

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 FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

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PAPERS.
Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.
Caucasian, Clinton, N. C.
Rural Home, Salisbury, N. C.
Watchman, 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, Hickory, N. C.
Rattler, Whitakers, 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.

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

Panics and Remedies.

MR. EDITOR:—Panics are the result of one financial system. We have five years of fair times, then comes the panic, and it takes five years for our industries to get themselves together. During panics we have enforced economy on every hand; millions are out of employment, poverty and crime increases and the tax-payers are hard pressed to meet expenses; capital is limited, and those who have money will not invest for fear of loss. The wonder is that capital invests at all. These panics in the past have been periodical and regular as the seasons. The financial doctors say panics have always been and must continue; that what cannot be cured must be endured. They never think of looking for the cause, much less for the remedy. The politician dares not advocate a remedy for the better. He knows the minority interested in perpetuating existing conditions would defeat him. On one hand he sees an intelligent but selfish minority alive to their interest, and on the other hand the producers divided and filled with panic. What can he do but quietly glide along and let this minority have its way? We are in the era of steam, railroad, telegraph and mammoth machinery. The financial system that answered to the age of the slow coach, sickle and spinning wheel will not respond to this. We have had a revolution in manufactures and transportation, and we must have a radical change in our financial system. As the child outgrows its swaddling bands and demands apparel suited to its changed condition, so we have outgrown the old industrial system, and under a new financial system to meet the changed condition. Until this is done there can be no permanent prosperity.

THE REMEDY FOR PANICS.

1. The abolition of all banks of issue and the issuing by the government of full legal tender United States notes in sufficient quantity to do the business of the country on a cash basis, putting them into circulation by paying a portion of government expenditures.
2. Unlimited coinage of gold and silver, each a full legal tender.
3. The establishment by the government of postal savings banks.
4. The abolition of the credit system. This system would give us the ready

THE SUB-TREASURY.

MOORESVILLE, N. C.
MR. EDITOR:—Both your correspondents, R. J. Coen and the editors of the *Faulkner County Wheel*, seem to misunderstand my arguments, for if they had read my communication in their issue of June 16th they would see that I am just as much in favor of the government issuing more money and loaning it to the farmers as they are. But I was trying to show that it could be done, better and easier, without building a quantity of warehouses and appointing an army of non-producing officials, and trying to make a "corner" on cotton or wheat, thus trying to break up the universal law of supply and demand, which would be found, in the end, only "kicking against the prices."

The difference between the editors of the *Wheel* and myself is, I am entirely dependent for my facts on which to base my arguments on what I read and hear, while he sneers at statisticians, and appears to have some source of information unattainable to the rest of the world.

I do not know of my own knowledge, that there has been a bale of cotton shipped to Liverpool for ten years, but I have read that there was, and base my opinions on those statistics.

He states as a fact that the "fall in the price of cotton was not caused by the abundant crop, for the world is still in need, but by our false monetary system."

Now, I read at the time the news of the collapse of the Argentine system was given, that cotton cloths had declined in Liverpool, and a day or so following that cotton had fallen in prices, and the New York market did not fall as fast as the Liverpool market did, and there was a sale of cotton in this town at 12 cents, after the price had fallen in Liverpool $\frac{1}{2}$ of a penny, equal to 12 cents here. It may be possible but I can't understand why "our false monetary system" should reduce the price in Liverpool before it does here. About the world being still in need, I read the statistics, Sept. 19th: Total stock of American cotton visible, 1,330,615 bales. One year ago (Sept. 18th) after the largest crop that had ever been raised there 699,721. But the statisticians may be wrong and the editors of the *Wheel* right—there may be a great need of more cotton.

I did not contend that we were dependent on Europe for our daily bread or our clothes I was writing about a market for our cotton. Now, from what I read, I believe that the United States raises over three quarters of the cotton of the world; that over five-sixths of this amount is exported either in bales, yarn or cloth, nearly all of which goes to Europe. If the price of cotton was raised 50 per cent, and to have this all sold in this country, it would require the people to spend nine times as much for clothes as they do now. If the people had nine times as much money to spend for clothes as they do now, would not the most of it be spent for silk, linen, wool, furs and ornaments? I do not believe there would be as much cotton worn as there is now, and I do not believe the Alliance nor the United States Government can force the European dealers to pay more for cotton than the demand for the goods will warrant them a fair return for.

His statement, as a fact, that "Europe would have bought just as much cotton at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cts, or perhaps at 15 cts, as at 8 cts," is a staggerer. It is some thing in political economy, worthy of giving its author a professor's chair in the highest institution of learning in the land, if he can demonstrate it. It has always been thought that the cheaper anything could be produced without deterioration of quality, the more would be used. I know I should buy a suit of clothes often if I could get them for \$10 than if I had to pay \$15 for them.

In my first two communications I did endeavor to "correct the details" and all the "finding fault" I have done was with the view of doing what I could to induce the dropping of the warehouse system and "spending all our energy on the more practical and as I believe more beneficial objects of the platform. My plan is that the government issue notes, payable in specie, some to be loaned to the farmers through the State and local officials, and that every postoffice that is now a money order office be made a savings bank, and that a certain part of the deposits may be loaned on good personal security. Both of these I believe to be perfectly constitutional, and the postal savings bank has been advocated by many men who could not be induced to favor the Sub-Treasury warehouse scheme. Now I do not think the editor of the *Wheel* believes that the amount of money that would be issued on warehoused crops in one year would be sufficient to bring about the great changes he describes, but that he means the other plans of financial reform also. I see in your paper that a West Virginia Alliance paper thinks that not one man in a hundred would avail himself of the advantages of the warehouses. I don't know but that is a little strong, but I don't believe one-fourth of the crops would be warehoused. In either case, the increase of the currency in one year would be very small, from the warehouse plan alone.

But there is another matter which I have not seen mentioned yet in any Alliance paper, which I think is of more immediate importance than either of these, in connection with the free coinage of silver. There was published, about two weeks ago, in the *Richmond Dispatch*, an open letter

from Maj. Dabley to Senator Daniel, in which he showed that the bankers and capitalists were hoarding the gold, gold certificates and demand notes, payable in gold, and making all notes and mortgages with any time to run payable in gold, with the evident intention of forcing gold to a premium if any free coinage of silver bill became a law, and gave it as his opinion that Congress had power to make a silver dollar a legal tender for all debts whatever, even if the contract called for gold. I thought this rather doubtful, as the government had themselves issued a large amount of certificates payable only in gold, but a letter of Judge Hughes in the same paper last week affirmed the opinion of Maj. Dooley and also gave the opinions of several of the Judges of the U. S. Supreme Court in the legal-tender decisions, which all show the same power to be in the Congress of the United States. Now if this is so, it is the interest of every laboring man and of every debtor in the country that Congress should at once pass an act declaring that a silver dollar and also a U. S. note shall be full legal-tender for all debts whatever specified to be paid in gold or note. This would bring the gold which is now hoarded into circulation and thereby do more to increase the circulating medium than all the mints could do by coining silver for five years, and do more to bring the price of silver bullion to a par with gold than any free coinage bill could possibly do. It would also enable the debtor to pay his debts in the same value in which they were contracted, otherwise the creditor will force the debtor to pay him 20 or 30 more silver dollars on the hundred to cancel his debt than what he loaned him.

But Senator Daniel replies in this week's *Dispatch*, admitting all that Dooley and Hughes had said about the power of Congress to enact such a law, but does not think it is necessary to do it now. Now if it is right to pass such a law at all—if the principle of it is just—why should not such a law be passed at the earliest possible moment? The Alliance has endorsed Senator Daniels for re-election, but this excuse for delay shows he is not really in sympathy with the laboring and debtor class, which is supposed to be represented in the Alliance. In fact I do not believe that any of the reforms demanded by the Alliance can be obtained through the politicians of either old political party. The half-hearted and ambiguous endorsements which they give to our demands give very little hope of any result. Every Senator and Representative to Congress should be pledged to work to secure a law which would make a silver dollar and a U. S. paper dollar as good for use in all cases in this country as a gold dollar, no matter what the note may call for, and to make itself consistent, that all gold certificates and silver certificates be called in and cancelled and notes payable in specie issued in their place. But I have no hope that this or any other reform of any importance will be effected while either the Republican or Democratic party are in power, and I have very small faith that the People's party will get in power with the Sub-Treasury warehouse as the principal emblem on their banners.

As for your other critic, such arguments as "humbug," "fancies of a disordered imagination," "another rotten chestnut," are hard arguments to answer by any one who tries to write common sense and reason. The few days work for a few carpenters or masons building the warehouses is a very small sum to offer the whole body of mechanics, but if you could make me believe it would really be a benefit to the farmers, I would never say a word against it. As for office-seekers and messback politicians, does he think there are none in the Alliance? Can he find no one among the officers and lecturers who have ever been prominent in politics? As for myself I have never sought any office, except one year as clerk of a school board, without any pay. Nearly all the rest of his letter is good old-fashioned truth, with which I can heartily concur. If he had read my communication carefully, he would see that I approved of "class legislation" in favor of farmers if it would really benefit them and not create a burden for the rest of the nation.

RESOLUTIONS.

MR. EDITOR:—Having read the proceedings of a meeting held in the rooms of Red House Alliance on the 22d day of August at which time and place, they being true Alliancemen, did resolve 1st, that they demanded reform in the administration of our government and would not co-operate with any party nor vote for any man for any political office that does not adopt the measures they approve; 2d, that they fully approve the Ocala platform, be it

Resolved, That Auburn Alliance, No. 41, do hereby endorse the above resolutions and ask the co-operation of all true Alliancemen in every section of our country.

2d. That we do endorse all the acts of our worthy President, Col. L. L. Polk, so long as he shall strive to elevate the working class of our country and defend the principles of the Alliance laid down in our Constitution, as he has heretofore done.

3d. That these resolutions be sent to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER with request that they be published.
Yours fraternally,
M. T. WILDER, Sec'y.

THE FARMER AND THE DOLLAR.

Or, the Unjust and Oppressive Power of Money to Oppress—A Remedy Proposed.

MR. EDITOR:—The familiar and well-worn proverb that "in the multitude of counselors there is safety," is considered a sufficient apology for an effort to aid my brethren of the plow to solve a question of such vast importance to us, that when properly considered and viewed in its true light, all other so-called great economic questions of the day dwindle into utter insignificance.

The farmer feels the burden of the yoke of oppression. How it has been fastened upon him, and how to throw it off, is his constant inquiry. The great upheaval among the farmers and other laboring classes is due to a long concealed or hidden cause which begins now to be exposed to view as the great host of labor gradually ascends the eminences in the wilderness of despair and looks over into the promised land of just inheritance, wherein the shylocks and usurers have no portion.

THE POWER OF LABOR.

To create and accumulate value must be understood in order to contrast it intelligently with the power of money to accumulate value. Labor possesses creative as well as accumulative power, while money possesses the power only to represent, measure and exchange values and to accumulate value by interest. The power of labor is inherent, natural and limited only by the physical and mental capacity of man, while the power of money is artificial—fixed by law—and the dollar is the creature of law. The essential and wide apart difference between labor and money is that the former is a creator and the latter a creature.

THE CREATIVE POWER OF LABOR.

Was conferred upon man and fixed by the fiat of Jehovah which went forth from Eden, "in the sweat of thy face thou shalt eat bread." From that day man became a creator of values.

A few hundred years ago there were no values—counted as such and available for the use of civilized man—in the whole of the then vast unknown wilderness of America. All the great cities and towns, the thousands of miles of railways, the millions of farms, the mines and factories, and every other adjunct of modern civilization which now exist in all of these great American States are the creations of labor. The labor of the farmer creates the billions of bushels of grain, the pounds of cotton and tobacco, and today there are more than sixty billions of dollars of accumulated values, all of which owe their existence to the labor of man.

Labor—the God-given power of brain and muscle—is the creator of all values and the whole vast fabric of civilization itself rests upon labor.

A COMPARISON OF LABOR AND MONEY.

The accumulative power of labor is denied by none, but understood by but few. This power can never be ascertained with exact mathematical accuracy, as it depends entirely upon the power of production, which cannot be otherwise than variable.

Labor necessarily consumes a certain proportion of its product for support. Laboring men have families to feed, clothe and educate, after which there is a surplus more or less in quantity, dependent upon their surroundings.

The writer cannot undertake in a newspaper article to introduce the statistics which would be required to show, approximately even, the net surplus earnings of labor, nor the rate per cent, increase of the accumulations of such surplus; but any farmer can satisfy himself on this point by an examination of his own financial condition, or that of his neighbors, while those who will take the trouble to examine the statistics of the increase of wealth, by farming and other manual labor, will find that its net surplus accumulates at a very low rate per cent. And it may be stated with reasonable certainty that labor, upon an average, is only able to double its capital basis, so to speak, once in a life-time of about seventy years, while money at 8 per cent, compounded will double itself in less than nine years. If this statement be true, which we think can be verified by the experience of thousands of farmers and other laborers, it is a startling fact, and deserves the very careful study of all of us who are concerned.

Suppose a young man starting life as a farm laborer at the age of twenty-one, without inheritance of money or other property and having a wife similarly circumstanced. A fair amount of wages for a year's labor would be \$85, with house, garden, fire-wood, and usual allowance for rations added, amounting to not less than \$120. Out of the \$85 would have to be deducted, say \$40 for wife's board, and \$30 for clothing for himself and wife, which would leave the saving, or surplus of wages at \$15, without taking into account all the risks of loss of time by sickness, accidents or other contingencies to which all laborers are subject. This net surplus of \$15 would be exactly 1 per cent, on \$1500, which represents the gross amount of the laborer's capital basis on which he receives 8 per cent, gross, or \$120, but after support he only saves \$15. In other words, the young man's labor—the output of his brain and brawn, enforced by the eternal law of his Maker—is set against the power of \$1500 of lifeless, soulless and sordid dust, which neither eats, drinks, sleeps nor wears clothes, and which is endowed by his fellow-man, with the

legal power to earn eight times as much in a year.

Stated in another way, the young man is able to accumulate, by his labor, 1 per cent, net, annually, which will double his capital basis in a little less than seventy years, amounting to \$3,000, if he lives to the age of ninety-one years; but, if death should overtake him at that age, his net surplus—derived from the labor of an unusually long life—would only be \$1500, while \$1500 loaned at 8 per cent, interest, payable annually and re-loaned, would double itself in nine years, and in eighteen would amount to \$6,000; in twenty-seven years, to \$12,000; in thirty-six years, \$24,000; in forty-five years, \$48,000; in fifty-four years, \$96,000; in sixty-three years, \$192,000; and in seventy years, a little less than \$300,000. Thus accumulating two hundred times faster than labor.

In the case stated above, the young man starting in business at twenty-one years would have to reach the extremely advanced age of ninety-one before doubling his surplus accumulations; but, comparatively few men reach such an age, and it is unreasonable to conclude that those who do, would be able to accumulate anything during the last twenty or thirty years of their life-time. And it would probably be fair to say that instead of doubling his capital basis at the end of seventy years, the young man would only increase it to \$2500, leaving at the expiration of an ordinary life-time, only a net accumulation of \$1,000, being three hundred times less than fifteen hundred dollars would accumulate in the same length of time. And so it is, that money—the creature—has the power, by law, to accumulate by interest, during the ordinary life-time of a laborer three hundred times more than labor.

Labor, truly, accumulates to some extent after receiving a support; but, as has been shown, only as a drop in the bucket compared to money. No wonder that the wealth of country accumulates in the hands of the few to the impoverishment of the many. Labor serves, while money commands. Labor is the slave. Money is the master.

And so it comes, that in this free land of boasted equality, where we claim "equal rights for all and special privileges to none," that the young laborer, whose capital of brain and brawn, flesh and blood, body and soul, is represented by fifteen hundred dollars of money, and can only gain, in a life-time, one thousand dollars, and then cease to exist; while fifteen hundred dollars of actual money—dead metal and dead paper, is allowed by human law, contrary to God's law, to gain the enormous sum of three hundred thousand dollars, and still continue to exist to increase the oppressions and burdens of unborn generations.

RUFUS AVERIS.

RESOLUTIONS AND THE COTTON ACREAGE.

ALFORDSVILLE, N. C.

WHEREAS, It is claimed that the present low price of cotton will not meet the expense of production, and that the only remedy for obtaining a higher marketable price for this great staple product of the South lies in the reduction of the acreage; and, whereas, this question is now agitating the minds of a great many of the Alliance bodies to the extent of causing them in their meetings to pass some resolutions in respect to it. Such resolutions as follows, viz: Not to plant more than ten acres to the horse, &c.; and whereas, we believe that any and all resolutions passed by any Alliance body, on any matter whatever, should be kept and faithfully carried out; therefore we advise that all Alliances would move slowly and cautiously on this line, knowing full well that if such steps were taken and carried out on the part of the Alliancemen alone that it would play liberally into the hands of our largest and fullest handed cotton planters who are non-Alliancemen and are to-day opposing the onward and upward progress of our grand Order with all their might and main. Therefore we have resolved not to give any encouragement to our Alliance brethren to tackle this desired reduction of acreage unless we get the full assistance of all cotton planters, of whatever color, class or affiliation.

Now we therefore recommend that the various Alliances throughout the cotton-growing States address communications to the Governors and heads of agricultural bureaus of their respective States asking them to take such steps as would lead to the assembling of a convention of cotton planters at some convenient place in the Southern States to take into consideration the situation and devise some remedy if possible. And we heretake the privilege of suggesting that when the convention meets that they have some suitable forms of obligations printed and sent out among the Alliances, to be presented by them to all cotton planters of whatever class, order or distinction, to be filled out and signed by as many as can be gotten to do so in every community, making first twenty acres planted to the horse as a basis of the present acreage planted, and requiring a reduction of 10 per cent.

When these obligations are collected back by the Alliances and forwarded to the secretary of the cotton convention, with a full report of what portion of cotton planters in each community were gotten to sign them, it would be clearly shown whether the Alliance should tackle it or not.

ALEX. ALFORD, Sec'y.