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THE WORLD AS WE SEE IT.

The answer of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad, through Governor Aycock and Attorney-General Gilmer, to the complaint of K. S. Finch upon which the road was placed in the hands of a Receiver, was filed last week. The railroad answers that Mr. Finch was not a stockholder at the time when the transactions alleged took place.

The railroad further answers that for several years it has produced revenue sufficient to declare dividends, but that the net profits by action of the Directors have been applied to the improvement of the road-bed, rolling stock, and other equipments; that the report for 1903 shows a net profit of \$75,800. The case will be heard by Judge Simonton about the middle of March.

Years ago—not so many—we had among our pupils in the little town of Shelby a bright-faced, handsome boy, who, while not painfully studious, yet managed to give his teacher a minimum of trouble both in studies and deportment. That boy, now advanced several years into mature manhood, stood several days on the floor of Congress and exploded an old story that told how Mr. Cleveland, while President, had dined a negro man. A belief in this story had served to break in some degree the force of the criticism of President Roosevelt's action in dining Booker Washington.

Mr. Scott, from Kansas, one day last week in a speech charged that Cleveland, when President, had dined a negro man by the name of Taylor. Hon. E. Y. Webb at once wrote to Mr. Cleveland and secured a denial of the statement. The letter was read on the floor of Congress by Mr. Webb, who followed the reading of the letter by appropriate words. This incident was the sensation of the week in Washington City. There is nothing of political significance in the incident.

The election of Mr. Smoot to the United States Senate will doubtless prove the match to fire the fuse that will lead to the explosion and utter destruction of Mormonism as a polygamous

institution. Ever since Utah was admitted to the Union and passed under the law prohibiting polygamy, it has been seen that polygamy is still practiced. When Mr. Smoot, who is an Apostle of the Mormon Church, was elected to the United States Senate, a movement to make a complete expose of the principles and practices of Mormonism was started by determined lovers of righteousness. Through the efforts of these men, the Senate ordered an investigation. The Committee met early last week and continued, and is still continuing, its investigations. Only one man, so far, has been examined—President Smith, nephew of the founder of Mormonism. President Smith has shown up badly. He has proved to be a bad witness. In answer to questions from the Committee, he has stated that he believes that polygamy came to Mormonism as a divine revelation. Yet he says that the manifesto of President Woodruff abolishing polygamy had its origin in divine revelation. He had five wives in 1890, and admits that he has been practicing polygamy since 1890. When asked why he broke the laws of the State in this respect, he answered by saying that when it came to an issue between the State and revelation he chose to hold to the latter. The light is being turned on Mormonism, and whatever may be the outcome as to Mr. Smoot, it may be safely asserted that enough will have been brought out to deal the death blow to Mormonism as a polygamous church.

No attempt will be made to prove that Mr. Smoot is a polygamist, as it is very clear that he is not. But it will be proved that he is an apostle of a church which allows an infraction of the laws of the State, and has utter control of any member, whether he be a private citizen or a United States Senator.

One of the strangest and most valuable victories for temperance ever achieved in the State lay in the decision of the Supreme Court last week which declared that the place of delivery anywhere in the State is the place of sale. This, of course, makes an anti-jug law for the whole State, and no liquor can be shipped into prohibition territory.

The outcome is strange in that it was not premeditated by the Legislature. An attempt was made several times during the last Legislature to pass an open anti-jug law for the State, but in each case the attempt proved unsuccessful. Such a law, however, was passed for four counties. This is indicated in the caption. But somehow in the body of the law there crept in the phrase "in the entire State," and in a test case brought up from the Durham Superior Court, the Supreme Court decided that this phrase makes the law to apply to the whole State.

The Legislature passed an anti-jug law for the whole State, and did not know it, just as it passed two years before a law requiring a preacher, selling a Bible or hymn-book, to pay a peddler's tax. A bad law in one instance, but it had to stand until it was changed by the next Legislature. In the latter instance a most salutary law was passed, and like the other it must stand until repealed. Every temperance advocate should see that the present law be confirmed by the Legislature which is to be elected next fall.

It must be remembered, however, that liquor

can be shipped still into prohibition territory in North Carolina from points outside the State. This can be done under the provisions of the Inter-State Commerce law. The Hepburn-Dolliver Bill, which is now being considered by the proper Congressional Committee is likely to be reported favorably. If reported favorably, it will pass both Houses, and will prevent liquor being imported into prohibition territory from points outside the State. There are many prayers going up that the Hepburn-Dolliver Bill may pass.

There are three centers of public interest in the Russo-Japanese war area. These points are Port Arthur at the southern extremity of the Liao-tung peninsula; Vladivostock, the ice-bound terminus of the Siberian railroad; and that section lying almost in a straight line between Dalny and Harbin, which latter place is where the Port Arthur line of railroad meets the line which extends to Vladivostock.

Nothing of interest has happened during the week at the first point, with this exception: A few days ago the Japanese fleet dashed within range of the shore batteries and bombarded Port Arthur furiously for two hours and then withdrew without being damaged or inflicting any damage. It appears that Russia is preparing to evacuate Port Arthur as its capture is imminent and certain. The supply of food is said to be very limited.

The latest news is that the Japanese fleet on Sunday bombarded Vladivostock without any injurious effect, as the lyddyte shells of the Japanese ships failed to explode. It is also said that the Russian fleet has been locked outside of the harbor, but this late news lacks confirmation and is hardly true. Vladivostock seems to be in as dire straits as is Porth Arthur.

Reports of clashes between Russian and Japanese forces in the territory around Mukden are very frequent. In the meanwhile large Japanese forces are being massed in Korea, and Russia is hurrying forces as rapidly as possible eastward.

It is said that the hostile feeling of the Russians against the United States is less pronounced than it was one week ago. Feeling, however, against England is very bitter.

In a speech before the Book Committee of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Mr. R. T. Miller said, concerning church papers: "I challenge the country to show better papers than those which our church furnishes. For dignity, culture, helpfulness, devotion, they cannot be surpassed. If they do not circulate as widely as they should, it is not because they are not worthy, or able, or bright, but because we have failed to adopt the best means of reaching the people and securing their subscriptions."

Rev. G. F. Smith, P. E., has requested us to issue a Warrenton District edition of the Advocate. We will cheerfully comply. The edition will be issued the last week in March. It will be filled with special articles and will be finely illustrated. It will be dedicated to full collections, great meetings, and 300 new subscribers for the Warrenton District. A large number of extra copies will be circulated throughout the District. Look out for this issue.