

UNDER THE PLUM TREE.

Behold the office-seeker come. And lo! he has the big tree gable. And does each want the biggest plum? Well, rather. Little plums! Rich and ripe and rare. Oh! don't they look tempting. As they hang up there! Big plums! Little plums! Every size and shape. They'll soon come a tumbling; Don't let one escape!

THE A. & N. C. RAILROAD.

Raleigh News and Observer. In a conversation with Governor Scales yesterday he expressed himself as highly gratified at the present condition of the Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad under the management of President Washington Bryan, and said that he would have every reason to feel satisfied with its condition at the expiration of his administration. The Governor gave some facts in connection with the road and its management under the presidency of Mr. Bryan. When he took charge of the road he found it largely bad state of repair. The rails were old and worn out, the bridges were dilapidated, and it was in a condition of general decay. To compare the road now with its condition then shows striking improvement. Governor Scales said that the bonded debt of the road now amounts to about \$325,000 and will not exceed with the floating debt added more than \$350,000 or \$360,000 at the outside. The new bonds which bear six per cent. interest have been exchanged for the old bonds which bear eight per cent. The road will have at the close of Governor Scales' administration steel rails from one end to the other—from Goldsboro to Morehead City and its rolling stock and other property are now in splendid condition. No road could be in a better condition than the Atlantic and North Carolina at present. Its financial status not only shows a good improvement but is positively flourishing and prosperous. The stock when Gov. Scales came in sold for 7 cents, and it is now selling for 22.

Governor Scales, in speaking of the board of directors, yesterday, also said that he had every reason to feel gratified at the course pursued by them from beginning to end. No one had criticized a single official act of theirs in the administration of the affairs of the road, which they enjoyed the confidence of the whole State, both individually and as a body. Upon the whole, Governor Scales is to be congratulated upon the steady improvement and the final excellent condition of the road during his administration, and President Bryan is to be congratulated upon his able and successful management of the property. As Governor Scales said yesterday, he has proved himself an honest, faithful and capable officer.

TREED BY A STUFFED BEAR.

The Thrilling Experience of a Newark Printer and Hunter. NEWARK, N. J., Dec. 15.—Charles Nichols, foreman of the composing room of a Newark newspaper, met with a terrible experience yesterday while hunting in the mountains about Greenwood Lake. While walking along the line of the railroad near Greenwood station Nichols was suddenly confronted by a bear of uncommonly large size. For a moment the hunter could distinguish nothing but the white teeth and glaring eyes. The bear was apparently as much bewildered as Nichols, for they both stood motionless for several seconds. Then the hunter made for the nearest tree, up which he scrambled with an activity that belied his gray hair. In another moment the intrepid hunter had unslung his shotgun and was sending shot after shot into the carcass of the animal. But even unexampled treatment brought no response from Brain. At length the cartridges were exhausted, and although the thermometer was down to 10 degrees above zero, Nichols was compelled to remain in the cramped position four solid hours. It was only when a train rushed off to the station for freight that relief came, and then it was discovered that the bear was only a stuffed skin that had been placed there by a taxidermist for removal to New York by the freight train. Mr. Nichols was however, it is believed, rendered the skin useless, and will probably have to buy it in order to avoid a lawsuit.

A Wonderful Fly. John E. Madden, of Lexington, Ky., has purchased for \$7,500 the three-year-old filly "Bosque Bonita," sired by "Macey's H. Amblerion." She is considered by all the drivers as the best three-year-old trotter that has been shown in Kentucky this season, and some say, all things considered, she is the best ever shown in Kentucky, as she was hardly broken in June. After two or three drives she was found to be a real climber, as she trotted a half mile in 1:07, getting a record of 2:24, which is the best record in the world over a half-mile track, and she did it in the fourth heat of the race. It is reported that Mr. Madden will take "Bosque Bonita" and several other fast ones to England this winter.

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COMMERCIAL.

WILMINGTON MARKET. STAFF OFFICE, Dec. 18. SPIRITS TURPENTINE.—The market opened quiet at 48 cents per gallon, with sales of receipts at 48 cents. ROSIN.—Market steady at 80 cents per bbl for Strained and 82 cents for Good Strained. TAR.—Market quoted steady at \$1.30 per bbl of 280 lbs., with sales at quotations. CRUDE TURPENTINE.—Distillers quote the market firm at \$2.35 for Virgin and Yellow Dip and \$1.85 for Hard.

COTTON.—Market quoted steady. Sales of 900 bales on a basis of 94 cents for middling. Quotations at the Produce Exchange were as follows: Ordinary..... 61 cts @ 70 lbs Good Ordinary..... 7 1/2-16 " " Low Middling..... 8 " " Middling..... 9 " " Good Middling..... 9 1/2-16 " "

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