

# The Carolina Watchman.

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SALISBURY, N. C., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1890.

NO. 46

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### How Pensions are Obtained.

We are reading the New York Tribune with increasing interest and increasing astonishment. When it is not turning a cold shoulder toward Secretary Blaine or accusing Senator Plumbe of not knowing what the republicans of Kansas want, or insinuating delicately but obviously that Senator Quay is an unscrupulous corruptionist, it is announcing the end of pension legislation, and denouncing the rapacity of the pension grabbers. Its Washington dispatch of August 15 brings us this statement:

Reference has been made in these dispatches to the extraordinary fact that certain clerks in the Pension Bureau do not hesitate to reverse, when they so desire, not merely the rulings of the Commissioner of pensions, who is their immediate official superior, but even the decisions of the Secretary of the Interior to whom the Commissioner is subordinate.

The correspondent then gives a history of the pension claim of John S. Garrison. This man enlisted in February, 1864, at a time when bounties were high. He got into a case of diarrhea in July, and stood till April, 1865, when the war was over, he recovered sufficiently to return to his regiment, and he was mustered out in March, 1866. He put in no evidence to show any diarrhea between the surrender of Lee and his muster out. He never applied for a pension until fourteen years had elapsed since his discharge, when, the limitation on the arrears of pensions having been suspended, it occurred to him, as it did to tens of thousands of other hearty survivors of the war, that a lump sum could be given a small pension for fourteen or fifteen years was worth trying for, anyway, and on May 25, 1888, he put in his application for a pension.

In the course of his adverse decision Assistant Secretary Hawkins, December 23, 1886, said:

It appears in the records of this case that the appellant is an employee in the Pension Office and has been so employed since December, 1870. It would seem an easy matter for him to prove by his chief or comrades employed what his physical condition was in 1870, when he first entered Government employ, or what it has been during the past eight or ten years. He could have shown by the records, if he so desired, how much time he lost by sickness; but this he declines to do. The client acted as his own attorney in the prosecution of his claim, and it is to be fully presumed that his duties as a clerk in your office so many years made him thoroughly acquainted with the laws and rules relating to pensions; yet he had most certainly failed to file the ordinary chain of evidence to prove that he has been disable by reason of chronic diarrhea, in a pensionable degree, from discharge to the present time.

As Garrison is a clerk in the Pension Office, he is not disabled in any degree whatever from earning a living which is equal to at least twice the average income of a citizen of the United States.

The application had been rejected by the Pension Office, and probably while the office was under Colonel Dudley or Mr. Clarke, for the appeal was taken May 15, 1885. Judge Hawkins's decision was a denial of Garrison's appeal. And yet in June, 1889, nothing new having occurred in the case since the decision by the Interior Department, "three clerks in the pension Bureau," says the correspondent of the Tribune, "set aside this formal decision in a remarkable slip, of which the following is a copy:"

Respectfully returned to the chief of the board of review. I am of the opinion that the evidence filed is sufficient to justify a legal approval for chronic diarrhea, and so recommend. There is a record of diarrhea; the same is to be found on medical examination; the testimony of his mother and other witnesses tends to show continuance; and I am entirely satisfied that the claimant would not, under any circumstances, make a false statement.

J. P. LOTEROP, Reviewer.

Concur—McWHOTER.

Approved—F. W. POOR, Chief Board of Review.

On the strength of this slip by which three clerks reversed a decision made by the Commissioners of Pension and affirmed by the Secretary of the Interior, a pension was issued to Garrison, a clerk in the office performing his daily work and drawing his semi-monthly pay with regularity, and arranges for 24 years were paid to him in a lump-sum. The Tribune does not tell us what the amount of the pension is, but if it were only \$4 a month, and Garrison had ordered that nothing less be granted, the arraignment would amount to \$1,152.

Incidentally, we observe with pleasure that under the influence of a partial return sanity the Tribune disposed to think the decision of a Democratic Secretary of the Interior ought to be binding on three Republican clerks. A year ago it would have cordially applauded Lothrop, McWhorter and Poor for reversing a democratic Secretary's decision adverse to a pension claim.

The Tribune's correspondent is moved to say:

The conclusion is irresistible that the three clerks based their extraordinary

action upon the point or plea presented in the closing sentence: "And I am entirely satisfied that the claimant would not, under any circumstances, make a full statement." The adoption of this new factor by adjudicating officers and the veracity of claimant being not only permitted to take the place of necessary testimony, but to warrant the decision of a bureau officer and his superior, the Secretary, would seem to be a new departure fraught with considerable danger, and one which would open an unusually large field for remunerative exploitation to that vast army of claimants whose proofs are as defective as their greed of gain.

These three clerks are still occupying high and important places in the Bureau of Pensions; they, together with the large class of their sympathizers who are still "in situ" running the office—indeed, one of the three is acting as chief clerk of the bureau at this writing. It is from this class that several have recently been selected for important promotions, while the promotions of others have been made upon their recommendations. More especially at this time, when, under the new "Disability Pension Act," the various questions to be weighted and decided are close and nice, and the opportunities for granting pensions to unworthy applicants and upon wholly insufficient evidence are enormously increased. The impropriety of allowing the class of employees mentioned to have practical control of this great bureau would appear to be sufficiently obvious.

This particular case is not by any means the only one, or the most startling, which has come under the notice of the correspondent of the Tribune. But it is typical of a large class, and should serve to stimulate the anger to reform abuses for which Commissioner Rauen enjoys an enviable reputation.

As Artemus Ward would have said, his last mast have been "wrote saw-kastic."

### The Old North State

A GRAND DOMAIN, RICH IN NATURAL RESOURCES.

James Clement Ambrose in Chicago Interiors.

My late several weeks of traveling in the "Old North State" that is south, yet not too southern, persuades me that I was amazingly ignorant as to this one of our fifteen "original packages," that I then represented. Large northwestern class not yet exhausted, and that I ought to make them this disclosure.

To-day I question whether another State in the Union is possessed of equal natural resources, for maintaining herself as a separate and exclusive little empire. Lying half way between the lakes and the gulf, with her feet in the ocean, and stretching westward over lowland, upland and mountain sections, till her head is bristled by the Smoky Mountains 7,000 feet up and 500 miles away, she holds the golden mean of this temperate zone, and is gifted with a beautiful variety of climate and production by great change in elevations. And still, shielded west-northwest by her private mountains, and the gulf stream washing her coasts, she keeps mild tempered even at mid winter, vegetation in parts always growing, and stock always grazing even in the mountains at new year's. Her soil is productive of all good things to eat, drink, wear, and keep warm by, besides something to chew; and two thirds of her 52,000 square miles is still shadowed by forests of heavy timber. Her pockets full of useful minerals, notably iron, gold and copper. She enjoys a rainfall of forty-five inches, has a mean summer warmth that is not mean of 75 degrees, and a winter coolness of 43. In the midst of tar, pitch and turpentine, she revels in good health. She grows chiefly cotton, corn, tobacco, wheat, oats, rice and rye. Her factories handle cotton, wool, tobacco, iron, paper, furniture and cottonseed oil. In her fish and oyster beds sleep millions of tons of food—enough for people of brains, and those who need them. She rides upon 1,100 miles of many streams by steamcraft, and has always enough to idle around comfortably on. So you see, she could manage to live alone—a nice old maid—if the rest of the country gave her the mitten.

Now let me open my note-book a little more and detail. Stand on deck in the mouth of Tar River, and looking eastward to the "Banks" you cover a twenty-mile breadth of shallows. It is Pamlico Sound at its widest. It is sixty miles in length, and the country-clipper will show you chart of its survey lot, and the entry of 4 to many blocks of odd shape and size. They are naturally oyster beds, artificial beds, and in my still unplanted. There are adjoining small sounds, are oyster farms of one million acres; and at Savannah I hunted on Pamlico oysters as robust as if selected in Baltimore, while shad, herring, bluefish, Spanish mackerel, mullet, sturgeon, etc., yield to commerce an annual catch of 50,000,000 pounds.

Try to go a shore and at many points you will wonder, for many miles, whether you are on land or under water, so thoroughly on a level with the sea does the State begin; portions of those lowest bottoms are drainable, and others are becoming so by wider inland cultivation. A few miles farther back you are on the sea-coast

terrace of the State, a timber shelf rising but a foot to the mile, railways running forty miles without curve, cut, or fill. It is mostly a productive sand loam, the habitat of the long-leaf pine, cypress, white cedar, live oak, grapes and other fruits, as lavish as the Promised Land. This is one of the grand patches where grow the early watermelons of commerce, and present means of transportation seem tired with over-carriage of the forest products.

After 120 miles in this old valley of the deep, you meet a rapid ascent to the second plateau, a change of climate, soil, surface, vegetation; and now amid hills and valleys of various grades, and embracing half the State, you feel more at home. It is something like my native Michigan with its villages much like hers, and their people as pleasant and industrious as "Michiganans" cultivated lands are devoted to corn, wheat, oats, buck wheat, sorghum and tobacco, all familiar north, as also the redtop meadows and clover hills here and there. The atmosphere is clear, a little cooler than below, and its pastures more active. This is the solid section of the State, the territory of principal agriculture and manufacture using industries. Many Friends made homes here in an early day, and their habits of thrift have given character to the community. I was amid their blossoming orchards of peach, pear, apple, apricot and cherry of great size, in the region of Greensboro, while vineyards are numerous, and garde is neglected fields are laden with all the small fruits. Many tons of wild berries gathered and dried, net a comfortable full pin money thousands for women and children.

This is the Piedmont section, where the golden belt is ten to thirty miles in width across the State. And in the United States assay office at Charlotte I learned from Prof. G. B. Hanna that one hundred mines are worked as steadily as the farms; that the mint was established there in 1835, and up to the war time coined money; that up to '48, when North Carolina mines yielded half of the gold of the country; and that the leading mine, the Gold Hill, has yielded up to date \$2,000,000. A'd from the superintendent of the St. Catherine mine, I learned that the negro is estimated the best mining help, and commonly employed. But this colored monopolist doesn't get rich on se fifty cents a day, sometimes a dollar; and that is the savage income of unskilled labor there.

Here the current of many streams is rapid, the opportunity for damming excellent, and the State geologist gave me his estimate of the water-power as equal to \$1,000,000 house-power; equal to the aggregate steam power of all the States. And within easy distance of this power stands the million of acres of beautiful white oak, ash, elm, pine, bird's eye maple, walnut and the like, while her hills could grow many fold more cotton, and her mountain pastures maintain unlimited flocks. So the materials, the power and skill to work them need only be brought together to make her the peer of the best in many manufactures. To-day twenty, cotton factories, thirteen woolen mills, nine cotton-seed oil mills, four rice mills, five paper factories, many flouring mills, six fertilizer factories, twenty iron and steel works merely sample the capacity for good works, not to name the 210 tobacco manufactories, nearly half of them at Durham alone, the wealthiest town in the State. But the finest feature in labor there, is the fact that three-fourths of the people are engaged in agriculture, through some of them after a rude model; and about two-thirds of the farms are tilled by their owners.

The mountain section, twenty-five to forty miles wide, is full of romance as well as utility. The main surface is undulating plateau, about 2,500 feet above sea, with many knobs and peaks of twice to three times height, a few of them bald-heads, but mostly clothed with grass and forests to the top. Pine, hemlock, birch and chestnut, with rare flowering and medicinal plants, decorate the slopes, and mountain streams have cut canons between the ranges, and now laugh between the solid banks of a 1,000 upright feet as they tumbled on untamed. I have wandered through Colorado and looked upon nothing more enchanting. Cattle range there until all winter; fruits, vines and vegetables thrive far up the side of the peaks, and narrow valleys are of the finest mold; yet only ten per cent of the surface has felt the caress of plow. Numerous minerals besides the iron and copper exists among the mountains, notably mica and corundum; and the yet limited working of the beds has yielded gems in wide variety, as emerald, ruby, sapphire, agate, opal, garnet, beryl a few diamonds.

The mountain section is thinly populated and most of the people are white. Within, it is a charming and wholesome land, with a feature vastly greater than its past.

Mr. Irvine Dungan, author of the little poem, "If I Should Die To-night," is the Democratic candidate for Congress in the Thirteenth Ohio district.

The people of America consume, it is said, 200,000,000 bottles of pickles annually. How many of these are put up in the South?

### The old Flag did It.

A BIT OF UNWRITTEN HISTORY ON THE WAR.

Shiloh and other great battles of the civil war have furnished material for much heated discussion on the part of the general officers who participate in them, involving questions of generalship obedience of orders, surprise, and responsibility for defeat.

Many minor engagements, about which no controversy can raise, and which do not form a part of the written history of the great conflict, are quite as interesting. Perhaps one of the most complete surprises of the war to any considerable body of troops overtook Kilpatrick's cavalry during Sherman's march into North Carolina in 1865. Kilpatrick had encamped for the night some miles from Fayetteville, and had selected a large plantation house as his headquarters. The unionists had been distributed, and the men had thrown themselves upon their rubber blankets, with every promise of a night's rest, but before the earliest dawn confederate cavalry under Gen. Wade Hampton, succeeded in decieving and capturing the pickets on one of the highways leading into the camp, and then charged into the very midst of the unionists without the discharge of a single gun of warning. The sleep of Kilpatrick's men was broken by an indiscriminate fire upon them as they scattered over the ground. Their own artillery was taken and turned upon them at short range. The prisoners held by them were liberated and they joined in the attack.

The union men were demoralized, panic-stricken, without organization and without a leader. For a time it was every fellow for himself.

Pretty soon, however, "Kil," as the boys called this general, appeared on the scene, having narrowly escaped in undress uniform. His presence always inspired his men and the rallying process began. It was doubtful, uphill work for a time, the men being intent only on individual escape. At a critical moment in the encounter the division colors were seen to move about in the disorganized mass of demoralized men and the question was then settled. Order came out of chaos. A formidable line quickly formed and it was seen to advance cautiously at first, but soon with a sweep and hearty yell that reassured every union heart.

Hampton was forced to withdraw, leaving the captured artillery behind him. The story of how the division colors escaped did not reach the men for some days, when the fact leaked out, that a woman attached to the headquarters had torn them from their staff and concealing them under her skirts had escaped almost simultaneously with the general, and through her they had found their way back among the bewildered soldiers, and just in time to play a most important part in the then doubtful conflict.

Months later, when Gen. Sherman and Johnston were negotiating for peace or surrender, Kilpatrick and Hampton met and Hampton cried, "Hello, 'Kil,' I believe the last time I had the pleasure of seeing you was at Fayetteville. Shall I apologize for arousing you so early?"

"Oh, no," Kilpatrick answered, "I guess I taught you better than to knock again before entering a gentleman's sleeping apartments."

### Kinergarten Methods Applied to Church Deb. Raising.

That was a novel method of taking a subscription to pay a church debt which was employed by the First Congregational Church at Omaha, under the lead of the Rev. J. T. Duryea. When the people gathered on Sunday morning they saw before them a blackboard with a diagram which looked like one side of a pyramid built of sixty-six brick, eleven in the lower row, ten in the next above, and so on. On each brick was written a number which varied from 1,000 on a few about the top to 27 on the set at the base. The sum of these numbers was 11,300, the amount of dollars raised for the pastor explained the situation of the church and the meaning of the diagram. He said the stability of the church depended for a foundation upon a large number of small supporters, represented by the bricks in the lower course with the serial numbers on them. Cards large, no 26 to cover the number on the bricks were distributed through the congregation. Upon one of these cards each one wrote the number of dollars he would pay, and the card was sent forward and tacked on the blackboard to cover the same number there. Where the amounts subscribed were small several cards were tacked on one brick. In forty minutes 149 cards were handed in, covering all the numbers on the blackboard, and making a surplus of \$75 subscribed. *Christian Advocate.*

The New York health authorities fear there is a slight return of a gripe in the city, and it is said Southern visitors are especially susceptible to it.

During a row which followed a Hungarian christening at Middletown, Pa., the newly christened child was killed.

### How the House Passes away Time.

Report of Wednesday's Proceedings.

Owing to the absence of the chaplain the House was not opened with prayer this morning, nor were there many members present, and before the reading of the journal Mr. Holman (Ind.) raised the point of no quorum. On motion of Mr. McKinley, of Ohio, a call of the House was ordered, which disclosed the presence of but 120 members. The Sergeant-at-Arms was dispatched to hunt up absenteers, and the House relapsed into a state of listlessness, while stragglers came in and reported their presence to the clerk. While waiting for a quorum Mr. Enloe complained of the heat of the chamber and asked that the doors be opened to allow air to enter the hall. The Speaker said that this was not in order. Mr. Enloe thereupon moved that further proceedings under the call be dispensed with. Mr. McKinley inquired if there was a quorum present. The Speaker replied that there was not. Mr. Springer suggested that some gentleman might intimate that there was a quorum in the immediate vicinity. The Speaker retorted that if the intimation came from a gentleman in whom the House had confidence the House might act upon it. [Laughter] Mr. Springer suggested sarcastically, that the intimation might be given by the Chair. Mr. Enloe's motion was rejected. Subsequently Mr. Enloe rose, and calling attention to the fact that one of the doors on the Republican side was open demanded that it be closed. The Speaker remarked that the gentleman was inconsistent. A few days ago, he had complained because the doors were closed. [Laughter.] Mr. Enloe said that it was impossible to get the chair to assume any responsibility. He turned the responsibility over to a subordinate. The Speaker responded that it was extremely difficult to get the chair to assume any unnecessary responsibility. [Laughter.] Mr. Rogers (Ark.), from his chair, jocularly appealed from the decision. The Speaker paying no attention to the appeal, Mr. Springer reminded him that had been taken, whereupon the Speaker remarked that it was the turn of the gentleman from Illinois. It was afternoon when a quorum appeared, and then, further proceedings having been dispensed with, the journal was read.