

THE CAROLINA UNION FARMER



Vol. 5. No. 34.

GASTONIA, N. C., AUGUST 24, 1911

One Dollar a Year

≈ Returns to a Government of the People. ≈

(By Taylor McRae.)

The progressive element among the people of the United States are surely developing a great desire for return to the rule of the people instead of the rule of the party by politicians in the interest of the "Interests." This is termed the direct rule of the people as Governor Woodrow Wilson terms it a return to a government really representative. To enable the people to recall their officers when they are not representing the people who sent them to Washington or to the legislatures, but are "representing" special interests which are organized for the purpose of robbing the people. The whole nation is intent upon this and are fast accepting the conclusion as expressed by Governor Wilson in the following expressions:

"Back of all reform ideas lies the means of getting it. Back of the question, what we want, is the question, How are you going to get it? The immediate thing that we have got to do is to resume popular government.

This is a statement of the whole progressive movement, and in addition to this there can be no clearer statement of the fact than that which Ex-Speaker E. J. Justice, of North Carolina, has made recently:

"When representative government proves disappointing, the remedy should be to take a step nearer to direct government by the people.

"When nominating political conventions have proved disappointing, the remedy is the legalized primary for all parties on the same day."

"When elections have been secured by the corrupt use of money the remedy is a corrupt practices act that will insure publicity before and after the election of the use of money in campaigns, and the disqualification to hold office of those who have engaged in corrupt practices, and the disfranchisement of the bribe-giver and the bribe taker.

"When the United States Senators have misrepresented the people of their State, and when they speak with scorn and contempt of public opinion, the remedy is the election of United States Senators by the direct vote of the people.

"When oppressive and unjust laws are enacted contrary to the interests and against the will of the masses, the remedy is the referendum, whereby the assent of the people must be obtained before objectional statutes become operative.

"When the lobbies that are maintained in our State capitals and in Washington are more

powerful than the people at home, and laws required by the public welfare cannot be enacted, the remedy is an act against secret lobbying, and the adoption of the initiative so that the people can, by petition and election, enact their own laws when they desire to do so.

"When office seekers run on a platform and fail to keep their contracts with the people, the remedy is to adopt the recall."

The fact is that had the law of the initiative, referendum and recall, with the direct vote of the people for United States Senators been in force in the South, there can be no manner of doubt but that the Scott bill for the elimination of cotton exchanges and the gambling in farm products, would have long ago been brought up in the Senate and passed easily and effectively just as the people wanted it.

As it is no attention has been paid to the demands of the farmers of the South and of the whole nation, in fact, for the elimination of these evils, but through the tariff, our noble Senators have shown their utter contempt for the peoples' demands, and are daily deceiving the people by grandstand plays for reforming the customs laws. While the farmers, as a rule, may wish the tariff settled for good and all, one way or the other, they have made no great demand for the work, but they have strongly urged, by petition and letters and by representatives of their class on hand in Washington during the sessions of Congress, that the gambling in farm products be outlawed and the operators be forced to seek other and more honorable methods of earning their feed through the sweat of their faces.

It is time that the farmers should have learned their lesson and through the broken pledges of their public servants, should be reminded that the time is here for them to stand behind this new movement of the people for a return to a peoples' government and the destruction of the politicians' government that has stood in the way of their progress to their great detriment and sorrow. If they will watch the so-called market reports each day, they will see that the gamblers, speculators, street buyers and country merchants are all gleefully getting their knives sharpened so that they can cheerfully and easily slit the bagging on the bales and then offer the price fixed in New York by the Cotton Exchange for the cotton. Don't fall to the swan songs of the politicians, for they are meant to deceive

you now as they have in the past, but make up your minds to join with the progressives of the National and help them to place the country on a basis of direct votes on your Senators and the adoption of the initiative, the referendum, and the "imperative mandate," the Farmers' Alliance named it, or the recall as it is now understood. Your wives and your children demand that you do this.

Great Meeting in Lee County.

On last Saturday a large crowd gathered at Big Springs school house, near Cole's Store, the occasion being a joint picnic held by the Farmer's Union, Woodmen of the World and the Junior Order of American Mechanics.

First the Farmers' Union held a private session inside the school house, the principal feature being the reports of delegates who attended the recent State meeting at Salisbury. This was a great occasion, reports being received from seventy-five counties in the State.

The first speech of the day was made by Senator Rives, State Business Agent, who was listened to attentively for about a half hour. He introduced Mr. J. Z. Green, State Organizer of the Farmers' Union, who made a splendid speech, full of valuable information, wit and humor. He spoke of the need for farmers to be organized, pointing out the fact that men in nearly all trades and professions had their unions and associations.

The subject of over production of cotton and proper methods of marketing farm produce, were two subjects Mr. Green handled with skill of an expert. Dinner was announced and all repaired to the three long tables which were loaded with those delicacies which the country housewife is so skilled in preparing. The school house had been newly painted white, striped with green and represented a very attractive appearance. Splendid order prevailed all day, many remarking on the excellent behavior of so large a crowd. After dinner, Prof. J. W. Cameron introduced Prof. McLeod of Broadway, who in an eloquent speech presented the beautiful flag to the school in the name of the Junior Order. Next came a sweet touching recitation by Miss Nettie Cole, a bright and talented young lady of Big Springs community. The Bible was then presented by Prof. Cameron in a few well chosen words. At the request of many, the crowd again was treated to a thirty minute talk from Mr. Green. Some thought this even better than his morning speech.—Sanford Express.