The Chatham Record

THURSDAY. Dec. 11, 1902.

H A LONDON, Editor.

THE annual session of the North Carolina M. E. Conference was held last week at Wilmington, Bishop A. Coke Smith presiding.

There was quite a full attendance of ministers and laymen and the proceedings were of much interest. The reports were all of a most encouraging character and showed a steady increase in all lines of the church's work.

We are pleased to note the passage of a resolution to memorialize the legislature to make the divorce laws more strict, so that no divorce can be secured except on the one scriptural ground. A committee was also appointed to memorialize the legislature to prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors.

A gloom was cast over the conference by the sudden death of one of its most prominent ministers, Rev. Dr. W. C. Norman.

The report of the statistical secretary shows a membership of 66,874.

The next session will be held at Goldsboro.

VARIOUS suggestions are being made as to the best way of raising enough revenue for carrying on our State government. The subject of taxation is always a difficult and troublesome one, and just now it is more so than usual. It matters not what may be done there will be some criticism and dissatisfaction. The legislature should carefully consider the whole matter and do that which may appear the most fair and just, regardless of criticisms and complaints.

And while our legislators are carefully considering the best way of raising revenue, they should also very closely scrutinize all appropriations and see what expenses can be reduced or abolished. A reduction in expenses may render unnecessary much increase in taxes.

THE most interesting letter that we have seen published recently is one written by Mr. F. H. Whitaker, the chairman of the State executive committee of the Independent Democrats who supported Mr. Thomas N Hill for Chief Justice.

In this letter Chairman Whitaker gravely gives it as his opinion that Mr. Hill received more votes than Judge Clark at the recent election, but that there was a false and fraudulent count.

If Chairman Whitaker really thinks this and is not joking he enjoys the unenviable distinction of being the only sane man in the State who thinks so!

THE appointment of postmaster at Wilson is attracting attention not only in this State but is assuming national importance. The present incumbent is a colored man, named Vick, and Senator Pritchard is opposing his reappointment. The leading colored Republicans of this State, and indeed from all parts of the United States, are vigorously urging his re-appointment. The matter is said to be very embarrassing to President Roosevelt, who is at a loss to decide what to do.

Vick is endorsed as a man of ability and good character and has made an efficient postmaster.

THE millennium must be near at hand, for Senator Foraker, of Ohio, has introduced a bill into the United States Senate, directing the Secretary of War to mark with marble slabs the graves of Confederate soldiers who died in Northern prisons. The bill appropriates $100,000 for that purpose.

Senator Foraker has been one of the most rabid and bitter haters of the South in the Senate, and had earned the title of "Fire-alarm Foraker." His bill indicates a conciliatory spirit as gratifying as it is surprising.

EX-SPEAKER Thomas B. Reed died at Washington City, on last Saturday night, after a short sickness. He was a man of unusual ability and attained a widespread reputation as Speaker of the House of Representatives. His arbitrary rulings as Speaker gave him the soubriquet of "Czar Reed," and he completely dominated the House of Representatives.

Washington Letter.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

Washington, Dec. 4, 1902.

Congress is in session, the President's message has been made public and the legislative wheels on Capitol Hill are again in action. With a great surplus in the Treasury there will be no dearth of bills enacted during the short session, each looking to the depletion of the reserve if not to the national welfare. The President's message, however, while appealing to the patriotic sense of members of both parties, is already being interpreted by the Republican leaders as sanctioning a masterly inactivity in regard to that legislation of which the country stands in the greatest need.

That the President should have handled the subject of tariff revision with such extreme conservatism was a disappointment not only to the Democrats of both houses, but to many of the Republicans as well. A Western senator, whose constituents are clamoring for tariff revision, said today that it was clear not only that the President had yielded to the Eastern contingent in his party but that he had even modified very materially the passage which related to the tariff since it was first drafted. The message as a whole was well received and is regarded as exhibiting a height of ideals which it is to be hoped will be lost on the practical politicians of the Republican party.

Senator Hoar, chairman of the Committee on Judiciary, has already taken a stand against anti-trust legislation on the ground that there will not be time during the short session to handle the subject intelligently and comprehensively. Senator Chilton, on the other hand, has said he will introduce the Sherman law so that interstate commerce in trusts made goods shall incur penalty of from $5,000 to $50,000.

Senator Teller seems to be pursuing the course expressed by the opposition on the part of Senator Hanna, on the other hand, when asked by your correspondent regarding the prospects of anti-trust legislation said, "Perhaps the Sherman law should be strengthened by amendment as suggested by Attorney General Knox. Then it has been quite effective when properly enforced and does not require any radical change in the present law. But there must be progress in the matter of correct sentiment and it may be that existing law will not reach the evil complained of. If the Attorney General can make it plain that the law should be amended I dare say it will not hesitate to act at once. As far as it is possible to judge the attitude of the Western Republicans is to see prompt anti-trust legislation and the Eastern Republicans are intensely [illegible]

In the House, itself it will be made to pass some bill and then throw the responsibility on the Senate. Mr. Littlefield, of Maine, is revising his anti-trust bill and hopes to get it reported within the next two weeks. Representative Hepburn has introduced a bill providing for the appointment by the President of the Attorney General of a commissioner of corporations, whose duty it shall be to investigate the affairs of all corporations engaged in interstate commerce, except railroads, and report to Congress from time to time his findings, with such recommendations as he may deem proper. This bill is regarded by many members of both houses as a step in the right direction, and it is believed that it will be favorably considered by Congress.

There are [illegible] active anti-trust sentiment in the Senate [illegible] Democratic side of the chamber. The New England Republicans are unanimously opposed to any legislation at present, and Senator Aldrich, chairman of the Committee on Finance, is opposed to any legislation at present. Senator Foraker, of Ohio, is also opposed to any legislation at present. Senator Foraker, of Ohio, is also opposed to any legislation at present. Senator Foraker, of Ohio, is also