

Salary Basis for County Officers.

A late press dispatch announces that the officers of Guilford county are now paid on a salary basis, the law having gone into effect December 1st, and calls attention to the resultant savings. Hitherto, as in many other counties, Guilford's officers have been receiving the official fees and percentages, which in many cases amounted to sums far in excess of ample salaries for the work done. Now the sheriff is allowed a salary of \$2,500, the deputies are allowed their fees, and the jailer is paid a salary. The clerk of the court and the register of deeds receive \$2,250 each, with an extra allowance of \$1,100 each for clerk hire. Even with these liberal salaries, it is estimated that Guilford will save \$10,000 a year which goes to the road fund.

We mention this merely to remind our readers that there are other counties that would find it profitable to adopt the salary system of compensation. There are not a few county officers who receive from fees and percentage an almost, if not quite double, the Governor's salary, when good and capable men can easily be found to do the work just as well as for a salary of something like half of what this fee system pays. The saving of \$5,000 to \$10,000 could be devoted to local improvements—to making better roads or better public buildings or better schools, or could be usefully employed in many other ways.

This is a matter worthy of attention of the legislature. By a special act the fee system could in any county be changed to the salary system so as to take effect two years hence upon the expiration of the tenure of present officers. If you are likely to want a change to the salary system in your county within the next two years, now is the time to talk to your representative and take action. —Progressive Farmer.

A Live Topic in the House.

Washington, Jan. 8.—In the House today Mr. Slayden, of Texas, spoke at length on the Brownsville affair. He said there was no doubt that the negro troops had been responsible for that disturbance and contended that if they had been white men their discharge would have been generally endorsed. He charged that the defense of the negroes was due to political reasons. Mr. Slayden also reviewed the record of the Twenty-fifth Infantry, showing that some portions of it had been involved in other affairs which were not creditable to them. Instances of lawlessness by other negro regiments were also detailed.

In declaring the negro race to be unfit for American soldiers, the Texas congressman said he had in view only the circumstances of their service. He did not impeach their physical courage. "This is a virtue," he said, "that belongs to nearly all men and if there be any difference between savage and civilized men in this respect the superiority possibly lies with the savage who is undeterred from rash ventures by thought of the consequences."

Mr. Slayden spoke of the sympathy that welds people into a homogeneous political and social mass, but said that it "has never existed and never will exist between Negroes and Caucasians."

Should Return State's Money.

Pierre, S. D., Jan. 8.—Samuel H. Elrod, the retiring Governor of South Dakota, in his farewell message to the Legislature today, severely assails the noted North Carolina bond deal, by which South Dakota collected \$25,000 from a Southern State on paper which had been repudiated. He says South Dakota has no moral right to the money. The message urges the Legislature to pass a bill returning the money to North Carolina.

Are Still Neighbors.

Rev. E. K. McLarty and Rev. O. I. Hinson were reared on adjoining farms about four miles east of Monroe, their homes being about half a mile apart. As boys they attended the same day school Sunday school and church, went swimming in the same pond in summer and chased the same rabbit in winter, and we will say in passing that if there was any sport those two good preachers enjoyed when they were boys more than chasing a rabbit, it was jumping and chasing another rabbit. Mr. McLarty and Mr. Hinson are still neighbors, the Western North Carolina Conference having assigned them both to work in Salisbury for this year and their homes now are a little nearer each other than they were when they were boys down on the farm.—Monroe Inquirer.

Mayor Steele Resigns.

Statesville, Jan. 8.—Yesterday afternoon at the regular monthly meeting of the board of aldermen, Mayor J. C. Steele, who is serving his second term, tendered his resignation to take effect on the 15th inst. Action on the resignation was deferred until a meeting of the aldermen, to be held next Monday. Mr. Steele has contemplated resigning for some time, and his action was not unexpected by his close friends. H. P. Grier, one of Statesville's best lawyers, who was Mr. Steele's competitor in the last election and who was defeated by the small majority of seven votes, has been mentioned as his successor. What action the board will take, however, is not known.

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