

A LETTER FROM ALEXANDER COUNTY.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer. TAYLORSVILLE, N. C.

Why not shoot at a mark? Why not let the mark be one which by its very nature will attract the attention of the world? In a word, why not hoist the flag of co-operation?

It is strange to me that people have been at war with each other so long, commercially, when a little time spent in thought would have shown them that co-operation means justice, liberty and equality.

I have no use for any for any form of State socialism, nor for any scheme whatever of compulsory co-operation; and any plan which requires the individual to invest all he has in the common home, thus rendering it impossible for him to withdraw from the same, I call compulsory. I cannot stop here to argue these points. But I earnestly invite all who value liberty above riches to study the following proposition.

Each community should as far as is practicable produce all the articles which are consumed by that community. People who ship wool 2000 miles to get it manufactured and then buy it back again in ready made clothing, and those who ship the hides and then buy them back again in ready-made boots and shoes, allowing the foreign manufacturer and dealer to fix the prices both ways, is on the direct road to poverty and want. It matters not how much or how little money there may be in circulation, those who follow this suicidal policy will never have enough of it to buy half the articles needed for a comfortable living.

This mode of doing business suits the wealthy manufacturer. It suits the railway companies and it suits the local merchant, for all these share in the plunder, but the poor producer has no recourse. He is the lamb to be shorn. I have always alluded to the iniquity of profit. If the merchant habitually takes more than he gives in exchange, he will in time absorb all the wealth of the community. Also the producer habitually gives more than he receives he toils without recompense, sinks in the social scale and rears his children to lives of vice and crime. And these results will follow, whether he trades at home or abroad, whether money be plenty or scarce, whether the tariff be high or low, or whether the money be silver or gold or paper, and whether the government treasury be full or empty.

These two are the prime causes of poverty and hard times. The times are never hard except for the laborer and the farmer, and for the benefit of these I write. Being one of these number, I think I know of what I speak.

The remedy which I propose is that we stop paying a profit on that which we create; that we combine to produce the things which we consume, instead of competing with each other; that the fellow who produces nothing may be benefited by competition; that instead of buying them abroad at rates fixed by others, let a colony be formed of those who are willing to exchange labor or its product for equal labor, or the product of equal labor. Let those who are willing to give as good as they receive come together in a single locality so as to make mutual exchange possible. Let these be artisans, skilled in various industries.

Let all products be deposited in a general warehouse in every county in the State, so it will be convenient for the people to make these exchanges. Let the price of each article be measured by its costs in labor instead of by the ignorance and the need of the purchaser. Let each producer receive a check or certificate for the amount and price of his product, and let these checks or certificates be receivable for all commodities that may be in the store house.

Such would be what I would consider sound money, honest money, always good for the same amount of product, of whatever kind.

The Farmers' Alliance manufacturing exchange or co-operation exchange is founded on these lines at Hillsboro, N. C., and it remains to be seen whether enough people will put their shoulders to this enterprise to make it one of the largest and strongest manufacturing plants in the South. I think they will.

If you favor co-operation take hold now and help push the work. They have already established a tannery and a shoe factory on the grounds, and have under consideration the building of a granite factory. They also expect to manufacture harness in the near future. Which is better, for you to own the factory through co-operation, or be owned by the factory under our present system?

We need to manufacture our raw material as well as produce it, and our association is the medium through which it can be done and give justice to all.

If you know times are hard, and have studied the cause of their being hard, there is no use of telling you that

co-operation is the only way by which they can be bettered. So I ask you to act at once. Do something, if ever so little. Each one doing a little would accomplish much. If you do your part, you may be certain others will do the same, and by this means the principles of co-operation are carried out and made a benefit to all.

I see no reason why the laboring people should not go into this organization when they can enter at a very small cost a well-established organized co-operative business and by adding to its numbers increase its field of usefulness. J. L. LEFFLER.

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

I have just read with pleasure your report of the great lawyers convention at Chicago, and want to say to you I was much pleased with it. You are right when you say the Populist who will vote that ticket will buy a gold brick made of blue mud and painted yellow. We have some of the mongrel herd in our land who are saying, "We must unite on Bryant," claiming that he is a good silver man. They say the same of Mr. Sewell. This is enough to cause our forefathers to rise from the grave. I claim that there is not a true friend of silver to be found to day among the leaders of either of the old parties, and I list by three credible witnesses: (1) their platforms for the last twenty years; (2) their Congressional records; (3) their actions in their recent conventions. Of the two, the R-republican party is the most honest and fair. They make an open and fair fight, while the other is dodging behind every refuge of lies it can find—not only are they guilty of telling falsehoods, but have resorted to theft as well. How does the platform enunciated at Chicago compare with their platforms for the past ten years? Anyone not knowing better, would never suppose that they had been written by the same party.

No, sir, the Populist party can never be caught in no such mongrel trap as they had set at Chicago. They will never be a tail to anyone's kite. If we don't have a hand in steering the vessel we don't ride, that's all. We have already accomplished a part of our great work as a party, which was to uncover the treachery of the old parties and to drive them out into an open field fight. This we have accomplished in part. The goldbugs had uncovered one wing of their forces, but the other they are making a great effort to keep concealed for the present; but they are not fooling any of the old and true Populists, for we know their tricks, which are to keep our forces divided until they can slip in another man and fasten the cords tighter if possible. Then they will say the Populists ratified the gold standard and that will be the end of the matter. I, for one, will never ratify it. I set out to fight them to the last ditch and will never turn back. The gold generals had planned wisely. They expect to make use of the Democrat party in this fight to keep the silver forces divided until they get McKinley in and then they will have no more use for it. You will never hear of the Democrat party any more as now or organized. They, as a party, are now in their last fight. The great question for the American people to decide is which shall control, the people or the dollar. That is the great issue now for them to decide. I for one expect to die on the side of humanity, and I know that when I fall I shall have many brave comrades at my side.

What I want to say to you is, be of good cheer, for the victory is ours sooner or later. You and many others have already accomplished a noble work for the cause, although it has not been appreciated as it should have been. Yet the people are getting their eyes opened from day to day. So let's sow the good seed and the fruit will come in God's own good time and way, and although the sowers may go forth weeping, they shall come again rejoicing, bringing sheaves with them. If we expect the hand of the Lord to be our helper, we must stand on the side of truth and justice, leaving ourselves out of the scene entirely. I know it is a hard thing for some men to do, for we see it every day and on every side, even in our own party. But we must trust them as the Lord did Peter: Tell them to get behind.

I want you to tell Bro. Butler to keep a keen eye on the professional silver bugs at St. Louis, for they will be there in their best attire. They want us to swallow their Nebraska bug and then they will swallow us, and then I would like for you to tell me, where will the Populist party be? They can neither kick nor squeal, but I have all confidence in our leaders; they will do the right thing. We must have Maj. Guthrie for our standard-bearer and we will carry the old North State by a big majority, although we have two goldbugs to fight.

Yours for truth and principle, J. P. ALEXANDER.

HOME GOVERNMENT.

What this country needs is a home government. We, as a nation are getting too far away from home ideas. We want to mix too much international in our government. Let us get back to first principles—to plain, home spun government again. We have mixed in so much foreign ideas and foreign practices that we have lost sight of the plain home government established by the fathers. We are imitating aristocracies and monarchies in our customs and mixing them in our government. Our money grabbers go to Europe every year and take on foreign airs—imbibe foreign ideas and customs. These nabobs like aristocracy and snobbery, and they come home and try to engraft it on our government stock.

The masses of the people are getting disgusted with this foreign business and this international tomfoolery. The masses are going to sit down on the idea of adopting monarchical and aristocratic ideas as gods to be worshipped. The masses are going to pull down these golden calves, and, like Moses, they will lift up the sign of plain, honest American customs and government. The ruin of the country has been the adoption of the financial ideas of these monarchical countries—these aristocratic cesspools of rottenness. Let us get back to plain American principles of government, plain American ideas of economy, plain American Christianity, and reinstate the old time government of Washington, Jefferson, Jackson and Lincoln.

FOR REFORM.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer. AUBURN, N. C.

I write this article and if you see proper to publish it you can do so, and if not you can lay it aside.

Now, what I want to say is this, in regard the present condition of things. It is time for us who profess to be Populists to begin to open our eyes in regard to politics. Though I want everybody to understand that I am no politician, whatever. But I think it is time for every voter in North Carolina, both white and colored, and also in the United States to begin to consider this matter and see what is the difference between a man who comes out plainly and declares himself in favor of a gold standard and one who is nominated on a free silver plank taken from another party's platform by a gold standard party, who have been advocating free silver for so, these many years and yet, have been doing everything in their power with the co-operation of another party, just as much opposed to free silver as it was, to help them out. I say what is the difference between the two? You had just as well vote for the devil himself as to vote for his agent, they are both working to accomplish the same end.

Now, brother Allianceman and Populist and anybody who favors reform, can we afford to endorse the actions of either of the old parties, who have done everything they possibly could to break down the Alliance and to uproot and demolish the third party as they called it, by calling it all sorts of ugly names and calling those who belong to it, old black negroes and old low down Republicans, and everything else but gentlemen. I don't see for my life how such people can have the courage to come up to one of these old stinking Populists and ask him to support one of this same gang, who a few years ago wouldn't scarcely speak to an old Pop. Yes, I do see what is the matter, they have found out that they can't change the principles of the old Pops, and they are more than glad to get their help now, for they see where they can use every one of them to a good advantage for themselves if not for the Pops. I would be almost afraid to vote for one of my neighbors whom I see almost every day for any office, if one or both the old parties endorsed him, for I should expect I was voting for a goldbug or a straddlebug or a some other kind of a bug that doesn't hum the tune of Home Sweet Home. Now, what I expect to adhere to from now on is principle and not party. I want men to fill offices who have some respect for humanity, and who are looking forward to a time and place where they can do the greatest amount of good to the largest number of people and not spend all their time in trying to secure every dollar they can regardless of pledge or promise.

Now, Mr. Editor, if the Democrats are so much in favor of a free silver standard why is it that they want to make the election of officers and let us do the endorsing? Why not let us do the choosing and they do the endorsing? I tell you gentlemen, there is a trick behind the curtain somewhere. We should watch as well as pray. I don't suppose any of us have been praying as much as we should have done, but I hope we will put our trust in God for reform and not depend so much on our own strength. I hate to hear a man get down on his knees and ask God to give us God-fearing, God-loving and

God-serving men to rule and reign over our country and then go to the polls and vote for a man whom he knows is not that kind of a man. He certainly cannot expect his prayers to be answered. I like to see people practice what they preach as near as possible. While we are all subject to be led astray by the false doctrines of this world, we should ever try to retain enough integrity, patriotism and manhood in our hearts that we may be able at all times to abhor all evils that may confront us. We should beware of those who come to us in sheep's clothing for they will, if tested prove to be false teachers as they have done in the past.

Well, I guess I have written enough of my foolishness for this time though I haven't said all I could say, but will stop by congratulating Rev. D. H. Tuttle for his timely remarks that get so close to the most of us. Also wishing THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER an extensive circulation. And I must also commend Mr. Bilkins for holding so tight to his party, as we suppose it is because his daddy did. I remain in favor of reform from principle and not from party, and what I say unto one I say unto all, watch.

Yours in sympathy, M. T. WILDER.

(OFFICIAL)

NATIONAL ALLIANCE DEMANDS.

Adopted at Washington, D. C., February 6, 1896.

WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence, as a basis for a Republican form of Government that might be progressive and perpetual, states:

"That all men are created equal; that they are endowed with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the governed."

We hold, therefore, that to restore and preserve these rights under a Republican form of government, private monopolies of public necessities for speculative purposes, whether of the means of production, distribution or exchange, should be prohibited, and whenever any such public necessity or utility becomes a monopoly in private hands, the people of the municipality, state or union, as the case may be, shall appropriate the same by right of eminent domain, paying a just value therefor, and operate them for, and in the interest of, the whole people.

FINANCE.

We demand a national currency, safe, sound and flexible; issued by the general government only; a full legal tender for all debts and receivable for all dues, and an equitable and efficient means of distribution of this currency, directly to the people, at the minimum of expense and without the intervention of banking corporations and in sufficient volume to transact the business of the country on a cash basis.

(a) We demand the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the legal ratio of 16 to 1.

(b) We demand a graduated income tax.

(c) That our national legislation shall be so framed in the future as not to build up one industry at the expense of another.

(d) We believe that the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and hence we demand that all National and State revenues shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government economically and honestly administered.

(e) We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of savings of the people, and to facilitate exchange.

(f) We are unalterably opposed to the issue, by the United States, of interest bearing bonds, and demand the payment of all coin obligations of the United States, as provided by existing laws, in either gold or silver coin, at the option of the government and not at the option of the creditor.

TRANSPORTATION.

(a) The government shall purchase or construct and operate a sufficient mileage of railroads to effectually control all rates of transportation on a just and equitable basis.

(b) The telegraph and telephone, like the postoffice system, being a necessity for the transmission of intelligence, should be owned and operated by the government in the interest of the people.

LAND.

We demand that no land shall be held by corporations for speculative purposes or by railroads in excess of their needs as carriers, and all lands now owned by aliens should be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only.

EXECUTION OF UNITED STATES SENATORS.

We demand the election of United States Senators by a direct vote of the people. That each State shall be divided into two districts of nearly equal voting population, and that Senators from each shall be elected by the people of the district.

DISTRICT LEGISLATION.

Relying upon the good, common sense of the American people, and believing that a majority of them, when uninfluenced by party prejudice, will vote right on all questions submitted to them on their merit; and, further, to effectually annihilate the pernicious lobby in legislation, we demand direct legislation by means of the initiative and referendum.

R. A. SOUTHWORTH, Sec'y-Treas. N. F. A. and I. U.

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Extra Early Cardinal Turnip, red all over, very early and extra tender tops; prepaid 10 cts. per bushel; \$1 per cask.

White Bliss Potatoes for second crop planting, warranted to a rot and grow, \$2.75 per barrel, f. o. b.

Two barrels Manley's Extra Early Thoroughbred Potatoes, very profuse and valuable; 1 cask 26 barrels from one; \$15 per barrel.

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Sale of Land.

NORTH CAROLINA. Before D. H. Tuttle, Superior Court, Wake County.

Lizzie Pearson, J. J. Maynard, Guardian, and others, ex parte.

By virtue of authority conferred on me by the Commissioner in the above entitled Special Proceedings, I will on Monday, the 7th day of September A. D. 1896, expose for sale and sell at public outcry, to the highest bidder for cash at the court house door in Raleigh, N. C., all the land in Wake County, town-ship adjoining the lands of Le. U. Upchurch, R. Johnson, J. P. Pearson, E. J. Maynard, Sidney Seagraves and J. J. Maynard, being the same owned and occupied by the said James Pearson, up to the time of his death, and a together containing one hundred and forty acres more or less, and more fully described in the Petition in said Special Proceedings.

W. J. PEELE, Commissioner, PEELE & MAYNARD, Attorneys for Petitioner.

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