GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editors are not responsible for the views of Correspondents.

THE SHYLOCKS CAPTURE THE LAST DITCH.

The Currency Bill Now Before Congress and Almost Certain to Pass Will Make the Victory Complete—What Will the End be?—And Will the People Slumber On?

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer.

It appears that the National Banks have captured the last ditch and are soon to have the sixty or seventy millions of American slaves completely at their mercy and sweet will

The papers announce the passage by the House of Representatives of the currency bill, which virtually covers all the evil features of the Baltimore plan with other special features calculated to completely transfer the American finances from the people to that class of money dealers It makes the gold dollar the unit of value, stops the coinage of silver and completes the last link in the chain

But what do the people care about this measure, what do they know about the Baltimore plan, what interest have the people in the money question, anyhow? After it is all done, and its crushing effects begin to be fully realized by the people, they will then begin to inquire what is the cause of all this depression? Then comes the thousands of different answers accounting for the trouble. The man who has encouraged the spread of unmuzzled papers, who has taken and read the papers published in the interest of the producers, knows the cause and has sought to arouse the stupid to a realization of the dangers which threaten us. Such men are called political cranks. Those bold editors who refuse to bow the knee to the moneyed oligarchy are denounced as agitators, anarchists, &c. If they have sought to impress the masses with the idea of a system of government by which the people would have a voice in forming the laws under which they are to struggle for existence; by having the Initiative and Referendum, in which case the people by their votes could ratify or reject the laws after they were passed by the often bribed legislator, a howl goes up from shop and field, "That's anarchy" "It won't do; why, the people would vote down many laws after Congress has passed them."

Such our American slaves. The man in the last General Assembly, who would have had the backbone to introduce and father a bill conferring the veto power upon the people of the State at large, by which they could vote yes or no on the laws, would have been regarded as a fool. It is the grandest boon that could be bestowed upon any people, the right to ratify or reject the laws under which they are to live Had this been the law of the land, the people's money would not have been destroyed Silver would not have been destroyed as a basic money A great many obnoxious measures under which the people groan and suffer would not be in existence today.

The Initiative and Referendum and imperative mandate are issues in politics, seeking their way into platforms and are coming to the front Reasons are as numerous as the sands on the sea coast, why the people should have them. Direct legislation is the deep foundation stone upon which the whole fabric of true democracy rests; without it, monarchy exists. If we had had it Cleveland could not have sold our grand republic to the Rothschild Jews; our treasury notes could not have been destroyed; the present bill before Congress could not pass the people. The four thousand bankers would not find it so easy to despoil productive energy and by class law steal the people's earnings as fast as produced But as long as the ignorant dolts love to be plundered, they may feel sure that the kid gloved vampires will pocket their products and laugh at the dolts who fail to see how it was done.

But the currency bill that seems certain to pass Congress does not stop at the Baltimore plan; it goes much further But supposing it to stop there, it then robs the people of all their surplus. In discussing this measure Mr. Horace White, of New York, said:

"Bankers are the only class who can accomplish good in this direction. The masses do not understand the subject, and are certainly not fit to settle it by their votes. The fools who go in for flat money and kindred evils don't know what they are talking about. They demand one thing today and another tomorrow. By concentrated efforts you can carry this measure through Congress and it will not take you long to do it"

They are succeeding beyond expectation. But read the language of this craven conspirator, he is your boss; how sweet to reflect that when you are delving in your fields in the winter and summer of 1899, you are at work for Horace White and his gang, who neither feed nor clothe you.

But one honest lawyer of Baltimore, Mr. S S Field, had the honesty to speak out in open meeting and described the proposed measure as follows: "The act should have the following title, viz: 'An act to take from the people $300 000 000 and give it to the National Banks, and to authorize the National Banks to take away from the people all the rest of their property of every kind as fast as the banks find the people will submit without a revolution.'"

It is said of another very distinguished American citizen and friend of the American people, Wendell Phillips, that some twenty three years ago, seeing that our debt of the Civil War had been doubled by scheming bankers—seeing that by contraction of the currency they had filled the country with tramps; seeing that they had demonetized silver and meant to destroy the greenbacks—he declared that if such a career were much longer continued, "bankers would be hanged to lamp posts in New York and Boston as unceremoniously as horse thieves had ever been hanged in Texas" But Mr. Phillips mistook the cowardice of the proletariat and common business men of these places for patriotism Since his prophecy was uttered the streets of New York have been blocked with idle tramps, Boston made the scene of the arrest or dispersion of thousands of people assembled to pray for employment and bread, evictions by the thousands, suicides by the hundreds, scores of hungry laborers starving for life's comforts shot down in the open daylight at the bidding of sworn officers of the law on the soil of the great State of Pennsylvania. England, Ireland, Russia, Italy, Germany, Egypt and India are standing monuments of the degradation to which a people may be brought when it is done gradually As political ignorance increases, so manhood decreases. The moneyed oligarchy of England and America know this, and for that reason they see it to their interest to as far as possible close the doors against the education of the proletariat classes.

Note this—the more mills the greater the number of places to engage the children in seeking to earn bread rather than learn letters.

What class of our people are paying any attention to the great economic problems of this age?

Does the merchant and shop keeper ever stop his struggle for the dollar long enough to read anything on the subject? No

Does the clerk, the salesman stop to read the writing on the wall? No.

Does the book keeper who sees his wages growing less every year stop to inquire the cause? No

Do the railway hands ever stop to read such dry trash? No

Do the poor overworked policeman ever give this subject a thought? No. Has no time to read.

Do the great daily papers ever print anything on these lines? No, they dare not: it would cost the editor his bread

Do the small partisan cabbage leaf country or city papers ever sound a note of warning to their readers? No, sir; might lose the favor of the party boss

Does the farmer ever seek to post himself as to why it is the harder he works the less he has? No He can find out all he wants to know from the commission merchant.

Does the farm laborer ever search for the cause of starving wages? No; got no time to spare

Do the farmers, mechanics, artisans, clerks and millmen patronize such papers and magazines as are devoting their time, talents and energies to defending the rights and interests of wage earners and producers Not many! If all whose interests The Progressive Farmer is struggling to defend and advocate would come to its rescue, and give it their hearty support, so that it, or some other paper as good, would be found on the table of all whom it labors to defend and enlighten, what mighty reforms would we soon have! If all of us who feel the need of a radical reform, and are so anxious for a country in which we can live, would go to work and get all who really need the information our paper seeks to furnish to all who need it, we would soon have an irresistible army marching solidly against humanity's greatest foe, monopoly.

The only road leading to success is light, and that light will never shine where we want it to shine until we work and send it out and into every household where it is needed. The Farmers' Alliance proved the best school for educating its members on the line of such subjects as vitally concern productive labor of any institution we have ever had among the people. If that grand organization increases in power, so will the light continue to increase It is a cause for profound regret that an institution of such vast importance to that class of our people, and the only arm that can save them from ruin should be allowed to die out for want of their support We look upon it as being the last Goodly hand reached down from Heaven for their deliverance; if they spurn and refuse that great means, then they deserve the worst that may befall them as a class

Of all people in the world a people living under a republican form of government are in the greatest danger of having their liberties lost and their rights confiscated They vote for men who represent the interests of idle sharpers and fatten upon the unfortunate producers The American common people today suffer affliction and oppressions, poverty, destitution, as a result of the votes they cast themselves. They seem to love their taskmasters in London and Wall street more than they do their own interests Highway robbers attack and plunder the defenceless citizen, in violation of law, but these fellows plunder and rob the whole army of producers by law, and under its authority. It could be no more unjust in principle if they were granted a license to confiscate the wealth of the nation wherever they could find it. They are to control the output of money or rather paper I O U and the people are forced to receive it and pay them the enormous rates of interest demanded, and the government is to be responsible for the redemption of their notes

All industries are taxed to enrich these favored few Every dollar that passes among the people pays these bankers a tax of from 6 per cent. to any amount of interest they may demand The whole commerce of America must pay them a tribute for the use of a medium of exchange called money And to all this must be added the fact that the people are taxed in a sum amounting to hundreds of millions to support a government whose duty and function it is to furnish its people with a medium of exchange. What will we submit to next? "OLD DAN"

Wake Co, N. C.

DUPLIN FAVORS CO-OPERATION

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

Duplin County Alliance met at Kenansville on the 11th with the imicible spirit, Bro Oscar Ward, in the chair. Bro Ward is an alliance-man "from way back;" is generous and kind to all and, while he has a mind of his own, is ever willing to grant others their opinions without ridicule or criticism. Such is our presiding officer, a gentleman by nature and by practice.

Although the day was unfavorable, a good representation was present and the business was transacted in a harmonious, business like manner, characteristic of the Duplin county people After mature deliberation and discussion it was unanimously agreed to unite and urge Bro. T B Parker, our State Secretary and Business Agent, to visit the county and do some missionary work and try to revive the Alliance, as it is believed the farmers are ripe for reorganization.

The day was spent in discussing the various topics that interest the Alliance-man, and the writer tried to represent our organ, The Progressive Farmer, and by a few words spoken in its behalf secured the subscribers whose names and cash will be found enclosed.

At the close of the meeting the enclose preamble and resolutions were discussed and passed:

RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS It is observed that certain organization are now being formed throughout the country in opposition to trusts and combines. A large and respectable class of men have banded themselves together and formed what is known as the "Commercial Travelers and Hotel Keepers' Anti trust League," a combination of considerable strength composed of men who are opposed our organization who now begin to feel the opposition that the farmers have felt for years It is also gratifying to notice the creation of a great laborers' organization known as the "Federation of Labor," having for its objects the protection of labor and the promotion of the principles long advocated by the Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union; and whereas we believe this to be an opportune time to strike hard and, forgetting all past bitterness, unite with these kindred alliances, ever bearing in mind that in union there is strength Therefore

Resolved That this body the Duplin County Alliance, at Kenansville assembled on the 11th day of January 1900 do request and urge our State Executive Committee, with the assistance of our worthy State President, to take such steps as will secure a union and co operation with other organized bodies friendly to our cause and favorable to the cause we advocate

This resolution was unanimously adopted VISITOR.

Our Alliance has gone down, but I think with proper arrangements it could be revived

J L McLAMROCH

Davie Co, N C

I send you $2 for which change the label on my Bible, as they call it here

E S. ARRINGTON

Haywood Co, N C

My subscription to The Progressive Farmer commenced July 17th, 1888 become more attached to the paper every year With age it grows better I have been a constant subscriber to two or more newspapers at a time for 55 years; am taking four papers at the present time Cannot do without The Progressive Farmer.

W M M HARPER

Chatham Co N

I cannot think of getting along without The Progressive Farmer Every farmer in the State should take it and read it He will be out only $1 at the first of the year, but the gain of $100 at the end of the year if he will practice its teachings It will not only help him cultivate his farm, but it will help him cultivate his mental and spiritual natures of more value than a thousand farms What has become of the resolutions and funds to erect a monument to the memory of Col L L Polk? The people of this State—yes, I would say those United States owe a monument to his memory second to none In his short while here he succeeded in wiping out more of the prejudice and strife existing between the States than all the parties and men combined. We certainly owe it to his memory. Will we do it? We will see P M. PHILLIPS

Rowan Co, N

BUYING VIRGINIA LAND.

The Vanderbilt and Rockefeller Interests Acquiring It

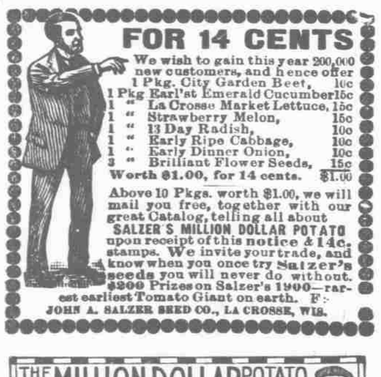
NORFOLK VA, J. 24—A representative of Vanderbilt and Rockefeller interests is in this section taking options over and land. One tract situated on the Eastern branch of the Elizabeth River has been optioned for $100 000 and another on Broad creek for $45 000 The Vanderbilts practically own the Virginia Beach and the Norfolk and Southern Railway and large holdings in the Dismal Swamp and Ohio. What the present move means can only be conjectured There have been rumors for some time that Rockefeller was gradually acquiring valuable property in Southeastern Virginia and E[illegible]

HELP BRO WEAVER.

As I have had the misfortune to lose my barn and everything connected with it and one mule and cow, I hope you will please continue the paper and ask the brotherhood to help me build again Loss $500; no insurance Cause of fire unknown. Help me if you can; it will be thankfully received

J P WEAVER

Chapel Hill N



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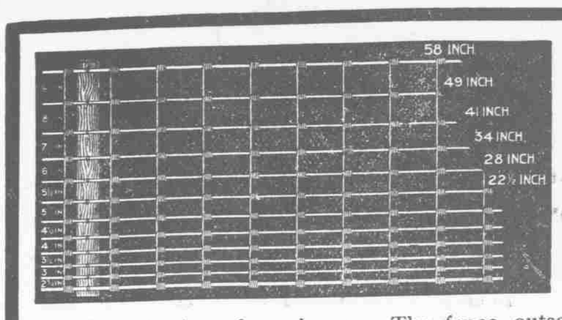

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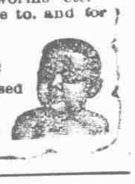

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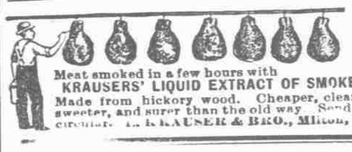

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