

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.
Cassian, Raleigh, N. C.
Farmers' Journal, Hickory, N. C.
Whitakers, N. C.
Reaver Dam, N. C.
Lumberton, N. C.
Charlotte, N. C.
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Each of the above-named papers are requested to keep the list standing on the first page and add others, provided they are duly elected. Any paper failing to advocate the Ocala platform will be dropped from the list promptly. Our people can now see what papers are published in their interest.

EDITORIAL SUGGESTIONS.

Increase the number of hogs. So long as people eat pork and bacon, some use can be made of the meat.

The financial question still looms up, overshadowing all others. Farmers are not the only people interested, either.

The winter evening should be employed in reading aloud and in amusement. That is one way to make farm life pleasant to the children.

Just as well try to carry on religious work without churches or other organized bodies as to try to reform the country with unorganized forces.

Dairy farmers who sell milk in New York City get an average of about 10 cents per gallon. That is less than our farmers get in Southern towns.

Give more attention to the garden and truck patches. Aside from the pleasure derived from eating freely of fresh vegetables, you add to your comfort and save doctors' bills.

The question is not how much we shall raise, but what shall we raise, and how will we manage to get fair prices for what we do raise? Answer: Organize and stay so. Educate and vote for what you want.

Come South, young man. Come and grow up with the country. The South contains every variety of climate, soil, timber, minerals, etc., found on the earth. All we need now is good government, and the South and West will both hands and get that before long.

We hope to see one good Sub-Alliance in every agricultural community in America. If this plan is carried out, the right kind of reform papers will be in the hands of the readers, no power can prevent the people from getting hold of the reins.

On a very large farm there is more access land that its owner would be better off without. Sometimes it is said that farmers should concentrate their efforts on a few acres, and let the rest lie idle in pasture and produce what it will with little or no expense. Only market gardeners and small fruit growers have any adequate idea of the amount of money that can be made from a small place.

THE ANNUAL ADDRESS.

Of President Marion Butler, of the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union.

BRETHREN:—This is an age of organization and co-operation.

That organization was economical and otherwise beneficial for the co-operative advancement of mutual interest, has long been evident. It is more evident to-day. We have reached that point in our civilization, even under a republican form of government, where organization is not only beneficial, but also necessary. This is true with reference to every class of our citizens and to every division of our various industries and professions. To no one does it apply with more force than to the agricultural and industrial class. Yet they are among the last to avail themselves of the advantage of organization as well as the absolute necessity there for.

At various times in the past, numerous efforts to organize permanently have been made, and, with what result, is a matter of history and is well known. And while the result is well known, yet I hardly think the cause of such failures is generally understood by us.

It is true, that whenever an organization has been started or attempted, that those classes of our citizens who, being organized, have had the advantage of us being unorganized, (and knowing that our organization on our part would soon result in increased intelligence, and therefore united action for the protection of our rights and interest,) have used every agency that united brain could devise and combined money could control, to demoralize, defeat and disrupt the organization. The newspapers and politicians have been largely used to make the attack from the outside by misrepresentation and appeals to prejudice, while the Judases in the organization, whose price was thirty pieces of silver (more or less), have always been found to do the work of spies and traitors on the inside.

But this is not necessarily the cause of the failures. The basic cause that makes such hostile agencies successful, in my opinion, lies deeper. In fact, it is inherent in the rank and file of the majority of the members themselves of such organizations. It is a cause produced by our surroundings, supplemented by false teachings. It is a cause that may be termed accumulative, hereditary trait of our social character. I refer to a cause which, for the want of name, I will describe as produced by the want of a sufficient social contact and a fair and tolerant exchange of opinions and ideas. I refer to the want of cohesion; to our failure to pool our divergent opinions and agree upon a common line of action that would represent the combined wisdom of all.

When we violate God's great social laws; when we fail to put our hearts next to our neighbors' hearts; when we fail to bring our intellect in contact with our neighbors, then both the soul and the intellect, instead of developing, broadening and elevating, making us more like our Maker, and becoming fit to work out the highest destiny of intellectual Christianity, our souls contract and shrivel, our intellects grow weak and narrow.

Here is the great trouble, here lies the defeat; here lies the cause of failure.

To bridge over the great want of social intercourse in rural life, to stimulate intellectual development by the contact of intellect with intellect, to exchange opinions so as to avoid experimental errors in business as well as to get the benefit of a multitude of counsel for future efforts, to learn the lesson of making two blades of grass grow where one grew before, has been the great object of the past efforts among the agricultural and industrial classes at organization. And especially is this the great original purpose of the Alliance, and is now the basic idea for its perpetual existence.

So we see that the corner stones on which the Alliance was founded and is standing to-day, are: First, social and moral development; second, intellectual development, followed by co-operation in business efforts and industrial pursuits.

In towns and cities the various business, professional and monopoly organizations have for their original purpose the second of the above objects. There, a close or compact population gives the opportunity for social advantages without an organization for that specific purpose. But the organizations of towns and cities have another pur-

pose and mission, though incidental, yet highly important in a republican form of government. What is it? It is to use the power and influence of their organization in the legislative halls, and at the ballot box to prevent hostile legislation against the class of citizens which their organization represents. So far, such use of their power is proper and necessary, and it is our duty to use our organization for the same purpose. But prompted by selfishness and greed these organizations often go further. They use their power to inaugurate and execute hostile legislation against other classes not organized, or poorly organized and weak. The latter exercise of this power in defiance of right, but too often under the cover of law is the snake in our body politic, and the curse of our civilization. This is the frightful game where the big fish eat the smaller fish, and then turn to eat each other. We have this game played with growing force and intensity, and for the last few months we have seen it in its most frightful aspect.

None have suffered more from this evil condition, as a rule, than the industrial and agricultural classes—the bone and sinew, the wealth producers of the land. Yet, viewed from the standpoint of numbers, none were, and are to-day better able, not only to protect themselves, but to force justice to be done to all other classes alike.

That we have failed in this, is little short of a crime—a crime not only against those dependent upon us, but against all oppressed and suffering humanity.

But why have we failed? The basic cause lies in the cumulative hereditary defeat of ourselves. The isolated lives we have lived have resulted in each one following his own way, unaided and unguided by the wisdom that comes from the association of ideas. We have not pooled our intellects and manhood; we have fought single handed and alone have been beaten in detail. Past organizations and lodges of the present organization, the Alliance, have disbanded because every man could not see alike and agree. Our intellects are made different. We were intended to differ and in differing to find the truth, or at least a safe line of action between our divergent opinions. All other classes and organizations have learned the use and value of divergent opinions, and have learned the perfection of human wisdom from organization, by acting as a unit on a line of action, that was the combined wisdom of all, though it did not represent the individual opinion of a single member of their organization. They have practiced co-operation themselves, but have preached competition to us.

Competition is destructive—it is the devil's game. When we learn this lesson; when we overcome this fatal defect in our own organization, and unlearn the false education that has been taught us by selfish and designing monopoly; when we begin to protect co-operation, we will not only be able to protect ourselves, but to advance our mutual interests. Then we will not only be prosperous, but also well nigh invincible.

And though every effort at organization in the past has failed, yet every effort has done good. Every effort has to a certain extent overcome the fatal defect, and taught us the folly and danger of competition and the value of possibilities of co-operation. The same cause that produced the other organizations produced the Alliance, but the cause is intensified. The same defect that made the other organizations fail may wreck this organization, but the defect is growing less—is disappearing. I trust that the time has come, that the hour has struck, when the people's organization, under the guidance of a Divine Providence, will be successful—will become permanent. But let this be as it may; let every reformer feel that it is his duty to press forward—the Lord helps those who help themselves. Let every reformer buckle on his armor with new zeal. The struggle will be great, but the results will be greater. The result will be either justice and liberty, or oppression and servitude.

We have so long allowed other classes, organized to control legislatures, congresses, and to exercise undue influence on the executives and the courts, and to encroach upon our rights through the form of law, that to-day we find heartless greed and soulless monopoly entrenched behind unjust laws, and watching the rising tide of discontent from the millions they have oppressed, bled, made poor, and who

are well nigh desperate. These monopoly organizations understand the significance of this last, great uprising of the people. They are preparing for the struggle. Kindred monopolies are organizing into associations of monopolies with one central head. They see that the people are learning to stand together and that the people may, therefore, succeed. They see that the reforms demanded by the people, if successful, will force them to discontinue their game of speculation and wholesale preying upon the masses. They are growing arrogant as well as more vigilant and subtle.

And still at this critical hour, when liberty, justice and even a republican form of government are hanging in the balance, and it seems that nothing can save the people but a united effort on their part to regain their government, and re-establish the principles of Jefferson and Jackson, the hired press and the servile politicians howl that "the Alliance has gone into politics." They would have the people to devote their whole time to making more wheat, corn, cotton and tobacco, while they want you to have confidence in them to run the government, to make money scarce, to make products cheaper, make debts bigger, and lay a larger tribute and a heavier burden upon the masses for the benefit of the monopolies and the bondholders. I wish to say to you that the supreme duty of this organization to-day, in my opinion, is to throw its whole power and influence to correct the evils that have grown up in our government; to re-establish the principles of justice so as to make it possible for the great, original purposes of the organization to be carried out, to bless and elevate mankind; and in my opinion the question of questions to be considered, and first forced to a just conclusion, is financial reform.

But let me beseech you in striving to accomplish this high and all important duty not to give up your organization and tie your faith to a political party. It is true that all political reforms must be gotten through political parties. But we must keep up our organization in order to have influence with political parties. Political parties are a necessity, but our organization is a greater necessity. Professional politicians too often control them; and politicians act more from a sense of selfishness and fear than from a sense of justice and right. Therefore let the organization hold itself independent of all political parties, and be ever ready to help to defeat or to elect a party according to the principles that it holds and acts upon. By such independent action only can we purify politics, and be able to preserve our country and our liberties.

The partisan—the political tool—serves his party, right or wrong. The highest type of a patriot is a non-partisan; he supports any party that furthers the principles of honest government; he fights any party that serves monopoly and class interest to the detriment of the people; he cares nothing for the name of the label of the party, but whatever party his conscience, enlightened by a correct knowledge of facts, shows him he should support for that one election, he supports with all the zeal and ability that his Maker has blessed him with. This I conceive to be the duty of all true Alliancemen with reference to politics.

When the political evils from which we are suffering are corrected, and mark my words—no party will ever do it if this organization goes down, then let the Alliance give its chief attention to its original purpose. But also remember that it will be necessary for us to keep well informed on political questions, and take a keen and active interest in the actions of all political parties, less the enemy of the people should then corrupt our government again.

Our victory so far has come through education. Let us spread reform literature. We have done much, but we can, should do more.

I feel like congratulating the Alliance on its success in political reformation so far. For we have succeeded in two very important points—two points that make genuine reform a certainty in the near future.

First. We have succeeded in getting the real issue, finance, before the people, and the issue is clearly defined.

Second. We have succeeded in placing the responsibility for bad government where it belongs. It cannot be shifted from party to party any longer.

The author of the game of shifting responsibility is no less a personage than Satan himself.

He commenced the game in the garden of Eden and will continue to try to work it till the end of time. But the politician is now nearing the end of his row. The party now in power—the goldbug party must face the people with its record and go down, or it must fail to do so and be swept out of existence. There are but two parties now in this country, the one the gold bond monopoly party, the other the great masses of the people who are engaged in productive and legitimate business.

Some true Alliancemen have differed as to methods and party agencies in the past, but the time is near at hand when there will be no excuse or chance for honest men to differ.

Let every reformer take fresh hope and courage. Our victory so far has come through education. Let us spread reform literature. We have done much but we can and should do more. Yes, let us continue to educate, let us continue to organize, build the organization stronger as well as larger. Stand by your guns, press forward with your banner and victory will crown your heroic efforts.

BROOM CORN CULTURE.

Paper prepared by Mr. Jesse W. Johnson, of Williamson county, for the Farmers' Convention held at Columbia, Nov. 15, 1894.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Convention:—I have noticed with pleasure for some time, the interest you are taking in agricultural products and the better management of farming in general, the raising of better crops and the most economical and profitable way of handling them. To secure the best results, both to the producer and the consumer, to be profitable interests must be guarded and looked after. I have thought it would be well, as the crop is becoming more and more an article of general culture, that I would give you a few thoughts in regard to the growing, harvesting and putting upon the market "broom corn."

The preparation of the land and productiveness are the first requisites. The land should be thoroughly broken with a good two-horse plow, drawn by a good team, just as early as the land is in condition to plow; harrowed thoroughly that all decaying matter may decompose, and become food for the crop, then again, just as early in the spring as you are safe from frost, with a good one-horse plow, two furrows should be thrown together and with a drag driven with one horse, two rows should be knocked off. Then with good one-horse drill, with roller attachment, plant the seed not too deep, say 1 to 1½ inches in the soil. The advantage of the bed is quite a feature, it enables a more early and cleaner cultivation, which should be begun as soon as the corn is 2 or 2½ inches up in growth.

This is important with this crop, as with all others, to advance it as rapidly as possible, in view of drought striking it in the summer with small growth and less root, with which to be sustained. Then one other point should be guarded, that you do not have it too thick. It should stand in the row about as your fingers would look when holding them up, being too thick is more detrimental than being a little too thin in the former case.

The after culture is very simple, except you must not neglect it and stop working it too soon, as some imagine that all that is necessary is to give it up. You must cultivate it to get the "brush" just as you would any corn, and make the roots grow to sustain the stalk and seed. It is a nice crop to cultivate if properly attended to, and on fairly good land that would yield from 30 to 30 bunches of corn ought to make from 700 to 800 pounds of corn commanding the best market price. The harvesting and threshing the crop to rid the seed from husk, is a simple matter, and if carelessly done, may greatly injure the selling value by leaving seed and cutting irregularly, having some stems long and others short, which makes an uneven sample of brush.

Now you are to an important point with the crop the drying and putting it upon the market. The corn, if a fair day should be spread out upon sails laid in regular order to have the day's sun, and that it should be carefully attended to that it is not too thick and some of it remain green. It should be carefully housed, as it will heat very easily if too thick, or in too much bulk, as it is cured you can begin to bulk until you get a good large quantity in a small space. You must not let it mold or mildew. As soon as it is dry you may begin to bundle it, putting it in bundles of from 18 to 20 pounds. Then you are ready for market.

CREAM OF THE PRESS.

Hard Hits, Bold Sayings and Patriotic Paragraphs from Reform Papers—They are Worth the Price of One Paper a Whole Year.

It is said that every one in Congress thinks that it is high time for someone else to do something.—*National Watchman*.

A pitched battle with the money power is inevitable. It must be won by the people or the country is lost.—*The Calliope*.

One convert now is worth a dozen during a campaign. This is the time to sow the seed and spread the light.—*Chicago Sentinel*.

If the silver dollar is good enough for the workingman and merchant, it should be good enough for the bond speculator.—*Labor Advocate*.

The bankers, merchants, lawyers, doctors, railroad capitalists and all stick together, and why should not the farmers?—*Alliance Vindicator*.

There are annoyances in newspaper life as well as any other, but worry about the demands of the income tax isn't one of them.—*Chicago Sentinel*.

Wheat 15 cents lower than one year ago and 35 cents lower than two years ago. Sherman's fight will soon accomplish its work.—*Labor's Tribune*.

In England they call Cleveland a statesman. They are not so particular as they used to be. Arnold was not well received in England.—*Dalton, Ga., Tribune*.

It is neither gold or silver that pays the money we owe foreign nations for imports or debts, it is our agricultural products. They pay every dollar.—*Farmers' Voice*.

Senator Vest writes that he does not look for the present Congress to do anything. Vest is several months behind the rest of the country in that expectation.—*Messenger*.

Prices are low because so many who used to buy and eat and wear are now unemployed, and must stint themselves to the cheapest food and coarsest clothing.—*Mt. Vernon Progressive Farmer*.

There are very few prominent People's party writers but who could make more money working for plutocracy—but they prefer to work in a good cause for less wages.—*National Reformer*.

The bondholders want the income tax to be declared unconstitutional. How do they want their interest and principal paid? Let them express their desires and Congress will do the rest.—*Labelle Statesman*.

So Grover wants more bonds, and don't care a cent about the robber McKinley tariff. Well, we told you so, but you yelled, calamity howler. Well, it's good for you, let the bonds be issued by all means; master Grover knows what is best for his slaves.—*Industrial Union*.

As a result of falling prices, it takes 20 per cent. more commodities to buy a dollar than it did a year ago, according to the *Chicago Tribune*, although that paper does not state the problem in that way. There isn't much profit in business under these circumstances.—*Brockton Diamond*.

Your old party friends will tell you wheat is so low because there is an over-production. Yet a cry for "bread or work" is going up from hundreds of thousands of lips. When the people get lead instead of bread the cry dies out only to be renewed with greater strength in another part of the so-called civilized world.—*Industrial News*.

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.

If a horse balks, do not whip him, but let him stop and think it over. After a little reflection and a few tosses of the head he will often start of his own volition. Talk to him kindly, pet him, loosen a strap or a buckle, and he may forget his obstinate spell. An apple or a bunch of grass from the roadside may win him.

Artichokes are not fully appreciated as a food. They are good enough for any stock, even poultry. Their yield is 700 or 800 bushels an acre, and they have somewhat of the flavor of cabbage. Conditions of heat or moisture do not seem essential, and they are, therefore, a sure crop. The best is the White Jerusalem variety.