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WEEKLY CROP REPORT.

Cotton Opens Rapidly—Despite Cool Weather.

The weekly crop bulletin issued from the Weather Bureau for the weeks ending Monday September 22 says:

"The reports of crop correspondents indicate that the weather during the past week has been very favorable for housing crops and for all kinds of farm work, but was not so beneficial for the maturity of late crops, on account of the drought and low temperatures at night. There was almost no rainfall during the week, except small amounts in the west on the 16th and 20th, and in the east on the 21st; streams are very low, and an unusual number of reports of wells drying up have been received. The mean temperature was below normal every day chiefly by reason of low minimum temperatures, and was somewhat injurious to late vegetation. In extreme northwestern counties some damage by frost to corn and buckwheat occurred at the beginning of the week. A general rain is much needed.

Gathering early corn has made some progress; late corn has suffered some from dry weather, but is good on low lands. Cotton continues to open rapidly despite the cool weather and there is indication of much premature opening on account of rust; many correspondents report the crop nearly all open and from one-half to two-thirds picked out estimates of yield range from one-half to two-thirds of an average crop; cool nights have injured cotton, and conditions otherwise were not conducive to growth or maturity of top crop. Cutting tobacco is advancing towards completion in sorghum syrup is underway. The yield of peas will be short, but an excellent crop of pea-vine hay will be saved; cutting vines is advancing under favorable conditions, crimson clover, sweet and Irish potatoes, and turnips would be benefited by rain. The ground is too dry for plowing in the east, but is in better condition in this respect in the west, where preparations for sowing wheat are advancing rapidly, with indications that a large crop will be sown.

Bitten by Vicious Dog.

One night last week Mr. Geo. Riddick, of Eva, Perquimans county, had a peculiar encounter with a vicious dog. He was returning from the home of a friend when the dog suddenly leaped at him, biting him severely on the leg. Mr. Riddick throttled the brute and choked it to death. He was so frightened that he ran to the nearest neighbor and obtained a gun with which he shot the dead canine. The dog was a large black one and was a stranger in the midst. It was the property of no one, lived at no one's house and was only seen at night.

A Birthday Party.

A delightful occasion was that at the home of master Robert R. Jennings Wednesday evening. It was the occasion of his sixteenth birthday and the large number of beautiful presents attested the popularity of this young man. After a series of selections rendered by the orchestra the young people repaired to the dining room where upon the tables were heaped a variety of most appetizing things.

SUSPICION RIFE.

The Jail Delivery of Sunday Night Sep. 14th.

WILCOX'S FRIENDS AT WORK.

The prison doors were unlocked by a friend of Jim Wilcox. He remained to favor his chances of acquittal.

On Saturday night Sept. 14 1902 some one, concealed in the jail, unlocked the doors and four prisoners escaped. Among the three men to remain was James E. Wilcox. The question arose how and when did this confederate enter and conceal himself in the jail and why did Wilcox remain?

A Tar Heel reporter made several visits to the jail and examined every available place where a person could have been concealed. The result was that upon the top of the steel cages nearest the outer entrance of the jail was found a number of foot prints in the thick dust that had settled thereon. On top of these same cages was a piece of old carpet and one with half an eye could detect, in its position and its various creases, that some one had used it for an improvised couch; some one had laid down upon it and that person was the one who released the prisoners. We make this statement after having the assurance of the jailer and sheriff that no one had been upon those cells for the past few months. Again; our theory is strengthened by the statement of Mr. Gunn: that had any one unlocked a cell to enter and secure himself he would have heard the grating of the lock are the creaking of the door upon its hinges. Further Mr. Gunn says: "Upon leaving the jail I was careful to note that all doors were locked and am safe in saying that they were. No one could have entered a cell and locked the door behind him as all locks are padlocks and fastened from the outside.

Now who unlocked those cells; when did they enter the jail and why did they do it?

At or near 8 o'clock Sunday night Mr. T. P. Wilcox asked jailer Gunn to go with him to the jail, saying that he wanted to get Jim's dirty clothes that they might go to the laundry. It was while Mr. Gunn was getting the alleged murderer's clothes that some one entered the jail and concealed himself in the position we outline above.

The friends of Wilcox knew that if Wilcox was given an opportunity to escape and failed to do so that public sentiment would undergo a vast change in his favor and that his chances of acquittal would be increased.

No one but a friend of Wilcox could have had a motive in releasing the prisoners as others serving sentence in the prison were strangers hereabouts and consequently had no friends well enough acquainted with the jail to effect this delivery.

The jail keys have been handled by many persons. Some one could have easily made wax impressions. But who was the party that ear-

ried out this delivery. We suggest that had bloodhounds been placed on his trail they would never have left the city limits. This a case for Pinkerton's men.

STORES TO CLOSE.

Will Close The Stores at Six O'clock Except Saturday.

A movement has been put on foot to secure the universal cooperation of the merchants of this city to close the stores at six o'clock, except Saturday. The leading merchants have signed the agreement as will be seen by the list below. It has long since been a custom to close at seven during the summer months, but the boys desire the custom to maintain through the year. They have been active in their behalf as is herewith seen.

This is but due the clerks of this city who as a rule are energetic young men, and than whom a more moral set of fellows could not be found. In justice to the army of clerks of this city it may be said that they have done their share in gaining for Elizabeth City the commercial prestige which it enjoys.

"We the undersigned merchants of Elizabeth City, N. C., hereby agree to close our places of business at 6 o'clock p. m., every night except Saturday night, and to close not later than 9 o'clock on that night. This agreement to be binding from Monday, September 29th 1902. Due notice of this agreement is to be given in the newspapers of the city:

W. J. Woodley, J. H. LeRoy & Co., Toxey & Gallop, Robinson & Co., J. B. Flora & Co., Sharber & White, Aydlett & Co., P. W. Stevens, Love, Evans & Co., J. D. Hathaway, Ehringhaus Bros. & Co., Weatherly & Twiddy, W. C. Glover, Chicago Merchandise Co., during week at 6 o'clock, at 10 Saturday night. R. J. Mitchell 10 o'clock on Sat. night Owens Shoe Co., 10 o'clock on Sat. night, Barcliff & Wiley 10 o'clock on Sat. night, E. S. Chesson 10 o'clock on Saturday night, P. W. Melick, Holmes & Co., M. Hill & Co., McCabe & Grice, "The Fair" 10 o'clock on Saturday night, S. S. Overman 10 o'clock on Saturday night, H. H. Lavenstein 10 o'clock on Saturday night, J. H. Applebaum 10 o'clock on Saturday night, Mrs. A. S. Neal & Co., 10 o'clock on Saturday night, Morgan & Co., 10 o'clock on Saturday night.

BELVIDERE.

Belvidere, N. C., Sept. 23.—Correspondence of the Tar Heel.

Belvidere Academy opened Monday with a larger attendance than any previous term, and under the efficient management of Misses M. J. and A. E. White the prospect is firm for a full school, besides these who attend from their homes, there are twenty two boarders and more expected soon.

Mrs. J. R. Darden will give music lessons to any who may desire to take.

Quite a number of our citizens attended court at Hertford Monday.

Miss Mamie Asbell left last week for Claremont College to take of course in music.

The series of meetings closed at Whiteville Grove Sunday with accessing fifteen new members. Rev. Mr. Duke of Elizabeth City did most of the preaching and we

heard his discourses much praised.

Messrs J. Nicholson, Rufus White and H. Lamb & Co., are opening their fall stock of goods.

The cotton is coming in slow and selling at three cents. The crop is short. There is a fair crop of peanuts, corn and potatoes.

Misses Clara and Maggie White spent Sunday in E. City.

POPLAR BRANCH.

Poplar Branch, N. C., Sept. 22.—Correspondence of the Tar Heel.

Miss Leola Snowden a very popular young lady of Currituck C. H., has been visiting her cousin Miss Hettie Doxey, of this town.

Rev. J. B. Ferebee, who has been conducting a series of meetings at the Poplar Branch Baptist church returned home Friday. He had a very successful meeting and leaves many friends.

Mr. D. W. Woodhouse will leave this week for Baltimore and will bring back with him a complete line of fall goods.

Mrs. G. W. Meggs, will leave Friday to purchase her fall line of fine millinery and learn the latest art of trimming.

Mr. Ike Doxey of Currituck C. H., has been visiting our little town.

Hark! Listen for the wedding bells! Madam Rumor has it that Hymen will do valient service in our neighborhood this winter.

Mr. Ernest L. Hampton spent last week at Poyners Hill. He was missed by his score of friends.

Miss Lessie Meggs, entertained a host of friends at her residence on Main street, Saturday evening excellent music, elocution and games were among the pleasures of the evening. Miss Lessie is a charming hostess as was attested by all present.

By old Sol climbing over the equinox was probably the cause of the many showers Sunday, there by disappointing a score of people who anticipated a very pleasant trip to the Beach.

Miss Ophelia Williams who returned home Friday evening was met by a host of friends who gave her a happy welcome.

Mr. and Mrs. Sawyer, of Camden have been visiting their daughter Mrs. E. L. Graves.

The wild game had better make happy days of their time, for the 15th is drawing near, then look out for shot and shell.

Mr. Brown Resigns.

Mr. Jas. G. Brown, who for the past five years has been chief engineer at the plant of the Crystal Ice Co., of this city, has resigned that position and will return to his old home at Columbus Ga. During his five years stay among us Mr. Brown has made many friends who will regret his departure. He is a true southern gentleman and among the most accomplished experts in his line in the country. His successor has not been named.

Notice of Registration.

Registrars will here take notice that their books must be opened from 9 o'clock til sunset on each day except Sunday, from Oct. 2nd, to 25th.

W. H. WEATHERLY,
Chm. Election Board.

TUESDAYS MEETING

A Red Letter Day For Anti-Saloon League.

MUCH PRAISE FOR THE W. C. T. U.

The league requests legislative candidates to secure special election when people can vote saloons or no saloons.

Tuesday was a red letter day with the Pasquotank Branch of the Anti Saloon League. The occasion was a grand temperance rally in which speaking by prominent temperance advocates, supplemented by a big free dinner went a long way towards making it an event fully worthy of a page in the annals of the temperance history.

Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather; there were members of out of town people in attendance—they were attending a worthy cause and threatening clouds could not frighten them away.

The Court House and its spacious compus was secured and in the large auditorium upstairs was conducted the speaking. A long table ran the length of the Matthews street side of the lawn and the ladies had heaped it with eatables upon eatables until the fall timbers creaked 'neath their palatable burden. That side of the court house lawn presented the appearance of an immense banquet hall. Hundreds partook of the good things to eat and others were waiting their turn when it was announced that but little of the best things remained.

A good sized audience greeted the various speakers and at the conclusion of the day the Anti-Saloon League and W. C. T. U. felt that their efforts to make an effective blow in defense of their cause had been crowded with a high degree of success.

Too much cannot be said of the ladies of the W. C. T. U. to whose untiring energy is largely due the success of the occasion. There are seventy five or more of these ladies who served a most appetizing dinner which consisted of roast beef and mutton, chicken, salads, pickles, T. F. V. biscuits, crackers and many varieties of cakes and pies.

Among those who spoke were Revs. W. E. Hocut, C. W. Duke, J. E. Underwood and J. H. Crawford, D. D., Supt. of State League of Virginia. Hon. J. B. Leigh, President.

A resolution was past requesting the County Democratic Convention to instruct the nominees for the Legislature to introduce and secure the passage of a bill providing for an election to be held in the county, and at which election the question of saloons or no saloons may be voted on by the people.

For Sale.

I will sell for cash at the court house in Elizabeth City, Monday, Oct. 9 at 12 M. my farm of 60 acres known as the old brick house place, situated on the banks of the Pasquotank, two miles from town desirable for trucking, poultry or stock raising.

A CHALLENGE TO FARMERS.

A Currituck Farmer Who Will Display Large Corn at The Fair.

Below we publish a challenge of Mr. J. B. Evans, of Harbing N. C., who is one of the best citizens and most progressive farmers of this section. We are glad to see this spirit of rivalry and the promised interest in the fair. When a fair will thus stimulate our people to excel each other, them it is productive of much good and should be encouraged. We publish Mr. Evans' letter with pleasure.

Harbinger, N. C., Sept. 22.—Ed. of the Tar Heel:

Through the columns of your popular and widely circulated paper I desire to challenge any farmer in North Carolina to display at the Elizabeth City fair, one dozen ears of corn, raised by himself, and to measure as many inches in length or diameter, as those I will display. I further challenge any farmer to fill a flour barrel with a smaller number of ears than I will. Let me hear from them.

Very Truly,
J. B. EVANS.

Baxter Wins.

The case of Chief of Police Dawson against W. M. Baxter which was tried in the superior court of this county and appealed to the Supreme Court has been decided by the higher court in favor of Baxter. This was the case wherein the chief alleged that Mr. Baxter, as a member of the citizens committee to investigate the Cropsey mystery, was guilty of not performing his duty as chief of police.

SHAWBORO.

Shawboro, N. C., Sept. 23.—Correspondence of the Tar Heel.

Miss Baxter, of Promise Land, N. C., and Miss Humphries, of Eliz. City, were the guests of Miss Maggie Bell this week.

Miss Pattie, the accomplished daughter of P. H. Morgan left today for Richmond where she will enter school.

Mr. J. B. Grandy left a few days since for college. He is a very popular young man with whom goes the best wishes of many friends.

Mr. H. M. Shaw Jr., has gone to Richmond where he enters a business college.

Mr. Geo. E. Stephenson has returned from Northern cities where he purchased a complete line of general merchandise.

Mrs. G. E. Stephenson has returned from Roper N. C., where she went to visit friends.

Our village was honored last week with a visit by Hon. Jno. H. Small, the popular congressman from this district.

The party at the residence of Mr. J. E. C. Bell was one of the most delightful social events of the season. Miss Maggie, his charming daughter, was at her best and merited her reputation as an ideal hostess. Cream and cake was served and the music, both vocal and instrumental, was equal to the best. A party was since given by the Misses Shaw which was fully equal to the former.

Dress Making.

Miss Maggie Williams will turn to this city on or before the twentieth of Sep. Her dress parlor will be open over the Carolina office on Main.