

THE STATE PENITENTIARY

Has Existed Since 1868, and Presents a Most Difficult Problem.

WHO THE FIRST CONVICT WAS.

History of the Pen--Counties, Under a New Law, May Have the Use of Convicts.

There is no problem in North Carolina greater than the penitentiary; that is its maintenance without cost to the State. The incubus is the central prison--with the life-time prisoners, the drags of the State's criminal class, the degraded prisoners, the sick and the insane.

The penitentiary maintains five farms; three on the Roanoke, one in Anson and two at Castle Hayne. Only four can in the broad sense be termed farms, and all are on lease land. There are today 153 convicts in the penitentiary, itself, 26 at Castle Hayne, 153 at the Anson farm, 655 on the farms on Roanoke river. The total is 997. Of these 60 are women.

The penitentiary was established by the Legislature of 1868. Before that the modes of punishment were death in the jail, the whipping post and the branding iron. It was at first proposed that the location of the prison should be in Chatham county, on Deep river.

But Raleigh was finally selected after land-sharks and speculators had made some money out of the State in the matter of land for the site in Chatham.

The penitentiary as first built here was primitive. Two long houses were built of logs as quarters. These were low and were like a set of houses facing each other with a roof covering all and the corridors between. In each one of the rooms there were one or twelve convicts. The stockade was of pine poles or small logs. Part of the original penitentiary yet remains, and is used for stable.

January 6, 1870, the penitentiary was opened and forty convicts were placed in it. The first one was Charles Lewis, sentenced from Johnston county, for four years, for robbery. The oldest prisoner now within the walls is Wincoff, who was received June 18, 1877, for burglary, for life. The total number of convicts received is 11,990.

The penitentiary buildings are of brick and granite, all made or quarried on the premises. In fact the granite for the foundation came from under the building. That from the immense wall came from a quarry in the State. The first and last, the cost of construction approximates \$2,750,000. The main building has a front of 750 feet. It is a great shell, enclosing in the east wing "cell-blocks," which are simply masses of brick and cement in which are the cells, rising four tiers high, like burrows in a mountain. The west wing has no cell blocks, but is a vast open space, available for manufacturing or other purposes.

At each end is a building, higher and divided by a solid wall. One of these is a hospital and contains cells for the criminal insane. The other is a workshop. In front is the administration building and in the rear the bakery, kitchen, laundry, etc., and in rear of these a separate building for female prisoners. There are in all sixty female convicts, but most are on the farms. One of the long time female prisoners is Maria Hall, colored, of Wilmington, who got twenty years for manslaughter. She has by uniform good conduct gained three years, and will leave next month with \$35 she has earned. The females from the farms will probably all be brought to the central prison. The women make all the clothing. In one year they make 6,000 pairs of trousers, as many suits of underclothing and 2,000 coats. The goods are all purchased in Georgia.

In the criminal insane ward there is as yet only one inmate, Abe Hinson, a murderer, who is kept chained and has been so kept for ten years. His desire is to strangle. His striped clothing is removed now, and neither he nor any of the criminal insane will wear the prison garb.

In former years the Legislature used to appropriate \$25,000 annually for the penitentiary. During the past four years, it cost the State only \$74,000 for the entire period. This was the excess over earnings. Last year there was no expense. This year there is a goodly new appropriation of \$25,000, of which the new superintendent says not a dollar will be needed if there is no damaging freshet in the Roanoke. Last year a freshet swept away 1,000 acres of corn there. He says the best farm in the State is the "Caledonia," there, which is offered at \$9 per acre for its 7,000 acres. The State has an option at that figure.

This year the new superintendent has sold \$20,000 of last year's cotton crop. He expects to make 2,000,000 brick within the penitentiary.

There are many convicts for convicts. In June they will build a ten-mile extension of the Carthage Railroad. The Legislature gave \$50,000 without expense, but these will not be furnished unless they are paid for. Under the new law the convicts are available for road work to the counties which pay for them, from the autumn until the following spring. Many will be hired to attend a good Saturday was Children's Day and was a great success.

The administration at Washington has determined to go slow as to Cuban matters.

THE WEEK OF TRADE.

Slight Improvement--A General Increase in Loans is Noted.

Messrs. R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade for the week ending on the 21st, says: Unmistakable evidence of improvement comes in the general increase of commercial loans, mostly for eastern merchants or companies, though some well-known houses in the middle west appear with considerable rediscouunts from the South.

Not for a long time have commercial loans been fully half the whole. The distinct change gives proof that new business has been larger than many have supposed. Receipts of money from the interior exceed shipments \$1,500,000, mostly from the middle west, and exports of gold have no influence, and only signify the willingness of Russia to pay a price for the gold needed. The excess of merchandise imports to answer demands for half a year to come involves the greater excess of exports when the anticipatory movement ends and crops begin to move, which fact renders large outgoes of gold less likely, and the new business, though not in all directions, is a continuing increase, distinct though gradual, in the volume of business in demand for products of manufacture.

Western wheat receipts exceed last year's for the week 2,364,189 bushels against 1,738,384, and Atlantic exports were 1,670,813 bushels, flour included 1,302,491 last year, and for three weeks 4,738,723 against 3,885,910, for the same period last year. Western receipts of corn were 1,635,977 bushels, a gain of 1,425,671, and Atlantic exports 2,188,825 against 1,608,825 last year, notwithstanding the enormous increase hitherto. Wheat again created hopeful buyers and fell nearly 4 cents, closing 93 lower for the week. Corn was a shade weaker. Cotton once more hopefully advanced to 7 1/2, but fell back to 7 1/4 with poor support here or abroad. Both orders and exports of finished goods of domestic and foreign markets for goods hand advanced, and later acreage reports are better.

The iron industry has had an increase in new business, though not in all branches. Part was due to the rupture of the steel beam pool, and the fall in price from \$1.55 to \$1.35, nominally quoted, and some good structural contracts were at once secured. Part is due to a better demand for plates and for pipe, of which one large contract for Indiana fields was placed, and part to growing needs for cars and vessels. There is also some increase in rods though the season for wire and nails is nearing an end, because of an expected pool of iron mills. Lower Southern freight rates marketed a little more iron at the North and Eastern foundry is slightly lower with grey foundry only \$8.25 at Pittsburgh.

The State crop report for May, based on returns from 1,000 correspondents, has been completed. It is as follows: Average condition of farm work 94 per cent; amount of cotton planted compared with average years 102, cotton 101, wheat 102, corn 102, and prospects for peaches 67, apples 75, small fruits 87, grapes 84. Number of hogs as compared with average years 97 per cent.

The appointment of ex-Judge Tongree to the consulate at Bordeaux, France, brings to mind his career in this State. He left North Carolina nineteen years ago. He held various offices as bondsman and one of his statements just before he left was that the United States Supreme Court would declare them valid and require their payment. He proved to be a very poor prophet. --Wilmington Messenger.

BIG STRIKE ENDS.

After Four Years' Struggle the Flint Glass Workers Give Up. At Pittsburgh, Pa., the strike of the American Flint Glass Workers' Union, which was inaugurated four years ago, has been declared off. The dispute was over working the unlimited turn, and of the 7,500 men connected with the American Flint Glass Workers' Union, 1,900 struck.

The strike cost the Glass Workers' Union over \$1,000,000, and during the four years 400 strikers died. McLaurin is the strike hero over it is thought the United States Glass Company will reinstate a large number of men.

McLAURIN FOR SENATOR.

The Youngest South Carolina Congressman Looming Up. There is little doubt as to the successor of Senator Earle, of South Carolina, and as Governor Elerbe thinks the Democrats should have their full strength in the United States Senate at once, he will probably make the appointment before many days.

Congressman John L. McLaurin is looking upon practically certain to receive the appointment. If appointed, he will be elected, whether there is a primary next fall or not, for it is left entirely to the Legislature. McLaurin is the youngest man in the South Carolina delegation. He was attorney general for four years and was elected to Congress for his second term last fall. He is a member of the Ways and Means committee and recently spoke in favor of a duty on cotton.

More Trouble at Homestead.

Italians at Homestead, Pa., have twice been attacked by ill-tempered men, who believe they should have been given the work the Italians received (building a street railway). Officers are protecting the Italians and further trouble is feared.

The Roush Monument Dedicated.

The monument given by Charles Broadway Roush, the millionaire New York merchant, to the Confederate Veterans camp here, in Westchester county, New York.

The departure for the criminal insane at the penitentiary will be finished by the 1st of June.

DECIDED AGAINST WOMEN.

A Column of North Carolina Squibs Picked Up Here and There.

HE IS A VERY POOR PROPHET.

Many Damage Suits -- Toe-Nails Dropping Off -- May Crop Bulletin.

The Charlotte Observer's Concord correspondent of the 17th, says: "In the Presbyterian cemetery at this place there is a lone grave with the following inscription on the plain white slab: 'George Yeaman, Esquire, born in Edinburgh, Scotland, January 18th 1801, and departed this life November 7th, 1827.' He was a showman and injured while performing a feat in Robinson's great country circus, which was making its first tour through the South. Yesterday afternoon members of the Concord circle assembled at the St. Cloud Hotel and marched to the grave, which was profusely decorated with beautiful flowers. At the grave Mr. Hennessey, the business manager of the show made an impressive talk, and asked the divine blessing and guidance for the fallen and for those yet alive in the profession. The band rendered several choice selections on the march and at the cemetery, while the flowers were being placed on the tomb. The memorial service was an impressive one and was witnessed by nearly all the city's populace."

Eli Marshall, the negro who shot Constable Noyes, at Elinville, and who was in turn shot when being captured, just over the line in South Carolina from Monroe, is furnishing a strange case for medical science. He was shot, it will be remembered, in the leg. The toenails on the foot of the leg he was shot in are dropping off. This, Dr. Wilder says, is caused by injuries to the sciatic nerve. It is the only case of the kind on record. He complains of his foot feeling like he was on fire. He keeps it in water constantly. --Charlotte Observer.

It is said that the attendance at the meeting of the State Teachers' Assembly at Moorhead City, June 12th, will be the largest in many years. The opening of the summer school at Wake Forest College will be postponed in order not to conflict with the assembly. Among the eminent educators who are to address the assembly are Dr. Curry, Dr. McMurray, president of the University of Chicago, and President George J. Ranney, of the Southern Educational Association.

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At the convention of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew held in Raleigh last week the following officers were re-elected: S. S. Nash, president; T. W. Patton and Benjamin R. Huske, vice presidents; John C. Drewry, secretary and treasurer; executive committee, W. L. Wall, B. A. Evans and E. S. Marshall, trustees; Charles Taylor, S. C. Moore, of Danville, Va.; J. A. Scatterwhite, of Newberry, S. C.

The Episcopal Diocesan Convention at Raleigh last week adopted resolutions deciding to purchase \$10,000 of stock in that city for \$50,000, \$10,000 in cash, the remainder in twenty years. The school property belongs to the Cameron estate and is in the western suburbs of Raleigh. For over half a century it has been a church school, but under private auspices. They also decided that women cannot vote on parochial matters.

At Raleigh last week the following were granted licenses as pharmacists by the State Board after examination: F. R. Graham, of Raleigh; Moody B. Mintz, of Southport; John B. Manly and J. B. Isenhour, of Salisbury; Norman C. Hunter and W. B. Whitaker, of Enfield; C. H. Vick, of Wilson; T. G. Moore, of Danville, Va.; J. A. Scatterwhite, of Newberry, S. C.

The Governor has pardoned Ernest Turner, convicted of illegal registration at the last term of Alamance Superior Court, and sentenced to three years' jail imprisonment, with leave to the commissioners to hire out the prisoner. He also pardoned Clingman King, convicted of assault with intent to commit rape, at the October term, 1895, of the Henderson Criminal Court and sentenced to five years.

The number of damage suits against railroads for loss of employes' lives is now larger than ever before. Heavy damages are being given. --Wilmington Messenger.

The centennial anniversary of the North Carolina Lumbermen's Association in 1908, it having been organized at Salisbury May 8, 1808. A suitable observance of this notable event is in preparation.

Bishop Key will hold the Western North Carolina Conference, M. E. Church, South, which meets at Asheville November 4th.

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A SPANISH DUEL.

It Will Be Fought as a Result of a Discussion of the American Belligerency Resolution in the Spanish Senate.

Madrid, May 21. --(By Cable) --The exciting incident in the Spanish Senate, which culminated in a free fight today was provoked by the statement of the Duke of Tetuan that Senator Sagasta's speech the other day to the Liberals had contributed to bring about the vote in the American Senate. Gen. Lina Pardo, said: "The thing now happening is due to the cowardice and feebleness of the government." Senator Comas said: "You will discuss that tomorrow." "We will discuss it," replied the Duke of Tetuan, "but I will accept dictation from nobody." "Nor I either," retorted Senator Comas, "at the top of his voice."

At this point the Duke of Tetuan, pale with excitement, boxed both ears of Senator Comas and felled him to the floor. The son of Comas threw himself upon the Duke and struck him a blow with his fist. Several Senators intervened and a general scuffle ensued. The Senate adjourned in confusion. The Duke immediately tendered his resignation. It is believed that he is under the reply of Senator Comas, who is a professor in the University of Madrid.

Madrid, May 23, 1 a. m. --(By Cable) --The Duke of Tetuan and Senator Comas have selected seconds as a preliminary to a duel. Madrid, May 23, 2 a. m. --(By Cable) --The seconds of the Duke of Tetuan and Senator Comas have decided that as the aggressions were reciprocal, a duel is not necessary.

A NEGRO PLOWS UP \$10,000.

The Money the Proceeds of the Sale of His Ancestors.

Just before the emancipation proclamation was issued John Howard, of Loudon county, Tenn., sold four slaves for \$10,000. He buried the cash in his horse pasture. Howard died without telling anybody about the buried treasure.

Bob Banks, a relative of one of the slaves recently rented the farm on which Howard lived, and in plowing the horse pasture unearthed the treasure. Internal Revenue Receipts. The monthly statement of the collection of internal revenue shows that the total receipts for the month of April were \$11,384,539, a decrease of \$3,705,305 as compared with April, 1896. For the last ten months the receipts aggregated \$92,350,408, an increase as compared with the same period of last year of \$299,988. The receipts for April last from the several sources of revenue are given as follows: Spirits, \$6,079,616, a decrease as compared with April, 1896, of \$94,324; tobacco, \$2,577,146, an increase \$197,451; Permitted liquors, \$2,620,932, decrease, \$230,741. Filled casks, \$8,305. Miscellaneous, \$35,192.

Banks Should Be Encouraged.

Comptroller of the Currency James H. Eckels delivered an address before the Bankers Association, in session at Nashville, Tenn., and a large number of prominent citizens. He said in his opinion the South should be as rich and prosperous as any other section of the republic. The way to bring this about was to assure the capitalists of the North that investments would be safe in the South and returns would be received. Mr. Eckels dwelt especially upon the necessity of a sound system of banking, and insisted that banks should be encouraged in every community, as they gave efficiency to idle money.

Visited Monticello.

A congressional party from Washington, numbering about sixty persons, made a pilgrimage on the 21st to Monticello, Va., the home of Thomas Jefferson, going via the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad. The trip was planned by Senator Hoar, of Massachusetts, at the invitation of Mr. Jefferson M. Levy. Speaker Reed was among the representatives of the House.

Virginia Democrats.

The State Democratic convention has decided to hold the State convention in Roanoke, Aug. 11. The basis of representation was made one delegate to every one hundred voters or fraction of fifty cast for the Democratic candidate in the last Presidential election. This will make a body of some 1,600.

McKinley Will Go to Nashville.

The President has finally decided to go to the Nashville Exposition next month. He has fixed upon the 12th as the date and will doubtless be accompanied by some members of his cabinet. He will travel over the Southern route via Asheville, Knoxville and Chattanooga.

Horses Are Numerous.

Horses are so numerous in the State of Washington that they can be bought for 50 cents to \$1 a head. They run at large and nobody seems to care for them. Complaint is made that they eat the grass that cattle and sheep might feed on.

To Give \$1,000,000 to Charity.

Andrew Carnegie, who usually prefaces his annual trip to Europe by a charitable or educational donation, has decided to give \$1,000,000 to charity this spring; the exact object of the donation is not known.

Odds and Ends.

Hon. Wm. J. Bryan has accepted an invitation to speak in New York Harbor, Day, Sept. 6th. The Locomotive Engineers in session at Toronto, Canada, decided to meet next year in Peoria, Ill. It is reported in Baltimore, Md., that the Catholic University has received a legacy of \$150,000 from the estate of Mr. O'Brien, of New Orleans. The money will be used to endow three chairs, to be selected by the authorities of the university.

SENATOR EARLE DEAD.

He Succumbs to Bright's Disease After Weeks of Suffering.

A SKETCH OF HIS LIFE.

He Was Conscious to the Last--As to His Successor Gov. Elerbe Will Act as the Proper Time.

A dispatch from Greenville, South Carolina, last Thursday heralded the sad news that Senator Joseph H. Earle had succumbed to Bright's disease after weeks of suffering, but was conscious to the last and bid farewell to a devoted family which had gathered around his bedside.

When Senator Earle went to Washington in March he was in his usual good health. About two months ago he made his first public utterance in the Senate, supporting a resolution which he offered, looking to the organization of the Senate committees. The strength of his position in that matter brought him at once into national prominence. He was immediately and directly attacked by what proved to be his last illness, and, failing to rally, his physician advised his returning to Greenville.

Below is a short sketch of his life:

JOSEPH H. EARLE was born at Greenville, S. C., April 30, 1847. He lost his parents early in life and went to reside with an uncle at Sumter, S. C., where he attended the common schools until the breaking out of the war in 1861. He entered the Confederate army while a mere boy and stayed the whole four years. At the close of it he was a member of Charles' Battery of Light Artillery, Johnson's army. Soon after the war he returned to Greenville and entered Furman University, completing his education. He then taught school in Greenville county for three years, reading law at the same time. About this time he was happily married to Miss Annie Earle, daughter of Mr. Bayles Earle, of Anderson, she being a distant relative of his. He next moved to Sumter and was admitted to the bar in 1870. Eight years later he was elected to the legislature from Sumter county and in 1882 was elected State Senator from this county; he was a delegate to the national Democratic convention in 1880 and 1884; in 1886 he was elected attorney general of the State and re-elected to this office in 1888. In 1890 Senator Earle opposed B. R. Tillman for Governor at the time when Tillmanism was at its height; he was defeated. The next year he was elected to the State Senate, which office he held at the time he was elected over John Gary Evans to succeed J. L. M. Telford in the United States Senate in November, 1896. He held his office until January 27, 1897. He has held his position as Senator about five months and stayed at his post manfully until the very last.

A PUBLIC CALAMITY.

Governor Elerbe, of South Carolina, was much shocked to hear of Senator Earle's death. As a matter of course he is having nothing to say at this time of the possibility of his successor, although he fully realizes that it is a matter of great moment to the Democratic party to fill the place thus made vacant by the hand of death at the very earliest possible moment. The power of appointment is vested in him, and in him alone, and he will act when the proper time has elapsed in accordance with the power invested in him and for the best interests of the State.

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.

At Washington, on receipt of the news of the death of Senator Earle, Senator Tillman called on the Vice-President in regard to the appointment of a committee to represent the Senate at the funeral. Mr. Hobart named the following as a committee: Messrs. Tillman, Clay of Georgia, Chandler of North Carolina, McPherson of Louisiana, and Harris of Kansas. Speaker Reed appointed a committee to represent the House.

RICE PLANTERS RETURN.

Have Hopes of a Tariff Duty--Matter Rests With Finance Committee.

The Charleston, S. C., delegation consisting of Major Theodore G. Barker, S. G. Stoney and Christopher Fitz Simmons, who have been in Washington in the interest of the tariff duty on rice, has returned to that city. Major Barker expressed himself as pleased with the attention given the South Carolina delegation. He said that he could not speak definitely about the result of the delegation's visit, but he was hopeful. The Senatorial Committee, he said, seemed to be impressed with the fairness of the demands of the rice planters and seemed disposed to lend a kindly ear to their pleadings. Major Barker stated however, that in his opinion, the matter rested with the finance committee, entirely, as to whether they can see their way clear to amend the Dingley tariff bill in the direction requested.

Terms of Peace Arranged.

London, May 21. --(By Cable) --A dispatch from Constantinople to the Daily Mail says: "The ambassadors will present a note to the Porte tomorrow embodying the terms of peace to which they will agree. The note will refuse to permit the abolition of the capitulations in the case of Greek subjects or the annexation of Thessaly, but will consent to a strategic rearrangement of the frontier, and indemnity not to exceed 115,000,000 francs."

Officers Elected.

The twenty-sixth session of the Grand Division of the Order of Railway Conductors, held in Los Angeles, Cal., closed Tuesday evening after a nine days' session, the following officers for the ensuing year being chosen: Grand chief conductor, F. E. Clark, re-elected; assistant grand conductor, C. H. Wilkins, re-elected; grand secretary and treasurer, Martin Glaney, re-elected; grand senior conductor, A. B. Garretson, re-elected; grand junior conductor, W. B. Perkins, of Los Angeles.

AFRO-AMERICAN NOTES.

Negroes in a Knitting Mill--Opposed to the Jim Crow Cars.

Mr. Johnnie Patterson, a bright young colored man of Topoka, Mo., has been appointed stenographer in the office of the probate judge in that city. --The Elevator.

William Ramsey, a Negro janitor, residing at Grand Rapids, Mich., has just fallen heir to \$80,000 by the death of his father's brother.

Mrs. Emma Clark, colored, died recently at Winchester, Ky., aged 117 years. She was the oldest colored person in that State, and was perhaps, the oldest member of the Baptist church in the United States, having joined that organization when but 16 years of age, just 101 years ago. --The Race Standard.

Lieut. Chas. Young, a graduate of West Point, now stationed at Wilberforce University, Xenia, O., has been promoted to troop H of the Seventh Cavalry. This is a white regiment, and is known as Custer's old regiment, with a reputation for successful Indian fighting. This is the first time in the history of this country that a Negro has been placed in such a position. --Weekly Guide.

The Annapolis cadets who are about to have a "conspicuous fall" because a colored cadet has been appointed to the school would do well to take a dose of nerve tonic for they are liable to have more trouble for their weary souls. Congressman White, the only colored man in the present House of Representatives at Washington, has an appointment due him for September and he says he will give it to a colored boy. The cadets will do well to brace up in a hurry. --The Conceptor.

At last the color line is to be abolished in fraternal protective societies. A circular is before us issued by a fraternal society, one of the paragraphs of which reads: "Let us ask you to be cautious in the selection of members. Do not take any person in as a member of our lodge that you would not be willing to take to your house on terms of social equality. Any acceptable person, white or colored, admitted to membership. Strange as it may appear this society originated in Mississippi. Surely 'the world do move.' --Appeal.

The leading Afro-Americans of Nashville are to be opposed not only to the "Jim Crow" annex of the "centennial exposition," but also to its management. Nothing is clearest in the distance and that is, our people would not be connected with it in any but a mental capacity, were it not for the fact that the exposition management is made up of those who have not come from Afro-Americans who visit it. With "Jim Crow" cars in Tennessee, and exposition and other color lines to continue with after you get to Nashville, there is very little likelihood of many Ohioans of color attending. --The Gazette.

Negro representatives from the ten Congressional Districts of Virginia met at Richmond and organized the Negro Protective Association of Virginia. There were present about one hundred of the race. The plan of organization adopted provides for a State chairman, an executive committee, a State committee and district, city, county and precinct committees. A. V. Harris was elected chairman of the association. Resolutions were adopted looking to better educational facilities for the race, concealing lynching, the solidifying of the Republican party so far as the Negro is concerned, but placing the race interests first and party interests second.

The visit of Miss Ida E. Wells, two years ago and her addresses in the interest of the colored race, have borne practical and very material fruit. As a result of her agitation there has been established in this city a society for charitable work among the colored people of New Bedford and still more recently a Home for the Aged, which is reported by Gregg Chisholm, the manager, to be doing very good work. The home is located at the northwest corner of Cedar and Mill streets, and already has three inmates and three more applications. At this rate, since the capacity of the home is eleven, it will soon reach its limit and need additional accommodation. --New Bedford (Mass.) Standard.

The colored women who are now running the knitting machines in the Charleston (S. C.) knitting factory are reported by Gregg Chisholm, the manager, to be doing very good work. The mill first started (says the Textile Exchange of the 14th, ult.) only white labor was employed, the employees being the daughters of respected families. These were paid by the piece, and having to operate the machines, they could not make much at first, so became indifferent, and did not work steadily. Furthermore, the management claim they couldn't get the work done, therefore the change was made to Negro help, which was abundant and eager for the chance. Manager Chisholm said the girls employed were all recommended by the colored ministers of the city and that the change was made not to get the work done cheaper, but to secure enough hands. --S. A. L. Magrud.

Tree Ages.

Gericke, the great German forester, writes that the greatest ages to which trees in Germany are positively known to have lived are from 500 to 670 years. For instance, the pine in Bohemia and the pine in Norway and Sweden have lived to the latter age. Next comes the silver fir, which in the Bohemian forests has stood and thrived for upward of 400 years. In Bavaria the larch has reached the age of 275 years. Of foliage trees the oak appears to have survived the longest. The best example is the evergreen oak at Aschaffenburg, which reached the age of 410 years. Other oaks in Germany have lived to be from 315 to 320 years old. At Aschaffenburg the red beech has lived to the age of 245 years, and at other points to the age of 225. Of other trees, the highest known are ash, 170 years; birch, 190 to 200 years; aspen, 220 years; mountain maple, 225 years; elm, 130 years; and red alder, 145 years. --Public Opinion.

DIPLOMATS NOW AT WORK.

The Graeco-Turkish Controversy Reaches This Stage.

NEGOTIATIONS EXPECTED TO

Last for Some Time--The Sultan's Policy in Acceding to the Czar's Request for an Armistice.

London, May 23. --(By Cable) --The Graeco-Turk trouble has now fairly entered upon its diplomatic bargaining stage and the negotiations are expected to last for some time. Many important differences have to be settled, and the Sultan of Turkey may be counted upon to drag the affair along as much as possible, with the view of bringing out the latent jealousies of the powers. His prompt compliance with the Czar's request to arrange for an armistice has excited the anxiety to the desire to please the Czar, but it is looked upon as a stroke of diplomacy intended to excite the resentment of some other power and thus weaken the concert. That the fact of the armistice shows that the powers remain in entire agreement on the question. An European conference is discussed but it is not thought likely to take place until the preliminaries of negotiation tend to settle. Then the ambassadors at Constantinople, with the delegates of Turkey and Greece, may meet to settle upon the terms of peace. There is a strong feeling in favor of international control of the Greek finances, without which the payment of the indemnity to Turkey and the interest on the Greek debt is declared to be impossible. The Greeks insist that if an indemnity is imposed upon them there will be a general collapse and serious internal troubles will occur. They estimate the damage done to Thessaly at 25,000,000 drachmas and they say they may need 100,000,000 drachmas will be needed to supply the peasants with food and tools. Moreover, they add, the revenue will be greatly reduced, owing to the immediate damage done to the country. The Greek budget will probably leave a deficit of 60,000,000 drachmas. The Greek statements, however, are now received with a certain skepticism. It is pointed out that by the admissions of the Greeks themselves 70 per cent of the interest of the debt, which they have not paid, has been set aside in the hands of the Greek banks for the war and that consequently Greece is certainly in a position to continue paying 30 per cent. interest and probably considerably more if her finances are placed under international control.

Advices from the scenes of the recent fighting mention the possibility of a serious epidemic of disease when the best increases in the number of mules, carcases and horses left rotting in every litch. The popular feeling at Athens against the royal family of Greece does not diminish. The stories of the excessive profligacy of Crown Prince Constantine at the front have done much to weaken the dynasty.

DEMOCRATS CAUCUS

And Decide to Fight Tariff Bill--Down on Dear Beer.