

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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THE PUBLIC ROAD QUESTION.

MR. EDITOR:—I see in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER one of your correspondents suggests the discussion of the road question, the best plan on which they can be kept in repair, etc.

This is eminently proper, for a wise and well regulated system of public highways throughout all our borders is of the first importance, and is daily becoming a prime necessity for the natural development and utilization of the varied resources of the State, and merits and will claim the best thought and most judicious action of next our legislature.

The public highways of the State are the channels through which flow the agricultural and mineral production and commercial supplies of the country. They are, so to speak, the life-blood of the State, leading to and connecting with those great ducts of travel and transportation—the railroads of the country.

Our railroad system is constantly increasing in efficiency, while the common roads of the country have been neglected and are inferior to those of any civilized country of which we read. The most casual observer must be aware that our roads are utterly deficient in every necessary qualification that can claim to be the attribute of a good road.

This miserable condition of the roads of the country have not only resulted from an ignorance of the true principle and methods of road-making and repairing, but from defective legislation as well.

The system in vogue with us is unsound in principle, unfair in its operations, wasteful in its practical results and totally unsatisfactory. It is a relic of ancient feudalism, copied from the "statute labor" of England and its effects are apparent to-day in the neglected condition of the common thoroughfares of the country.

It is a question of the first importance to the wellbeing of the State that these arteries and veins of agricultural and commercial life should receive that attention at the hands of our legislators that their supreme importance demands in order to remedy existing defects and establish a uniform and efficient system throughout the State.

It is plain that by perfecting as near as possible these public highways, every department of our agricultural, commercial and manufacturing interest would be greatly benefited. Every article of consumption would thus be diminished in price; the motive power now necessary could be reduced, and by these and similar retrenchments thousands could be saved to the people annually. In fact the good that would result from effecting this great object is incalculable, not only to the agricultural commun-

ity but to the whole people as a State. But the investigation pertinent to this important matter is the question. Formulating a plan which will be most successful, practicable, just and satisfactory in bringing about the desired improvement will require earnest thought and consummate skill. Our present system is based in the main on personal service. This manifestly unjust. I can see no just reason why property should not be taxed as well as the poll to keep up the roads; neither do I see why a healthy man of forty six years of age should not work the roads as well as his neighbor who is only forty five. The roads should be kept up by all classes who use and enjoy them.

After reflection, I would suggest that every able-bodied man that has nothing but his head be valued at, say, \$500 or \$1,000 as the exigencies of the case might require them, let every \$500 or \$1,000 of taxable property contribute a like amount either in labor or its equivalent in money. The machinery necessary to put this scheme in execution need not be complicated. Have good overseers and pay them and hold them responsible for the faithful discharge of the duties imposed and the execution of the law. I do not see how any one could oppose this plan, as every one would be only required to contribute in proportion to his means, but pass it on and let's hear from others.

T. H. CHRISTIE.

LETTER FROM BEAUFORT.

The Progressive Farmer and the Sub-Treasury Bill.

AURORA, N. C.

MR. EDITOR:—After a long silence, I write to let you know that we still live. Let me say before I go any further, though I am not known on your subscription list, I am a silent subscriber and an ardent admirer of your valuable paper and expect to be as long as it champions the people's measures in such a bold and fearless style. I don't see how any American citizen can do without such papers. Up to the time of the organization of the F. A. and I. U. the average farmer and laborer knew nothing of the government of the United States, but thank God the day is close at hand, with such guiding stars as THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, National Economist and others when the people will be educated up to a sense of duty in regard to who they send to represent them. The election is over so far as judicial, congressional and county matters are concerned, but the most important battle of all for us, the people, is to take place between now and January.

In case you should be misled by what I may have to say, I will say that I never voted any other than a Democratic ticket in my life and am no aspirant for any office. I have been as great an admirer of Hon. Z. B. Vance as any heathen worshipper ever was of his idol, but when a man attempts to slay the goose that has laid the golden egg, I think it is time for the old goose to get out of the way or put him out of the way. There went more than 1,500 petitions to Senator Vance from his constituents asking him to support the Sub Treasury bill. What did he say in his letter to President Carr? "In my opinion it is unconstitutional." Did he think because he was Vance that the people would take a mere opinion of his like that and say: "Well, he knows more than all the hayseeds in the United States." The time has been when they would, and when I glance around me in our section and see who favors his return to the U. S. Senate, I should say if he was to return that things have not changed, that the people, i. e. the masses have no voice in public affairs. Not hardly a man in this section favors his return except professional men, merchants, cross road politicians and editors. I don't propose to champion anybody in his place. Yours, etc.

R. H. LANE.

LETTER FROM MAYWOOD.

MR. EDITOR:—I have not seen anything from Maywood Alliance, No. 1,555. I will write a line. We have 95 members, 68 males and 27 females. We still continue to grow in number as well as in interest. We meet first and third Saturday in each month. I think our average attendance is 35 to 50. We buy most of our groceries through the Alliance. Those who have been buying guano through the Alliance have saved a great deal of money. We are in favor of the Sub Treasury or something better. "United we stand, divided we fall." Yours respectfully,
W. A. H. MATKINS.

NUTS TO CRACK AT THE FARMER'S FIRESIDE.

Press Opinions from Many Sources.

The organized labor of the world is on its march to the grandest victory that ever shattered the power of oppression.—Lockwood, (Mo) Independent.

The stringency in the money markets of the country is effecting the price of cotton all over the country. Cotton nowhere is selling for its true value.—Mississippi Clodhopper.

Some of these fellows who sit in the doorway of the court house defaming Farmers' Alliances and whistling their courage had best take vermin fuge.—Ashland, Ohio, Free Lance.

There is but one way for the farmer, mechanic and laborer out of the many troubles which now harass them on every side, and that is, to stand firm and united in one grand movement.—Grange Advocate.

The only proper kicking that might be done about the farmers and workmen going into politics is that they ought to get some one to kick them for not doing it ten years sooner.—Kansas Commoner.

Yes, ye men of brawn—shout aloud for the McKinley bill. It will prove your salvation—for do you not know that dried blood, bones, bladders, bees wax and g—intestines are on the free list?—The Great West.

The working people have as much right to organize a standing army to enforce their demands, as the corporations have to keep a standing army of Pinkerton cut throats to intimidate their employees.—Texas Labor Journal.

Tom Reed boldly stated this week at St. Paul, before 5,000 people, that sugar was on the free list. That is a sample of high toned political lying. Only grades used in refining—below 16 Dutch standard—are on the free list.—The Great West.

The Kansas City packers announce a rise in the price of canned meats and a further rise of $\frac{1}{2}$ cent a pound on canned lard. The new prices take immediate effect. This is all on account of the McKinley tariff on tin plates.—Rockdale Messenger.

No vote can be lost or thrown away which is cast against corrupt political parties to express desire for a reform in government. Always vote for principle though you have to vote alone, and you can cherish the sweet reflection that your vote is never lost.—Exchange.

All the old party hacks complain that the Sub Treasury bill involves class legislation. What if it does? Farmers as a class are injured by class legislation and now they propose to right themselves by the same kind of law, and call upon all good men to aid them.—Weekly Monitor.

It is amusing to observe the eagerness with which the 2x4 editors print the remarks of some other fellow against the Sub Treasury scheme. Like the small-fry politicians they wait till the bosses have spoken, and then, parrot-like, jump up and say, "me too!"—Arkansas Economist.

The most dangerous element that enters into a political campaign now a-days is the free use of money. And the more hopeless the condition of the people becomes the more influence does money wield in shaping the results of the election. Moral: Give the people prosperity.—Western Advocate.

The new tariff lowers the duty on live poultry from 10 cents a pound down to 3 cents, and on dressed poultry, from 10 cents to 5 cents. Why the tariff was put up on eggs and down on egg producers, it is difficult to say, unless it was intended to stimulate egg production and discourage the killing of hens for market.

Last Saturday as two girls stood watching the long procession of farmers passing in the streets of Fremont, one of them said, "Let's go." "No," said the other, "Let's stay and see the end." A farmer standing by remarked: "Little girls, you will not see the end of that until it reaches the White House two years hence."—Arlington Neb., Defender.

What a spectacle to see a man half clothed and living in a poor board shanty with a poorly clad wife and children, voting for a party ticket that will always keep him in rags and poverty. It is a shame for hard working men who can't get enough ahead to buy a home nor to bury his dead, to vote with the parties who have placed him in those circumstances.—Labor Tribune.

The man or the party that attempts to defend the national banking system holds an unenviable position. The

people of Kansas, at least, have found out that there is some connection between this dangerous system and the mortgage plague that has attached itself to them and they have concluded that not with their consent will they longer be ruled as they have in the past.—Western Advocate.

What estimate are we to form of American journalism and statesmanship when we remember that there are three millions of idle men seeking employment, and millions of our people suffering for food, clothing, fuel and shelter, while said journalists and statesmen are trying to find a market for our surplus products, the very thing our own people are suffering for but are too poor to buy?—Climate Advocate.

Jay Gould has this to say of the McKinley tariff bill: "I cannot see that the new tariff of itself will be a disadvantage to the country. If it increases the cost of some articles people will simply use less of them. Take wool, for instance. If the tariff on wool makes clothing cost more, a person will get along with one suit where he would otherwise have two." How does this suit the farmers and mechanics and laboring men generally, who find it difficult enough already to clothe themselves and their wives and families?—Topeka Advocate.

COST OF FEED FOR WORKING TEAMS.

The price of grain is now so high that the following comparisons have been made to secure an economical feed for working teams. The summaries of the value of oats, wheat, bran and corn have been extracted from Prof. Stewart's work on "Feeding Animals." They are of digestible materials in value per 100 lbs.—\$0.98 for oats, with nutritive ratio of 1 to \$6.1; \$1.01 for wheat bran, with ratio of 1 to 5.6; \$1.11 for corn with ratio of 1 to 8.6. The present prices in Raleigh per 100 lbs. are for oats \$1.875 to \$1.953, for wheat bran \$1.25, for corn \$1.375 to \$1.43. The advance above Prof. Stewart's valuation for new corn is proportional with bran. For oats the corresponding increase would be \$1.213, whereas the present price is as high as \$1.875—or 54.5 per cent. higher than they should be in comparison with the other standard feeds. Old corn is 5.4 per cent. higher than new corn or bran, and may not be far from the real difference in actual feeding value.

Instead of feeding oats or corn exclusively, a mixture of 100 lbs. in equal parts of wheat-bran and corn would be much more economical. This mixture gives a ratio of 1 to 7.2, and the 100 lbs. cost \$1.06. It is richer in digestible protein and nitrogen—free extract and fibre, but contains less digestible fat than oats, and the ratio is a little wider.

For all work animals, where strength rather than speed is required, this mixture would be far preferable to oats at present prices. If fed by weight in equal quantities it is very much cheaper, costing as it does in top lots \$25, and \$27.50 per ton or \$26.25, if cost for mixing is not included. This is to be tried for profit when oats at sixty cents per bushel amount to \$37.50 per ton.

At one peck per day per horse, this substitution of corn and bran for oats would save \$11.25 in two months on five horses, or \$1.125 on each horse per month. In all cases except where high spirits and great speed are desired, this change from oats is desirable. In some cases its mechanical effect might be very great. If the corn were cracked it might be better than the oats for common road purposes.—F. E. Emery, Agriculturist, N. C. Experiment Station.

"IN TIME OF PEACE, PREPARE FOR WAR."

The owners of vineyards and orchards as soon as all the leaves have fallen should carefully rake the leaves into small piles and burn them. All the shrunken, dried up fruit on the vines and trees should also be removed and cast into the fire. These shrunken fruits and most of the fallen leaves contain vast numbers of the winter spores of the fungimildew, black rot, anthracnose and scab which may have caused such a loss the past season.

Farmers should also clean up their fields soon after Christmas and burn all the trash and weeds in fence corners. These trash piles harbor noxious insects, weed seeds and fungi. It is much cheaper to destroy them now than to fight them next summer.—Gerald McCarthy, N. C. Experiment Station.

NEW INDUSTRIES.

Enterprises of Various Kinds to be Put in Operation and Things Likely to be Done at an Early Day—Rip Van Winkle Cannot Stay in the Old North State.

Wilmington—A knitting mill will probably be established.
New Bern—Samuel Cook & Son are sinking artesian wells.

Lexington—A plug tobacco factory is reported as being erected.
Raleigh—Ellington, Royster & Co. will, it is reported, erect a saw mill.

Winston—T. J. and N. S. Wilson are reported as enlarging their tobacco factory.
Rocky Mount—Contract has been let, it is reported, for the erection of several tobacco factories.

Sanford—The Sanford Sash & Blind Co. has enlarged its sash, door and blind factory and put in new machinery.
Hillsboro—H. P. Jones and R. E. Lyon, of Durham, have optioned granite quarries near Hillsboro and will probably develop same.

Wilmington—W. H. Bixby will receive proposals until December 15th for sheet piling, stone, mattresses, &c., in place in dike in Winyaw Bay, S. C.
Wilmington—W. H. Bixby will receive proposals until December 15th for dredging in the Cape Fear river at and below Wilmington and Lockwood's Folly river.

Cherokee County—Manning & Co., of New Orleans, La., are reported as having optioned the marble and iron property of J. M. Thrash, in Cherokee county for \$25,000.

Golden—The Golden Valley Hydraulic Mining Co., lately mentioned, has recently increased its capital stock from \$100,000 to \$300,000, and will erect two saw mills.

Alma—Wilkinson & Fore and Mr. Fitzhugh, of Red Springs, have organized the Alma Lumber Co., and will, it is stated, increase the capacity of their lumber mill.

Winston—The parties recently reported as having purchased 400 acres of land near Winston have organized the Winston Development Co. to improve it. The capital stock is \$100,000.

Oxford—The Modern Tobacco Barn Co., of High Point, previously reported as to move its factory to Oxford, has been incorporated by D. A. Waters, W. H. Snow, D. G. Devenish, of Philadelphia, Pa., and others, with a capital stock of \$250,000.

Madison County—R. H. King, of Kansas City, Mo., and Lynn (Mass.) parties have, it is stated, purchased 175,000 acres of mineral and timber land in Madison and Yancey counties, and will organize a \$1,000,000 stock company to develop same, build a manufacturing town, &c.

Winston—The Piedmont Land & Manufacturing Co., reported in last issue, has for its purpose the buying and developing of mineral and timber lands and town-site properties. E. H. Stewart, of Roanoke, Va., is president, and the company has a maximum capital stock of \$500,000.

Raleigh—The Raleigh Land & Improvement Co. has been incorporated with A. A. Thompson, President; C. B. Edwards, Vice President, and W. N. Jones, Secretary. This company has, it is stated, purchased several tracts of land, including the Seawell property, which it contemplates improving.

"AMEN."

HILLSBORO, N. C.

MR. EDITOR:—I write to say amen to the cry from New Hanover. "Settler" has struck the key note. Sound it loud and long, my brother. Let it be heard to the mountains and from one end of the State to the other. Again I say amen. Let it become a State law; justice cries aloud for it, and you will not find a man in any section of the State who expects to make any progress or improvement on the old way of farming but what will agree that the stock law would be of more real benefit to the farmer than any law that could possibly be given to the people of the State. I do hope that some man will have backbone enough to introduce this measure in the Legislature and I hope there will be farmers enough in the Legislature who understand the needs of the people to put it through. Don't force it on the people suddenly, but let it go into effect twelve or

eighteen months after its ratification. I live in a section where the present system would be beneficial if it would be anywhere; but, brethren, we have had enough of this old way with its injustice. I own a small, one-horse farm and am trying to support a large family by farming. Give us justice. P. PIERCE

COMBINES.

Warehouse Charges and a Need of Reform—Legislative Aid Asked For.

We have a long communication from Bro. Plummer Rowland, of Vance county, on the subject of tobacco warehouse charges, etc. We can only find room for a portion of the article as follows:

The combine to which I allude is the unjust and exorbitant charge levied on us by the warehouses for the sale of our leaf tobacco. We have tried every way in our power to secure redress, but in vain. They promise us better things and lower charges, but only lower them during the session of the legislature. Six years ago the farmers went to the legislature to seek redress and would have gotten a bill passed for their relief, but the warehouse men promised if they would not press its passage they would reduce their charges. They did reduce them as long as the legislature was in session, but just as soon as it adjourned they raised their charges again, thus showing us the folly of trusting to their promises when we knew they were unscrupulous in their dealings and treacherous to their patrons. Some constitutional lawyer may say it is unconstitutional for the legislature to pass a law regulating warehouse charges. If so, I have only to cite them to laws that regulate interest, public ferries across our rivers, the toll charges, as fixed by law on toll gates, grist mills, canals or railroads. In fact you have only to look at the laws regulating public carriers and you will find a syllabus of decisions as to constitutionality. I have before me the bills of a number of farmers from all the different warehouses in the town of Henderson with the charges made out by their own clerks. They range from \$1.25 to \$2 per hundred pounds, or from 8 to 15 per cent. commission for selling. If they deny the above, I am ready to show their own bills of charges. I know of one instance where a renter sold his tobacco at a certain warehouse in Henderson and the warehouse charges amounted to more than the landlord's fourth.

My information and observation extends over a period of fifteen years, a portion of which time I was connected with a warehouse in Henderson. The correctness of the above charges will be backed up by the actual farmer bills which will be submitted to the honorable members of our next legislature. I have already collected a large number of farmers' bills, and would be glad if all the farmers who are in sympathy with us, would send all their old bills for the last two or three years to my address, in care of Farmers' Alliance Warehouse, Henderson, N. C. Would also be glad of any other information bearing upon the subject matter herein. In other words, see your representative in the next legislature and impress him with the importance of legislative enactment regulating warehouse charges. There is no regularity in the per cent. It ranges all the way from five to twenty five per cent. Some of the warehouse men may say they cannot afford to run a warehouse for less commission than at present. To such argument I will cite you to the mammoth fortunes amassed. I have one instance in mind where, fifteen or eighteen years ago, a gentleman started a warehouse with no capital and is now said to be worth \$250,000 or \$300,000. A second instance of another firm whose proprietor, only a few years ago, was working for wages, and is now said to be worth \$100,000 or \$150,000. All this may speak well for their business capacity or financial acumen, but in plain English it means that it is ground out of the poor farmer.

PLUMMER ROWLAND.

Hurrah for the Alliance! It has helped to knock the stuffing out of the old gang of political robbers that has so long fattened on the substance of the people—in fact, deserves about all the credit for it. Keep up the good work. Fire not in well doing. In the future verily your reward shall be great. By careful organization you can get control of all the machinery of government in '92, and the reign of shylock will be over.—Exchange.