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"THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY," is the motto of The Progressive Farmer, and upon this platform it shall rise or fall. Serving no master, ruled by no faction, circumscribed by no selfish or narrow policy, its aim will be to foster and promote the best interests of the whole people of the State. It will be true to the instincts, traditions and history of the Anglo-Saxon race. On all matters relating specially to the great interests it represents, it will speak with no uncertain voice, but will fearlessly the right defend and impartially the wrong condemn.—From Col. Polk's Salutatory, Feb. 10, 1886.

RENEWALS—The date opposite your name on your paper, or wrapper, shows to what time your subscription is paid. This 1 Jan. '00, shows that payment has been received up to Jan. 1, 1899; 1 Jan. '91, to Jan. 1, 1890, and so on. Two weeks are required after money is received before date, which answers for a receipt, can be changed. If not properly changed within two weeks after money is sent notify us.

DISCONTINUANCES—Responsible subscribers will continue to receive this journal until time, when all arrears must be paid. If you do not wish the journal continued for another year after your subscription has expired, you should then notify us to discontinue it.

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

When sending your renewal, be sure to give exactly the name on label and postage to which the copy of paper you receive is sent.

We invite correspondence, news items, suggestions and criticisms on the subjects of agriculture, poultry raising, stock breeding, dairying, horticulture and gardening; women's work, literature, or any subject of interest to our lady readers, young people, or the family generally; public matters, current events, political questions and principles, etc.—in short, any subject discussed in an all-round farm and family newspaper. Communications should be free from personalities and party abuse.

**Editorial.**

**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

If you are not a subscriber to The Progressive Farmer this number is sent you as a sample copy for your inspection. It speaks for itself. If you do not like it, very well. If you do like it, you have only to send us one dollar for a year's subscription, fifty cents for six months, or 25 cents for a three month's trial subscription. That's all.

This year's Republican State platform, like that of 1898, with the exception of attacks upon the amendment and election law, fails to speak out on State issues. It is perhaps better to make no promises than to make promises and break them, but we think a political party should define its position on every public question in which the people are interested.

The next three months will witness one of the most hard-fought and we fear, one of the most bitter political campaigns in the history of North Carolina. The passions of men will be aroused; their prejudices appealed to; rash things said, and unjustifiable deeds done. In the midst of the tumult, it will be a difficult thing to do, yet we shall to the best of our ability endeavor to keep The Progressive Farmer in the path marked out by Col. Polk—"serving no master, ruled by no faction; defending right fearlessly, condemning wrong impartially."

The Progressive Farmer has earnestly advocated the erection of farmers' co-operative cotton factories. We notice that one such is soon to be established in this State. The name of the new mill is the "Linn Mills," of China Grove, Rowan county. Work on the mill will begin immediately. It is owned and controlled exclusively by farmers; all from in and around China Grove. For its erection, \$50,000 has been subscribed, and as soon as the mills are in successful operation it is proposed to increase the capital stock to \$200,000.

Press dispatches of last Friday say: "The State Election Board held a called meeting at the Yarrowborough last night to consider some objections to the election board appointed for New Hanover county. Chairman Simmons met the interested parties at Rockingham last week and heard the contention of both sides. It was at his suggestion that this meeting of election board was called." The very fact that the chairman of the dominant party is the first to consider objections to county boards, and that the State Board is called at State expense, to create his "suggestions," is proof enough of the need for a better law.

**EXPANSION COMES HIGH.**

Very few people realize it—perhaps not one voter in a hundred knows it—it is a fact that our appropriation for maintaining and enlarging our army and navy has so increased within the past few years that for this purpose we are now paying out the magnificent sum of \$330,000 daily. For many years Americans pointed to the impoverishment of European peoples by the heavy taxes levied to support standing armies and boasted that America carried no such burden. This can no longer be truthfully said. As the Saturday Evening Post of May 5th points out:

"According to the last report of the Secretary of War the army of the United States consisted of 7,540 officers and 171,646 enlisted men. The last Congress in what it supposed to be a moment of generosity allowed a little over \$70,000,000 for war expenses, but those who knew the facts understood perfectly that much more money would be required, so we have not been very much surprised to find in the Urgency Deficiency Bill of the present Congress the somewhat respectable sum of \$45,951,949 for the support of the army. This, mind you, is an addition to \$75,247,811 already allowed for the current year. In other words, we are paying about \$330,000 a day, or \$1,375 an hour, or \$229 a minute for our present army organization and its expenses in the various parts of the world. The curious feature in the whole case is that the politicians are trying to hide the fact that we are maintaining a large army, and if we are to pursue our present plans the size of it may have to be increased. Thus in the legislation that is proposed there is the most painstaking care to keep from any one the idea that we are drifting toward the enormous war expenses of a modern power. At the same time, when we add to these figures the one hundred and forty-odd millions which we are paying out for pensions, we exceed the army expenses of any nation on earth, with the possible exception of Great Britain whose expenditures in South Africa may form the greatest total in the history of warfare."

Is it not time to consider whether we are drifting?

**STATE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.**

The Republican State Convention met in this city last Wednesday and nominated the following ticket:

- Governor—Spencer B. Adams, of Guilford county.
- Lieutenant Governor—Claudius Dockery, of Richmond.
- Secretary of State—James F. Parrott, of Lenoir.
- State Treasurer—L. L. Jenkins, of Gaston.
- State Auditor—Thomas S. Rollins, of Madison.
- Attorney General—Z. V. Walsler, of Davidson.
- Superintendent of Public Instruction—N. C. English, of Randolph.
- Chairman Corporation Commission—C. A. Reynolds, of Forsyth.
- Corporation Commissioner—J. A. Franks, of Swain.
- Commissioner of Agriculture—Abner Alexander, of Tyrrell.
- Commissioner of Labor—Thos. S. Malloy, of Rockingham.
- Electors—A. H. Price, of Rowan, and J. C. McCrary, of Davidson.

Delegates to the National Convention are Jeter C. Pritchard, James E. Boyd, E. C. Duncan and Chas. McNamee.

The personnel of the convention was undoubtedly the best in the history of the party. The Raleigh Post says:

"The convention was a lily-white affair. Less than 40 of the 240 delegates were negroes. Senator Pritchard succeeded better than was expected in keeping the negro in the background. The attendance was large for a Republican convention, and there were more white men present than the party has ever mustered together before."

The platform adopted, which will be published in full in next week's Progressive Farmer, reaffirms the Republican National platform and endorses President McKinley's administration. The proposed suffrage amendment and the new election law are bitterly denounced.

The delegates to the National Convention were instructed to vote for McKinley for President and Senator Pritchard for Vice-President—first, last and all the time.

All counties, except three, were represented. The exact number of negro delegates was 18. Senator Pritchard, Attorney-General Walsler, Spencer B. Adams and others addressed the convention.

**THE CULLOM BILL AGAIN.**

We are glad to learn that the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce has passed resolutions heartily indorsing Senate bill No. 1439, for enlarging the powers of the Inter-State Commerce Commission. The resolution declares that power for the Commission to "examine documents of public and quasi-public corporations and require officers of such corporations to testify are indispensably requisite and necessary to clothe the Inter-State Commerce Commission with plenary powers," for the reason that Supreme Court decisions have limited the powers of the commission to a judicial determination of facts relative to the inter-State freight and passenger rates.

We notice that this bill, No. 1439 of the Cullom bill, by a majority of one been unfavorably reported by the Inter-State Commerce committee of the Senate. The five Senators who voted for the bill were Messrs. Cullom, Chandler, Chilton, Allen and Tillman, and those who cast votes in the negative Messrs. Gear, Lindsay, Aldrich, Elkins, Wolcott and Kean. It is interesting to note who these opponents of the bill are. There are: Senator Wolcott, of Colorado, general counsel of the D. & R. G. Railway; Senator Gear, of Iowa, father-in-law of J. W. Blythe, general solicitor of the C. B. & Q. Railway System; Senator Lindsay, of Kentucky, counsel for the L. & N. Railway; Senator Elkins, of West Virginia, Vice-President of the West Virginia Central & Pittsburgh Railway; Senator Kean, of New Jersey, closely allied as a capitalist with the Pennsylvania Railway; Senator Aldrich, of Rhode Island, closely allied with the railway and corporation interests of his section.

But consideration of the Cullom bill has not been indefinitely postponed. It can be called up at any time, and we trust that the North Carolina delegation will see that it is not buried at the dictates of a half dozen railroad attorneys.

That the passage of the Cullom bill or some similar measure is an absolute necessity is shown by the indisputable statement of the Inter-State Commerce Commission itself that "any railroad company can charge for its service whatever it pleases without any real power in this Commission, or any other tribunal or court to limit the amount of such charge for the future when complaint is made by an aggrieved shipper."

The Inter-State Commerce Commission was formed as an outgrowth of the Alliance movement for the purpose of protecting the public from excessive charges by the common carriers of the country. The Supreme Court has decided that it wasn't given the power to prescribe rates. The plain duty of Congress therefore is to give it this power and every voter should demand that his representatives in Congress work for Senate Bill 1439.

**THIS WEEK'S PAPER.**

In this issue Prof. W. F. Massey presents an admirable summing-up of the advantages and possibilities of the Southern cow pea. The cow pea grows more popular every year, but our farmers do not yet appreciate it as they should.

Under the head, "A Battle to Be Refought," a correspondent comments on our recent editorial with this title. We wish to emphasize one of his statements: It is this:

"This year, of all the years of late, is the one wherein to plant corn, potatoes, wheat, and seed North Carolina hillsides to grazing grasses." But if our correspondent thinks that our rural population has less manhood than ten years ago, and that they will quietly submit to the levies of the new bagging and tie trusts, as well as the numerous other greedy combinations, without attempting to protect themselves by the only weapon within their reach—organization—he is, in our opinion, seriously mistaken. Reports from all parts of the State show that the Alliance is holding its own and that the prospects are bright for a thorough reorganization as soon as the excitement of the State campaign has blown over.

Prof. F. J. Merriam, of Battle Hill, Ga., who makes money trucking, gives our readers some points worth remembering on the subject of bean culture.

We trust that every farmer and farmer's wife will read Mrs. Mount's "Mistakes and Possibilities of Rural Life" on page 4. It is one of the best articles that have appeared in

The Progressive Farmer this year. There are few farmers who cannot profit by some of Mrs. Mount's suggestions.

We publish this week the resolutions adopted by the Populist State Convention in session here April 17. Owing to the kindness of our correspondents in furnishing so many excellent articles for our General Correspondence department, we have not until now been able to find space for the resolutions. And we hope that our correspondents will continue their good work. This week Mr. D. P. Meacham presents a well-written argument against the amendment, incidentally exposing a few of the unjust features of the election law now in force.

In our Thinkers department, in an article on "The Independent Voter," Mr. D. L. Gore compresses much political wisdom in a very little space. We heartily endorse his article.

Finally, we invite attention to our notes on "Things Every Farmer Needs" on page 7. Read them; they may be the means of saving you a snug sum of money.

**WHAT CONGRESS IS DOING.**

After fifty years of agitation for the construction of an inter-oceanic canal, to be cut some where along the narrow strip that binds North and South America, the perseverance of its promoters has been rewarded by the accomplishment of something tangible. On last Tuesday afternoon, after the most stormy debate of the present session of Congress, the House by the overwhelming vote of 225 to 35 passed the Nicaraguan canal bill. Much excitement reigned through the day and several times bitter words were used. The excitement reached its climax in a highly dramatic scene between Mr. Hepburn and Mr. Cannon when the former used the word "lie" and "liar," as he denounced the distinguished chairman of the appropriation committee for "attempting to dishonor him."

The bill, briefly stated, authorizes the President to acquire from the States of Costa Rica and Nicaragua for and in behalf of the United States, control of such portion of territory now belonging to them as may be necessary on which to "excavate, construct and protect a canal of such depth and capacity as will be sufficient for the movements of ships of the greatest tonnage and draft now in use, from a point near Greytown, on the Caribbean Sea, via Lake Nicaragua, to Breto, on the Pacific Ocean; and such sum as may be necessary to secure such control is appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated." The sum of \$10,000,000 is appropriated for the construction of the canal, and the Secretary of War is further authorized to enter into a contract or contracts for materials and work that may be "deemed necessary for the proper excavation, construction, completion and defense of the canal, to be paid for as appropriations may from time to time be hereafter made, not to exceed in the aggregate \$140,000,000."

The joint resolution for a constitutional amendment to disqualify polygamists for election as Senators and Representatives and prohibiting polygamy and polygamous cohabitation between the sexes has been re-referred to a committee and will probably never be heard of again.

Congress will adjourn early in June.

Among the items of sundry civil bill reported from the committee on appropriations last week were the following for North Carolina: For completion of Winston postoffice, \$25,000; for United States fish commissioner Edenton, \$3,480; for North Carolina lighthouse district, \$25,000; for improving water-way from sounds of North Carolina to Norfolk, \$200,000; for one superintendent for coasts of North Carolina and Virginia, \$1,800. Also a provision for lighting the Cape Fear river in North Carolina.

The Senate Friday passed the army re-organization bill, a measure of considerable importance; the fortifications appropriation bill, carry \$7,000,000, and the bill appropriating \$80,000 for a public building for Durham, this State.

The price of paper is now nearly 50 per cent. higher than a year ago and no other article used in newspaper making has been reduced in price. Expenses being increased, we must impress upon subscribers the necessity of renewing promptly. If the date on your label is 99 or '98 please pay up and renew at once. Send at any rate a part of the amount due—send \$1 and get date moved up one year.

**RANGE CATTLE IN NORTH CAROLINA.**

This State keeps its cattle under two systems. The old Fence Law which is a free range for all live stock and farmers must fence their fields is one system. The "No Fence" or Stock Law system where owners of stock must enclose their property and not allow it to roam at large is the other system.

The former system prevails in the mountain counties except Henderson and Buncombe and small tracts (town?) in Jackson, Haywood, Macon and Transylvania. All the coast counties, except New Hanover, are free range, as is all the Coastal Plain counties Northeast and Southwest of Raleigh, except Halifax and Edgecombe on the North, Greene and parts of Lenoir and Wayne, part of Cumberland and (Harnett?), Robeson and parts of Richmond, and the new county of Scotland. Three towns of Bladen county have the stock law. Part of Chatham and Montgomery, are of the free range territory. See State Department of Agriculture map, to which acknowledgement is made.

In general terms one may say the mountains and coastal plains are free range territories and the piedmont and uplands are stock law counties dividing the State into two pretty nearly equal areas. In addition to this and affecting numbers, distribution, and values of cattle the United States Quarantine Line follows the Southern boundary of the State to the Summit of the Blue Ridge and follows that line approximately across the State. South and East of this line the country is more or less infected with cattle ticks (Boophilus bovis, Curtice). Here there are numerous and expensive outbreaks of Texas fever every year around cities and county seats where ticky cattle are brought together with those raised on tick free land, it may be on adjoining farms.

There has been a more active demand for cattle during the past three or four years than usual. Prices have been higher than has been known for years before. Many cattle and sheep are known to have been shipped out of this State to be fed in Virginia and as far off as Pennsylvania. It is thought that shipments to market in Richmond and Norfolk have been more than usually active on account of higher prices. There has been some movement of cattle from South Carolina and Georgia. How large this has been we do not know, but we would like to know as well as we think we know it will be stopped by the United States quarantine law when it is fully enforced.

What effect has all this on the cattle, or people of North Carolina, or readers of The Progressive Farmer? Well, we may, perhaps, be pardoned if we admit a belief that it has a great deal to do with all those named and if any reader has only one heifer, or one worksteer and he keeps informed by following The Progressive Farmer he will see the information gathered result in additional price enough on the one animal, if sold, to pay once or twice, perhaps many times, for The Progressive Farmer. Suppose one has a herd of fifty, will it pay to keep informed?

There is a scarcity of cattle. Fewer cattle are now living in this country than for quite a number of years and they have been decreasing in numbers; but there are more people than ever before and the demand for cattle for meat is increasing as well as for all the parts of cattle used in trade and the arts. Moreover, there is now before Congress a law to regulate the manufacturers and sellers of butterine and oleomargarine, which, if passed, will put the sale of those articles on an honest basis so they will be sold for what they are. This will at once advance the demand for and price of butter. These conditions point to advancing prices.

We have recently been looking around a little to see what North Carolina has in hand for stock with which to meet her part of this increasing demand for stock. If we have looked far enough the supposed brisk advance in price and sales of cattle had not reduced numbers very much up to the time taxes were listed in 1898. The lists may be showing a diminution for 1899 and fewer animals may be recorded this year. Should these records show fewer cattle and sheep, it will be true, as reported in some sections that everything salable had been purchased and either driven or hauled away, and THAT THE BEST HAS BEEN SOLD.

These big letters stare you in the

face and indicate that an effort, not strong enough to bring the object to pass, should be made in every neighborhood where these lines are read to breed something as good, or better, than what has gone out.

A few good sires can be purchased early at comparatively moderate prices. Co-operation between neighbors will do it at least possible cost to each farm and in this way the common stock now on hand can be spared to go on to provide part of it not all the money needed to put into one or two better animals for wider use. Thus will an era of progress, improvement and profit be established and the next crop of stock to be sent out will grade higher and bring more money.

Here is the opportunity for you, farmer reader. Look up the stock and if you know what you want, but not where to find it we will help you by your writing here what it is you need.

If the numbers of cattle listed for taxes are not less than for 1898 the farmers are better off than they were thought to be; and paying heed to these words will make dollars in putting the stock to be raised up to a higher standard, where it will command more when sent to market whilst it will enable holders of stock to see and appreciate the situation and to ask and obtain more for what is to be sold. A present gain of several dollars ought to insure your subscription to this paper in which you will find other things to your own advantage.

We would like to hear from any reader who knows any facts about the increased activity in cattle either West or East. Every one who can add to the general stock of information will thus help the industry in cattle and be adding to the material prosperity of the State through the individual gain.

**THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER'S STATE PLATFORM.**

We believe that the next Legislature should give us, and that candidates for the Legislature should be pledged to, these reforms:

- Four months public schools.
- A law to prevent the removal of cases by corporations from State Federal courts.
- A statute making agriculture a common school study.
- A reformatory for young criminals.

A fair election law, providing for equal representation of each faction upon boards of election judges and registrars.

A law making it illegal to employ children under fifteen years of age in any cotton mill, except where the child so employed attends school at least three months in each year.

Lower priced school books.

A graduated tax upon the gross earnings of railroads, one-half of the proceeds to be devoted to public schools. The schedule to be that contained in the original bill considered by the Joint Finance Committee of the last Legislature, viz:

Less than \$1,000 per mile (gross earnings) annually,	1/2 per cent
As much as \$1,000 per mile or less than \$1,500	3/4
\$1,500 per mile or less than \$2,000	1
\$2,000 to \$2,500	1 1/4
\$2,500 to \$3,000	1 1/2
\$3,000 to \$3,500	1 3/4
\$3,500 to \$4,000	2
\$4,000 to \$4,500	2 1/4
\$4,500 to \$5,000	2 1/2
\$5,000 to \$5,500	2 3/4
\$5,500 to \$6,000	3
\$6,000 or more	3 1/4

A just newspaper libel law.

England, which claims to be the greatest civilizing and Christianizing nation on the globe, holds India as a possession and is endeavoring to secure the South African Republic. In India, it is estimated, 80,000,000 famine sufferers need help; and England has sent, in subscriptions, \$125,000 to aid the Indian treasury. In South Africa, where the New York Times says, "at most a population of 300,000 is directly involved in the outcome of the South African war," England is spending a thousandfold more, \$150,000,000, one dollar to save life; a thousand to kill men and destroy free government. Civilization—what crimes are committed in thy name!

As long as your paper shows both sides of public questions and keeps in the middle of the road we shall have it at least once a week—J. L. Stuart, Robeson Co., N. C.

Mention The Progressive Farmer when writing advertisers.