

THE DAILY TIMES

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IS THE UNION ABOVE CRITICISM?

Mr. J. M. Poole, author of the article on the front page finds fault with us for reproducing an article sent from Wilson to the News and Observer reporting the Farmer's Union convention here last week.

Mr. R. B. Evans denies that he sent it. We have published Mr. Evans' denial. We have not made one particle of comment on this article reproduced from the News and Observer which every one knows we had a perfect right to do, for we stated in the headlines that it was sent from Wilson from the correspondent of the News and Observer at the time it was published and the merest novice who knows anything about fairness realizes that we had a perfect right to do so and any fair minded man knows that since we did not comment on it that we should not be charged with the article. So much for that.

Now with reference to Mr. Pool's reply to our publication we did not consider it entitled to the dignity of a reply because in the first place Mr. Pool assumes that we have no right to copy an article from another paper regarding the Farmers' Union, and secondly that the newspaper men of North Carolina are bought and sold like so many cattle, and thirdly that the TIMES is the "Me too" of the News and Observer.

What is the use to try to reason with a man who is choked with poison and prejudice? It matters not what we have to say he would pay no attention to it, and if the membership of the Farmers' Union is clogged with the same kind of dope, and we understand that they fill their speeches full of that kind of stuff in their secret meetings what is the use of trying to reason with any of them. For this reason we did not dignify Mr. Pool's article with a reply and passed it by unnoticed, and not until Mr. Pool came into our office and insisted that we reply did we consent to publish his article. Now we are also publishing another article from the Wilson correspondent of the News and Observer. Now we would like to ask if Mr. Evans sent that one in. And we would also like to ask if Mr. McIntosh, the editor of the Co-operator is sponsor for the movement to secure a "Wide awake paper for Wilson." If this is true then his activity is interesting in connection with the fact that the Farmers' Union has been asked to take over the Co-operator and make of it the organ of the Farmers' Union and the members thereof to pay the bills. Of course we assume that if the present management is making money it would not want to unload it on the farmers of Wilson county and the farmers of the state.

Again if the charge is true and it is made by Mr. Green the ex-lecturer of the Farmers' Union who is now in disrepute, we understand, because he sees the rocks ahead and wanted to save the union from the mess and mire of politics that swamped the alliance and will eventually swamp the union. Will the Democrats of Wilson county like to have right here in their midst a daily newspaper connected up and in sympathy with a paper going to the farmers which is controlled by a man like Butler who tried to wreck the state and brought odium and disgrace upon it?

Now we want it distinctly understood that we have no quarrel with the Farmers' Union. We defy any man to say aught but that we have supported and sustained the Union in every way possible. We wish we could publish more about the Union that is helpful, but we cannot because they hold their secret meetings as if afraid to let any one know what is going on. The other day while they were in session here we had to stand at the door and ask the doorkeeper who was, by the way very kind and obliging to get information for us regarding the election of officers and other matter that we

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GOODS THAT ARE BETTER
WILSON, N. C.

knew there could be no possible objection to our handling.

But how can the Farmers' Union ever prosper as long as prejudice is its chief stock in trade?

As an illustration of the way some of them feel, and thank God they all don't feel that way, for here in Wilson county where we are known and where the editor of the TIMES has spent his life endeavoring to improve the condition of the farmers of Wilson county and we humbly and respectfully assert without boasting that we have helped them at least a little, for Wilson county is head and shoulders above any other county in the state and its people are the best, nothing the Co-operator can do or say, or Mr. Pool can do or say, or Dr. Alexander can do or say will cause the majority of the farmers of Wilson county to think that the editor of the Times can be bought by any interest or can be controlled by any interest under the sun will weigh with them one second. The truth of the matter is that we would probably have been better off if we had bent the pregnant hinges of the knee that thrift might follow fawning." But when we lay down for the long, long sleep we want our Wilson county folks to say of us whatever else may be said of our short comings and imperfections, for they are many, "He dared the peoples' rights maintain, unawed by power and unbribed by gain."

Now to show the attitude of the president of the Farmers' Union Dr. Alexander towards the press of the state, the other night we went to see the Secretary of the Union who was in his room at the hotel with a party of gentlemen, members of the Union, in order to secure copy regarding the convention. Dr. Alexander came in and we felicitated him on his election, and he asked the question if we belonged to the subsidized press of the state, or words to that effect. We replied that we had nothing to show for it if we did. The remark was insulting in the extreme though we made no other reply and held our temper. For we can conceive of no greater insult than to charge a man that he has been bought and a newspaper man that he has been sold out. Now we understand that the idea advanced in the meeting by those who were pushing the taking over of the Co-

operator was that we needed a paper to protect our interest upon the idea that all the other papers had sold out and not upon the idea that we need a paper to tell the farmers how to grow crops and connect up with the farm demonstrator of Wilson county sent here and paid by the government with the money from the farmers to help them improve their farms and raise two bales of cotton where they grew one bale, instead of a lot of hot air and prejudice against everybody else.

Again, why should Mr. McIntosh of the Co-operator be interested in the establishment of another paper in Wilson county? We would like to ask if the Times has not always treated the Co-operator fairly? He knows there is nothing in the newspaper business. If he didn't know that he would not be trying to unload the Co-operator on the Farmers' Union. The relations between the Co-operator and the Times has been very cordial, for we have always felt that the Co-operator was a real farmers' paper started and run for the purpose of telling the farmers how to grow cotton, corn, tobacco, wheat and how to raise chickens, hogs and other things and not how to run the politics of the country.

Now another question arises, is the Union above criticism? It would seem so. And is it afraid of criticism? It would seem so. And does it favor secret meetings for this reason? It would seem so. Now is this right when the Union essays to deal with the greatest and most important interest and industry in this country affecting as it does every man and woman and child in the country?

What is there in the Farmers' Union meeting that should be covered up and can't stand the light of day that all their meetings should be secret? They are running the Union as if the proceedings only affected the individual members. The world is getting away from secret meetings and secret diplomacy. Turn on the light.

Tomorrow we will publish an article from ex-organizer Green who gives the membership of the union and the folks generally something to think on.

Have you taken up your War Sav-



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MAN'S WAY IS NOT WOMAN'S WAY

Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 18.—Complaint filed with Senator Simmons by Attorney General James S. Manning, relative to treatment accorded sick soldiers at Camp Polk, yesterday drew from Col. W. H. Clopton, Jr., the commanding officer of the camp, a denial in toto to the charges. The denial, in the shape of a letter from Col. Clopton to Judge Manning, was transmitted at the request of the commanding officer to the News and Observer accompanied by the statement from Judge Manning that he considered his original information reliable and that he in no wise felt called upon to withdraw anything he had written.

"As a matter of fact," Judge Manning said yesterday afternoon, "some of the ladies wanted the letter even stronger." Judge Manning was not disposed to discuss the matter further for publication but referred an inquiry to the four Raleigh women who volunteered to nurse at Camp Polk. Three of these women, (the fourth was out of the city), last night told the News and Observer that conditions were not what they should have been at the camp.

"There was certainly plenty of filth in the hospital building," Mrs. Nannie Lee said, "and the boys did

not have the proper nourishment. They were sleeping on hay mattresses because the medical officers would not permit cotton mattresses to be used. One of the boys, however, who had been delirious for three days and who hadn't had his clothes pulled off during that time, was put on a mattress which was furnished by Mrs. Annie Bridgers.

Mrs. James Boylan agreed with Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Bridgers that conditions were bad but thought the authorities did the best they could. The doctors at the camp, Mrs. Boylan said, at first thought the volunteer nurses were intruding but later admitted they were a God send. They did not, however, want any more nurses.

"They didn't know," Mrs. Boylan said, "men think that a tin cup is as good as a glass for a sick person to drink out of. That illustrates the difference in the way they were treated. They were not fixed for a hospital, but did the best they could. The orderlies were wonderful and there were plenty of bed clothes, gowns and towels. What was needed most was a woman to suggest and think about the little things.

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