

The Weekly Star. WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1891. VOL. XXII. NO. 15. \$1.00 A YEAR, IN ADVANCE.

12 Months	\$10.00
6 Months	\$5.50
3 Months	\$3.00

Subscription Price: The subscription price of the Weekly Star is as follows: 1 year, postage paid, \$1.00; 6 months, 55 cents; 3 months, 30 cents.

Advertising Schedule: 1st Month, 10 cents per line; 2nd Month, 8 cents per line; 3rd Month, 6 cents per line; 4th Month, 5 cents per line; 5th Month, 4 cents per line; 6th Month, 3 cents per line; 7th Month, 2 cents per line; 8th Month, 1 cent per line; 9th Month, 1 cent per line; 10th Month, 1 cent per line; 11th Month, 1 cent per line; 12th Month, 1 cent per line.

CITIZENS' MEETING.

There was a large crowd at the court house last night to endorse a candidate for Railroad Commissioner, this being an adjourned meeting from the Produce Exchange on Monday. The meeting was called to order by Mr. M. Cronly, and Mr. J. C. Stevenson acted as secretary. After the calling of the meeting, Capt. W. R. Kenan arose and said that he had never been a candidate for the position of Railroad Commissioner, and while he thanked his friends for the kind mention of his name, he would ask that his name be not presented to the meeting, as he could not accept the position even if he were to receive the endorsement of the citizens and was elected by the Legislature.

STATE TOPICS.

The bill providing for the establishment of a geological survey passed the State Senate Friday with practically no opposition. It was warmly supported by Senators from all sections of the State, and quite as warmly by those outside of the mineral belt as by those within it. Of course with this practically unanimous endorsement of the Senate there is no reason to believe that it would encounter any serious objection in the House, and we may therefore regard it as a fixed fact. This is, as was stated by some of the Senators who spoke in advocacy of it, one of the most important, and in our estimation the most important measure that has been presented to this legislature, for if the survey be conducted in the right way, and by the right men, provided that sufficient means to work to the best advantage "there's millions in it" for North Carolina.

A Newark, N. J., man got so mad at his wife because she wouldn't obey him that he went into his bedroom and shot the top of his head off. If he had to shoot the top of anybody's head off he did the very best thing he could do under the circumstances. Some other New Jersey man might have been less considerate and shot the top of his wife's head off, and head her off in her disobedient career that way.

The legal status of the slot machine seems not to be well founded in this country. A Kansas judge holds that there is no misdemeanor in beating it, while a Connecticut judge holds that cheating it is larceny. Henceforth the prudent slot machine will steer clear of Kansas.

A Kentucky jury which got somewhat tangled on a murder trial, prayed for Divine guidance, and then got up and brought in a verdict of guilty, from which we take it that if there were more praying juries in Kentucky there would be more Kentuckians hanged.

The report that Gen. Mahone has decided to retire from politics in Virginia is denied. He has some old scores that he hasn't settled yet.

A Texas man has just completed a canoe trip from New York to Astoria, Oregon, and in all that distance he carried his canoe over land only twelve miles.

RIVER AND MARINE.

Weeks to be destroyed by the United States Steamer Yantic.

The United States cruiser Yantic sailed from Brooklyn Navy Yard February 14 to destroy the sunken vessels and derelicts of the coast.

Off the North Carolina coast the Yantic will find six wrecks—the schooner Dudley Farlin, twenty-four miles north-east of Bodie Island Light; the schooner Mollie J. Sanders, seven miles south-east of the same light; the steamer Glenraith, south by west of Cape Lookout Light, four or five miles outside the breakers, and nearly the same bearing two miles further in shore, the steamer Albatross, and a sunken wreck eight miles south-east of Frying Pan Shoal Lightship. The last wreck the Yantic will destroy will probably be a sunken vessel of the coast of South Carolina, in latitude 33 deg. 07 min., and longitude 78 deg. 28 min.

Plants Potatoes. Here is a pointer for truck farmers, taken from the Savannah News: A Savannah retail groceryman received yesterday from a friend enclosed in shipping oranges from Florida, in which he told him to advise all of the Savannah truck farmers to plant heavily in Irish potatoes for the market, as on account of the high price of seed potatoes, the Florida farmers were planting very light.

The merchant said he believed it would be good advice, as the price of potatoes for several other reasons besides the one given in the letter. "The McKinley bill," he said, "imposes a tax of 75 cents per barrel upon all imports of Scotch and Irish potatoes for the last four or five seasons, but the tariff tax will operate to shut them out next season, and, of course, increase the price of the home product. Then the distress in Ireland will consume the surplus product of the English and Scotch farmers. Altogether, it seems to me that the farmer is absolutely certain of a high price for his potatoes next season."

Fine Turnips. Mr. W. S. Warrock, cultivates spring turnips at his farm on Masonboro Sound that is worth talking about. A specimen brought to town yesterday weighed eight pounds.

RIVER AND HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS.

Government Work in North Carolina Now in Progress Under Direction of Capt. W. H. Bixby.

The February report of Capt. W. H. Bixby, U. S. Engineer, furnishes interesting information as to the progress of work on improvement of rivers and harbors in this State, viz:

DREDGING. Dredging is being carried on at two different places at present, viz: In the Cape Fear river below Wilmington, and in Bogus Sound. On the Cape Fear, a full contract is for from \$115,000 to \$120,000 worth of dredging in the river, and for 18 months work of the suction dredge on the bar. The dredging in the river is intended to obtain a channel of 370 feet in width and 30 feet in depth at low water, from Wilmington down the river as far as the funds will allow. At present the dredge is at work at Lilliput Shoal, where the channel has shoaled in the past two or three years to a depth of 15 feet. The dredging here is to carry the depth of channel to 10 feet over a width of 350 feet. After that the dredging plant will proceed up the river, fully 100 feet and move gradually down stream, dredging to full 370 feet width and 30 feet depth at low water as fast as it goes down stream. The dredging on the bar is for the purpose of improving it and keeping it straight. Formerly the great difficulty was on the outer bar, where there was hardly fourteen feet at low water. At this point the bar is fully 100 feet deep and over 800 in width, and the only difficulty at present is on the inner bar, close to Baldhead Point, where the channel has a full depth of 18 feet at low water, but is a little crooked, and the suction dredge will continue its work of straightening and maintaining the channel open. The suction dredge is 18 feet draft should now have no difficulty in reaching Wilmington every day of the year under proper pilotage and with the channel well kept up to get it to 20 feet draft will be able to do the same thing.

At Bogus Sound one dredge is at work, and before the end of this year a channel will be completed all the way from Beaufort to Swansboro, with 40 feet width and 3 feet depth at low water.

SNAGGING. Snagging plants are at work on the Pasquotank, Trent, Roanoke and northern Cape Fear rivers; on the Pasquotank at the Moccasin Track, so called, a channel 100 feet wide and 20 feet deep around the shoals of the Turner's Cut; on the Roanoke upon the river channel between the mouth of the Pamlico and the Trent, between Polkville and Trenton, and on the northern Cape Fear, between Bannerman's and Combs' bridges, with the intention this year of proceeding clearing a fair channel up near Chinguepin.

On the Upper Cape Fear near Fayetteville rock is being quarried to be used in the construction of a bridge between Fayetteville and Elizabethtown at places where there is the most trouble to navigation during summer low water, and where jetties will be constructed to break the force of the waves and to increase depth at these places. The hoisting plant will go up the river as soon as the low water stage arrives.

Bids will be opened next month for commencing the work of snagging and jettying (as soon as the stage of water is suitable for it) on the Pamlico and Tar rivers, and on the Pamlico and Tar rivers, and on the Pamlico and Tar rivers.

Contracts have been made for other work as follows: At Beaufort Harbor, \$100,000 worth of dredging to be commenced next May; at New River, \$50,000 worth of dredging; at Lockwood's Folly river, \$200,000 worth of dredging; to be commenced some time in the fall.

OTHER WORK. On the Pamlico and Tar rivers at Washington surveys have been made for the river, just as below Washington, with reference to obtaining a channel of 100 feet width and 9 or 10 feet depth at low water.

At Crooked Point, Patrick is at work on a careful survey preparatory to the expenditure of \$90,000 for a channel of 100 feet width and about 13 feet depth at low water.

Bids will be opened next month for the construction of a dam at the mouth of the Pamlico Sound direct to the ocean with 12 feet draft. This will be of great benefit to the towns of Newbern and Washington.

Bids will be opened next month for \$12,000 to \$14,000 worth of dredging at Mackey's Creek, N. C., so as to give to this creek a fair channel entrance to the Pamlico river, and to connect Albemarle Sound with the Albemarle & Pamlico Railroad terminus at Mackey's Ferry.

Some \$10,000 is available for snagging and clearing out fishing creek as soon as all the bridges across the river have been provided with draws.

Fatal Accident in Brunswick. Mr. W. H. Woodward, a citizen of Brunswick county living near Shallotte, was accidentally killed Monday afternoon last. He was engaged with his son, Mr. Moses Woodward, in clearing up a piece of woods and cutting down a tree it fell upon him, crushing his head, breaking one of his legs and killing him instantly.

The deceased was about 45 years of age and leaves a large family. He was an industrious, hard working man and held in great esteem by his friends and neighbors. He was a member of the Baptist Church and of the Farmers' Alliance of his county.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

The Railroad Commission Bill in the Senate—The Six per cent. Interest Bill Failed—Bills Introduced and Bills Passed in the House.

Special Star Report. RALEIGH, Feb. 19, 1891. SENATE.

The Senate was called to order by Lieut. Gov. Holt. The journal of Wednesday was approved.

Petitions were presented by Messrs. Culbreth and Rose.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS. By Freeman, to incorporate the Wilson & Carolina Company.

By Culbreth, to prohibit the sale of liquor in certain localities in Columbus county.

By Russell, to incorporate the United Mining and Manufacturing Company.

By Rose, to amend chap. 9, sec. 293 of the Code.

By Avery, to amend chap. 294, Laws 1887, concerning the carrying concealed weapons by detectives officers.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 10 a. m., Mr. Speaker Doughton in the chair, and after prayer by Rev. Dr. Johnson, of the House, the journal of yesterday was read and approved.

RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED. Lineback, to limit debate in the House.

Lineback, to pay the committee appointed by the session of 1889 to investigate railroads.

Patterson, to pay the committee appointed by the session of 1889 to investigate railroads.

Hilman, to amend chap. 27 of the Code. To amend chap. 289, Laws 1889.

Beck, to empower County Commissioners to prohibit the sale of liquor in certain districts.

Wood, to establish a new county, to be named "Alliance."

Whitfield, to make a creek a lawful fence; to establish the dividing line between Lenoir and Wayne counties.

Edmundson, to submit the question of a stock law to the people of Greene county.

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