

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

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PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.
Consolidator, Wilmington, N. C.
Wired Home, Salisbury, N. C.
Whisperer, Salisbury, N. C.
Farmers' Advocate, Tarboro, N. C.
Mountain Home Journal, Asheville, N. C.
Alliance Sentinel, Goldsboro, N. C.
Country Life, Trinity College, N. C.
Mercury, Whiteaker, N. C.
Herald, Whiteaker, N. C.

Each of the above named papers are requested to keep the list standing on the first page and add others, provided they are duly elected. Any paper failing to advocate the Ocala platform will be dropped from the list promptly. Our people can now see what papers are published in their interest.

GRAND ALLIANCE PIC-NIC

Of Davidson County Farmers' Alliance at Thomasville Baptist Orphanage, Aug. 7th, 1891.

The morning was inauspicious with a heavy fog forming a canopy overhead and causing all to fear lest the liquid clouds would pour out copious showers and mar the pleasures of the day. But Davidson County Alliance men and women are in earnest and do not permit such obstacles to dampen their ardor. They began early to arrive upon the grounds in large numbers until by 10 o'clock the crowd was immense. The enjoyment of the day was increased by the presence of the Pilgrim Band—an Alliance Band—which discoursed delightful and inspiring music under the leadership of their accomplished director, Prof. P. J. Leonard, of Lexington, N. C., who is widely and favorably known and admired as a most accomplished musician.

As the hour of 11 o'clock arrived the crowd assembled under the spacious arbor upon the Orphanage grounds. The stand occupied by the speakers and invited guests, had been beautifully decorated with wreaths and festoons of cedar, and ornamented with varieties of the different products of the garden and field, with lovely flowers scattered here and there lending added beauty to the scene. The effect was charming and reflected much credit upon the exquisite taste and skill of the Alliance men and women under whose supervision the adornment of the stand was arranged.

The vast crowd of eager, expectant people were impatient to hear the distinguished speakers, and their enthusiasm was increased under the inspiration of the soul-stirring music of the Band.

Rev. Mr. Hunt, Chaplain of the County Alliance, opened the services with an earnest and appropriate prayer.

President Green, of the County Alliance, introduced the great national champion of the rights and liberties of the people and President of the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union—the eloquent and able Col. L. L. Polk—who for two and one-half hours held the vast throng of attentive and interested hearers in spellbound admiration by his powerful and masterly exposition of the principles of the Alliance order and magnificent flights of oratory.

Col. Polk's allusions to the ladies of the Alliance were gems of charming

poesy, and the hearty rounds of applause which followed the utterances of these beautiful sentiments well attested the approval of his hearers and the jealous regard in which they cherished the ladies of this noble Order.

"They talk about a woman's spleen
As though it had a limit;
There's not a place on earth or heaven;
There's not a task to mankind given;
There's not a blessing or a woe;
There's not a whinger yes or no;
There's not a life, or death, or birth,
That has a feather's weight of worth,
Without a woman in it."

Col. Polk pleaded earnestly for the rights of the farmers and workmen, and the fair, equitable and honest administration of the legislation of the government upon principles which would secure justice alike to all classes of our citizens.

He denounced the inaction of the Democratic and Republican parties which keeps from the people the benefits which a good government should bestow upon it. He said and stated that the objects of the Alliance was to secure as speedily as possible the prompt enactment of such laws as will insure to the farmers' protection in all their rights equal with the more favored classes.

He stated that the whole trouble with the people lies in the iniquitous and unequal financial system of the government. He advocated principles, not parties; measures, not men. The elevation of public and political morals, the recognition of merit, honor and true patriotism as the standard of availability to positions of trust.

Under the fervor of honest indignation he arraigned in scathing language those who unjustly abuse the objects and purposes of the Alliance through ignorance obtained from the garbled and misstated reports of partisan newspapers.

At the conclusion of Col. Polk's speech, Mr. Clay Thomas in a beautiful picture of gorgeous word painting presented him with a most exquisite basket formed of the rarest variegated, sweet-scented flowers, a gift from the Pilgrim Band.

Col. Polk responded in a few remarks which were laden with that thrilling eloquence for which he is so famous all over this bright land of ours. A committee was appointed to take up a collection for the Orphanage. The people responded in a liberal contribution amounting to \$29.50. After this an intermission of one hour.

By invitation from the Alliance men and ladies, the orphans and all connected with the Orphanage were taken in charge and most generously and sumptuously feasted upon the bountiful supply of tempting victuals which were spread out in such profusion before them.

What more beautiful and expressive exhibition of that charity which underlies the work of the Alliance could be manifested?

Commencing by invoking God's blessing, proclaiming love for their fellow-men, feeding the poor.

Non-Alliance men look at this picture and let your hearts be filled with charity as you contemplate this great reform movement of the Alliance men and ladies.

Dinner being over, once more the crowd assembled, this time to hear Col. Long, the State Lecturer of the Alliance.

Col. Long has been recently suffering from an attack of acute rheumatism, and stated that he was on his way to Morehead City to resign his position as State Lecturer because of his fear that he might not be able physically to attend to the duties of the office. What a commendable spirit to sacrifice self upon the altar of the interest of the great cause in which he has so faithfully engaged.

Col. Long's speech was full of cogent reasoning—spiced with original humor and was well received by the people.

At the conclusion of Col. Long's speech there was some singing by the orphan children, who have a well-deserved reputation as being among the best singers in our State, and on this occasion they sustained their record as their cheery young voices floated out upon the air in softest tones of sweetest music. Their singing was one of the most delightful and enjoyable features of the day, and the spontaneous applause from the audience after each song was a fitting tribute to the merit of these beautiful orphan children.

And now the Band renders the doxology, the Rev. Mr. Morton pronounced the benediction, and thus closes the second annual meeting of the Davidson County Alliance. Long may this Order live to promulgate the principles advocated at this meeting. **J. M. P. L.**

NOTES FROM FINCH.

FINCH, N. C.

Mr. Editor:—I want to say God bless the lecturing system and Bro. P. H. Massey. He is doing a grand work. Keep him going, don't let him go home but once a month. He was with us today. I think he waked us up. We received two petitions before he could get out of the house. I wish Bro. B. Cade could have been with us, I think he would have been converted. Our Lodge endorses the Sub-Treasury plan and all the demands. Please send Bro. Massey to lecture for us again in August. We will pay his expenses and give him a grand picnic.

We are having abundant rains for the past two weeks. Crops are looking very well considering the recent cold snap.

I will close with success to the Alliance cause, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and its editor.

Fraternally,
M. T. JOYNER.



THE BLUE AND THE GRAY.

"LET US CLASP HANDS ACROSS THE BLOODY CHASM."—Horace Greeley anticipated the inevitable. The Farmers' Alliance takes up his burden twenty years after he laid it down.

In all the broad field of our noble endeavor as an Order, there is no purpose grander in design, more patriotic in conception, or more beneficent in its possible results to the whole country and to posterity than the one, in which we declare to the world that henceforth there shall be no sectional lines across Alliance territory. Failing in all else we may undertake as an organization, if we shall accomplish only a restoration of irate unity and unity, and obliterate the unnatural estrangement which has unfortunately so long divided the people of this country, the Alliance will have won for itself immortal glory and honor in the spirit of a broad and liberal patriotism, it recognizes but one flag and one country. Confronted by a common danger—afflicted with a common evil—impelled by a common hope, the people of Kansas and Virginia, of Pennsylvania and Texas, of Michigan and South Carolina, make common cause in a common interest. It recognizes the important truth that the evils which oppress the agricultural interests of the country are national in their character, and that they can not be corrected by sectional effort or sectional remedies. It recognizes the fact that the war ended in 1865—that chattel slavery is gone, and that the prejudices and divisions, born of its existence, should go with it.

Community of interests between the great States of the Middle, Southern and Western Sections is the mighty natural force which will draw them together in solid array in the impending struggle between the people and plutocratic power.

Causes other than political (potent and effective as the latter have been) have conspired to propagate and perpetuate sectionalism. The rich, powerful and densely populated East must needs have an outlet for its aggressive enterprise, its rapidly accumulating wealth, and its growing population. The dense forests and fertile plains of the magnificent and inviting West were transformed into rich and powerful States. Lines of immigration and enterprise, of wealth and of general development, were pushed forward with marvelous rapidity and success to the shores of the Pacific. Along these lines were transplanted the East's prejudices and animosities engendered for a half century. The South—traversed by no transcontinental line of communication—sullen and humiliated in her great and crushing losses and by defeat in war, most naturally nursed the sectional animosities and prejudices of the past. What an inviting condition was thus presented for wicked sectional agitators—and how assiduously they utilized it, let the shameful sectionalism of the past quarter of a century answer. But the people of the awakening South and the people of the great agricultural West—aroused and inspired by a common danger—have locked their hands and shields in a common cause, the cause of a common country.

The lines of sectionalism have been cut in twain. The Alliance has planted its banner, on which is inscribed in characters of golden light—"Equal rights to all and special favors to none"—from the State of New York on the East to the golden gates of the Pacific on the West; from the Gulf on the South to the Great Lakes on the North, embracing within its territory the great staple crops of the country—the center of population and the center of political power.

We can not fail to see the opportunity of the hour, and recognizing that opportunity we must not forget that it carries with it corresponding responsibilities. The opportunity is for the great conservative, law-abiding, patriotic masses to assert and establish a perpetual union between the people. The sequent obligation is, that these great masses must discourage, discountenance and discard from their councils the wicked demagogical agitators, who for the last twenty-five years have sought to foster discord and dissension that they themselves might thrive. Ordinarily they are the men—North and South—who were "invisible in war and have become invincible in peace."

Divided, we stand as a Sampson shorn of his lock; united, we stand a power that is invincible. Cato fired and thrilled the Roman senate with the fierce cry, "Carthage must be destroyed." Must we, as citizens of this great republic, emulate such a vengeful spirit? Hannibal, while yet a tender youth, was placed by his father on his knees, and made to swear eternal vengeance against the Romans. Must we, as Christian parents, entail upon our children the bitter legacy of hate? Hundreds of thousands of noble, aspiring, hopeful, and ardently patriotic young men all over the land are manfully enlisting in the responsible duties of American citizenship. Born since the war—thank God, their infant vision was first greeted by the light of Heaven, unobscured by the smoke of battle, and their infant ear first caught the sweet sound of hallowed peace, unmingled with the hoarse thundering of hostile cannon. Shall they be taught to cherish and foster and perpetuate that prejudice and animosity, whose fruits are evil, and only evil?

"Let the dead past bury its dead," and let us, as an organization, with new hope, new aspirations, new zeal, new energy and new life, turn our faces toward the rising sun of an auspicious and inviting future, and reconsecrate ourselves to the holy purpose of transmitting to our posterity a government "of the people, by the people and for the people," and which shall be unto all generations the citadel of refuge, for civil and religious liberty.—[Extract from the address of President Polk before the Ocala convention last December.]

A GREAT GATHERING OF THE FARMERS IN HIGH JOHNSTON.

ELEVATION, N. C., AUG. 8, '91.

Mr. Editor:—To-day, Saturday, Aug. 8th, was a day which will be long and pleasantly remembered by the good, quiet people of Mill Branch Alliance and surrounding country. The writer was there, but will undertake only a brief outline of the proceedings.

At 10:45 C. Stephenson, a highly respected citizen of the community, ascended a richly-decorated stand and called the vast assembly to order, and after a few pointed remarks, introduced Mr. Major Langdon, who read the programme for the day's exercises. At the conclusion of the reading he introduced J. W. Stephenson, Esq.

Mr. Stephenson is a young man and although not accustomed to public speech-making, still he had not proceeded far before it was known that no mistake had been made by placing him on the programme. His subject, "Causes which led to the Impending Revolution," and the manner in which he treated it was well received. He handled it in a masterly manner, reflecting credit on himself and the occasion as well. He traced back each evil complained of to its origin—national banks, land grants, tariff, etc., and showed the ruinous

effects of each on the producers; that the revolution impending was the result of investigation on the part of the farmers, who had risen up in their might to free themselves of these evils.

Next introduced was the writer, whose remarks on "Relation of the Alliance to Politics" were short but were well listened to. Said in the declaration of principles upon which the Constitution of the Alliance was founded it claimed the right to labor for the education of the agricultural classes in the science of economic government in a strictly non-partisan spirit. No one could deny that right. The declaration implied the right to make an application of that science to politics, otherwise education would do no good. The partisan press and ignorant members said the Alliance was out of place in politics. It is admitted that some are out of place, but this application must be made. The ruling element is conservative. The Alliance is after measures and has no right to urge its members to vote for either political party, but if the Alliance should endorse the Third party, this education would of necessity become partisan. We don't need it. All our good people, whether members or not, acquiesce in our movement.

The Railroad Commission would save the State \$150,000 annually.

This State is Alliance, proven by the Democratic party incorporating in its platform the Alliance demands. Some of the Northwestern Republicans seem to be turning over, but the Republicans are responsible for every evil of which the Alliance complains—every one—national banking, contraction of the currency, bestowing land grants, funding debts and all. Alliance men do not want all the offices as shown by their electing others just as readily outside the order, but they do want men elected to the legislative departments of the government whom they can trust. [The writer remembers more of his speech than the others, the reason why he comments on it more.]

In a beautiful speech J. W. Stephenson, Esq., introduced Capt. J. A. Wellons, of the Smithfield Collegiate Institute. Capt. Wellons is County Lecturer and was the great orator of the day. To those who know him, and they extend over the length and breadth of the county, comment is useless. The people know him to be tried and true, and of his oratory as well. He poured forth his eloquence for upwards of an hour while that vast throng of humanity drew nearer and unconsciously caught up the spirit of patriotism which was pulsating and throbbing within him till all, year by year, saw awake the alarming conditions of our country and were alike determined to stand by the laborers of this

country till the last enemy was downed. His subject, "The Demands of the Alliance," were discussed in order in a logical, powerful way. He showed both old and young, male and female, the grand work ahead—appealed in a soul-stirring manner to the young men. In conclusion he said: "Grit and godheadateness were needed—push and power were at their command; let them rise up in their power and do their duty to themselves, their country and to their God." After his speech he was asked to go up into Pleasant Grove an adjoining township and organize an Alliance.

Dinner was then announced. The crowd was variously estimated at 1,500 to 2,000, but all were satisfied with the many good things which build up the inner man, bounteously prepared by the good women of that quiet locality.

The audience was again called back, and Mr. A. D. Taylor, President Johnston County Alliance, was introduced. This man, one of the pioneers in Alliance work in the county, came forward in his usual earnest but happy style, saying he was not going to make a speech but a talk. His talk was timely—spiced with jokes rich and rare. Said he was of the opinion that the people were like the good woman who, with her husband, went to John Smith's to borrow a cart. Smith did not lend the cart but insisted on their drinking various good drinks. The man and wife started home but got apart at the creek. When the husband returned the good wife had fallen asleep, the back of her head hanging over the edge of a rock, occasionally dabbling in the water, which, by the force above, jumped up into her mouth. She would swallow but would continue to say: "Not any more. Mr. Smith, even though it were sweetened." He thought after such good eating and speaking the people would not take any more, even though it were sweetened. He congratulated the young men who had so ably discussed the issue and urged them onward. Said he was of the professional politician.

By the way of illustration he told of a certain negro who had a red steer named Ben, a good steer, but unfortunately became infested with vermin. The negro was in trouble about old Ben. A neighbor told him to pour lamp-oil on Ben's back from head to tail and apply a match. Accordingly he tied him to a tree and made the application. Old Ben made a big jump and broke the rope—the flames rose higher and higher. He hollered to Ben: "Well, Ben, snorting and belching smoke for the creek." The old negro pursued but could not catch him; thought Ben gone for good. Some days after the ste came back but the negro did not recognize him. At length, however, the old lady suggested it was old Ben come back. "Well," said he, "if this is old Ben, I'm plagued if he ain't been used up. Jes look; he's got no har, no tail and wus of all he's got."

The speaker applied this to the politicians, and as supplement told another. A man was asleep, riding, when his mule, asleep also, became freightened, wheeled around and set the rider on the ground. The rider sprang up and exclaimed: "That's just why I don't like a mule."

He eulogized L. L. Polk, saying that among our illustrious men of the closing years of the 19th century L. L. Polk will illumine the brightest page of our history as a star.

N. R. Poole, Esq., was next introduced. He made an excellent bearing. His speech was well condensed and full of force. Said he must be further from home than he thought; that if "Poole" had been called up in his country a half dozen Pooles would have run up. He supposed he was the man called for, but was not the pool by Silvan but N. R. We heard many remarks complimentary to his speech, and we ourselves think his hit on "taxation" capped the climax. 9,000,000 farm mortgages. It is due him to say more but space will not admit.

Last introduced was ex-Representative Gover. He it was who, as member of the committee on education in the last sitting of the General Assembly, made a record that our people will not forget his faithful services. He has the full confidence of our people as legislator and gentleman. His connection with a thing assures its success. He made a telling speech, referred to the cutter trust in our own State piling in its coffers \$3,000 every setting sun while the producers had to submit to it as slaves. Said our people were dissatisfied waiting and deserving something they had not; were as the potter's clay not yet molded. Assured the people that the evils complained of were not due to State legislation; that it was the full intention of the last legislature to do its very best for the people. Space also forbids us giving this gentleman of our highest regard justice. This closed the exercise. Never has this quiet, good people had such a treat before. And never have those who attended had a better one.

Fraternally,
J. P. CANADAY.

Bro. Edward Johnston, of Newton Grove Alliance, Sampson county, writes that they believe in the St. Louis and Ocala platforms and expect to stand by them to the last.

Bro. D. J. Bullard, Secretary of Cape Fear Alliance, No. 109, Cumberland county, writes that they have 33 members, most of them being of the pure grit. They used the Alliance official guano this year and are well pleased with it.