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PUBLISHERS' ANNOUNCEMENT.
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1906.

WHAT A BUSINESS MAN THINKS.

"A prominent business man" of Concord believes that if the Legislature would repeal the passenger rate law the people would applaud it. So far as he could see there was no sentiment in favor of rate reduction; what the people wanted and the country needed was development of the roads so as to enable them to handle the growing business of the State. He recalls the fact that the Southern is taking off every train it can and has stopped double-tracking and all other improvements. But what we want to know is what this business man or any other business man has got to do with it. He may be an undesirable citizen or a malefactor of great wealth for all we know. We reformers of railroads would like to have it understood that we are not running this thing to meet the views of such as he. He expresses the apprehension that in another year the Southern will be in the hands of a receiver. Man alive! Don't you understand that that is exactly what some of us want to see happen?
In all gravity—and this last question is asked gravely—it is very unfortunate for the State that the sentiments of the business men are so little heeded. It is frequently pointed out that only 18 per cent of the people of North Carolina live in the towns. It is somehow figured that the interests of these and of the 82 per cent who live in the country are antagonistic and legislation is directed to what it is thought will please the latter, but there was never a greater mistake than to suppose that the country people are in sympathy with the war on the railroads; they have as much sense as any other class and are as regardful as any of North Carolina's welfare. They have no stock in this anti-railroad agitation and if they would speak out and make their opinions known it would stop.

THE CONSTITUTION AND THE SUPREME COURT.

Justice Harlan, of the Supreme Court of the United States, the oldest member of that distinguished body in point of service if not in years, delivered a notable address before the Kentucky Society of New York Monday night; and The New York Globe, summarizing it says:
"It is well with the constitution. It is well with the Supreme Court—such was the reassuring message delivered by John M. Harlan, one of the nation's Grand Old Men, to his fellow Kentuckians last night. The immortal instrument is not in any imminent danger, nor has the tribunal set up to guard it become atrophied or nerveless. The constitution is as it was, and the Supreme Court will continue to interpret it, not according to any new-fangled rules, but according to the soundest judicial principles that have been followed since the court was organized. In the future as in the past neither the extreme strict constructionist doctrine nor the extreme broad constructionist doctrine is to be wholly satisfied. This is the substance of the message of Justice Harlan. He knows. Thirty years' experience on the Supreme Court bench frights his words with meaning."
"It might be further said that the burden of Judge Harlan's address was the delegated and reserved rights of the States, upon which point he said: 'The fact is not as the pessimist alleges it to be. The American people are more determined than at any time in their history to maintain both national and State rights, as those rights exist under the Union ordained by the constitution.'"
Justice Harlan is a great man and he speaks with authority—speaks for the Supreme Court. If anything were needed to add to public confidence in the great tribunal of which he is so distinguished a member, his words on this occasion supply it.

Hon. Thos. G. Skinner, of Elizabeth City, died Sunday in a sanitarium in Baltimore to which he had been confined for a year. He had been a member of the Legislature and was for several terms the Representative in Congress of the first district. He had been for many years prominent in State politics and was popular and influential in the east.

Raleigh votes to-day on prohibition and the assembly and here's hoping the measure will be voted out.

Looking to sever relations between contracts and spots, and the other day the board of managers held a meeting for the consideration of proposed further action along the same line. How badly the changes already made had come to be needed for the exchange's own sake, as well as for the sake of the grower and the spinner, is well shown by a dealer quoted in The New York Journal of Commerce.

"That many local spot firms doing an export business here should have availed themselves promptly of the advantages our contract now presents for business of this kind," commented this observer, "shows how much of a change for the better you have made the aspect of things in this respect, because until September 11, 1907, the differences at which the grades, in their relation to middling, could be delivered on the New York contract, owing to the revision rulings of your predecessors, were so far away from market or commercial differences as to have brought about in February last a discount on March contracts of 188 points below middling, which, with other objectionable features, made our exchange so extremely vulnerable to attacks and criticisms as to have very greatly lessened the volume of business done there, and incidentally lowering by more than one-half the market value of the memberships from what that value had been only two months before, or \$10,000, against \$23,500." In short, the New York exchange's extreme emphasis upon pure speculation, to the injury of legitimate business finally so reacted upon the exchange that the recent reforms became necessary as a matter of self-preservation. Having found those reforms highly beneficial as far as they go, however little the more gamblers might like them, what appears to be a majority of members is now advocating their further extension. The exchange has thus had the error of its former practices impressed upon it very strongly. It is in a fair way to rehabilitate itself with the South and the cotton world at large, and there should be a general disposition to encourage all proper steps in this direction.

It is the glory of our American system that the opportunities for men to rise in life are limited practically by their capabilities only. Mr. A. Ramseur, as has been previously stated, has been relieved of the superintendency of the Salisbury-Asheville division of the Western North Carolina Railroad and is succeeded by Mr. R. E. Simpson. The Morganton Herald says the latter was born and reared at Glen Alpine, Burke county, and began work on the railroad twenty-five years ago as a section hand. It is the merit of the railroad business that men advance in it on their capacity and worth alone. It is one line of activity in which favoritism cuts no figure but in which merit counts for everything."

The writer has received during the holidays few things that he values more than a card, sent by a friend in another town, bearing this sentiment by Dr. Van Dyke:
"I am thinking of you to-day, because it is Christmas, and I wish you happy. And to-morrow, because I will still wish you happiness; and so on, clear through the year. I may not be able to tell you about it every day; because I may be far away; or because both of us may be very busy; or perhaps because I cannot even afford to pay the postage on so many letters, or find the time to write them. But that makes no difference; the thought and the wish will be here just the same. Whatever joy or success comes to you will make me glad. Without pretense, and in plain words, good will to you is what I mean, in the spirit of Christmas."
Isn't that fine?

Thus the New York Sun:
"Our present national banking system has served its purpose well, even marvellously well. Its merits have been tested again and again. The losses which have occurred under it have been insignificant."
To which The Wall Street Journal replies:
"With the exception that our present banking system has served and continues to serve its purpose worse than any other great banking system in the world, while it has broken down every time it has been seriously tested, with incalculable loss of commerce and damage to credit. The Sun's statement is substantially correct."
No need for us to say anything.

There is no place which has not been more or less pinched by the panic. Charlotte has perhaps suffered as little as any of them, yet it has not been exempt. Nevertheless there is concurrence of testimony by the business men of the city that the holiday trade was never so good and some testify that their cash trade was never so large. How to reconcile the panic facts and attendant tightness of money with the volume of the Christmas business we do not know but it is just that way.

It seems to be getting about as dangerous to chase blockaders in North Carolina as it is to hunt wild animals in India. Following the murder of Revenue Officer Hendricks in Stokes county last week, comes the story of two officers having been ambushed and fired upon on the Iredell and Yadkin line last Saturday, fortunately without injury to either. The moonshiners are not only a pestiferous but a dangerous class and those in this State seem to be increasing their defiance and aggressiveness.

The Catawba County News, referring to a recent editorial in The Observer which criticized an article in The News which had criticized it, says that what it had intended to say was that "these large Sunday papers are never all read by anybody," and that it was "not referring to the merits or demerits of The Charlotte Observer's Christmas edition."

"I hope you have had a merry Christmas, madam."
"Very happy, thank you. We have spent most of the day at the factory. Mr. McNeill 'Lories From Cotton Land.' It has given us much pleasure."
The woman had come into the office to have an announcement of some meeting published; and the man was writing at the place where the author of the verses she had been reading often sat to work.

Those who work here have often seen McNeill laboriously writing out on his machine some of the wonderful fancies that thronged his brain. They knew his work and all after many a long day of the joy to him to sing out his soul to the world, he knew the pains of birth for these children of his soul. And we may be pardoned for wondering how much it would have meant to him to hear with prophetic ears the words of the cultured woman: "We have spent the day in the pleasure of reading Mr. McNeill's poems." It no doubt would have given wings to the soul of the man who wrote the words:
"Winkless we move so slowly."
But perhaps he heard these words to-day. Let us hope so; for no greater joy could come to him. He quoted to the writer once these words of Robert Louis Stevenson:
"Dark brown is the river—
Golden is the sand.
It flows along the rocky coast;
With trees on either hand,
Green leaves alofting,
Castles of the foam
Best of mine fishing—
Ah when shall all come home."
"On goes the river
And o'er the mill
Away down the valley
Away down the hill
Away down the river
A hundred miles or more
Other little children
Will bring my boats ashore."
To be able to do some permanent good in the world, to sing some song that will ring through all after many a long day of the joy to him to sing out his soul to the world, he knew the pains of birth for these children of his soul. And we may be pardoned for wondering how much it would have meant to him to hear with prophetic ears the words of the cultured woman: "We have spent the day in the pleasure of reading Mr. McNeill's poems." It no doubt would have given wings to the soul of the man who wrote the words:
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"I show you a pair of lady's stockings," said Assistant District Attorney McNish, holding a pair of lady's stockings in front of the witness chair. Justices leaned over the bench to get a better view.
"They are mine," said Mrs. Taxia. "Judge, they're mine," interrupted Minnie.
"Madame, how can you prove these stockings your property?" asked Mr. McNish.
"There is a darning mark; I darned the hole myself," said Mrs. Taxia.
"How did this darn take place?" asked Mr. McNish.
"Objected!" shouted Lawyer Howe.
"Sustained!" said the Justice.
It was explained on the quiet, of course.
Minnie was convicted.

THE EVENT OF THE SEASON.

Production of Puccini's "Madam Butterfly" To-night—Company Arrives by Special Train Early in the Morning—Only a Few Seats Unsold.
The performance to-night at the Academy of Music of the Puccini opera, "Madam Butterfly," will be the most notable event of the theatrical season in Charlotte. From near and far the people are streaming into the town to avail themselves of the opportunity to see this great tragic opera produced here by the Puccini Opera Company. It is a noteworthy fact that Charlotte is the only town in the State of North Carolina which is being honored by a performance of this masterpiece, a fact which is quite a compliment to the music lovers and theatre-goers and shows that the Queen City is thought of as one of some musical consequence after all. The special train that carries the "Madam Butterfly" company arrives here this morning, Miss Phoebe Strakoska, who will create the title role tonight, having travelled ahead, reaching the city at late hour last night. The production to-night will undoubtedly be a magnificent one, as the leading parts will be sung by those artists who made the greatest hit in New York. Only a hundred or so of seats are left over and it is safe to predict that the house will be sold out to-night. The management of the Academy announces that seats that have been reserved for to-night will not be held longer than 4 o'clock this afternoon.

DAVENPORT-WINGATE.

Marriage of Interest Last Night in the Paw Creek Presbyterian Church.
Mr. George Wingate, a machinist of this city, was married last night at 7:30 o'clock to Miss Loretta Davenport in the Paw Creek Presbyterian church, the pastor, Rev. J. E. Berryhill, officiating. The church was profusely decorated and a large crowd witnessed the wedding of the young couple. Mr. Sam McCord acted as best man and Miss Agnes Davenport, a sister of the bride, was maid of honor. Mr. Dexter Wingate and Miss Loretta Cathy were the other attendants.

The groom is an enterprising young machinist, who has been engaged in the city for a number of years. He is a son of Mr. William Wingate, the bride, who is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Davenport, is a young lady of many acquaintances.

"The world turns its eye upon Puccinism and accords to the genius behind it a full measure of greatness for the rich treasury of its architecture, the famous gouches of art given these buildings which formerly housed the king of France. Its eyes rest upon the tragic career of a Napoleon and grants without a word the distinction of greatness for a power of genius that starts in galleries and museums, libraries and art shops, a vision comes of masterful efforts of painters, poets and sculptors, who have stamped their nobility upon civilization and passed out into the mystery."
But these to whom it has been given to work out their ideals in tangible form are pathetically few. There is an infinite number who must be so great, striving with unerring energy to bequeath to civilization some palpable evidence of their distinction, but who are denied the crown, living or dead. There are roses that never bloom, holding within their closed-up calyxes a fragrance as delicious as that of their fellows whose open folds kiss the sunbeams. There are unblossomed lives, too, holding within the limits of their influence, a power as distinctively superior as that of their fellows who stand bare before an admiring world. "Not on the vulgar mass called 'work,' must sentence be passed," says Browning. "Things undone, formless and solely idealistic, tend as much to make a man great in his estimation, as those things really accomplished. Fancies that broke through language and escaped" are as supremely great in his judgment as the words of genius in fiction or philosophy. "All men are used in me" to him was as noteworthy as all the praise and admiration he received from the constituency of his pen, and that is not less than a marvelous creed, for of all men Browning was one who impressed upon his succeeding generations the reality of his sentiment. It is like to believe like that, to know that there are Raphaels and Brownings and Napoleons and unnamed geniuses from all ranks, whose ideals are as great, whose instincts are as meritorious, whose souls are as responsive to the things that give dignity and deeper meaning to life as any of those who have gone before, carrying their purposes into execution.

"It's all right to observe Christmas," said a prominent citizen yesterday, "but the way it's done here is a disgrace. The plea has been that a boy had to have some channel through which to exude his Christmas good cheer, but I have looked about and have come to the conclusion that it is not the little fellow at all who is making all this noise." Grown men and women, and particularly big, burly, heavy, leading, vagrant negroes are responsible for the greatest volume of all this terrible thunder that is ringing in my ears. And that is not the worst part about it. One can see that those who have the pop-sticks and dynamite caps get little out of the matter, and they can see that a cap right at your feet, and follow you all over town if they discover you own a nervous temperament. Ladies, too, have been made to suffer indignities at the hands of this crowd of folks carrying the sticks. The celebration is not a theory, but it is carried to extremes here. It ought to have some restrictions placed upon it. A man ought to be allowed legally to knock a rascal down who haunted his footsteps all over town with one of those sticks."

"I've a pity people don't exercise common sense in buying Christmas presents," said a fellow yesterday under whose observation had come a case illustrative of his text. "I know of a little girl in town whose nearest relatives live in distant cities, her parents being dead. One uncle from Philadelphia sent her a train of cars; another from Baltimore sent the same thing; another from Atlanta sent the same thing. The child got three trains of cars, two toy automobiles and several trinkets of this kind, and the real necessities of the child were forgotten. This is merely a case I have under my observation now. It's always true, though, that people buy but little common sense in purchasing Christmas presents for children. One or two little toys of small value are in keeping with the occasion, but the great gifts should be of some value."

Hole in Stocking Good Evidence.

New York World.
A pair of open-work black silk stockings, with a darned spot where a garter had cut a hole, figured in special Sessions yesterday. Minnie Beasley, colored, on trial charged with stealing linen, stockings and shirtwaist from Mrs. Ethel Hume Taxia, of 607 West One Hundred and Thirty-seventh street.
"I show you a pair of lady's stockings," said Assistant District Attorney McNish, holding a pair of lady's stockings in front of the witness chair. Justices leaned over the bench to get a better view.
"They are mine," said Mrs. Taxia. "Judge, they're mine," interrupted Minnie.
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A Play That More Than Pleased.

Mr. Herbert Keloy and Miss Ethel Shannon in "The Walls of Jericho" played last night at the local Academy of Music to a fair-sized house, which they more than pleased. They proved themselves to be away above the ordinary, and those who saw the production rank it among the best of the season. The play was that so few saw the play. The plot is not intricate, but interesting and fascinating in its simplicity. The play is woven about the idea current among "the smart set," that household duties are secondary to society affairs, that race suicide is preferable to domestic cares, that a wife must first attend to the demands of her club rather than to the needs of her husband. The stars were strongly supported by every member of the cast.

There are not words enough in the English language for me to express my gratitude to the people of this town who have given me the kind treatment that I received while in the institution. It was more like being at home with my dear old mother than any other place I can mention. It has been seven years or more since I took the treatment at Greensboro, N. C. and I have never wanted a drink since, and don't think I ever will want another. There is nothing that I can say for the Institute only that it saved me and I hope these few lines will be the cause of its saving many more.
Yours most respectfully,
LEE H. PRYAT.
Raleigh, Oct. 24, 1906.

HIGH POINT HAPPENINGS.

Treasurer of Furniture Company Camed—Pastors Reorganize—Borboro Man's Loss—Personal Mention.
Special to The Observer.
High Point, Dec. 25.—Mr. J. W. Harris, the general secretary and treasurer of the Welch Furniture Company, was named this week by his loyal employees. The case was presented by the superintendent and was a handsome cold-headed affair. Mr. Harris accepted the case in a brief speech which showed his appreciation of the testimonial of good will.
The High Point Pastors' Association met this morning in the manufacturers' reading room and re-organized by electing Rev. E. H. Harvey, president, and Rev. E. L. Siler, secretary, for the coming six months. A meeting will be held each week on Monday.
Mr. J. P. Long, father of Mr. C. F. Long, who has been spending several days here, left yesterday for his home in Roxboro. Mr. Long was the unfortunate victim of the deft hand gentry Greensboro last week when he was touched for \$400. The certificate of deposit of \$400 the robber could not touch. Mr. Long was bringing the money to his son here as a Christmas gift, so it really is Mr. C. F. Long's loss. The senior Mr. Long remembers a man taking hold of the rods and apparently made several efforts to board the train. He finally left he did not want to go on the train anyway. This is the man who got Mr. Long's money. He is described as a low, stout man with black mustache.
Miss Yvonne and Ethel Smith have gone to Georgia to spend the holidays with their sister, Mrs. Vaughan—Joseph G. Brown, president of the Citizens National Bank, Raleigh, and Mr. P. D. Gold, of Greensboro, were visitors here yesterday on business.

To Be World's Biggest Hotel.

Chicago Dispatch, 14th.
The permit for the new LaSalle Hotel to be erected at LaSalle and Madison streets was taken out yesterday. With the furnishings, the hotel will represent an investment of approximately \$2,500,000, and with the land, which was leased on the basis of a value of \$2,000,000, the total will run up to \$4,500,000. The building will be 22 stories high, with two basements, and, it is said, will be the largest hotel building in the world. It will contain 1,171 rooms.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN.

All advertisements inserted in this column at rate of ten cents per line of six words. No ad. taken for less than 20 cents. Cash in advance.
WANTED—Position as collector by experienced young man. Something in the machinery (farm or otherwise) or music line preferred. Best references as to ability and reliability. "A," care Observer.
WANTED—A first-class job printer; make-up and man who gives references, full particulars and lowest salary that will bring you. Don't want to experiment with incompetent man or boomer. Pee Dee Advocate, Bennettsville, S. C.
WANTED—A registered pharmacist. State salary wanted to begin; new small business. Could use a lady. "Pharmacist," care Observer.
WANTED—Reporter for The Times. Good pay. Raleigh is the best place in the State to thoroughly learn the newspaper business. Position for reporter open January 1st. Only applications in writing will be considered. Address G. B. Crater, The Times, Raleigh, N. C.
WANTED—For U. S. Army, able-bodied, unmarried men, between ages of 21 and 35, citizens of the United States, of good character and temperate habits, who can speak, read and write English. Men wanted now for service in Cuba. For information apply to Recruiting Office, 41 West Trade St., Charlotte, N. C.; 204 South Main St., Asheville, N. C.; Bank Building, Hickory, N. C.; 414 North St., Winston-Salem, N. C.; 124 North Main St., Salisbury, N. C.; Kendall Building, Columbia, S. C.; Greenway and Coover's Building, Greenville, S. C.; or Glenn Building, Spartanburg, S. C.

FOR RENT.

FOR RENT—Two communicating front rooms, first floor, over Yorks Bar & Rogers' store. Hot and cold water bath. Geo. W. Bryan.
FOR RENT—Rare opportunity to lease modern house, centrally located, reasonable rent, by buying furniture. Address "E. S.," care Observer.
FOR RENT—Furnished rooms, No. 4 Carnegie Court.

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE OR RENT—The Keerans home at 804 South Tryon street. J. M. Oates.
FOR SALE—One five-year-old brown Kentucky bred saddle horse, 15 1/2 hands high, extra fine style. W. G. Ross & Co.
LOST
LOST—A fur neck piece, either at the Academy of Music or on Tryon street. Finder will be rewarded if left at The Observer's office.
LOST—Citizenship papers. Liberal reward on return to this office. M. B. Gorman.
MISCELLANEOUS
STRAYED—A medium-sized bay horse. Finder return to No. 63 East avenue.
ON ACCOUNT of consolidation, will sell complete outfit of Marshall Dunsont at once. Campbell press, big lot of news and job type, etc. R. L. Freeman, Bennettsville, S. C.
KING'S Business College, Charlotte, N. C., guarantees good positions. Best teachers, latest equipment. Get our special Christmas offer.
GOVERNESS WANTED—A governess to instruct three small children, one girl to take music. State age, experience, references and salary expected with board and laundry free in my home in the country. Mrs. N. Glen Williams, Williams, N. C.
ROOMS and BOARD—Twelve and eight West seventh street.

TEACHERS WANTED.

TEACHERS WANTED—Many desirable openings, N. C. and South, principals, assistants, rural schools. Special enrollment. Sheridan's Agency, Greenwood, S. C.
NO AUTOMOBILE absolutely free. Ask Miller Clothing Co.

Big Cut Price Sale Toys and Christmas Goods Till New Year

Half-Price For Following

All Mechanical Toys, Nodding Head Animals, Elephants, Goats, Sheep, Cows, Horses, Pigs, Camels, Tree Ornaments etc.

One-Third Off

Pianos, Doll Furniture, Doll Trunks, Stoves, Doll Carriages, Dolls, Tool Chests, Child's Tea Sets, Child's Wash Sets, and all Hand Painted China.

One-Fourth Off

All Boy's Wagons, Wheelbarrows, Automobiles, Irish Mails, Hobby Horses, Velocipedes, Tricycles, Child's Rockers, Chairs, Writing Desks, Men's Bath Robes, Silk Suspenders, Fancy Arm Bowls, Silk Mufflers.

But

No Toys or Christmas Goods taken back or exchanged.

Umbrellas

One-Fourth Off on all Gold and Silver Handle Umbrellas, both ladie's and men's.

The Little-Long Co.

DISCOUNT STORES