

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.
Canaanian, Clinton, N. C.
Bural Home, Wilson, N. C.
Watermen, 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.
Agr. Cultural Rev., Goldsboro, N. C.
Solutions Weekly News, Whiteville, N. C.
Taylorville Index, Taylorville, 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 MECHANIC AND THE SUB-TREASURY.

STOVALL, N. C.

MR. EDITOR:—In my last communication I endeavored to draw attention to the fact that the mechanic, workingman and others not interested in farming would be benefited by the operations of the Sub-Treasury plan, and notwithstanding that has been written trying to prove to the contrary, has failed to elucidate or explain the objections, if there be any, that are made against the plan. It is always the same hackneyed expressions clothed in different garbs, "class legislation," inflation, paternalism, and because it has originated from the farmers and proletarians they say nothing good can come from such a source. They, the plutocrats and their tools, regard us working people, farmers and others who make our living by the sweat of their brow, as the emulsi, the rabble, and we have no business to dictate laws or suggest remedies. Everything goes on lovingly as long as we plow and sow, dig and work and leave the government to the great moguls who presume to lead us in politics and thinking. In all their opposition to the plan they have brought out nothing new or substantial. Something better? No, they show their hatred of the reform movement by invective and abuse, and billingsgate would flush with shame to hear the expressions, the epithets and the slang flung at the Alliance and its leaders. In an antagonistic press we find long and dreary articles and communications, condemnatory of the farmers' scheme for alleviating his financial distress; not a ray of explanatory light on the subject, nothing but vague forbodings flowing like the river Lethe, from sources dark and gloomy. Not even a suggestion of anything better offered that would improve the situation. No, the lack of inventive genius and brain power on that point is made up vigorously in another direction, and talents which would be more profitably applied are used to mislead, misjudge, prevaricate, abuse, slander and lie, and methods are used which should not be tolerated in this enlightened age, against the Alliance and its officers, and most particularly the leaders. Advantage is meekly taken of that much abused shibboleth, freedom of the press, to fling their foul

and false statements at us. Such a course brings the press into bad repute, the confidence of the people in it is destroyed, and the foul ebullitions of wrath and personality indulged in against either man or party, disgusts every fair-minded, thinking man or woman. Not having the courage of their convictions or the manhood to fight the Alliance as an organization, they shield themselves behind a Polk, Livingston and Macune and others prominent in the cause, and with asinine presumption and gravity, assume to be judge and jury of their actions. Alliancesmen, understand the situation. Insults and false statements made against your officers are directly personal to each individual brother and sister. You have elected those officers and the fight is not so much against these leaders as it is against you. It is only one of the ways they hope to disrupt the Alliance and create dissatisfaction. If Polk and the others were not faithful to the trust reposed in them by the Alliance, would we hear much in opposition to them? I think not. They tell us poor working men to have nothing to do with the Alliance, but when a bill is brought before the legislature to make ten hours a legal day's work on all public and municipal works, and also a bill to prevent convict labor from coming into competition with free labor and other bills to relieve the workingman, did those howling derisives utter a sound, or was a scratch of the pen made to help the laboring class? And now they are so solicitous and so sympathetic. Can the mechanic and others afford to deny their support to the Alliance? The average increase of wealth for the last ten years is said to be 45 per cent., but the average increase of those engaged in agriculture is only 9 per cent. That being the case and farming being an unremunerative business, has it not a tendency to cause those engaged in that business to abandon it and enter some pursuit more profitable? They are doing it to the present hour. The young men won't stay on the farm. They crowd into the mines, factories and workshops; they enter the trades, also the professions, causing fiercer competition, wages are lowered and all the combinations and trades unions in existence cannot keep up wages to a living price under these existing circumstances. If the conditions on the farm were more favorable and profitable, this would not be the case.

In this land of ours, with resources unlimited and where all the products of the temperate zone can be raised abundantly, with cities which surpass ancient Rome and Greece in splendor, magnificence and prodigality; a republic which guarantees to every citizen equal rights, which furnishes the world a greater part of its gold and silver, supplies England, France and Belgium with cotton exports, cereals, cattle and meats sufficient to support millions of human beings, and still in the face of this apparent prosperity the farmer's increase in wealth is only 9 per cent. whilst that of other classes is 48 per cent. during the last decade. We have a plutocracy established which drains the life-blood of the nation, subvert our democratic institutions, in fact control the government, buy legislatures, elect Senators and Congressmen at will. We have the poor growing poorer, millions of tramps and unemployed, scattered all over the country; farm mortgages and bankruptcies increasing, the great middle class dwindling away, and with a vengeance we are traveling the same road and following the same course which annihilated the ancient civilization of Egypt, Rome and Greece, and if there is not a change made we will have only two classes—the extremely rich and the extremely poor. What will become of our boasted liberty? Heroin has our danger. Where extremes meet and a government of universal suffrages and theoretical equality may, under conditions which impel the change, become a despotism, for there despotism advances in the name and with the might of the people. The single source of power once secured, everything is secured; and when the disparity of condition increases, so does universal suffrage make it easy to seize the source of power; and thus the extreme poor, tortured by want and embittered by poverty, are ready to sell their votes to the highest bidder or follow the lead of the most blatant demagogue. Give a community with republican institutions in which one class is too rich to be shorn of its luxuries, another so poor that a few dollars on election day will seem more than any abstract consideration in which the few roll in wealth; the many settle with discontent at a condition of things they know not how to remedy. The power must pass into the hands of jobbers who will buy and sell it as the Proletarians sold the Roman people into the hands of demagogues.

We are drifting into a similar state of things, and if farmers and working classes do not unite, the collar will be pressed around our necks, like the Saxon thall, and we will be slaves to a money despotism who will grind us to the very dust. Every prejudice is appealed to to keep the working classes apart and divert them from the issues of the hour. Revolutions never go backward, but there is a grand uprising of the masses; a seed is sown which is germinating rapidly, a spark is kindled which is forming into a blaze, and the time is not far distant when, with irresistible force, the banner of the Alliance will lead to victory. Stand by your colors, Alliancesmen. He is a craven who falters.

ROBERT J. COEN.

RAISE YOUR OWN SUPPLIES.

SHELBY, N. C.

To the members of Rock Cut Alliance, No. 1,419, and also to the farmers of Cleveland and adjoining counties: As I am a member of Rock Cut Alliance, No. 1,419, Cleveland county, N. C., and Treasurer of the same; am a man of 70 odd years of age, and have been a farmer all my life; have been a citizen of Cleveland county for the last 21 years; have been a close observer of the value of the different kinds of crops adapted to our soil I would advise our farmers of the Piedmont section of North Carolina to diversify their crops. My corn, wheat, oats, bacon and all other supplies necessary for myself and workmen have been raised on my own plantation. My surplus, of course, has been in cotton, but what cotton I raised has been over and above my necessary means of living, consequently my cotton crop was clear and I have had its value to place in my savings bank. Our soil is adapted to the growth of all our necessary supplies more so than it is to cotton; and I would advise all farmers in our Piedmont section to raise their own supplies, and then let the surplus be in cotton. It takes fourteen months in the year, if you will allow me to make the ironical expression, to raise and gather a cotton crop. Consequently an entire crop of cotton will deprive any farmer from raising his home supplies, which we can not afford to lose in our section of country which is so well adapted to the growth of our necessary supplies, and not so well adapted to the growth of cotton. We cannot raise a full crop of cotton without the use of commercial fertilizer, which is required to the growth and maturity of cotton in our section of country; which, of course is admitted to be detrimental to the farmers of our section who use it to an excess; and all farmers in our belt of country whose crops have been chiefly cotton, have used commercial fertilizer to an extent. I would say to the farmers of our section of country (and think I am speaking from experience) that as long as they continue to make cotton their chief crop and buy commercial fertilizer to raise it from, they may expect to have to live on scanty means and be enthrallled in debt, the burdens of which will never be subdued on such a process of farming. Not only the excessive raising of cotton and the excessive use of guano has been injurious to our people, but living above their means of ability has been nearly as fatal. Farmers who are oppressed with debt should be more economical in their way of living, raise their own supplies, plant less cotton and make more, not by using commercial fertilizers but by improving their cotton land by homemade fertilizer. Feeling confident, from experience, that a practice followed which is outlined in this article will benefit our farmers, and hoping that this article will not be totally disregarded, I am,

Very respectfully yours,
J. BEASLEY.

WARRENTON, N. C.

MR. EDITOR:—The *News and Observer* was after the leaves and fishes when he sent out the noted circular in quest of subscribers, promising to advocate the Sub-Treasury plan and other Alliance demands. To be sure he never intended or would dare to take sides with the people for reform, much less openly advocate their measures of relief. That would be against the dictum of the self-constituted statesmen and blue blooded bourgeois who assume to control the destiny of North Carolina. Capt. Ashe well knew that if he did carry out the programme as promised, he could be no longer their mouth-piece, and their case of a national Democratic victory, there would be no more postmaster's job and no other jobs for him, and the flesh pots would be put out of his reach forever. The circular was sent solely for the purpose to please and bamboozle the late Alliance legislature into the belief that he was in favor of the Alliance demands, so that by this artifice he might secure the job of public printing. The trick, however, did not work. The *News and Observer* having opposed the Alliance from beginning, his sudden conversion was taken to be spurious, and he was left in the cold. He has since resumed his old business of flinging mud and trading with his leaders.

Quite different with the *State Chronicle*. That paper has hobbled with the Alliance from the start and has sought to straddle both the Farmers' Alliance and the Democratic party. Mr. Daniels always has expressed unbounded love for the welfare and best interests of the people, and would have a most reverential regard for the Alliance if she just would confine her discussions to the building of chicken coops, the raising of turkeys, and kindred subjects. That she should assume to discuss politics and be bold enough to make demands for herself without the consent of the bourgeois element of the Democratic party, is a thorn in his flesh and gives him much uneasiness. He does not wish to break with the Alliance. Unlike his neighbor, he don't indulge so much in open calumny and malicious slander, but in a gentle, insinuating and coaxing way he attempts to disabuse the minds of the farmers of their wayward and undemocratic demands. Yes, whenever he can give the Alliance a stab or hit her a telling blow over the head of some one else, he never misses the opportunity. If any Alliancesman wishes to distinguish himself in the eyes of the *Chronicle*, just let him oppose the Alliance platform as unconstitutional and undemo-

cratic, and his intelligence and patriotism will forthwith be loaded to the skies. We are naively told that the peasants on the banks of the Volga, in Russia, are starving and have to take to the woods and dine off the bark of trees to keep life in their bodies; and then refreshingly reminded that the people here have abundant cause to be thankful, while this is still a land of plenty and nobody that will work is compelled to eat bark yet awhile. How kind and considerate to call the mortgaged farmer to this fact!

There has always been too much sickly sympathy for the suffering and oppressed in foreign lands. When thousands of miners in Pennsylvania or Indiana are every year reduced to starvation by the insatiable greed of the robber barons or thousand, of farmers lose their all through the avarice of the Shylocks, than the gospel of contentment is preached and parallels from Russia or Ireland imported. If there are any laws oppressive and detrimental to the best interests of the people, we are advised to seek the remedy through the Democratic party. The Alliance, the *Chronicle* says, is led by narrow men, whose object is to punish their enemies and eventually will sell out, as Democratic leaders have done sometimes. It seems to be tremendous silly to assume that any man or number of men would join the Alliance for the base purpose of punishing their enemies. If any one should be fool enough and attempt to do so with the aid of the membership, he will find out that he has no followers in his malicious undertaking. With the hired scribes of the enemies the leaders of the Alliance, Col. Polk and Dr. Macune are the proverbial bad men that mislead the farmers and eventually will sell out.

These constant insidious attacks on them are ample proof that they are the most hurtful to the boodle hunters of both parties. And it is this fact that has strengthened the confidence of Alliancesmen in their leadership. There is no reason to doubt their sincerity of purpose and their devotion and loyalty to the Alliance cause, and the brotherhood is willing to trust them to the end, for better or for worse. But if they want to sell, or can be bought, and the *Chronicle* thinks they can lead the membership of the Alliance en masse into the Republican or Democratic camp; why then don't the Democratic party make a bid and buy? She certainly needs badly repairing her broken front.

That the Democratic leaders have sold out, is old and bad news. If they had not, there would be no need for the Alliance. They have sold out but the people don't want to continue the bargain. They kick in the traces and don't want to be chained any longer to the chariot of the money devil and his angels. The *Chronicle* cannot see a single reason why Alliancesmen should leave the Democratic party, and hopes that all the wise and intelligent will in time come to see likewise.

Max no amount of brilliant speeches, vague promises or sleek newspaper articles, no matter how flattering or persuasive, will bring about the desired union between the Alliance and the Democratic party. Who, may I ask, is the Democratic party in North Carolina. The party by necessity is composed of members. The membership is the rank file of the party. The will of the majority of the members should be the will of the party—the greatest good to the greatest number. That is Democratic, is it not?

The majority of the party being opposed to the existing rule of the money power, it should be the duty of those authorized to speak for the party, to at least tell the truth and not on all occasions try to misrepresent the expressed will. And these same fellows are howling at the possibility of a third party. They are foolish enough to believe that those who are most out spoken on the subject represent nobody but themselves, and that if the leaders could be disposed of, the Alliance would die. The farmers are not agitated by sentiment, but by stern necessity. They seek relief and must have it. The members of the Alliance, with few exceptions, are slow to renounce their allegiance to the Democratic party. But what else can they do, if they do not want to remain the willing tools of the lying politicians and flesh pot hunters, and the slaves of plutocracy? The demands of the Alliance, without doubt the majority in North Carolina, how were they received? With bows and with hisses, with ridicule and calumny. Does common sense expect the majority to acknowledge to be incompetent and bow before the assumed superiority of the minority? Must the majority yield to the dictum of the few? The majority will never yield and the minority must be responsible and take the consequences, whatever that will be.

In regard to Senator Vance, the *Chronicle* may know that if it had been the privilege of the Alliance of North Carolina to elect a U. S. Senator, the career of Senator Vance would have been at an end. But he pledged himself to advocate and support the Ocala demands, and thereupon was elected. Now why cannot the *Chronicle* and other papers do likewise? They are always after the dollars of the farmers and it seems reasonable to expect that policy would dictate to be in harmony with the sentiment of the masses instead of persistently trying to break it down. The State Alliance did not prescribe the literature of the enemy because she would have no means to enforce a resolution of the kind. Yet common sense suggests to every Alliancesman to discard all papers that dare not stand for his cause, to make room for such that will.

JAX.

FRENCH FINANCE.

MR. EDITOR:—The French nation has the best political economists as legislators in the civilized world. No other nation has shown such aptitude to extricate herself from a financial dilemma. This was brilliantly illustrated at the close of the war between Germany and France. The French nation lay bleeding at the feet of Germany. She was robbed of two of her richest provinces and compelled to pay Germany an indemnity of one billion dollars in gold. Her territory had been devastated to the extent of one billion dollars. Germany occupied a portion of French territory as security. Did the French nation pass an act to resume specie payment in four years? Labor produces all wealth, so she increased her full legal tender paper money to nearly seven hundred and fifty million dollars. This did not depreciate over 2 per cent, and soon went to par.

Behold the result! This money put every man, woman and child to work that was able to labor. They produced more than they consumed; this surplus they sold to other nations; the balance of trade was in her favor, and in a few years she had paid this immense debt, restored her waste places and was richer than when the war began.

Germany, the proud victor, who had humiliated France, at the instigation of the money power of Europe, demonetized silver. With one thousand millions of French gold she considered herself financially invulnerable and could afford to demonetize silver. The French financial system continued to stimulate production. She produced more than she consumed; this surplus sold to other nations has brought to the French coffers more gold than is held by England and Germany combined. France owes her success to issuing her own credit as money and putting it into circulation without the intervention of banks. She did not pursue the policy of this country—vice loan her credit to corporations at 1 per cent and compel the industrial class to pay 6 to 10 per cent to get money to carry on the commerce of the nation. The French nation is too smart to allow her financial legislation to be controlled by a robber creditor class. Pursuing this course her debts are paid at home and she does not pay tribute to the money lords of other countries. The French debt is in small denominations and is held by the farmers and mercantile class, and as they are all directly interested in production, they will not permit their finances to be controlled by unfriendly legislation, such as exists in this country and other European States.

If we pursued the course of the French financiers, our debt would have been a circulating medium or have been held by the industrial class.

There cannot be a single reason given for continuing the present credit financial system. Contrast the course pursued by the French nation and the course pursued by our legislators in 1879.

It is to be hoped that this nation will never permit itself to pass through the horrors of another specie resumption act to secure a human idality.

In resuming specie resumption we throw two million men out of employment for four years. At one dollar per day, three hundred working days in a year, they would have produced and added to the wealth of the country two billions and four hundred millions of dollars. A small portion of this sold to other nations would have enabled us to resume specie payment.

During these four years hundreds of millions of capital lay idle. Our best business men were bankrupted, and during this time they lost one thousand millions of dollars. Hundreds of thousands of tramps were made, and for the first time in the history of this country the professional tramp was known—the product of specie resumption act. The amount of suffering entailed upon the people cannot be estimated in dollars and cents. The resumption act was the hideous creation of a small minority holding the balance of power and dictating to the two old political parties.

Specie resumption could not have been engineered through in the form it was if it had not been for party spirit engendered by the war and reconstruction. That there was no need for this act is too plain to require any argument. To resume all that was necessary was to do as the French nation did—vice issue a few hundred millions of full legal tenders and put them into circulation by paying a portion of the expenses of the government. This money would have put the idle millions to work as in France. We would have produced a surplus, and this sold to other countries would have brought the gold into the country and we would have resumed specie payment as easy as the French nation paid her gold debts and resumed.

As it was, we locked up the specie for four years, giving notice to all that we did not intend any gold coming into the country should go into circulation until the end of four years. Every business man who was acquainted with financial legislation knew there would be a steady shrinkage of values until we resumed and the specie coming into the country went into circulation. Hundreds of millions of capital lay idle and millions of men and women remained unemployed. The speculators, the creditor class, the promoters of this hydra headed monster locked up their money and awaited results.

When every industry had been prostrated and the wreck of business houses

strewn all around them, they step in and load up at fifty cents on the dollar. Had we pursued the French plan immediate relief would have come. With prosperity, immediate relief would have come and an influx of gold and we would have resumed. We would have saved the four hundred millions lost by this act. If the French nation could pay one billion indemnity in gold in so short a time, restore the wastage of a great war and give immediate prosperity to her people by adopting a financial system that gave employment to all, how much easier we could have done the same and resumed specie payment by pursuing the same course.

It is a disgrace to this nation that it permitted a small, selfish minority to dictate this act worse than a crime. This act could not have been imposed upon the French people, for the wealthy producers are the government creditors. The French creditor class are the industrial class. The two are one in interest.

In this country and all other European States the two classes are separate with interest—diametrically opposed to each other. This resumption act of 1875 was copied after the English resumption act that reduced the land holders from three hundred and fifty thousand to thirty thousand and paralyzed every industry during the four years and filled England full of tramps, poverty and crime.

The industrial class of the United States must choose between the two systems; the one that prostrated the business of this country for four years and is annually robbing them of one thousand millions, or a system similar to that of the French that gave employment to all producing a surplus, selling this for gold and bringing peace and prosperity to all. Reader, have you made up your mind which you will choose? The system that makes tramps, impoverishes the wealth producers, makes men idle, locks up capital, fills almshouses, jails and penitentiaries, adds taxes to the one hundred tax-payers and checks production of wealth. Will you choose the system that gives employment to all and brings peace, prosperity and happiness to all?

If you want the first, keep the present system. If you want the other, choose the industrial financial system. You cannot secure an industrial financial system as long as the industrial class are divided, one-half voting the Republican ticket and the other half voting the Democratic ticket.

The money power in the two old political parties are united and will vote the party ticket that represents their interest. Don't be fooled. Neither party can do anything, even though the leaders desired to do so. The money power can control two millions of floating votes. The money power in the Democratic party can carry one million votes from the Democratic party to the Republican party, and *vice versa*. Don't be deceived. The money power means business. They will not surrender one iota of their advantage except it is wrung from them by sheer force. No force can down them but a united industrial class. Give no heed to the politicians of either party. They are not to be trusted. Office and spoils are all they are after. Beware of pretended friends of the Alliance. You are asked to go into the conventions of both parties and submit your claims, and if defeated then submit and continue to be robbed. Let it be distinctly understood that you intend to stand by your principles, party or no party. No reform ever came from old parties. History does not furnish a single example. Both parties are divided on every line of issue. "A house divided against itself must surely fall." Divided you are a source of weakness, reconciled you are invincible. Inaugurate into law the spirit of your principles and you will soon double production and consumption. Resolve to be free. All reforms must come from the people. Reforms never come from politicians, and from the nature of things cannot come. Be true to your convictions; be firm; be just; ask nothing but what is right and accept nothing less. Study conditions, ally yourself with them and productive capital will come to your aid. Remember, there is no conflict between labor and productive capital; it is between labor and productive capital on one side and non-productive capital on the other. Capital (productive) and labor should be friends and not enemies. Labor and productive capital must unite against the creditor class and destroy the system. There must not be a vestige left of it. All capital must be made productive. A financial system where every dollar is guaranteed and every transaction cash, there can be no panics and we will pay one hundred dollars to any of the advocates of the present system that will show how a panic can be precipitated.

The present financial system is retained in the interest of non-productive capital, speculators and gamblers. The creditor class can precipitate a panic at short notice under the present financial system.

Stand by your guns and don't desert the ship. If you do you are lost.

JAMES MURDOCK.

RESOLUTION OF ELBETHAL ALLIANCE.

We, the members of Elbethal Alliance, No. 2,652, now in session, believing that the Shelby *Avatar* is working to the detriment of the Alliance, do resolve that we will no longer patronize it, and do hereby advise all true Alliancesmen to withhold their patronage from said paper.

C. D. B. Ware, C. S. Elam, D. A. Fulton.—Committee.