

The Daily Gazette.

ASHEVILLE, N. C.

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING EXCEPT MONDAYS

THE ASHEVILLE GAZETTE PUBLISHING COMPANY.
JAMES E. NORTON, President.
FRED A. JOHNSON, Secretary.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Daily, One Year	\$4.00
Daily, Six Months	2.25
Daily, Eleven Weeks	1.00
Daily, One Month	.40
Daily, One Week	.15
Weekly Gazette, One Year	1.00
Weekly Gazette, Six Months	.60

These reduced rates are for subscriptions paid POSITIVELY IN ADVANCE. All credit subscriptions will be charged at the rate of 15 cents a week for whatever time they may run.

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SATURDAY MORNING, NOV. 27, 1897.

The Mississippi river is an unaccountable and unreasonable stream. It is now threatening to run over its levees and souse New Orleans. Our rivers are not that way. The French Broad and Swannanoa are thirsty streams, showing more rock and soil than water at present.

A deal of time may be taken up by the coming congress in efforts at legislation on the financial question. Secretary Gage has a plan of currency reform which will probably be submitted, but the senate will pigeon hole it, and if any silver legislation is attempted it cannot pass the house.

The mention in the Gazette yesterday morning of the inefficiency of city lighting has called forth many expressions on the part of citizens as to the most efficient means of producing light. Not a few are in favor of the use of lightning bugs as an illuminating power, while others claim that fox fire, being an all around commodity, is much more available and can be obtained at a much less cost than the lightning bug. The Gazette has no other motive than a proper lighting of the city and is willing for our city authorities to select the mode. All we want is light.

At the meeting of the directors of the North Carolina railroad in Charlotte a few days ago, it was learned, according to the Observer, from one of their number that the board has paid out for lawyers' fees, court expenses, etc., about \$4,000. As the state owns two-thirds interest in this road the people at large will understand that they have paid two-thirds of this \$4,000. But the trouble and expense to the people does not end here. On Thursday at Columbia Judge Simonton remanded the lease case to Special Master Craig, and it will go on for some time yet. In other litigations the people's money is being generously doled out by the governor, who has six lawyers employed to assist the attorney general in the case of the Western Union Telegraph company, and a lawyer who is thoroughly familiar with this litigation estimates that it will cost the state \$6,000 before it is finished. If this state wins the case two per cent of its population will be benefited, while the ninety-eight per cent, who never receive nor send a telegram, will foot the bill. It is reported that the railroad commission has very little confidence in its case against the telegraph company, and there has been a report that the commission was entertaining a proposition for a large increase in taxation from the company in consideration of the latter's rate being left as it is. The Observer remarks that it has no objection to the telegraph rate being reduced, but on the contrary, would itself be a great gainer thereby, but if the rates are to be reduced it seems as if the end might be accomplished for less than \$6,000, and if the commission loses its suit there will be a clear loss of this much to the tax payers, with nothing what ever to show for it.

"But however the case may go," concludes our contemporary, "it is an undeniable fact that the state of North Carolina has an expensive luxury in Governor Russell. He runs with the throttle wide open, and with a sublime indifference to public expenses."

MORE ABOUT PENSIONS.

Just now when the problem of a big deficit in the national treasury confronts congress the outrageous extravagance and evil of the pension business is exciting general comment. The Wilmington Messenger under the heading "Blood Suckers,"

lays it on the iniquitous system as follows:

"The secretary of the interior reports that his departments requires \$156,532,419 for the next fiscal year. President Buchanan carried on the government most efficiently with a total outlay of not more than \$80,000,000 and in all departments. Now it takes nearly twice that sum to run just one department. If the people will look at the public expenditures—so enormous and unreasonable—they will see much of the cause of the burdens they bear. They are really taxed five dollars where they ought not to be taxed two. So they are practically robbed of three dollars every time they pay five dollars of taxes, whether to the sheriff, town treasurer or in purchase of merchandise, or rather in all those combined. Secretary Bliss, for such is his name, but we do not know that with him 'ignorance is Bliss,' as a poet once wrote, states there are 200,000 pension claims still to be settled. This year more than 50,000 new names have been added. Think of that, ye tax payers and burden bearers. Thirty-two years after the war ended in less than nine months over 50,000 new blood suckers were turned to loose to devour the earnings of the people. It is a despicable, devilish outrage, and they are very vicious, unprincipled politicians who fasten that outrage upon a long-suffering people, the most of whom are sweating and toiling day and night for the barest living. The secretary sends out the cheering intelligence that some 100,000 of the claimants will get in, and thus the taxes will become more swollen and the eating sore more intense and insufferable. The demagogues are the responsible agents in this consummated wickedness. If we had no other cause for abominating the old rotten, reckless republican party, its extravagance and wrong doing in the pension swindles would be enough to justify the dislike. It is gangrened from head to foot. It was born in sin and will die in iniquity.

The true value of the Dingley bill as a revenue producer is shown by the fact that the excess of expenditures over receipts this year is \$45,500,000 against \$20,000,000 in 1895.

TOPICS OF TODAY.

Republicans are worried, remarks the Augusta Chronicle, because the Dingley bill does not pan out according to the program, and because Uncle Sam's treasury is not in a condition for successful looting.

Mississippi is shipping cattle to Colorado. Mississippi is destined to become the breeding region for the ranch country of the northwest, for the reason that she is able to save 90 per cent. of the calves there, whereas they loose more than 40 per cent. in the north.

Governor Tanner of Illinois, will have to be reprimanded. He has made a public statement that the public institutions of the state cannot be operated at as low cost as under Governor Altgeld, because the Dingley tariff law has permitted the price of supplies to advance all along the line. Working people are having the same experience in the maintenance of their homes, but there has been no increase in income. The monopolist managers are covering the increase entirely into their own pockets as tribute.

"The unanimous opinion of Darktown," says the Philadelphia Press, "is that the skin grafting from a possum to a man in Chicago is a willful waste of mighty good material."

Remarking upon the fact disclosed in the report of the secretary of the interior that there are still in the possession of the United States government 1,935,460,638 acres of unsettled land, which would make more than 11,000,000 homesteads of 160 acres each, the Philadelphia Record says that "still the earth-hungerers are not content, but cry for more land in Hawaii and Cuba." It is incomprehensible. Senator Morgan says we need Hawaii for the protection of Alaska, which is 3,000 miles away, and the Louisville Courier-Journal thereupon says that, "having annexed Hawaii in order to protect Alaska, of course we shall have to annex Australia to protect Hawaii, and annex the moon in order to protect Australia. Our national bird was not called a spread eagle for nothing.—Charlotte Observer.

Ex-Postmaster General Wilson, now president of Washington-Lee university, says he is delighted to be out of politics and has no desire ever to re-enter it. He describes himself as a very happy man. As to this the Chattanooga News remarks: "To the average American citizen who is out of office this may seem to be a strange admission, but to the man who has been in politics a number of years or who has closely observed the lives of politicians, it will be readily understood. No real business brings as little real satisfaction and few callings are less lucrative. The same amount of energy and ability necessary to win and hold a considerable office will bring in far more financial returns in almost any legitimate business or profession. It is difficult, however, to realize this until the office-seeker is completely into politics and then he is fit for little else. There is many a chronic office-seeker who wishes he had never consented to become a candidate the first time just as sincerely as the drunkard regrets his first drink.

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SOME PEOPLE

Would Suppose

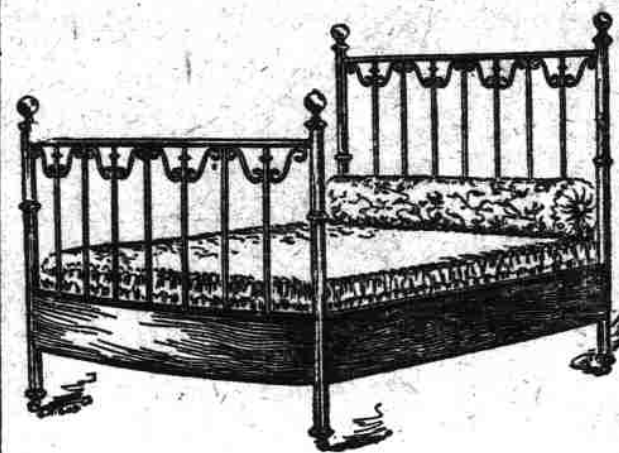
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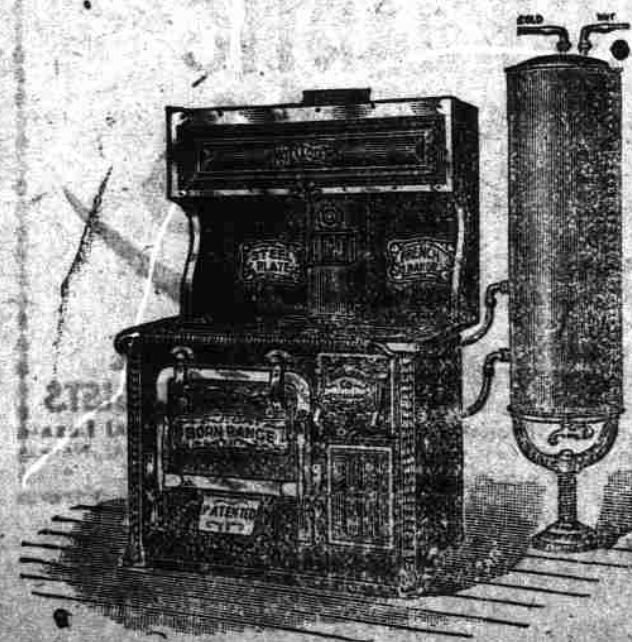
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