The Chatham Record

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H. A. LONDON, Editor.

THE STATE EXPOSITION.

We cannot refrain from repeatedly calling the attention of our readers to the proposed State exposition, because we regard it as a subject of the highest importance; indeed we believe if the proper interest is taken that this exposition will benefit North Carolina more greatly than any event that has occurred during many years. As heretofore mentioned by us, it is proposed to hold the exposition under the management of an incorporated company, and in a recent issue of the News and Observer is published the proposed charter or articles of incorporation. The corporate name of the company will be "The North Carolina State Exposition", and its business will be, "the holding of an exposition of the products and industries of the State of North Carolina for the purpose of aiding the development of the resources of the State and inducing the influx of capital and desirable immigration into the State." The capital stock of the company will be $25,000 to be divided into shares of $25 each, and the stockholders are not to be individually liable for the debts of the company. It is desirable that the stock be taken by persons in all parts of the State and thus a widespread interest be taken in the exposition. For this purpose copies of the charter with explanatory articles are being sent to persons in every county inviting them to become stockholders. There should be, and we hope will be, a large number of stockholders in this county.

The several counties are also requested to have county exhibits at the exposition. As much space as is desired will be allotted to any county in which to display its exhibit. Already we hear of some counties beginning to prepare their exhibits, and we sincerely hope that Chatham will prepare an exhibit second to none. We can do it if we will, only make the effort. We therefore appeal to our countymen to bestir themselves and take an active interest in this important matter.

We notice that some of our contemporaries are objecting to the exposition being held at Raleigh and are suggesting other towns as more suitable. All we have to say to this is, if the citizens of other towns wish it held in their town let them subscribe for a majority of the stock and thus be enabled to control the action of the company. Let them back their wishes with their money! If a majority of the stockholders—those who pay their money—desire the exposition to be held at Raleigh or anywhere else, other persons especially those who pay nothing, have no cause to complain. We would like to see the public spirited citizens of all our large towns enter into a lively competition in this matter and subscribe largely so as to control the location of the exposition.

CONGRESS.

Both branches of Congress reassembled on last Monday after the usual recess for the Christmas holidays. In the House of Representatives a perfect flood of bills was poured by our patriotic Representatives, every one of whom wished to show his constituents that he was "giving them their money's worth." The total number of bills introduced that day was 670—a pretty good beginning. They related to all sorts and every subject of legislation that can be imagined. Of course the great bulk of them will die in the hands of the various committees, to which they are referred. One of the most absurd of the number was that introduced by a demagogue from Iowa, named Weller, for the relief of soldiers and sailors of the late war and to restore to them equal rights in money payment with the holders of government bonds. It provides for the issue of $500,000,000 in Treasury notes with which to pay to soldiers and sailors the difference in value between the money paid to them and gold, together with 8 per cent. interest thereon. This would doubtless meet with the approval of all ex-federal soldiers, but would not be so cordially approved by the tax-payers of the country.

We are pleased to note that the House committee has agreed to report favorably the bill for the relief of Fitz John Porter that was passed by the Senate at its last session. We sincerely hope that justice will at last be done this officer and his fair name be vindicated. It is thought that Congress will adjourn by the first of June. Many Representatives will doubtless wish to return home as soon as possible in order to canvass for their re-nomination.

MERCANTILE FAILURES.

There have been, during the past month, more mercantile failures in this State than in the same period for several years past, and the end is not yet. The cause is ascribed to the short crops and the difficulty of making collections. In the cotton counties there have been more failures than in other portions of the State, though one of the heaviest failures occurred at Salisbury, a section where cotton is not much cultivated. There will always be mercantile failures as long as the credit system is used, and yet it seems a necessity. There is no doubt, however, that the credit system is too much abused, and is too often injurious to both the seller and the buyer. Merchants are frequently so anxious to sell their goods—to have the appearance of doing a large business—that they do not exercise proper care in giving credit; and then, customers too frequently buy articles which they do not really need, simply because they can get them on a credit. Hence it is, when the crops fail, we always hear of merchants failing. The best plan is to pay as you go, and not spend your crop before it is made!

Our Washington Letter.

From our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 5, 1884.

The usual New Year's parade at the White house took place on Tuesday, the finest holiday reception Washington has experienced in many years. Just why it has been so much finer than that of last year I cannot say, unless it be that the Cabinet ladies have decided to discard the Nina Vanderbilt order of dress at the Capital, for they have been worn three years in succession, these many years. It is the same old thing over and over again, a rush of people to see and be seen, a display of fine toilets, the grand exchange of compliments, with a flood of flattery thrown in. There is music and flowers, military display, naval uniforms, and the gaudy, as well as strange costumes of the representatives of foreign lands, some in scant dress to most Dodge salaams to the American fashionable matrons. Army society certainly has been greatly lifted by a three days' race, the army performances, also in honor of a visit from those who [illegible] Boston society, and [illegible] Washington society has been [illegible] to [illegible].

All the signs point to a very active week in Congress, the Senate and House alike feeling the stress of the approaching session actually begun. Mr. Randall has already got his Appropriations Committee at work and certainly the country need to be grateful to Messrs. Morrison and the Ways and Means Committee, it is expected, that the appropriations will be made, as a result, be answered with unprecedented rapidity. When the appropriations are out of the way Congress will generally begin to adjourn, but still there is much of importance to be considered. There will be the Pacific railroad question, the Mexican question, the Nicaragua question, the Mormon question, the Indian question. It is said the Navy Department will be ready to lay before the Congress a complete report of the condition of the Navy, and the question will be, what shall be done with the Navy? Shall we build up a navy or let it go to pieces? Shall we have a navy or not? Shall we have a navy yard on the Pacific? Shall we have a navy yard on the Atlantic? Shall we have a navy at all? These questions will be discussed in the Cabinet, in the Senate and in the House, and the country will be interested in the discussion of them. The Cabinet question has been quite prominent of late. Will there be a change? Will Mr. Arthur be a candidate? Will he be let alone? Will he be forced into the field? These questions are being