

# Watauga Democrat.

VOL. IX.

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, N. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 1897

NO. 32.

## WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent.

Neither Boss Hanna nor Mr. McKinley are entirely satisfied with the work of the extra session of Congress just closed. The tariff bill pleased them all right; it more than repaid their campaign obligations to the trusts, not to mention the \$32,000,000, made by the sugar trust and its friends while the bill was pending. But their efforts to repay their campaign obligations to the banking interests were a failure. Mr. McKinley, in his special message to Congress only a few hours before adjournment, asking for authority to appoint a currency commission, quoted the Indianapolis Banker's convention as though it had been the assembled financial wisdom of the world, but that didn't bring the legislation asked for. The House railcaded through in 60 minutes a bill granting Mr. McKinley the authority, asked for, although nearly every Republican in that body is really opposed to a currency commission, but the Senate was not so accommodating, and there is nothing in sight to indicate that it will be more obliging next winter.

Senator Morgan handled the conference committee without gloves, in a speech made just before the vote was taken on the conference report on the tariff bill, for its abandonment of the tax on bonds and transfers of stock—a tax that was approved by the Finance committee and by a Republican caucus, closing with this explicit language, which no Republican attempted to deny: "I charge that the abandonment occurred under command of the sugar trust."

Before the Ohio Republicans do any shouting over the result of the colloquy between Senators Allen and Foraker concerning the charge of the former that the Republican vote of that was fraudulently increased for Mr. McKinley, they should arrange for Mr. Foraker, or somebody else, to accept the challenge with which Mr. Allen closed the little spat—"I will meet the Senator any time and will undertake to convince any unprejudiced man that there was fraud in Ohio."

Senator Teller's arraignment of the Republican tariff bill, now the law of the land, was one of the bitterest pills the Republicans have had to swallow in a long time. Mr. Teller, who is a protectionist, characterized this bill as vicious, unfair, extravagant, of trusts and syndicates. Mr. Teller also took occasion to criticize in the strongest language the gold standard policy of forcing professors out of educational institutions because of their belief in the free coinage of silver. He denounced the forced resignation of President Andrews, of Brown University, as one of the most "shameful acts of abasement" the world has

seen, and said in ringing tones: "Thank God that president Andrews was big enough to refuse to be stifled."

Senator Turley, of Tenn., cast his first vote for the Tillman resolution to investigate sugar scandal charges, which was defeated, and his second against the conference report on the trust-made tariff bill, which was adopted.

The hearings to determine whether John Wedderburn & Co., shall be disbarred from practice before the United States Patent Office are now on. The Patent Office claims to have proof to sustain the numerous charges of fraud it has brought against Wedderburn & Co., and is giving the accused a full opportunity to controvert its proof.

A pertinent question often accomplishes more than argument. One destroys the scheme to authorize Czar Reed's pets who have been made chairmen of committees to give their favorites sinecure positions during the Congressional recess. When Representative Grosvenor tried to push a resolution through authorizing that waste of public money, he was asked, if the House could get along while Congress was in session without these clerks, why they should be considered necessary during the recess. The laugh which followed killed the scheme.

Sec. Sherman's departure before the adjournment of Congress for a Long Island summer resort, was regarded as additional proof that he has very little to do with official business of the Department of State. In fact, it is hinted by some that Mr. Sherman intended to emphasize that very thing by his going.

Georgia democrats are more pleased with the nomination of Henry Rucker, an Atlanta negro barber, to be United States Marshal for Georgia than Maj. Hansom and his white Republican followers from that State are. It is expected that all of Rucker's deputies will be negroes, as no white man will care to serve under him, and lively times are likely to follow every visit of the dusky officials to the moonshine districts of the State. Hanna placed the "coon."

Mr. A. C. Wolfe, of Dundee, Mo., who travels for Mansue & Tibbetts, Implement Co., of St. Louis, gives traveling men and travelers in general some good advice. "Being a Knight of the Grip," he says, "I have for the past three years, made it a rule to keep myself supplied with Chamberlain's colic, cholera and diarrhoea remedy, and have found numerous occasions to test its merits, not only on myself, but on others as well. I can truly say that I never, in a single instance, have known it to fail. I consider it one of the best remedies travelers can carry and could relate many instances where I have used the remedy on skeptics, much to their surprise and relief. I hope every traveling man in the United States will carry a bottle of this remedy in his grip." For sale by M. B. Blackburn.

## THE NEW SCHOOL LAW.

For the guidance and direction of school committeemen in performing the duties of their office, Supt. Mebane has prepared and sent out a circular of general information in regard to the school law.

He reminds committeemen that their services and labor must be for love, and patriotism, there being no compensation provided for them; and that upon them largely depends the success or failure of the public schools for the next two years.

The law requires the County Board of Education on the first Monday in July to divide the county into as many school districts as there are townships in each county. It does not require the township lines and the school district lines to be the same, but it does require that there shall be the same number of districts as there are townships.

A school may be taught at or near a township line by the consent of the committees of the adjacent townships, subject to the approval of the County Board of Education. When children are transferred from one township to another, the pro rata share of the school money of the district from which they are transferred should be transferred also to the districts into which they are received.

While the old committee had no power to enter into a contract with a teacher to extend beyond their term of office, yet several of the old committees have done so, and in such case, the new committee should carry out all such contracts, provided they are reasonable and for the best interests of the schools.

## APPORTIONMENT, HOW MADE.

The next apportionment of school money will be made by the County Board of Education on the first Monday in January next, and each district's share will be on a per capita basis, as shown by the census report. The county supervisor, on the first Monday in January, will mail each committeeman a statement of the amount of his apportionment. The committee is then required to meet on the second Monday in January and apportion this money to the various schools, white and colored, in the district.

By grading, the law does not have reference to the classes in the schools, but has reference only to the character of the schools, the qualifications and salaries of the teachers required. The grade of each school will depend largely upon three conditions, namely: First, the grade of advancement among the pupils attending that school; second, the interest manifested by the patrons of the school in public education; and, third, the average attendance during the school term. If a school has a large average attendance, and there is educational interest in the community, and the children are advanced, the school should be so

graded, and its apportionment should be sufficiently large to warrant the employment of a suitable teacher at a good salary.

The apportionment to the other schools, white and colored, in the township, will be made according to conditions and requirements of those schools, but must be made with the purpose to give all the schools the same length of term, and consequently in apportioning the money the committee necessarily fixes the salary of the teacher for each school. It will be observed from the above that the money is no longer apportioned to the schools, white and colored, per capita but to each according to the grade of the school and the qualifications of the teacher required.

## TAKING THE CENSUS.

The county supervisor is required to mail to each committeee, on the first Monday in May, a blank report, on which they are to report the census of the school property and children in their township, which report must be returned to the county supervisor on or before the first Monday in June of each year. A new census will also be taken this fall for the January apportionment.

If the committee finds that there are too many school houses in the district, and the average is less than sixty-five pupils to the school, then it will be their duty to decrease the number of schools until the average is reached, or if they find they have the required average without interfering with any school, still, they should not hesitate to discontinue any school wherever it is possible to do so, and the children are not inconvenienced thereby.

The law does not require that each school shall have sixty-five children assigned to it, no more and no less, for geographical reasons, in certain localities, it will not be practicable to have as many as sixty-five children, and for these reasons one school may have fewer than thirty children, but the average, in the whole school district should not be less than sixty-five.

The committee of each township, on or before their January meeting, should fix the dividing lines between the various schools in their townships so as to designate the school for the children in each locality to attend.

The census report for North Carolina shows that only 61 per cent of the children of school age enrolled in the public schools, and the average attendance is only 62 per cent of the enrollment; consequently there is little danger of making the districts too large, provided the children can reach the school-house without great inconvenience. When the districts are made larger and the number of schools reduced, then will the schools have longer terms with the same money.

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The famous signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher* is on every wrapper.

## Not as Good as California Gold.

Assistant Weigher W. A. Underhill, of the Selby Smelting Company, states that the gold from the Yukon is not of so much value as that produced in California. In speaking of this matter he said: "We have found the miners from the Yukon a very nice class of people to deal with, and they have not been deceived in the value of gold they have brought back with them. It is a fact that the Yukon gold is not as valuable as that produced in this State. We have found that there are from fifty to 100 points more base metal in the Northern product. These base metals are iron, lead and few others. There is a large quantity of silver also. We look principally for the gold and silver. It is the iron that gives the Yukon gold its fine rich color." Of course, these other metals decrease the metals a little. The nuggets from the Yukon are worth \$17 and \$18 per ounce and the finer gold dust is worth from \$16 to \$17 per ounce. With the California gold the value is about \$1 a ounce more; that is, nuggets run from \$18 to \$19 and gold dust never less than \$17 per ounce.

"Our assayers have found several other metals than those I have mentioned, but no attention is paid to them, as the other base metals do not cut much of a figure in the general value."—San Francisco Dispatch.

Levi Morgan, colored, some time ago elected by the county commissioners to be constable of Kinston township, was arrested last month for allowing chickens to run at large, in violation of town ordinances. He shifted the responsibility on his wife by saying that the chickens belonged to her. Then she was arrested, tried before Mayor Temple and fined a small amount and costs, the entire sum being \$5 or \$6. Failing to pay same, though her frequent pleasure trips to neighboring towns evidenced her ability to do so, she was put in jail a few days ago, and unless the costs are paid she will be made to work ten days in the cemetery. It is a fine (?) state of affairs that allows a negro to be constable of Kinston township—a negro who allows his wife to go to jail rather than pay a few dollars costs.—Kinston Free Press.

Some time ago, a little bottle of Chamberlain's colic, cholera and diarrhoea remedy fell into my hands, just at a time when my two-year-old boy was terribly afflicted. His bowels were beyond control. We had tried many remedies, to no purpose, but the little bottle of colic, cholera and diarrhoea remedy speedily cured him.—William F. Jones, Oglesby, Ga. For sale by M. B. Blackburn.

What about snow storms in Colorado last week? Snow balling in July would appear alarming in Watauga in the month of July.

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## NOTICE.

By virtue of a decree made by the Superior Court of Watauga county in a special procedure entitled, W. L. Horton and others ex parte, I will, as commissioner, sell at the court house door in the town of Boone, on Thursday, the 12th day of Aug., 1897, two tracts of land containing respectively 100 and 75 acres, situated near Elk Knob, in North Fork township, being the lands formerly owned by Wm. Horton, embracing the old Nathan Horton and Wm. Miller Sugar Camps. These lands are rich, agricultural and mineral lands. Terms of sale; five per cent cash and balance in six months with interest on deferred payments. This July 7, 1897.

W. H. BOWER, Com.

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\$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.00, \$4.50, \$5.00, \$5.50, \$6.00, \$6.50, \$7.00, \$7.50, \$8.00, \$8.50, \$9.00, \$9.50, \$10.00  
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