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THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

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THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is the Official Organ of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance.

"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 18, 1890.

The Spaniards have a proverb some thing like this: "He stole a pig and in God's name gave the trotters to the poor." But such "benefactors" must not be called scoundrels, except by those who do not fear the righteous wrath of Bro. Bailey, of the Recorder.

The Democratic speakers and editors make a great fuss about the disgrace of "Russell rule," "corruption," "fraud," "jobbery," "looting," "incompetents, etc." etc. They rave; they fume; they howl, but when you ask them to specify institutions and give instances, and point out facts to prove their statements as to "corruption, fraud," they are struck dumb. They simply howl and some people see that the howl is a meaningless one.

The season of year when most North Carolina editors spend a considerable portion of their time dunning delinquents has arrived. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is fighting the battles of North Carolina's workingmen, and we believe they feel it their duty to support their champion. And we hope no urging is needed to make them do their duty. Renew your subscription at once, if possible. We trust that all who find they cannot possibly renew now will get us a club of trial subscribers at once.

We repeat the statement made in our issue of Aug. 2. We shall be glad to give space to an article from Dr. Kilgo or any of his friends, who wish to defend him. This invitation is a standing one. We have no axe to grind, are not prejudiced, and wish to be entirely fair. A great number of North Carolina's best citizens are Methodists, and we believe that they want only the best men to instruct their sons. They desire, too, as we desire, that Dr. Kilgo shall have a fair hearing. As the matter now stands it seems that Dr. Kilgo does not stand with the people in their fight against "corruption in high places."

A few days ago we told a Democratic negro county howler to write us as strong a defence of the Democratic party's policy of scaring the people with the cry of "negro" as he could, and we would publish it in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. He stopped howling "negro" long enough to refuse our invitation. We urged, "Here's an opportunity to tell thousands of Populists the 'horrors of negro rule,' a chance to tell them of the glorious Democratic party," we said, but he could not be induced to write. And still this man delights to howl negro, is a good writer, and a Democratic ex-pie eater. He has sense enough to know, however, that when these catchy cries, "negro supremacy" and "social equality" are put in cold type, calmly considered, and the other side given, the people will see there is nothing in them.

Every campaign the laborer realizes that he needs better laws, laws which do not give the monopolies the legal right to rob him. He needs free silver; an increase in the volume of money; an income tax which will prevent the accumulation of vast fortunes, and other laws which will put labor on an equal footing with capital. The white laborer realizes this; the colored laborer realizes it. But monopoly which robs them both sneers at them. "They are fools," say the monopolists, these voters have the privilege of making us

stop our depredations, but the idiots never do it. See, here comes the colored voter. Now that old idiot wants free silver, an income tax, more money, etc. But I shake this scare-crow "Party That Freed You," this grinning old bugbear and the senseless negro votes against the very things he wants and puts me in power again to rob and abuse him. But now comes the white laborer. Like the colored laborer he wants an income tax, more money, &c. But he is just as big a fool as the negro. See me shake this scare-crow "Negro Supremacy" at him and he too votes me in power again." We wait to see, dear reader, if you too are one of these voters whom monopoly deceives, and then laughs at.

It is an open secret that the Democratic speakers expect to test the merits of "soft soap" this year. They have, in previous campaigns, abused all those who had the courage to disagree with them. They have rotten egged and insulted honest Populists. But the decree has gone forth that in the year of our Lord 1898 a new plan is to be tested. Populists are to be told that they are sweeter than honey and better than pie. Read the following from a Hypocritical paper at Wilson, N. C., and when you hear the delicious honey words of the Hypocritical speakers, remember that 'tis for effect: that the same men abused and insulted you from '92 to '96. Says the Advance:

"The people of North Carolina have another political campaign before them. It is absolutely necessary for the welfare of the State that the Democratic party win. In order to win it is of course necessary that it have the support of the people of the State. In order to get that support the Democratic leaders should be careful of the manner in which the campaign is waged. Their warfare heretofore has been that of abuse and intolerance. They have been persistent in refusing to allow their opponents the same honesty of opinion that they claim for themselves. They have heaped abuse and insults on those who disagree with their views and branded them as traitors and black guards. Abuse will never bring a man back to the party, but every insult drives him farther away and makes the breach wider. Hundreds of men have been kept from the party by this very same abuse and insult. It must be stopped if the Democratic party ever hopes to get control again."

AGRICULTURE.

NORTH CAROLINA LETTER.

You will please excuse me if I can find these notes to the western or mountain section of our noble old State. I am a Buncombeite, and in previous articles I have tried to write about the physical advantages not only of old Buncombe, but of all our mountain counties.

The Creator has done much for us; climate unexcelled, beautiful mountain scenery, fine timber, water power almost sufficient to run all Uncle Sam's machinery, rich minerals, productive lands everywhere.

Unfortunately our people have not utilized our advantages as they should, but great improvement has been made of late years. Better houses have been built; great improvement in farming is noticed; some factories are going up, but there is room for much more. We need more people if we can get the right sort. We need people of some means with "git up and git" about them, and we invite them cordially. Most who come do so for health and pleasure, and scarcely ever get off the lines of railroad and know but little of the real advantages of our section. Stir out when you come and be convinced I have not lied. I have no land to sell; would rather buy more; no personal interest prompts these lines; have not told half. Should you be inclined to take up your abode with us, you no doubt will want to know something of our people. We have some ignorant and some bad people among us, such perhaps as you will find everywhere, but we have upon the whole, I guess, as many good and intelligent people as you can find anywhere. I have no doubt that many who ought to read this, especially up North, have been greatly deceived in the past, and perhaps now are blindfolded. For many years our section has been cursed with a class of adventurers of the pen who wrote articles to be circulated up North and to please the haters of the South, tried to hunt for all the bad and put that as a type of the whole; a gross

slander on us, and a fraud on the North.

Of late years we have had a new style of adventurers in the form of missionary teachers and preachers, who are not needed by any means. In order to get money from the North, they have to represent us as sorters semi savages, so they hunt up the most ignorant they can find and leave out the rest, and make them a type of the whole. All this is proclaimed up North in speeches and in papers not circulated much South, but we see them occasionally. Many of these adventurers slander us in another way. They go through the country and take pictures of our houses, teams, etc.; they find the worst cabins and ox teams, and picture them and leave out all the good, and make them a type of the whole. To acquire adherents, many of these missionaries adopt a very cute method. They have shipped to them boxes and barrels of old second hand clothing to be distributed, and such as will receive them jump at the chance, and generally join their church, but most of our people feel indignant at the offer, so it engenders strife and ill feeling. It certainly indulges those who receive them as a general thing in laziness, for they only have to work for victuals. I am no enemy by any means to the missionary cause when properly carried out, but when carried out as above stated, it has a tendency to prejudice our best people against the noble cause.

The class of people I have replied to above does our country a great injury. It has a tendency to deter good emigrants from coming among us. Their writings and speeches deceive the ear, and their pictures deceive the eye. They get money up North by working on the sympathies of good people there, so it is a slander on us and a fraud on the people up North. We hope if Uncle Sam conquers the islands he is looking after, the missionaries can find room there, and that their places will be taken by men of means to help develop our resources. To them we give a hearty welcome. We need you, but not the missionaries. Read the old Home and Farm and be wise.—T. M. Dula, Weaverville, N. C., in Home and Farm.

"WAGE-EARNERS."

I have been impressed for many years that too many of our young men are seeking employment as wage earners. When a man arrives at his majority he should seek employment by which he can support himself and those dependent upon him. My opinion is that a young man cannot afford to bind himself to another for money and therefore become a servant for a stipulated amount, giving time and talent to another. If there is nothing but wage earning that presents itself and nothing else can be procured, of course go to work and make the best of the job. One can be a good and faithful servant earning his wages, and more if he can, for his lord (for such he is) thereby making a good name for himself, which is worth more by far than all it costs. While thus employed one should use the position only as a stepping stone to something higher, seek earnestly for a business of his own. Though it may be a humble calling, take it and elevate it, and the calling will, if honorable, elevate you.

Whatever undertaken, give it your whole manhood, both mental and physical, by so doing, with rigid economy, business will improve and one will find he is on the royal road to success. As financial strength is gained, ability will increase; and in proportion to the thought, energy and economy practiced business will enlarge. A stalwart man will develop in mind and body because of having exercised both in pursuit of his calling. His mental faculties having been exercised are developed, and he has become strong and independent on that line. Friends and neighbors come to him for counsel, and his children rise up and call him blessed.

Then the freedom of following one's own business, being dictated to by no man, having a day off without loss of wages or the risk of displeasing another. The wage-earner, if he pleases his employer, must give him all his time and talent. One's independency is dwarfed and a man loses confidence in himself to engineer a business of his own. So he pursues the same plodding course from day to day, from week to week, and from year to year, as a cog in some great wheel that turns on without change until it is worn so badly that it cannot fill its place in the rotary

motion and has to be replaced by another more efficient.

Thus in old age, too late to build upon a foundation of his own, he is left without employment and in too many cases without means, as it is generally conceded that wage earners lay by but little of their earnings for old age. Many are left penniless at that stage of life, dependent on the cold charities of the world, and oftentimes find themselves inmates of some charitable institution. Therefore, young man, seek a business of your own; give it your energy, thought and youthful enterprise. Become self reliant, live within your income, never sacrifice one principle of honor, look onward and upward and success will be yours.—R. H. Skeen, in Colman's Rural World.

PURE WATER ON THE FARM.

The importance of pure water for the family and live stock is not generally appreciated. In a newly-settled country the danger of defilement of water through filth accumulations in the soil is not so great. As a region becomes thickly populated we may say the danger of water defilement increases with the increase of population and the number of animals kept on the farms or in villages. The danger on old farms and in villages and towns where the problem of sewerage, paving and water supply has not been solved by the corporation is so constant that not a year passes without outbreaks of typhoid fever, diphtheria or other filth diseases. The farm supply of water is so largely under the control of the farmer, says The Breeder's Gazette, that he is not the victim of the carelessness of his neighbor as is the dweller in the undrained village or town. Hence if the farmer's family is visited with diseases originating in impure water or defective drainage or unclean management of his premises he cannot lay the blame on his neighbors or a mysterious providence. In dairy districts the responsibility of a seller of milk is not limited to his own family. He is in a sense his brother's or patron's keeper. That typhoid fever is so often traced to dairy farms and dairies that supplied the victims of the disease with milk makes the responsibility of the milk seller broad and serious.

The water supply of a dairy farm is very soon contaminated unless more than ordinary care is taken to prevent its defilement. So long as farmers and dairymen sink wells in the barn or barn lots there will be increasing chances of impure water. These wells are too often placed in the lowest part of the lot where there is least labor in sinking the well. The well is laid with loose stones and not raised high enough to allow sufficient grading to carry off even the surface water. In a wet time the water level of the well rises from the influx of water from the barn yard and manure piles. After one such soaking of the soil the water from such a well becomes a constant danger to the health of animals and unfortunate users of the milk from such a dairy. The abnormal rainfall of this spring has carried aged filth into many such wells, and when the dry season comes, and the supply of water is low, the per cent of filth carried in each bucket of such water is enough to start a pestilence. Such wells are cheap and convenient, we know, but are they safe and cheap in the long run? The cost of one funeral will exceed the cost of a well constructed well or filter and cistern.

Whether one shall have a well or cistern at the barn or dwelling is usually a question of first cost. Because of their greater expense there are few who secure perfect drainage around the home or barn and trust to providence that the well or cistern may not be defiled. If instead of walling up wells with loose stone we will wall them with vitrified tile and carefully tamp the ground around them, using clay that will pack well, and in finishing use one or two joints above the level of the land around and then grade up to secure a quick surface drainage for twenty or thirty feet around the well, we can feel that such a well is in all human probability safe from surface contamination. We have one such and find the first cost less than to have used stone or brick. With surface drainage and thorough tamping around each tile as it was put down, we have great confidence in the water. A brother has filtered cisterns that are superior to the average well or cistern. The water is clear and after the first year is free from any flavor of cement. If care is taken not to let in the sum

mer rainfall the water is cold and refreshing even late in summer. Where there is difficulty in getting satisfactory well water the filtered cistern water is the farmer's safest supply. The filter is five by six feet, walled with brick and cemented. A cross wall is put in of good brick laid in cement. The water filters through this wall and also through the half that is filled with charcoal or clean sand and passes out into the cistern through a four inch stoneware pipe. The part of the filter receiving the water from the roof is cleaned each fall thoroughly. Such a filter and cistern, nine by twelve, or better, nine by eighteen, will give the family a supply of pure, wholesome water and reduce doctor bills and undertakers' expenses.

Every farmer can help make hard times easier by helping to circulate THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

GOOD ROADS AND COUNTRY LIFE.

An unmistakable demand for good common roads is being heard in all parts of the United States. This demand is rapidly growing in volume and is taking on the systematic organization which is essential to the success of such a movement. That bad roads in this country cause an enormous loss of money each year to those who use them may easily be proved, but this fact is veiled from many persons because they have never known anything better. The farmers are the greatest sufferers. Where wagon wheels sink hub-deep in mud at some seasons, a farmer who has much hauling to do must keep one or two more horses than he would need if he had only hard, even roads to go over, and his loss in the wear and tear of horse flesh, harness and wagons is a heavy tax on his income. It often happens that a farmer finds the roads absolutely impassable with a loaded wagon just at a time when his produce would bring the highest price if he could haul it to a railroad, and he is forced to wait and take a lower price later. Livery stable keepers and all other owners and users of horses and vehicles suffer from bad roads in a similar way.

In order to obtain better roads two things are necessary. The first is to create a general conviction that the improvement of our highways is imperative, and that money wisely expended for this purpose is sure to return. The second requisite is to place all road making and mending under the charge of competent road builders. Various efforts to secure these ends are being made and the aid of county and State authorities, and even the National Government, has been invoked to further the movement. While it is very desirable that the highways of adjoining localities should be under some central supervision, so that they may be made to form a connected whole, it may be questioned whether the National Government could be an effective agency in road improvement. Why, for instance, should the dwellers beyond the Mississippi and on the Pacific Coast be taxed to maintain in Washington a school for road engineers and a museum of road construction that few, if any, of these distant communities could derive any benefit from? A more practicable scheme would be to have instruction in road engineering given at each of the State Colleges of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. In a country showing such wide differences in soil, rainfall, temperature and topography between different sections as the United States does, road building can be taught and administered far more efficiently by the State or the county than by the Nation.

There is need of much intelligent care in framing legislation in the interest of the movement for better roads. Annoying prohibition should be no part of the policy of the road reformers. For instance, large loads carried on wheels having narrow felloes and tires do great damage to roads; hence it has been proposed to prohibit narrow tires on heavy wagons. A much better policy is that adopted in Michigan, of giving a reduction of one half their road tax to those who will use broad tires. The movement for good roads shows a lusty vigor. The success that it has already achieved is splendid testimony to the efficiency of voluntary association of individuals, and if its leaders continue to carry it on without the paralyzing patronage of the general government it is likely to attain great results.—Popular Science Monthly.

WHEAT EXPERIMENTS.

Kansas Experiment Station, Manhattan, Kansas.

Wheat went through the winter in good condition and started well in the spring, when March 22 a freeze cut it to the ground. This delayed ripening two weeks, making it so late that it was caught by the black rust after the usual time of ripening. The black rust appeared June 17th as most of our wheat was in the dough, and in three days wheat that had promised a yield of 30 to 40 bushels per acre was hardly worth cutting, the plants were dead, the straw fallen over and the grains shrunken to less than half size.

We grew fifty four varieties, but most of them were so badly injured by the rust that they were not cut. The highest yield of the Turkey, our standard hard wheat, was 18 bushels per acre, while the highest yield of the Zimmerman, our standard soft wheat, was 28 bushels per acre.

A test was made to determine whether it is best to plow the ground in a drough and harrow it into shape ready for seeding at the usual time or wait until a rain comes and then plow. The early plowing was made July 30, the ground turning up hard and lumpy. It was worked with harrows and float until in fair tith. October 16-17 a rain fell, wetting the ground four to six inches, and the late plowing was made, the land fitted and both early and late plowed plats seeded. From the time the wheat started until it was struck by the rust that on the early-plowed ground appeared more thrifty and promised a better yield. The rust ruined all plats. The early plowed land yielded 6.4 bushels per acre, the late plowed 6.5 bushels.

A trial was made of ordinary and thorough preparation of ground for wheat. That given ordinary treatment was harrowed and flated until in fair condition, but having many small clods on the surface, a condition liked by many Kansas wheat growers. That given thorough treatment was gone over with disc harrow and float until a fine dust mulch four inches deep was made. The ordinary treatment yielded 19 bushels per acre, weighing 53.7 pounds per struck bushel. The thorough treatment gave 22.4 bushels per acre, weighing 54.7 pounds per struck bushel, a gain in yield of nearly 18 per cent, for thorough treatment.

Two trials were made of ordinary treatment of ground for wheat, thorough treatment and of treating in with the Campbell sub surface packer. In one test the yields per acre were, ordinary treatment 8.6 bushels, thorough treatment 9.8 bushels, sub surface packer run over the ground once 10.4 bushels, and packer used three times 10.7 bushels.

The station has had an acre in wheat continuously for the past eighteen years without manure to test the fertility of the land. This year just before the appearance of the rust this acre promised a yield of 30 bushels. The wheat was nearly destroyed by the rust and the yield was 9.77 bushels. The product of eighteen years has been 342.5 bushels, an average of 19 bushels per year.

The chief work of the station this season in wheat has been in crossing varieties to secure higher yields and more gluten. Three thousand crosses were made this summer and will be planted this fall.

POTATOES IN VIRGINIA.

This week sees the end of a profitable potato crop. Most potato growers have made money. Our usual crop is a half million barrels, grown within 20 miles of Norfolk, and this year the price has hovered close around the \$3 per barrel mark for good stock. At one time the price broke because of so much poor stock (mripe and half grown) forced on the market, but the market has recovered and has since held steadily.

I visited a farm last week where I saw successful potato growing. Last year the owner sold his potatoes for \$9,500, grown on 125 acres of land. He then grew a second crop of potatoes on part of the 125 acres and corn on the rest. The crops grown on the 125 acres in one season reached in value fully \$13,000. This year from 200 acres in potatoes he expects to sell 10,000 barrels at such prices as will bring him \$3 per barrel on the farm. A week ago

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