

# The News and Observer.

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RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 17, 1899.

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## LEADS ALL NORTH CAROLINA DAILIES IN NEWS AND CIRCULATION

### METROPOLIS OF THE PAMLICO

A City That Literally Rose From its Ashes.

### OLD AND NEW BLENDED

ITS LUMBER, SHIPPING, OYSTERS, FISH AND TRUCK INTERESTS.

ALMOST WHOLLY DESTROYED BY FIRE

The Washington of Today Greater Than When It Was The State's Foremost Shipping Point. The Home of Culture and Hospitality.

Washington, N. C., Dec. 13.—(Editorial Correspondence.)—I have the honor to have first opened my eyes in this beautiful city when the guns of the Yankee soldiers were met by the booming of the guns manned by the bravest men who ever fought for the preservation of constitutional liberty and in defense of their homes.

"I remember, I remember the house where I was born, The little window where the sun came peeping in at morn."

It was then called "Little Washington" and while it had a population of only 2,500 or 3,000 it was a business centre of commanding importance when the first gun was fired at Fort Sumter. It is "Little Washington" no more, but a growing, flourishing business mart of 7,000 inhabitants, with the confidence of future steady development.

No town or city in the South suffered so severely by the war, both in the actual destruction of property and the injury of its trade. On the first of January, 1860, Washington owned one hundred and twenty-seven sea-going vessels and was the largest shipping point in the State unless Wilmington, its rival, equaled it. The town was burned by the Federal troops early in the war and seven days later all that had escaped was burned except five blocks, and when the diminished ranks of the thirteen companies that Washington furnished to the Confederacy returned after four years of conflict, they found only standing chimneys where they had left comfortable homes. They were confronted with tasks equally as great as those which grim-visaged war brought to them. Houses burned, property destroyed, business gone, commerce diverted into new channels—these were the gloomy and dispiriting things to which the Confederate soldier returned. It was bad enough in itself, but the contrast between the prosperous and beautiful town of 1860 and the destroyed town and depressed conditions was enough to cause the stoutest heart to quail.

One of the brave men who won promotion for gallantry on the field of battle said to me: "I could face the bullets of the enemy without a tremor, but it required all the fortitude I could summon to come back to silent chimneys, sentinels of our poverty, and look the future in the face without feeling like running away from the conflict." A magnificent monument in the lovely cemetery here tells of the valor of the 1,625 Confederate soldiers who followed Lee from this town, and the youth are taught to honor the brave men who gave up their lives for the Lost Cause. It is well, for there is no way to teach patriotism better than to commemorate the deeds of brave men. Sometimes as I have seen the Confederate soldier, who followed Lee, fighting with poor success the battles of a bread-and-meat existence, I have thought with the soldier quoted above, that the men who returned to fight for commercial and professional and agricultural success had a conflict quite as hard as that of shot and shell. The monuments to those who died in battle are also erected to those who have fought valiantly to retrieve fallen fortunes after four years of service in the war.

Here in Washington the recovery was slow at first. People who had been rich were set to make brick without straw—to begin life with no homes and no trades and business all changed and trade diverted. But they have succeeded. Through travail, through energy, through faith in themselves and their country these people have come forth from the fiery furnace, stronger and more prosperous than in the old times. It is one of the marvels of the age how the South has recovered after its immense loss of manhood and of treasure. There is no parallel to it in all history unless it be France after the Franco-German war. There is no town where the loss was so great as here and therefore no place where one can see so good an object lesson of the recuperation from the losses of war.

The rebuilding has been done almost wholly until the last few years by able men with the small capital that they have made right here. Before the war two prosperous banks, in large brick structures of imposing appearance were among the town's chief institutions. The banks went the way of the wreck of matter, but the devouring flame did not reach the buildings. They still stand on Main street, one still used as a bank and the other as law and insurance offices—reminders in their solid appearance of the architecture of another day. But though these old banks, solid in their day, are no more the Washington of today has two banking institutions that are strong and useful, and are to the business of the com-

munity what the heart is to the human body.

The Bank of Washington has a capital of \$50,000. Its officers are Seth Bridgman, president; J. Havens, vice-president; Thos. J. Latham, cashier; T. J. Latham, Jr., assistant cashier.

The First National Bank of Washington has the same capital—\$50,000—with the following officers: J. L. Fowle, president; D. M. Carter, vice president; A. M. Dumay, cashier.

Now, Bath had been a place of considerable importance, being probably the oldest town in the colony, and having had the first public library; and the last named act shows that she had been outstripped by the new town. But it seems that Bath did not surrender its dignities without a struggle; for in 1784 the Assembly passed "An act annexing certain lands laid off by Thomas Respass to the town of Washington," and in 1785, "An act to alter the place of holding the county court of Beaufort county from Bath to the town of Washington, said county, and to erect a new court house, prison, pillory and stocks in said county."

Up to 1892 the Jamesville Railroad was a competitor of the O. D. L. Since 1892 the Coast Line has been a competitor and for several years the average shipment of various packages of truck by the Coast Line has been about 60,000, cabbage, strawberries, asparagus, beets, &c., making many of these packages.

Mr. W. P. Baughman, who is one of the most progressive and successful men in Eastern North Carolina, is the leader in truck. He grows each year thirty-five acres of cabbage; thirty acres of cucumbers; thirty acres of sprouting Irish potatoes; fifty-five acres of fall crop Irish potatoes; thirty acres of beets; three acres of tomatoes; eight acres of asparagus; twenty acres of cauliflower and large acres in spinach, kale, cauliflower, egg plant, etc. He ships for nine months each year, and for two months he ships two to six car loads daily. He has just dug 2,000 barrels of fall or second crop seed Irish potatoes of which he makes a specialty. His fine truck farms named "Cottage Grove" and "Honey Pod" are as beautiful and rich farms as can be found anywhere in the world. In a sense, trucking is speculated on a big scale—if the seasons hit, you make big money; if Norfolk gets its immense crop in first, North Carolina truckers "go broke."

Mr. Baughman and others who truck with as much system and attention to detail as are observed in a banking institution, have found trucking profitable. It is destined soon to be a much greater industry than at present. I met with a friend who had excellent celery shipped from Kalamazoo. That ought to be stopped and the money be kept at home.

The chief truck crop is potatoes, of which from 75,000 to 100,000 barrels are shipped during the month of June. In January, about 1,000 barrels of second crop potatoes are shipped for seed purposes. About 1,000 car-loads of cabbage and peas go from this place every year; and large quantities of cucumbers, beets, beans, lettuce, strawberries, asparagus—in fact, almost every variety of truck and garden vegetables. The yearly output is worth \$250, and is handled within a period of ninety days. Washington possesses considerable importance as a market and shipping point for the other products of the surrounding country. From 50,000 to 100,000 bushels of rice are sold and re-shipped. Not a great amount of cotton is raised in this section, but about 15,000 bales are handled here, annually. A large part of the corn produced in this and adjacent counties is marketed here.

There are portions of this county and adjacent counties that produce fine rice. There is a rice mill here that was a successful industry until the formation of the rice trust. When the trust laid its hand on the mill, it was closed and the price of rice pressed down to a price that leaves little or no margin of profit. A gentleman told me last night that he knew one farmer who had 1,400 bushels, but the price was so low that he was trying to hold it. At present prices he would lose money on it. A rice dealer in New York, I see, attributes the low price to "the monetary stringencies prevalent at nearly all trade centres." He also says there are not a few who, "well-heeled financially, are quietly picking up 'cream lots,' fully persuaded that present prices are far below normal worth and that no investment in the grocery line promises larger pecuniary reward.

Advices from the South note steady movement at all points. Receipts at nearly all milling centres are falling away and there is a growing disposition on the part of planters to defer sales until after "the turn of the year." Still, there are those who must sell to meet maturing obligations. No one realizes more than the grower that present returns are inadequate and no fair remuneration for land employed and labor expended, but liquidation is imperative, hence supply for the moment, ample. The current month will probably see the end of the pressure, and then will come quick recovery and advance all along the line.

The question that puzzles me is this: How is it that all articles made by a trust have gone up from 25 to 100 per cent because, as they say, of good times and plenty of money, while rice, tobacco and other farm products have gone down because of "monetary stringencies prevalent at nearly all trade centres?" If the trusts do not use their power to rob the consumer and producer, why this inconsistency? The rice planters are in a bad fix, like the tobacco farmers, though the world needs more of their stuff than ever. There is no explanation of the slump in prices except that the trust puts prices down.

"We have a good many mills down the Pamlico river and its tributaries. I will name the Bayside mill, 16 miles below here with a capacity of some 9,000,000 annually. It is owned by the Roanoke Railroad and Lumber Co., of Norfolk, Va. The Springer Lumber Co., South Creek, is owned by the same company at South Creek, N. C. Capacity about 6,000,000 feet annually; the Seranton and North Carolina Land and Lumber Co., of Maysville, capacity about 7,500,000 feet; the Allochey Lumber Co., of Seranton, operating two saw mills and one planing mill at Seranton; the planing mill and one saw mill is at Belpont, N. C., and then comes The Pungo Lumber Co., of which Mr. W. P. Baughman is

President and Treasurer and Robert L. Temple manager, and L. L. Hannaford is Secretary. It has a capacity of 7,500,000 feet annually. These mills all own their steam tug boats to haul logs and are modern mills. The Pungo Lumber Co. operates steam skidders and loaders on steel tracks in the woods to haul out and load logs on the train which takes them to the water for floating to mill, and dispense with the use of them to a great extent. The Roanoke Railroad and Lumber Co. do the same, and also the D. C. Way Lumber Company. Its mill is located on the Pungo river near Lecchville with a capacity of some 7,500,000 feet and its postoffice is Haslin. The general office of the Pungo Lumber Company is in Washington."

This is the centre of a fine trucking section. The trucking interests have developed wonderfully since about 1887 when only a few hundreds of packages were shipped. A few visits of some of the leading farmers to Newbern gave them a wonderful inspiration in this direction and soon the business began to develop.

Below is a list of years with packages of Irish potatoes shipped by the O. D. L. Line 1890, 11,561 barrels; 1891, 11,351; 1892, 11,564; 1893, 9,346; 1894, 16,918; 1895, 5,570; 1896, 30,854; 1897, 35,805. Large quantities were also shipped in car load lots to Western cities.

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(Continued on Second Page.)

### STRIDES OF WIDE AWAKE TARBORO

Fast Developing Into a Great Manufacturing Town.

### A MARVELOUS CHANGE

ITS RELIANCE ONCE ALMOST SOLELY COUNTY TRADE

NOW LARGE COTTON MILLS HUM THERE

A Hosiery Mill Helps Pull in the Ducats: Trovells Ring Merrily on 2 New Cotton Mills, and Hammer and Saw on 50 Dwelling

Tarboro, N. C., Dec. 14.—(Editorial Correspondence.)—Tarboro is one of the most wide-awake and progressive towns in the State, rapidly developing into one of the best manufacturing towns. When I first knew it, not a pound of any product of the county was manufactured here, and almost the sole reliance of Tarboro was the trade it enjoyed with a rich agricultural section. It has now a large and flourishing cotton mill and hosiery mill in operation, and two new large cotton factories and fifty residences are in process of erection. When these two mills are finished, Tarboro will have \$400,000 invested in cotton mills here at home. The first cotton mill erected here, of which S. S. Nash is president, A. M. Fairley is treasurer and superintendent, and Fred Phillips, A. M. Fairley, H. L. Staton, D. Lichtenstein and Geo. Holderness are directors—has paid remarkably well. It is owned entirely by about fifteen citizens of Tarboro and for eighteen months has been running night and day. It has a capital of \$100,000 and has paid so well that the company is erecting mill No. 2 which will be under the same management, having a capital of \$100,000. The superintendent and treasurer, Mr. A. M. Fairley, is a Cumberland county Scotchman (a blue stocking Presbyterian, of course), and he and the other owners (all Edgecombe county men) have demonstrated that the best place for a successful cotton mill is adjacent to a cotton field. I love to emphasize this fact: For twenty years, in most sections of North Carolina, the people waited for outside capital to come in and build factories. While they were waiting, the Holts, Steeles, Odells and other Tar-boys were making money manufacturing cotton. A few years ago the richest men in Tarboro came to the conclusion that if mill men in Burlington could make big dividends after paying freight on cotton, there was a little more money in manufacturing where no freight would have to be paid. They invested their own money and are so well satisfied that they are going to build another mill by the side of mill number one. It will be finished by the middle of January.

One of the most successful hosiery mills in the South is the Riverview mill conducted by Mr. John F. Shackelford, a prudent, live and successful business man. "Look at these socks I am wearing," said an ex-Judge. "They were made at Shackelford's Riverside Knitting mills and cost me 12½ cents a pair." They are good enough for anybody and I learn that the best dressed men in Tarboro take pride in wearing these home-made socks. That's the thing we need to learn in North Carolina—patronize home industries. Mr. Shackelford has an outside demand for the entire product of his mill and sells only at wholesale, but Tarboro folks insist on wearing Tarboro made socks. If the whole State could be vaccinated with the virus of patronizing home industry, our dollars would not run on wheels to Yankee-land, but would stay with us.

As you come into Tarboro, you see work being done on the "Fountain Cotton mill," a \$100,000 mill and twenty-five cottages for operatives. The mill and houses are situated on the Battle property, between the depot and the Fair grounds, and is to be a prosperous factory suburb. Mr. W. E. Fountain is at the head of this mill. He has interested some outside capitalists as stockholders, among them Mr. G. M. Serpelle, of the Norfolk and Carolina Railroad Company, and Mr. Reuben Foster. The factory is about completed and will be running by the 15th of January. When this factory and factory number two of the Tarboro cotton mills are in operation it will add one thousand to the population.

The Irene Silk Mill with a capital stock of \$50,000 will soon be in operation. Most all of the stock has been subscribed here, and it is expected that it will add largely to the prosperity of the country by encouraging the raising of silk worms.

The time was that this was an all-cotton country and so when cotton went down to five cents it was a disastrous blow to the Edgecombe farmers. He still makes cotton, but it is no longer King "Hog and hominy" first persistently preached here by Judge Dorsey Battle, then editor of the Tarboro Southerner, has been made the slogan of the farmer with the result that he has prepared himself to live at home and board at the same place, cotton or no cotton. The soil of this county is particularly well adapted to the cultivation of cotton and the better price this year has made better conditions for the cot-

ton farmer, but I understand that having cut his eye teeth he will not let the increased short crop cause him to return to the old one crop system. All along I am told there have been farmers here, even at the lowest prices, who have made money raising cotton. So long as farmers depend chiefly on negro labor, cotton must be the leading crop on land ideally adapted to its growth. I have heard of some farmers who have averaged from three-fourths to a bale of cotton to an acre this year. They are of course farmers whose lands have been kept in a high state of cultivation. The number of such farmers is constantly increasing. One gentleman tells me that the Edgecombe farmers have made this year ten per cent more cotton than last year, with at least fifteen per cent less acreage.

Trucking has come to be a big interest in Edgecombe, particularly around Conctoe where the flat, loamy soil is said to combine all the elements for early production. Mr. N. B. Dawson and Mr. Will Thigpen, of Conctoe, and Messrs. De Berry, C. H. King and Thad W. Thrash, of Tarboro, have been leaders in growing truck. Mr. Thigpen has four acres in lettuce alone this year and expects his crop to net him four thousand dollars. Mr. Dawson has 140 acres in vegetables and grows most everything that can be called vegetables. The truck in this section matures earlier than about Norfolk and the gentlemen who have gone into it and given it the necessary attention have made money.

The cultivation of tobacco is also new here, and Tarboro with its three large tobacco warehouses and prize houses ranks with the best tobacco markets of Eastern North Carolina. The low price this year has discouraged the farmers and they will raise less tobacco next year. A prominent lawyer, speaking of the drawback to agricultural improvement in the low price of tobacco said to me, "And yet I heard yesterday of a tenant of Mr. B. F. Eagle's at Crisp who has already sold seven hundred dollars worth of tobacco from a one-horse crop and has not yet sold two-thirds of his crop." The recent sales at the warehouses show that farmers realize the highest prices the Trust permits to be paid for the weed anywhere and the Tarboro market will sell twice as much tobacco this year as last.

The peanut has come to be a big crop in this county. The yield of the Spanish peanut has been good. Farmers have made from 25 to 100 bushels of the Virginia pea per acre. The county will produce at least 100 per cent more than last year. The peanut factory is to be erected during the coming year. Stock is being solicited for this factory and I am told that many farmers are taking stock in the company that is to erect and operate the mill. This is a good sign. If farmers have surplus money it shows that conditions are improving, and when they invest it in local factories they are as surely making two blades of grass where formerly only one grew as by actually doubling the blades on their farms. The increase of manufacturing in the towns and villages gives a ready market for every sort of truck and fowl grown on the farms, and frees the farmer from the necessity of making cotton or tobacco at unremunerative prices. The new peanut factory will with the increasing production of peanuts, give employment to workers and enable the buyer to pay the farmer more for this legislative necessity. So far I have heard of no agitation on the part of peanut growers for frequent sessions of the Legislature, but if the price continues to go down it may be the only legitimate way to increase consumption and therefore increase the demand. An average legislator will eat more peanuts in a sixty days' session than an ordinary citizen will consume in a year.

The late Bishop Lyman gave a boom to the peanut market when he prescribed roasted peanuts and sweet milk as a remedy for insomnia. If the peanut growers could induce Bishop Cheshire (a loyal son of Edgecombe) and all the other leaders of thought to make the same recommendation, the falling prices might be arrested. As it would help the farmer and induce sleep nobody could be hurt and everyone would be blessed.

Among the other manufacturing establishments here I may mention the plant of F. S. Royster Guano Co., the Edgecombe Agricultural Works, an extensive dyeing establishment, two buggy factories and quite a number of smaller industries that are found in up-to-date communities.

In addition to the two \$100,000 factories and fifty homes for factory operatives that are being erected, this has been a period of much building. Several handsome residences have been completed, a number of smaller ones are being erected, and other building is in progress. The Bank of Tarboro, a strong and flourishing institution, of which Mr. J. F. Shackelford is president and Mr. Joseph J. Green is cashier, is building a large storage warehouse here for the storage of cotton and peanuts, and will advance money on the warehouse receipts, thus enabling the farmer to hold his crop or part of it as long as he deems it to his interest to do so.

The county commissioners have authorized the building of modern fire-proof vaults and an enlargement and improvement of the court house, which is being done on a plan that will give Edgecombe one of the finest court houses in Eastern North Carolina. In this connection I cannot fail to mention that as a result of the 1898 elections the officials in the court house are most efficient and popular officials. The clerk, Mr. Pennington, has been in office a long time, and an ex-Judge here tells me that he is easily the best clerk in the State. Certainly he ranks along with the very best and there are none better. It is strange that in the days "bevo de wah, sah," our wise public officials when erecting new court houses did not provide fire proof apartments for the valuable rec-

(Continued on Second Page.)

### WOMAN MURDERER'S HER PARAMOUR

Mrs. Wallace, of Dobson, Fired the Shot.

### CORPSE NOW SECRETED

PROMINENT, WELL-TO-DO MAN IMPLICATED IN THE CRIME.

MURDERED MAN A FORMER CONVICT

Dobson Excited Over the Mysterious Murder. Mrs. Wallace in Jail. If Body is Found Surry County Will Have Most Sensational Trial.

Dobson, N. C., Dec. 16.—(Special.)—There is now being investigated here one of the most mysterious murders, if indeed there has been any murder, ever committed in North Carolina, about the middle of November Mrs. Sarah Wallace, a woman in full sympathy with Utah and Representative Roberts' manner of living, came to Dobson and reported that she had on the night previous shot and killed Sol Simpson, Simpson is a man who had served a term in the penitentiary for stealing whiskey and was considered a general nuisance. Many hoped her report was true, but no one cared to investigate and not being able to make her story believed, she returned home and found, as she claims, that while she was away to surrender to the authorities some one came with a wagon and removed the dead body, that she had left lying in front of her door. The body had been secreted and so far no trace of it has been found, though diligent search has now been made. Some four days ago the father of the murdered man, not hearing anything from his missing son and having heard these reports, had warrants sworn out with the result that Mrs. Wallace is now in jail and the search for the missing corpse goes merrily on. It seems now that she implicates a man of some standing and fair means and if the body is ever found old Surry will have a highly sensational and complicated murder trial.

Her story is now that Mr. Simpson was with her and that they knew Sol Simpson was coming. As she had no way to defend herself Mr. Simpson gave her his pistol and then retired. Simpson knocked for admittance and Mrs. Wallace informed him that she did not care for his company. He declared he would come in anyway and after two heavy assaults on the door with a huge rock the door fell in and Simpson started to enter. As he reached the threshold she fired the pistol and he fell. After a few moments she went to him and found his body was growing cold. She made further examination and a bullet hole was found in his breast, which caused immediate death. Then, as she claims, she came to Dobson to surrender and while here the body was removed and secreted away and thus the case stands at this writing.

Dobson, like most places, shows signs of improvement. The school here is now in good condition and Mr. J. E. Davis, the principal, is doing a good work. Messrs. Norman & Norman have just completed a nice two-story brick store and other stores have been improved in many points and additions. You will find here as good Democrats as ever breathed and at the same time Republicans who are almost as near partisan as the majority of our non-partisan Supreme Court and they are at work in every conceivable way against the Constitutional amendment. The Democrats are terribly in earnest and will make the white man voting against the amendment feel almost as black as Ephraim himself.

A Delightful Reception. Oxford, N. C., Dec. 13.—The reception given last night from 8 to 11 o'clock by Mr. and Mrs. John Webb to Mr. and Mrs. William A. Devin on their return from their bridal trip was an elegant and delightful entertainment. The house was beautifully decorated with palms and flowers. Those who assisted in receiving were Rev. and Mrs. R. I. Devin, Rev. and Mrs. J. S. Hardaway, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Shaw, Dr. and Mrs. E. T. White, Dr. and Mrs. S. H. Cannady, Misses Fannie Landis, Mary Curran and Helen Cannady, Messrs. Will Landis, Sidney Minor and J. G. Hall. In the dining room were Mrs. J. M. Baird, Mrs. A. J. Dalby and Miss Flora Hunt. There delicious and beautiful refreshments were served.

Miss Rena Anderson, who has been the guest of Mr. W. B. Ballou, will leave for her home near, Houston today.

Looks Like Pritchard. (Washington Post.) The resemblance between Roberts, the polygamist, and Senator Pritchard, of North Carolina, is remarkable. They might be twin brothers. Both are of the same build, have the same cast of features, wear mustaches trimmed alike and their curly hair might be duplicate wigs. Senator Pritchard occupied a seat on the floor of the House Monday after the Senate had adjourned, and if he had walked up to the Speaker's desk to be sworn in, as Roberts did, no one would have known the difference.