

THE WILSON ADVANCE.

\$1 A YEAR, CASH IN ADVANCE.

"LET ALL THE ENDS THOU AIMST' AT BE THY COUNTRY'S, THY GOD'S AND TRUTHS."

BEST ADVERTISING MEDIUM.

VOLUME XXVII.

WILSON, N. C., JAN. 7, 1897.

NUMBER 1.

COMMON SCHOOLS.

Superintendent's Report Shows Falling Off In Interest—Small Attendance.

At the last Legislature the working of the Common School system was taken out of the hands of the County Board of Education and put into the hands of the County Commissioners, a set of men, who, as a rule, are not selected with a view to their ability to manage educational matters. The result of such an arrangement was easy to forecast—a falling off in the school interest. The schools in the several counties were left without a head. There was no one to settle disputes or offer suggestions, and consequently the system has been managed loosely since the enactment of the new law. The report of Mr. Scarborough shows a marked decrease in interest. The enrollment for the last year has fallen off near three thousand. Many good teachers have been side-tracked by the granting of certificates to those who can get only a third grade certificate. This has caused the pay for the average teacher to decline. Mr. Scarborough wrote a letter which appeared recently in some of the State papers outlining the needs of the system and explaining the effects of the last educational legislation. As the State aid fight has its basis in the common school cause the answer made to this letter by J. W. Bailey is interesting. Among other things he says:

"Under the Constitution of North Carolina the people have a right to four months public schools in a convenient number of districts every year, without special levies or taxes. 'Each county of the State shall be divided into a convenient number of districts, in which one or more schools shall be maintained at least four months in every year; and if the commissioners of any county shall fail to comply with the aforesaid requirements of this section, they shall be liable to indictment.'—Constitution of North Carolina, article 9, section 3.

It is wrong to ask the people to accept or vote for a special increase of taxes upon themselves in order to have four months public schools, when by the Constitution they have a right to four months public schools without a special increase of taxes. It is worse than wrong; it approaches outrage.

If a special tax be necessary in order to make appropriations, after the Constitution has been complied with, let this tax stand on its own merits; not on the public schools; not on the Constitution.

It has been stated in the News and Observer that \$200,000 more than is now raised must be raised in order to maintain the public schools four months. Fully \$200,000 is now appropriated annually to objects for which the Constitution does not demand appropriations. If the demands of the Constitution had been heeded these twenty-eight years in preference to sentiment and the lobbying "visiting statesmen," the public schools would now be running as the Constitution requires. The General Assembly is not helpless. It can increase the levy for the schools, as it did two years ago, if it only will."

The North Carolina Senatorship.

The situation in regard to the North Carolina senatorship is considerably complicated yet, but Senator Pritchard has lost none of his confidence of being re-elected, and events appear to shaping that way. The legislature meets January 6th, and Mr. Hyams, a brother-in-law of the senator, who will have charge of his campaign, has already opened headquarters at the State capital.

The alleged agreement of Butler

to support Pritchard is said by the former to have no other foundation than a personal remark which he made at the time of his election by combined populist and republican votes, to the effect that he hoped the present co-operation would continue. Senator Butler now says that Pritchard's change of base from silver to gold, by adopting the St. Louis platform, has made it impossible for the populists to support him.

A prominent North Carolina democrat now in the city says there is no doubt whatever of Pritchard's reelection. "The republicans," he said "are practically solid for him, and there are too many populists who owe their recent election to republican support to violate the understanding which existed between these two parties, even in the last campaign." This democrat thinks Butler's opposition is for the purpose of driving a hard bargain and that he will eventually come over and support Pritchard if he can only get the latter to obligate himself to Butler in certain matters of Federal patronage in the state.

The Charlotte Daily Observer having published that Senator Butler was trying to secure the election of Justice Walter Clark, a silver democrat, Senator Butler told Mr. Howard A. Banks, the Washington correspondent of that paper, that this was not true. The senator further said that in the recent co-operation between the republicans and populists in North Carolina, the offices of governor and senator were left out, and that, therefore the populists in the legislature were perfectly free to support and elect a populist to the senate if they could. Guthrie, the defeated populist candidate for governor, is not in the race. He alienated the populists toward the end of the campaign by attempting to throw his influence to Cyrus B. Watson, and he could secure very little support from his party now.—Washington Post.

TERMS FOR CUBAN PEACE.

A Report That Mr. Olney and Señor de Lome Have Practically Finished Negotiations.

"It is learned from an authoritative source that Secretary Olney and Señor Dupuy de Lome, the Spanish minister, have practically terminated negotiations on the Cuban question, which are to be submitted to Congress when it convenes January 5. The terms of the agreement are based on the recent official communication from Premier Canovas, addressed to the Secretary of State.

"The Premier clearly states the terms which Spain will accord to the insurgents and practically asks the United States to propose these conditions to her rebellious subjects. In return for our good offices Spain assures this government that she sincerely deplores the great commercial loss which we have sustained on account of the Cuban disturbance. She assures us that she is even now considering a reciprocity treaty which will deal mainly with Cuban products and which will be framed in such advantageous terms towards this government that our losses both in commerce and destruction to American property in Cuba will be generously compensated.

"Premier Canovas says that Spain cannot, of course, as a self-respecting and respected nation, stand before the world as having been coerced into measures by the United States. She has freely granted all that she now offers, and that in the face of a rebellion. She accepts the good offices of the United States to act as mediator and to guarantee to the insurgents amnesty and the enforcement of a new reform law which she is about

to proclaim in Cuba.

"The form of government offered is, the Spanish statesman declares, limit of independence which can be granted to a province by any nation without absolutely severing the bonds of union with the mother country. Autonomy, as enjoyed by the Canadian, can never be granted in Cuba."

"What Spain is willing to grant the insurgents if they lay their arms, and what she asks the United to guarantee is an act which provides for a council of administration, which shall control all matters pertaining to the commerce of the Indies and the estimates upon the general taxation and expenditure of the island as well as its general home government."

A January thaw is always more productive of colds and coughs than a January freeze. Then is the time Ayer's Cherry Pectoral is needed and proves so extremely efficacious. Ask your druggist for it, and also for Ayer's Almanac, which is free to all.

McKinley Favors International Bimetallism.

There is nothing to bring a blush of surprise to the cheek of bimetallists in the news from Canton. It seems that Senator Wolcott, of Colorado, called upon the President-elect and learned that he favored the project of an international conference looking to bimetallism, and was "determined that the promises made to the people to that effect in the Republican platform shall be carried out." As we say, this is not surprising, for it was generally understood during the campaign that Major McKinley was a gold man for vote getting purposes merely, and that in secret he stood by his record as a silver man.

But the information that we are likely to have an international conference, if not surprising, is highly gratifying to all those who have the interests of the people at heart. If we cannot secure independent bimetallism, which would be a good thing, for four years to come, that is no reason why we should not all together strive for international bimetallism, which would be a better thing, when there is a prospect of securing that. We may have our doubts about the possibility of success, but we should not cease working for it until every resource has been exhausted and we know absolutely that success is impossible.

It is the duty of all bimetallists without distinction of political party, to hold up Major McKinley's hands in the battle that is about to begin, and not only not to place obstacles in his way, but to aid him with every means in their power. To the joyful performance of this duty the Journal pledges those bimetallists who supported Mr. Bryan in the late election.—Journal.

Dr. Alderman's Inauguration.

Dr. Alderman has been in charge of the State University since August 15th, but his formal inauguration as president will not take place until January 27th, when that occasion will be made a function of more than ordinary interest and impressiveness. Judge Russell, who is a University alumnus, will induct the new president into office. An elaborate program has been arranged for the event, and a large attendance of the alumni and friends of the University are expected to be present.

Among the distinguished visitors will be the eminent Dr. William R. Harper, president of the Chicago University, and Dr. J. L. M. Curry, president of the board of trustees of the Peabody fund.—News and Observer.

Walnut Lore.

"I will put one of these walnuts in my pocket," said a gentleman who was sitting beside at dinner the other day. He seemed to think an explanation was necessary, and so he added, "I carry a walnut about in my pocket, to prevent my rheumatism."

I had heard of a great many queer cures for rheumatism, but here was a brand new one,—a walnut! I know a gentleman who carries a small potato in his pocket as a preventative of rheumatism. He says that he does not know whether it is a foolish thing or not, but on several occasions when he left his potato at home he really felt twinges of rheumatism.

In New England many folk used to tie a snake-skin around the neck for "rheumatics," while in Georgia and generally through the South, the negroes, and even the whites carry the right fore-foot of a rabbit to ward off attacks of rheumatism. All this passed through my mind while I replied, in tones of curiosity, "A walnut?"

"Yes. It is also a cure for toothache. I first heard of the cure in the country, where it was known to work. I tell you there is really something in it."

Indeed, there is more in walnut lore than is dreamt of in my neighbor's philosophy. The use of the walnut for rheumatism—however whimsical such a practice may seem nowadays—is a relic of those old superstitious notions which, under one form or another, have clustered round the tree. These notions run back to pagan days.

The Romans regarded the walnut as the symbol of fruitfulness; it was consecrated to Venus, and played an important part in weddings.—Lee J. Vante, in January Lippincott's.

Cotton-Seed Hulls and Meal Beef Production.

The question of cotton-seed hulls and meal for stock feeding has received attention from the North Carolina Experiment Station since 1888, when it was proved that cotton-seed hulls and meal without any other food were a profitable ration for fattening beef for market. A recent bulletin published (No. 118) upon this subject includes digestibility of several rations with different proportions of hulls and meal, even as close as 1½ of hulls and 1 of meal. The longest time that beef should be fed would be from 40 to 60 days, as it was determined that after this limit the feeding was mainly lost. The digestibility of these rations was carefully studied and determined by accurate and detailed examination and analysis. The manure recovered from the food given was carefully determined; and in every case the total value, in respect to fertilizing ingredients, was greater than the cost of the food given. It cannot be expected in practice that this result would be obtained, because there will necessarily be loss in management and handling of the manure.

As is the custom of the Experiment Station, a summary of the results written in plain, untechnical language is given, in which only the detailed methods and actual results are given, so that any one can study the progress of the experiments in the detailed methods used to secure the results. Only the portion containing general summary of 8 pages is sent to the general mailing list of the Station.—

CASTORIA.

The famous signature of Dr. H. P. Plummer is on every wrapper.

Railway Building In 1896.

That the reckless haste with which railway construction was pushed a few years ago has little prospect of resumption has been pretty thoroughly demonstrated in the experience of the last nine years. It was pushed so fast and so far as to bring ruin to stockholders, and although it contributed largely to the settlement of lands in the West, it deranged the agricultural industry of the whole country. One of its far-reaching effects was the chronic discontent of the farmers, which has been, and still is, a material factor in State and national politics.

According to the Railway Age, of Chicago, the amount of new steam railway track laid in the United States in 1896 approximated 1,802 miles, just one mile less than that of 1895. The South, as a whole, contributed 550 miles, while New England built only 30 miles, all in Maine and Vermont. California leads off with 186 miles. The next largest contributor is Louisiana, with 154 miles, while Michigan takes third place with 140 miles. Those three are the only States showing more than 100 miles. New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming, Nevada, Idaho, Arizona, and New Mexico had no railroad extension, and only one mile was built in Kansas and five in Iowa.

The output of locomotives for 1896 is reported by the Railroad Gazette, of New York, to have been larger than that of 1895 or 1894 but not up to the figures of previous years. It states that the number of new locomotives built by the various contracting shops is 1,175 for 1896, this compares with 1,101 in 1895, 695 in 1894, 2,011 in 1893, 2,012 in 1892, and 2,165 in 1891. In 1894 only 80 locomotives were built for export, but in 1896 the number was 309, or more than 26 per cent. of the entire output. And this is a branch of trade that can, and we have no doubt will be greatly extended.—Post.

The Farmer's Golden Rule.

It is not a new story, but until its truth is fully realized and acted upon it cannot be told too often to the farmers of the South that their road to independence is through the practice of raising their own food supplies. Make at home the things necessary for the support of the people and animals on the farm may well be called the farmer's golden rule. It is a gratifying fact that many of our farmers in Georgia and Carolina have accepted the repeated admonitions of the press along this line, and the supply of foodstuffs that is raised in these States grows larger annually. Our farmers buy less corn and meat than ever before. Let them produce their own wheat, raise their mules, horses, cows, hogs and sheep, and pay more attention to the garden, dairy and poultry yard, and they will live better and have more money at the end of the year. Give the food crops first place in your calculations, and then raise cotton as a surplus money crop. When this is done the southern farmer will be the most independent man in America.—Augusta Chronicle.

Dr. Shields, an eminent physician of Tennessee, says: "I regard Ayer's Sarsaparilla as the best blood-medicine on earth, and I know of many wonderful cures effected by its use." Physicians all over the land have made similar statements.

If you want to begin the New Year right subscribe to the ADVANCE—\$1.00 per year.