

[CONCLUDED FROM PAGE 3.]

tion of wealth except skill and training. We have every variety of material to work on in agriculture, horticulture, stock-raising, mining, commerce and manufactures. We have abundant labor to work with, but we lack skill and training to make our work efficient.

New England and the Middle States early learned that wealth comes from handling the finished product instead of the raw material. North Carolina during all the years of her poverty has handled only the raw material, selling it to others to gain the profit that comes from the finished product. There must be a change; otherwise we shall remain poor forever. Worse than this, we shall become too poor even to live; we shall be ground to powder by the relentless and irresistible forces of modern industrial competition. To us industrial training is an absolute necessity. Our boys and girls should be sent to school under a compulsory educational law. The school term should be increased to at least five months a year. A better class of teachers should be secured by an increase of pay. Courses of study should be arranged, of a practical nature, looking as far as possible toward agricultural and mechanical pursuits. The Agricultural and Mechanical College for boys and the Normal and Industrial School for girls should be provided with sufficient dormitories, recitation rooms, machinery and other equipment to accommodate all the boys and girls that will come to them. Let these things be done and North Carolina in another generation will take her old place near the head of the column in the sisterhood of States.

A good beginning has already been made in industrial education. Our College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts is now training our boys to be machinists, mechanics, electricians, chemists, truckers, fruit-growers, dairymen, stock raisers and manufacturers. They are in great demand. Many of them are called away before they graduate. Our supply of skilled laborers and of well educated civil, mechanical and electrical engineers and mill men is scarcely equal to one-tenth of the demand. New enterprises throughout the State are steadily increasing the demand. Skilled labor and highly educated engineers are imported from other States, and are doing the work and reaping the rewards which belong to our own boys.

The accommodations at the College are insufficient for more than one-half or one-third of the boys who are seeking industrial education. Last year we turned off nearly a hundred. We need dormitory room for at least 200 more than we now have. We need a textile building, a chemical building, a biological building, an auditorium, an armory and gymnasium, a library building with halls for the literary societies and a building for veterinary surgery. It is commonly supposed that the State is spending large sums of money on our College, but this is not true. The State appropriation is only \$10,000 annually.

The State owes it to her sons, especially to the boys on the farms and in the work shops, to provide ample accommodations for their industrial education; to equip the College thoroughly with all facilities for education; to reduce the expense of education to so low a point that families of ordinary means may find it available to their sons; and to provide opportunities for labor and self-support in order that bright boys without any property at all may be enabled by their own efforts to be as fully equipped for life and to make as good a start as lads more blest by fortune and inheritance.

FROM JACKSON COUNTY.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

We held our July meeting with Sylva Sub. July 14th, 1900. We re-elected our old officers as follows: President, S. H. Queen; Vice-President, A. Bumgarner; Secretary and Lecturer, T. M. Frizell; Steward, J. A. Williams; Chaplain, A. J. Long, Sr.; Doorkeeper, J. M. Wike. Our meeting was small but enthusiastic. We mean to live on—so say we all.

Fraternally,
T. M. FRIZELL, Sec'y.

This report was received some time ago but mislaid. We hope Bro. Frizell, who is always prompt in sending reports, will excuse us.—Ed.

Passing resolutions and not carrying them out in private practice is foolishness of the most foolish kind.

THE TRUSTS AND THE END.

By John Brisben Walker, in Cosmopolitan Magazine.—(Published by permission.)

Very curious have been the many expressions on the subject of the trusts during the past year. A quarterly dividend of twenty millions of dollars for the Standard Oil Company, and nearly forty-two million dollars profits for one member of the steel trust—Mr. Carnegie's end of it—for one year are facts sufficiently surprising to startle even the deaf and dumb. Either of these fortunes continued at this rate would shortly gather to itself all the wealth of the United States and shortly thereafter might command that of Europe as well. It is a very simple problem in arithmetic. Nearly all sorts and conditions of men unite in declaring the danger which lies in the trusts, and the most delightful suggestions are made regarding the methods of curbing them. President Hadley of Yale suggests that the heads of these trusts are improper men, who should be socially ostracized. But this idea is evidently not fully shared by all college presidents, because in the "Mail and Express" of February 17th we have headlines reading this way: "Brown Alumna Dine. President Faunce Makes an Address on the University. Doctor Schurman Also Speaks; He Pays a High Tribute to Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller." "Brains," Doctor Schurman is quoted as saying, "can make money, but money cannot make brains. One of the greatest problems of the day is presented by the inequality of wealth. I begrudge no man his twenty or thirty millions a year without considering some other things: Has he increased the wages of his employees? is he using his wealth in a way to benefit the people? If he is, he is a benefactor. All honor to Andrew Carnegie as long as he uses his money in such fashion."

If President Hadley had in view the social ostracism of Mr. Carnegie and Mr. Rockefeller, it is quite apparent that it would be difficult to carry out the scheme without the co-operation of his distinguished collaborators in the field of education.

Other thinkers, after wrestling with this difficult problem of what will become of us if the trusts go on eating up the wealth of the country with such avidity, finally get down to the conclusion which deserves to rank with President Hadley's. "If we have publicity, the problem will be solved," they say. Yet we have publicity now. Everybody knows the actual facts; there is no dispute regarding the conditions; nothing that could be divulged could be more startling than what we now know; all are agreed, and evidently some of these gentlemen have in mind that old fable of the cat and the mice. If the cat only had a bell on her, they would be comparatively safe, they argue. Ting-a-ling, a-ling, a-ling, and everybody, they imagine, might dodge out of the way. But the trouble is that not everybody can dodge. Pretty much everybody has been hearing the ting-a-ling for quite a while now, and with no other result than that they are compelled to sit still to be presently gobbled up. This gobbling process has now got to a very interesting stage. It is now up to the millionaires.

The other day some of the largest capitalists who have themselves been conspicuous in this line of work heard the ting-a-ling, ling, and looking around discovered that the trusts were bearing down upon them; at least, so the public press gave out at the time of the Boston failures and the squeeze in New York surface railways.

But the gentlemen who are almost equally divided between social ostracism and publicity as a remedy for trusts, are, ostrich-like, simply poking their heads into the sand and kicking their heels in the air. They refuse to recognize this scientific truth, that the trusts are in the direction of good organization. Trusts are doing away with the wasteful methods that have come down to us from barbarism. They are taking the oil business and the iron business and a hundred other businesses and bringing them under that perfect organization which results from one clear brain exercising imperial power in the domain of

commerce. Mr. Rockefeller is right, Mr. Carnegie is right, when they say that the world at large is benefited by the trusts. It is the trend of the times; it is bringing accurate thinking and thorough organization to bear upon the great problems of production. The advantages of this process have now been so well learned that the evolution in organization can never stop. Its formulas must be applied to every process of life until they are reduced to a scientific economy. The President Hadleys and the advocates of publicity might as well fix this thing in their minds first as last. What we call the trusts are simply the latest development of organization of the methods of production. Because mankind at large has refused to study these problems of organization and a few individuals have mastered the science, those few individuals are reaping all the benefits.

It is not part of this discussion to here go into the methods under which those organizations have been fostered by national legislation. It is a mere incident of the situation. Four chief points present themselves, and only four:—

First. The trusts are in the direction of scientific organization of the methods of production.

Second. Nearly all the benefits of these magnificent organizations now go to a few individuals.

Third. It is contrary to the best interests of the public and dangerous to a republican form of government that these profits should continue to accumulate in such enormous percentages.

Fourth. How are we going to bring the benefits of scientific organization into the hands of the many instead of the few?

A hundred thousand of the best brains of the world are today engaged on this problem. Most of these brains are those of men who have begun life by believing in the system of individual competition. Therefore they turn away now from any true solution of the difficulty. They exchange such valuable suggestions as those regarding social ostracism and publicity. Why? Because they do not wish to see the figure of governmental co-operation, which looms up as the only barrier to individual accumulation.

A man whose father was one of the great operators of Wall Street, who controlled so many millions that he was able to wreck or make great business enterprises, said to the writer recently at a dinner that all investment was becoming doubtful; he did not know where to put a dollar. All classes of enterprises were so largely at the disposal of manipulation in the street, one day depressed far below par and the next raised far above, always with a like purpose, the one of serving individual interests, that investment in securities quoted on the street had become a lottery. It was in the power of four or five men, by manipulation of the stock or by starting a parallel enterprise, or by any other of the numerous methods so well known, to make or break literally anything or anybody. Here were the methods of the father being applied to the son's disadvantage. Greater whales had appeared in the seas which were capable of swallowing the sharks; the sharks were in jeopardy.

No well-informed man in the business world of today but believes that with two or three hundred millions at his disposal, a brain as able as some of those now in active careers may in turn attack and crush one leading business interest after another until even the millionaires may be swept from the field and practically all the wealth of the country concentrated in one great corporation.

It is lucky that the first man to perfect a science of business organization should also be a man whose impulses carry him in the direction of education. The same means that build great universities might just as deftly merge the republic into a monarchy. Any one who is at all on the inside of affairs in New York has hourly proof of the endless influence which money exercises over politicians, the press, educational institutions, and even the ministry itself. A hundred thousand apologists of no mean intellectual capacity are all ways at the beck and call of a hundred millions of dollars, together with a less army of viler minds who stand ready to tear down the best and noblest if by so doing they can earn a fee.

Here we are then. Eighty millions of people under a form of government which may be

denominated a republic tempered by the use of money at the polls, up against the question of the distribution of wealth. Let it go on upon present lines, and in ten years more not all the intelligence of the nation can provide a remedy. And is there any remedy today? One only—governmental ownership. Buy out these great interests; pay them at a fair price—an extravagant price if need be, but buy them and turn them into the hands of the people to manage for the benefit of all.

Ah! the people! I hear you say that they are crude and stupid and corrupt and will not manage well. Perhaps. Undoubtedly the management of many will never equal in economy of management the management of one brain. But then, economy is not the sole purpose; and if it costs more to manage, let us bear in mind that this additional cost will be represented by salaries of the many.

We have no civil service capable of administering such things? I grant you. We have never had occasion for a civil service. Our postal affairs and our collections of customs dues are comparatively unimportant. A little better or a little worse does not concern the average man. He would scarcely cross the street to help better the civil service. But if the streetcars were under the control of the civil service, if the great transportation companies having in charge the safety of his person and the prompt delivery of his freight were in charge of the civil service, how quickly the public interest would be aroused. Then we should have a civil service in reality.

I challenge any reasoning mind taking up this subject without regard to past prejudices to arrive at any other goal than public ownership. "Social ostracism," "publicity"—they are the feeble cries of children. Let us brace up and look the situation fully in the face. Either it must continue, and it is every moment growing more like an avalanche, or it must end in public ownership.

LATEST NORTH CAROLINA CROP BULLETIN.

Cotton is holding out well only on stiff clay lands; all other crops have unquestionably deteriorated very much; the rain of the 16th caused some improvement in places; a large number of correspondents state that cotton bolls are very small and are opening prematurely, and lint from such cotton cannot fail to be short and inferior in quality; fresh blossoms are not forming and shedding continues. All reports agree that the cotton crop, once the most promising crop in the State, has been materially cut short by the drought. Picking has commenced, and the first new bales have been marketed.

Young corn throughout the sections where showers occurred this week may yield a fair crop under future favorable conditions, but generally the corn crop is now very poor; much fodder has dried up completely before the ears have matured. Tobacco is ripening very fast, and the late crop is not good; cutting and curing have advanced steadily. Peanuts, sweet potatoes, and rice do not seem to be doing well, though refreshed by showers here and there. Gardens are practically worthless. Summer apples have been sun-scalded and have dropped considerably; winter apples also are poor, and on the whole the apple crop is inferior, though many counties west of the Blue Ridge report a full and fine crop.

STATE OF OHIO, City of Toledo, ss.
Lucas County.
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FRANK J. CHENEY.
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