

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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

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THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

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PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.
The Wilmingtonian's Helper, Wilmington, N. C.
Farmers' Advocate, Salisbury, N. C.
Southern Home Journal, Asheville, N. C.
Blades Sentinel, Goldsboro, N. C.
Country Life, Hickory, N. C.
The Farmer, Whitesboro, N. C.
Agricultural Bee, Goldsboro, N. C.
Delaware Weekly News, White Sulphur Springs, N. C.
Alliance Echo, Monroeville, N. C.

Each of the above-named papers are requested to keep the list standing on the first page and add others, provided they are duly elected. Any paper failing to advocate the Ocala platform will be dropped from the list promptly. Our people can now see what papers are published in their interest.

THE SITUATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

DARLINGTON, S. C.

MR. EDITOR:—It is refreshing to read the many and patriotic sentiments of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, and particularly such an able and noble review of the situation as that contained in the "Open Letter" of L. L. Polk of March 29th. It is a favorite device of tyranny to denounce as demagogues and office-seekers all who dare to raise a voice in behalf of an oppressed people and many sensitive men are driven out of the field and the usefulness of others bridged by such tactics, but in a great crisis like this, upon which so much depends, we should make a great effort to steel ourselves against such taunts and remember that they are simply the desperate tactics of our enemies.

As I am not a member of the Alliance (being a lawyer and therefore ineligible) although in entire sympathy with them, and as I have never been an office holder or office-seeker, and have given life-long evidence of my contempt for the mere "ward politician," I think I can afford to take a deep interest in the political situation without subjugating myself to the charge of being a "demagogue." But the consequences what they may I shall never surrender my independence and freedom of speech for "fair favor is the hope of reward." I have been not a little amazed that non-Alliance men in this State and elsewhere have made war on the Alliance, not seeming to recognize that the fight of the Alliance for the general benefit; that they are making war upon no legitimate business done in a legitimate way, not upon the lawyer and doctor, not on the pettyfogger and quack, not on the honorable merchant or banker, not on all who abuse their positions to take unconstitutional advantage, not even in this war made on capitalists but only on such as have wrongfully amassed fortunes at the expense of the people and now hold their accumulated capital as a menace to their liberties.

Looking at it from a purely material standpoint, it seems to me that any intelligent non-Alliance man would recognize that until the farmer produced the dollar there is nothing for us lawyers, doctors and merchants to con-

tend for, there is no other way for the dollar to reach us, our prosperity is wrapped up in that of the farmer, and while we do not claim the privilege of belonging to the Order, we can, standing on the outside, bid them God-speed. But the fight is for more than material prosperity, it is for liberty. Wall street has her millions of under-strappers and boot licks in every town and hamlet in the land. Employees, renters and the dependent poor generally are threatened with starvation if they fail to comply with their demands. The question now comes up, how many white slaves have we in the land? But let us be merciful in our judgment to the many who are so completely in the toils, by reason of an avoidable misfortune, that they cannot help themselves.

The fight will be desperate and calls for grit and backbone. Our plan of battle is manifest. The two old parties are practically dead; they are both "houses divided against themselves." Northeastern Democrats will naturally fall into the Republican party, which must reform itself on a new basis. Northwestern, Western and Southern Republicans and Democrats are already reformed on the new basis of the People's party and await anxiously the word to announce it. The sentiment is so overwhelmingly in favor of it that it is difficult to restrain a premature exposure of it.

True some few old fogies will still cling by a name to a dynasty fallen forever and continue for a season to worship the fetish of the National Democratic party. But time will teach even these that the National Democratic party has been dead for a quarter of a century for all useful purposes, and that Tammany has all that time been masquerading as such, riding the South and West like a poor, patient ass, and selling them out to Wall street on every available occasion for ready cash or its equivalent.

Tammany is a gaudy old harlot who will consort with any manner of flesh for the money, and yet we are still expected to worship at her shrine. Our people, I believe, realize that the fight is now on and that it must be a Waterloo to one or the other side. If the parvenue element is to be our bosses, headed by the 500 Jewish Princes of Wall street then we had as well have a respectable monarchy and a legalized and decent aristocracy at once.

It seems to me that the People's party has already taken such firm root that it is too late for the National Democratic party to redeem itself. I should it now adopt the Ocala platform as its platform, for the simple reason that the people have no faith in its good intentions. Such an agreement would be only a wordy contract with no bona fide intention of execution, whereas in the People's party we intimate unity of interest and identity of needs would furnish a sufficient guarantee of good faith and permanency.

In fact the machination of politicians are powerless and futile to keep asunder that which nature and nature's God have joined together. It does not require a very profound statesman to see that such a combination between the Northwest, West and South is inevitable. It is dictated by a principle that is higher than any organization. Should the Alliance die to-morrow it would go on. Should the old parties make any manner of concessions it would go on to its consummation. The People's party is now the only true, real democracy. The old Democratic party, so-called, has long ago lost all features of democracy and become a real oligarchy, ruled by bosses and "leaders" who made no secret of assuming absolute control and dictation of the party policy and utterly ignoring all ideas and opinions the people might have. So arrogant have they become that we common herd are commanded to keep our mouths shut.

Mr. Cleveland or Mr. Hill or some other boss of the party has given us our cue and informed us what subjects we can talk about; for instance we are commanded to keep silent about silver coinage because Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Hill both think that the tariff only ought to be discussed, and so on to the end of the chapter. There never was a party, probably, with so little true democracy in it, a party in which the people were so completely ignored and led by a few bosses who exact an absolute and blind obedience. Are we of the South willing for the sake of a name—an empty name, and old traditions and associations, to remain in this perpetual mental bondage. If so we desire to be the slaves of the vulgar parvenue.

R. K. CHARLES.

BRO. SHUFORD IN ROWAN.

FAITH, N. C.
MR. EDITOR:—Our Alliance, No. 1,351, is in a prosperous condition. Mr. A. C. Shuford, District Lecturer of the 7th district, and Mr. F. B. Brown, our County Lecturer, addressed a large crowd of attentive listeners at Frick's School house last night. It was a public meeting and the speakers were cheered from time to time throughout their remarks. They did much good here for the cause of right and reform, and to-day the people are more enlightened than ever before. They are now speaking to great crowds who gather to hear them. Success to them and may they come again soon.

Respectfully,
J. T. WYATT.

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

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.)

STICK TO PRINCIPLE.

OWENS, N. C.
In answer to your question in the public voice, would say that we don't need the third party. We have had too much party. What we want is for the people to stick to the Alliance and its principles and that is party enough.

SELECT MEN THAT YOU CAN TRUST.

I would say to the people to select men to fill all offices who they know they can trust; men who are known for a high standard of moral and Christian character. If a man drinks liquor and swears, let that man stay at home to make cotton at five cents a pound and chew and smoke tobacco of his own raising. A man whose brain is beclouded with strong drink is unfit to make laws to govern a respectable people.

RED OAK, NASH CO., N. C.

I will give my opinion as to how to get reform. It seems to be the opinion of many that to load our boat with the St. Louis platform and hoist our sails and steer clear of party lashes and party lines and keep in the middle of the road. It was by independent action that our old fathers gained the victory of freedom, and so it will be in our cause and there is no other way under the sun. You ask these old men outside of the Alliance who have not cast more than one or two votes since the war. They quit voting because they saw that both parties were corrupt and rotten to the core. Turn your back on party bosses and keep in the middle of the road. J. I. EVERETT.

THE POLICY.

Something to do Until We Get the Treasury.

MR. EDITOR:—If I were to dictate the line of policy to be pursued by the farmers, I would materially alter a part of the tactics they now have in practice. If an army attacks a city and can't take it by direct assault, it then lays siege and cuts off supplies. It can't always be done in a day, week or year—it is a slow process and some times takes many years—but it is the surest plan when assaults would be sure to be attended with great loss.

The recent vote on the silver bill by Congress ought to demonstrate to the most credulous that to wrest the country from the hands of the money power through the medium of the two old parties is an impossibility at present, unless some great unforeseen and unlooked for change takes place in one or both of them. Whether either one will forsake its idol and turn away from Wall street and serve the people, is a question that time alone can answer. Before any great good can be accomplished, through a political agency, the towns will have to suffer in common with the country, and will have to feel the power of Shylock and suffer as the hands of the despoiler before there will be a great political revolution, and Shylock dethroned and his kingdom taken from him and given back to the people. Let the farmers commence the attack, not only at the ballot-box, but on their farms also.

While you are doing all in your power in a political way to overthrow the oppressor, also do all in your power to cut off supplies from trusts, pools, syndicates and combines. I know enough about farming to know that a farmer is not obliged to raise tobacco or cotton to buy his meat with. He can raise the meat with a great deal less trouble and expense than he can the tobacco and cotton. I don't know anything about cotton, and I live in a tobacco country. But since the days of tobacco trusts and meat syndicates I believe I could do better raising meat to buy tobacco with than I could raising tobacco to buy meat, if I had any use for the tobacco.

I do honestly believe that tobacco is the most ungrateful stuff that ever grew in the world. We do the most of our plowing on our tobacco land, and nearly all the manure we can rake and scrape we put on our tobacco land. We impoverish ourselves to buy guano to go under our tobacco, and then when the stuff comes and is carried to market, the buyers say the reason it sells so low is because it is a "sorry crop and it ain't no account." Hereafter let the farmer try his hand on a corn patch and a lot of pigs, something that would have some gratitude about it and be some account.

Suppose we petition the Agricultural Department not to send us any more tobacco seed, but to send us some pigs; or how would it do to get our Congressman, A. H. A. Williams to introduce a bill to establish a pig breeding station somewhere in North Carolina. Do you reckon that Mr. Vance would again arrogate to himself the power of the Supreme Court and say it is unconstitutional, pig legislation and hogemalism, or would the meat syndicates and railroad corporations say there is already an over-production of pigs? It may be that there is an over-production of pigs, but it don't look like there was one in North Caro-

lina, when the farmers of Rockingham county alone pay the meat syndicates the money they get for about half a million pounds of their "sorry crop" of tobacco. Say that the farmers were to raise at home the half million pounds of meat they buy from the syndicates, let us see what amount of supplies Rockingham county would cut off from the tobacco trusts, the meat syndicates, the railroad corporations and the guano factories. In the first place they would take away from the tobacco trust from this one county alone a half million pounds of its yearly supplies. It takes away from the railroads the freight on that tobacco, wherever it goes. It will take, at a low estimate, that hundred thousand pounds of guano to go under that tobacco, one hundred and fifty tons at an average cost of \$25 per ton, making a total cost of \$3,750, besides freight. The freight it would take from the railroads on the guano would be about \$360. On the half million pounds of meat it would be about \$650—a \$1,000 outside of the freight you are paying on the tobacco, you are paying to railroad corporations to transport directly and indirectly your meat, when if you had a few pigs in a small enclosure, you could take a basket of corn and a basket of slops and say "piggie, piggie, piggie," and your meat would come itself, and you would save all those expenses enumerated above.

If the finances and other affairs of the country were in a healthy condition, it would perhaps be better for Virginia and North Carolina to raise the cotton, sugar, rice and molasses, the West, the wheat and bacon. And every State on a mutual exchange of products.

But the laws of the country have suffered the railroad corporations, the trust and syndicates to trump all those tricks, and there is nothing left for each section to do but to raise their own supplies and act independent of each other until the laws can be amended—until the laws are amended, the people will have to abandon to some extent the cultivation of tobacco and cotton, otherwise misery and distress will grow and multiply all over the land.

The aid of the State to protect the people from the ravages of Shylocks will have to be invoked, I verily believe. In this way, say that a person contracted a debt for \$1,000 when the purchasing power of a dollar was about one fourth as great as it is now. Is it right that the law should force him to pay more than one-fourth the debt, with interest on the same, which would be out of the \$1,250 with interest? I don't see how the lender would be worsted when the \$250 he gets back will buy as much corn, wheat, cotton, tobacco, land or anything else as the \$1,000 would when he loaned it. I believe the teachings of the Bible will bear me out in this assertion, for a man cannot be any part of a Christian and force his unfortunate neighbor to pay him four bushels of wheat for one.

Fraternally,
W. H. SCHOOLFIELD.

MARTIN COUNTY AGAIN.

Bro. McCaskey Thinks a Drummer Did the Work.

DARDEN'S, N. C.

MR. EDITOR:—Your paper issued on the 3d of May contains an editorial headed "Watch for Liars," also a short item copied from the News and Observer, saying "Hurrah for the Martin County Alliance, the Martin County Alliance repudiates the St. Louis platform and instructed the delegate to the Butler Conference to vote against the Third party," signed L. I thought when I read the above article that the L. was significant of some savory morsel that goes by another name when prepared, and I was not mistaken. At the county convention on the 7th I learned that a Mr. Lamb, who is engaged in the drumming business, I believe for this county, wrote the article for the News and Observer. I approached the gentleman and demanded to know upon what and whose authority he had written such an article. He said upon the authority of J. B. Coffield, the Lecturer of Martin County Alliance. I asked Mr. Coffield if he told Mr. Lamb that the Martin County Alliance repudiated the St. Louis platform, and he answered in the presence of Bro. T. L. Green, that he told him no such a thing.

Now, Mr. Editor, I can furnish evidence from a hundred men that the Martin County Alliance did endorse the St. Louis platform, and by so doing the delegate to the Butler Conference was instructed not to back down or compromise said demands. I will give you the task of locating the LIAR, for there is certainly one loose, if it is myself, and I think I can prove otherwise.

In the county convention at Williamston on the 7th your scribe was unceremoniously read out of the Democratic party, because I had written an article criticizing the National Democratic and Republican parties. The article was printed in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, and nothing that Alliance men or reform Democrats could say or do would induce the Chairman, J. B. Coffield, to listen or put before the convention the motion that I be allowed to speak in defense of the charge brought against me for criticizing the National Democratic party.

Fraternally,
T. E. McCASKEY, Sec'y.

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

THE DEFEAT OF SILVER COINAGE.

Does It Advance or Retard Financial Reform?

BLUE WING, N. C.

MR. EDITOR:—We claim "equal rights for all and special privileges to none." Let us apply silver to this test. Is not silver a product of labor? Is not gold a product of labor? Are not wheat, corn, cotton and tobacco just as much the products of labor as either of the so-called "precious metals"? Shall the labor in the mines have "special privileges" conferred by law which are denied to laborers on the farm? Shall the owners of metal products have "special privileges" conferred upon them which are denied to the owners of farm products? Alliance men have come to believe, and assert, and demand that their products, which feed and clothe the world, have equal rights with all other products, not excepting the so-called "precious metal" products. And this is the bottom and substance of the universally endorsed Sub-Treasury scheme.

Beginning at an early period of history, the two products of silver and gold became the monarchs of all the other products. A "special privilege" was given, or allowed these two metal products to measure the value of all the other products. From the remotest periods of civilization we find also some "special privilege" men, calling themselves kings or rulers of all the other people. They claimed—along a parallel line with the "special privilege" metals—superior, and even "divine rights" to rule others. Might and custom have perpetuated these "special privilege" men and families, even to this day, but our forefathers, who came to the American wilderness, determined to side track these "special privilege" people, especially King George, and declared for "equal rights to all." But to make good this bold declaration—flying in the face of the whole world—there ensued a struggle so long, so desperate and so bloody that no thought could be given to any other subject. Since that time, as well as previously, the world has been occupied with political and religious revolutions. But now comes the dawn of a new civilization—the twentieth century civilization—which is about to be ushered in by a financial revolution fraught with less danger and greater benefits to the human family than all the political revolutions of the past combined. It now devolves upon the sons of the sires of '76; the descendants of the brave and patriotic men of the first revolution; to take up the work where they left off, and placing our feet upon the neck of both king gold and king silver, proclaim again the "sic semper tyrannis" of our fathers who placed their feet upon the neck of King George, of England. If we are true to the instincts and traditions of a noble ancestry, we will, not only dethrone, but trample in the dust the metal monarchs which have so long asserted and maintained a superiority over souls divine encased in God-created flesh. Mind and muscle must re-assert and re-establish its superiority over the "special privilege" metal products.

"Whom the Gods destroy they first make mad," and whether the demonization of silver was an injury or benefit, it matters not, if it but opens the way for the dethronement of gold—the other "special privilege" metal product—and secures a more speedy establishment of a circulating medium "of the people, for the people and by the people." Why should not both gold and silver take their places, on an equality, alongside of all the other products, and if they be more handy to settle international balances, let them be weighed out to the foreigner for what they are worth—market value—like corn and wheat, or cotton and tobacco? Indeed both are now used in that way for that purpose.

If we mean "equal rights for all and special privileges to none," then it follows, logically, that we must have "equal rights" for all products and special privileges to no products. Why then should the free coinage people contend that the government should issue a 100 cent certificate on a deposit of 70 cents worth of silver, while we only ask the government to issue a 56-cent certificate on 70 cents worth of farm products; or 80 cents on a 100 cents worth of farm products and 50 cents on every 100 cents worth of land? Why should the silver people ask so much more for the silver producers than for the bread-producers? Why not let the silver yoke stay off? Why not go to work and get off the gold yoke also? The people have worn the double yoke of metallic money bondage for centuries. Off with the yoke!

The success of free coinage would only have delayed our deliverance, and helped to strengthen the "special privilege" metal bases of money, and thus retarded our progress towards the true basis—land—from which all values emanate, and therefore the only safe and true basis of money.

Does it not therefore appear that free coinage of silver is really antagonistic to the Sub-Treasury scheme, and is it not fortunate that it failed? Will not the failure of free coinage advance the cause of financial reform? Are our Congressmen, who were elected largely by Alliance votes, doing their duty in this all important matter? Free coinage having failed, why should the attempt be made to lug away a part of Uncle Sam's silver, which is properly held as security for the silver certificate? Why not try to get a like deposit for corn or wheat, cotton or to-

bacco, or land titles, so their constituents can draw certificates on such, in like manner as the silver producer draws on his product? Why not? Are we to be side tracked after such an universal endorsement of the Sub-Treasury scheme? Let us find out, if we can, who the real leaders of financial reform are, and send them to the front.

RUFUS AMIS.

THE CAUSE.

The Atlanta Constitution must have had an eye on North Carolina when writing this:

"To-day, wherever there is a tendency among the farmers to go into the Third party we may be sure the tendency has developed out of the folly of some of the small politicians or the senseless policy of some of the so-called Democratic editors."

Again it says:

"There was never anything heard of the Third party in Georgia until certain Democratic and pretended leaders undertook to set in motion the machinery of proscription and intolerance. We should think they have gone far enough to discover that their system of dragging is not as popular now as it has been. And yet some of them have not gone far enough. There are would be leaders in Georgia to-day who would be glad to drive the farmers out of the party. They would like to see it as small as the Republican party, for they see in that contingency an opening for them to play the part of Buck and his little coterie."

LETTER FROM PAMLILO CO.

GRANTSBORO, N. C.

MR. EDITOR:—I have just read my companion, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, and am so enthused from reading its valuable contents I must proceed to write a line. I have read so much about the diabolical meanness of the pledged gentlemen whom we have supported and sent to Congress to work for our interest, I feel that though I am a young man, and am not so well informed as some of our Alliance brethren, that it is no more than my duty to write and inform the brethren as to our standing, and also to caution them to be on the alert. We, Prospect Alliance, No. 1,078, are solid on the St. Louis platform. Let all be so.

Let us watch these fellows whom we have sent to Congress, for they and others will come again, with more power than before; they will come full of their binding eloquence; they will come again with their faces wreathed with smiles, a hearty handshake and "how are your babies?" but regard them not. Maybe these words will be spoken again: "Gentlemen, there is no justice in your paying 10 cents for the jack knife and \$1.00 for the ordinary plow trace, when they should be bought for 5 and 50 cents, respectively. And my fellow-citizens, if you will support me in this campaign such shall be attended to."

Of course it is attended to, but how? Senator Vance, when your term expires, you can slowly but steadily make your way home. But how are you going to face your constituents? Are you a conscientious man? If you are, you will pass them with your head dropped. Yes, you will feel full of guilt. You will know that not only men in their might are frowning upon you, but God is displeased with you. No, sir, we will never recognize you again. For we can no longer trust a lying tongue and a deceptive heart.

Brethren, leave off selfishness, cling not to the rotten old parties, for they are what have brought and forced upon our necks this financial yoke of oppression which is so heavy it will soon, if not removed, choke us to death. Come into this powerful army, young men; nothing will help you in education any more than reading the reform papers. Come, all ye laborers, let us play a hand in the primaries. They want us to vote with them, but they want us out of the primaries.

Look what we have done for this great and invincible republic! and yet we are nothing. You are men, my fellow farmers; do you know it, does not that heart of yours throb, replete with patriotism. You love liberty and you must have it; be not influenced by office seekers. Keep your courage, for you will need it before long.

They think that they will never let us have the Sub-Treasury bill passed, nor will they ever give us free silver nor anything which will materially benefit us. But brethren, if we act as a unit throughout this country (and there is nothing that will check us,) we must have reform or we perish. God has promised to help us if we help ourselves. And to get it, we must trust no more the sweet-mouthed rascals. Be not fickle, but stand in your own shoes, and at last you will reap your reward.

Respectfully,
GEO. A. CATON.

THE CHANGE.

But of late a change has come. Speakers are interrupted by hayseeds who question an assertion or correct the figures in a statistical table with an assurance that is very embarrassing—to the speaker. The froth and fume of a speaker no longer charms the audience to the hip! hip! hurrah! part of the performance and the eulogy of a prominent statesman is choked off by a query as to what he has done for the people.—Alabama Mirror.

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