

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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

Vol. 7.

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No. 8

## THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

President—L. L. Polk, North Carolina. Address, Atlantic Building, F. St., N. W., Washington, D. C.  
 Vice-President—H. L. Loucks, Huron, South Dakota.  
 Secretary-Treasurer—J. H. Turner, Georgia. Address, 239 North Capitol St., N. W., Washington, D. C.  
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## North Carolina Reform Press Association.

Officers—J. L. Ramsey, President; Marion Butler, Vice-President; W. S. Barnes, Secretary.

**PAPERS.**  
 Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.  
 The Workingman's Helper, Pinnacle, N. C.  
 Watchman, Salisbury, N. C.  
 Farmers' Advocate, Tarboro, N. C.  
 Mountain Home Journal, Asheville, N. C.  
 Alliance Sentinel, Goldsboro, N. C.  
 Country Life, Trinity College, N. C.  
 Mercury, Hickory, N. C.  
 Rattler, Whitakers, N. C.  
 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 paper can now see what papers are published in their interest.

## PRESIDENT POLK AT ST. LOUIS.

Plutocracy Arraigned—Facts and Figures Showing Where the Money Is

(Stenographic report of President Polk's speech in response to the address of welcome by Mr. C. P. Walbridge, President St. Louis City Council.)

MR. PRESIDENT:—Gathered here as the representatives of the millions of wealth producers of this great country, it is gratifying to receive your kindly and cordial words of welcome, and on behalf of this great Conference, I beg to assure you of our warm appreciation of your preferred kindness and hospitality and of your brave words of good cheer and encouragement.

With your sixty-one square miles of municipal jurisdiction, your two hundred and fifteen miles of street railway, your two hundred and fifty million of taxable property, your annual output of three hundred millions of dollars of manufactured products, your hundreds of trains daily, which pour into your gates, two hundred and fifty millions of people annually, and located here on the bank of the "American Nile," what shall be the measure of your future possibilities and greatness. Within the radius of your influence and legitimate trade, is embraced the richest agricultural region on the face of the earth, capable of sustaining one hundred million of people, and here shall be reared in immortal grandeur the magnificent seat of future industrial and commercial empire of this continent.

Share with you, sir, the just and cheering hope which is kindled by you, auspicious surroundings, and assure you that we feel quite at home within your hospitable gates. The State, all sections, and all the industries of the country are here represented. The men are here from all over the world; the men are here from all over the world. They are here from the factory, the workshop, the departments of industry, and the broad land. It is a world whose blended blows go to swell the chorus of happy song of industrial progress. We are here!

her voice the solemn protest of a nation's wealth producers against inequalities and unjust conditions which seriously threaten to paralyze and destroy the industrial energies of the country.

Owning less than 22 per cent. of the wealth of the country and paying over 80 per cent. of its taxes, the outraged and struggling victims of iniquitous and wicked class legislation, we are here to redress these grievances and to right these great wrongs.

In the Board of Exchange of New York, money is quoted to day at from 1 1/4 to 4 per cent. In Liverpool it is quoted at from 1 1/4 to 2 1/2 per cent. In Houston Texas, Vicksburg Miss., and Shreveport, La., it is quoted to day at 12 per cent. In Selma Ala., Macon, Ga., Raleigh, N. C., Columbia, S. C., and Pine Bluff, Ark., it is quoted today from 10 to 12 per cent. If a broker on Wall street can borrow money at 2 to 4 per cent. interest on wheat, corn and cotton as collateral, why cannot the farmers of Michigan, Kansas and Georgia do the same? One year ago to day, middling cotton sold in New Orleans for nine cents per pound, or \$45 per bale. To-day it is quoted at 6 and 9 1/2 cents per pound, or \$32 20 per bale—a decline of over 28 per cent. to the farmer. Has there been a corresponding decline in the price of the articles manufactured from this cotton? Have the cotton factories of New England shared this great loss? Have the staple manufactured goods which the farmers are obliged to have, declined in a corresponding ratio. From a list of staple manufactured goods from the leading mills of New England, I find that the decline in these goods has been only about 2 1/2 per cent. Has the difference of this decline gone into the pockets of the manufacturers or did they pay it to the employees? If it is overproduction that drives the farmer to accept a price for his cotton absolutely below the cost of the product, why should it not affect the output and price of manufactured goods.

Permit me to quote further from our official census returns which presents a very significant phase of the situation. During the past ten years, from 1880 to 1890, the single State of New York, with a population of 5,082,871, gained in actual wealth \$8,000,000 more than fifteen of the great producing States of this country, to-wit: Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Florida, with a population of 19,936,827, and with a territory equal to sixteen States the size of New York. This small non-producing State of Massachusetts, with 1,788,085 people gained in actual wealth about \$10,000,000, more than the more great producing States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska, whose population was 13,409,167, and with an area as large as fifty-eight States of the size of Massachusetts, New England, New York and Philadelphia hold to day 180,000 shares of the banking capital of the country, while only 44,000 shares are held by all the remaining States of the Union. Must argument be added to these startling facts to convince us of our duty? To me they proclaim in thunder tones that the time has arrived for the great West, the great South and the great Northwest to link their hands and hearts together and march to the ballot box and take possession of the government, restore it to the principles of our fathers, and run it in the interest of the people.

Two years ago we presented these facts to the American Congress. They were supported by the petitions of a half million freemen. One year ago they were presented, and what was the answer to these appeals? "Go home, work harder, live closer and keep out of politics and all will be well." Over a month ago, we again knocked at the door of the present Congress, and what has been its answer? A good friend, in the magnanimity of his heart and it may be for the purpose of perpetrating a joke on that august body, offered a resolution last week, generously extending to the distressed farmers throughout this broad land expressions of "sincere sympathy." Sirs, we are not applying to Congress or elsewhere for sympathy or charity, but in the dignity and power of American manhood, we are demanding justice, and under the favor of God, we intend to have it. We want relief from their unjust oppressions, and as I have said from New York to California, in my speeches, we intend to have it if we have to wipe the two old parties from the face of the earth. Again, sir, assuring you on behalf of the great working classes here assembled, of their earnest appreciation, of their cordial and hospitable welcome of your progressive city, so kindly and eloquently tendered through you, I doubt not that each and all of us will take with us to our homes the warm and pleasant remembrances of our visit to the great and enterprising city of St. Louis.

## PLATFORM ENDORSED.

At a regular meeting of Oak Grove Sub Alliance, No. 833, Granville county, N. C., the body endorsed the St. Louis platform without a dissenting voice. We are for reform, regardless of parties or party name.

Respectfully,  
 J. N. FAUCETT, Sec'y.

**The Progressive Farmer from now until Nov. 15th for 50 cents. Make up your Clubs.**

## A SPECIAL TAX ASKED FOR.

A resolution passed by the County Alliance Convention, assembled at Youngsville, Franklin county, N. C.:  
**Resolved,** That this convention take immediate action for the relief of our brethren in Hayesville township, Franklin county, N. C., who are now suffering from a hail storm destroying all of their cotton and tobacco crops to the amount of \$4,000. And we desire that the State President or convention levy a special tax on every lodge in the State of one dollar to be sent to M. S. Davis, our County President, for distribution, through a committee appointed by him, according to the distress in the locality.

Respectfully submitted,  
 G. W. NEWELL, Pres't pro tem.  
 W. J. HAYES, Sec'y.

## JACKSON, N. C.

## FLINT HILL HEARD FROM.

VANCE COUNTY, N. C.  
 MR. EDITOR:—Flint Hill Alliance, No. 1,915, is yet alive and wide awake to all the demands of our Order. At a regular meeting of Flint Hill Alliance, No. 1,915, March 12th, after reading and discussing the conference meeting held at St. Louis, Mo., February 22d, 24th, 1892, the following resolutions were adopted and ordered published:  
**Resolved,** That we have full confidence in our leaders in the great reform movement.

2 That we, the members of Flint Hill Alliance, do most heartily endorse every action of the St. Louis Conference. Brethren of our Order, let us stand as firm as the rock of Gibraltar by our demands and our leaders so long as they prove themselves worthy as leaders, let them be from North, South, East and West. Let us be as Ruth was by Naomi; for whither thou goest I will go, and where thou lodgest I will lodge; thy people shall be my people and thy God my God.

## J. A. T. SHOTWELL, Sec'y.

## PARKVILLE SUB-ALLIANCE.

MR. EDITOR:—I have not seen anything from Parkville Sub Alliance, No. 1,106, and being requested to write a few lines, I ask a little space in your columns to let you know we are still alive and up to the times for the People's party, believing it to be the best thing for the people and by the people. We have some good members and some careless ones; believe they are all for the People's party. I am a reader of your paper and think it the best paper published. Brethren, let us stick together in the great work of reform. Attend your meetings regular and see what is done, and then you cannot say you did something I did not like. Remember that delays are dangerous. Brother, take your State organ and see what is going on through the Order.

I will now close by saying success to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. May it long live to educate the brethren.

Yours fraternally,  
 JAMES A. WHITE, Sec'y.

## LETTER FROM BEAUFORT COUNTY.

MR. EDITOR:—The St. Louis meeting has come and gone and I think every lover of liberty has just cause to feel proud of the result of the meeting. I know the partisan press will hail with joy the action of Col. Livingston and Moses, of Georgia, and we need expect to see hardly anything else for sometime to come, though I think the people, i. e. hayseeders, calamity howlers, etc., have just cause to rejoice and be merry. I for one feel like throwing up my old hat and shouting till I am almost hoarse to think of such a glorious meeting as that, with so many delegates, and only two who could not swallow the platform when we look back at the ancient history and see that Christ, out of his chosen twelve, had a Judas, and a Peter, what might we expect out of such a multitude? I feel more encouraged than I ever did in my life.

Verily Wall street has its tools in every neighborhood; the lying and chicanery that is being practiced in this glorious land of ours is enough to make any decent man sick to behold. Now they are circulating it from center to circumference that the People's party platform wants to tax the people to pay the pensioners the difference between the depreciated money they were paid in and gold, when they know they are lying, wilfully lying; that there is no such plank in the platform, though any person who only takes a partisan paper knows no better.

According to an announcement in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and National Economist, we expect to hold a ratification meeting in Aurora the last Friday in March, though I don't hardly know what we are going to do for some one to talk to us, as almost all the talkers (those educated to talk) are on the other side, but I'll tell you we are a very determined set, and if we can't wear kid gloves and beaver hats and use flowery, oratorical language, we have about found out that it is the clap trap of such that is causing so much desolation among us; and knowing full well that clap trap has fastened these grievous burdens upon us, and if we wait for them to take them off that instead they are continuing to pile on all the time. We can see the unrest among politicians. Although it is no trouble to see the announcement of the death of the Alliance, I have never yet seen any account of its burial, and if the signs of the times mean anything, I think when they attempt to bury it

they will find the liveliest corpse they ever undertook to handle. I had an interview with an attorney sometime ago and he says "look here, you Alliance men don't treat us right." I asked him to please explain. "Well, he says, take this county for instance; for illustration, we'll say there are three hundred Alliance Democrats and one hundred who are not eligible to membership in the Alliance; you three hundred go into a caucus and leave us one hundred out and pick out our candidates, and when you go into a convention, you nominate your men and we have no showing." I asked him if we did not live under a Republican form of government. Of course he could only say "yes." I asked him if that did not say a majority should rule? You know he was bound to answer "yes." "Well," I said, "your little minority has been ruling to the detriment of this big majority, and soon as they propose to have something to do with the affairs of the government, the devil is to pay at once."

"Well," he says, "all I have got to say is, whenever the farmers are prosperous everything else is prosperous, and we won't talk politics any more." For fear of trespassing on your valuable space, I will stop with much success to your valuable paper, the Farmers' Alliance and kindred organizations.

Ever yours,  
 CALAMITY HOWLER.

## AN APPEAL.

GUM NECK ALLIANCE, No 1824.  
 To the Brethren of North Carolina:  
 Our worthy brother, J. B. Liverman, met with a severe loss on the 12th of this month by losing his dwelling house by fire. Bro. Liverman is one of the charter members of Gum Neck Alliance, and has been secretary of our Alliance for the last two years. Bro. L. has a large family of little children, and he is not able to build another house without help.

Now we ask the different Sub-Alliances in the State to donate a small amount to help our poor brother to rebuild his house. He also lost a good deal of other property by the fire, as his cook house was burned.

All those that will help our brother can remit to Bro. Allen Cahoon, President of Gum Neck Alliance. Address to Gum Neck Postoffice, Tyrrell county, N. C.

C. E. TATUM,  
 J. L. COOPER,  
 Z. F. OWENS,  
 Committee.

## RESOLUTIONS.

MR. EDITOR:—Holland's Alliance, No. 1684, Wake county, in full meeting, the following preamble and resolutions were introduced by our worthy Lecturer, J. J. Penny, and unanimously adopted:

In view of the great trials, hardships and difficulties confronting our worthy leader, L. L. Polk, our National President, together with the storms of invective, malicious misrepresentation and vile denunciation heaped upon him and his co-workers by the enemies of reform, amid which him and his trusted advisers have so cool and serene—unscathed, unrudded and unmoved—the admiration of all beholders; therefore

**Resolved,** that we bid them God-speed, and while we unanimously thank them for their noble work, we again reiterate our firm and unswerving purpose to stand by them with both feet upon the St. Louis platform until the last vestige of feudalism shall be driven back to monarchial Europe, whence it came.

2 That we will stand by them until the freedom purchased by our sires shall again purchase upon our banners, and the American citizen shall again be free to sit down under his own vine and figtree, and enjoy the results of his own labor.

3 That these resolutions be sent to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER with request to publish, and the National Economist be requested to copy.

Respectfully and fraternally,  
 GEO. L. PENNY, Sec'y.

## RESOLUTIONS OF UNION COUNTY ALLIANCE.

WHEREAS, We, the Union County, N. C., Farmers' Alliance, do believe that the enactment of our national demands into law would be an adequate and true remedy for the present alarming tendencies and depressed condition of agricultural pursuits; and whereas, our efficient Representative Hon. S. B. Alexander, has introduced laudable measures in Congress for the benefit of agriculture; therefore be it

**Resolved,** That we do recognize and heartily endorse the course of our Representative and ask our Congressmen to co-operate with him in his efforts to secure such legislation as will be for the betterment of the producers of wealth.

2 That as long as he adheres to our demands and uses his influence to have the same enacted into law, we offer him hearty and undivided support.

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

A. W. McMANUS,  
 A. C. DAVIS,  
 S. A. WILLIAMS,  
 Committee.

**The Progressive Farmer from now until Nov. 15th for 50 cents. Make up your Clubs.**

## BANKER AND FARMER.

The Farmer Has Been Going to the Alliance School and Knows that National Banks are a Legal Wrong.

National Banker (to farmer)—Look here, John, what do you mean by this free coinage of silver? Don't you know that it would be to your disadvantage? Don't you know that it will make a cheap money and the man that is owing you can pay you with it?

Farmer—Well, yes, but this cheap money will pay his debt, won't it?  
 Banker—Why, yes, certainly.

Farmer—Then it will pay my debt to you, won't it?  
 Banker—Yes, of course.

Farmer—If it is cheaper, I can get more dollars for a load of wheat, can't I?  
 Banker—Yes, of course, but you—

Farmer—Well, if this is so, I can get more money for the same amount of labor, and thus be able to pay more of my debts with the same amount of labor. Isn't that so?  
 Banker—Yes; but don't you see that it is going to make our bonds payable in silver or gold, instead of gold alone, and this will depreciate the value of the bonds, and thus work a great injury to us capitalists? In fact it would be robbery!

Farmer—Did not these bonds used to be payable in silver and gold?  
 Banker—Yes; but they—

Farmer—After silver was demonetized they increased in value, didn't they?  
 Banker—Yes, they were then payable in gold.

Farmer—How much did it increase them?  
 Banker—O, perhaps 25 per cent, and now don't you see how wrong it would be to steal our values away from the bonds by this tomfoolery about silver?

Farmer—What was the reason for the demonetizing of silver?  
 Banker—Well, you see we bankers, wanted—that is we—rather they—understood—well or the fact of the business is I really never knew what it was done for.

Farmer—Well, when it was done it made dear money, didn't it?  
 Banker—Yes, er—that is, yes, I presume it did.

Farmer—Well, if it made dear money, didn't it depreciate the value of my wheat and corn, and thus depreciate my labor?  
 Banker—Yes, yes, but don't you see you could buy more with the dollar?

Farmer—Yes, old hoss, but here's what I've got to say. Hain't I got ter git up a heap earlier in the morning, and plow and hoe, and drag and sow, and dig and scrape a darned sight harder and longer to get that a'r dollar than I do for the cheap one? And when I get my old dew-claws on to it, b'gosh, I find it won't pay only about half as many debts as the cheap one. You see we hayseeders have tumbled onto your little scheme. We have found some mighty funny things in this 'ere same silver question. We notice one thing: You old big, fat, well-dressed fellows can't give us any reason why silver was demonetized. We kinder hitch onto another snap: That when silver was demonetized it increased the value of your bonds about \$300,000,000. While it increased the value of all the national securities in proportion, it decreased my ability to pay my debts just one-half, and, of course, as I pay my debts by my labor on my farm and value my farm by what it brings me, it decreased in value in proportion. Mr. Banker, your scheme of demonetization stole \$1,500 out of the value of my \$5,000 farm. You don't care who was robbed on our side of the fence, did you? And you and your kind have been lying to and deceiving us critters and keeping us blinded to our own interests for fifteen years. But you can't do it any longer. Good day, sir.—The Leader, Belmont, N. Y.

## ROWAN COUNTY HEARD FROM.

PROPT ALLIANCE, Rowan Co.  
 WHEREAS, We, the officers and members of Propt Alliance, No. 1,588, in session this the 24th day of March, 1892, do

**Resolve,** That we go on record as endorsing our noble leaders, L. L. Polk, C. W. Macune, Ben Terrell, Jerry Simpson, Marion Butler, and all other of our patriotic sons enlisted in the cause of truth, right and justice, and tender them our respects for their uncompromising fight in behalf of the sons of toil.

2 That we unanimously endorse the Ocala platform and especially the Sub-Treasury plank, also the proceedings of the late St. Louis Conference, the platform of which is justly styled "The Second Declaration of American Independence," and that we urge upon our brethren everywhere to wake up and be doing before we are crushed entirely under the iron heel of oppression, and we have the courage and we hope all our brethren have) to tell our enemies to their teeth that when they attack our leaders they attack us and what we believe to be the best interests of the great majority of the people of this great country.

3 That we will press these demands upon the public servants of this entire nation until we get entire relief from the oppressive burdens heaped upon us by the party bosses and politicians.

4 That we will not support any candidate of any political party unless he endorses and then stands squarely upon the Ocala platform.

5 That a copy of these resolutions

be sent to the Watchman and THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER for publication to show our brethren everywhere how firm we stand, and that we hope every Alliance in the Union will pass something similar, to let the party bosses and politicians know that the people's eyes are being opened and that this rule is fast coming to an end.

FREDERICK A. SETZER,  
 ALFRED W. KLUTZ,  
 LUTHER J. KETCHUM,  
 Committee.

## THE PUBLIC VOICE.

How way 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.)

PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH.  
 SEMORA, N. C.  
 Simply this, by faithfully practicing what you preach. J. P. RAINEY.

## VOTE FOR THE BEST PARTY.

My answer is, vote for the party and the men that endorse the demands of the labor organizations. Pledges are no good. Vote for men who are with us. This is the opinion of one who has always voted the Democratic ticket, but will hereafter vote for his home and country. J. A. LOY.

## VOTE WITH THE PEOPLE'S PARTY.

MICHAEL, Davidson Co., N. C.  
 To get the needed relief we must vote with the People's party. We have tried the Republican party 25 years. It has done nothing but legislate so as to bind us with the fetters of the monopolies, trusts, etc.

Modern democracy is but little better. The Democratic party has not had much chance, it is true, but they were in power a little while and made but few changes. So I say we must vote with a new party. GEO. E. HUNT.

## HOW TO SECURE THEM.

In reply to your question, how to get needed reform, I would say my opinion is for the People's party not to follow partisan newspapers and partisan leaders who think more of party than they do of the interests of the people; also not attend their primaries and conventions but attend our own primaries and conventions, and when the time comes to vote, vote solidly for reform and never depend on either of the old parties for reform, for they have deceived us long enough. We had as well depend on one as the other, they mean the same. J. W. BEAVERS.

## BLOT OUT THE OLD PARTIES.

HILLSBORO, Orange Co., N. C.  
 In reply to your question, "how shall we best secure the enforcement of our principles?" I would say that the Alliance has done more to educate the people in the science of economical government than any one thing since the war. The people have learned that it is a condition that confronts us. The remedy lies in a change of this condition, remove the cause, blot out the two old parties, seek reform where it can be found—not in Wall street nor through the channels of a cold-blooded money power. The Alliance is the only organization that has adopted our principles. Stand by it and we have some hope; desert it and we will be the tool of plutocracy in the future as we have been in the past. It seems to me that twenty-five years' trial is enough for any remedy to make a change. The G. O. P. have changed it but lo! it is for the worse.

Yours fraternally,  
 J. H. ROBERTS.

## HOW TO DO IT.

WHITEVILLE, Columbus Co., N. C.  
 How can the wealth-producers, the toiling masses, best obtain the essential legislative relief, equal rights to all and special privileges to none, the greatest good to the greatest number? We endorse the answer of the brethren from that booming county of Brunswick and send the voice of Columbus. Ignore the party whip of the old politicians with the same old tune of just now wait until an off year. Attend every lodge meeting and all the primaries, after reading the reform papers, and in a loud voice keep up the cry, money, land and transportation. All aspirants having moral honesty equal to their own convictions before asking office should not feel ashamed but with pen and ink define his position entirely for or against our demands, for he who is not with us is against us. In the open field meet them boldly on a fair and noble issue, and you will still be taboed as anti-federalist or People's party, born of necessity, for the welfare of some States, and no detriment to ours. Remembering that it is the man with patched pants and hungry children, the sun man on credit for his future crop so important that must have relief, inspire him with courage in the nominee's racket, and let him feel your warm elbow touch at the ballot-box. J. F. HARRELL.

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