

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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N. R. P. A.

MONOPOLY'S GIGANTIC SCHEME.

The negro lamity howling Hypocrites may howl on, but the fact remains as firm and unshaken as Gibraltar itself that when the Populists made their proposition which would have put the white people of the State together, they refused and spurned it.

We have heard of the cheek of the army mule, but an army mule would be ashamed to exhibit as much cheek as the State savor and some of his allies exhibit.

Keep cool, workmen. Let not the Hypocrites deceive you. If you listen to their hypocritical cry of "negro," and allow money to capture the legislatures of the country, prepare to fight for your liberties.

Suppose you listen to the cry of the Hypocrites and divide the laboring men according to order. We predict that the tools of monopoly would then enact a law disfranchising all who have been most oppressed by monopoly.

Can there be a more diabolical scheme than this latest plan of monopoly? What think ye, laborers? Are you ready to march into the trap?

In November these questions will be answered. We doubt not that the sturdy sons of old North Carolina are far too sensible to be led into any such trap as that prepared for them by the money power.

MORE DEMOCRATIC INFAMY.

On the 18th of August a little daily paper published at Wilmington, called the "Daily Record," edited by a Democratic negro scamp, by the name of Manly, who has been repudiated by his race and his party and taken up by certain Wilmington Democrats.

"Poor white men are careless in the matter of protecting their women, especially on farms. They are careless of their conduct toward them and our experience among poor white people in the country teaches us that the women of that race are not any more particular in the matter of clandestine meetings with colored men than are white men with colored women.

has been attacking the Republican and Populist parties with so much venom it has been supported mainly by advertising, etc., given it by Democrats, who doubtless inspired the editorial, or flattered him until they got him worked up to the point where he was willing to write such outrageous rot to please them.

Of course every Democratic daily paper seized the editorial at once and attempted to make political capital out of it. That is what it was written for. It is a pity that there is no law to punish such a defamer. We are opposed to lynch law, and will not advise violence, but the negroes of the State should see that he is driven out of the State never to return.

THE PENITENTIARY.

We presume that we will not be accused of unfairness to Democrats in this matter if we publish without comment the letter of Chairman Dockery and the accompanying letter of Capt. Smith, exactly as we find them in the Raleigh Post, which has been very bitter in its condemnation of the penitentiary management.

"If we take Mr. Smith's statement correct, he is at once the best farmer and superintendent of farms, and the most maligned man in North Carolina. He takes possession of the five farms on April 1st in a 'very backward state of preparation,' with tools 'worn out and useless,' stock ruined or worthless, with Mr. Leazar's 'unpaid debt,' not 'two weeks of supplies' on hand, and only \$2,200 in round figures on hand, and yet he * * * turns the institution over on the 1st of January, 1898, in better condition than ever before, and without any debt hanging over his administration for the year just then ended."

But the Post then says that "with * * * an abundance of 'food made the year before' some of Mr. Smith's statements will meet with grave doubt. The Post is very much in error as we can prove again by Democratic testimony.

In Superintendent Leazar's report for the year 1896 he says: "The area cultivated in all crops this year (1896) is estimated at 11,300 acres. Upon these broad fields there was the middle of July (1896) a magnificent crop superior to any heretofore produced on them. The heavy rains of that period brought the greatest flood for many years upon the Roanoke valley. * * * The July flood was 42 feet and over at Weldon and invaded all the farms on the river. The dike on Caledonia farm protecting 3,000 acres of corn and cotton, otherwise exposed to the river, was broken through at a point which had stood impregnable for more than half a century. The dike on Northampton farm * * * was broken at two points. The flood covered 3,000 acres of corn and 1,000 acres of cotton, besides other crops, destroying not less than 100,000 bushels of corn and 425 bales of cotton. It left about 15 per cent of the corn crop, this remnant being entirely upon the highlands. * * * The corn saved will be sufficient for support till spring."

Mr. Leazar then gives a table of principal crops for years 1895 and 1896:

Table with 3 columns: Name of Farm, Corn Crop, Bushels. Rows include Halifax, Northampton, Caledonia, and Total.

This is sufficient proof of the fact that there was far, very far, from "an abundance of feed made the year before."

(The above was crowded out last week.—Eds.)

MORE FUSION "INCOMPETENCY"

The Agricultural Department slid out from under the old administration June 14th, 1897. The new administration has completed its first year. Now comparisons, sometimes pronounced "odorous," but in this case, perhaps, "odorous" may be in order.

Table comparing receipts and disbursements for the first 11 months of the present management from June 14, '97, to June 1, '98.

This shows, from the records, that the present administration has received \$5,370.99 more, and spent \$30,125.46 less than the old Democratic administration. Now let the negro lamity howlers howl on.

A GUILTY CONSCIENCE.

It is generally conceded that a guilty conscience needs no accuser. It is equally true that a mean man generally imagines that his neighbor is about his own equal as to meanness. On the day of the recent Wake county Populist Convention the Morning Post published a yarn to the effect that Mr. Mewboorne, Superintendent of the Penitentiary, had sent a horse and buggy belonging to the State and a State employe throughout the county to work in favor of the nomination of Mr. Mewboorne's son-in-law for register of deeds.

But that attempt to injure innocent men caused others to remember some things well nigh forgotten. We are told upon what we believe is good authority that during the contest between Mr. C. M. Cooke and B. H. Bunn a few years ago for the Democratic nomination for Congress in this the Fourth district, Supervisor Sater, then the Democratic Supervisor of the Penitentiary farm, in Wake county, sent every horse and every employe belonging to the penitentiary force at the Sater farm except three guards, out through Wake county to work for the nomination of Cooke. All work was stopped for one day and the prisoners all locked up while some forty or fifty employes, with State horses, buggies and wagons went out to do campaign work. The prisoners were told that it was a holiday and only three guards were left in charge of all the prisoners on the farm. It is a wonder that the entire crowd did not find a way to escape. "Murder will out."

A TIP TO PROPHETS.

For a long time the world has been full of prophets who predicted that the signs are good for the beginning of the millenium, that period we are expecting, during which the lion and the lamb, the goldbug and the silver advocate, and the balance of the outfit can lie down together and not raise a row about every little difference of opinion. For our part we are trying to maintain a neutral position.

We have Biblical proof when we assert that "the Jews shall be gathered together in one land" before the beginning of the millenium. A London paper brings the news that prominent Jews are trying to purchase or lease Palestine from the Turkish government to establish a "Jewish State," so that the remnants of this wonderful race, now scattered in every land on the globe, can gather together and live in one country, as one people. The Jews have played a wonderful part in the affairs of this world from the beginning of time, and it is possible that this is but a start in the direction of getting together as the scriptures tell us will be the forerunner of the millenium period. At any rate, the modern prophets can now have the pleasure of saying: "I told you so," and with something tangible to back the statement upon.

Don't fail to read twice the thoughtful and able essay on "Negro Supremacy" which we printed on page 4, Aug. 16th. We are glad to see that our lady friend has so completely torn the mask from this frightful "bugbear" and shown it to us as it is—merely a harmless skeleton, used by monopoly to keep the working classes divided.

Every man with intelligence enough to be a voter must see that financially and politically the interests of the negro laborer and the white laborer are identical. Both want laws which will kill monopoly, give them good prices for the products of their labor and make them independent and prosperous.

SHOULD SUE HIMSELF FOR LIBEL.

The Monroe Enquirer of the 11th inst. insults Mr. Leazar, the former Democratic Superintendent of the penitentiary. It virtually accuses him of stealing or squandering the people's money. Here is its statement:

"The fusionists claim that the Democrats 'leased the farms now being worked by the convicts at an entirely too high price. Be that as it may, before the Democrats went out of power in this State the penitentiary was not only self-sustaining, but was a source of revenue. The penitentiary is now run at a heavy loss to the tax payers of the State and instead of sweeping before their own doors and repairing the breach in the wall over against their own habitation and making our State penal institution self-supporting against the fusionists are mouthing because the Democrats saw fit to lease farms at what they consider a too high price. It will be high time for the present administration of affairs to criticize the Democrats after it makes the penitentiary self-supporting and takes that burden off the people."

The fact are: The Superintendent of the penitentiary in his report for the year 1891 says that he began the year with a cash balance of \$118,069.98. Add to this the appropriation of 1893, \$25,000, and the appropriation of 1895, \$44,158.71. This shows that the institution had including the balance started with \$187,228.69, which it did not earn during the years 1891-2 3 4-5 and 6. Then it is evident that, if the penitentiary was self-sustaining all this time, it should, at the end of 1896, have had cash balance on hand of at least \$182,228.69. But we find that the total balance was only \$91,694.40.

Deduct from this an advance by the State Treasurer of \$5,000 which is not mentioned in the report, and you will see that counting everything in sight at his own figures, he had only, all told, \$86,694.40. Subtracting this balance from what it should be, if self-supporting, there appears a shortage of at least \$95,534.29.

Now does the Enquirer mean to say that Superintendent Leazar squandered or stole this amount? Let it retract or prove its statements. The honor of Superintendent Leazar is at stake.

But the funny part of the matter is that Superintendent Leazar himself is reported as saying that the penitentiary was self-sustaining, thus virtually accusing himself of squandering the money. Unless he retract, he should sue himself and the Enquirer for criminal libel. That seems the only way out.

DANGEROUS DOCTRINE EXPOSED.

Some people have some funny ideas regarding the relations existing between the Alliance and the People's party. A forcible reminder of this fact came to this office last week in the shape of a letter from a well known gentleman of the counties south of Raleigh. He said: "It is evident that the Farmers' Alliance and the People's party cannot both pull to the front. I think therefore it would be best for the Alliance to give way. Bro. Denmark recently stated that THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER received no aid from the Alliance. Hence, I can see nothing to trammel you in the least and I think we should all join together to build up a great party."

The gentleman may not realize it, but this is dangerous doctrine and is founded on a mistaken conception of the nature of the Alliance. The Farmers Alliance is an organization of farmers and has nothing more—in fact, we believe far less—to do with partisan politics than the Bankers' Association. Farmers of all parties are members, and we are inclined to doubt the sincerity of any pretended friend of the farmer, be he Democrat, Populist, or Republican who does not make some effort to build up this organization. We have been hoping that the Democratic press would join in the effort to build up this great nonpartisan order, but it seems that they do not want the farmers to unite.

No, we have nothing to "trammel us in opposing the Alliance," except our conscience and an earnest desire to do every thing we can to better the condition of the farmers of the country. And we hope that never will these two considerations fail to trammel us enough to prevent us doing anything to break down an order, the sole object of which is to better the condition of farmers and laborers of all parties and to make all men realize more fully "the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. It is our purpose to continue to urge upon all farmers the necessity of joining so noble an order, and we earnestly hope that the Alliance may some day have another Polk, a noble, unselfish leader, able to awake the farmers from their lethargy, and teach the necessity of joining together in a fraternal organization to fight the battles of truth and right.

YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE.

We wish to thank those of our subscribers who so warmly praise the recent issues of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. We are here to give the people the truth, and we have administered some large doses of late. That's what we intend to continue doing. But the truth must be put into the hands of the people. We want every subscriber to get us a club of campaign subscribers. The paper will be sent for now till the election for only 20 cents. Surely every subscriber can send a club of five. Let us have them. We thank those who have already sent clubs, and trust that others will keep the ball rolling. Hand this paper to your neighbors and send in a club. The time is short, and what is done must be done quickly.

A CO-INCIDENCE.

"It was at Buie's Creek last week said Mr. W. B. Spilman "when the News and Observer containing an obituary of Mr. W. P. Byrd arrived. "Mr. Byrd took the copy and sat down by a tree to read the news. I was sitting near him when suddenly I saw his face change and he turned to me and handing me the paper containing the notice of his death said: "I think this is exaggerated."—News and Observer.

Strange co-incidence. The Populist party, too, has been reading its own obituary in the Observer every day for months, and as time goes on, the conviction deepens that the statements are greatly exaggerated.

P. S.—Still another co-incidence. Since writing the above, another paper has called attention to the fact in almost the same language as that we use above.

WHAT THE PENITENTIARY NEEDS FOR 1895 AND 1896.

Under this sub-head on page 9 of Superintendent Leazar's report for 1893 and 1894, we find the following:

"We have used \$25,000 appropriated by the last General Assembly, and \$25,000 only, in the last two years. * * * With the exception of this \$25,000, we have lived upon our own earnings, without another dollar of tax money, and are here at the end of 1894 with a debt of \$14,188.71 now due." Then further down he says:

"The penitentiary, on account of indebtedness now due, needs an appropriation of \$15,000, and in addition a regular appropriation of \$35,000, to carry it without debt to October, 1895. Then if a good crop has been made, and if there is not another decline in the price of products, or other similar disaster the crop ought to support the institution till October, 1896. But disaster may come, flood, fire or decline in prices, and, therefore, there should be a contingent appropriation for 1896."

Then again we find in this same report which is signed by "A. Leazar" the following:

"For the information of those concerned, I submit here tables of the appropriations and pay rolls of the penitentiary for a series of years:

Table with 2 columns: Appropriations, Pay roll. Rows show data for years 1883 through 1891.

These dates and figures are quoted exactly as they appear on page 10, of Supt. Leazar's report for 1893-4. Now let us look at his report for 1895 and 1896, beginning on page 5, we find,

"The short crop and more especially the low prices of products of the year 1894, had not left us fully provided for a other year, and therefore we needed the appropriation of \$30,000 made by the General Assembly of 1895, and used the same to defray about one-seventh of the expense of the penitentiary for the year."

Then the Superintendent explains the magnificent prospects of the finest crop on record in 1896 and its destruction by a flood seldom equalled, if ever, then says:

"The corn saved will be sufficient for support till spring." What spring was this? The spring of 1897.

Now it will be remembered that Mr. Leazar went before the General Assembly of 1897, and did all he could to prevent an appropriation to the penitentiary for the years 1897 and 1898, and none was made. It is also a fact that Mr. Leazar was Superintendent until the time fixed by him for the corn supply to give out, the spring, for he was Superintendent until April 1st. So that it appears that notwithstanding Mr. Leazar's present statements on the stump, the penitentiary has never been self-sustaining. That it was without corn, at least, to begin operations of 1897, and that 1897 seems to have been about the only year in the history of the institution when there was no appropriation made for its support.

THE STATE PEN.

Referring to the records covering the last ten years of the management of the penitentiary by the Democrats we find that the days of so-called "good government" were not without their disgraces, and the examples of inhumanity were calculated to curdle the blood of right minded people.

Much ado has been made by the partisan press over the fact that the present administration has used his pen so freely in signing pardons, and that the management of the penitentiary has been so lax that the institution was about to be depopulated by pardons and escapes. Since the ex-piateers lost their seats at the public pie table nothing too vile, vulgar, filthy, slanderous, maliciously and wilfully false, could be found in their vocabulary to express their feelings towards those whom the people saw proper to place in positions which these fellows had held and abused with impunity, until they had presumed they had a lease for life on the public crib.

But, what we intended to do was to call our readers' attention to some figures from the records. From 1886 to 1896, inclusive, a period covering the last ten years of the old management of the penitentiary the records show: Pardons 271, annual average 27.1. Escapes 564, annual average 56.4. Died of disease 570, annual average 57.0. Died of injuries 2, annual average 2. Killed attempting to escape 24, annual average 2.4. Killed by accident 6, annual average 6. Suicide 1, annual average 1. Sent to insane asylum 7, annual average 7. Depopulation on the accounts 1,445, annual average 144.5

The records for the year 1897, the first year of the present administration, shows on the same accounts as follows: Pardons 28 Escapes 49 Died of disease 19 Died of injuries 0 Killed attempting to escape 1 Killed by accident 0 Suicide 0 Sent to insane asylum 0

Total on these accounts 98 The records show too, that it was the custom of the "good government" to pardon only those, with very few exceptions, whose physical condition could no longer endure the inhuman treatment that fell to their lot. Finding a convict ready to die he was pardoned—turned out to die. It is suggested that at least 50 per cent. of those pardoned were of this class and on this account. The records will explain these things. Add 50 per cent. of the pardons to the death records and note the inhumanity of their last ten years as compared with the first year of the present administration.

This is an age of miracles. Just what will happen next we do not know, but if any of our readers find His Satanic Majesty conducting a religious revival and advising people to turn from their evil ways they must not be surprised. The News and Observer after making false statements about the management of the white blind institution in a way that would have struck Baron Munchausen dumb with astonishment, has the cheek to abuse Dr. Cy. Thompson for telling the truth—for saying that "Jim Young is not now a director of the institution." The News and Observer says it "understands this is true," and in the same breath declares that the "statement is another sample of the unreliability of statements made by fusion orators!" These are its exact words. The State-saver is evidently much confused in his effort to make a lie out of truth.

AN OBSCENE SHEET THAT OUGHT TO BE PROSECUTED.

The sheet edited by one Joe Daniels, called the News and Observer, in its issue of Sunday the 21st day of August, contained a filthy cartoon with a lot of filthy doggerel. It surpasses our understanding that decent people should permit such filth to enter their homes. The obscenity in this case is gross, racist and reckless. It violates the laws of the United States, which say that the publisher shall be sent to the penitentiary, and if the laws are enforced that is just where he will go.

We call this matter to the attention of the District Attorneys Bernard and Spears. It is their duty to enforce this law like any other law. The law is expressed making it a felonious offense to send obscene matter through the mails. Some time ago a man was sent up for twelve months for publishing matter less filthy than this. No doubt there are others in the United States Penitentiary today.

Our own State is passing through revolutionary days. The nights are filled with alarms. Policies, doctrines, private character, educational institutions, are being sealed with ruthless hands. The very altars of the church are being desecrated as if they had never been consecrated by the touch of Jehovah.

It is a good and necessary thing to remember that no one need be alarmed at the situation. As we have said, the days of conflict form the birth period of progress, God still reigns. Truth will prevail. Under His almighty hand opinions, thoughts and events are being bent toward that glorious consummation when the "knowledge of the glory of God shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea."—Greensboro Christian Advocate.

Sermon on a Stamp.—My son, observe the postage stamp. Its usefulness depends upon its ability to stick to one thing till it gets there.—Elmira Gazette.