

ADVERTISING SCHEDULE. Single Copy 1 cent. 10 Copies 10 cents. 100 Copies 1 dollar. 1000 Copies 10 dollars.

THE WORLD'S SUPPLY OF COTTON. Cotton is more eagerly sought now than gold. The great manufacturing nations are searching the earth's surface for lands on which cotton can be grown.

Commenting on the Seaboard Air Line changes that are now matters of history, the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot remarks, as a conclusion of the whole matter: "In passing, however, it may be worthy of note that the forecast of the change in the presidency made by the newspapers weeks ago was 'authoritatively' denied, and each reiteration met with similar denial. We throw the suggestion out for what it is worth, but it would really seem that the newspapers got about as close to the truth and stick about as close to it as anybody else."

Emperor Menelik will present President Roosevelt with two lions and a pair of elephant tusks. We don't know what Teddy will do with the tusks, but the lions will be mighty handy when he is pestered too much with office-seekers.

"Hon. D. B. Hill has been selected as orator for the annual banquet of the Albany Undertakers' Association." His acceptance of that invitation shows that the pungent paragraphs have no terrors for David B.

A telegram from Roanoke, Va., says: "The Anti-Saloon League met its Waterloo here to day, Roanoke going wet by 982 majority." Looks more like they met their Whiskey-loo.

EARLIEST HISTORY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Among the new books just out is "History of North Carolina," by John Lawson, Gentleman. The book is from the press of the Charlotte, N. C., Observer, and it is a reprint of the copy now in the North Carolina State Library at Raleigh, which copy was presented by President James Madison, in 1831.

The compiler is Col. Fred A. Olds, the well known Raleigh newspaper man, and he has done a good work in his efforts to thus place within reach of the people of the State historical facts which very few Carolinians have had an opportunity to learn.

Lawson's history, of which the Observer's book is a reprint, bears date of 1714, which ante-dates the settlement of Wilmington. It appeared that after Lawson gathered the notes and material for his history, he began its publication in parts as early as 1708 at London and there are some copies dated 1710.

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"Who would be free himself must strike the blow." Let the people of Wilmington keep this always in mind while demanding justice at the hands of the Seaboard Air Line.

A woman is reported in Iowa whose spleen has been removed and yet is alive and well. Make her mad and she will be mighty apt to show some spleen.

The boll-weevil has inflicted much damage on cotton; but the bull-weevil has proved a terror to the speculators known as "shorts."

GROWING COMMERCE.

Wilmington's Export Trade During 1903 Has Increased Along All Lines. \$20,000,000 IN MERCHANDISE.

That has been the value of Cotton, Naval Stores and Lumber Sent Away from This Port—Number of Ships Here the Past Year 233.

The steady increase in the commerce of Wilmington is extremely gratifying to the people of our city, and the growing importance of the chief port of North Carolina will alike be a source of gratification to the people of the entire State.

Table showing Wilmington's Export Trade During 1903. Columns include Commodity, Value, and Quantity.

MESSRS. ALEXANDER SPRUNT & SON, cotton exporters, on yesterday cleared the British steamer "Capra," Captain Connell, for Bremen, Germany, with a cargo of 12,500 bales of cotton, weighing 6,021,989 pounds, valued at \$658,150.

MESSRS. HEIDE & CO., on yesterday cleared for Glasgow, Scotland, the British steamer "Armenia," Captain Scheer, with a cargo of 2,704 curn logs, valued at \$20,000, and 335 barrels rosin, valued at \$1,000. Cargo by Mr. Will L. Miller, agent for the Acme Tea Chest Company, of Glasgow.

SHIPPING IN DECEMBER. Col. Cantwell's books show that during the month ended yesterday 30 ships arrived in the port of Wilmington, of which the aggregate tonnage was 31,665. Of these the American ships were 10 steamships of 11,770 tons, 2 barges of 6,000 tons and 11 schooners of 5,971 tons. Total number of American ships 23, with a total tonnage of 21,741. The foreign vessels were 4 steamships of 8,672 tons, 2 barges of 1,141 tons and 1 schooner of 111 tons. Total foreign tonnage for the month, 9,924.

LOCAL DOTS. Mr. T. A. Wortham and bride returned last evening from Oxford and Durham, where they have been visiting his relatives and friends.

BEAR, TURKEYS AND DEER.

This Section an Eldorado for Nimrod. What Two Hunting Parties Did in the Woods Last Wednesday.

That this section of North Carolina is a great field for the sportsman may be inferred from reports from the Nimrod friends of the STAR.

Dr. W. D. McMillan returned Thursday evening from a trip up to Duplin county. He tells us that on Wednesday, on the Atlantic Coast Line, in Duplin county, Mr. F. J. Sanders, chief of the mason force of the Atlantic Coast Line, and Mr. G. W. Boney, of Richmond, Va., went out for a day's sport.

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GEN. LEE'S BIRTHDAY. Editor H. A. London, of Pittsboro, to Deliver the Address at the Celebration Here on January 19th.

Preparations are now under way by Cape Fear Camp, No. 254, U. O. V., Cape Fear Chapter, Daughters of the Confederacy, and George Davis Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, for the celebration of Gen. Robert E. Lee's birthday in Wilmington, January 19th.

Death of Mr. Ezekiel Blizard, who Served in Two Wars. Mr. Ezekiel Blizard, aged 101 years, died on last Wednesday, December 30th, near Cronly, Bladen county, N. C.

Twenty Men Arrested in Connection With Chicago Fire in Police Court. CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—Twenty men arrested in connection with the Iroquois theatre tragedy were arraigned before Justice Caverly in the Harrison street police court to-day on a charge of manslaughter.

WILMINGTON IN 1903.

Large Increase in the Commerce, Trade and Banking Business of the City. BANK CLEARINGS \$10,000,000.

During the year just ended Wilmington has enjoyed the greatest and most prosperous history. The commerce of the port has increased fully 33 per cent, the shipping interest maintains its increase of the past few years, and the wholesale and retail mercantile business has increased fully 33 per cent. The industries of the city have shared in the prosperity of the city, and during the year at least \$900,000 has been invested in business, new industries and new corporations.

The deposits at the present time are \$4,777,498 and the loans and discounts aggregate \$3,877,789. The savings banks of the city contain deposits of \$1,754,082, which fact indicates the thrift of the working people of Wilmington to a marked degree.

Wilmington has become the fifth cotton port in the United States, the receipts here since September 1st having been 371,870 bales. The exports of cotton, naval stores and lumber during the year just ended have exceeded in value \$20,000,000, the specific value of these items being \$19,171,909 for cotton exported; \$1,107,094 for naval stores, and \$168,965 for lumber.

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Killed Deer and Turkeys. On Wednesday morning Messrs. George Schnibben and J. F. Christian went up to Morrison's Creek on a hunting expedition and killed four deer and a lot of birds while in the country. They stayed at the house of Mr. Bill Futch and returned home Friday morning.

MANSLAUGHTER CHARGED. Twenty Men Arrested in Connection With Chicago Fire in Police Court. CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—Twenty men arrested in connection with the Iroquois theatre tragedy were arraigned before Justice Caverly in the Harrison street police court to-day on a charge of manslaughter.

THE CAUSE OF THE FIRE. Explained by the Manager of the "Spot" Light at the Iroquois Theatre—The So-called Explosion. CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—William McMullen, manager of the "spot" light, which is alleged to have caused the fire in the Iroquois theatre, testified at the hearing before Fire Inspector Fulkerson to-day that the "spot" light had nothing to do with it.

N. C. CORPORATION COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

Showing the Acreage and Value of Taxable Lands and Other Properties in State—Other Important Matters. [Special Star Correspondence.]

RALEIGH, N. C., Jan. 2.—The North Carolina Corporation Commission issue their annual report as a State tax commission, which shows among numerous other important items that \$7,788,894 acres of land are valued at \$4.35 per acre; Gaston leading at \$18.43 valuation per acre and Dare lowest with only 92 cents.

Town showing largest indebtedness are Asheville, \$1,000,000; Charlotte, \$605,000; Greensboro, \$452,749; Wilmington, \$682,000.

GEN. JAMES LONGSTREET. Died at His Home in Gainesville, Ga., of Pneumonia, Aged 64 Years.

SENSATIONAL DAMAGE SUIT. Brought by Mrs. Laura DeLang Against the Countess Esterhazy for Alienating Her Husband's Affections.

FIRE AT WILSON, N. C. EARLY THIS MORNING. Four Large Buildings in the Business Section and Other Property Destroyed. Loss Estimated at \$125,000.

PERSONAL EFFECTS LOST. Estimated that \$100,000 Worth of Valuable Disappeared from Bodies of the Victims of the Chicago Fire.

Same Near Repeating the Scenes of the Chicago Fire. New York, Jan. 2.—An immense holiday audience which packed the Thalia theatre, on the Bowery, at 10 o'clock this morning (Sunday) saw the four large buildings in the business section of Wilson, N. C., which were destroyed at a loss of \$125,000.

S. A. L. SITUATION.

Captain John H. Sharp, the Efficient Treasurer, Dropped After Long Service. BUSINESS POLICY UNCHANGED.

Ryan Interests Wanted a Man of Their Own Choice to Take Captain Sharp's Place—Mr. Barr Pleas'd at Being Chosen President. [Richmond Times-Dispatch.]

NOFOLK, Va., Dec. 31.—Mr. James M. Barr, the new president of the Seaboard, is naturally greatly pleased at the vote of confidence accorded him by the directors of the system, and during the morning he received many callers who desired to extend congratulations. Telegrams and telephone messages of congratulation were also showered upon him.

Mr. Sharp, the retiring treasurer, has been a resident of this city for the past ten years or more. He started in the railway business with the old Carolina Central Railway, one of the most important constituent properties of the Seaboard, as a book-keeper. This was in April, 1892.

When seen this morning he was at his office, performing his duties as usual. He was to appear at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors, but quite to the contrary, he said that it was the most natural thing in the world that the New York business men should be interested in the property, should regard a treasurer in New York.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2.—The Countess Esterhazy, widow of the late Maximilian Esterhazy, who was at one time secretary of the Austrian embassy in Washington, is the defendant in a damage suit for \$100,000 brought by Mrs. Laura M. DeLang, who charges that the Countess alienated her husband's affections. The papers were served on the Countess here to-day.

CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—From the large number of complaints received of the loss of personal effects from the bodies of the fire victims, coroner's office clerks estimated that \$100,000 worth of diamonds, watches, jewelry, furs and other property was lost in the fire. Many of the victims had money in their possession which could not be found when the bodies were examined at the morgues.

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