

# PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

Vol. 5.

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No. 12

## THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

President—L. L. Polk, North Carolina. Address, 511 9th St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Vice-President—B. H. Clover, Cambridge, Kansas.

Secretary—J. H. Turner, Georgia. Address, 511 9th St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

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PITT COUNTY ALLIANCE IN SESSION.

Demands Made, Etc.

WHEREAS, The farmers of this county represent the bulk of the voters, as also the greatest financial interest; and

WHEREAS, The Farmers' Alliance represent the farmer in an organized capacity. Therefore be it

Resolved, That it is vitally important that legislation be more friendly to the interests of farmers.

Resolved, That the members of Subordinate Alliances are urged to attend the primary meetings of their respective parties, and that they recommend no man for office whose moral character is censurable by the virtuous element of society or repugnant to the Christian sentiment as taught from our churches.

Resolved, That the delegates elected at the primaries be instructed not to vote for the nomination of any man who will not pledge himself to the Alliance platform or demands as formulated at the St. Louis Convention, to wit:

"That we demand the abolition of national banks and the substitution of legal tender treasury notes in lieu of national bank notes, issued in sufficient volume to do the business of the country on a cash system, regulating the amount needed on a per capita basis as the business interests of the country demands, and that all money issued by the government shall be legal tender in payment of all debts, both public and private.

2. That we demand that Congress shall pass such laws as shall effectually prevent the dealing in futures of all agricultural and mechanical products, pursuing a stringent system of procedure in trials as shall secure the prompt conviction and imposing such penalties as shall secure the most perfect compliance with law.

3. That we demand the free and unlimited coinage of silver.

4. That we demand the passage of laws prohibiting the alien ownership of land, and that Congress take early action to devise some plan to obtain by purchase all lands now owned by aliens and foreign syndicates, and that all lands now held by railroad and other syndicates in excess of such as is actually used by them be purchased by the government and held for actual settlers only.

5. Believing in the doctrine of equal rights to all and special favors to none, we demand that taxation, national and State, shall not be used to build up one interest or class at the expense of another. We believe that the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people and hence we demand that all revenues, national, State or county, shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government,

economically and honestly administered.

6. That Congress issue a sufficient amount of fractional paper currency to facilitate exchange through the medium of the United States mail.

7. That the means of communication and transportation shall be controlled by and operated in the interest of the people, through the United States postal system."

That both the political parties which control our State and national legislation are at fault for the present depressed and deplorable condition of the farming and laboring classes of the people.

That we shall demand a full and free discussion of all questions appertaining to the public without passion and without prejudice and that at our elections we will prefer the true interests of the farming and laboring classes of the people to the success of any party, and that we will support no man for any office who is unwilling to give equal and exact justice to all with special powers to none.

That nothing contained in the above resolutions shall be construed to mean that the Farmers' Alliance is going into partisan politics, but are intended simply to give force to the influence which farmers should represent in the political parties with which they affiliate.

Resolved, That this Alliance recommend that social gatherings be held in different sections to which speakers shall be invited and shall address them upon the principles and demands of the Alliance, and that Alliance meetings be held at each of these gatherings.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Alliance be tendered the citizens of Pittsboro and community for their generous hospitality.

Resolved, That the foregoing resolutions be sent to the *Chatham Record*, *The Progressive Farmer* and *National Economist* for publication and that papers in the State friendly to the Alliance be requested to copy.

ANOTHER CONVERT.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER of last week had a thoughtful editorial upon the proposition laid down by some that the present low prices of agricultural products are due to over-production. It asserts that we raised 9 1/2 bushels of wheat per capita in 1881 and 7 1/2 per capita in 1889, and that the average price in 1881 was \$1.15 per bushel and now it is 79 cents. We assume that these figures are correct. If so, it is clear that over-production is not what is the matter, and our contemporary calls upon the diagnosticians to guess again. It says the trouble is with the financial system of our government, and we do not think the correctness of the conclusion admits of a doubt. The system which forces the farmer to sell his products in a free trade market and make all of his purchases in a highly protected market, is one of the things that is the matter, and another, as we see it after considerable reflection, is the lack of a sufficient volume of currency in circulation. *The Landmark* is a convert to free silver coinage.

The above is clipped from the editorial columns of the *Statesville Landmark* of last week. Such conversions are worth something to the country. Our friend is an independent thinker who does not jump at conclusions. Neither will he say a thing is good because somebody else says so unless the facts are at hand. And above all, he has no axe to grind; he is courting no clique nor clan for favors. He just simply gave the matter careful thought—turned it this way and that—and then he found that figures could not lie.

We hope that the *Landmark* will find time to carefully weigh other propositions laid down from time to time in *THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER* and see whether or not they are erroneous.

HARNETT GOES ON RECORD.

BUE'S CREEK, N. C., April 12, '90.

Resolved by Harnett County Alliance in regular meeting held on the 4th day of April, 1890, wishing to place itself on record in regard to the action of the National Convention, held at St. Louis.

Resolved, That we co-operate with the above stated convention in all its demands especially as regards the Sub-Treasury plan.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to *THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER* and a copy sent to each of our Representatives in Congress.

W. M. BYRD, Pres't.

W. M. SEXTON, Sec'y.

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

A Senator who will wait seventeen years to inquire what his constituents want, had better be laid on the shelf. —*Emporia Republican*.

Shoot your petitions into the ballot box, and then you will place them where they will do the most good. —*Labette County Statesman*.

Ingalls has at last found the remedy, and we may now look for a rise in the price of corn, wheat, oats, cattle and hogs all over the West. He has introduced a bill to establish a free public bathing beach on the Potomac river. —*Labor's Tribune, (Mo)*

Iowa demands free twine, and has asked her delegation in Congress to say so. The only difficulty in complying with such a modest demand by a State so important is that the whole tariff system is so twined together that if any one twine-end should be pulled out down would come the entire fabric.

The Missouri anti-trust law has been declared "unconstitutional." This is no more than might have been expected. All laws enacted for the benefit of the people, and in any way conflicting with the interests of monopolies will likely meet a similar fate until the people by their ballots declare *boodle legislatures and courts unconstitutional*.

The Republican press commenting on Vance's warehouse bill to benefit the farmers treat it as a wild and impractical scheme. Somehow any suggestion that would help the farmer is wild and impracticable. When the agricultural interests ask for the direct loan of funds on real estate they cry out in holy horror, "Oh, the government must not go into the banking business;" yet to loan bankers millions at 1 per cent. for twenty years and others millions without any interest at all, is all right. You see it makes a difference whose ox is gored.

Under all forms of government the ultimate power lies with the masses. It is not kings nor aristocracies, nor land owners nor capitalists, that anywhere really enslave the people. It is their own ignorance. Most clear is this where government rest on universal suffrage. The workingmen of the United States may mold to their will legislatures, courts and constitutions. Politicians strive for their favor and political parties bid against one another for their vote. But what avails this? The little finger of aggregated capital must be thicker than the loins of the working masses so long as they do not know how to use their power. —*Ex.*

The Alliance in this part of the State has passed from the experimental stage to a fixed reality. It is not a theory here any longer but a condition inevitable and certain. No other movement ever made such rapid progress as has been made by the Alliance in the country. Six weeks ago there were only four Alliances in the county with a membership of perhaps 120. Now there are thirty-six lodges with perhaps 1,500. Over four hundred were taken in during the last week. I think the number will reach 2,500 which will I think work a much needed reform in the public and private affairs of the county. I think your paper will have a great circulation in this county. —*Kansas Advocate*.

The United States is considered a wealthy nation because it has vast sums of idle money stored away in its subterranean vaults. The human mind was never deluded by a greater fallacy. That a government can be wealthy while the masses of its people are poor, is an absolute absurdity. True national wealth and prosperity was never known except where every industry flourished, where labor received its just reward, and where the masses of the people were prosperous and happy. Where all this idle money is invested as to infuse life and activity into every American industry, and were the United States treasury without a dollar in its vaults, the nation would exhibit far more of the evidences of wealth than at the present time. —*Advocate*.

In New York, the indications are that the farmers will revolutionize the whole tendency of legislation as a result of next fall's election. Long before then the Farmers' League will have 100,000 members pledged to promote the farmers' interests in the caucuses and at the polls. The same movement and federation is spreading rapidly throughout the Middle, Southern and Western States. In Kansas, not only have the Alliance, Grange, Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association,

Agricultural wheel and Farmers' Union united politically in one grand League to advocate the farmers' cause' but the organization of other workers and laborers have agreed to co-operate with this League of farmers. The sooner our farmers get our political parties back to the principles of self-government that legislation should be for the many and not the few, the better it will be for our whole people. If our friends the politicians fail to see the signs of the times, they will be asking after the fall elections, "What struck us?" —*Farm and Home*.

TOPEKA, Kan., March 8. —The Farmers' Alliance movement has had a marvelous growth in the last thirty days. In every county in the State from three to fifteen Alliances have been organized and the total membership in the State is now fully 125,000. It is claimed by the leaders of the movement that before the fall elections are held fully nine tenths of the farmers of the State will be members of the organization. The politicians are watching the rapid growth of the Alliance with fear and trembling. What will be the outcome of it is yet uncertain. There is no longer any doubt, however, that they propose to elect farmers to the Legislature, and it is quite possible they will put a State ticket in the field. Committees representing the Farmers' Alliance, the Grange the Farmers' Mutual Benefit Association and the Knights of Labor have been in session this week and adopted a platform looking to the consolidation of the different organizations for political purposes. It is proposed to organize a formidable minority that shall have influence enough to secure favorable consideration from the government toward the interests represented in the combination.

What does it all mean? South Carolina farmers nominating a ticket for ratification at the annual State Democratic Convention. E. D. Chase, a leader in the Dakota Alliance, appointed State railroad commissioner. W. J. Northern, President of the Georgia State Agricultural Society, the leading candidate for Governor. J. H. Hale, ex Master of the Connecticut State Grange, regarded as "the only Republican for Governor who can carry the State." Farmer candidates coming to the front in many Congressional districts. Illinois farmers even talking of sending a farmer to the United States Senate! New York farmers getting ready to elect their own Legislature next fall. Whew! Why can't the farmers continue to pay about all the taxes and bear most of the burdens? What do they want to bother with politics for? Why don't they sit back and let the same little ring of non-producers in both parties get up the tickets? Don't the farmers know that as the office should seek the man, the farmer should keep still while all the other fellows are seeking the office? Why can't the farmer remain the conservative element—the "bone and sinew" of the country, etc? Sure enough, why not? —*Farm and Home*.

WHAT "ECONOMIST" WAS IT?

BY OLD FOGY.

My attention was directed quite recently to an article in *THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER* of April 8th, 1890, in which a quotation is made, as follows: "I would like the book (Bellamy's *Looking Backward*) in the hands of every Alliance family," etc.

"The above suggestions from the *Economist* of March 15th are the best and most practical of anything I have yet seen," etc.

What *Economist* is not stated, but our readers no doubt thought, at least those who do not read our national organ, that the reference was to our *Economist*.

The truth is our *Economist* of March 15th, 1890, said under caption of Nationalization of Industries: "A nation in which the industries of the country were divided into groups numbering, say, fifty, and each group having a complete and legal government as the various States now have, except that instead of being geographical dominions of the nation they would be industrial divisions of the nation and each division would, of course, be national in extent, would be a condition of nationalization of industries without the objectionable and socialistic features advocated by Edward Bellamy."

There is a movement on foot in San Francisco to bring into the Federation all the union men engaged there as sailors, firemen, dock laborers, stevedores and longshoremen.

## FARMERS' ALLIANCE OF HENRICO COUNTY.

RICHMOND, VA., April 7, 1890.

It is the desire of the Henrico County Alliance, that all the Alliance men of this and other States who can do so, shall take part in the procession in connection with the unveiling of the Lee Statue, on May 29th, 1890.

In order that this may be done in a manner which shall do honor to our noble chieftain, and shall fairly represent the Farmers' Alliance, the Committee on Arrangements desire to obtain from each Sub-Alliance information as to the number of its members who will agree to take part in the procession on the following conditions:

1. That all shall be mounted as far as possible; but if any cannot mount, they shall come in farm wagons. The committee, if notified at once, will do all they can to furnish wagons for those who come from such a distance that they cannot bring their own horses.

2. That each one shall wear a badge to be obtained from the committee at a cost not to exceed 25 cts. (The committee expect the cost to be much less than this.)

The committee will furnish at cost a large banner for each county desiring it. Information in regard to this will be given to any one communicating with the committee. The Sub-Alliances are urged to send this information to the chairman of the committee just as soon as possible. The replies must be in the hands of the committee certainly by the 10th of May, or those who fail to reply by that time may be left out in the arrangements.

H. ADOLPH MULLER, Chairman Committee.

Postoffice, Thistle, Virginia.

LETTER FROM JOHNSTON COUNTY.

PLEASANT HILL ALLIANCE, No. 964.

MR. EDITOR: As we have never been heard of through the columns of *THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER*, I will ask space for a few lines. We were organized in July, 1888, and now number about thirty-five faithful and energetic members. And while we have not been heard of through the columns of your valuable paper, we have not been idle drones in the great cause pertaining to our order. We bought our fertilizers this year through the State Business Agent. We are also doing some other trading through the same channel.

In reading notes from some of the brethren, I see that some of their members are not faithful, and don't attend their meetings regular. Now, brethren, this will not do; for we need not expect success in our grand cause without punctuality. No, not even in social life, in politics, or even in the sacred precincts of religion. Then, brethren, attend your meetings, and don't be behind time. Punctuality means the economy of time, and time is the measure in which all success must be achieved.

Titus, having idled away a day, was troubled in mind, and lamented the circumstance. He could never recall the lost time. In business and social life it is the same. The Rothschild immense fortune was built upon the promptness and punctuality with which the founder of the house acted through a long and prosperous career. It was punctuality that made the fortune of Stephen Girard, and if we should examine carefully the history of every successful politician, minister, mechanic, lawyer, teacher, &c., we shall find that each and every one of them was strictly punctual to every engagement. Napoleon and Wellington, Washington, Lee and Grant were not only punctual themselves, but exacted punctuality from all who were subject to their orders. Another trouble among some of our order is impatience. The person who starts out in the world, expecting to accomplish his purposes in a few days or months, is almost invariably sure to make a failure; it makes no difference what his avocation in life may be. Four-fifths of all the mercantile, financial and professional failures are traceable to the impatience of the persons who could not wait for success. They are men who do not want to endure the performance of duties which alone can secure excellence. The bulk of the colossal fortune of Vanderbilt was accumulated after he was fifty years of age; but he only reaped the fruits of previous labor. Then, brethren, if we expect to prosper, we must be patient and wait, for it will take time to accomplish our purposes. The man who is in too great haste for results will not wait for the ripest fruit. Jonah's gourd vine came up and grew to maturity in a single night, but fif-

teen centuries were required to mature the cedars of Lebanon. The vine perished with the rising sun; the cedars endure for ages. The making haste to the top round of the ladder has resulted in the disastrous fall of more men who have entered the arena of business and professional life than any other one cause. Well, I have already intruded, so I will close. Success to our order and *THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER*.

Yours fraternally,

N. B. LUCAS, Cor. Sec'y.

DEMANDS OF THE ALEXANDER COUNTY FARMERS' ALLIANCE, NO. 1,315.

1. We recommend all the demands made by the St. Louis National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union, December 6th, 1889.

2. We also demand that our representatives in the Legislature shall favor railroad commission to regulate the freight and tariff in North Carolina.

3. We demand that all property under mortgage shall be exempt from taxation to the amount of the mortgage.

4. We demand that the farmer be exempt from taxation on the products of his soil as all other home interests are.

The above resolutions or demands were reported by the Committee on Demands and adopted unanimously in the county meeting, April 4th, 1890.

W. E. WHITE, Pres. Alexander Co. F. A., No. 1,315.

W. J. DAVIS, Sec'y.

CORN, 1889.

The crop of corn for 1889 was the largest ever raised in this country.

The entire product amounted to 2,113 million bushels. Unused and on hand March 1st, 1890, 970 million of bushels. We have 183 millions of bushels more than now than last year at this time, and 462 millions more than in 1888.

The States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska had on hand, March 1st, 667 million bushels of corn, or twenty times more than the entire product of North Carolina for the year past.

The value of the crop at present prices is 504 millions (the amount on hand March 1st.) The value at prices December 1st was 35 millions in excess of the present prices. That is to say, the decline amounts to 6 per cent. in three months.

WHEAT, 1889.

The crops of wheat for 1889 amounted to 490,560,000 bushels. Last year the crop was 415 million bushels.

In 1881 our crop was 498,549,868 bushels, in 1883 it was 504 million bushels and in 1885, 512 millions of bushels.

On hand March 1st 156,000,000 bushels. In 1885 we had on hand at same time 169,000,000.

Most of the wheat in farmers' hands is in the States that do not raise more than they consume.

The six spring wheat States have only 15,000,000 bushels more than will be needed for seed and their own supply.

The six winter wheat States east of the Rockies have a surplus of 24,000,000 bushels.

The wheat crop is a large one, but there is less in those States that supply export and more in the States that supply their own demand.

A BILL BY SENATOR PLUMB.

Mr. Plumb introduced a bill for the disposition of certain funds in the Treasury and asked that it be read in full, as he desired to call the attention of the Finance Committee to it. It provides that the money required to be deposited for the redemption of the national bank circulation shall be covered into the Treasury and treated as funds available for the reduction of the public debt and for the current expenses of the government; that all funds held for the payment of the matured debt and interest, due and unpaid, shall be similarly treated; and that hereafter no funds available, above the sum of \$10,000,000, shall be retained in the Treasury—this not to be construed, however, as permanently diminishing the fund of \$100,000,000 now held for the redemption of Treasury notes. He said that there was less than \$700,000,000 of circulation for the use of 65,000,000 people of the United States—probably not more than \$10 per capita.