

# GOSSIP OF STATE CAPITAL

By COL. FRED A. OLDS

Observer Bureau, Holleman Building, Raleigh

President James B. Dudley, of the Negro Agricultural and Mechanical College, at Greensboro, is a very intelligent man and takes a very accurate view regarding his race and its relation to the white people of North Carolina and what the latter has done for the negro. We were talking about this school and he remarked that it had 170 students. He said that he made bold to say it was the best school of its kind in the country. He added that he felt positive that in North Carolina the negro race gets a better opportunity than any other State in all the United States. He says that this fact is known in the other States. Last summer he went to the training school at Harvard University at Boston and there met many negroes. He found that there were there very largely as beggars for help for various schools in which they were interested. He told them that he was no beggar and wanted to get outside money; that his State—North Carolina—had supported the schools for his race, was able to do it and would continue to do it, and he told them very plainly that in any other State the negro had a better chance, fairer treatment and more generous opportunities and aid on the part of the white people than anywhere in all this country and that in his State the State was prouder than he of the fact and of what the whites were doing to his people. He went to Mobile, as a commissioner sent by Governor Glenn to a conference on the settlement of the negro race, and said that the delegates to this admitted freely North Carolina lead all the States in what it was doing for the negroes, not only in respect to schools, but in the way of caring for the blind, deaf-mutes, orphans, etc. Professor Dudley said that the common schools for the negroes are better here than elsewhere; that the normal training provided for the negroes is superior to that of any other State and that his own institution, he considers, as already said, the best there is of this class. He said that other schools were glad to get his graduates and that at Tuskegee, Ala., there are five of them in the faculty. President Dudley went on to speak about the general work of the negro in North Carolina, caring attention also to the great denominational schools for his race, for example, Shaw University and St. Augustine's at Raleigh, Biddle at Charlotte, Livingston at Salisbury, etc., and said several churches have established their largest negro schools in North Carolina. The school for the negro blind and deaf-mutes at Raleigh he says he knows to be far superior to any institution of this class in the United States and he makes the same declaration as to the hospital for the insane at Goldsboro. He says he does not fail to tell the people wherever he goes what North Carolina is doing for the negro and to pay a tribute to the white people here, as the truest and best friends the negro has anywhere. It was a hard hit he gave the negroes he has heard of in other States he said they were there to beg. One negro, who years ago had a so-called school at Raleigh, has been a beggar for a quarter of a century and the negro he has heard of in other States North would have built a really great college. It is said he is still begging. The people in the community where he lives do not fellowship with him, and so, like the Irishman's blackbird, he has to "hook by himself."

President Dudley says, and says so well, ought to find lodgment in the hearts of any of his race who may think that the white people, who represent 90 per cent. or more of everything in North Carolina, are doing for the blacks. It is a fine record, to be sure.

The writer has made it a sort of rule of life to see everything worth while to be seen and is especially well to take in the seamy side as well as that one which the general public views, and so in the slums of the greatest cities on the continent days and nights have been spent in the most proper guidance, in seeing how, what a friend calls, and very aptly, too, the "underworld" lives. This is a time of contrasts, but surely no change could be sharper than the contrast between the stately church, a standing monument to man's adoration of God and his belief in Him, into a miserable building, windowless and almost doorless, to see there in their caps between the eave lamps, people groveling upon the floor, tender children among them, victims of the so-called holiness craze. And this in Raleigh. Standing here were idle spectators, who, like the Athenians in St. Paul's time, run after every new thing; here and there those who, like the writer, went to see and not to so much condemn as pity, and there were some who, like men looking at the half-frenzied worshippers, whose contortions and frequent jerks of the head seemed almost to mark them as epileptics. This boundary line in their caps between religion and epilepsy is very close, indeed, and, to be sure, the one must breed the other inevitably, as the April showers the greenery of summer time. A business man, who is one of many of the people who made the house fairly reek with that odor which breathes of the mill, the kitchen and the person, could only deplore the fact that such things as this demoralize labor, while members of churches, looking on with pitying eyes, could only hope that some day these deluded people would see their folly and that their leaders, who not infrequently speak of patrons as devils and false leaders, might, by the grace of God, see things as they are. These religious epileptics think themselves a class apart and that they need little care for this world's affairs, that they will be looked after. In some sections these Holy people have gone in for free love by another name. They have been driven out from various sections of the State, but they have quite a footing; more among the whites than among the blacks. A great deal of their work appears to be among the young, much of it with little girls. Many who people have ridiculed the negroes for their emotional religion, but this is in part at least a recollection of old African ceremonies, etc., but after what one can see here nightly, and perhaps in other places in the State, too, nothing can be said in criticism of the negroes, for surely emotion can go no further than it does here among the Holy Jumpers, as these are known. These "jumps" take the cue for their line of effort from a verse in the Bible,

which doesn't mean at all what they think it does. One girl worshiper gathered there on a Tuesday night to be able to jump so high as to go out the window and that the higher she leaped the holier she was. Then, there was a boy, 16 years old, who had been deluded people call it, and who stated that when he was only 12 years old he had been drunk; repeating this over and over again with satisfaction when he was coupled with the statement that now he was holy.

Near Raleigh there yet, fortunately, remain some very large tracts of timber land, some virgin, containing immense oaks and pines, though, to be sure in general, the axe and the sawmill have been very busy in this part of the State, as in others. In these big woods, which are west of the city, there have been, certainly since 1870, wild dogs, which have gathered there from Raleigh and the country, too, and have come to be a sort of a breed among themselves—hybrids, looking very like hyenas, having that unhealthy, blotched hair that is the best expression of evil and movement. These dogs get in bands sometimes, and once, west of the State fair grounds, they absolutely attacked people late one afternoon and had to be beaten off. The dogs of the day, the hunting season February 27th, the writer took a concluding rabbit hunt, with a very fine pack of dogs, and spent a delightful afternoon in this sport. The rabbits were in fine fettle and gave some splendid runs. One, which was started in a red swamp, set like a streak of green in the dense woods, made a great run, with the hounds after him, but outpaced them and was returning to the house, being quite far behind, but hot on the trail and their music sounding gloriously through the aisles of the woods, when suddenly, as the rabbit started fairly open space down a slope toward the road, two of the wild dogs, which literally seemed to drop from the sky, burst upon him, almost at right angles, and like a flash rabbit and dogs were mixed up. At this instant the writer, who was pack with which were hunting ran up and at sight of him the wild dogs ran like the wind, disappearing as quickly as they had appeared, while the writer, who was with him, at first as he ran up he thought they were his own dogs, and so did we, who were across the hollow looking at the chase. A score of years ago one of these packs of dogs invaded the suburban dairy here, bit many of the cows and the latter had all to be killed. Some of the dogs were mad. There were one or two bitter hunts after the dogs and various litters of puppies were found in stumps and holes in the ground. They have been known to invade poultry yards and kill every fowl, and once they killed a score or more of turkeys.

The insurance companies, in their annual report of business in this State for 1908, make a showing which varies widely. Some of them paid out more in losses than they received in premiums, as a matter of fact four of them did this. This applies to fire insurance companies, which, in the main, have reported, for not many of the life companies have as yet sent in their reports. The receipts of the Hartford Fire were \$11,733, and they paid in losses \$72,529. The Liverpool, London and Globe received \$110,100 and paid out \$50,875. The Home, of New York, received \$96,076 and paid \$72,997. These reporting the largest amount of premium receipts. It is said, however, that in the aggregate all the fire companies paid out several hundred thousand dollars more than they received, of which goes to show that 1908 was what the insurance men call a "hot year."

In the way of premium receipts the Home companies, now becoming as prosperous as they ever were, when the panic time is taken into consideration.

The right upon the Audubon law was rather a surprise to most people and some observant members of the Legislature were asked to analyze it. They replied that there were a lot of people in various counties who had been picked up by the law, and that they can hunt and fish just as their great-grandfathers did and must not be hindered in any way. These people resent the posting of their lands, the regulation of their game, neither knowing or caring that the game belongs to the State and not to them. Then, too, the assertion was made that in some counties the game wardens had not been men of high position in their communities. This was taken as another ground of offence. Yet a third occasion to throw off on the law was the presence in the State of hunters from other States, who had pay a gun tax. Of course, there were people who declared that the law was made for the benefit of the outsiders, so as to have plenty of birds for them to kill, whereas the natives kill thousands of birds, the outsiders kill one, and further still there were some people who had their eye on the gun tax for the schools. It will readily be seen that such things as this demoralize labor, while members of churches, looking on with pitying eyes, could only hope that some day these deluded people would see their folly and that their leaders, who not infrequently speak of patrons as devils and false leaders, might, by the grace of God, see things as they are. These religious epileptics think themselves a class apart and that they need little care for this world's affairs, that they will be looked after. In some sections these Holy people have gone in for free love by another name. They have been driven out from various sections of the State, but they have quite a footing; more among the whites than among the blacks. A great deal of their work appears to be among the young, much of it with little girls. Many who people have ridiculed the negroes for their emotional religion, but this is in part at least a recollection of old African ceremonies, etc., but after what one can see here nightly, and perhaps in other places in the State, too, nothing can be said in criticism of the negroes, for surely emotion can go no further than it does here among the Holy Jumpers, as these are known. These "jumps" take the cue for their line of effort from a verse in the Bible,

There were fewer political clashes than ever before and what was done was on a high plane. Two years hence it seems very reasonable to suppose that the Legislature will provide for a very noble State building, occupying the same relation to the Capitol that the Senate and House buildings, just completed at Washington, do to the national Capitol. This is given as the sole reason for having the Agricultural Department erect its own building this time and of the refusal of the State to underwrite its bonds to the amount of \$100,000. Many members told me they wanted all the bond money to be used for the present Agricultural Building and the Supreme Court the State could have a very splendid and spacious structure along fine architectural lines, and certainly a very strong commission was named by the Legislature to consider this matter and report in that the Capitol itself will not be enlarged. It ought to be renovated and \$25,000 or even \$50,000 could be wisely expended in this way. When one reflects that now North Carolina gives half a million dollars to its Confederate veterans besides what it spends upon those totally disabled and those at the Soldiers' Home, it is not surprising to have the bond issue and see how small the first pension appropriation was and how from that small beginning great things have come. Now there is a little pension, \$5 a year, to the inmates of the Soldiers' Home, to be paid in little necessities—really to give them pocket money. Heretofore those in the home had not had pensions, this rule being quite different from that prevailing among the boys in Blue.

The first move in the direction of forest conservation has taken place and it is the beginning of what will soon, no doubt, come to be extensive. The United States is at really too late an hour reserving forests that the State could well have begun long ago, but in that respect we are not far ahead and could not realize what fire, the lumberman and the hog would do for so much of the timber. Another great movement which this Legislature had the honor of initiating was the reclamation of swamp land. About this there has from time to time been talk, but now the first step—and a big one, too—is taken. In Florida a vast deal is to be done in this direction and the area is to be drained and reclaimed there larger than all the British Isles together. The lakes there, like those in this State, are higher than the ocean, for example, Lake Okechobee being 15 feet above the level of the sea, and 28 in fact, and the canal will be cut through a rim of rotten limestone and the water will pour into the Atlantic ocean. Lake Mattamuskeet is of the same formation and so is Lake Drummond and both can be easily drained.

As a rule a great number of railroads are chartered at each session of the Legislature. The number chartered at the session just closed is equalled in the number of years. Some charters are obtained from the Secretary of State. The roads which at this term have been granted charters are the Pamlico and Neuse River Railway and Terminal Company, the Carolina and Southern, the Pee Dee Valley, the Union Power and Transportation Company, the Denver & Lincolnton, the Smoky Mountain, the Carolina Railway and Passenger Company, the North Carolina Railway, and the Charlotte and Southern. Some of the points on the Caldwell & Northern to Boone, in Watauga county. Charters of the same general class go to the North Carolina Public Service Company, which will operate electric car systems, connecting various piedmont towns—all manufacturing points. A merger is authorized in the counties of Ashe and Alleghany with the Virginia Southern Railway, which has been authorized to go down near the North Carolina line.

In the way of general legislation the chief feature was the budget for the State for the next session, every one of which was given a handsome increase, the appropriation of half a million dollars to carry out fully the arrangement for complete provision for all the insane and epileptics, a commission of borrowed money to be repaid and all the work planned carried out so as to provide for all the epileptics at Raleigh—so far as the whites are concerned, and all the patients with "epileptic" buildings and those for convalescent patients. Altogether it is the greatest movement of the kind ever undertaken anywhere in the South and marks a distinct departure. The pecuniary power was allowed in 1908, in order to carry on operations during 1909, so as to be able to buy for cash and thus save money. The State took up for the first time the annual property tax bill to establish a drainage district in and around Lake Mattamuskeet, which is the State's largest lake and a wonderfully rich territory in Hyde county, and which has been called the garden of the North Carolina. This is another very significant movement and marks the beginning of the very great work of reclaiming the richest lands in the State, all of which can be drained. A drainage district and to make drainage districts and to make the land stand for the work done. In the way of general railway legislation bills passed allowing the corporation commission to order electric lights to be placed on locomotives and to protect the earnings of railway employees engaged in interstate business by giving them the benefit of the exemption laws of this State regarding personal property—national forest lands, the homestead law. Of extreme importance is the bill, which, happily, became a law, providing that every school district in the State shall, if able to keep its public school open not less than four months in the year. Heretofore this burden has quite largely fallen upon the State itself, many districts failing to do their duty in the matter and counties, clear duty in the matter and counties, large numbers of them receiving more in this way and in others than they contributed to the State. In the western part of the State the initial steps were taken for protection of the forests, this being done by a law to secure from damage by fire such woodlands above the contour line of 2,000 feet on the mountains as may be declared State lands. It has been said by opponents of national forest reserves bills that "this State had not taken any steps to protect its mountain lands and this is the first one of definite form. In the way of public bills connected with the board of agriculture is one to abolish the crop loan commission and transfer to that board all its duties—one to regulate the registration and sale of concentrated feeding stuffs and the sale of conditional foods for poultry, etc.

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entertainingly and ably and remarks that he is the same Democrat that he was in Raleigh, but that nearly every one in Shanghai regards the election of Mr. Taft to the presidency as a happy event. He notices that Mr. Taft has been making some happy and sensible statements regarding the policy of the world. He says in that part of the world that he is a very sound man and one who does his own thinking and that his thoughts are conservative and will not be expressed in stormy fashion. Speaking about China (and it may be remarked in this connection that Mr. Jernigan's sources of information are extensive and accurate) he says: "There is no trouble in China and none need be expected. Fortunately the Regent has the right idea of China and she is not longer. He has taken hold of the government with a strong hand and has intelligent and progressive Western government should support his policy and at the outset of his administration, and encourage his policy as now being declared. The removal of Yuan Shi Kai was merited and the United States should be glad to see the Regent in power. He has the right to choose his advisers and Yuan Shi Kai's brother, the late Emperor." Speaking about North Carolina Mr. Jernigan says: "I am glad to know that the North Carolina is going ahead so rapidly. My best compliments to the old State with every good will. The new Governor is the son of my late and old friend, Kilburn, of Halifax, and is a very honest man and as loyal as the North Carolina. I hope to accept my best wishes. He fought for his high office with admirable courage and will go higher still, I think."

Never before in any legislative session has there been such discussion of the 20th of May question as there was this time. That ground had all been walked over, now and then, but never before had there been so much talk in the Legislature. The first time the date "May 20th, 1775" was ever put on the flag was by a decree of the secession convention, which selected the flag and which put on it the date "this one and May 20th, 1861," the date the State seceded. When the flag was adopted it was seen more, but a flag was used simply with a seal of the State for North Carolina, and this seal was a blue field, with the seal in the center and in circular form, was sometimes painted, sometimes stamped and sometimes embroidered. It was used until 1861, when the present flag was adopted, having in place of "May 20th, 1775," the date of the Halifax resolves—that is, April 12th, 1776. The May 20th question will be pretty sure to crop up in some shape or other here again, or two, and the advocates on either side are quite wrought up.

In steel filings—made in the office of the Secretary of State—rows upon rows of well-bound books which contain the original acts of the Legislature, these going away back to the way the first meeting of the Legislature, if it can be called that, in Elizabeth City. My late dear friend, Col. Richard B. Creevy, of Elizabeth City, used to tell with a great deal of relish about this and that he had seen the original act which contained the name of the first Legislature. He had seen the original act, which was a large part of this history, etc.; in other words, that a mound had been "planted" here, when the first Legislature met in the Cherokee country last summer, and that the mound, the policeman of the tribe, or band, told me everything was all right; that the articles were really of genuine Indian manufacture and that he had seen the mound, which was opened. We passed by one, which stood very near an Indian council house, which had been deserted for a good many years. Only the other day an Indian came and worked at Fiquay Springs and a little girl was the cause of this opening. Her name is Myrtle Curtis, and she found the mound near her father's house. Her father had been a hunter and he and many other hunters were found some distance below the surface. Among them was an image of the rudest sort, showing the body (with out legs) of an Indian, with a bow in one hand and a spear in the other, and a strange head, which was used as an object of worship. This she has sent to the writer and it has been placed in the Hall of History. The State has nothing like it and it is really quite an acquisition. The writer will go to Fiquay Springs and see the other objects which were taken from this mound. North Carolina was not the only one to pay more attention to the history of her Indians. The mere fact that there were over seventy tribes in the State and that only two of these remain (if the Croatoans can be called a tribe) tells the story. How many people could give the names of a dozen of these tribes. Usually streams divided them, with a different language on each side, but they had a common cry and a common sign, and they were all hunters, rather like what we nowadays call "pigeon English," or what is in the Northwest termed the "Chinook jargon."

NOBLE WORK FOR THE INSANE. The fact that at three hospitals for the insane in this State seventeen

buildings, none of them small, are under construction, shows what a wonderful amount of attention is being given the insane. It must be remembered that one building has just been completed at the Morganton hospital and that last autumn one was finished at the Raleigh institution. All these deluded people call it, and who stated that when he was only 12 years old he had been drunk; repeating this over and over again with satisfaction when he was coupled with the statement that now he was holy.

Everybody reads The Charlotte Observer. It is simply amazing to know how many letters one gets about articles in it. Three series of articles in The Observer during the past few months have brought this writer, who wrote them, some 250 letters, these being about eastern North Carolina, including the waterway, etc.; the old towns and their history; the Croatan Indians and the Cherokees. Letters have come from Mexico, from China and from Honolulu and all the writers said they had read The Observer. It must be a delight to the management to have so widely read a paper and it is certainly a delight to the writer to know that his work is read by an audience. In this direction it is interesting to know that the pilgrims who made the noted tour through the inland waterway during the Christmas holidays are solemnly pledged to make it again next Christmas, and my good friend, that hard worker, Capt. Earl J. Brown, of the United States engineers, who is putting his mind fully into the big cut which the dredgers are making between Adams creek and Core creek, had by old Beaufort Town, is very confident that where we walked last year we will ride next time. Excellent progress is being made in the work. The contractors have good plants and the open winter and the conditions generally have favored them. During the summer a trip will be made to the work and a little story about it will be told at that time, and then to be sure there ought to be a capital one next winter.

While some work has been done in the way of exploration of Indian mounds in this State, yet not one in a hundred has been investigated. I remember a couple of years ago, at Newbern, he told by my friend, Col. John Whitford, when the Atlantic & North Carolina Railway was being constructed by the State, a little before the war began, he had opened up, using a large number of slaves, a mound of the Croatan Indians lying along the Trent river, near Newbern, but in some way was prevented from doing this. These mounds are among the largest in the State and by their excavation and burial and ceremonial purposes. The greatest work done in North Carolina in the way of opening mounds was in the Cherokee country, mainly by the late J. M. Smith, a very wealthy enthusiast of Richmond, Va. I was his guest some years ago there and saw the collection, which filled the basement of his immense residence of them. It had been thousands of specimens. It had been by some people that he had been "faked" as to a large part of this pottery, etc.; in other words, that a mound had been "planted" here, when the first Legislature met in the Cherokee country last summer, and that the mound, the policeman of the tribe, or band, told me everything was all right; that the articles were really of genuine Indian manufacture and that he had seen the mound, which was opened. We passed by one, which stood very near an Indian council house, which had been deserted for a good many years. Only the other day an Indian came and worked at Fiquay Springs and a little girl was the cause of this opening. Her name is Myrtle Curtis, and she found the mound near her father's house. Her father had been a hunter and he and many other hunters were found some distance below the surface. Among them was an image of the rudest sort, showing the body (with out legs) of an Indian, with a bow in one hand and a spear in the other, and a strange head, which was used as an object of worship. This she has sent to the writer and it has been placed in the Hall of History. The State has nothing like it and it is really quite an acquisition. The writer will go to Fiquay Springs and see the other objects which were taken from this mound. North Carolina was not the only one to pay more attention to the history of her Indians. The mere fact that there were over seventy tribes in the State and that only two of these remain (if the Croatoans can be called a tribe) tells the story. How many people could give the names of a dozen of these tribes. Usually streams divided them, with a different language on each side, but they had a common cry and a common sign, and they were all hunters, rather like what we nowadays call "pigeon English," or what is in the Northwest termed the "Chinook jargon."

the writer's judgment was correct about the public buildings—namely, that the Legislature would not make any provision this time for any of these. There were three schemes, all failed. Two years hence, if the advocates of the public buildings get together and "bunch their hits," as the baseball players say, something may be done and a handsome scale for this year there has been the first strain on the State—meeting the new bond issue to take up the old 4 per cent.; providing for half a million dollars of hospital bonds, and using every cent of the revenues for 1909-10, these having not been as large as in 1907-08, as a great many enthusiasts had figured they would be.

One of my most valued correspondents is Mr. Thomas R. Jernigan, who for a score of years has lived in the far East, in China or Japan, and who for the past fifteen years has lived at Shanghai, China. He writes always

There were fewer political clashes than ever before and what was done was on a high plane. Two years hence it seems very reasonable to suppose that the Legislature will provide for a very noble State building, occupying the same relation to the Capitol that the Senate and House buildings, just completed at Washington, do to the national Capitol. This is given as the sole reason for having the Agricultural Department erect its own building this time and of the refusal of the State to underwrite its bonds to the amount of \$100,000. Many members told me they wanted all the bond money to be used for the present Agricultural Building and the Supreme Court the State could have a very splendid and spacious structure along fine architectural lines, and certainly a very strong commission was named by the Legislature to consider this matter and report in that the Capitol itself will not be enlarged. It ought to be renovated and \$25,000 or even \$50,000 could be wisely expended in this way. When one reflects that now North Carolina gives half a million dollars to its Confederate veterans besides what it spends upon those totally disabled and those at the Soldiers' Home, it is not surprising to have the bond issue and see how small the first pension appropriation was and how from that small beginning great things have come. Now there is a little pension, \$5 a year, to the inmates of the Soldiers' Home, to be paid in little necessities—really to give them pocket money. Heretofore those in the home had not had pensions, this rule being quite different from that prevailing among the boys in Blue.

The first move in the direction of forest conservation has taken place and it is the beginning of what will soon, no doubt, come to be extensive. The United States is at really too late an hour reserving forests that the State could well have begun long ago, but in that respect we are not far ahead and could not realize what fire, the lumberman and the hog would do for so much of the timber. Another great movement which this Legislature had the honor of initiating was the reclamation of swamp land. About this there has from time to time been talk, but now the first step—and a big one, too—is taken. In Florida a vast deal is to be done in this direction and the area is to be drained and reclaimed there larger than all the British Isles together. The lakes there, like those in this State, are higher than the ocean, for example, Lake Okechobee being 15 feet above the level of the sea, and 28 in fact, and the canal will be cut through a rim of rotten limestone and the water will pour into the Atlantic ocean. Lake Mattamuskeet is of the same formation and so is Lake Drummond and both can be easily drained.

As a rule a great number of railroads are chartered at each session of the Legislature. The number chartered at the session just closed is equalled in the number of years. Some charters are obtained from the Secretary of State. The roads which at this term have been granted charters are the Pamlico and Neuse River Railway and Terminal Company, the Carolina and Southern, the Pee Dee Valley, the Union Power and Transportation Company, the Denver & Lincolnton, the Smoky Mountain, the Carolina Railway and Passenger Company, the North Carolina Railway, and the Charlotte and Southern. Some of the points on the Caldwell & Northern to Boone, in Watauga county. Charters of the same general class go to the North Carolina Public Service Company, which will operate electric car systems, connecting various piedmont towns—all manufacturing points. A merger is authorized in the counties of Ashe and Alleghany with the Virginia Southern Railway, which has been authorized to go down near the North Carolina line.

In the way of general legislation the chief feature was the budget for the State for the next session, every one of which was given a handsome increase, the appropriation of half a million dollars to carry out fully the arrangement for complete provision for all the insane and epileptics, a commission of borrowed money to be repaid and all the work planned carried out so as to provide for all the epileptics at Raleigh—so far as the whites are concerned, and all the patients with "epileptic" buildings and those for convalescent patients. Altogether it is the greatest movement of the kind ever undertaken anywhere in the South and marks a distinct departure. The pecuniary power was allowed in 1908, in order to carry on operations during 1909, so as to be able to buy for cash and thus save money. The State took up for the first time the annual property tax bill to establish a drainage district in and around Lake Mattamuskeet, which is the State's largest lake and a wonderfully rich territory in Hyde county, and which has been called the garden of the North Carolina. This is another very significant movement and marks the beginning of the very great work of reclaiming the richest lands in the State, all of which can be drained. A drainage district and to make drainage districts and to make the land stand for the work done. In the way of general railway legislation bills passed allowing the corporation commission to order electric lights to be placed on locomotives and to protect the earnings of railway employees engaged in interstate business by giving them the benefit of the exemption laws of this State regarding personal property—national forest lands, the homestead law. Of extreme importance is the bill, which, happily, became a law, providing that every school district in the State shall, if able to keep its public school open not less than four months in the year. Heretofore this burden has quite largely fallen upon the State itself, many districts failing to do their duty in the matter and counties, clear duty in the matter and counties, large numbers of them receiving more in this way and in others than they contributed to the State. In the western part of the State the initial steps were taken for protection of the forests, this being done by a law to secure from damage by fire such woodlands above the contour line of 2,000 feet on the mountains as may be declared State lands. It has been said by opponents of national forest reserves bills that "this State had not taken any steps to protect its mountain lands and this is the first one of definite form. In the way of public bills connected with the board of agriculture is one to abolish the crop loan commission and transfer to that board all its duties—one to regulate the registration and sale of concentrated feeding stuffs and the sale of conditional foods for poultry, etc.

the writer's judgment was correct about the public buildings—namely, that the Legislature would not make any provision this time for any of these. There were three schemes, all failed. Two years hence, if the advocates of the public buildings get together and "bunch their hits," as the baseball players say, something may be done and a handsome scale for this year there has been the first strain on the State—meeting the new bond issue to take up the old 4 per cent.; providing for half a million dollars of hospital bonds, and using every cent of the revenues for 1909-10, these having not been as large as in 1907-08, as a great many enthusiasts had figured they would be.

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