

The Progressive Farmer.

L. L. POLK, Editor. J. L. RAMSEY, Associate Editor. W. F. DALY, Business Manager. Raleigh, N. C.

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The Progressive Farmer is the Official Organ of the N. C. Farmers' State Alliance.

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A SMALL FAVOR ASKED.

Will the judges, members of the State Senate and members of the Lower House who have refused to accept free passes from the different railroad corporations in the State be so kind as to drop us a postal card to that effect? We would appreciate this little act of kindness very much.

In response to the above following members of the Legislature and Senate have gone on record as having refused railroad passes:

- R. W. Scott, Alamance county; B. A. Wellons, Johnston county; J. D. Parker, Perquimans county; E. C. Beddingfield, Wake county; M. J. Ham, Wayne county; John Norwood, Orange county; N. Gibbon, Mecklenburg county; J. L. Anderson, Hertford county; D. Alexander, Tyrrell county; A. Robinson, Duplin county.

THE LIVELIEST ISSUE IN AMERICAN POLITICS.

ON another page will be found the views of a "Georgian" on the Sub-Treasury bill, which we quote from the Atlanta Constitution. That paper says that the author is a solid, substantial, successful business man and is fully capable of handling the subject, to which opinion we are sure our readers will subscribe. That he is a man of research, intellectual calibre, and of deep logical thought, none can doubt, who will measure his argument. It is one of the clearest and most exhaustive arguments in support of the principles of the bill yet presented. Lest its length may deter some from reading it, we desire to call special attention to it and urge every reader of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER to peruse and study it very carefully. Read it over and over again. It will richly repay you. The principles involved in this bill constitute the liveliest and most important issue in American politics, and will not down at the bidding of any man or party. It presents, fairly and squarely, the issue—shall corrupt money power, or the people, rule? In its last and logical analysis, it presents the question in its most emphatic form—shall the present oppressive and unjust financial system of government be perpetuated by and through which the honest earnings of labor of the millions shall be appropriated by the few? The people are not constitutional lawyers, but they are sufficiently discriminating in judgment and sufficiently intelligent to feel and to know that the financial policy of the government is creating millionaires and paupers, to the impoverishment and ruin of the honest toiling masses. They intend to correct it.

Mr. Lincoln said: "You may fool a part of the people all the time, the whole of the people a part of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all the time." What do they see to day? In an era of prosperity, with vast moneyed enterprises projected and prosecuted, with the transportation facilities of the country equal to its productive power, with no internal industrial conditions or external relations with other nations, to produce financial convulsions, they have seen in the great money center of the country within the past thirty days, money in demand at the fearful rate of 188 per cent. To relieve these gamblers of an impending panic, they have seen the government rush into the market and pay hundreds of millions on bonds as premiums, months and months in advance of their maturity. They have seen \$50,000,000 of their money—eighty cents of every dollar of which came out of their pockets, squan-

dered—given to the money manipulators by methods as unjust and outrageous as if it had been taken from them by highway robbery. And all this because of the contraction of the currency to suit the rapacious greed of money power. They may not be constitutional lawyers, but they have sense enough to see and to know that the few plutocrats of the country are rapidly growing richer while the laboring masses are forced, under the forms of law, to foot the bills and are growing poorer and poorer every day. The power of gold to oppress, sustain and strengthen by our national banking system, must be broken. The people see that the effect of the Sub-Treasury bill will be to do this. It will give them more money and cheaper money. It will bring them relief and place all the great material interests of the country on a high plane of prosperity. There is no greater delusion than to believe that the Sub-Treasury bill is dead or dying. It stands to day more prominently before the practical business minds of the country than any or all questions, and it will continue to stand there until, through its fair and candid discussion and consideration, a change is wrought in our financial policy that will establish justice and bring relief to our suffering and oppressed millions.

REBATE ON JUTE BAGGING.

THE Wilmington Messenger, of the 23d inst., contained a carefully prepared article written by Mr. Iredell Mears, an attorney, of that city, and who was formerly collector of the port of Wilmington. Mr. Mears shows that during the years 1833-'84 upwards of \$250,000 were paid by the United States to the manufacturers upon claims on jute bagging exported as covering on cotton in bales, which they did not own nor export and were not legally entitled to. He also shows that the government is paying to the exporters not less than \$200,000 per annum, as a refund of duty upon this bagging, under rulings of the department at Washington permitting it. In the past seven years the payments have aggregated the large sum of \$692,000. Of course the farmers have to foot the bills. The manufacturers pay the import duty and add it to the cost of making the bagging. The farmer pays the duty, as part of the cost of the bagging, and when it is exported the exporter gets the refund. So it is plain that the refund is not included when the price of cotton is fixed in Europe.

THE DRAWBACK LAW.

U. S. Revised Statutes, Sec. 3,019.—There shall be allowed on all articles manufactured of materials imported, on which duties have been paid when exported, a drawback equal in amount to the duty paid on such materials, and no more, to be ascertained under such regulations as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury. Ten per centum on the amount of all drawbacks so allowed shall, however, be retained for the use of the United States by the collector's paying such drawbacks respectfully.

The "Customs Regulations," issued and approved by the Treasury Department, before payment of drawback claims, require:

- 1. That the exporter shall produce to the collector of the port where the manufactured article upon exportation is entered for drawback duty, the certificates of the collector of port where materials entering into its manufacture were imported, showing and verifying the quantity, quality, date of importation, and duty paid upon such material. "Customs Regulations 1884" Art. 891.
- 2. That the exporter shall produce the sworn affidavit of the proprietor and foreman of the manufactory at which the article was manufactured, in effect that the material so certified to as having been imported entered solely without intermixture or interweaving with domestic products, in the manufacture of the particular article entered for the refund of duty. "Customs Regulations, 1884," Art. 967.

It will be seen from the above that this robbery is done according to law, but that is not any advantage to the cotton raiser. It is another link in the chain of evidence proving that manufacturers take advantage of the tariff laws to plunder the farmers. In the first place the manufacturers of jute have no more right to the rebate than the raisers of the cotton. In fact he has no right at all to any rebate. The government is as much authorized to give any North Carolina newspaper a rebate of 50 cents on every subscriber it may have or to give every raiser of cotton a rebate of \$1 on every hundred pounds of cotton he raises. The same may be said of corn, wheat, oats or anything else.

The only way to get tariff legislation is to elect farmers to the U. S. Senate and Congress. At least fifty Congressmen will be elected this year that are made of the right material to reduce the tariff. We should raise the record two years from now and put in at least one hundred. In the meantime we can outwit these tariff robbers by using any substitute we can get to cover cotton with. This requires no strategy. We only need horse sense and pluck and determination. Use anything on your cotton bales except jute bagging.

WHY WILL THEY NOT DISCUSS IT?

HAPPILY for the people, the day has passed when they accept mere assertion for argument. On all great questions affecting their interests, we must appeal to their reason rather than to their credulity. "A reason for the faith that is in you" is what an anxious, investigating public mind demands. Hence the columns of the reform press for months past have bristled with challenges to Congressmen and others who oppose the Sub-Treasury bill, to come out and discuss it squarely and manfully on its merits. Its discussion before the American Congress has been designedly and purposely suppressed. Congressmen refuse to discuss it through the press or before the people. Attempts to discuss it before public meetings have been thwarted. Is this fair? Is it manly? Is it just? The people want light. If the measure be "unconstitutional," "chimerical," "visionary," "wild," "socialistic," the people desire to know it. If they be in error they want to know it. But it is an insult to their manhood and intelligence to demand that they surrender their opinions and abandon their position on this bill upon the simple assertion of any man, whoever or whatever he may be. If a member of Congress opposes the measure, the people have the clear right to demand of him his reasons for his opposition. And further, they have the right to demand that he shall present his argument in such fair and candid form that they may be thoroughly examined and weighed. He has no right to waive the people off with the simple declaration that the measure is "unconstitutional." To expect them to quietly acquiesce in such a dictatorial and pompously domineering proceeding would be to brand them as cowards unworthy the proud name of American citizens.

Why, then, will they not meet the challenge of the friends of the bill and discuss it? The simple and truthful answer is: They dare not do it. No issue, involving such tremendous interests of the farmers and laboring people, has been presented to the American public in a half century. And yet editors and so-called statesmen would flippantly thrust it aside as "wild," "socialistic," "unconstitutional," etc., and refuse to discuss it.

Public men who affect to shape and lead public opinion on great economic or political questions, or who seek the suffrages of patriotic people must not, cannot evade or ignore such questions.

We publish an article in this issue on the Sub-Treasury bill from a "Georgian,"—not a member of our order,—and THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER makes the following

PROPOSITION TO ANY MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM NORTH CAROLINA, who is opposed to the bill, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER will give him an equal amount of space in which to reply to the position therein taken by the author. Will some one of our members accept the proposition? We hope so.

It is a amusing, to say the least of it, to witness the vigor with which some persons assail the details of the bill as presented to Congress. If the principle underlying the measure be correct, just, constitutional, equitable, and right, it is the duty of Congress to conform the details to the principle.

We have noted with some degree of care the arguments of members of Congress against the constitutionality of the measure. They say, simply, that it is unconstitutional, because it provides that the government shall lend money and it would be unconstitutional for the government to do so.

WE PROPOSE TO SHOW NEXT WEEK by the highest judicial authority under our government, to wit: The Supreme Court of the United States, that the government may lend money within the Constitution. We propose to show, further, that the government has loaned money through the action of the American Congress and with the vote of almost every member from the Southern States.

If we shall succeed in establishing this fact, then the only plea we have seen entered against the constitutionality of the Sub-Treasury falls to the ground. But will they discuss the principles of the bill? If so, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER will cheerfully give them ample opportunity to do so through its columns.

If THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, as has been repeatedly charged, has misrepresented the position of any gentleman on this measure, it will be only too happy to give him an opportunity to correct it. Will they discuss the principles upon which the bill is based? They dare not do it.

GOOD SCHOOLS.

IN travelling over the North Carolina Railroad from Raleigh to Greensboro, you will see a number of fine educational institutions. Soon after you leave Raleigh you will see the N. C. Agricultural and Mechanical College. Just beyond the western suburbs of Durham is the site for Trinity College. The situation for this college is one of the finest in all the country. Work has already begun. Beyond Hillsboro, in the midst of one of the prettiest groves on earth,

is Bingham's military school, an institution of which all our people are proud. Another short run and you will see the college of the Christian denomination. It is beautifully situated, and the handsome and commodious brick building now nearing completion will be an ornament to our State. The above named institutions are visible to the passenger on the train. A number of educational institutions are on and near the route. Truly, North Carolina is going forward in some respects.

A MUZZLED PRESS.

IT is to be regretted that so many papers are muzzled or controlled by unscrupulous men. For some years, notwithstanding a large increase in the number of periodicals, the papers that show a spirit of independence has been growing smaller and smaller. It is a great pity that such a state of affairs exists. But it is true, nevertheless. No doubt some of the most influential papers in this country are owned by men that would throttle our civilization itself. The Twin City Daily of a recent date contained a timely editorial on the subject which is as follows:

It is greatly to be deplored that there is an attempt to muzzle the press of the country by political demagogues who aspire to public office. Quay has bought out several influential journals of Pennsylvania to open fire for himself and Delemater; Alger has made a systematic purchase of newspapers throughout the strongholds of the Central and Western States, and Harrison has muzzled the press of the far West and is negotiating with Clarkson for his superintendency over the gigantic monopoly.

Such a control of largely circulated papers is more detrimental to our people on general principles than most of the trusts of the country. It does not only stifle their voice, but moulds many opinions which time only can erase. It will inject into our political mind such ideas of government that will only tend to enrich the few at the expense of the many, and, in fact, will persuade the laboring man to give his substance in the taxation to uphold the finances of the wealthy. It tends to make one section believe solely in the man who holds the monopoly reins and is death to that man, however honest, who opposes him.

It is to be regretted that this means is being resorted to so extensively by politicians of the country, but may the good Lord keep the minds of the good common people balanced and not suffer them to be misled by the onslaught of the muzzled press.

SEEKING NOTORIETY.

THE National Economist of last week contained this pointed paragraph:

"Occasionally, even yet a so called reform paper is seeking to obtain a fleeting notoriety by butting itself to death against the Sub-Treasury plan. While such examples are rare, they indicate that the true sphere of the honest reform press is not fully understood."

We have been watching these fellows. They well know that there is partisan and local opposition to the Sub-Treasury plan. They pretend to advocate the interest of the farmers and at the same time stab him in the other side by indirect thrusts at this measure. Some of our statesmen employ the same tactics. You won't have to go out of North Carolina to find specimens of this product.

MICHIGAN ORGANIZED.

ABOUT one hundred delegates met in Lansing, Mich., on September 17th, and organized a State Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union. The following officers were elected:

- President, A. E. Cole. Vice-President, T. C. Anthony. Secretary, J. M. Potter. Treasurer, A. D. Carlton. Lecturer, Luther R. Pley, of Port Hope.

The officers are said to be very able men and have the confidence and respect of the people.

The order is growing very rapidly in Michigan.

JOHN ADAMS AS A HAYSEED SOCIALIST.

THAT is of no consequence by what name you call your people, whether by that of freemen or of slaves; that in some countries the laboring poor were called freemen, in others they were called slaves, but the difference as to the State was imaginary only. What matters it, whether a landlord employing ten laborers on his farm, gives them annually as much money as will buy them the necessities of life, or gives them those necessities at short-hand? The ten laborers add as much wealth annually to the State, increase its exports as much in the one case as the other. (This is equally true of mechanics and laborers in mills and factories, and too true of the farmer to day. We are all slaves of the plutocrat.)

No less than twenty-seven fairs will be held in North Carolina this fall. If there is any good in exhibitions of this kind, and doubtless there is, our State ought to be benefited.

"POLKISM AND BUTLERISM IN UPPER SAMPSON."

THE following communication appeared in the Wilmington Messenger of Wednesday, September 10th:

Editor Messenger:—The Alliance men of Newton Grove township held the primaries on the 6th inst., treating with disdain every proposition offered by any true Democrat outside of the order. One of the leaders, and formerly the President of the Newton Grove Alliance, (and by the way at this time an aspirant for legislative honors,) was made chairman of the meeting, and on one occasion when a proposition looking to harmony, in the form of a proposition, being presented by an outside Democrat, he mounted a goods box, looking around among his followers, and called out for opposition to the measure. There were probably fifty as good men and firm Democrats as can be found in the community, seeing the disposition to rule at any hazard, refused to take any part whatever in the meeting, as did also some of the better men belonging to the order (be it said to their credit,) so thoroughly disgusted were they with the proceedings. We are reliably informed that one of the lodges in the township held a special meeting on the night before the primary. No politics in the order! Such actions remind us of the days of Union Leagueism. Such is Polkism and Butlerism in upper Sampson to-day. Tim.

The above is a fair sample of some of the literature that is being dished up for certain newspapers in order to injure the Alliance. The chances are that "Tim" was the only disgusted citizen in the crowd, and still more likely he was not at the convention at all. The Clinton Caucasian, which has a good deal more backbone than most North Carolina papers, makes the following reference to the romance:

Who "Tim" is we do not know, but he slanders the good men who compose the Alliance of Newton Grove township. It is true the Alliance men were in the majority at the primary and they would have been untrue to themselves and the principles of the order if they had allowed delegates to be elected who are blindly opposed to every measure the order is advocating for the relief of the farmer. To show that the Alliance is not clannish and that it is principle that they were fighting for, Mr. Isaac Williams, who believes in the principles of the Alliance, though not a member, and as good a man as there is in Sampson county, was elected one of the delegates from Newton Grove township to the county convention.

GOOD NEWS!

COL. Livingston, of Georgia, will be in our State in a few days. He will speak at Statesville on October 31; Greensboro, 4th; Oxford, 6th; Raleigh, 7th; Weldon, 8th; Goldsboro, 9th. Col. L. L. Polk will be with him at Raleigh, Weldon and Goldsboro. Col. Livingston is one of the first orators in America. He will entertain and instruct our people to a high degree. Spread the news. He should have thousands to hear him.

T. JEFFERSON AS A BOYCOTTER.

THE Governor dissolved us, (the General Assembly,) but we met the next day in the apollo of the Raleigh tavern, formed ourselves into a revolutionary convention, drew up articles of association, against the use of any merchandise imported from Great Britain, signed and recommended them to the people, repaired to our several counties, and were re-elected without any other exception than of the very few who had declined assent to our proceedings.—Memoris, vol. — p. 4.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

* The Alliance Tocsin, of Locksburg, Ark., hits the nail square on the head. It says: "None of the opponents of the Alliance Sub-Treasury plan have yet put forward a better measure. Gentlemen, put up or shut up."

* James Robison, a millionaire at Phoenix, Arizona, is attending a night school there in order to learn to read and write. It is in order for several other millionaires to attend some school in order to learn that other people have rights.

* Marriages at fairs threatens to become monotonous. Already nine couples have signified a willingness to get married in the presence of the crowd at the Atlanta Exposition this fall. The Journal says the matter has been referred to "the committee on marriages."

* We are requested to state that the Iredell County Alliance will meet on the 2d Friday in October instead of the 1st, as has been the custom. It is proper to add that all county meetings in the State will be held on the 2d Friday in each quarter instead of the 1st, as per change in the State Constitution.

* The Baltimore Sun styles Congress "Our National Circus." That is pretty good. We all know that Speaker Reed is the fat man, and all the rest of the crowd are the "funny men." However, they keep the bulls

and bears and other varmint in Wall street, New York. The Sun doesn't state that it is a "strictly moral circus."

* Gov. Gordon, of Georgia, seems to have lost his usual well-poised balance since he entered the canvass for the senatorship. He has adopted the new-fashioned method of Congress—abuse of men instead of argument. He has the honor of being the first man opposing the Sub-Treasury bill who proposes something in its place. He would build a mammoth warehouse on the coast to hold all of the Georgia crop of cotton. What a whopper! And how Judge Norwood goes for that warehouse! Things are lively in Georgia.

* The Western Advocate, of Kansas, is rather sarcastic. It hits the sectional howlers a good one in the following: "The rebels are going to invade our State again! Polk, with a delegation of Georgia Alliance men, are about to rush down upon us and capture the State. O, Lord, save us! Where's Joe Hudson! He'll kill 'em p.ah."

* We have before us a copy of an interesting book called "Our Republican Monarchy," by Venier Voldo, published by Sanderson & Co., St. Louis, Mo. It is a strong arraignment of the politico capitalistic machinery which has corrupted our free institutions and prostituted our republic almost to the aristocratic forms and industrial slaveries of monarchical Europe.

* The ladies of the State are having quite an interesting guessing arrangement for the State Fair, October 13th to 18th. The money to go to the North Carolina Soldiers' Home. A large number of presents have been given as prizes; and each person may guess as many guesses as he chooses, by paying ten cents for each guess. The object is a worthy one. Don't refuse to guess when called upon.

* A dispatch from Montgomery, Ala., on the 25th, states that Geo. F. Gaither, manager of the Alabama Alliance Exchange, has issued notice over his own signature that the Exchange would store 500,000 bales of cotton and advance \$35 on each bale, the cotton to be insured by the farmers. The 2,000,000 bale deal has not yet been made public, but it is understood that negotiations are still in progress.

EXTRAVAGANCE NOT THE CAUSE

In an editorial in one of the monopoly papers on the "Signs of the Times," they first pretended times were good, but finally admitted that if times were hard and laboring people suffering for the want of work, it was their own fault, because they had been so extravagant. There may be a few extravagant people, but not among the laboring people. Ninety nine laboring men out of every hundred are too poor to indulge in extravagant living. About one-half the population are tillers of the soil, and one raised upon a farm, knows that farmers as a class, are the most frugal and industrious people in the country. They rise at five o'clock in the morning, doing their chores before breakfast, working hard all day, milk the cows, feed the pigs and do the other chores after dark, and then to bed. And after a whole year of the hardest kind of toil, both indoors and out, the farmer counts up barely enough, after paying taxes, to get him through, ready to start on another year. The farmer works hard for all he possesses and when he parts with a dollar, it is expended with great care, because it represents so many hard knocks.

Asking a working man who earns a dollar a day for instance, or suppose he is obliged to work for his board, how extravagant can a man be who works for his board or a dollar a day? This charge of extravagance cannot be laid at the door of the laboring people. It is impossible for the most of them be extravagant for they lack the means to do it with. They have to practice the most rigid economy to get along and as the saying goes "make both ends meet." It is a poor policy to try and make a country rich by practicing rigid economy. A few can get moderately well to do by practicing it, but the masses can never. If this was a world of misers all practicing economy, this country would be a wilderness filled with beggars. A miser is the curse of any community and the less we have of them the better. A community composed of such people would be shunned as you would a plague. They are the dry rot of society. Rigid economy practiced by the masses, would be the death of business, it would be a blight upon industry, which would paralyze and cause it to wither and decay. It is the practice of forced economy that shuts down the mills, closes our shops and factories, and fills the land with tramps. Extravagance charged upon the plain people of this country, is a mean libel on the body of workers, who, by their labor have produced all the wealth of the land. The only extravagance which exists is among the drones and bummers, who produce nothing, but live from off the labor of others, and if they had their right deserts and had only what they produced, they would be compelled to practice the most beggarly rigid economy, and the laboring people would be enjoying the fruits of their toil.—National Advocate.