

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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

Vol. 6.

RALEIGH, N. C., MAY 5, 1891.

No. 11

CIRCULATION.

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

February 18, 1890,	12,840	August 19, 1890,	16,680
" 25, "	12,840	" 26, "	16,680
March 4, "	10,560	Sept. 2, "	16,680
" 11, "	10,560	" 9, "	16,680
" 18, "	10,560	" 16, "	17,040
" 25, "	10,560	" 23, "	16,680
April 1, "	10,560	" 30, "	17,280
" 8, "	10,560	October 7, "	17,040
" 15, "	10,560	" 14, "	17,280
" 22, "	10,560	" 21, "	17,280
" 29, "	11,040	" 28, "	17,280
May 6, "	11,040	Nov. 4, "	17,280
" 13, "	11,040	" 11, "	17,760
" 20, "	11,040	" 18, "	17,760
" 27, "	11,040	" 25, "	17,760
June 3, "	11,280	December 1, "	18,240
" 10, "	11,280	" 8, "	18,240
" 17, "	11,400	" 15, "	18,240
" 24, "	11,400	" 22, "	18,240
July 1, "	11,400	January 6, 1891,	18,240
" 8, "	11,400	" 13, "	18,240
" 15, "	11,400	" 20, "	18,240
" 22, "	11,400	" 27, "	18,240
" 29, "	13,800	February 3, "	18,240
August 5, "	16,320	" 10, "	18,240
" 12, "	16,680	" 17, "	18,240

First 6 months, 307,080 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,

[NOTARIAL SEAL] Notary Public.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE letter of brother C. A. Phillips is a "clinger," and we would be glad if every weak-kneed Alliance member would read it. No man can be a true Alliance member, who would subordinate the Alliance reform movement to any political organization.

S. P. CHASE said: "My agency in procuring the passage of the National Banking Act was the greatest financial mistake of my life. It should be repealed. But before this can be accomplished, the people will be arrayed on one side and the banks on the other in a contest such as we have never seen in this country."

THE Wilmington Messenger came out Sunday the 26th in a clean new dress which we think so much more becoming than its former suit. We admire progress in the newspaper line as well as in anything else, and we are always pleased to see them put on clothes of their own warp and woof. Success to the Messenger and the enterprising owners.

WE believe that the Railroad Commission would have pleased the people of North Carolina much better, without injuring the railroads, if they had reduced the passenger rates to 2½ cents for second-class fare and three cents for first-class, instead of 2½ and 3½, respectively, which they did reduce it to. There will be a great saving to the people at this reduction, and we thank them for it.

For the benefit of those who are so anxious to know whether the Alliance is in politics or not, we would say that the man in our organization who is not in politics is not a true member of our order. The Alliance members to-day are better informed about the political situation, and the causes of financial depression than any other class; but the education of the masses has, comparatively, just begun. Remember, though, we are in politics, just so far as it is necessary to secure by our ballots men for our political offices, who are in perfect harmony with, and are interested in, our reform movement, and it cannot be expected that those

will be chosen who are not in accord with our demands, whenever we and our friends outside of the order are in the majority. Yes, every true Allianceman is a politician and the majority will rule. It is democracy.

CAPITALISM is grasping and absorbing the homes and lands of free Americans. To see the workings of the system, just look over any part of this country and you will see hundreds of ruined homes and hear wails of distress on every side from myriads digging the ground and swinging hammer or needle in the sweat of agony to secure scant rations of daily bread; while plutocracy is piling up untold millions in the vaults of the few under the injustice and wrong of a cruel and inhuman system. —Exchange.

Two hundred and fifty tons of gunpowder exploded the other day near the city of Rome. Our attention had lately been called to the fact that the people at the head of the Italian government were not celebrated to any considerable extent for brilliancy of intellect. But we did not suppose that any man could be found in the world who was big enough fool to pile up two hundred and fifty tons of gunpowder in one place. If the fool-killer should happen to have nothing to do in Washington at this particular time, he might very properly be sent to Rome for a few months.

The fellow who tries to make the people believe that the Sub-Treasury plan is unpopular with the people is throwing away his time and labor. The idea is growing, growing; and it is, of all the demands of the Alliance, the leading and most important one. We believe we can safely say, that 95 per cent. of the Alliance members in the State are directly interested in it, and are in favor of it being made into a law. One thing about the demands is this: the more they are warred against by our "friends" the stronger our order becomes for them. Keep up the fight, gentlemen.

THE Wilmington Messenger, in its issue of April 26th, says: "The New Orleans Cotton Exchange puts the crop of last year at 8,028,783 bales." This does not agree with the publication in many of our exchanges who are continually publishing statements that the crop runs from 8,500,000 to 9,000,000, and intimating that the farmer has acted very unwisely who has held his crop till now. They also seem to know that it will go much lower. Perhaps this may be true. But the farmer knows this much about the cotton crop. He knows that for the past twenty years the speculator has been buying his cotton in the fall and winter at a very low price, and he knows also that after the crop has gone out of his hands into the hands of these "shylocks" that the price goes up, and that he, the farmer, has lost the profits and the speculator has pocketed it. The farmer knows also that in 1889 cotton went down in the fall to 8 and 8½ cents, when he was compelled to sell, but that in the spring of 1890 it went up to 12 and 12½ cents, thereby causing a net loss to him of from \$16 to \$20 per bale, and a net gain for the speculator of that much. He knows also that the crop sold was a loss to the farmers of the South of not less than \$60,000,000, and that they have been fleeced annually of from \$10,000,000 to \$100,000,000. If those papers that insist on publishing the crop statistics of the South would not exaggerate them, they might sometimes have an excuse for saying they were friends to the farmer.

A CORRECTION.

THE Chronicle was misinformed when it made the statement that when Mr. Ben. Terrell, an Alliance Lecturer, spoke at Statesville, Hon. W. M. Robbins divided time with him; that they discussed the Sub-Treasury, and after they had finished, Hon. A. Leazar was called upon and spoke against the Sub-Treasury. The only truth in the report was that while Mr. Terrell was speaking, Mat. Robbins did ask him a question about the Sub-Treasury plan. And that is all there was about it. Mr. Leazar was not called upon, and did not say a word. We regret that our informant caused us to make so great an error.

We are thankful to the Chronicle for the above correction, as we had learned there was no truth in what was published in regard to this matter, several days ago. We have waited patiently to see if this would be made. We hope every paper that has published this, will correct. Brethren of the press, would it not be better for us to be sure that what we say is true!

FREE COINAGE OF SILVER.

MR. EDITOR:—I notice that in your issue of March 10th a correspondent of your able and valued paper, W. M. Evans by name, has an article in which he takes a position against the free coinage of silver. Epitomized in the language of your editorial in the issue of March 31, Mr. Evans seems to think that "the free coinage measures were started, and are being run, in the interests of the owners of the silver mines; and he seems to dread the effect of any measure that would allow the owners of silver to dispose of it at a price which is the exact measure of its value to the people as coin. He wants the government to buy the silver from the owners of it at such a price as will enable it (the government) to make a large annual profit out of the mine owners."

It would seem that your correspondent is unaware of the fact that the very advantages and benefits, he groundlessly fears would be accorded to the owners of silver mines, under a free coinage law, are now actually accorded to England, under our present system, to the great detriment of the American cotton planter and wheat grower. India is fast becoming converted into one vast wheat field and cotton plantation, and is growing to be a formidable competitor to the United States in the production of wheat and cotton. India is a single silver standard nation, and all products are sold and exchanged upon a silver basis. England, year after year, takes all our available uncoined silver product, and much of that which is coined, all of course at its bullion or commodity value. Why? What does she want this silver for? Simply this: She buys in America silver bullion for 70 cents, (or did—she has to pay 81 cents now), which bullion, when coined into Indian rupees, is worth one dollar. She thus obtains Indian wheat and cotton at a cost of silver bullion (72-84 cts.) which is worth gold coin value or one dollar. On the basis of silver bullion cost she then proceeds to affix the price of wheat and cotton for the world, and thus uses the degradation of American silver to bankrupt the American farmer. If by a free coinage law we should merge the community value into the money or coin value, England must henceforth exchange 25.8 grains in gold, or its equivalent in commodities, for every 371.25 grains (fine) of silver she obtained in America, and the American farmer's wheat and cotton would at once become worth as much more than the present prices, as is the difference between the bullion and coin value of silver under the existing law.

But perhaps there is no better way to answer Mr. Evans than by quoting the exhaustive array of statistics contained in the able and masterly speech made in the United States Senate by Senator Jones, of Nevada. He says: But, Mr. President, the degree of special interest which the mining States have in this measure is not to be compared with that of the other States of the Union. According to the report of the Director of the mint, the total quantity of silver produced in the United States in the eleven years from 1878 to 1888 inclusive was 406,210,000 fine ounces. According to the same authority the commercial value of that silver was \$436,260,000, and the coinage value \$525,145,000. A very simple process of arithmetic shows that the difference between the commercial and the coinage value of that silver was \$88,885,000, or an average of \$8,080,544 each year. Assuming that amount to have been the annual difference between the coinage and commercial value of silver for the five years preceding 1878; we must add to the \$88,885,000 the sum of \$40,402,220, making a total of \$129,287,220 as the amount which the silver mines, not of Nevada, but of the whole United States in the seventeen years ending 1889, lost by the demonetization of silver.

Having thus demonstrated in dollars and cents the degree of selfishness which, as is charged, is the motive of the miners in advocating the remonetization of silver, let us glance at the degree of selfishness which may be said to impel other classes of the community to advocate the same cause. THE INTEREST OF THE NON-MINING STATES IN REMONETIZATION. The price of cotton for the year 1873, in gold or silver (then of equal power), was 16.4 cents per pound. The price in 1889 was 9.9 cents. The yield of cotton for 1889 was 7,000,000 bales, or 3,500,000,000 pounds. Had not silver been demonetized that cotton would have brought as good a price to-day as it did in 1873. At the price of 1873 the account would have stood \$574,000,000. At the price of 1889 the account stands \$3,500,000,000 pounds, at 9.9 cents, \$345,500,000, showing a loss in debt-paying and tax-paying power on cotton alone (only one article of merchandise) in the single year 1889.

by reason of the fall in prices caused the demonetization of silver, of \$227,500,000.

Having shown that the loss to the silver miners by the discount on silver for the seventeen years from 1873 to 1889 was less than \$130,000,000, it will be seen that the loss in one single year to the cotton planters of the United States is greater by \$90,000,000 than the total loss for the entire seventeen years to the silver miners of the country.

But inasmuch as the cotton crop of 1889 was exceptionally large, I will, for the purpose of my computation, discard it, and assume instead that an average yield for the years between 1873 to 1889 would be 5,000,000 bales per annum—which is a fair average and by no means high—5,000,000 bales, of 500 pounds each, are equal to 2,500,000,000 pounds.

At the price of 1873 the result of each year would be 2,500,000,000 pounds, at 16.4 cents, \$410,000,000.

According to the figures given by the bureau of statistics the average price received each year of the seventeen years was 13.1 cents per pound; 2,500,000,000 pounds, at 13.1 cents per pound, equal \$327,500,000, showing a difference of \$82,500,000; that being the average each separate year for seventeen years, or a total sum for the entire period of \$1,402,500,000, which represents the loss in debt and tax-paying power suffered by the cotton planters by reason of the demonetization of silver.

This is the enormous tribute which has been exacted of the cotton industry of this country in behalf of the gold "standard," and of those who, for their own pecuniary advantage, cunningly induced the Congress of the United States to demonetize silver. This is the sum which the planters of the country have lost in debt-paying and tax-paying power by that mad act of folly. As will be seen at a glance, it is a loss vastly in excess of that suffered by the silver States in the discount on the price of silver bullion.

So that, if the silver miners are taunted with having a personal interest in the success of the movement for the full remonetization of silver, the cotton planter must be placed in the same category, and with ten-fold more reason.

A like computation with regard to wheat will show a loss in debt-paying and tax-paying power of not less than \$100,000,000 a year to the farmers of the North and West, by reason of the demonetization of silver—a total of \$1,700,000,000 in the article of wheat alone in seventeen years.

Thus a loss, wholly unnecessary, of more than \$3,000,000,000 in debt-paying and tax-paying power is shown to have been inflicted on the farmers and cotton planters of this country.

In comparison with this enormous loss to farmers and planters, how paltry is the loss of \$8,000,000 a year suffered by the silver miners.

There does not seem to have dawned upon the mind of your correspondent the fact that the monetary laws of the United States and other nations have entirely the functions of establishing and affixing the value, not of silver only, but also of gold. Thus we see that the demonetization of silver in 1873 has caused a steady and continuous appreciation of the price of gold, not only as measured by the amount of silver a gold dollar will buy, but also as proved by the steady depreciation in the price of all other commodities as compared with gold. Moreover, while it is a fact that at the time of the passage of the present silver law, 381.25 grains of silver were only worth 72 cents in gold, the price of such amount of silver, as a commodity, has, by the operation of the law now in force, increased from 72 to 81 cents.

Believing as I do, that the use of either gold or silver, or any valuable material upon which to stamp or coin money, is, and must ever be, an idiotic practice and a barbaric relic of the age of barter, I wish to offer the following ideas as applicable and pertinent to the present custom and condition of affairs:

First—No material can possess at one and the same time both a commodity and a money value, provided that all surplus above the amount needed to supply the arts, consumption, etc., is used for money.

Second—If the law provided for free coinage (into money) of lead, and the surplus, as indicated above, was not more than sufficient to provide the necessary volume of currency or money, then, in that case, the amount of lead provided by law to be coined into a dollar, would be worth a dollar for any other purpose.

Third—The very privileges deprecated and feared by your correspondent as accorded to miners of silver by a free coinage law, are now actually accorded to miners of gold by a free coinage law.

Fourth—If gold were placed at the same disadvantages from which silver now suffers and was handicapped by the same legal restriction as silver, gold would at once, as silver now does, bear both a commodity and a money value.

Fifth—If the United States, England

and Germany were to establish a single silver basis, and a restricted, and limited gold coinage, according to silver free coinage, silver would at once assume a single value, and an ounce of silver would be worth to the silversmith or jeweler just what it would be worth coined into money, less the expense of coinage, while gold would depreciate in value, just as silver has since 1873.

Sixth—Even under a bimetallic system or double basis, (silver and gold being both accorded free coinage), the amount of both metals falls so far short of being sufficient to furnish enough money with which to do business upon a cash basis, that the same condition would result. Give us free coinage of silver, and every ounce of silver will at once assume its money value, and be worth as much to manufacture spoons and watch cases out of as to coin into money. The commodity value would be merged into the money value, as is now the case with gold.

But there is another argument against the position assumed by your correspondent, which to my mind is unanswerable. Friends and advocates of the present treatment accorded to silver, Republicans and Democrats alike, claim that by virtue of the coinage of silver obtained under the present law, the circulation of currency is steadily and surely becoming inflated, and that as a consequence the price of land, labor and commodities are gradually on the rise. Now, a part cannot be greater than the whole; hence, if issuing paper certificates upon part of the surplus silver of the nation has inflated the currency, and is about to appreciate prices, what may we not expect if the whole of the nation's silver is coined into money? The true basis of money is quantitative, not intrinsic. As the value of money increases, the value of each unit decreases. That is to say, an increase of the volume of money increases or raises the price of land, labor and all products of labor. The silver miners, under free coinage of silver, would not get money for silver, but their silver would be coined into money. Every ounce of silver thus coined would increase the volume of money and correspondingly increase prices. Prices of land, labor and commodities would go up—i. e. the price of dollars (units of value) would go down.

Result: The silver miners could buy no more land, labor or commodities with their coined silver dollars than they could have bought with their silver bullion. The only silver miners benefited would be those who are in debt, and with them would be benefited the whole debtor class of the United States.

GEORGE C. WARD.

Kansas City, Mo.

CATHARINE LAKE, N. C.

MR. EDITOR:—I have received money from the following lodges, to-wit: No. 337, Newton Grove, N. C.; No. 68, Cary, N. C.; 1,353, Sans Souci, N. C.; C. C. Speller, outsider; 1,041, Weeks-ville, N. C.; 1,120, Magnolia, N. C.; 241, Catharine Lake, N. C.; N. N. Hampton, Coinjock, N. C.; 2,157, Thompsonville, N. C.; 218, Tarboro, N. C.; 344, Louisville, N. C.; Mrs. Sarah T. Cook, Whiteville, N. C.; 1,426, Lewisville, N. C.; 2,077, Grogansville, N. C.; for which I am very thankful to the brethren, sisters and friends. I truly hope I will get enough to buy the leg.

Fraternally,

J. H. BISHOP.

PATTERSON, N. C., April 6, 1891.

MR. EDITOR:—In reading over your valuable paper I am rather amused at the position some of your correspondents assume. One brother is fearful the Alliance is leaning too much to democracy, another that it is favorable to the Republican party, while others take a view of complaining, etc.

If these brethren and others would take the care and examine the objects and principles of the Alliance, they will find it has but little to do with the Democratic or Republican party as parties. We have the right to vote and act with either of the parties where our claims are made stronger, thereby aiding in our demands, such as more currency and other protection for our betterment. If these parties will fall in line and assist in giving us relief, we should certainly feel kind toward them and regard them as our friends. If parties and organizations will practice less party spirit and bitterness, and look well to the interest of the whole people, the country would soon be in better condition. Instead of party success for the time, let there be a greater effort for the good of the whole country.

If our aims can be brought about by

others and placed on a solid basis, we are satisfied.

To my mind we have no greater demand than the currency. It is apparent to all living away from the cities and other centers that the volume of currency does not meet the positive demand for transaction of business and for the building up of the interior, producing far more injury than can be observed in a moment's thought. The fact of our population increasing with our present American ideas of progress, our outlay is of necessity made greater. This being true we require more currency than was out, per capita, fifteen years ago. It is hoped our rulers, if not preparing to do so, will shortly remedy this very serious drawback to the farming and laboring classes. If the parties now in power refuse to grant this rather important favor, the Alliance must take care of itself at the ballot-box.

What would Wall street and many of the large business houses in the cities, including the banks and large manufacturers, say if the administration for these many years had been shaping the acts of Congress against their interest, so much so as to greatly reduce the value of their real estate, forcing their business down to no profit but in many cases below cost and into bankruptcy? While such a condition has not befallen these institutions, yet it is sad to realize that such has overtaken the agricultural and other classes. I am happy to believe that a large majority of the great body of the Alliance and Laborers' Union are not hostile to these individuals who have made fortunes and are now reaping good profits in their business. We would not deduct a dollar from their vaults of easy-made money. We only desire that legislation be made giving us fair chances with them, without curtailing their business with ours improved. A large portion of our American people are becoming convinced that this great nation can take care of all occupations, especially the farmer and laborer, who have, from the beginning of our country, played no small part, having born the burden and heat of the day, willing still to do so with the assistance the government can give.

Take a number of whole States, away from these cities and money centres and you will find that no mathematician can near approach the loss sustained by the people for the want of more currency. Upon the other hand no scholar can figure the vast fortunes and profits made in these favored sections of small acreage, during this period.

If this demand of the Alliance is not heeded, with each of the other demands put in power, our condition will be but little better than at present. I regard the increase of the currency the vital issue far in advance of many of the demands made at St. Louis. We should not be too eager for all our demands to be granted in haste. Let us make a combined effort to bring about the most important ones, remembering that no party or organization can get all of the minor objects. Let us appreciate Democrats or Republicans who will aid us in giving relief and prosperity to our whole people.

Truly yours,
N. H. GWYN.

Forsyth County Alliance met at Pleasant Ridge, April 11th, and was in session two days. On roll call it was found that a quorum was present. Difficulties of a private and public nature came before the Alliance and were satisfactorily settled. A "horse company" was organized in the Alliance for the capturing and punishing of horse thieves.

A ladies' department was recommended and a committee appointed to further that enterprise. Steps were taken to start an Alliance newspaper, to be the organ of Forsyth County Farmers' Alliance.

Resolved, By the Forsyth County Farmers' Alliance, that they will support no paper that will not permit a hearing of both sides. The Alliance endorsed and recommended to the Sub-Alliances and its members the Planters' Alliance Warehouse in Winston, N. C.

By a motion a vote of thanks was given to the good people of Pleasant Ridge and vicinity for the kind and hospitable manner the members were entertained.

The meeting then adjourned to meet July 10th and 11th, at New Philadelphia Church, about six miles west of Winston.

W. M. HINSHAW,
Corresponding Secretary.