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THE LUMBER BRIDGE NEWS.

LUMBER BRIDGE, N. C.

REV. P. R. LAW, D. D., - - EDITOR.

Some things that reach our ears are fully funny. They are more than that. A moral attaches. It so turns out that now and then a paragraph from the pencil grieves or gives offense to somebody. It is presumed that we are personal. This is ever so. We have no person in mind when we write. It is a class that is condemned. The members of the class may or may not fall under the judgment pronounced. Our guide is always the Ten Words—the truth. The exposures are exposures of God's law. Whatever condemnation follows either from an aroused conscience or the fiat of the court of public opinion while sitting in equity, should not be charged up against us. We ought to be thanked. Whoever succeeds in bringing the heart and life of his brother to the test of the holy law of God is doing him a splendid service. Let our readers bear in mind that when we write what the law condemns for all and anyone cries out we "are personal", the world is apt to say "thou art the man."

In view of the varied and powerful combinations of capital in business enterprises and their natural propensity to grind the faces of the masses, it is absolutely essential that they be restrained. The restraining power must come through legislation. The framers of our government had no conception of the importance that would come at length to be attached to this arm of the government. We refer to this matter to say the people must sooner or later come to learn the need of continuing their legislators during longer terms of service. The rotation method whereby the legislator knows he can serve only one or two is fatal for securing the enactment of such laws as the people need for their protection. The combinations of capital are always at hand with large and seductive means to shape the laws to suit their purposes of both cruel gain and oppression. If the legislator feels he is doomed to retirement quickly, he naturally makes the most of his opportunity. Leastwise he is unfortunately apathetic. Then in addition, he is but the less efficient for lack of experience. There is no encouragement more over for proper study. The South must learn what the North learned long ago, the value of longer terms of service for legislators.

We got hold of a practical illustration of the iniquitous shops of our tariff laws from a friend the past week. While in New York recently, he walked down the street and saw a profuse display of Waltham watches in a retail store. Upon inquiring he found they were priced at about \$14.00. He had bought as a dealer the same watches from a wholesale dealer and paid over \$20.00 for them. Whereupon he went back to the wholesale dealer for an explanation. The explanation was that the retail dealer had bought the watches in London. There is no tariff on watches as export or import goods. The manufacturers had sold the watches for less than \$14.00 in London in order to compete with Swiss watches. The wholesale dealer in New York had been forced to pay the manufacturer about \$20.00 less five cent, for the watches. The manufacturers, it is said, when they heard of the sale by dealers in London to American dealers put a stop to it.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

All accounts due, or which may become due on subscriptions, advertising, job work or otherwise, on December 1st, 1905, are the property of the undersigned and must be paid to him. Settlements must be made at once.

All debts due by The Robesonian, or which may be incurred prior to December 1st, the date of said transfer, are payable by the undersigned, who assumes all responsibility therefor. We must insist that all indebtedness, of whatever nature, due The Robesonian, be settled at once, in order that annoyance may be avoided by all parties concerned.

After date of December 1st, I can be found at the McAllister Hardware Co's, and during my absence from there the books and accounts will be in charge of those duly authorized to give proper receipt for money paid.

Very truly, A. P. McAllister.

It cannot be right for our manufacturers to discriminate against our own people. If they can make money selling their goods to foreigners at a lower price than they sell them at in our country, they should charge our people certainly, the same figures.

The holding of cotton has its blessing. Money is saved by it other than through any increase of price. The holder is not so apt to spend his cotton while unsold as when sold, and converted into money. It is therefore pleasing to see bales of cotton lying about the homes of farmers. When no cotton is seen around dwellings in the country because it has been sold in too many cases it may be assumed that the money gotten for it has been spent. If a man has a goodly number of bales around, he can look at when he will to do so, he feels better, more independent and far less dissatisfied. It is very undesirable to have neither money nor cotton on hand. Perhaps bales of cotton makes the farmer feel better than five dollar bills. The volume of money in circulation among us is not so large as our prosperity might lead one to conclude. Our people owe less than usual and are holding cotton.

That is a fine example of the way to rise, set by T. M. Emerson, who was made President of the Atlantic Coast Line System last week. He began work in the freight department of the company as a clerk on a salary of nine hundred dollars a year. By sobriety, application to business, he has risen step by step to the Presidency of the system of a salary of about \$17,500.00 a year. By doing faithfully and successfully the work at hand, he rose by degrees from the bottom to the top. Legitimate and faithful efforts in the station assigned, means advancement. Mounting up higher, follows naturally. One need not be concerned about promotion beyond honest earnest acceptable and useful service day after day. The present is ever prophetic of the future. When the present is well spent there need be no anxiety about the future.

Mr. Hec Carlyle has moved his family from Lumberton, R. F. D. 2, to Ashpole, where he has accepted the position as chief of police.

We learn that Miss Anna McLeod has accepted the position of teacher in the public school here to succeed Miss Emma Norment, who expects to move to Fayetteville January first.

Duncan K. McRae's Daughter.

Miss V. H. McRae, daughter of a distinguished Southern family, and now living in White Plains, is denying herself the necessities of life in order that the closing days of her aged mother may be more comfortable.

The mother is in Bloomingdale Asylum and has only a few months to live, but the faithful daughter, who gave up a good position with one of the Edison companies to nurse her, is determined that Mrs. McRae shall sit under her roof with the comforts and endearments of home about her.

To re-establish a small home Miss McRae has a pitifully inadequate sum, which is dwindling slowly. She has not eaten a square meal in several weeks.

Col. Duncan McRae, of North Carolina, the father, was Consul General to Paris under President Buchanan, and the grandfather was a plenipotentiary in the arrangements of treaties between Spain and the United States. Miss McRae wants to establish herself in a small business in White Plains that would enable her to support her mother, and has nearly money enough to do this. Her furniture is in storage and she lacks the small sum requisite to release it.—New York World.

We are requested to announce that there will be preaching at the Methodist church Sunday morning, by Rev. W. H. Ford, formerly missionary to New Zealand; Monday December 3rd, at same church he will deliver his popular lecture, "How, whom and when to marry, and how to keep married," at 7:30 p. m. he will also lecture the same night on the general teachings of phrenology, aided by stereopticon and diagrams and photographs of leading characters.

Barkers High School has a large advertisement in our issue of today. The school is a thriving educational institution in one of the most progressive of Robeson's many prosperous communities. It is distinctly an addition to the county's educational facilities. Prof. Loving is to be congratulated on the success he is making in the school and the patrons are to be congratulated in their good fortune in securing his efficient services.

The Bazaar given by the ladies of the Methodist church will begin Monday, December 11th, and last two days. On Monday night supper will be served in the store room under the Columbia Hotel, and on Tuesday, dinner and supper will be served.

Mr. Jim McLeod, of Rowland, spent Wednesday in town.

Cowan's Cotton Comments.

In issuing my estimate of the cotton crop for 1905-06, I desire to state that I ascertained as nearly as possible the quantity that has been picked to the average date of my observation, and then endeavor to estimate what percentage of the cotton remains in the field to be picked. This method eliminates the discrepancies that might arise from variation in acreage, etc., and is more reliable than condition estimates, estimates by States, etc. I think it a crime for any man to sit behind a desk in New York, and issue estimates on a crop hundreds of miles away, which he has never seen, and knows nothing about.

I have noted carefully the general appearance of the crop, stands, size, and formation of stalks, evidence of the fruitage etc., as compared with other years. I have never seen a crop of which the plants were so generally under sized, and on which there is so little lateral growth or fruit-bearing limbs, and so lightly fruited.

These conditions are the rule, the exceptions being in Southwest Texas, northeast Miss., northeast Ark., and central N. C. I have never seen a crop so generally dead and done for at this time of the year, so far as further production is concerned, I have never seen less cotton in the bales in the uncounted towns and in plantations, and this leads me to believe that the high prices have caused unusually rapid marketing, and that much more than 60 per cent of this crop will have come into sight by December 1st.

The crop from Memphis to New Orleans is the poorest I have ever seen, and the abandonment of acreage in this territory is the largest on record.

The general appearance of the cotton states is so poor that in the absence of other data, I would have been inclined to estimate the crop at 9 1-4 million bales. I shall now state the results of my observation upon which I rely in making my final estimate. I assume that there were ginned up to Nov. 14th (the average date of my observation) about 8,000,000 bales. I think there is less cotton picked and not ginned this year than ever before owing to the changing methods of plantations in the south, but in normal figures for a crop of moderate size, would be 500,000 bales. So we will assume that there had been picked November 14th, 8,500,000 bales. Then the question is what percentage of the years growth is unpicked. I consider that Texas and the Territories represent 80 per cent of the cotton producing territory.

In a third of this area, there remains in the field 18 to 20 per cent; in two-thirds, less than an average of 5 per cent. Applying 20 per cent, and 5 per cent, the average is ten per cent unpicked in 30 per cent of the cotton acreage. In West Tennessee, Arkansas, the Delta portion of Mississippi, and in Louisiana, representing 21 per cent of total acreage, there remains an average of 33 1-3 per cent in the fields.

We call it 35 per cent to be picked in 21 per cent of the total acreage. In the remaining 49 per cent of cotton acreage, which includes the uplands of Mississippi and the State of Alabama, Georgia, and the Carolinas, the fields are generally finished, with here and there a little scrapping to be done, except in North Carolina, where there are sections with 10 per cent, 20 per cent, remaining in the fields. I consider 5 per cent a liberal allowance for the average percentage remaining to be picked in this 49 per cent of the crop. This gives us an average of 12 8 per cent unpicked in the whole belt or 87 2 per cent

picked. If 8,500,000 bales had been picked November 14th, and that represents 87.2 per cent of the total, the crop is 9,748,000 bales of this years growth, 50,000 of which was probably counted in last years crop. I therefore estimate the commercial crop of 1905-06, including old cotton, at not over 10,000,000 bales.

Charles C. Cowan.

Thanksgiving Day.

This annual religious festival was celebrated in the Plymouth colony of New England in 1621, by the Pilgrims who landed from the Mayflower in the autumn of the previous year. Gov. Bradford, the Puritan executive, issued the first Thanksgiving proclamation ever published in America. Until the Revolution, Thanksgiving celebrations were confined solely to Eastern colonies, but at the time mentioned the Middle States followed the example of their neighbors.

Thanksgiving day became a national institution and a holiday in 1863. The first President to issue the necessary order was Abraham Lincoln. His example was afterwards followed by the Governors of all our States and Territories. When this day was first celebrated, the Connecticut blue laws were enforced. Among these intolerant, not to say absurd, statutes there was one prohibiting any Roman Catholic priest to live in the colony, and another forbade any woman to kiss her child on the Sabbath; also married persons were sternly commanded to live together peacefully and smoothly and amiably or be imprisoned. The Puritan Sabbath began at sunset Saturday, and nothing but cold victuals could be eaten on the day of rest, for cooking was prohibited. The names of some of the Pilgrim fathers and mothers were, to say the least, peculiar—as, for example, Mr. "Elected" Mitchel, Mr. "Weep Not" Billings, Mr. "Good Reward" Smart, and Esquire "Kill Sin" Pimple. This last Pilgrim should have been a clergyman if there is anything in a name.

True it is that men and women and women are but children of a larger growth, so it is needless to remark that the adults enjoy the Thanksgiving songs and praise services and the following good dinner, with the inevitable turkey as the piece de resistance, as well as do the young folks; also the family reunions which occur so often on Thanksgiving day. Count your blessings, and every day will be one of thanksgiving.—By E. R. Norton in Era.

Korean Autonomy Gone.

The following dispatches, one from St. Petersburg and the other from the American capital would indicate that Korean independence was a thing of the past.

St. Petersburg, November 25.—The official Russia news agency has received a dispatch from Shanghai giving a sensational account of the manner in which the Japanese forced the Korean government to acquiesce to the treaty between Korea and Japan. The telegram purports to be based on direct news from Seoul and contains the following particulars:

On Friday (November 17) at noon Baron Hayashi and Messrs. Harivara and Kokubu entered the palace to sign the treaty. The emperor and the ministers obstinately resisted. At 8 o'clock in the evening Baryn Havashi having informed the Marquis Ito of the situation, the latter, accompanied by General Hasegawa, commander of the Japanese troops in Korea with a military escort including gendarmes, came to the palace, but till midnight had not succeeded in persuading the em-

peror to sign. Thereupon Secretary Stephens brought from the ministry of foreign affairs the official seal of the ministry which was obtained by force and at 1:30 o'clock in the morning the Japanese themselves placed the seal on the treaty, the emperor to the end refusing to give his signature.

The dispatch concludes:

"The entire palace, even the private apartments of the emperor, are now occupied by Japanese gendarmes and it is probable that the Japanese will soon compel the emperor to sign."

Washington, November 25.—Secretary Root has informed the Japanese government that he will hereafter conduct the affairs relating to Korea through the Japanese legation here. The principle of the sovereignty of Korea is maintained and the existing treaty with that country will continue in force and the American consuls there will be maintained.

The Korean legation in Washington will of course, be withdrawn and all business relating to Korea will be transacted through the Japanese government.

Morgan, our minister to Seoul will necessarily be withdrawn, but it is the intention of the State department to provide another diplomatic post for him.

"If it is wrong for the beef men, the oil men, the iron men, the coal men, and the like to make a combination why is it not wrong for the cotton producers to do the same in order to establish a fictitious price?" says the Wilmington Messenger, in an article, which shows no hostility to agricultural interests and which on the whole is favorable. The Messenger man however, fails to note a marked difference in comparing the cotton growers' combine with coal, oil and other trusts. The coal, beef, oil and other trusts are composed of a few dozen men, who lay tribute on millions of consumers by high prices arbitrarily fixed by them. The farmers' organization is composed of millions of farmers, both small and large, the prices of whose products have been heretofore fixed by a small number of speculators. The cotton producers constitute a large proportion of the consumers of their own products and must, of course, pay their share in the increased cost of manufactured cotton goods caused by higher prices paid for raw material, while those composing the beef, oil and other trusts consume but an insignificant part of the product of their manufactures. In other words, the cotton farmer in paying higher prices for cotton products, helps pay part of the prices he receives for his raw material, so that producer who is a consumer contributes to his own profits, while in the case of the trust, the consumer, who is not a producer, contributes the entire profits of the producer. Besides this, were all the cotton in the hands of the producer to be sold, it would fall into the hands of speculators, who would avail themselves of the opportunity to advance the price and reap the benefits which legitimately should go to the producer. Or, should it fall into the hands of manufacturers the chances are that the distribution would not be made so that the wants of all should be met and increased demands by those who were short would raise the price so that those who were supplied would advance the price of cotton goods. In neither case would the proper and legitimate benefits come to the producer. The only course which seems possible to us is that the farmers exercise the right and privilege as others do and fix the price of their own products, sell when and where they please, and to effect this they must have organization and combination, legitimate of course, to assert their rights.