

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

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THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

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Address, 344 D. St., N. W., Washington, D. C.
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EDITORIAL NOTES.

An exchange says one of the Sioux Chiefs, now in Washington, is named *Big Head*. This particular Indian is destined to furnish one side of a cranial antithesis not usual in the National Capital of late years.

REPRESENTATIVE Lawler, of Illinois is said to have introduced a bill into the House to simplify spelling. There seems to be nothing wrong with Congressional spelling. What Congressmen do need is a simpler grammar—a much simpler grammar.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is strongly in favor of having the present legislation relieve the people from the delay, and expense, and vexation, and confusion, attendant upon the special legislature so common in this State. Cannot something in this line be done at once?

An exchange says Judge Peffer is a man of great purity and moral worth; but his judgment has never been praised. We infer from this, that Judge Peffer is equal to the average Senator plus a good moral character. Something seems to have been gained by his election to the Senate.

WM. WINDOM late Secretary of the Treasury, is dead. He served four terms in the lower house of Congress, was a conspicuous and useful member of the Senate for a number of years, was Secretary of the Treasury in Garfield's Cabinet—resigning at the accession of Arthur. He was called upon to take his old position in the Treasury, upon the incoming of the Harrison administration. He was an able, upright, and patriotic man and citizen, and has fallen in the midst of his years and usefulness.

SEVERAL of our correspondents have written to us demanding the repeal of our system of county government. We are of the opinion that we should move in the direction of this repeal very slowly. For our present system was devised to secure the control of county affairs to the intelligence and worth of the counties; and we have not seen any case where the system works hardships to anyone. Our ob-

servations, however, of the system have been limited, and there may be counties and sections where the plan works badly. We want everybody to understand that our columns are open to all those who have anything of value to say, either for or against our system of county government, or upon any other question of public concern. We believe in the people—in all the people—and we invite the fullest and freest discussion of all sorts of public questions.

WE assure brother W. F. Grabs that his letter about the picnic was not published because his name was not signed to it. We could not write him because he did not put his address upon the first letter just as he did not put his address on his last letter to us. Always put your true name on anything you write for publication, and if you do not want the piece to appear over your true name, write your *nom de plume* at the bottom of your piece and your real name and address a little lower down, or at one corner. Always give your address.

ONE of the lawyers who have spoken upon the railroad commission before the committee expressed the opinion that all the railroads in the State should be put upon the same footing of advantage, which a single road now enjoys, by reason of its charter. This seems to us to be strange reasoning. One road has been able, by hook or by crook, to secure a charter from the State which is unfair and oppressive to the people; therefore every other road should have a charter from the State which would be unfair and oppressive to the people. We are unable to appreciate the logical processes by which this startling conclusion is reached. We want to say again, as we have said before, that we are not in favor of oppressing the railroads just because we are not in favor of allowing the railroads to oppress the people. We believe in being fair in our dealings with this question, to every class of interests involved. This is our position upon this and upon all other public questions which are up for settlement at the present time.

WE understand that the sending back of Senator Williams' interest bill to the committee on Judiciary was intended to kill it. We hope our information is incorrect. We hope the legislature may see its way clear to either pass the bill or vote it down. We have been, and we are, and we expect to be, in favor of reducing the rate of interest. But we have little concern about the matter, because we know the people have power to settle this matter; and we can wait two years longer for the educating effects of Alliance agitation upon this subject. This legislature illustrates the fact that, upon some subjects, it is difficult to run a wheel within a wheel. In other words, it is hard to secure perfect harmony upon some questions between the Alliance and the party in power in North Carolina. We think this is to be regretted, for many reasons; and we would avoid it if we could. But we want it to be distinctly understood that we, as Alliancemen, do not intend to handicap our demands upon the United States Treasury for money at a low rate of interest, by continuing the high rate which we think our State now wrongfully allows. If our demand for money from the National Government at a low rate of interest is just and right, then our demand for a low rate of interest from our State Government is also just and right. There is no escape from this logic. The two demands stand, or fall together. We want this to be distinctly understood. If our friends in the legislature cannot give us the relief we ask, we shall know how to get it from some other legislature.

ALLIANCE CORRESPONDENCE.

Resolutions adopted by Orange County Alliance, January 9, 1891:

Resolved, That we recommend that 100 per cent. increase be made in our public school fund.

Resolved, That we recommend to Congress the sale of the Pacific Railroad that refuse to pay their indebtedness to the government.

H. P. JONES, Sec'y.

HATTIE, N. C., Jan. 3, '91.

WHEREAS, We think that tax payers should do their own voting; therefore

Resolved By Sweet Water Alliance, No. 1,969, that we recommend such an amendment of the election law of North Carolina, by the present Legislature, as will prohibit any one from voting who cannot show his tax receipt for the year next preceding the election, unless he became of age between tax listing and registration, or those exempt by law.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER for publication.

L. C. WILSON, Sec'y.

Resolution by W. B. York, adopted by Orange County Alliance, January 9th, 1891.

Realizing the fact that the farmers and laboring classes pay more than their just proportion of the taxes, and that the cardinal principle of the Alliance is to practice strict economy in governmental as well as private affairs. Therefore we, the County Alliance of Orange county, do

Resolved, That we ask our Representatives to have the statute exempting all school property from taxation amended so as to exclude school property owned by private individuals and used for private gain.

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to our Representative at Raleigh and a copy to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER for publication.

H. P. JONES, Sec'y.

At a regular meeting of Gum Neck Alliance, No. 1,824, held January 3d, 1891, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, A great many of the partisan papers of this and other States have lately assailed our much esteemed National President, Col. L. L. Polk, both his public and private character; and where, a good many individual men have falsely attacked and tried to slander him for selfish motives; therefore

Resolved, That we take pleasure in denouncing all such papers and men, and recommend that no such papers shall in the future be recognized by this Alliance.

Resolved, That a copy of the above resolution be sent to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER for publication.

J. B. LIVERMAN, Sec'y.

NORTH WEST, VA., Jan. 12, '91.

MR. EDITOR:—Having seen nothing from our Alliance in your valuable paper, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, I take the liberty to pen you a few lines to let the outside world know that we are still alive and have our being.

About three years ago a few of our neighbors succeeded in organizing our Alliance, known as Mayock Central, No. 1,290, with ten charter members. Since then we have worked up our membership to thirty-three, of which thirty are in good standing. To do that we have had to work hard, for we have several hard shells to contend with, though we are fast breaking through on them, and I don't think it will be long before we can swell our number to 50 or 60. We buy all of our groceries through our agency and realize quite a profit by so doing; also we have decided to build a hall, and have all of the lumber ready to commence building at any time. Our Alliance heartily endorses the course of President Polk, also THE PROGRES-

SIVE FARMER and *National Economist* in the stand they have taken in his defence.

Our Alliance is small in number but is of the right grit, and you will find us always at the helm and ready at any time to defend the Alliance principles, let the result be as it may. For fear of worrying you, I will close by saying all hail to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

Yours fraternally,
N. B. POWERS, Sec'y.

Resolution introduced by J. V. Hughes and adopted, October 3d, 1890, by Orange County Farmers' Alliance:

WHEREAS, The public roads of our State, as a rule, are in a wretched condition and in some counties a standing menace to our civilization, and believing that nothing save education will add more to our material progress and prosperity than well kept and equipped public thoroughfares; therefore be it

Resolved, By the Orange County Alliance, that we most respectfully recommend to our next General Assembly the enactment of such a law as will make it incumbent upon the State to lay out, and keep up in first class order, at the expense of the State, two public highways in each county of the State intersecting at the respective county seats of the several counties; said highways to be built by convict labor, thereby doing a work of incalculable benefit to the agricultural classes as well as others, and also removing, as far as it can possibly be done, convict labor from competition with free labor.

Resolved, That our Representatives in the Senate and House of the next General Assembly are hereby requested to use every effort to secure the passage of such a law as above indicated.

H. P. JONES, Sec'y.

BOWIE'S CREEK, N. C.,
Jan. 15, '91.

MR. EDITOR:—At the January meeting of Harnett County Farmers' Alliance, held in the town of Lillington, January 9th, 1891, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, Our National Alliance, assembled in St. Louis in the fall of 1889, recommended the passage of the Sub-Treasury bill or something better for the relief of our farming classes; and whereas, our State Alliance at its last meeting heartily endorsed every demand of our National Alliance; and whereas, the late meeting of our National Alliance, assembled in the city of Ocala, again recommended the passage of the same bill or something better; therefore

Resolved, By this meeting of the Harnett County Farmers' Alliance, that we urge our Senator and Representative in the Legislature now assembled, to see to it that whosoever is elected to represent us in the Senate of the United States be instructed to vote for the Sub-Treasury bill or something better, and to vote for and urge the passage of any other demand of the Farmers' Alliance that will not conflict with their oath or the Constitution of the United States.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to our Representative and Senator in the City of Raleigh, and a copy to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER for publication.

W. M. SEXTON, Sec'y.

ORANGE CO., N. C., Jan. 1, '91.

Piney Mount Alliance met January 1st, 1891. President C. P. Whitfield called the house to order and stated the object of the meeting, and on motion J. W. Pendergrass, Vice-President, after a few preliminary remarks read the first chapter of St. John. Prayer by J. T. Weaver, after which the brethren to express themselves according to the dictates of their own

minds, to which many responded, beyond the most sanguine expectation; and while we were agreeably entertained we could realize the acquiescence of responsive hearts by the flowing tears and radiant countenances. The resolutions that were introduced were from the chapter read. In the beginning was the word made flesh, and dwelt amongst us. We might stop here and ask ourselves many questions, but time will not permit. One answer will suffice and that is, Christ came to give light and that light shown in our little meeting. And now, brethren, if you will follow that light you will not walk in darkness. We decided to have no other god but the God of Heaven and Jesus Christ his son as our only saviour and the holy spirit as the teacher and comforter.

We want the meeting of the first day of January, 1891, printed with fadeless ink so that our children's children may celebrate with joy and gratitude the transactions of this day.

J. T. WEAVER,
W. D. LATTA,
J. W. PENDERGRASS,
Committee.

WHEREAS, We are apprized of the fact, and from satisfactory evidence, that many of our political newspapers are endeavoring to suppress our influence as Alliance; and as we believe with a view to the ultimate destruction of our noble institution, instead of which, believing as we do, that a more liberal and extended circulation of periodicals and newspapers devoted to the interest of the farmer and agricultural classes generally be encouraged and circulated amongst the homes of our farmers everywhere.

Resolved, That the members of this Alliance endorse and recommend that all politicians opposed in sentiment or expression to the principle aims and objects of the Farmers' Alliance, be ignored and rejected by the brotherhood and excluded from the homes of all members of the order.

Resolved, That the members of this Alliance do in the most emphatic terms denounce all attempts by newspapers or newspaper men to disorganize the brotherhood.

Resolved, That we, the members of Enon Alliance, No. 200, do firmly pledge ourselves that we will support no newspaper, no matter from where it hails, that is not friendly and in full sympathy with the Alliance.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and *Country Homes* for publication.

THOS. S. WOOD,
G. W. WILSON,
E. B. CLAYTON,
Committee.

RURAL HALL, Jan. 14, 1891.

MR. EDITOR:—An increased volume of currency is badly needed in order to move the surplus produce of the country, and that, too, at the earliest possible moment. It seems to me that it is rather a disgrace to our National legislators that this has not been done; we hope, however, that they will retrieve their character immediately in this particular. It is known that our monopolistic National banking system is a failure, so far as providing an elastic currency. It is known that we have a money panic once a year, some times more intense than others. Now what is the remedy?

First, the free and unlimited coinage of silver; and next, less taxation, fewer subsidies, fewer partisan appropriations, and absolute economy in the conduct of the General Government; and last, but not least, down with all class legislation, both National and State. What next? It seems to me the legislature of North Carolina should pass an act to issue \$5,000,000 worth of State bonds to be placed in the Treasury of the United States and our General Government issue that

much currency dollar for dollar, and other States to do the same in proportion to their solvency and wealth of real estate. Now this amount of currency could be placed in the treasury of each State, or some other safe place, in care of a proper custodian; of course this amount should be based on the true value of real estate; or in other words, better the value of lands and for the accommodation of land owners, the Treasurer of each State to be (or the treasurer of this fund in each State should be) required immediately to distribute to the county treasurer for this purpose only the amount ascertained by statistical wealth in lands and real estate in each and every county, to be loaned to the land owners at the two thirds of the cash valuation of said lands used for farming and other purposes of a legitimate character; but not to real estate speculators. This fund to be loaned at 2 per cent. or 3 per cent. interest per annum, on five or ten years' time, the interest on amount of said loans to be paid annually and a ratable part of the principal. The treasurer for each county for this fund may be appointed by the Governor of each State, by and through the advice and consent of the State Treasurer of this fund, who may be appointed by the State legislators. This fund of currency created for farmers and land owners of North Carolina must be and remain distinct from any National banking system. The bond of each State, to a reasonable amount, is far better security to the United States Government than any banking securities in existence.

Further, should the General Government fail to accept of this or some similar and equivalent plan, I hold that each State may issue and float their own bonds at par for say 3 per cent. interest, and this same fund then be loaned to the land owners for farming purposes, &c. But it would be far better for the United States Government to issue the currency and hold the bonds as security.

Should this plan or a similar one be adopted without material change, and the State issue bonds according to its solvency, it would create a safe volume of currency to the amount of about \$220,000,000. Speaking from a national point of view, it is surprising why our boasted national legislators should not see this, or overlook the necessity of the business and commerce of our country. Twenty years ago, with little over half the population we now have, the amount per capita was greater than it is now, and the volume of currency greater. Give us the volume of currency sufficient to move our produce briskly, and you would soon see a vast difference in our schools and laborers. Then the farmer could educate his children and pay better wages to his laborers, and as the farmer is the foundation that all build upon, all would be bettered. He is the creator of the commercial products of the earth.

Our legislators, both State and National, should be speedily warned against any further delay in the matter of a sufficient and elastic currency. While there is a little seeming interest manifested by a few of our national legislators, it is mostly in the wrong direction, that through the national banks, through which it will never be reached, unless it be at too great a cost. The free coinage silver plan will do some, but it will not be sufficient. In the plan of the State bond system, ample safeguards may be thrown around it, from which none will be worsted, but all be bettered.

A HINT.

How do you call one that is hired all right, when you have to watch him and rally all of your forces and whip him into measures and then say he is all right? I call him all wrong.
B. F. S.