

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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

Vol. 6.

RALEIGH, N. C., JUNE 16, 1891.

No. 17

## CIRCULATION.

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

Month	1890	1891
February	12,840	16,680
March	12,240	16,800
April	10,560	16,800
May	10,800	16,800
June	10,800	16,800
July	10,800	16,800
August	10,800	16,800
September	10,800	16,800
October	10,800	16,800
November	10,800	16,800
December	10,800	16,800
1890 Total	128,400	168,000
1891 Total	128,400	168,000

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.

It is rumored that Secretary Noble will resign in the near future. No reason is assigned for this step except bad health.

It seems probable at this writing that England and the United States will agree upon a Close Season in Behring Sea, pending the arbitration of the dispute between the two governments over the seal fisheries.

The Czar of Russia has recently snubbed President Carnot, of France. The French President need not take it hard, however. For the Czar has given evidence recently that he is morally, if not mentally, insane.

THERE has been a new secret political organization formed in Kansas by the name of the Knights of Reciprocity. It is understood that the new organization is intended to combat the Alliance. The members of the new order are said to be Republicans to a man.

THEY have had a real cold time lately at West Point. The weather has been so rigorous that the young men and maidens could not enjoy their new summer riggings. Pity that the weather should take it into its head to interfere with the display of frills and feathers.

OUR information leads us to sympathize most heartily with the people in Chile in their efforts to throw off the hated yoke of Balnaceda and his oligarchy. We think it unfortunate, if not wicked, for the United States to use its power to assist in crushing out the aspirations of the men in Chile who are battling for liberty.

THE New York Times has a dispatch from Charlotte, this State, saying that Mr. B. H. Bronson, a signal officer of that place, had been accused by his superior of affiliating with the Democrats. Mr. Bronson wrote the Department to know his accusers by name. The reply came back that to give the facts would implicate the Republican party. Just so! Information from Washington upon almost any subject connected with recent administrative

and legislative acts would be likely to implicate the Republican party. We commend those Washington people for holding their tongues. It is a well-established principle of Anglo-Saxon law that no one can be forced to testify to his own iniquities.

THE Iowa drummers recently made application to the railroads for cheap excursion rates to Niagara Falls, and were flatly refused. The drummers are mad as hornets, and threaten to take up the work of educating the people to demand cheap railroad fares. Let them do it, and then they will have the satisfaction of knowing that they are engaged in a useful employment for once.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD, late Premier of the Dominion of Canada, is dead. For a long series of years this great man has been practically the ruler of Canada. The Governor-General has, indeed, been the nominal head of affairs; but Sir John was the real ruler of the Dominion. It is believed that no other man in Canada ever had the influence over her people that was enjoyed by the dead Premier.

EX-SPEAKER REED is said to be engaged at this moment in making a study of the methods of legislative procedure in the French Chamber. We suppose he is laying in parliamentary information to be bequeathed in his last will and testament to the next generation. We know not what else he can be intending to do with it. For the most comforting thing we can think of just now is the assurance we have that Thos. B. Reed will never again be Speaker of the American House of Representatives.

A FALSE impression has been made upon the minds of some good men in North Carolina against the Alliance in the last legislature, by the statements in some of the papers that those members of the Alliance took part in a scheme to get the books of certain monopolists used in the public schools. We know what we say, and we say emphatically that there is not one word of truth in the statements that have been made reflecting upon the last legislature. The books chosen by the Board of Education are not trust books in any sense, and all the charges of jobbery are false.

WE suppose there was never so much uncertainty connected with the conduct of political affairs in this country as at this moment. The oldest political prophets have lost their inspiration and know no more where to look for safety than a goose knows what to do in a thunder storm. This being the case, we feel benevolent, and will tell these people the way out. Here it is: Make up your minds to see to it that the government is hereafter conducted for the benefit of the entire people, and not in the interests of the few; and let the fact that you have changed your mind be made known, and the uncertainty will be soon eliminated from the problem.

THE Republicans of Kansas are said to be very much alarmed by the Alliance. Try as hard as we may, we cannot work ourselves up to the point of either feeling or expressing any sympathy for the Republicans of Kansas. The legislation brought forward and passed by the Republican party has been so constantly and so meanly hostile to the interests of the farmer that we feel like laughing at those Kansas Republicans when their fear cometh. For twenty-five years the Kansas Republicans have been sowing the dragon's teeth; and now, when at last they are made to see that they must reap the harvest of their sowing, they get frightened. Very early in the records of natural history it appears that there were certain animals born who could never get their eyes open until after they were drowned. The Kansas Republicans seem to bear a remote kinship to that celebrated genus of animals.

LA CROSSE, Wis., June 9, 1891. The State Farmers' Alliance meeting here to day is a representative gathering of farmers. It is enthusiastic for the new movement. Col. Polk and Hon. Jerry Simpson, of Kansas, addressed a large meeting to-night and were both listened to with marked attention and enthusiasm. Col. Polk was pronounced to be one of the most eloquent and captivating political orators ever listened to in this State.

C. M. BUTT,  
Pres't Wisconsin State Alliance.

## MAJOR RAGLAND'S SECOND REPLY TO DR. J. V. BROOKS.

Trusts, Monopolies and Privileged Capital, and their Politico-Economic Influence in the United States.

Hyco, Va., May 10, 1891.

In our first reply, we challenged Dr. Brooks to the proof of his declaration that combinations, in the nature of "monopolies, have wrought the greatest blessings to the human race," and distinctly admitted that capital, ethically used, is beneficial, industrially, socially, educationally and religiously; but when large aggregations of capital are used in any monopolistic, forestalling or gambling business, with the avowed or secret intent of over-riding and driving out competition, it is hurtful and antagonistic to all legitimate, honest business.

The doctor accepts the challenge and says: "I will say that I believe the great railroad monopolies of the country, such as the Baltimore and Ohio, Norfolk and Western, Chesapeake and Ohio, etc., etc., have been, or will be, great blessings to the human race. They have built other roads and cheapened freight and travel to an extent that smaller roads could hardly have achieved to advantage."

The word "monopolies," whether justly or unjustly applied to the railroads named, is fatal to the doctor's proposition, for it is clearly demonstrable that all monopolies are antagonistic to popular rights and interests. Monopoly, from the two Greek words—*mono*, alone, and *polien*, to sell, possess or control—means says Webster, "the sole possession and power to deal in any species of goods; exclusive command of possession, obtained by engrossing the articles in market by purchase or by license from government." Now any act or policy of these or other railroads that partakes of a monopolistic character is ethically wrong and cannot be successfully defended.

Railroads can only be constructed by State authority, and while they are built by corporations, the companies exercise under a license a function and prerogative which belong to the State, and therefore, as public carriers, they should never be allowed monopolistic powers or privileges. To maintain his first declaration that "monopolies have wrought the greatest blessings to the human race," the doctor must leave out railroads and bring forward other monopolies that he claims confer such great benefactions on humanity.

We grant that combinations and consolidations of railroads have facilitated and cheapened travel and transportation; but evils, as well as benefits, have resulted therefrom, and none but the great railroad kings favor extending concentration to the absorption of all the railroads of the republic into one giant corporation. Such would, indeed, be a railroad monopoly of the first-class, monarch and dictator of the transportation of the nation, unless restrained by the authority that creates railroads. Could a directorate of such a monopolistic franchise, if created, composed of the Vanderbilts, Goulds, Sages, Huntingtons and men of like stripe be trusted to manage it for the public good? Let us have a categorical answer, doctor.

WEALTH, HONESTLY ACQUIRED, IS COMMENDABLE.

The acquisition of wealth by honest methods, legitimate means and fair dealing, is honorable as well as desirable, and the more so where motives for its acquirement have behind them the purpose to bestow it upon eleemosynary and beneficent institutions or otherwise for the benefit of humanity. But, what are the great monopolistic millionaires doing in this most commendable line? Nothing to compensate for the spoils they are inflicting on the great body of the people while they are hoarding up their enormous piles.

Then again, see how unfairly are the few benefactions millionaires are making. They rob the great mass of the rural producers and toilers to erect in the cities and towns palatial hospitals, sumptuous almshouses, magnificent churches and memorial colleges for the benefit, mainly, of the city people, and thus the country is continually robbed by men living, and after death, to increase the comfort, wealth and splendor of the cities.

DISPROPORTIONATE INCREASE OF CITY POPULATION.

The eleventh census shows the rapid tendencies from rural to city life, the building up of commercial and indus-

trial centers and the despoliation and desertion of the farms. There is a cause for this shifting of population which few who read these lines can fail to comprehend. During the past century, the population of the cities in the United States has increased from one-thirtieth one-third of the total. The urban population in 1890 was in round number 19,000,000. The increase during the past decade about 7,000,000. In 1790 the number of cities with populations of 8,000 and over was only six; in 1890 it was 286, and during the past twenty years the cities with more than 100,000 people increased from fourteen to twenty-eight. The conditions being favorable, the increase will continue.

UNEQUAL AND UNFAIR DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH.

The increment in the wealth of the United States from 1880 to 1890 is stated at the enormous sum of \$22,000,000,000—twenty-two thousand millions, or, properly, two and a fifth billions of dollars. Of this vast sum nineteen-tenths were absorbed by corporations, trusts, monopolies and privileged capitalists through legalized robbery, crooked taxation, and unequal and unjust tribute extorted from the masses by the privileged classes. The savings of 550 of the latter class in 1880 were \$237,500,000 per year, while the savings of 12,672,000 of the laboring, burden-bearing, unprotected people were only \$205,080,000. The savings of the 550 were \$431,800 each per year, while the average savings of 12,672,000 were only fifteen dollar per year. The expenses of the former were \$62,500,000 per annum, while that of the toilers were \$2,896,520,000.

The government adds injury to insult in basing taxation on expenses rather than on income or wealth, and consequently the poor pay the bulk of the taxes.

"The policy of the government has clearly been to make the rich richer and the poor poorer; to shift the burden of taxation from those best able to bear it to those least able; to create a class of wealthy men whose income depends upon legalized robbery; to foster and encourage 'vested interests' at the expense of the masses."—Prof. R. T. Ely.

The crooked taxation of the McKinly bill puts into the pockets of the nation's favorites more money than goes to the support of the government economically administered, and, worse than all, creates a boodle fund to fasten upon the people legislators who will use the power of money to enslave and oppress.

CONDITION OF MIDDLE AND LABORING CLASSES.

The present depressed and ruinous condition of the rural people was not always what we now witness. Twenty-five years ago the farmers of this country were comparatively free from debt, thrifty, hopeful and making money. Now, how stands the situation? According to the Census Bureau, the farming lands are mortgaged for more than half their value, and farmers are unable to pay the interest thereon and support their families. Nine millions of mortgages recorded, one for every seven of the population of all classes—death-pledged, for that is the meaning of the word mortgaged—hanging over the homes of the people! Tax-ridden, debt-ridden, robbed, both by the government and the plutocrats; what wonder that he becomes dissatisfied, discontented and restive when such confront the American farmer of to-day? What wonder should he seek to solve the cause for such a situation and state of affairs, as he is surely doing? Is he denied the poor privilege of demanding a change? Must he bear uncomplainingly and in silence the burdens and wrongs heaped upon him, and continue to wear the yoke that galls as well as degrades his manhood? No! No! No! Eighteen million times no, say the toilers! And that no is "not local, not transient, not spasmodic, nor riotous, nor disorderly. It is the steady evolution of a great principle, the growth of a great germinal idea, the emphatic protest of an intelligent generation, the awakening of the nation to the doctrine of human rights; it is the many millioned cry for justice. That cry was heard across the trampled centuries; it has caught the voices of the wronged and oppressed; it swells with the heavings of an honest humanity. To deny it or stop our ears against it and refuse to listen is worse than folly. It is a Stentor that will speak, and when it speaks in the sovereignty of its might it will "thunder with more than Etna's mouth to mark an epoch of eruption."

THE TIMES ARE SORELY OUT OF JOINT, AND SOMEBODY IS HURT.

In the face of manifest and widespread popular discontent, and the real or alleged causes, Dr. Brooks reiterates the sentiment, "the people imagine vain things, and indulge in the belief that the world is all wrong and everything going to the dogs," and that he "sees nothing to fear in the future."

"He laughs at scars who never felt a wound." If he believes there is not a deep welling and spreading popular discontent, based upon suffering and wrong, he greatly misjudges the real condition of affairs, and ignores the efforts for reform and redress being made all around him.

We have a great country, and this is a most wonderful age! Yea, this is the grandest industrial epoch of all the ages, for

"We are the heirs of all the ages, In the foremost files of time," and the world has never before witnessed such grand developments and achievements, industrial and intellectual, as crowd the closing years of the nineteenth century. Wonderful progress has been made in the production of wealth, such as Croesus and Solomon never dreamed of. Egypt, Greece nor Rome, in their palmy days, ever witnessed such aggregations of wealth as center in a few who may be said to own the government, its lands, houses, stock, ships and people. But the strength, stability and real greatness of a nation lie not alone in concentrated wealth.

"Ye friends to truth, ye statesmen who survey, The rich man's joys increase, the poor's decay, 'Tis yours the judge, how wide the limits stand, Between a splendid and a happy land."

Had I time and space, I could show how the people are robbed of their homes, and how fast landless farmers are increasing in the United States; how the insatiate greed of corporate land-lordism is fast monopolizing western farming and driving out whole families, aye, colonies, from home, living and happiness. We are fast hastening to that condition so truly described by Pope:

"Ill fares the land, to hastening it a prey, Where wealth accumulates and men decay; Princes and lords may flourish or may fade, A breath can make them; as a breath has made, But a bold peasantry, their country's pride, When once destroyed can never be supplied."

R. L. RAGLAND.

ELBETHEL, N. C., May 25, '91.

MR. EDITOR:—As I have seen nothing from our section in your esteemed paper, I will write you a short letter, by which your readers may find that we are trying to keep pace with the grand army of progress and improvement.

The Alliance in this county is strong, and is moving on quietly and harmoniously with all its neighbors and is raising no complaint against any one. In this community the order embraces at least two-thirds of the voting population and numbers about six lodges, which we might very appropriately say grew out of old Washing Grange, No. 366.

Our people are taking no part in politics as yet, but are busy working in their fields of corn and cotton. In due time a political heat in all probability will come over us, and we will be found standing with those who have most cautiously considered the surroundings.

We have established a joint stock company store in our town of King's mountain, and selected brother H. P. Allison as manager. The plan of this store is proving very satisfactory to our people; and the increasing trade shows that the general public are pleased. Bro. Allison has also been elected business agent for the several Alliances in and around King's Mountain.

The entire fraternity around here will make an effort to participate in a grand picnic about the first of August. Should the committee of arrangements be successful in obtaining a speaker of national reputation, the success of the affair is warranted, but if such speaker cannot be obtained it may be deferred. H. P. Allison, C. D. B. Ware and J. F. Herndon are the committee.

By the way, some of us will go down to Yorkville on Thursday to hear Bro. Terrell speak. We are distant from that place—25 miles.

It will hardly be expected that a farmer writing mainly to farmers will write a letter and say nothing about crops. Corn is looking very well and has been well worked. The acreage in corn is sufficiently large to yield plenty of corn for man and beast and some to spare. The small grain crop, both wheat and oats, are very promising, and no season lately has the "well-prepared" acreage been greater. Cotton, till the last few days, never made a worse start. The seed remained in the ground so long that in some instances they rotted. But now as the weather has "got right" the plant is coming out quite much and may do well yet.

## PUSHING THE INSURANCE WORK

Brother Alonzo Wardall, of Huron, S. Dak., has been in Washington the past week in attendance upon the semi-annual meeting of the National Alliance Executive Board, of which he is an active member. He goes from here this week to meet the State Committee of Indiana and Illinois, to arrange for the location of the place for holding the next annual session of the Supreme Council, the selection of the place having been left to the Executive Board by the last council, with the condition that it be located either in Indiana or Illinois. From there he goes with President Polk and Hon. Jerry Simpson to LaCrosse, Wis., to attend the annual meeting of the open Alliance of that State by invitation, and from there to Portland, Ore., where he is to assist in organizing the State Alliance on July 8th. He will while on the coast visit the Alliance in California, and if Washington is ready, organize the State Alliance there.

Brother Wardall, as most of our readers know, has charge of the life insurance feature of the Alliance work, and is seeking to introduce it in all the States as rapidly as possible. His plan is to have it adopted as an official feature by each State, by means of a co-operative degree, to be known as the State Branch of the National Alliance Aid Association, to be conducted by a manager selected by the president and executive of the State Alliance, and approved by the management of the National Aid Association, who shall in turn be under the control and supervision of the National Alliance officers.

The plan is almost identical with the ancient order of united workmen, except that it is optional instead of being compulsory, and no one will be accepted unless able to pass a careful medical examination. By this means our members can carry their own insurance (and none need it worse than the farmer) at simple cost of actual death losses, and a minimum expense account for clerical labor performed, keeping the money all at home, in their own State under their own control and management, and greatly build up and strengthen the Order. It is proposed to issue \$1,000 and \$2,000 policies at present, assessing for one death loss in advance, so that the money will always be on hand to pay a loss when it occurs. Long years of experience with society companies show that the average annual cost per \$1,000 of insurance carried is from \$9 to \$12, while in old line companies it is from \$20 to \$30. The plan has been in operation two years in some of the Northwestern States, and they have a membership large enough to pay a policy in full, and it is growing rapidly. Several States have already approved of it, and it will be presented during the summer to the rest of them for examination. It meets with the hearty approval of the officers of the National Alliance, most of whom carry policies in it; and the plan is recommended to the thoughtful consideration of the Order. Arrange to hear Bro. Wardall on the subject; he has it all at his tongue's end. The executive committee are also zealously engaged on a plan for a national mutual farm fire insurance company, as directed by the last council, and hope to have it in shape for the annual session. There is no one reform in our entire system of doing business of more financial importance than in insurance. We waste annually hundreds of millions on a system that brings almost as much disappointment as relief, and we pay three dollars where the actual loss is only one, and worse, if possible, we send nearly all the insurance money, three or four hundred millions of dollars annually, to New York, London and other great money centers, where it accumulates and is sent back to us on mortgage loans, thus becoming a great instrument of oppression. One of the objects of the Order is to remedy these things, and Bro. Wardall should be encouraged in the good work.

BROTHER A. C. GREEN is the authorized agent to receive subscriptions for THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER for Wake county, and any business in this line entrusted to him will receive prompt attention.

MR. EDITOR:—I have received donations from twenty Sub-Alliances to aid me in buying an artificial leg. If the other lodges will help me it will enable me to buy me one, and it will be a great satisfaction to me, and the lodges would not even miss it. If any lodge will help me any, will please send to J. H. Bishop, Catharine Lake, Onslow county, N. C.