The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1886

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM has been the battle cry of the democratic party for years. In the platforms of their nominating conventions, in the letters and speeches of their candidates, in the editorials of their newspapers, in every way and manner possible, the democrats of the United States have repeatedly and persistently demanded and pledged themselves to civil service reform. And yet there are now some persons and papers ridiculing such a thing, and calling civil service reform "a humbug." Not satisfied with this they even misrepresent—some through ignorance and some by design—the law that was passed to carry out this demand of the democrats. They would make the people believe that this law applies to all the offices of the national government, and that it deprives the democrats of the fruits of their victory. In another column we publish a full and very plain explanation of the civil service law by Gen. Cox, to which we invite the careful attention of our readers. We doubt if any law ever before passed by Congress has been so little understood by the people, or more grossly misrepresented by politicians. From the manner in which this law has been ridiculed by some of our esteemed contemporaries in this State any one would naturally think that all the federal offices in North Carolina were still filled by republicans, and that there was no chance for a democrat. Whereas as a matter of fact nearly every republican office-holder in this State has already been removed, and a good democrat appointed in his place. Is not this true? If you doubt it, then begin to think over the matter and you will be convinced. While it is true that one of the watchwords of the last campaign was "Turn the rascals out", it is also true that "the rascals" in North Carolina have been most effectually "turned out." And it is equally true that the civil service law does not prevent any "rascals" from being turned out. Then was so much ado about nothing?

HENRY SEATON died on last Friday night, and in his death our country has lost one of its greatest men. Not only was he a great man in the popular sense of that word, but he was eminently a good man. Full of years and honors he has gone to his reward, and leaves an example well worthy of imitation by the youth of America. Twice Governor of the great State of New York, and the candidate of the democratic party for the Presidency in 1868, he has occupied a conspicuous position in the history of his country. It seems a strange and sad coincidence that three of the democratic candidates for the Presidency—Messrs. Hancock, and Seymour—should have died in so short a period of time. How rapidly the actors in the late war are passing away.

THE RIOTS in the city of London and Washington Territory, accounts of which we published last week, have been suppressed, and all is quiet again. Such outbreaks, unless promptly checked, are very dangerous, and the leaders in them ought to be severely punished.

Preparation of Plant Beds.

Now is the time for tobacco planters to begin to prepare their plant beds, and, as a large number of the RECORD's readers will engage in tobacco culture this year, we publish for their information the following treatise written by Major Robert L. Ragland, of Virginia, who is said to be the largest grower of choice tobacco seed in the world:

There are two modes for raising plants—in hot bed or cold frame, or in the open air—one or the other of which has preference according to locality; the former being more practised north of forty degrees latitude while the latter is preferred south of that line. We will here give both, that planters may choose.

THE HOT BED.

Select a southern or southeastern exposure, sheltered on the north; dig and shovel out a space five by twelve feet or any required length, to the depth of eighteen inches. Place straw to the depth of three or four inches in the bottom of the trench, and cover with fresh unrotted manure from the stable to the depth of six or eight inches; then cover the manure with soil—woods-mould is best—five inches deep. How to cover the bed with canvas will be presently described.

Tobacco seed is sown on the bed thus prepared at the rate of two teaspoonfuls to a bed five by twelve feet. To sow regularly, mix the seed with a fertilizer, ashes or plaster, and sow in drills three inches apart. When the plants have pretty well covered the surface of the bed, remove the canvas during the day, and only replace it when there is danger of frost, or to keep off the flea bugs. There is the advantage of having earlier plants by this mode and perfect security against the flea bug, which will repay for the addition cost of erecting at least a portion of the plants needed for the crop by this safe mode.

OPEN AIR BEDS.

But there is no question that open air beds are cheapest. And where this mode of raising plants is practicable, it ought to be preferred as the main supply of plants.

It is a well established opinion that plants raised in the open air send a longer, stronger and healthier growth of rootlet than plants raised in cold bed or hot frame.

SELECTION OF LOCALITY.

On the selection of a proper locality for a plant bed, and its preparation, largely depends the timely supply of strong, healthy plants, without which it is impossible to raise a crop of fine grade. The planter, therefore, cannot be too careful in choosing a suitable spot, and in no way can he more surely secure such plants as can be found, and to sale terms to prevent difficult destruction of

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Cox On Civil Service Reform.

A reporter of the Brooklyn Union recently interviewed Hon. W. R. Cox, the chairman of the House committee on civil service reform, and the following is his clear explanation of a law that has been much misrepresented:

There is much general misrepresentation and prejudice in regard to what is known as the civil service law, which is simply an act to put into effect the old doctrine of the time of honesty and capacity for public trusts. This misrepresentation arises from the employment of what it is insisted are impracticable examination tests for admission into the service, and the rule in regard to the age of applicants. It should ever be borne in mind that the law does not prescribe these qualifications, but expressly declares that such examination shall be as practical as may be and such as will test the fitness of the person for the service he seeks to enter, and it is silent as to age. To repudiate the law for the non-use of its administration seems unreasonable as to condemn a servant because you find fault with the judge.

The time at which the law was enacted caused the apprehensions, if not [illegible] of many Democrats, from [illegible] plead no exemption, and [illegible] opinions are most difficult [illegible] This is exemplified [illegible] ing enlightened members of the service, as a rule, the old members wishing to the most cordial and friendly relations, from which they are only emancipated by the new and vigorous blood of their juniors. Even parties are often disposed to urge their old rivals and help to those principles with dispossessed by those who present living reforms and vital issues.

Many members of the new dominant party fear that this law may prevent them from obtaining that equitable distribution of the offices to which it is entitled and demand its absolute repeal, which would be like one who should take its own life because, forsooth, he was disappointed in some love affair. Every reflecting man at all familiar with the abuses of the former system will concede that the people would be wronged. Then why not amend instead of repealing it? This has does not prevent the democratic party from getting its full quota of offices, but it does prevent indiscriminate ousts from forcing them for fifteen days, the fixed term of a presidential appointment not [illegible] a party [illegible] to [illegible] I [illegible] have confidence to believe that parties are [illegible] to the welfare and [illegible] of the affairs.

When the people invest a party to succeed the control of power to another, the choice of every head, at least [illegible] in accord with the administration to secure a fair and [illegible] investigation and expense [illegible] causes which may exist, and [illegible] ought only to what nothing is held [illegible] sacred.

This has done to prevent the President from making such changes as necessary from time to time. It would be unreasonable to suppose that there are over [illegible] offices to which this law does not apply, and either may be filled as [illegible] There [illegible] choose all the [illegible] such as postmasters, [illegible] of [illegible] heads of departments at Washington. There [illegible] at Washington, New York and other important [illegible] to which the laws applies, and [illegible] will get a fair [illegible] of these. This law will not [illegible] with [illegible] whatever [illegible] may be, and I would repudiate it [illegible]

[illegible] law does not prevent the President from removing any [illegible] he sees fit under the [illegible] others.

[illegible] have come and again [illegible] the country as advocates of genuine civil service reform, and [illegible] has such [illegible] as to endeavor to make it so, which can [illegible] be done by repealing the law. [illegible] Cochran in his letter of acceptance, [illegible] and forcibly [illegible] the [illegible] necessary [illegible] in office [illegible] and showed the necessity for [illegible] reform. Senator Pendleton [illegible] and [illegible] has given [illegible] to his convictions on the [illegible] subject.

As an Administration Democrat it is [illegible] to sustain the President in giving this law a fair trial, and to [illegible] legislation [illegible] such defects as such trial may disclose. I should as soon think of [illegible] friend whom I had [illegible] under one who is [illegible] to fulfill my political pledge.

[illegible] service commission is to [illegible] the President in [illegible] selections for clerical [illegible] It can be changed to [illegible] to conform to the views of the [illegible] party. I will not embarrass but will aid the President in all proper efforts to purify and elevate the public service, for the more capable and efficient are the public servants the lighter will be the burdens of the taxpayers. But few, at most, can obtain public positions, and the government must be administered for the people and not a favored official class.

No one claims that this law is perfect. It would be strange if such a legislative measure could be. It needs amendment—perhaps important amendments, and they will doubtless be made.

Its repeal, however, is impossible, and a serious attempt now looking to such an accomplishment would result in division, if not disaster, to the party attempting it. For the people are not forgetful of the flagrant abuses practiced under the spoils system of the Republican party.

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Our Washington Letter.

[From our Regular Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12th, 1886.

Arrangements for the great Telephone suit are still in progress. Ex Senator Thurman arrived in the city today to assist in preparing the papers. There is some ring like poetic justice in Mr. Thurman's retention by the Government in the Telephone suit. His friends allege that he has been kept in retirement because he fought corporations, and now he returns to public life to do more fighting of the same kind.

You remember about two weeks since, a Congressional committee was empowered to investigate the Pan-Electric and Bell Telephone affairs. The Republican members of the committee put on their war paint, and threatened to make some startling discoveries. Their first step was to ask the Secretary of the Interior and the Attorney General what money had been expended by their departments in the Telephone suit. Mr. Lamar replies after careful inquiry, that thirty five dollars for printing, &c., was the only money expended in his department, while Mr. Garland says no money has yet been expended in his. Counsel has been retained for the Government suit, but no money has yet been paid the counsel.

In an executive session of the Senate yesterday, Mr. Edmunds presented a protest signed by citizens of Vermont against the confirmation of a collector of customs in that State. The objection to him was that he had a pointed a deputy whose reputation, it was alleged, was not the best. Senators Beck and Butler thought that was a flimsy pretext and said if every Republican official had been held responsible for all his deputies, there would have been many rejections.

Senator Sherman made an attack in open session upon the President's attitude with regard to giving "reasons" and Senator Edmunds expects to do the same next week. Senator Hoar and others who are candidates for the presidency in 1888 are only waiting for the semblance of an excuse to accuse the Administration in public. They feel it is high time to arouse the Republicans to the fact that they are actually losing the Post Office. It is true this is not a great issue, but there is nothing greater on hand just now.

Either wilfully or ignorantly the real cause in the predominant rare ey between the Senate and the Executive has been misstated by certain Senators and certain partisan papers. The attempt has been made to place the Administration in a position which it has never taken. It has been assumed that the President is desirous of concealing his reasons for removals, that he desires to make a distinction between private and public papers,—he wears executive and legislative papers. From his official replies to the Senate through the members of the Cabinet, the clear inference to be drawn is simply this: As the Chief Executive of the nation he has in his possession certain papers which public interest demands him to withhold.

Expressions of opinion on the subject of the relations between the President and Senate are drawn now on very strict party lines among Senators and Representatives. Both sides appear to recognize the fact that the battle can be indefinitely prolonged.

There is a growing opinion that it is time to consider Presidential nominations in open session. Some say a great step towards true civil service reform would be taken in this way. Nominees can be assailed in secret session without being allowed to know the names of their accusers, while on the other hand, unworthy nominations can be confirmed without making any one answerable for the offense. They claim open sessions will remedy both grievances by compelling the best appointments, and by assuring them of a fair hearing before the Senate.

And indeed it is an open secret that most unworthy nominations have been confirmed in the past on personal consideration and by foul bargains. There is an unwritten law of so called courtesy allowing a Senator to decide the fitness of any nominee from his State who had already been dictated by his desire. In this way, a crowd of perjurers, forgers, ballot-box stuffers, thieves, and all manner of infamous characters received high offices under Hayes, as rewards for the great fraud of 1876. And in the public service under Grant, and his Republican successors many others, equally corrupt, were conspicuous.

Value of Home Papers.

From the Wilmington Star.

Let the papers of North Carolina cease to publish for six months and force the people to rely upon the great luminaries of New York and other cities, and see how it would fare with the people. A vast amount of murders, rapes, arsons, political and personal scandals, and news from the old world at large would be obtained, and some able discussions of many topics in addition, but there would be no home or State news, and our people would know absolutely nothing of each other. It would be a bad exchange to give up State papers, poor as they may be regarded by Yankeeized newspapers of other States. Our public institutions would soon languish, State pride would peter out, and North Carolinians would soon become no better than New Yorkers. But the suspension of the whole State press for six months would have one admirable result—it would make the people of North Carolina better appreciate and more liberally sustain home papers.

Disastrous Floods.

ALTON, ILL., Feb. 13.—A disastrous flood is imminent along the Mississippi unless the weather turns colder and locks up the overflowing streams now pouring their torrents into the Mississippi. This river is now almost at flood height, but is still frozen solid, with the ice gorged in many places clear to the bottom. There is probably at present as much ice in the river between here and St. Louis as was ever before known. The Missouri and many smaller streams emptying into it were reported breaking up yesterday, and the same report comes from the northern part of this State in respect to the streams tributary to the Mississippi and the Illinois. Unless these northern floods are checked by colder weather until the present high water in the Mississippi runs out, a great flood seems imminent. The river here rose nine inches last night and is still coming up.

PEKIN, N. Y., Feb. 14.—The flood at this place is the most disastrous ever known here, even eclipsing the great flood of 1857. It is difficult to estimate the damage done, but it will not be less than half a million of dollars. The water reached the highest mark at 11 o'clock this morning. At that time there was a freshet of thirty feet. The streets in the lower part of the city were flooded and many houses were submerged. People navigated the streets in boats and on rafts. Many families were without food or provisions and were cared for by neighbors.

BOSTON, Feb. 14.—The greatest rainfall ever known in New England has been followed by wide spread disaster and ruin unprecedented in the memory of the oldest inhabitants. The waters are still at their height and the damage, which already amounts to many millions in Eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island, is likely to be greatly increased before the flood subsides. Most cities and towns in these sections are almost entirely isolated.

In the Cape districts hardly a bridge is left. The Boston and Albany is the only railroad running trains to the south or west of Boston and then only by transferring passengers at washouts. Scores of bridges on the Old Colony and New York and New England railroads are gone and the washouts are simply innumerable. In Boston the area flooded by the overflow of Stony Brook is constantly increasing.

PORT DEPOSIT, MD., Feb. 14.—The ice at the mouth of the Susquehanna River broke to day and the ice is now moving freely out into the Chesapeake Bay. The sudden rise last night has resulted more disastrously than any that has occurred for many years. The lumber-yards and wharves were washed out completely. Large quantities of lumber were carried away. Davis saw and feed mill was demolished, and the damage at this point is estimated at fully $50,000. The Columbia and Port Deposit Railroad has suffered severely, and the tracks for more than a mile are covered with ice piled up to a height of at least fifteen feet. Large forces of men are trying to make way for trains, but their progress is slow. Immense quantities of ice are coming down the river tonight, but it is running swiftly, and no further damage is anticipated, unless another gorge should be formed.

Changing The Gauge.

From the Charlotte Observer.

The railroad section bosses have just been notified to select each a force of twenty four spike drawers and put them into practice at once, so that they will be in condition to do a good day's work in gauge changing on the 31st day of May. The question as to the change of guage is consequently settled, and on the first of next June, the Richmond & Danville, North Carolina, Charlotte, Columbia & Augusta, Air Line, Northwestern North Carolina and Western North Carolina tracks will be 3½ inches narrower than at present. This will give these roads the standard gauge of 4 feet 8½ inches, and will be the first important step toward securing a uniform gauge for all the railroads in the United States.

To the uninitiated, this order to get workmen into practice may appear a queer proceeding, but according to the explanation given by the railroad men, it is a necessary step towards a speedy consummation of the work that is to be done. Spike drawing, it seems, is a peculiarly difficult branch of labor, and no "green" hand can stand up to it for two hours at a stretch. The cause is said to exist in the fact that the drawing of spikes exerts a peculiar strain upon the muscles of the wrist and that any ordinary laborer, after a day's labor at spike drawing will find himself painfully disabled and unable to use his arms. A heavy swelling of the wrist is the invariable result, and in nine cases out of ten the wrist swells to double its ordinary size. This being the case, a force of green hands would only be available for one day's work, and as a result of that day's labor, the company would have to improvise hospitals all along its line. The severe effects of spike drawing upon the muscles of the wrist are well known to all section hands and in ordinary railroad work, a certain set of practiced hands is always detailed to draw the spikes. There is a "strength" about the art which once acquired, gives the laborer immunity from the painful swellings and enables him to work for several days in succession without any bad results. It is to initiate a large force of workmen into this sleight of the art that the section masters have been ordered to commence operations, so that when the work of gauge changing is commenced, no delays will occur from disabled workmen.

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[illegible] ARTS

[illegible] 1886.

[illegible] COMS,

[illegible] Richmond, Va.

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CONDENSED TIME TABLE.

No. 1 Down		No. 2 Up
[illegible]	[illegible]	2 25 a m
[illegible]	[illegible]	3 35 a m
[illegible]	[illegible]	3 50 a m
[illegible]	[illegible]	4 14 a m
[illegible]	[illegible]	4 35 a m
[illegible]	[illegible]	5 10 a m
[illegible]	[illegible]	5 25 a m
[illegible]	[illegible]	6 50 a m
[illegible]	[illegible]	7 10 a m
[illegible]	[illegible]	7 25 a m
[illegible]	[illegible]	7 40 a m
[illegible]	[illegible]	8 30 a m

[illegible] with R. & G.

[illegible] with the Raleigh & [illegible]

[illegible] passenger coach [illegible] 5.30 a. m. and arrives [illegible] 9.30 p. m.

JOHN C. WINDER, Superintendent.

C. F. & Y. V. RAILWAY.

Condensed Time Table No. 13.

To take effect Monday, Nov. 23, 1885.

DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY.

No. 1 Mail & Passenger		Trains Going South	No. 2 Mail & Passenger
Leaves [illegible]	[illegible]	Arrive	7.30 p. m.
Arrive [illegible]	[illegible]	Leave	6 15 "
" [illegible]	Fayetteville,	"	4.50 "
" [illegible]	[illegible]	"	1 45 "
" [illegible]	Cape Fear,	"	12.00 m.
" [illegible]	[illegible]	"	11 40 a. m.
" [illegible]	Lillington,	"	11 05 "
" [illegible]	Greenwood,	"	9.30 "

Trains North leave Fayetteville at 4.50 p. m. and arrive at Sanford at 7.30 p. m.

Freight and Passenger Train leaves Bennettsville Tuesday, Thursdays and Saturdays at 6 a. m., Shoe Heel at 10 a. m., and arrives at Fayetteville at 2.30 p. m.

Freight and Passenger Train North leaves Fayetteville at 4.50 p. m. and arrives at Sanford at 7.30 p. m.

Freight and Passenger Trains for Raleigh, leave Sanford at 11.00 a. m., and arrives at Fayetteville at 2.30 p. m.

Leaves Fayetteville daily at 8 a. m., leaves Sanford at 11 a. m., and arrives at Fayetteville at 2.30 p. m.

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