

MORE COMPETITION FOR OUR TOBACCO GROWERS.

If there is any advantage in the present tariff protection for the growers of tobacco in North Carolina and other Southern States, the acquisition and assimilation of the Philippines threatens to take it away from them.

The above remark is made upon the contingency that Congress will consider with favor the petition which Secretary of War Taft, lately Governor of the Philippines, transmitted to the House last Wednesday.

The petition is from the Tobacco Workers' Guild, a labor organization in Manila, composed of 6,000 members, praying for the admission to the United States of Philippine tobacco free of duty.

It appears that the Republican administration is making a mess of things in the Philippines, and if the reports coming from there are true the conditions there may show that the same kind of administration does over here where we are better able to stand it.

The Emperor of Korea is being berated because he doesn't order both Japan and Russia off his territory. Critics must remember, however, that Hi-Li has several hundred wives and all men of reason know that when he goes down town all his time is taken up in getting samples, needles and thread and hooks and eyes for his household.

The concert of the shad frogs now greets our ears. Soon the aroma of the yellow jessamine will warm the lambent air, and the wretched Atlantic will be tumbling its gladdened surf at the dimpled feet of the Summer girl.

Are there any more questions which the investigating committee want to ask Col. Joe Smith, president of the Mormon Church, who has been on the stand three or four days in the Smoot investigation at Washington? He frankly told the committee that he has five wives and can't spare any of them.

The STAR's dispatches yesterday morning tell of a countryman who sold his wife for two cents. He was thus prepared to fish for another wife, but he has been arrested. Probably the purchaser of the wife will charge him with cheating and swindling.

The Easter hat money will soon come out of the stocking. By the way we see that they are now offering fancy hosiery with cute pockets in the right place.

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT.

Mr. B. H. J. Ahrens Perhaps Fatally Injured as Result of a Fall Yesterday.

RESTING EASIER AT NIGHT.

Plunged Ten Feet Head Foremost from Chair in Which He Was Sitting on Platform, Superintending Carpenters' Work—Notes.

Falling upon his head to the ground from a platform, ten feet high, Mr. B. H. J. Ahrens, one of Wilmington's most highly esteemed citizens and largest real estate owners, was seriously injured yesterday afternoon about 3:30 o'clock, while superintending a force of carpenters building a 30-foot addition to the rear of the store of G. D. Phares & Co., Nos. 110 and 113 Market street.

It is not altogether improbable that the Republicans will give the Philippines free trade in order to make up for the botch work of our government in the islands. Here is a pointer in that direction from the leading Republican paper, the New York Tribune:

Conviction is growing of the justice of reducing the duties on importations from the Philippines. It is not alone a matter of justice, but likewise of good policy, for larger trade and greater prosperity in the Philippines from access to the American market will make easier our task of government.

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FROM CLARKTON TO WHITEVILLE.

New Railroad Surveyed by the Cape Fear Lumber Company, of Wilmington.

The Whiteville News of this week has the following interesting story relative to a proposed railroad between Whiteville and Clarkton, to be owned and operated by the Cape Fear Lumber Co., of Wilmington:

"The Cape Fear Lumber Company, of Wilmington, is arranging to complete a narrow gauge road from the old Richardson crossing of the W. C. & A. to Clarkton, according to the statement of their agent, P. H. Korngay, it will be completed in from four to six weeks, when the rolling stock will be in action.

"It will begin just below the Whiteville Lumber Company's plant, run up the White Marsh and connect with the Carolina Central railroad at Clarkton. Fifteen miles will be the length of the surveyed route.

"About fifteen thousand acres of timber land is owned by the Cape Fear Lumber Company, through which the road will pass. It consists chiefly of long leaf and short leaf pine. From 20,000,000 to 30,000,000 feet of timber, it is expected, will be cut from the property.

"About four miles of the road bed is laid now and the present company will have no trouble in completing the balance of the distance, as it has all been surveyed before. An additional survey is now being made. Shipment of the logs to Wilmington will be over the A. C. L.

"Our town's people should interest themselves in furthering this end. It would be a stepping stone to the upbuilding of Whiteville; would enhance the value of realty, and should eventually be owned and controlled by our citizens for the town's benefit."

TO BUILD A NATATORIUM. Commendable Movement Inaugurated by Y. M. C. A.—Popular Subscriptions.

Under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A. a movement has been inaugurated looking to the establishment of a first-class natatorium in this city—a swimming pool in reach of all and robbed of many of the dangers of the sport when enjoyed in natural pools.

The plan of raising the money needed to secure it in voluntary subscriptions from any person who feels interested in such a thing for the young men and boys of the city. One man has pledged \$500. Others are now contemplating gifts of varying amounts.

HIS REMAINS BROUGHT HOME.

Young Branch Bravely Met Death in Florida Thursday Evening.

From Mr. Shelnick it was learned that the accident in which young Mr. Branch lost his life, occurred at Campbell's station, twelve miles below Klaxville, Fla., just after sunset Thursday.

He was conductor of a work train and at the time of the accident he was making a coupling, preparatory to pulling out of a side track. In some way he was caught between the cars and badly crushed in the stomach.

He was placed on his own train in a few minutes and hurried to Klaxville, where medical aid could be secured. He died within two hours in possession of all his faculties almost up to the minute he died.

His remains were brought home by the Southern Express Company during the day that in the future no packages of questionable character would be received for prohibited points.

It was learned from one of the dealers that a circular that had been issued by Superintendent Walter Buckner, but a reporter who called last night at the office of Mr. Buckner was informed in effect that while a circular had been issued to agents to refuse shipments for anti-liquor counties, it might be recalled or altered at any time and the superintendent would prefer that the same be not published yet.

At any rate shipments from Wilmington to at least a dozen dry counties in this section of the State have been tabooed and the dealers are feeling the effect of the Supreme Court decision as they have never anticipated before.

They attach no blame whatever to the Southern Express Company, of course, and are free to admit that even should the transportation people utterly disregard the law, the shipper would not care to risk a seizure and a confiscation of the goods, to say nothing of the possibility of an indictment.

As the law is interpreted by dealers here, no liquor can be shipped to counties that are dry or towns which are in the dispensary. However, if one town in a county has a dispensary and the balance of that county is wet or has no regulations, they are at liberty to ship to other points in that county.

Several people in Wilmington imagine to what extent the shipment of liquor to consumers in the upper counties has increased within the past year or two. With the "drying" of several counties up the country a good many distilleries were forced out of business and the bulk of the trade came to Wilmington.

JUG TRADE HARD HIT.

Recent Supreme Court Decision Heavy Blow to Wilmington Liquor Shipments.

EXPRESS COMPANY'S ORDER.

No Packages Received for Prohibited Territory—Business Had Increased Wonderfully from This City in the Past Year or Two.

The recent decision of the Supreme Court that the "Anti-Jug Law" applies to all counties in the State where prohibition or the dispensary system is in effect yesterday came forcibly to the attention of a number of Wilmington dealers, who have been doing a large "shipping business" to the "dry country," when they were notified by the Southern Express Company during the day that in the future no packages of questionable character would be received for prohibited points.

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Besides Express shipments not a little liquor was being shipped in various forms by freight. The jug business had grown to considerably larger proportions within the last six or eight months. The Supreme Court decision now reduces it to a single whack to about 25 percent. This may be appreciated from the fact that 85 of the 98 counties in the State are prohibition counties and that the bulk of the wet counties are in the West out of the territory of Wilmington.

FOUND NOT GUILTY. Two Men Charged with Double Murder in Jones County, Va.

SPIRITS TURPENTINE.

Senator Simmons has succeeded in having included in the agricultural appropriation bill a provision for collecting truck statistics.

Washington Gaslight-Messenger: Robert Mitchell, colored, is one of the best jewelers of his race. He is a workman of skill and enjoys a large patronage.

Charlotte Chronicle: The trial before Judge Pritchard of the Machen-Lorenz-Goff postoffice conspiracy case, lasted forty-eight days, but the result shows that the time was well spent. It is interesting to know that there are thirty-five cases of postoffice frauds to be tried before Judge Pritchard.

Smallpox is in Statesville again. Mrs. M. A. Wallace, a resident of a part of the town known as the Boulevard, broke out with it Monday afternoon when her husband was at one of the hotels. There are several other occupants of the home. A father and husband among them. There seems to be no end of trouble in this household for only last week old man Wallace and his son-in-law became engaged in a fight over the possession of an axe, and Ball, his son-in-law, in some way inflicted several ugly wounds in his father-in-law's arm and shoulder.

Salisbury Sun: Mr. J. J. Allen, a white fireman on the Southern, lies dangerously ill at Spencer. A most peculiarly afflicted man. About two weeks since Mr. Allen was troubled with a boil on his hip. Ordinary remedies were resorted to without avail and finally a physician was called in. The ailment was at once pronounced anthrax, a disease confined almost entirely to sheep and without exception attended by fatal results.

Asheville Citizen: In the Superior court yesterday the case of Tom Smith, colored, who was tried for carrying a concealed pistol, was the occasion for a decision by Judge Long which is one of importance. Smith was a colored attendant in a pool room and in order to show his innocence, went on the stand and testified that the pistol was broken and had no cylinder. On cross examination he said that at the bar where he worked he kept another pistol, and this pistol, he said, was kept in a basket with a cover. On his statement the court instructed the jury that the defendant was guilty, according to his own evidence, because he was not on his own premises and the pistol being within his reach, was concealed. A verdict of guilty was returned and Smith was fined \$25 and costs.

Several lawyers who were present were much interested in the decision and one of them said that as he construed it no clerk or other employe could legally have a pistol or other weapon kept in a drawer, as is often customary, or other place where it was hidden from view. He said employes in banks would have to keep any weapons for self-protection exposed.

Raleigh Times: Dr. Jay, charged with murdering his three children in Buncombe county several weeks ago, has been brought to Raleigh and placed in the State penitentiary to serve a term of 30 years. There were two other prisoners in charge of the officers who brought Dr. Jay. Dr. Jay is a heavy built man and rather handsome figure. He had an intelligent look and did not seem to be suffering from any mental trouble. Under the sentence passed he was sentenced to the penitentiary for thirty years for one of the murders committed. Judgment in the other two was held up. At the end of his present sentence, should he live so long, the court will have the right to call him back and give him an additional sentence. The total sentence that can be given him is for ninety years in the penitentiary. This is the case in which Dr. Jay became enraged with his wife and abused her so that she had to leave home. He then secured a hammer and beat out the brains of his three children. He escaped the gallows on the plea of temporary insanity and then pleaded guilty to murder in the second degree.

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THE WAR CONSIDERED HARDLY TO HAVE BEGUN.

Heavy Fighting Not Expected Before the Last of April—Russia's Preparations to Overwhelm the Japanese.

By Cable to the Morning Star. ST. PETERSBURG, March 5.—Although almost four weeks have elapsed since the Japanese first attacked Port Arthur, here the war is considered hardly to have begun.

Heavy land fighting, upon which the fate of the campaign depends, is not expected much before the end of April.

By this time Russia will have in the field, exclusive of the large army of men required to guard the railroad, four army corps, each with a cavalry division and an artillery brigade. All that has happened up to now is to happen until those forces are in the field, is considered, according to the Russian view, to be nothing more than a prologue to the real drama.

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