

NEW ENGLAND THRIFT.

The people of the New England States have their peculiarities and their failings, but when it comes to thrift, to making ends meet and devising ways and means of getting out of a hole they haven't their superiors on either hemisphere, if they have their equals.

Governor Vance, who was a pretty close observer of men and of men's characterizing traits, had such a high opinion of the commercial talents of the "Yankees" that he used to say you might put two of them on a barren rock in the sea, each with a jack knife and nothing else and the first time they met they would trade knives and each would make something by the trade.

Although naturally poor in soil as a general thing, New England was in the early days and before railroads linked the sections and brought the borders near together, an agricultural section, but poverty of soil developed thrift in man, and turned attention from agriculture to manufacturing, and to other ways of drawing capital into New England and centering it there, until now she manufactures everything from a bootpick to a four masted clipper ship, has more money to lend than she can find borrowers for, and the larger part of it is the money of her own people, too.

Perhaps if the first settlers had struck fertile soil, and they didn't permit it to lose its fertility by butchering farming, they might never have been forced to look to something else, but would have continued at farming, and the East be now no more noted for its manufacturing enterprise than any other section of the country.

Considering the average quality of their soil they got along pretty well until railroad linking on to railroad brought the wheat fields and corn fields and pastures of the West within twenty-four or thirty-hours of the towns of the East, which gave the New England farmer his markets. Then the occupation of the Eastern wheat grower, corn grower and hog raiser and beef raiser was gone. A good many of those farmers, recognizing the inevitable, sold their farms for what they could get for them and struck for the West, others moved to the towns, and others stuck to the farm but didn't stick to raising the things that the West could undersell them in. The result was lots of "abandoned farms" in New England, but now with the changed methods in farming they are beginning to find use for the abandoned farms.

When the Eastern wheat and corn grower was pushed to the wall by the Western wheat and corn grower it looked, with the large and annually increasing number of "abandoned farms," as if the New England farmer was on his last legs, so to speak, and if they had been like the farmers of some other sections they probably would have been, but when crowded out of the market by the Westerners who could raise wheat, &c., at less than half the cost in New England, New England thrift and resource began to show themselves and the New England farmers quit thinking about wheat, &c., and began to think of something else. They talked up manufacturing; when they had money saved they invested it in manufacturing and thus helped to multiply the people who had to be fed. And then they began to think of the most profitable way to feed these people without having to compete with the owners of Western acres.

Ex-Governor MacCorkle, of West Virginia, who, last Summer, spent some time in New England, observing things and studying their methods, gathered some valuable information for the benefit of his people. He believes in encouraging manufacturing and other enterprises that contribute to the growth and development of the State, and in being very liberal with them. That is the sentiment as he found it in New England, where it has been demonstrated it pays, pays not only the man who put their money in them, but the farmers who without them would find little profit in their acres. After speaking of the depression in the farming industry, resulting from Western competition in the staple crops, he said:

gricultural districts of New England. They have found out that they cannot compete with the West in the growing of the staple grains, in the raising of beef, hogs and sheep, and wisely they have gone to new fields of agriculture. The teeming manufacturing towns demand American potatoes, eggs, vegetables and the thousand small fruits which can be profitably grown adjacent to a great population. What is the result? I read from the exact figures in 1865 the best product of Massachusetts was \$3,185,564; in 1885, \$718,952, a loss of over \$7,000,000. These figures seem to be taken from a great destruction of Massachusetts, and an argument against my proposition. Such, however, is not the case. As I have said before, they found that the heavy farming would not do, and they turned their attention to the lighter branch of this industry, and in order to make up for the loss of the best industry, and supply the immense demand of the manufacturing population, the Massachusetts farmer, among other things, turned to making milk. In 1865 the value of the milk product was \$1,956,150; in 1885 it was \$10,312,762, a gain of \$8,356,612, making up the loss of the best and having \$1,000,000 to spare. Last year the milk account for upwards of \$15,000,000, or \$7,000,000 more than her beef came to in 1865.

In the early days of the manufactory in the East, as is well known, the people were frugal, lived close and raised the heavier grains entirely, giving comparatively little attention to the raising of the lighter grains, the vegetable product of Massachusetts, the entire creation of the manufactory, amounted to more than \$16,000,000. She raised her berries amounted to nearly \$2,000,000.

I would trespass upon my valuable space did I continue this statement to further show that the English and the highest acreage value of farm products of improved land? It is found in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Jersey, three States where you are not out of sight of the wheel of the wheels, and where the brightest sky is darkened by the black incense from the manufacturer's chimney. Where do we find the lowest value of improved land in this country? In South Dakota, Kansas and Nebraska, purely agricultural States. Again, the highest value of land is found in Pennsylvania, the respective seats of the highest type of manufacturing towns and cities.

This extract is taken from a paper contributed to the Baltimore Manufacturers' Record in which the writer pleads for liberality in dealing with corporations and gives the reasons on which his pleadings are based. They are good for West Virginia, and equally good for every Southern State, and especially for those which have the natural advantages to invite the location of manufacturing enterprises.

MANUFACTURED EXPORTS

There is no country in the world where manufacturing enterprises are making the same progress that they are in this country, and no country which has made the same progress within the past ten years in introducing its manufactured goods into foreign markets, which is one of the most encouraging features of the progress made. The following official table shows the exports of 1898 as compared with the exports of 1888:

Table with 2 columns: Year (1888, 1898) and various export categories like Iron and steel, Cotton manufactures, etc.

This is not only a very gratifying exhibit as showing American push and perseverance, but also American excellence in work, for if our goods did not excel others in quality as well as in price they could not succeed in competing against them, because in seeking and entering foreign markets the American manufacturer has to compete with the world and also with rivals who had gotten standing in those markets before he knocked for admission. He not only has to do that but has to compete with some of those rivals on their own ground and at their own doors, as he does when he sends iron and steel manufactures to England or Germany, or silk goods, woollen goods, boots, shoes, &c., to these and other countries, and the manufacture of these are established industries.

the home market was not large enough to consume the annually increasing production and the necessity of reaching out for new markets, and they did it with remarkable success considering the obstacles they had to contend against.

Nine-tenths of these exports were shipped in foreign bottoms and the manufacturer had to pay tribute to the foreign ship owners to get his goods carried across the seas, and had to pay their charges, because there were no American ships to compete with the foreign. This handicapped our manufacturers who had to compete with manufacturers who had no had no transportation charges to pay, unless where competition was in other markets than their own home markets and then they had the advantage of the American in having ships of their own to do their carrying for them.

If we had a merchant marine our exports might have been doubled within the past decade if our manufacturers had desired to double them. They were handicapped again by the protective tariff on certain raw materials which cannot be secured in sufficient quantity in this country but are necessary in certain lines of manufactures, which gave European manufacturers, who are permitted to buy their raw material wherever they can buy them to the best advantage and import them free of duty, an advantage over his American competitors.

As an offset to the lack of ships to do his carrying for him, and of the tariff tribute he had to pay on imported raw materials the American manufacturer had to depend on labor-saving machinery and the skill to operate it, neither of which the world can match, to fall back upon. If it were not for these he could not enter foreign markets at all, but with them even under serious drawbacks he enters the markets of the world and successfully competes against the world.

As yet our manufacturers have scarcely made a beginning in this export business, for having demonstrated their ability to cope with foreign manufacturers in the world's markets, proof of which is given in the steady and large aggregate increase for the past ten years in nearly all lines of manufactures, they are not going to relax their energies or efforts, but will rather increase them and eventually attach quite as much if not more importance to the world's markets than they have heretofore attached to the outgrown home market, on which they almost exclusively depended not many years ago, and may find them even more profitable. They will discover the utility of acting systematically and with concert, rather than in the sporadic each-for-himself way they have been doing; they will establish agencies in the markets they seek, and more thoroughly study the demands and peculiarities of those markets and cater to their tastes instead of trying to revolutionize them and train them up to our tastes. These are all things that have to be learned by experience. Others have learned them and profited by it and so will our manufacturers in time.

What has been accomplished in the past ten years is a pretty good indication of what may be done when American energy and tact are turned fully and systematically in that direction. Give our exporters a merchant marine, our manufacturers free raw material, and in ten years more this country will be the greatest exporter of manufactured goods on the earth.

There is very little land in North Carolina which is assessed at its actual value, whether it be cultivated or in a wild state, for even the timber on that in the wild state is worth more than the assessed value. Practically speaking raising the valuation would not add to the burdens of the tax-payer if the raise were uniform, for a certain amount of money must be secured to meet the State and county expenses, and if the valuations were higher the tax rate would be lower, so it would be six one way and half a dozen the other, the difference being that we would get the credit of having better lands, which would make a good impression and also the credit of having a low rate, which would also make a good impression. Taking this view of it there is nothing gained by low valuations, but much lost.

THE PENITENTIARY.

Supporting the penitentiaries so as to make them little of a burden upon the people without putting the labor of the convicts in competition with outside labor has been a problem that has perplexed the authorities in nearly all the States. Several methods have been tried, some of which have been partially successful, while others have been total failures. Possibly as much has been accomplished in that direction in North Carolina as in any of the States, but here it is far from being a solved problem. We have hired out convicts to be employed in the construction of railroads; we have authorized counties to employ them in road-working; we have run brick yards at the penitentiary, and we have rented farms and put the convicts to raising cotton, corn and other things, but still the penitentiary has run behind and is now confronted by a deficit. Treasurer Worth recommends an appropriation of \$35,000 a year to meet contingencies. But \$35,000 will be short of the mark, unless the following from the Raleigh News and Observer be well figuring:

The penitentiary is now in debt about \$100,000 and it will require an appropriation of \$50,000 to conduct its operations until the crops are gathered next fall. It may be even worse off than we suppose, but the desperate fix it is in is the real reason why Mr. Mewborne was willing to resign. He knew that the Legislature would not vote him a big appropriation, and he knew that without it he could not make another crop.

According to Mr. Mewborne's statement printed a few days ago, he gives the indebtedness of the penitentiary thus: Bills unpaid \$ 63,670.89 Borrowed from Treasury 18,877.45 Total \$ 82,548.34

Add to the above the following items which must be paid, but which have not yet been paid: Rent for farms \$10,000 Bills for December 16,000 Total \$ 26,000 Add these to the \$78,000 above and we have \$104,000 due by the penitentiary, according to Mr. Mewborne, not to speak of other claims not audited. The December bills are always very large, for they include purchases of guano. The rents amounted to \$11,000 when the Democrats were in charge, and the Republicans have rented two additional farms. In addition to the above items, the expenses of January must be paid. To meet the above claims, and support the prisoners until another crop is gathered, Mr. Mewborne estimates that the penitentiary has about \$46,000 worth of resources to go upon. This should realize \$36,000 it will be as much. If it could be converted into cash, the debt of the penitentiary would still be very great, and where would the money come from to run the institution until the fall when the crops can be marketed? Managed with close economy, the penitentiary will close an average of \$100,000 a month. Where is this money to come from?

As it may not be practicable to find steady employment for the convicts in any other way where they could earn their own support putting them on farms is, perhaps, the best that could be done, but there are too many contingencies to be confronted in this, such as crop failures, damage by rain, low prices & etc., to make that a dependence for self support, and there is objection to this, too, when such crops are grown as have a tendency to increase the overproduction complained of by the farmers.

As we see it the wise course to pursue in this matter is to employ as many of them as possible by the counties in making and keeping their roads in good condition, and as many as practicable in draining swamp lands thus reclaiming and making valuable large bodies which are now practically worthless. In neither of these would their labor come into competition with any other labor, and they would be rendering more valuable service than they could render any other way.

TAX EQUALIZATION.

This Legislature will wrestle with the subject of tax equalization with a view to more equably and equitably distributing the burden of taxation among the people. While some classes of property are assessed too low, it is claimed that other classes are assessed too high in proportion, which is probably true. But taking it all in all, the rate of taxation in this State is very low in comparison with some other States, if not with any other State.

While a low tax is always desirable, a low rate of taxation, that is putting low values on the things to be taxed, is not the best policy, for it gives people who form their opinions from the tax values, very erroneous opinions, and makes the State seem very poor when such may not be the fact. Take the land valuation as an illustration. The average valuation for the State is somewhere between \$3 and \$4 per acre. It is true that a great deal of land in the State is not under cultivation, considerable of it mountainous or swampy, but the majority of the people who see our tax returns and form their opinions from them do not know this, and come to the conclusion that lands which are assessed so low must be very poor and practically worthless. That is the way, at least, it seems to the men whose lands have been assessed from \$10 an acre upwards. And these are the people who we are desirous of having come to us as settlers.

There is very little land in North Carolina which is assessed at its actual value, whether it be cultivated or in a wild state, for even the timber on that in the wild state is worth more than the assessed value. Practically speaking raising the valuation would not add to the burdens of the tax-payer if the raise were uniform, for a certain amount of money must be secured to meet the State and county expenses, and if the valuations were higher the tax rate would be lower, so it would be six one way and half a dozen the other, the difference being that we would get the credit of having better lands, which would make a good impression and also the credit of having a low rate, which would also make a good impression. Taking this view of it there is nothing gained by low valuations, but much lost.

YELLOW JAUNDICE CURED.

Suffering humanity should be supplied with every means possible for its relief. It is with pleasure we publish the following: "This is to certify that I was a terrible sufferer from Yellow Jaundice for over six months, and was treated by some of the best physicians in my city and all to no avail. Dr. Bell, our druggist, recommended Electric Bitters; and after taking two bottles, I was entirely cured. I now take pleasure in recommending them to any person suffering from the terrible malady. I am gratefully yours, M. A. Hogarty, Lexington, Ky." Sold by R. R. BELLAMY, Druggist.

CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought. Signature of Dr. J. C. Watson.

Henceforth when Governor Roosevelt happens to stay out late at night they will sit up for him to let him in when he gets back. The evening of his inauguration he stayed up pretty late with the boys, and when he got to the Governor's residence he found the lights out and no one to answer the door bell. As he didn't care to roost on the porch he knocked a hole in a big plate-glass window and walked in. Very likely that was not the first glass he got away with that night.

Mr. Bloomfield Moore, of Philadelphia, who died in London recently is said to be the person who supplied Keeley with the funds to work on his motor. She was worth \$5,000,000 and spent much of it on Keeley, in whose motor she had full confidence. Her death is attributed to the collapse resulting from his death and her disappointment in her expectations.

A Mecklenburg man has been arraigned in the Federal Court, for whipping a mail carrier whom he caught stealing his melons. The carrier missed the connection in consequence of the time lost in being flogged, and the flogger has been charged with delaying the mails when he was only playing a male.

J. Stirling Morton, ex-Secretary of Agriculture, protests against cutting trees for Christmas trees, which he says destroys annually many thousands of young trees, which if permitted to grow would render much more service than contributing to decorations for a holiday, or as holders for the contributions of Santa Claus, who might be furnished with something that would answer the purpose just as well.

Tax collecting isn't such an easy job in some portions of Georgia as might be supposed. One of the collectors pursues his delinquents with a shot gun and they say he is crazy, when he is only desperately in earnest. Some Georgians never pay anything unless under the molar season of a shot gun.

THE CRIMINAL COURT. ADJOURNED YESTERDAY.

Negroes, for Burglarizing W. N. Harris' Residence, Over a Total of Ninety-five Years in Penitentiary.

The January term of the Circuit Criminal Court adjourned yesterday at 6 P. M. for the term.

The last case disposed of was that against Ed King, Charles Fisher and John Walker, the three negroes charged with breaking into the residence of Mr. W. N. Harris about August 10th of last year while the family were away for the Summer. The negroes were convicted and Ed King sentenced to 40 years, Jno. Walker to 30 years and Charles Fisher to 25 years hard labor in the State penitentiary.

A prominent citizen remarked last night that the fate of these householders should be an effective example to the clans who committed so many depredations last summer or contemplated the commission of such offences during the next summer resort period.

Judgment was suspended by Judge Battle in the case of murder in the second degree to which Ed King, colored, submitted on the charge of killing John Johnson. The suspension was because of the long period of punishment already allotted to him in the burglary case.

During the trial of the three negroes for the burglary of the Harris residence, Mr. W. N. Harris testified that the value of articles stolen from his residence was about \$300.

The only other case tried in the court yesterday was that against William Walker, colored, charged with assault and battery with a deadly weapon. He was convicted and sentenced to the county house of correction for one month.

Sheriff MacRae told a STAR reporter last night that he expects to send the prisoners sentenced to terms in the penitentiary to Raleigh probably Friday.

During the term of the court just closed the jail prisoners have all had a hearing and the whole criminal docket is cleared.

The STAR congratulates Judge Battle and Solicitor Duffy upon the excellent work accomplished. They have provented the people of New Hanover county, from being deceived by a certain "Thomas," that no mistake has been made by Democracy in putting them in the responsible offices to which they were elected.

Dr. Hoge's Literary Executors. Richmond, Va., Dispatch: "Rev. Dr. Peyton E. Hoge, of Wilmington, N. C., and Rev. Dr. William Lacy, of Norfolk, Va., were appointed by the late Rev. Dr. Moses D. Hoge as his literary executors. Dr. Hoge left many valuable works in manuscript, including his autobiography, and these will be published at no very distant date by the above executors."

How's This! We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. We are the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last fifteen years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by him.

STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING. ATLANTIC NATIONAL BANK.

Held Yesterday at Noon - President Norwood's Report Makes a Creditable Showing of Year's Business.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Atlantic National Bank was held at noon yesterday. Col. J. W. Atkinson presided and Mr. C. E. Taylor, Jr., was appointed secretary. The committee on proxies - Hon. Jno. D. Bellamy, Mr. William A. French and Mr. A. David - reported 820 shares out of 1,850 represented in person and by proxy.

After the reading and adoption of the minutes of the last annual meeting, Mr. J. W. Norwood, the president, read his annual report, which was, on motion of Mr. Samuel Bear, Jr., adopted and ordered spread upon the minutes of the meeting. It is as follows: To the Stockholders of the Atlantic National Bank: GENTLEMEN - The following statement places before you the condition of the Atlantic National Bank at the close of business December 31st:

Table with 2 columns: RESOURCES and LIABILITIES. Includes items like Loans, U.S. Bonds, Cash on hand, etc.

The net profit to stockholders during the past year has been \$19,577.03, or 13.32 per cent. The policy of your board has been to carry all assets at as near actual value as possible, and not to exaggerate apparent profits. Members of your Board familiar with the securities in the bank are willing to pay book value for any stock as indicated by above statement.

From the last day of December, 1897, to the last day of December, 1898, our deposits have increased \$368,836.33 - from \$738,923.55 to \$1,107,760.88. The growth of our deposits during the last twelve months has been greater than in any other one year of our existence. This growth is due in part to special deposits made the latter part of December, which will be temporary, and partly to the business growth and prosperity of our city and community, which we hope will be permanent.

The Board invites all stockholders to feel free at all times to make suggestions, having in view the improvement of our business. The most effectual way for stockholders to help the value of his stock is for him to help the bank attract valuable business. Respectfully submitted, J. W. Norwood, President.

The following directors were unanimously elected for the ensuing year: Messrs. J. W. Norwood, D. L. Gore, S. P. McNair, E. J. Powers, W. E. Springer, J. S. Worth, C. W. Orth, H. L. Voller, P. L. Bridges, G. A. Norwood and H. B. Short.

After remarks from several stockholders, all of whom expressed themselves as pleased with the bank's progress for the past year, and hopeful for the future, the meeting adjourned.

NATIONAL BANK OF WILMINGTON.

The Annual Meeting of Stockholders Held at Noon Yesterday.

The stockholders of the National Bank of Wilmington met in annual session at noon yesterday, Janus Davis, Esq., presiding.

The report of President Jno. S. Armstrong for the year ending January 9th showed the Bank's assets to be \$737,312.97; cash on hand and in other banks, \$330,761.53; loans and discounts, \$274,028.65; U. S. bonds at par \$40,000, and N. C. bonds at par \$4,350. The bonds mentioned, the President says, carry also many thousand dollars profits not shown in the report. The following directors were elected:

Hugh MacRae, Wm. Gilchrist, Chas. E. Borden, Gabriel Holmes, Wm. Calder, Geo. French, Jas. H. Chadbourn, Jr., Jas. S. Armstrong, Wm. E. Worth, J. G. L. Gieschen and C. W. Yates.

After the session of the stockholders the directors met and re-elected Mr. Jno. S. Armstrong president; Wm. Calder and Mr. James H. Chadbourn, Jr., vice president and Mr. F. R. Hawes cashier.

CAPT. E. W. MANNING.

Elected County Supervisor of Schools for New Hanover County - Several New Committees Elected.

At a meeting of the New Hanover Board of Education in conjunction with the Clerk of the Court and Register of Deeds held yesterday, Capt. E. W. Manning was elected County Supervisor of Schools. All members of the Board - Chairman B. G. Worth, Capt. T. D. Meares and Mr. G. W. Westbrook, Col. Jno. P. Taylor, Clerk of the Court and Register of Deeds Biddle - were in attendance upon the meeting.

After the election, the Board of Education held a separate session during which school committees to fill vacancies were elected as follows: First School District, Mr. R. J. Jones; Second District, Mr. W. A. Riach; Third District, Mr. Jas. Cowan, and Fourth District, Dr. W. H. B. Biddle. Two colored committees, the last in the county, Geo. E. Green and Archie Freeman, were removed from the school committee of the Sixth District. They also declared a vacancy in the case of Mr. W. D. Rhodes, who has removed from the county.

How to Prevent Pneumonia. You are perhaps aware that pneumonia always results from a cold or from an attack of la grippe. During the epidemic of la grippe a few years ago when so many cases resulted in pneumonia, it was observed that the attack was never followed by that disease when Chamberlain's Cough Remedy was used. It counteracts the tendency of a cold or la grippe to result in a dangerous pneumonia. It is the best remedy in the world for colds and la grippe. Every bottle warranted. For sale by R. R. BELLAMY.

La Grippe Successfully Treated. "I have just recovered from the second attack of la grippe this year," says Mr. James A. Jones, publisher of the Leader, Meritt, Tex. "In the latter case I used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, and I think with considerable success, only being in bed a little over two days against ten days for the former attack. The second attack I am satisfied was cured by the use of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, and I had to go to bed in about six hours after being attacked with it, while in the first case I was able to attend to business about two days before getting down."

CASTORIA. The Kind You Have Always Bought. Signature of Dr. J. C. Watson.

INSTALLED IN OFFICE.

Prof. Jno. B. Blair Takes Charge As Superintendent of the Public Schools.

He Addressed Pupils and Teachers at Hemenway and Union Schools - Wants Co-operation of All in the School Work.

Prof. John J. Blair, the new superintendent of the Wilmington Public Schools assumed the duties of his position yesterday.

In company with Mr. James F. Post, Jr., Mr. J. H. Chadbourn and Mr. W. H. Northrop, Prof. Blair yesterday visited all the schools except the Tilton High School, which they expect to visit to-day. At each of the schools he spent some time with the various departments addressing pleasant and appropriate remarks to the pupils.

He participated in the opening exercises at the Union School. The children were assembled en masse in the chapel. During the course of quite an appropriate address, Prof. Blair referred to the pleasure which it afforded him to cast his lot with the people of Wilmington and their public school system, the largest and most thoroughly organized and equipped in the State, and pledged the very best efforts of his life in carrying forward the work to a yet larger plane of usefulness. He insisted upon the hearty co-operation of teachers and pupils and requested the children to tell their parents that it is his sincere desire to have their co-operation and support in the work. He will always, he said, be open to suggestions. In fact, that above all else, he desires the assistance of school officials, teachers, pupils and parents.

Later in the day, at the Hemenway School, the pupils of the various departments were also assembled in the chapel and addressed by the new superintendent, his remarks being along much the same line.

In conversation with a member of the STAR staff yesterday, Prof. Blair expressed himself as much pleased with Wilmington and the outlook for his work in the schools. He says he has ideas of his own as to school government and system but contemplates no really radical changes. He is pleased with the buildings, the equipment and general organization of the work. He says he finds at most of the buildings a nucleus for a good library which he will strive to increase as rapidly as possible, believing that a good library to which teachers and pupils shall have access is highly essential for thorough school work.

Prof. Blair will board at The Orton at least for some time. His office will be at Hemenway school, but he has not yet decided upon his office hours. He spoke yesterday with special appreciation of the cordial reception which is being accorded him here. During Sunday and yesterday he met many of the foremost citizens of the city, upon all of whom judging from comments heard by the STAR representative, he made quite a favorable impression.

VENERABLE MINISTER DEAD.

"Uncle Jesse" Cunningham, One of the Oldest Members of N. C. Conference, Died in Greensboro.

News was received here Sunday morning of the death of Rev. Jesse A. Cunningham, D. D., one of the oldest and most beloved ministers of the North Carolina Conference, of which he has been a minister since 1855, having joined the conference during a session of this city. He died in Greensboro Saturday and was buried there yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was never a pastor in this city, but was well and favorably known. It is of interest to note also that he was an uncle of Rev. William L. Cunningham, late pastor of the Fifth Street Methodist Church. He was generally known as "Uncle Jesse" while his devoted wife who survives him is known all over the State as "Aunt Lucy."

Rev. Jesse Cunningham was a very prominent minister and filled a number of the most important circuits and stations in the gift of the N. C. Conference. He was several times sent as a delegate to the General Conference, the highest body of the Methodist church.

FATAL ACCIDENT.

Young Man in Charlotte Crushed by a Door Falling Upon Him.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., January 8. - Harry D. Watts, a prominent young society man of this city, was found dead this morning. He was lying beneath one of the huge doors of the Merchants and Farmers' Bonded Warehouse, which is not quite completed. His head was crushed and his body broken. He had evidently been dead for several hours. The door was in place, but was not hung, and it is supposed that in going home some time between 2 o'clock and day he ran against the door, which struck and crushing himself to death. He was the son of Capt. Harrison Watts, a leading broker.

DISCOVERED BY A WOMAN.

Another great discovery has been made, and that, too, by a lady in this country. "Disease fastened its clutches upon her and for seven years she withstood its severest tests, but her vital organs were undermined and death seemed imminent. For three months she struggled on, and could not sleep. She finally discovered a way to recovery by purchasing of us a bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Syphilis, etc., and was relieved on taking the first dose and she slept all night, and with two bottles has been absolutely cured. Her name is Mrs. Luther Lutz. Thus writes W. W. Chamberlain, Co. of Shelby, N. C. Trial bottle free. Regular size 50c and \$1.00. Every bottle guaranteed.

FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS.

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP has been used for over fifty years by millions of mothers for their children while teething, with perfect success. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for Diarrhoea. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Sold by Druggists in every part of the world. Twenty-five cents a bottle. Be sure and get "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," and take no other.

PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM.

Plan to Abolish the Criminal Courts, For Additional Superior Courts, and Railroad Commission.

[Special Star Correspondence.] RALEIGH, N. C., Jan. 9. - An important change in the judicial system of the State is contemplated, and those who favor the measure profess no doubt of its enactment into a law by the Legislature. The plan is to abolish the two Criminal Courts, and elect two Superior Court judges in place of the two Criminal Court judges. This, they argue, can be done without any extra expense at all, and will benefit the whole State instead of half a dozen counties where there is a congestion of criminal cases. In addition to this, it is proposed, two new judgeships will be created, making the whole number of Superior Court judges in the State sixteen instead of twelve as at present.

The reason urged for this change is that the docket, both criminal and civil, in most of the counties, have grown very heavy in recent years. In some of these counties during the past year, as much as \$3,000 was expended for extra terms of court, and still their jails are crowded and their civil dockets are congested.

FOUR NEW JUDGESHIPS.

Of course, if these four new judgeships are created it will be necessary to redistrict the State. To do this a redistricting bill will be introduced, providing for the appointment of a special committee of fifteen persons in the House. A similar resolution will probably go through in the Senate. It is pointed out that if the State has less than two and one-half times as many judges, in proportion to population, as has North Carolina. And as for the Criminal Courts, their usefulness is claimed to have been much crippled by the recent decision as to appeals, rendered by the Supreme Court in the Hinson case from Mecklenburg. Under this decision appeals from Criminal Courts can be taken only to Superior Courts. If the case is there decided against the defendant it can be taken on up to the Supreme Court, if the case is taken back to the Criminal Court for trial.

THE RAILROAD COMMISSION.

It now seems almost certain that the Railroad Commission will be abolished, and a Commission on Railroads, Banking and Insurance established in its stead. This will consist of three members, to be elected by the Legislature on joint ballot. The members of the present Commission, Mr. J. M. Abbott, (Rep.) of Pamlico county, who was elected Railroad Commissioner by the last Legislature for a term of six years. The terms of the other two commissioners, Mr. J. M. Caldwell, (Dem.) of Johnston county, and Mr. J. M. Wilson, (Dem.) of Johnston county, expire by limitation in place of the two Wilsons, who were suspended by the Governor by a pointment must be passed upon by the Legislature.

Just what will be done in this matter, though, it is impossible now to say. The hearing on this case has not yet having been sent in to the House and Senate by his excellency Maj. J. W. Wilson not only hopes for its reinstatement, but he is a candidate also for re-election. S. Otis Wilson, the Populist, asks only the salary since his suspension. To this end he, on Saturday, sent his resignation to the commission, to the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House. He thinks his only chance for the salary is to so arrange the matter that the Legislature, in backing water on Gov. Russell's action, will run no risk in putting him back in the office of railroad commissioner. He knows that he can never serve again, and he has had a stroke, and he is a master stroke to tender his resignation, resting his application for reinstatement upon a simple demand for salary. He is a Populist, and he will declare Maj. Wilson entitled to the salary during suspension, and he is trying desperately to get into the same boat.

MARRIED WOMEN.

An act will certainly be passed removing the disability of married women. This, in some respects, will be one of the most important laws enacted by the Legislature