The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1884.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

UNEQUAL VALUATIONS.

We are pleased to see the leading newspapers of the State so earnestly urging a reform in the valuation of property for taxation. It is a matter of great importance and one to which we have frequently called attention. Every tax-payer is interested in it and we hope the Legislature, this winter, may be able to devise some method of arriving at a fair and more uniform valuation of taxable property. The inequalities of the existing system are unjust and should be corrected. The property of every citizen should be correctly valued and bear its proportionate part of the public burden of taxation. The present method of listing taxables opens too wide a door for perjury. More men swear to lies in listing their property than in doing anything else, and not only that but they think it no sin but look upon it as something smart. In adjoining counties land of the same value is assessed at different valuations, that is, a man in one county is compelled to pay more taxes on the same quantity and quality of land than another man in an adjoining county. Not only should there be greater uniformity in the valuation of land in the several counties, but in all other kinds of property. The same kind of a horse or mule is valued much higher in some counties than in others. And again, certain kinds of property are assessed much nearer their true value than other kinds.

This inequality in valuations is not confined to North Carolina, but prevails in other States. At the meeting of the South Carolina Legislature, two weeks ago, the Governor of one sister State in his message to that body strongly urged some reform in this matter. We hope our legislators in their assembled wisdom may be able to correct this great evil, and so arrange it that every citizen shall pay his proper portion of the public taxes.

THE STATE EXPOSITION.

The stockholders of the North Carolina State Exposition held a meeting at Raleigh, on the night of the 2nd inst., for the purpose of hearing the reports of the officers, and deciding what to do with the main exposition building. The secretary's report showed that the total amount of stock subscribed was $21,850, and the amount received from admissions was $24,935.60. After paying all expenses there was a surplus of $877.30, and the main building, machinery shed, tank, &c., to reimburse the stockholders. The question of what disposition to make of the building excited much discussion. Some urged that it be sold, while others favored the holding of another exposition in it. Finally the whole question was referred to a committee consisting of Messrs. W. G. Upchurch, E. R. Stamps, Eugene Grissom, R. S. Tucker, W. C. Stronach, H. A. London, and S. B. Alexander. This committee is empowered to take such final action as they may deem proper.

In acknowledgment of the gratuitous services rendered by President Primrose a resolution was adopted authorizing the purchase of a three-hundred-dollar silver service to be presented to him.

THE SPEAKERSHIP.

Judging from the number of communications in the newspapers in the State relative to the Speakership of the House of Representatives in our next Legislature, one would suppose that it was the subject that most engrossed public attention. Many papers have editorially advocated the election of some aspirants, while nearly every paper has contained one or more communications to the same effect. But after all the people feel very little interest in the matter. Probably not one voter in ten cares who the Speaker may be. The most amusing incident connected with the canvass for Speaker, that has yet occurred, was a meeting of some boys at Davidson College in the interest of a certain aspirant and the publication of their resolutions. There are quite a number of aspirants for the position, among them being Busbee of Wake, Hoke of Alamance, Worthington of Martin, Leazer of Iredell, Dixon of Cleveland, Glenn of Rockingham, &c., &c. Well, we hope the country will be safe, whoever may be the successful one.

GENERAL SCALES has resigned his position as a member of Congress, to take effect on the 30th inst. His inauguration as Governor will take place about the middle of January. Hon. J. W. Reid will probably fill the vacancy without opposition.

Our Washington Letter.

[From our Regular Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 6, '84.

Although 135 members of present Congress were relegated to private life in the late election, they came up smiling as usual last Monday, and really seemed pleased at the prospect of getting rid of the thankless work of a congressman, and never a moment's time have he may call his own. I might say, however, that there were a few exceptions to the number who sought to put themselves in a happy frame of mind, among whom were the two bolters of the House, Hoar, of Michigan, and Belford, of Colorado, whose seats on the floor have disgusted their constituents enough to completely secure a permanent lockout. The rumor that used to bring down the House when Prescott and Randolph were members, was of a sort that never detracted from the dignity of the body, and it is to the credit of our American institutions that we have had so few members who have possessed the affectation of any kind of humor. The frequent sallies of wit that came from Mr. Cox, of New York, in the way of repartee, have won for him deserved recognition as a true humorist, notwithstanding detracting an iota from his ability as a statesman.

We have had not a few of really eccentric men as the representatives of the people in both Senate and House. There was Morrissey, of New York, whose ambition was that his children might say that their father had been a Congressman as well as a prize fighter. And there was Kerr, of Indiana, whose eccentricity was exceeded by himself by declaring that he opened mail with a stiletto because he would not stop to take a penknife out of his vest pocket, and who accused Hewitt, of New York, of committing his entire problem with the great Erasmus Wilson. The grandest leaders in the Congressional Cow Boy never measure the departure from the orbits of many members of the lower House who were scarcely up to the measure of Morrissey or Kerr in point of solid sense and logical sagacity. Look at the congressional statistics that have been sent out from the West since the close of the war, and you will see the natural outcome in the abominable laxity that disgraces our statute books and our civilization.

Well, we have twenty-four Heads and soldiers in the United States Army, and the Secretary of War events almost twice every month appears in conspicuous or vulgar view. In one case an expensive funeral is ordered at a cost Lincoln see. This would enable the costs for the maintenance of each soldier for a year, one thousand one hundred and twenty-five dollars, though we pay him, pat, thirteen dollars per month and feed him on hard tack and sow belly. One of the first things that a reform Democratic Congress should do is to immediately endeavor to wipe out these sinecure military establishments, and stop the payment of seventeen thousand dollars per year to a satrap whose duties can as well be performed by a subaltern.

PHOCAS.

The Recent Fires.

[From the Goldsboro Messenger.]

Nearly every paper that one takes up to peruse of late contains thrilling accounts of heavy losses through the agency of the fire fiend. And, we regret to say, more especially is this the case with reference to the papers of our own State. I may be on account of the long drouth which has rendered the buildings in Raleigh dry and inflammable, or it may be through the inefficiency of the department, whatever the cause, it is a deplorable fact, and is the case no matter who for through accident or otherwise—like a thief in the dead of night, and as we know not how to advise our readers to guard against them, we would advise them to guard against losses through fires, by insuring their property. Thereon lies their only safety, and when property is covered by insurance it is absolutely safe.

During the recent heavy fires at Newbern, Goldsboro, Tarboro and other places thousands of dollars worth of property was consumed by the devouring element, and oh, how small the amount of it was spoken of as insured. Ah! how different would have been the feelings of the victims of those fires, at the time they were raging, and of their neighbors as well, if every dollar's worth of that property and of the property surrounding it had been insured. And how different would have been the fortunes of so many of them now. It is true, that it takes all kinds of people to make a world, but the great majority of mortals on this mundane sphere are alike in one respect—in being penny wise and pound foolish; the kind of people, you know, who stop up the hung hole very carefully and zealously, with an expressive wink at you, saying as plain as actions can say, "I'm the boy to do smart, sharp tricks," and at the same time their property is running out at the spigot—the kind of people who hire private watchmen, use fire proof paints, etc., etc., and do everything else to secure their property to them, except the one thing needful,—i. e., to insure it—and that they neglect. Every dollar's worth of property covered by insurance is safe beyond all peradventure, and that is the only way in which it can be made safe. The property may be burned but will rise, Phœnix like, from the ashes, and the owner will smile and rejoice that there is such a glorious institution as the insurance system.

President Cleveland will resign his position as Governor of New York on the 6th of January.

Gen. Grant has declined to accept a pension from Congress.

A Strange Death.

[From the Charlotte Observer 7th.]

George Bradford, a young man from Cabarrus county, came to his death yesterday morning in this city in a somewhat remarkable way. There are many who believe that he died for sheer fright, and from the circumstances attending his death, it is not improbable that this was really the cause.

It was a dreary, dismal morning and the rain was coming down in steady sheets, when a covered wagon, drawn by four mules, came up Tryon street and stopped by the sidewalk in front of The Observer office. The wagon belonged to Mr. S. Bradford, of Rowan county, who had stopped at the express office, while his nephew, George Bradford, and his little eight year old son remained in the wagon. The team had been standing in the street but a few minutes, when the wind, which had been blowing strong all morning, suddenly freshened, and pedestrians were all seen to seek shelter in the stores. On the opposite side of the street, standing by the Central Hotel curbing, were three carriages, whose drivers, muffled in oil cloths, were manfully battling the elements. With these exceptions, the street in the vicinity in question was entirely deserted. From the hotel and store windows people looking out upon the driving sheets of rain had their attention attracted to the wagon, whose large new cover and frame seemed to be in imminent danger of leaving the wagon. Mr. Bradford, owner of the wagon, was among the first to see the danger, and ran out to help hold the cover down. Before he reached the wagon, however, the frame and cover was off the body, up by the wind and dashed into the street. The mules started to the wagon became frightened and commenced to run. If this they would, or should have succeeded in doing, the young George Bradford quickly jumped to the forward end of the wagon, peeped up the lines and after a great struggle, succeeded in checking the animals.

Those who saw the young Bradford at this moment say that he put one leg over the front of the wagon with his foot on the double trees, when he picked up the lines and led the team until the horses became quiet. He did not seem to exert himself at all, but his face was pale as he appeared as if badly frightened. As the team quieted down Bradford commenced driving back toward into the wagon yard, gently turning purpose. Mr. P. S. McLaughlin, foreman of The Observer pressroom, and Mr. [illegible] were the first to reach the wagon. They turned through the gate with young Bradford and As they reached the wagon he rose to a sitting posture, made a feint, then fell forward, but was caught by Mr. McLaughlin. He was taken from the wagon and laid on the floor in the express office, but those who saw the ghastly white face and set eyes as he was lifted from the wagon knew that he was a corpse.

While this was transpiring, the wagon cover was lifted from the street by the wind, carried a few feet in the air and dropped squarely on the backs of two horses hitched to a carriage in front of the Central Hotel, frightening the two animals badly, and causing them to plunge and rear at a terrific rate. The scene at this time was tumultuous, as well as exciting, and after the carriage driver assisted by an athletic darky, had succeeded in quieting their steeds, the gaping crowds, little knowing how seriously the affair had resulted for one poor young man, made a rush to the express office. Five minutes later a crowd of perhaps a hundred people assembled in the drizzling rain and blocked the pavement in front of that office trying to get a look through the windows at the corpse of young Bradford, for the quick spreading news was true, and the boy was dead.

An Observer reporter elbowed his way through the crowd, and gaining entrance to the express office, found the body lying on the floor surrounded by a party of men. Mr. Bradford, the dead boy's uncle, was chafing the lifeless hands, with the agony of despair, being loth to believe his nephew dead, even after the flesh had become chilled. Dr. J. B. Jones had reached young Bradford first, and Drs. Bratton and Byers were also quickly with him. They had pronounced him dead at first sight, but the real cause of his death they agreed could not be determined except by a post mortem examination. The opinion expressed was that the boy had probably suffered from heart disease, and his severe fright had precipitated the fatal result. Another medical opinion was that in pulling on the lines young Bradford had ruptured a blood vessel, and still another opinion advanced was that he died from sudden fright. These opinions had been given, and the doctors had left, when the reporter found Mr. Bradford chafing the nerveless hands of his nephew. A sympathetic bystander tapped Mr. Bradford on the shoulders and whispered to him: "You had better give it up, my friend, he's dead." Then Mr. Bradford crossed the cold hands on the stillest breast, and rising to his feet, gazed on the dead face with an expression of utter bewilderment.

The body was removed to the house of Mr. John Irwin, a carpenter of this city, who is a relative of the deceased, where it was put into a casket, and in the afternoon it was placed in a wagon and sent to the late home of the deceased in Cabarrus county, where an aged mother was going about her daily duties all unconscious of these proceedings, and unaware of the shock which she was soon to receive. The deceased was a son of the late John Bradford, of Cabarrus, and was of a family over whom a mournful fatality has hung. His father, we are told, fell dead from a horse which he was riding, and his brother dropped dead in a yard several years since.

The Washington Monument.

The long expected completion of the Washington monument obelisk was accomplished Saturday, by setting in place the marble capstone and its pyramidal apex of aluminum. The ceremonies were few and simple; an elaborate celebration of the event being reserved for Washington's birthday. Shortly after 2 o'clock Col. Thomas L. Casey, Government engineer in charge, and his assistants, Capt. Davis, U. S. N., and Bernard R. Green, civil engineer, together with master mechanic McLaughlin and several workmen, standing on the narrow platform built around the sloping marble roof near the summit, proceeded to set the capstone (weighing 3,300 pounds) which was suspended from a quadruped of heavy joists supported by the platform and towering forty feet above them. As soon as the capstone was set, the American flag was unfurled overhead and a salute of 21 guns was promptly fired by Major Hazlemann's militia battery in the White House grounds. Far below the sound of cheers also came up faintly from the crowd of spectators gathered around the base of the monument, while numbers of invited guests on the 500 feet platform and in the interior of the monument at that level, spontaneously struck up the "Star Spangled Banner," and other patriotic songs. A steady down pour of rain had given place a little while previously to a brisk gale of wind—at this elevation and blowing about fifty-five miles an hour—and very few of the invited guests cared to avail themselves of the privilege of climbing the nearly perpendicular ladder from the 500 foot platform to the dizzy height of 533 feet from which three or four journalists and half a dozen other adventurous climbers witnessed the setting of the capstone and subsequently ascended to the pinnacle. Meanwhile the Washington Monument Society held a meeting on the elevator platform, at the height of 500 feet, and when the artillery firing announced the setting of the capstone, adopted a resolution offered by Gen. Dana congratulating the American people on the completion of this enduring monument of our nation's gratitude to the Father of his country.

Among those present at the completion of the structure was one of the master mechanics who laid the corner-stone of the monument more than thirty-six years ago and the old watchman of the monument who has been continuously employed in that capacity during nearly the whole of the intervening period. The flag over the monument floated (and will remain for several days until the timbers are all removed) from the flagstaff, the top of which is exactly 600 feet from the ground, thus displaying the American colors at the greatest height of construction ever yet known in the world. The monument itself, with its total height of 550 feet, far overtops every other structure of human hands.

A despatch from Washington City, dated Dec. 7, Representative Millard of New York will introduce in Congress this week a proposed constitutional amendment making the President's term six years and providing that he shall be ineligible to reelections. A pension, the amount of which is to be fixed hereafter, is to be paid to ex-Presidents.

Tone up the system by the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla. It will make you feel like a new person. Thousands have found health and relief from suffering by the use of this great blood purifier, when all other means failed.

The Presidential Vote.

The following is the popular vote for President, and also the votes of the Electoral Colleges:

	POPULAR VOTE.				ELECTORAL VOTE.	
	CLEVELAND.	BLAINE.	ST. JOHN.	BUTLER.	CLEVELAND.	BLAINE.
Alabama	92,973	58,444	619	762	10	..
Arkansas	72,927	50,895	...	1,844	7	..
California	88,267	100,816	2,640	1,975	..	8
Colorado	27,627	36,277	759	1,957	..	3
Connecticut	67,199	65,923	2,305	1,688	6	..
Delaware	17,054	12,778	55	6	3	..
Florida	31,769	28,039	74	....	4	..
Georgia	94,567	47,964	184	125	12	..
Illinois	312,355	337,474	12,074	10,910	..	22
Indiana	244,932	238,480	3,018	8,716	15	..
Iowa	177,286*	197,089	1,472	....	..	13
Kansas	99,030	153,396	4,273	17,044	..	9
Kentucky	152,757	148,674	3,106	1,655	13	..
Louisiana	62,450	46,347	366	110	8	..
Maine	52,140	72,269	2,169	3,953	..	6
Maryland	96,332	85,699	2,794	531	8	..
Massachusetts	122,352	146,724	9,923	24,382	..	14
Michigan	180,361*	192,669	18,403	763	..	13
Minnesota	70,144	111,923	4,691	3,587	..	7
Mississippi	78,547	42,774	....	....	9	..
Missouri	235,972	202,261*	1,593	....	16	..
Nebraska	54,354	76,877	2,858	....	..	5
Nevada	8,960	9,000	....	....	..	3
New Hampshire	39,166	43,166	1,573	552	..	4
New Jersey	135,734	123,132	6,155	3,494	9	..
New York	563,154	562,005	25,006	17,004	36	..
North Carolina	142,071	124,397	448	....	11	..
Ohio	368,280	400,082	11,269	5,170	..	23
Oregon	24,593	26,852	488	723	..	3
Pennsylvania	393,510	474,268	15,396	16,992	..	30
Rhode Island	12,438	19,030	911	425	..	4
South Carolina	69,890	21,733	....	....	9	..
Tennessee	133,270	124,060	1,191	957	12	..
Texas	223,298	88,353	3,511	3,321	13	..
Vermont	17,331	39,514	1,752	785	..	4
Virginia	145,497	139,356	143	....	12	..
West Virginia	67,317	65,096*	939	....	6	..
Wisconsin	146,454	161,147	7,649	4,597	..	11
Total	4,914,658	4,854,252	150,582	134,028	219	182

Cleveland's plurality, 60,806.

*Fusion.

The total vote in 1880 was as follows: Hancock, 4,444,952; Garfield, 4,454,416; Greenback, 308,578; Prohibition, 10,305; Garfield's plurality, 9,464.

The Electoral College.

[From the Raleigh Chronicle, 3rd inst.]

The Senate Chamber was filled with distinguished gentlemen at noon to witness the interesting ceremony of casting the electoral votes of the State for Cleveland and Hendricks; and there were ladies in the gallery.

Chief Justice Smith administered the oath to every member of the Electoral College. Maj McClammy arose and made an exceedingly graceful speech, full of congratulations and good feeling, and placed in nomination for President of the college Col. J. N. Staples. Col Staples made a happy address when he took the chair, and he appointed Messrs. Rowland and Gilliam Secretaries.

"Nominations for candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States are now in order," said President Staples.

Col. W. H. Kitchen arose and nominated for President the Honorable Grover Cleveland, of New York; and Col. Kitchen made an eloquent address—one of the happiest efforts of his life, and worthy the high occasion. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Lucas.

Mr. B. H. Bunn eloquently nominated the Honorable Thomas A. Hendricks, of Indiana, for Vice-President, which was seconded by Mr. Justice.

The vote was taken by ballot—printed on North Carolina silk, a part of a flag, which had been prepared by Mr. F. A. Olds—and all the eleven votes were for Cleveland and Hendricks.

Mr. B. H. Bunn was selected special messenger to carry the return to Washington.

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September 11, 1884. tf.

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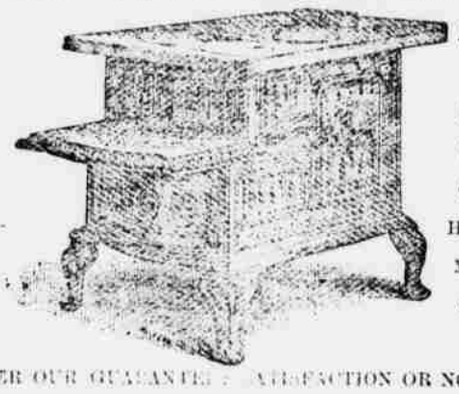

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