

The Roanoke Beacon.

The Official Paper of Washington County.

Published Every Friday by THE ROANOKE PUBLISHING COMPANY.

W. FLETCHER AUBSON, Local Editor.
THOMAS HUSON, Business Manager.

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The editor will not be responsible for the views of correspondents.
All articles for publication must be accompanied by the full name of the writer.
Correspondents are requested not to write on but one side of the paper.
All communications must be sent in by Thursday morning or they will not appear.
Address all communications to

THE ROANOKE BEACON,
Plymouth, N. C.

We appeal to every reader of THE ROANOKE BEACON, to aid us in making it an acceptable and profitable medium of news to our citizens. Let Plymouth people and the public know what is going on in Plymouth. Report to us all items of news—the arrival and departure of friends, social events, deaths, serious illness, accidents, new buildings, new enterprises and improvements of whatever character, changes in business—indeed anything and everything that would be of interest to our people.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1899.

A CONVERSATION can now be telephoned from Portland, Me., to Buffalo, N. Y.—a distance of 750 miles.

"Love and Love" is to be the title of the first volume of poems written by America's rising poet, Robert Burns Wilson, of Kentucky. He is only 20 years old now and has been writing verses for quite a while.

THE Canadian officials deny that there is any disposition on their part to become a part of our Union. Perhaps not when it is found that there are at present about one million of their natives in the United States who have come here to live out the rest of their lives.

THE Fisherman and Farmer, of Edenton, celebrated its third anniversary on the 14th inst. It started from a little 16 x 22 inch sheet three years ago, and to-day it is an eight-page 40 column paper, well printed and carefully edited. May it live to celebrate many more birthdays and still work for the advancement of the people of North Carolina and the Democratic party.

It is said that the enforced resignation of Tanner had the effect of so enraging some of those who were looking to the Pension Office with a view to securing biddies, that the authorities at Washington deemed it prudent last Saturday to provide President Harrison with an escort during his visit to his mountain home in Maryland. Many threatening letters, it is said, have been received at the White House. A most soundly and villainously proceeding.—Daily Call.

ARE we to have under this administration another illustration of Christian statesmanship such as disgraced the first Grant administration. Tanner, Windom, Wainwright and Harrison all belong to the school of politicians who publicly exhort once a week and stir up scandal the other six days. Tanner has given the first big scandal of the Harrison administration. It looks just now as though the second six months would develop a discreditable sensation in which the rubber stamp statesman might be unhappily mixed up.—Ex.

THE fine vessels that have been added to the navy by Secretary Tracy, the late Democratic Secretary, reminds us that the last batch of splendid naval vessels was built also by a Democratic administration. It was when Secretary James D. Smith, of Fayetteville, was the Secretary. Under his supervision the Niagara, the Merrimack, the Wabash, and other vessels of that class were built, being then the fastest and finest war ships afloat. The Democrats always do such things well. What this country needs is more Democratic administrations.—News and Observer.

THE Treasury Department has just brought an odd claim against the State of Virginia for \$16,923. It seems that during the war Francis Pickens was appointed Governor of that State by President Lincoln. Pickens, for some reason did not take the official letters from Richmond, (the capital of the State), but at the same time got the United States Treasury to advance him the sum of \$16,923 to buy arms with, and now the Department presents the claim to Gov. Lee.

THE Railroad is rapidly nearing completion. It is this side of Jamesville, and in a short time the whistle of the iron horse will be heard in our midst.

The completion of this Road has been looked forward to with great anxiety, and but for the unfavorable weather it would have been done ere this.

Some of our citizens anticipate a renewal of life by its completion, while others say they think it will do no good.

It is our opinion that the completion of this Road will enthrall in our people new life, it will make transportation quicker and cheaper, it will, to some extent, increase the population of the town. It will give to some, employment, it will put more money in circulation and in every way add to the advancement of the county.

What is a town without a Railroad? In this new age it is like a day without sunshine.

Of course, if our people expect the Rail Road to build up the vacant lots, build manufacturing, of all kinds, street cars, schools, banks, hotels, wholesale houses, &c., and fill their pockets with cash, while they sit down and talk about what might be, and never do it, they will get left, and the Railroad will be of but little use, but if they will use their influence to draw the men who have capital to invest, and will invest their own capital the Railroad will help them to do it, and soon our town will be on the road to success.

A wake, ye men who are asleep, to the advancement of the town, and let Plymouth welcome the completion of the Road with open arms. On the first day let every house in town be graced by a flag, and at night illuminate the streets, and let's have a grand time. Everybody should burrah for the dawn of a new life for Plymouth.

OBITUARY.

O. W. Walker was born in Currituck county, N. C., January 20th 1847, and died at his home in Plymouth, N. C., August 21st 1899, aged 52 years 6 months and 23 days. In the year 1880 he was happily married to Miss Annie Layton, of Bridgeville, Del. who with one son still survive to mourn their loss. Brother Walker was soundly converted and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church South, in the year 1874 and lived a devoted christian of the same the remainder of his days. As a christian he was earnest, meek and sweet spirited as a child, his life was as joyous in the Savior's love as his translation was triumphant and glorious. For several years he filled the office of steward, faithfully and energetically. No man ever lived in this community who was more honored and loved as a christian and citizen than he. He was, indeed, "a living epistle known and read of all men." As a member of the church he was true and faithful, a good neighbor, a trusted friend, a loving husband and a kind father. While he quietly lingered on the shores of life, waiting for the call of his Saviour he trusted his promise to the end for sustaining grace, which was graciously given to him. His last hours were like the beautiful setting sun, without an intervening cloud. The business of the town was almost suspended, and every possible respect was shown by the large concourse of sorrowing friends who followed his remains to their last resting place—the Methodist Cemetery. May the benedictions of heaven rest upon the bereaved wife, and may the Father's mantle fall upon his son, and may the name left him encourage him to walk in his father's footsteps.

C. W. ROBINSON.

STAY IN NORTH CAROLINA.

The following letter was received by the editors of the Roanoke News and was written by a man who has tried the Old North State as well as others:

ARMOURDALE, KAN., Aug. 28, '99.
MESSRS. EDITORS.—Should any young North Carolinian of your acquaintance express any desire to leave his native State and "wander 'mid strangers alone" in the West, tell him to stay where he is unless he has murdered somebody or stolen something. I have traveled over the hills and valleys, the flats and marshes of fourteen of the Southern and Western States, and lived in five of them, and being an observant man, my opinion should not be entirely valueless. Any intelligent young white man with a fair record as to character, has a finer opportunity to gratify any ambition he may have in North Carolina than in any other State I know, and for this plain reason: owing to the lack of foreign immigration into its borders, the vast business interests of the State are dependent solely upon home talent for their development, support and the execution of their enterprises. The young men have no competition for promotion except among themselves and the doctrine of the "survival of the fittest" obtains there as elsewhere. Any individual, therefore, has practically the chance of success or failure offered to him. In this country it is different; the yellow glare which California threw over the West in 1849 has not, to Eastern eyes, yet died down; the great silver mines of Nevada, the gigantic cattle interests of Dakota, Colorado and New Mexico, the romance attached to the cowboys' life, the wild adventures and occasional successes of miners and trappers all combine to throw a fascinating cloud over this vast region, and hide the plain, unvarnished truth about the difficulties and uncertainties which beset the "wanderer" in his endeavor to earn a livelihood. The consequence is multitudes of young men, finely equipped for the race of life, have been annually pouring into it for the last fifteen years; the entire county is over-run with men of every calling, every place there are forty or fifty applicants of course, only one gets in, the question is, what becomes of the others? They must live somehow. I will give a few illustrations: I know a physician, a man of fine education and good manners, who after years of struggling with poverty in his profession, is now working side by side with negroes and ignorant white men in a packing house. I know a young college graduate of high standing, who was admitted to the bar and essayed to practice, he is now standing on a street corner distributing transfer tickets for a street car company. And thus it is in all other professions, trades and callings. There is absolutely no room for more. The one grand requisite for success out here is a little cash capital to start with, that would instantly place a man ahead of his competitors, and give him a chance to display himself, without it, the chances are ten to one his career will be wrecked and he will go to swell the vast horde of tramps and bums with which the country is already infested. Thus you see North Carolina really offers a better field to the energetic and ambitious of her children than they will find anywhere else. It is the only best place to earn their first little cash capital, but it is also the best place to invest it. It is true that at the present time, this country has one great advantage over the South, but it is one which is fast disappearing, and if given proper attention will soon be a thing of the past. It is the amount of Northern capital seeking investment here. The great money-kings of the northeast are scattering their treasure all over this entire section beautifying and enriching it with magnificent houses and immense factories and all sorts of industries and giving employment to thousands of men and women, they have confidence in the resources of the country, they have confidence in its institutions, and they cannot afford to let their money remain idle in Northern walls. Some of these times they will feel the same "way towards the South" and that will be the beginning of a new era for you, the beginning of the second greatness and predominance of your God-favored land, but they do not feel so as yet, hard work and patience still lie before the people of the South, before they can convince the North that the country is again one in sentiment and feeling as it is in territory. I had no idea the memory of the war was so fresh in the mind of these people. While the Southern people have been hard at work trying to reclaim their beloved country from the rains of war, these wealthy conquerors have been looking idly on and thinking they deserved all of their suffering. To their prejudiced eyes the shadow of the apple tree at Appomattox still spreads like a pall over the land, and it is only by mutual intercourse and constant effort on the part of the South, that the situation can be changed, and the great stream of investment-seeking gold be turned Southwards. When the tide is turned, the young man who has pinned his faith to the prosperity and success of North Carolina will find himself "sitting on the top rail, picking his teeth."

Respectfully, C. PHAS.

The first snow of the season in New York State fell at Newburg last week.

FROM CO. SUPERINTENDENT.

Editor ROANOKE BEACON:
DEAR SIR:—I read you a letter from Hon. S. M. Finger, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, which I am sure you will take great pleasure in publishing in the interest of education within our county.

I heartily appreciate your kind co-operation in the important work of education—a work preeminently worthy of the highest consideration of our people. With such feeling I am earnestly endeavoring to introduce FULLY ALL the text books recommended by the State Board of Education, and required by the Legislature to be used in the Public schools. As I have requested, the merchants in the county are kindly co-operating by keeping the books for sale at special contract prices, which are made lower than for other similar books. School books on hand dropped by the Act of the Legislature, may be exchanged with the publishers without cost.

Uniformity of text books are of the utmost importance, enabling teachers to manage larger schools, and to do more efficient work; enabling pupils to study with better advantage; and allowing to parents at the same time 25 per cent. discount on purchase of books. The State authorities are now bringing to a close the hitherto continual confusion and disadvantage occasioned by a want of uniformity in school books.

Let us all co-operate in rapidly perfecting the long and much needed object.

LUTHER ESKRINE,
Supt. Public Instruction of Washington Co.
Sept. 18, '99.

HON. S. M. FINGER'S LETTER.

RALEIGH, N. C., Sept. 9, '99.
To REV. LUTHER ESKRINE, SECRETARY AND COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, CRESSWELL, N. C.

DEAR SIR:—If you have not already done so, will you please give the matter of exchange of books your special attention. The exchange rates will not be continued longer than is necessary for you to avail yourself of them. The law requires the books on the State list to be used, and the rates for exchange are very low. It would be unfortunate for any cause we fail to take the books now, and later have to pay higher prices.

May I not ask that you see every merchant in your county who sells school-books and get him to order from Messrs. Harper & Brothers, New York, and from Messrs. Van Antwerp, Bragg & Co., Cincinnati, all the books that are offered for exchange as explained on page 59 of the school-law. These firms will take pleasure in furnishing blanks and all necessary information.

If you fail to get booksellers to attend to this matter promptly, I ask that you order the books yourself and arrange with the teachers to make the exchanges. It is a matter of such immediate importance that I must be excused for urging your prompt action. By devoting a little extra time to this matter, for which your board will of course compensate you, you will uniform your schools with excellent books and at the same time save money to the children.

The exchange account, you will note, must be opened with the house that publishes the books offered for exchange. After the exchange rates are withdrawn all the books on the State list except Webster's Dictionaries can best be bought from the regular depositaries as explained in the Appendix to the school-law. The publishers of Webster's Dictionaries decline to put them with the depositaries on same terms as other publishers, but Worcester's may be obtained in lieu of them.

It is worthy of special attention that to get the books that are offered for exchange no money need be advanced. Any reliable house can get them, to be accounted for when exchanged or sold.

I will send you, or cause to be sent you, all necessary blanks and information. Will you please show this letter to your board and ask their co-operation. Now is the time to uniform your schools cheaply; if you wait until next year it will cost more to do it. Instruct your teachers to use every effort to have the State list books used.

While our people are conservative, they are reasonable. If the teachers will show the importance of uniformity, and that the State list books are better than many of the old books now in the hands of the children, and if they explain that upon the surrender of the old books the new books on the list can be had for a very small exchange price, most parents will willingly get the list books.

Especially do I ask that when a new book is bought it shall be one that is on the State list. The parents frequently do not know what books to get. If they do not know they should always wait until the teacher informs them.

In so great an organization as a State system of schools there will necessarily be some friction, and, perhaps, nobody can have things exactly as he wants them. All that the State Board asks has been most carefully considered by persons who have nothing in view but the good of the children; and who, from long experience, ought to be able to guide that the children may learn as rapidly as possible, and their education be safe and pleasant.

You and your board and the teachers, I feel sure, can very rapidly bring about a uniformity in your county, and I make this appeal to you and them and to the people, in the confident hope that we will not neglect this opportunity.

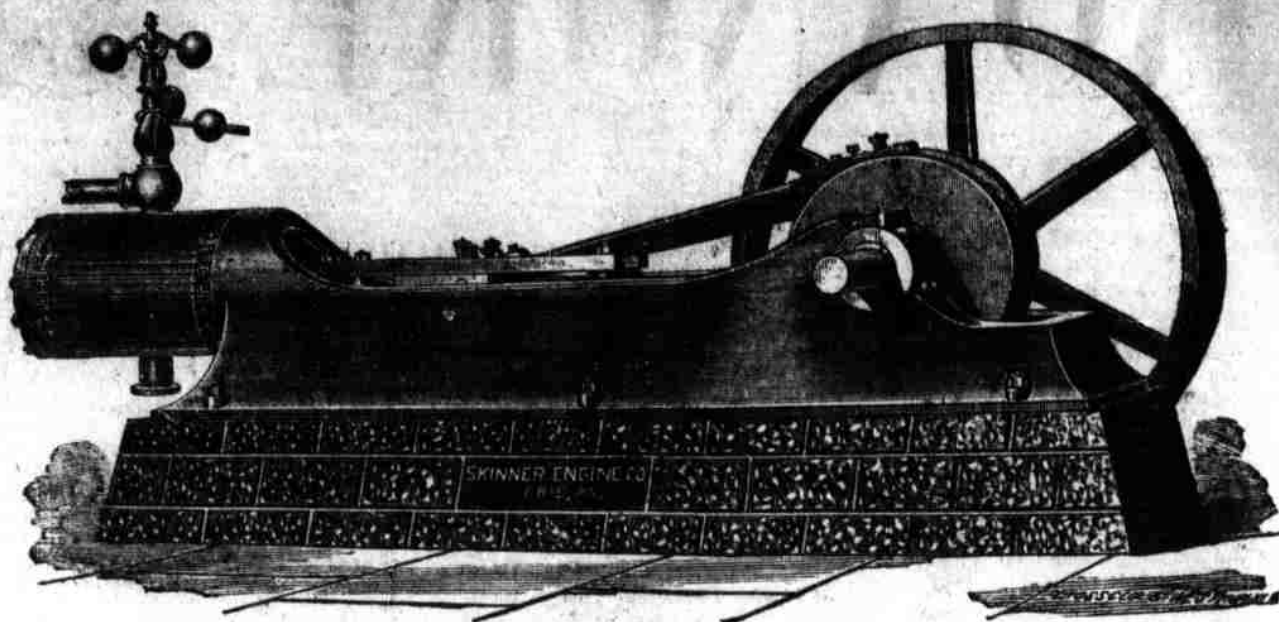
(Signed,) S. M. FINGER,
Supt. Public Instruction.

HOW TO UTILIZE OUR WASTE LANDS.

The following from the Wilmington Star is a sensible article, and we ask our farmers to read it:

"In the State of Texas the culture of the pecan nut is found to be very profitable. It would prove possibly quite as profitable in North Carolina, where the tree grows well. Nut culture is something that very little attention is given in any portion of this country, and yet it would pay well if it were followed with any system. There is much worn-out, uncultivated land in North Carolina which could be turned to valuable account, at little cost and little labor, by planting pecan, hickory or walnut groves, the fruit of which would pay handsomely in a few years at simply the cost of picking, and the timber of which would be unusually valuable, if cut for timber, years hence when that kind of lumber will be scarcer and more valuable than now. The man who will plant twenty acres of walnut trees now will leave a valuable inheritance to his children when the trees are grown, when each tree will be worth more than the acre of land upon which it is grown, and as acre will grow a large number of trees. Tree culture and nut culture should receive more attention from our farmers than they do. They involve little labor and in time will yield handsome results."

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For further information apply to Levi Blount, Agent, Plymouth, or to the General Office of the Norfolk Southern Railroad Company Norfolk.

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The next session will begin on Wednesday 11th of September, and close in June 1899.

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