

TIMELY INFORMATION.

State Agricultural Department.

Wherein it Fulfills its Mission and Wherein it Does Not.

There has been a great deal of late detrimental to the State Agricultural Department, and in several instances the management has been severely criticised, and apparently within bounds. This has induced the Raleigh State Chronicle to inquire into the conditions and workings of the Department. We regret that our space does not admit of the Chronicle's full report, covering, as it does, five columns or more. The Chronicle says:

WHAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS COST.

It was difficult to ascertain the cost of the Department. This was due to the fact that the State Treasurer is ex officio Treasurer of the Board of Agriculture, and that while his accounts are audited annually, a statement of the entire expenditures of the Agricultural Department is made only once in two years—ready for the Legislature. To ascertain the cost for the past five years we had to add up the cost per month and the following is the result:

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| From May 2, '79 to Jan. 1, '81 | \$41,413.13 |
| From Jan. 1, '81 to Jan. 1, '82 | 39,040.09 |
| From Jan. 1, '82 to Jan. 1, '83 | 36,422.05 |
| From Jan. 1, '83 to Jan. 1, '84 | 30,771.11 |
| From Jan. 1, '84 to Jan. 1, '85 | 27,700.00 |
| Total cost for five years | \$233,356.43 |
| Making an average cost per year of | \$46,671.29 |

Now has the work been worth that amount to the State? That is the question the tax payers want answered, and that is the question the Chronicle is trying to throw somewhat upon.

WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM.

There are between 75 and 85 fertilizer companies doing business with merchants in the State and all of them are required to pay a tax of \$500 for the privilege of selling their guano to our farmers. The Department really don't cost the people a cent, and to that reason as much as to any other do we attribute the extravagance. About \$45,000 has been raised each year from guano men. It is estimated that the amount this year will be \$40,000. On the editorial page of this paper we make a suggestion regarding this tax. Read it.

AT THE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

At one time, in addition to his regular salary, Commissioner McGehee received a salary from the Agricultural Department of the General Government. He does not receive this amount now, and his salary is two thousand dollars, without any perquisites, says Mr. McGehee. The Board gave its assent for the Commissioner to receive this salary. He was also at the same time in receipt of a salary as Bond Commissioner. By act of Legislature made Dec. 31st inclusive, \$7,839.05 was the amount expended by the Experiment Station. The number of analyses were 520.

A COMPARISON OF WORK DONE.

Under the management before Dr. Dabney took charge (the first years of the station) from April 15th 1877 to Dec. 31st 1880, only 1,000 analyses were made. For the two years, April 15th to April 15th 1879, \$7,670 was the amount expended; and in these two years the number of analyses were 378, making each analysis cost the State a fraction over \$20. Three assistants were then employed at salaries of \$849.83, \$562.50, and \$210 respectively for two years work. The Director received \$2,000 a year.

PRESENT EXPENSES.

The salaries now paid by this Station, per month, are:

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| Dr. W. W. Dabney, Jr., Ph. D. | \$208.33 |
| B. Von Herff, Ph. D. | 83.33 |
| H. B. Battle, B. S. | 83.33 |
| F. B. Dancy, A. B. | 83.33 |
| W. A. Withers, A. B. | 60.00 |
| Clarence Busbee. | 12.00 |
| Servant. | 15.00 |

cessity, because the revenue derived from the whole establishment comes from a tax on fertilizers, and a license cannot be granted to sell the guano until a competent chemist pronounces it valuable.

Dr. Dabney was glad to show us the record of his work and the details of his mode of working. Everything here is neatness and we could but admire the methodical arrangement of his letters, results of analyses, and other business papers. Here not five cents is spent for a call of soap (and they use lots of it, agreeing with the learned Prof. Winston that a man ought never to economize in soap), or twenty-five cents expended for a whisk brush (why should the State pay for a whisk brush? Is it one of the chemicals?) or any other item, without a receipt being filed in a book kept for that purpose.

HISTORY OF THE STATION.

When first organized the Experiment Station was located at the University. Here some work was done but the rumor was that the Director and most of his assistants spent a good portion of their time hunting. Nevertheless in two years 1878-79 under the former director, who was a first class chemist and has made a young fortune since he left North Carolina by assay work, 378 specimens were analyzed, and the cost of the Station with three assistants was \$3,835.31 per year [see report of Experiment Station for 1879]. In November, 1880, the present Director was elected at a salary of \$2,000 a year. In October 1881 the office was moved to Raleigh. Before moving there were four assistants who were paid \$75, \$60, \$37.50, and \$30 per month respectively.

When the office was moved to Raleigh the salaries of the assistants were increased to \$83.33, \$53.33, \$50, and \$50 respectively. The total expenditure from April 1, '81 to April 1, '82 was \$6,122.33, and the number of analyses was 457. In 1882, the salaries of the two \$50, a month men, were increased to \$75, and a negro man employed at an expense of twenty dollars a month. The total expenses from April '82 to April '83 was \$7,831.00. The number of analyses 459. From April '83 to Jan. '84, the expenses were \$5,250. Dr. Dabney's salary was increased to \$2,500—which salary he still receives. By act of Legislature all servants were paid one dollar a day and the negro's salary was raised to \$28 per month. From Jan. '84 to Jan. '85 the expenses were \$11,198, of which amount \$2,714 was expended for the phosphate survey in the Eastern part of the State. In this survey 71 beds were explored, and 139 examined and samples drawn and inspected. Number analyses 64.

During the year 1885, from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st inclusive, \$7,839.05 was the amount expended by the Experiment Station. The number of analyses were 520.

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From April 1, '82 to April 1, '83, under Dr. Dabney, 457 analyses were made at a total cost of \$6,122.33, an average cost of \$13.60 per analysis. The next year the total expenditure was \$7,831.00, an average cost of \$17.06 per analysis. From Jan. '84 to Jan. '85 the cost was \$11,198, the number of analyses 642, making an average cost of \$17.44. During this year \$2,714 were expended on the phosphate survey and ought not to be included in the estimate. The cost per analysis was \$13.21. During the year 1885 there were 520 samples analyzed at a cost of \$7,839.05, an average of \$15.07. The cost for the last two years was remarkably low and is a reduction of \$7 and \$5 per analysis respectively over the cost of 1878-79.

LET THERE BE REFORM.

We feel no hesitation in saying that good work is done in this Department, but the work ought to be well done. This was demonstrated when Dr. Dabney and one of his assistants—sometimes two—were absent from the office two or three months at the New Orleans Exposition and the work did not suffer. In these hard times economy is the watch word and the \$7,800 required to run the Station ought to be reduced to the lowest possible sum. Let the Board consider the propriety of reducing the incidental and other

THE ENGLISH-IRISH QUESTION.

The Situation Stormy, Chaotic and Uncertain.

English politics turn on Ireland. The situation is stormy, chaotic. There is no certain data for anything. Perhaps the views of the New York Times correspondent are as likely to be correct as any presented. We condense from a late cablegram.

TRADE AT HOME.

A Few Timely Suggestions on "Home Helping."

Looking in this line, we submitted reflections with regard to the patronage bestowed by many of our citizens, who are not dealers, on northern merchants. Our object was to show that an occasional article might be purchased in this way at a lower rate than the home price, yet, in the long run it does not pay.

Occasionally a Northern firm will run off some article they happen to be long on, or it is getting out of fashion, or by way of advertisement, at reduced rates. Ordering such goods is always hazardous. In the first place the cash must always accompany the order, then the goods may be damaged and—note well this fact—if they happen to be out of the goods ordered, they will send something else. They never return the money so long as they can hold it. The party ordering can never be sure of getting what he desires.

Ask any of the many ladies, who are in the habit of buying in this way, if this is not the orthodox and frequent return they get from the Northern merchants: "We regret that we are just out of the exact article you order, but inclose these goods, which we trust will answer your purpose."

When you buy from a home merchant there is no leap in the dark. You know exactly what you are doing. One of our moody prominent and enlightened citizens told us a few days ago, while discussing this very subject, the following, as showing the views as held by Northern merchants:

"I sent an order," said he, "to a friend in New York—himself a leading merchant—to have filled. It was for matting. My friend went to a large dealer in that line of goods and left the order. When the stuff came it was rotten and not at all what I wanted."

I wrote to my friend recounting the shortcomings and asking a change, or that I might return the goods and receive my money back. My friend was indignant that I should be so shamefully cheated and treated. He went to the dealer and stated the case, telling him I would be perhaps a good and constant customer. The matting man laughed in his face, and told him he would do nothing, that he didn't care for and didn't expect to sell a customer but once. Selling off his old goods to distant customers constituted his profits and this, said our townsman, "was all the satisfaction I ever got."

We have no doubt this is the way Northern firms work off old goods. Distant customers and their mercy can't help themselves.

All the favor and advantage are with the Northern men. Every man is entitled to a living in his business and our merchants sell goods as cheap as can be found in the State.

THE DRUMMER'S TAX.

A Few Reflections Upon Commercial Taxation Generally.

Since the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court, declaring the Michigan drummer's tax unconstitutional, many inquiries have been received by State Treasurer Bain as to how this decision affects the North Carolina law to which he replies that it does not apply here from the fact that our law is not discriminatory. We presume that the opinion of Treasurer Bain is correct, but it occurs to us that the very element of our law that makes it conform to the constitution is the one that renders it unjust.

For we cannot concede that it is fair to impose as heavy a tax upon the home merchant, who already pays several taxes upon the same goods, for the privilege of soliciting trade within our own borders, as upon the merchant of another State who has no special interest in us or with us beyond the amount of money he receives from us.

We know that taxes are necessary for the support of the Government and we have no objection to them in so far as they are necessary for this purpose; and yet it is evident that there is too much tax upon our home merchants. Take the Goldsboro merchant, for instance: He is required to pay tax upon goods purchased and then a second tax is exacted upon such of these goods as he may have in stock on the 1st day of June.

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THE BLAIR BILL.

How the North Carolina Members Stand.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 18, 1886.—The Blair bill is beginning to excite attention here. The Southern members of Congress, especially, are interested, and seem disposed to favor the measure without regard to the constitutional doubts some think involved in the measure. I have taken some pains to ascertain two facts—the probable fate of the bill and the opinion of the North Carolina delegation as to the prospect of its passage.

1. The bill is likely to be reported favorably. It may be reported with slight amendments. If reported, it will pass after full discussion in the House.

2. The North Carolina members are in favor as a whole to the bill, some of them as being satisfied it is the best that can be done. It is well to give the reasons of those who do not feel easy of the constitutional question.

The General Assembly, by nearly a two-third vote, has instructed the senators and requested the Representatives to vote for the measure which passed the Senate in the last Congress. This is regarded, in connection with the voice of the people, expressed through other channels, as resolving all except the most serious doubt of power. If the bill shall be amended so as to make it even slightly more palatable, these doubts will be entirely resolved.

Mr. Henderson said: "I made my campaign in a large measure upon the issue, and I have seen nothing to change my opinion. I do not regard the matter as involving doubt at all. As an original proposition, to levy taxes for the support of schools, I would suppose it as unconstitutional. But the money has been collected under the regular constitutional powers of the Government, and under the precedents, especially that of '37, in the distribution of the surplus to the States, it can be appropriated for any purpose. Certainly Calhoun, Jackson and others are good authorities. They were strict constitutionalists, as I am. The right seems perfectly clear to my mind, even without precedents."

EQUALIZATION

Of Tax Valuations in North Carolina.

This important subject is now receiving the attention it has long deserved. No question is of more interest to the people than the question of taxation as it concerns all classes and occupations. The Raleigh Visitor of Thursday states that the committee appointed by the recent legislature for the purpose of investigating the question of equalizing the burdens of taxation, was in session again on Wednesday, and much advancement was made towards securing the purposes in view.

The question of a division of the State into tax districts was under consideration, and the most feasible plan appeared to be that of dividing the State into tax districts composed of from eight to ten contiguous counties. A board for each district is to be appointed consisting of the chairmen of the boards of commissioners of the counties comprising the several districts. The boards shall elect one of their number chairman, who shall by virtue thereof, be a member of the State board of equalization.

The district boards shall equalize taxations in their districts, as far as practicable. It is expected that the board is to apportion the railway taxation in the several counties through which the railroad runs, as also the rolling stock in such counties. The capital stock is to be apportioned in the same way, and no stockholder is to be required to pay any tax on his shares of stock, as the corporation itself is the owner of a property and should pay taxes thereon, just as an individual does on his property. The systems of Illinois and Kentucky have been thoroughly examined and appear to be best suited to North Carolina. A very difficult question, which the board has to come extent considered, is what provision there should be in reference to the sale of lands for unpaid taxes. An examination as to the operation of the present system here shows it to be very defective. The board is also giving special attention to its powers and duties as a board of equalization.

BALTIMORE'S ICE BLOCKADE.

BALTIMORE, January 19.—The water approach to Baltimore is still blocked by ice, and up to noon no vessel of any kind had arrived. It is warmer, however, and tracks will be opened by the ice boats.

CHOICE SOUTHERN DISHES.

Southern people used to be famous for hospitality and excellent cookery. Miss Adelaide Preston has begun a series of articles in *The Housekeeper* which are to embody all the choice recipes treasured for several generations of an old Virginia family. Any lady who would like to see the number containing the first of this series will receive one free by sending a postal card to Buckeye Pub. Co., Minneapolis, Minn.

USE LISTER'S FERTILIZERS FOR WHEAT.

Both papers agree that the condition of Ireland was never more alarming than it is at present. Earl Cowper's warning that the country was on the eve of the most formidable strike against rent yet seen is already justified. The League has organized combinations among the tenants over a large part of the country. It undertakes to fix a percentage of reductions of rents, and prohibits all payments to landlords who refuse to accept the League scale. Judicial rents, held according to enforce payment by legal means, are resisted by organized force. The landlords, on their side, are organizing also. The Duke of Devonshire, Lord Hartington's father, owning 60,000 acres in Ireland, has accepted the Presidency of the Irish Delegates Union. The most urgent appeals have reached the Government.

Meanwhile, with one accord judges in the West and South of Ireland are signing writs of eviction by the hundred. There is apparently more destitution than since the awful winter of 1870, the tenants having spent the most of their little store of ready money in going into the delusive land courts, and the laborers having had no work whatever. Already famine and scenes of violence are beginning to be repeated. Mobs of starving men are breaking up the meetings of the poor law guardians with demands for food. Dead bodies are being found at the roadside wasted to the bone. It is at such times as this that a single judge in Kilkenny issues over 200 writs of eviction in one day, involving the tearing of the roofs from over the heads of at least a thousand human beings—and this is a sample of what is going on in fifteen counties. Of course this means disorder and excitement, and the killing of landlords and bailiffs. In logical sequence this will also mean an eruption of virtuous wrath from the well-fed English members of Parliament and a vote of wholesale coercion which will be precisely what the landlords want.

THE STATE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

Meeting of the State Board of Agriculture.

This board met again yesterday, all of its members save two being present. Those in attendance were: Gov. Scales, Messrs. K. P. Battle, W. G. Plancher, W. R. Williams, John Robinson, A. L. Lenoir, W. E. Green, R. W. Wharton, Burwell Blanton, Azariah Graves and Matt. Moore. The two last named are new members. The board had Wednesday heard the reports of commissioner McGehee and State chemist Dabney. Yesterday morning commissioner Patrick read his report on the work done in the immigration department during the year. The report was lengthy. The committee on the experimental farm made its report.

A committee, composed of Messrs. W. S. Primrose, W. H. Dodd, E. R. Stamp, F. O. Moring, G. E. Leach, J. S. Wynne, Oct. Coke, and Rev. F. L. Reid, appeared before the board in regard to the industrial school, and its location at Raleigh. This committee, of which Mr. Primrose was the spokesman, made a very liberal proposal. This is expected that the gift of \$5,000 in cash, a lot of an acre in the city of Raleigh, the exposition buildings entire and twenty acres of land adjoining.

The board received a telegram from Kingston, making an offer of \$10,000 in cash conditioned upon the establishment of the industrial school at that point.

There was no new proposition from Charlotte, which made one at the December meeting. The board went into executive session yesterday afternoon, adjourning at 6:30 o'clock. This morning it meets and expects to receive the full report of its finance committee, which has been carefully examining the vouchers, &c., of the expenses, &c., of the New Orleans display, and also of those of the present station. It is expected that the to-day definite action will be taken upon the matter of the establishment of the industrial school. It would be established and located here. The committee appointed to make inquiries in regard to the cost, &c., of the experimental farm submitted the results of its investigations. Its report will probably be acted on to-day, and it is understood that the farm will be established near this city.

A LOBBY FOR \$50,000,000.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—The first great lobby for the improvement of Western waterways put in an official appearance to-day. It is an adjourned meeting of the convention held at St. Paul and New Orleans early in the Summer and at which resolutions calling for an appropriation of \$50,000,000 were adopted. These Western delegates swarmed about the Capitol this afternoon and will be, here some days yet, howling for the old flag and an appropriation. On a pinch they will worry along without the flag. A good many more are expected and it is designed to make a forward movement on the treasury all along the line. There are three classes among them—one for the lower Mississippi, one for the upper Mississippi and the Missouri and the other for the Hennepin. The more sanguine and enthusiastic are for the whole lump, the Eads job and all. They had a hearing before the River and Harbor Committee to-night.

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Henry M. Stanley publishes a letter over his own name, in which he expresses his horror at Parnellism in these words: "Had we of the North listened to the South as England now listens to the Irish separatists, where would the American Union be? We didn't listen; we fought!" A prominent Parnellite, answering Stanley, does it thus: "Is it because this Welsh adventurer as a Confederate soldier was taken prisoner of war by Gen. Thos. Francis Meagher that he hates Home Rule and Irishmen?" The violent utterances of the Duke of Westminster, who recently declared that the man who proposed a single further concession to Ireland was either a fool or a traitor, has been followed by an article in the Edinburgh *Review* from the Duke of Argyll, in which he makes a fierce onslaught on Mr. Chamberlain and the Radicals for their position on the Irish question.

The London *Times* in a spirit of deliberate driving our people to despair, referred to, as was his right, and that the Senate had the right to reject their confirmation; that the Senate was entitled to an inspection of all the papers relating to the nominees, and that nothing should be done to hinder it in that direction, but that if it had indeed for the reasons which it had induced him to remove officeholders it would be transcending its duties, and that he would feel compelled to refuse.

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