



Devoted to the Industrial and Educational Development of Eastern North Carolina.

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S LEADING PAPER.

Vol. 2.

ELIZABETH CITY, N. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 10th, 1903.

No. 54.

CONSEQUENCES OF SNAP-SHOT LEGISLATIVE METHODS

The Oystermen's Boats are Idle and Without Employment.

TWO BIG CANNERIES SUSPEND.

Several Hundred Bohemians go Home—Colored Laborers are Walking the Streets, and the Oyster Tongers are out of Pocket Money.

The recent enactment of the oyster law, which put a sudden and very unexpected check to the dredging of the shell fish, has proved disastrous, and it may be said injurious. The legislature of North Carolina seem to have grossly erred in dealing out this new measure, in the manner in which it has been executed. The state continued to sell licenses without regard to the bill, already practically sure of success, and though hundreds of licenses were perhaps issued, which included the usual season's rights, to tong oysters through the month of April, the new law, with no protection for the men, whose hard earned dollars went into the state treasury, swooped down upon the unsuspecting fishermen and dealer and robbed him, practically, of his full license valuation, and this in the month that has been conceded the best in the year, and with the oyster beds in as fine shape to stand a full season of dredging as they have been in years.

There are those, who are in a position to know, who solemnly affirm, from an impartial and disinterested stand-point, that the oyster beds could actually stand working the entire year round, if conducted under the usual regulations. The oyster bed requires more or less cultivation, to keep in repair, and so numerous are the beds along our nearby coast, that they have afforded not only our fishermen, but those from the less cultivated coasts of Virginia and Maryland, good returns.

The greatest part of this hardship is not alone in the loss of license money, which the state is little affected by; but it is in the face of a bad fishing season, that the month of April, the best part of the oyster season, has been taken from these already discouraged coast fishermen. The result of this is certainly enough to provoke these boatmen to an extreme state of exasperation, and the Tar Heel does not hesitate to re-echo their grumble, which in all reason is well founded.

"If it had been necessary to pass this law," say the fishermen, "then why could it not have been put in effect next season, in order that our license money might be properly invested? We could then have counted on our position in the matter; whereas, now we do not know which way to turn to cover the losses of a bad fishing season, and the unexpected curtailing of the month of April, the best weather we have for dredging oysters."

The fishermen are not the only ones who are suffering as a result of this law. There are capitalists, who have been induced to our

shores; men who have invested thousands of dollars in oyster plants along the Rivers and Sounds of eastern North Carolina. These men, send a mass of Bohemian population from Maryland to North Carolina, and the merchants of this state reap the benefit of the purchases necessary for the maintenance of this horde of foreigners. In Elizabeth City alone, an entire island colony, have migrated to Baltimore this week, whose combined salaries were practically invested here, and



Hon. S. S. MANN.

Who explains the new oyster law. might have this month gone into the pockets of our merchants. The new law, starting fifteen days sooner, really does not shorten our season, but fifteen days, but this year the law went into effect as formerly, on December 1st and so the season was shortened a full month; a fifth of the entire season. In addition to this about three hundred colored people have been thrown out of work, and the merchants are catching a full share of the brunt of this stupid piece of legislature enactment. The new law makes the season for dredging from November 15th to April 1st, a season of four and a half months. The old law was from December 1st to May 1st, a five months season.

The Boyle Oyster Canning Company suspended active business Wednesday the 1st. Monday April 6th two train loads of Bohemian Goat Islanders, left Elizabeth City for Baltimore, where they will engage in picking strawberries, or canning sundry goods. This factory has a daily capacity of 16,000 cans, or 15,000 bushels of oysters per month. The loss of license, says Mr. Davis, the manager, is small, compared to the business injury, which will amount to several thousand dollars in profits. This being the canning company's loss, what must be the attendant loss, to hired help and the fisherman's profit? Mr. Davis says his own individual loss on license and idle vessels will amount to \$400. How many other vessel owners are suffering, and what must be the total damage?

On Monday a rummer had it that the Governor had extended the time of the new statute, and that the season would be held out until May 1st, as usual. Mr. Winder, the shell fish inspector telegraphed chief Webb, in Raleigh and was informed that no such action had been taken as the law still held good.

The following is an extract of the oyster law recently passed: It is provided that there shall be one oyster commissioner, appointed by the Governor, at a salary of \$900 and actual traveling

expenses not to exceed \$300, and one assistant also appointed by the Governor, whose salary shall be \$700. There shall be a sufficient number of inspectors to carry into effect and enforce the law. They shall be appointed by the commissioner from the counties where their duties will lie and shall receive from \$30 to \$50 per month during the oyster season. The commissioner shall have power to remove any inspector at any time for cause, and no inspector shall be paid for any longer time than he serves. The term of office of the commissioner and the assistant shall be two years, or until their successors are appointed and qualified. They shall be subject to removal by the Governor upon complaint and a hearing. The bond of the commissioner shall be \$2,000; of the assistant \$1,000; of the inspectors, \$500 each.

The rigid enforcement of the cull feature of the law is specified. Whenever oysters are offered for sale or loaded upon vessel or car without having been properly culled, the boat or car shall be seized and the oysters scattered upon the public ground.

Every person, firm or corporation engaged in buying oysters shall keep a permanent record of all oysters, when and from whom bought, the number of bushels and the price paid therefor. All these records shall at all times be open to the examination of the commissioner, the assistant and the inspectors.

It shall be unlawful for any person to catch oysters from the public grounds of the State without first obtaining a license so to do, and no person shall be licensed for this purpose who is not a bona fide resident of this State and who has not continuously resided therein for two years next preceding the date of his application for license; and it shall be unlawful for any person licensed under the provisions of the act to employ an agent or assistant any person not

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CAPTAIN HODGES M. GALLOP.

THE above is an excellent likeness of the late Captain Hodges M. Gallop, late keeper of Whales Head Life Saving Station, and founder of the Surfmen's Mutual Benefit Association. His life was given to the noble work of saving human lives, and the association of which he was the founder, is not alone in its commendable effort to erect a monument to his honor. Loving hands have put into a fund the amount necessary to purchase and unveil this statue to a sea king, whose remains now rest in Currituck, the county of his birth. The order for this statue was given this week.

DECIDE ON THE SITE

City Fathers Favor the Greenleaf Property.

THEY PASS RESOLUTIONS.

The Purchase of this Site Will Give Universal Approval, So Say the Solons. The Treasury Department Ask for Bids For the Site.

The City Board of Aldermen recognizing the generosity of Mr. H. T. Greenleaf in offering to the United States Government his square on Main Street and next to the County Court House for the Public Building site followed the footsteps of the Chamber of Commerce of this City and passed the following Resolutions at their meeting on Monday night recommending his square to the Government.

WHEREAS, it was agreed by the citizens of Elizabeth City, at a mass meeting held during the year 1903, that the site for the public building should be changed, provided an appropriation, sufficiently large for the purchase of a whole square on Main street, could be secured from the Government, and whereas, such an appropriation had been secured through the untiring efforts of Hon. Jno. H. Small, and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the U. S. Treasury has now advertised for bids for a site for the said building, and

WHEREAS, Mr. H. T. Greenleaf has offered his square on Main street as a site at the price of \$22,000 and

WHEREAS, certain other places

are now being offered as sites which are entirely unsatisfactory to a large portion of our citizens, and

WHEREAS, the said Greenleaf lot is centrally located and the purchase thereof would meet with the approval of the greater part of our citizens;

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Aldermen of Elizabeth City, in council assembled,

FIRST, that we recommend the purchase of the aforesaid Greenleaf lot on Main street.

SECOND, that we recommend the said purchase be made as soon as possible in order that that work may be commenced on the said building without further delay.

We would much rather see the building erected upon the Hinton site, but as no satisfactory terms can be made with the owner let us stick to the agreement made by the citizens in the mass meeting in August 1903 and have the building erected on the Greenleaf square and not on some back street corner lot.

We can get a whole square and have the appropriation sufficiently large to buy the same and we hope that the citizens will not submit to any less.

The recommendations for the Greenleaf site from the Chamber of Commerce and the Board of City Aldermen are sufficient and need no further comments from us.

A Spring Event.

The Opening of McCabe and Grice last week was a subject of interest to shoppers generally. This large department store, which is filled to the gallery's, literally, and covering an area of two ordinary stores both upstairs and down, was loaded with almost every imaginable, thing in the dry goods and millinery line. There were dress goods, in untold varieties and colors, stylish offerings in spring headwear, and trimmings, suggestive and an intelligent clerks to assist the customers in making a purchase, and each department so clearly arranged as to give the shoppers the scope of a New York City trip.

It is needless to say that nearly every lady in Elizabeth City inspected and made purchase. There are still left on hand a number of choice bargains which will be placed on sale, next week. Those who have failed to complete their Easter purchases should make a call at McCabe and Grice's store.

The Crew Quit.

The tug boat W. W. Graham stood at her moorings here Monday, ready to start, when for some reason, several of her hands decided to take French leave: The Captain of the boat, had just given the order to start the engine, when two or three of the boat hands jumped to the dock and refused to go further. The men gave no reason for their action, and the Captain took the matter in very good grace. Calling to the pilot to signal the engineer, he calmly announced that he would travel without a crew, if he couldn't travel with one. The bells sounded, the paddles churned the water, and with the Captain still perfect master of the situation the Graham cut across the Pasquotank and made towards the sound.

Subscribe to The Tar Heel. Only \$1 per year.

MISS LOUISE DAVIS TO PRESENT CYCLOPEADIAS

Her Composition on The Tar Heel Considered Best.

MANY STUDENTS CONTEST

The Methods Adopted by Eastern Carolina's Leading Weekly are Skillfully Observed and Penned by a Bright High School Student.

Many of the Tar Heel readers are familiar with the offer which was made several months back, which placed at the disposal of the city graded school a handsome set of eight Twentieth Century cyclopedias, these valuable reference volumes to be presented to the school library by the scholar who should write the best essay on "The Tar Heel." According to this offer, the scholars of the higher grades visited the plant, and a number of essays were submitted us for consideration.

All of these essays were handed in, numbered, without the names of the scholars attached. They were then filed away and each feature of the composition and general merit, including, spelling, writing, punctuation, condensation, neatness, and memory, were taken into consideration, in passing on the paper which was entitled to the highest mark.

The Tar Heel selected the ten best, and then the five best, and finally the best, which was reported by its number, to the school teachers, who in turn gave us the name of the winner, the editor himself being ignorant of same until it was given him.

In passing on this contest, our idea was to judge from a newspaper man's stand point. The scholars, with note books in hand, called at the Tar Heel office, as before stated, accompanied by their teachers. The entire plant was set in motion and every feature of newspaper work pointed out to them.

Many of the papers submitted are very creditable indeed. Some of them display considerable talent in the manner of composition. Several very pretty stories were made out of the matter in hand, and, if space permitted, these would also be published on their merits. However as we have said, the Tar Heel wanted to be concisely and clearly comprehended, and presented to the public as it might appear to the eye of one unacquainted with the actual methods of issuing a newspaper. Realizing that our plant was the largest and best equipped, weekly plant between Washington and Atlanta, not run in connection with a daily, we had a desire to see our own image in print.

Miss Louise Davis, has given us this write up, in just the style we desired it, and we present her photograph along with the sketch of the Tar Heel which she has submitted us. Through this young lady we tender to our graded school a set of volumes which we trust will be of benefit to the school for years to come. It is complete as a reference work and we are delighted to have the privilege of giving it, through the medium of our personal repre-

sentative Miss Davis. Each volume will contain the name of the young lady, who gives it, and through her we desire to thank her schoolmates for the kind expressions contained in their compositions, and their painstaking efforts to promote the welfare of the city school.



MISS LOUISE DAVIS.

Miss Louise Davis is the daughter of Mrs. Penelope Davis and the late William L. Davis. She was born in Pasquotank County, December 30th 1886. The family moved to Elizabeth City about eight years ago. Miss Louise received her education entirely in the graded schools of this city and is a member of the class of 1904. She is a perfect blonde, bright, vivacious and attractive in manner and conversation. She is talented in music, and the public will remember, with pleasure, the leading role she so ably presented in the beautiful operetta Genevieve, which was given by her grade at the closing exercises of the public school last session. She is at present a member of the City Road, M. E. Church choir, and her progress in her school classes have been very creditable indeed. Those who have met Miss Davis will congratulate the Tar Heel in having so charming a representative in the presentation of our cyclopedias. The composition written by Miss Davis is as follows:

MY VISIT TO THE TAR HEEL OFFICE. The pupils of the sixth and seventh grades of the Public School marched to the Tar Heel office on Friday morning November 14th, 1902 under the chaperonage of our principal, Mrs. L. B. Bradford, and our teacher, Miss Wilma Sawyer.

We were met at the door, very cordially, by Mr. Coburn the editor. He invited us to investigate the process by which the paper is made. We were first conducted to the composing room, or the place where the type is first set. It is interesting to watch the compositors as they, with great speed and facility, pick up the metal letters that form the words. These words are placed in a brass case called a stick, which is held in the left hand, while the type is being set. The sticks are put in galley racks. Six of the galleys, which are twenty inches long, would fill one page of a paper. After the proof is corrected by the proof reader, it is put in a chase and becomes a form. When sufficient material is set up to fill four pages, the sheets on which the matter is to be printed, are run through the printing press, which is run by a three and one half horse power electric motor. (Continued on 5th page.)