

CAPE FEAR AND YADKIN VALLEY RAILROAD.

The Western, or Fayetteville and Coalfields Railroad was chartered December 24, 1852, and the work of construction began at Fayetteville the following year.

Charles B. MacRae, an internal improvement veteran, a gentleman who has labored as long, and as faithfully to advance and perfect our internal improvement system as any man who has lived in the State, was the first President, and has been followed by A. B. Mallett, H. L. Myrover, A. J. Jones and L. C. Jones, the latter the present incumbent.

George McNeill, Esq., has been called the father of this Railroad, and no one, perhaps, deserves more credit for originating the scheme than this gentleman; but in a section of country where every citizen was a man of enterprise, and where all, from the very agitation of the internal improvement subject, have done so much in that behalf, aided and supported every practicable scheme, without regard to section, as have the people of Fayetteville, and the Cape Fear country, it is scarcely practicable to make any distinction, now, in referring to the early history and progress of internal improvements in North Carolina. It is enough to say here that no people have ever done more for others, or been the recipients of fewer benefits from our system, than those Cape Fear people.

At the breaking out of the war the Western Railroad, as it is known in its corporate capacity, had been completed to within four miles of Egypt, and was, during the war, carried to the coal fields, to obtain supplies of fuel for Confederate purposes; and upon the coal here obtained were the blockade and government steamers at Wilmington largely dependent during the entire war.

In March last work was resumed on this road; the State furnishing a hundred convicts, and under authority of the Legislature to make the road a narrow gauge, the work of grading the line to Greensboro began. The distance from Egypt to Greensboro was fifty-three miles by the direct route, and it has been ascertained that the average cost of grading will be less per mile than on the completed portion of the line from Egypt to Fayetteville.

These are the most important recommendations. A statement of what many of the States are doing for agriculture, with notices of the various agricultural organizations in North Carolina, and a synopsis of the work done in the Department is included in the report. The outlook is encouraging.

These sections of country under the improved order of things. But restore this natural channel of trade by opening up this proposed line of railroad communication, and it will not only develop some of the best portions of the State, but it will revive the business of the Cape Fear country beyond what it was even in those days when Fayetteville and Wilmington were commercial centers for large sections of North Carolina.

THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE.

The report of Col. Polk, which is now before the Legislature, sets forth in detail the operations of this Department since its organization, and shows from the amount and character of work accomplished that the Board has neither been idle nor unmindful of the great interests entrusted to its charge.

He asks for the enactment of more efficient measures for securing returns of farm products, and that the compensation of Assessors and Registers of Deeds be assured.

He gives a detailed statement of the work of propagating fish by artificial methods, and regards success in this enterprise as contingent only on more effective laws, and asks for a general fish law which will secure the free passage of fish in all of our principal waters, and also for the creation of the office of Fish Commissioner to be appointed and controlled by the Board.

He states that the ton tax on fertilizers has been enforced in but few counties, and that grave doubts exist as to its constitutionality, and asks that it be repealed, and that the moneys already collected from this tax be refunded.

He asks for a strong law to protect sheep husbandry, and gives figures from partial returns of seventy-eight counties that show about one dog to every three sheep. There are 111,089 dogs in the State. He makes no specific recommendation in regard to the dog tax, but asks this question, "Does our State Constitution guarantee to a citizen the right to keep and propagate a species of property by which the value and existence of his neighbor's property is constantly jeopardized and imperiled?"

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WAKE FOREST COLLEGE.

Great Increase in Number of Students—Reduction in Price of Board. (Correspondence of THE OBSERVER.) WAKE FOREST, Jan. 17. MESSRS. EDITORS: There seems to be displayed at present all over our State an intense and almost universal interest in regard to education, literature, and science generally, and we are exceedingly gratified to state that Wake Forest College stands among the front ranks of those who are putting forth every effort in behalf of this good, grand and great movement.

NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE.

New York, Jan. 15, 1919. (Correspondence of THE OBSERVER.) MESSRS. EDITORS: Judge A. Gray, Esq., Cashier of the Greensboro National Bank, is here, making arrangements to secure an additional amount of currency for his bank, that it may extend its accommodations. This was hardly practicable heretofore, for the legal amount of Bank capital was in great measure assigned to other sections before the South was in a condition to claim its proper share. But late in the stagnation of business, the Banks here have been materially reducing their capital, and the surplus is readily available for the legal amount of Bank capital. The government bonds to secure the circulation, which a few years ago cost ten or fifteen per cent above par, can now be bought by Mr. Gray at a little below par and that will be a saving. It is true that these are as good as any for deposit to secure circulation. The amount of investments in these new four per cents is amazing—six millions on Monday and six million yesterday. Money must be exceedingly plenty and exceedingly abundant of late.

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Letter from the East.

(Correspondence of THE OBSERVER.) ANCONA, ITALY, Dec. 18, 1918. MESSRS. EDITORS:—My letter is dated from a port on the Adriatic, and you will be surprised to learn that "our correspondent" is en route for Egypt, in which country this will be posted to you. We go tomorrow to Brindisi, and there take steamer for a three days voyage to Alexandria.

and upon embarking at this season of universal gaiety for our voyage up the Nile, it may not be amiss to quote, in conclusion, the legend that accompanied the Egyptian exhibit at our Centennial Exposition: "The oldest civilization sends warmest greetings to the youngest! Old Africa salutes young America." G.

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CONGRESSIONAL.

The Senate is discussing the bill to revise the present Patent Laws. The House is in the discussion of the bill for the improvement of the Mississippi River. Gen. Chalmers, of Mississippi, made an excellent speech on the Constitutional power to improve the Mississippi.

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Failures Last Year.

(From the New York Times, 16th.) The annual circular of Dun, Barlow & Company's Mercantile Agency gives the total number of failures in the United States during the year 1918 as 10,478, with total liabilities amounting to \$238,589,000. In 1917 the total failures were 8,872, with liabilities reaching \$190,669,936. This increase of 1,606 failures in the past year is accounted for by the fact that circumstances during the year were "peculiarly influential in encouraging casualties of this character." These circumstances are given as six in number: (1.) 1918 was the fifth year of a depression unparalleled in character, extent, and duration. (2.) Unseasonable weather during the first quarter of the year materially restricted sales and collections, causing a good deal of embarrassment. (3.) Business was materially restricted during the first half of the year by the monetary discussions in and out of Congress, together with a possibility of changes in the tariff. (4.) An enormous shrinkage was caused by a general and permanent decline in values all over the world greater than ever before in a similar period. (5.) The yellow fever epidemic in the South caused a vast material loss from the forced suspension of labor and business. (6.) The abolition of the Bankrupt law, and the long delay permitted to elapse before its repeal, had more to do with the increase of failures than any other circumstance. (7.) The outlook for the future, the circular says: "It is significant that out of the six leading circumstances enumerated as contributing to failures during the year five no longer exist. In the room of these disturbing elements other favorable conditions have been developed, which, in the immediate future, to so much improve business as to make the decrease of failures in 1919 much more marked than the increase in 1918. The most important of these favorable conditions is the return to specie payments without a ripple of disturbance in the business world. Another is the fact that values have now reached a level lower than the gold standard in normal times, without which no marked prospect could have been possible. A third indication of the approach of better times is the prosperity of the vast class who till the soil, while a fourth favorable feature is the changing character of the industries of a large number of persons as indicated in the increased amount of land taken up for actual settlement."

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

DR. J. B. DUNN, Office No. 6 Maher Building, FAYETTEVILLE STREET. Messages left at the Drug Store of F. H. Heart will receive prompt attention. Jan 18/19

Mortgage Sale.

PURSUANT to the powers contained in a mortgage deed, executed July 1, 1876, and recorded in the Register's office, for the county of Wake, book 44, page 604, we will sell at public auction, at the Court house door, in the city of Raleigh, on

Thursday, 20th February Next, —A VALUABLE— HOUSE AND LOT, Now occupied by Phil. Thiem, Esq., on the Southern Corner of Cabarrus and Bloodworth streets, in said city.

TERMS CASH. GRAY & STAMPS, Attorneys for Mortgagee. Jan 16/19

IMPORTANT SALE—BY VIRTUE OF THE powers contained in a mortgage from J. P. H. Kuss and wife to J. T. Leach, registered in Book 45, 460, Register's office of Wake county, I shall on Monday, February 11th, 1919, at the Court House door, in Raleigh, proceed to expose to public sale, for cash, the premises and land in 110 acres of land, in or about Walnut Creek, in Wake county, and bounded by the lands of William South and Thos. G. Jenkins, Thos. G. Jenkins, J. C. Blake and others. This tract is subject to prior mortgages, which will be announced on day of sale. J. T. LEACH, Plaintiff. READ, BURSER & BURSER, Attorneys for Mortgagee. Jan 16/19

DISSOLUTION.

THE PARTNERSHIP IN THE GROcery and Commission Business, heretofore conducted by and between F. C. Christopher and M. W. Sorrell, is this day dissolved by mutual consent. F. C. Christopher will settle the business of the late firm. D. P. MERRICK, F. C. CHRISTOPHER, M. W. SORRELL, W. L. ARCHAM, Attorneys.

F. C. Christopher. M. W. Sorrell.

Christophers & Sorrell.

F. C. Christopher, of the late firm of F. C. Christophers & Co., and M. W. Sorrell, successor to Sorrell & Jackson, having formed a partnership, will carry on the

GROCERY and COMMISSION BUSINESS at the old stand of F. C. CHRISTOPHER & COMPANY, Hargett Street.

Will be pleased to have our numerous friends and customers to call. Having the experience of a number of years in the Grocery Business, we can compete with any house in the city.

MEAT MARKET.

We make a specialty of Fresh Beef, Pork, Sausage and Butcher. Also

TOBACCO. TOBACCO.

A full stock of all grades on hand, wholesale and retail, at

Jan 4/19 Christophers & Sorrell.

FIRE CISTERS.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received up to 12 O'CLOCK, JANUARY 22, 1919, For the building of FIVE CISTERS.

Of 30,000 gallons capacity each, to be located by the Committee in charge. Bids must be accompanied by plans and specifications. Bids will be allowed to appear before the committee in person at the opening of bids. Plans and specifications may be seen at the City Clerk's office.

Proposals to be sealed and addressed to the City Clerk, marked: "PROPOSALS FOR CISTERS."

By order of the Board of Aldermen, city of Raleigh. C. W. LAMBERT, Clerk. Jan. 8, 1919.

PERRY & CO.'S

STEEL PENS

Of superior English Make; famous for durability and elasticity; great variety of styles adapted to every kind of writing. For sale by dealers generally.

TWENTY-FIVE assorted samples for trial, including "U" and "FALCON" Pens by mail, on receipt of 25 Cents.

IVISON, BLAKEMAN, TAYLOR & CO. SOLE AGENTS FOR THE U. S., 130 and 140 Grand Street, New York. Tel. 2-6121

7th

GRAND DISTRIBUTION Commonwealth Distribution Co.

By authority of Commonwealth of Kentucky, Drawings and details under supervision of eminent citizens of Kentucky, in the city of Louisville, Ky.

Thursday, Jan. 30th, 1919.

NO SCALING! NO POSTPONEMENT! PRIZES PAID IN FULL!

\$115,400 In Cash \$115,400 DISTRIBUTED

TICKETS ONLY 50.

Unparalleled Success of the Popular Drawings. Read the following attractive list of prizes for the JANUARY DRAWING:

1 Prize \$50,000 100 Prizes \$100 each \$10,000 10 Prizes \$10,000 100 Prizes \$1,000 each \$100,000 100 Prizes \$500 each \$50,000 100 Prizes \$250 each \$25,000 100 Prizes \$100 each \$10,000 100 Prizes \$50 each \$5,000 100 Prizes \$25 each \$2,500 1,000 Prizes \$10 each \$10,000 10,000 Prizes \$5 each \$50,000 100,000 Prizes \$1 each \$100,000

Remits by Post Office Money Order, registered letter, bank draft, or express. Full list of prizes published in Louisville Courier-Journal and New York Herald, and mailed to all our holders. For details and information address COMMONWEALTH DISTRIBUTION CO., 100 Broadway, Louisville, Ky. Jan. 20-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-1919.

ROBEY & CO. Agents for the sale of the above mentioned drawings. 1100-1110 BROADWAY, ST. LOUIS, MO. Full list of prizes published in Louisville Courier-Journal and New York Herald, and mailed to all our holders. For details and information address COMMONWEALTH DISTRIBUTION CO., 100 Broadway, Louisville, Ky. Jan. 20-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-1919.