

Replying to a recent paragraph in THE OBSERVER, the Wilmington Sun says: The Sun did not say the Norfolk line could do no western business, as the reader sees. It can do some business, just as a small piece, six or seven columns, daily opposition paper to the handsome OBSERVER could do some business in Charlotte. We don't want to lose any of our trade.

The cases are not parallel. No public good could be subserved by the establishment of a "daily opposition paper" in Charlotte, and a great deal of good will result from the proposed new line of railway. And again, notwithstanding there may be no necessity for another newspaper here, if any one were to come and propose to establish one with his own money, asking nothing of the people except permission to set it on its feet, we should not consider it either the amiable or the courteous thing to go blowing around about having a right to the newspaper business of Charlotte, neither would we seek for a restraining order against the new publisher. If THE OBSERVER, well known throughout its section and well established in the confidence of the people, cannot compete with a new paper, published by an unknown man, then it would die as it would deserve to.

The Sun has drawn a sketch and we have elaborated it. It has chosen to consider THE OBSERVER as Wilmington and the supposititious new paper as Norfolk, and we are content remarking that when its proposition is carried out to its logical end, it will be seen that the Sun has made out a worse case for its people than we had done.

Our Wilmington neighbor had best put its case on the ground of "State pride." That is about the only grip it has upon the Legislature, and that is much better than none at all.

THE RAILROAD EXTENSION. A correspondent of the Raleigh Observer, writing upon this question, plumbs the track so squarely that we must reproduce what he says: The application for a charter for the extension of the Raleigh & Augusta Air-Line to Charlotte, it seems to me, should be granted cheerfully and at once. It will be the means of developing a rich section of country; will place the State capital upon a great highway from the South to the North; will be the means of spending among our people vast sums of money; will open new markets for our produce, and will save our people incalculable amounts by furnishing another competing line for freights. Against all this, the enemies of the enterprise allege that it will be a great blow to Wilmington and the Cape Fear section, and will be an act of legislation against the dignity of the State and in favor of foreign corporations. Now, as far as the injury to Wilmington is concerned, I am unable to appreciate the force of the argument when I am informed upon competent authority that freights upon the Carolina Central are now pooled in Charlotte, and that its exorbitant rates of tariff operate almost as an embargo upon its use. But suppose Wilmington is injured by the construction of the proposed extension, the question then arises that injury paramount to the general good to be derived? If not, then the Legislature is true to its trust to withhold the charter applied for, and it should spurn the appeals based upon party success and sectional animosity as insults to its common sense and its common honesty.

A member of the Legislature has a narrow view of his duty who deems it his highest end to legislate for party and section, and falls to appreciate the general weal and his oath of office. He is too a statesman of his little compass who endeavors to damn the true currents of trade and force it by law into abnormal channels. If Virginia ports are our natural outlets, it would be poor economy and false policy to attempt to force our products to other, and he who acts upon such a policy upon ideas of State dignity will find in the end that he has really injured the material interest of his State, and is more of a sentimentalist than a statesman. If we can find men of foreign corporations that will check our State with railroads, then in the name of all that is practical let them do so, and let not our law-making power upon any fanciful notions of State dignity, place any impediment in the way.

So say we. As a matter of course, all things being equal, we vastly prefer that fall of our products should find outlet through the port of Wilmington, but we can see no justice in, undertaking to give Wilmington a monopoly. What we want is the benefit of competition. If we get it we have Wilmington the right to object? Here is a route from Charlotte to Wilmington and another from Charlotte to Norfolk. Under these conditions, and with the matter of distance all in her favor, if Wilmington cannot then compete with Norfolk for the business of this section then is the fault hers—not ours.

A PAPAL CONSISTORY. Pope Leo XIII will hold a consistory on February 21, at which the papal policy will probably only emphasize the sentiments of the late encyclical letter, which can be interpreted only as meaning that the Pope intends that the authority of the Church shall be upheld by those who minister at the altars against the growing disposition of the people to renounce all authority and drift into rebellion against social order and ecclesiastical mandates. Only the Pope and cardinals are present at a consistory, and the proceedings are usually the reading of the papal allocution, the publication of the new cardinals created and the nomination of bishops. It is expected that some foreign cardinals will be created at the coming consistory, and that one of them will be an American and one an Englishman.

A reporter of the Raleigh Observer has interviewed the business men of that city and finds them unanimously in favor of the bill granting an extension of charter to the Raleigh and Augusta Air-Line Railroad. The News interviewed one man last week, got a bee in his bonnet, held up his gun and went back to retirement.

The Senate branch of the Virginia Legislature last Thursday passed the House bill to incorporate the Virginia and Statesville Narrow Gauge Railroad. Postmaster Snowden, of Philadelphia, has accepted the directorship of the mint, offered him several months ago and just now made vacant by the death of Dr. Linderman.

In this day and generation "State pride" means that we mustship through North Carolina ports in preference to the port of another State, no matter if the rate of insurance by the latter is just half that of the former, freights a third cheaper and time quicker. In a case of this sort we believe in doing business through the foreign port. Ergo, we have no State pride.

According to the North Carolina interpretation of to-day, a "home enterprise" is an association of gentlemen living in New York who own a North Carolina Railroad which benefits Wilmington. A "foreign corporation" is one composed of residents of Baltimore who propose to build a line which will benefit Richmond, Anson, Stanly, Montgomery, Moore, Union, Mecklenburg and more or less every county in the western section of the State.

It is quite true that during "excursion times," and on other occasions, the people of Charlotte have been entertained, and entertained very elegantly, too, by the people of Wilmington, but we hadn't expected Wilmington to remind us of these obligations for food and drink, else possibly our appetites for oysters, clams and things might not have been so keen. We are not disposed to think that the Wilmingtonians generally endorse this character of warfare on the part of the Star.

BALLOT STUFFING NOT A PENAL OFFENSE.—That is an important dispatch from Baltimore reciting that, in a case before Judge Bond in that city yesterday, the defendant, indicted for stuffing a ballot box, filed a demurrer on the ground that this was not a penal offense. The dispatch says the demurrer was sustained and the defendant discharged. Does this indicate that an indictment for stuffing a ballot box will not lie against an individual? We are not lawyer enough to answer the question.

SUPPORT OF OUTSIDE LUNATICS.—The Raleigh papers report that the warrants drawn upon the State treasury during the month of January for the support of lunatics outside the asylum reached the alarming sum of \$20,419.75. If the General Assembly is in earnest in its purpose of applying the pruning-knife of reform, let it be right here. This is a most intolerable burden, and one not to be borne. Such a drain as this must bankrupt the State unless it is stopped, and it cannot be stopped too early. Meanwhile, we are glad to see the statement that Mr. Carter, of Buncombe, has prepared a bill which it is believed will remedy the defect.

A correspondent of the Raleigh Observer, speaking of senatorial timber out of which a good lieutenant-governor might be made, says with much force and truthfulness that "Mecklenburg can furnish a gentleman who is said to be the best farmer in North Carolina, and a man that is qualified in the highest degree." There are few better farmers and still fewer better men than Capt. S. B. Alexander. He is descended from a long line of true men, and he is true to his name. He would preside over the Senate worthily, and while he is not, so far as we have heard, a candidate for the vacancy now soon to occur, the people of Mecklenburg and all those who know him everywhere, would rejoice to see him elevated to the dignified position in connection with which his name is mentioned.

THE COURT OF LAST RESORT. Southern Cases Decided Yesterday.—A Decision Against the Air-Line.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—The United States Supreme Court rendered decisions today in the following Southern cases: Thomas R. Mills, Jr., administrator, against Levi N. B. Scott, from the Circuit Court for the southern district of Georgia. The case remanded with instructions to award the trial unless plaintiff consent to a reduction of judgment to \$40,000. This was a suit to enforce the personal liability of a stockholder in the payment of bills of the insolvent Mercantile and Planters' Bank of Savannah.

The Comptroller-General of South Carolina against the Richmond & Danville Railroad Company, from the Circuit Court of South Carolina. Decree reversed with costs. This was a suit to enjoin the collection of tax upon that part of the Atlanta & Richmond Air-Line Railroad lying within the limits of South Carolina on the ground of exemption from the tax of the company's charter. The court holds that as the act incorporating the Air-Line Railroad in South Carolina in 1856 contained no clause excepting its charter from the provisions of the law of 1841, they must be held applicable to it. The State, therefore, has the right to withdraw the exemption of the original charter and collect the taxes.

John L. Sterry against S. W. Casey, receiver of the New Orleans Banking Association, from the Circuit Court of Louisiana. Judgment affirmed with costs, on authority of Casey vs. Gall, 84 U. S. 678.

The United States against George A. Sheridan, from the Circuit Court of Louisiana. Judgment affirmed by a divided court.

New York Business Items. Troy, N. Y., Jan. 2.—The Hudson River furniture manufacturing company at Cohoes resumed work this morning, giving employment to 50 men. The Warren & Co. stove works, resumed to-day. They employed 200 men. Buzzy, McLeod & Co. stove works, will resume Thursday and employ the same number. Barden's water mill, which has been idle three years, started this morning. Other mills are unable to all their orders. A Holly steam heating company has been formed here with a capital of \$150,000, work to be begun early in the spring. The business prospects for 1876 are very encouraging.

Raleigh News, of Sunday: The Governor, yesterday, appointed Col. H. B. Short to superintend the construction of the Intransigent for colored persons at Oakes. He is appointed in the place of G. G. Parsley, Esq., who recently resigned.

FORTY-FIFTH CONGRESS.

WHAT THE TWO HOUSES DID YESTERDAY. Voucher's Credentials.—Louisiana Oppressed Negroes.—Whites' Conk—Providing for the Payment of Pensions.—Work of the Committee.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—SENATE.—The vice-president laid before the Senate the credentials of Hon. D. W. Voorhes, elected to fill the unexpired term of Hon. O. P. Morton, as Senator for six years from March 4th next, and Voorhes took the oath of office under the new credentials. A bill was introduced by McCreery, of Kentucky, to transfer the office of Indian affairs to the War Department. Laid on the table, to be called up by McCreery, who gave notice that he would submit some remarks in regard thereto.

Matthews: A joint resolution providing for a commercial treaty with Mexico. Referred to the committee on foreign relations. Teller, of Colorado, presented a petition of colored people of Louisiana complaining that they are not protected either in life or property; that at the recent election they were met by armed white men, known as Democratic clubs; that they were shot at and not allowed to hold meetings; they therefore request the protection of the Federal Government. Referred to the select committee of which Teller is chairman.

The Senate has just confirmed the nominations of Merritt to be collector, and Burdett to be clerk of the court. The majority was small—some say seven, others ten. The executed session lasted several hours. LATER.—The vote on confirming the nominations of Merritt and Burdett was 31 to 24. The majority of the Democrats voted in support of the administration.

Mr. Harris, of Tennessee, from the select committee on epidemic diseases, reported a bill to prevent the introduction of contagious and infectious diseases into the United States and to establish a bureau of public health. Ordered to be printed and recommittees to the committee.

Matthews, of Ohio, submitted a joint resolution providing for a commercial treaty with the republic of Mexico. Referred to the committee on foreign relations. Morton, of Vermont, gave notice that to-morrow, or as soon thereafter as he could obtain the floor, he would ask the Senate to take up and consider the bill to provide for the taking of the tenth and subsequent censuses.

The Senate, in its executive session at 1.10 p. m., remaining until 5. House.—Under the call of States Cutler, of New Jersey, introduced a bill appropriating \$100,000,000 for the payment of arrears of pensions. A bill was introduced in the House to-day for the payment of arrears of pensions. It appropriates \$100,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for that purpose under the act of January 31 to 24. The bill is not yet available. The bill was referred to the committee on appropriations.

A bill to secure uniformity in the statutes of the United States. The House also defeated a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill authorizing the issue of 4 per cent bonds to the amount of \$40,000,000 and apply the proceeds to the payment of the arrears of pensions. The following were among the bills and resolutions introduced and referred: Appropriating \$100,000,000 for the payment of the arrears of pensions. Resolutions of the Virginia Legislature asking for the reduction of the tax on tobacco. Resolutions of the General Assembly of Alabama asking for the enactment of laws to prevent the execution of judgments by United States courts in proceedings against municipal corporations. Resolutions of the General Assembly of Louisiana in regard to the sugar tariff.

Memorial services in respect to the late Representative Quinn, of New York, were held, after which the House adjourned. COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS. The joint committee on the yellow fever epidemic met to-day. The merits of the bill were discussed at length, but without reaching a conclusion as to the most practical recommendation to make to prevent the recurrence of the epidemic, the committee adjourned.

The river and harbor bill was to-day reported by a sub-committee to the full House committee on commerce, who will hold daily sessions for its consideration until the bill is reported to the House. For obvious reasons the details of the bill are not made public. Although considerable pressure has been brought to bear upon Representative McMurry, a view to induce him to serve as chairman of the Potter sub-committee who are to visit New York city, that gentleman said this afternoon it would be utterly impossible for him to do so. The Republican side has also been effected. Reid having been substituted for Gov. Cox, the latter desiring to be a preside of that business. This arrangement was the subject of discussion by members of the committee and although no meeting has been held it is understood the change is acquiesced in by all the members.

The meeting of a majority of the Teller committee was held when the testimony of Judge Mackey, of South Carolina, will be taken. A meeting of the Senate committee on privileges and elections has been called for to-day. It is expected that a vote will be taken on the Corbin-Butler case. The Republican members will all unite in a majority report prepared by Cameron, of Wisconsin, in favor of Corbin. The Democratic members are signing Senator Hill's minority report, asserting that Butler was legally elected and that moreover the Senate's action in admitting him last winter has made the case res adjudicata.

A RUSSO-ROUMANIAN SQUALL. Rumania Taking Territory Said Not to Belong to Her.—Prospects of a Collision. LONDON, February 3.—A dispatch from Vienna says that the occupation by the Rumanians of a position near Silistria, which they claim as belonging to the Dobruja is a very serious affair. The Rumanians, by an overwhelming force compelled the Russians to abandon Arab Tabia, a fortress on the frontier of Silistria. The Rumanian government on Saturday received an intimation, simultaneously, from St. Petersburg and from Gen. Tolstolev to withdraw immediately, but they refused and a collision is probable. This will test the present disposition of the Austrian government, which supports the Rumanian position, and the Russian frontier, protested against by Russia. There is good reason to hope that the attitude of Austria will be from an English point of view, a ground for criticism or reproach.

LONDON, February 3.—Albert Grant has filed a petition in bankruptcy; liabilities \$281,938.

THE RUSSIAN PLAGUE.

The Panic Incredible.—The Story of Its Origin.—The Means Being Taken to Prevent Its Spread. LONDON, Feb. 3.—The British Medical Journal publishes the following: "The Panic Incredible" is the title of a pamphlet published on Centralblatt, of January 24th, states the origin of the pestilence in Russia as follows: "A Cossack returning from the war to Wetzlianka, brought his lady-love a shawl which was probably a part of his spoil. The girl wore it once and sicked, with all the symptoms of the plague, and died. During the following four days the other members of the family sickened and died. The disease spread rapidly, but attracted no further attention, as the local authorities were not informed of the pestilence in Russia as follows: "A Cossack returning from the war to Wetzlianka, brought his lady-love a shawl which was probably a part of his spoil. The girl wore it once and sicked, with all the symptoms of the plague, and died. 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