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WHOLE NO. 1924

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Whatever
The farmer needs we make a specialty of handling. It's in our line; it's our business to keep farm supplies of all kinds and we strive to keep our stock fresh and equal to all demands. We still continue agents for the celebrated

Hickory Wagons,
Which for years have given such general satisfaction in this and other sections, and unquestionably say that for farm and road purposes it is not excelled. Besides having a supply of these on hand we have recently received a full line of Cart and Wagon Wheels and

Open and Top Buggies.
We are the originators of the buggy business in this town, and think our past experience enables us to give especial attention to all who purchase of us. We can supply you with Harness, Bridles, Collars Whips, &c. &c. Accept our thanks for your past patronage, and give us a share of your future favors.

Very truly yours,
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TERRIBLE SEA FIGHT

A Graphic Description of Latest Attack on Port Arthur.

Death Chase of the Strashna and the Blowing Up of the Petropavlovsk. Gallant Russian Commander Perishes

The Associated Press correspondent, at Liao Yang, believing that the Japanese would repeat the attempt to block the entrance to Port Arthur with fire ships on Easter eve, went from Liao Yang to Port Arthur a week ago, says a dispatch of Sunday. Four nights I watched with the sentries on Golden Hill. Three nights passed quietly. Tuesday night, April 12th, Vice Admiral Makaroff took to sea with his entire squadron, including fourteen torpedo boats. The next night, April 13th, in the teeth of a gale, eight torpedo boats were sent out to reconnoitre. From Golden Hill, on which it was standing, through the blackness, the searchlights of the fortifications flashed over the inky waters of the roadstead and far out to the hazy horizon.

At 11 o'clock I heard firing at sea and counted seven shots, but could see nothing. At daybreak I made out through the light haze to the southward five miles in line, eight torpedo boats strung out in line, all firing. In the lead and outstripping the others was a boat heading at full speed directly for the entrance of the harbor. The last line was clouded in steam and lagging. She had evidently been hit. It was difficult to distinguish our boats, but finally through my glasses I saw that the leader and the laggard were Russian and that the four others were Japanese.

The flash of the guns and the splash of the projectiles as they struck the water showed the intensity of the conflict. The unequal combat was observed with breathless interest, but the net drew close around the doomed boat. The four Japanese vessels formed a semi-circle and poured in a deadly fire. The steam from the Strashni grew denser, covering her like a white pall. Still she fought like a desperately wounded animal brought to bay.

Hurrying straight for the adversary barring her way to safety she passed the Japanese stern and fired at them. At this stage, Vice Admiral Makaroff, who had been observing the progress of the conflict through a telescope, sighted the cruiser Bayan, lying in the harbor, to weigh anchor and go out to the rescue.

The Japanese destroyers clung to their victim like hounds in a chase. They had been separated, but again resumed their formation. Small jets of flame and smoke were pouring from the rapid fires, followed by dense clouds as torpedoes were discharged against the Strashni. It was the end. The stricken boat loosed a final round, but it was as if volley had been fired over her own grave, for she disappeared beneath the waves. Only a little cloud of steam marking the place where she went down.

To the eastward suddenly appeared five more of our torpedo boats, returning to the harbor under forced draught. Two of the Japanese cruisers were immediately detached to cut them off, but the Bayan noticing the movement, checked it by turning upon them. The movement was effective. The Japanese slowed down, but the torpedo boats slipped through into the harbor. Meantime, in accordance with Vice Admiral Makaroff's order, the cruisers in the inner harbor slipped anchor. Majestically the Petropavlovsk, flying the admiral's flag, steamed through the entrance. On her appearance the more formidable of the Japanese cruisers turned and fled. The admiral signaled the Bayan to return. Then a stream of vari-colored signal flags fluttered out "bravo, Bayan."

Our squadron continued the chase, finally fading from view. I waited anxiously for its reappearance and in about an hour it came in sight. Far beyond it, the number of points from which smoke appeared, announced the presence of the enemy. Nearer and nearer came the vessels, and at last I made out behind our squadron a fleet of 14, of which six were battleships and the remainder armored and unarmored cruisers.

Our squadron, with the Petropavlovsk leading, arrived at the entrance to the harbor and drew up in line of battle. Another signal was floated from the flagship and the torpedo boats at once proceeded through the entrance into the inner harbor. Vice Admiral Makaroff was evidently unwilling to risk his vulnerable craft to the heavy projectiles of the enemy's armored ships. All was quiet. It was the hush before the battle—the hush when every nerve is strained to get into impending danger.

My glance returned to our squadron. The Petropavlovsk was almost without headway, when suddenly I heard her tremble. She seemed to rise out of the water, a tremendous explosion rent the air, then a second and then a third. Fragments flew in all directions and wreckage and men were mixed up into a terrible mass. I was hardly able to realize the horror of it when the ship began to list. A moment later, the sea seemed to open and the water rushed over her. The battleship had disappeared. The floating woodwork and a few men struggling in the water were all that was left to recall the splendid fighting machine which a few hours before had sailed out of the harbor. The same shock experienced by the observers on Golden Hill paralyzed for a moment the men on the ship, but when it passed torpedo boats and small boats hastened to the rescue of the survivors.

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Eager to ascertain what had occurred on board the sunken ship, I hastened to a landing where a small remnant of the gallant crew were being put ashore and conveyed to a hospital. Signalmen Poelkoff, who was slightly wounded, was able to give me a remarkably clear statement of the disaster. He said:

"We were returning to the harbor, the Petropavlovsk leading. Some of the cruisers which had remained in the harbor came out and steamed toward the enemy, firing sixteen shots at him with their guns. They then retired. The enemy numbered 14 heavy ships, nearly all armored, while ours were nine. Against their armored cruisers we had only the Bayan. I stood in the wheel room on the bridge of the Petropavlovsk looking up the signal book. The admiral's last signal had been for the torpedo boats to enter the harbor.

"The smoke rose in dense clouds and the flames seemed to leap toward the bridge where I was standing beside the admiral. I jumped on the rail and was washed off, but succeeded in grabbing something. "On our ship was an old man with a beautiful white beard, who had been good to our men. He had a book in his hand and seemed to be writing, perhaps sketching. He was Verestchagin, the painter.

Ashpole Items.
Correspondence of The Robesonian.

Our town was well represented at Bloomingdale convention last week and all pronounced it a decided success.

Our new schedule goes into effect Sunday, we are glad to say. This will give us regular passenger service.

D. W. Galloway attended court at Wilmington last week.

W. H. Berry expects to occupy his new dwelling next week. A peculiarly sad death was that of Mrs. Smith, who lived on J. W. Ashley's farm, on last Thursday. She left a husband and little daughter to mourn their great loss. How sad to be bereft of a mother's loving care!

Dr. J. P. Brown attended the County Medical Association at Lumberton last Thursday.

Dr. F. H. Pitman and Miss Alice Taylor happened to a bad accident coming from Bloomingdale by their horse getting frightened and running away. Fortunately they were scared and not hurt.

Mr. Walter McHae, of Fayetteville, was among the drummers in town last week. Of the traveling fraternity he is particularly well known and well liked here.

Mrs. Adams, of Purvis, was a welcome visitor here last week, the guest of her daughter, Mrs. Thompson.

Interesting Meetings.

Wilmington has been selected as the place, and April 23d named as the date, for the forthcoming annual meeting of the American Fruit and Produce Travelers' Association, says the Truck Growers' Journal. These meetings are attended with more than ordinary interest each recurring season, and the occasion this year will exceed in many respects anything in the history of the organization. A banquet at The Orion and a boat ride down the historic Cape Fear will be features of the occasion. Speakers of national reputation will be present to do the honors of the occasion. The attendance bids fair to be unusually large.

PARKER'S THE CHOICE

New York State Takes the Lead for the Judge.

The Convention at Albany was Very Enthusiastic—The Platform The Heart Bubble Burst.

Albany, N. Y., April 18. — Only those who were present can depict the discomforts of the first session of the Democratic state convention which assembled at 2 o'clock this afternoon. Evidently the hall had not been heated all winter. It was cold and clammy as a tomb. Delegates were jammed in with guests and guests occupied delegates' seats, and it was the most higgledy-piggledy affair that one could possibly imagine. Yet the hall was crowded from pit to dome.

Notwithstanding the discomfort it was a mighty good natured crowd. There was a vociferous band and no adornments except one flag was on the stage. No pictures of any Democrat in ancient or modern times were in the hall. The crowd was not only good natured but jubilant, and in joyous fashion greeted the prominent Democrats as they took their seats in the convention.

Frank Campbell called the convention to order, and then announced, by direction of the Democratic state committee, that George Raines, of Rochester, had been selected as temporary chairman. The following is the platform:

"The Democrats of New York, in renewing their pledge of fidelity to the essential principles of Jeffersonian Democracy, as repeatedly enunciated in our national and state platforms, make these further declarations upon the national issues of the hour, reserving an expression upon state issues until the fall convention, when state candidates are to be nominated:

"1. This is a government of laws, not of men; one law for president, cabinets and all people; no usurpation, no executive encroachment upon the legislative or judicial departments.

"2. We must keep inviolate the pledges of our treaties; we must renew and reinvigorate within ourselves that respect for law and that love of liberty of peace which the spirit of military domination tends inevitably to weaken and destroy.

"3. Unsteady national policies and a restless spirit of adventure engender alarms that check our commercial growth; let us have peace, to the end that business confidence may be restored and that our people may again in tranquillity enjoy the gains of their toil.

"4. Corporations chartered by the state must be subject to just regulation by the state in the interest of the people; taxation for public purposes only; no government partnership with protected monopolies.

"5. Opposition to trusts and combinations that oppress the people and stifle healthy industrial competition.

"6. A check upon extravagance in public expenditures, that the burdens of the people's taxes may be lightened.

"7. Reasonable revision of the tariff; needless duties upon imported raw materials weigh heavily upon the manufacturer, are a menace to the American wage earner, and by increasing the cost of production, shut out our products from foreign markets.

"8. The maintenance of state's rights and home rule; no centralization.

"9. Honesty in the public service; vigilance in the prevention of fraud, and firmness in the punishment of guilt when detected.

"10. The imperial maintenance of the rights of labor and of capital; no unequal discrimination; no abuse of the powers of law for favoritism or oppression.

"The Democracy of New York favor the nomination for president of the United States of that distinguished Democrat and eminent jurist of our own state, Alton Brooks Parker, and the delegates selected by this convention are hereby instructed to present and support such nomination at the approaching national convention; that said delegates are hereby further instructed to act and vote as a unit in all matters pertaining to said convention in accordance with the will of the majority of the said delegates; and the said delegates are further authorized to fill any vacancies which may arise from any cause in said delegation in case of absence of both delegates and alternates."

Too Much Rain in March

The first of the Weekly Crop Bulletins was out yesterday, issued by Section Director C. F. von Herrmann, for the North Carolina section of the Climatic and Crop Service of the United States Weather Bureau. It is in part as follows:

"In some respects the opening of the crop season of 1904 must be considered unfavorable, chiefly on account of the severe winter weather and the frequency of rains during March which delayed plowing to some extent. In marked contrast to the spring of 1903, however, there was a general absence of excessive rainfall and very little flooding of low lands, and the temperature conditions during March, when farm work and crop growth really began, were favorable.

"The winter of 1903-04 was in reality the coldest on record since meteorological observations began to be systematically taken, namely in 1872.

"The mean temperature for the three winter months is 35.9 degrees which is the lowest on record; the previous nearest approach to such a low winter mean occurred in 1892-93 with 37.8 degrees. Yet the absolute minimum temperature recorded this year were not noteworthy, having often been surpassed on previous occasions, the low temperatures were rather the result of the complete absence of the usual periods of a few warm days that generally occur during our winters. It is remarkable that the cold weather was not accompanied by much precipitation, though the average snowfall (unmelted) for the winter, 8 inches, was somewhat larger than usual. The deficiency in rainfall for the four months was over 5 inches. The effect of the dry weather during the fall was greatly to delay the seeding of winter wheat and oats, while the early cold prevented germination and gave the cereal a very late start.

"The temperature conditions during the week ending Monday, April 11th, 1904, were not favorable for the best growth of crops. Killing frosts occurred on the 4th and 5th, with much damage to fruit and truck crops. Peaches, plums and cherries were in bloom, and the peach crop especially was no doubt severely thinned in the central-eastern portion of the State, but is not thought to have suffered great damage in the west; apples generally escaped with slight injury. Early truck crops, chiefly Irish potatoes and early beans just up, and May peas were much damaged; strawberries suffered slightly. Another frost Monday morning, April 11th, was not heavy enough to do any damage. During the middle of the week the weather was warmer, more or less cloudy, with light rains on several days. The week was very favorable for the advance of farm work of all kinds, which made rapid progress, though still somewhat behind the average in the west. In a few western counties the soil is still too wet, while in others in the central portion, especially Moore, Johnston and Wake counties, it is a little too dry and hard to plow, but over the larger portion of the State the soil is in excellent condition, and plowing is going on everywhere, though there is much complaint of the scarcity of labor.

"Preparations for a large cotton crop are well under way and large amounts of fertilizer are being distributed. Planting corn is progressing over most of the eastern and southern portions of the State. Tobacco plants in beds are small and late but look well. Winter wheat has made marked improvement during the week; also oats where not killed by frost, and yield fairly well. Strawberries are coming into bloom. Planting gardens is progressing well."

Successful Contestant
Paul Holland, son of J. L. Holland, of Laurinburg, was the successful contestant for the appointment to fill a vacancy in this Congressional district in the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. Mr. Holland went to Asheboro Friday to stand the competitive examination which was held by Prof. W. N. Walker, of the Asheboro High School and Tuesday he was notified of his success. He leaves about June 10 for Annapolis.

The best music—the laughter of an innocent child.
The best law—the Golden Rule.

BLACKER BROS

We want to call your attention to the fact that we are in better shape to serve our many customers now than we have ever been. We have just opened up a fresh line of Clothing of the latest style, and the PRICES ARE RIGHT. We have also added a nice line of Dress Goods of all kinds, Laces, Embroideries, Insertion, Ribbon, Ladies' Hats, Dress Skirts, Shirt Waists, and a thousand other things.

COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELVES!

Shoes? We have a nice line at all prices and styles. Suit Cases, Telescopes, Trunks, Valises, etc. Musical Instruments. We have all kinds, from a One Dollar Banjo to a \$75 Organ. Well, it is useless to say anything about our furniture, for everybody knows we carry the nicest line to be found anywhere. And we will sell it to you on INSTALLMENTS. See us before you buy your Summer Suit.

Yours for Business

BLACKER BROTHERS,

LUMBERTON, N. C.

A FEW BARGAINS LEFT!

I wish to thank my friends and customers for their patronage and support since I started my Fire Sale on January 29th, and also to assure them that I have a few bargains left, and now all goods on my shelves will be sold

AT YOUR OWN PRICE!

It will pay you to inspect what I have left and you can save money by purchasing these goods, which must be sold WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. Come early, as the goods are going fast and will not last long.

A. WEINSTEIN.

WHO SAYS COTTON IS HIGH?

SURELY NOT THOSE WHO BUY FROM

DUNIE BROTHERS,

ASHPOLE, N. C.

Of course, Cotton is higher this year than last. So is Wool, but by a stroke of good luck we, as our usual way of doing business is, bought all our Spring and Summer Stock before the advance of raw material, and we are well known always to give the benefits of our bargains to our customers, and especially as this is our first spring and summer at Ashepole, so it stands to reason that we will try to keep our good reputation of selling the BEST GOODS AT THE LOWEST PRICES. We only ask of our friends, patrons and the public at large to just GIVE US A CALL, and you will see that neither Cotton nor Woolen Goods is any higher this year than ever before. Come, all. It will be for your own good. Remember, our motto is: No trouble to show goods; polite attention to all. So come and look over our beautiful Spring and Summer Stock anyhow, even when not buying.

Yours Respectfully,

DUNIE BROS, ASHPOLE, N. C.

LOOK FOR THE SIGN—THE NEW YORK RACKET STORE.

PEOPLE ARE SURPRISED

When they visit our store for the first time. There is more in it than they imagined. Every department so well filled with such excellent assortments. Put it is few that meet this surprise, as nearly everybody has been coming to this store, and they expect to find the best and nicest. If you have not paid a visit this Spring, don't put it off any longer—come today. You can buy nearly anything you want here, and you are always safe in buying, as goods are sold entirely on their merits. Only those who have been through our many departments and warehouses know anything as to the immense quantity and assortment of goods we carry in stock.

People will wear Clothes and Shoes and Hats,

Even in Spring and Summer time, and everybody that expects to wear these things this Spring and Summer should visit our store. We have the things that please the people, both in quality, style and price. WE PLEASE ALL MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN—OLD AND YOUNG. We do not think you have seen the best till you see ours. Come and see for yourself and form your own opinion. We will leave the decision to you. Even if you don't want to buy anything we will be glad for you to call and inspect our goods. We know we have the stock for you. OUR STANDARD IS THE BEST STANDARD. OUR HOPE FOR SUCCESS LIES IN YOUR APPRECIATION. You will want NEW THINGS TO WEAR, new CARPETS, new MATTING, new RUGS, new FURNITURE, new HOUSE FURNISHINGS, etc. We have it all.

Respectfully,

CALDWELL & CARLYLE

LUMBERTON, N. C.