

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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

Do you want your paper changed to another office? State the one at which you have been getting it.

Our friends in writing to any of our advertisers will favor us by mentioning the fact that they saw the advertisement in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

The date on your label tells you when your time is out.

"I am standing now just behind the curtain, and in full glow of the coming sunset. Behind me are the shadows of 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. E. Polk, July 5th, 1890.

N. R. P. A.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Swenson is not the only "boss" our North Carolina legislatures have had. New York has but one daily paper fit to be taken into a respectable home, and it ought to be fumigated before entering.

Dr. D. H. Abbott, of Perquimans county, was nominated for Railroad Commissioners to succeed Beddingfield, by the Republican legislative caucus Friday night.

Germany is showing a weakness for American apples by importing twenty times as many this winter as she ever did before. Germany also has a weakness for American bonds.

The sole measure that this legislature has passed against railroad opposition is the fellow servant act. This was a just measure, but it authorized more suits and the lawyers broke away from the railroads.

The outgoing administration has been of, for and by the bond holders. The incoming administration will fatten up the manufacturers by increasing the tariff. But, of course you can't legislate money into people's pockets.

W. W. Clark, of New Bern, has been appointed by the President to fill the vacancy made by the death of Judge Seymour. Clark was a Palmer-Buckner elector last fall. It is said that the Senate will not confirm the appointment.

The North Carolina Christian Advocate opposes the law to tax old bachelors on the ground that there are already "too many married people in the State." Strange doctrine. We think the bachelors and old maids ought to be compelled to get married.

There is talk of an extra session of the legislature. Please don't, Governor Russell. We can endure famine, pestilence, drouth, war, but don't inflict any prolonged agony on the State, such as an extra session. If they don't do anything let 'em go home.

The Southern Railroad is to pay the State only 7 per cent. (being about 4 per cent. on the real value of the property) but the people must continue to pay the railroads 20 per cent. on the value of their property by means of high rates. The lobby says this and too many legislators with their pockets full of free passes vote as the lobby directs.

California is another of the many States in whose legislature a bill is pending to reduce telegraph rates to ten cents for ten words. The San Francisco papers say that it will pass. The people over the country are waking up to the fact that the enhanced value of money and the fall in value of farm products demand a reduction in railroad, telegraph and telephone charges. The millionaire non resident owners of these giant corporations will not assent to reduce and the average railroad commission will not do it till such consent is had. The only hope for just relief to the people is in legislative action.

A DANGEROUS PROPOSITION.

It ought to be plain to all reading, observing people that we are approaching a dangerous financial precipice. The demonization of silver and the perpetual contraction of the currency have been mere stepping stones up to the heights of greed and folly, over which we are bound to go unless we retrace our steps.

The Banker's associations for several years have advocated, as the next best thing to follow the demonization of silver, the retirement of the Treasury notes and "getting the government out of the banking business." Cleveland and Secretary Carelisle have boldly endorsed the proposition and now comes Secretary Gage, himself a banker, clamoring for the retirement of the Treasury notes and a scheme to get the government "out of the banking business." He began it in twenty-four hours after he was tendered the position by President McKinley. Strange to say many people endorse the plan, as the vote last year shows. We take it for granted that the voters did this ignorantly, blindly, for not one in ten thousand could ever hope to profit by such a scheme, but would be sufferers instead.

Now we will take it for granted that our bankers are no worse and no better than the average citizen in any other avocation, though it is natural that their hearts should grow callous while they are handling large sums of money daily, and that the desire for gain would make everything else secondary. But grant that they are as good as other people. Would it be wise to allow a few hundred merchants, farmers, lawyers, doctors, manufacturers or editors to absolutely control the money, the life blood of business, in a big country like this? Isn't it dangerous?

That is exactly what they have started out to do. Their plans have been carefully, shrewdly made. Nothing will or can prevent the consummation except a thorough awakening and then an aggressive stand and fight by all the people. Party lines are no barrier to the plans of the bankers, for they can control the weak and corrupt in all parties. They fatten upon ignorance and prejudice, both of which are so prevalent. Under pretence of giving relief to the country they demonstrate silver. The same tactics, the same arguments will be employed to "get the government out of the banking business." It is wrong, apparently, to cry out against classes, but the people ought to know that these so called "remedies to re-establish prosperity" are simply shrewd schemes to enable the bankers to get entire control of the money and the issue of money. The man who advocates such a plan, unless he is a banker, acting from selfish motives, ought to employ a fox to guard his chicken coop, for exactly the same principle is involved. One means the destruction of the Republic, the other means the death of your chickens.

Quick and decisive measures should be adopted to avert the pending disaster. Let the people regardless of party or avocation get together and resolve that the bankers shall no longer rule.

It was rumored on the streets that Abell, of Johnston, voted against all amendments offered by Senator Butler Friday, but after he found that the bill could be passed without his vote he changed and had his vote recorded the other way. We can't think Mr. Abell would do such a thing. He can use these columns to explain or deny.

THAT BRADLEY-MARTIN BALL.

The rich say that you can't legislate money into peoples' pockets; they must work for it. This is doubtless just as true as a great many other things the plutocrats tell us. But if there was no way to legislate money into people's pockets—and out of people's pockets—too, for that matter, Mrs. Bradley Martin might never have owned a hyphenated name and certainly her ball would have been a tame affair. As it was, the ball cost \$375,000, a sum much larger than any person can accumulate in an honest way in a lifetime. But we presume that Mrs. Bradley Martin's husband could furnish the cost for several more "functions" of the kind and not be "strapped." The ball was pulled off at the Hotel Waldorf and the guests wore jewelry said to be worth \$400,000. We conclude that most of the guests have, at some time or other, been victims of legislation.

The streets around the hotel were closed up by the police, the hirelings of plutocracy, and even guests of the hotel could not get to the building. Thousands of people in New York and all over the country are out of work, out of money, and the frail bits of dust, the "400" spend enough on one ball to make hundreds fairly well off. True worthy people were paid for preparing the magnificent decorations, which would have dazzled the eyes of

a Solomon, and it is well that so much money was put in circulation. But how long will it be until that money will be legislated back into Mr. Martin's pocket? Not long. When Rockefeller gave two millions to a University he just simply put up the price of oil two cents on the gallon and has already robbed the public of several times as many millions as he ever gave to any worthy object. That isn't exactly legislating money into a man's pocket, but the lack of proper legislation enables such men to rob the public, which is the same thing.

But we are not sorry for those who are to blame—those who vote to keep such cattle in power by re electing men to congress and other offices who are known to be the tools of the trusts.

On last Friday the Senate passed a substitute for the House bill to refer the lease question to the courts in order to determine the legality of the lease by a vote of 26 to 24. The Senate bill reduces the time from 99 to 30 years; terms otherwise to be the same. The objections to the lease were: The secret manner in which it was made, the length of time and the rental, based upon the old value of the road, which is now worth two or three times as much as it was. The substitute bill removes but one objectionable feature.

THE AMERICAN COTTON COMPANY.

The Manufacturers' Record, of Feb. 19th, contains a five full page account of the new method of baling cotton, with illustrations. This history is very interesting, and the plan looks very pretty on paper. The new bale will be round and the cotton will come from the gin in flat bats, say half an inch thick and rolled on a steel roller. It is claimed that the bales will require less space, less danger from fire, and be in better condition after handling and shipping. Extensive shops have been erected at Chicago and the machinery is being turned out rapidly.

We admit that if the Record has the points of the invention in due form, the round bale has advantages. In fact, we have never doubted the merits of the invention. We only found fault with the reported methods of the company embarking in the manufacture of the machinery. We understand that The American Cotton Company is chartered in New Jersey. That in itself is suspicious, for New Jersey is the home of the trusts. As a matter of fact, no other State will harbor such combinations to the extent of granting charters. Isn't it queer that a legitimate manufacturing enterprise, established at Chicago, and composed mainly of Western men, should go as far East as New Jersey to get a charter? We believe it is a trust, a powerful and a dangerous combination. Appearances are very much against it, to say the least.

PEOPLE WILL NOT SUBMIT TO IT

The proposed amendments to the election law are not right. The plan to place the appointment of poll holders in the hands of three "supervisors," who, in all probability will be a Populist bolter, a goldbug Republican and goldbug Democrat, three of a kind, taking the whole machinery out of the hands of the three parties, is an outrageous proceeding. The Payne election law and the construction of it by Democratic election tyrants was bad enough, but as compared to this new machine about to be thrust upon us, was a mild affair. By this new method the voice of the people at the ballot box would simply be the wishes of the three "supervisors." The people of North Carolina are not ready for a yoke of that kind. The party, the combination of parties that attempts to lasso the people of North Carolina in such a manner will find that it has undertaken too much.

The schemes to take the government of towns and cities out of the hands of the citizens of said municipalities are second only to "supervisor" plans. The Governor of North Carolina should not have the power to dictate the municipal affairs of any town or city. That power should be invested in the citizens of said towns and cities. Neither should the Clerk of the Superior Court or any other State or county officer have such power. It is contrary to the principles of a Republican form of government.

FOR A FARMERS' TARIFF.

The great majority of the people of the United States are engaged in agricultural pursuits. The farming communities are now lowest in the scale of hard times. Their woes are at the bottom of the general depression, and a plan of rejuvenation that does not consider them first will be built on a foundation of sand. They are not looking for tariff treatment; but if that is to be the only means of cure offered, can we not have a farmers' tariff? Any other sort is sure to be a failure, and to work injury to the farmer and every body else, except those who do not get their money by earning it.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

ALLIANCE GROWING IN THE NORTHWEST.

The Minnesota State Alliance has just closed one of its most interesting sessions. The enthusiasm of the brotherhood seems to be reviving and everything points to a rapid advance along the original lines.

The following extract from the annual address of President L. C. Long will be read with interest by Alliance men and should give them renewed zeal for the work:

"The time has arrived when the producers of wealth should band themselves together in a great national fraternal society, that will bring the tillers of the soil and the toilers of the city into one great brotherhood, to ward off the encroachments upon their liberties, to prevent the absorption of their substance by greedy and rapacious trusts, and combine, to inaugurate reforms, and place laws upon the statute books that will be for the interest of the masses rather than the classes.

What more ennobling sentiment can be preached than the succor of our distressed brother; to visit the sick, to bury the dead, to care for the widow and orphan, to raise up and encourage a fallen brother; to pledge moral and temporal support to each other; to offer a safe substantial and cheap manner of life insurance to our members, by which the father will have the happy consciousness that his loved ones will be provided against any possibility of want or disaster by having \$1,000, \$2,000 or \$3,000 left to the sorrowing family when the Great Ruler calls him to his last account.

The fraternal plan upon which the F. A. & I. U. is built, appeals at once to lofty sentiments of mind and soul in this age of Christian civilization; its harmonious and elastic adaptation to all conditions, permits its members who may vary with each other in the most irreconcilable manner on religious, political and social views, to blend into one harmonious fraternal family whose motto is "One for all; all for each."

Our society is non sectarian and non-political. It bars no color, race or creed. It is as extensive as the limits of our country, being in nearly every State in the Union. It is an old organization and in successful operation wherever it is located. It is an old organization with a membership equal to nearly all the other fraternal societies combined. It offers at once great inducements to farmers on account of the insurance feature which enables them to join a society that was especially organized to include them in its membership. The farmer has not the facilities of selecting the insurance societies which his city brother has; therefore in these distressed times it would be almost a crime to let this opportunity pass of joining that which will surely prevent want and disaster to the tillers of the soil.

There are so many other ways by which this great organization can be made a source of profit and saving to its members, by co-operation and kindred enterprises along these lines, that we can safely say that the membership will save 25 to 50 per cent. on the goods they buy through the organization, and save some of the profits on the products of the farm which are now absorbed by middlemen, by selling direct to the consumer through a system of exchange depots where the products of the farm and the manufactured products of the city can be kept on hand, and exchanged for the goods of each other without the aid of the middlemen.

In the interest of God, religion, country, humanity, your families, and your citizenship, you are called upon set aside one day in this month, the day made sacred to Americans by the achievements of that great man sent by Providence to guide the destinies of this struggling nation in the dark days of its early history.

George Washington drove from our country a foreign foe, who was seeking to enslave and impoverish this people. We are to day enslaved and shackled to the same hereditary foe which our fathers of revolutionary days fought against in the battles of Lexington, Bunker Hill, and suffered in Valley Forge the biting blast of cold and hunger which many a poor creature is suffering to-day in this land of promise and plenty. We witness to-day the sorrowful sight of our citizens graduating into distinct classes, the few very rich, the many very poor.

We therefore ask every citizen to observe the 22d day of February, George Washington's birthday, in the same manner by assembling in country districts at the district school house, and participate in some patriotic exercises, talk the social conditions over, which you labor under without partisan or political malice, commune with each other, reason, outline a mode of action that you think for your welfare, organize an Alliance or Union, elect your officers, send in word to the State Secretary, who will inform you how to proceed. This is the plan we wish to have followed by all districts which

have not an organization of the Farmers' Alliance in existence.

We also call upon each of the 1,431 Alliances now upon the roll of our books in this State to have its officers and members meet together at their usual meeting place in the past and discuss the question of joining the F. A. & I. U. National organization, re-organize your Alliance, elect your officers, and send in the action of your Alliance on this matter to this office at once, and arrangements will be made to have our organizers go into every locality and initiate the members into our great society.

AN ERROR CORRECTED.

Railroad Commissioner S. O. Wilson informs us that an injustice was done him in the minority report on the bill (Hauser's) to reduce fare and freight rates, etc., published in this paper last week and referred to editorially.

Commissioner S. O. Wilson states that he and Commissioner J. W. Wilson did go before the committee that had charge of the bill (by request) and gave their views, but claims that they took opposite sides on the question. S. O. Wilson favored nearly all of the bill he says, but did not favor the reduction of passenger fares to 2 and 1/2 cents per mile as he believed the reduction too great, and that it was unfair to make fares the same on trunk lines and branch roads. He favored a reduction of rates, but wanted a difference made in favor of the weak lines.

CREAM OF THE PRESS

Hard Hits, Bold Sayings and Patriotic Paragraphs From Reform Papers.

There are hosts of people in New England who would be glad to trade off their confidence for something more tangible.—American Enterprise.

The wave of prosperity, brought about by a Democratic administration, will end March 4, but the country has been promised another wave by the Republicans.—Missouri World.

One thing can be said in favor of Judge Lynch: He doesn't make long speeches and get drunk at banquets and insult defenseless women like some other judges.—Albany Herald.

"The will of the people" may be the "highest law," but is of little consequence since the corporation owned courts usually declare it "unconstitutional."—Tulare Valley Citizen.

It should not be forgotten that certain prominent fusion Populists were just as anxious to fuse with the Democracy in the palmy days of Grover Cleveland as they are now.—Missouri World.

As an evidence of the political revolution that is in progress forty five new faces have been elected to the United States Senate since March 4, 1893. This is something before unknown.—Brooklyn Diamond.

That jingle of sound money that McKinley's election was going to bring don't jingle worth a cent in these parts. What has become of it? We are tired of waiting; wish you would hurry it up.—Cieburne Herald.

The Figaro, of Paris, France, says that a man in that city has managed for the past four months to live on four cents a day. If the financial conditions do not change soon in this country, that limit will be common here.—Southern Mercury.

W. A. Pinkerton, head of the Pinkerton detective agency, declared in St. Louis the other day that the great increase of crime "is by men made desperate by their wants, by the lack of labor to supply the ordinary necessities of life."—Progressive Home.

Nearly every man who voted for McKinley has said he would like to have an office. There is one exception, a Kentuckian who lost his voice yelling for him during the campaign, but he has made signs to indicate his willingness to take one.—Pomeroy, Ohio, Democrat.

It is said that in Machias, Maine, a dozen eggs can be exchanged for a barrel of apples, while in Dallas, Texas, the exchange value is half a dozen apples for a dozen of eggs. The profits in making the exchange go into the pockets of railway corporations.—Chicago Express.

It is reported that the Prince of Wales has spent \$50,000,000 in 33 years and has nothing to show for it. Mark Hanna can beat that all hollow. He was only five months spending \$16,000,000, but he has a president and congress to show for his money.—American Enterprise.

The Advocate does not know what would happen to seventeen Populist members of the Legislature of Kansas if they had by their votes elected a gold standard Republican to the Senate, as that number of Populists un-necessarily did in North Carolina, but we incline to the opinion that they would have been impressed with the idea that a change of residence on their part would be desirable.—Topeka Advocate.

SEE BILKINS, M. A.



More "Paternalism"—Zeke Wants The State to Own Its Own Legislature.

He Writes Some Spring Poetry

B—"Hello! Mr. Editor."

R—"Hello! Major. Did you succeed in lobbying through your charter for The Raleigh Tribune Railway?"

B—"No, I haven't got it ter my neshun yit exactly. They wanted ter make it for ninety nine years, an' I ain't gotter favor that, fer it won't be deoin' business that long. I'm wurkin' on another skeme now that will beat the band. I'm a paternalist from away back. I'm in favor of the State ownin' an' appoinin' its own legislature hereafter. Looks sorter like purty nigh half ov this legislature iz owned an' operated by the corporashuns. I believe that iz unconstitushunal an' contrary ter law an' order. I'm tired ov sich business. My opinion iz that the legislature kin be run cheaper an' do better service if it is owned by the State, in other wurdz, the people of the State. The folks hev ter obey the law or take the consequences. I want er see the corporashuns an' the trust-put on the same footin'. We've bin tryin' fer a gude while ter git rid ov these fellers whut go around an' sweat blood fer the downtrodden people an' shed tears az big az walnuts durin' campaigns an' cum ter Raleigh an' go the other way. But it seems that we've struck a whole litter ov 'em this time. It must be stopped if Judge Lynch has ter be called on ter hold a session or two ov court. I'm not much ov a post, but this iz how it looks ter me:

The legislator blooms once in two years, Flowers bloom eve y spring; In campane he sheds many tears, At Raleigh he serves the corporashun king. The moment the per diem stops He straightaway home doth go; Though he laughs he skips an' he hops, He is not as pure as the beautiful snow. Yours fer a change, Gudebye.

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP.

The following practical illustration of the advantages of public ownership is taken from the Roanoke, Va., Times, reproduced by the Richmond State:

"The gas works in Richmond are owned and operated by the city. The city furnishes gas to its citizens at one dollar per thousand feet and from the proceeds thus derived turns into the city treasury fifty thousand dollars annually after lighting all of the public buildings of Richmond and many of the streets and outlying districts. The people of Richmond did not know what a good thing they had until a syndicate recently proposed to lease the works from the city and pay an annual rental of \$40,000. When all the facts as to the value of the gas plant as a revenue producer became known the syndicate's proposition was rejected. If a private corporation owned the Richmond gas plant the people of that city would be paying near two dollars per thousand feet for gas, and in addition to the loss of the fifty thousand dollars of profit would be footing a bill of about fifty thousand dollars annually for public lights. Yet there are philanthropists (!) who tell us it is not good for a city to own its own gas and water supply."

This being true, would it not be well for every city and town to own its own lighting and water plants? Then, again, why not let the national government own and operate the railroad and telegraph lines? It is all coming. No stopping it.

ONLY 7 PER CENT. TO THE STATE AND 20 PER CENT. TO THE "SOUTHERN."

The net receipts of the "Southern" Railroad in North Carolina, as returned by them for last year, was \$1,345,000—one million three hundred and forty-five thousand dollars. This sum is 20 per cent on the actual value of their property over and above the enormous salaries they pay their "general" officers. The Senate has refused to make them pay more than 7 per cent for the lease of the North Carolina Railroad. Cannot the legislature now have some mercy on the people and cut down passenger and freight rates so that the people shall pay the railroads less than 20 per cent a year (besides their \$50,000 salaries) to be carried out of the State to Rothschilds and Pierpont Morgan!

Open the factories and the mint will open, said the gold bug orator last fall. Now both are closed.—The Dawn.