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OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

TEA CULTURE IN THE SOUTH.

Logrolling is the House—Clubbing to Get Bills Through—Judge Settle Looking After the Judgeship on the Court of Claims—Cooper's Commission Signed—Personal Notes and Other Items of Interest.

WASHINGTON, May 3.—Many people felt called upon to laugh at Commissioner of Agriculture, LeDuc, and to make light of his hobby, which was tea culture, but recent developments show that perhaps LeDuc may have an opportunity to "laugh best" by laughing "last," for the experiments which he inaugurated in the South, in the culture of tea, have, in some degree at least, proved a success. Information received here from the experimental farm near Georgetown, S. C., shows that the experiments there have been eminently successful and that the possibility of the successful growing and curing of tea in the South need scarcely be longer considered an experiment. The tea crop on this farm has recently been gathered and "cured" after the approved Chinese and Japanese fashion, and the result is a tea in every way meeting the requirements of public taste and habits, and in appearance, quality and flavor, ranking higher than the average tea imported into this country from China, Japan and India.

From a gentleman who visited Georgetown to witness and assist in the harvesting and curing of the tea crop at the Forster farm near that place, I gather the following details of that interesting event: Of the many persons in the South, to whom the tea plants had been distributed by Commissioner LeDuc, none had cared for them more intelligently than Mrs. Forster, the owner of the farm in question. She had had the young plants carefully and intelligently cultivated and cared for, and the time for gathering found them in excellent condition, except that the unusually cool weather had caused some of the lower leaves of the plants to become too tough. On the day fixed for the harvesting and curing of the experimental crop the weather was bad for outdoor curing as had been intended, and the result was that it became necessary to "cure" the tea after it had been gathered, by artificial treatment instead of the rays of the sun, yet even this did not prevent a most gratifying success. The work was performed under the direction of a gentleman from Baltimore who has taken much interest in tea culture, and has given much time and attention to the methods of cultivating and curing tea in the countries where it is grown. The tea after being gathered was "wilted" in an oven and then placed on a pine table and rolled with the hand into rolls similar to those seen in "Young Hyson" and "Gunpowder" and the plainer but more wholesome "Uncolored Japan." The process of rolling was found to be remarkably easy and one which could readily be performed by machinery. Then a part of the tea thus prepared was made up into large loaves and left to "sweat" according to the system by which the "English Breakfast" tea is prepared. The remainder was then put through the "firing process, the most delicate and difficult part of the work of curing after the tea is grown.

This process, which is similar in manner ane in effect to the roasting of coffee, was successfully accomplished, and the result was a fine crisp, fresh, finely flavored tea, better in quality than the average tea imported into this country.

After the loaves or balls of tea which had been set aside to sweat in order to make "English Breakfast" of it had arrived at the proper stage they were broken open and the tea in them, which had attained a very satisfactory color and condition, was also "fired" with remarkable success and the tea pronounced equal to the other varieties, made the experiment a wonderful success.

Whether the growing of tea in this country will, under the very low prices which competition in Japan, India and China have produced, become at present a profitable industry, is as yet difficult to say. The possibility of its being successfully and easily produced and cured, is however demonstrated. It is even shown that the process is so simple that every family in the South possessed of a small plot of ground eligibly situated, may grow its own tea, and it is not improbable that, with a moderate protection, such as is afforded most of the industries of the country, the culture of tea at the South may become an important and successful work.

The season has arrived when Congress is likely to be seen at its worst. Having log-rolled bills through the committees, members are now at work log-rolling them through the House. By log-rolling is meant a banding together of members to push bills through the House under a suspension of the rules and thereby cutting off extended debate. The legislation that is generally put through in this manner is bills for the erection of public buildings and the river and harbor appropriation bill. Monday was a field day for bills of the former class. Both classes are equally unpatriotic and the means used to accomplish their passage equally objectionable. It is almost essential to a renomination that a member have passed a bill for the erection of a public building in his district or to secure an appropriation to dredge some dark pond in his district. 30 members sufficient to pass such bills without debate in the House club together on the principle of "if you'll hold my legs while I lean over and dive into the treasury, I'll do the same for you." Time to vote on Monday, Holman of Indiana, a man who has saved to the government as many dollars as he has hairs in his head, stood up boldly and almost alone and protested against such unscrupulous work, but without avail, the cabal was formed and the bills rushed through. Among the bills was one for the erection of a public building at Greensboro, N. C., which has been published in a previous letter. If all the bills passed were as deserving the objectionable manner of their passage would be mitigated tenfold.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Thomas J. Reamy, Rocky Mount, N. C., has been granted a patent for feed mechanism for saw mills; Joseph T. Williamson, Raleigh, N. C., a patent for stencil-plate.

Judge Thomas Settle, now of Florida, but formerly a Republican leader in North Carolina politics in the city an applicant for the vacancy on the court of claims. He is strongly back by Southern Republicans for the position.

The President has signed Cooper's commission and he will leave for home this week.

Col. Keogh who has been here for the past week has returned home. Though a staunch Republican he is popular with the "boys" of both parties.

Kenneth Raynor, solicitor of the treasury, who "fore de wah" was in Congress from North Carolina, is quite sick.

The committee on Pacific Railroads, letting behind the South Carolina Senators made a very unfavorable report on all the Democratic propositions with them. Having been granted the investigating committee they withdrew their opposition and on the vote to commit, they framed from voting, so that the Democratic colleagues who voted solely against him. There is muttering that some of the Senators did not think this fair treatment.

Major James C. Turner, who died in Georgia on the 24th ult. well-known in Asheville, where he resided for years, was also favorably known here, where he had many friends. His daughter, Mrs. Page, has a position in the Interior Department.

Census Bulletin just issued shows that there are 2,792 North Carolinians resident in Florida, 17,093 resident in Georgia, 11,741 resident in Indiana, and 8,946 resident in Kentucky.

A statement furnished by the statistical bureau of the Treasury Department, corrected up to April 28, shows imports and exports at the following customs offices for the month of March: Charleston, S. C., exports, $2,182,183; imports, $85,551. Wilmington, N. C., exports, $400,201; imports, $61,716.

A census bulletin just issued shows the gross number of farms in the country. It is a noticeable fact that the increase in the Southern States is large:

States.	1850.	1880.
California	872	35,634
Connecticut	22,445	30,598
Dakota	- - -	17,435
Illinois	79,208	225,741
Indiana	98,896	194,013
Iowa	14,805	185,851
Kansas	- - -	138,561
Kentucky	74,777	166,453
Louisiana	33,422	48,292
Maine	46,760	64,806
Maryland	21,860	40,517
Michigan	34,089	154,008
Minnesota	157	92,386
Mississippi	33,960	101,792
Missouri	54,468	215,575
Nebraska	- - -	63,387
New Hampshire	28,229	32,181
New Jersey	23,905	34,207
New Mexico	3,750	5,053
New York	170,621	241,058
North Carolina	56,968	157,699
Ohio	143,907	247,189
Oregon	1,164	16,217
Pennsylvania	127,577	213,542
Rhode Island	5,385	6,216
Utah	926	9,452
Vermont	20,768	85,622
Virginia	77,013	118,517
Washington	- - -	6,529
West Virginia	- - -	62,674
Wisconsin	20,177	134,322

POSTAL NOTES.

Reports from 25 principal cities in the country which collect 37 per cent. of the postal revenues, show that the receipts for the quarter ended March 31, are 15.1 per cent. larger than for the corresponding quarter last year.

Postmasters' commissions sent: Jno. S. Potts, Pineville, N. C.; Pierce H. Drummond, Chick Springs, S. C.; Alexander B. Stevens, Sr. Bell's, S. C.

The postoffice at Ballard, Lincoln co., N. C., has been changed to read "Kidsville."

There is a pretty fight now in progress over the postmastership of the Salisbury office. This office belongs to the presidential class, and pays about $2,000 per year. D. L. Bringle, the present incumbent, having acquired by long service a taste for working under Uncle Sam, is desirous of continuing in the place, while Mr. J. H. Ramsey thinks he can adorn the office windows and handle the shekels with equal if not more grace than Mr. Bringle. He is willing at any rate to undertake the job. The President has not yet decided which of these patriots he will hire to perform the work.

PICKUP.

NEWS NOTES.

The bakers of Montreal have added two cents to the price of a six-pound loaf of bread on account of the increased wages which they are obliged to pay their journeymen.

Five suspects were unconditionally released from the Naas jail Tuesday.

Col. Hakka Boy, aide-de-camp to the Sultan of Turkey, has started for London to purchase torpedo boats.

The steamship Alaska arrived at Queenstown at 6:15 Tuesday evening, having accomplished the trip from New York in 7 days and 41 minutes, which is claimed to be the quickest passage ever made.

Boston detectives are looking for Amos C. Keith, said to have left that city with some $8,000 loaned him on worthless securities. He is said to have been engaged in fraudulent enterprises in New York and Philadelphia.

Judge Brooks, Tuesday, at Cambridge, Mass., decided that in the will of the poet Longfellow erasures are to be considered no part of the will, and that the interlineations are of no effect. This revokes much of the children of the testator's brother of a legacy of $1,000 and makes void the legacy of $5,000 to his brother, Stephen. Ethel Longfellow was appointed administrator in place of the late Richard H. Dana, named in the will.

Benj. H. Hatton and others, importers of silks, in New York, were sued by the government three and a half years ago for customs dues. They deposited as bond with the clerk of the court a certified check for $107,205. The case having been compromised, the clerk turned over to the firm yesterday $147,219, less the amount of the compromise, the original sum having grown by investment.

Prof. Jean Louis, for many years a conspicuous feature in the musical circles of Philadelphia, and the possessor of a fortune, is now, it is said, eating the bread of charity in the almshouse of that city. Unfortunate indorsements and unlucky investments did the business.

Charles Wilder, twenty years of age, shot himself in New York Monday, because a girl whom he met that day for the first time refused to have him.

Henry Bergh, Jr., of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, had a man arrested in New York yesterday for driving a lame horse, when a man named Richard McKeever assaulted and severely bruised Mr. Bergh about the face. McKeever was arrested.

Monday night, at Charleston, W. Va., Buxton Whiting (colored) shot and killed T. S. Greaves. Whiting had asked Greaves to drink with him and Greaves declined. Whiting went out of the saloon and waited till Greaves appeared, when he shot him without a word. Whiting was arrested.