

The Annual Convention.

Some weeks ago we promised to print all the addresses delivered at the Annual Convention in Raleigh in December. Some have already been printed in this paper, and some we have been unable to get in proper shape. We are giving in this issue addresses of Major Graham, Mr. A. L. Cox, Dr. Alexander, and Hon. James R. Young.

MAJOR GRAHAM'S ADDRESS.

The following address was delivered by Major W. A. Graham of the Department of Agriculture:

"Mr. President:—As the representative of your Department of the State Government, it is a great pleasure to me to bid you welcome. The Department is at your service and will be pleased to do anything in its power for your pleasure or profit. Come up to see us.

"In accordance with the law, it is the grown or adult farmer who is committed to the Agricultural Department for instruction and development. To me personally, it is a great pleasure to greet the farmers in organized body. I have given more than thirty years to the promotion of the farmers' interests. I have been with him not only in his resolutions, but also in his acts. About the only thing remaining of the great alliance movement in the United States is the North Carolina Business Agencies System which I formulated.

"As a member of the Legislature, I prepared both of the acts now upon the statute books in the interest of the farmer. It is my purpose to be loyal to the end.

"I congratulate you upon the improved condition of the farmer as shown by smiling face when he assembles to discuss matters with his brother. In the recent past the people were grouchy. I hope this change will continue and the prosperity of the farmer until he comes into his own.

"A few years ago there was a great awakening in the State regarding agricultural education. The idea seemed to be that the boys should be prepared to be better farmers than their fathers were. The men did not agree to this, but said: 'Here am I, send me; I am still alive and kicking.' 'Let me have an opportunity in this work.'

"In 1899 the Department of Agriculture had been re-organized by act of the Legislature.

"It was given special work in the education and development of the grown farmer. It is wonderful what has been done. In fifty years the State increased the corn crop four million bushels. In 1860 the yield was thirty million bushels; in 1909 it was thirty-four million; in 1911, fifty million, or an increase of seven bushels to every man, woman, and child in the State. The wheat crop was increased 90 per cent, cotton 70 per cent, and there was a large gain in all other farm crops. This great improvement has been accomplished by the institute and demonstration work of the Department, which you have executed. Charlie Parker's acre yielded more corn than that of Mr. Batts. There were sixteen hundred boys in the Corn Club, but a hundred and eighty thousand white farmers in the corn-field, and they have made the crops which brought the State so prominently to the front. It will take constant care and attention to preserve this position. Let all be done that is necessary to promote agricultural knowledge in our educational system, and give the boys full credit for what they may accomplish, but it is the father or older

brother that is making the crops now.

"In 1860 the State called for soldiers; the men answered the call and won renown. The Tar Heel will be known and respected in history wherever valor is appreciated. In 1899 the call was for farmers and you responded, and by your acts have called the attention of the world to what can be done in agricultural lines in the good old State.

"I want to thank you for your efforts; the Department desires to give you every assistance in its power. I, your representative, get the credit, but you are doing the work.

"Lee and Jackson are great names in history, but it was the man with the gun that made these names, and it is the man with the hoe that is doing the work to-day.

"Before the war the farmer had money to lend and this was the case because he made his farm self-supporting and would have been ashamed to be seen on the road hauling a load of bought corn. I am glad to see these conditions returning, but they have not fully come yet. In 1909 sixty million dollars were sent out of the State to pay for food and feed stuffs which should have been produced at home. In 1912, on account of the increased crops, this amount was reduced to forty million dollars, or one-third, but it represents \$18 for every man, woman, and child in the State, which shows that there is a home market for this amount of food products, and money can be saved by the farmers of this State availing themselves of it.

"In order to prosper, the farmers must co-operate. The man or profession that tries to go it alone in these times is at the mercy of the other fellow.

"Log rolling and house raising were among the first acts of co-operation. So let it be now in purchasing supplies and selling the products of the farm. Do not regard the man who has for sale the same articles that you do as an enemy, but as a friend, and by co-operation endeavor to let each have a fair price for his goods.

"I again bid you welcome and wish you an harmonious and prosperous session."

ALBERT L. COX'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Albert L. Cox, representing the city and Chamber of Commerce, spoke as follows:

"My friends, I deem it a very great pleasure as well as privilege to have an opportunity this afternoon of extending to you on behalf of the city of Raleigh and its business organizations a hearty welcome—a welcome for you from your city. Raleigh belongs to us all, and its citizens hold it for the benefit of the whole State. We are glad to see you. In fact, we are always glad to see the people from the other sections of the State, and particularly do we enjoy having the farmers with us. The people of Raleigh have never forgotten that God made the country and man made the town, and that upon you and upon your associates who are not here to-day rests much of the welfare of our State. Raleigh is your capital city, and likewise we would like for you to make it your convention city. We would have you regard it as your second home. While you are here to-day it is our desire to do everything in our power to make you comfortable and to entertain you. If there is anything that you see that you would like to have, take it, and if there is anything that you would like to have that you don't see, ask for it. It is our business and our pleasure to provide for it. Farmers are

producers, and as such, are the backbone not only of our State, but of our nation. Never before in the history of our country has so much progress been made in the furtherance of agricultural interests as in the past few years. The farming interests in our State have made wonderful strides. With the possible exception of our educational endeavors nothing has progressed so rapidly as has the improvement in methods of tilling the soil. You men and your association are entitled to a great deal of credit for this condition. Education goes hand-in-hand with agricultural pursuits.

"The one is an advantage to the other. Nothing could be better for the State than for you to continue this friendly competition which means so much for the welfare of our people. In fact, the farmers of this State are now receiving so much able and thoughtful attention that unless our schools are careful agriculture will develop more rapidly and our State be known more for its agricultural developments than for its educational policies.

"Now, my friends, I predict that within the next few years the wonderful growth which has been made by you within recent years will be small in comparison with that which you will hereafter accomplish. The people of Raleigh would like to see you erect here your own building devoted to an exhibition of the products of the soil,—a place in which new methods may be discussed and new plans outlined; a sort of headquarters for you and a place in which you might hold your annual gatherings. We were glad to hear of your coming, and now that you are here, we are glad to see you. Our welcome is cordial and we hope that we may be able to make the time that you spend here so pleasant that you will be as sorry to leave as we are glad to see you. On behalf of the city I wish to again extend to you a thoroughly cordial and most hearty welcome."

RESPONSE TO ADDRESSES OF WELCOME, RALEIGH CONVENTION.

The program of this Convention calls for five addresses of welcome. One on behalf of the State by the Governor, a lawyer; one on behalf of the Agricultural Department by the Commissioner, an old soldier and farmer; one on behalf of the A. & M. College by the President, a teacher; one on behalf of Wake County Union by President Templeton, a physician; and one on behalf of the city of Raleigh by the mayor, a business man. The response to all to be made by the President of the Union.

A friend on reading this program remarked: "They have put double work on you." He surely was right, for while I might have ambushed the old soldier and played truant or fooled the teacher, the man who falls into the hands of a lawyer and a doctor and a business man is very apt to share the fate of a "certain man who went from Jerusalem down to Jericho."

When the committee of arrangements notified me that I was to make this response, I was very busy finishing up my address to the annual convention; and as this is election year, and I am a candidate for re-election, I wanted to get my address just about right. If the committee had notified me by 'phone I expect my answer would have been similar to that made by a merchant to a young man who wanted to marry. We will call the merchant John Blank, and there lived in the town a prominent preacher of the same name. The preacher wishing to avoid the many calls that are made upon a city minister for gratuitous services, would not allow his name put into the tele-

phone directory; consequently the merchant was frequently called up by 'phone to officiate at marriages, baptisms or funerals. He was greatly annoyed and insisted that the Rev. Blank should allow his name put into the telephone directory; but he refused. At last the merchant decided to appeal to the telephone company, and while engaged in writing out his complaint the telephone bell rang and the timid voice of a young man was heard to ask: "Will you marry me at once!" A happy thought struck the merchant and he answered promptly: "No; I am too d— busy writing my sermon."

A great preacher said once upon a notable occasion many centuries ago: "It is good to be here. Let us build three tabernacles." As I stand before you to-day I feel that it is good to be here, and that we would do well to build in our minds and hearts three tabernacles and dedicate them to organization, education, and co-operation.

This is an auspicious occasion that promises much to the Farmers' Union and the upbuilding of North Carolina.

On behalf of the Farmers' Union I want to say to these brethren who have given us such a royal welcome, that it is no more than we expected. We came to our own and our own received us with open arms.

Of course we expected a welcome from the State because we are 82 per cent of the folks who make the State. It was our labor that created the wealth and builded the institutions of our State, and it is largely from taxes paid by us that these institutions are supported.

We expected a welcome from the Agricultural Department, not only because it is headed by an old-time Southern gentleman, but because we furnish the "dough" to run it with. It is true that we do not pay it directly, but we pay it nevertheless. We only ask that the Department be continued in our interest and its usefulness greatly increased by teaching economic co-operative marketing.

We knew that we would be welcomed by the A. & M. College, not only because it is presided over by a broad-minded, genial, Democratic man whom we all love and who is a member of our family, but because this institution is the result of the organized efforts of the farmers through the Farmers' Alliance. Moreover, if the farmers did not furnish the boys this institution would have empty dormitories and its President out of a job.

We were confident of a welcome from Wake County Union because she is one of our most promising daughters and her eloquent President is an efficient officer in our own body. Of course, our daughter is glad to have us visit her and, no doubt, she will "put her best foot foremost."

We had a right to expect a welcome from our capital city because we built it. We furnish the raw material and most of the people for building all the cities. We furnish them the good things that they eat. We create all that is necessary to the growth and prosperity of the cities. I want to appeal to the cities for their support and co-operation in establishing a practical, economical method for the sale and distribution of manufactured products, as well as direct marketing of raw materials, to the end that the high cost of living may be lowered to both the producers and consumers.

We appeal to all the departments of our State and to all the people, rural and urban, for their earnest co-operation in developing North Carolina materially, intellectually and morally. We have the greatest State in the Union, but reforms are needed along many lines. We must all unite our efforts to secure them. We must make it possible for the