

Wilmington Morning Star

Published by THE WILMINGTON STAR COMPANY, Inc., 109 Chestnut Street, P. H. BATTE, Managing Director.

Entered at the Postoffice at Wilmington, N. C., as Second Class Matter.

Telephones
Business Office No. 51
Editorial Rooms No. 61

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
One Year \$7.00
Six Months 3.50
Three Months 1.75

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SUNDAY, MAY 20, 1923.

The Castle Hayne Road

We regret that the grand jury of New Hanover county saw fit to criticize the expense of the construction of the road from Wilmington to Castle Hayne without furnishing further details for the benefit of the public showing that the cost is excessive. We have been of the opinion that it was much better for the state funds to be spent on roads leading into Wilmington rather than any particular part should be assigned to New Hanover county, because it is much more important to Wilmington to prepare a method to get people into Wilmington than it is to give them a drive over the county after they get here.

But as to the road leading from Wilmington to Castle Hayne and beyond, this is a part of the Wilmington-Goldsboro highway, and is being constructed by the state highway commission as a part of that system. The plans and specifications are for a standard road of 18 feet width, and of a construction even better than Market street and other like streets in the city of Wilmington, and we hope the state highway commission will not get the impression that New Hanover is not satisfied with the expenditure of this money in our county upon a first class road leading from Wilmington to Goldsboro and beyond. It will be recalled that the specifications were prepared by the engineers of the highway commission and approved by the commission, and the contract was let to the lowest bidder, which was \$2.10 per square yard. Many roads throughout other sections of the state have been constructed by the commission at much greater cost, and in as much as this road is the only one now being constructed in New Hanover county by the highway commission, we feel that we should give the commission our support in building the road of standard specifications and quality; and while we desire the cost to be always the minimum, we do not see how it could be done cheaper or with less grounds for criticism, than by letting the contract to the lowest bidder, which was done in this case. The state commission, we are satisfied, will receive the commendation of the public in building a high class road leading out of Wilmington to the north.

We will get nowhere by knocking the highway commission in connection with its first effort to build roads in New Hanover, when the construction is in accordance with its established methods throughout the state.

The Fair Association

The entire community and especially our retail merchants are to be congratulated upon the success they have attained in arranging for a real fair for Wilmington. This is a much needed enterprise in order to bring together the agricultural interests in this community, and we hope that farmers and everybody else who can contribute will begin to prepare now for exhibits in the fall which will be a credit not only to this section of the state but to the entire state. The only way that the fair can be made a real success is for the public to arrange to have exhibits which will show the true productiveness of the community. If we can develop this fair on a high plane, eliminating fakers and carnival features, and let the public understand the enterprise is a clean one and of an educational nature, we have no doubt that the enterprise will receive the support which will entitle it to continue its existence.

So far as the world court is concerned, Senator Pat Harrison, of Mississippi, expresses the opinion that "President Harding will stand by his guns." Maybe his sons-of-guns won't stand by the President.

A preacher despairs of the human race. A preacher's success depends on the human race. The Star is willing to bet on the human race.

Something big has happened for North Carolina and Wilmington will soon find it out.

The Ultimatum to China

The ultimatum given by the United States government to China to "get the captives out and talk terms afterwards" indicates the most strained relations between the United States government and China, and that the United States government and other governments will place the entire responsibility on the Chinese government, and will not take any excuses to the effect that China is not in a position to deal with these bandits.

No other construction can be put upon this ultimatum except that the Chinese government itself is not performing its duty, because China is told pointedly that "an excuse to shrink or shift its own obvious responsibility" will not be accepted. It is very clear that with the lives of a large number of Americans in the hands of these bandits and at stake, that the United States government would not take such a position but for the fact that it believes that China itself is making no effort to release these captives.

As to what drastic steps may be taken in the event of China's failure to comply with this ultimatum the public is not informed. Twenty-five years ago the American navy would have sailed into Chinese ports, as Admiral Dewey did at Manila in the case of the war with Spain, and demanded that the ultimatum be complied with or that China take the consequences.

We do not know how far the armament treaty between the United States and China and other countries interested in the Pacific, interferes with such a policy of aggression at this time; but certainly the United States is in a position in conjunction with other nations, to enforce its demands or force China to take the consequences. By the time this editorial is read it may be that we will have heard what the final decision is. Certainly the United States government can not delay or hesitate to demand the full protection of its citizens wherever they be.

The Prison Investigation

It has been a week since the governor announced his purpose to make a thorough investigation of prison conditions in North Carolina, and during that week the situation has been very much clarified. It would have taken several months and many thousands of dollars, with charges and counter charges filling the air, to have even gotten a start through investigations made by such men as E. E. Dudding and other prison reform fanatics who rely upon the statements of criminals to convict reputable public officials. There is a grand jury in every county in the state, and there is a jail or other prison in every county in the state. The state government could spend tens of thousands of dollars sending emissaries about over the state to obtain information to publish against somebody without any authority to correct the evils that exist. The grand juries of each county are composed of representative citizens. They are interested in the proper administration of the government. It is the solicitor's duty to prosecute any violations of law, and it is the grand jury's duty to report any improper management of public institutions, and now that the solicitor and the grand juries in the state have taken up this matter we expect it to be completed without any extra expenditure of money and without unnecessary delay, and we expect it to be more efficient and complete than it could be if otherwise conducted.

It now occurs that since the appointment of Mr. George Ross Pou as superintendent of the state's prison, he has been studying and preparing a plan for prison reform. This plan has been submitted to the state prison board and adopted, and is substantially as follows:

Hereafter prisoners will be punished according to offense in the following manner: (a) Reprimand, (b) loss of more privileges; (c) reduction in grade, (d) addition of time to minimum sentence, (e) double shackles, (f) confinement in solitary cell and hard labor, (g) confinement in solitary cell or restricted diet after examination by physician. Diet to be approved by secretary of state board of health; no prisoner to be confined longer than 24 hours except by authority of the superintendent. Maintaining discipline without the lash is an experiment that has proved a failure on a number of occasions. It has been tried previously at the state's prison, but Superintendent Pou believes that with the new system of grading prisoners with fixed terms, will by executive order, be assured of cuts of years or months by good behavior.

Of course no one knows what will be the result of this new system. It must only be tried to ascertain its merits. We have always been doubtful of the wisdom of the abolition of corporal punishment, though we think that every possible element of cruelty should be abolished. We know hardened criminals have to be confined, and that often when a guard goes into their cells he has to go armed. When such criminals absolutely refuse to obey under any conditions, and are insulting and inso-

IT IS SUNDAY MORNING

BY W. A. STANBURY

SCIENCE AND RELIGION

The truth shall make you free.

—John 8:32.

This is a subject upon which many books have been written. For the last 50 years the storm has raged, with especial fury about the theory advanced in Darwin's epoch-making books. For the first decade of this century there was a comparative lull; but in the last eight or ten years, and more violently since the ending of the war, this conflict has broken out again.

It must not be thought that the problem of the harmony or conflict of science and religion can be lightly dismissed. To very, very many people it is a very real problem, not to say one upon which depend the most fateful and tremendous issues. Perhaps the church, or rather the ministry of the church, has made two quite mischievous errors. On the one hand there has been a great outcry against what has seemed to be the irreverent and destructive encroachments of science upon the fundamentals of religion. And this outcry has not been free from rancor and intolerance. On the other hand, those clergymen who have been more liberally inclined have pursued generally a policy of silence, lest by their speaking they offered rather than help.

But really, how can you take account of the facts of modern science and the theories in whose direction they plainly lead, and at the same time hold to the traditional creeds and forms of the religious life and faith? Are they not mutually contradictory? And in the end has not the victory for there have been great always been with the scientist, contentions and bitter words—as against the credulist and the ecclesiastic? Who does not remember the sorry plight of the church, when she undertook to establish the form of the physical universe, rather than let Galilee, who saw it with his telescope, tell the facts as they are? And when Franklin began to talk of electricity and to demonstrate his discovery of what the lightning is, the church affirmed that the storm is the voice of God, and that the use of such devices as lightning rods for the protection of buildings was an affront to God. One cannot help asking, what will be the outcome of the present controversy and furor? Will the anathemas of pious clergymen and priests overwhelm the evolutionist and discredit his theory? Or is the church destined to the humiliation of having to acknowledge some time that she was in-

error about this, and that the scientist was right?

There are many good, earnest people who make sweeping statements about science in general, and the theory of evolution in particular. They brand supporters of this theory as atheists, and vociferate that its acceptance means the denial of the Scriptures, the death of religion, and the abolishment of the spiritual—with the total elimination of God. For them, the scientist with his theories of matter and of the origin and development of the physical universe and of life, is the arch enemy of our souls, the apostle of all that is dangerous and untrue. And they are struck with a great fear. They rebel against textbooks that take account of such ideas; and they are horrified at the doctrines said to be taught at our colleges and universities.

But after all, it is not a question of consequences, of what treasured beliefs of ours are going to the scrap-heap, of what conception of creation will have to be abandoned. It is a question of what the truth is. Is the world six thousand, or six million, or six hundred million years old; or is it not? Were the forms of life as we know them created by a single momentary act, or are they the result of an infinite process of change, which process of change is still going on? Are they, or are they not?

These are questions which the scientist is patiently trying to solve. He loves the truth more than he loves anything else. And if it should turn out that evolution is the method by which things came to be what they are, then what? Does that banish God, or materialize Christ, or invalidate the spiritual? Man's spiritual nature is just as much a fact as his body; and cannot by any twist of the understanding be dependent for its reality upon any special mode of physical creation. And if the world came to be what it is by a process of evolution, does it follow that God had nothing to do with it? Or if man should be found closer akin to nature than he once thought, is he therefore less akin to God?

If evolution is true, nothing is proved except that it is true, and that this is God's way of creating. And nothing is destroyed, except false ideas.

The scientist is seeking the truth. The true disciple of Christ, is also seeking the truth. Why can they not agree? Are they not at heart collaborators? And if they arrive at the object of their search, they shall both be free.

lent to authorities, we do not know how to command discipline except by corporal punishment. But the plan suggested by Mr. Pou contains a recommendation which will go a long way toward solving this question, and that is the use of indeterminate sentences by which a prisoner's term of confinement will depend upon his good behavior. There certainly is an inducement in such a plan to make a prisoner a good prisoner.

We think that the public should wait the investigation of these conditions and the correction of any evils by the regularly constituted authorities before forming an opinion about the operations of state prisoners upon the affidavits of criminals themselves who have succeeded in getting this information into the hands of people who are at least willing to create a controversy whenever the state can be induced to spend large sums of money for experts to settle that controversy. We shall await developments before making a wholesale condemnation of the public authorities in charge of prison management.

The Landless Man

The University News Letter for some time has been publishing some very interesting information and statistics with reference to the landless man, and also the ownership of automobiles. Dr. E. C. Branson, editor-in-chief of the News Letter, has heretofore published a very comprehensive pamphlet relating to his investigation in Chatham county of the landless tenant and Dr. Branson is now abroad studying like conditions in foreign countries. He advocates in his pamphlet a tax upon unimproved property, or other like methods, which would force the owner to turn it loose for the benefit of one who is not so fortunate as to be a landowner.

In the last edition of the News Letter we have quite an interesting study of the ownership of automobiles in North Carolina and on an average one

automobile is owned for every thirteen inhabitants in the state. In Chatham county, where the landless tenant has become the object of much concern and consideration, one person out of every seventeen owns an automobile. This presents for our consideration a thought which has not been generally presented in the News Letter, and that is how to persuade the average man to invest in land rather than automobiles. We have no doubt that many of the landless tenants in Chatham county are owners of automobiles, and forcing the landowner to turn loose his unimproved property for the benefit of one who has not any would not be of any great advantage to the state, unless these landless men can be persuaded to become motorless men and land-owners. We are advocating all the time better living conditions, more comforts and more pleasures, and there is really more pleasure in riding in a Ford than in digging in the soil. We do not know the remedy which is necessary to be administered in order to persuade a citizen that he should buy a farm when he prefers a joy wagon; but it looks to us as if Henry Ford is responsible for the whole trouble, though this may be the road to the presidency for him.

Senator Moses, Republican, says he is doubtful whether the Republicans can carry the senate next year. He won't have the slightest doubt about it if he will listen to Senator Pat Harrison.

An Alabama editor claims that Cleopatra was "the world's sweetheart." That shows how giddy the world always has been since Mark Anthony set the pace.

Ostrich Popular
The coming popularity of ostrich feathers is indicated. A number of evening gowns are decorated with these feathers in the form of long arrays of delicate flowers.

CONTEMPORARY VIEWS.

IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION
While immigration is seriously to the fore as a problem of national concern on this side of the Atlantic emigration is to the forefront on the other. Large groups in the British Isles are packing up their belongings and emigrating to Canada, Australia, East Africa and other parts of the empire because of the lack of work at home. Groups of young workmen contract for their labor in remote parts of America or Africa and emigrate to compass the work. They are similarly sent forth, frequently from public institutions of one sort or another, to take positions at domestic service in the distant quarters of the globe.

In Germany there is recently developed a similar emigration movement toward the newer parts of the world. Thus far this outward movement of population has by no means equalled the inward movement, but it is anticipated by many that if political and economic conditions in Germany do not shortly improve there will be a net loss of man power within a few years. Unfortunately for us comparatively few of these emigrating Britishers and Germans are coming to the United States. Instead they are seeking newer places where the reception granted them is likely to be better.—New York Journal of Commerce.

THE CLINCHELD LEASE

When the Clinchfield was first projected it was believed that its southern terminus would be Charleston. Toroung surveys of a proposed route were made and if the cost of constructing the mountain end of the road had not been so much greater than was anticipated it is probable that the line would have been extended from Spartanburg to Charleston at least ten years ago. Charleston will wait with the very keenest interest the development of the plan of the Atlantic Coast Line for this port. The business of the Coast Line has been growing with extraordinary rapidity in recent years and at the present time it is making tremendous improvements on its north and south lines. This move to take over the Clinchfield and thus establish extraordinary potential coal facilities is something new and its possibilities are tremendous.

It has always been well within the range of practicability for the Clinchfield properties to be utilized as to make Charleston one of the great coal ports of the world. It will be a big thing for this city and section if the present move means that this is now to be undertaken energetically and on a proper scale. Coal from the Clinchfield can come to Charleston with a directness possible from no other source of supply; and, of course, there is no other port which offers anything like the opportunities of development which are to be had at Charleston. The future of the Clinchfield has been recognized for some time as a matter of very vital importance to this city and section, and we suppose that the business interests of Charleston and the authorities will lose no time in getting in touch with the movements which are now under way and ascertaining just what they promise for this city and section.—Charleston News and Courier.

WILMINGTON'S OFFER

The Observer has never harbored any notion of a connection with operation of the state's shipping other than that of the port of Wilmington would be the seat of major operation. That is the state's only part and the foundation for a developed shipping business must be laid there, with development of New Bern, Beaufort and the inland routes as subsidiary enterprises to the rounding out of a complete scheme. Wilmington is now bringing out facts and figures which will impress the commission with the value of that port as an asset in any scheme for promotion of a state-owned and operated shipping business. The outstanding feature is a water front property with a value of \$1,000,000. This means that Wilmington stands ready to make the state a gift of one million dollars as a starter in the shipping enterprise. The property offers a unique opportunity to the government because of its advantages as a ship-building yard. It has shops, railroad tracks, docks and warehouses ready to hand, and would seem to be a better proposition than the state might have hoped for. The natural advantages to be had at Wilmington are of a nature to give encouragement to excellent speed on part of the commission in getting the state shipping plans under way.—Charlotte Observer.

A SCOTCH COVENANTER

The election of Rev. Alexander Sprunt as moderator of the Southern Presbyterian Assembly, gives that body of religious workers a Scotch Covenanter as leader. He is a native of North Carolina, and is a brother of Wilmington's most distinguished son, Dr. James Sprunt. He is a down-right, upstanding and unflinching champion of "the faith once delivered." He is a scholar, an evangelical preacher, well versed in parliamentary law, and a gentleman who illustrates the best virtues of the Scotch Covenanter.—Raleigh News and Observer.

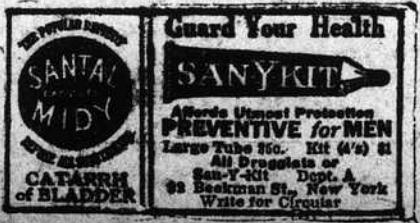
TWO COAL ROADS FOR A. C. L.

Acquisition of the Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio by the Louisville and Nashville and Atlantic Coast Line afford these roads two routes to the sea—the L. & N. by way of Marion and Spartanburg, and the Coast Line by way of Winston-Salem, Greensboro and Florence. The Clinchfield is probably the best built railroad of recent years.—Hickory Record.

SULPHUR CLEARS ROUGH, RED SKIN

Face, Neck and Arms Easily Made Smooth, Says Specialist

Any breaking out of the skin, even fiery, itching eczema, can be quickly overcome by applying a little Menthol Sulphur, declares a noted skin specialist. Because of its germ destroying properties, this sulphur preparation begins at once to soothe irritated skin and heal eruptions such as rash, pimples and ring worm. It seldom fails to remove the former and disfigurement, and you do not have to wait for relief from embarrassment. Improvement quickly shows. Sufferers from skin trouble should obtain a small jar from any good druggist and use it like cold cream.—adv.



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Like the IRISHMAN

who was made drunk and placed in the Catacombs to sleep it off, and when awakened and saw that he was the ONLY ONE LIVING amidst his surroundings exclaimed: "Be faith, America is the first to wake up in Hiven!" We always head the list.

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