

OUR RALEIGH WEEKLY LETTER.

Two Columns of Interesting News Sent Us By Our Special Correspondent.

Raleigh, N. C., June 2.—The prospects of a Southern cotton mill merger or trust, probably two of them, are much more indicative of success just now than a week ago, and really it looks as though the combines will be accomplished. Representatives of both the Underwood and the Fries plans held separate conferences at Greensboro last Thursday and Friday and adopted methods of hurrying up each scheme. The two plans differ and there has developed considerable rivalry between the promoters. A large number of mill owners attended the meetings. The Underwood Plan (so-called after the New York gentleman who proposed it) is confined to yarn mills, I believe, and it is stated that a majority of the distinctively yarn mills, representing nearly 300,000 spindles, have announced their purpose of entering into the combine. The Fries Plan (also financed by Northern capitalists, with Mr. H. E. Fries of Salem as chief representative) looks to the merger of a number of the leading big spinning and weaving mills and other textile plants, and may be successfully organized, also, irrespective of the Underwood combination. The schemes become a matter of vital interest to the industrial prosperity and growth of North Carolina and the South generally.

CONGRESSIONAL CONTESTS.

There promises to be a lively contest in each of several of the Congressional districts—both in the conventions and at the polls. Major E. J. Hale of Fayetteville, editor of the Observer, ex-Counsel to Manchester, and a gentleman of large experience in public affairs, and ripe judgement, extensive acquaintance and wide popularity, will be a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Congress in his district. The announcement is made following the appropriation by Congress of \$50,000 to begin the work of improving the Upper Cape Fear river—a scheme with which Major Hale has had more to do than any other man, and to whom great credit is due for its success. (Of course it is understood that this appropriation is intended to be only a starter for the great work to be undertaken, and that the next Congress will be asked to appropriate a large sum to continue and complete the work.) Major Hale's friends think that his presence as a member of Congress would greatly aid in securing future liberal appropriations. Cumberland is now in the Sixth District represented at present by Congressman Bellamy of New Hanover, and the fight for the nomination will be between these two gentlemen and State Senator Joe Brown of Columbia. The new Sixth District is composed of Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Cumberland, Harnett, New Hanover and Robeson. Pou, the Kitchens and Klutz will be re-nominated, practically without opposition, in the Second, Fourth, Fifth and Eighth Districts. In the new Tenth District Speaker Walter R. Moore is said to be the probable nominee. The Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Districts will be closely contested by the Republicans; the others are believed to be safely Democratic, provided the party is united in its support of the nominees. General W. P. Roberts of Gates is contesting the nomination with Congressman Small in the First District, and in the Third there will be a contest between several aspirants for Mr. Thomas's seat.

CONTINUED DISSENSION MEANS DEFEAT.

The split in the Democratic party in Mecklenburg county promises to become a serious affair in its results. An anti-primary mass-meeting has now been called (to meet June 21), and those Democratic voters who have refused to take

part in an "oath-bound primary" (said to be in the neighborhood of one thousand and largely composed of the country voters), expect to put up a ticket in opposition to that put up by the primary Democrats.

A well-informed gentleman stated to me to-day that the Mecklenburg row is likely to cost the Democrats a Congressman. Mecklenburg is now in the Ninth District, placed therein to offset the heavy Republican majorities of Madison and Mitchell. The new Ninth District is close at best, when there is harmony in our ranks. A great deal of the opposition to Judge Clark is located in Mecklenburg, also, and with two Dem. county tickets in the field, the friends of each fighting the other, the prospects of a rainbow-hued success are not overpowering.

VARIOUS MATTERS OF INTEREST.

State Senator Cam. Morrison of Richmond county is said to be making a "strong run" for the Dem. Congressional nomination in the new Seventh District.

The State Board of Agriculture acts in a very niggardly manner towards the State Fair this year, voting only \$750 for premiums for agricultural exhibits. Heretofore double that sum, or, \$1,500, has been voted. Colonel John S. Cunningham and one or two other members fought hard for the usual appropriation, but were outvoted.

The docket of the Supreme Court was exhausted with the close of last week and no more cases will be heard at this term. The Justices will remain here a week or two preparing opinions to be filed in the cases in which decisions have not yet been handed down.

The friends of Mr. John C. Drewery, a prominent citizen of Raleigh, and Grand Secretary of A. E. and A. Masons, sympathize with him in the loss of his father, who was buried at Drewryville, Va., last Saturday. Some beautiful floral tributes were sent from this city by a number of friends.

W. P. Bynum, Esq., of Greensboro, who is here attending the courts, says there is no truth in the "rumor" that he is to be nominated for Chief Justice by the Republicans, and adds that he does not desire any office. Mr. Bynum has a fine law practice.

Secretary of State Grimes has received another of the few missing grant books. This covers a part of 1774. This was found in Perquimans. Several between 1771 and 1774 are still missing.

C. W. Lane, a railroad contractor from Virginia, has been arrested and put under a \$100 bond at Winston for hiring labor in this State without license.

A public mass meeting of the citizens of Fayetteville was held to express their pleasure over the appropriation for the upper Cape Fear improvements. Thanks were extended to those who labored for this end so successfully.

In Mecklenburg county more men failed to pay their poll tax than in any other county in the State. The white delinquents numbered 925 and the negroes 1,583. No estimate is given as to the number of Democrats who are delinquent.

Petrel Purchased.

The tug "Petrel," which has been sunk at Batchlors Grave for the last three weeks, has been purchased from Fleetwood & Jackson, of Hertford, by Mr. E. R. Alexander, of Tyrrell county. He expects to have her afloat in a few days, when she will be hauled upon Hayman's marine railway, to be rebuilt.

Move for County Fair.

A movement has been begun in Asheville by the city and county teachers to have an annual county fair. Arrangements for the fair will be made at once. A movement is also on foot to build a public industrial school in the county to remain open for ten months of the year and have all branches of manual training.

Unfortunate Family.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jones, of Clayton, lost two children in two days from meningitis. One was a boy of 17 and the other a girl of 10, and two more of their children are critically ill. Some years ago these same parents lost three children in one week from diphtheria and two years ago lost three more, two dying the same day.

Increase Over Last Year.

The State Board of Agriculture and Mechanical College budget for next session. The cost will be about \$50,000, an increase of \$10,000 over last year. This is due to the addition of the textile department and other improvements. Two assistants will be elected for the professor of agriculture, and Instructor Owens was made an assistant to the professor of English.

Absconder Located.

F. F. Dawson, the ex-kookkeeper of Hackney Brothers, of Wilson, who disappeared, leaving a shortage, has been located at Columbus Miss. Governor Aycock has issued a requisition on the Governor of Mississippi, and Sheriff Sharp has gone after the man. Dawson stood well in Wilson and was prominent in his church. His shortage is thought to be about \$12,000.

Transmit Obscene Matter.

The committee of thirty that has charge of the campaign that is being waged for the purpose of securing the appointment of Democratic registrars for Norfolk county met last night and heard the report of the sub-committee, who waited upon Judge W. N. Portlock. The committee's report was that Judge Portlock stated that he would be willing to give the straight Democrats only a minority representation.

E. C. S. N. S. Commencement.

Last week saw the close of the 11th annual commencement exercises of the Elizabeth City State Normal School. This is a colored school that started eleven years ago with only 69 pupils. The last session saw 212 pupils enrolled and 25 counties represented. This school is attracting wide spread attention for the good work it is doing and even in this the heart of the South land vast numbers of prominent white people attended the commencement exercises. Judge Geo. A. Jones, that grand old man, was there. He praised the excellence of the essays and the splendid order maintained. His was but the sentiment of the many. This was the most prosperous session in its history.

Three Negroes to Hang.

Three executions will take place in Salisbury, Rowan county, on Thursday, July 8th. Governor Aycock fixed this date when three negroes must pay the death penalty for their crimes. The first is Archie Conley, who was convicted of the murder of a man named Todd. Conley picked a quarrel with the fellow about a cigarette, and after some words, when Todd started to leave, he attacked him with a knife and stabbed him to death. The other two negroes to be executed July 8th are Dick Fleming and Richard Blanton. They broke into the house of a widow, who was alone with her little daughter, and committed the nameless crime. In his opinion affirming the sentence Judge Clark says of the prosecutor's testimony: "The revolting details were narrated with a simplicity and evident truthfulness to make the blood run cold."

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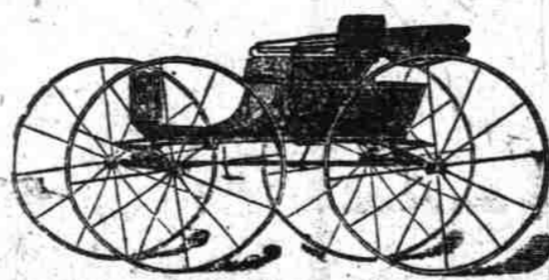
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