

W. A. DARDEN,

State Business Agent of the N. C. Farmers' State Alliance,

Raleigh, N. C., Jan'y. 21<sup>st</sup> 1889

Col. Elias Carr

Old Sparta N. C.

Dear Sir &amp; Bro.

Yours of the 17<sup>th</sup> Inst. is to hand, and in reply I will state that Mr. Graham was down here last week and after consultation with him, I had concluded to go ahead, and commence operations, with the amount already collected as a basis for the present; but there is a difficulty, which I will call your attention to, and I would like to have the benefit of your judgment in regard to the matter, and specific instructions from you as Chairman of our Executive Committee. Your instructions to me, in your last, were to fill only orders from County Agents; while, according to the plan adopted at our State Alliance, I am expected to purchase also for sub-agents. I received, last Saturday an order from a sub-agent for Fiftyprs. shoes, amounting to \$75 or \$80. on ninety days time, according to arrangement made with W. H. Helms & Co. The order had the seal attached, and here is the difficulty that presented to me. Who is responsible for the payment of this money - If I fill the order, of course, of course the State Alliance is responsible, because we have a Fund of \$1300., upon which

Nettles + Co. can fall back, if I should fail to meet my obligations with them; but where is any thing for the State Alliance to fall back upon to indemnify it for losses thus sustained? Lab. Alliances have but little money in their Treasuries, and we could not look to them, even if they are bound by the action of their agents - The Agent and his securities are <sup>not</sup> personally responsible, (his securities are only bound for the money that come into his hands, and not for debts that he may contract) and it seems to me, if we do business in this way, without any security, requiring only the deal of the Alliance, we shall soon be involved in trouble, and be minus the Fund, we run, already have.

Something must be done to complete the Fund; there is already great dissatisfaction upon the part of some who contributed early, and have received no benefit, who think the Fund will never be completed, and are bold enough to say that their money ought to be returned at once. A great many subscribed, without any idea of the manner, in which the Agency was to be operated, and being disappointed in finding the immediate benefits they expected, are predicting the failure of the whole thing, and the loss of the money already subscribed. You would be surprised to see some letters that I get. I always answer, and explain things the best I can, and sometimes the brethren write to me, thanking me for the information given them, and avowing <sup>me</sup> a better spirit, and renewed zeal upon the part of their Alliances. They do not understand how the thing is to be worked, and because of this want of information,

W. A. DARDEN,

State Business Agent of the N. C. Farmers' State Alliance,

Raleigh, N. C.,

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Comes all the trouble in regard to the matter. If the right steps had been taken at our State Alliance, we might have had, by this time, a Fund of, at least, \$10000. Of course, there is no one to censure for pursuing a wrong course; we have simply reached a point where we can look back, and see the mistakes we have made. Maj. Graham talks as though it will be some time yet before he can commence work for the Fund. I think something might be done, by calling the County Agts. together, at different points of the State (By districts) and have a brother appointed in each County, whose duty it shall be to visit the different Alliances of his County, in the interest of the Fund, his expenses, (which would be but little) to be paid by the County Alliance. In this way the masses of our people may be reached, and I can't see how they are to be reached in any other way. The out Alliances must be visited, and it must be made the duty of some one to do it.

I was very sorry that I could not be with you, at your meeting in Raleigh on the 1<sup>st</sup> Inst, but circumstances were such that it was almost impossible for me to be here, had I known of your meeting

two weeks earlier, I could have arranged matters as  
as to <sup>having</sup> them with you, but your notice was entirely too  
late.

It is a little mortifying to me to know that  
you should think, it would not be improper for me  
~~for me~~ to offer a rebate of my salary to the extent of  
my absence from Raleigh; if it would not be improper,  
it would certainly be unjust. My Head Quarters were  
fixed at Raleigh by the meeting of sub-agents, yourself  
and Pres. Alexander on the 26<sup>th</sup> Oct. (and I really think  
the Ex-Com. only could have done that, but of that  
however I have no complaint to make) since that time,  
I have been away from Raleigh about one month, but  
at least one half of that time was consumed in working  
for the Alliance, just as I do when I am <sup>at</sup> Raleigh, and  
the remainder of that time was consumed in ~~making~~ <sup>making</sup> ~~and~~  
justing my affairs at home, that I could devote my time to  
the Alliance altogether, and to do this I had to sell off my  
personal effects, which I did at a great and ruinous sac-  
rifice. I left a good school, to which my children could  
go from home, and put them at the cheapest school I could  
find; and now my expenses are a little over \$100. per month,  
and after a careful calculation, I find that the loss I  
sustained in the sale of my property, and the amount of money  
that I shall have to pay out over and above what I would  
have done at home in one year aggregates \$1000. Under  
these circumstances it seems to me, the Alliance might not  
to ask any rebate.

I am very respectfully  
Yours truly  
W. A. Gardner

W. A. DARDEN,  
STATE BUSINESS AGENT

OF THE

N. C. FARMERS' STATE ALLIANCE,

RALEIGH, N. C.

*Endorsing Time Bill  
disapproved*

*Assent of Mr  
Johnston*



*Col. Elias Carr  
Old Sparta  
Edgecombe Co  
N.C.*