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COMMERCIAL GREATNESS.

In his speech before the Nicaragua Canal Convention, which met in New Orleans last week, Hon. John R. Jones, of Arkansas, said: "Nations rise in commercial greatness as the lines of transportation give them control of the markets of the world."

There was a time when America promised to be a lively competitor of England until folly got the better of sense and laws were enacted that destroyed the ship-building industry in this country.

This country ought to be the greatest commercial nation in the world; she can be, and if she takes advantage of her opportunities she will be.

We have never been able, even if we had the ships, to compete with European nations for the trade of the oriental countries because they had the advantage of us in distance, and by constructing the Suez canal they have cut down the distance they had to travel one half.

The votes of California and North Dakota are very close, while in the former the votes for the respective electors vary so much that it is not yet definitely determined which of them are elected.

As European ships, taking advantage of the Suez Canal, need no longer double the Cape of Good Hope, American vessels, taking advantage of the Nicaragua Canal, need no longer double Cape Horn.

Around the world, with her grain and her meat she helps to feed the world, and with her cotton she helps to clothe it. She has done but little thus far in the feeding or the clothing of the 800,000,000 who live on the other side of the Pacific ocean, because if they needed our foodstuffs or our cotton, we had too far to travel to reach them and sell them at such price as they could afford to pay.

by a Canadian Pacific steamer. There will be a demand not only for American cotton but for American cotton fabrics which stand well over there, especially Southern goods, for which there is even now a growing demand.

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE.

When the Electoral College was established the intention was that the electors should elect the President and Vice President and hence they were called electors. But the electors now are not electors. They are simply agents to go through the form of casting their ballots for the candidates representing the party to which they belong.

There are good and sufficient reasons why the U. S. Senators should be elected by the direct vote of the people instead of by the proxy method which now prevails, but there are even better reasons why the President and Vice President should be so elected.

In 1876 a conflict was avoided when a dispute arose as to which party had a majority in the Electoral College, when an improvised commission, unknown to the Constitution, gave the office of President and Vice-President to men who were not elected, and who went into office with a majority of 250,000 votes against them.

The election is so one-sided this year that while the vote is so close in California and in North Dakota that it is still in doubt, and in Michigan, Oregon, Kansas and Ohio the electoral vote is divided, there can be no danger, but if the election were so close that it would take any or all of these votes to decide it, how would it be then? There might be no trouble over the vote of Michigan, although an effort was made before the election to have the law of the State providing for the election of electors by districts declared unconstitutional, but in Ohio the Democrats got one elector by some technical error, while in Kansas the Republicans got one elector by an error in the name of one of the Weaver electors.

Mr. Brewer in the Alabama Legislature seems to be brewing a good deal of trouble down there. Alabama means, we believe, "here we rest." From the legislative jangling, it does not seem to be that kind of a State just now.

Death of Mr. Wm. Munroe.

Mr. Wm. Munroe, of the firm of Munroe & Kelly, furniture dealers of this city, died yesterday at his home on Eighth street, after a short illness. Mr. Munroe was in his usual health and at his place of business last Saturday, but that evening, while on his way home, was attacked with hemorrhage of the lungs. Similar attacks followed, under which Mr. Munroe succumbed. The deceased was a native of Dublin, Ireland, and had been a resident of Wilmington some sixteen or eighteen years. He married a daughter of Capt. John Barry, and leaves a widow and four children. He was a member of St. Thomas' Church and of the Hibernian Benevolent Society, and an honorable, upright man, esteemed by all who knew him.

A Missing Boy.

Mr. John H. Buchanan, editor and proprietor of the Chester (S.C.) Reporter, seeks information of his son, John R. Buchanan, a boy fifteen years of age, who left home the 4th of November last. He is scarcely the usual height for his age. He has a pale face, grey eyes, dark hair, small hands, slender, tapering fingers, a scar on the lower part of his neck from a surgical operation. He wore a white shirt and dark trousers, and light stripes, dark pants, somewhat long for him, with small red stripes, new gaiters, new dark blue felt crush hat, and dark cravat with yellow spots. Should this meet his eye, he is earnestly entreated to return home.

Fatally Injured.

Mr. T. A. Hodges, one of the workmen in the Atlantic Coast Line shops in this city, was fatally injured yesterday afternoon. While running a rip-saw in the shops a large block of wood, held against the saw by another workman, was jerked out of the hands of the latter and struck Mr. Hodges on the head, breaking his jaw-bone, cutting his face and knocking him down. Dr. Bellamy and Wright attended him and found that his skull was fractured. Mr. Hodges' injuries are believed to be fatal. He was taken to his home on Dock street between Eighth and Ninth and last night was reported to be still unconscious.

Strength and Health.

If you are not feeling strong and healthy, try Electric Bitters. It will give you strength and health, and will cure you of all ailments. It is a powerful purgative, and will cleanse the system, and give you a healthy appetite. It is a reliable remedy for all ailments of the stomach and bowels, and for all ailments of the liver, gall bladder, and kidneys. It is a powerful remedy for all ailments of the nervous system, and for all ailments of the head and eyes. It is a powerful remedy for all ailments of the chest and lungs, and for all ailments of the heart and blood. It is a powerful remedy for all ailments of the skin, and for all ailments of the hair. It is a powerful remedy for all ailments of the feet, and for all ailments of the hands. It is a powerful remedy for all ailments of the body, and for all ailments of the mind.

nearest to meeting the popular demand regardless of the fact whether they are the men who can carry the pivotal States or not. The object then will be to choose men who stand best with the people of all States.

From any standpoint from which it may be viewed there is every reason why the people should elect their President and Vice-President without the agency of the utterly useless and possibly dangerous Electoral College.

Mr. H. C. King, Commissioner of Deeds for North Carolina, writes us from London, England, to warn people from being taken in by the "next of kin" swindle, which is so largely played upon credulous people on this side of the water. He says not one in a hundred of these claims amounts to anything. His advice is to pay nothing to anyone for enforcing a claim, which if genuine can be enforced without this, the costs coming out of the amount recovered.

There is a case before the Rochester, N. Y., courts where a female citizen of that burg wants to recover \$1,000 from a census taker who after taking the census took a kiss with her permission. She walked home with a broom, had him arrested and fined \$5, and not satisfied with that she thinks he got \$1,000 worth of kiss and wants to make him pay for it.

Some Iowa Judges have caught on to the spirit of reform, but the lawyers who practice in the court of the judge who has ruled against their chewing tobacco and spitting all over the court room, and planting their boots on the table when their question witnesses think he is carrying reform to the extremes.

It is said that Governor-elect Altgeld, of Illinois, is worth \$10,000,000. For a fellow who in 1865 tramped from Ohio to Missouri on foot, and crossed the Mississippi with fifteen cents in his pocket and spent that to buy something to eat and for some paper to write a letter, this isn't bad.

Somebody seems to have forgotten to vote at our election for the Constitutional amendment in reference to the election of Solicitors, and somebody didn't forget to vote against it, which accounts sufficiently for its defeat.

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Infested by Robbers.

A Band of Thieves Depredating on the Citizens of Fayetteville—A Number of Stores Robbed—Several Suspected Persons Arrested—(Special Star Correspondence.) FAYETTEVILLE, Dec. 5.—Fayetteville is infested by a band of robbers. Whether organized or not is a question yet to be answered. Several stores have been broken into and robbed within the last ten days, and it is the concurrent opinion of our citizens that the recent disastrous fire was the work of the robbers, as no fire had been in the store in which the fire originated for several hours. The following stores have been broken into and robbed: G. Rosenthal's clothing store, George Brant's store, J. A. Burns & Co.'s clothing store, E. L. Clark's saloon; and, on Friday night, the residence of a colored woman was burglarized and her property stolen. She identified the burglar next day and he is now in jail. Four persons are now in jail who were arrested under suspicious circumstances as being implicated in some of the robberies, one of whom is a white man.

The residence of Mrs. David G. McDuffie, occupied also by the family of Mr. John McDuffie, on the corner of miles west of Fayetteville, was burned to the ground on Saturday night last, together with a portion of the furniture and other household goods. The fire was caused by a gas stove in the kitchen, and the family, notably one of Mr. John McDuffie's small children, narrowly escaped from being burned to death. The fire broke out at 11 o'clock, cutting his face and knocking him down. Dr. Bellamy and Wright attended him and found that his skull was fractured. Mr. Hodges' injuries are believed to be fatal. He was taken to his home on Dock street between Eighth and Ninth and last night was reported to be still unconscious.

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TO OFFICE-SEEKERS. An Open Letter From Chairman Simmons of the Democratic State Committee—Good Advice Which Should be Heeded.

NEWBERN, N. C. Nov. 21st, 1892. To the Members of the Wilmington, N. C. MY DEAR SIR—I must ask your pardon for failing so long to acknowledge the receipt of your recent favor, but I have been much indisposed since my return here from Raleigh, as well as inquired in my much neglected private affairs.

I must confess I hardly know what to answer you touching your request that I assist you in securing the appointment to the position which you intend to apply for.

You must know, without any assurance from me, it would give me great pleasure to do you a personal favor, but I am sure you cannot fail to see how embarrassing, not to say hurtful, it would be for me to take part in a contest between friends over local positions. For this reason I have refused to sign petitions of friends residing in my own town where I am personally known, and I have informed as to the relative merits of the opposing applicants, and my judgment impels me to allow the more successful applicant to obtain the position which you have honored me by the suggestion that I might aid him. It seems to me this is the wisest course for me to pursue, and I trust you will not be disappointed in my refusal to do otherwise.

I have thought much upon this subject during the past few days, and it occurred to me that our Senators and Representatives in Congress would be much aided and relieved if some method could be devised by which the Executive Committee would investigate and in an official way decide conflicting claims arising in the distribution of patronage. It is not necessary that there be nothing more than partisan recommendations, and would be given by our Representatives only such weight as they would see fit to give to their respective jurisdictions. It is not unreasonable to suppose under such a system, patronage would be justly and meritoriously awarded, and expenditures would be reduced, and the public interest would be promoted. It is not necessary that there be anything more than partisan recommendations, and would be given by our Representatives only such weight as they would see fit to give to their respective jurisdictions.

With safety, and I hope without impediment, to any organization in North Carolina is better than it has been; but it is still far short of what it should be, it will be prepared to contend with such dangers to our party as may be presented, and we will be successful in our efforts.

These are simply suggestions; crude, I admit, but which make after some thought, and I trust, a better one than I think them worthy of consideration and should like to have them discussed, I confess I am not worthy of their practicality or wisdom.

I have written somewhat hurriedly and perhaps disconnectedly, but you will understand what I mean, and I am sure, not easily estimated, that the embarrassment I feel in the large number of requests of similar import to yours which I have received from friends from different parts of the State, is not without cause. I have great confidence in your judgment and in your friendship, and I would esteem it a favor if you would consider the matter, and if you have any suggestions of your own, I would be glad to hear of them.

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. Last Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of New Hanover County was held yesterday at 2:30 p. m. The members of the Board present were Mr. H. A. Bagg, chairman, and Messrs. B. G. Worth, Roger Moore and E. L. Pearce.

Treasurer Hewlett submitted report for the month of November, showing balances on hand December 1st, 1892, as follows: General fund, \$18,408.18; educational fund, \$17,806.96; special fund, \$184.01.

Register of Deeds Jno. Haar, Jr., submitted report for month of November, showing \$84.70 received on account of marriage licenses and turned over to the County Treasurer.

Col. John D. Taylor, Clerk of the Superior Court, submitted his annual report of moneys in hand belonging to other parties.

Mr. W. R. French, Clerk of the Criminal Court submitted his report.

R. H. Bunting, J. P., submitted his report.

All the above reports were received, ordered recorded and filed.

THE NEW BOARD.

The new Board of Commissioners, with the same members except that Mr. B. S. Montfort succeeds Mr. Jas. A. Montgomery, elected County Treasurer, organized by electing Mr. H. A. Bagg chairman, by unanimous vote.

Upon taking his seat, Chairman Bagg announced that the first business in order was the examination of bonds of the newly elected officers of the county.

F. H. Stedman, sheriff, presented his certificate of election and offered his bond in the amount of \$90,000, with the following sureties, viz: J. D. Bellamy, Jr., \$35,000; E. S. Latimer, \$35,000; W. H. Bernard, \$20,000; C. W. Yates, \$20,000.

THE MESSAGE. SYNOPSIS OF THE SOUTH-MATER'S VALEDICTORY.

The Document a Relish of Departmental Reports, Together with a Display of Much Venom, Pique and Rancor. By the Hon. Mr. Wm. W. Holden, Secretary of the Senate and House of Representatives.

In submitting my annual message to Congress, I have the great satisfaction to be able to say that the general conditions affecting the commercial and industrial interests of the United States are in the greatest degree favorable.

The total wealth of the country in 1890 was \$16,159,616,068; in 1891 it amounted to \$23,813,000,000—an increase of 387 per cent. The total mileage of railways in the United States in 1890 was 30,624; in 1891 it was 47,741—an increase of 448 per cent, and it is estimated that there will be about forty thousand miles of track added by the close of the year 1892.

The value of our foreign trade (export and import of merchandise) during the last fiscal year was \$1,837,680,610—an increase of \$128,288,004 over the previous fiscal year. The annual value of our imports and exports of merchandise for the ten fiscal years prior to 1891 was \$1,457,923,018. It will be observed that our foreign trade for 1892 exceeds this annual average value by \$400,358,591—an increase of 27.47 per cent.

I have felt a most solicitous interest to preserve to our working people rates of wages that would not only give daily bread, but supply a comfortable and cheerful home, and afford the means of education and advancement.

DOINGS IN ONLOW.

EDITOR STAR: Our people are much enthused and delighted with the prospect of having, in the near future, a railroad connecting the site of the town of Onslow with the W. O. & E. C. R. R. These beautiful grounds, the property of the Eastern Carolina Piscatorial Association, have been laid out in lots; streets have been opened and other work looking to its building up have been completed, and Mr. J. Samuel Westbrook, a competent engineer, was engaged last week with a corps of assistants and laborers in locating the route of the road.

The Board of County Commissioners at their meeting yesterday had an informal talk in regard to the improvement of county roads, as suggested in the communication of Messrs. Geo. L. Morton, G. W. Westbrook and E. G. Parme, Senator and Representatives from New Hanover, (as published in the STAR Sunday). At the suggestion of one of the members of the Board action upon the matter was deferred, to a friendly looking retreat, however, not to be able to report as yet the adjustment of the claims of the American missionaries, arising from the disaster at Ponce, in the Caroline Islands, but I anticipate a satisfactory adjustment in view of renewed and urgent representations to the Government at Madrid.

Carthage Blade: Mr. Daniel McKemie of the Little River County, died suddenly last Wednesday morning.

Goldboro Argus: With the first of January the ordinance of this city requiring \$500 for privilege tax to sell whisky in Goldboro will go into effect.

Raleigh News and Observer: Gov. Vance yesterday set the day of execution for William McKimly, convicted of murder in Robeson county, for January 30th. The case was appealed to the Supreme court but was recently affirmed.

Rockingham Spirit of the South: Mr. Norman McLeod, of this vicinity, died last Monday night, aged 83 years.

Sanford Express: The farmers are seeding a new crop of small grain. Some of the wheat is up and looking green and vigorous.

Wilmington Journal: A robbery attempt at arson was committed at Mr. R. B. Stantley's residence on a day or Sunday night. Mr. Stantley's wife has been visiting in the country several days, and Saturday night he went off to a conference at New York.

Asheville Citizen: Mrs. Amanda Lee, of Transylvania county, was married yesterday afternoon by Rev. J. W. Smith, Superintendent of the Police Commission of Jersey City, N. J., stating that he had arrested her in New York, and that she had committed a crime.

Winston Sentinel: Chief of Police Bradford received a telegram Saturday night from C. P. Smith, Superintendent of the Police Commission of Jersey City, N. J., stating that he had arrested her in New York, and that she had committed a crime.

Raleigh Chronicle: The Board of Health gave out the following statistics yesterday. Of the twenty-three deaths in the city, eleven were white and twelve colored, seven of the former and five of the latter being males.

Over Fifty Years Mrs. Winslow's SOUTHWEST SYRUP has been used by millions of mothers for their children's ailments, and has been found to be a reliable remedy for all ailments of the stomach and bowels, and for all ailments of the liver, gall bladder, and kidneys.

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