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The subscription price of the Weekly Star...

TH I S U E Q U A R E L Y D R A W N .

The passage of the Senate so-called currency bill following the passage of a so-called currency bill in the House of Representatives does one thing if nothing more, it shows beyond question where the Republican party, as represented by the McKinley administration and the majority in both Houses of Congress, stands on the gold question, something which was not before definitely understood. Heretofore it has been a gold party with the gold men and a silver party with the silver men; now it is a straight out gold party, pure and simple, which in as far as it can has put this country on the single gold standard and solemnly pledged it to pay all its obligations, regardless of the contract, in gold. This is not only showing bad faith with the American people, whose opinions were never asked upon that question, but it is a monstrous imposition upon them in the interest of the money kings who hold Government obligations, for it adds indelibly to the burden of taxation they will have to bear, and indefinitely perpetuates the national debt. We say it adds indelibly to the burden of taxation, because it makes it obligatory upon the Government to redeem its obligations in the scarcest kind of money, and the only speculative money in the world, a money which can be controlled by money combines and made as scarce as they desire to make it. There is said to be about four thousand millions of gold coin in the world and that the Rothschild bankers and gold brokers can control half of it. The other combines can easily practically control the other half. It is dealing dishonestly with and practicing imposition upon the people because every dollar of Government indebtedness contracted was under the contract payable, up to the passage of the so-called redemption act in 1868, in "lawful money of the United States," which was anything the law-making branch of the Government saw fit to declare money. After they eliminated the greenback as a public debt redeemer, a very debt redeemable in "coin," and stood so and will stand so until the legislation they are now forcing upon the country becomes operative, when gold will be the only money of redemption. So every private debt contracted in this country was payable in "coin," unless there was a special contract stipulating that it must be paid in gold. The debtor could waive the right, if he so elected, to pay in coin and obligate himself to pay in gold, and so could the United States, but they never did, and never could be persuaded to do it until these creatures of the money power who happen to have a majority in both Houses of Congress, took snap judgment on the people and made the Government promise to pay in gold debts that were payable first in "lawful money" and afterwards in "coin." This means adding immensely to the national debt and adding to every private debt where the creditor may see fit to demand gold or its equivalent. If there were an abundance of gold in the country, and the Government had any way of counting upon what it might need without selling bonds and going upon the market as a purchaser of gold the case would be different, but this is the only way the Government can count upon keeping up its gold reserves, especially since this positive enactment putting the country on the single gold standard. The gold men have been boasting of the large amount of gold in the Treasury, more than it ever had at any one time, but it went into the Treasury through its customs offices simply because the gold men didn't have any special use for it, and preferred to let the Treasury take care of it for them, knowing full well that they could get it out whenever they wanted it, or whenever there might be a demand for it that would make drawing it out profitable. Now, we venture to say, there will be less of it going into the Treasury, and the probabilities are that within the next two years the Government will be sell-

A DARING ROBBERY. Burglars Entered the A. C. L. City Ticket Office Early Saturday Night. AMOUNT OF MONEY STOLEN.

ing bonds to secure gold to maintain the gold reserve, a contingency which was anticipated in the provisions authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to sell bonds when the reserve fund falls to \$50,000,000. It puts the Treasury absolutely at the mercy of the money combines, for when they might find it to their interest to get possession of some more bonds all they would have to do would be to gather up \$50,000,000 or so of greenbacks, send them to the Treasury or sub-treasuries and ask gold for them and they would get it. They would continue the raiding until the Secretary of the Treasury found it necessary to issue another batch of bonds to get gold to take the place of that pulled out, and thus the game would go on whenever the money combines found it to their interest to play it. This new legislation puts the Government absolutely in the power of the gold-mongers and bond manipulators. It was practically at their mercy before, but that was because the Secretaries of the Treasury failed to exercise the option with which the law vested them, and obeyed the demands of the Treasury raiders. Now it is different because the Secretary has no option, if he saw fit to exercise it, for the law is mandatory. He must pay gold, and if he has no gold to pay he must borrow it or admit that the Treasury is bankrupt, although it may have millions of silver stacked up in its vaults. This is going to be rough on the people, but it may be a good thing in the end for it makes the issue a single gold standard and solemnly pledged it to pay all its obligations, regardless of the contract, in gold. This is not only showing bad faith with the American people, whose opinions were never asked upon that question, but it is a monstrous imposition upon them in the interest of the money kings who hold Government obligations, for it adds indelibly to the burden of taxation they will have to bear, and indefinitely perpetuates the national debt. We say it adds indelibly to the burden of taxation, because it makes it obligatory upon the Government to redeem its obligations in the scarcest kind of money, and the only speculative money in the world, a money which can be controlled by money combines and made as scarce as they desire to make it. There is said to be about four thousand millions of gold coin in the world and that the Rothschild bankers and gold brokers can control half of it. The other combines can easily practically control the other half. It is dealing dishonestly with and practicing imposition upon the people because every dollar of Government indebtedness contracted was under the contract payable, up to the passage of the so-called redemption act in 1868, in "lawful money of the United States," which was anything the law-making branch of the Government saw fit to declare money. After they eliminated the greenback as a public debt redeemer, a very debt redeemable in "coin," and stood so and will stand so until the legislation they are now forcing upon the country becomes operative, when gold will be the only money of redemption. So every private debt contracted in this country was payable in "coin," unless there was a special contract stipulating that it must be paid in gold. The debtor could waive the right, if he so elected, to pay in coin and obligate himself to pay in gold, and so could the United States, but they never did, and never could be persuaded to do it until these creatures of the money power who happen to have a majority in both Houses of Congress, took snap judgment on the people and made the Government promise to pay in gold debts that were payable first in "lawful money" and afterwards in "coin." This means adding immensely to the national debt and adding to every private debt where the creditor may see fit to demand gold or its equivalent. If there were an abundance of gold in the country, and the Government had any way of counting upon what it might need without selling bonds and going upon the market as a purchaser of gold the case would be different, but this is the only way the Government can count upon keeping up its gold reserves, especially since this positive enactment putting the country on the single gold standard. The gold men have been boasting of the large amount of gold in the Treasury, more than it ever had at any one time, but it went into the Treasury through its customs offices simply because the gold men didn't have any special use for it, and preferred to let the Treasury take care of it for them, knowing full well that they could get it out whenever they wanted it, or whenever there might be a demand for it that would make drawing it out profitable. Now, we venture to say, there will be less of it going into the Treasury, and the probabilities are that within the next two years the Government will be sell-

three days' battle at Gettysburg were 2,789 killed and 32,749 wounded, the Confederate losses being 2,712 killed, 12,818 wounded and 7,465 missing, and the Union losses 2,070 killed, 14,497 wounded (many mortally) and 5,434 missing. In the Atlanta campaign the Federal losses were 4,423 killed, 22,829 wounded and 4,442 missing. To show how the gaps were filled, at least on one side, more than 1,000,000 active Union soldiers were under arms when the war ended. The Boer war isn't over yet, and there will be large numbers added to the casualty list before it is, but it will be a good while before they approximate the figures given above.

HOW TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

The Indiana League of Republican clubs met at Anderson, in that State, on Lincoln's birthday, to celebrate that event. There were several speakers of prominence, among them Booker T. Washington, colored, of Alabama, who made the most sensible speech of the entire bunch. The substance of it is thus given in the press dispatches: "If we would continue to spread the spirit of Lincoln and finish the work which he began, it should be our first ambition to make the negro, first of all a properly holding, industrious, intelligent citizen and a Republican or Democrat afterwards. "We must lift ourselves above mere temporary party advantage by the influence of tradition. The negro must be taught that in every manly, straightforward, honorable way he should cultivate the confidence, friendship and co-operation of the white man by whose side he lives in the South. In turn the Southern white man should be encouraged not to distrust the negro but to give his hearty consent and active personal co-operation to every measure that has for its object the lifting up of the negro to the highest plane of citizenship. All through the South I am glad to notice evidences that show that the best and most cultivated classes of white people are beginning to take a deeper interest in the negroes. No man can assist in lifting another up without himself being made stronger, happier and more useful."

A REPUBLICAN GIVES HIS REASONS.

There are a great many Republicans in North Carolina who will support and vote for the constitutional amendment, and among them some who stand in the front as party leaders. John W. Cooper is one of the leading Republicans of Bertie county, and has been voting with that party ever since its organization in the South, but he believes in white supremacy, will support the amendment and gives his reasons for it in the following letter addressed to Mr. J. B. Stokes of that county and published in the Windsor Ledger: "Dear Sir: You are right in supporting that I will vote for the amendment. I have voted the Republican ticket steadily since the war and I believe in the principles of that party. But I am disagreed with my party in its conduct of matters in the South, especially in North Carolina. It has placed ignorant and vicious negroes in office. The incompetence of the negro, and his unfitness for leadership in his complete charge of the Republican party in North Carolina has prevented the spread of Republican doctrine. The Amendment will get rid of the negro. It will not interfere with the white folk. "For this reason I shall support the Amendment. I do not subscribe to National Democratic principles, but I do to the question of maintaining the supremacy of the white vote and of keeping negroes out of office and preventing them from influencing white schools, and by their vote taking charge of my county and State. "I am with you. My race pride and self respect demand that I put my party with yours and my friends and neighbors for permanent white supremacy. Yours, etc. "J. W. COOPER. "Howard, N. C., Feb. 19, 1900."

STAGGERING HUMANITY.

There has been a good deal said about the slaughter of men in the battles of South Africa, and this is cited as a verification of President Kruger's prediction that while the British might eventually triumph, it would be at a cost that would "stagger humanity." Humanity has not been staggered yet, although it is quite apparent that Great Britain has been very much staggered. As a reminder that there have been "staggering" wars in quite recent times with which the Boer affair is quite tame in comparison, the Army and Navy Journal quotes some figures of the casualties during the late misunderstanding between the North and the South. Without claiming that the reported Confederate losses are accurate, the Federal losses are from the official records: "They show that of the Federal soldiers engaged in the war there died on the field of battle or from fatal wounds 110,000; from disease, 199,720; from other causes, 49,708—a grand aggregate of 359,428. Estimating those who went home and died, of whom no account was taken, it is believed that the total death list on the Union side reached 400,000. "During the two weeks of fighting around Spotsylvania Court House the Federals had 2,735 men killed and 13,406 wounded. After the seven days' fighting in the Wilderness the Confederates reported 3,475 killed, 876 missing and 18,261 wounded. The joint losses of

INTERESTING REPORT

Of Adjutant General Royster, of the North Carolina State Guard.

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Copies of the annual report of Adjutant General B. S. Royster, of the State militia, were yesterday received by the commanding officers of the local military companies. It is a most interesting and comprehensive volume and contains much information of value to those who are members of or who feel a pride in the State Guard. From the Adjutant General's report it is gleaned that since December 1st, 1898, thirteen infantry companies and two naval divisions have been accepted and assigned to the regiments and naval brigade. During the year two companies were disbanded—one, the Scotland Neck Rifle-men for failing to attend the encampment at Morehead; the other the Granite City Guards; the latter, however, being replaced by one that promises to be of service and credit to the Guard. The present strength of the Guard, including General Staff, Regimental and Naval Brigade Staffs, officers and enlisted men, is 1,974, divided into three regiments of infantry, two of twelve companies each and one with eleven companies; one naval brigade of several divisions and one artillery detachment. This is a very appreciable gain over last year, when there were only 1,084 officers and enlisted men divided into 23 infantry companies with 705 men; five naval divisions with 266 men; one artillery detachment of 24 men and General Regimental Field and Staff and Naval officers to the number of 89.

SHERIFF WILL SETTLE WITH STATE AND COUNTY.

Statement of Year's Tax Collections Now Ready for Treasurer and Commissioners—A Fine Showing.

Sheriff MacRae is now ready to settle with the State and County in the matter of tax collections for the current fiscal year. Mr. Owen Fennell, deputy clerk in the office, completed the computations yesterday and he now has a statement drawn up for presentation to both the State Treasurer and to the Board of County Commissioners, which will meet in special session at 2:30 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. Sheriff MacRae has been phenomenally successful in the collections this year and has probably broken the record of all previous years as to the amount received in New Hanover county. The sum total of real and personal property according to the levy was approximately \$83,000 and out of this amount there has been collected according to the final statement \$79,372.48, which is equivalent to over ninety five and a half per cent. Of the amount collected \$13,536.67 will go to the county and the balance, which is \$65,835.81 will be given to the State and school fund in the proportions prescribed by law.

WORK ON STREETS.

Greater Activity Than for Many Years Prevails in Wilmington at This Time.

MANY HANDS ARE EMPLOYED

Work Forging Ahead at the Rock Quarries—Orange Street Ready for Macadam—Princess and Market Streets Paving. There is great activity these days in the way of public improvements in Wilmington. An immense amount of work is being done and nearly a hundred hands are employed. At the rock quarries in East Wilmington, Mr. J. P. Jones, the superintendent, has about forty hands at work getting out limestone rock for macadamizing the streets. A great quantity of rock has been quarried, and in the next three weeks the rock crushing plant will be in operation. All the machinery is here now. The rock-crusher and screens are at the warehouse of the Clyde Linn, and the big steam traction roller is at the Seaboard Air Line depot. The bus for the crushed rock will be constructed at the quarries this week, and then the crusher, screens and roller will be taken out and the plant put in readiness for operations. The engine of the roller will be utilized for running the rock crusher when it is not employed in rolling the rock after it has been laid on the streets. Work on the Streets. While the rock is being quarried for macadamizing the streets, Mr. Jas. A. Perry, the superintendent of streets, is at the head of about forty hands, some of whom are grading the streets and preparing them for the macadam, while others are at work on the plans of City Engineer Joseph H. MacRae and the Streets and Wharves Committee for a system of sanitary drainage. Yesterday Superintendent Perry had his street force and thirty carts at work on the grading of Orange street, between Seventh and Ninth. They have done an immense amount of work the past week, and will finish that job to-morrow. The high sand hill on Orange street, from Seventh street crossing to the Wilmington Seacoast railroad depot, has been cut down and the surface of the street lowered to a depth of from two to four feet. At the same time the track of the Wilmington Street Railway has been let down to a level with the grading on Orange street, so that there has been a great improvement in that particular. When the work is completed the track will be almost level all the way out Orange street. Superintendent Perry, as he goes along with the Orange street grading, is preparing the street for macadam, and as soon as the rock crusher gets to work, he will make it one of the finest streets in the city. To-morrow afternoon he will move his hands to Sixth and Orange streets and cut down the incline there to a depth of from twelve to eighteen inches. At the same time he will also grade Sixth street, near Nun, to a depth of two feet. He expects to increase his force of hands this week. Out of the thirty carts he has at work now, twenty-four of them are hired, so that not only labor is getting employment, but the cart men are getting their share. The city has ordered two broad tired wagons to haul the crushed stone from the quarries to the various streets as these are being macadamized. Princess and Market Streets. The plans for laying the roadways on Princess street from Front to Third street, and Market street from Front to the river, are getting nearer to a practical solution. All the property owners, with one exception on Princess street, have signed the agreement to pay two thirds of the cost of the paving if the city pays the other third. Yesterday Mr. Andrew Smith, the real estate agent, interested himself in securing the signatures of the owners of some property on Market street for which he is agent. He got them to sign up, but there are three or four yet to sign before there is any prospect of the work being done. Only a short time is left now for this work to be done, as the streets will not be disturbed after hot weather sets in.

TO REBUILD THE CLUB HOUSE

The Governing Board of the Carolina Yacht Club to Meet To-night to Approve the Plans for Building.

The governing board of the Carolina Yacht Club will hold a meeting to-night at 8 o'clock to examine the plans for the club's new house to be erected on Wrightsville Beach in place of the old club house destroyed by the West India hurricane last fall. Mr. Charles McMillan, the architect, has drawn the plans and they will no doubt be approved at the meeting to-night. The new club house will be a great improvement on the old one. Besides the commodious hall and rooms down stairs there will be three nice upper rooms for the use of the lady members of the club. The plans will also embrace nicely arranged bath houses. Work of tearing away the old club house was begun yesterday, and it is proposed to begin right away the work of erecting the new house.

COTTON AND NAVAL STORES.

Comparative Statement of Receipts for the Week and Past Crop Year.

The following interesting comparison of the receipts of cotton and naval stores at the port of Wilmington for the week and past crop year in 1900 with those of the last crop year, are gleaned from the regular stock report as posted yesterday at the Produce Exchange: Week ending February 16th, 1900—Cotton, 6,090 bales; spirits, 351 casks; rosin, 4,436 barrels; tar, 3,703 barrels; crude, 106 barrels. Week ending February 16th, 1899—Cotton, 332 bales; spirits, 47 casks; rosin, 1,133 barrels; tar, 423 barrels; crude, 58 barrels. Crop year to February 16th, 1900—Cotton, 248,675 bales; spirits, 28,284 casks; rosin, 151,320 barrels; tar, 66,819 barrels; crude, 11,409 barrels. Crop year to February 16th, 1899—Cotton, 284,010 bales; spirits, 27,191 casks; rosin, 151,066 barrels; tar, 62,579 barrels; crude, 10,606.

MARRIAGE AT ATKINSON.

Miss Carr, from Southport, Happily Wedded to Mr. J. M. Bowden.

[Special Star Correspondence.] ATKINSON, N. C., Feb. 16.—St. Thomas', the pretty new Episcopal Church at Atkinson, N. C., so calmly nestled among the oaks and holly, was awakened from its solemnity Wednesday afternoon, when Miss Mamie Carr, from Southport, was happily married to Mr. J. M. Bowden, of Waccamaw. Fair, artistic hands arranged exquisite decorations. Under an arch of holly, smilax and bamboo, the following couple stood and witnessed the solemn and impressive ceremony performed by Rev. Edward Wooten, of Wilmington: Miss Mamie Hawes, maid of honor, with Dr. Thompson, of Wilson, as best man; Mr. J. R. Hawes, Miss Myrtle Leonard, Miss Livy Anders, Mr. Edmond Council. The young ladies were handsomely dressed in travelling suits, all in perfect harmony with the bride's lovely costume. The strain of that well known march played by Miss Daisy, Edwina, of Athens, Ga., which many have joined so many happy hearts, made people more forcibly understand the solemnity. Many congratulations were bestowed on the worthy groom and numerous "best wishes" for the bride. Rev. P. C. Morton left Saturday for Magnolia to conduct revival services.

MURDERERS BOUND OVER.

A subscriber writing to the STAR from Wadesboro, N. C., under date of February 18th, says that Henry White and Goodman Freeman, the negroes recently arrested at Darlington, S. C., for the murder and robbery of Mr. May Smith, a prominent white citizen of Peachland, N. C., were given a preliminary hearing before Magistrate W. D. Webb in Wadesboro on Tuesday. The case was prosecuted by Hon. James A. Lockhart, and the negroes were defended by T. L. Caudle, Esq. The evidence against them was largely in the nature of confessions, and both were bound over to the September term of Anson Criminal Court.

THE SMALLPOX PATIENTS.

The only persons now detained at the pest house are the old negro Bacchus, who furnished Wilmington with its first case of smallpox, and his seven children, who were at first detained because of contact with their father, and all of whom have, without a single exception, contracted the disease. Dr. McMillan has been painstaking and careful in the treatment of the cases, and that no deaths have occurred and that the cases have been of exceedingly mild form is a handsome testimonial to his skill in the management of cases of this character.

THE ARTISAN WELL.

Work on the breaking of the cable used in drilling the Clarendon Water-works Company's Artesian well at Hilton, the work has been suspended for some weeks. A new cable has been received, however, and drilling will be resumed at once. When the work stopped the well had reached 1315 feet.

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THE FIRE ALARM TOWER.

Contract Awarded to Mr. W. J. Kirkham Yesterday for Its Erection—Work Will Be Begun Next Week.

People who have been clamoring for the fire alarm tower and those who experience a feeling of indignation, when the hook and ladder truck or one of Chief Schibben's spick and span new hose wagons dashes past them at a "two forty gait" with no pretension as to "where the fire is at," will learn with peculiar delight that yesterday Alderman Taylor, chairman of the fire committee, let the contract for the erection of the steel structure which is to support the big bell that rings out the number of box near which each and every fire occurs. Mr. W. J. Kirkham was the successful bidder and in conversation yesterday he told a STAR representative that he expects to begin work on the brick foundation upon which the tower will rest as early as Wednesday of next week. Two or three bolts, which are needed at the outset will have to be made here and it will not be until early next week that they can be secured. In the meantime, Mr. Kirkham says, he will begin work on the excavations at the hook and ladder station and everything will be in readiness for the laying of brick on Wednesday. The tower will be raised on a base of brick which will be built up from an excavated surface seven feet under ground to the surface of the plot. The tower will be about fifty feet high. Mr. Kirkham will furnish all material necessary for the erection of the tower and will receive for the service \$175.

THE SOUTHEASTERN R. R.

The Track Will Be Finished in Time to Move Strawberries and Truck from Chadbourne and Conway.

The Atlantic Coast Line's new connecting link, the Southeastern railroad, will be finished and in operation by the 1st of April. This will be in time to move the strawberry crop and other truck to the Northern markets from the fine truck-growing regions about Chadbourne and Conway. The Southeastern is a link of ten miles, between Ashpole, in Robeson county, to Boardman, in Columbus county, at which place Lumber river separates Columbus and Robeson counties. The road bed has been graded and track laying is in progress from the Ashpole end of the line. About three miles of track have been laid. While track laying is proceeding a long trestle is being built over the Lumber river at Boardman, and it will be done in time for trains to pass over in the next five weeks. The link between Ashpole and Boardman completes an all rail route between Conway, by way of Chadbourne and Boardman, to Elrod, on the Atlantic Coast Line's main line. The truck shipments from Conway and Chadbourne will be made to Elrod, and it will be very advantageous to the trucking interests, as heretofore the shipments were sent to the main line at Florence.

SPIRITINE CHEMICAL WORKS.

Mr. L. Hansen who recently purchased the plant of the Carolina Crescote and Oil Works, in the southern part of the city, is making a wonderful change in the plant. He has twenty hands employed, and is building a new wharf, overhauling the property generally and putting in new machinery, including copper condensers. This week work will begin on 100 feet of new sheds, and Mr. Hansen hopes to begin operations in the next three weeks. The plant will hereafter be known as the Spiritine Chemical Works.

SOUTH CAROLINA LYNCHING.

Negro Hanged Near Aiken for Assaulting a White Woman.

By Telegram to the Morning Star. AIKEN, S. C., February 17.—Will Burts, colored, was lynched by day near Basket Mills, eight miles north of Aiken. Burts was hanged to a tree and riddled with bullets. He was captured last night after having attempted to assault Mrs. C. L. Weeks, a planter's wife. Burts confessed his guilt.

SMALLPOX QUARANTINE RAISED.

Mr. Jno. C. Scarborough came in yesterday from along the Carolina Central. He says the smallpox has about disappeared from the infected places along the road, so that the quarantine has been raised at towns which had adopted measures to protect themselves from the contagion.

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Greater Activity Than for Many Years Prevails in Wilmington at This Time.

MANY HANDS ARE EMPLOYED

Work Forging Ahead at the Rock Quarries—Orange Street Ready for Macadam—Princess and Market Streets Paving. There is great activity these days in the way of public improvements in Wilmington. An immense amount of work is being done and nearly a hundred hands are employed. At the rock quarries in East Wilmington, Mr. J. P. Jones, the superintendent, has about forty hands at work getting out limestone rock for macadamizing the streets. A great quantity of rock has been quarried, and in the next three weeks the rock crushing plant will be in operation. All the machinery is here now. The rock-crusher and screens are at the warehouse of the Clyde Linn, and the big steam traction roller is at the Seaboard Air Line depot. The bus for the crushed rock will be constructed at the quarries this week, and then the crusher, screens and roller will be taken out and the plant put in readiness for operations. The engine of the roller will be utilized for running the rock crusher when it is not employed in rolling the rock after it has been laid on the streets. Work on the Streets. While the rock is being quarried for macadamizing the streets, Mr. Jas. A. Perry, the superintendent of streets, is at the head of about forty hands, some of whom are grading the streets and preparing them for the macadam, while others are at work on the plans of City Engineer Joseph H. MacRae and the Streets and Wharves Committee for a system of sanitary drainage. Yesterday Superintendent Perry had his street force and thirty carts at work on the grading of Orange street, between Seventh and Ninth. They have done an immense amount of work the past week, and will finish that job to-morrow. The high sand hill on Orange street, from Seventh street crossing to the Wilmington Seacoast railroad depot, has been cut down and the surface of the street lowered to a depth of from two to four feet. At the same time the track of the Wilmington Street Railway has been let down to a level with the grading on Orange street, so that there has been a great improvement in that particular. When the work is completed the track will be almost level all the way out Orange street. Superintendent Perry, as he goes along with the Orange street grading, is preparing the street for macadam, and as soon as the rock crusher gets to work, he will make it one of the finest streets in the city. To-morrow afternoon he will move his hands to Sixth and Orange streets and cut down the incline there to a depth of from twelve to eighteen inches. At the same time he will also grade Sixth street, near Nun, to a depth of two feet. He expects to increase his force of hands this week. Out of the thirty carts he has at work now, twenty-four of them are hired, so that not only labor is getting employment, but the cart men are getting their share. The city has ordered two broad tired wagons to haul the crushed stone from the quarries to the various streets as these are being macadamized. Princess and Market Streets. The plans for laying the roadways on Princess street from Front to Third street, and Market street from Front to the river, are getting nearer to a practical solution. All the property owners, with one exception on Princess street, have signed the agreement to pay two thirds of the cost of the paving if the city pays the other third. Yesterday Mr. Andrew Smith, the real estate agent, interested himself in securing the signatures of the owners of some property on Market street for which he is agent. He got them to sign up, but there are three or four yet to sign before there is any prospect of the work being done. Only a short time is left now for this work to be done, as the streets will not be disturbed after hot weather sets in.

THE FIRE ALARM TOWER.

Contract Awarded to Mr. W. J. Kirkham Yesterday for Its Erection—Work Will Be Begun Next Week.

People who have been clamoring for the fire alarm tower and those who experience a feeling of indignation, when the hook and ladder truck or one of Chief Schibben's spick and span new hose wagons dashes past them at a "two forty gait" with no pretension as to "where the fire is at," will learn with peculiar delight that yesterday Alderman Taylor, chairman of the fire committee, let the contract for the erection of the steel structure which is to support the big bell that rings out the number of box near which each and every fire occurs. Mr. W. J. Kirkham was the successful bidder and in conversation yesterday he told a STAR representative that he expects to begin work on the brick foundation upon which the tower will rest as early as Wednesday of next week. Two or three bolts, which are needed at the outset will have to be made here and it will not be until early next week that they can be secured. In the meantime, Mr. Kirkham says, he will begin work on the excavations at the hook and ladder station and everything will be in readiness for the laying of brick on Wednesday. The tower will be raised on a base of brick which will be built up from an excavated surface seven feet under ground to the surface of the plot. The tower will be about fifty feet high. Mr. Kirkham will furnish all material necessary for the erection of the tower and will receive for the service \$175.

THE SOUTHEASTERN R. R.

The Track Will Be Finished in Time to Move Strawberries and Truck from Chadbourne and Conway.

The Atlantic Coast Line's new connecting link, the Southeastern railroad, will be finished and in operation by the 1st of April. This will be in time to move the strawberry crop and other truck to the Northern markets from the fine truck-growing regions about Chadbourne and Conway. The Southeastern is a link of ten miles, between Ashpole, in Robeson county, to Boardman, in Columbus county, at which place Lumber river separates Columbus and Robeson counties. The road bed has been graded and track laying is in progress from the Ashpole end of the line. About three miles of track have been laid. While track laying is proceeding a long trestle is being built over the Lumber river at Boardman, and it will be done in time for trains to pass over in the next five weeks. The link between Ashpole and Boardman completes an all rail route between Conway, by way of Chadbourne and Boardman, to Elrod, on the Atlantic Coast Line's main line. The truck shipments from Conway and Chadbourne will be made to Elrod, and it will be very advantageous to the trucking interests, as heretofore the shipments were sent to the main line at Florence.

SPIRITINE CHEMICAL WORKS.

Mr. L. Hansen who recently purchased the plant of the Carolina Crescote and Oil Works, in the southern part of the city, is making a wonderful change in the plant. He has twenty hands employed, and is building a new wharf, overhauling the property generally and putting in new machinery, including copper condensers. This week work will begin on 100 feet of new sheds, and Mr. Hansen hopes to begin operations in the next three weeks. The plant will hereafter be known as the Spiritine Chemical Works.

SOUTH CAROLINA LYNCHING.

Negro Hanged Near Aiken for Assaulting a White Woman.