

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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

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PAPERS.

Progressive Farmer, State Organ, Raleigh, N. C.
The Workingman's Helper, Pinnacole, N. C.
Watchman, Salisbury, N. C.
Farmers' Advocate, Barboro, N. C.
Country Life, Trinity College, N. C.
Mercury, Hickory, N. C.
Agricultural Bee, Whiteakers, N. C.
Alliance Echo, Goldsboro, N. C.
Special Informer, Monroeville, N. C.
Carolina Dispatch, Raleigh, 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 this promptly will be dropped from the list. Our people can now see what papers are published in their interest.

PLUTOCRACY REIGNS SUPREME.

Mr. Editor:—At the beginning of the war President Lincoln called for men and they responded like patriots. He called for gold to pay the men and gold, like the coward it always is in times of need, hid itself away in bank vaults and did not respond. The President then called on Congress to come to his rescue, to levy taxes and issue treasury notes to be legal tender, with which to carry on hostilities. Several millions of "greenbacks" were issued, the soldiers received them for their service, the farmers received them for their products, the mechanic received them for his quartermasters' supplies; and everybody received them in full payment of any debt or account he held; and the banker, with his gold, was the only man who kicked. Seeing himself so completely outgeneralled, and fearing that the plan would succeed without him and his gold, he proceeded to manipulate politics and makes himself and his howling gang busy finding men to foist on the parties as candidates for Congress who will work for him. The people had their attention diverted from the scheme which these bankers were secretly manipulating, and sure enough the bankers succeeded, and the plan of Mr. Lincoln, which would have left us \$1,257,000,000 of good legal tender paper currency in circulation at the close of the war, and not a dollar of public debt, was defeated by these bankers and their hirelings in Congress. Congress, at the dictation of his master, whom he served, the banker, inserted the exception clause in the greenback and then the banker began to open warfare on it as "rag baby" money, etc. He had laws passed to withdraw what he called the worthless stuff and issue bonds bearing interest in its place. He then put the price of his gold up to as high as \$285 then laid in his greenbacks and paid for the bonds in greenbacks at the rate of from 45 to 60 cents in the dollar. He then goes to work with his enormous wealth and power thus accumulating keeps such men in Congress as he can manipulate to his liking. The war ends and finds us with an enormous

debt of nearly \$3,000,000,000 piled upon us. The greed of the shlylock banker is not yet satiated. He decides that he has not yet made enough out of the cruel war, and must have some more. The credit-strengthening act is passed, which declares that the interest and the principal of the bonds shall be paid in "specie," changing the words "lawful money" in the bonds to "specie," which meant either gold or silver, or both. Then they cover the gold and surreptitiously get silver demonetized. By these two acts the government was robbed of nearly \$3,000,000,000, and the farmers of the country of at least 25 per cent. of the products of their labor ever since. These two acts at the same time have increased the value of the bonds to at least five times their actual income to the government from their sale, have covered the lands of the South, West and North with mortgages, robbed the producer of the means of exchange with which to meet his obligations; made five thousand millionaires and millions of tramps, paupers and many more millions of ruined homes.

Thus the debt of the government which ought never to have been made, was at the close of the war about \$3,000,000,000, in round numbers; more than \$1,500,000,000 of which had already gone into the coffers of the money changers as commissions, discounts and interest. Since the war the government has paid more than \$5,000,000,000 on this debt, money which has gone out of the pockets of the producing tax paying people into the coffers of non producing plutocratic shlylocks who pay no taxes. This grinding still goes on. It would take twice as many pounds of cotton to day to pay what is still due on the same debt as it would have taken a year after the war to have paid it all.

Gen. Weaver, though elected to Congress as a Republican, and by 4,000 majority, was honest enough when he saw the drift of these things to protest against and sound the alarm. For this he at once became the target of ridicule, slander and abuse from the class who were doing this robbery; and they have never held up. For about twenty years now this patriot statesman and high-toned Christian gentleman has been opposing this high handed robbery, and the stronger he grows in the estimation of the people, the more vile, slanderous and contemptible are the efforts of the plutocratic shlylocks and their hireling press to damage his reputation and disgust the people with him. And this warfare has been waged by plutocrats, regardless of party affiliation, while both parties have vied with each other in their efforts to do all they could in the interest of the money class and ignore the interest of the producer and taxpayer, and they spend millions of this wealth every four years to darken council and blind the people and keep them in ignorance, that they may go on with their robbery.

But I think I hear some Democrat say, "The Republicans are responsible for all this." We have not had the chance to stop it. We acknowledge it as is as mean as the devil would have it, but we have not been able to check it, because the people defeat us and keep the robber Republicans in power.

We admit that since the world began there never has been a more corrupt party in power in any country than the Republican party in this country has proved itself to be. But it is not true that the Republican party is responsible for it all; there has not been a time since the war when there was not Democrats in both branches of Congress. If they could have done anything else, they could have informed the people of the robbery and thievery that was going on, and if they had in an honest, straightforward, manly and truthful way done this the people would have believed them and put them in power. Did they warn the people of the curse coming to this country from the passage of the "credit-strengthening act"? Did they open their mouths about the bill demonetizing silver? Did they object to the insertion of the exception clause in the greenback, and destroying it as a legal tender? Not a bit of it. But on the other hand when the farmers of this country in the little log school houses began to meet and discuss the hard times their causes, they soon found out and were willing to lay all this blame at the door of the Republican party. And two years ago, upon the promises and pledges of Democratic candidates to Congress throughout the agricultural territory of this country, the people rallied to the Democratic banner. The like had never been known before. The majority rolled up wiped out an overwhelming Republican majority in the last House and gave the Democrats, together with the nine People's party members, about a two thirds majority in the present House. This was an item for the Democrats, but the men who voted for them looked in vain for any measure of relief. They did absolutely nothing but they pledged themselves to do, they made a sham fight on the free silver bill, which reformers hoped they would pass; but it failed. They had blamed the Republicans with robbery, treachery, thievery, knavery and everything else that was mean in passing the act, demonetizing silver. But given the chance to show their sincerity, they approve rather than undo the law. The Democrats never abused this act until the people found it out by careful investigation. Then the Democrats were loud in its denunciation, until the people determined to give them a chance to undo it. When they were given the chance they made a miserable and disgraceful failure to carry out their solemn pledge. And now the parties of plutocracy are out

in "their platforms; they know their treachery and trickery is discovered, and they offer not a blessed relief, that the heavy-laden wealth-producing and tax-paying people ask for, but frame their platforms wholly and entirely in the interest of the vampire plutocratic money class, who have sucked the lifeblood of the nation, the circulating medium, into their coffers and are demanding more laws in their favor. They have united in their warfare upon the reformers of the country. They declare the Alliance must be crushed. They fear intelligence which is inclined to investigate, and wage relentless war upon all labor organizations; and their methods are as unscrupulous and mean as were ever employed by contending armies in actual war. Thus it appears to the people that this is in the estimation of the leaders of both old parties "our government must be a government of the few millionaire plutocrats, by the hirings of the few millionaire plutocrats, and for the benefit of the few millionaire plutocrats, and the people must be content to work for us."

The writer, through neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, will venture a prediction: Three fourths of the men who vote for either of the old parties this year will live to see the day that they will regret from the bottom of their hearts that they did not vote for the party that knows no sectional bitterness, no hatred growing out of the war, but is strong for a government of the people, by the people and for the people.
JAS. DRYDEN.

A RE-UNION.

The last re-union of North Carolina Grays, Co. I 6th N. C. Regiment, will be held at Cedar Fork, Durham county, on Friday, Oct. 7th. The morning will be devoted to the representation of the colors by Mrs. Lowe; the response by Lieut. Gunter; the historic address on the Regiment, by Maj. R. W. York, and calling the roll by Sergeant C. L. Williams for the last time on earth. The evening will be devoted to short addresses by invited veterans. There will be a basket picnic, and a table will be spread for the veterans and all veterans are invited to share with the North Carolina Grays and the citizens.

THAT SECRET BALLOT.

Mr. Editor:—Some of the shriveled giants (?) who are just recovering from the shock they received when they dropped through the meshes of the political sieve, are making much ado about the "Australian ballot system." To quote one: "Why, every fellow who can't read, will be deprived of votin'." And this is to deceive the unwary.

Read the first resolution appended to the People's party national platform: 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."

Couched in the above we find (1) a free ballot, (2) a fair count (3) every legal voter his rights; (4) no Federal meddling; (5) each State to adopt a secret ballot system, in order to avoid espionage and intimidation, two lurking demons sometimes found at the polls.

Remember every legal voter will be secured in his rights; that illiteracy is no legal barrier, and the secret ballot system will be so arranged as to meet the wants of all. In response to the national platform, hear the North Carolina platform of the People's party: "We demand of our General Assembly at its next session the passage of a secret ballot law, with a provision in said law that will secure to voters who cannot read an opportunity to vote."

This is unequivocal language. Ample provision will be made for voters who cannot read, and thus none will be deprived of a vote from want of educational qualifications. The secret ballot law, whatever may be its details of arrangement, Australian or otherwise, will have a good effect. Bulldozers, loafers, loungers, electioneers and others of their like will be admonished to stand aloof from the judge's seats, "where they can spy on a man's voting. The People's party intends to have a pure ballot, but it will stipulate with any citizen that he shall enjoy every right as a voter guaranteed to him by the Federal laws of the land. The qualifications of voters are defined by the Constitution of North Carolina, Art. 6, Sec. 1, as follows: "Every male person, born in the United States, and every male person who has been naturalized, twenty-one years old or upward, who shall have resided in the State twelve months next preceding the election, and ninety days in the county in which he offers to vote, shall be deemed an elector. But no person who, upon conviction or confession in open court, shall be adjudged guilty of felony, or of any other crime infamous by the laws of this State, and hereafter committed, shall be deemed an elector, unless such person shall be restored to the rights of citizenship in a mode prescribed by law."

These are critical times. Let no demagogue bewitch you, lest he besmeer you with the offal of hypocrisy. Oh Lord, let the hand of the despoiler rest no longer upon the oppressed of the land! In this righteous cause let every patriot summon courage, and by the help of omnipotent God, we shall conquer in this campaign for justice.

OLD NORTH STATE.

Is it worth reading? What! THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. Then read it.

POLITICAL PLATFORMS.

A Series of Interesting Documents.

Milestones in the Development of Political Parties Since the Organization of the Government.

1884.

DEMOCRATIC, CHICAGO, JULY 10, 1884.

The Democratic party of the Union, through its representatives in National Convention assembled, recognizes that as the nation grows older new issues are born of time and progress, and old issues perish. But the fundamental principles of the Democracy, approved by the united voice of the people, remain, and will ever remain, as the best and only security for the continuance of free government. The preservation of personal rights, the equality of all citizens before the law, the reserved rights of the States, and the supremacy of the Federal Government within the limits of the Constitution, will ever form the true basis of our liberties, and can never be surrendered without destroying that balance of rights and powers which enables a continent to be developed in peace, and social order to be maintained by means of local self-government.

But it is indispensable for the practical application and enforcement of the fundamental principles that the government should not always be controlled by one political party. Frequent change of administration is as necessary as constant recurrence to popular will. Otherwise abuses grow, and the government, instead of being carried on for the general welfare, becomes an instrumentality for imposing heavy burdens on the many who are governed, for the benefit of the few who govern. Public servants thus become arbitrary rulers.

This is now the condition of the country. Hence a change is demanded. The Republican party, so far as principle is concerned, is a reminiscence; in practice, it is an organization for enriching those who control its machinery. The frauds and jobbery which have been brought to light in every department of the government are sufficient to have called for reform within the Republican party; yet those in authority, made reckless by the long possession of power, have succumbed to its corrupting influence, and have placed in nomination a ticket against which the independent portion of the party are in open revolt.

Therefore a change is demanded. Such a change was alike necessary in 1876, but the will of the people was then defeated by a fraud which can never be forgotten nor condoned. Again in 1880, the change demanded by the people was defeated by the lavish use of money contributed by unscrupulous contractors and shameless jobbers, who had bargained for unlawful profits or for high office.

The Republican party, during its legal, its stolen and its bought tenures of power, has speedily decayed in moral character and political capacity. Its platform promises are now a list of its past failures. It demands the restoration of our navy. It has squandered hundreds of millions to create a navy that does not exist. It calls upon Congress to remove the burdens under which American shipping has been depressed. It imposed and has continued those burdens. It professes the policy of reserving the public lands for small holdings by actual settlers. It has given away the people's heritage till now a few railroads and non resident aliens, individual and corporate, possess a larger area than that of all our farms between the two seas.

It professes a preference for free institutions. It organized and tried to legalize a control of State elections by federal troops. It professes a desire to elevate labor. It has subjected American workmen to the competition of convict and imported contract labor. It professes gratitude to all who were disabled or died in the war, leaving widows and orphans. It left a Democratic House of Representatives the first effort to equalize both bounties and pensions.

It professes a pledge to correct the irregularities of our tariff. It created and has continued them. Its own Tariff Commission confessed the need of more than 20 per cent. reduction. Its Congress gave a reduction of less than 4 per cent.

It professes the protection of American manufacturers. It has subjected them to an increasing flood of manufactured goods and a hopeless competition with manufacturing nations, not one of which taxes raw materials. It professes to protect all American industries. It has impoverished many to subsidize a few. It professes the protection of American labor. It has depleted the returns of American agriculture—an industry followed by half our people.

It professes the equality of all men before the law. Attempting to fix the status of colored citizens, the acts of its Congress were overtaken by the decision of its courts. It "accepts anew the duty of leading in the work of progress and reform." Its caught criminals are permitted to escape through contrived delays of actual connivance in the prosecution. Honey-combed with corruption, out-breaking exposures no longer shock its moral sense. Its honest members, its independent journals no longer maintain a successful contest for authority in its councils, or a veto upon bad nominations. That change is necessary is proved

by an existing surplus of more than \$100,000,000, which has yearly been collected from a suffering people. Unnecessary taxation is unjust taxation. We denounce the Republican party for having failed to relieve the people from crushing war taxes which have paralyzed business, crippled industry and deprived labor of employment and of just reward.

The Democracy pledges itself to purify the administration from corruption, to restore economy, to revive respect for law, and to restrict taxation to the lowest limit consistent with due regard to the preservation of the faith of the nation to its creditors and pensioners.

Knowing full well, however, that legislation affecting the occupations of the people should be cautious and conservative in method—not in advance of public opinion, but responsive to its demands—the Democracy pledges to revise the tariff in a spirit of fairness to all interests.

But in making reduction in taxes it is not proposed to injure any domestic industries, but rather to promote their healthy growth. From the foundation of this government taxes collected at the custom have been the chief source of federal revenue. Such they must continue to be. However, many industries have come to rely upon legislation for successful continuance, so that any change of law must be at every step regardful of the labor and capital thus involved. The process of reform must be subject in the execution to this plain dictate of justice.

All taxation shall be limited to the requirements of economical government. The necessary reduction in taxation can and must be effected without depriving American labor of the ability to compete successfully with foreign labor, and without imposing lower rates of duty than will be ample to cover any increased cost of production which may exist in consequence of the higher rate of wages prevailing in this country.

Sufficient revenue to pay all the expenses of the Federal Government economically administered, including pensions, interest and principal of the public debt, can be got under our present system of taxation from custom house taxes on fewer imported articles, bearing heaviest on articles of luxury, and bearing lightest on articles of necessity.

We therefore denounce the abuses of the existing tariff, and, subject to the preceding limitations, we demand that Federal taxation shall be exclusively for public purposes, and shall not exceed the needs of the government economically administered. The system of direct taxation known as "internal revenue" is a war tax, and so long as the law continues the money derived therefrom should be sacredly devoted to the relief of the people from the remaining burdens of the war, and be made a fund to defray the expenses of the care and comfort of worthy soldiers disabled in the line of duty in the wars of the Republic, and for the payment of such pensions as Congress may from time to time grant to such soldiers, a like fund for the sailors having been already provided, and any surplus should be paid into the treasury.

We favor an American continental policy based upon more intimate commercial and political relations with the fifteen sister Republics of North, Central and South America, but entangling alliances with none. We believe in honest money, the gold and silver coinage of the Constitution, and a circulating medium convertible into such money without loss. Asserting the equality of all men before the law, we hold that it is the duty of the government, in its dealings with the people, to mete out equal and exact justice to all citizens of whatever nativity, race, color or persuasion—religious or political.

We believe in a free ballot and a fair count, and we recall to the memory of the people the noble struggle of the Democrats in the Forty-fifth and Forty-sixth Congresses, by which a reluctant Republican opposition was compelled to assent to legislation making everywhere illegal the presence of troops at the polls, as the conclusive proof that a Democratic administration will preserve liberty with order.

The selection of federal officers for the territories should be restricted to citizens previously resident therein. We oppose sumptuary laws which vex the citizens and interfere with individual liberty; we favor honest civil service reform, and the compensation of all United States officers by fixed salaries; the separation of Church and State, and the diffusion of free education by common schools, so that every child in the land may be taught the rights and duties of citizenship.

While we favor all legislation that will tend to the equitable distribution of property, the prevention of monopoly, and to the strict enforcement of individual rights against corporate abuses, we hold that the welfare of society depends upon a scrupulous regard for the rights of property as defined by law.

dently granted to railroad corporations by the action of the Republican party, should be restored to the public domain, and that no more grants of land shall be made to corporations or be allowed to fall into the ownership of alien absentees.

We are opposed to all propositions which, upon any pretext, would convert the General Government into a machine for collecting taxes to be distributed among the States or the citizens thereof. In re affirming the declaration of the Democratic platform of 1856, that "the liberal principles embodied by Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence, and sanctioned by the Constitution, which makes ours the land of liberty and the asylum of the oppressed of every nation, have ever been cardinal principles in the Democratic faith," we nevertheless do not sanction the importation of foreign labor, or the admission of servile races, unfitted by habits training, religion, or kindred factors for absorption into the great body of our people, or for the citizenship which our laws confer. American civilization demands that against the immigration or importation of Mongolians to these shores our gates be closed.

The Democratic party insists that it is the duty of this government to protect with equal fidelity and vigilance, the rights of its citizens, native and naturalized, at home and abroad, and to the end that this protection may be assured, United States papers of naturalization, issued by courts of competent jurisdiction, must be respected by the executive and legislative departments of our own government, and by all foreign powers.

It is an imperative duty of this government to efficiently protect all the rights of persons and property of every American citizen in foreign lands, and demand and enforce full reparation for any invasion thereof. An American citizen is only responsible to his own government for any act done in his own country, or under her flag, and can only be tried therefor on her own soil and according to her own laws, and no power exists in this government to expatriate an American citizen to be tried in any foreign land for any such act.

This country has never had a well-defined and executed foreign policy, save under Democratic administration; that policy has ever been, in regard to foreign nations so long as they do not act detrimentally to the interests of the country, or hurtful to our citizens, "let them alone"; that as a result of this policy we recall the acquisition of Louisiana, Florida, California, and of the adjacent Mexican territory by purchase alone; and contrast these grand acquisitions of Democratic statesmanship with the purchase of Alaska, the sole fruit of a Republican administration of nearly a quarter of a century.

The Federal Government should care for and improve the Mississippi river and other great waterways of the Republic so as to secure for the interior States easy and cheap transportation to tide-water. Under a long period of Democratic rule and policy our merchant marine was fast overtaking and on the point of outstripping that of Great Britain. Under twenty years of Republican rule and policy our commerce has been left to British bottoms, and almost has the American flag been swept off the high seas.

Instead of the Republican party's British policy, we demand for the people of the United States an American policy. Under Democratic rule and policy our merchants and sailors, flying the stars and stripes in every port, successfully stretched out a market for the varied products of American industry. Under a quarter of a century of Republican policy, despite our manifest advantages over all other nations in high-paid labor, favorable climate and teeming soils; despite freedom of trade among all these United States; despite their population by the foremost races of men and an annual immigration of all nations; despite our freedom here from the inherited burdens of life and industry in old-world monarchies—their costly war navies, their vast tax-consuming, non-producing standing armies; despite their twenty years of peace—that Republican rule and policy have managed to surrender to Great Britain, along with our commerce, the control of the markets of the world.

Instead of the Republican party's British policy we demand in behalf of the American Democracy, an American policy. Instead of the Republican party's discredited scheme and false pretense of friendship for American labor, expressed by imposing taxes, we demand, in behalf of the Democracy, freedom for American labor, by reducing taxes to the end that these United States may compete with unhindered powers for the pre-eminence among all nations in all the arts of peace and fruits of liberty.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

TOO EXTRAVAGANT.

Farmers are altogether too extravagant."—New York Tribune.
You bet! Whitelaw Reid, a Westchester county farmer, has a farm house costing \$150,000, while the furniture cost as much more. He also owns a richly furnished residence in the city, and has spent \$50,000 a year for the past three years trying to keep up with the Paris fashions. Besides this, he runs a New York political paper and wants to be Vice-President. Farmers are too extravagant.—Farmers Weekly, Jasper, N. Y.