

IN AND ABOUT YORKVILLE

LESS COTTON THAN REPORTED

Only About 8,000 Bales in Hands of York County Farmers Instead of 15,000 as Correspondent Estimated—Annual Plenic to be Held at Filbert Next Saturday—Negro Boy Sentenced to be Hanged Friday, August 22th—Judge's Charge Resulted in Change for Better in Administration of Justice—Laborers Pled Not to Get to Work—Fourth Church Building Erected by Smyrna Congregation.

Special to The Observer. Yorkville, S. C., July 19.—On the strength of information believed to be as near correct as such information ever is, the statement was made in this correspondence a few days ago that there were still 15,000 bales of last year's cotton crop in the hands of the farmers of York county. The statement was questioned by a local business man and since the question was raised the matter has been gone over very carefully, and as a result it has been found that at the outside it is not likely that there are over 8,000 bales still in the hands of the farmers of the county and possibly not over 7,000. The latest estimate was made by townships and each large lot of cotton included as well as the smaller ones the latter necessarily being estimated.

The annual picnic at Filbert, four miles north of Yorkville, under the auspices of the Woodmen of the World, is scheduled to take place next Saturday, July 25th, and the consensus of opinion is that the largest crowd that is likely to assemble at any one point in the county on a similar occasion will be there. The Filbert picnic is always a favorite resort of the politicians and candidates, on these occasions, and especially election years, and it is not believed that next Saturday will prove an exception.

It has been announced that a protracted meeting will be commenced in the Yorkville Baptist church Sunday, August 8th, conducted by Rev. Raleigh Wright, and continuing for two weeks or longer. Mr. Wright is one of the four evangelists doing evangelistic work under the auspices of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, and has met with much success in every community in which he has worked. This will be his first visit to South Carolina, where he comes from Tennessee. The local fire department has recently received 1,000 feet of new standard fire hose. The fire department has been greatly improved by the present town council and is in better shape at present than ever before. The magnificent pair of horses purchased several months ago by the hose wagon have been carefully trained by the driver, Mr. James Beckham, and now know what is expected of them and do it.

SENTENCED TO HANG.

Love Robinson, the negro boy who brutally murdered his sweetheart, Babe Watson, and whom the jury found guilty of murder without recommendation Thursday, was on Friday, sentenced by Judge Gage to be hanged Friday, August 22th, 1908. It is generally conceded by those who have long been hoping for a change for the better administering of justice that the term of court just closed was by far the most encouraging held here in years, and the opinion is freely expressed that the results are largely due to the plain, practical charge delivered to the grand jury last Monday by Judge Gage, an outline of which was furnished by this correspondent, and it is believed that now that the public conscience seems to be aroused there will be no relapse, provided the judges who follow continue to stress the vital importance of convicting all violators of law, where the law and evidence warrant a conviction, regardless of the color of the skin of the defendant, his social standing or the size of his bank account.

One of the secrets of labor the work of installing the average system is not making the progress those in charge would like. The contractors increased the price for day laborers recently from \$1 to \$1.25, but there has not been the hoped-for increase in the number of laborers. While it is a fact that labor is scarce, laborers are not. There are probably as many able-bodied grown negro men in this section at present as at any time during the past several years, but many of them will not work so long as they can, by any means, secure a suit of overalls and sufficient food to satisfy their hunger. The exercises incident to dedicating a handsome, commodious new church building by the Smyrna Associate Reformed Presbyterian congregation are now in progress and will be completed to-day. The dedicatory sermon is to be preached by Rev. J. P. Knox, pastor of the A. R. F. church at Columbia, who at the same time was pastor at Smyrna. Rev. J. L. Oates is the present pastor. This is the fourth church building by the Smyrna congregation, one of the four to take the place of a building burned in the early 70's. There has been the very little rain throughout the greater portion of York county during the past ten days and as a result the farmers have been able to give their crops the attention which they sorely needed.

SUMMER DAWN.

Pray but one prayer for me 'twixt thy lips. Think but one thought of me up in the stars; The summer night waneeth, the morning light slips. Paint and gray 'twixt the leaves of the mapes, betwixt the cloud-bars of the daws; That are patiently waiting there for the daws; Patient and colorless, though Heaven's gold Walks to boat through them along with the sun. Far out in the meadows, above the young cobs, The heavy clms wait, and restless and cold. The heavy wind rises; the cobs are dunn; Through the long twilight they pray for the dawn. Round the zons house in the midst of the cobs, Speaks but one word to me over the corn. Over the tender, low'd locks of the corn. —WILLIAM MORRIS.

YEAR OF GREAT ACTIVITY.

Churches of Charlotte District Have Had Success in All Lines During Past Year—Laymen's League Doing Great Part. Though it is Yet in Infancy. Special to The Observer. Wadesboro, July 19.—The past year has been one of the greatest activity and most pronounced success in all lines within the bounds of the Charlotte district of the Methodist Church, as shown by the reports at the conference just closed here. The women's organizations led by Mrs. Frank Siler and Mrs. W. H. Wagon, of Charlotte, have taken forward strides.

Great financial progress has been made in the Church work in the individual charges and this is largely the result of the Laymen's Movement under the direction of the district leader, J. H. Ivey, of Charlotte. This movement is in its infancy in the district but the magnificent mass meeting Friday night lasting for nearly three hours means much for the Church during the coming year. Already every charge is organized and the purpose of the laymen's league the coming year is to perfect this organization and push the perfection of effort in each charge. This district already leads in the Western North Carolina Conference but will strive to attain greater things.

The first purpose of the league, as shown in the reports Friday night, was the increase of the offering for the district from \$2,600 to \$5,000. The increase was more than provided for, the total amount raised being \$6,000. The Charlotte churches, Tryon Street and Trinity, led in the movement. Tryon Street increased her offering by adding \$1,000. Trinity added \$500. Wadesboro, \$200; Mount Zion, \$200, and others in proportion. One of the western country churches reported an increase of \$100. The meeting was not emotional, but the result of earnest, active, educational work among the laymen.

The laymen did not stop here, but are pushing their work into every department of Church activity and propose during the coming year to increase all the denominational offerings. The matter of pastors' salaries was taken up and an effort made to increase these salaries. Success crowned this labor and fully two-thirds of the charges increased the salaries of the pastors during this year. Going on in their work the laymen's league through the leader, J. H. Ivey, proposed the "honor roll." In order to be on this roll the charge must pay the salary of the pastor in full and provide the Conference collection. Four churches were reported last night as having reached the honor roll and a number of others was close to the goal. Tryon Street, Charlotte, Trinity, Wadesboro and Monroe were the four successful churches. It was proposed that next year every charge would have a "white record."

The opening address by Rev. Hugh K. Eoyer, of Charlotte, was the "pacemaker" and the preacher was at his best. He told the laymen that the salvation of the world depended upon you and me. The progress of the Christian work demands men of culture, knowledge and training. Information of the field is needed. Prayer is needed. Then money will come with which to carry forward the work. The concluding addresses were delivered by two of the Charlotte laymen, C. W. Tillet and R. L. Harding. Both are deeply interested in the new movement and their splendid addresses impressed the great audience that attentively followed every word and argument. Not only the Methodist Church, but every other denomination in Wadesboro, will feel the result of the laymen's conference.

COMMISSION MAY TAKE ACTION.

It Has the Power to Prevent the Proposed Increase in Freight Rates if it Feels Proper and a Complaint is Filed by a Shipper—Chairman Knapp Outlines the Powers of the Commission and the Course That May Be Taken. Washington Dispatch, 18th. The Inter-State commerce commission may take action on the increased freight rates agreed to at the meeting of the Southeastern Freight Association and the Southeastern Mississippi Valley Association at Louisville, Ky., yesterday, when the new tariffs are filed with the commission by the roads having membership in these two associations. Action can be taken by the commission on its own initiative or upon the complaint of shippers or shippers' associations. If the Inter-State commerce commission should find that the increase in freight rates was made through action and that there was evidence that the Sherman anti-trust law was violated, the attention of the Attorney General will in all probability be called to the matter. In speaking of the powers of the Inter-State commerce commission in the case where an advance in freight rates has been made by the railroads, Chairman Knapp, of the commission, said to-day: "The railroads must file their tariffs with the commission within 30 days notice of a contemplated change. Changes in rates between competitive points must be made simultaneously by all the roads operating between these points. This in a measure protects the shipper. When a railroad files notice of an increase in its freight rates, the commission can, on its own motion, make an investigation as to the reasonableness of the advance. In the case where the commission acts on its own motion, however, it cannot issue an order. If a shipper makes a complaint to the commission against a railroad, charging an unjust increase in rates, each side is given a hearing and the commission can then issue an order based on its decision in this case. Should it develop that the increase was made through concerted action, the commission would, very likely refer the matter to the Attorney General. The Department of Justice can also call upon the commission to investigate as to the reasonableness of an increase in rates. "The commission would base its investigation on the conditions existing on the roads making the increase, considering each case separately. It may be found that the roads in the South would be justified in increasing their rates, while the roads in the trunk-line association would not have sufficient grounds for doing so." In each case the railroads "would be given every opportunity to present their case. While the commission is an administrative body, its duties are very analogous to those of a judicial body and the same form is used—a complaint; an answer; and a hearing. "Justification for increase in freight rates, if there is to be such an increase, may be found if at all, only in the fact that increased costs of operation and maintenance of railroads has reached a point where reasonable profit on money invested in them is not possible from the revenues they now receive. In determining whether rates are reasonable, careful consideration is necessary of three factors—that good wages be paid railroad employees; that present transportation facilities be kept to a satisfactory standard, and that new facilities be provided to meet ever increasing demand for them."

THE WEATHER.

Washington, July 19.—Forecast: Virginia, fair Monday, showers, and cooler Tuesday or Tuesday night; light variable winds. North and South Carolina, fair in east, showers in west portions Monday; Tuesday showers and cooler; light to fresh south winds. Georgia and east Florida, showers Monday and Tuesday; fresh south winds. Western Florida, Alabama and Mississippi, showers Monday and Tuesday; fresh south winds.

LOCAL OFFICE U. S. WEATHER BUREAU.

Charlotte, July 19.—Sunrise 5:23 a. m.; sunset 7:35 p. m. TEMPERATURE (in degrees). Highest temperature 90. Lowest temperature 71. Mean temperature 80. Excess for the month 15. Accumulated deficiency for month 213. PRECIPITATION (in inches). Total for the month 3.80. Accumulated excess for the month 75. Total for the month 24.16. Accumulated deficiency for year 4.31. Prevailing wind direction N. W. J. BENNETT, Observer.

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