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# THE WEEKLY STAR.

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**THEIR UTILITY AND VALUE.** If there were no other proof of the fact that men like Andrew Carnegie and H. C. Frick propose to spend millions of dollars in establishing technological institutes in Pittsburgh would be sufficient.

We have no Carnegie, no Frick in North Carolina, with millions to expend in that way, and North Carolina is not rich enough to be lavishly liberal, but there are men of wealth enough in the State to be able to contribute enough with what the State appropriates to make the industrial school at Raleigh a first-class one, in which there may be thorough training not only in the textile industries, but also in wood, iron and other industries, for some day we will want to manufacture our cotton mill machinery instead of buying it in other States. There is not, probably, a cotton mill in the State which could not find profitable employment for more skilled labor than it has, and the same is doubtless true of the furniture manufacturing business, which is becoming such an important one. These are but two—two leading ones, it is true, but there are many industries in the State where skilled laborers would be welcomed and find steady and profitable employment, in which, as we have remarked above, they would not only be valuable workers but valuable teachers as well. Every trained workman turned out becomes to some extent the trainer of others.

There is a man, President Winston, now at the head of the Agricultural and Mechanical College, of which the industrial school is a part, who, if he have reasonable co-operation, and reasonable means, will make that school not only State but of national prominence, which would draw to it students from many States. We should keep our eyes on Georgia, for that State is alive to the value and importance of technological education.

**INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION.**

The Raleigh News and Observer of last Sunday published an interesting article by T. M. Robertson on the subject of education in general but industrial education in particular, a subject in which this State is becoming much interested with the progress being made in the manufacturing industries. No one who knows anything about this State, about its varied resources, its combination of mountain, hill and plain, and varied forest growth, &c., can doubt for a moment that it is destined to become one of the great manufacturing States of this country, not only in a few but in many lines. This makes the industrial training of our young men, and young women, too, a matter of vast importance. We quote that part of Mr. Robertson's article bearing directly upon this. He says:

Most of the industrial progress that the State has made without the assistance of specially educated men, but not all of it. In the cotton mills of the State are to be found men who have had special school training. But new conditions are arising in the manufacturing business and they cannot be met by the men who have had special school training. Competition is sharper, machinery is growing more complicated and processes are becoming more scientific. Manufacturers must have men equipped according to these new conditions or their business will cease to grow, if it does not die. The great industrial centers of the country are realizing the necessity of scientific help and we find that in New England, New York, Pennsylvania and other sections of the country there are springing up technical schools. North Carolina needs just such schools, and if she is to progress she must have them. A beginning has been made in the Agricultural and Mechanical College, but half enough has not been done. The equipment of this school is about half what it should be. The State has not been as liberal as it should have been, and private individuals have not come to its support as they should. A splendid textile school has been opened, but it is not near what it should be. The textile manufacturers of the State could not invest a few thousand dollars in any enterprise that would bring as rich returns as a first class up-to-date textile school. The textile manufacturers of the State have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in textile schools. The manufacturers in Philadelphia have had an equipment of the finest textile schools in the world, and the State of Pennsylvania has shown a very liberal spirit toward this school. These people have found that such schools pay. It is not in these places will they not pay here? Our young men are going to these schools and our manufacturers are glad to have them go. Would it not be better to have just as good schools at home? We would then be keeping our money and our young men both at home.

This State is full of bright boys who may in time become "captains of industry" if they have a fair chance. We can't give them all an industrial education, but we can give it to many and these in turn may become the instructors of others who were not so fortunate as they were in securing the advantages of school training in regular, thorough course.

When Bismarck undertook the task of making Germany a manufacturing as well as an agricultural country, he began right by providing for the establishment of industrial training schools, where the young men who were to take part in building up the industrial empire were trained by industrial experts, employed by the Government, and the result was that in a few years these schools turned out hundreds of young men thoroughly equipped and competent not only to work and direct, but to teach others how to do what they had been taught. The result has been thousands of skilled workmen, and the transformation of Germany from an almost strictly agricultural country into one of the first manufacturing countries of Europe and one whose reputation for excellence, and thoroughness is second to none, so much so that the German brand on goods is looked upon as a certificate of character in other European countries, even in those which compete with Germany. And this was made possible by industrial training schools, without which it would have taken that country several generations, if she could do it then, to accomplish what she did in one.

But the day for argument in support of such schools has passed, that is no longer necessary, for we have had too many object lessons showing

**ARBITRATION TALK.**

There is now more talk of arbitration than anything else in the Venezuelan matter. England seems to be favorable to it, and Germany also, although she is somewhat more punctilious and exacting than England. She wants apologies for insulted dignity, &c. Italy, the "me too" character in the play, will agree to whatever is acceptable to the star players. The main point with all of them is to have a bondman for Venezuela, who can be looked to in the event that Venezuela jumps the claims awarded by the arbitrators.

They would like to have Uncle Sam put himself in that position, but while he is disposed to be accommodating to them and friendly to Venezuela he can't well do that for if he assumed liability for the claims held by the three bill collectors, other nations having claims might insist that he do the same for them, and that would be taking on a pretty hefty load, and would establish a precedent that Uncle Sam might be expected to follow in the case of other South American Republics, in the event that European powers undertake to collect claims from them by summary process.

But it is intimated that while the United States Government does not feel disposed to stand sponsor for Venezuela, it would not be averse to American financiers going in as sort of middlemen, and would encourage that, which means, we suppose, that it would favor American money lenders accommodating Venezuela with the cash to pay the bills assessed against her by the arbitrators.

If the matter was turned over to J. Pierpont Morgan, with the understanding that an acceptable board of arbitrators would be secured, he would probably fix up an international syndicate in short order that would settle up the whole business in a tenth of the time the bill collectors could do it, and when they did they would have a pretty tight grip on valuable considerations in the way of equivalents for accommodations and risks.

**TOBACCO GROWERS IN COUNCIL.**

That was a large meeting of the tobacco growers at Rocky Mount, Friday, and judging from the report of proceedings they seemed to be impressed with the necessity of concert of action to protect the tobacco growing industry from ruin.

The consolidation of the American Tobacco Trust and the English Trust has practically eliminated competition, and left the tobacco growers in its hands, forced to take such prices as it makes, provided the growers are forced to sell, and there be enough tobacco on the market to meet the demands of the Trust in supplying its customers. Before the consolidation the English Trust had buyers in our markets and prices were up, but with the consolidation came the end of competition, prices fell and they are now a third less than they were a couple of months ago, with the result that the anticipated profits of the farmers who held their tobacco have vanished. If there should be a large crop next year it will be worse, and the planter will probably find himself worse off at the end of the year than when he planted his crop.

The thoughtful men among them realize that their only safety is in limited acreage, in keeping the output somewhere in the neighborhood of the demand for consumption, and making tobacco not the first but the subordinate consideration on the farm. This need not interfere with the progress of the industry; it simply means fewer acres, better cultivated and better handled crops, with higher prices, less labor and expense, fewer chances of failure and indebtedness that those who fall will find it onerous to pay.

Tobacco growing is an exacting industry, it requires constant watchfulness and labor, it costs money for fertilizers, barns, curing machinery, etc., and it takes time and expertise to become expert in its manipulation. It is a crop which, considering the labor and attention it requires and the chances taken, ought to pay well, and therefore they who follow it ought to act wisely and not contribute to their own undoing by bad management and working blindly. There should be co-operation, and the sooner there is and the more general it is the better it will be for the tobacco growers of the State and for every one else, for they cannot suffer without others suffering, and if they prosper others will reap benefit from their prosperity.

A scientific butter artist has been exhibiting in Philadelphia a new process of making butter, dispensing entirely with the churn. He uses a shallow pan in which is spread something which resembles a Turkish towel, on which is laid a sheet which resembles blotting paper. The cream is spread on this. The fluid quickly filters through and leaves the butter on top, all in about ten seconds. Butter experts pronounce it superior to any other butter made by other processes, and predict that it will revolutionize the butter making industry.

**IN A PISTOL DUEL.**

Lively Exchange of Compliments Between Two Negroes at Angola Lumber Mill.

**CAUSED ALMOST A PANIC.**

Colored Men Emptied Their Revolvers at Each Other and Were Preparing for a Second Round—Bystander Shot—Principals Wounded.

A pistol duel between Foster Williams and Balsam Johnson, two negroes employed by the Angola Lumber Company, occurred yesterday evening on the mill yard in the northern section of the city. Both negroes emptied their revolvers at each other and then ran excitedly into the office on the grounds to prepare for a second round, but slight wounds received by each in the first attack and the clerical force in the office compelled them to desist.

The shooting occurred just as the mill closed down for the night and a hundred or more of the laborers were crowding into the yards to be paid off. The principals in the shooting had been growing all day at each other while at work and it took only a word to open up the duelling after the close range and they opened fire at close range and kept up a lively banging until the pistols were empty. Pandemonium reigned in the yard, and the negroes dispersed right and left. Gus Williams, one of the non-combatants, didn't get away until a stray bullet had shattered his arm. Foster Williams, one of the principals, also received a bullet through the arm, and the other principal, Balsam Johnson, was punctured in the stomach. None of the wounds is serious.

When the negroes ran into the office Mr. R. S. Collins, the bookkeeper, Mr. E. L. Holloway, the shipping clerk, and other white men present at the time, took the weapons from them and locked them in a room until officers could arrive. They were placed under arrest and taken to the police station, where Dr. C. T. Harper dressed their wounds. Gus Williams, the non-combatant, who is probably the worst injured, was taken to the Walker Memorial Hospital for surgical attention.

If the wounded negroes are able to appear in court, they will probably be given a preliminary hearing by Mayor Weddell tomorrow. They are both residents of Wilmington and it is said that bad blood has existed between them for some time.

**BANK OF MULLINS ROBBED.**

Professional Cracksmen Looted Safe and Secured \$5,600—Loss Covered by Burglar Insurance—Bloodstains.

The Bank of Mullins, at Mullins, S. C., about 80 miles from Wilmington on the W. C. & A. railroad, was broken open yesterday morning between 2 o'clock and day-break, the vault and safe in the building were dynamited and about \$5,600 in cash was stolen. All external evidence goes to prove that the work was that of professional cracksmen. A back door of the bank building was broken open with tools from a nearby blacksmith shop which was raided, and once inside, the professionals found it easy work to blow open the vault door and dynamite the safe on the inside. Valuable papers and some small change were found strewn over the floor when the robbery was discovered upon the opening of the bank yesterday morning.

A "bloodstain" was secured from the Mullins, N. C., and traced to the cracksmen a short distance, but the track was old and no headway was made.

Mullins is the leading tobacco market in South Carolina and usually the bank carries a large amount of money, but fortunately, on Wednesday, the checks for tobacco were very heavy and little was left on hand. The amount stolen is fully protected by policy of burglar insurance for \$10,000. The bank is one of the best little institutions in this section. It has a paid-in capital stock of \$30,000, some of which is owned by Wilmington parties. The president of the bank is Mr. P. S. Cooper, a brother of Mr. W. F. Cooper, of this city, and the cashier is Mr. O. Rogers, a brother of Mr. L. E. Rogers, secretary and treasurer of the L. Gore Company, of Wilmington. The bank will resume business to-day and the stockholders and depositors will not lose a cent.

There is no clue to the burglars. About midnight before the robbery, two men drove around the town in a buggy in a feigned attempt to find the night watchman at the railroad station from whom they said they desired to get some baggage. There is no watchman in the town as they ascertained from several whom they halted during the night, and with this assurance they went to work without fear of interruption.

**CONSTRUCTION OF ISTHMIAN CANAL.**

Senator Morgan Discussed Question at Yesterday's Session of the Senate.

**FAVORS NICARAGUA ROUTE.**

Expressed Opinion That If United States Did Not Avail Itself of Opportunity to Build by Nicaragua Route No Canal Would Be Built.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE MORNING STAR.

WASHINGTON, December 26.—After a session of less than three hours, the Senate to-day adjourned until January 5th next. To-day's session was largely given up to an address by Senator Morgan upon the question of the construction of an isthmian canal. The Senator declared that it would be in the interest of the United States to resume negotiations with Nicaragua and Costa Rica, with the view of utilizing the Nicaragua route, for the reason that, as he believed, if we should continue to depend upon the Panama route we would never have a canal.

A number of bills were passed and a conference report providing for the payment of the expenses of the anthracite coal strike commission was agreed to.

Senator Morgan contended for the making good of contracts entered into by President McKinley with Costa Rica and Nicaragua. This negotiation of these agreements he characterized as a masterful act and said they were about to be trodden under foot.

He then went on to express appreciation that if the United States did not avail itself of the opportunity to build a canal by the Nicaragua route it would be a great loss to the present Congress he considered important, because any person familiar with congressional proceedings knew that a bill of this kind would not pass a session only that must come after the present before the expiration of the canal appropriation. Attention was also called to the fact that under the Colombian law only the Congress of that country can ratify a treaty.

There had been no Congress there since 1899 and there was not likely to be any soon unless the Panama Canal Company should pay its expenses out of the \$5,000,000 on hand or the \$40,000,000 promised by the United States. He, therefore, expressed appreciation that any treaty that might be accepted by this government would fall in line in Colombia.

Speaking of the possible failure of ratification of a treaty with Colombia he said: "It is possible that some of the might afterward be sought with Nicaragua and Costa Rica, Senator Morgan said: 'It is not impugning any lack of patriotism or any disposition to defeat all canal enterprises to any one in these observations. I am expressing possibilities that are obviously in view and endanger the construction of a canal at either of the localities provided by the act of June 16, 1902. It is not impugning any lack of patriotism or any disposition to defeat all canal enterprises to any one in these observations. I am expressing possibilities that are obviously in view and endanger the construction of a canal at either of the localities provided by the act of June 16, 1902. It is not impugning any lack of patriotism or any disposition to defeat all canal enterprises to any one in these observations. 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