The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1883.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

THE PUBLICATION of such a book as "The Woods and Timbers of North Carolina" must prove of great value to the State, and we hope will prove of much pecuniary value to its publisher. The wonderful resources of our State have long enough been hidden from the knowledge of the public, and we are truly glad that Mr. Hale has shown us something of her forests.

THE STAR Route trial increased in interest last week by Rerdell, one of the defendants, voluntarily turning State's evidence. This testimony was very damaging to the other defendants, and ought to make their conviction certain. He fully proved the conspiracy between Dorsey and Brady, and exposed all its details. It is to be hoped that his evidence will hasten this interminable trial to a close. This will no doubt be the most expensive trial ever held in this country, but the people will not regret the expense if it results in the proper punishment of all the thieves.

THE FLOODS in the Ohio river have destroyed a vast amount of property and many lives. The great cities of Cincinnati and Louisville suffered a heavy loss, the waters having inundated whole squares and sonts were used on many streets instead of wheel vehicles. The rushing waters have finally reached the Mississippi river and are washing through the levees and submerging vast areas of land. It is feared that there may be a repetition of the scenes of last year's great flood. We should think that these inundations would deter persons from moving to the Mississippi valley, and induce them to remain where there are fewer floods.

THE LEGISLATURE has adopted a resolution to adjourn on Monday, the 5th day of March so that if our legislators intend doing anything they must hurry up. Very little important legislation has yet been done, and all the main work of the session will be crowded into a few days. The revenue bill has not been acted on in either branch, the Code committee has not reported, the redistricting of the State must yet be done, and indeed every important measure is still to be acted on. The little local business seems to have had the precedence. The Senate has passed its third reading the bill to sell the State's stock in the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad Company, and we are assured that it will pass the House. The bill to give the State's stock in the A. & N. C. R. R. Co. to the Midland Company will hardly pass. There will be a great increase in the number of our judicial districts, and no relief afforded the crowded dockets of our large counties, nor do we think the number of the Supreme Court Judges will be increased. The Senate has passed the above decided vote to-day to-day the bill to reorganize the Board of Agriculture, and the House will no doubt pass it. This bill provides for the election by the Legislature of one Commissioner from each Congressional district, and these nine Commissioners are to constitute the Board of Agriculture. We fear that this is only a scheme by the "Outs" against the "ins"—by certain persons to obtain the places of those now in office.

Several plans have been proposed for redistricting the State. We think it probable our district will be changed by taking off Granville and Vance, and attaching Alamance. It seems difficult for our legislators to agree upon any plan, because so many of them have Congressional aspirations and they wish the districts constructed in their interests.

The committee appointed to examine the new Code have not yet reported thereon, and it does strike us as bordering on the ludicrous that this committee should have set themselves up as critics and judges upon the Code Commissioners. The latter gentlemen—Messrs. Dortch, Manning and Henderson—are so far superior in legal learning and ability to the members of that committee that we hardly think the latter can improve the work of the former, especially when we remember that this work (The Code) is the result of two years of arduous and incessant study and research.

The Railroad Commission bill drags slowly along, not having yet passed either house, although the Senate has discussed it at great length. It will probably pass because so members of the Legislature wish to be appointed on the Commission.

The bill will not pass to have the school committeemen elected by the voters of the several districts. A bill has passed both houses to provide for the erection of a Governor's mansion.

THE MANNER of deciding cases of contested elections in Congress and our State Legislatures is simply outrageous, and cannot be too severely denounced. It has become the regular custom of legislative bodies to delay the decision in these cases until just before their adjournment, that is, if the successful contestant does not belong to the political party of the majority. In our State Legislature, at its present session, there were three cases of contested elections. One was decided a few weeks time by the Senate with commendable promptness—but there the successful contestant, Washburne, was a democrat, belonged to the party of the majority. In the next case (Moore against Williams) there was a greater delay—being decided last week—the vote being very close (49 to 48) and the democrat retained his seat. The third case (Parker against Peebles) is in much doubt, indeed the probabilities are that Parker, the republican contestant, ought to be seated, and by a singular chance (?) that case is delayed. Such unfairness and injustice must shock all fairminded persons.

But while our democratic Legislature has been guilty of unreasonable delays, yet our republican Congress has been guilty of still greater. Congress was in session for nearly nine months last year and for three months at its second session, and has not yet decided the case of Cook against Cutts, from Iowa. The committee decided only last week to report in favor of the contestant, who is a Greenbacker, and the House will hardly act on the report until next week, and the man who was elected will be seated only a few days before the adjournment of Congress! Now does any one think that there would have been such a disgraceful delay in this case if the contestant had been a republican? This is no worse than some previous cases of past Congresses.

Another very extraordinary feature connected with cases of contested elections is that they are always allowed and if by a strict party vote. What would be said by an ordinary jury in more complicating a case by a party vote (democrats, republicans)? And yet the conservative Democrats of the South refuse to pass judgment in cases of contested elections. It is a sad commentary upon the intense partisanship and political perfidies. Ever since the infamous decision of the so-called "eight to seven" electoral commission we have had no confidence in Congress or in our ruling political parties or representatives.

Our Raleigh Letter.

[Special correspondence of the Record.]

RALEIGH, N. C., Feb. 15, 1883.

In the Senate Thursday Pearsall's Yadkin Valley Railroad bill, with certain amendments, passed second reading to-day on its third reading. The Senate amendments in favor of the bill and in the House of the same opposition friends in the western part of the country, and the former being complete control of the road. Both Methodist Conferences will meet in Raleigh in the business portion of the country, and the crowd of visitors is not exhibit to be more than the shipments to Raleigh I have no doubt more than will be shipped from the emporium that has blackberries from Winston, which are for trade with the Hudson Bay Fur Company. Your famous old county will then be rendered doubly more famous by appeasing the appetites of the world that its honored namesake was made famous by his eloquence. But seriously there is every prospect of the road being built, unless our western brethren lock on so many amendments to get through more readily. Our people are very anxious to get the road to the Pacific ocean and Atlantic ocean as to get a few dollars in advance of the abilities of the syndicate. It is feared the amendments already adopted will compel the syndicate to abandon the whole affair.

The sub-committee on re-districting the State will report a bill to the full committee this afternoon which takes Granville and Johnston out of the Fourth and adds Alamance, Wayne and a part of Wilson. With this district as the Fourth it will be in point of population, as in other respects, the metropolitan district.

Nearly all of the time of the session to-day was occupied by speech making on the subject of the railroad commission. Bigg's resolves have been made by Payne, Pennix, Boykin, Clarke and others. The fight seems to be as to the kind of a commission, for no one has been found who is willing to oppose a commission, while every one admits that a commission will not amount to a d—n controll g railroads chartered prior to 1868.

There seems to be a mania on the subject of graded schools. Nearly every little town in the State wants a graded school. The committee on education will report a general bill for graded schools and if your most excellent private schools should ever fail you you may be able to have a graded school in your little town. The principles of Mr. Dortch's bill published in your last issue will probably be incorporated in this bill.

A delegation of about twenty members visited Beaufort last Saturday and returned on Monday morning. They express themselves as having had a most delightful visit. They were entertained by the board of trade of Newberne on their way down. Scott of Rockingham replied to an address of welcome by the mayor and expressed himself in the course of his brief remarks as thoroughly disgusted with the member an old negro in the ward was depleting the Senate of its supply of cash, and insisted upon a re-consideration of the bill would favor a repeal of the charter of the town.

The gentleman who hails from the county in which the W. & W. R. R. will have its most southern terminus (on a wharf) went sailing with a most charming young widow. You may imagine his discomfiture when his flight was stopped with a cry from Mason City, he offered the boatman "all the money he had just to be put on the shore once more" and then to have his lady love prevent the boatman from returning to shore. He is now sicker than he was when he was tossing the waves. Q. Z.

Our Washington Letter.

[From our regular correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 17, 1883.

There has been an intolerable amount of grumbling by government employees over the proposition pending in congress to increase their hours of labor instead of seven. The department clerks now open from 9 a. m. to 4 p. m., and most of the clerks work from five to six hours an hour or so being taken at noon for lunch or cleaning, and half an hour being wasted both morning and evening in getting ready to begin and in putting it quit. The loss of adding one to these hours makes the average clerk lose. These clerks are continually living out that their lots is not a happy one, but they entirely forget that they spent their time and money freely in getting their places, and that not one in ten would go back to his native place if there he could get a living wage he gets here. To these fortunate with the personnel of the departments these complaints pay but a smile. When one takes into the minds of the families of all the clerks who are holding but drawing pay, the people who are put in to be salaried, those who get their salaries through Congress, and those who get their salaries through the executive departments, it is a very large population. Many of the above classes are land-owners and all householders. They come to Washington and in six months their ideas change. They find living in a city on $900 to be one of the exact sciences. But they would rather die than go back home.

Mr. Carlisle and Mr. Morrison and others are "lighting into" the tariff bill in a manner very amusing to the galleries, but exceedingly doleful for the ways and means committee. But when the tariff bill comes Mr. Randall and Fischer it will meet with its John L. Sullivan. He has been heating up for it for weeks, and when "them protection fellers" strike upon Tucker they will find that they are fooling with fire and getting burnt. He is an immensely hard working man. Although wear more than most gentlemen members of congress he allows himself one day of rest and does not work or visit on Sunday. The only dissipation he allows himself is a Sunday night sermon from a Presbyterian divine. Nothing on earth would induce Mr. Tucker to forego that rigid and seasoned discourse. He arrives early and marches into church armed with a large hymn book, and when the clergyman appears he fixes his eyes upon him and looks solemnly at him while the excellent Blue Light discusses the manner in which the Children of Israel pounded certain genealogical texts of scripture a few thousand years ago. Meanwhile Deacon Tucker enjoys himself hugely and has fellowship with unflagging attention. Next day, however, he forgets all about the Christians until the next Sunday, and fans the hide of the republicans in congress. Mr. Tucker is wise first and witty afterwards.

The republicans are incubating over the reorganization of the senate. They want the offices now held by democrats and a new president pro tem., but don't know just how to get about getting them without a special session. Mahone seems to be giving them some uneasiness just now. He wants a good deal for his support and wants things fixed beforehand. The snob Hazen who runs the weather bureau is getting his hide rubbed a little and some of his questionable methods are being exposed. The weather office was never so nearly worthless in its results as it has been lately, and it was never had a worse man at its head. It is said that an item of $2 and has been put in the sundry civil appropriation bill to pay for the services of the guess who tried the Clinton case. They have to content themselves with $2 per day for their services, but put in a claim for extra compensation in consideration of the long time they were required to remain on the jury. Had it not been for the objection of Mr. Hoiman, who came in just as the bill was passing, the house would have passed a bill requiring all proclamations and government advertisements to appear in two newspapers printed in this city. It is said the bill would net $50,000 to the newspapers selected annually. Shortly after the war and for several years, the administration newspaper in this city made over $100,000 a year out of government advertising under just such a law. Advertisements of sales of condemned government property in Texas or the far west were clipped out of exchanges and inserted after the sales had taken place, but the bids were allowed and often accepted from a distance. The property came to. Mr. Assistant Postmaster General Hatton wants to revive the sort of pay for his administration organ. PRESS.

Value of Fertilizers.

N. C. AGRICULTURAL STATION.
BULLETIN No. 1. (Continued.)

1934. Filbert Acid Phosphate, Wm. C. Jones & Co., General Agents, Charleston, S. C., compiled at Charleston, contains: available phos. acid 10.65, potash 2.50 per cent. Relative commercial value $24.20.

1935. Ammoniated Dissolved Bones, John Merryman & Co., Baltimore, Md., sampled at Shipley, contains: available phos. acid 9.81, ammonia 2.10, potash 0.60 per cent. Relative commercial value $24.35.

1936. Pacific Guano Company's Soluble Pacific Guano, John S. Reese & Co., agents, 10 South street, Baltimore, Md., sampled at Shipley, contains: available phos. acid 8.24, ammonia 2.93, potash 3.66 per cent. Relative commercial value $24.32.

1940. Standard Acid Phosphate, dissolved by C. D. Jones, Allison & Adams, Richmond, Va., sampled at Shipley, contains: available phos. acid 11.24 per cent. Relative commercial value $25.04.

1941. Zell's Cotton Acid Phosphate, P. Z. & A. Sons, Baltimore, Md., sampled at Cincinnati, contains: available phos. acid 11.04, potash 1.47 per cent. Relative commercial value $25.43.

1942. Wando Acid Phosphate of Lime, Bone Phosphate Wando Phosphate Company, Charleston, S. C., sampled at Cincinnati, contains: available phos. acid 10.87, potash 1.47 per cent. Relative commercial value $25.05.

1943. Special Cotton and Plant-grader and Vanhook & Obrien's Bone, Baltimore, Md., sampled at Shipley, contains: Available phos. acid 8.71, ammonia 2.80, potash 1.10 per cent. Relative commercial value $21.85.

1944. John Merryman & Co's High Grade Acid Phosphate, John Merryman & Co., Baltimore, Md., sampled at Shipley, contains: Available phos. acid 11.80 per cent. Relative commercial value $26.65.

1945. Pacific Guano Co's Dissolved Bone Phosphate of Lime, John S. Reese & Co., agents, 10 South St., Baltimore, Md., contains: Available phos. acid 10.55, potash 1.07 per cent. Relative commercial value $22.85.

CHAS. W. DABNEY, Jr., Director.

Increase of Southern Orchards.

[From the New York Herald.]

One of the most notable results shown by the agricultural returns given in the compendium of the census just published is the great increase in the value of Southern orchard products during the ten years between 1870 and 1880. The increase has been marked in the South generally, but in four or five States it has been enormous. Thus the value of products in Alabama was $47,500 in 1870; in 1880 it was $462,268. In Florida it was $53,613 in 1870 and $738,254 in 1880. The value of products in Mississippi from $71,018 in 1870 to $578,145 in 1880, and in Texas from $69,173 to $876,841.

The aggregate value of all orchard products in the United States in 1880 was $50,876,154; in 1870 it was $47,335,189. This slight increase in the country at large is due to the fact that the crop of 1880 in most of the great fruit growing States of the North was considerably below the average. New York stands at the head of the fruit growing States, and Pennsylvania comes next. The orchard products of the former, as returned by the census of 1880, reached a value of $8,409,791, and those of the latter $1,862,826.

A Tax Collector Robbed.

A despatch from Montgomery, Ala., dated the 16th, says: The tax collector of Lawrence county, S. D. Houston, left Courtland yesterday to go to Moulton, the county seat, with $1,900, which he was carrying to the county superintendent of education. About six miles from town, in a lonely part of the road, a masked man stopped him, presented a revolver and robbed him of $1,000; $1,000 was in Houston's boots, and the robber failed to discover it. The robber then took Houston's horse and rode off. There is no clue to the identity of the highwayman.

Drowned in a Mine.

A despatch from Braidwood, Illinois, dated 17th, says: The city is filled with lamentation owing to the terrible disaster of yesterday, which resulted in the death of seventy persons. A number of those killed leave large families. The accident occurred in section 3, shaft No. 2, of the Wilmington Coal Mining and Manufacturing Company's mine. The shaft in which the accident occurred has been worked for the past eight years, is situated at Diamond a little village about four miles from Wilmington and two miles from Braidwood. The country thereabout is as level as a floor, with perhaps a slight inclination toward the mines. The sudden thaw and heavy rainfall transformed the prairie into a lake, and for a mile about Diamond the water stands from six inch a to three feet in depth. With scarcely any warning there suddenly appeared an opening from the surface of the earth into the mine, and the surface being covered with water, it took only a short time for the water to permeate the entire mine, drowning all who were unable to get out before the rising water caught them. There was little time to give an alarm, for in less than an hour from the time this break occurred every avenue of escape was cut off and every occupant of the mine at the time must have been drowned. The galleries were low and narrow, and only by painfully slow crawling could the victims escape. No lamps accompanied the rising of the water, and the first indication had of their danger by many of the dead was the chilling sensation of cold water trickling along the pathway in which they lay at work. There was an air shaft offering an additional avenue of escape, of which many availed themselves, but the water came in too rapidly to allow all to reach it. The mine was not considered especially dangerous, though a break had occurred once before at about the same place. There is no chance of escape, but in order to reach the bodies of the dead the general manager has gone to the scene of the disaster with two steam pumps. It is said that an effort will be made to reach the mine from shaft No. 1, but there is not the remotest possibility of finding any of the men alive. Only drowned or suffocated remains can be recovered. The majority of the workers under ground are foreigners—English, Scotch and Irish.

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