

## PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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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

DISCONTINUANCES—Responsible subscribers will continue to receive this journal until the publishers are notified by letter to discontinue, 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.

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### Editorial.

The Progressive Farmer will be sent to any address from now till January 1, 1900, for 35 cents. You can't keep posted without it.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

We re-publish in this issue our report of the State Alliance meeting, hoping that in this way we may reach a larger number of ex-Alliance men.

We are not speaking idly or thoughtlessly when we say it is more than probable that the Alliance membership will be doubled within six months. Stand to your guns and do your part.

The Texas Farm and Ranch gets down to fundamental principles in this paragraph: "When it is fully realized that the happiness of the people is a better test of the value of social conditions than the material wealth of a few (for at best only a few can be wealthy, as we estimate wealth these days), then our social errors will become manifest."

South Carolina has a State Farmers' Institute. A successful meeting was held at Clemson College last week. This Institute is an annual meeting for mutual profit and pleasure to the farmers and those whose interests are along agricultural lines, and matters to their interest are discussed by speakers of National prominence. Every section of the State is represented.

Of all things, Sub-Alliances should abstain from narrowness or clanishness. It should never be content with members of only one family, of one religious denomination, or of one political party. Broaden out, knock out old prejudices, and try a little real life and freshness. Think about this again. We verily believe that this clanish prejudice is to blame for more shriveled up Subs. than any other one thing.

Municipal ownership of public utilities is having a healthy growth in this State. The Durham Herald says: "Several of our North Carolina towns have gone into the ownership of public necessities. Those that have tried it for some time are pleased with the satisfactory way things work. Some time ago Charlotte bought the city waterworks, and now Greensboro has done the same thing. It is regarded by those places as the right thing to do, and we are sure it will turn out to be so." Even the Charlotte Observer, perhaps the slowest North Carolina paper to adopt new ideas, says: "We venture to say that Greensboro will never regret having bought out the waterworks company, as was told in yesterday's paper she had done. One of the best things the city of Charlotte ever did was the purchase of the waterworks property. Every municipality should control its own water and light."

Miss Florence L. Graham, daughter of President Graham of the State Alliance, died Thursday. The Progressive Farmer extends sympathy to the bereaved family.

#### AN OPPORTUNITY.

The religious press of North Carolina is just now doing a great and proper work for purer politics. The Biblical Recorder, the Presbyterian Standard, the Christian Advocate, the Christian Sun, Charity and Children, and other religious papers are outspoken in denunciation of the demoralizing political methods of the time. Let the Christian people uphold these papers in their fight for good faith, for peace, and for purer politics. It is gratifying to find that so many of the State's secular papers also believe that platforms are something more than things "to get in on" and are working for the fulfillment of campaign promises.

The honest voters of the State can accomplish more good along these lines just at this time than they can ever again accomplish with the same effort. A new political state is being moulded and words and acts that might have accomplished little yesterday or that might accomplish little tomorrow will today leave a lasting impress. If the people do not now assert their power and demand the fulfillment of the pledges and promises now fresh in our minds, they lose a golden opportunity. No one will deny that for a long time, because of the negro question in politics, the masses of the white people allowed or winked at many corrupt practices by the baser element of our own race. If we are to crush these evils—Red Shirtism, election frauds, etc.—touching the fundamental principles of American liberty, it is now or never.

Without free speech and a free ballot, so-called free government is a farce and a fraud.

Let the people speak and speak at once.

Mr. Bryan and his associates say that imperialism, trusts, and bimetallism are the great issues of the National campaign. Some Bryan papers say that in North Carolina we must have a revival of the negro question—with, we presume, all the abuse, the epithets, the hatred and the general demoralization that every one knows have always characterized campaigns of this kind. If such a campaign were necessary to maintain the supremacy of the white race, we assert that the price would not be too great; as it is not needed for this purpose, it is foolish and dangerous. Yet several leading newspapers are insisting that those who demand the fulfillment of Democratic pledges as to the better feeling and complete political freedom to come after the adoption of the amendment, and who insist that the campaign be fought upon the great issues that Mr. Bryan has selected, are enemies of Mr. Bryan, working for the election of McKinley. Verily, consistency is a jewel.

#### WRITE TO YOUR PAPER.

The Progressive Farmer is interested most of all just now in getting its readers to write for it. Write to us. If you have learned anything useful regarding farming, trucking, stock-raising, marketing, or house-keeping, write to us. If you have any opinions on the financial question, the trust question, imperialism, better schools, or any public question, State or National, write it out and send it to us. If you wish to know anything regarding any conceivable phase or question regarding farming, ask us and where the editorial staff have not had experience regarding the line inquired about, we will submit it to our readers; and among the thousands of farmers who read The Progressive Farmer you will find many ready to furnish the information desired. If you like The Progressive Farmer, why, when convenient, say so, stating what features are most valuable to you. If you do not like the paper, write us about it; tell us how it could be improved and why you do not approve the present policy. If you wish to sell anything and can't find a buyer, or to buy anything and can't find a seller, just tell us about it; perhaps we can help you. Ask questions. We are here to serve you. Don't be afraid of pen and ink; people cannot be successful nowadays without them.

Remember we are here to co-operate with our readers in promoting in every way their social, financial and educational welfare. And to every farmer, farmer's wife and farmer's boy or girl, who reads The Progressive Farmer, we say: Use the paper; it is yours; ask questions as to what you do not know; write what would

be of benefit or interest to others. We are here to co-operate with you. In short, just "make yourselves at home"—with us. That is what we want.

Please remember that this is a standing invitation. We shall not repeat this statement each week, but bear in mind that we are none the less anxious for you to act on our suggestion early and often.

#### EDUCATION FOR THE FARMER.

One of the contributors to "Our Social Chat" this week very properly says that there are some old moss-covered ideas of education that should go the way of the stage-coach and other out-of-date things with which they grew up.

The most prominent of these ideas that have so long cheated the grave out of its due is the one that education is not needed on the farm. That such a proposition is still regarded favorably by many people, that are allowed to run around loose is a reflection upon our civilization. A man who brings up a boy nowadays and turns him loose uneducated to battle with trusts and combines and the bulls and bears of the stock market, as well as with crab grass and insect pests, ought to be dealt with by the State.

A boy can preach the Gospel in some manner without an education; he may know something of the medicinal properties of some roots without knowing a letter in the alphabet. To put it briefly, he can be a fourth-class preacher or doctor, or a fourth-class farmer, without an education. The conclusion of the whole matter is, Do you wish him to have the ability to lead in his trade or are you willing for him to occupy a back seat? He is as certain to find his illiteracy a mill stone about his neck in farming as in anything else. Give him an education and if he has brain and industry, he will lead whether as a farmer, a doctor, or a lawyer.

We are always glad to hear of the success of any farmers' organization. We are therefore pleased to re-publish this from the American Grange Bulletin: "No falling off in Grange members now, confidence is restored. Nothing proves it more than official figures. The National Master of the National Grange announces from the public platform that more than two hundred thousand members have joined the Grange within the last two years."

#### "WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH ME?"

The Greensboro Christian Advocate of last week says:

"Occasionally one hears a word which sticks fast in the mind. The other day, as a company of four Methodist preachers were returning from the burial of a brother minister, one of them remarked, quite abruptly: 'Brother Jones, what's the matter with the M. E. Church?' Brother Jones was evidently taken by surprise, and paused to make reply. His hesitancy was Bro. Brown's opportunity: 'What's the matter with the M. E. Church? The best way to settle that question is to ask, every one of us, another question, namely: What's the matter with me?'"

There is in this a moral for Alliance men as well as for church members. When anyone feels disposed to ask, "What is the matter with the Alliance?" let him first ask, "What is the matter with me? Am I doing what I should for the Order? Have I spoken to my neighbors who would make good Alliance men and urged them to join us in the great work the Alliance could do? Am I trying to put into practice its Declaration of Purposes? Have a done all I could to break down false prejudices and by faithful work made it easy for the Order to grow?"

When you have honestly answered all these questions, then you may—if you feel like it—ask, "What is the matter with the Alliance?"

Cram's Magazine for August comes to us as heavily laden as usual with good things of both instruction and entertainment. The constant improvement that has been noticed in the literary portion of the magazine is also now observable in its mechanical execution, the illustrative features being much improved. The usual departments and serials are reinforced by articles discussing the "American Railroads," the Party Platforms, "Russian Expansion," "Our Common Poisonous Plants," and other articles of an instructive and interesting nature.

#### THE EXPERIENCE MEETING.

One of the best features of the State Alliance meeting was the reports from different counties on Tuesday afternoon, as the following extracts go to show:

Bro. Lane, of Beaufort: Membership in our county has increased 50 per cent. since January meeting.

Bro. Paschal, of Chatham: There are 21 or 22 Sub-Alliances in Chatham, and the outlook is brightening. Alliance stores in some sections has had a good effect in keeping members in line. Dividends of 12½ to 20 per cent. are declared annually by one store.

Bro. Bain, of Cumberland: The Alliance in Cumberland is in better shape than a year ago. While other brethren report poor July meetings on account of politics, our July meeting was one of the best that has been held in years. We have had applications from ex-members of dormant Subs. to re-organize during the past few months and the prospects are good.

Bro. Perry, of Franklin: We are on the up-grade in Franklin. One Sub. has been re-organized recently and the outlook for a revival is good. While members of my Sub. are trying to discuss other Alliance matters we try to make good farmers of all our members. We have a corn contest in which each member contributes a certain quantity to go as prizes to members growing most on one acre. Similar contests with cotton, peas, and sorghum have been had. This plan has had a good effect with us.

Bro. Query, of Mecklenburg: While Bro. Paschal reports good effects from Alliance stores, the mismanagement of them in Mecklenburg has seriously injured the Order. Let me select a good lecturer and re-organizer and I feel we would have twelve times as many members as now within a year.

Bro. Marshburn, of Nash: Nash has, I think, increased in membership 33 to 50 per cent. during the past year. Old members who dropped out a few years ago are returning.

Bro. Crouch, of Orange: We are receiving new members and the county is in better shape than a year ago.

Bro. Johnson, of Rowan: We have never allowed politics to hurt us. We meet with different Subs. and are well entertained. Our county meetings are very interesting. We usually meet two days each quarter, one day for Alliance business, the next for open meeting and public speaking. We have a large lady membership. It's the individual—personal work—rather than lecturing, that will uphold the Alliance.

Bro. Fleming, of Warren: I know of nothing that will strengthen Alliance sentiment more than The Progressive Farmer. I admonish the brethren to read The Progressive Farmer and get their neighbors, whether members or not, to read it. It will bring non-members into sympathy with the Order and make Alliance men of them. And when you get a little surplus in your treasury, subscribe for it to send to members unable to take it, or to outsiders.

Bro. Lane, of Beaufort: I don't think there is a farmer in Eastern North Carolina but has saved enough in buying fertilizers, and farm supplies, a hundred times the amount of his fees and dues. A Farmers' Alliance without a bonded Business Agent I consider no Sub-Alliance.

Bro. Mitchell, of Wayne: In our county we have as good Democrats, as good Republicans, as good Populists, as anywhere, and all work together in harmony. We had a rainy day in April meetings and a long distance for many to travel, but we had a good meeting and equally as good in July. We patronize the Business Agency thoroughly. We have one Sub. with 20 males and 13 females that has done between \$800 and \$900 worth of business through the Business Agency this year.

Bro. Baldwin, of Columbus: Our membership is nearly twice as great as last year, and new members are being constantly admitted.

Bro. Young, of Rockingham: I think our county can be re-organized next winter. Our membership is increasing.

Bro. Johnson, of Rowan: The education of the Farmers' Alliance has benefited the farmers of Rowan. Farmers that were content with poor buildings, etc., now have large fine barns, wagons, painted buildings. They read and keep up with the times.

#### BAD CONDITION OF CROPS.

On Saturday, 25th, the State crop report was issued by the Agricultural Department. It is one of the most interesting and important ever issued and shows a very bad state of affairs.

The following are the averages—present condition—given in the report:

	Per cent.
Cotton	78
Corn	75
Field peas	82
Potatoes (sweet)	82
Potatoes (late Irish)	78
Peanuts	83
Sorghum	80
Cabbage (late)	70
Apples	74
Grapes	89

#### FACTS FOR THE REV. SAMUEL P.

The Rev. Samuel P. Jones, of Georgia, recently wrote, for a good price, we presume, a very cunning defense of trusts. This was published in a leading trust organ and an advertising agency sent it broadcast over the land. We are glad to see that few North Carolina papers were caught by this bait. The Southern Cultivator, of Mr. Jones' own State, having read his article, makes the following suggestions:

We respectfully suggest to the Rev. S. P. Jones to read the following list of raised prices, and that he inquire the price of window-glass, newspaper and printer's ink. As you read this list, remember that these are wholesale figures. The consumers who buy at retail have had to pay a much greater advance. Even matches have gone up about one hundred per cent. The farmer will find out what the trusts are doing for him when he bales his cotton this fall and pays for the bagging and ties. And yet we see a concerted effort to persuade them to use two and one-fourth pound bagging, and thus play still further into the hands of the trusts. It has been proven that cotton can be put up all right without bagging and ties. Down with trusts, say we.

#### WHAT THE TRUSTS ARE DOING.

The Rochester (N. Y.) Herald gives the following list of necessities, the price of which has been advanced by the combines created since the McKinley administration came into power:

"The linseed oil trust raised the price from 41 cents on January 7, to 50 cents on December 30"

"The menhaden trust raised the price on menhaden oil from 23 cents on January 7, to 27½ cents in December."

"The Standard Oil Company raised the price of petroleum from \$7.50 on January 7, to \$9 on December 30."

"The sugar trust raised the price of granulated sugar from 4.91 cents on January 7 to 5½ cents on December 30. Now it is 6 cents."

"The chemical trust raised the price of ipecac from \$2.50 per pound on January 7 to \$3.65 per pound on December 30. The same trust raised the price of camphor from 38½ cents on January 7 to 51½ cents on December 30. On quinine 21 cents on January 7 to 30 cents on December 30. The same trust raised the price of salsoda from 62½ cents on January 7 to 70 cents on December 30."

"The leather trust raised the price of leather from 20 cents on January 7 to 25½ cents on December 30."

"The calico trust raised the price of calico from 2½ cents on January 7 to 3½ cents on December 30 for print cloths, and from 4 cents to 4½ cents on indigo prints."

"The jeans trust raised the price on jean cashmer from 27½ cents on January 7 to 40 cents on December 30."

"The jute trust raised the price on jute hemp from 2½ cents on January 7 to 3½ cents on December 30."

"The copper trust raised the price of copper from 13½ cents on January 7 to 10½ cents on December 30."

"The lead trust raised the price of pig lead from \$3.05 on January 7 to \$4.65 on December 30."

"The tinplate trust raised the price of tinplates from \$3 a box on January 7 to \$5.25 on December 30."

"The cement trust raised the price of Rosendale from 75 cents on Dec. 29 to 95 cents on January 6. They raised the price during the same period on Portland cement from \$1.95 to \$2.25."

"The nail trust increased the price of nails from \$1.10 on January 4, 1899, to \$2.50 on January 3, 1900. The same trust increased the price of wire nails from \$1.35 to \$3.20 during the same period."

"The Structural Iron Company increased the price of structural angles

from \$1.15 on January 4, 1899, to \$2.25 on January 3, 1900.

"The coal trust increased the price of anthracite coal from \$3.75 on January 4, 1899, to \$3.89 on January 3, 1900."

"The rubber trust increased the price of rubber from 94 cents on January 4, 1899, to \$1.45 on January 3, 1900."

"The price of boots and shoes, controlled by the leather trust, show an increase during the year 1899 on men's grain shoes from 97 cents to \$1.12; on Creedmore splits, from 95 to \$1.10, and a like increase on all grades of boots and shoes."

"The prices of cotton goods increased 50 per cent. While sheeting on January 11 sold at \$15.90 and on December 30 at \$23."

"All lines of building material iron, steel, woolen goods, cotton goods, leather and other lines controlled by industrial trusts, although showing a great increase in price during the years 1889 and 1898, showed even a greater increase during the year 1899."

The Rochester Herald shows that the only prices to fall were those of farm products.

The Sunday School Times says: "The reading of 'In His Steps' will search many a heart, and ought to lead to a simpler, holier, and more fully consecrated Christian life."

Read our offer on page 5, good only till September 1st.

#### THE EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF THE ADVERTISEMENT.

(Adapted from Wallace's Farmer.)

A good many of our readers are missing a good deal because they do not read each week all the advertisements in the paper. There is a feeling among the public generally that they are being chased and hotly pursued by advertisers. They find the advertisement in the proper column, and then a reading notice calling attention to it, and frequently when they are looking for reading matter in some papers they find veiled advertisements, and when this does not suffice they are pursued by an editorial advertisement until they feel that there is no corner of the paper in which the advertiser is not after them.

We sympathize with them a good deal in this feeling. There are many papers in which there is scarcely a page or a column that is not for sale to the advertiser, and we do not know any better advice to give than to drop all this class of papers and confine their reading to such as are known to have absolutely clean editorial and news pages in which no line of advertising matter can appear at any price or for any consideration, and from which all fake advertisements, all frauds and humbugs are absolutely excluded, and then read the advertisements in these papers carefully. Instead of having the advertiser pursue the reader, let the reader turn and pursue the advertiser. It is the aim of The Progressive Farmer to exclude every form of advertising which it does not believe to be actually beneficial to its readers. We do not mean that every advertisement is beneficial to every reader. This is impossible, but that every advertisement appeals to a class of readers who will be benefited by reading and at the proper time investing in the things advertised.

By reading carefully the advertisements the farmer can keep himself posted as to the best lines of improved stock, the best lines of machinery, all modern improvements, and in the course of a year can get information from the advertisements alone to many times the value of the subscription price. It will pay every reader to look over advertisements in The Progressive Farmer every week and thus keep posted on the improvements that are going on in all directions, thus being ready to avail himself of them whenever it is profitable for him to do so. That many readers do not read the advertisements carefully we have the most convincing proof in the fact that we frequently get letters asking as to where such and such lines of stock can be obtained which can be answered most effectually in six words: "Read the advertisements in the paper." We frequently, too, have letters asking for private information as to which of the advertisers we regard as most reliable. To this we can only answer that the fact that a man's advertisement appears in the paper must be taken as evidence that we regard him as a reliable, honorable business man. We do not wish any other advertisements to appear in the paper.