

NORTH STATE MATTERS

Newsy Items Gleaned From Murphy to Planteo.

State Treasurer Lacy says there will be needed this year an increase of the valuation of property of between \$100,000,000 and \$150,000,000 in order to get out of debt and stay out. Of course this will not meet the appropriations for 1903, because the taxes on the assessment made this year will not be available until 1904. The State Treasurer made an estimate of the cost of operating the State government for the years 1903-'04, as being \$2,899,800. To this sum the Legislature added \$152,000 for the two years. The present assessment of value of property is \$341,220,209. It appears that the deficit for the two years 1903-1904 will be something like \$200,000, which the Legislature hoped would be made up by the increased tax derived from the license on distilleries and the increased liquor tax, these, it being calculated, would raise \$158,000. Estimates of the increase in valuation of property vary very widely, ranging from \$50,000,000 to \$150,000,000. Some of the officials seem to think \$75,000,000 will be something like the figure, this being a little over 20 per cent. increase on the assessment made four years ago. It seems to be the view that most of the increase will be towns, but there will be some in the valuation of country property. State Treasurer Lacy says that he has really not the slightest idea as to what the increase will be, and was never more at sea in his life than as to this matter.

On the 19th inst, the work of the State tax commission, which is composed of Franklin McNeill, Samuel L. Rogers and Eugene C. Beddingfield, in conferring with the county commissioners and tax assessors in all the counties of the State, will be completed. It is felt that these conferences will be productive of good in all ways; that they will bring about a just valuation of property and one more equal, since the differences in valuation even in adjoining counties are sometimes great. Some observant people think the increase in the valuation of property in the State will be as much as 20 per cent., as compared with the assessment of 1899. In some counties there will be a large increase; probably in none more so than in Harnett and Moore, which have made really wonderful progress in the past four years. Railway building and other enterprises have a great deal to do with this development, and to this is added in Moore county the remarkable influx of settlers from the North. The latter are said to have added 50 per cent. to the valuation of the county in the past ten years.

A special from Asheville says: The tribulations of the Southern Railway were multiplied in this mountain section Friday in a remarkable manner. No. 9, due here about 3 p. m., is delayed near Melrose by a landside which has not been seen in the mountains for years. For several hundred yards stone and dirt cover the track to a depth of several feet and it is said that huge boulders loosened by the incessant rains continued to roll down on the track for hours after the first great section of the earth moved glacier-like down the side of the mountain. Some say it will take two days to remove this mountain of earth and stone from the track. After intelligence of this slide reached Asheville passenger train No. 10 was started toward the mountain. When No. 10 reached a point about half-way between this city and Hendersonville the rails spread and the engine, baggage and mail cars rolled down an embankment and the second class car left the track. The train was running at least 25 miles an hour and that no lives were lost is a circumstance that is proving a source of wonder to even practical railroad men.

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction is gratified by the receipt of a letter from the Superintendent of Camden county, in which the latter says more progress has been made in the past twelve months in the way of improvement of school buildings, increased attendance and better teaching than was made during the five years previous. This statement is the more important because Camden is a small county and has not a large school fund.

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction will, in a few days, issue the new list of books recommended for use in rural school libraries. State warrants were issued for two libraries in Jackson county and one in Vance.

Rev. T. D. Johnson, Presbyterian minister, who has been residing in Morganton and preaching in Burke for several years, has accepted a call from the church at Burgaw, N. C., and will shortly move, with his mother and sister, to that town.

Mrs. Sallie Avery, wife of Judge Avery, has purchased the Walton or Herald building, corner East Union and Green streets, in Morganton, and will remodel the same for a hotel. Additions will be built and other improvements made to the building.

Dr. Chas. C. Weaver, president of Rutherford College, who has been elected president of Davidson, Female College at Lenoir, vice Rev. R. C. Craven resigned, is a son of Dr. J. H. Weaver, presiding elder of the Shelby district, and a man of fine sense and splendid qualifications.

The National Guard of the State will be filed by the admission of the company of infantry from Sanford. This will make the three infantry regiments of 12 companies each.

The old Albemarle hotel property on the corner of Main and Road streets, Elizabeth City, has been purchased by Mr. E. F. Aydtlett. He will expend between \$10,000 and \$12,000 improving and modernizing the building, which will be made a first-class and modern hotel in every particular.

Messrs. White Williamson and Company are building a new mill at Saxapahaw. It is 100x135 feet, with six looms and put up a finishing plant. This will give them 200 looms, about sufficient to weave the product of their spindles.

STATE TEACHERS' ASSEMBLY.

Gathering of Many Educators on the Coast For Pleasure and Improvement—Speeches.

Wilmington, Special.—The twentieth annual session of the North Carolina Teachers' Assembly convened Tuesday night at 8:45 o'clock at the Seashore Hotel, on Wrightsville Beach. It was an ideal night on the beach, and with a mellow moonlight and delightful breezes the throngs of visitors enjoyed the happy surroundings.

Prof. Francis P. Venable, LL. D., president of the North Carolina University, and president of the Assembly, called the teachers to order in the elegant hotel ball-room, which was brilliantly lighted and was thronged with lady and male teachers from various parts of the State. The Assembly opened with prayer by Rev. R. B. John, presiding elder of the Wilmington district, after which Dr. Venable announced that Mr. George Rountree was down on the program for the welcome address, but had been called away on professional business. In his stead he introduced Prof. Washington Catlett, superintendent of public instruction for New Hanover county, who briefly extended the teachers a most cordial welcome on behalf of the people of Wilmington. His warm welcome words called forth appreciative applause. Dr. Venable introduced Prof. M. C. S. Noble, of the chair of pedagogy of the University, who made the response on behalf of the Assembly. It was a happy effort and the applause. Dr. Venable then introduced Prof. J. B. Carlyle, of the chair of Latin, Wake Forest College, who was down for the opening address before the Assembly.

Prof. Carlyle's subject was "The Educational Outlook in North Carolina," and though his address consumed only 20 minutes, in its delivery it was admirable in conception, elegant in diction and inspiring in sentiment. He alluded to the great education conference held in the office of Governor Aycock in February, 1892, and remarked that while that conference dealt with the progress of education in North Carolina for the past thirty years and considered matters for the present, the speaker would deal with the subject from the standpoint of the future. With eloquent words the speaker addressed his audience with a view to inspiring additional spirit and zeal as the future hope of the State. He first discussed the obstacles to education, elaborated them first as poverty; second, prejudice, and third, indifference of the masses. After urging patience and zeal in combatting these obstacles, the speaker addressed himself to the agencies in calling forward the educational movement: First, the pulpit; second, the press; third, the politicians; fourth, the business man; finally, the teacher, upon whom the great work for the future must fall. It was an impressive and effective address, and upon its conclusion the speaker was enthusiastically applauded and many pressed forward to thank Dr. Carlyle for his inspiring and timely words in behalf of the movement for enlightenment in North Carolina. One portion of his address which elicited enthusiastic applause was an allusion to the statue to the immortal Vance on the capitol square at Raleigh, and the suggestion that along side of it one should be erected to North Carolina's great educational Governor, Chas. B. Aycock.

Shoots Himself.

Wilmington, Special.—W. H. Bobbitt, 67 years of age, government entry taker, and a prominent citizen of Marion, McDowell county, this State, committed suicide Tuesday morning about 8 o'clock in the lobby of the Orton Hotel, this city, where he had been a guest since last Friday, with the exception of Saturday and Sunday, which he spent at the beach. He had been drinking to some extent and retired early last night, rising rather early. He came down in his usual manner, addressed a few words to the hotel clerk, tore off part of an excursion poster and took his seat in the lobby. A few minutes later he arose, walked a short distance down the street, purchased a round of cartridges at a hardware store, and returned to the hotel, taking his seat on a settee near the door.

Soon afterwards W. T. Aycock, of Raleigh, a relative of the Governor, also came down and took his seat near Bobbitt, whom he did not know. He was surprised in a few minutes at hearing the report of a pistol close to him and looked around in time to see the weapon fall from the dying man's hand. Bobbitt had pressed the revolver to his right temple and sent a 32-ball crashing through his brain. The ball came out near his left temple and lodged in one of the front doors of the hotel.

Scrawled on the back of the poster which he had taken from the hotel clerk's desk, was a short note to Dr. T. S. Burbank, of this city, who is treating a brother of the dead man, J. M. Bobbitt, at the James Walker Memorial Hospital here. The note read: "Come to the Orton; bring brother with you. Tell him to look in my pockets. He will find everything o. k." The note was dated June 7th, evidently by mistake for the 9th.

The dead man's brother came from the hospital and at once had the remains prepared for shipment to Marion, whither they were sent tonight. Bobbitt leaves a wife and one son, C. A. Bobbitt, a clerk in the Bank of Marion. He was a man of large physical proportions, weighing perhaps over 250 pounds.

State News Notes.

The comment made on the crops in the State now is that while they are late, they are very clean, and generally look vigorous.

It is asserted that the most fortunate part of the State this year so far as ready money is concerned is that between Mt. Olive, in Wayne county, and Wilmington. It is said by a resident that the truckers, berry-growers, etc., have more money than ever before.

NORTH CAROLINA CROPS

Summary of Conditions of Crops Given By the Department.

The weather during the week ending Monday, June 15th, was generally cloudy with frequent rains which, though not so excessive as last week, kept the soil too wet over many eastern and extreme western counties, preventing farm work. In several counties the rainfall was heavy and washed land with considerable injury to crops. The first portion of the week was warm and favorable for growth, but the latter portion was very cool, a minimum of 42 degrees was reported at Asheville on the morning of June 13th, so that the temperature for the week as a whole was depressed over 3 degrees below the daily normal, a condition not favorable for the rapid advancement of vegetation. Farm work has been retarded in many counties by frequent rains and crops, especially corn and cotton, have become rather grassy; in others, however, the amount of moisture was just sufficient to keep the soil in good condition for work. On the whole, further improvement in crop conditions is apparent.

Corn has generally improved considerably since the rains began; early upland corn is being killed or laid by in the southeast portion, while in the west much of it has not received its first cultivation; some injury by worms in lowlands is reported. Cotton is improving more slowly, it needs higher temperatures for best development than have been experienced lately; but plants though still small, show a healthy appearance and stands have improved; chopping cotton is still underway, though all the crop is not yet up; many fields have become very grassy and lice are reported as injuring the crop in several counties. Transplanting tobacco is practically completed with fairly good stands; late set plants need cultivation, and have not yet started into rapid growth; early set is not showing much improvement, the drought caused too early maturity as expressed by the term "buttoning low;" tobacco worms are reported in limited sections. Many farmers are through harvesting wheat, but the bulk of the crop in the west has not been cut; frequent rains have been unfavorable for the work of harvesting, and in some cases wheat and other grains were beaten down by heavy rains. Minor crops are doing well, and gardens show much better growth. A large crop of sweet potatoes has been set; clover and pastures have improved. Fruit is fairly promising in the central-east portion; early peaches of the Alexander and Triumph varieties are ripe and shipments have been made; early apples are ripening, and the amount of dropping is not excessive. Dewberries and blackberries are nearly ripe.

Market Quotations.

| COTTON MARKET. | |
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| These figures represent prices paid to wagons: | |
| Strict good middling | 12.00 |
| Good middling | 11.75 |
| Strict middling | 11.50 |
| Stains and tinges | 11.15 |
| PRODUCE MARKET. | |
| Onions | 70 |
| Chickens—spring | 12 1/2 |
| Hens—per head | 30 |
| Eggs | 12 1/2 |
| Beeswax | 20 |
| Turkeys | 12 1/2 |
| Corn | 60 |
| Ducks | 22 1/2 |
| Wheat | 60 |
| Wheat—seed | 1 00 |
| Oats | 45 |
| Rye | 1 00 |
| Sides | 9 |
| Skins—calf | 40 |
| Hides—dry salt | 10 |
| Tallow—unrendered | 2 |

State News.

The Legislature made provision for the use of \$200,000 held by the State board of education, as a loan fund, to be lent to counties desiring to improve public school buildings or erect new ones. It is learned from the Superintendent of Public Instruction that applications for the loan fund are pouring in. The aggregate is not yet known, but must already approach the \$100,000 figure. Wake county, for example wants \$8,000. This is the largest amount so far desired by one county.

Charters are granted Fordham, Alford & Company, of Greensboro, as druggists and chemical manufacturers, capital \$50,000; to the Asheboro Canning Company, E. L. Moffitt and others, stockholders, capital \$20,000.

A charter is granted the Hardwood Lumber Company, of Asheville, capital \$100,000, Charles M. Putnam and M. S. Wilkinson owning practically all the stock. A charter is also granted the Hill Ginning Company, at Wadesboro, which is given power to operate an oil mill.

It is said that a million dollar increase in the valuation of property in Wake county is expected to be the result of this year's assessment.

The Newton Enterprise says that town is to have a new cotton mill. It gives no further particulars except the statement that it is a certainty. The site has been purchased and enough stock is already in sight to leave no doubt about the matter.

Mr. S. H. Stranger, of Fayetteville, shipped from Mrs. Cochran's Myrtle Hill place a solid car of dewberries consigned to Chessman & Co., Boston. These Myrtle Hill berries, which have already established a reputation, are said to be even of finer quality than usual this year.

The corporation commission notifies tax listers that Federal and State officers must list their income from salaries exceeding \$1,000.

The pharmacists were in session last week.

Statesville has voted "dry" and the town board has placed a tax of \$750 on any drug store selling liquor on prescription. No license will be taken out.

A charter for a cotton mill has been granted to the Whetstone Manufacturing Company, of Bessemer City, Gaston county, and authorizing that company to spin and weave fabrics from any textile materials, cotton, wool, etc. The capital stock is \$100,000 and the stockholders are L. W. Buck, J. H. Williams and S. J. Durham.

The reports from banks and those from corporations are being very rapidly received by the State Auditor.

500 HUNDRED DEAD

Frightful Loss of Life and Destruction of Property

OREGON CITY SWEEP BY WATER

High Wall of Water Swept Down the Gulch and Most of the Residence Portion Gone.

Portland, Ore., Special.—Five hundred people lost their lives in a cloudburst that almost entirely destroyed the town of Heppner, Oregon, at 6 o'clock Sunday night. Heppner is the county seat of Morrow county and had about 1,250 inhabitants. All the telephone and telegraph wires are down and no accurate information can be obtained, but the estimate of loss of life is based on the most reliable reports received up to Monday night. A report from one, 17 miles from Heppner, is to the effect that 300 bodies have been recovered. A messenger who arrived at one said a wall of water 20 feet high rushed down into the gulch in which Heppner is situated, carrying everything before it. The flood came with such suddenness that the inhabitants were unable to seek places of safety and were carried down to death by the awful rush of water. Almost the entire residence portion of the town was destroyed, but some of the business part, which is on higher ground, escaped. Huge boulders weighing a ton were carried down by the current and many people were killed by being dashed against the rocky bluff. Early in the afternoon a thunder-storm occurred, covering a wide region of country, and later a heavy rain-storm set in, many of the small streams overflowing their banks in a short time. Bridges were swept away like straws. As soon as possible after the flood subsided the work of relief was commenced by the citizens of the town. Dozens of bodies were found in the creeks and in some places they were piled over one another. Up to 2 o'clock this afternoon over two hundred bodies had been recovered almost within the city limits. The buildings which were not carried away were moved from their foundations or toppled over. Hundreds of horses, cattle, sheep and hogs that had gone into the creek bottoms for water perished.

News of the calamity did not reach the outside world until Monday, all the means of communication having ceased. As soon as possible news was sent by couriers to the near-by towns. The Oregon Railway & Navigation Company started a relief train with physicians and supplies from The Dalles shortly after noon. At 1:30 o'clock another train of relief started for the scene from this city. The citizens of Portland started a relief fund as soon as the news of the disaster spread over the city, and within a few hours \$5,000 was raised. Supplies will be furnished to Heppner as soon as they can be assembled.

Portland, Ore., Special.—Preparations for relief of Heppner are in progress at various points from Portland to Pendleton. The Oregon Railway & Navigation Company dispatched a relief train from The Dalles at 12:30 and at 1:30 a train left this place for the scene. Doctors are being sent to Heppner from near-by points, where there is no rail communication. A number of wool buyers from Boston are supposed to have been at Heppner when the cloudburst occurred and are supposed to have perished. Mayor George H. Williams received the following dispatch: "Lexington, Ore., June 15.—Cloudburst occurred last evening. Large part of town destroyed. Help needed." (Signed) "S. E. NATSON, Mayor."

Mayor Williams immediately wired the following reply: "What do you need, money or provisions? Give more details."

It is impossible to communicate direct with Heppner, as all telegraph and telephone wires have been destroyed along Willows creek.

THREE HUNDRED COFFINS NEEDED.

Portland, Ore., Special.—Word was received here from one late Monday afternoon that 300 coffins were needed at once at Heppner. The weather is warm and it is necessary that the dead should be buried at once. One hundred coffins were sent on the Oregon Railway & Navigation overland train and 100 more will be sent from The Dalles and Portland. The Portland office of the O. R. & N. Railway Monday afternoon received the following message from Heppner: "Roughly estimated, almost the whole people living on the banks of the Willow creek were drowned."

New York, Special.—Official announcement has been made that at the weekly meeting of the Central Federated Union action abandoning the strike of the subway excavators has been taken. This means that over twenty thousand men will apply for work unconditionally.

Strike Settled.

Morenci, Ariz., Special.—The strike is settled. The men have accepted the company's offer of nine hours per day for eight hours work. The territorial guard left camp Saturday. Five troops of regulars from Forts Grant and Huachuca, will soon follow.

Collections For Capt. Ewen.

Lexington, Ky., Special.—A subscription list for the benefit of Capt. B. L. Ewen, whose hotel at Jackson was burned by incendiaries, has been started by local newspapers and has met with a liberal response already. A call has been made on the people of Kentucky to make good the loss which it is said Ewen suffered in payment for his attempting to assist in aiding the law in feud-ridden Breathitt county.

SOUTHERN INDUSTRIAL

A Splendid Improvement.

Brief reference was made last week to the Enterprise Mills at Kings Mountain, N. C., as to erect an additional building 75x100 feet and install new spindles, etc. Contracts for the improvements, including machinery, have been awarded, and about \$25,000 will be expended. The company's new machinery will include 2464 spindles and fifty looms, which increases the equipment to 5352 spindles and 180 looms. The new building will give additional floor space for 150 more looms. The improvements are expected to be completed within three months.

Textile Notes.

The Lowe Manufacturing Co. and the Eastern Manufacturing Co. of Huntsville, Ala., are preparing to begin work on the improvements proposed for doubling their respective plants. It was announced last year that these two companies (both in control of the same Fitchburg, Mass., cotton manufacturers) had decided to double their mills. The Lowe plant has 12,500 spindles, and the Eastern has 200 looms. Messrs. Cowell & Love are now preparing plans and specifications for these enlargements. The Lowe addition will be an 80x138 foot structure, and the Eastern addition will be 60x120 feet.

Blacksburg (S. C.) Spinning and Knitting Mill stockholders will meet June 30 to act upon a resolution passed by the directors on May 27. The resolution provides for increasing capital from \$25,000 to \$100,000 or a less sum, to issue \$12,000 of preferred 8 per cent. stock, or to issue \$12,000 of 6 per cent. bonds secured by a mortgage on the property. It is doubtless the intention to enlarge the plant, which at present has eighty knitting machines, steam-power plant and dyeing plant.

Work is progressing on the construction of the Apalachee Cotton Mill, which incorporated last year. This plant is to have, when completed, 17,000 ring spindles and 375 broad looms, and be operated by water-power. It is located at Greer Depot, S. C., and is capitalized at \$50,000. This plant was one of those in the path of the flood last week, but was only slightly damaged.

Messrs. Seaton Grantland, W. J. Kincaid, James M. Brauner, D. J. Bailey, Charles Wheeler and A. G. Martin have incorporated the Towaliga Falls Power Co. to develop water-power and transmit same by electricity, to establish and secure the establishment of cotton and woolen mills and other industries; offices at High Falls, Ga.

It is stated that the Nashville Woolen Mills of Nashville, Tenn., contemplates removing its plant to another city, consideration having been given to the advantages at Fayetteville, Tenn., and Corinth, Miss. This removal is talked of because of some difficulties as to water supply at Nashville. However, no definite decision has been made.

The Courtenay Manufacturing Co.'s plant at Newry, S. C., was not materially injured by the flood of last week. The basement was flooded and warehouses were destroyed, with a loss of less than \$20,000. The mill proper, with its 19,440 ring spindles and 635 looms, has already resumed operations.

M. H. Reed and associates of Marble Falls, Texas, reported last month as having purchased water-power rights and textile buildings located on the Colorado river near their city, are just beginning to organize a company to develop the properties. No definite statement can be given at this time.

Messrs. C. W. Cherry, W. J. Rutledge and F. M. Drane of Corsicana, Texas; S. B. Allen and W. F. Ramsey of Cleburne, Texas, have incorporated the Corsicana Cotton Mills, with capital stock of \$150,000, for manufacturing cotton goods. No further details stated.

The wool grown in the mountains of Burnet, Llano, Gillespie and Blanco counties, Texas, is now being marketed. Shipments were begun from Marble Falls, Texas, last week, three cars being loaded. Dispatches state that the average price paid was 16 1/2 cents.

Lumber Notes.

The shipments of lumber from the port of Fernandina for the month of May aggregated 1,205,452 feet, and of cross-ties 183,003 pieces.

The Tennessee Lumber & Coal Co., a New York corporation with \$1,000,000 capital, has closed a deal at Chattanooga, Tenn., for 10,000 acres of timberland in Cumberland county, Tennessee.

The Louisiana Stave & Heating Co. of Louisiana, Mo., has been incorporated, with a capital stock of \$25,000. The incorporators are E. P. Wells, C. C. Webber, E. L. Carpenter and others.

The steamship Huron cleared last week from Charleston, S. C., for Boston with 69,177 feet of lumber among her cargo, and the British schooner Benefit for Kingstone, Jamaica, with 277,000 feet of lumber, 200 doors and ashes.

At Savannah last week the schooner Major Pickards was loaded with cross-ties by the Howard Supply Co., and in thirty-eight hours 19,500 cross-ties, equal to 850,000 feet of lumber, was placed on board that vessel. The Pickards sailed for Baltimore on the 3rd inst.

The Wood County Lumber Co., of Rhonessboro, Wood county, Texas, has been incorporated, with a capital stock of \$30,000. The incorporators are J. W. Wilcox, George Wilcox, F. E. Wilcox of Collin county, and J. F. Stiners of Wood county.

The large saw-mill of D. B. Morrison & Co. at Morrilton, Fla., was destroyed by fire on the 5th inst. The entire mill and fixtures, dry-kiln and two tram engines were burned. The loss may exceed \$50,000. The company will rebuild the mill at once.

BILL ARP.

Joel Chandler Harris says that reading is hard writing" and Shakespeare gives the antithesis when he says:

"You write with ease to show your breeding, But easy writing is curst hard reading."

I am too sick to write easy, but don't wish to be curst about it. The gloomy weather takes away all hilarity. Lowell says, "Oh, what a rare as a day in June." It has rained every day and every night since the 1st and we didn't like it at my home for it was my wife's birthday and I hoped it would be bright and happy for the poor woman don't get her maternal feasts in a year and two maternal kisses. I was sick the night before and she was up with me half a night and slept late. I had crept to breakfast and slipped a five-dollar gold piece under her plate and intended to rise and kiss her unwrinkled brow when she appeared, but she slipped up behind me and kissed me. She never did it that way before and the boys hint that she saw the shining and it excited her labial and osulatory glands and she couldn't refrain.

"Gold, gold, gold, gold, Bright and yellow, hard and cold, Heavy to get and light to hold, Spent by the young but huzzed by the old To save to ruin, to curse or to bless, Now stamped with the image of some Queen Bess And now of 'bloody Mary.'"

But she got more than I gave her and nobody got a kiss but me. "Children," said I, "this is your mother's seventy-second birthday. You know that the stars fell seventy-two years ago and that's the reason they did fall. They knew that a brighter light was coming and so they paled their mortal fires and fell to the ground and expired."

"I am only 71," said my wife. "Why do you try to make me 72?" "Because," said I, "you have had seventy-two birth days. You had one the day you were born. When you were a year old you had two."

Then she gave it up. These birthdays are the mile stones that measure the journey of life. Next Monday I will be 72. On the 1st one of the girls will be 40. On the 15th my mother was born and so was my little grandchild, Caroline, who was named for her. My wife can tell the birthday of every child and grandchild, but I know only half a dozen.

Well the Mexican boy did come and for a whole week we have feasted on his presence and listened to the same old songs he used to sing. He is a singer and has plenty of help from the children and grandchild.

And the night was filled with music. And the cares that infest the day, Folded their tents like the Arabs, And silently stole away.

And the little boy, who is only 20 months old, and looks like me, joins in the hilarity and tries to sing, and holds up his skirt and dances the cakewalk and kicks up his feet and bows to the audience with great solemnity. He plays monkey in the show, and his young mother thinks he is the smartest and prettiest child in all the world, and I think so, for they say he is just like me. What kind of a world would this be without these little children, and yet the last census says they are not wanted up in New England any more. They say that Roosevelt loves children and wants to encourage maternity. Well, I'll give him credit for that when he retroacts and apologizes. Our Mexican boy says the peons of Mexico have them by the score. Their abode houses have but one big room with a dirt floor and you will see a man and his wife and a flock of dirty, lousy, greasy children and half a dozen dogs all gathered there by day and roosting there by night. A peon is the biggest rascally on earth. He will work one or two days in a week for 35 cents a day and be paid in Mexican silver that is worth only half what ours is, and he and his family and the dogs will live on this for a week. They will steal everything that is in sight and not locked up, says he, that was sidetracked and steel and carry off 2,000 pounds of machinery. They will get it to the city some way and sell it to a junk shop for a dollar or two. The Americans do all the manufacturing; the Germans do all the hardware business; the French all the silk and fine goods, and the natives all the little shop business and run the saloons. Besides the archbishops and bishops, no less than twenty-five priests officiate around the chancel in the great cathedral every day. Somebody must stay there to receive the offerings and grant absolution and remission of sins. This is the largest cathedral in the world except three. It is 46 feet long, 440 feet wide and 110 feet from the floor to the ceiling, and the walls are literally overlaid with gold and silver images and crucifixes. The church is rich and controls President Diaz. Diaz controls the Castilians and the police all over the towns and cities, and the police control the peons and the common people. So at the last it is the priesthood that dominates the government. Liberal concessions are given to Americans and to build railroads and dig canals and to mine for precious metals. The charter under which the Mexican National was built requires seventeen members of the board of directors, and five of them must live in Mexico; the others may live anywhere. Our boy Carl is a Mexican director, having lived and that is enough to become eligible, and that is how he was called to New York last week to a meeting of the board and got a chance to come by home and see us for a week. And now the time of tribulations is near at hand, and he will leave us and we may never see him again. Such is life, and only death will end it.—Bill Arp in Atlanta Constitution.