

# Watauga Democrat.

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## WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent.

President Cleveland was probably as much disappointed at the unsatisfactory disposition of the income tax by the Supreme Court as everybody else was, and he is probably as anxious that the case should be reheard by a full bench and the constitutionality of the tax either affirmed or denied, but like a good citizen he recognizes the income tax as the law of the land pending that final decision, and promptly filled out and handed in an account of his own income upon which he is liable to be taxed. Being in doubt as to where he should pay the tax he handed his blank to Internal Revenue Commissioner Miller in person and marked it "at large," and it is now locked up in Mr. Miller's safe. So many stories have been current as to the extent of President Cleveland's income, on one side of his salary, that there is much curiosity to know the figures he put upon that blank. But it isn't likely to be gratified. It was to make sure that no careless clerk should violate the law against making public the amount of income returned by taxpayers that the President gave his blank into custody of Mr. Miller.

Although today is the last day upon which taxpayers can file statements of their incomes, without being subject to specified penalties, the tax itself need not be paid until the 30th of June, and the chances are that but little more of it than has already been paid will be paid in before that time, unless the Supreme Court hands down an affirmative decision before then. Should the decision be the other way it would not have to be paid at all. Unless present plans miscarry it is expected that the case will be reheard by a full bench—Justice Jackson is reported to have promised to sit—and a decision handed down before the close of the present term of the court.

Among the attorneys recently disbarred from practice before the Interior department was "Jerry" Haralson, who was a conspicuous degenerate member of Congress in reconstruction days, and who has been sentenced by the U. S. District Court of Arkansas to one year's imprisonment and a fine of \$5,000 for engaging in fraudulent pension practices. Still, every now and then some over enthusiastic Republican will jump up and shout "there are no fraudulent pensioners."

Judge Lochren, Commissioner of Pensions, says of the proposed making of a test case against the Commissioner of Pensions, by the Union Veteran Legion. In the United States Supreme Court, in order to show whether these ten thousand, more or less, pensioners were legally dropped, that he will gladly aid in getting a decision on such a case. He adds that the cases of Shake-

spere and Long are entirely different from the other cases in which reductions have been made or pensioners dropped from the rolls. Nearly all the latter came under the law of 1890, which differs radically from all previous laws. "Corporal" James Tanner is Commander of the Union Veteran Legion; likewise a pension attorney, which may explain his anxiety in this matter. He has issued a letter asking each member of the legion to contribute \$10., towards the expenses of making a test case, but members of the legion here say that the organization has nothing to do with the scheme; that Tanner alone is responsible for the letter. They say that he wished to send this letter out as an official order of the Commander of the U. V. L., but that so much objection was raised he was compelled to abandon that idea and send it out as a personal letter.

A statement made here will be of much interest to impecunious Republican editors, should it prove true. It is that the Alger Presidential boom is shortly to take the road again. Its last tour was very expensive to Gen. Alger, but very profitable to the aforesaid impecunious editors.

It is said that Gen. Alger is confident that the fight between McKinley and Reed, which is already getting quite warm, will be so bitter that it will make the nomination of either of them impossible, and that he thinks he stands as good a chance to be struck by lightning as any of the other waiting dark horses do.

There has been a great deal of guessing as to the position President Cleveland will occupy during the next national campaign, and, were it not that it would be to a certain extent a violation of confidence, your correspondent could make a good guess. However, it can be stated without any violation of confidence, that at the proper time President Cleveland will make known, over his own signature or in some other authoritative manner, just where he stands and what relation he expects to hold to the next campaign.

Persons who sympathize with the afflicted will rejoice with D. E. Carr of 1235 Harrison street, Kansas City. He is an old sufferer from inflammatory rheumatism, but has not heretofore been troubled in this climate. Last winter he went up into Wisconsin, and in consequence has had another attack. "It came upon him again very acute and severe," he said. "My joints swelled and became inflamed; sore to touch or almost to look at. Upon the urgent request of my mother-in-law, I tried Chamberlain's Pain Balm to reduce the swelling and ease the pain, and to my agreeable surprise, it did both. I have used three fifty-cent bottles and believe it to be the finest thing for rheumatism, pains and swellings extant. For sale by W. L. Bryan.

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## The Roan Mountain Bear Hunt.

In the early days of and during the first settlement of this vast mountain section of the old North State bordering what is now the Tenn., State line. In about the year 1807, at this early period there were but few settlers who had penetrated this vast wild forest and located homes among the great mountain peaks, looming up all around the grand old Roan. These early settlers had a rough and tough time and many difficulties to overcome. But in this case as well as in the history of all early settlers of the vast forest, none but brave resolute men and women ever settled any such wilderness as the section we speak of. Of course these people were secluded from civilization. There were no roads no mails, no schools nor churches, nothing to be seen but a vast wilderness lofty trees and undergrowth through which herds of deer, many bear, wolves and all other wild game which held undisputed possession for ages before, and had never been molested except by the Indians until our heroes entered and pitched their cabbins and set about to clear ground for farming purposes. They soon started up hogs and cattle. There was no trouble to raise hogs but soon the bears began to claim a large part of the fat hogs roaming the woods in quest of acorns and chestnuts. So destructive had they become and so fond of hog meat that the huge bears ventured near the cabbins of the settlers and feasted themselves on the fat pigs. During the winters big snows the number of hogs were greatly diminished. In consequence those pioneers become alarmed and while they had killed many bears but they seemed to increase in members and becoming more ravenous for hogs. Old man Moses Rust, one of the first to enter the Roan Mountain section and a man of great influence among the others, being an old Revolutionary Soldier and had distinguished himself at the battle of Kings Mountain, in which engagement he received a wound in his hip, which crippled him for life, Mr. Rust was the acknowledged ruler of the little colony of the Roan, so a consultation was had at the Cabin of this old hero and six of the sturdy brave muscular fellows resolved that the vicious bears had to be dislodged from their line, their rendezvous being known to the settlers, it being in the wild and roughest part of the Roan, so after partaking of a sufficient amount of apple-jack furnished by the old hero and eating a hearty supper of bear meat and corn pone, they went to their different cabbins with an agreement to meet next morning at 4 o'clock at the same place with dogs guns tomahawks and big butcher knives with blades usually ten inches long. All six of the men met thus equipped a man in those

days without dogs, guns, hatchets and butcher knives was not considered much in a bear fight. There was no other gun in these times but the big boor and old flint lock and rag powder was the only kind then in use. This powder was manufactured by a man by the name of Clawson who lived then either on Watauga River, now Carter County or on Roan Creek now Johnson County Tenn. As a general thing the old hunters and early settlers used this rag powder. Daniel Boone used this kind of powder, made by this man Clawson. But to our bear story. So early in the morning before the break of day a regular advance on the bear was commenced. Old man Rust could not be prevailed on to remain at home, he would follow with his two large bear dogs and other equipments after proceeding about five miles the old man gave out in the gorge of the mountain he built him up a fire, as every body then carried steel and punk, by which they could readily catch fire. The other six resolute men made for the roughs in their front, where the bears had retired after filling themselves with fresh hog meat. A deep snow on the ground and the wind blowing; and the weather severely cold, and the great difficulty in getting over the cliffs and steep places with an almost impenetrable undergrowth of laurel etc., all covered with snow, never daunted these resolute men, for it was the bears that they were after. When they had advanced well up the side of the rough and about a mile from where the old man was left; having their hunting shirts belted close around them and in this belt their tomahawks and ten inch butchers, their dogs being a few steps in advance made an out cry that these hunters quickly understood. They advanced quickly into the more dense jungle and they beheld two ponderous old bears standing on their hind feet backed up against a massive rock cliff, and perhaps a dozen ferocious dogs baying them fiercely, as the men advanced the dogs engaged the bears at close range. The men up with their hitherto trusty rifles dim'd to shoot vain about the sticking place, but to their great consternation not a gun would fire, in coming through the snowy brush they had dampened their powder. Their favorite dogs were being torn to pieces and they were powerless to shoot. Harry Huffman, a very stout brave man proposed to tackle the bears with the butcher knives. The proposition was agreed to with alacrity and Huffman and George Shields threw off their coon skin caps and made for one of the bears that had Huffman's dog in his hug. The bear made at Huffman who dodged him at the same time Shields thrust his butcher into the bears hip—the bear turned upon Shields and struck him on his shoulder with his mighty paw, knocking the man down on the brink of a cliff where he kept going until he got a foot halt.

[Continued next week.]

## SELF'S WONDERFUL BILL.

An Act of the Fusion Legislature that Caps Anything Yet Discovered.

News and Observer.

Of all the extraordinary acts passed by the recent "Reform" Legislature of North Carolina, the one introduced by Chatham's distinguished Representative, Mr. Self, caps the climax up to date. It is truly a wonderful bill and will attract great attention. It stands unique and alone, both as to its remarkable provisions and the still more remarkable language in which they are expressed, and will, no doubt, win for the distinguished "statesman" who drew it a national reputation.

The following is an exact and literal copy of this extraordinary law as it is enrolled and filed in the office of the Secretary of State;

*The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:*

"Section 1. That it shall be unlawful for any male hog sheep or goat, to run at large in the county of Chatham to greater age than six months without castration, unless the same shall have been turned out for the improvement of the stock.

"Sec. 2. That any male cattle running to a greater age than two years, without castration, shall be contrary to the provisions of this act.

"Sec. 3. That any PERSON violating this act shall be subject to a fine of not less than two dollars and fifty cents, \$2.50, nor more than five dollars, \$5. Said fine to go to the school fund of the county.

Sec. 4. That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification."

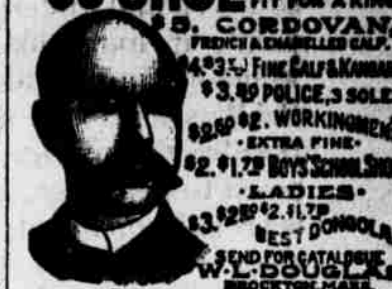
This act was ratified on the 2nd day of February and has been in force and effect ever since that day, and yet the citizens of Chatham have been in a blissful ignorance of it, and violating it every day since its passage, over two months ago. Mr. Self surely ought to have given them some timely notice of it.

Until our citizens can get the Supreme Court to construe the above law, says the Chatham Record, there will exist great doubt as to its meaning, for if it means what it says (as it reads) our good old county will be depopulated and there will be no need of providing a school fund, for their will be no children to educate!

It will be seen that Section 1, allows certain hogs, sheep and goats six months, and Section 2, allows certain cattle two years, but Section 3, does not mention what time is allowed "Persons," and it is left in doubt whether they are allowed six months like goats, hogs and sheep, or are allowed two years like male cattle. If they are allowed two years, then there is some hope for them for they may get the next Legislature to come to their rescue by repealing this wonderful law!

It will be noted that Section 2 does not make it unlawful for certain male cattle to run at large, but makes it unlawful or them to run at all, so that all over two years old must be killed or their legs cut off. And, in Section 3, Mr. Self should have stated how often (whether every day or hour) a person may be fined for violating this act by running at large!

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