

## PROGRESS OF THE NEGROES.

Mr. William Garrott Brown, who recently wrote for the North American Review an article entitled "The White Peril—The Immediate Danger of the Negro," traveled through the South to get his data. He stated, among other things, that the negro was not only retrograding as a laborer, but that the wealth accumulated by the negroes is decreasing in ratio.

In a recent lecture Booker T. Washington advances another view. He stated that one-twenty-sixth of the soil of Virginia was owned by negroes, according to the official records. He further asserted that the negro race has developed more rapidly in thirty years of its freedom than the Latin race had in 1,000 years of freedom. He also declared that about 65 per cent. of Italians, 85 per cent. of Spaniards, 70 per cent. of Russians and 80 per cent. of South Americans are illiterate, but after thirty years of freedom only 54 per cent. of the negro race is illiterate. In Georgia, Washington said, \$16,700,000 is set down as the taxable value of the negroes' property. He adds: "Probably the colored man has learned the lesson of hiding its real value from his white brother; the figures ought to be over \$30,000,000."

While the accumulation of property by the negro is slow, we doubt very seriously whether Mr. Brown's article gives the real fact as to the negro's accumulation of property. However, his article referred to the South as a whole and he made a special study of it.

There is one thing certain, however, and that is that the negro appreciates the advantages which are afforded him to send his children to school. White people had better stir their stumps if they want their children to keep ahead of the negro in attendance upon the schools.

Many will read with astonishment the statement, if it is based upon fact, that the illiteracy of the negro has been reduced to 54 per cent. If the statement is true, it is time for Northern critics to let up on the Southern States for lack of effort to educate the negro. The several States are bound to be given the greatest part of the credit for the school advantages which colored children have.

The development of the South is amazing, as Mr. Brown says in his article in the North American Review. May it not be a fact that our development has outgrown the supply of labor, and that considering the element of thriftless blacks, the lack of negro labor is more noticeable than it otherwise would be?

The real truth of the negro's position as a laborer and his advancement in the accumulation of property would be interesting.

"Nothing is left undone to safeguard President Roosevelt," says a Washington correspondent. We approve everything that is done for the protection of the President. We don't even want him to get struck with the idea that the "open door of hope" is not liable to let in a draught that is pernicious to a Southern darkey's political rheumatism.

Twenty New Jersey girls duked a man in an icy creek for selling them wool hosiery for silk. If a man has to take a duking for palming off wool for silk, what is to be done with the girls for pulling the wool over men's eyes?

Some of our State exchanges are speculating about the future of Gov. Charles B. Aycock, whose four years term closes next month. No use to worry. Just watch the lightning and you will see a man who knows how to take care of himself.

We have seen so much about illegal registration, fraud in elections and rottenness in politics in Pennsylvania that it really makes us Pennsylvania when the Bucktail papers lecture the South on morality and fairness in politics.

Another story will be added to the Wilmington water wagon for those who will take their annual "sneak-off" January 1st. Those who are a trifle shaky in their resolution might get on the street sprinkler.

It is very annoying to the horse editor to see from the statistics of the Census Bureau that there are more males than females in the United States. He is always fighting against odds.

If the Republican party prefers that the South remain the one conservative element of the union, it had better stick to Republicanism and not return to radicalism.

Mrs. Cassie Chadwick promises that all her obligations shall be paid. We have some subscribers who are just as promising as Mrs. Chadwick.

Mrs. Wallis, a Cincinnati fashion writer says: "Women would be better off if they never wore hats." No, the old man would be better off.

## CURRENT COMMENT.

—If the South could only get a little reduction in representation it would not object.—Newport News Times-Herald.

—Why should the North howl because the South proposes to take its licks like a man?—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

—"I am determined to prove that I am different from other men," says old Dr. Dowle. He has proved it by paying \$4,000,000 in debts.—Washington Post.

—The decline in the price of cotton will probably put all the idle mills to work, if they can buy as much cotton in the bales on paper.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

—Whether they call it "readjustment" or revision or reform is all the same to the people, who are weary of the spoliation and inequities of the existing tariff.—Philadelphia Record.

—The Mobile Register, in an article proposing the erection of a monument to Father Ryan, the great poet, calls him a "son of Maryland." It has always been our understanding that Father Ryan was born in Norfolk.—Norfolk Landmark.

—A newspaper is published for the masses and classes. A thing that may sound foolish to one person may be wisdom to another, and that which tickles the modest fancy of Maud Muller may serve to tilt the nasal adornment of Clara Vere de Vere.—Orange Virginian.

—A contemporary asks: "Why not have a parcels post?" The simple answer is that the great express companies, who have in Thos. O. Platt an agent in the Senate of the United States, and the great railroad corporations having an interest in the express companies, do not want a parcels post that would seriously threaten their profits.—Philadelphia Record.

—Commenting on Dr. Samuel T. Carter's remarks in connection with his renunciation of the Presbyterian confession of faith in the Hartford (Conn.) Courant says that "in more Southern and conservative regions of Presbyterianism his utterances will be regarded as blasphemy or little short of it." Right you are; they will not only be regarded as blasphemy by Southern Presbyterians but in a sense by the Christian bodies of the South generally, and it is well that that is so.—Richmond News-Leader.

—Strong efforts are being made to turn the tide of foreign immigration Southward, and seemingly without much regard as to what class comes. Unless care is exercised we will have a class similar to those in Northern mines and factories. The South Carolina law on the subject ought to be adopted by all the States of the South and then there would be little danger. The fear is expressed that there will not be enough of the class we are obtaining. That may or may not be true, but that supply should first be exhausted before experiments are made with others.—Columbia Record.

## LOCAL DOTS.

—The Revenue Cutter "Semi-nole" sailed yesterday for a cruise as far north as Hatteras. Later she will return down the coast, going to Savannah before the new year.

—Mr. J. Herbert Stone, of Little River, S. C., was in the city yesterday on business. He will move to Wilmington on January 1st to accept employment with Stone & Co.

—A. B. McDonald, of Hamlet, was given two years in the penitentiary and sentenced to pay a fine of \$5,000 for illicit distilling and intimidating a witness by Judge Purnell in the Federal Court at Raleigh Friday.

—Justice Bornemann yesterday married a colored couple—William C. Thomas and Rosa Franks, who went away as happy as larks after a parting injunction from the "judge" as to how they should deport themselves in the future.

—By deed filed for record yesterday Carl P. B. Mahler and wife transferred to Sallie W. Mayo, for \$2,350, property on west side of 15th, 120 feet south of Nixon street, 150x120 feet in size and abutting on Brown's or Hulse's alley.

—A colored man was shot and slightly wounded late yesterday afternoon in the vicinity of Sixth and Red Cross streets. It is said that the negro who received the bullet perished in following a crippled negro, who finally, tired of being hounded, drew a pistol and opened upon the other. No arrests were made.

—Mr. Hans A. Kure, proprietor of the amusement pavilion at Carolina Beach, has bought the riding gallery or "hobby horse" that have been operated at Sixth and Campbell streets. He will take the outfit down to the beach next summer for the entertainment of seaside visitors.

—As Capt. Robertson came out of his residence on Princess street just after supper last night he found neatly coiled up on his front porch a drunken white man, apparently resting easy. Capt. Robertson felt a delicacy in disturbing the stranger's nap, but he was afraid of the visitor's catching cold and summoned the patrol wagon, the stranger having very soon thereafter become a guest at the station house.

—It is announced that Mrs. Preston L. Bridges will build a handsome residence on her lot on east side of Third, between Church and Castle streets, and that Mr. H. K. Nash has purchased the residence of the late Mrs. W. A. Rich, in the same vicinity, and will remodel it. It is also stated that Col. Walker Taylor will erect a handsome residence on northeast corner of Third and Church streets, where Mr. Bridges now resides.

## STATE CAPITAL NEWS.

Federal Court Enjoins Corporation Commission and Greensboro Fuel Concern.

SOUTHPORT BANK CHARTERED

State Fair Settlement—V. E. McEwen Receiver for Carolina Northern Railroad With Mr. W. J. Edwards. Rescinding More Pardons.

[Special Star Telegram.]

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 16.—The temporary injunction against the Corporation Commission and the Greensboro Fuel and Coal Company was made perpetual to-day by Judge Purnell in an opinion handed down from a suit brought by the Southern Railway to stop the two defendants from bringing suits against them for penalties and damages for refusal of the Southern to place cars of coal consigned to the Greensboro company on a private siding, the refusal being on the ground that no further cars be so placed until certain disputed claims for demurrage for the past placing of cars is paid. The right of the Corporation Commission to force a railroad to deliver cars under such circumstances is involved and the court rules the Commission has no such right, where, as in this case the cars are brought from other States, it being inter-state commerce.

Reports submitted to the State Fair executive committee to-day show \$8,000 balance in the treasury, after all expenses of the recent fair are paid. The affairs are in excellent condition. A handsome silver service was presented to President Ashley Horn, of the Fair Association, as a token of appreciation.

The Bank of Southport is chartered with \$5,000 capital subscribed and \$30,000 authorized. Among the incorporators are J. J. Watson, A. E. Dasher, H. W. Hood and Dr. J. A. Dasher.

Governor Aycock accepts an invitation to deliver an address before the Teachers Assembly of Louisiana at Lafayette, December 28th.

In the United States Circuit Court yesterday a petition was filed by the complainant, the Guaranty Trust Company of Philadelphia, in the suit against the Carolina Northern Railroad Company asking for the appointment of V. E. McEwen as co-receiver with W. J. Edwards, the present receiver. The Trust Company's petition was a very large block of the bonds and the request for practically all the bond holders of the railroad company, residents principally of Philadelphia and Richmond. It is understood that the action of the bondholders was at the instance or suggestion of Mr. John Stetson Williams, who holds a large block of the bonds and has a large opinion of Capt. McEwen as a railroad manager and desires him to take charge and build up the physical condition and traffic of the railroad. The petition having been granted, Captain McEwen, who was present at court chambers, filed a bond in the sum of \$15,000 and went to Lumberton to take charge of the railroad, and to take charge of the railroad in conjunction with W. J. Edwards, the present receiver.

The father and brother of the Charlotte slayer Bishop were here this week to see Governor Aycock and plead for a pardon. The attorney for the State is also here to see the Governor bearing numerous petitions for their release. Neither parties received any satisfaction at the hands of the Governor.

## EAGLE MANUFACTURING CO.

Factory Site Purchased on W. & W., Near Eighth and Hanover—Officers.

The Eagle Manufacturing Company of this city, which was recently incorporated with a paid-in capital stock of \$5,000, by Messrs. G. F. Quinn, J. O. Powers, James Gillan and J. A. Lewis, will begin business about January 15th. The company recently organized with Mr. Lewis as president; Mr. Powers, treasurer; Mr. Gillan, secretary, and Mr. Quinn, general manager. Each of the incorporators is a practical man with experience in the line mapped out for the new factory and the enterprise gives assurance of success from the very start.

A site for the factory 150 x 200 feet in size, has been purchased on Eighth street, between Hanover and Brunswick, along the right of way of the W. & W. railroad, making shipping facilities the very best obtainable in the city. The company proposes to manufacture doors, sash, blinds, turned columns, cabinets, cases, etc., and will cater to both the wholesale and retail trade. For the present a factory building 36x70 feet in size will be constructed and the latest and most improved machinery will be used. Later, it is proposed, to add to the building and put in new lines.

## RAIDED GAMBLING JOINT.

Policemen Arrested Four Last Night at House in "Blood Block" Alley.

Policemen Leon George and W. M. Harris last night about 9 o'clock raided a negro gambling joint in what is known as "Blood Block" alley, leading from Fourth, between Brunswick and Bladen streets. Policemen George had received a tip that gambling was going on at the house of Ella Johnson and at an opportune time he and Policemen Harris swooped down on the place. The Johnson woman was arrested and charged with conducting a gaming house while Jas. Pax Nixon, Robert Stevenson and Willie Holley, young negro men, were taken in custody, charged with gambling.

Another woman in the house made her escape during the round up. A deck of cards, some what worn for wear, was all the paraphernalia found.

## TRAGEDY AT FLORENCE, S. C.

Railroad Special Agent Shot Down by Dispensary Spy There Last Night at the Station.

Mr. J. O. Blount, 54 years of age, an Atlantic Coast Line special agent, or detective, was shot and almost instantly killed at the depot in Florence, S. C., early last night by a dispensary constable named Rowell, who was intoxicated. The tragedy occurred near the entrance to the waiting room in the passenger depot, while hundreds of people were waiting to and from the trains which connect there about 8 o'clock. Rowell was immediately arrested and lodged in jail.

The men had quarreled over some personal matter and Mr. Blount's connection with the Coast Line had nothing to do with the homicide.

There was much excitement at the depot over the tragedy, and the several trains due to depart at that hour were delayed. The train due here last night at 10 o'clock did not arrive, for that and other reasons, until after 1 o'clock this morning. Passengers on the train to Wilmington spoke of the affair this morning as a cold-blooded murder. Blount has a large family and had always borne an excellent character. The ball from a dispensary constable's pistol entered the temple and came out near the right ear.

## DRUIDS PLAN BENEFICENTLY.

Linden Grove Will Have Holiday Gifts for One Hundred Worthy Poor.

Thankful for the blessings and prosperity of the past year and mindful of those less fortunate than themselves, members of Linden Grove No. 2, United Ancient Order of Druids, of this city, have in their hearts to do something substantial and pleasant for the poor of the community. Accordingly, a committee composed of Messrs. A. J. Marshall (chairman), Paul Case, W. W. King, Wm. B. Schuler, George Zigler and D. M. Beardsley, has been appointed to arrange for a reception in Druid's Hall on the night of Dec. 30th, when 100 worthy poor of the city will be welcomed by the chairman of the committee, presiding, and they will be given New Year offerings of substantial character, such as a clothing, etc., with confederations and other little delicacies for the children among the number. The committee is now preparing a list of 100 of the most deserving and they will be most highly remembered upon this occasion. The purpose of the order in this matter is highly commendable, and the STAR is certain that the joy of the poor and prosperity for the year who give and to those who receive.

## WIDE PEAK FARMERS ALIVE.

Meeting of Growers, Merchants, Bankers and Manufacturers at Fayetteville.

FAYETTEVILLE, Dec. 16.—The meeting of Cumberland county cotton farmers with the Chamber of Commerce here to-day was presided over by Capt. J. D. McNeill, with Mr. F. R. Rose as secretary. Mr. J. C. Blair, secretary of the Farmers' Alliance in Cumberland county, presided at the meeting, which was held in the Chamber of Commerce building. The chairman, who had previously stated the object of the meeting to be that of inducing farmers to hold their present crop for remunerative prices and to curtail production next year. Mr. Bennett, of 71st township, told of the evils of over-production, saying that a ten million bale crop meant loss for the staple and prosperity for the South while a twelve million bale crop meant loss and ruin. The remedy was reduced acreage and that only could be accomplished by organization.

In behalf of the manufacturing interests, Mr. W. L. Holt spoke with force and clearness, saying the drop in prices of cotton would mean a corresponding drop in the price of manufactured goods. He had just returned from Greensboro, where he had a conference with Mr. Cone, one of the most extensive manufacturers in the South, who expressed himself in the same way.

Mr. H. W. Lilly, president of the Bank of Fayetteville, expressed himself heartily in sympathy with the movement, saying that the interests of the banker and the farmer were identical; that while the present situation enabled the large to make profitable transactions with the farmers, remunerative prices for their products made the farmers far more valuable customers.

Mr. John R. Tolar, of the New York Cotton Exchange, and president of the Tolar-Hart-Holt Cotton Mills, addressed the meeting very interestingly, pointing out the reduction of cotton prices would mean a corresponding drop in the price of manufactured goods. He believed, though, that 11,000,000 bale crop could be very well handled, and that it would bring 10 cents. He would not do just to reduce the acreage; growers must show to the world that they were reducing it. It was a mistake that low cotton prices meant low prices for the farmer. He said their mills saw better times all ways with cotton at 10 cents and over.

Maj. E. J. Hale, Mr. A. L. McCaskey, Mr. J. H. Currie and others spoke in the same vein, and at length a resolution by Col. A. H. Glendon was adopted recommending a reduction of acreage of 25 per cent, with corresponding reduction in fertilizers, and a judicious placing of the cotton on the market until the acreage reduction develops.

New Weed Plant

Whiteville News: "A new enterprise is being erected on the Whiteville Lumber Co.'s railroad, just below their mill at Vineland, which will be an entirely new industry for this county."

The Weed Plant Company, a corporation composed of Northern capitalists, are putting in machinery there for manufacturing turpentine, oil and other products, using as a material from which to manufacture these products lightwood stumps which are taken from the fields and woods by means of a large stump puller, which machine is operated by steam power. We learn that there is ample capital behind the enterprise and that the plant is expected to be in operation by January 1st.

—Friends out of town have received invitations to the marriage of Miss Octavia Horstman Boatwright and Mr. Robert Howell Gwaltney, which will be celebrated at the home of the bride's parents, Capt. and Mrs. John Lord Boatwright, in this city, on the evening of the 28th of December, No. 404 Orange street.

—Mr. A. P. Thomas and little son, Neil, of Salisbury, were in the city yesterday. Mr. Thomas is on the rural free delivery route emanating from Salisbury and makes the highest terms of the value of the service to residents in the country.

## NEWS FROM RALEIGH.

State Cotton Growers Gathered in Respective Counties for Common Purpose.

INTERESTING BLADEN CASE.

White Men Given New Trial for Assault Upon Singletary—Interesting Recommendation by Tax Commission as to Poll Tax—Notes.

[Special Star Telegram.]

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 17.—Wake county cotton farmers in session to-day decided to hold all cotton on hand for ten cents and to reduce the acreage for the next year twenty-five per cent. Reports received indicate that similar action was taken to-day by practically every cotton county in the State.

The Supreme Court delivers an opinion in case of State vs. Davis, from Bladen, which gave rise to the noted and sensational impeachment proceedings by Judge Peebles against the Lumberton Bar. A new trial is granted on the grounds that Judge Peebles indicated pre-judgment of the case in the midst of the trial by declaring that the identity of certain handwritings was already established to the satisfaction of the court and there need be no further evidence on that point, an expert witness being on the stand at the time. The defendants were sentenced to four months each on the roads but they have a new trial. The case was against four men, E. J. I. J. and D. A. Davis and E. V. Freeman for assault on A. D. Singletary. He was shot in the eye because of a dispute about a stock law.

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 17.—In the report of the Tax Commission to Governor Aycock, just filed, it is recommended that the poll tax be not allowed to exceed \$2; that cities and towns be not allowed to levy any poll tax; that statutes be not passed authorizing a higher tax rate than 66 cents on the one hundred dollar, and that the State tax rate be so limited that when added to the State and County tax, it will not be a confiscation of any class of property.

The commission's statement or summary of property valuations and taxes in the State that makes a very interesting showing. It shows that the total value of all property in the State for 1904 is \$445,328,761, a gain of \$151,963,328 since 1899 and as compared with \$433,372,939 in 1903. The total value of land is \$142,000,000. Of counties taxes \$188,401,691.85. Make second and Mecklenburg third with \$1,080,731. The capital stock of banks is \$7,583,498 with \$9,707,070 in value. Railroads are valued at \$70,612,791. The total indebtedness of counties is \$2,514,980 and of towns \$5,554,383. Mecklenburg has the largest of any county with \$339,500. Asheville the largest of any town, \$991,500. Charlotte owes \$215,000; Wilmington, \$274,700; Greensboro, \$450,000. Of counties taxes \$188,401,691.85. Make second and Mecklenburg third with \$1,080,731. The capital stock of banks is \$7,583,498 with \$9,707,070 in value. Railroads are valued at \$70,612,791. 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