword, we trust that in due time God will give us the victory. I don't think the members of our alliance are reading THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER as much as they should. I think it is just as hard for a man to be a good Allianceman and not read as it is to live without eating. Brethren of the Alliance, it is time we were waking up to a sense of our duty if we love our country and State. We must have an education or we will perish. I believe the Farmers Alliance to be one of the noblest institutions ever gotten up by man, the church of God being its only superior. May God bless the Alliance and THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.
Fraternally Yours,
SARAH M. PARRISH.

FROM BERTIE COUNTY.

SPRING VALE ALLIANCE, No. 1323.
MR. EDITOR: I am a poor news-paper correspondent, this being my first attempt but I would like to let the brethren know what we are doing down here in the Indian woods.

Our Alliance has only been in existence about eleven or twelve months. We organized with eleven charter members, we now number twenty-two. We have not grown much in number. We have expelled some and others have been dismissed. But our members are solid Alliance men to what they know about its working. We have others knocking at the door to be initiated. But the trouble there is only one of our members that takes the organ. They want to subscribe for THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER but excuse themselves by saying they are not able, but they say they are going to subscribe when they can dispose of their crops and settle their debts. Our crops in this place are almost a complete failure this year, not more than half a crop of cotton and a very short crop of corn. We are determined not to use any new jute bagging. We could not get cotton bagging in time for our cotton but our county Business Agent found a substitute which will do just the same. We are tied to the Alliance by brotherly love and faith in

our leaders to carry us safe to the object we have in view. I have read the FARMER with fear and trembling, when I see through its columns so many members falling back from their obligations. Brethren how can we expect to accomplish any thing except we pull together how can we expect others to help us when we can't be persuaded to help ourselves, but if we will all pull together it will only be a question of time that we will come out more than conqueror through him that does all things well. I hope every member of the Alliance will subscribe for the PROGRESSIVE FARMER, and for one dollar you can get ten dollars worth of information during twelve months. I have only been reading it for a short time but I would not be without it for double the amount it costs. I will close and if you think proper you can publish these remarks if not cast them aside.
Fraternally,
E. C. PITHUAN.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

OLD FOGY.

In the News Observer of December 17 an article with the caption given above challenged my attention. Were you not so pressed for space I would ask you to re-produce it. It is able and exhaustive, and as the monetary issue is the supreme question of the hour I am indeed proud to see that Bro. Ashe takes the advanced views he does. In conclusion Bro. Ashe adds, "I seem to us that the policy of unlimited coinage (of silver) will solve many great questions, right many wrongs and be of great value to the people of this country." We thank, the Roderick for the word.

How much abler and just is the article in question than the position taken by Cleveland in his message to Congress, Dec. 6, 1886, "I have seen no reason to change the views expressed in my last annual message, and I again urge the suspension of compulsory coinage of silver."

CAPT. DARDEN IN THE EAST.

SHALLOTTE, N. C., Dec. 11th, 1889.

MR. EDITOR: I would like for the Brethren to know what the people of Brunswick county think of the Farmers' Alliance. Before Capt. Darden made his tour through here, there were many who thought well of it, for we are Alliance people through and through. The Captain made four public speeches in Brunswick, three of which I heard, they were all well attended, and spoken of in most flattering terms. But when he spoke in the court house in Southport it capped the climax, for there were the doctors, lawyers, merchants, pilots, mechanics, and in fact all classes except the ladies; and I do think Bro. Darden ought to return to Southport and speak for them, for they will surely turn out next time. I have conversed with some of all classes and they all agree that Capt. Darden is the right man in the right place. He has made many friends to the Alliance and for himself. Everybody wants to be an Alliance man. He was also very successful in collecting money for the State Agency. Yours Fraternaly,
GEO. LEONARD.

WHY NOT ELECT POSTMASTERS?

OLD FOGY.

We are heartily in favor of electing postmasters by the people. Should not the people that patronize a postoffice, say who shall serve them? We certainly have the same right to say who will be our postmasters as to say who shall represent us in Congress or who shall be the Chief Executive of our country. We are opposed to having the Postmaster General, or any Congressman having the power to say who shall serve the people either here or elsewhere.

COLUMBUS NEWS.

MR. EDITOR:—At the last meeting of Pleasant Hill Alliance, No. 73, it was resolved that we recommend the use of better cotton covering, one pound to the yard, small or half size bales with small cotton rope or wire for ties.

Resolved, That in our judgment the next U. S. census should show the proportion of property free from debt or mortgage and the homes and farms occupied by their real owners, and what per centage of corporal stock or property is watered or exaggerated so that the producer can estimate the burthen of tax or interest carried annually by the fruit of their toil.

Resolved, That our County Alliance be requested to adopt a simple specific badge attached to their clothing near the left shoulder of all delegates or members during all regular meetings and beg the significant use of a lock or flake of cotton or two inch piece of nice cotton cloth of our own State manufacture, and the same be recommended to the consideration of our State Executive Committee for uniform usage; and these proceedings be sent to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.
J. T. HARRELL,
Cor. and Lecturer.

FARMERS INSURANCE.

FAIR GROVE ALLIANCE, No. 1307.
Randolph, County, N. C.

MR. EDITOR: Our alliance was organized about the first of November 1888. And at present, we number thirty or more. We have some good energetic members in our alliance, and, in fact, all are looking forward to a brighter future. We see in the valuable columns of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER some suggestions in regard to a plan of insurance, to be instituted and conducted by strictly alliance principles. Now, brethren, we also wish to offer a few suggestions regarding an insurance plan, which is as follows:

Suggestion 1—That we heartily favor and endorse a good plan of insurance for alliance people, that it may be for their benefit and protection.

Suggestion 2—That each county formulate its own rules and regulations regarding an insurance plan for the benefit of widows and orphans, who may be in indigent circumstances.

Suggestion 3—That only male members pay so much per capita to compensate the insurance fund.

Suggestion 4—That each alliance have power to elect a committee of its best members, to investigate the condition of any member who may be left in distress, and report to their alliance and let it call on the county treasurer for the required help. Brethren think on these things, and let us hear from you through THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. Long live Col. Polk and success to the PROGRESSIVE FARMER.
F. G. A. 1307.

GUILFORD NOTES.

The Alliance throughout the County have taken new life and greater zeal is shown in trying to make the meetings profitable and interesting.

The Center Grove Alliance No. 1604, had a jollification meeting on November 28th, and quite a good crowd listened to a fine address by Dr. R. Reid Parker in the school room of Hillsdale High School. The day before was so very unfavorable and the morning so threatening, the crowd was not near so large as would have been and our good women were disappointed in not being allowed to feed a larger crowd.

On December 7th, Allamance Alliance held a picnic and were addressed by Rev. C. Miller and John W. Wilborn, Assistant Lecturer for the county. The day was fine, the crowd large enough, the dinner excellent and Bro. Miller's speech very good and we trust that much was done for the cause. There are several more picnics on foot and we hope every community may be stirred to its utmost and our membership increased. Our county Alliance is active and progressive. We are moving for better things in our county. We must have an exchange in our section of the state. Our county is where it ought to be. Let every brother work for this end.

We have moved up for better times and living among the farmers; let every man remember his vows and pay those vows to the order. Praying God's blessing upon the Order and its officers we are
Yours in bonds
ASSISTANT LECTURER.

SWEET POTATOES.

The several rules for digging and plans for banking, hilling and housing sweet potatoes are based upon a few simple principles which seem to be generally adopted, viz: That the potatoes should be dug about the time a killing frost is expected, or immediately thereafter; that they should be handled so as to prevent bruising and cutting; that they should be put up in such manner as to keep of uniform and rather low temperature (above freezing); that they should be kept dry. The plan of pouring dry sand among the potatoes in the hill or house, so as to fill all the interstices, is excellent. We have kept potatoes sound, sweet and until potatoes "come again" by packing in barrels and filling with dry sand. The sand tends to prevent sudden changes of temperature, it absorbs and equalizes moisture and probably prevents (mechanically) the spread of the fungus spores throughout the bulk.

The simplest way to hill the potatoes (largely practiced at the south) is to dig when the ground is dry, if possible, about the time of first frost. Drive a post in the ground and saw off about four feet high; cover the ground thickly with dry pine straw; place the potatoes carefully, piling them as high as they will be, and about twenty-five bushels to the hill; cover the potatoes with pine straw or dry corn stalks, regularly laid, over less than six inches deep; cover over all with dirt dug from around the outer edge of the hill, at the first rather shallow, but adding more dirt as cold weather approaches, until the earth is a foot thick at every point.—
Southern Cultivator.

No man can exert greater influence than by exhibiting his own self-respect.