

MR. MCKINLEY TALKS.

Mr. McKinley has made several speeches lately, in all of which he spoke about the war in the Philippines and said something about our "benevolent" intentions, but in every one of which he substantially declared that it was the purpose of this Government to hold on to the Philippines. At Ocean Grove last Friday, defining the policy of the Administration, he said:

"Peace first; then, with charity for all, establish a government of law and order, protecting life, property and occupation, for the well being of the people, a government in which they shall participate under the Stars and Stripes."

In his speech of welcome to the returned Pennsylvania regiment at Pittsburgh, after assuring them of the hearty plaudits of their countrymen, he said:

"You made secure and permanent the victory of Dewey. You added new glory to American arms. You and your brave comrades engaged on other fields of conflict have enlarged the map of the United States which tended the jurisdiction of American liberty."

Mr. McKinley had made some speeches last Spring in which he declared that the treaty with Spain having been ratified that question passed beyond the administration and into the domain of Congress, whose province and duty it was to formulate and declare the policy that was to be pursued in the case of the Philippines. But now Mr. McKinley seems to have a policy and that policy is for permanent occupation of the Philippines, occupation for the betterment, as alleged, of their people. This is a mere subterfuge, for the history of territorial expansion by any country does not show a single instance where expansion was adopted for the benefit of the people taken in. The American expansionists do not care the snap of their fingers for the people of those islands, whom they look upon as "semi-savages," underserving of respectful consideration.

It would be more candid and more truthful if Mr. McKinley dropped this "benevolent" subterfuge and admitted that the motive in conquering and retaining possession of those islands is because it is thought they will be of value to us, in the countries in the East. This is what the more blunt of the expansionists say, who are too frank to take refuge behind a sentimental pretence to justify their war of "criminal aggression."

After paying deserved tribute to the loyalty, self-sacrificing devotion, indomitable valor, and glorious heroism of our soldiers he said:

"Peace brought us to the Philippines by treaty cession from Spain. The Senate of the United States ratified the treaty. Every step taken was in obedience to the requirements of the Constitution. It became our territory and is ours as much as the Louisiana purchase or Texas or Alaska. A body of insurgents, in no sense representing the sentiment of the people of the islands, disputed our lawful authority, and even before the ratification of the treaty by the American Senate were attacking the very forces who fought for and secured their freedom."

This is both a misstatement of fact and a piece of special pleading. It is a misstatement of fact because peace did not bring us the Philippines. We practically had peace before we got the Philippines. Their getting was an after-thought which did not occur to the administration until the peace commissioners met in Paris, when our commissioners were instructed to negotiate for the purchase of the islands, which crippled, humiliated and demoralized Spain was very glad to surrender at the price offered. Without an army, with a mere semblance of a navy, Spain was not in a condition to make war, or to defend her claim to the Philippines, and this country could have dictated the terms of peace.

We claimed at the time that with the surrender of Manila, Spain surrendered her sovereignty over the islands, and this is the reason why the taking of Manila was timed so as to occur before the signing of the protocol. We claimed the islands by virtue of defeat of the Spaniards, and then when it served the purpose better (because the Filipinos did as much or more than we did in crushing Spanish power) we claimed possession by purchase—purchase from a power which had been overthrown and did not have the right to sell.

That's where the trouble began with the Filipinos, who up to that time had been our faithful allies, and who are now charged with ingratitude because they protested against the barter by which they were, without any voice in the trade, transferred from one sovereignty to another. It was not, as Mr. McKinley says, the protest of ambitious leaders to subvert their own ends, but a protest of the people who stood by those leaders in sufficient numbers to contest the ground with our armies and make it necessary to send 60,000 to 70,000 men to enforce submission to a flag that they never saw until they saw it flying over Admiral Dewey's ships. They committed no hostile act

REFRIGERATOR CARS.

Mr. T. M. Emerson to Select Company to Move 1900 Truck and Berry Crop.

A CONFERENCE YESTERDAY.

Between Executive Committee of Truck and Fruit Growers' Association and Mr. Emerson—Armour Company Recommended by Directors.

There was an important conference yesterday between the executive committee of the Eastern Carolina Truck and Fruit Growers' Association and Mr. T. M. Emerson, traffic manager of the Atlantic Coast Line, regarding the refrigerator car service for the transportation of truck and berries. As a result of the conference the executive committee has turned the whole matter of the selection of the company to supply the refrigerator car service over to Mr. Emerson. This action was taken because, in the language of one of the committeemen, they have implicit confidence in the judgment and kindly feeling for the best interests of the truckers and fruit growers' association entertained by Mr. Emerson. So that Mr. Emerson will select the line which in his judgment will best promote the mutual interests of the association and the railroad company. It is expected that Mr. Emerson will announce his choice as to the refrigerator car service very soon.

The action yesterday was in compliance with a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors on August 9th when a conference was held in this city. The resolution was as follows:

WHEREAS, The Atlantic Coast Line has requested the East Carolina Truck and Fruit Growers' Association to invite bids for refrigerator service and whereas various bids have been submitted, therefore be it

Resolved, That these various bids be turned over to the proper officers of the A. C. L., and that they be informed of our preference for the Armour line or bid.

It will be seen from the resolution that the directors strongly recommend the Armour Company as the most acceptable bidder for the refrigerator car contract. And friends of this company contend that the award can be made to them for the reason, as they say, that a promise has been made by the railroad authorities that the company most acceptable to the Truckers' Association will be adopted. However, that may be, the whole matter being now in the hands of Mr. Emerson, it is entirely discretionary with him to select the company which will render the best service both as to cars and rate.

The companies competing for the contract are the Swift Company (successors to the C. F. T. Company, the contractors during the past five years), the C. E. T. Company and the Armour Company.

A member of the executive committee spoke in a very pleased manner of the progress being made in the adjustment of freight rates on berries and truck. Negotiations are now pending for the reduction of the rates to Washington and Baltimore and to various points in the West.

Members of the executive committee of the East Carolina Truck and Fruit Growers' Association who participated in the conference with Mr. Emerson yesterday were: Mr. W. L. Hill, Warshaw; Mr. G. S. Westbrock, Paion; Mr. J. A. Brown, Chadbourn; Dr. Geo. F. Lucas, Currie, and Dr. E. Porter, Rocky Point.

WHITE AXLE AND HUB COMPANY.

Articles of Incorporation Filed With Clerk of the Superior Court Yesterday.

Articles of agreement were yesterday filed with Col. Jno. D. Taylor, Clerk of the Superior Court, incorporating the "White Patent Axle and Hub Company," with a capital of \$14,000, divided into 140 shares of the par value of \$100 each.

The incorporators are Mr. B. F. Keith, who has thirty shares in the axle company and twenty in the hub company; Mr. F. P. White, of Brunswick county, who has twenty shares in each; Mr. J. B. Mercer, who has ten and twenty shares respectively in the two companies; and Mr. Isaac Hogeland, of Onslow county, who has ten shares in the axle company. The principal offices and place of business will be in Wilmington, Greensboro, N. C., or in any other city, town or county in the State or in other States, upon compliance with the local or State laws. The business of the company is to be that of manufacturing the White patent axle and axle spindle and the White patent hub, reference to which has already been made in the STAR. The articles of incorporation also allow them the privilege to manufacture, buy, sell and repair vehicles; also power to increase the capital stock to \$100,000.

End of the Cotton Season.

The STAR's esteemed friend, Colonel John L. Cantwell, Secretary of the Produce Exchange, had no end of work yesterday in making preparations for the compiling of his annual cotton statement, which is a very tedious task, as to-day is the end of the cotton crop year, and the very elaborate statement which he always furnishes at this particular time, is of momentous interest to members of the Exchange. Besides furnishing it for the use of members here, he has a number of requests for a detailed statement by wire to-night to assist compilers in other cities in computing the actual production during the past season.

Proof of the pudding lies in the eating of it. Proof of ROBERTS' TASTELESS CHILL TONIC lies in the taking of it. COST NO MORE IF IT FALLS TO CURS. 35 CENTS PER BOTTLE IF IT CURES. Sold strictly on its merits by

ROBERT B. BELLAMY, mar 24 17 Wholesale and Retail Druggist.

UNNECESSARY ALARM.

Caused by Absence of Cashier of Wilmington Savings and Trust Company.

CONFIDENCE IS RESTORED.

A Few Small Depositors Withdrew Deposits—Announcement Made That Nothing is Lost by Absence of Cashier George Sloan.

The disappearance of Mr. George Sloan, cashier of the Wilmington Savings and Trust Company, caused an unnecessary alarm yesterday among some of the depositors, a number having gone to the bank during the afternoon and evening and withdrawn their deposits. However, the positive assertion and guarantee on the part of Mr. J. W. Norwood, president of the bank, the directors and others, of the foremost business men and wealthiest citizens of Wilmington that the bank would not lose a cent by the absence of Mr. Sloan and that the affairs of the bank are in excellent condition, came as a very great reassurance and many who started to the bank to withdraw their deposits abandoned the idea and used their influence to allay any uneasiness entertained by others.

In this Morning's STAR will be found a statement signed by President J. W. Norwood and Directors W. A. Riach, H. L. Vollers, Jas. Worth, Geo. R. French, Donald MacRae, N. B. Rankin and D. O. Connor, reaffirming the absolute security of all deposits, that not a cent is lost by the absence of the cashier and declaring further that they will not only pay all depositors in full but also pay all stockholders in full for cost of their stock and a premium of 50 per cent. in addition, because of the surplus of the bank.

As soon as the absence of Mr. Sloan was ascertained yesterday morning, Mr. Norwood opened the Savings Bank in person and it remained open until 10 o'clock last night in order that every depositor who so desired might have the opportunity to draw out their deposits. However, confidence was so far restored during the afternoon that for a long while before the doors closed for the night there was not a single applicant for withdrawal of deposits.

It is gratifying to note that less than 4 per cent. of the deposits were withdrawn during the needless scare yesterday so that it could not be by any means considered a "run" in the ordinary meaning of that term as applied to banks. During the afternoon a number of business men showed their absolute confidence in the bank by making deposits of considerable sums while others were withdrawing theirs.

The bank officials say that every dollar paid to depositors yesterday was from the funds of the bank.

Had it been necessary, however, to use the funds of the bank, Sloan's demands their resources were practically limitless. All the banks of the city made tenders of any amounts needed, and President Norwood put at the disposal of the bank \$25,000 in first class securities, his individual property, in case it should be needed. It was not needed, however, nor is there any indication that it will be, as the fears of depositors seem to be thoroughly allayed, and few if any at all will withdraw their deposits to-day.

The deposits amount to \$600,000 in the aggregate and there are about 4,000 depositors.

Mr. Sloan's Disappearance.

Mr. George Sloan, the absent cashier left Wilmington on the 7 P. M. northbound W. & W. train Sunday night. He purchased of Mr. J. D. Edwards, the ticket agent, a ticket to Baltimore. He told him that he was greatly overworked and was going off on a few days' vacation. It is very much feared by his family and friends that overwork has unbalanced his mind so that he is laboring under the hallucination that he has a vacation, or, certainly he is, in some way demented by overwork. It is generally conceded that the business done by the bank has for a long while been so enormous as to very much overtax one cashier. However, he has had no assistant.

The only news received from Mr. Sloan yesterday was the statement by Mr. J. N. Brand, of this city, that he saw him at Wilson Sunday night. He told Mr. Brand that he was going to Baltimore for a little vacation. Mr. Brand telegraphed a friend, whom he knew went toward Baltimore with Mr. Sloan, yesterday, asking about the course taken by him, and received a telegram in reply stating that he travelled with Mr. Sloan as far as Richmond and he left there on the train for Baltimore. It is believed that he will return of his own volition in a few days. One of the directors told a member of the STAR yesterday that he does not believe Mr. Sloan is guilty of any criminal act. In fact, it is the general belief of his friends, who, by the way are legion, that there is no more trustworthy young man in the city. He is about thirty years old and has been associated with the bank for several years. He is bonded with a standard surety company in the sum of \$5,000.

The relatives and friends of Mr. Sloan are doing all in their power to ascertain his whereabouts and induce him to come home. His wife and two children are spending some time at Lincolnton, a popular mountain health resort.

Interesting Notes.

Referring to the withdrawn deposits it is of interest to note that those who were so uneasy yesterday as to withdraw their deposits thereby lost their interest for the past quarter to be declared on September 1st. On this date a new quarter begins and all deposits therein will draw interest from that date to December 1st. It is more than probable that a large per cent. of those who drew out their money yesterday will reposit it in time for it to begin to draw interest on September 1st.

Mr. James S. Worth is acting as temporary cashier.

NO NEWS FROM SLOAN.

The Absent Cashier of the Wilmington Savings and Trust Company.

NO CHARGE AGAINST HIM.

Not Believed Guilty of Any Criminal Act. Confidence in Bank Absolutely Restored—Large Deposits Yesterday—Usual Business.

Absolute confidence in the unshaken condition of the Wilmington Savings and Trust Company, and in the announcement by the president and the directors that the bank has lost nothing by the departure of Cashier George Sloan, has certainly been established, as was clearly demonstrated yesterday, especially by the fact that the deposits received during banking hours were very much in excess of checks cashed, and that quite a number of those who drew out their deposits under stress of the flurry of excited apprehension caused by the discovery of the absence of the cashier Monday re-deposited their money during the day.

The bank did the usual routine of business yesterday, and any calling at the banking house during the day and not aware of the conditions which existed on the day previous could scarcely believe that so complete and highly gratifying a change could have taken place in so short a time. The bank was, however, prepared for any emergency which might have arisen, having at hand ample currency to pay any and all depositors who might apply for withdrawal and that too with the bank's own funds.

While it was not necessary to accept a single tender of financial aid, President Norwood and the directors very much appreciate numerous offers of assistance from banks of neighboring cities in this and other States. A notable telegram from an individual was that received early in the day from Mr. Harry Walters who is vice president of the bank. It was as follows:

NEWPORT, R. I., August 29. Mr. J. W. Norwood, Wilmington: Wire me at the Glosters, Newport, if you want me to send you money. I will supply whatever may be required. (Signed) H. WALTERS.

The Big Safe Opened.

About 3:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon Mr. Thos. Torpy, master machinist at the A. C. L. or shops, assisted by Thos. Castine a helper at the shops, forced open the big safe in the bank, the combination to which is known only to Mr. Sloan the absent cashier. In opening the safe Mr. Torpy tried to use an explosive but was unsuccessful, having finally forced the door open by knocking off the knob and rolling back the main spindle of the lock. It was in the safe thus opened that the cash on hand of last Saturday's deposits, the last received by the absent cashier, was believed to be, together with certain securities, etc., the cash amounting to \$807.

President Norwood found the cash and securities all intact, so that there is every indication that Mr. Sloan had misappropriated no funds at all. The cash accounts were found to be carefully adjusted, Mr. Sloan having charged against the cash his salary due up to Saturday.

No News From Mr. Sloan.

No tidings whatever were received from Mr. Sloan, the absent cashier yesterday. A movement has been inaugurated by his relatives and friends in conjunction with a certain secret order of which he is a highly esteemed member, to ascertain his whereabouts and get him to return to the city. It is still the general opinion that he is in some way demented, wherever he may be. There are many who believe he will very soon return to the city of his own accord. Why he should have left the city as he did when no criminal charge is made against him is a great mystery.

DECLARED A FABRICATION.

Mr. James Sprunt Denies the Reports Published in New York Papers.

Attention is directed to a card from Mr. James Sprunt, as President of the Champion Compress Company, published in another column. Mr. Sprunt pronounces the report published in the New York Times, the Brooklyn Eagle and other New York papers regarding effort on his part, through one Elijah Green, colored, to induce negro refugees from Wilmington to return to the city, a fabrication throughout. The principal feature of the report was a statement that Mr. Sprunt had engaged the negro Green to go throughout the Northern States to negro refugees, driven out from Wilmington during the November race trouble, and induce those heretofore in Mr. Sprunt's employ to return to the city, and that Green was then in New York City on that mission. Mr. Sprunt in his card makes an emphatic denial of this, as well as other features of the reports in the New York papers.

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., Props., Toledo, Ohio.

We, 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 obligation made by him.

WEST & TRUAX, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. WALKING, DRUGGIST & MANUFACTURER, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price, 75c. per bottle. Sold by all druggists. Testimonials free. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

The East Carolina Real Estate Agency has excellent facilities for selling farms and timbered lands. It advertises all property and makes only a nominal charge unless a sale is made. For terms, etc., address R. G. Grady & Co., Burgaw, N. C.

MR. GEORGE T. SLOAN.

Intelligence From the Missing Cashier of the Savings and Trust Company.

HIS WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN.

A Letter Giving Reasons for Leaving Wilmington—Broken Down by Overwork—Accounts in a Tangle. Will Establish Innocence.

[Special Star Telegram.] CHARLOTTE, N. C., August 30.—A special dispatch to the Observer from Lincolnton, N. C., says: Mrs. George T. Sloan, the wife of the missing cashier of the Wilmington Savings and Trust Company, is spending the Summer here. Until this morning she was in utter ignorance of the fact that her husband had left Wilmington, or that there was any rumor affecting his character. The news had been carefully kept from her by her friends. Monday she received a letter from her husband, but it contained only a sheet of blank paper, which she supposed had been enclosed by mistake instead of a letter he had written. Yesterday a telegram from Mr. Sloan's brother, telling her to "believe nothing she read or heard until you receive my letter written to-day," was intercepted and withheld by friends, as it would have precipitated a disclosure. But this morning, realizing that concealment was no longer possible, her friends as gently as possible broke the news to her. It was a terrible shock, and she was almost prostrated.

By this morning's mail, received shortly after the news was broken to her, Mrs. Sloan received a letter from her husband. There was no indication as to the place from which the letter was written. He said that he had become broken down and heartened by overwork; that the accounts were badly mixed and he was unable to straighten them out, hence he left. He had repeatedly asked the officials of the bank for help because the work was more than he could do, and the pressure upon him was so great as to cause him to make errors in the accounts. He got the books badly out of balance. He most solemnly declared that for no purpose whatever had he used one cent of money belonging to the bank or to any of its depositors, or any one else, and that a thorough investigation of the bank's books and accounts would establish his entire innocence. He promised in a few days to give her his address.

Mrs. Sloan's confidence in her husband's ability to establish his innocence of any wrong-doing is unshaken, and her faith in him is unshaken. She is a lovely young woman, scarcely more than a girl, and has one child, a little son. She has made many friends here who sympathize with her in her trouble and minister to her.

Just as soon as he informs her of his whereabouts Mrs. Sloan and her friends will try to induce Mr. Sloan to come here and take the rest they know he so much needs.

PRESENTED TO DR. HOGE.

Pretty Silver Service From the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church. Left Yesterday for Richmond.

As a testimonial of the very high esteem in which he is held; of the appreciation of his faithful and unselfish labors, covering a period of many years, the congregation of the First Presbyterian church yesterday morning presented to its retiring pastor, Rev. Dr. Peyton H. Hoge, a very pretty and costly solid silver tea set of five pieces, with a beautiful cut glass bowl handsomely trimmed in sterling silver. The presentation was made through a committee of the officers of the church, among them being Mr. James Sprunt, Mr. B. G. Worth, Mr. B. F. Hall, Mr. W. M. Cumming, Mr. P. Pearssall, Col. Jno. D. Taylor, Capt. W. S. Warrock and Capt. W. R. Kennan.

The formal presentation was by Mr. Hall, in well chosen words, which were responded to briefly and feelingly by Dr. Hoge.

Dr. Hoge left for Richmond, Va., yesterday morning, but the service will be suitably engraved and sent to him at Louisville, Ky., where his pastorate will formally open at Warren Memorial church on the third Sunday in September, at which time he will preach his initial sermon. His family are now visiting at Waynesboro, Va., but will join him in their new home in about a month.

"THE UNKNOWN FACTORY."

Purchased From Parties in New York by George E. Pope—F. L. Higgins Continues As Superintendent.

The factory of the Imperial Pine Product Company, designated by many people in this city and section as "The Unknown Factory," has been purchased by Mr. Geo. E. Pope, of Parkersburg, W. Va., who arrived in the city yesterday and will reside in Wilmington in future, he and Mrs. Pope making their home with Mrs. Pope's mother, Mrs. Stella Thompson, No. 412 Red Cross street.

Mr. Pope was seen last night by a member of the STAR staff and was told that he would take possession of the property on September 1st. There is no material change to be made in the factory and its equipment in the near future. Mr. Frank L. Higgins, who has been superintendent of the factory for the past two or three years, operating several of the retorts on his personal account, making pine oil and similar products, will continue the superintendency with Mr. Pope. The purchase by Mr. Pope was made from parties in New York.

The Best Prescription for Chills and fever is a bottle of GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC. Never fails to cure; then why experiment with worthless imitations? Price 50 cents. Your money back if it fails to cure.

SHORTAGE IN COTTON.

Crop in the Southern States Has Suffered Much On The Average.

DAMAGE ABOUT 20 PER CENT.

Reports Received From 96 Firms in the Cotton States Show That Damage Varies From 10 to 20 Per Cent. Estimates in Detail.

There appears to be a general inclination with most cotton men, especially in the South, to discountenance the estimate of Neill as to the probable production of cotton for the crop year of 1899-1900. Those who have studied the question, particularly the bulls, and they are largely in the majority, can find no foundation for Neill's figures in the reports from North Carolina and Georgia—or, for that matter in the general report.

The opinion prevails that Neill has allowed personal ends to bias his judgment. He is recognized as one of the foremost bears in the South, and it would be strictly to his personal gain for a very large crop to reach the market and the price to go down in consequence thereof.

Price, McCormick & Co., of New York, have received replies from 96 responsible firms throughout the South, which indicate that the crop production has suffered a reduction of about 20 per cent. Their correspondents estimate the probable reduction at 10 to 15 per cent.

The States from which replies were received are Alabama, North Carolina, Texas, South Carolina and Tennessee. The reports are dated August 22nd to August 25th, and a few of them are given to STAR readers here:

NORTH CAROLINA. WILMINGTON, N. C.—Many accounts our section very discouraging; think will average 20 per cent. under last year. ALEX. SPRUNT & SON. WILMINGTON, N. C.—Probable yield 25 per cent. less than last year; crop opening prematurely. MURCHISON & CO. CONCORD, N. C.—Crops in this section the sorriest I think I ever saw. J. DOVE. CHARLOTTE, N. C.—Reports from four of our best sections in Georgia and South Carolina indicate crop short last year 25 per cent.; some sections 50 per cent. July crop short fully one-half. SANDERS, ORR & CO. CHARLOTTE, N. C.—Condition of crop could hardly be worse. Crop will be less than last year—40 to 50 per cent. for fifty to a hundred miles around here. JNO. W. MILLER & CO. RALEIGH, N. C.—Will have average crop in this section if conditions favorable from now on. CHAS. E. JOHNSON & CO. NEWBERN, N. C.—Crop has been cut short fully 30 per cent. since the storm. S. L. LATHAM. SOUTH CAROLINA. LAURENS, S. C.—Unanimous verdict not over half crop at best; present drought doing terrible damage. TODD, SIMPSON & CO. GREENVILLE, S. C.—Conservative estimate damage 25 per cent. J. B. CHERRY & CO. CHARLESTON, S. C.—Excessive hot, dry weather; damage about 10 to 15 per cent. E. H. FROST & CO. ABBEVILLE, S. C.—Shortest crop in this section since 1881; average yield for whole section 50 per cent. usual crop; drought still prevailing and working serious damage. SMITH & HENRY. NEWBERN, S. C.—Crops burning up; not get over 50 per cent. crop. M. L. STEVENS & CO. SPARTANBURG, S. C.—Worms made appearance in our county; half crop in this section. R. H. FLOYD. SPARTANBURG, S. C.—Cotton crop cut off fully one-half. DUNBAR BROS. ANDERSON, S. C.—Drought conditions; can't make over half crop with field of 1000. GIDDINGS. The condition of the crop could hardly be worse; cotton opening rapidly. BROWN, OSBORNE & CO. BENNETTSVILLE, S. C.—Weather hot and dry. J. W. SMITH. TEXAS. HOUSTON, TEXAS—Drought has damaged crop 15 per cent. in this section and 30 per cent. in Central and Northern Texas. S. L. GOHLMAN. TEMPLE, TEXAS—Cotton dying; about one-half crop. J. C. RILEY & SON. TAYLOR, TEXAS—Extremely hot and dry; plant has shed everything except early matured bolls. R. H. TALLEY & CO. BRYAN, TEXAS—From best information crop cut short at least one-half on account of dry weather. SANDERS BROTHERS & CO. PALESTINE, TEXAS—Dry weather injuring crop; think it will be at least one-third less than last year. H. C. SWANSON. WACDO, TEXAS—Crop very short; ruined by drought; no rain since flood. A. E. KIERSKY. MARSHALL, TEXAS—Dotted crops in this section from 35 to 40 per cent. off. L. KAHN. FORT WORTH, TEXAS—Yield will be reduced 50 per cent. K. N. VAN ZANDT. ATHENS, TEXAS—Cotton damaged by hot wind; one-third crop. GEO. M. WOFFORD & BRO. PARIS, TEXAS—Damage very serious. FORWOOD & O'NEILL. BRENHAM, TEXAS—Cotton crop has deteriorated fully 25 per cent. last twenty days from drought and hot wind. FLEMING & TAYLOR. BRYAN, TEXAS—Present conditions very unfavorable; 50 per cent. shortage. T. R. BATTLE. OKMUSKANA, TEXAS—Reliable reports show 40 to 50 per cent. damage to crop with rains of fifty miles. FLEMING & TAYLOR. GAINESVILLE, TEXAS—Conservative estimates reduced 40 to 50 per cent. North and Central Texas. LEWIN BROS & CO. PARIS, TEXAS—Drought has done serious damage; questionable if rains would be beneficial. MCDADE, MULLER & OWNSBY. HOUSTON, TEXAS—Unquestionably great damage to crop in past two weeks. SHERMAN, TEXAS—Conditions serious; hot winds continue; estimate this section one-quarter bale per acre. G. C. ROUNTREE. GEORGIA. AMERICUS, GA.—Crop this section of Georgia damaged by rust and dry weather; off from last year 15 to 25 per cent. FLEMING & TAYLOR. MACON, GA.—Off fully 20 per cent. from last year; very hot and dry. F. S. HARDMAN & CO.

HAWKINSVILLE, GA.—Think our immediate section will make one third less than last year.

CONYER, LOVEJOY & CO. SAVANNAH, GA.—Cotton in Georgia falling seriously in some sections; cause, rust; plant dying; loss of fruit. BUTLER, STEVENS & CO. ATLANTA, GA.—Reported generally from 15 to 50 per cent. less favorable than same time last year; picking lively; drought reported everywhere. GEO. S. MAY. MACON, GA.—Crop 25 per cent. off from last year; opening prematurely. O. B. WILLINGHAM. LA GRANGE, GA.—This section 20 per cent. short of last year; damage not exaggerated. C. W. PRITTE. HAWKINSVILLE, GA.—Can't possibly expect more than crop cotton our section. MCCORMICK & JOINER. ALABAMA. HUNTSVILLE, ALA.—Crop this section 25 per cent. off. J. KLAUS & CO. TUSCALOOSA, ALA.—Crop 15 per cent. off from last year, with chance of recuperating. P. LOVEMAN & CO. UNION SPRINGS, ALA.—Crop in this section one-third off; hard to overestimate damage; damage very bad. W. E. PIERCE. DEMOPOLIS, ALA.—Cotton crop 20 per cent. short of last year. W. E. MARX & CO. LOUISIANA. NEW ORLEANS, LA.—Our private reports confirm damage to crop. H. ABRAHAM & SON. MISSISSIPPI. COLUMBIA, MISS.—Middle crop damaged; shedding; think our yield will be 10 to 15 per cent. less than last year. T. G. OWEN & CO. MERIDIAN, MISS.—Cotton crop deteriorated considerably; yield will be much less per acre than last year. THREEFOOT BROTHERS & CO. JACKSONVILLE, MISS.—Cotton crop badly damaged without good rain. HAYNE & CO. ABERDEEN, MISS.—Average estimate crop this section 12 to 15 per cent.; some claim 25 per cent. ARE RUEHL & CO. COLUMBUS, MISS.—Crop at present off 25 per cent. JOHNSTON, BROS. ARKANSAS. FORT SMITH, ARK.—Crop badly damaged; condition critical. W. E. MCCORMICK & CO. PINE BLUFF, ARK.—Complaining of damage here in our opinion is excessive, but rain is needed in some localities. J. B. SPEARS & CO. LITTLE ROCK, ARK.—Crops will be 40 per cent. short; bottom lands 30 per cent. short. FLETCHER & HORTZ. TENNESSEE. MEMPHIS, TENN.—Think damage Memphis district from rust and shedding 15 to 25 per cent. ARMISTEAD, CHAPMAN & CO. NASHVILLE, TENN.—Continued hot weather causing some damage. I. E. GILBERT & CO.

DR. HOGE'S LAST SERMON.

TO HIS CONGREGATION. Preached to a Large Gathering at First Presbyterian Church Sunday Morning—He Leaves To-day.

Yesterday morning at the usual hour for service at the First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Dr. Peyton H. Hoge delivered his last sermon to the congregation, whom he has served faithfully as pastor for many years.

Dr. Hoge stated at the beginning of his discourse, which was from John 3: 39, that he would not preach what was ordinarily called a farewell sermon, for if his appeals and admonitions had been unheeded for the long years of his pastorate they would still be without avail, even when incorporated into a farewell message. With a brief summary of his work during the years he has served the First Presbyterian Church, he drifted on to his text and engaged the wrapt attention of a large congregation, which had gathered to attend the final service.

A special programme of music was rendered with much effect by a male quartette composed of Messrs. C. H. Robinson, Jr., H. K. Holden, C. H. Cooper and R. F. Fowler. Miss Anna Sprunt was organist.

At the conclusion of the service many of the congregation went to the pulpit stand and bade Dr. Hoge good bye. He stated that it was his intention to visit every family of his congregation before leaving, but a press of other church work had prevented it.

Sunday night Dr. Hoge preached his last sermon to the congregation of Immanuel Presbyterian Church, whom he has been serving during the past month, and there was another large crowd to hear him.

He leaves to-day for Richmond, where he will join his family and after spending several days, will go to New York. He will go to Louisville before October 1st, at which time he will enter upon his work as pastor of Warren Memorial Church, of that city.

A Welcome Visitor.

Rev. W. S. Rouse, Presiding Elder of the Wilmington district a few years ago, but now on the Newbern district, is in Wilmington to spend a few days with friends. While here he will be the guest of Mr. W. E. Springer, 214 North Second street. Numerous friends and admirers of his old district will be pleased that he is doing a fine and prosperous work on the Newbern district.

Diamond Shoals Lightship.

A dispatch from Norfolk, Va., says that Inspector Mead, of the government Lightship Service, passed through Norfolk Tuesday, en route to Hatteras, where he will endeavor to save the Diamond Shoals lightship, the only warning beacon it has ever known found possible to install at that dangerous point. The ship has safely ridden out many severe hurricanes, but now, even if saved, she will