

# PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

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## THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

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## BRO. EVANS AND THE GOVERNMENT WAREHOUSE.

MR. EDITOR:—As you say that your columns are open for a free and fair discussion of all economic questions, I now offer a few thoughts in relation to Macune's sub-treasury plan, and the bill now before Congress to treat the great financial problems as they ought to be solved. I will give a better space than you could give me. So that I will only attempt to give rather disjointed and short remarks upon some of the features of the plan and the bill after which, if you and your readers demand it, I will give a better plan for the real and permanent good and success of our grand ground swell movement for the glory of God and humanity. For 25 years my thoughts and my heart have been in this direction, and in 1873 I attended as a volunteer, and the only delegate from Virginia, the National Farmers' Convention, in Chicago, and I there had a plan for the organization, co-operation and union of the farmers and mechanics of our country, including all that has yet been done and much that has not yet come but must come before success can crown our efforts. So you see this is no new dream of mine. A long life devoted to business, with practical experience in mercantile, banking, insurance, manufacturing and farming, has given me a chance to know something about life and business.

The financial question I have given 40 years of that observation and experience to, and 32 years ago when my pocket interests were in the banking business, I publicly denounced the system as wrong. As a lover of truth and justice, I always go for error whether it hits me or my grandfather. I write this that you may know what to expect if you give me a hearing upon the financial and business problems both in their pocket and ethical bearings.

I will now take only the new bill. Section 1 provides that no county can have the benefit of the plan except their actual sales of corn, cotton, wheat, oats and tobacco have amounted to \$500,000 per annum for two years previous. Now right here in the first section there are objections sufficient to kill this bill as dead as last year's bird's nest:

(1) It would take an expensive canvass to find out the amount of sales.  
(2) There are not two agricultural counties in Virginia that sell \$500,000 worth of these five staples, if indeed, there are three.

(3) A county might sell \$500,000 worth of stock, butter, cheese, poultry, eggs and truck, and \$499,000 of the five named products, and yet not be entitled to a warehouse even for goose eggs.

Section 6, says: "All lawful money received at the sub-treasury as a return of the actual amount of money advanced by the government,

shall be returned to the Secretary of the Treasury, who shall cancel and destroy the money so returned."

If Section 1 is idiotic this takes the cake. I put \$10,000 worth of tobacco in warehouses, I get \$8,000 of new greenbacks. I pay them out from Virginia to California, and before the 12 months is up I redeem the tobacco and pay \$8,000 in gold, silver or national bank notes. Will Mac. please tell us how these can be honestly and profitably "canceled and destroyed?"

Section 7 limits the salary of a manager to \$1,500, makes his bonds responsible for all losses, for spoilt, destroyed or stolen products, as well as for shrinkages. How many managers could or would give bonds for \$50,000 to \$400,000 for a salary of \$1,500 with its risks?

In my next I will point out the objections to the plan itself both as to details and the principles involved, and will also show how the idea can be practically put in better shape and then I will be ready, as I said before, to present a higher, better and more practical way to settle both the financial and business problems, for the greatest good to the greatest number, and without harm to any.

W. M. EVANS.  
Amherst, Va., March 5, '90.

ALLIANCE No. 577, Hobton, N. C., Feb. 27, '90.

MR. EDITOR:—This Alliance has paid to the State business agency fund \$95.50, and there is a small sum yet to collect which will be forwarded as soon as possible. There are 76 names on the roll, but by dimitt, expulsion, suspension, withdrawal cards and death there remains 53 members in good standing on the roll, and about all that can be said against them only 35 attend the meetings regularly. Some of them read THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and they are true as steel to the Alliance. If all would read it they could not be otherwise than true members provided they would heed its most excellent teaching. We recently added three to our membership, and now have 33 male members. Being surrounded by lodges, we have worked up about all of the "timber that will split," and inferior "rails" we keep them out of the Alliance "fence." May God watch over, protect and prosper all the Alliance institutions, and may the poor farmer become an independent instead of a dependent factor. Much success to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and its numerous readers.

Fraternally,  
W. J. CRADDOCK, Sec'y.  
P. S.—This is brought under the head of new business every meeting: DOES ANY MEMBER DESIRE TO SUBSCRIBE FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER?  
W. J. C.

PINE GROVE ALLIANCE, No. 1,578.

MR. EDITOR:—Having been urged by the brethren to write for our Alliance, I would say that we organized Feb. 20th, 1888, with 16 charter members. We now have something over 50, some as good men as can be found, with hearts as true as steel, fully determined to carry out the principles of the Alliance to the bitter end. We have enlisted for the war, and burnt the bridge behind us. We have contributed some to the State fund. We have raised a fund of \$100 for our business agency to furnish the members with groceries as needed, which we get through the State Business Agent on good terms. We consider him the right man in the right place. We are a unit on the silver question as proposed by the Alliance, and we fully endorse the action of the St. Louis assembly. We don't set ourselves up as dictators, but will act in harmony with our brethren to better our condition and build up our waste places and want good, honest men to make our laws. Some of our political opponents are scared. They fear that we will clog the wheels of the political parties and cause their defeat this fall.

We want our next legislature to be composed of a goodly number of Alliance men, and if they send a good brother to the U. S. Senate we will not object. We have our Sub-Alliance in good trim and are working finely and in harmony with each other. One good brother was so elated over some of his neighbors joining at our last meeting that some one remarked that if "we had music he would have danced," but that would have been out of order. We all like THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, and wish it great success.

Fraternally yours,  
W. J. Ector, Pres.

## GOOD ADVICE.

BLACK SWAMP ALLIANCE, No. 11, Robeson Co., N. C.

MR. EDITOR:—We believe there has been nothing in your excellent paper from this Alliance, so we ask a little space to let the world know that number eleven is not dead nor sleeping, but wide awake and quietly moving on in a business-like manner. It has 40 male members and nearly if not quite as many lady members. With a few exceptions every good man in the community belongs to it. All are sober and moral. Its officers are men of acknowledged worth; earnestly enthusiastic for the success of the order, men who, by diligence, perseverance and economy, are steadily climbing to the top of the ladder. Adhering strictly to Alliance principles, they wisely guide and direct its members. This Alliance has paid to the business agency fund nearly one hundred dollars. It has also had several orders filled by our State Business Agent, Mr. Worth, and others will be made at our next meeting. Every Allianceman who can should patronize Mr. Worth, that is the way to be benefited financially by the Alliance. It is doing good now, but the future holds far more if we, as members, only do our duty.

Three years ago when Mr. M. T. Sealy, who had left this, his native country, several years previous to seek his fortune in the Lone Star State, came back as Alliance organizing officer there arose many to predict a short life and early death of the noble order, but that all false prophets did not live in ancient days, nor in the far off Orient, is a fact which Alliance history can demonstrate. May the time soon come when no son of our Southern soil will utter words to discourage his fellow man from aiding in the noble cause for which the Alliance is struggling, for such are blots upon fair creation.

On the 18th inst. Capt. Darden gave us a lecture, eloquent, timely and to the point. There is much to encourage the Spartan-spirited band of brothers who are so nobly striving to break the fetters of oppression which has bound them abject slaves of toil and hardship to enrich the speculator. Many of us never knew the per cent. the farmers are forced to pay for the necessities of life until Mr. Worth published his prices. Let every Sub Alliance purchase only from him. This is the way to establish our order, "until we stand." Guided as we are by the best brains in the Union, backed by the noblest principles that ever actuated a people, urged by a necessity which, if unheeded, will doom our children to lives of servitude, equaled only by that of the Irish peasantry. Our order must not, will not die. The farmers are awakening to the injustice with which they are treated. Your valuable paper is doing much to inform and arouse them, and the well-posted speakers, from this and other States, are bringing them to a full realization of their wrongs, showing them the way from the dark veil of debt and poverty, to the plane of independence, where, as freemen, they may dwell, every man under his own vine and fig tree, never fearing the merciless liens and mortgages which sweep the barns of the last grain of corn and empties the home of all its comforts, carrying away the bed on which the tired limbs of the careworn father reposed, leaving him the cold floor a resting place, the roof for a covering. Even the rocker in which the weary mother hushed with soft lullaby the helpless babe, and around which fond memories cluster goes, under the sheriff's hammer.

But there is a better day for the farmers if they will only persevere in the way now open to them. Stick to the Alliance with all the heart, soul and cash; stand firmly by its principles, be true, full of faith in the order. Attend every meeting and endeavor to make every succeeding one more interesting than the last. There is much to be done. Let every man put his shoulder to the wheel and press forward with a determination to do his whole duty, and the sunlight of prosperity will beam upon us, and where debt and want now oppress independence and plenty will reign.

Mrs. H. B. A.,  
Corresponding Secretary.

The modern definition of a demagogue is a man who thinks for himself, speaks the truth to the people, and refuses to be sidetracked by designing politicians who receive shekels for their services in defending combines and trusts.

## LETTER FROM BLADENBORO.

Some Good Advice.

RICHARDSON, N. C.

MR. EDITOR:—As I have not seen anything from Bladenboro Alliance, No. 528, I will try to tell you a little of what we are doing. We meet once a month, Friday before the 3d Sunday in each month. The most of us try as hard as men can to work together in unity and love. We have some as good material in our Alliance at Bladenboro as the township affords, while there is still good men who stand off at a distance and say by their actions, when you get that load up and started, I am going to come and help, but I think a man who never does enough to get tired don't know how to enjoy rest, nor how good it is to the man who has been at work hard. Brethren, we bought our guano through the proper channel last year and expect to buy right this season, and don't you forget it. Brethren, we used cotton bagging on our cotton and wouldn't even so much as let a man who used jute gin a lock of it. We held some of our cotton till a few days ago, which, I think, paid us well.

Our Alliance, if I mistake not, has paid to the State agency fund \$75, and we only number about 40 members, and are all poor men. We have at a called meeting held recently, established an Alliance store, which, I think, will be a great benefit to our brethren. And, brethren, we have some very strong opposition, of which we are thankful, for they are a great help to make us stand together and up and work. Brethren, be punctual to your meetings, and study something about them before you go there and be prepared to give your views on matters, and then your speech, perhaps, will be worth giving attention. Brethren, who are Alliancemen, they are honest, upright in all of their dealings with merchants and all other men. If we expect to succeed in our undertakings and intentions, we must have confidence in Alliancemen, and practice love and work together as a unit, be cheerful and light-hearted, and not let the yoke of trusts and combines seem heavy, but walk along in this way, and perhaps sometime in the near future we can make another quick jump and break another link, somewhat like the jute trust. Brethren, what you do in your Alliance meetings keep it to yourselves, don't be giving everybody a hint of it, you see, and that you are going to do some great big thing before long. Alliance wives, go to work at home, stop so much of this visiting and wearing dresses that are not paid for, or a mortgage on the home which you live on. I mean stop it till this yoke of trusts and combines is broken. Brethren, enlarge your potato patches, make them a little richer, cultivate a better garden, make a few more peas, and raise a little more wool, plant a little more corn, feed your horse a little better, raise a few more pigs, save more hay, feed your cows little better, and don't go to those places of trade, so called, quite so often and you can live at home, you can eat your own bacon, your own potatoes, etc. Read THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER if you want to know your condition and where you are drifting to.

Yours fraternally,  
A. A. HILBURN.

## LETTER FROM MARTIN.

ROBERSONVILLE, N. C.

MR. EDITOR:—I will jot down a few items this evening for your much esteemed paper; provided, you think them worthy of a small corner therein. Our Alliance, No. 1053—Cross Roads lodge—this old Martin county is not dead but lazily slumbering. We number about 60 males and 20 females. Some are as true as the needle to the pole, and some are as weak as 10 proof whiskey. We need one of our bright lights to lecture to us.

I received a few days ago a large lot of seed for my Alliance from the Hon. Thomas Skinner, our Representative in Congress. Yesterday I received the compendium of the census of 1880, from the interior department at the instance of Mr. Skinner for my Alliance.

Our court is in session in the town of Williamston, this week. I was there on Tuesday and was pleased to learn that they got through with the State docket on Monday, a thing that has not been known before since the war. I met a large number of my Alliance brethren.

More deaths in this county since the year began than I ever heard of before in the same length of time.  
Now to my main purpose in writ-

ing: it is to ask, beg, solicit as strong as I know how, President Carr and Old Foggy (I don't like to address a gentleman under such a nomdeplume as Foggy, but I know no other name for him, however to the point) to be present with us in our county meeting first Friday in April, in the court house in Williamston, to do all they can to strengthen the things that remain. I do hope and pray for them to come. I take this method of inviting them so they can answer through THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, which I beg them to do, to give it all the publicity possible. I will do all in my power to pay their expenses, give them pleasant homes and try and make their visit one to be long remembered. These brethren can do incalculable good in my county. I also want them to speak to the people on the objects and aims of our noble order on Saturday, the next day after county meeting in Robersonville, on their return. Please, brethren, don't deny us.

Wishing all the success possible to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, and staff and praying for a united and faithful brotherhood, I close.

Fraternally yours,  
J. R. ROBERSON,  
Co. Business Ag't.

AUGUSTA FARMERS' ALLIANCE  
AUGUSTA ALLIANCE, No. 1,018, Augusta, N. C.

MR. EDITOR:—Bro. J. D. Click, of Iredell county, organized Augusta Alliance on the 25th day of July, 1888, with 12 members; we now have 60 male members on our roll. The world has never been, and we have no reason to suppose that it ever will be, without its doubters, its unbelievers and its sceptics. They exist without regard to all progress; they combat every movement for moral or social reform. In regard to the Farmers' Alliance, the non-believer and the sceptics are as legion; they outnumber us on all sides; and yet their unbelief and their scepticism prove nothing. Divine revelation fares no better, and those who are waiting for the sceptic to put away his scepticism, or the fool to put away his folly, are likely to leave the world a very little better than they found it, and themselves not improved in any respect. What is needed, therefore, is not a ceaseless wrangle about our conceptions, of our principles of love and hope that shall help us by regular steps along life's rugged pathway. We are not called upon, as some foolishly imagine, to explain every difficulty or to solve every riddle. This indeed is a task very much beyond the powers of earthly intellect; ours is the more simpler duty of performing our appointed work as true Alliancemen. In the language of Dickens:

There is a fountain about the stream,  
There is a light about to beam,  
There is a warmth about to glow,  
There is a flower about to blow,  
There is a midnight blackness changing  
Into gray,  
Men of thought, and men of action,  
Clear the way!  
Lo! a cloud is about to vanish  
From the day;  
Lo! the right about to conquer;  
Clear the way!  
And a brave wrong to crumble  
Into clay.

T. S. BUTLER.

A MOUNTAIN BROTHER WHOSE HEAD IS LEVEL.

MARSHALL, N. C.  
MR. EDITOR:—At our meeting held March 1st, we tried to see what we could do in the way of raising subscribers for your paper, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, and in a short while we raised a list of ten subscribers. This, Mr. Editor, is our response to your request in your paper of February 18th.

Some time back we received a call from our Trustee asking that we raise about \$30 for the State agency fund, and in a few minutes we raised the amount.

This is the way we do things in old Madison when we are appealed to for help in a worthy cause. I think every Allianceman in the State ought to read our State organ, for I notice that those who read most are our warmest members in the work, for how can a man be interested in a work he knows nothing about, and how can he know what the Alliance is doing and what it aims to do unless he reads its literature?

"Old Foggy's" articles in THE FARMER are worth more than a dollar a year to me, and I think it is time "Old Foggy" was laying aside his fictitious name and going to work under his real name, for we have got a use for "Old Foggy," so, Bro. Foggy, please lay off your mask and let us know who you are.

Yours fraternally,  
L. M. BRYAN.

## INTERESTING LETTER FROM OREGON.

MR. EDITOR:—As it has been quite a long time since I've written to the chief agricultural paper of the South, I thought a few more lines from this, the Northwest part of the United States, might not be amiss to many of its readers. Spring with all its verdure in embryo is now upon us, the whole valley is now as green as a meadow, and stock are living without any other feed upon these nutritious grasses. Had very little snow here in Willamette Valley this winter, mercury at one time registered 12 degrees above zero, which was our coldest, and while a deep snow fell on the Cascade and Coast mountains, we had a very slight snow-fall here in the Valley. One to imagine our Valley or draw a picture of it must remember the Willamette river flows the whole length of the Valley which is about fifty by one hundred and fifty miles, and together with this river and its numerous tributaries, this strip of country is the best watered I've ever seen anywhere, so far as soil is concerned there is no better in the world.

We use no fertilizers here—never was a pound shipped into this country. But some will naturally ask does fruit do well in Oregon? To this we emphatically say it does, and in no State have we ever seen finer fruits of all kinds. Apples, peaches, pears, plums, quinces, grapes, cherries, strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, currants and gooseberries and in fact any kind of fruit and vegetables which will grow and mature in a temperate climate. Then as to grapes we have them in superabundance. The dairy business is a fine business here, and pays well. Stock rising is a good business in this Valley on account of the great amount of pasture and abundance of good water. Poultry business is a business which will yield a large income on money invested if properly handled. One can own even a small tract of land and engage in this business and make money. Lands can be had at reasonable figures with plenty of living water on them, and should any brother farmer wish to hear more of this country, and will write me, inclosing stamps, I'll give a plain, candid and unvarnished answer.

Fraternally,  
G. W. WEEKS.

## LETTER FROM PERQUIMANS.

OKISKO, N. C., March 6, '90.  
MR. EDITOR:—It has been quite little while since I have presumed upon your time and columns. You will, therefore, allow me to inform you that as our "cause" is just it is but fair to conclude we are on the boom, notwithstanding our isolated geographical situation. Some wonderful things occur away down here, for instance, Hon. John D. Parker, ex-Representative of Perquimans county, killed three hogs, on the 2d inst., weighing as follows: One three years old, 833 pounds; one two years old, 613 pounds, and the other, two years old, 592 pounds; total weight, 2,038 pounds which, I claim, cannot be beaten in the State. Oh, yes! breeders of fancy stock, look to your laurels. I take this method of congratulating the brethren of the State and United States upon their good fortune in having two such trusty "sentinels" on the watchtower as our worthy L. L. Polk and Dr. Macune, our second "Moses," who are closely watching that "political pandemonium" in Washington, government of railroads, banks and corporate companies.

Yours very respectfully,  
M. G. GREGORY.

## THANKS, SENATOR VANCE.

WHEREAS, Senator Vance recently introduced a bill in Congress asking the establishment of bonded warehouses in the interest of the farmers; therefore be it

Resolved, That Tarboro Alliance, No. 918, do hereby most heartily endorse his action regarding such legislation.

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and South Carolina Banner for publication.

S. B. BRADLER,  
L. B. KNIGHT,  
W. L. BARLOW,  
Committee.

The New York Tribune said: "The banks can, in a single day's notice, act together so that no act of Congress can resist their decision."