

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.
Goldsboro, N. C.
Hickory, N. C.
Watauga, N. C.
The Home, New Bern, N. C.
The Populist, Lumberton, N. C.
The People's Paper, Charlotte, N. C.
The Vestal, Concord, N. C.
The Home-Boy, Wadesboro, N. C.
Dunwoody Blade, Peanut, 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 local platform will be dropped from the list promptly. Our people can now see what papers are published in their interest.

EDITORIAL SUGGESTIONS.

As in other lines, the cheaper the article the harder to sell a poor one, so in the horse market. Horse buyers were never so critical as now.

While a hen is sitting you must not conclude that she is lazy. Hens, if healthy, are generally industrious, and their owners can make them profitable. Treat them kindly.

Corn stalks cut to one or one and a half inch lengths, make a splendid mulch for strawberry plants. Pine straw will do, but when not convenient cut corn stalks "cover a multitude of sins."

Graham flour as sold on the market, is usually made from winter wheat, and is simply the ground, unbolting wheat meal, states Prof. Woods in *Good Housekeeping*. It is frequently made from low grade or unsound wheat.

At the packing houses no part of the animal is permitted to go to waste, and that is one means by which the packers make their millions. The farmer may not be able to make millions by permitting nothing to go to waste, but he can make considerable.

A clean, warm, poultry house saves feed, but many fail provide it. Health, and egg-production largely depend upon clean, warm, laying houses. The farmer who always keeps properly, hatches early chicks, also seldom lacks market, says the *American Agriculturist*.

The President has decided to negotiate the sale of \$5,000,000 of United States bonds as a means of raising revenues. It seems to us that this is unnecessary. We would rather see the currency of the country increased by that amount, says the *Rural New Yorker*.

To break up and scatter the manure and to loosen up the spots where there is no grass, they plant and harrow the pastures at the Ohio State University, according to the *Agricultural Student*. For this purpose they use four fence rails nailed together side by side and tied behind a light smoothing harrow.

WISE SUGGESTIONS.

Desirable Legislation, Not on Party Issues, Which Congress and the Legislature Should Enact.

BY JUDGE WALTER CLARK.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

Propriety requires that a judicial officer shall abstain from taking any share whatever in the controversies raised between political parties further than as a citizen to cast his ballot for the men and the principles of his choice. But I shall ever hold in high honor the declaration of the Roman "homosum, nihil humani a me alienum puto," that is to say "being a man, everything that concerns the welfare of my fellow men shall always be of deep interest to me." There are many matters of grave interest to the public welfare, connected with proposed action either by Congress or the Legislature, upon which political parties are not aligned. As to these, my opinion having been asked, I see no impropriety in giving it.

INTEREST.

1. This Legislature, not dividing upon party lines on the question, will doubtless pass a bill restoring six per cent. as the legal limit for interest. Except in a few of the years since the war this has been the always recognized limit in North Carolina for two hundred years. Now when the profit on everything else is cut down there remains no reason why money should receive an diminished and high profits. When bankers form syndicates to force the government to issue bonds bearing 3 per cent. interest, and North Carolina 4 per cent. bonds are above par, 6 per cent. certainly is full value for the use of money. There can be no doubt that this has been the sentiment of the people of North Carolina for ten years past. Probably a majority in each of the last four Legislatures has come to Raleigh intending to restore the old 6 per cent. rate of interest. This was turned into a minority on each occasion after they reached here. But it is dangerous for the representatives of a free people to deem themselves too wise to execute the wishes of those who elect them. The only authority for any legislation in our country is that it expresses the sentiment of the majority of the people. Besides, the alleged advantages to North Carolina of paying a higher interest than all the neighboring States from Massachusetts to Georgia, have never materialized.

FREE PASSES.

2. In the Constitution of the State of New York, just ratified by the people at the polls, there is a paragraph in stringent language forbidding any public officer to receive or use, directly or indirectly, any free pass or transportation, from any transportation company, or any frank from a telegraph or telephone company. A similar constitutional amendment should be adopted by our Legislature irrespective of party. If adopted, it will be ratified by overwhelming majorities at the polls. The corporations cannot object to this as they say these favors are given with no intent to influence officials and are a sore tax upon them. The people will be glad to vote for such an amendment. That the great State of New York—as well as several others—has seen fit to incorporate this provision in the organic law is sufficient evidence that this is no trivial matter. Give the people of North Carolina a chance to vote upon such an amendment at the polls and it will be seen how few will vote against it.

ELECTION OF U. S. SENATORS.

3. Twice by almost unanimous vote of the lower House of Congress an amendment to the Constitution of the United States has been adopted providing for the election of Senators by the people. Resolutions of many conventions of all political parties have endorsed this amendment including, if I recollect aright, the Democratic State Conventions held this year in Ohio, New York and Massachusetts. The bill is now before the Senate for action. It would be the expression of the popular will if our Legislature, irrespective of party, should pass resolutions of instructions to our Senators to vote for it. If they are already for it, they will not object to having their views on this matter, which has never been a party one, endorsed by the representatives of the people. The best interests of the Republic urgently require this reform.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONES.

4. The Postoffice Department should be modernized and furnished with the best appliances known to science in facilitating the intercommunication of news and thought. To this end, the telegraph and telephone should be a part of the postal service as it is in

every other civilized country. This has no bearing upon the question of government ownership of railroads but is simply applying modern methods in stead of antiquated ones, to the postal service which we already have. If this is paternalism, then the postoffice itself is paternalism. Either give us a modern postoffice with the promptest and best facilities or else turn the postoffice over to the "Western Union" to run. The number of postoffices in country districts should be trebled and a telephone placed in each. Every postmaster can use a telephone and there would be only a few points at which the telegraph requiring additional clerks would be required to forward long distance messages. The plant for the entire United States, it is estimated by experts, reporting to Congress, would cost under twenty million dollars while the "Western Union" has watered its stock up to one hundred millions and last year, notwithstanding hard times, declared a dividend of six million dollars net earnings or fully 33 per cent. on what it would cost the government to establish a better system reaching to every postoffice in the whole country and with far lower rates. The Western Union not only maintains a powerful lobby constantly at Washington to prevent the adoption of a people's telegraph and telephone but it is said gives nearly every member of Congress and Senator, if not all, as soon as elected, a frank to do all his telegraphing free. It cannot be thought that this will directly influence many but it dulls their feeling of the great tax the present heavy telegraphic rates are upon the industry of the country. At any rate the Western Union must find their advantage in the custom or it would not be kept up. Many Legislatures, of each of the great parties, have petitioned Congress for this improvement in our postal service. The North Carolina lower house once in recent years unanimously passed a resolution to that effect which only failed in the Senate for lack of time. It might well be passed again. No political party has antagonized this measure. The Populists alone have endorsed it, but as it is a good and proper measure this will not prejudice it in the eyes of any other party for they alone endorsed their platform the income tax which Congress, by the votes of their political opponents, enacted into law.

ELECTION OF POSTMASTERS.

5. The only objection of any force urged against the postoffice adding the telegraph and telephone to improve its service is the increased number of government employees. Aside from the fact that those employees can be wielded more dangerously in politics if controlled by a corporation, it must be remembered that the postal clerks and other subordinates are now mostly under the civil service law. As to the postmasters it would be a wise step to decentralize, and at the same time lessen the strain of a presidential election, by electing the postmasters by the people in each postoffice district. We shall yet come to this and the sooner the better.

ELECTION LAWS.

6. There will be some change, of course, in election laws. Public sentiment has already brought this about in England, Australia, Canada and in 34 of the States of this Union. Not only should the ballot be fairly cast and counted but election contributions should be reduced and made public as in New York and elsewhere. Otherwise elections will soon be only a matter of money. The electorate will become debauched and only rich men, who can contribute largely to the campaign fund will be possible as candidates. Nominations will become practically for sale. In addition to the remedies so wisely adopted and successfully in operation in England, and elsewhere, these two new ones are modestly suggested. (1) The number of voting precincts should be not less than three in each township properly distributed over the township. This would bring out the fullest expression of the popular will by enabling each man to vote by going only a short distance. As there are 400,000 voters in North Carolina if each man now should vote, and should lose a whole day at the election, as many do who go several miles to vote, the cost would be \$400,000 in the value of lost time. In fact it is a very large fraction of it. (2) The increased number of voting precincts would not only bring out a larger vote and enable voters to save most of the day for their work, but it would render practicable this other reform that the polls should then be closed at 3 p. m. The ballots could then be

counted in broad daylight and the result announced before sunset. There would thus be small chance for fraud. The result in each county would be known at the county seat not long after dark and the result in the whole State would be known by midnight and announced in all the papers next morning. This great reform would also be a great economy by enabling the laboring man everywhere to deposit his ballot without any one being obliged to lose a day's work.

MURDER TRIALS.

7. Trials for capital offences should be simplified. Retaining, as sufficient for any innocent man, the principle that the prisoner must be shown to be guilty beyond a reasonable doubt and by the unanimous voice of twelve men, there should be abolished the gross inequalities to which the State is put in all such trials which render it almost impossible to convict the guiltyest man if he is able to retain skillful and influential counsel. Notably the inequality of challenges by which the defendant has 23 and the State only four should be abolished and each allowed the same number—say six each—as is the case in many other States now. The State, as well as the defendant, should have as formerly in this State, the right of appeal from errors of law of the trial judge. Lynch law hangs two men in this State for each man hung by the courts. Lynch law exists only where society has lost confidence in the ability of the courts to protect society. While retaining the safeguards above mentioned as guarantees against the conviction of an innocent man, remove all the disadvantages imposed on the prosecution which guarantee the acquittal of a guilty man, then lynch law will disappear, but not till then.

COURT EXPENSES.

8. In every State of the civilized world except in this State and in Iowa the judge being responsible for the waste of time in his courts, has a supervisory power over the length of speeches by counsel. It is a power that is rarely used, but its existence prevents too much waste of the public time. This was formerly the rule in the State but a few years ago unfortunately a law was passed taking from the judge all control over the length of speeches by counsel. The Supreme Court was forced to ignore the rule as to that court and the statute was modified to exempt it. But it is still in force in the Superior Courts. Courts are very expensive and this single ill-advised statute has added vastly to the burdens of the people in the greatly increased length of trials without benefit to clients in the case on trial and to the great disadvantage of suitors and counsel in all cases subsequent thereto. Probably the majority of lawyers would not object to a return to the law formerly in force here and which is still in force the world over, the single State of Iowa excepted, and there it is said that when counsel commence to address the jury the judge goes off and plays a game of billiards.

CODE COMMISSION.

9. Lastly, there should be a Code Commission. Not such as we have been having, which shall merely codify the statute law, but one which shall codify the judge made law to be found scattered through so many reports and reduce the whole into two or three handy volumes. This has been done in California and many other States. There a man can see for himself what the law is and not wait till after he has acted on what he supposed to be the law to find out that a court differed with him. It is the lasting glory of Justinian that he did this great work for the Roman people and reduced the vast body of law scattered (as it now is with us) through hundreds of volumes of judicial decisions and statute law into the one volume which has been handed down to our day. The great Napoleon did the same great work for France and his Code Napoleon has been adopted, with slight modifications, by over half the nations of Europe. David Dudley Field did the same great work for New York. How he was thwarted by the Governor's veto after his code had passed both houses is known to all men. So much the worse for New York. California and some other States have been wise enough to adopt it. Georgia did the same good work years before. This can and ought to be done here in North Carolina, making the law more certain, more accessible and placing it in a compact form in the reach of every man's pocket.

Believing that the honest views of any citizen, feeling an interest in the welfare of his fellow-men, will receive fair consideration at the hands of the

people of North Carolina, with much diffidence I submit mine. If there is anything of any value in any of these views other hands may put them into better shape and utilize them for the public good. If any of these suggestions will not stand under the hammer of argument, no harm will have been done. I simply offer them as a goodwill offering to a generous people who have always been kind to me beyond my utmost deserving.

WALTER CLARK

Fresh air is conducive to health, drafts are detrimental. It is a money-losing game to let the horses get thin in flesh.

THE TRUTH OF IT.

Some Light on the Nova Scotia Coal Syndicate.

A little of the truth about the Nova Scotia coal syndicate has at last come to the surface, but it is a small part of the truth. The whole story yet remains to be told, but it never will be told by a Senate investigating committee which has no power to compel witnesses to answer questions, and without doubt Bill Chandler brought it up in the Senate for the express purpose of having it examined by a body that had no way of getting at the truth, that a nice whitewashing report might be made, similar to the report on the sugar scandal.

It is currently reported and generally believed that the Nova Scotia coal syndicate was organized in the office of Mr. Cleveland in New York city a little over two years ago, and at the organization Mr. Whitney and Dan Lamont were present. About \$18,000,000 of stock and bonds have been issued, and the only investment of real cash was four or five thousand dollars spent in negotiations in Canada to secure the lease.

The company did secure a lease of the Nova Scotia coal beds for a term of ninety-nine years, for which it was to pay a royalty of 12½ cents a ton on all the coal mined, and there is no requirement in the lease that any coal at all shall be taken out. The syndicate can leave that coal there for ninety-nine years, never touch it, and there will be no penalty to pay. Inexhaustible quantities of it lie right on sea shore and it can be put into our seaport towns at a cost so low that not a mine of bituminous coal can be worked in either Maryland or Pennsylvania, if the tariff on coal is taken off and freights remain the same as now on the railroads. The grand scheme is just this: Put coal on the free list and Mr. Cleveland and his friends can sell their \$18,000,000 of bonds and stock, which did not cost them a mill on the dollar, at par, and put the money in their pockets.

If a president and his cabinet has ever been caught in a more infamous job than this, history has failed to record the fact. The evidence to prove these facts was being collected when Chandler prematurely introduced the matter in the Senate. The motion to investigate the matter was first declared lost, then reconsidered and finally went to the foot of the calendar. If an investigation is ordered, the result will be a whitewash after the manner of the secret sugar investigation, unless Mr. Gorman, of his own free will, furnishes the evidence to establish the charges. Gorman knows all about it, and it depends upon whether it is to Gorman's interest or not whether the truth shall be told. This sham tariff fight is nothing more or less than a game of boodle. If there is free coal, Mr. Cleveland and his friends will make millions. If there is a tariff on coal, the coal roads and coal barons will continue to make their millions. The question of the American workmen does not enter into it at all, and yet these Senate and White House boodlers talk for hours trying to make the American people believe that they are toiling, sweating and working through these hot summer months for the sole benefit of the American workman.—*Cor. Nonconformist.*

New England, and more especially Massachusetts, is fast becoming the great trotting breeding center of the world. Three of the fastest trotting stallions and some of the fastest trotting mares in the world, including Nancy Hanks, are owned in the old Bay State. It is a fact worthy of note that Massachusetts breeders were among the most liberal purchasers at the recent Palo Alto sale in New York, and they got the cream of the consignment, too. Four of the animals which brought from \$1,000 to \$5,500 each were bought by Massachusetts men.

POULTRY POINTS.

Fowls should be fed in the morning as soon as they can see to eat.

Corn at night, at least three times a week, is an essential. It furnishes warmth.

The prepared bone meals, as we have often stated, can never take the place of fresh cut bone.

The market calls for fat small turkeys. The average consumer does not want an overgrown turkey.

Some advocate feeding several times a day, four or five, and there is some good sense in the suggestion.

The injunction to keep clean the vessels in which either water or food may be given, cannot be too often urged.

The intelligent, enterprising management of poultry on the part of many women, brings much money into the house.

Be sure to give food enough at night to fill the crop full. Night is the only time when the crop should be filled to its utmost.

Say all they please, corn is not an egg-producer. It serves with poultry as it does with stock, to keep up the heat, and that is pretty nearly all.

The hen is not endowed with a high degree of "intellect," but she knows enough to know when she is kindly treated, and will pay for the kindness.

It is pretty difficult to accurately diagnose some of the ailments of poultry, and hence the greater necessity of preventing rather than curing disease.

Nearly all our success in production is in assisting nature, and that is what we must do with the hen in winter. It is her nature to produce eggs in the spring, but if she does it in winter, she must be helped.

Never make the hens wait for their breakfast while you do, in preparing their meal, what could have been done the night before. The mixing can be done the night before. It will not take long to warm it.—*Farmers' Voice.*

In 100 pounds of pumpkins, there are about 90 pounds of water, less than half a pound of muscle makers, seven pounds of fat formers and one tenth pound of pure fat. Their greatest use, therefore, is to add bulk and water to the ration and to aid digestion, as succulent food seem to do, says the *Rural New Yorker*.

PLACING THE RESPONSIBILITY.

The capitalistic press delights in slandering honest people. It has said repeatedly that capitalists won't invest money where the People's party has a strong foothold. Then why is so much money lying idle in the New England States, if such be the case? Why don't they invest in New England? The same capitalistic press says that business credit is bad in People's party States. This statement is entirely untrue. Business credit is lower in the South than in the Northwest. The same depression is affecting every State, but if it hurts one more than another, the following from the *Farmers' Voice*, relative to Colorado, will explain:

The partisan press, with devilish hypocrisy and sponstryp, points to the decline of prosperity in Colorado as the result of Gov. Waite's administration. It describes the investment of foreign capital in the mines, railroads and lands of the state previous to the advent of Populism and cites the fact that property has dwindled since Gov. Waite's assumption of power. It is not our special purpose to defend Waite or his party in this connection. But a more unfair and deliberately false statement of the cause of an effect than that the change in Colorado's business condition is due to Gov. Waite and his party was never made. Colorado was prosperous until Congress took her by the throat and nearly squeezed the life out of her. With the beneficence of an unnatural parent stranding a child, the government stepped on a great Colorado industry to please the money loaning Shylocks of this country and of Europe. It closed the silver mines of the State, demoralized her industries, threw thousands out of employment and spread despair throughout a great prosperous State; and after this partisan perfidy had been shown, what was there to attract capital into the railroads and lands and mines of the State to the same extent as before? Capital is now going into the State when there is anything to attract it. It is flowing toward every gold mine that promises results. (It is flowing in whatever direction Congress and Shylocks have not hedged up. But it is not going into the silver mines, for Great Britain has issued its edict to shut them up—to shut up an American industry—and Congress hastened to obey the command. Waite probably has enough sense to answer for—all men have—but he is not guilty of assassinating the prosperity of Colorado.