

Several "narrow-gauge" railroads are now in process of construction in North Carolina, and others about to be commenced...

The first experiment of a narrow-gauge road was made in North Wales as late as 1833, and was so successful that similar roads, even in that brief period, have been built in nearly all civilized countries.

This obstacle removed it is claimed that experience has shown that the cost of constructing railroads increases in proportion to the width of the gauge.

One great cause of the unprofitableness of railroads built for local traffic, is that they have a capacity greater than the actual amount of business to be done on them requires.

While, therefore, the great through lines of railroads ought to be broad-gauge, the lines built to accommodate limited local trade, should be built upon the cheap narrow-gauge plan.

Railroad investments in North Carolina have not been profitable. Why not is explained by the facts just stated.

A BRIEF biography of WILLIAM PITT KEELOGG is suggestive. He was born December 8, 1831, at Orwell, Vermont.

MERCANTILE MISFORTUNES.

Failures in business in the Northern cities are becoming alarmingly frequent and for unusually large amounts.

The later failures of importance have been in Wall street, and the Old Year is said to have left its inhabitants weeping and refusing to be comforted.

And so in spite of the optimistic tendencies inseparable from the day, says the New York Times of the 1st, it is impossible to believe that we see the end of the rehypothecation business or of the shock it gives to all that remains of confidence in the Wall-street methods.

MR. HAYES AND DEMOCRATIC SENATORS. At the late session of Congress some Democratic Senators voted against the confirmation of several nominations to office made by the President.

Democratic Senators, it seems to us, should vote to confirm all proper nominations made by Mr. HAYES, because he is responsible for the civil service and because, right or wrong, for better or worse, he is and will be till March 4, 1877, President of the United States.

The loss of property on the Western rivers during the past year is set down at \$5,380,000. This includes ice and canal boat disasters on the Ohio river, amounting to \$4,000,000.

THE agricultural population of Georgia is nine hundred thousand souls, and the number of acres in cultivation is a trifle over six hundred thousand.

SOUTH CAROLINA raised about 44,000 tons of rice the present year, and Georgia 25,000 tons.

HOGS IN DROVES.—The old custom of driving hogs from Tennessee, Kentucky and other Southern States in droves to Southern markets is again coming into vogue.

OUR FOREIGN TRADE.—The exports for the month of December, which aggregated a value of \$1,401,537, were all shipments to foreign ports and did not, of course, include any coastwise shipments.

NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE.

Within an hour or two this year, the 1877th of our Lord, will be numbered with the Past, and we shall enter upon a new one.

It is a time for reflection upon the past, not less than for hope of the future. What blessings we have enjoyed, of life, and health, and friends, what of good we have received, and what bestowed, what sins we have committed, what errors fallen into, what misfortunes have overtaken us, but far more, how many we have escaped.

"How small of all that human hearts endure! The part which laws or sins can cause or cure!" Where the year has brought wealth or social happiness it will be remembered as a year of blessing.

Certain it is that thousands must look back upon 1877 as a year of eclipse, and even since the World was issued the great army of unfortunates has been swelled by importations from Wall street, and elsewhere.

One of the most notable cases of fast living in this fast age is presented by the two young Jewish bankers who failed in Wall street a few days ago.

THE Radical war upon the South is by no means ended. Chandler's furious letter, full of venomous falsehood, is not his own, but that of his party, and it will be followed up throughout Yankeeedom.

THE COTTON TRADE.—The receipts of cotton at this port during the month of December amounted to 80,933 bales, and the exports to 42,564 bales, of which 16,465 were coastwise and 26,099 foreign.

VICTORY OR DEATH?—The following singular courtship of a Prairie Grove girl, is an illustration that "faint heart never won fair lady."

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ISHER READY WIT.—Not long back an Irishman was summoned before a bench of country magistrates for being drunk and disorderly.

BEAUFORT COUNTY LETTER.

MISSISSIPPI EDITORS: The tremendous rains, tides and floods, of which you have heard and chronicled so much, did not pass us harmlessly.

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REVENUE RAID, HOW AND RESCUE.

North Carolina Across the Border. Special to Charlotte Courier, 1st J. COLUMBIA, Dec. 31.—The following particulars concerning the rescue of illicit distillers from the custody of United States revenue officers by a mob in Union county are obtained from the report made by Deputy Marshal Kirkland to headquarters in Columbia.

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Business Disasters.

NEW YORK, Jan. 1.—The fact was made public yesterday morning that Jewell Brothers, proprietors of the Brooklyn City Flour Mills, had suspended. The mills are the largest of the kind in the country, and the Messrs. Jewell were regarded in business circles as very strong financially.

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MARRIED.

'SWIDELL-WATSON.—At the residence of the bride's father, near Aurora, N. C., on the evening of December 19th, 1877, by Rev. Dr. R. Hooker, Mr. GEORGE J. SWIDELL, of Hyde county, to Miss ANNETTE WATSON.

'TATE-DENNY.—On the 19th inst. in Graham, by Rev. A. L. Tate, to Miss SARAH L. DENNY, daughter of John Denny.

'WATSON-MCKENZIE.—On Wednesday, 13th December, at the residence of the late Dr. B. McCallister, Richmond county, N. C., to Miss M. J. M. KEAN, of Goodwood county, Virginia.

'MCCALLISTER.—On Monday, December 24th, at the residence of the Hon. Walter L. Steele, by Rev. A. McMillan, Mr. MURDOCH C. McCALLISTER, Principal of the High School at Ellerbe, to Miss MARY A. A. JOHNSON.

'MCCALLISTER.—On the 6th of December, at the residence of the bride's father, Cumberland county, N. C., by the Rev. Joseph Evans, D. C. McMillan, Esq., of Robeson county, to Miss CHARLOTTE A. JOHNSON.

'NICHOLS-KING.—Near Carver's, Robeson county, on the 26th of December, by Rev. A. McMillan, Mr. JOHN S. NICHOLS, to Miss SARAH C. KING, daughter of Mr. John King.

'DIED. McCALLUM.—In Montgomery county, N. C., October 19th, in the 33rd year of her age, Mrs. EFFIE, wife of Neil McCALLUM, Esq.

'MCQUEEN.—Near Shoe Hill, on the 30th of October, 1877, Mrs. MARY LOUISA MCQUEEN, wife of James S. McQueen, in the 44th year of her age.

'NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. New Year! New Store! New Goods! W. H. LYON

'DEAL ON THE SQUARE, AND OFFER FRESH GROCERIES, PROVISIONS, AND PURE NORTH CAROLINA Whiskies, Brandies, Wines, &c.

'T. M. ARCO. Attorney at Law. Practices in all the Courts, State and Federal.

'Merrimon, Fuller & Ashe, Attorneys and Counsellors at Law, RALEIGH, N. C.

'P. M. BRIGGS, Attorney at Law, RALEIGH, N. C.

'J. N. W. HINSDALE, Attorney at Law, RALEIGH, N. C.

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