

THE DURHAM FERTILIZER CASE.

The case of the Commissioner of Agriculture vs. the Durham Fertilizer Company resulted in a non-suit at Oxford last week. As the case is now practically out of court, we think it proper to make some comments and give some facts. As it now stands the Commissioner failed to make out his case and all the costs were put on the State of North Carolina and the Durham Company are vindicated.

The Durham Fertilizer Company has been styled "an Alliance concern." But as a matter of fact none of the Company are members of the organization. They make several brands of guano. The "North Carolina Official Farmers' Alliance Guano" is one of the brands. This guano is made according to a formula prepared by the State Business Agent, Bro. Worth, assisted by State Chemist Battle. It may be mentioned in this connection that the guano has given entire satisfaction for two years. This formula was sent to nearly every reliable fertilizer factory in the country. Each and all of them declined to make the goods or name prices and agree to terms.

The Durham Fertilizer Company was the only one that did agree to terms and make satisfactory prices. For so doing the Company has been slandered and persecuted no little.

In the case just disposed of the Company was pulled into court for shipping goods to Oxford untaxed. No doubt the Commissioner of Agriculture had a right to seize the goods. Mr. Geo. S. Terrell, guano inspector, testified before the court that other companies had shipped goods untaxed, but they were put on before delivered. He swore that he helped put tags on the portion of goods seized at Oxford himself, and that there was over 80 tags left over after tagging all the guano. So it is plain that the Board of Agriculture had no more right to prosecute the Durham Fertilizer Company than it had to prosecute others that shipped goods the same way.

When Col. Robinson returned from Oxford he was interviewed by the State Chronicle. He said that "the Durham Fertilizer Company had failed to make out its case." As the cost in the case was saddled on the State, it looks very much like Col. Robinson "failed to make out his case." Furthermore it is too much to expect the defendants to make out a case anyhow. The prosecutor always should look after that part of a case.

In this case nothing was said about the analysis. As the Company has been abused a good deal on this score and a great many crocodile tears have been shed for the "poor farmers who have been and are being swindled by the concern," we will give some facts about that. In the Agricultural Bulletin for May, 1891, we find that State Chemist Battle analyzed three samples of "N. C. Farmers' Alliance Official Guano." The guaranteed value of the goods as filed is \$17.50 per ton. One sample was worth \$17.60, another \$15.81, the other \$17.86. As will be seen two samples went above the guarantee and one fell below. In the Bulletin for June we have four tests made by the State Chemist, as follows: \$18.08, \$15.07, \$17.39 and \$13.75. As before the samples varied considerably in value, and at first glance it would appear that there was too great a difference. But after comparing the test made by the State Chemist with other established brands we are disposed to cling to the opinion that the Durham goods have held up as well, if not better, than any other, many of the different brands falling far below the average made by the Durham goods.

The records furnished by the State Chemist for four years shows that some of them went considerably above the guarantee, while others fell far below. We suppose the reason more goods have not been seized is because the tests never average. It seems that the goods are not mixed with care and a good article may at times show a value far below the guarantee.

The following extract from the report of State Business Agent Worth to the State Alliance at Morehead City in August will show these variations and also show his contract with the Company:

With regard to my contract made with the Durham Fertilizer Company to manufacture the N. C. Alliance Official Guano, I will say: In 1889, I made a contract in good faith with that company, and it gave such general satisfaction to the brethren who used the guano that in 1890 I renewed the contract, believing the company was acting in good faith with us, and making our goods fully up to their guaranteed analysis. The Department of Agriculture has found some guano of our official brand at Mebane which, upon being analyzed, was found \$2.43 per ton below their guarantee; and another lot at Oxford \$3.74 below the guarantee.

As the matter has been taken to the court in Granville county, we hope the fullest investigation will be had, and if the Durham Fertilizer Company has not made us good fully up to their contract, we look to the North Carolina Agricultural Department to protect the farmers of North Carolina.

But we fail to understand why it is, that while out of 44 analyses reported in the June (1891) Bulletin, issued by the Agricultural Department, we find 21 are above their guarantee, and one of them as far short as \$6.14; another \$4.59, and so on. Why is it that all of these are passed by and the Alliance brand seized? We think all should be treated alike, and just as the law requires.

With regard to the fertilizer tags, we understand it has been the custom of nearly all companies selling guano in North Carolina this season to ship their goods and order tags to be sent direct from the Department to the railroad agent at the point of destination. The manufacturers of the Alliance guano discard any intention whatever of defrauding the State out of one cent of tax.

We respectfully recommend that the Department of Agriculture require all tax on guano to be paid before it is shipped from the factories, and have the law fully executed.

HE IS TOO FULL.

Last week we asked Bro. Herbert, of the Kinston Free Press, to show up the bad spots in the Sub-Treasury. Here is how it gets out of the job:

Our columns are too crowded now to discuss the Sub-Treasury scheme, but we will ask Bro. Ramsey one question, and if he answers that satisfactorily (so "as to convince")—that seems to be his way of estimating the merit of an argument—we may ask some more questions. We wish him to tell us, provided the Sub-Treasury bill becomes law, how the country will get along during the dull summer months when the people need money worse than during the fall and when they will have no produce to sell or deposit in the warehouses to get money with. We suppose Bro. Ramsey will acknowledge that money is scarcer among the farmers during the summer than during the fall months.

We regret that the Free Press has not space to discuss a thing of so much importance. We notice that he uses up over three columns of space for editorial matter in the last issue. One column would suffice for the Sub-Treasury, and a large number of his readers are interested in the scheme and they would thank him for any light on the subject. Knock the stuffing out of it, Bro. Herbert.

We will give our opinion of the cause of the scarcity of money during the summer months. Naturally in a cotton country like Lenoir country, for instance, most all of the cotton has to be sold during the fall months because the farmers have no Sub-Treasury warehouse to store any of it. Again "the tricks of trade" are such, aided by the contracted currency of the country, that the speculators can control prices. They have it down fine. In the cotton belt business is stagnated now on account of the short crop and low price of cotton. But cotton goods are in demand and are bringing prices equal to what ought to be at least 12 cents for cotton that is bringing 7 cents.

Now if Farmer Smith, of Lenoir county, could get 12 cents for his ten bales of cotton, how much difference would there be? Five thousand pounds of lint cotton at 7 cents is \$350, absolutely a loss instead of any profit. Five thousand pounds at 12 cents is \$600. So Farmer Smith would have \$250 in his pocket to day where he hasn't got a cent. He could pay two dollars for the Free Press, get Mrs. Smith a nice new dress and still have over \$200 in cash to carry him through next summer. Where is this \$250 profit. It is in the hands of the speculator and the manufacturer. If there was a warehouse in Kinston, Farmer Smith would have a chance to use some money during the summer months. The cotton mills would more naturally come to the South for the reason that the cotton is stored here instead of going to New York, Liverpool, Glasgow and Bremen. Our people suffer greatly owing to the fact that they sell the cotton at ruinously low figures, and as cotton enters largely into the manufacture of so many articles, our people, under existing rules, pay the freight and profits and other expenses hundreds and thousands of miles and then pay the freight and profits until the goods get back to them again. What it would be to the cotton belt it would be to the grain and tobacco belt—a great boon.

The above are some of the reasons for scarcity of money during the summer months and the remedy at the same time. Bro. Herbert should stick a pin here.

The facts and figures given below are other reasons. Bro. Herbert can investigate them and see other causes for the scarcity of money, and as the Alliance demands \$50 per capita to be put in circulation, he will not be disposed to ask further questions on this point. If that is done there will be no visible reason why any farmer should not have a reasonable amount of money all the time, if he tries. Now study the figures below, Bro. Herbert, and then acknowledge that you have been answered fully and are a converted man:

In 1866 we had \$52.01 per capita; average price of cotton in N. Y., 73 cents. In 1867 we had \$37.51 per capita;

average price of cotton in N. Y., 42 cents.

In 1868 we had \$21.47 per capita; average price of cotton in N. Y., 20 cents.

In 1869 we had \$19.34 per capita; average price of cotton in N. Y., 27 cents.

In 1870 we had \$18.70 per capita; average price of cotton in N. Y., 25 cents.

In 1871 we had \$16.89 per capita; average price of cotton in N. Y., 20 cents.

In 1872 we had \$16.14 per capita; average price of cotton in N. Y., 19 cents.

In 1873 we had \$15.45 per capita; average price of cotton in N. Y., 17 cents.

In 1874 we had \$14.51 per capita; average price of cotton in N. Y., 16 cents.

In 1875 we had \$14.04 per capita; average price of cotton in N. Y., 15 cents.

In 1876 we had \$13.40 per capita; average price of cotton in N. Y., 12 cents.

In 1877 we had \$12.28 per capita; average price of cotton in N. Y., 12 cents.

In 1868 we had \$11.23 per capita; average price of cotton in N. Y., 11 cents.

In 1879 (date of resumption,) we had \$10.65 per capita; average price of cotton in N. Y., 11 cents.

The volume of money has been gradually decreasing ever since, until to-day we have less than five dollars per capita with cotton selling at 7 cents per pound.

Now mark the contrast! When this policy of contraction set in, we had \$2 dollars for every man, woman and child in the United States, with cotton selling at 72 cents; to day we have five dollars with cotton selling at seven cents.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

In this day and time "remarkable literature," emanating from political sources, is no rarity. It comes as natural as anything else that is well established.

President Harrison is out with what some of the papers call "an able message." We do not deny that it is "able." It requires a good deal of ability to write a document that has absolutely nothing in it. The only changes the President recommends are ones that will rivet the chains of slavery on the people harder than they now are. It is simply a political document that is expected to benefit the Republican party. The people are not thought of, it seems. Mr. Harrison evidently thinks like all political wire-pullers that the people are not in need of anything, for he goes on to tell how prosperous they are. If the President had to raise 7-cent cotton, 30-cent corn, 90-cent wheat for a living, he would not say it, but \$50,000 a year has cut off his eye sight so he can see nothing but prosperity. Mr. Harrison's grandfather will yet be ashamed of his grandson.

PRESS COMMENTS.

Brief Extracts from a Few Papers Giving their Opinions of President Polk's Message.

Our limited space permits the publication of only a part of President Polk's address—it will be completed next week. Preserve it and when you get next week's Union read the address again, it is one of the ablest national documents ever promulgated.—Butler, Mo., Weekly Union.

Be sure to read every word of President Polk's address. It is a masterly document from a statesman.—San Antonio, Texas, Truth.

The great speech of L. L. Polk, President of the National Alliance, at Indianapolis, last week, is just what might have been expected by all those who have known the man—a calm, clear, masterly exposition of the startling facts and figures which have given rise to the farmers' movement, and of the great principles of justice and equity for which the industrial classes are bolting.—Lucifer, Union.

If everybody in the country, North and South, would read carefully and thoughtfully President Polk's address it would do more to wipe out sectional prejudices than anything that has yet appeared. In the language and with the sentiment of a thoughtful, far-seeing statesman, he has clearly outlined the duty of every patriotic citizen.—Nonconformist.

President Polk's annual address was a powerful and glistening array of facts and suggestions which everybody should read. The spreading of such literature throughout the country will be as potent in forwarding the work of reform as any other factor can possibly be.—Western Advocate.

CABARRUS COUNTY FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

They Pass Resolutions Asking Capt. S. B. Alexander to Stand by the Resolution of the National Alliance.

MR. EDITOR:—At the meeting of Cabarrus County Alliance on December 4th, 1891, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, Cabarrus county aided very materially in the election of Capt. S. B. Alexander to Congress, then being in the Sixth Congressional District. Resolved, that we, the Alliance of Cabarrus County in County Alliance assembled, do ask Capt. Alexander to stand by the resolution passed by the Supreme Council calling upon Congressmen who were elected by the votes of Alliance men not to enter into any partisan caucus.

2. That the Secretary forward a copy of this resolution to Capt. Alexander immediately, and THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and county papers be requested to publish it. Fraternally, Rev. H. G. GILLAND, Sec'y.

ZEKE BILKINS.



He Asks Some Questions and Discusses Some Matters—Betsy Has on Her Warpaint.

B.—"Hello! Mr. Devil." D.—"Hello! Mr. Bilkins."

B.—"Hitch me to the editor. I reckon he haint nothin' to do."

R.—"How are your folks, Mr. Bilkins?"

B.—"Poorly, poorly. Me an' Betsy are havin' trouble these days."

R.—"How is that?"

B.—"Betsy wants to hitch our 'phone to the editor of the State Chronicle an' I don't want to do it."

R.—"What is the trouble with the editor of the Chronicle?"

B.—"Well, Betsy is mad because he says such hard things about Dr. Maccaue, an' publishes McCallister's lies. I like the editor of the Chronicle, but Betsy she says he slips a cog every now an' then."

R.—"Well, this is a free country. Let Mrs. Bilkins have a chat with the editor of the Chronicle."

B.—"No, I can't do it. I hear that he has one of them cutters an' pasters in his shop an' it might get hold of our telephone an' cut it all to pieces. No, sir, I can't take no such risks."

R.—"What do you think of the 'address,' Mr. Bilkins?"

B.—"Oh! it made us all sick. I had to send for Dr. Jones an' we had a lot of trouble over it. Didn't it make the men what signed it sick, too?"

R.—"No, I reckon not. They escaped somehow. The editor of the Statesville Landmark says he would be willing to go 'into battle with the address for a banner."

B.—"Well, he is mighty risky. I wouldn't light my pipe with it for a thousand dollars."

R.—"Why are you so much opposed to it?"

B.—"Well, blamed if it has got any of the Ocala platform in it. That is what makes me mad. Some of them Alliance men who were on the committee that got up the St. Louis platform and then helped to change it an' endorse it at Ocala an' then helped endorse it unanimously at Morehead, signed the address. I wouldn't a signed nothin' that didn't have some assurance that the Ocala platform would be put in it. That is the kind of Alliance man I am an' don't you forget it."

R.—"You are a brick, Mr. Bilkins."

B.—"I don't know er bout bein' a brick, but 'blamed if I am a goin' into Alliance meetin's an' get up platforms an' then sign weak kned things like that address. Bilkins is not ready to surrender his right to do as he pleases er bout such things."

R.—"But this address was not a platform. It was simply a 'harmonizer.'"

B.—"I don't care what it was. People want somethin' that has a meanin' to it an' some promise of doin' somethin'. If I make a promise you want it in plain English. If I give you a note, you want it to be a promise to pay. This address haint got nothin' in it. These little 'harmonizers' are like takin' a little sugar an' water an' then a tryin' to imagine that you have had a toddy. They are too thin."

R.—"You should be conservative, Mr. Bilkins. You should submit to all these inconsistencies with Christian forbearance."

B.—"Go to Halifax with your conservative talk! The man who has Christian forbearance an' all that don't monkey around with such little thin things as the address an' the President's message. The man who is conservative will look out fer himself an' not let the politicians just pull the wool over his eyes an' mistreat him an' his family an' not kick."

R.—"You should be patient?"

B.—"Haint I bin patient? Haint I waited twenty years an' every thing a gettin' worse? I reckon you want me to wait till my wife an' children are slaves an' then they will call their old daddy a fool for waitin' so long. I'm tired waitin'."

OAK RIDGE INSTITUTE.

This well known institution has just closed the most prosperous year, during which time the enrollment has been over three hundred students. The new building has just received the finishing touches and the school will move into it for the first time on January 6th, the opening of the spring term. Send to Messrs. J. A. & M. H. Holt, Oak Ridge, N. C. for their beautiful illustrated pamphlet descriptive of the school.

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WORTH A GUINEA A BOX. BEECHAM'S PILLS are a marvellous Antidote for Weak Stomach, SICK HEAD-ACHE, Impaired Digestion, Constipation, Biliousness, and all the ailments to which the Female System is subject. Of all druggists. Price 25 cents a box. New York Depot, 35 Canal St. 40.

WHO ARE THE THINKERS?

The train hurried onward toward the capital of the nation, and within one of its coaches sat a little knot of earnest conversationalists. "What do they speak of," asked a puzzled traveler of a fellow one. A smile flickered across the cheeks of the questioned one. "Truth," he replied abruptly, and bent forward further that he might catch every word. "I hold," said one of the debaters "that truth is a principle, and its best expression—simplicity. It is the ground-work of science, and the type of greatness. But if a man honestly espouses a mistaken personal conception, he yet voices an act—Truth."

"Impossible," interrupted another, "the man cannot alter fact by honest but erroneous intention. Truth has better deeds than words to grace it. Its fixed unalterable tenets admit of no gradations. If a proposition be true—then all else is false. I grant your dummy the consideration of sympathy, but decline to invest him in the garments of piety. His vision being darkened or limited, misses its appointed sphere, and do so unintentional injury to truth in the scope of its capacity."

THE GOOD NEWS MADE THEM FEEL GOOD.

PIKEVILLE, N. C. MR. EDITOR:—The President of our Sub Alliance, Dr. J. J. Person, has just returned from the meeting of the National Alliance at Indianapolis, Ind. and brings us the good news that our much esteemed President Col. L. L. Polk is re-elected to the Presidency of our noble Order, which news was received with the greatest of pleasure, for our people would not have been satisfied with any one else, for we well understand that he is 'the right man in the right place.' His enemies are also aware of this, as can be seen by the slander and abuse which they are hurling at him from every quarter, and especially from the partisan press. Our Alliance is aware of this, as will be seen by the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted by our Alliance on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 30th, 1891.

WHEREAS, The partisan press is trying to disrupt and disorganize our noble Order, by maliciously and cowardly attacking and misrepresenting our National officers, and especially our beloved President, Col. L. L. Polk, therefore

Resolved, By Pikeville Alliance, No. 539, that we denounce their actions as

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base and slanderous and beneath the dignity of impartial journalism, and Resolved, That we heartily endorse the course pursued by our worthy and patriotic President, and will stand by and defend him to the last. Resolved, That the above preamble and resolutions be sent to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER for publication, with the request that the reform press of the State copy. Fraternally yours, E. T. CRAWFORD, Sec'y.

DIED. Bro. B. F. Johnson, a worthy member of Stony Creek Alliance, No. 1200, died recently.

On the 1st day of August, Bro. W. D. Veazy, a worthy member of Ridge-way Alliance, No. 132.

Near Creswell, on the 3rd of November, Capt. J. R. Dillon, a worthy member of Supperground Alliance.

In Rockingham county, on the 2d inst., Bro. Abram Womack, a worthy member of the Alliance, aged about 75 years.

Near Red Mountain, N. C., on the 11th of November, of membership group, Lena, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Mitchell, aged three years ten months and twenty days.

DR. V. N. SEAWELL'S APPOINTMENTS.

Table with columns: Location, Date, Time.

The brethren will please invite the public to these meetings, as the address will be published. J. A. McLEOD, Sec'y Moore Co. F. A. & L. U.

APPOINTMENTS.

Of J. M. M. be District Lecturer for Second Newberry and district, and S. Otho Wilson, representing the State Business Agency. These brethren will address the following times and places:

Table with columns: Location, Date, Time.

Every Alliance member should bear them, as they will bring matters of importance for your consideration.

NOTICE, ALLIANCEMEN.

Bro. S. Otho Wilson, representing the State Business Agency, and J. H. Quinn, County Lecturer, will address the brotherhood at the following times and places:

Table with columns: Location, Date, Time.

These brethren cannot visit every Sub-Alliance, but all should be represented at one of these meetings. Lectures will be private.

Fraternally, W. J. ROBERTS, Sec'y Cleveland Co. Alliance.

Money in Cabbage and Celery.

"Blood will tell." Good crops cannot be grown with poor strains of seed. For sixteen years Tillinghast's Pigeon Sound Cabbage Cauliflower and Celery Seeds have been gaining in popularity. The most extensive growers all over the Union now consider them the best in the world. A catalogue giving full particulars regarding them will be sent free to any one interested. When writing for it enclose 20 cents in silver or postage stamps and we will also send "How to Grow Cabbage and Celery," a book worth its weight in gold to any grower who has never read it. Address

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