

# PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

Vol. 5.

RALEIGH, N. C., APRIL 22, 1890.

No. 11

## THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

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## LETTER FROM ALAMANCE.

RAY ALLIANCE, No. 603, Alamance county.

MR. EDITOR:—Our County Alliance met on Good Friday. In this honorable body your humble correspondent fills the office of County Lecturer for the second term. After the visits of brothers Picket, Tracy and our worthy District Lecturer, Bro. Massey, I felt some hesitation in entering upon the role of a public lecturer, but being urged to do so by our President and Executive Committee, I made the venture. I find all the territory of Alamance occupied. Perhaps two more Sub-Alliances, one in the southwest and another in the northwest corners of the county should be organized. I find most of the Subs in a growing condition. All they need now is plenty of good Alliance papers, such as the *National Economist* and *THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER*. In fact I cannot see how any one can be an intelligent man without them, much less a live Alliance man. I find those Sub-Alliances where these papers are extensively read in good working order and the best represented in our County Alliance.

The interest in our County Alliance meetings is increasing and the attendance pretty good. Our body endorsed the sub-treasury plan and will send up a large petition for it to Congress.

Our Alliance took steps towards entering into the manufacture of tobacco, plug and granulated, and cigarettes, and the matter will be thoroughly discussed at our next meeting, by which time it is thought that the necessary amount of capital can be raised. In taking such steps we do not aim to break down the Durham Bull or the Dukes, but in a small way get some of the profits out of the tobacco which we grow. We reason thus: that if these companies within twenty years can from small beginnings make millions and nearly every member become a millionaire, why may not we make at least a profit on our capital instead of sinking money on the raising of tobacco. I am aware that many good Alliance men oppose such schemes by the farmers. So did I once, but that was when I got a good price for my tobacco. I wrote in the opposition and my prices were widely copied in the *Tobacco Journal*. I now pen myself in dust and ashes, and can see what a big fool I was.

It does not take a very large number of men to superintend a tobacco manufactory. Enough idle negroes and whites can be picked up about any of our railroad depots to run a hundred thousand dollar factory and yet the farming interest of the community suffer very little. I regret that the worthy President of the Border Tobacco Alliance at that meeting in Oxford poured cold water "or ridicule" upon a resolution to reduce the acreage of tobacco. I

believe that there are enough tobacco growers in the Alliance to control the acreage, cause a reduction in the number of pounds produced and thus enhance the price. In the days of slavery there was once such an over-production of tobacco that thousands of pounds were hauled to the field for manure.

If Vance, Nash, Wilson, Wayne, Johnston, Wake and Chatham, also portions of Edgecombe, Wilson, Pitt, Green and Lenoir, Duplin and Sampson counties abandon to a large extent the cultivation of cotton and take up that of tobacco they can produce more smokers and cutters than the Durham Bull Company or the Dukes together can manufacture. Franklin, Nash, Johnston, Wake and Chatham will no more quit tobacco to take up cotton.

Cotton can only be raised profitably on large, fertile farms. Hired hands in any considerable number require an overseer, every squad a good leader or first-class hand. The poor foot hills and rolling lands of the above named counties cannot be farmed profitably on hired labor, and there is nothing left in the tenant or slave system to the land-holder but impoverished land. The negroes are leaving these counties not because they wish to do so, but simply because they have nothing to live on. The landlord is unable to feed them, and there is little for them to steal. The result will be diversified farming, with tobacco for a money crop. All this section producing the lighter smoker and cutter varieties while our old tobacco sections with their heavier and more tenacious soils will be compelled in a great measure to return to the raising of the heavier goods, of fillers and wrappers, raise less of these than they did many years ago, manufacture by joint stock companies their own tobacco and thus get the profits of their labor.

Respectfully,  
B. F. WHITE.

## LETTER FROM IREDELL.

SWEET HOME ALLIANCE, No. 1,769.

MR. EDITOR:—It is not often that we bother you with anything from our corner and now we come asking just space enough for a line or two. Our Alliance is now looking forward and we all with our shoulders to the wheel, are moving on very rapidly in this grand and noble work.

Sweet Home has more than doubled the number of members during the quarter which is now about to expire. Have 7 females and 25 males with three applicants knocking at the door for admission. At our last meeting we initiated a good brother 74 years old, who we was proud to get and no doubt he will be the means of adding much to our order. It does seem to me when an old man like him joins the Alliance that it should be proof enough for those that don't belong if they would take it, for we all know he has seen his way through.

Fraternally,  
T. F. GUY, Sec'y.

## A CLEVER CLERK.

"I knew an entry clerk," said the Rev. W. S. Crowe, in a lecture before the students of Eastman College, "who would sit at his desk, while the salesmen filed past him and read their items—not the amounts but the items; 14½ yards of cloth at 78¢ cents a yard; 22 1-8 pounds of lard at 11 7-8 cents per pound—reading right along with rapid voice; and when the last item was announced he would have the total, and when the last salesman announced the final item he would have the grand total, and would put on his hat and go home with the rest. I asked him how he did it; if it was a gift. 'Not much,' said he; 'at least I paid very dearly for that gift;' then he told me how he came to be a genius. 'Once,' he said, 'I could tell that in a group of men, or a pile of boxes, there were three or five, without counting them. Now I can just as readily tell that there are nineteen or twenty-six or thirty-five without counting. I have acquired this ability by persistently counting thousands upon thousands of groups of objects, and associating the correct number with the size and appearance of each group. I learned addition in the same way, by infinite practice, until now I can sum up four or five columns at a time as readily and accurately as one column. I learned fractions in the same way, by ceaseless persistency and care. For many years I have dwelt in a world of figures, till all their combinations are as familiar to me as the keys of his instrument to a skilled pianist."

## NUTS TO CRACK AT THE FARMER'S FIRESIDE.

That party is wise this fall that allows the farmers to name their ticket. Politicians have run it long enough. —*Paola Times*.

Protect the farmers from the high protection and from all trusts and combines which rob him of his profits. —*Paola Times*.

The planting time is drawing nigh when the Kansas farmer can turn the sod and plant the seed for another crop of "fuel" next winter. —*Wilmington Star*.

We believe the politicians should come over to the people now. The people have followed long enough. They will now lead awhile. Fall in, old ringster. —*Paola Times*.

Things have come to a pretty pass when a mortgaged farm will not sell for the price of the loan upon it. Still the mortgage was given upon it at 1-3 valuation. —*Home Rule*.

If we must have the democratic and republican parties we want it straight Republicanism and Lincoln Republicanism. No man however fastidious would growl at that. —*Home Rule*.

Ingalls is sometimes called "the Kansas wasp." While there may be points of resemblance, they are dissimilar in some respects. Ingalls parts his hair in the middle, the wasp never does. —*Wilmington Star*.

In 1864 we had about \$47 per capita, in 1888 about \$6.10. In 1864 we had 495 failures and in 1888 we had 13,348. Thanks to the deadly work of the contraction policy of the two old parties. —*Home Rule*.

An aggressive, organized army can be successfully resisted only by a counter organization. You are enlisted against the organized forces of Greed. Will you permit "DESERTER" to be written opposite your name? —*New Farmer*.

It looks like it would rain all around. Now comes the Virginia legislature and passes a concurrent resolution memorializing Congress to immediately provide for an issue of legal tender greenbacks, to be loaned to the people on real estate security at two per cent. per annum. —*Paola Times*.

Puck talks to the laboring man in this way: You are in the soup, just where your friends, the politicians, left you when they were done with you last November. You are in the soup, and there you will stay for the next four years, unless in the meantime you learn wisdom of exercising common sense.

"What fools we mortals be." After allowing about 95 per cent. of the wealth of the people to be filched by less than 5 per cent. of the population and three fifths of all the wealth to be owned by less than 30,000 persons we wake up to the fact that we have become "industrial slaves" and must agitate and organize to recover our rights. —*Home Rule*.

What's got into our lordly lords? Senator Stanford makes the proposition to loan the people money directly from the treasury vaults and President Alton of the C. & A. R. R. proposes that the government shall own the Railroads. We now look for an alien or native land speculator to propose that the ownership of lands in large bodies shall cease. —*Home Rule*.

The *Industrial Age* of Duluth, Minn. comes to us burdened with 32 notices or just half its pages of mortgage foreclosures. It is 8 pages 40 column. Its editorials are gems of high order and its general make-up is up with the times. But what a work of destruction must be taking place in that locality in view of the notices. How long can we thus continue? —*Home Rule*.

The Farmers' Alliance of Kansas in convention at Topeka on the 25th ult., resolved to oppose the election of the nigger lover, John J. Ingalls, of high tariff renown. They are just 100,000 strong and this bit of news causes the royal gentleman to be nauseated at the stomach. Poor old down-trodden Kansas would be better off had Ingalls never been born. —*Bloomfield (Mo.) Vindicator*.

Many a Kansas farmer is glad to sell his crop for enough to pay the interest on his mortgage and enough to carry him over another year, but the profits of the Pittsburg plate glass company for 1889 were nearly \$1,000,000. Regular dividends to the amount of 23 per cent. were paid during the year, and January 29 a special dividend of 11 3/4 per cent. was declared, making \$950,000 net profit.

Is our financial and economic system all right when one class of the community make such profits when another class make nothing, even though they work as industriously? —*Alliance Tribune, Topeka, Kansas*.

Congress keeps up a howl over rules, and the two great (?) parties seem to have nothing to do, nor to have anything at heart but to beat each other, while the cries of the people for help go unheeded. Such a state of affairs is becoming alarming, and the people should rise in all their majesty and place men there who have more people and less party at heart. —*Southern Messenger*.

Of course it pays best to run a paper in the interest of railroad kings, political rings, breweries and all the monopolistic associates and aids; because they have the money, and are not afraid to spend a little of it to support their organs. Not until the farmers and laborers realize the worth of the papers that dare to advocate their cause and come with their votes and support can we expect much change for them. —*Eye Opener*.

A meeting of the representatives of the Farmers' Alliance met in Topeka last Tuesday to discuss matters connected with the policy to be pursued during the coming campaign. At this meeting a demand was made to Gov. Humphrey to call an extra session of the legislature for the passage of the stay law. If the Governor does not comply with their request, it is probable his days will be numbered, and that A. W. Smith, of McPherson, a man of ability, with considerable experience as a legislator, will be the candidate for governor. —*Paola Times*.

Democratic papers are jubilant over the manifest dissatisfaction of the Farmers' Alliance with the Republican party, and are counting on a clean sweep for Democracy through the aid of this organization. Don't be too fresh, gentlemen. If you held the reins of government, we would be after your scalp just as we are now after that of your Republican ally. Both parties are owned, body and soul, by capitalistic corporations in this world, and Satan has a mortgage upon them and their masters in the next. Honest men and honest measures are what the farmers are looking for just now, and these are scarce among the leading characters of the old parties. Republican defeat does not mean Democratic victory, by a jug full, and all this Democratic hilarity in view of the prospective loaves and fishes, is just the least bit previous. —*Advocate, Topeka, Kansas*.

## GATES COUNTY RETURNS THANKS.

Resolved, That we tender to the Hon. Z. B. Vance and the Hon. J. A. Pickler our thanks for the part they have taken in our behalf and request Senators Ransom and Vance and the Hon. T. G. Skinner, our Representative in the Lower House of the Congress of the United States, to use their influence for the passage of that bill or one that will do us equally as much good to relieve us of some of the heavy burdens that we have to carry.

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to our Senators and representatives and one to Representative Pickler and a copy to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and *National Economist* for publication. Passed unanimously by the Gates County Farmers' Alliance April 4th, 1890.

H. CLAY WILLIAMS, Pres.  
H. J. REED, Sec'y.

## DARE YOU DENY THEM?

If the government can make a good bond, it can make good money. If the government can loan money to the banks, it can loan direct to the people.

If it is right to loan it to an association of individuals, it is right to loan it to an individual.

If the government has to issue bonds to borrow money, how can it ever pay the bonds off in money?

If the government can make money and is the only power that can make money, why does it issue interest-bearing obligations to get it back from the people?

By what authority of law, common decency or honesty, does a government issue bonds to borrow money from a people that would be placed under arrest if they attempted to make money to loan to the government?

The above is for honest and intelligent people to think about. —*Fort Scott Globe*.

## BURKE COUNTY ALLIANCE IN SESSION.

How They do it up in the Mountains.

MR. EDITOR:—At the request of the County Secretary, I send you the proceedings of our county meeting held at Glen Alpine April 5th, couched in as few words as possible. Before the meeting was formally called to order, Mr. G. F. Chase introduced Mr. J. F. Battle, of the firm of Battle & Co. who are now selling goods under contract to the Alliance, who addressed the body for 30 minutes particularly emphasizing the fact that every Alliance man in the county should regard this store as a part and parcel of the organization, and the success of this store depends greatly upon the patronage it received from the members of the organization. And this appeal no doubt will have the effect to largely increase the patronage of this enterprise. President Houk then called the Alliance to order and proceeded to regular business. The efficient Secretary, S. M. Asbury was at his post. R. A. Cobb was requested to act as Vice-President. The delegates all answered to their names except those who were detained on account of high water.

The County Lecturer, Mr. J. V. McCall, then delivered his address, and for half an hour he dealt some heavy blows at monopolies, trusts, combines, national banks and men who are hoarding up money by the thousand dishonestly and at the expense of the poor wage-earner.

The demands that will be made by the Farmers' Alliance all over the country from candidates for office from President down to the lowest county officer before the next campaign was then freely discussed by R. A. Cobb, P. W. Patton, J. V. McCall and others and a plan unanimously adopted.

The bill known as the sub-treasury bill was then read and its merits and demerits discussed and it was decided that the movement was in the right direction, but in its present shape it would be inoperative in this section from the fact that few if any of the counties would produce the required amount, \$500,000 surplus.

The enterprise known as the Burke County Fair Association was highly commended and every Alliance man in the county earnestly requested to put his shoulder to the wheel and not slack his hold until the wagon was rolled to the top of the hill.

The subject of an experiment station to be located at the Western N. C. Asylum under the supervision of the officers of that institution was brought to the attention of this body, and if carried into effect will receive the hearty co-operation of this organization. A vote was taken to ascertain the sentiment of the members of this body in reference to the no fence law and a large majority voted in favor of no fence.

The loss sustained by brethren Clontz and Lawbacker, one by fire, the other by wind, was brought to the attention of the body and a nice amount was raised for their relief.

An order was made directing the County Lecturer, J. V. McCall, to visit each Sub-Alliance in the county by the next county meeting, his expenses to be paid out of the County Alliance fund.

The statistical report shows the body to be about eighteen hundred strong in the county and daily increasing, the machinery all well adjusted and in good working order. Mr. J. L. J. Estes was appointed to take the crop report of the county and forward the same to the State Alliance Statistician.

When the hour of one o'clock arrived Mr. G. F. Chase announced that dinner was prepared for all present and a bountiful supply it was. Every body ate and was filled and there was as much left as there was consumed.

R. A. Cobb was unanimously elected to represent the Alliance at the store of Battle & Co., in Morganton.

The trade committee in their report stated that after careful examination they found that the merchants who had been adopted as a medium to furnish goods to the Alliance men all complying strictly with their contract.

The question of a county banking fund was brought before the body and after some discussion it was decided that a sufficient amount be appropriated and placed at the command of the county business agent to enable him to operate without embarrassment.

This body was composed of intelligent representative farmers, laborers and mechanics from all portions of the county and produced a fine effect

upon the citizens of the beautiful city of Glen Alpine.

A resolution of thanks was unanimously adopted in favor of the citizens of Glen Alpine for the hospitable manner in which they entertained the delegates and members during their stay, to the ladies for good things prepared to eat, and to the members of the Baptist church for the use of their house of worship.

The next place selected for holding the county meeting was Table Rock, which will be the first Friday in July (the 4th).

Respectfully,  
R. A. COBB.

## STICK TO THE FARM.

MR. EDITOR:—Stick to the farm, young man, now when land is cheap; yes, when land and its products, the true wealth of the nation, are within your control. When corn, wheat, hay and all of the products of the farm are always in demand at a very good price, while the wages of the farm laborer are always the last to be affected by fluctuations of business or political affairs, have advanced comparatively little if any. Now while the farmer is rapidly gaining the respect and wealth and influence due to his position as "lord of the land." Be not induced to leave your honorable and independent place by the whisperings of ambition urging you to seek for wealth or ease in city life.

Young man you are tempted to put off the hard work of the farm to become a clerk in a city shop; to put off your heavy boots and homespun shirts and be a gentleman behind the counter. You by birth and education intended to be a manly and upright citizen, to be your own boss and to call no man master. You would first become an errand boy of a shop, to pitch and carry like a Spaniard; then as salesman to fill a place which at best a girl would fill much better, to bow and smile and cringe and flatter to attend upon the wishes of every painted and powdered form of humanity, to bow and humbly suggest to rakes and harlots as well as to starched and ruffled respectability. What color and fabric becomes the form and complexion of each, and finally to become a trader, a ward-lipper of Mammon; as Carlisle says a kind of human beaver that has learned the art of ciphering, compelled to look anxiously at the price current of cotton and coffee in order to learn each morning whether you are a bankrupt or not, and in the end to fail and compromise with your creditors and your conscience and sigh for your native home and grieve for pleasures you once enjoyed on the farm.

Boys, before you take this step let me ask you to compare a city life with that of your neighbors. His farm, however small, his cellar is always filled with such vegetables as he wishes for his consumption, his smokehouse full of barrels of beef and pork of his own slaughtering, his grainery is full of corn, wheat and oats, his cows yield him all the milk and butter he wishes to use, and so I might go on down the list, but now we will look at our city friend who has everything to buy he consumes. He buys one peck of potatoes for thirty cents, beef at ten or twelve, butter at twenty-five, eggs at fifteen, chickens, not larger than a robin, at twelve or fifteen cents, and so on to the end of the chapter, but this is enough. You see there is no life more full of luxury and pleasure than farm life.

Sometimes I think the fathers of these unfortunate boys are to blame for the mistakes their boys have made in leaving the farm and going to town.

It is the duty of every farmer to get his boy interested in his own business on the farm, learn him industrial pursuits, economical habits and all the methods of improvement, and then give him the advantage of a liberal education, educate him so that he may be able to make his living by work and not that he may be able to make it without work. Learn your boys to love the farm from the cradle.

The following lines give a truthful picture of farm life:

Come see the farmer at his harvest home,  
When garden, field and till  
Conspire with flowing stores to fill  
His barn and granary  
His healthful children gaily sport  
Amid the new mown hay,  
Or proudly aid with vigorous arm,  
His tasks as best they may.  
The harvest giver is his friend,  
The maker of the soil.  
And as th, the mother, gives, them health,  
And cheers their patient toll,  
Come join them around their hearth,  
The heartful pleasures see;  
And you can better judge how best  
The farmer's life may be.

JOHN KENNELT.