

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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

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No. 4

THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

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PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.
The Workingman's Helper, Pinnacle, N. C.
Farmers' Advocate, Salisbury, N. C.
Alliance Sentinel, Asheville, N. C.
Country Life, Hickory, N. C.
Mercury, Whitakers, N. C.
Agricultural Bee, Goldsboro, N. C.
Columbus Weekly News, Whiteville, 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 do so will be dropped from the list promptly. Our people can now see what papers are published in their interest.

ANOTHER VIEW OF IT.

CARY, N. C., Feb. 15, 1892.
MR. EDITOR:—The merchants, business men and farmers met in Raleigh February 1st and resolved that the farmer ought to reduce the acreage in cotton at least 20 per cent., diversify his crop, and raise his own supplies. Now I want to know why the business men and farmers didn't resolve further that the shoe merchant reduce his purchases 20 per cent., diversify his stock by putting this much in home supplies, such as meal and lard. Then the merchants and farmers might have stood together and put through a resolution that the business men should reduce their loans on real estate 20 per cent., diversifying their business by putting that much in crop lands and chattel mortgages. Then the merchant, business men and farmers might have resolved further that criminal lawyers should reduce their practice 20 per cent., and do that much more civil practice, and that the doctor should drop 20 per cent. of his obstetrical cases, and put in that much more in surgery or diseases of children. Of course if they had done so, every self-respecting lawyer, merchant, doctor and capitalist in the country would have indignantly resented it as a meddling interference with their private business, but the poor farmer is expected to accept it all meekly, thanking God that he has so many friends, solicitous for his welfare and willing to show him how to run his business. Now I know it is neither pleasant or profitable to set one's self against a widespread popularly accepted belief and this idea that the farmer ought to quit cotton, diversify his crop and raise his own supplies, has been proclaimed by the press, shrieked from the platform and accepted by the public so that I believe the doctrine of general diversification farming is in a measure pronounced. It is certainly contrary to the genius and spirit of this age, for in every other department of life we find the opposite obtains, and specialism is in them all the surest road to success. In the legal profession we find some make a specialty of criminal law, some of civil law, and others of railroad litigation. In medicine one

man devotes his time to the eye, another to the nervous system, another to skin diseases, and another to surgery. In the mercantile world one man handles hats, another shoes, another family groceries, and another notions. Even in educational affairs we see one man teaching history, another mathematics, and another music, but the poor little fellow who essays to farm, whose highest intellectual attainment is perhaps confined to a limited acquaintance with the three R's, is expected to know everything and do everything. He must raise corn and grow wheat and cultivate cotton and rear horses and hogs and poultry and cattle, and make axe handles and hoe handles, and cure hay and compost manure, and be generally self-supporting; and above all, make enough to feed and clothe mercantile manufacturing and professional classes, and if he fails to do it, they must come in and show him how to attend to his affairs.

This reduction of cotton acreage will no more remove the farmer's trouble than it would cure a cancer on a man's face to cut off his great toe; the cause lies elsewhere.

If our laws were just and equitable, if the government fulfilled the purpose for which it was established, that of administering justice and protecting all classes, then every section of our country could raise the special crop adapted to it and exchange it for necessities that were more cheaply produced elsewhere, and still the producer remain independent and prosperous.

If our government protected all classes alike, the South Atlantic and Gulf States could produce rice and cane and cotton, the West and North-west, cattle and grain and wool, and with our facilities for transportation, these crops could be exchanged to the mutual advantage of producers. No general crop that can be grown in the cotton belt would be worth as much as cotton if our laws protected the producer from the capitalist and speculator and supplies a sufficient amount of currency. Under a just government the cotton growers of the South ought to be the richest people on earth. Possessed by nature with a monopoly of a necessity of the civilized world, supplying almost half the race with wearing apparel, they ought to be independent, rolling in wealth, instead of abjectly taking counsel with shysters and hucksters to dethrone "king cotton."

If the merchants and business men want to really and permanently benefit the farmer, let them go with him to the polls next November and help him to knock these two corrupt old political factions that have obstructed all wholesome legislation for twenty years past, into the middle of kingdom come, and put the government in control of a party that does not know there was a war or that there is a negro, or a North or a South but will afford ample protection to every man under the American flag, not only from highwaymen and sneak thieves, but also from trusts and combines and monopolies.

JAMES McPHERSON TEMPLETON.

RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were adopted by Mt. Energy Farmers' Alliance, No. 94, February 12th, 1892:

Resolved, That we endorse the Ocala demands in full, and urge our Representatives in Congress to go for measures in conformity thereto.

2d. That we regard the manner of electing President and Vice President of the United States, erecting monuments and appropriations for Chicago Exposition and such like as matters of but little importance compared with legislation for the relief of the toiling masses of the government.

3d. That our hopes fail and our hearts sink within us when we are told that this or that measure, which promises the much needed relief, must be postponed or entirely ignored, or the great and grand old party will suffer in the election next fall.

4th. That we have full confidence in the integrity, patriotism and ability of Col. L. L. Polk, President of the National Alliance, and Capt. A. H. A. Williams, Member of Congress of 5th District of North Carolina, and regard them in every way worthy of the high positions they occupy.

5th. That we send greeting to all orders and citizens favorable to our cause, and especially to the Alliances and citizens of North Carolina and call upon them to be faithful.

6th. That THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is doing a grand and noble work in setting forth and advocating the principles of our Order, and ought to be patronized by every member thereof.

7th. That a copy of these resolutions be sent to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and Public Ledger for publication.

JAS. B. FLOYD, Sec'y pro tem.

THE MINISTERIAL LECTURING SYSTEM.

MR. EDITOR:—The County Lecturer and Sub-Lecturers of the F. A. and I. U. of Forsyth County, N. C., met in Winston on the 13th of February, 1892, and organized what is to be known as the Ministerial Lecturing System, with the following officers:

E. M. Finkel, President.
A. W. Bevel, Vice-President.
T. J. Ketter, Secretary.
L. W. Miller, Door-keeper.

Adjourned to meet again on the second Thursday in April next at Spanish Grove, the time and place of our next County meeting. Every Sub-Lecturer in the county is requested to be present as there is business of importance to be transacted.

T. J. KETTER,
Secretary M. L. S.

REFORM NEEDED.

Hooks and Links in the Chain that Slowly Bind Us.

MR. EDITOR:—Please allow me space in your valuable columns to present my views in regard to the hooks and links that slowly bind us. I notice in the National Economist that the Hon. B. J. H. Simpson, of Georgia, attributes our national adversity to four great causes: Eastern domination, financial domination, commercial domination and political domination. In a few well-spoken words he tells it all. If you will remove two letters from the word domination and insert the letter a, you would see it in a different light. As to the links in this chain I will take up a few of them first, the present financial system. I will represent as the great hook to which is fastened the other links. This financial system has had so much said about it the people generally are becoming acquainted with its workings. So I will call it the great lever power by which the links are made to work. The first great ring that is fastened to this hook, I will say, is the manufacture and sale of strong drink, which encircles the world; and as all men are acquainted with its workings, I will merely state it in itself is the devil's commander in chief and the great battle of this nation for God and our countrymen has to be fought; and if we, as a nation, are wise, and wish to better our condition, we must marshal our hosts on the Lord's side and chain this great general and bind him in prison to await the judgment. Commerce is another link, as manipulated at this time, that is dragging us fearfully down. Too much of the earnings of labor are stuffed into the pockets of men standing between the producer and consumer. Corporations, combines and the present high tariff are some of the rings and hooks that complete this chain. I notice that the sugar bounty clause of the McKinley bill, which has yet fourteen years to run, the first year shows that the two cent bounty on the pound to the domestic sugar makers will cost the tax-payers of the whole country about three million dollars; and with the annual increase in population will require an increase in acreage for years to come; and Mr. Monopoly, seeing this bounty, makes a jump for it and intends to take it all in by the central factory system and buy the cane of small farmers, thereby taking all profits in the business from the mass of the laborers and add into themselves the two cents per pound by the National Government for the next fourteen years, leaving the farmer but a bare sustenance. Talk about giving labor part of the profits! Never. It is not the nature of the brute combine to divide. He wants the whole earth and is going to have it, if the people en masse, don't wake from their slumbers and by the strength of their votes down this giant, now in his infancy, before he grows so strong they cannot dictate to him as a free people should. According to the price of sugar at the mills, which is 3 to 3½ cents per pound, add 2 cents, giving the mill owner 5 cents a pound, which the consumer has the privilege of buying at wholesale at from 3½ to 4 cents. Did you ever hear of a man buying a thing for less than it cost him? If not, now we have it. This is one of the invisible links to carry in the chain that is binding us.

Now we take up another link, that of the manufacturer of cotton goods in America, under a high protective tariff, the farmer selling cotton at 6 cents and the manufacturer making seven yards of prints out of one pound of cotton and sells the same to the laborer for 37 cents. Coats & Co. receive about 90 cents per pound for spool cotton, furnished the farmer's wife to make up those seven yards of prints she pays the merchant 49 cents for. You will be amazed if you will walk into some of the dry goods stores and see the new oak grain writing desk holding 100 dozen spools of cotton, which I heard a drummer say was worth \$5, given to the merchant to induce him to push the sale of the spool cotton. Who pays for it? The consumer. Always so.

The present demonetized silver dollar is a round wheel that performs its part among these links. Stamped on one side is the word "liberty"; on the other side "in God we trust," containing 62 cents value on a gold dollar basis coined by the government at the command of Mr. Monopoly and sent out among the toilers, telling them it is a dollar. Some one must get ready for Brimstone Lake (as a brother puts it.) The tariff is the last hook that is attached to this chain, and locks the wheel of progress on one side. It is said, and true, I suppose, that foreign spinners buy two hundred million dollars worth of American cotton and are not allowed to sell their goods to this nation, except over a high tariff, which is claimed by Republicans that it protects labor, both in the field and factories. I intend to prove the fallacy of this argument. You have followed me thus far and find that I am close to the mark. Now hold your ear close to the ground and you will hear the tramp of the mighty host. The army that General Washington thought he and our forefathers had conquered, now marching under the banner of King Gold, aim to bring us into subjection. Europe fixes the price of our cotton and other products on a gold basis and pays the top of the market to the speculator. She is forced to sell her goods to pauper consumers of her own and other nation. In this way she will force us to be pauper farmers. Some claim to remove the tariff from cotton goods would cause an export of our

specie, and cause the burden to fall first on our laborers. Now I ask if European manufacturers had the privilege of selling us their goods, would there not be an increased demand for our cotton by European spinners and other products, and I answer so. Then would an increased demand lower our prices, and I answer so. But some one says foreign competition would kill American manufacturers and hurt our laborers. How could foreign competition injure home manufacturers of labor? They make their goods with the same kind of labor that is flooding this country. They, transporting their goods across the waters, paying freight both ways. They could not hurt our manufacturers and survive. For this reason American manufacturers have few pauper labor if they desire it. There is no tariff on laborers. They have free water power at the gates of the cotton fields, buy their cotton at a lower gold basis—prices set by European and American cotton—through the medium of pauper consumers. Our American manufacturers are making enough to day, during this great depression, to be able to pay American cotton growers eleven cents for cotton and have their profits reduced one-third by Europeans, and still compete with them. American manufacturers are making a profit off of one pound of cotton nearly equal to the difference in the value of the 68 cents silver dollar and the one hundred cent gold dollar. American manufacturers, under the present laws by a combination of corporate bodies, stand a monster monopoly as one man with many heads dictating the price of poor, thin, cheap goods, with no one to compete with them. Let us have a full volume of money well guarded under the Sub-Treasury plan—enough at all times to transact the business of the country on a cash basis, that cannot be centralized at the commands of corporations, national banks and combines, to the impoverishing of the laboring classes. Then there should be some foreign competition to keep these giant American monopolies in the middle of the road and keep them from branching out with their strong arms and grasping everything before them; and snake like, draw their prisoner slowly and firmly in their deadly coils, until the free men of this grandest nation on the face of the earth, shall fall prostrate at the feet of these money lords and beg for food and shelter, like slaves.

J. H. TROLLINGER.

LET THE LADIES JOIN.

MR. EDITOR:—As I hardly ever see anything in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER about the ladies joining the Alliance, I will write a few words on that subject to day. A great many male members, I am sorry to say, are opposed to the ladies joining the Order. We have some of that kind in our Alliance, though we have nine lady members, all the same. How are they benefited by joining, and what good can they do in the Alliance? is frequently asked. Well, by joining, others are influenced by their example and will follow suit. Young ladies joining the Alliance will cause the young men and boys to join, for young people will mingle together. It will cause the young men to attend more regular, and the older ones too; other young men seeing their friends and associates joining, will join also. The young ladies can do a great deal of good by talking to their companions and associates of the male sex; the husband, the father and the son will feel better and be proud to have their wives and lady friends go along with them to the Alliance when they see and know that they are trying to help them to bear the burdens that they have been carrying so long, and they can talk Alliance talk and all be interested.

My brother, you have got to make some sacrifice if you expect to succeed. Let me say to all who are opposed to them that they are as much entitled to a seat in the Alliance hall as you are, and ought to be as much respected in there as in church.

Fraternally,
J. F. P. HORTON, Sec'y.

AGAINST THE UNION COMPANY.

MR. EDITOR:—The following preamble and resolution was unanimously adopted by Lewiston Alliance, No. 1,326:

WHEREAS, Lewiston Alliance did, on or about the 10th day of January, 1892, endorse and agree to give our trade and influence to the National Union Company, believing it to be an Alliance organization and for the benefit of said Order; and whereas, after a careful survey and examination of the plans and membership of said company, we find it to be a combination of Wall street capitalists, working for their own aggrandizement, and not for the benefit of the Alliance, as we were led to believe. Therefore be it—

Resolved, That Lewiston Alliance, in convention assembled, this 20th day of February, 1892, do hereby withdraw our agreement to trade with said company, or to have anything further to do with it in any manner whatever.

2 That we hereby warn other Sub-Alliances against this, as well as all other combinations of capitalists, whose whole efforts seem to be to hatch some scheme whereby they may further enslave the producers of wealth and disorganize our great and noble Order.

3 That a copy of these resolutions be sent to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER for publication.

J. H. BUNCH, Pres't.
W. R. REESE, Sec'y.

THE PUBLIC VOICE.

How may the Alliance and the friends of reform best secure the recognition and enforcement of our principles?

(A given space in this column will be devoted weekly to answers to the above question, from the friends of reform. In order that the largest number may have a hearing, we must ask that you do not write more than twenty lines. Sign your name to your answer. Now let us have your sincere and honest views.)

CHANGE YOUR STYLE OF VOTING.

Cease to vote for the so called Democratic and Republican parties of these latter days, and vote for Katie and the baby and home and family instead.

G. F. FRICK.

HIGH POINT, N. C.

In the first place put none but those who are true to the Alliance principles in front to represent us. An unwavering front from the platform and all who favor the reforms demanded in the Alliance platform will have a work to do in getting others to fall in line and subscribe to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and post themselves as to the danger which is overshadowing the great mass of laboring people and they will then no longer hang back but will see the necessity of falling in line and drifting with the tide of reform.

M. B. WILLIAMS.

STOP MAKING MILLIONAIRES.

The farmers and working people of the United States are now slaves to a corrupt and fraudulent government. The workings of the Congress now in session will prove this and develop more startling facts. To manufacture millionaires at the expense of the working people of this God favored, but political cursed country, is the chief work of the United States Congress. Remedy: Let every voter vote for the glory of God first, then follow self, wife, children and our good women's best interest. To do this we will no longer be tools for either one of the old devil-governed political parties. The laboring people of this nation cannot, in reason, expect God to bless and protect them while they vote to send drunkards, gamblers and backguards to legislate for them. Live for, talk for and vote for the Ocala platform. Nothing short will correct the evil.

W. DREWRY SMITH.

BRO. MASSEY IN GUILFORD.

MR. EDITOR:—Bro. Massey opened fire at McLeansville on February 8th, 1892, with a fine turnout of the Alliance and citizens. McLeansville Alliance is composed of some of the very best citizens; they are true men and wide awake to the best interests of the Alliance. I am told that Bro. Massey just spread himself and left the Alliance in high spirits. From thence he boarded the train for Greensboro to spend the night. I met Bro. Massey and Wilson in Greensboro and accompanied them to Pleasant Garden, where we took dinner with Bro. Riley, who made us feel at home. There we met quite a number of the brothers and sisters. Bro. Massey made a happy effort, fully explaining the principles of the Alliance, giving the Alliance and citizens new light. Bro. S. O. Wilson then rose to explain the business agency work and the importance of it, making it very plain. He is the right man in the right place. Keep him going.

Wednesday, the 10th, was the day fixed for the delegates to meet in their respective districts to elect delegates to the St. Louis Convention, whereupon Bro. Wilson left to attend his district convention. Bro. Massey being elected a delegate to his district convention, he made for Greensboro, where the delegates would assemble to elect their delegate to the St. Louis Convention, where and when Bro. Massey was elected to attend the St. Louis Convention. So on Wednesday, the 10th, your humble servant went to High Point to inform the brethren that they would have to excuse Bro. Massey that occasion, finding quite a crowd awaiting the arrival of Bro. Massey. We proceeded to the hall of that big-hearted M. Jesal, hotel keeper at High Point (if you want a square meal, call) when and where I made them the best talk I could, and I think the most of them were glad to be there. I found them to be true Alliancemen.

I then joined Bro. Massey at Greensboro and we boarded the train for Summerfield, after taking dinner with Bro. J. A. Hoskins. If you ever pass that way, call in; Sister Hoskins knows just how to make you feel at home, if sweet meats will do it about 12 m. We then proceeded to the academy, where Bro. Massey held his audience spell bound for more than one hour, making things so plain that a wayfaring man could not be mistaken. Everybody enjoyed his speech. On Friday, the 12th, the coldest day, perhaps Bro. Hoskins hitched up to his phaeton and shot us through to Brown's Summit in double quick time. Putting up his horses at Bro. I. Trofeler's, we proceeded to the place appointed for speaking and found the house already warmed up and in good order, with quite a crowd for the day. This must have been one of the happiest efforts of Bro. Massey's life. He made everything clear as a sunbeam. The brethren at Brown's Summit are wide awake and many of them well posted and true as steel. Three cheers for Brown's Summit!

We then went back to Bro. I. Trofeler's for dinner. Sister Troxter knows

just how to fix up a good dinner for Alliance speakers or anybody else, if he loves good things and wants to grow fat. After dinner Bro. Troxter had Bro. Hoskins' team hitched up and Bro. Hoskins faced the Blue Ridge and cold west wind homeward. Bro. Massey and myself accompanied him as far as Bro. Geo. Troxter's, where we spent the night pleasantly. It certainly is a great pleasure to spend a night with this Christian family. They have the very best and nothing is too good for their guests.

Next morning we boarded the train for Greensboro. On arriving there we found quite a number of people, and when we reached the court house we found Bro. J. W. Wharton had the court house in apple-pie order. In a few moments Bro. Massey was on the stand making one of the pointedest, clearest speeches you ever listened to. He explained the reason of the hard times and gave the remedy; explained the Sub-Treasury and land loan, free coinage, etc., etc., satisfactorily to everybody as he understands it. He is a grand speaker. Everybody save the very bitterest enemies of the Alliance eulogize him as a great and grand Alliance speaker.

R. M. STAFFORD.

BERTIE SOLID.

MR. EDITOR:—Aulander Alliance, No. 1,344, Bertie county, met in regular session on the 28th of February, 1892, to discuss the demands of the Alliance. After hearing enthusiastic speeches made on the demands by Bros. J. M. Early, A. G. Bazemore and S. E. Marsh, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted and ordered published:

WHEREAS, We, the members of Aulander Sub-Alliance, 100 in number, believing the demands of the Alliance to be just, fair, right and honest; therefore be it—

Resolved, That this Alliance reaffirm her allegiance to the demands of the Alliance and the Ocala platform.

2. That she will stand as a unit by these principles.

3. That we denounce any and all partisan papers whose columns have been open to slander and abuse of our demands our noble Order, and especially our beloved National President, L. L. Polk.

4. That these resolutions be published in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

J. M. EARLY, Sec'y.

CONSTITUTIONAL POINTS.

MR. EDITOR:—There is a natural tendency with many people to claim to be Alliancemen who are naturally little inclined that way, except as individual benefits that inure to them, persuade them to so claim to be; that, too, without a fair conception of the first principles that go to make an Allianceman.

This is practically demonstrated by "Alliancemen" hailing from Goldsboro, N. C., whose letter appeared in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER of Feb. 2d, 1892, in which he seems to take great pride in sending greetings of the Wayne County Alliance to the brethren of the Old North State, in a short ineh of his article and then drop off quickly to square himself out upon the incentive that actuated the article—to take to himself recompense for a failure to carry a presumptuous action, such only as should inure from less official characters than one of the executive members of our County Alliance. The article evidences a fair inception of the writer's qualities—when the facts in the case are known to the readers of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER as they were to every member who was present at our County Alliance meeting at Woodland, February 14th 1892.

It was simply this: As early as the meeting opened for business, as its Secretary, it became my duty to call the attention of the house to the fact of a change in our Constitution (which up to that time had gone unobserved), allowing to the County Alliance officers all the privileges pertaining to regular delegates, except the right to vote, none having that right but the presiding officer, and then only in case of a tie.

After I cited this change, considerable opposition was manifested, in debate, to accepting the change as made by our Constitution. I met incessantly every point the opposition made, to the extent that when a motion to "allow all officers to vote," was put, it received only 23 votes out of 90 delegates present. And in consequence of "Alliancemen" holding with the minority, he comes to the front parading himself in point as a paragon of innocence in his mistaken ignorance of what constitutes an Allianceman, and myself as a "constitutional crank," who reminds him very much of the partisan editors and "dry rot" politicians a year ago. How about the past year, Bro.? Have you no near relatives, Bro., who follow vocations? I had rather be right and alone, than be wrong and stand with the number who are either ignorant or very innocently mistaken.

But in this instance the majority of the Wayne County Alliance sustained me, so if I am a "constitutional crank," I have the satisfaction of knowing (as did "Alliancemen") that a majority of the Wayne County Alliance are also, and would to heaven we had more such.

Shame on you, brother, to so far forget the facts as to so misstate them for a little individual satisfaction, thinking yourself unknown.

A. L. SWINSON,
Sec'y Wayne County Alliance.