

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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

Vol. 6.

RALEIGH, N. C., APRIL 21, 1891.

No. 9

CIRCULATION.

The actual circulation of Volume V, which closed with the issue of February 17th, 1891, was as follows:

Month	1890	1891
February 18, 1890	12,840	16,680
" 25, "	12,240	16,680
March 4, "	10,560	16,680
" 11, "	10,560	16,680
" 18, "	10,560	16,680
" 25, "	10,560	16,680
April 1, "	10,560	16,680
" 8, "	10,560	16,680
" 15, "	10,560	16,680
" 22, "	10,560	16,680
" 29, "	10,560	16,680
May 6, "	11,040	16,680
" 13, "	11,040	16,680
" 20, "	11,040	16,680
" 27, "	11,040	16,680
June 3, "	11,280	16,680
" 10, "	11,280	16,680
" 17, "	11,400	16,680
" 24, "	11,400	16,680
July 1, "	11,400	16,680
" 8, "	11,520	16,680
" 15, "	11,640	16,680
" 22, "	11,640	16,680
" 29, "	11,640	16,680
August 5, "	11,640	16,680
" 12, "	11,640	16,680

First 6 months, 367,080 Second 6 months, 458,160
Making a total circulation for the year of 765,240; averaging for 52 successive issues, per issue, 14,716, and showing a net increase for the year of 5,400, or more than 113 per week.

The above statement is taken from the records kept in the office of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, and is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

J. W. DENMARK,
Business Manager.

I am Book-keeper for Edwards & Broughton, Printers and Binders, Raleigh, N. C. The press-work on THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER has been done for the past three years by Edwards & Broughton, and I have kept account of the same. I have compared the above statement with the account I have kept, and find it tallies throughout, and is correct.

T. J. BASHFORD.

Personally appeared before me, W. T. Womble, Notary Public, J. W. Denmark, Business Manager of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, also T. J. Bashford, Book-keeper for Edwards & Broughton, and make oath that the statements contained above are correct to the best of their knowledge and belief.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal of office this day, February 26th, 1891.

W. T. WOMBLE,
Notary Public.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

SENATOR VANCE denies that there was any drunkenness or bad behavior on the funeral train to California. The Senator also denies that the expenses were as great as they were reported to be. The Senator thinks, however, that these Senatorial funerals are altogether too expensive. We think so too.

SENATOR EDMUNDS, of Vermont, has resigned his place in the Senate of the United States. We are not sorry to see this man go. He is a man of great ability. But he has been standing and voting with the classes against the masses for a great many years. The country can spare all the men of that kind from the activities of public life without loss and without regret.

We have heard of waterspouts; we have heard of small waterspouts; we have heard of dangerous waterspouts, and we have heard of several other kinds of waterspouts. But the New York Herald has recently discovered "a ferocious waterspout." Since the Herald has discovered this "ferocious waterspout," we feel it to be our duty to warn Gen. Greely. When waterspouts become "ferocious" there is no telling what terrible thing they may do to a man that goes prowling around o' nights studying the habits of the weather.

THE Herald thinks New York will soon get small portions of the spring weather that the West and South have been enjoying for some time past. But there is a tone of sad doubtfulness about its predictions upon that subject. Certainly this desponding tone is not due to the decay of the Herald's confidence in its ability to get its orders for special weather filled by the clerk of that industry. We suspect that the Herald's low spirits, just now, must be due to the unwillingness of Mr. McKinley to let the weather come in free of customs duties.

We challenge any man anywhere, to give a sound argument, based upon facts, against the free coinage of silver; the air is blue with assertions that such coinage will ruin the country. But not one of these peddlers of economic dogma, from Mr. Cleveland down, has

brought forward one fact of history, or one conclusion of philosophy, to support his bold assertion. These men bring forward no facts and conclusions to support their case, simply because there are no such facts and conclusions to bring forward. We defy the anti-silver men to bring forward one fact to sustain them in their insane devotion to a gold standard. The pages of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER are open to these men. Let them come forward with their facts, or hush.

SENATOR VANCE told a reporter the other day that he understood that he had been instructed by the North Carolina legislature to support the "plan of financial reform as contemplated by the Ocala Convention, and not any particular bill." This is our understanding of the matter also. So far as we know, there has never been any disposition in the Alliance to embarrass Senators and Representatives with particular bills. The Alliance demands certain objects at the hands of legislation, and it is willing to leave men in Congress free to embody those objects in such legislation as may be wisest.

THE Hon. Thomas B. Reed, of Maine, lately described the McKinley bill as "a bill which has for its object the aiding of the poor by raising their wages." And yet, as the New York Times has shown, since the enactment of that infamous measure the wages of working men in all the branches of the protected industries have been reduced. Did anybody expect anything else? If a man can be found anywhere who really expected the McKinley bill to raise anybody's wages, he may safely be classed as not of sound mind; and those who claimed that the tariff outrage of the last Congress would raise wages, can be as safely classed as not of sound heart. In our secret soul we believe that the man who favors protection by the imposition of customs duties, is either incompetent to think correctly, or else he is a knave. The man who honestly thought the McKinley law would benefit wage-earners must have been born an original stupid. But Tom Reed was not born a stupid.

BENJAMIN HARRISON, President of the United States, is now travelling in the South. We hope he may make a careful study of our section; and we shall be glad if such study shall make him heartily ashamed of having given the great weight of his influence to a tariff system that robs the South to build up the North and East. We could not work up our personal enthusiasm to the yelling point over the President's visit to our section if we should try. We do not believe in wineing and dinging and lionizing a man whose whole official and personal weight is thrown against our people. If the Southern people would take our advice, they would let the President pursue his way through the South, without any demonstrations of enthusiasm. We may not be able to rid ourselves, at once, of the intolerable tariff burdens Mr. Harrison has helped to fix upon us. But we are not bound to lick the hand that smites us. We can bear our burdens in silence and be men. We cannot fawn and cringe before this representative of a wicked system without entitling ourselves to be called a lot of whining curs. The above is meant to be plain speech.

We gather from our exchanges that some of the leaders of the Democratic party in this country are still in favor of running Mr. Cleveland for the presidency next year, in spite of his notions upon the silver question. We do not know how it will be. But we do know that Alliance votes will not be cast for Mr. Cleveland, or for any other anti-silver man. We say this, because we do not want anybody to lay the flattering unction to his soul that Southern Alliancemen can be made to fall into line and support any man that may be set up, simply because he is a Democrat. The Alliance demands of the present parties contain well-known financial reforms. These reforms are just and fair to all parties and classes. And we mean to beat the men at the polls who may be set up against these demands, no matter what party they may belong to. The old cry of negro domination in these States has lost its power, for the reason that the negroes of the South—the great masses of them—are honestly at work in the fields and shops, trying to earn a living for themselves and families, notwithstanding the burdens that have been put upon them by the McKinley bill.

Dear brother, if you are behind with your subscription, please pay up.

THE TRUSTS.

Something of Interest Concerning Them.
HYCO, Va., April 1, 1891.

The student of modern political economy, especially of American economics, as compared with the teachings of Adam Smith, Malthus, Ricardo, and John Stewart Mill, recognizes a wide departure from the old school economics, resulting from radical changes going on in the existing industrial system now pervading all business.

There is a manifest growing tendency to eliminate competition as the controlling economic force; and, so far as possible, to circumscribe the area within which its influence is effectual. There is an impelling cause behind this movement, the chief economic reason for which is claimed to be the concentration and conservation of energy with the least expense and competitive waste—savings in the wages of officers, agents, traveling salesmen; and, above all, the expenses of competitive strife. But the real cause underlying the formation of trusts and combinations is the advantages and opportunities which come through the concentration of large amounts of capital in the hands of their controllers, by which they are enabled to over-reach and effectually crush out all competition, thus giving the power to monopolize and control the business for which the combines and trusts were formed.

THEY HAVE COME.

The trusts have come; and, while there remains individual competition in a restricted sense, its social supremacy, as a factor in the life-work of these later times, is gone, and with it largely the power of the people to right themselves. Machinery has largely taken the place of manual labor, and the progress of invention in all industrial development has largely increased profits under a prorata reduction of manual labor, and thereby giving to manufacturers commanding large capital not only a more certain control but larger profits. The king of the trusts, "The Standard Oil," was formed in 1874, and since then more than three score trusts have been formed in many of the leading industries of the country, and they are still stretching their briar arm "to grasp in all the shore."

NATURAL THAT THOSE AFFECTED ABUSE THEM.

It is but natural that the people mostly affected by the trusts should declaim against and abuse them; but have not the organizers of syndicates simply adjusted themselves to prevent economic conditions, to avail of opportunities for personal gain, made possible under the politics—economic system now in vogue? There is a principle pervading all human nature, however civilized and cultured, that invites the individual to grasp all that is attainable and utilize every opportunity for personal gain not interdicted by law. Many blame the organizers of trusts who would gladly themselves get into them, and "on the ground floor," were it possible.

Success in war is greatly determined by heavy battalions skillfully handled, and the largest profits are realized from concentrated capital so employed as to crush out and defy competition. Then again capital—the money class—in this country has always received special favor and been granted special privileges. The tendency of economic development has for years been in the direction of combinations and trusts, and they have grown so powerful as not only to menace all individual enterprise but the public welfare.

NO EASY PROBLEM.

To control trusts and keep them within the bonds of ethical economy—just and fair to all trades, industries and classes—is no easy problem, and is made more difficult since capital has leaned its potency in controlling legislation in its behalf.

There seems but one way to successfully meet and oppose the encroachments of trusts, combinations and syndicates formed and forming to rob the people, and that is to increase, extend and magnify the functions and power of the State, or of the Union, to deal with them. Individual effort is powerless, and the way has not yet been opened for association and organizations of the people to successfully oppose monopolies.

THE TOBACCO TRUST.

The tobacco trust, formed and forming, threatens the entire tobacco industry. Its influence has already proved so pernicious, hurtful, and obnoxious to the great mass of planters and dealers, and so threatening to all the manufacturers outside of the trusts,

as to already paralyze the industry and cause the gravest fears. Various measures have been suggested to thwart the purposes of the trusts. One of these, concerted or forced obstruction from planting for a time, might prove effectual, if forced through taxation or otherwise so as to make it general; but this would hurt innocent manufacturers, the planter's main customers and best friends. Boycotting trust goods offers a fairer, and, as some claim, a surer method. This writer suggests a graduated tax cumulative with the increase of the product manufactured as likely to prove more effectual.

Every tobacco man outside of the trust should unite and combine to down the tobacco trust, or else the planters, warehouse men and dealers will be forced to abandon the industry. A resolute determined people can accomplish much in the way of reform, especially when they have right and justice on their side and are impelled by nature's fundamental law, self-preservation. Let us start right, do right, and continue right onward, and as Judge Daniel once said substantially, "some law will surely be found to uphold us in so doing." The tobacco trust has already "set its couler so deep" as, in time to effectually balk the whole trust team, which means ruin to the business. It has surely brought great damage to the tobacco industry already, and when the rebound comes, as surely it will come soon or late, where will the trust be then?

A SOCKDOLAGER.

The reader may ask, what is meant by a "sockdolager?" We reply, it is what old Tom Blackwell, the grandfather of Buck Blackwell, of Durham, was wont to call a knock-down. Here is a "sockdolager" knock-down for the trusts:

Let the State recognize trusts as it has railroad corporations, and then pass laws to effectually control them. "Fight the devil with fire," and big chunks of it well heaped on. Give to them distinct public functions and characters, as distinct from private business; require public supervision over them in order to rectify abuses and to protect the citizens and Commonwealth. There is no necessity to make a communistic State, but there is a palpable and urgent necessity to protect private property, individual rights and enterprise, and to promote the industrial welfare and well-being of all the people.

IMPERATIVELY DEMANDED.

There is a growing inequality of condition of the people of this great republic that menaces its stability and the perpetuation of true Democracy. Something is imperatively demanded to correct the evil tendency in the aggrandizement of immense wealth in the hands of the favored few. Taxation is the factor needed as the great equalizer in solving this irregular social equation. Let the State levy a graduated income tax, cumulative on the amount taxed, on all corporations, trusts and individuals; tax all inheritances and bequests, and levy a special tax on the succession of all estates over \$100,000, and thus accomplish for the next generation what our forefathers so wisely and beneficently did in the inauguration of this republic, in the abolishment of primogeniture and entail.

Desperate diseases require heroic remedies, and the diseased body politic must be treated accordingly. The economic conscience, at its best, is not above par; and "corporations have no souls," and therefore the State alone must govern them. The autonomy of the State, so greatly endangered by trusts, must be preserved at all hazards, and everything in conflict therewith must be suppressed or brought into subjection to law, or we will soon witness what is fast approaching an aristocracy of wealth—a despicable plutocracy—that will crush out all enterprise and thrift outside of their favored arenas, and inaugurate a tyranny more cruel and enslaving than feudalism or serfdom, because of its being inflicted on a people that have once known and enjoyed the blessings of civil and industrial liberty.

Beware of trusts!

R. L. RAGLAND.

SENATOR VANCE thinks Mr. Cleveland cannot be elected President, on account of his anti silver notions. We think so too. But then we are a "pop-gun editor," and people of such small metal are not expected to have opinions that the great ones of earth are bound to respect. We wonder if Senator Vance can have joined the "pop-gun" editorial fraternity.

RESOLUTIONS OF SASSAFRAS FORK ALLIANCE, NO. 591.

ELKIN, N. C., March 1891.

MR. EDITOR:—We do hereby declare our disapproval of the Modern Congressional funeral, and they have become not only uselessly extravagant, but indicate disreputable and insulting to the memory of our dead representatives, as well as corrupting to the members appointed to attend as mourners. We believe that common justice and fairness should prompt Congress to provide a place of burial near Washington for such members as die while in that city on duty, and decency might make it necessary for the public to pay for the coffin of such of our representatives as have drunk up or gambled off their pay, but we fail to see any good reason for sending eighteen members of Congress on a picnic excursion across the continent, and at a public cost of \$100,000 to accompany the remains of a man who left to his heirs twenty millions of dollars. If the government had this money on hand and were at a loss what to do with it, we believe it might have been more profitably spent in aiding one thousand poor families in getting through the winter and making something to live upon in the future, instead of paying it out for vestibule palace trains, to enrich corporations and to give a free excursion to members of Congress.

We further request our representatives in Congress to use their best endeavors to prevent a repetition of these scandalous proceedings.

We would also state that we have grave suspicions that many of the Investigating Committees appointed by Congress are only jobs put up to furnish work and pay to members of Congress during recess and give employment to their sons and friends as clerks to the committees.

ROBT. J. COEN, Pres.
C. C. HEGGIE, Secty.

BLAIR IN THE FIRST DISTRICT.

MR. EDITOR:—I began my tour of the old First district at home in Hertford county. Notwithstanding the continued rains and swollen streams, and that a prophet is not without honor save in his own country, etc., the hall of Menola Alliance, No. 991, was packed to more than fullness, while I declared for more than an hour the gospel of the Farmers' Alliance and Laborers' Union to the general public. Then all were cordially invited to a public dinner given by the Ladies of Menola. All were fed, and baskets full were taken up and nothing wasted. In the afternoon was held the county meeting, the largest I have seen in the county. It filled the hall. The sisters were in attendance, and one was a delegate. Mrs. S. R. Brown, Secretary of Menola Sub-Alliance, read a speech of welcome which she had prepared. It was handsomely responded to in an impromptu speech by brother Overton, of Ashokie Alliance.

Sister Brown's speech was so enthusiastically received that the County Alliance unanimously requested it for publication in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, where you will doubtless see it. Some singing was led by that expert vocalist and singing master, brother Matthews, of Bethlehem Alliance, from "Farmers' Alliance Songs." The business of the County Alliance was transacted with life and dispatch in great harmony. I then addressed the order, instructing and encouraging it to more faith and activity. This was the first of our circulating county meetings and pronounced the best ever held, so that other places asked for the next meeting, but Ashokie got it and will be well filled with visitors, and will have better meeting, for that is what we are to do—advance; improve by the mistakes and successes of the past. "God be with you till we meet again" was sung with happy effect, and adjournment followed.

The breaking of the ferry cable across the Chowan disappointed me, so I had to go another route to Gatesville, which I did not reach till 1:30 p. m., on Saturday and found the Alliance in session to economize time. So anxious were they to hear me that I addressed them at 2 p. m., without dinner. Then closed a large meeting fully in the Alliance spirit. Then, strange for me, at a few oysters and some crackers and soup, hastily, and went to the court house and addressed a good audience and an attentive one till it was time to go home. The President, H. C. Williams; the Secretary, H. J. Reed, James Bond, Treasurer of the county, J. J. Eggleston, Sheriff, L.

L. Hoffer, Register of Deeds, J. S. Felton and others will do to count on for Gates.

Brother Simpson Hudgins denied himself to take me in his cart, after night, five miles beyond his home, entertaining me with Alliance information and local incidents of interest, to the hospitable home of brother Wm. Cannon, who next day took me to Sunday-school and worship at Belvidere, that gem of a village for education, religion, temperance and hospitality. From here Josiah Michaelson, in his top buggy, through rain and falling snow, behind a swift and veritable bay, "Beauty," drove to Hertford, where I addressed the public, in the court house, on the reasons why farmers ought to organize for the good of themselves and everybody else, together with other things in connection with our marvelous order. Then we repaired to the Alliance hall for the county meeting which, owing to the inclement weather, was not so large in quantity but high of quality. Here is good, intelligent work being done by the brethren, with only one brave, lone sister in attendance. The sisters attend better in country places and in good weather. The courteous hospitality of Perquimans County Alliance was complete. It delivered me safely in the beautiful town of Edenton, where, if this seems acceptable, I will begin my next report.

I have to answer a great many inquiries which shows life and is encouraging. While some become lukewarm and sigh for the garlic in the flesh-pots of Egypt, others are coming to the fold. It is important that all officers, lecturers especially, should attend these meetings. I dwell more on Hertford county meeting because I suppose it perhaps the first one held since the new lecturing system began.

Fraternally,
F. S. BLAIR.

WORDS OF WARNING.

Brethren, do not listen to those who try to weaken your faith in our principles; sneers are being set for you at nearly every corner of the town and city, and occasionally one will be found in the country. The lull that has come over our enemies in regard to the Alliance, reminds me of many of the battles of the late war, after the sharp picket firing, for a time a lull frequently occurred for a few moments, and then came the storm of battle, with the shriek of the bullet, the bursting of shells, the groans and cries of the wounded and dying. The skirmish line which was advanced last summer and fall against our reform movement by the Wall street corporation power through a hireling press, has been withdrawn and only now and then a few shots can be heard, sometimes from the north, then the south, then east and west. A flank movement is being attempted. Low, despicable tactics are being resorted to. Spies with smooth oily tongues and money, are being sent into your commands with instructions to get your leaders to desert or to spread mutiny in the ranks. For the next eighteen months every species of rascality will be used against our Order, intimidation and threats in some cases, and bribery in others, to get prominent members to desert our colors. Brethren, the storm of battle is coming. I warn you to watch those who have so suddenly become good Alliance sympathizers; stand by the demands of our Order. Be ready for action, stand shoulder to shoulder as our Kansas brethren did. Soon all the hireling troops of a bitter partisan press, will open their batteries of slime upon us at a given signal for some old "sorehead political outcast," and the battle will be waged against us with unrelenting cruelty. The party lash will again be used to drive the weak-kneed and cowardly into measures. Brethren, the greatest political contest ever waged on this American continent for civil liberty will be upon us in 1892. The farmers and laborers will be arrayed on one side fighting for their homes and the liberties of themselves, their wives and children, while on the other will be found the "gold bugs," "money sharks," "sore head politicians" and their hirelings, battling for our enslavement. It depends upon each one of us whether we, our wives and children will be free to enjoy the blessings of liberty vouchsafed to us by our forefathers, or whether we shall be the slaves to a monopolistic aristocracy. You must be up and doing, not only our leaders, but each one of you, my brethren, you must act now. There must be no skulking. Traitors must be driven from our camps. See that every member of your Sub Alliance is tried and true. Let every one be on guard. Do your duty, be men. Keep the watch fires burning for "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." "Be just and fear not. Let all the ends thine aimed at be they Gods and truths." The demands of our Order promulgated at St. Louis and Ocala are the issues for which we must contend. Stand by them and

"Strike, till the last armed foe expires;
Strike for the green grass of your sires;
For God and your native land."