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Circulation Larger Than That of Any Other Daily Newspaper Published in Wilmington.
 OLDEST DAILY NEWSPAPER IN THE STATE.

The Morning Star.

OUTLINES.

Favorable report is authorized on Representative Burleson's bill providing for collection of cotton statistics. — Jan. E. Albright appointed postmaster at Mowbray, N. C. — Furmester at Mowbray's plant at Memphis. — Loss \$50,000. — The U. S. battleship *Yankee* left Ponce, P. R., yesterday for Galveston. — The Prince of Saxony has been granted a divorce. — Eight men were injured at the same time yesterday in Tampa, Fla.; the total loss was about \$50,000. — Advice from automata are that the entire republic declared in a state of siege. — A negro was shot and killed at Kinston, N. C., by officers who were trying to arrest him. — A salesman for a jewelry firm committed suicide in New Orleans. — Two men were killed and one wounded in a railroad accident near Titon, Ga. — The American Tobacco Co. has sent a million pounds of the weed to Panama. — The Audubon theatre, New Orleans, was destroyed by fire at night. — Eight men burned and injured by a colliery explosion near Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania. — New York markets: Money steady; cotton quiet at 95; wheat quiet; wheat—spot weak, 2 1/2; corn—spot steady, No. 2; oats—spot steady, No. 2; spirits—turpentine dull.

WEATHER REPORT.

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 11. — Meteorological data for the twenty-four hours ending at 8 P. M.: Temperature: 8 A. M., 65 degrees; 10 A. M., 65 degrees; maximum, 69 degrees; minimum, 47 degrees; mean, 58 degrees. Rainfall for the day, 0.19; rainfall for month to date, 2.39 inches. Stage of water in the Cape Fear at Fayetteville, N. C., at 8 A. M. today 31.5 feet.

FORECAST FOR TO-DAY.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11. — For North Carolina: Fair Thursday; colder in portion; fresh west winds; Friday clearing; probably rain west portion.

PORT ANNOUNCE—FEBRUARY 12.

Rises: 6.53 A. M., 8.37 P. M., 10:11, 44 M., 4:44 M., 8:08 P. M., 10:35 A. M., 10:35 A. M.

Hon. Grover Cleveland is having good time fishing in Florida to answer questions about the Presidency.

It is said that Maud Gonne is out to retire from the "Joan of Arc" role. We hadn't heard from her for so long that we concluded she had already gone into retirement.

It appears that Mr. Justice is fighting against the wind in his efforts to have a bill pass the Legislature requiring locomotive engineers to stop their whistles every time they see a man on the track.

After cleaning out the Filipinos American authorities turned their attention to cleaning up Manila, a la Havana, with the result, it is said, that Manila is one of the cleanest cities in the East.

The latest Boer story is that the Transvaal who have been prospecting in Texas have secured a deal for a tract of 200,000 acres in the Southwestern portion of the State to which a lot of them propose to trek.

According to the latest report from Vienna, Giron got \$100,000 from Princess Louise, and Louise was dismissed because she was refused permission to see her children and to visit a sanitarium. That is about the sanest thing she has done for some time.

One of the principal industries in the rural population of Bulgaria is the cultivation of roses for oil, which sells, according to reports, at from \$50 to \$200 a pound, and looks like a high price; but it is a good many roses to make a drop of oil, one drop of which it will perfume a pint of alcohol.

Some of the facts brought to light by the anthracite coal mine invasion is that there are too many men in the mines for the work done; that three men are employed to work that could be done by one; and consequently the three get the steady employment, and as much as the two could.

Over things Belgium is a powerful horse and although not large a pair of horses will draw with apparent ease a load of four or five tons on a machine that weighs a ton, while the dogs, which are used as draft animals, and are used for this purpose, will draw a load of 1,000 pounds.

CRUELTY TO CONVICTS

Investigation of Alleged Inhuman Treatment to Prisoners in Mitchell County.

THE REPORTS OVERDRAWN.

So Says Chairman Morton, of the Legislative Committee—Witnesses Who Testified in Marion Tuesday. Now in Raleigh—Notes.

[Special Star Telegram.]

RALEIGH, N. C., Feb. 11.—Chairman Morton, of the House Committee on Penitentiaries, who is member of the special committee to investigate charges of cruelty to penitentiary convicts at Marion, said tonight that the committee regards the report of the investigation published this morning, especially those in the *Charlotte and Raleigh papers*, as very much overdrawn. Parts of the testimony to corroborate the sensational charges were omitted, thereby making an unfair showing for the prison authorities.

The committee returned to Raleigh from their investigating trip this afternoon and will hear further testimony of witnesses in defence of the penitentiary authorities at the prison here Friday.

The special committee at Marion Tuesday heard a number of witnesses and adjourned to meet in Raleigh. One of the reports alleged by Chairman Morton to be overdrawn is as follows:

J. C. L. Bird, who brought the charges placed the men on the stand who testified that the shackled convicts were marched twenty-six miles over a road which was on an average five inches deep in mud, that some of the men lost their shoes; that when they could not go on the way were cursed by guards, and that sick men were cursed for groaning; that the men reached Marion about 6 o'clock, were placed on rail cars and not taken off until daylight of the third day. It was stated that there were two very sick men in the lot when the squad reached Marion, and it was thought that one of them was dead. Nearly all the others were very much exhausted.

In rebuttal, Prison Superintendent J. S. Mann read copies of orders to show that he was not responsible for any mistreatment of the men, and Supervisor Leasley, who had personal charge of the movement, declared that he saw no evidence of cruelty to convicts, and the march was not an unusual one. The result of the hearing in some measure established the charges without fixing the responsibility. Evidence was also submitted showing that on previous occasions sick convicts had been allowed to fall in the mud and lie in the rain at the depot here. Superintendent Mann said he thought this was a mistake on the part of the witnesses.

LOCAL DOTS.

A boy who can feed Job Presses is wanted at the STAR.

The "Inter Nos Pleasure Club" will give its annual dance in Hibernian Hall to-night.

Licenses was issued yesterday for the marriage of Mr. Minnie Grady and Mr. Newton Rowan, both of Delgado.

The Carolina Yacht Club will hold its annual meeting in the Court House next Monday night at 8:15 o'clock.

Hollowbush's Orchestra, Prof. C. W. Hollowbush and Mr. Frank F. Turentine returned from Newbern yesterday.

Concord Chapter No. 1, R. A. M., will hold a special convocation this evening at 8 o'clock to confer the Past Master's degree.

Mr. D. L. T. Capps, who recently purchased a tract of land at Seventeenth and Market streets, is building five five-room cottages there for renting purposes.

"A Night at the Circus" Company has closed on account of poor business, and consequently will not play at the Academy the 21st inst. This date will be filled by the Mabel Paige Company.

Miss Eloise Neely and Mr. Hugh Reynolds Cowlee, of Stateville, were married at 8 o'clock yesterday evening at the home of the bride's brother-in-law, Mr. William Alexander Lawrence, No. 418 Church street.

FOR ASSAULTING OFFICER HARRIS

John Robinson, White, Held for March Term of Superior Court.

John Robinson, the young white man who started a domestic difficulty on Second street shortly after 12 o'clock yesterday morning, and who assaulted Policeman W. M. Harris because he went in to demand quare, was held for the March term of Superior Court in a justified bond of \$50, by the Mayor yesterday at noon. At last accounts Robinson had not given the bond and was still confined. At the hearing he pleaded drunkenness as a palliation for his offense.

Officer Harris testified that Robinson made at him with a knife or other sharp instrument, and exhibited a heavy overcoat, which was badly slashed through on the shoulder, his uniform coat underneath having also been slashed. Robinson's wife, who was Mrs. Florence McDougald, did not appear in court to testify against her husband for disorderly conduct.

Real Estate Transfers.

By deeds filed for record yesterday T. C. Miller and wife, of Norfolk, transferred to Pembroke Jones for \$275, lot No. 8 according to MacRae's survey of Wrightsville Sound, and Robert A. Montgomery and wife transferred to Mrs. Henry E. Bonitz for \$1,000, residence and lot on north side of Princess, between Seventh and Eighth streets, 50x75 feet in size.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

A. D. Brown.—To the public. A. David Co.—To our friends. Hall & Pearsall.—Seed potatoes. Gaston D. Phares & Co.—At cost. Masonic—Meeting Concord Chapter.

BUSINESS LOCALS.

Wanted—Male stenographer.

GEN. CHAFFEE COMING

Distinguished Army Officer Will Arrive To-night En Route to Fort Caswell.

FROM CHARLESTON, S. C.

Accompanied by His Staff—On His Annual Tour of Inspection—No Public Entertainment Has Been Arranged by the City.

[Special Star Telegram.]

Major General Adna R. Chaffee, commanding the Department of the East, U. S. A., who is now inspecting the army posts in his jurisdiction, will arrive in Wilmington from Charleston, S. C., on the 11:45 P. M. train tonight, accompanied by his staff and to-morrow they will go down to Fort Caswell for an official inspection there.

An Associated Press telegram tonight stated that Gen. Chaffee and staff arrived at Charleston yesterday afternoon from Fort Fremont, Fort Royal, and would to-day inspect the military post at Sullivan's Island, now known as Fort Getty. The distinguished army officer will leave Charleston this afternoon and after visiting Fort Caswell, he will continue northward, inspecting posts until Feb. 26th, when he will return to his headquarters at Governor's Island, N. Y. He will then have inspected every coast fort from New Orleans to New York.

Owing to his unexpected arrival there will be no public reception to General Chaffee by the city of Wilmington. It is to be regretted that such is the case. Gen. Chaffee has been entertained in all of the cities which he has visited. When in Atlanta two weeks ago he was accorded a reception and entertained by several prominent citizens. He is third in command in the United States army, and in all probability will some day be at the head of the army. When Gen. Miles, the present lieutenant general of the army, retires, Maj. Gen. Young will succeed to the head and Gen. Chaffee will be second in command.

The inspection is the regular annual one. Besides the report on the inspection Gen. Chaffee makes recommendations, as the result of the inquiries made at each post. The inspection last year was made by Gen. John R. Brooks. The officers at the fort are of course prepared for an inspection whenever it is the pleasure of Gen. Chaffee to make one.

The party accompanying Gen. Chaffee to Wilmington will be Colonel Levermore, engineer corps; Captain Lindsay, infantry corps; Lieutenant Harper, first lieutenant Seventh cavalry, who is also lieutenant colonel of the First Illinois volunteers in the Spanish-American war, and Mr. Howell.

PRETTY VALENTINE PARTY.

Mrs. Jas. F. Woolvin Delightfully Entertained the Parish Guild.

The Parish Guild of St. John's Episcopal church gave a delightful valentine party from 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon to 10 o'clock yesterday evening at the pretty home of Mrs. James F. Woolvin, No. 503 Broad street. Mr. and Mrs. Woolvin proved themselves most excellent host and hostess and the large number of young people who attended were charmed with their reception. The residence was beautifully decorated with pink hearts, while the tea tables were beautiful in a charming decoration of Valentine novelties, flowers and potted plants.

Each guest was presented at the door with a matchy little souvenir in the design of a valentine heart. During the evening the party was delighted with a number of musical selections which included a piano solo by Miss Sarah Catlett; vocal solos by Miss Mildred Davis, Mr. W. L. Williford and Mr. H. E. O'Keefe, a piano selection by Miss Julia Post and numerous other features of entertainment. Rev. Wm. Francis Dickinson, rector of St. Paul's parish, recited "A Quaker Girl" with much effect. Miss Fannie Corbett very pleasantly rendered the accompaniments.

TWO SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED YESTERDAY—ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

The STAR received yesterday two additional and very substantial contributions to the hospital ambulance fund from Mrs. Wm. H. Sprunt and Mr. B. G. Worth, each of whom gave \$10 each. The contributions to date have been as follows:

- Mrs. James F. Rayne.....\$ 5.00
- Mr. W. B. Cooper....." 5.00
- Mr. E. S. Willard....." 10.00
- Mr. J. V. Granger....." 5.00
- Cash....." 5.00
- Mrs. W. J. H. Bellamy....." 5.00
- A. Friend....." 1.50
- Mr. Geo. H. Hutter....." 5.00
- Master Isaac B. Granger....." 1.00
- Mrs. W. H. Sprunt....." 10.00
- Mr. B. G. Worth....." 10.00
- Total.....\$38.00

The incident of the fireman who was injured at yesterday's fire, and had to be sent to the hospital in a hose wagon, is but another mild emphasis of the emergency that some day may occur, when the consequences will be fatal. The STAR will keep the list of subscriptions open to-day for any others who may desire to help a noble cause.

Pretty Church Entertainment.

A most enjoyable entertainment was held at the residence of Mr. G. W. Felger on Tuesday evening, under the auspices of the young ladies Bible class, of St. Paul's Episcopal church. The Young People's Social Circle of the church united with them and every effort was made to enable all present to pass a pleasant evening. The rooms of Mrs. Felger's residence were filled to their utmost capacity, and the social amusements and intercourse of the evening were heartily enjoyed into and enjoyed. Excellent refreshments were served and a neat sum was realized.

THE TIMBER PIRATES

Their Operations on the Rivers Causing Much Annoyance to Legitimate Enterprises.

STANDARD POLE AND TIE CO.

New York Concern That Has Headquarters at Wilmington—News of the Markets and Shipping Yesterday—Three Schooners Arrived in Port.

[Special Star Telegram.]

The Standard Pole and Tie Company, of 133 to 137 Front street, New York, which recently removed its Southern headquarters from Maxton, N. C., to Wilmington with offices in the Smith building, is doing a fine business in juniper telegraph, telephone and trolley poles and cross-ties. The offices here are in charge of Mr. J. W. Davis, a native North Carolinian and a business man of pleasing manner and excellent business qualifications. People find pleasant dealing with this company and its business is rapidly increasing. Last year \$150,000 was paid out in this section and this season the company expects to do a \$350,000 business. It now has on its yards here 20,000 poles ready for shipment. Mr. Davis says his company as well as others are now annoyed very much up the various streams by timber pirates. They frequently cut a raft in two by stealth and then pick it up down the river and claim that the property was found afloat. The Standard Pole and Tie Co. has been annoyed so much lately by this practice that it now proposes to resort to extreme measures. The law prohibits such misdemeanors and Mr. Davis promises to see in the future that the law is enforced against any and all offenders.

Naval stores men are of the opinion that the high water mark has been reached in spirits turpentine, though no reaction is looked for before April at least. The demand is good and stock is scarce. Yesterday's receipts at Wilmington were the largest, however, of any day in several months—92 casks. The quotations at Wilmington and Savannah have remained unchanged for two days at 66 cents. The receipts for here yesterday were perhaps the heaviest of any one day in ten years—1,143 barrels. The price remains unchanged at \$1.45, with good demand.

The British steamer *Doverbury*, which put in here several weeks ago in distress, has finished discharging her cargo of cotton and naval stores into the British steamer *Avary* and both have cleared. The last named will sail for Manchester with the *Doverbury*'s cargo and the *Doverbury* will proceed to Newport News, Va., for repairs. The work of discharging the disabled vessel was accomplished by the Diamond Steamboat and Wrecking Company, of this city.

Three schooners arrived in port yesterday. The *Bayard Hopkins*, 219 tons, Capt. Ekridge, came from Philadelphia with a cargo of fertilizers and will proceed, upon discharging, to Georgetown, S. C. The *Chas. E. Walden*, 227 tons, Capt. Hineckley, arrived from Carteret, N. J., with fertilizers for interior shipment and the *Helen G. Mosely*, 503 tons, Capt. Gray, came from New York for a cargo from the Cape Fear Lumber Co.

The river steambow *Hurt*, which was disabled 36 miles above Wilmington this week, returned here and after completing repairs proceeded again yesterday for Hallsville on Northeast river, Capt. W. McK Robinson in command.

THE HOSPITAL AMBULANCE FUND.

Parade at 1:45 P. M.—Matinee and Night. Mabel Paige Next Week.

The original Georgia Minstrels come to the Academy to-day to amuse at matinee and night. Both performances will, no doubt, be largely attended, but especially the latter, as to-night the colored people, as usual, will be allowed half of the downstairs. However, at the matinee performance this afternoon they will not be permitted to use any portion of the lower part of the house. This will be held exclusively for the white people, who will be provided with a separate entrance and a separate box-office. The admission will be 25 and 50 cents.

The usual train will be given at 1:45 o'clock this afternoon, upon the arrival of the train from the South. Mabel Paige and her star company will return to the Academy next Monday night for an engagement of a week. With but one exception all new plays will be presented and an entire new list of specialties will be introduced at each performance. Among the latter will be the *Great Martyr*.

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Seats for the opening performance Monday night will be placed on sale at Plummer's to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. All reserved seats will be 30 cents each.

Two matinees will be given (the first on next Wednesday afternoon) and several tickets will be sold for these performances in advance at Plummer's and special arrangements have been made to prevent anything like a jam or any inconvenience at the theatre.

The Governor's Picture.

Prof. D. M. Bain, teacher of vocal music in the country schools, has offered a very handsome picture of Governor Aycock to the school making the most rapid progress in singing during the term. The picture will be handsomely framed, suitable for school room decoration.

Messrs. McKay McKinnon, of Red Springs, and R. Y. McPherson, of Raleigh, two popular insurance men, are at The Origin.

CREATE NEW COUNTY

One to Be Made from Parts of Harnett, Moore and Chatham Counties.

LEGISLATURE—YESTERDAY.

Govt Line Invokes Aid of Corporation Commission in Petty Town Ordinances—New A. & M. Building. Farmers' Protective Ass'n.

[Special Star Telegram.]

RALEIGH, N. C., Feb. 11.—The House of Representatives to-day passed the bill incorporating the North Carolina Farmers Protective Association, prepared and backed by Col. J. S. Cunningham and Col. J. Bryan Grimes, Secretary of State. An important bill introduced by Siler to establish a new county, to be known as Lee county, and made up of portions of Moore, Lenoir and Chatham. The people of Sanford and Jonesboro and the surrounding section are moving for the new county. A committee, composed of Messrs. W. H. Moore, A. I. McNeill, A. E. Seawell and Wm. Campbell, reached Raleigh Tuesday to present the matter. The proposed county, with Sanford as the county seat, includes about 300 square miles made up as follows: From Harnett 27 square miles, from Chatham 90 square miles, from Moore 174 square miles. The boundary between this territory and Chatham county is the Cape Fear River and the Cape Fear River. The aggregate value of taxable property is \$1,945,537.

Other bills introduced were: By Abell, supplementary to the act to extend the term of the Board of Public Safety. This passed its readings later.

Abell, to make more effective the law against stealing rides on trains.

The Senate passed a bill allowing railroad companies to file petitions with the Corporation Commission in cases where speed of trains in passing through towns is retarded by obstruction of the tracks.

The Senate passed a bill to regulate the corporation of fire crackers over three inches long, top pistols and air rifles passed second reading, and on objection went over until to-morrow.

The bill prohibiting fire crackers over three inches long, top pistols and air rifles passed second reading, and on objection went over until to-morrow.

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YESTERDAY'S FIRE.

It Was One of the Most Destructive in Wilmington in Several Years.

LOSSES AND INSURANCE.

Department Controlled the Blaze by 5 A. M.—Notes and Incidents of the Conflagration—Removing into New Quarters—The Cause.

[Special Star Telegram.]

As the STAR was going to press yesterday in time to catch the early morning mails, a fierce fire which broke out at 2:35 A. M. in the basement of the large, three-story, brick dry goods store of Capt. A. D. Brown, No. 29 North Front street, had just been gotten under control by the firemen with only partial loss to property adjoining. The details were given in yesterday's paper up to that hour with as near an approach to accuracy as was possible under the circumstances.

The scene of the fire was visited yesterday by nearly everybody in the city, as very few came down at the early hour before day. It was probably the smallest crowd which ever witnessed a fire of any magnitude here. It occurred when everybody was asleep and those who arose and looked out could see no evidence of a fire for a considerable time after the alarm was sent in on account of its confinement at first to the basement. Box 41, at Water and Market streets, from which the alarm came in, is an important one, but when people arose and called to mind the propensity of the Wilmington Paid Fire Department for extinguishing any and all fires in their incipency and with the reassurance of an absence of a blaze, they quietly retired for the most part and left the conflagration with the fire jaddies, a few of the more venturesome, the police and morning newspaper people.

A conservative estimate of the damage by the fire is \$50,000. The heaviest loss is Capt. A. D. Brown's. His stock valued at from \$30,000 to \$35,000 was completely destroyed with an insurance of only \$19,700. It was stated erroneously in yesterday's paper that the insurance was \$35,000, which was the amount carried last year, the balance having been dropped upon the advance in rates upon merchandise stocks about 13 months ago. Capt. Brown had just received his usual large line of new Spring goods, but he had unfortunately neglected to take out insurance to cover it.

The building occupied by Capt. Brown's store was owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Vollers and it was completely gutted by the flames, only the blackened walls remaining. Contractors differ in their opinion as to whether the walls can be restored and upon this, of course, largely depends the amount of damage. The building is valued at \$5,000; insurance, \$5,000.

The wholesale and retail clothing store of the A. David Company, adjoining the Vollers building on the north, was badly damaged by smoke and water. The stock is valued at \$30,000 and the damage will probably range from 33 to 50 per cent. The entire stock was covered by \$14,500 insurance. The chief damage to the building which is owned by Mrs. P. M. McRary is on the roof, where the flames lapped nearly across and cracked the tin and wood covering all to pieces. One line of hose was turned on the roof to keep it from catching and thereby resulted the damage from water to the stock. The building was insured for \$5,000, and the damage is estimated at from \$750 to \$1,000.

Next south of the Vollers building was another three-story brick business structure, owned by Capt. Donald MacRae. The damage to the building, which is insured for \$10,000, will be between \$600 and \$800. The basement of the building is used as a storage room for electrical and gas supplies, gas stoves, ranges, fixtures, etc., of the Consolidated Railways, Light and Power Co., the offices of which, with those of Hugh MacRae & Co., bankers, occupy the first floor of the building. The damage in the offices was chiefly by smoke and was slight; fully covered by insurance. The basement of the building in which the supplies were stored was completely flooded by water, causing a damage of \$1,000 to stock, which is fully protected. An engine of the Fire Department was engaged until yesterday afternoon in pumping the water from the basement.

The second floor of the building is occupied by the Harmony Circle club rooms, which were damaged about \$75, with \$400 insurance in companies represented by Col. Walker Taylor. The third floor was formerly used as a K. of P. lodge room. The damage to the building was greatest on this floor, where a wood joist extended through the brick wall from the Vollers building.

The Department had at one time in addition a stream of steam from hydraulic hoists from the engine, including the two reserves, making seven lines of hose in all. Two of the engines were stationed at Princess street dock while the "big" Adrian was at foot of Market street. The reserves were brought out when the magnitude of the fire seemed to demand it.

The Vollers building has no partitions with the buildings on each side as the proximity would seem to indicate. It was probably due to this and the further fact that the walls of the McRary building extended above the roof of the Brown store that the flames did not communicate more rapidly.

The Origin of the Fire.

The origin of the fire is a matter of speculation. It was at first thought

TO THE PUBLIC!

Having had a total loss by fire, of my entire stock of goods on the morning of February 11th, and the destruction of the building as well, I have opened my office at No. 113 North Front street, formerly occupied by The Murchison National Bank. Desirous of adjusting all my claims, I'll ask those indebted to me for the prompt payment of their accounts. This is absolutely necessary in order that I may again resume business. Thanking a generous public for past patronage, I am respectfully,

A. D. BROWN.

Feb 12 th

J. W. Murchison & Co.,

Wholesale and Retail Dealer in **HARDWARE,** No. 109 and 111 North Front St., Wilmington, N. C.

Hardware of every description at the very lowest prices. We buy our goods lots and sell cheaper than those who buy in smaller quantities. Complete line of Agricultural Implements and Machinery. Fine stock of Cutlery, Guns, Pistols and Sporting Goods. Loaded Shell with Black or Smokeless Powder, Hunting Guns, Game Bags, etc. Cooking Stoves and Steel Ranges from the largest to the smallest in size as well as price. Tinware, Assorted Ware and Wooden Ware, Buckets for the well and domestic purposes. Hoes, Harrows, Shovels, Axes, and Spades as prices to suit the farmer. Knives and Fork Cutlery, etc. Cart Axes, Horse Collars and Harness, Trace Chains, Backbands and everything you need on a well regulated farm. Feb 12 th