

LETTER FROM GEORGIA.

A Georgia Brother Expresses His Surprise at the Action of Some of Our Brethren.

MR. EDITOR:—I am surprised to learn that some of the prominent Alliance men in your State are going back on themselves in repudiating their own handiwork.

At the same time that both old parties have denounced and pointed the finger of scorn at every important demand made by the Alliance.

Those same men have been warning the people against the party lash and now they are the first to be whipped or bought in.

In my judgment there are but few who will follow them. The time has come when no man or set of men can do the thinking and acting for the people.

They are determined to go back as near as possible to the old landmark of our fathers, from which the so-called Democracy of our day has drifted so far.

I for one would much prefer remaining in the Democratic party if there was any hopes of relief from that source, but I see none whatever; it has been more clearly demonstrated in the last Congress than ever before.

And furthermore, if either of the two old parties were to incorporate in their platform every Alliance demand we could never reach them while the prejudice exists between those parties that does at this time.

I have ever been taught as a Democrat to put no trust in any promise a Republican should make and I am frank now to admit that I could not trust them.

And the very same feeling exists with my Northern and Western brethren in regard to the Democrats.

Now for reform in our government; they must have mutual ground upon which to meet. Just so long as we give heed to the clamor for a solid South against a solid North we will be ruled and oppressed by the money corporations of Old England and New England combined.

We don't need a solid South, North, East or West, but we need a solid union against all outside enemies and against all inside wrongs as it was in the days of our ancestors.

1873 and the gold dollar has increased 66 per cent. The monopoly that hurts is the power the money devil has in controlling the volume of money.

They have succeeded, by that control, in squeezing one hundred per cent. more of the farmers' produce into their dollars.

The gold, silver, national and U. S. notes are dishonest money because they will measure twice the products of labor they would in 1865 and compels the people to give twice the amount of labor to pay debts and taxes.

We would inform this editor that those championing the free coinage of silver are skilled in political economy if not in finance.

The men skilled in finance, as a rule, are ignorant of political economy.

JAMES MURDOCK.

HENDERSON COUNTY ALLIANCE. HENDERSONVILLE, N. C. At the quarterly meeting of Henderson County Alliance, a recess of 20 minutes was taken from regular business to give expressions to words of kind remembrance of our late friend and leader, Col. L. L. Polk, and a committee composed of W. C. Connell, J. B. Iseman and W. D. Miller, was appointed to draft resolutions expressive of our deep and heartfelt sorrow at his loss.

WHEREAS, God in His mysterious providence has removed from us the great leader and champion of a cause to which the best energies of an active and earnest life were being given.

Resolved, That while we will not again meet that warm, brotherly grasp of the hand so familiar to many of us, we will not again listen to that voice of fearless eloquence that condemned in ringing words of scorn the corruption in high places, and the consequences resultant to the large masses of his laboring struggling fellow men, yet he accomplished more in a few short years than often falls to the lot of public men through a long and active life.

2. That whilst we mourn his loss to a cause in which his most earnest sympathies were enlisted, we have an unwavering faith in the final triumph of the great principles of honesty, truth and justice for which he so earnestly and fearlessly contended that having fought the good fight in all of his relations in life, he has entered into that rest that no conflicting interest can assail or disturb.

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

WM. C. CONNELL, J. B. ISEMAN, W. D. MILLER.

PEOPLE'S PARTY PLATFORM.

Adopted by the Convention at Omaha, Neb., July 4, 1892.

PREAMBLE. Assembled upon the one hundred and sixteenth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the People's party of America, in their first national convention, invoking upon their actions the blessing of Almighty God, puts forth in the name and on behalf of the people of the country the following preamble and declaration of principles:

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 legislatures, the Congress, and touches even the ermine on the bench.

The people are demoralized; most of the States have been compelled to isolate the voters at the polling places to prevent universal intimidation or bribery. The newspapers are largely subsidized or muzzled, public opinion silenced, business prostrated, our homes covered with mortgages, labor impoverished, and the land concentrating in the hands of the capitalists.

The urban workmen are denied the right of organization for self-protection; imported pauperized labor beats down their wages; a hireling army, unrecognized by our laws, is established to shoot them down, and they are rapidly degenerating into European conditions.

The fruits of the toil of millions are boldly stolen to build up colossal fortunes for a few, unprecedented in the history of mankind, and the possessors of these in turn despise the Republic and endanger liberty. From the same prolific womb of governmental injustice we breed the two great classes—tramps and millionaires.

The national power to create money is appropriated to enrich bondholders; a vast public debt, payable in legal tender currency, has been funded into gold bearing bonds, thereby adding millions to the burdens of the people.

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 it is rapidly taking possession of the world. If not met and overthrown at once it, forebodes terrible social convulsions, the destruction of civilization, or the establishment of an absolute despotism.

We have witnessed for more than a quarter of a century the struggles of the two great political parties for power and plunder, while grievous wrongs have been inflicted upon the suffering people. We charge that the controlling influences dominating both parties have permitted the existing dreadful conditions to develop, without serious effort to prevent or restrain them.

Neither do they now promise us any substantial reform. 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 capitalists, corporations, national banks, rings, trusts, watered stock, the demonetization of silver, and the oppressions of the usurers may all be lost sight of. They propose to sacrifice our homes, lives and children on the altar of mammon; to destroy the multitude in order to secure corruption funds from the millionaires. Assembled on the anniversary of the birthday of the nation and filled with the spirit of the grand general chief, who established our independence, we seek to restore the government of the Republic to the hands of "the plain people" with whose class it originated. We assert our purposes to be identical with the purposes of the National Constitution, to form a more perfect union and 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 declare that this Republic can only endure as a free government while built upon the love of the whole people for each other and for the nation; that it cannot be pinned together by bayonets; that the civil war is over and that every passion and resentment which grew out of it must die with it, and that we must be in fact, as we are in name, one united brotherhood of freedom. Our country finds itself confronted by conditions for which there is no precedent in the history of the world. Our annual agricultural productions amount to billions of dollars in value, which must within a few weeks or months be exchanged for billions of dollars of commodities consumed in their production; the existing currency supply is wholly inadequate to make this exchange. The results are falling prices, the formation of combines and rings, the impoverishment of the producing class. We pledge ourselves that if given power we will labor to correct these evils by wise and reasonable legislation in accordance with the terms of our platform.

We believe that the powers of government—in other words, of the people—should be expanded (as in the case of the postal service) as rapidly and as far as the good sense of an intelligent people and the teachings of experience shall justify to the end that oppression, injustice and poverty shall eventually cease in the land.

While our sympathies as a party of reform are naturally upon the side of every proposition which will tend to make men intelligent, virtuous and temperate, we nevertheless regard these questions—important as they are—as secondary to the great issues now pressing for solution, and upon which not only our individual prosperity, but the very existence of free institutions depend, and we ask all men to first help us to determine whether we are before we differ as to the condition upon which it is to be administered, believing that the forces of reform this day

organized will never cease to move forward until every wrong is righted and equal rights and equal privileges established for all the men and women of this country; we declare, therefore,

UNION OF THE PEOPLE.

First—That the union of the labor forces of the United States, this day consummated, shall be permanent and perpetual. May its spirit enter into all hearts for the salvation of the Republic and the uplifting of mankind.

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

Third—We believe that the time has come when the railroad corporations must either own the people or the people must own the railroads, and should the government enter upon the work of owning and managing all railroads, we should favor an amendment to the Constitution by which all persons engaged in the government service shall be placed under a civil service regulation of the most rigid character, so as to prevent the increase of the power of the national administration by the use of such additional government employees.

PLATFORM.

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. per annum, to be provided as set forth in the Sub Treasury plan of the Farmers' Alliance, or a better system; also by payments in discharge of its obligations for public improvements.

We demand free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1.

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

We demand a graduated income tax. 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 that all state and national revenues shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government economically and honestly administered.

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.

CONTROL OF TRANSPORTATION.

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

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

RECLAIMING THE LAND.

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.

RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were offered independent of the platform, and were adopted, as expressive of the sentiment of the convention:

Resolved, That we demand a free ballot and a fair count in all elections and pledge ourselves to secure it to every legal voter without Federal intervention through the adoption by the States of the unperverted Australian or secret ballot system.

2. That the revenue derived from a graduated income tax should be applied to the reduction of the burden of taxation now levied upon the domestic industries of this country.

3. That we pledge our support to fair and liberal pensions to ex-Union soldiers and sailors.

4. That we condemn the fallacy of protecting American labor under the present system, which opens our ports to the pauper and criminal classes of the world and crowds out our wage-earners; and we denounce the present ineffective laws against contract labor and demand the further restriction of undesirable immigration.

5. That we cordially sympathize with the efforts of organized workmen to shorten the hours of labor, and demand a rigid enforcement of the existing eight-hour law on government work, and ask that a penalty clause be added to the said law.

6. That we regard the maintenance of a large standing army of mercenaries, known as the Pinkerton system, as a menace to our liberties, and we demand its abolition; and we condemn the recent invasion of the Territory of Wyoming by the hired assassins of plutocracy, assisted by Federal officers.

7. That we commend to the thoughtful consideration of the people and the reform press the legislative system known as the initiative and referendum.

8. That we favor a constitutional provision limiting the office of President and Vice-President to one term, and providing for the election of Senators of the United States by a direct vote of the people.

bers of the legislatures, State and National shall be eligible to sit or vote in any convention of this party, and a copy of this ordinance shall be annexed to every call for any future convention of the party.

TYRRELL COUNTY ALLIANCE.

COLUMBIA, N. C.

Resolved, That we re-affirm our devotion to the principles of our Order. 2. That we, the Farmers' Alliance of Tyrrell county, declare and publish to all men our purpose and intention to stand by the Alliance demands, and that we will neither support nor advocate any man for office who opposes said demands.

3. That we believe that our demands cannot be put into practicable operation by any better plan than set forth at Ocala, and as reiterated at St. Louis on the 22d day of February, 1892. Therefore we pledge ourselves to stand by the St. Louis demands, so far as possible.

N. COLE, F. L. BRICKHOUSE, T. L. JONES, Committee.

R. E. L. HOYMAN, Sec'y.

WHEREAS, It has pleased the Almighty Father to remove, by death, Hon. L. L. Polk, our much esteemed President of the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union; and in his death we recognize the loss of one of our truest members and ablest co-workers. Therefore we, the Farmers' Alliance of Tyrrell county in regular session assembled, offer our sincere sympathy to the family of our deceased brother, and that we strive to carry out with renewed energy the work he so ably represented.

That a copy of this resolution be sent to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and the Farmers' Advocate, of Tarboro, for publication.

N. COLE, F. L. BRICKHOUSE, T. L. JONES, Committee.

JUDGE BYNUM EXPLAINS.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., Aug. 25, 1892.

MR. EDITOR:—In your issue of the 2d inst. I find the following publication, to-wit: (Here the resolution of the State Alliance was inserted, but we omit it, as it has been published often.) The first name published as refusing is John G. Bynum, Judge Superior Court. I did, about December 1st, 1891, receive from Mr. Barnes a circular letter of which the above is a copy.

On December 8th, 1891, I wrote Mr. Barnes as follows, to-wit: "W. S. Barnes, Secretary, &c."

MY DEAR SIR:—The resolution of the Farmers' State Alliance and your circular letter in regard to the use of railroad passes by myself since my election as Judge of the Superior Court of North Carolina is received, and replying will say, I know nothing of your Order or Association; it is secret and I am excluded from its benefits or privileges; I cannot therefore recognize the right of the Alliance to make the inquiry, any more than I would the right of the State Medical Association, or the Presbyterian Synod; still I do not desire to be discourteous, or decline to answer the question upon that ground, especially as I have nothing to conceal; but before answering, I desire in common fairness to ask you as the Secretary and Treasurer of the N. C. F. S. A. two simple questions which you can answer, and which I cannot enter into one of your meetings to find out, which questions are as follows:

"First, Does the Alliance propose to publish to the world my answer to their inquiry?"

"Second, If they do not intend to publish to the world what use do they propose to make of it?"

"If your answer to the first question is in the affirmative, I will answer your question with pleasure; if that question is answered in the negative, then my reply will depend upon your answer to the second inquiry."

"Enclosed find stamped envelope for reply. Yours truly, JNO. GRAY BYNUM."

On December 14th, 1891, I received from Mr. Barnes a reply of which the following is a copy: "Judge J. G. Bynum, Morganton, N. C."

MY DEAR SIR:—Yours of the 8th to hand, and in answer to your inquiry or inquiries must say that all that the Alliance did in this matter was published in the resolution sent you by me. "The letters will be turned over to the Executive Committee, who will have them laid before the State Alliance meeting of 1892. Do not think they will be published, though some of them may; but I cannot say not knowing what action will be taken by that body. I think the intention of the letter of inquiry was to find out who of the State officials were disregarding the act of the legislature creating the Railroad Commission, a clause in which has reference to free passes. Yours truly, W. S. BARNES."

This correspondence explains itself. I have never used a pass over a railroad since the 31st of March, 1891. The Auditor was informed of that fact at that time. Mr. Barnes would have been, had he answered the inquiries in my letter to him so that I could have been informed that a proper use was to be made of my reply. I will be obliged if you will publish these communications. I am, Very truly yours, JNO. GRAY BYNUM.

NORTHERN DEMOCRATS SAY THE SOUTH CAN HAVE IT.

"Mr. Speaker, I was shocked this morning when I picked up the Brooklyn Eagle (a Democratic newspaper) and read a marked piece headed 'If the South can have it.' I will not read the article. It ought not to have been written, and I will let it rest in peace."—Hon. B. H. Bunn, Speech Before the House on the Silver Bill, March 23d, 1892.

STEVENSON AND THE MINERS.

A Serious Charge Published in His Home Newspaper.

STREATOR, Ill., August 8.—In a letter to a local paper, Mr. Patrick M. McCall, a well known Irishman, says: "I worked for Adlai E. Stevenson's company from the time the bottom vein was reached in 1870 until Mr. Stevenson pulled the union out root and branch in 1873."

"I can truly say I never met a greater tyrant, nor a man with less humanity during all my life as a coal miner. In 1873 a contract was agreed to between Adlai and the miners. He prepared it, and one clause provided that it should remain in force one year and no one should be discharged without good cause."

"Not many weeks after the contract was agreed to one of the ropes broke in the shaft, leaving but one to hoist and lower the men and raise the coal. At that time the shaft was also in a very dangerous condition. The timber was bulging and breaking and the free passage of the cage was frequently obstructed."

"One afternoon the remaining cage, loaded with men, stuck in the shaft. From 4 o'clock till 10 at night it was suspended in the most perilous position between top and bottom, while the men below, having no other means of escape, became alarmed for their own safety."

"There was no escapement shaft, no means of egress, and coming from the bowels of the earth, 550 feet below could be heard the execrations of the men and pleading for prompt relief. At any moment the unusual strain on the rope might have precipitated the cage of human occupants to the bottom of the shaft several hundred feet below."

"Women and children gathered around the top screaming and praying for the safety of their husbands and fathers. Next morning yielding to the prayers of their families, the men refused to work until the shaft was put in a safe condition. Adlai gave orders to discharge every man who did not report for duty."

"Realizing their extreme danger and a man reported, and all were discharged in the face of a contract drawn up for one year. Adlai would listen to no reason, but said he had done with the union and would get new men. In a short time the company's agent brought in ninety scabs, only one of whom could speak a word of English."

"Union miners were defeated in that inhuman lockout in 1873 for simply demanding that their lives be not unnecessarily jeopardized. Such is the character of Adlai Stevenson, the scab employer and boss political headman."

Mr. McCall is vouched for by many prominent citizens. He is a leading representative of the miners of the State.—New York Press.

IRISH POTATOES.

Our potatoes grown from last fall's crop, and planted for comparison alongside of potatoes brought from the North, have been dug. The superiority of the home-grown seed was apparent in the growth of the plants during the whole spring, and the result in the crop is still more striking. The proportion of unmarketable potatoes in the lot from home-grown seed is not near so large as from the Northern seed. In fact, the fine size of the potatoes from the home-grown seed makes the whole crop of the potatoes from Northern seed look like cullings. While the gross weight of an equal number of hills from the Northern seed was a little greater than from the home-grown seed, the additional weight was more than made up of cullings, and the marketable crop from the home-grown seed was much heavier, and there was not a potato in the whole crop from Northern seed equal in size to the majority of those from the home-grown seed. A late crop will be grown from both and the experiment continued next year, in comparison with fresh potatoes of same stock brought from Northern seed.—W. F. Massey, Horticulturist, N. C. Agriculturist Experiment Station.

CAMDEN COUNTY MEETING.

MR. EDITOR:—Camden County Farmers' Alliance, No. 1,219, met July 14th, 1892, in regular meeting with Lone Star Alliance, and was opened by the President in regular form. The Alliance then went into the election of officers, with the following result: S. Bartlett, President; J. M. Whaley, Vice-President; W. R. Dozier, Secretary; H. C. Ferebee, Treasurer; T. B. Boushall, Lecturer; W. G. Cox, Assistant Lecturer; S. W. Williams, Chairman; Wm. Evans, Door-keeper; J. B. Brown, Assistant Door-keeper; J. H. Stevens, Sergeant at Arms; W. F. Ferebee, County Business Agent.

A recess was then taken for an hour after which the Alliance re-assembled and the retiring president installed the officers elect in due form.

W. G. Cox was elected delegate and T. B. Boushall alternate, to the State meeting to be held in Greensboro.

The regular routine business was transacted in the usual manner. T. B. Boushall, Lecturer, made some remarks for the good of the Order.

On motion, these proceedings were ordered furnished THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and the Carolina Dispatch for publication.

The Alliance adjourned to meet with Old Trap Sub Alliance at its next regular meeting.

W. R. DOZIER, Sec'y.

"Money is exactly what mountain promoters on public roads were in olden times. The barons fought for them, fortified them and then made all who pass below pay toll. So the fortified millionaire can make all who pass below pay toll to his million, and build another tower to his money castle. The poor vagrants by the road side suffer now quite as much from the bar barons as they ever did from the crag barons. Bags and crags have just the same effect on rage."—Ruskin.