

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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

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THE NATIONAL FARMER, ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

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LETTER FROM MECKLENBURG.

MR. EDITOR:—There are a class of individuals who are trying to injure the Alliance by a subtle Cal. L. L. Polk. Our honored President treats such attacks with the contempt they deserve; but knowing as I do that they are prompted by antagonism to the principles of the grand Order of which I am an humble member, I can't let them go unnoticed. They say that the whole movement is demagogic pure and simple, for the advancement of the interests of Polk and a few other leaders. Every student of history and the great social problems of life, knows that such talk is mere nonsense. No great socialistic movement, such as is now convulsing this country from centre to circumference, ever started or continued in the interest of individuals. They know that such upheavals of society always grow out of causes that affect the prosperity and happiness of the masses. And where it emanates from a class, as in this instance, it is proof conclusive that that class has suffered at the hands of society or government or both. The opponents of our great reform movement say that L. L. Polk has not been a success and hence is not fit to lead a movement involving the financial welfare of a nation. If money was the only measure of merit, then we would have made a mistake in honoring Mr. Polk. But thank God it is not. The farmers have arrived at that stage of self-respect that they do not bow to every man who has made a million. We are not of the vulgar herd who bend the pregnant hinges of the knee, where thrust may follow fawning. We are not prone to defy that class of men whose regard for our welfare is expressed by one of their number in the comprehensive utterance, "The public be damned." We honor L. L. Polk for his poverty. Now I assert that Col. Polk has been a success and a grand success. It is easy for a man with great wealth, or a man with a lucrative profession and working from and in the interest of a great money centre, like Mr. Cleveland, to succeed, but for a man residing in the midst of an agricultural community, without means and working from and for a state resting under the ban of government for rebellion, to attain the direct leadership of four million of men, with an outside following of at least three million more, it is a success so grand as to command the wonder and admiration of every reflecting man. Cincinnati has been honored through the ages because called from the plow to lead the Roman legions against the invader. Should we not honor the man who has been called to lead the people in their revolt against those who have robbed us of untold millions, and who have usurped more than regal powers over the industrial classes, their future welfare and happiness?

Our enemies further charge Col. Polk with being a disorganizer because he has a kind word for those who in the Northwest have turned their backs upon the old parties, and resolved to work out their own salvation in their own way. When we reflect that the new party of the West is made up chiefly of Republicans, and when we

remember how nobly L. L. Polk worked to relieve some of the Western States from corrupt Republican rule, it would seem that every true Democrat should applaud him. Col. Polk has, as he should, spoken kindly of our brethren of the West but ever as an officer of a non-partisan organization. What does it differ to a true evangelist of the gospel if some other man who is working for human souls in some other State or land is called Methodist or Baptist or Lutheran, while he is called Presbyterian? What does it matter to the South whether the man who is strong for the same great end in North or West is called "Republican," "People's party," "Third party," or what not? Let us like our worthy President, be ever ready to grasp the outstretched hand of the man beyond Mason and Dixon's line, even though he did wear the blue which we wore the gray in the time that tried men's souls.

Col. Polk speaks in Charlotte on Aug. 26th, and as one of the committee of arrangements I ask all farmers and the public generally to come and we will furnish ample accommodation, fine music, and, of course, fine speaking.

THE SITUATION REVIEWED.

MR. EDITOR:—I have been calmly reviewing the situation since the meeting of the convention in Cincinnati. What I see I cannot describe, and what I hear is appalling. There is a hue and cry against a third party, and yet it seems that neither party is willing to join hands with the producers for justice and equity. Party, and to serve ends at the expense of the toiling millions, or seems to be, the sole aim of the two dominant parties. Party first, country second, and I like to have said the people third, but in *italics* and a big N I will say *Never*. A change must come, and come quickly. The situation demands it, the toiling millions demand it. They have asked for relief and have not been heeded; but the time is not far ahead when the demands of the labor unions will be both heard and heeded. The Third Party has been named, but it was some months old before it got its name. The Third Party told Ingalls to stay at home; the Third Party has been at work on McKinley, Sherman and Reed; the Third Party had something to do with Wade Hampton, though it had no name; and our Vance, of North Carolina, felt its weight, and many others will feel its weight in '92. There are some sore-heads now, and '92 will add to that number if a change for the better does not come.

The toiling millions of this country remind me of the Israelites in Egypt; in bondage; they have labored to fill the coffers of the pharaoh long enough, and now a Divine Providence has sent a Moses (Polk) to lead them from the oppressors' power, and behold Aaron (Macune) is with him. Whoever he may be, let him always bear in mind the injunction of God to Moses when the Red Sea was in front of him, walled in on both sides by insurmountable barriers, with Pharaoh's army in his rear: "Speak to the children of Israel that they go forward." Forward should be upon every tongue. Polk, Livingston, Willetts and others have done a good work in Alabama and Mississippi. Oates, George, and the trinitarian who met at Fort Worth, in Texas, the committee that has already manipulated and circulated falsehoods, such as sore-heads of the ass family only can or will do, should be walked over rough shod, and placed in a back seat at home and made to sit there.

The people in the States in which they live should make them know that they are not the men to attempt to lead. Bossism has been buried. They have lent their aid in lending one million dollars to the Cotton Exposition in New Orleans; yet when asked to aid the masses by secured loan, "unconstitutional" is the first thing you hear. They voted to leave and money out of the United States Treasury when they knew it to be unconstitutional (so they say). And these are the men, the Saviors of America, who come forward and ask the people to be led by them. All your nerve, backbone and grit will be necessary to tide over and withstand the opposing forces in the next eighteen months. Therefore, those who have been placed on the watch-tower: Polk, Livingston, Jones, and every State and County President and Lecturer, should not fail to "speak to the children of Israel that they go forward."

A majority of the Democrats of North Carolina belong to the Alliance, and they hold that a majority have a right to rule; there they claim the right to demand and enforce those demands. They are going into the township, county, State and National causes and conventions, and they intend to be heard and felt. They do not intend to disrupt the old parties, but through them achieve all the good they can. But if the old parties intend to be heard and felt, they should heed them not and force an independent action on the part of the labor unions, no blame can be attached to them. They have tried both parties, and what has been the result? What do we hear? Every bill or petition pigeon-holed, unconstitutional all along the line; and still the cry comes "Disloyal to party." The producers of this country do not believe in, or do they intend to be loyal to party when party is not loyal to them. A majority of our representatives in both branches of our National Legislature, of both parties, are and have been disloyal to the people (when I say people I mean a majority) and leagued with plutoc-

racy, combines, trusts, &c., and never fail to strengthen the iron grip of Wall street. They whine "class legislation" every time a petition is presented for the relief of the producers and laborers, when scarcely anything has been done in Congress for the last twenty-five years but class legislation, except extravagant and useless expenditure of money, (the funeral escort and burial expenses of Senator Hurst, for example) when any one who is not able to pay burial expenses save a great Senator or Congressman is buried at public expense, three dollars for a sap pine box is the price paid; yet one hundred thousand dollars of the people's money is squandered in one burial. The name of every man who voted for this outrage should be underscored with a long black mark.

This is *constitutional*. Yes, with a vengeance—all right. The one hundred thousand dollars is a small amount. But let relief be asked in any shape for the living (I mean the toiling producers) and *unconstitutional, impracticable, class legislation*, is howled in stentorian tones. Yet these men ask the people to stick to the old parties, when the old parties are crushing them to death. Things should and must be changed. The party and party servants must belong to the people, and not the people to party and party servants. The party servants in office must adapt themselves to the needs and wishes of the people, and not the people to the wishes and ideas of their servants. No longer can it be said that this is the land of the free and the home of the brave. It is the land of the brave and the home of the oppressed. The people are in bondage worse than the Israelites in Egypt. Theirs was a decree of God, but the oppression here is the work of the devil, carried on by his tools in human shape. It was forty years before the Israelites reached the land, but the oppressed of this country intend to "get there" in a shorter time than that, "and don't you forget it."

If neither party will show its wisdom, then the people of both Democratic and Republican parties who are in favor of justice to all will show theirs. One party will not do anything if the other shares the credit. W. H. F. Lee for authority.

This government is said to be by the people, but if you will look at the workings of Congress for the last twenty-five years, you will see it has been by a set of notorious demagogues in the paid interest of plutocracy, trusts and combines. I do not mean all, but a majority who have disgraced our National Capitol for the last twenty-five years. It behooves all who are in favor of good and equitable government to put their shoulders to the wheel and move the chariot of reform as fast as possible, and if there is any truth in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and *National Economist*, and I think it is about all truth, the people of this land are on a grand march for the news from the lashing billows of the Atlantic and from the Northern Lakes to the Southern Gulf, tells of an onward march for liberty, relief and justice.

The tariff as it now stands is an incubus hidious in form upon the toiling consumers. The pension bill in its present shape is a burning shame and disgrace to any country; and the tariff and pension as they now exist are glaring, bare-faced and insolent robbery, and any set of men who pretend to represent the interests of the people and perpetrate such outrages are too mean, too base, too vile, to herd with the common damed, but should howl out their misery, separate and alone through all eternity in places of torment more hideous than was ever pictured by the arch fiend himself. Therefore speak to the children of Israel that they go forward. ROANOKE.

FROM THE WEST.

MR. EDITOR:—I will give you a few lines from Shooting Creek Sub-Alliance, No. 1,710, Clay county. While I cannot say that our lodge is on a "big boom," I can say that we are standing firm by the demands made by the National Farmers' Alliance. Bro. J. S. Bell, Lecturer for the 9th District, spoke at Hayesville the 31st of July to a good and attentive crowd. I'll tell you the Bell rattled and the Alliance demands were presented to the people in that simple and plain light which means "equal rights to all and special privileges to none." After discussing several measures, he emphasized the fact that farmers must get more common sense with their farming system. Improve and cultivate less land and get up a rivalry between farmers and see who can raise the most wheat or corn on an acre. A good idea. I want to say that Bro. Bell is doing a grand and noble work for our Order in Western North Carolina. Now, brethren, let us take courage and be united in this great work of reformation. We have not entered this work for a day nor for a week, but we intend to weary Uncle "Sam" until the agricultural industries are placed on an equal basis with all other industries of the country. Never before in the history of our country were the farmers so well informed and never before were they so well organized. We have discovered the disease, now will we apply the remedy? I say we will. Let us stand with an unbroken front to the enemy and present our demands, and the "law-makers" will be like the unjust judge. Lest by our continued coming we weary them they will grant this much needed relief, which is right and honest in the sight of God.

Jno. L. BRECH, Sec'y.

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT ELIAS CARR TO THE STATE ALLIANCE.

At Morehead City, N. C., Aug. 11, 1891.

Since last addressing you, as President of the State Alliance, it has been my great pleasure to watch the healthy growth of our Order, and the rapid development of the principles we have inculcated. On the 20th of April, 1887, the first Subordinate Alliance was organized at Ashpole in Robeson county. Just a year later there were 725 Sub-Alliances. During the second year the growth was such that April 20th, 1889, there were 1,654 Sub-Alliances. April 20th, 1890, there was a still further gain, so the number was 2,062. On our last anniversary, the ground being effectually covered by the thorough organization of every county, it was not a matter of surprise that the increase was less, showing a total number of 2,221 subordinate organizations with a membership of 100,000.

To the reports of the Executive Committee, Secretary, Treasurer, State Lecturer, Business Agent and Trustee I respectfully refer you, asking a careful consideration at your hands.

I suggest that the position of the Assistant Lecturer be abolished, as there is not the necessity for this office since the new plan of lecturing has become in use in our State.

The State Lecturer should be a brother of the highest executive ability who should have control of the lecture system in the State.

I suggest also that the office of Treasurer be abolished and that the office of Secretary be made Secretary-Treasurer. A year ago, after my election to this office, a proposition was made to increase the President's salary, which I opposed then but said I would recommend it a year hence, which I now do. I think that the salary should be sufficient to enable the President to give his constant services to the Order. I find that there are quite a number of applications for aid from members of the Alliance and most of them meritorious, and I suggest that some plan be devised to meet these applications.

The unprecedented political upheaval of last November was the natural outcome of the doctrines taught by the Alliance, and despite the protests of our enemies, we can take unto ourselves the credit of that more than glorious onslaught. Truly it was a great work, and well may we feel honored since it was a most salutary lesson to the greed of capital, the rottenness of government and the ravings of political demagogues. But though the future seems bright, there is much yet to be done.

I feel, when I view the dangers, which even at the present time surround us, I think I may be pardoned for saying that the work seems scarcely yet begun. We are assailed on every hand by demagogues, chiefly those in office, whose sole object is to perpetuate their power and it matters little by what means they effect their purpose. Sometimes we see them masquerading as friends of the farmer, but in reality employed by soulless corporations to sow the seeds of discontent among us. And sometimes they are the hirelings of the great trunk lines which like a gigantic octopus are slowly but surely absorbing and paralyzing what little blood and energy is now left to us.

We have nothing with which to fight this redoubtable combination save honest hearts, willing hands and that spirit of independence which has ever characterized the husbandman from the time of Cincinnati even unto our own. I think, then, I do not miss the mark when I say that, as a class, we are patient and willing, much abused and never murmuring, yet when we are aroused, as I now trust you all are, the act bears more than ordinary significance. But what meets this our last resort, if our energies be not united, if we be not a unit in our actions? Shall we profit by the experience of the past? The road to defeat, the road to victory lies equally plain before you. The choice is of vital importance—something must be done. It is no longer a matter of condition—relief must come. Our condition is such that delay would be fatal among us and the consequences of opinion is that relief must come through the legitimate and peaceful channels of legislation. We have held up to the scorn and contempt of honest men the existence of trusts, combines and corporations, but of what benefit has this exposure been to us? The work of robbing still goes on. Why is this? Why have we accomplished so little? The answer is an open secret—it is because the vast majority of the producing class are as yet untaught, uneducated, deaf to the appeals of reason and experience callous to the cry of those who preach the importance of thorough organization. Is it not strange that so many of our fellow-men utterly ignore the very first law, the law of self-preservation, and the fact that a complete and thorough organization is the only safe means whereby we can be assured of our rights? On every hand we hear boasts of our great progress and our civilization, but since good government, "the government of the people, for the people and by the people," the secret of all happiness has not kept pace with the other sciences. We see great reasons for asserting that this boasted civilization is not shared in by the working man who here, as the world over, is the pith, the marrow, the backbone of the country. And how is he to share therein handicapped as he is in the race of life, in the severe struggle for existence? Handicapped by his own ignorance, which he so unfortunately evinces when he asserts his opposition to that bill, which now in any-

thing but a spirit of fairness is being discussed throughout the country—I mean, of course, the Sub-Treasury—and touching this I do not think it amiss to say that we are not wedded to that particular phraseology which now characterizes the bill. We do not pray for the passage of this bill unaltered and undiscussed for that would deprive us of the opinions and experiences of others, but we are attached, yea, even committed to the principles involved, and are convinced that only after a full and free discussion can we arrive at a satisfactory solution of the subject. There is precedent sufficient of government's loaning money to the citizen with and without security, and thus is established the power to loan, which is indeed all sufficient. The kind of security does not enter into the case, the government can select what it considers ample and best calculated to relieve the wants of the people. It is unaccountable, indeed I can not understand how a man dependent upon the sweat of his brow for his daily bread can oppose the principles involved in this plan. The very fact of the intense hatred which the monopolists and their hirelings throughout the country bear not only the bill but its authors should convince the laboring man that its passage would produce not only a radical change, but that that change would most probably operate to his benefit since it is so bitterly opposed by the ultra-monied classes. Our quarrel, may I say here, is not with the State, which has ever been mindful of our necessities, but with the National Government, and particularly those branches of it which are responsible for the present iniquitous protective system and the demonetization of silver. The demand for the increase in the circulation of this metal will, if unheeded, only intensify the conditions which even now the American laborer finds almost intolerable. I will not touch upon the circumstances of that great wrong, the demonetization of silver, which was perpetrated upon the people of these United States because you are all no doubt acquainted with the details, but I do not think it out of place to add that it is now generally believed that the passage of that act in 1873 was one element of a great conspiracy to turn over the finances of this country to the banker and speculator. Grant himself knew not he had signed such a bill, and since no Senator or Congressman could be found who would toll aught of its passage, the suspicions of the people have been confirmed.

Such action on the part of Congress is inexplicable in the light of the progress of the nineteenth century, a stain upon the pages of its civilization which as one turns them back over the past twenty-five years he finds them deep-dyed with the toil and sweat of poverty-stricken millions. The existing national bank law is the shape the robbery assumed—I say robbery because the government delegates to a class, the bankers, the power of contracting and expanding the currency, thereby conferring upon them the unnatural prerogative of fixing the price of the necessities of life. The pernicious effects of this system can but be realized when we reflect that within a few short years the vast majority of the wealth of this country has passed into the hands of less than five thousand men. Is not something radically wrong with a system of finance under which within twenty years the prudent laborers of this country have lost more than one-half of their entire holdings? And, that too in the face of the facts that the country is one of inexhaustible resources and the government at peace with all the world. Our civilization has an under-current of fearful threat, a moral plague has struck society through to its very core. Honor and charity are slowly being eliminated from man's make-up—faith no longer exists between capitalist and laborer, and a vulgar materialism is stalking throughout our broad land. The whole country seems to be swiftly drifting to some fearful crisis, and how can it be otherwise since all questions are merged into the problems of labor and capital, and men enjoying the highest honors of the republic openly assert that "purity in politics is an iridescent dream!" The lust for gold which burns in the veins of the politician has made our era as melancholy as it is wonderful. The reign of luxury which bears effeminacy and which was the ruin of Rome is with us. May the purity of heart of the American laborer save us from the untimely fate of the once greatest work of the children of men. I touch upon these features of our social and political life, not because they are unknown to you, but because we can not hope for success till every producer in the land is acquainted with the shortcomings of that system which has forced him in a position but a shade removed from that occupied by the Grecian helot of old. Education, the power to think, the capacity to draw a conclusion from a premise, are the practical lessons that should be taught the herd-worked, ill-paid and unfortunate members of this great Order. The ballot with which this man is armed is a terrible engine of destruction as well as the only hope which at the present time makes life worth living. In the hands of the ignorant the lives and liberties of the citizens are endangered, but in the hands of the enlightened it is the destroyer of oligarchy, the preserver and bulwark of our freedom, and the nation's peace and happiness. Until a larger element in a republic is honest and enlightened it is a republic only in name. Men who have no honor to uphold are entrusted with the power and responsibilities of the most dignified offices. They have nothing to recom-

mend them save their worldly possessions. These they have wrung from the producers and these do they lavishly expend in the passage of laws which silt further arm them with the power of binding the laborer hand and foot. Matters grow from bad to worse and at last we awake to realize that the monster we have created is oligarchy, oligarchy in its most terrible form.

Our law makers for years past have been losing sight of the main point which is that a republic is a form of government wherein the laws are made looking to the welfare of a majority of its citizens. If this be true there is one government implied called a republic. The majority of the citizens of the States are agriculturists, and the tariff which seems to be the supreme law of the land protects only the manufacturer. If we were exclusively a manufacturing people there would be justice in existing conditions, but since only one man, we may say, out of five thousand is a manufacturer, a very little consideration will show that four thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine are taxed for the benefit of the one. Pursuing this principle to its greatest extreme you should find the wealth of the country centered in the hands of a few,—and such is actually the case. I repeat that eighty per cent. of the entire wealth of the country is either controlled or owned by combinations numbering not more than 35,000 souls. Does not this State of affairs smack mightily of the feudal system of the middle ages? One of the greatest men America ever produced, Abraham Lincoln, saw this picture when he said: "You can fool all the people part of the time, a part of the people all the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time." He used these words in condemnation of the trusts and combines which were already establishing themselves and which he foresaw would surely sap the life blood of the republic. He is not yet wholly a prophet for he predicted the downfall of the State if such cancerous growth were allowed to exist. Time may yet prove him a prophet indeed.

Since the very foundation of society it has been the province of the bread-eaters to solve the political and social problems of the day. It seems, however, that they are now powerless in the face of the complicated ones growing out of their own inefficiency. That prerogative now falls to you, the bread-winners, in whose tact, judgment and moderation I have the most implicit confidence.

In conclusion, then, I beg leave to express to you my sincere thanks and appreciation for the honor and courtesy which have ever been bestowed upon me by you all, individually and severally, both as a private citizen and in my official capacity. With best wishes, then, and with well grounded hopes for the future success of the Alliance, with heartfelt sympathy for the worthy struggling men and women whose shoulders bear the great responsibility, and with the firm belief that justice will at last prevail, I herewith return to you the scepter of authority.

CHEAP MONEY.

MR. EDITOR:—I notice in the columns of the *Lawmark* something about government money or cheap money. It says if the government made stacks of money it wouldn't do the people any good, because the government would not make the people a present of it. Not a bit of it. We wish to ask Joe a question. How does Wall street, New York, get it and the railroads? You old Democrats and Republican leaders need not think you have all the sense. Farmers have just as much sense as you have to prove what I have said. I refer you to brothers Polk and Ramsey, editor and associate editor of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

I will close with the best wishes to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.
Yours fraternally,
J. W. BOST,
Fairview Alliance, No. 599.

A CORRECTION.

MAPLETON, N. C.

MR. EDITOR:—Please make the following correction in the article from Cool Springs Alliance, No. 1,268, published in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER of July 7th, relative to the valuation of the property in Murfreesboro township. The article referred to stated that the property of the township was valued at less than \$400,000, should have been less than \$500,000. The exact amount for 1890 is \$484,578 which was increased by last assessment (this summer) several thousands of dollars.

There was no disposition on the part of the Alliance or any member thereof to wrong any one, and we have the manliness and courage to correct a mistake when we make one, and as the author of the communication got his information from me, I deem it my Christian duty to correct it as soon as I satisfied myself of the mistake. The way the thing occurred was this: One day during the late sitting of our assessors, some one asked what was the amount of the assessed property of the township. I asked one of the members of the board to call off the footing of the different columns and I would tell him, and he says now he made a mistake and called off the wrong lines, and that is just the way the thing occurred. The figures given now are official, having been obtained from Mr. G. A. Brown, our register of deeds, within the last few days.

Respectfully,
A. M. DARDEN,
Lecturer Cool Spring Alliance.