

The subscription price of the WEEKLY STAR is as follows: Single Copy 1 cent, postage paid, \$1.50 per annum in advance.

The very first important action of the Railroad Commission is to suspend temporarily the law reducing rates on a large number of railways because it would very materially injure them if allowed to go into operation.

The Commission has taken the position that it has power to suspend the operation of the law, at least for a while. Whether they have omniscient power and can set aside the law at discretion or not is a very doubtful and debatable.

The New York Times says of the law: "That we are not to have a liberal interpretation of the law, which probably the Commission will intend to make, will not operate seriously to the disadvantage of the South or of its railroads."

"Even then it does not affect the rates to be charged, but only the aggregate compensation for the entire distance, for the transportation of like kind of property, under substantially similar circumstances and conditions."

"This is important. If correct, as we take it to be, it removes all grounds of fear lest the enforcement of the law should become oppressive on the one hand or destructive on the other."

The Southern Press Association meets in Richmond, Va., on the 16th of May next.

Looking the stable door after the horse is stolen is not a paying operation, but it is quite like some folks.

Year ago the STAR sounded the alarm as to the fast destruction of the walnut and other valuable trees in the Northern and Middle States.

The STAR urged upon the people owning black walnut trees not to sell. They are used by the manufacturers of furniture and both builders.

The result is that lands and trees are bought at low prices. Louisiana, Florida and Mississippi are said to be well supplied with walnut trees.

North Carolina has already disposed of a great deal—possibly the most—of its walnut lumber.

We copy this not for controversy, but for the purpose of letting our readers see that there are "a great many Cleveland men" in the Fayetteville section, and to express a view of our own.

"Wire-pullers or disgruntled office-seekers" say very much about Mr. Cleveland. The people we know best and with whom we talk most are not of either of the classes thus referred to.

They are quiet, intelligent citizens who are not politicians, have not sought office, and have no complaint to make of Mr. Cleveland on the score of disappointment.

They are men of sense, of character, and are Democrats. They are disappointed in the President as a Democratic official, and that is the whole of it.

They have seen him favoring principles that were dear to Wall Street; they have seen him advocating measures that President Arthur advocated; they have seen him appointing Republicans to high and lucrative positions; they have seen him retain Republicans in office; they have seen him favoring one small section in his many appointments to the exclusion of the great sections; they have seen him self-referential to the exclusion of all advice, and pertinacious, determined and self-willed to an extent that was neither reasonable nor wise.

It is these things that have made the people—the thinking, honest, independent people dissatisfied, and not the politicians and office-seekers merely.

There are many good qualities in the President. His ability has no doubt been exaggerated but he is not without ability. His honesty is as accepted as true and sound. He has not a doubt to economize and to be just. But his great fault is that he has tried to be independent and above his party. No man can prosper in this country as President without a party to sustain him.

Why, dear Mr. Arnold, the South is the native home of local self government or home rule, for they are the same. The great apostle of freedom lived and died in the South—Jefferson.

We have mentioned in the STAR how Greensboro resolved by vote to appropriate \$100,000 in building up the town. The Patriot gives a striking result as follows:

"The election here on the 28th has left its 'foot prints upon the sands of time.' As a result a gentleman from Norfolk after ascertaining the result writes us that he contemplates coming here with \$50,000 capital to engage in business."

It corrects us as to the population. It says there are six or seven thousand inhabitants.

"A quarter of a century ago—just twenty-five years ago today—Beauregard withdrew his shattered army from the awful field of Shiloh."—New York World.

A quarter of a century ago U. S. Grant, with his shattered and demoralized remnant of an army, was driven by Sidney Johnson under the shelter of the gunboats and but for his untimely death they would have been bagged, and Grant and Sherman would have disappeared from history.

Representative Springer thinks Mr. Cleveland will be the man in 1888. He thinks the people are pining to have him renominated.

with office, with office-holders, office-seekers or office-hoppers. But even if mistakes in this, he represents a powerful array of voters who do not believe in dividing honors and offices and emoluments with Republicans, or in attempting to carry on a Democratic Administration with Republican agents who had grown sleek and impudent upon a quarter of a century of official pap.

Gov. Vance and tens of thousands of North Carolina Democrats believe in turning out Republicans and putting in sound, honest, capable Democrats.

Mr. George W. Curtis, the real author of the Civil Service law, and a pronounced Republican of the old Harper's Weekly stripe, which he has edited for a quarter of a century, in his recent publication states that up to date President Cleveland has turned out but a paltry, beggarly 64 per cent. of the Republicans he found in office when he came into power himself.

If true, Curtis and the Republicans generally have great cause to rejoice and be grateful to Mr. Cleveland. But did the Democrats of North Carolina expect that when they tugged and sweated and voted in 1864?

That staid, old-time Democratic paper, the Charlotte Democrat, edited by the veteran Yates, in its issue of Friday says:

"Yes, if the successful party is not to have the advantages and emoluments of the Government, what is the use of hurrying against any particular individual or individuals, if he or they are honest and capable, and if there is no vital principle dividing the two parties?"

Here in Wilmington it has been noticed by persons familiar with the Cape Fear that the tides have ruled lower than before the August earthquake.

"This statement may not be perfectly correct, but there is reason to believe it is substantially so. The tidal wave from the ocean is of course as high now as it was before the earthquake. But the explanation of the lower tides is the deviation of the bed of the river and the adjacent coast by the seismic forces. During the present century long tracts of coast in the Carolinas have been raised by the action of the sea. Sir Bartle Frere records the fact that for three days after the earthquake of 1819 in the Delta of the Indus the canals draining from the Fulleah river ceased to run, indicating a general upheaval of the lower part of the canal. There is evidence in the present century of a similar raising of the coast by the action of the sea. It is more likely, however, that if the Carolina coast has been raised by the action of the sea, it will gradually sink to its former level."

Colored Troops and the National Drift. Mr. T. C. DeLeon, managing Secretary of the National Drift, writes from Washington, D. C., to Col. W. C. Jones, commanding Second Regiment N. C. S. G. Co.

"The two companies from Montgomery, Ala. have with a few exceptions been permitted to enter. Three other companies, including Capt. W. H. Jones' company, have been refused. I have replied that the colored troops which have entered, and may come, are two companies of the 8th U. S. Colored Infantry, one company from the District of Columbia."

"Should any colored troops whatever be sent to the Delta of the Indus, they will not do guard duty with the whites. The intention of the committee is to avoid in every way any approach to social equality by the matter, which is simply a military one."

The Signal Service reports the schooner Nettie Potter, Capt. Wabab, of and for Washington, N. C., from New York, destroyed by fire near Cape Henry last Wednesday. The fire started among the cargo in the hold and the captain, finding that he could not extinguish it, ran the vessel ashore. The vessel and cargo are a total loss.

A British Captain's Experience with Earthquakes. One of the British steamship Etioles, well known in Wilmington), gave his experience in the Riviera earthquakes to a reporter at Baltimore, where his vessel has recently arrived from Genoa.

"At 5.30 I observed a commotion in the waters of the harbor, and looking toward the city I saw her church spires oscillate and the building rocks of the tallest buildings. The Etioles for a moment shivered and shook like a leaf in the wind, and then she rolled heavily from side to side. Vessels all about me were similarly affected, and the waters of the harbor were agitated as if some great hand were stirring their depths."

"On shore the sight was awful. Thousands of persons were shouting at the top of their voices and embracing each other in sad and dark farewells. Thousands were on their knees and sending up to heaven their prayers and supplications. Mothers clasped their children in their arms, and in a spirit of trepidation, less powerful than the fears they felt ashore, looked out from the beach into the sea. Men sprang boldly into the water and swam toward the anchored vessels, but when they noticed the mysterious motion of the water they turned and rapidly made for land. Finally the crowd massed near the water line and, like dumb creatures, patiently awaited their fate. Later on, during that day, the people of Genoa became more assured, but it was several days before they entered their humble homes, or sought their own beds within the confining limits of a house. The Etioles was also in the harbor of Wilmington, N. C., during the severe earthquake that devastated the city of Charleston, but I witnessed no such quaking as I have just described. I was in Wilmington at the time, and I remember such a quaking as I heard it rumbling, but save the fright of a few colored people, the general demeanor of the people during those times was calm. The waters of the harbor here, as at Genoa, were excited during the shocks, and my men aboard ship were conscious of the visitation of the phenomenon."

Cotton Movement. The cotton movement at this port the past week was small, the receipts being only 309 bales, against 1,103 bales the corresponding week last year.

Receipts for the crop year up to yesterday were 132,646 bales, against 96,880 bales for the same time last year—an increase of 35,766 bales.

The stock at this port is 2,263 bales; against 2,420 bales the same time last year.

A small dwelling house on Masonboro Sound was destroyed by fire last Friday evening. The fire was accidental. The occupants of the house—a family of colored people—saw nothing of their effects.

The second Regiment N. C. S. G. Co. Some of the companies of the Second Regiment have a busy time before them for the rest of this month and the greater part of May.

It is understood that the Wilmington Light Infantry will hold a meeting this week to consider the invitation extended by the Sampson Guards to attend the railroad celebration at Clinton on the 27th inst.

It is believed that a majority of the members of the company are in favor of accepting the invitation.

The encampment of the regiment in this city is the next event that will command attention. It will be held on the 20th to the 23rd of May, and to perfect the arrangements necessary to make the affair what it ought to do and double will have a great deal to do and no time to spare. The visiting companies will be the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry, the Middleburg Guards, the Sampson Guards and the Salisbury Rifles.

Following the encampment is the National Drill at Washington, D. C., to be held on the 28th to the 30th of May. At least two companies of the regiment will take part in this—the Fayetteville Light Infantry and Maxton Guards—and will probably take their departure for Washington from this city on the 28th.

Upheaval of the Carolina Coast. A correspondent at Allenton, N. C., writes to the New York Herald as follows:

"Since the earthquake of August at Charleston, S. C., the tides have ruled in Tyrrell and Dare counties at least eight inches lower than ever before. Our object people say that the water in the Cape Fear and its tributaries has been lower than they ever saw it before the August earthquake."

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INTER-STATE COMMERCE. Opinion Among Railroad Men as to Action Taken on the Long and Short Lines. PHILADELPHIA, April 7.—General opinion among railroad officials in this city is that the action of the Inter-State Commerce Commission in the long and short haul question, concerning Southern railroads, will crush the entire measure. They argue that this is the most vital feature of the bill, and that the bill taken by the Commission, even though it be of a temporary nature, is the entering wedge that has been made for the passage of a permanent law. There is no real risk of any consequence in the entire country, said a prominent railroad executive, "and further, this will not make the same claim as that contended for by Southern lines, and the justice of their claim cannot fall to be recognized. Here, in almost the heart of the country, they array against them every railroad that has directly or remotely a water route as competitor, and further, this, they have taken such a position as will unite the commercial affairs of the country for three months or more."

Washington, April 7.—The Inter-State Commerce Commission has appointed E. L. Pugh, of Alabama, to a clerkship under that commission. Mr. Pugh is a son of Senator Pugh of Alabama, and was appointed by the Commission.

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INTERNATIONAL. Cabinet Meeting.—The Canadian Fisheries Dispute.—Great Britain's Demand on Hayti.—Atlantic Seal Fisheries. WASHINGTON, April 7.—The Cabinet met at 11 o'clock to-day, in accordance with the plan for the summer months, and remained in session until 12 o'clock. The meeting was devoted almost entirely to the consideration of international questions; the most important relating to the Canadian fisheries, the policy of Great Britain in regard to the island of Hayti and the seal fisheries of Alaska.

In regard to the fisheries question, it is understood that England maintains the position taken by the Canadian authorities, and is in no wise disposed to make the concessions requested by this government. This question was considered by the Cabinet with a view to the advisability of suitable action by the President under the provisions of the retaliatory act.

The alleged demand of Great Britain for possession of the Tortugas Islands or payment by the Haytian Government of \$1,000,000 in settlement of the claims, was considered as long as length. The United States has great interests in Hayti, considerable fisheries, and is deeply concerned in its welfare and prosperity. Its response will be opened with England on this subject.

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FISHERIES DISPUTE. Maine Fishermen Suggesting that the President Close U. S. Ports to Canadian Fish Products.—Mr. Cleveland's Reply. WASHINGTON, April 7.—The President having received a communication from the President of the Maine Fishermen's Association, suggesting that the retaliatory act passed by the late Congress would, in their opinion, be sufficiently executed if proposed to be applied to the fisheries of the United States markets to Canadian fish products, has made the following answer:

Executive Mansion, Washington, April 7, 1887.—To George Steed, Esq., President American Fishery Union, and others, Gloucester, Mass.: Gentlemen—I have received your letter addressed to me, and have given full consideration to the expression of the views and wishes therein contained, in relation to the existing differences between the governments of Great Britain and the United States, growing out of the refusal to award our citizens engaged in fishing enterprises the privilege to which they are entitled, either under treaty stipulations or guarantees of international comity and courtesy.

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