



A Disaster Averted—A Political Row That was "Non-Partisan."

"Hello! Mr. Editor." R—"Hello! Major. How are you this morning?"

B—"Only tolerable. Me an' Betsy had a row Friday, an' I can't get over it." R—"Did Mrs. Bilkins get the best of the fight?"

B—"Oh! there wasn't any fight. I took to the woods just as soon as Betsy got bilin' hot, an' stayed away all day. I reckon there would have been a disaster if I had stayed a little longer. A mad woman is about the most rancidest animal on the face of the earth. I've bin married thirty years an' I reckon my life has bin in danger pretty near a million times."

R—"What was the recent trouble about?" B—"I guess it was about politics. The row was "non-partisan," though. I wasn't sayin' a thing in favor or against any political party. I reckon that is "non-partisan," ain't it? Betsy 'lowed that we ought to have an extra session of Congress to do up the McKinley bill, an' the Force bill. I told her she was wrong; that the big politicians nearly all say there is no hurry for we can afford to wait a long time for any change. I told her we couldn't afford to take the tariff off anything except toothpicks for a year or two anyway, an' then we would put it on shoes or hats or somethin' a little heavier to make up for what comes off toothpicks. Betsy looked at me hard enough to break down a brick wall, an' said: "Zeke, what do you mean?" I said: "Well, that's bin the policy for the last thirty years, an' the world is not growin' any better so I reckon the same plan will be kept up. She then wanted to know if the tariff would be reduced on anything else. I told her I thought maybe politics would be put on the free list. This made her madder nor ever, an' she began to sorm an' I thought the comet would be shaken so it would fall on the earth an' kill about twenty million office seekers an' all the rest of us. So I took to the woods an' stayed all day."

R—"Did you climb a tree?" B—"No. But I sat down on a log an' put on my studyin' cap fer about four hours. I tried to figger out what is agoin' to become of the country, but I couldn't. I decided that the office-seekers would ruin it in a few years, though, an' at the rate it is goin' now another campaign will do the work. About one person in a thousand in the United States is an office holder, small or large. Then about eight hundred of the 999 who are not it have been promised an office in the future. About one in every thousand is very rich an' plutocratic. Six hundred of the 999 left have bin filled with prejudice an' false teachin' until they are willin' tools for the plutocrats. If this is not changed there will be big trouble of some sort in a few years. Trouble is a brewin'. The sun shines as brightly as it ever did, but the wickedness of the majority of the people will bring calamity on us. There are thousands of people all over the country who are too poor to pay their taxes now. They can't pay anything; they are down in spirits an' gettin' lower every day. I don't see any hope for them. I hope the smart people will stop and think up some plan to give justice to these people."

THE RELIEF FUND.

BRETHREN:—So many inquiries are being made of me in regard to the Alliance Relief Fund, inaugurated at Greensboro in August last, that I concluded it best for me to send an open letter to all. The fund is growing, and one application for relief has been made which will be paid just as soon as the proper papers are filed with me. I think the plan a good one, and will be of great help to those who suffer losses, and will relieve those lodges of a heavy responsibility in which the losses occur. I think there is some doubt about the dues being sufficient to meet all losses, but I cannot tell. It will have to be tried, and if found necessary it can be amended at next State meeting. Upon the fraternal love taught by our order, I believe it is the duty of every Sub Alliance to become a part of this association. Per the constitution the fees must come from each Sub Alliance in proportion to the number of males in good standing, otherwise it will not be a part of the association. Application blanks for losses can be had at this

office. The committee on the "Good of the Order," whose business it is to assess losses, will have to make sworn statement before the clerk of the court of the county in which the Sub is located, and the seal of the clerk must be attached thereto. Remember when your Sub has failed to pay the State and National dues it is not in good standing, and this fact might debar the payment of losses even if you have paid dues to the association. Send in your dues promptly. Join the relief association by all means. Let every member of the Order do his duty fully as required by your obligation—forgive and forget any unkindness of a brother engendered by the late political campaign—be to each other a brother in the true sense of the word, and let us present one solid front to those who would have members of the Order at war with each other. Fraternally, W. S. BARNES, Sec'y Treas. N. C. F. S. A.

GATHERING AND PACKING APPLES.

MR. EDITOR:—The little time spent in climbing a ladder and picking the apples off carefully into a basket and not shaking them on the ground, would well pay for the trouble in not having them all bruised and unfit for market. After they have been carefully gathered, do not dump them all into the same barrel. A mixture of all kinds and classes will never do for the market. A little time spent in sorting them over, carefully selecting the finer specimens for one barrel, the ordinary good for another, and those only fit for vinegar or home use, would well repay for the time spent in the fine condition in which the consumer would find them. Place them into barrels carefully, not letting them fall in, shaking them lightly two or three times while packing. When full make the top layer as level as possible, letting it rise a little higher than the top of the barrel, so that when the head is put on it will slightly dent them. Never use anything in bottom or top, or canvas for a head. They should be so tightly packed that they would have no chance to rattle about when shaken. It is better to let them stay in open piles a week or two before packing, as some of the exterior moisture will escape, making them less liable to decay. A simple contrivance is often used by packers for placing the head in position. It consists of a plank on which the barrel stands, into one end of which is dovetailed an upright piece of plank a little higher than the top of the barrel. A slot is cut in its upper end, and a pin runs across to receive the end of the lever, which may be six or eight feet long. A round board is used as a follower to be placed upon the head, and across this board is placed a block of wood about three or four inches flat on the lower side, on which the lever is placed. A moderate pressure at the end of the lever will bring the head in position, when it is fastened by driving down the loosened hoops and nailing all securely. A block nailed to the side of a log, tree, or any thing that will hold the end of the lever will answer. Place the plank down and put the barrel on, letting the lever rest under the block. Mark every barrel with the name and quality of fruit in it. In this year of high prices farmers cannot afford to lose sale on a single bushel of fruit from lack of these precautions. A RHODES, Asst. Horticulturist, Experiment Station, Raleigh, N. C.

AN APPEAL.

VIOLA, Pender Co., N. C. MR. EDITOR:—Canetuck Alliance, No. 840 having at various times responded to calls for help from others, do, for the first time since organized, most earnestly beseech our brethren throughout the State to assist our unfortunate brother, A. Moore, who lost his mule and is not able to buy another without help. Bro. Moore is a worthy brother in good standing, and has always, as far as able, contributed to unfortunate brethren. All contributions, however small, will be highly appreciated by Canetuck Alliance. Send contributions to K. D. Pridgen, Viola, N. C. S. A. MOORE, Pres't. R. D. PRIDGEN, Sec'y.

CHARCOAL FOR HOGS.

Editor Farmers' Voice:—We have but little doubt that charcoal is one of the best known remedies for the disordered state into which hogs drill, usually having disordered bowels, all the time giving off the worst kind of evacuations. Probably the best form in which charcoal can be given is the form of burnt corn—perhaps, because when given in other forms the hogs do not get enough. A distillery was burned in Illinois, about which a large number of hogs were kept. Cholera prevailed among these hogs somewhat extensively. In the burning of buildings a large amount of corn was consumed. To this burned and partially burned corn the hogs had access at will, and the sick commenced recovering at once and a large portion of them got well. Many farmers have practiced feeding scorched corn, putting it into the stove or building a fire upon the ground, placing the ears of corn upon it, leaving them till pretty well charred. Hogs fed on still sops are liable to be attacked by irritation of the stomach and bowels, coming from too free generation of acid, from fermentation of food after eaten. Charcoal, whether it be produced by burning corn or wood, will neutralize the acid in this way removing the irritating cause. The charcoal will be relished to the extent of getting rid of the acid, and beyond that it may not be. Hence it is well to let the wants of the hog be settled by the hog himself.—John Hobbs, in Farmers' Voice.

For Malaria, Liver Trouble, or Indigestion, use BROWN'S IRON BITTERS

TO THE NON-PARTISAN MEMBERS OF THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

MR. EDITOR:—To such men as take no interest in politics, or have not the manhood to declare for a political party, or the courage to vote their convictions, this letter is not addressed. I have no inclination to write you. But to all such as have the wisdom and judgment to lay aside partisanship when entering the sanctuary of the Alliance, I shall be pleased to say a few words. I am not sure, however, that the above caption does not include every member of the Farmers' Alliance. Within the last six months many, from New York to Texas, have passed this way, and the first Alliance partisan is yet to come. True the Alliance went into politics, and much, if not quite all of our literature became partisan, but the individuals remained true to the Order. How is that? Will you tell me? You are a Democrat, a Populist or a Republican, I a Prohibitionist. We have this right. It is our duty as citizens to be and do whatever we conceive to be for the best interest of the people. And yet I didn't carry the Alliance into politics. You didn't do it. Though nobody denies that the Alliance went into politics. It is a difficult matter to tell who struck Billy Patterson. Billy received a blow, and that a hard one. He will not forget it soon. But no limbs are broken, no blood lost, and he will grow stronger from his boyish exercise. His blighted romance will impress a useful lesson. The whole occurrence was strange, and we are inclined to ask "where was I at?" We seem to have just turned in from a big spree—been on a tare with the boys, and can scarcely realize what has happened. We know that we have been jarred, and feel somewhat nervous and sore. We took a big dose of nerve on the eighth, and since then the doctor has been to see us and we are getting straight again.

Now, brother, the Alliance is our big boy. He has been in error. He comes up now and acknowledges it, and promises to do so no more. What can we do but forgive him and help him on his way? It would be heartless to do less, cowardly to continue chafing him with his fault.

As to our literature, I wish to appeal to you to support THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. If you could know how I have felt toward this paper for the past few months, you would agree that in my appeal I am saying a great deal. I have had no sympathy with its prodigal course, and when its resignation was offered to the Executive Committee, I at once appealed to Bro. Alexander to accept it. This was not done, however, but it was re-adopted at the State Alliance with no restrictions. I grew so impatient with its partisan propensities that I withdrew my subscription, and later determined to begin, at my own expense, the publication of an Alliance journal that should be NON-PARTISAN. I had written up the policy of my paper and done something else, and its publication would have begun, had not THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER signified its intention to change its policy. I am glad it has returned. I am willing to trust it, and to assist in putting on the best robe and in killing the fatted calf. I have dismissed my animosities, and with this issue renew my subscription. I trust you may do likewise. Pardon me—not because I have done it, but because THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is now the legitimate organ of the Alliance. Having promised in the future to abstain from partisanship, it was re-endorsed by the Executive Committee in a recent meeting at Raleigh. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER has done much for the Alliance in the past. No other medium has disseminated the principles of our Order as it has. Its renegade experience in politics will only do it good. Let us all now forgive and forget, fall into ranks, take up the line of march in the Alliance army and drive on to victory with one loud and long "Excelsior!" T. IVEY.

THE IMPENDING CRISIS.

MR. EDITOR:—The indebtedness of the United States is estimated at fifteen billion dollars with annual interest one billion dollars, making eighty million dollars drawn from the channels of trade each month and gorged into bank vaults; nine million mortgages covering the best property North, South, East and West. These have lost their credit and can borrow no more money. Their neighbors seeing the fix the debtors are in, refuse to mortgage their property to get money. The price of the leading products of the farm are fixed in England by the creditor class, below the cost of production, and the farmers are on the road to bankruptcy. As long as there were rich lands to mortgage, the money could be kept in the channels of trade. Credit is exhausted, prices below the cost of production, and there is nothing inside to get this money out of the bank vaults where accumulative interest has congested it. Under existing conditions confiscation of the debtor's property is inevitable and hundreds of thousands will be sold out for taxes. This put of wealth is nearly twelve billion dollars annually. This is an immense output of wealth, and with a just system of distribution would bring general prosperity. As the farmers are compelled to sell below the cost of production, it is of no benefit to them to raise immense crops.

From 1816 to 1825 money was made scarce in England by congesting money to head centers and the land-holders were reduced from three hundred thousand to thirty thousand. Nine out of every ten lost their lands and a large per cent. were sold out for taxes. In England the price of farm produce was depressed below the cost of production as it is now in the United States. The ability to fix a price on the farmers' produce carries with it the power to fix the price below the cost of production. To continue to sell below the cost of production means bankruptcy and the confiscation of the best property in the United States, by foreclosure of mortgages and selling property for taxes. Before the close of this century an immense amount of property will pass from the hands of the masses into the control of the creditor class, a large per cent. of which is English, and we will have to all intents absentee landlordism established in the United States. A crisis is upon this country paralleling that of 1816 to 1825 in England, and the result will be the same. The English crisis was precipitated under a low tariff, and the conditions about to precipitate a similar result grew up under a high tariff, which proves conclusively that low tariff and high tariff is no remedy for financial depression. The English crisis was the direct result of the credit financial system piling up a mountain of debt by accumulating interest and congesting money to head centers, depleting the money from the channels of trade, depressing prices below the cost of production and making it impossible to pay debts and taxes. The English condition parallels ours, and we are on the eve of repeating the bitter period of the English financial system. It was through the control of the medium of exchange that 2 per cent. of the population of Egypt owned 97 per cent. of the wealth, that enabled 2 per cent. of the population of Babylon to own all the wealth, 1 per cent. of Persia to own all the land and when Rome went down 1,800 men to own all the known world, and 100,000 men to own all the land of England, Ireland and Wales; and in 1850 3 3/4 per cent. of the wealth of this country was owned by capitalists, in 1870 they owned 63 per cent. and in 1880 80,000 men owned three-fifths of all the wealth of the country. The farmers own less than 25 per cent. and pay 80 per cent. of the taxes. How long can they continue this and sell their produce below the cost of production? A class that cannot fix a price on their labor are slaves. When Rome, Egypt, Persia and Babylon perished there was nothing known of a tariff.

In the canvas just closed the Republicans pointed to the fact that the output of wealth amounted to the enormous sum of twelve billion dollars and they said, how rich we are; see what protection has done for the country, and the farmers put their hands into their pockets and found them empty. They looked around and saw their cotton, corn and wheat selling below the cost of production, and they decided that protection did not protect them, and they decided to let the Republican party perish. The incoming administration will tinker with the tariff and ignore the fact that three-fourths of the volume of money is locked up, and the interest from a mountain of debt is depleting the money from the channels of trade every day, and as money becomes scarcer in the channels of trade, values continue to shrink. They cry we will give you cheap goods, ignoring the fact that he who sells his produce below the cost of production is on the road to bankruptcy though goods should sell for one fourth the present price. As long as the cotton raisers sell cotton for seven cents a pound that costs him nine cents to raise and loses ten dollars on every five hundred pounds, they cannot buy cotton goods out of the proceeds even though the goods sold for one cent a bale.

There is one and only one remedy for existing conditions, and that is to destroy the present credit financial system and establish a financial system under the full control of the producers of wealth. This means that our financial and tariff systems must be so adjusted as to enable the farmers to fix a living price on their produce. Anything short of this will prove an abortion. This will not be done as the issue was not fought out on this line by the victorious party. No such adjustment can be expected through Southern and Western Democracy are in favor of financial reform, but Grover Cleveland, by association and education, is opposed to financial reform. When the plutocratic wing of the Democratic party and a large part of the Republican Congressmen will be found sold against all financial reform, and the large Democratic majority will disappear like the Democratic majority of 1848 before this combination. Let the people unite, without regard to party, and be ready for the coming contest that must be fought to a finish between plutocracy and the people. Farmers of America, organize and place your selves where you can fix a living price on the products of your labor in 1896 and free yourselves from industrial slavery. JAMES MURDOCK.

EARLY AMERICAN CATTLE.

Genesis of the Trade in Bovines in the New World. The first cattle that were brought into the American colonies were landed at the James River plantation, in Virginia, in the year 1607. They came from the West Indies and were the descendants of the cattle taken to those islands by Columbus on his second voyage, in the year 1493. In 1611 several cows were landed and again in 1611 about one hundred head more were brought to the plantation. This, therefore, was the genesis of the cattle business in America. In order to encourage the industry to the fullest possible extent an order was passed forbidding the slaughter of any animal of the bovine kind under penalty of death. Under this restriction the number of cattle increased to thirty thousand in Virginia alone before the end of the year 1619. The first cattle brought into the New England colonies arrived at Plymouth in 1624, and were imported from England by Gov. Winslow. Three heifers and a bull made up the cargo; "in color," the old record says, "they were black, black and white, and brindle." In 1626 twelve cows were sent to Cape Ann, and in 1629 thirty more. In 1630 about one hundred were imported

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"for the exclusive use of the colony of Massachusetts Bay." During the same year one hundred and three were sent from Holland to New York; so that by the year 1630 there were a good many head of "horned cattle" in the different colonies. The reader naturally thinks of these animals as superb specimens of the bovine race, but they were not. History, that is, the curious and interesting part of history, tells us that the average weight of fat cattle in the Liverpool market as late as 1710 was only three hundred and seventy lbs. What an evolution in one hundred and eighty-two years!—Philadelphia Press.

NEW LONDON, Conn., Nov 29.—The Shore line "flyer" out of New London at a quarter past five o'clock this evening, was run into a short distance west of Noank by the Stonington local freight, and the dining car Warwick was derailed and burned.

MARRIED.

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