

THE MORNING STAR
 Published by the
WILMINGTON STAR CO.
 J. E. THOMPSON,
 Vice President and General Manager
 ROBERT L. GRAY, Editor.

TELEPHONES.
 Business Office.....No. 51
 Editorial Rooms.....No. 61
 (Call 51 if 61 doesn't answer.)
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Entered as second-class matter at the postoffice at Wilmington, N. C. under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Tuesday, November 9, 1909.

AN OLD MAN ON THE JOB.

Secretary Wilson, of the National Department of Agriculture, is over seventy-five years of age. He became a cabinet officer when the majority of Mr. Taft's present official staff were so to speak, in swaddling clothes. Presidents come, and Presidents go. Secretaries stay on the job, by virtue of repeated invitations. He is known as the perennial cabinet member. Whatever happens in politics, whatever changes of sentiment are aroused throughout the country, Secretary Wilson is alike unperturbed himself and unjustified by change and turmoil. Under his direction the Agricultural Department remains the one important function of the government that is steady in policy and unchecked in progress.

At Durham the other day Secretary Wilson made an address, in which he urged education for the farm, rather than away from it. He pointed out what thoughtful men everywhere must realize that the economic history of the country as an exporting nation is shortly to be changed to meet the differing requirements of an importing nation, unless there shall be a renewed and marvelous increase in the output of the farms. Consumption has all but overtaken supply. The recent phenomenal prices of wheat and cotton have more behind them that speculation, even than an accidental short crop. These prices of staple food and the staple that is the basis of the clothing of the world mean that, with increased power of consumption, with increasing prosperity, with increasing capability of producing the foodstuffs life, the country has reached the point where it will soon be a question whether or not it can raise its own support from the ground. Of the cotton crop, the South now consumes in its own mills nearly one-half—more than is consumed by the New England mills. The day when American manufacturers will be in the market for every bale of cotton raised in the South has already dawned. The day when the vast fields of the West will be incapable of producing the foodstuffs needed by the country is in the near future. In the light of these economic facts, the duty and the responsibility of agriculture was never greater or clearer.

The reason why Secretary Wilson has remained at the head of his department is that from the beginning he has set the example of running a great phase of governmental activity upon business principles. He has turned his department into a business organization. He has bent the energies of his experts and expended the appropriations he receives into increasing production and bettering methods. Politics has no place under his management. Effectiveness and education have been the watchwords. As a result the Agricultural Department, organized as an experiment, has doubtless returned to the people ten dollars for every dollar it has cost. No phase of agriculture is too difficult to gain the department's attention. Its agents scour the earth for new plants. The soils of the country are constantly under the microscope. The possibilities of the country in the great consummation of making the land produce to its limit are never out of mind. The department, from being the most theoretical, has become the most practical.

The wonderful part of the whole matter is that Secretary Wilson is a farmer. He is, however, a scientific farmer. He and his department look upon the farm as a business enterprise. They treat its problems in the same terms of close finance, the same measure of broad outlook. They experiment, revise, adapt. When the people of the country shall have learned to educate themselves, as he says, for the farm, they will learn that, treated as a business, there is no line of endeavor possible of such return. The day of the slipshod farmer, as the day of the careless business man, has, however, passed. We are tending to exact science on the farm as well as in the business house. If the day when the balance of trade shall shift from export to import is to be longer delayed, the glory of preventing such an apparently inevitable development will be laid largely to the credit of this old man, perpetual office-holder, who has made a business of his office, where he might have made it into a department of politics.

THE PRESIDENT.

Wilmington is today to engage in giving the President of the United States a typical North Carolina welcome. It is a responsibility that has been well understood; we believe that it will be ably accepted. If there shall be sustained in the entertainment of Mr. Taft that quality of hospitality with dignity that is characteristic of the better traditions of the Southern nature, we feel certain, also, that the Chief Executive of the country, notwithstanding the fact that he has now been for months "on the road", will find that in the greeting extended him which shall fix the city of Wilmington and the State of North Carolina pleasantly in his mind.

Certainly there will be every reason apparent to him why it is important and desirable that the President of the United States should be here. Certainly the situation of Wilmington cannot fail to impress him. Surely he must see and appreciate the possibilities of the noble and historic Cape Fear. Indubitably will be found in the attitude of the people who will greet him the habit of a perfect courtesy. To meet such a collection of friends and well wishers as will be in this city today is enough to give a real thrill to the most jaded sensibilities.

With Wilmington behind him, the President will have practically met face to face the people of the country; North, East, West and South. Such experience cannot have failed to make him a broader and a bigger man. Necessarily, he has come better to understand what this country is, what it means, what it stands for. Such a trip has given him a broader charity, more universal sympathy with men and with conditions. It has served, too, to cement the people in understanding of their President. It has made the government visible to thousands to whom it had been nothing more than a name. It has added that touch of personal interest which is the backbone of real and lasting patriotism. The President has doubtless found all Americans pretty much alike; it is even more certain that Americans generally have found him easy in manner and likable in personality.

In Mr. Taft's entertainment today let it be hoped that the State will be true to itself in the character of the reception it will give. There will naturally be enthusiasm about the meeting. There will naturally be in evidence the holiday spirit inseparable from public events of this sort. The President will seem very close. His importance as a man will, if such a thing be possible, be magnified, and enlarged. Yet, let nothing happen on this account to permit the city and the State to lose in that dignity as becoming in a host as in a guest. Let there be no restraint in hospitality, but a natural and cool-headed restraint in utterance. For some too-enthusiastic individual to do or say something that he does not mean—which yet the community would have to shoulder—would be as regrettable and in as bad taste as if the President himself should forget the relationship growing out of his visit to promise this and say that which might serve to rob his better utterance of that spirit of sincerity in which lies its greatest, in fact, its only value.

We will have done well if, when the President goes away, he shall have received at our own hands the clean, modest and unostentatious welcome which is a charm of which the South holds the key.

THE SEABOARD OUT OF THE WOODS.

We referred some time ago to the remarkable fact that the Seaboard Air Line was being returned to its directors, after a receivership of twenty-two months, without the necessity of any sacrifice, and with its securities more valuable after than before the receivership. It is not putting it too strongly to say that this is an achievement absolutely unique in the history, not only of Southern, but of all railroads in the country. The average receivership has been a good method of finally killing a sick dog. Under its operation property after property, representing the hopes and fortunes of far-sighted men, the savings of multitudes of poor, and impractical people, have been wiped up so dry that they did not even leave a damp spot to indicate where their assets had been spilled. When the Seaboard went the way of its predecessors, it was but natural to suppose that another good property had been run down to a state of demoralization in order that it might take its place, at a ridiculous price, in the scheme of some company of capitalists ready to make a new system from the wreck of the old.

The return of the Seaboard last week was, therefore, surprising and more than gratifying. It indicates a new development of financial honesty. It means, almost, that the ideal has been proved possible. In its case that idea upon which receiversships are based—that they will conserve the assets and protect the creditors—was fully consummated. The end of the receivership marks a new precedent in American corporate history.

As we pointed out, this achievement was wrought by Southern men. There was not a "railroad sharp" among them. S. Davies Wardlaw is a native

Virginian, long known as a man of affairs in his native State; R. Lancaster Williams is a younger brother of that John Skelton Williams, in whose brain the Seaboard system was born, and to whom the South is expectantly looking as the next President of the road; E. Carl Duncan was raised in Beaufort, is a North Carolinian to the finger-tips, an unassuming man of business. Their personal triumph is, of course, a large one. But the greater interest to the public lies even above and beyond the return of the road to those who made it, even beyond the arrangement of its finances upon a basis where increased earnings and greater operating economy guarantee success and dividends. This greater interest lies in the warrant held out to Southern capital to engage in railroad building with reasonable expectation that something more shall come of their money than to construct a line of railroad for others to exploit. In this there is much of hope and courage for the South, a development that we acclaim and would impress upon all who see in the new era of higher prices and plentiful money the earnest of that advancement and business stability, toward which the South has been slowly working, to which it is daily more alive.

TO THOSE WHO WOULD DIG OUR GRAVE.

Some of the Star's county exchanges have recently jumped to the conclusion that, because this paper has seen fit to comment upon the recent movement to bring out ex-Governor Robert B. Glenn, as the Prohibition party's candidate for the Presidency, the Star is thereby aligning itself with the movement for a re-submission of the question of State prohibition.

Only a very careless reader or a very weak intellect could draw any such conclusion from anything which has appeared in the Star under its new management. So far from being "against prohibition", this paper has incidentally announced several times that it is in favor of the law, both because it is the law and ought to be obeyed in letter and spirit, and also because we conceive that the further agitation of no question could be so harmful to all the better interests of the State. The people who would continue to agitate for further liquor legislation are in our opinion indulging a dangerous course and are inimical to all the better impulses now finding expression in the State. The question is one that arose by reason of the vital interest which the people had in it. It has been settled by a decisive majority. We hope that it will stay settled, and that the great body of the people will frown upon any and all efforts to re-open it, whether such efforts are inaugurated by people whose desire is to return the saloon, or by people who, engrossed with one idea in an era of progress and business, would continue to find issues where there ought to be none. It was necessary in the interests of peace to deal with the liquor question; now that we have dealt with it, the man who would create further discord is a dangerous factor, whether he proceeds upon the premise of an unsatisfied prohibitionist or a disgruntled opponent of this new and problematical policy. We conceive that the State has better and higher things to think about than this.

As for ex-Governor Glenn, we wish to say now that we reserve the right to smile at him, or criticize him whenever, as he has so frequently done, he forgets the party that made him prominent. He has been well paid by the Democracy. His present vogue upon the profitable lecture platform comes as the result of party favor and party appreciation. We have had enough experience with "great men", however, to have confidence in the general assumption that greatness lies more in opportunity than in character. The attitude that "the King can do no wrong" that some of our over-enthusiastic friends seem to have adopted with relation to the ex-Governor is both foolish, and foreign to the proper prerequisites of that Democracy which the ex-Governor himself once so warmly espoused.

But to read into our words of amusement or criticism of Robert Broadnax Glenn the announcement of a policy which we have not only not pronounced, but with all plainness of diction expressly repudiated, is an achievement speaking poorly for the intelligence or the fairness of those who have pulled off such an illustration of mental acrobatics.

There is a great slump in the Republican majority in Boston. Under the new election law there were fifteen names printed on the one ballot for mayor. It is possible that, at the literary hub, there were in any great numbers would-be Republicans unable by reason of illiteracy to pick their horses?

The Charlotte Evening Post, welcoming the President, referred to the city as being "well preserved." We knew that Charlotte was old, but did not expect to meet such a confession in terms not applied except to the mob.

An Unsatisfactory Jury. A trial of much interest took place in Asheville, N. C., last week. A man was charged with the killing of his uncle. The case went to the jury last Wednesday. Four times this jury an-

nounced to the judge that it could not agree on a verdict. The attorneys for the defendant then declared that they would accept a verdict declaring their client guilty of manslaughter, which was another way of saying that their client would plead guilty to an indictment for manslaughter. Such a plea is well within the rights of the defendant.

However, in the Asheville case, the foreman of the jury now came forward with a remarkable announcement. He declared in open court that he would not agree to any such verdict unless the judge promised the minimum sentence permitted by the law. Fortunately, the judge happened to be the right kind of a judge and he proceeded to tell this jurymen a few things which he ought to have known before. Likewise the judge reached the conclusion that the jury was worthless, and was about to order a mistrial, when the belligerent foreman asked permission for the jury to withdraw. It did withdraw and presently returned with a verdict of manslaughter. The court sentenced the defendant to four years and six months imprisonment, his time to be spent in work on the county roads.

We do not know that the jury system is helped by occurrences such as this. The defendant probably feels that his life was placed at the mercy of chance, the jury having been absolutely unable, apparently, to even slightly comprehend its duty. Not content with hickering about the guilt or innocence of the prisoner, it wished to also determine his sentence. It probably desired to pronounce the defendant guilty, but subject to no punishment. Perhaps it had no idea what it did want, that is, excepting good meals at the hotel and a few other good things at the expense of the county. In fact, the foreman announced that all the members of the jury were anxious to visit the scene of the crime, thinking that it would aid them to reach a verdict, but they did not wish to go unless the court would provide automobiles. If they went in carriages it would not aid them in their deliberations at all, they intimated.

Just how can we expect our courts to have the respect of the people when juries of this kind are part of the legal machinery? It makes law ridiculous. We do not see that the Asheville jury is peculiar. There have been juries just as frivolous, with just as much disregard for the dignity and seriousness of their positions. We shall continue to have such juries as long as citizens persist in getting excused from jury duty, or are exempt by law. South Carolina is little better in this particular than Chicago. It seems as if every man of education has some good reason why he should not be on a jury. In fact, in some communities, it has become almost as bad as it was in the degenerate days of Athens and Rome, when men made their living by serving on juries.

We believe that a radical reform of our manner of selecting and providing jurymen is necessary. Perhaps much good could be accomplished by ceasing to pay jurymen, making service part of the duty of every citizen. This would do away with the so-called professional jurymen, who are so much in evidence in all of our large cities. Of course, however, nothing of real value will be accomplished until special classes are no longer exempt from jury duty.

A Good Thing. If there are 2,000,000 Southern people who are feeling puny and peevish on account of the hook worm having got 'em— And if Deacon Rockefeller restores them to health and peartness; Then, they will be interested in things, and will read at night. They will burn Mr. Rockefeller's oil, reading the newspapers. This would be a good thing for Mr. Rockefeller and the newspapers. To say nothing of the people—Asheville Gazette-News.

CURRENT COMMENT.

If Wilmington does not make President Taft wish he was born in North Carolina and live in this good State's chief seaport city, it will not be their fault, judging from the preparations being made for his coming and entertainment on the ninth—Henderson Gold Leaf.

Think of a railroad car capable of containing the President of the United States, the two Senators—one of them Ben Tillman—and the Governor of South Carolina, at one and the same time! That is the sort of vehicle that pulled out of Charleston this morning for Columbia, and it must be regarded as a marvel of construction and capacity.—Charleston Post.

From a commercial standpoint Canada is as much a part of the United States as New York or Massachusetts or Illinois or Texas. Last year we sold to the Dominion merchandise aggregating in value more than one hundred and fifty million dollars. Were trade with our neighbors to the North as free as among the different States of this Union, our commerce with Canada would have been two or three times as large. When the maximum provision of the new tariff law becomes effective, after next March, it is likely to fall off by half or more. Great is protection and Aldrich is its Present day prophet.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

For a long time The Chronicle was permitted to stand alone in its protest against exaggerated statements and the wild sort of advertising that has been given the South, but Rockefeller's million has waked them up. Papers that heretofore have been very quiet are very loud in their exclamations against accepting Rockefeller's money, but it is too late. No time was lost in grabbing it up. We would not object if Rockefeller would put out another million. His expenditure in this direction is a perfectly legitimate one and the more millions he puts into circulation, the richer the South becomes thereby. Our policy is to keep the money out of the money.—Charlotte Chronicle.

All unbeknownst to us, Southport is actually being approached by that long-talked of railroad. It is called the Wilmington, Brunswick & Southport Railroad, and the Wilmington Dispatch, at yesterday, tells us "the work of laying rails in progress for some time past, continues steadily and the tracks are now completed within two miles of Town Creek, in Brunswick county. This makes a total of

TAFT SALE



- \$12.50 Military Capes this Week \$9.98
- \$10.00 Voile Skirts \$7.50
- \$5.00 Panama Skirts \$3.50
- \$15.00 Cloak asst. colors \$12.24
- \$5.00 Trimmed or Ready to Wear Hats \$3.50
- Boys \$5.00 Suits \$3.50

This store joins heartily in welcoming the President to our city and cordially invites all out-of-town visitors to make their headquarters with us. The visit of President Taft to Wilmington on November 9th will be a memorable occasion. Hundreds of people living in the surrounding territory will join with the residents of our city in giving him a right royal Southern welcome. And Wilmington's leading store will do its full share toward contributing to the enjoyment of the day.

First of all we wish to extend the freedom of our store to all those from out of town. You will find this the largest, most modern, best stocked and most interesting establishment of its kind in Wilmington and the one that best repays a visit, whether you come to rest and look around or for the more important purpose of spending money. You'll find it a comfortable place, with a friendly make-yourself-at-home atmosphere and every one connected with it will show you every courtesy and attention.

To make your visit one of rich profit as well as pleasure, we will present Extraordinary Special Values in our magnificent new stocks of Millinery, Cloaks, Furs, Dress Goods, and Silks, Men's Clothing, Shoes, Carpets, Etc.

A great many people will take advantage of their visit to the city on this occasion to supply their Fall and Winter merchandise needs, and we have planned to help them do so by providing unusual special values which will enable them to save substantially on their requirements. Note the special items listed here:

- Boys \$5.00 Over Coat \$3.50
- 25c Cotton Warp Mattings for 18c.
- \$1.50 Smyrna Rugs 98c.
- 50c Flannel Suits 39c
- \$15.00 Airschbaum Suit \$12.50
- \$12.50 Kirschbaum Suit \$9.98

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