

A bill well and fairly drawn relative to the oyster culture has been introduced in the Senate, we are pleased to learn. The bill extends over a certain portion of the available area as liberal laws as could be expected at this stage of the proceedings. It is a great industry in the future, and it is the imperative duty of enlightened legislators to do their part now in fostering and developing it as far as possible. The bill was made a special order for yesterday and before this is before the reader it may have passed the Senate. We must lament will meet with due favor in the House. It is just one of those questions that has not any politics in it. It is a simple business question. It is to develop a most important industry and make it contribute to the wealth and support of the State, as is the case in the States north of us, and what Connecticut has done under extreme difficulties, have to bring the oyster plants many hundreds of miles, can surely be done by North Carolina. What New York, with a small fishing area, has done can certainly be done by a State so favored as our own with a million of acres that can be utilized. What Maryland and Virginia have done to their great enrichment and pleasure, can be done by North Carolina, for the natural advantages of this State are greater perhaps than those of either of the States named.

We desire to call the attention of our legislators to the following, which we copy from page 121 of Lieut. Winslow's very able report. Rhode Island is about the size of one of North Carolina's big counties. See what has been done by a wise system:

"In 1863 Rhode Island adopted a law which practically allowed individuals to take up unlimited tracts of bottom and secured to them its possession. The effect of this measure has been unspeakably good, and I quote from the Report of the Maryland Oyster Commission some of the principal results which have followed upon this sensible action of the State:

"The price of oysters has decreased, and the supply has become so abundant that only one-tenth are needed for the home market, and nine-tenths of the annual supply is sold outside the State.

"In 1855, oysters sold for \$1.75 per solid gallon; in 1875 the price was \$1.15 to \$1.10, and in 1880 it had fallen to 90¢ per bushel.

"The area which was used for planting in 1870 was only 663 acres, and the yield was 693,929 lb. into the State Treasury; it employed a capital of over \$1,000,000; it paid \$137,000 in wages to the people of the State; it furnished the market with 690,000 bushels of oysters, worth \$690,000, to the producers, and it gave support to 3,400 people.

"In 1883, that State received \$11,000 from the oyster business. Since the war probably \$100,000 have been derived for the support of the State by Rhode Island from the oyster business alone. That State has laws that protect, foster and develop the industry and secure aid to the State at the same time.

A DISGRACE TO THE STATE.

Some time in the past by sheerest accident Smelfungus became Governor of North Carolina, an officer which when got he did not know what to do with it. It is true that as Chief Executive he was treated with courtesy by the Democrats of the State. It was the lion's skin, you know, they respected, and not the miserable braying ass that wore it.

Well, as time elapsed, it became necessary for Smelfungus to exercise the powers of the high office he accidentally had possession of but which he could never fill. We wish to refresh the memories of readers as to one of his many disgraceful official acts.

Perhaps as fiendish, as devilish, as horrible a murder as was ever committed on the American continent was committed near this city. In the history of crimes there is scarcely to be found anything more barbarous, more horrifying than the murder of little Willie Carter. He was first shockingly, cruelly maimed in his person and then murdered. His murderer was arrested, tried, found guilty, and sentenced to be hanged.

But this was not to be, for Smelfungus was Governor. He saved the villain from a richly deserved fate. On the day the murderer was to have

been hanged Smelfungus commuted his sentence to imprisonment for life. This was very bad. But not the worst. The villain was afterwards pardoned by the same Smelfungus and turned loose upon society.

Was ever anything more infamously done by a man sitting in the chief chair of the State and empowered with life and death? It is no wonder that the best citizens of Wilmington felt deeply outraged. Said to us on Wednesday one of the most respected of the natives of this city—"You ought to remind Brogden of his infernal act in the Carter case—the most infamous act possible."

There were doubtless true men in this section who thought that a fellow who would save such a bloody criminal ought to hang himself. Smelfungus ought to betake himself to the backwoods of Wayne and hide himself from the gaze of all honorable men. But what an infinitesimal creature he is when examined! If you would learn how this despicable fellow is regarded in Wilmington talk with the men of character and intelligence about that awful mutilating and murdering of the poor little boy Carter.

The New York Sun claims to have made a careful study of the strength of the German and French forces. We condense the main points from a long article. France has a larger population and more arms-bearing people. The Sun says:

"The peace effective of the French army, according to last year's budget, is 623,358, comprising 310 officers and 492,148 enlisted men. The peace footing of the German Empire comprises 18,143 officers and 437,574 men, making an aggregate of 445,417."

The Germans have just added 73,000 of the reserves. The war footing is thus given:

"Turning to the war footing, the first addition of France would be what is called the territorial army, which comprises an aggregate of 618,000 officers and men. Other additions would be the total effective under the first call up to 1,600,000 men, including all arms and staff services. The German mobilization for a war footing, without the landwehr and special organizations, but including garrison and field reserves, would comprise 35,427 officers and 1,074,000 men, with 47,000 men for the medical collateral forces. Thus we see again how close the two mobilizations would come in numerical strength."

France is very much stronger in artillery and Germany in cavalry. Germany has 1,404 guns; France has 1,856. Germany has 64,000 cavalry; France about 48,000.

COTTON PLANTING A NECESSITY.

The Governor of Virginia has just told the world that the farmers in his State are worse off now than they were soon after Lee's surrender. Bill Arp has just found that in Georgia not more than ten farmers in a county are prospering. The Star has time and again insisted that North Carolina farmers were much worse off in 1885 and 1886 than they were in 1869 and 1870. When there is to be some improvement is more than we can say. We do not see how it is possible for a favorable change except under four conditions:

First, higher prices for produce.

Second, cultivating less poor land and enriching the area devoted to cropping.

Third, greater economy and industry.

Fourth, multiplying, diversifying of crops.

If the farmers do not raise their own wheat, oats, corn, hay, root crops, vegetables, they will be out of pocket and will have to buy their bacon and pork and butter and lard or go without them. With good prices, wiser farming, and better crops the farmers can gradually work out from under the yoke of lien laws and high interest. But when all this is to come is beyond us. We find in the late Baltimore Manufacturers Record a long and interesting letter from Wadesboro, written 2d February, by Col. B. S. Pardee, of Connecticut. He is a practical, wide-awake observer. He shows how it is impossible under the circumstances for the farmers to ever quit raising cotton. "We must make a somewhat long extract from his letter. He says:

"Since then (the war) in adjusting himself to the new system, the farmer has been led to how to make money off his land. When the price of cotton was high he had little difficulty; that was his cash crop, and if the season was favorable, it paid him handsomely. Even in bad seasons he managed to pull through. But when the price of cotton fell lower and lower until it reached the average of the year, one unfavorable season gave him a set-back that threw him into the hands of the commission merchant, and then began the ruinous system that obtains in the Cotton States. It was no fault of the farmer and none of the merchant. It is but one of the unfortunate conditions of the industrial revolution. The farmer has his land, his tools and his stock, and he must have food and clothing. They can only get these from the merchant by giving him security on his real and personal property, and then begin the average of the year; he must have cash or its equivalent to meet his own obligations, and cotton is the only thing the farmer can raise that is sure of a cash market. So the creditor is forced to make it a condition of his advances that the crop shall consist mainly of cotton. Just so long as these conditions exist it is idle to attempt to induce the farmer to quit cotton growing. He cannot help himself."

There is one thing the farmers can do. They can gradually improve their lands until they shall produce twice the quantity they now produce.

We have printed this winter instances of farmers in this State making more than a good bag of cotton to the acre last year. In Edgecombe, Pitt, Halifax, Nash, Greene, Wilson and other fine cotton counties you will find many go-ahead farmers who make from 300 to 450 pounds cotton to the acre. This ought to be the case everywhere. The late Capt. Tibbigh, of Edgecombe, would not cultivate an acre of poor land. Enrich your lands if you would make them pay. Home manures, marl, &c., are absolute essentials.

A North Carolinian at Reidsville is said to have invented a cotton picker that will gather 90 per cent of open cotton. Its daily capacity is from 3,000 to 3,500 pounds.

Mr. William N. Bowden died at his residence in this city yesterday morning about one o'clock, after an illness of several weeks from typhoid fever. Mr. Bowden was a native of this city and aged about fifty-two years. He had been in railroad service a number of years, first with the Wilmington & Manchester Railroad Company in 1853, but of late years as paymaster and inspector of agencies of the Carolina Central, and very recently was promoted to the position of ticket auditor of the Raleigh & Augusta, Raleigh & Gaston, and Carolina Central Railroads. He was a member of St. John's Lodge No. 1, F. and A. M., of the order of Knights of Pythias, and of the veteran corps of the Wilmington Light Infantry. Socially and in business circles he was held in the highest esteem. His funeral will take place this afternoon at half past 4 o'clock from his late residence, corner of Second and Chestnut streets. The pall-bearers are Messrs. Alvis Walker, R. F. Langdon, Roger Moore, Henry West, Thos. Lippitt, W. W. Clark and J. H. Sharp.

An Entertainment at Teachers' A correspondent of the Star, writing from Teachers', N. C., gives an account of a delightful entertainment at that place on the evening of the 11th inst., by pupils of the Institute. The entertainment was given in the Opera House, which was crowded with spectators. The first piece on the programme was a chorus, "Happy Reunions," sung by the whole school. Recitations, dialogues and tableaux succeeded each other till about 10 p. m., when Professor McIntyre, of Paison, delivered a highly entertaining and instructive address. More recitations and tableaux followed, and the "Courtship of Miles Standish" concluded the exhibition, which reflected great credit upon the managers of the institute, and particularly Miss Smith, who furnished the music and gave general direction to the execution of the different pieces.

At an adjacent building refreshments of the most substantial and enticing kind were spread in lavish profusion, and after doing full justice to these, the seats were removed from the Opera House and the young folks danced the night away.

The New Frederick has leased the entire Purcell building, and has spared no pains to make it attractive and pleasant for his guests.

The dining room is large and commodious and has been carefully renovated and refurnished. The parlor and sleeping rooms are large and airy and neatly fitted up, presenting a most inviting appearance.

Mr. Joe Herbert, formerly of the Star Saloon, has rented the bar and billiard room, which are arranged most conveniently, and where liquors of all kinds can be procured.

Col. Frederick has had a long experience in the hotel business, and will undoubtedly do well.

The Spanish Barque Maria. The captain and crew of the abandoned Spanish barque Maria came up to the city yesterday from Smithville, and are quartered at the Seaman's Home. The barque was in the possession of the pilots at the quarantine station. The owner of the vessel, who resides in New York city, has been notified of the condition of affairs by Mr. F. J. Lord, the Spanish Consul at this port, and is expected here to-morrow. An agent of the owners of the cargo reached here yesterday and went down to the vessel in the afternoon.

A Bridge Over Brunswick River. A substantial wooden bridge is in course of construction over Brunswick river, at the ferry. The work is being done under contract for the ferry company. Stone bulkheads have been built on both sides of the river, and piles have driven in the river bed for the support of the structure. The contractor has until the first of May to complete the bridge but it is probable that it will be finished some time before that date.

Cotton Movement. The cotton movement at this port has slackened up considerably, the weekly receipts beginning to show a falling off compared with the corresponding weeks last year. The receipts for the past week were 857 bales, against 1,238 bales received during the week ended March 20th, 1886—a decrease of 471 bales. The receipts for the crop year up to and including yesterday are 127,909 bales, against 90,068 for the same time last year; an increase of 38,841 bales.

The Stock on Hand at this port yesterday was 3,326 bales, against 7,239 bales at the same date last year.

Exports Yesterday. Messrs. Alex. Spruit & Son cleared the German brig *Monte* yesterday, for Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, with 2,418 barrels of rosin, valued at \$3,100.

Messrs. Wm. Walter & Finkle cleared the German barque *Belona* with 229 pieces of cypress lumber, measuring 916,940 feet, and 4,459 feet of cypress lumber, valued at \$4,085.

Brig Water Witch cleared yesterday for Hermanns, P. R., with 130,000 feet of lumber, valued at \$1,778 70, shipped by Messrs. S. & W. H. Northrop; 100 barrels rosin, valued at \$66.30, shipped by Messrs. E. G. Barker & Co.; 10,000 feet lumber, 5,000 shingles, 100 barrels pot, 5 barrels beef, 5 barrels flour and 1 iron safe, valued at \$1,648.88, shipped by Capt. M. Knebel.

The general health of the city is excellent, as it is shown by the mortality returns of the past week; only three interments being reported, and all three adults, over 25 years of age.

The Raleigh correspondent of the Star writes:

"In the hall of the House of Commons Wednesday evening there was a joint meeting of the committee of the House on Education and Agriculture and the committee appointed by the State Senate to investigate the question of the industrial school held here during January. The purpose of the meeting was the discussion of matters relative to the proposed State College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts. Mr. Leazar, chairman of the Committee on Education, called the meeting to order. Senator Fumerton read the bill establishing the college above mentioned. Mr. Leazar made some remarks upon the bill, and upon the plan of the meeting. He said that the bill would be of fifteen minutes' length. He called on Mr. Primrose as a gentleman well informed on the question of industrial education."

Mr. Primrose spoke of the inception and growth of the industrial school idea. He said it had been in the minds of the Arkansas college could not be established without the industrial school. So the latter advocated had joined their forces and funds. He said the cost of the industrial school had been estimated at \$85,000, and the actual cost at \$10,000, though the latter sum could be reduced. Remarks were made by Messrs. H. S. Keith, W. J. Peole, R. S. Tucker, W. P. Jones, J. H. Smith, J. H. Logan of Atlanta, and S. B. Alexander. At 10.30 the meeting adjourned. The general sentiment is very favorable to the school."

Vessels arriving at this port report passing the wreck of a small vessel floating bottom upward, supposed to be the schooner *Edith Lincoln*, which was sunk in collision off Body Island on the 3d inst., and the crew of which were rescued and brought into this port by the schooner *Jennie Hall*, now repairing at Skinner's ship yard. The wreck was last sighted by the schooner *Harold C. Beecher*, at Savannah, February 15th from New York, in latitude 35.33, longitude 76. It is in the track of vessels plying up and down the coast, and is probably the same wreck recently reported by several vessels arriving at New York. The schooner *Edith Lincoln*, of 140 tons, was built at the yard of the late Capt. J. H. Smith, at the mouth of the Roanoke river, and was wrecked on the 3d inst. at Body Island, off the coast of North Carolina. The schooner was carrying a cargo of the wrecked vessel."

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