

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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To Correspondents

Write all communications, designed for publication, on one side of the paper only. We want intelligent correspondents in every county in the State.

Address all correspondence intended for this paper to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, Raleigh, N. C.

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The Progressive Farmer is the Official Organ of the N. C. Farmers' State Alliance

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N. R. P. A.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Bro. P. A. Dunn, of Wake Forest, was in the city Wednesday. That letter of Bro. Jack Turner, our National Secretary, is a "rattler." Read it. We haven't seen any better reform paper than the Cincinnati Herald. It is a hustler. Chicago is stirred up over the doings of a "baronet" who is said to be an ex jail bird. Col. Harry Skinner, of Greenville, was in the city Wednesday. His faith in the Sub-Treasury is unshaken. Bro. C. F. McCarthy, of Chatham county, gave us a pleasant call Thursday. He is solid for reform. The boys are not going to wave the "bloody shirt" during this year, but look out for the "ragged-shirt." Now is a good time for Alliancemen to keep their own secrets. Attend to your own business and let others do the same. We saw a man plowing land not long ago when it was too wet. Don't do this. It ruins the land and your prospects for a crop. Bro. W. J. Rogers, of Northampton county, spent two days in the city last week. We are glad to know that his health is improving. The fellow who robbed a woman 94 years old in Allegheny county the other day ought to go into politics. He is mean enough, sure. This is the month of March and a good month to plant upland corn. Plant every spot in corn you can this year. Raise your own supplies. The gentleman who is now getting a lot of free advertising is said to live in Warren county. He has fell out with the Alliance, ah, well, you know the rest. Along about now you can find out who has the Alliance real bad and who has not. Some of the fellows who want office and have been promised one haven't got it bad. See the appointments of Bro. Butler and Harry Skinner, beginning at Clinton on the 15th and ending at Statesville on the 19th. Bro. Butler will continue at other points by himself. Advertise them. The Asheville Democrat and other papers state that the "North Carolina and other Southern delegates withdrew from the St. Louis Convention." We are authorized by the delegates to say that this is absolutely false. Bro. W. L. Kivett, Business Agent of Randolph county, passed through the city Wednesday on his way to Baltimore, where he will purchase goods for the Exchange at Liberty. Bro. Kivett is one of the solid, wide awake young Alliancemen in the State. A Washington correspondent says that the fellows who were going to entrap the farmer members of Congress by wine suppers have given up the job. The hayseeders are too much for them. He further says that the views of the hayseed Congressmen

have not been introduced into Washington society. This is a startling story indeed! But the hayseed's wives should thank the Lord that they have not been introduced into Washington society. Washington society is a soft name for the avenue that leads direct to hades.

The News and Observer says that Col. Polk has withdrawn from the Democratic party, and bids the Colonel farewell. But the Colonel has a great big army of the boys with him, and that paper slighted them. Say, can't you take off your hat and bid them a sweet "good-bye" too?

Ingalls has sent in an application to become a member of the G. A. R. which has been accepted. He should have no trouble in joining as he has been fighting rebels ever since the war. As his fighting is finished he probably thought it a good time to join the G. A. R., says the Alliance Review.

We call special attention to the new advertisement of the Durham Fertilizer Company in this issue. This company is a home concern and has shown itself worthy of the patronage of our farmers by fair dealing and an extra quality of goods at low prices. Read the advertisement for further particulars.

The people are rushing together all over the country and holding meetings to ratify the platform and action of the St. Louis Convention. A big mass-meeting was held in Atlanta last Monday night. A State mass-meeting will be held in Lansing, Mich., on the 20th. In Clark county, Ill., thirty mass meetings were held last week, and so it goes.

We publish the St. Louis platform in official form. Let every man read and study it carefully. It is the same glorious old Alliance doctrine that we have had before the country all the time. Bro. S. B. Alexander, in another column, says it is all right, and so will the friends of the people say, all over the land, when the day comes to speak.

What is the use of an agricultural paper to teach the people how to raise more cotton, corn, wheat, tobacco or fine horses, hogs, sheep or cattle while the prices for these things are below actual cost? If an agricultural paper cannot do anything else it would be more useful if it should urge the people to raise less. Reform should be the motto of every agricultural paper.

We note that several of the delegates to the St. Louis Conference, and some of them members of the platform committee, say that it is an error to put the pension clause in the platform—that it was recommended by the committee only as a resolution and is not a part of the platform. The National Economist and other papers publish the platform with the correction as above.

LAST YEAR'S FAILURES.

The Globe-Democrat is brought face to face with a "calamity" argument, and feels compelled to confess it. The commercial failures of last year aggregated 12,394, an increase of 1721 over those of the year before. The Globe squirms terribly, and flounders around among the startling figures in a way almost to excite pity, but still tries vainly to smile and explain them away. "In a general way," says the Globe, it is well known, 1891 was not a good year for business."

Now, every reader of that paper, and of any other of the plutocratic sheets, knows that they have almost worn their type out, as they certainly have the patience of the people, proclaiming the year was one of unparalleled prosperity, descending upon the great crops, and the plentifulness of money. This has been the constant burden of their song, and anyone who has dared to say the people were in straightened circumstances was promptly set down upon as a calamity howler. Now that the record shows more than a thousand failures a month, "the year was not a good one for business anyway."

The Globe's attempt at explanation is weak in the extreme. There is one potent cause, and it is a crime to deny it. Our great business is based upon the narrow gold standard, the gold itself being at the mercy of the money manipulators. Our business structure is an invested cone of most unstable equilibrium; it is an enforced credit business whose stability no one can judge, and bankruptcy and failure are the inevitable consequence. It has been so ever since the goldites got possession of the currency, and it must continue to be so. Each year has rolled up its increased number of failures, until the last year, the year when great crops were to bring prosperity, an increase of nearly two thousand failures appears on the bulletin board. A longer attempt to disguise these facts and hide the cause is criminal.

The above is from our namesake, the Progressive Farmer, of Mt. Vernon, Ill., organ of the F. M. B. A. It is a ringing article.

THE GREAT INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE.

[Editorial Correspondence.]

The Conference of the great industrial organizations of the country, at St. Louis on the 22d ult., was an event that is destined to become memorable in history. It was not a convocation of partisan leaders to devise methods for the ascendance of party, to promote personal ends, to plan for the distribution of patronage among partisan favorites, to further the designs and demands of dictatorial money power, but it was a mighty gathering of honest wealth producers, bread winners and tax payers, from the farms, factories and shops all over the land, earnestly and honestly seeking a remedy for the evils and oppressive and unjust burdens which have been heaped upon them through corrupt class legislation, and which so seriously threaten the safety of the country and the liberties of the people. No grander body of men with a grander purpose ever assembled in any age or country.

In some respects it was the most remarkable body that ever convened in our country. Every State in the Union, except, perhaps, Rhode Island and Delaware, were represented. Lifelong Democrats, lifelong Republicans, Greenbackers, Prohibitionists, single tax men, equal suffragists, old soldiers of the "blue" and the "gray," representing thirteen different industrial organizations, met together and with wonderful unanimity and fraternity, aligned themselves solidly under one banner and pledged their faithful allegiance to one platform of principles.

The committee was composed of one hundred and twenty delegates, representing every State. It unanimously recommended the address and the platform. The conference, composed of over one thousand delegates, unanimously adopted the address and the platform, except two votes cast against the address.

When before in the history of this or any other country has such thorough and harmonious concord of action characterized such a body? Can any one doubt for a moment the ultimate and overwhelming success of such a force and power?

The friends of reform throughout the Union will recognize the fact that the great principles set forth are substantially the same, as those of the St. Louis meeting in 1889, and the Ocala and Indianapolis meetings, and are confined chiefly to the great questions of Money, Land and Transportation.

A generous spirit of concession and fraternity prevailed throughout. A large portion of the delegates were in favor of one open declaration by the Conference for independent political action, but in deference to those who held that the Conference should not take such action as would appear to bind the different organizations to any particular political party, generously yielded their views on this point. But they immediately availed themselves of the opportunity afforded by the mass convention to emphasize their position as to independent political action. Any other course would have been ridiculously inconsistent, unmanly and cowardly. If that great body of representative men had adopted the address and the platform and had dispersed without providing for some definite and decisive method for enforcing its principles, it would have incurred the contempt of all intelligent men and would have been laughed to scorn by the whole country.

All the Southern States were well represented, and between their delegates and those from the North there existed a generous and magnanimous rivalry in the grand and manly work of unifying and fraternalizing the two sections.

Presuming that you will procure the details from our special correspondent and other sources, they may be omitted here.

Since my arrival in this city I had the pleasure of meeting Hon. S. B. Alexander, and asked his opinion of the action of the St. Louis meeting. He said: "I have seen only the accounts that were given out by the Associated Press, and I have been patiently awaiting the truth. Fortunately, I have just seen President Butler and from him have learned the truth of the matter. I am greatly gratified to learn of the harmony that prevailed and especially am I pleased with the platform. It is one that I think all true Alliancemen can and will heartily support. The three planks—money, land and transportation, are the exact doctrines which I have advocated as President of our State Alliance and by all my votes in our meetings. You will remember that on the government ownership of railroads you and I were the only ones in the Ocala Convention who cast our votes in favor of it, and we are so reported in the official proceedings."

I have not, as yet, had the pleasure of meeting the other Alliance members of Congress from our State, and am,

therefore, unable to give their views. New York, Wall street and New England will reject this platform and will struggle desperately to defeat it that they may thereby hold their iron grasp on the throats of the industrial classes and agricultural States of the country. The people of the West, the Northwest and the South will accept it and thus repudiate the insolent and arrogant dictation of the money power, and restore our government to the principles of our fathers, and run it in the interest of the whole people.

Thousands of the descendants of these old revolutionary fathers, are to-day living in North Carolina. They are true and loyal to the principles proclaimed on the steps of the old log court-house in the town of Charlotte on the 20th of May, 1775, and they realize that the liberties and rights of the people were no more in jeopardy at that time than they are to-day, and they will remain true to liberty and justice by standing manfully and faithfully by this second Declaration of Independence. It embodies the principles enunciated at St. Louis in 1889—endorsed at Ocala—reaffirmed at Indianapolis and ratified by the Alliance in thousands of meetings all over the land. L. L. P.

LET IT BE UNDERSTOOD.

That the Alliance, as an organization, cannot be converted into a political party. It had the largest delegation of any one organization in the St. Louis Conference. But it did not have more than one fourth of the aggregate number. A large majority of the Conference was for prompt action by the body in favor of a new party, but in deference to this recognized restraint on the Alliance, that action was deferred until the work of the Conference had been completed and it adjourned. But almost every delegate, in his capacity as a citizen, with thousands of other citizens, joined in the great ratification mass meeting, which was held immediately on the adjournment of the Conference and ratified its action and appointed a committee to confer with the central committee of the People's party to arrange for a time and place to hold a National Convention to nominate candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States. This joint committee met and decided on July 4th as the date, and the city of Omaha as the place for the convention, and issued an address calling upon the people to hold meetings on the last Saturday in the present month and ratify the platform adopted by the Conference and to arrange and organize for representation in the National Convention—four for each Congressional district in the United States and eight for each State at large.

This statement of facts is made to show that so far as the action of the Conference went it did not change the relation of the Alliance or any other organization, as such, to the political parties. It did not nor could not bind the Alliance, as an organization, to the Democratic, the Republican or the People's party. No one man, no one thousand men, could do this. No power could force its members to remain in the Democratic or Republican parties—no power could prevent them from going into the new party. The Conference left every man just where the Alliance principles places him—on his own individual responsibility to do as he pleases, guided by an honest and earnest purpose to discharge the high duty of taking such political action as will best meet his honest convictions and secure the enforcement of his principles.

Then what is our duty as Alliancemen? Plainly, it is to stand closer than ever by our organization. Attend the meetings, promote, in every honorable way, its glorious principles and strengthen it at every point in its grand work of educating, elevating and unifying the farmers of the country. Cultivate forbearance, charity and fraternity among ourselves. Discuss methods and policies in a spirit of kindness and concession, but stand as firm as Gibraltar on principles. Vote for no man nor party which opposes our principles—vote only for the man or party which truly and honestly stands by our principles. This has been the teaching of the Alliance from the day of its birth. This is our only safety, our only hope.

THE PEOPLE WILL ATTEND TO IT.

J. P. Caldwell, a member of the State Democratic Committee, says in the Charlotte Chronicle that there is no use concealing the fact that the State Convention was called earlier than usual to take action "before Col Polk could get in his fine work." The friends of reform, all over the State, will take due notice and govern themselves accordingly, and propose at once to see that they are fully and fairly represented in that convention. The people, and not Col. Polk, are going to shape that convention.

AN ADDRESS.

The Great Industrial Conference to the Brotherhood of the Farmers' Alliance of North Carolina.

Having been honored with a commission from you as delegates to the Industrial Conference on the 22d ult., we deem it due you that we should render at the earliest practical moment, a truthful statement of the work accomplished, and of our action as your representatives in that body.

The six organizations embraced in the official call issued by the Committee on Corporations, were represented by seven hundred and thirty-seven properly accredited delegates. To these were added the delegates of seven other kindred organizations (on the recommendation of the Committee on Credentials) making in the aggregate over one thousand delegates, and representing almost every State in the Union. The Committee on Platform consisted of one hundred and twenty members, representing every State in every organization. The committee labored faithfully and without intermission fourteen hours, and presented as their unanimous report the following:

SECOND DECLARATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

Platform Adopted by the Confederated Industrial Organizations at St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 22-24, 1892.

PREAMBLE.

This, the first great labor conference of the United States and of the world, representing all divisions of urban and rural organized industry, assembled in national congress, invoking upon its action the blessings and protection of Almighty God, puts forth to and for the producers of the nation this declaration of union and independence. The conditions which surround us best justify our co-operation. We meet in the midst of a nation brought to the verge of moral, political, and material ruin. Corruption dominates the ballot-box, the legislature, the Congress, and touches even the ermine of the bench. The people are demoralized. Many of the States have been compelled to isolate the voters at the polling places in order to prevent universal intimidation or bribery. The newspapers are subsidized or muzzled, public opinion silenced, business prostrated, our homes covered with mortgages, labor impoverished, and the land concentrating in the hands of capitalists. The urban workmen are denied the right of organization for self-protection; imported pauperized labor beats down their wages; a hiring standing army, unrecognized by our laws, is established to shoot them down; and they are rapidly degenerating to European conditions.

The fruits of the toil of millions are boldly stolen to build up colossal fortunes, unprecedented in the history of the world, while their possessors despise the republic and endanger liberty. From the same prolific womb of governmental injustice breed the two great classes—paupers and millionaires. The nations power to create money is appropriated to enrich bondholders; silver, which has been accepted as coin since the dawn of history, has been demonetized to add to the purchasing power of gold by decreasing the value of all forms of property, as well as human labor, and the supply of currency is purposely abridged to fatten usurers, bankrupt enterprise, and enslave industry. A vast conspiracy against mankind has been organized on two continents, and is taking possession of the world. If not met and overthrown at once it forbodes terrible social convulsions, the destruction of civilization, or the establishment of an absolute despotism.

In this crisis of human affairs the intelligent working people and producers of the United States have come together in the name of peace, order, and society to defend liberty, prosperity and justice.

We declare our union and independence. We assert our purpose to support the political organization which represents our principles.

We charge that the controlling influence dominating the old political parties have allowed the existing dreadful conditions to develop without serious effort to restrain or prevent them. They have agreed together to ignore, in the coming campaign, every issue but one. They propose to drown the outcries of a plundered people with the uproar of a sham battle over the tariff; so that corporations, national banks, rings, trusts, "watered stock," the demonetization of silver, and the oppression of usurers, may all be lost sight of. They propose to sacrifice our homes and children upon the altar of mammon; to destroy the hopes of the multitude in order to secure corruption funds from the great lords of plunder.

We assert that a political organization, representing the political principles herein stated, is necessary to redress the grievances of which we complain.

Assembled on the anniversary of the birth of the illustrious man who led the first great revolution on this continent against oppression, filled with the sentiment which actuated that grand generation, we seek to restore the government of the republic to the hands of the "plain people," with whom it originated. Our doors are open to all points of the compass. We ask all honest men to join with and help us. In order to restrain the extortions of aggregate capital, to drive the money-changers out of the temple, to form a perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity we do ordain and establish the following platform of principles: First—We declare the union of the

labor forces of the United States this day accomplished permanent and perpetual. May its spirit enter into all hearts of the republic and the uplifting of mankind.

Second—Wealth belongs to him who created it. Every dollar taken from industry without an equivalent is robbery. If any one will not work, neither shall he eat. The interests of rural and urban labor are the same, their enemies are identical.

PLATFORM.

FINANCE.

First—We demand a national currency safe, sound, and flexible, issued by the general government only, a full legal tender for all debts, public and private; and that without the use of banking corporations a just, equitable and efficient means of distribution direct to the people at a tax not to exceed 2 per cent. be provided, as set forth in the Sub-Treasury plan of the Farmers' Alliance, or some better system; also, by payments in discharge of its obligations for public improvements.

a. We demand free and unlimited coinage of silver.

b. We demand that the amount of circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than \$50 per capita.

c. We demand a graduated income tax.

d. We believe that the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and hence we demand all national and State revenue shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government economically and honestly administered.

e. We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people and to facilitate exchange.

LAND.

Second—The land, including all the natural resources of wealth, is the heritage of all the people and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes, and alien ownership of land should be prohibited. All land now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of their actual needs, and all lands now owned by aliens, should be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only.

TRANSPORTATION.

Third—Transportation being a means of exchange and a public necessity, the government should own and operate the railroads in the interest of the people.

a. The telegraph and telephone, like the postoffice system, being a necessity for transmission of news, should be owned and operated by the government in the interest of the people.

While some parts of the above address may seem at a mere glance to make partisan political distinctions, yet upon careful study one will clearly see that it is non-partisan, and further, will be impressed with the truth of its premises, and the ability of the committee who framed it. It was adopted with only a few dissenting votes, and the platform was adopted unanimously, and received with great applause. The Conference having completed its work as a representative body, then adjourned sine die.

THE MASS-MEETING.

After the adjournment, a mass meeting was called, in which a great many delegates took part as citizens, together with a number who were not delegates to the Conference, and proceeded to take steps looking to political action. The result was a call for a National Convention, to be held on the 4th day of July, in the city of Omaha, Nebraska. This action was entirely distinct from the work of the Conference of Labor Organizations to which you sent us as your representatives.

It will be seen that the Conference did not, by its action, bind any one of the organizations represented, nor any member thereof, to the support of any particular political party. In a spirit of concession and compromise, all the various States and sections, and all shades of political opinion, sought only the common good of the whole people, and with remarkable unanimity adopted a declaration of principles which, in their judgment, will restore peace, prosperity and justice to the country. It will also be observed that this declaration or platform embraces essentially the great principles enunciated by our Order at St. Louis in 1889, at Ocala in 1890, and at Indianapolis in 1891. The undesigned, therefore, heartily and unanimously gave their endorsement to these principles.

Impressed with the solemn conviction that the enactment of these principles into law, and the faithful enforcement of the law, will bring relief to our distressed industrial people, and inure to the common good of all interests and classes, we earnestly appeal to all Alliancemen, and all patriots of whatever calling, to aid us in electing to office only such men as will faithfully execute the laws.

It is gratifying to state that all the Southern States were represented in the body, and every delegate voted for the platform.

- MARION BUTLER, J. F. BRINSON, J. T. B. HOOVER, E. C. BEDDINGFIELD, W. C. WILCOX, P. H. MASSEY, J. F. JOHNSON, A. C. SHUFORD, J. C. BROWN.

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