

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

MRS. L. M. POLK, - PROPRIETOR. J. L. RANLEY, - EDITOR. J. W. DENMARK, - BUSINESS MGR. R. W. SOSSAMAN, - ASS'T BUS. MGR. Raleigh, N. C.

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To Correspondents: Write all communications, designed for publication, on one side of the paper only. We want intelligent correspondents in every county in the State. We want facts of value, results accomplished of value, experiences of value, plainly and briefly told. One solid, demonstrated fact, is worth a thousand theories.

The editor is not responsible for the views of correspondents.

RALEIGH, N. C., AUG. 20 1895

This paper entered as second-class matter at the Post Office in Raleigh, N. C.

The Progressive Farmer is the Official Organ of the N. C. Farmers' State Alliance

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"I am standing now just behind the curtain, and in full glow of the coming sunset. Behind me are the shadows on the track, before me lies the dark valley and the river. When I mingle with its dark waters I want to cast one lingering look upon a country whose government is of the people, for the people, and by the people." - L. L. Polk, July 4th, 1890.

N. R. P. A.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Any person desiring to purchase or rent the Democratic party, or any portion of same, will please apply to Col. A. B. Andrews, on the premises.

Mr. Horr learned a great deal about the financial question during his ten days' attendance of Coin's Financial School, and feels much better, even though Prof. Harvey did fling him every day.

After all, the so-called political fight in this State next year will simply be "taking stock" by the Democrats. They will do that to find out whether or not they have enough material left to get up a decent funeral.

England, France, Germany, India, China, Africa, Japan, Holland and several other countries are more densely populated than America, but this country contains more tarriation fools to the square mile than any other country, the heathen lands not excepted.

An exchange, commenting on the sale of the Highland Park College, which cost \$200,000 and brought at forced sale \$33,000, remarks that, at the present rate of depreciation in value Rothschild can buy the earth after while for ten cents. True as gospel. But you can't get "sound money" fools to believe it.

The Democrats of Livingston county, Mo., met a few days ago and passed resolutions requesting Congressman U. S. Hall to resign his seat in Congress, he having voted for the goldbugs. A few years ago Hall was a member of the Alliance, but turned his back on the order, after leading members declared in the St. Louis convention that a new party was essential to reform. As a reward for his treachery, he was elected to Congress. Now his own party turns its back upon him. Truly the pathway of the Alliance traitor is a rugged one. We have several specimens in this State, and they are found in nearly every State. Pity that those they betrayed, and despised and dis-trusted by those who are now associated with them, they are the dearest ducks in the backyard of the goldbug palace.

DISGUSTING

The ideas and arguments of men of reputed intelligence often amuse and disgust us. These men persistently insist that national legislation has nothing whatever to do with the financial questions now agitating the people of the United States, and profess to believe that the present conditions of the farmer are due to his own management or mismanagement. Don't they make you tired, brother Alliance man, or do you not hear them? - Cotton Plant.

A MATTER FOR LUNATICS.

At this date and time only an escaped inmate of a lunatic asylum would suppose the country was in danger from a redundant currency or "flat" money. Oh, no! that is not the danger. The only danger is that what little we have left will become like Ingall's imaginary soap and imperceptible water. - Durham Globe.

END OF THE POLITICAL MACHINE

For many years North Carolina has been dominated by a corrupt political machine. This machine has been dying by inches for some time. The last spasmodic breath was drawn at Burlington last Friday. The corpse is not yet cold and it may be condemned as a nuisance before the funeral is pulled off, but the giant octopus will no longer menace the welfare of our people.

If the question were asked to day - "who is the meanest man in the State?" the mind would instantly revert to some one of the Directors of the North Carolina (?) Railroad. That is the way our people, regardless of class, feel about it. In leasing the railroad to the Southern Railroad Company at this time and at such a price, the board of directors have brought down the virtuous wrath of an outraged and indignant populace.

Twenty four years ago the State leased the North Carolina railroad, extending from Charlotte to Goldsboro, a distance of 223 miles, to the Richmond and Danville. At that time our State was suffering from the consequences of the war, was poorly developed and the road itself was in a sorry condition. That company, now known as the Southern, has improved the road very greatly, the old rolling-stock was thrown away and new substituted. The section through which the road was built has been greatly improved and the R & D. has built several short feeders, which, of course, that company and its successor should get full credit for.

The North Carolina Road connects several of the most important towns and cities in the State - Goldsboro, Raleigh, Durham, Burlington, Greensboro, High Point, Salisbury and Charlotte. It passes through the best agricultural and manufacturing section of the State. It is worth three times as much to day as it was when first leased, and yet the Directors only get 6 1/2 per cent. on the original valuation for the next six years and 7 per cent. for the balance of the term of lease - 93 years. This rental is equal to about \$1,255 per mile. The road is the most valuable in the State, is easily worth \$25,000 per mile. Other roads, no better, are valued at \$30,000, \$40,000 and even more. Hence the rent is only equal to a little more than one twentieth of its lowest estimated value. Now wouldn't you like to rent property at that rate?

The original lease was for thirty years. It is six years before it would have expired. Why all this haste? It was all for the benefit of the Southern Railroad Company. That Company knows the great and constantly increasing value of the road. They realized that the "machine" was rapidly going to decay, and that the party likely to be in power six years hence will not be made up of the same sort of material, and that the new crowd would either make them pay full value for the rental or take the road back and operate it, hence all this haste.

The State Alliance had just passed a resolution against the probable hasty transaction, and some of its officials were getting ready to bring an injunction to prevent the untimely lease. But the Southern held the strings and feared delay. It pulled the strings and the supple jumping jacks did the rest. The State loses \$200,000 or \$300,000 a year, doubtless more when we consider the constant appreciation in the value of the road. But the deed is done. The Southern has made a fortune, the State has lost one. The Governor and the balance of the "machine" favored the lease, consequently the "machine" will be held responsible. It is dead. That is the only consolation.

So far as we know, everyone was willing for the Southern company to lease the road again. If leased at all the Southern was entitled to the first chance, and ought to have had the benefit of any special favors. But the lease, at this time, at the price, is the greatest; political scandal that has ever disgraced our State.

SILVER AND WHEAT.

How can a fall in silver decrease the price of wheat in the markets of Europe? The answer is plain: The premium on gold in the silver using countries, caused by the fall in the gold price of silver, has the effect of a bounty on exports to gold using nations. The value of an ounce of silver in Mexico, Argentine or India has not fallen. The ounce will purchase as much grain as ever. When silver was at a par with gold at a ratio of 15 1/2 to 1, wheat sold in London at 7 shillings a bushel which, converted into Mexican exchange, were worth about \$171, says the Philadelphia American. The 7 shillings that our fathers obtained for their wheat in 1873, converted into exchange on New York, were also worth about \$171. Both the American and the Mexican farmers received the same amount, from which they had to pay the transportation and other charges. "To day, with silver depreciated fifty

per cent. measured in gold, wheat sells in London at 5 shillings a bushel in gold, which, converted in Mexican exchange, are worth about \$150, and as transportation charges, etc., have much fallen in the last twenty years, the Mexican farmer receives almost as much silver for a bushel of wheat as he did before it was demonetized, and this silver will produce as much wheat as ever. The farmer in the United States, on the other hand, competing with the Mexican and India farmer must also now sell his wheat in London for about 3 shillings, which, converted into exchange on New York, amounts to 73 cents. The American farmer receives only this amount less freight, insurance charges, etc.

"This great disadvantage under which the American farmer labors is very apparent, for it is well known that 73 cents in gold, the proceeds of a bushel of wheat sold in London (netting our farmers only about fifty cents in gold), will not raise as much wheat as the proceeds of a bushel of wheat sold in London at \$1.50 a bushel in silver (netting the Mexican farmer about \$1.25). While an ounce of silver will purchase a bushel of wheat in silver using countries, the Englishman will pay more than the gold cost of an ounce of silver for wheat raised in the United States. The price of silver is a controlling factor in the supply of wheat, and the fall in silver has given a great impetus to the growth of wheat in silver using countries.

The price of wheat can only rise permanently as silver rises, and our farmers can only enjoy prosperity when the parity between gold and silver is restored, for not until the bounty on exports from silver using to gold using countries be removed; and until that time our farmers will labor under a crushing disadvantage.

JOURNALISM AND SOCIALISM

It is pretty safe to say that journalism and socialism will not go hand in hand for a very lengthy period. The failure of the Coming Nation is a brilliant example. Mr. J. A. Wayland, founder and editor of that paper, is a high type of the socialistic reformer. He is smart, earnest and honest. He put the price of his paper at 10 cents a year and people rushed over each other to subscribe for it. The paper was easily worth a dollar a year - would have been cheap at that. So long as the subscriptions came in by the hundreds daily the paper was a success financially. The dreams of the socialists were coming true. Some people wondered why the other reform papers didn't reduce the price of their sheets - looked upon them as collectors of usury.

The result is known. The Coming Nation is no more. A brief existence and then inevitable collapse. No paper can be conducted in an unbusiness like way. We would like to furnish this paper at 10, 25 or 50 cents a year. It can't be done. We notice that a few other papers are reducing their prices for subscription. They find it hard to make both ends meet and hope to greatly increase their number of patrons by making special offers. The result will come only too soon and the crash will be a little louder - that is all. The publisher who puts his subscription and advertising at a reasonable notch and keeps his paper going is the true philanthropist. The publisher who reduces his prices and starves out his own business and that of his fellow workers, is an enemy to his own success and the cause he represents.

THE ALLIANCE GROWING.

One of the most encouraging signs of the times is the rapid growth of the Farmers' Alliance.

From the Farmers' Alliance sprung the reform movement that assumed organized shape at Omaha in July 1892, says the Southern Mercury.

The movement has continued to grow ever since the Omaha declaration of principles was issued, and it has had no firmer supporter than the Alliance. Now, when the reform movement is assuming force and prominence, and the party planted upon the Omaha demands is coming into power everywhere, is the time when the Alliance should be thoroughly organized and ready and able to push the movement. The only thing needed now to insure the ultimate success in the nation of the reform movement is the continuation of the campaign of education started by the Alliance.

The Alliance is the very best organization for educational purposes that could be conceived. It brings the farmers and laboring men together in a social way, and discussion of economic questions follows.

Discussion leads to investigation, and all that is needed to make Populists is investigation and study of the conditions and reforms necessary to lift the masses out of the mire they are in.

Push the Alliance everywhere and make it the means of still greater good. It is the father of reform, and should be continued as a teacher until the movement dominates the politics and policies of the nation.

COL. JULIAN S. CARR ON SILVER.

Col Julian S. Carr, President of the Blackwell Tobacco Company, Durham, N. C., also a farmer and large owner of real estate and interested in many industrial enterprises, a millionaire, and, at the same time, a gentleman in every sense of the word, was interviewed by the Reidsville Review recently. His views on the silver question are given as follows:

"1. I favor the immediate repeal of the law demonetizing silver, and the immediate restoration of silver to the position occupied by it before the passage of that law. This will make silver, as well as gold, money of final payment. Money will then be easier and trade will revive, debts and taxes will be easier to pay.

"2. I favor the continued coinage of silver at the present ratio as long as the country needs more money and as long as we can keep a silver dollar equal to a gold dollar. We are now floating nearly \$600,000,000 of silver, and we can float fully twice as much, if the Government will make it legal tender in all sums for all debts, both public and private.

"3. If other nations will join us, all right, but we are a big enough country to supply ourselves with all the gold and silver we need.

"4. Gold tends to rise in value, if used exclusively, while silver tends to fall. If both are used together they will balance each other, and the result will be more stable than either component.

"I realize that many good men, whose opinions are entitled to respect and consideration, differ with me touching this important question, still, after a careful study of all the conditions, I shall abide as a friend of the white metal - the people's money."

It is real refreshing to read such doctrine from such a source. Col. Carr has as much right to be a grasping goldbug as any other rich man. But he isn't. He knows how to manage his business affairs so as to make money, but he knows the value of a dollar, knows that a dollar is worth 100 cents, and is honest enough to admit that one dollar is worth as much as another. He is not engaged in the business of building up his own fortune by making paupers out of ten thousand of his neighbors. He doesn't claim that the way to make money plentiful is to quit coining and printing it. Last, but not least, Col. Carr is not looking around to buy up the property of his less fortunate fellow citizens at one third or one half its value with appreciated gold dollars, as many wealthy men are doing.

Col. Carr was almost as poor as any of us thirty years ago, but went into the tobacco business, and, by manufacturing a superior grade of smoking tobacco, has built up a trade that extends to every corner of the earth. Prospering as he did, he has not felt the stings of contraction nor experienced the trials of attempting to do a hundred dollars worth of business with thirty dollars in cash, as nine hundred and ninety nine of our citizens are forced to do business now, hence he is not a typical calamity howler, and may be excused when the balance of us howl.

He has not studied every phase of the financial question, but he is right on the silver question. His patriotic utterances show that his heart is on the right side. Long live Col. Carr.

NOT THE FIRST INSTANCE.

An exchange tells the following, which is of frequent occurrence in banking circles.

I know a banker who is a church member. To the same church belongs a friend of mine not so well fixed - an old man who was badly shot to pieces in the civil war and has been having a hard time to get along ever since. The old soldier was the sexton of the church, earning a little pittance in that way. At one time there came to be \$30 due to him for his services in that capacity. The money to pay such expenses was deposited in his fellow Christian's bank. He wanted it and needed it; but the proper committee had not passed upon his claim and ordered it paid; so the banker could not pay over the money. But he was accommodating. He would loan the old soldier \$10 out of the funds he had on hand - from the very money the church had deposited to pay this debt - and take a note for thirty days. The banker church member drew a note for \$10 50 and when it was signed the sexton got \$10. In a few days the account was audited, and the poor man got his \$30. He paid the banker the \$10 50; or at the rate of 15 per cent a month or 180 per cent a year for the use of his own money; and then he told the banker and brother in the church just what he thought of him, giving him to understand that highway robbery was a respectable business compared with this fifty-cent gouge.

The only defence the banker attempted to make was to say that the bank had to have a "system" to do business on, and that such charges were a part of the system.

MEETING OF STATE ALLIANCE.

About the Usual Number of Counties Represented - The Meeting Was Profitable and Harmonious

The ninth annual session of the State Alliance convened at Cary, August 13th. Nearly all the officers were present and about seventy counties reported. Some sixty delegates were on the ground at roll call and others came in later.

The body was a thoroughly representative one, and worked day and night and as steadily as if serving a task master.

President Mewborne called the meeting to order in a large hall furnished for the occasion. He introduced Mayor Angier, who delivered a brief address of welcome and made the visitors feel at home at once. Indeed the hospitable citizens of Cary had already accomplished that before the meeting opened. Bro. J. W. Denmark responded to the Mayor's address of welcome in an eloquent speech, predicting the future industrial greatness of Cary as a manufacturing town.

During the afternoon session President Mewborne delivered his address, which appears elsewhere in this issue. The Secretary and Business Agent read reports. At night the annual election of officers was held and resulted as follows:

President, Dr. Cyrus Thompson, of Onslow; Vice-President, John Graham, of Ridgeway; Lecturer, J. T. B. Hoover, of Wilson. W. S. Barnes, of Raleigh, was re-elected Secretary. Other officers elected were: Dr. V. N. Seawell, of Moore, Steward; Rev. P. H. Massey, of Durham, Chaplain; George T. Lane, of Guilford, Door-keeper; James E. Lyon, of Durham, Assistant Door-keeper; A. D. K. Wallace, of Rutherford, Sergeant-at-Arms; T. Ivey, of Wake, Business Agent; N. C. English, of Randolph, and Jas. M. Mewborne, of Lenoir, members of the Executive Committee, in place of Marion Butler (time expired) and J. J. Long, deceased; Dr. J. E. Person, of Wayne, delegate to the National Alliance; J. W. Denmark, of Wake, alternate to National Alliance.

The above brethren are well known to the public and the members of the Order. They need no commendation at our hands. President Thompson is a pioneer Allianceman. He has been in the front ranks all the while blazing out the way. He is a brilliant speaker, fluent writer, and honest to the core. The banner will not trail in the dust so long as he is President. The same can be said of all the other officers.

Just before the adjournment of the State Alliance the following letter was received and read in the meeting:

"CARY, N. C., Aug 14, 1895. To the Honorable President and Delegates of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance, in Convention Assembled:

"I, as mayor of the town of Cary, at the request of many of our citizens, desire to express our appreciation of the manner in which your members have departed themselves while in our midst, and of the most favorable impressions made while here; and to assure you of the warm feelings which we have for you as an organization. And fully realizing that your mission is not fully and completely accomplished, we trust and believe that you will have a most wholesome influence in shaping the destiny of North Carolina in the future. Therefore, be it

Resolved, 1. That we extend to the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance, in convention now assembled in our town, our most heartfelt gratitude and profound appreciation of your meeting in annual session in Cary.

2. That many mutual ties of friendship have been formed, which we hope will never be rendered asunder, and that you will find it convenient to come this way again.

3. That we most earnestly invite, and hope that you will, in the near future, establish whatever manufacturing and industrial enterprises you may contemplate, in the town of Cary. And we also hope that you will make this your headquarters, and move your main offices here in our town.

Wishing you God speed for all your righteous undertakings, and may your number increase until you have enrolled as members every farmer, and every man and every woman in North Carolina who desires the best welfare of the whole of mankind.

Respectfully and gratefully, JONATHAN C. ANGIER, Mayor of the town of Cary, N. C.

We append herewith a few resolutions adopted. Other matter will appear next week and from time to time thereafter.

WHEREAS, there are reasons to believe that the directors of the North Carolina Railroad are seriously considering the advisability of leasing the said road for a long period of time; and

WHEREAS, in the opinion of this body no greater calamity could befall our beloved State than to put this, with one exception, the only railroad of any importance remaining in the hands of

its original stockholders, under the control of a foreign corporation; and WHEREAS, there yet remains six years before the expiration of the present lease, giving ample time for the submission of this great question to the people of North Carolina for their decision at the ballot box. Now, be it Resolved, by the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance, assembled at Cary, that we protest against any lease of this road before its submission to the people of North Carolina as unwise, inexpedient, and an outrage upon the rights of freemen.

Resolved 2, that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the Governor of North Carolina, and to the President of the North Carolina Railroad, both of whom were formerly the honored heads of this Order, and to the Hon. Chas. D. McIver, State proxy for North Carolina, and who holds in trust for the whole people of North Carolina a majority of the stock of said road.

[This resolution, so far as it relates to the State proxy, Dr. Chas. D. McIver, was drawn and passed under a misapprehension. The State proxy, as we have since learned, represents the State in a stockholders' meeting, but has no voice or authority in a directors' meeting. The lease (which was consummated at Burlington on last Friday) was made in a directors' meeting. Dr. McIver was not present at the directors' meeting, and had no authority to attend said meeting.

C. THOMPSON, President N. C. F. S. A. W. S. BARNES, Sec'y Treas. N. C. F. S. A. August 17th, 1895] Resolved 3, that the thanks of this Order are hereby tendered to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, News and Observer, and all other papers within our State who are opposing this lease, and that they are requested to publish these resolutions. C. THOMPSON, JOHN GRAHAM, J. T. B. HOOVER, W. A. GRAHAM, J. M. MEWBORNE, E. E. MOYE, Committee.

WHEREAS, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER has, for a number of years, been a fearless, ever watchful, faithful and unterrified champion of the Farmers' Alliance and defender of the people's rights and liberties; and

WHEREAS, considering the quantity and quality of matter contained and the cost of its preparation THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is better and as cheap for Alliancemen as any other paper; therefore

Resolved, that we the State Alliance of North Carolina do cheerfully reimburse and adopt THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER as the Official Organ of the Farmers' Alliance of North Carolina.

Resolved further, that we the members of this body do each pledge his personal efforts to increase the subscription list of the paper and endeavor to place the same in every home possible in our respective counties.

SOME MORE FUN.

The amount of fun stored away in Democratic sub-treasuries is astonishing. After going to the extreme end of goldbugdom and accepting and practicing the theories of John Sherman, the party casts all that to the four winds of Wall street and goes back to trash over old straw. Secretly a convention of free coinage Democrats was worked up and was held in Washington last week. Doubtless secrecy was necessary to keep from feeling the lash of the British whip. Like the hero in the "Adventures of Master Headstrong," they retrace their steps after going miles out of the way and having unlimited trouble. But "Master Headstrong" did not succeed and his followers will be side-tracked by Grover Sherman before another year rolls around.

This aggregation of jokers and side show performers adopted the following platform last week:

"Duty to the people requires that the party of the people continue the battle for bi-metalism until its efforts are crowned with success; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic party in national convention assembled should demand the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold into primary or redemption money at the ratio of 16 to 1, without waiting for the action or approval of any other nation

2 That it should declare its irrevocable opposition to the substitution for a metallic money of panic breeding, corporation credit currency, based on a single metal, the supply of which is so limited that it can be cornered at any time by a few banking institutions in Europe and America.

3 That it should declare its opposition to the policy and practice of rendering to the holders of the obligations of the United States the option reserved by the law to the government of redeeming such obligations in either silver coin or gold coin.

4 That it should declare its opposition to the issuing of interest bearing bearing bonds of the United States in time of peace, and especially to place the treasury of the government under the control of any syndicate of bankers and the issuance of bonds to be sold by them at an enormous profit for the purpose of supplying the Federal Treasury with gold to maintain the policy of gold monometallism.

With a view to secure the adherence to and adoption of, the Democratic financial policy above set forth by the Democratic National Convention to be assembled in 1896, and of the nomination of a candidate for the Presidency well known to be in hearty sympathy therewith, we hereby pledged our mutual co-operation, and urgently recommend to our Democratic brethren in all the States to at once begin and vigorously and systematically prosecute the work of a thorough organization, and to this end, the adoption of the plan of organization herewith submitted is recommended.