## THE NEWS AND OBSERVER, SATURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 16, 1899.



2

sure you will not think the people of North Carolina are such as will incor-porate lies in their laws. They are not in the habit of writing falsehoods on their statute books. Their legislation is an expression of honest and truthful men.

"But they say we have all sorts of men swearing to our affidavits and they did not know what they were doing. Is it possible that these nearly three thousand do not regard the sanctity of an oath? I resent the charge. These men are peers of any in this broad land. In selecting assessors and county commis sioners the best and most intelligent were chosen. They have performed their duty and they say here under oath they have performed it honestly.

"But this question of fraud will not down. The other side is compelled to charge it or go out of court. The Supreme Court decisions say there must be something indicating fraud, or miscon-duct must be shown. They have not shown this by evidence, though they charge it in their speeches.

You will notice in the bill that farm lands are said to be undervalued. There no suggestion as to other property Why farm lands are singled out I do not know. Perhaps it is because the value of lands depends on the value of crops. In all other States farmers are bankrupt, and on nearly every farm house sits the croaking raven of failure, where ten years ago there was prosperity. Cotton then was nine cents, now it is five. Tobacco was fifteen cents, now it is six,

"But no matter whether cotton be five cents or ten, railroad charges for hauling it are the same. Only rai roads are prosperous.

"A quarter of a century ago, farmers were contributing of their taxes and savings to build these roads and now it is imputed to them for unrighteousness that they dare suggest that the roads bear their just proportion of the burden of government."

Hard driven for evidence the railroads yesterday argued for a special master to take depositions. Finding today that Judge Simonton would not grant this they shifted their defence to an attack on the Corporation Commission Act, and labored arguments were made by all their attorneys to prove it does not confer the tax-levying power. Burton devoted his entire speech to this and Johnson about half of his. Disinterested lawyers say if Judge Simonton decides with the railroads it will be on this point.

It is to be doubted if any case in North Carolina was ever, in recent years, better prepared, so far as the evidence is concerned, than has been that for the Corporation Commission. Even the at-torneys on the other side express both surprise and admiration at the wonderful preparation that has been shown in this particular. And still every mail brings in more affidavits.

Following is a complete accurate summary of the Commission's affidavits this morning:

its.

n. icers

duced the Treasurer's statement, which, Carolina, and have travelled quite exafter setting forth the State's debt and tensively over the State. From in the State's investment, went on to say: many sources, I am forced to believe that the 'The real and personal property in the State in 1898 was assessed at \$265,867, farmers cannot be considered as prosperous, and that the business of farming 198, which is not more than two-thirds its real value." This they consider someas a whole has not prospered for some what as an offset to the Treasurer's afyears past. The value of lands has de fidavit in reply to the railroads' comcreased, and the demand for land for agreased, and the demand for fand for ag-ricultural purposes at fair prices has al-most disappeared. Few men want to buy land for investment. Men with money do not care to invest in land, or to loan plaint.

from

their assessment for taxes.

of reasonable price."

value of following stocks:

1898, was worth \$12.50 a share.

1898, was worth \$135 a share.

899, was worth \$80 a share.

gust, 1899, was \$160 a share.

Raleigh and Augusta stock, in

gust, 1899, was \$53 to \$55 a share.

Pig iron, standard, Philadelphia-

eigh:

given:

After introducing the Auditor's reports, Mr. Burton, for the Coast Line, introduced the following extract from Governor Vance's message to the Gen-eral Assembly of 1879 (Public Docu-ments of 1879, page 20), in which he their money with real estate as a basis of security. The returns from such property are generally so small and uncertain said: "It is to be regretted, and I have that little inducement is offered for inno doubt is very surprising to the finance. vestment. Lands forced upon the market committees of the last General Assem-bly, who thought the tax bill would yield frequently do not bring the amount of sufficient revenue, and so it would, and "Taking the average farmer in North more, under a better scheme of assess-Carolina, after deducting current expenment. I can not conceive it possible to es, and allowing fair wages for the work devise one which would operate more un done upon his farm, and fair compensaequally, unjustly or prejudicially to the tion for the supervision, hardly anything Treasury. The rule for the county, town is left from the gross receipts, which may and township is different and the values be considered as the net income from the of property situated in the same locality land, hence the rental of lands is unand of the same character, are as varicertain and for the most part has been ant and unequal as the unaided arbitrary unprofitable. It would seem that our and often indifferent opinions of the as farm lands, for the time being, have sessors may chance to be. Very little ecased to attract investors at any sort property is assessed to within the neighborhood of its value, but that does not H. W. Jackson, assistant cashier of the matter; the essential idea is to have the Commercial and Farmer's Bank, Ralassessment bear the same uniform pro-"I am acquainted with market portion to the true value of the property taxed, unless this is secured one man "Raleigh and Gaston stock was in pays a vastly higher tax than his neigh-July, 1898, worth \$35 a share. Raleigh and Augusta stock, in October, or and one township or county than the adjoining township or county, and it is in the power and often happens in prac-North Carolina Railroad stock, in May, tice of the county assessors and com missioners to defeat the will of the Leg-Southern Railway, preferred, in June, 1898, \$28 to \$30 a share. islature by lowering the assessments. It also levies a heavy tax on honesty Southern Railway, common, in June and compels the conscientious man to 1898, \$8 to \$9 a share. Raleigh and Gaston stock, in August, pay double or treble the tax paid by his less scrupulous neighbor. A remedy for this evil is demanded alike by justice and May, good policy. What that remedy shall be your wisdom must devise. We do not want any increase of taxes, but an equal-1899, was \$45 to \$50 a share. North Carolina Railroad stock, in Auization of taxes and a faithful collection Southern Railway, preferred, in Auof those which are levied."

Also Governor Jarvis, in his message Southern Railway, common, was, in to the General Assembly of 1883, said Legislative Documents 1883, pages 1 and August, 1899, \$12 a share. This was introduced to show that

while the value of farming lands was "In the Auditor's report there is a tasteadily decreasing, as sworn to by Comble never before published, to which I missioner Patterson, the value of rail desire to direct your special attention. than it is by the railroads. In fact the road stock was steadily climbing up. A further increase in the value of I refer to the table showing the assessed value of land per acre in the different tracts as in their favor rather than railroads has been brought about by counties and of the leading articles of against them. the phenomenal rise in the price of iron personal property which appear upon the tax list. It will be seen that these val-ues in all the counties are surprisingly that it refers to the tax of 1898 and within the last year. An affidavit in re-gard to this was introduced: C. B. Hart, of the Julius Lewis Hardlow, and by comparing one county with ware Company: "In the past year there another they will be found to be very sale of bonds. has been an enormous rise in the price unequal. I beg that each member will and mules are valued in his own county. of iron and steel and the products of the same. The following quotations are A stranger looking over this table would Duplin to assess timber lands at only think that lands in North Carolina were three-fourths their real value, the State wretchedly poor and grave doubts would has introduced testimony showing that Per ton September, 1898, .. ..... \$ 10.75 arise whether it is not best to suppress these orders were made for the reason September, 1899, ..... 22.25 Lake Superior Charcoal, Chicagothe table, unless its publication is likely that the timber men are continually cutto lead to the adoption or some plan ting timber off these lands and perhaps September, 1898, ..... \$ 11.50 by which the property can be assessed at by the end of another year all the timber something like its actual value. I know will be gone and for this consequent de- 
 September, 1899.
 23.50

 Steel billets, Pittsburg \$

 September, 1898.
 \$

 16.00
 38.00
of no subject likely to come before you crease in value twenty-five per more important or more difficult to deal taken off. This is considered fair in with. It is manifest that under the pres- timber counties. 38.00 with. It is mannest that under the pres-ent system, the valuations are greatly below the cash value of the property, and very unequal in the different counties." On page 282 of the Auditor's Report of 1883, Mr. Burton went on to say, 26,-below the cash value of the property, and the commission attorneys made specific re-ply was that by A, H. Price, Southern attorney at Salisbury. Price states that he was employed by the Southern Rail-September, 1898, .....\$ 18.00 September, 1898, .... \$ 7.75

September, 1898, .....\$ 10.50 \$104,742,911. In the annual report of the Auditor nent citizens, tax assessors and others

attention to statement No. 9, it being a counties from Cheroke to Wake, also the

Telegraph property in-383,619.72 crease, .. .. .... Steamboat property in-16,120.00 Total increase for 1898 over 1897 ......\$6,855,689.76 "A condensed comparison for the years 1897 and 1898 is as follows: 1898, value of real and personal property . . . \$232,247,329.00 1897, value real and personal property .. .... 229,854,409.00

Increase over 1897 .....2,392,920.00 1898, value railroad. steamboat and canal steamboat and canal

property .... 29,157,099.23 Increase over 1897 .....\$4,462,769.76 Total increase over 1897 .. .... \$6,855,689.76

"During the period from 1892 to 1897. there was from year to year a persistent decrease in the taxable value of real and personal property and the total decrease for that time was \$12,595,392.00. An increase in the taxable value of real and personal property for 1898 over 1897 makes a net decrease in the value of such property from 1892 to 1898 of \$10,-202,472

"During the same period (1832 to 1898.) there has been an increase in the as-sessed value of railroad, telegraph. steamboat and canal property of \$13,-893,108.43."

This, together with the affidavits, the substance of which was given in my disspatches yesterday; constitutes the evidence in the railroad's case. Notwith-standing the value placed on the above as evidence the Commission's attorneys attach very little importance to it for the following reasons:

1. The Auditor's report on which it based is ten years old.

2. The census is neither official nor accurate, and it is a well known fact that the value of property is always exaggerated to census takers. 3. The utterances of both Gov. Vance and Gov. Jarvis are two-edged swords,

cutting both ways. They simply prove the evil of a system which is no more defended by the Corporation Commission Commission considers both of these ex-

4. And as to the State Treasurer's was made in an advertisement for the

Also in reply to the affidavits setting

987,907 acres of land were valued at way Company to visit all the counties \$84,075,375; town lots \$20,667,536; total through which that road runs and to se cure affidavits from officers and promi (Furman), for 1895, it is said: "I invite to be used in this case. He visited

creased and assessing officers would be arrested and indicted for perjury. By way of reply to this, all the attorneys for the Corporation Commission made affidavit that they had sent out to the various counties of the State a large number of letters, circulars and communications, but that in no instance had any letter been mailed by them c taining a threat of prosecution, and that no threat of any character had been held over any county. That on August 4th, a circular letter was mailed to the register of deeds of Pamlico county, but that t in no wise differed from the letter sent to registers in all the other counties That if the register stated that he had been in any wise threatened or any threats conveyed to him by either of the affiants, he stated what had no foundation in fact. Further the affidavit stated that the register of deeds is now de fendant in a civil action brought by C. A. Flowers, for the office he holds, and that Flowers is represented in that suit by Simmons, Pou and Ward, attorneys in this case. It is also denied that in any letter sent out a suppression of testi mony has been suggested. looks like an adjourned meeting It

of the North Carolina Bar Association here, with a good sprinkling of visiting railroad officials. There are in attendance the following attorneys: Ex-Judge Henry G. Connor, Wilson; Ex-Congressman F. M. Simmons, Raleigh; James H. Pou, Raleigh; A. D. Ward, Newbern; J. C. L. Harris, Raleigh; Charles A Cook, Warrenton; J. W. Hinsdale, Ral eigh: Franklin McNeill, Wilmington; Ex Chief Justice James E. Shepherd, Raleigh; R. H. Battle, Raleigh-all these for the Corporation Commission. For the railroads, Ex-Judge John G. Johnson, Philadelphia; Judge Leigh R. Watts, Norfolk; R. O. Burton, Raleigh; George Rountree, Wilmington; Chas, Price, Sal-isbury; Warren G. Elliott, Wilmington; John D. Shaw, Rockingham; F. H. Busbee, Raleigh, and W. H. Day, Raleigh; For the telegraph company, Robert C. Strong, Raleigh. Visiting attorneys in addition to many members of the Asheville bar; Walter Moore, Webster; J. M. Moody, Waynesville; Jas. L. Byrd, Marion; Geo. F. Bason, Charlotte; Frank Thompson, Jacksonville; Lewis Witherspoon, Newton. The members of the Corporation Com-

mission, with their clerk, Mr. H. C. Brown, are here. President Elliott and his clerk, Rohert Cronly and Auditor Riach, of the Coast Line, and Vice-President Andrews, Chief Clerk Miller and Private Secretary Thomas Heartt are the only railroad officials present.

Miss Clyde Ellington, of Raleigh, is here as stenographer to the Corporation Commission.

The hearing is being held in the ball room of the Battery Park hotel, which was used on account of the lack of accommodations in the government building, which is undergoing repairs. FRED L. MERRITT.

ON THE DIAMOND.

NATIONAL LEAGUE GAMES. Washington, September 15.-The Cleveland Club played as though they did not care whether they won or lost. and the Senators easily took the game. Schmidt was hit hard and Colliflower replaced him at the end of the third inning. Freeman made his nineteenth home run. Attendance, 750. Score: Washington ... 15500003 x-14 14 1 Cleveland.. ...000000030-3 94 Evans and McManus; Batteries: Schmidt, Colliflower and Sugden. Time, 1:45.



Promise of Large Balance in Our Favor.

**BUSINESS VOLUME GREAT** 

GRAIN'S IMMENSE MOVEMENT KEEPS UP PRICES.

COTTON DECLINES ONE SIXTEENTH

Ext aordinary Efforts to Increase the Iron Output in August Failed Through the

Shutting Down of Some of the

Furnaces for Repairs.

New York, Sept. 15 .- R. G. Dun and Company's Weekly Review of Trade, will say tomorrow:

Better than all other news, the record of August commerce shows the relation of United States business to that of other countries. Exports were \$20,082,875 larger than ever before in August, and exceeded imports by \$38,929,699 partly because exports of staples were \$9,366,-978 larger than last year, but also because exports of other products, mainly manufacturing, were \$10,349,000 larger than last year and larger than in any other month of any year. Fears that great advance in prices might shut off exports of manufactured products have not been unnatural, and it is most gratifying to find that such exports still continue and expand. The excess of exports over imports gives fair promise of as large a balance in foreign trade to the benefit of this country during the winter as has ever been seen. That manufactured exports do not fall off, but are larger than ever is both surprising and gratifying.

The volume of business now in progress has never been rivalled.

The great movement of grain, in wheat and flour a little larger than last year in August, and in two weeks of September, 5,920,273 busheis, flour ncluded, from Atlantic ports, against 5,-423,076 bushels last year and from Pa-cific ports 755,559 bushels, against 364,-144 bushels last year, is far more effective in preventing a decline in prices than any official or unofficial estimate of yield. Government reports indicate a wheat crop of only 516,000,000 bush-

els, but last year the September re-port indicated 585,000,000 bushels, and afterward the official return made it 675,000,000 bushels, and none would be surprised to see a like revision this year. The price in spite of good exports has fallen one quarter of a cent, for Eastern receipts have been 13,669,455 bushels in two weeks, against 14,663,895 bushels last year, and corn exports 083,212 bushels, against 4,351,331. The feeling is not unreasonable that foreign needs are just now well indicated by the corn movement. At this season cot-:45. Umpires, Betts and Latham. Baltimore, Md., Sept. 15.—Wretched apport of their pitcher cost the game sixteenth, with a little less buying on foreign account. Extraordinary forts to increase the iron output failed in August partly because stoppage of a few large furnaces for repairs more than balanced the addition of 13 small furnaces to the producing force, and partly because hot weather prevented full pro duction. The reported output, 267,335 tons, against 267,672 tons on August 1st with decrease of 22,347 tons in unsold stocks indicates a consumption of 1.209.920 tons during the month. Purchases of 60,000 tons of Bessemer with advance of Bessemer to \$23,25 at Pittsburg, but quotations are wild because of premiums paid for early delivery. Plates at the East and common bars at Pittsburg are \$1 per ton higher and wire nails have again been advanced 3 per ton. Orders for plates include several for export and one for a vessel in the Delaware river with one for Venezuela at Pittsburg, but many for all firms are refused because the works are unable to fill them on time and some orders of much importance have been withdrawn at the West on account of the delay unavoidable and

and the second	avit		ion	Office	Lend		ii -
Counties.	md	essors	Equalization				ge
	Υ.	ses	aal	County	Money	ize	Ind
	No.	ASS	Eq	G	Mo	Cit	Inc
amance, exander,		4	14	7	5	93	\$ 747,356 01 72,563 00
son,	19	4 5	4	5	8	5	152,383 58
ufor,	7 23	6	28	55	Ξ	6	
den, inswick,	1	7	-	-	ī	1	20,00
ncombe,	48 2	8	12	5	5 8	8 34	
rke, barrus,	1 -	2	-	-	-	-	
ldwell, mden,	24 <sup>1</sup> 26	57	26	15	2		47,745 10,900
r errt,	30	55	1	6	18	25	,
atham,	61 3	6	4 12	58	1	7	61,050
erokee, ly,	21 11 1	5	1	4	5	11	the main t
velan 1,	19 1	4	1	26	-	2	100.00
umbus, iven, rrituck,		523	2	11	-	4 13	480 00 200,000 0
rrituck, vidson,	19 4	5.4	-	5	2	6	200,000 00
vie, plin,	5 29	5	1	7	-	-	123,415 00
rham.	45 1	17	11	5	5	7	2,00,00 00
gecombs, rsyth,		20	T	4	12		化一十二 日本
ston,		31	13	6	-	18	90,000 00
tes,		3	2	-	-	1	
sham, een,	18 1	5	6	4	5	-	A 42 16
nville, lifax,	89 2	8	78	92	- 8	-	66,831 00
rnett,		00	5	6	ĩ	23	914 2
nderson, ywood,		8	16	6	-	8	<b>95,900</b> LO
rtford, dell,	7 31 2	6	1	-7	-	ī	400,000 00
kson,	19	4	-	4	-	11	15 , 47 01
inston, les,	31	6	6	57	1	53 18	100,000 00
con,	44 8 12	6	92	54	-	-	70,987 00
dison, rtin,	11	6		5	-	Ā	
Dowell,	43 8	1	-	-	-	12	
cklenburg, chell,	17	9	1 5	3	-	C	1,010,800 00
ntgomery, ore,	38 71 1	7	12 6	367		8 42	1 0,000 01 287,122 00
sh,	20 2	20	-	-	- 2	11	the Tomber of
w Hanover, rthampton,	19 24	8	777	598	-	-	190,071 00
slow, ange,	41 1	3 5	7	8		13	200,000 00
mlico,	18 27 1	5711	ĩ	6	ī	5 13	attender de
squotank, nder,	47 1	1	8	5	-	28	
rson, tt,		19 23	2 1	9 6	2 -	9 1	32,262 00 345,3 8 00
lk. ndolph.		14	11		:	-	
chmond,	87 1	29	7	7	1	-	
beson, ckingham,		81 25	2	5	i	81	261,7°0 00 500,000 00
wan, 'herford,		26 33	4 5	24	ī	26	19192
mpson, anly,	82	22		26	8		125,000 00
okes.		2 10	3 -		-	4	417,618 00
ain, rrell,	54 35	718	15	86	:	<b>38</b> 11	176,413 00
1100,	ń	2				8	
ake,	17 184	9 50	1	7	76	107	600,000 00
arren,	61 1	0 18	i	75	-	59 15	h Sidna
ashington, ayne,	105 :	28	1	5	-	77	253, 45 00
ilkes, ilson,	2 89	233	:	4	ī	1	- AN 19 8
dkin,		13	•	-	-	-	State of the second
Total, 2	795 12	35 2	258 8	319	87	933	\$8,721,673 02
Deduct Nort	thamp	otor	n,		100	18ten	\$50,000 00
							40 471 479 00

Co's reported, 86 84 57 64 27 58 25 No report from other counties.

Among the particularly strong affidavits presented by the Commission were the following: Samuel L. Patterson, Commissioner of

Agriculture for the State of North Caro- ernor Scales' comments thereon, to which lina, and occupied that position once be-I have also served for several terms in the General Assembly of North | Captain Price, of the Southern, intro-

5 2 2

September, 1899, ......\$ 18.50 Old car wheels, Chicago-September, 1898, .... \$ 11.00 tember, 1899, . . . . . ld car wheels, Philadelphiatember, 1898, .....\$ 10.50 tember, 1899, .. ..... 18.00 ames Redmond, a bank director and taxpayer in Newbern. "I know y instances of farming lands around vbern assessed for tax above their e. I was a member of the syndicate some years ago bought the Atlantic el at Morehead. We paid \$10,000 it, though the property was valued taxation at \$38,000. In 1897 it was in 1899 for \$20,500. This year it again sold for \$11,575." he Stimpson Lumber Company's perty, in the county of Craven, was ed at \$13,500. It sold for \$10,000 ntly W. Lilly, president of a bank at retteville and owner of a cotton mill: this county land is assessed at more a its value. I own much that I will at two-thirds of its tax valuation." J. Thackston, tax collector in Durcounty, specified a large number of ns and lots sold for less than their valuation. Among them: farm of 42 acres, valued at \$400, for \$325 farm of 68 acres, valued at \$540, for \$340. t in Durham, valued at \$3,000, sold \$1.765. olman residence, valued at \$3,325, for \$3,000. farm of 1,062 acres, valued at \$3,sold for \$2,500. said he could recall only two instanin which property in Durham had ently sold for more than its tax r. T. A. Allen, Henderson county: operty valued as near as possible at true cash value."

P. Thomas, Hertford county: "Two ns sold since June for less than ased valuation. Two others sold a lit-All four taken together sold \$15,000 than their total valuation." S. Harrison, of Halifax, member of Legislature: "The Legislature did connive at any undervaluation of inidual property, and I don't believe has been intentionally made by the ssors. It was their purpose in this nty to arrive at the true value. Ofthey have valued it at more than it ald bring on the market. I know

ny property owners who would sell a Harnett and one or two other coun-

the grand jury signed affidavits setr forth that no agreement had existamong the assessors as to an underuation of farm property; that as a a fair cash value had been fixed on \$8,571,573 02 it, though often it was more than this, or more than could be got for the land

at any kind of sale. Next to their 282 affidavits, the railroads place greatest confidence in the value of Treasurer Worth's anti-bond sale circular and the Auditor's reports, Agriculture: "I am now Commissioner of together with Governor Vance's and Gov reference was made in my despatch yes-

terday.

16.50 comparative statement of the value of real estate in this State, as returned by Wane, Craven and Pamlico. He made the owners thereof to the United States it his business to ascertain the mode, census takers for 1890, and the value manner and custom that prevailed in of the same property as appraised for taxation in 1891. The discrepancy is astounding, and can only be accounted for on the ground that the census table shows the value of the realty as the owners thereof believed it to be, while the other shows the value placed upon it by the appraisers for the purposes of taxation following an unwritten law to apned at \$20,000, in 1898 for \$20,000 praise property at only 2-3 of what they think its real value to be. In this instance it is appraised at only about onehalf of what the owners thought it was worth."

The summary in the report for 1895 shows the following for the entire State: Census valuation of real estate, \$278,-399,171; true value, \$260,191,466; value of exempt real estate \$18,207,706; value of real estate as assessed \$142,068,932. By the Auditor's Report for 1898 (Ayer, Auditor), on page 194, Statement 2, it is shown-

Acres of land 27,829,773, val-

timber interests, 117,351 ... 430.552 Town lots, 86,196 .... 44,786,560

\$155,220,169

In the Auditor's Report for 1898, page 19, it is said: "The annual reports issued by this department express the taxable value of real and personal property for the preceding year. The report for 1897 expressed the taxable value of such property for the year 1896, and this report (1898) presents the taxable value of such property as returned for the year 1897. The assessed value of railroad, a view to having them reduce the as-1897. telegraph and steamboat property is expressed by each report for the same year was allowed, to stand. for which the report is issued. The aggregate value of all property returned for taxation in the State for the year 1896 was \$257,437,227.99. This is the lowest aggregate value of property ever reported for the State. The increase in value for the year 1898 over the year 1896 is \$8,429,970. The sources of this increase are as follows: Real and personal property

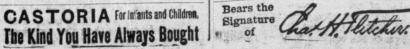
588.236.20 crease ..... Steamboat and Canal prop-112,157.00 erty increase .. ..... at their tax valuation and give long Railroad property increase, 6,443,377.80

> Total increase ......\$8,429,970.00 "The comparative statement of the for the consecutive years 1897 and 1898 which the affiant visited, he was inform- and Quinine in a tasteless form. No will show the following: Aggregate value, 1898 ...\$265,867,197.99

Increase for 1898 over

1897, .....\$6,856,689.76 The sources of this increase are as folows:

Real and personal prop-



counties of Northampton, Nash, Wilson, each county as to the rule of assessing property, both real and personal.

A great many officers with whom he had conversation, he said, particularly the sheriff of Madison county, two assessors in Cherokee county, two asses sors in McDowell county, a member of the board of county commissioners in Iredell county, and several officers in Randolph, Davidson and Guilford, expressed a disinclination to make voluntary affidavits as to the rule of assessing propenty in their respective counties. They admitted that if they were placed under subpoena by a court of competent jurisdiction, they would swear that it had been the uniform rule and custom by the assessing officers in these counties to systematically undervalue property, real and personal, for taxation, and that the assessors had generally observed what is known as the two-thirds rule, and continued to observe t up to and including the year 1899. He stated also that in no county through which he passed did any officer pretend that real and personal property was assessed at its full value, except the county of Durham, and in that county the assessment for property in 1899 had been greatly increased, and there was great dissatisfaction on the part of taxpayers, because they knew that they were paying more than their proportionate part of the burden of State taxation. And that a meeting of the board of county commissioners had been called at which the matter had been called to

sessment, but the assessment of 1899 In the county of Pamlico, the clerk of the court, had told him that certain affidavits had been sent to register of deeds and chairman of the county commissioners by attorneys at Raleigh, asking them to swear that property in that

returned the affidavit, stating that property in the county was not assessed at its true value-not more than two-thirds to three-fourths of its real value. The affidavit was returned to him and he was requested to have the board of commissioners make it; two of the commission ers refused to sign these affidavits, and in further conversation with Mr. Price,

the clerk of court said it was assessed at its true tax value. In a good many of the counties in

ed that it would be a difficult matter to get the assessors and officers to make Aggregate value, 1897 .. 259,011,508.23 affidavit voluntarily, that property was not valued at its true value for the rea-son that these officers had been informed by attorneys at Raleigh that if they should swear property was arbitrarily undervalued for taxation by assessing of-

ficers, a new assessment would be order-

to the Orioles, the Reds winning the ninth game out of eleven played during the season. Howell pitched fairly well under most discouraging conditions. Hawley was in fine condition and had the birds hypnotized. Attendance, 1,333. Score:

.. ..000100010-2 10 7 Baltimore Cincinnati .. . 100102300-7120 Batteries: Howell and Robinson; Hawley and Kahoe. Umpire, Dwyer. Time, 2:05.

Boston, Mass, Sept. 15 .- Boston took hard hitting game from Pittsburg today. Stahl's home run in the fifth was and 20,000 tons other iron are reported one of the longest hits ever seen on the grounds. Attendance, 6,000. Score: .020101000-4Pittsburg . . . . 0 2 0 1 0 1 0 0 0 4 Batteries: Willis and Bergen; Chesbro Manassau 9 4 and Bowerman. Umpires, Manassau and Connolly. Time, 2:05. New York, Sept. 15.-The New Yorks

easily defeated St. Louis by good batting and sharp fielding. Doheny, although he was a bit wild, steadied down when run seemed imminent. The game was called on account of darkness. Attend-

ance, 300. Score: New York.. .. 20322010-10 15 5 St. Louis.... ..00200201-5 9 6 Batteries: Doheny and Warner; Batteries: Powell and O'Connor. Umpires, Day and McDonald. Time, 2:05. Brooklyn, N. Y., Sept. 15.—Garvin was

puzzle today, holding the leaders down to four hits, two of which came in the last inning. Chicago played fast ball at all times and touched up Dunn in lively fashion toward the close. Attendance, 1.900. Score:

Brooklyn.. ...000100001-2 4 3 .201000032-8 12 1 Chicago .. ,.201000032-8 12 1 Batteries: Dunn and McGuire; Garvin and Donahue. Umpires, Swartwood and Hunt. Time, 1:54.

Philadelphia, Sept. 15.—Today's game was called after the eighth inning on account of darkness. Louisville won after a stubborn contest, in which there was considerable wrangling, some heavy hitting and bad errors. Captain Clarke, who was not in the game, was escorted from the grounds by a policeman for insulting Umpire McGarr. Attendance, 3,500. Score:

Philadelphia ... 30004110-910 3 Louisville .....20103040-10 16 5 Batteries: Piatt, Orth and McFarland; Waddell and Steelman. Umpires, Snyder and McGarr. Time, 2:30.

THE BEST PRESCRIPTION FOR MALARIA. Chills and Fever is a bottle of Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic. It is simply Iron wed & sat 6 m & w 6m

A Christian is a man who can stand it to find some one else occupying his pew.

"I suffered with piles eleven years be fore using DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve: now my health is fully restored."-Con-A soothing, rad Stange, Pierz, Minn. healing prepartion of standard merit; beware of worthless counterfeits, Bob bitt-Wynne Drug Co., W. H. King & Co., Adams & Moye, Wm. Simpson.

the high prices charged. The heavy sales of wool, 12,056,000 pounds for the week and 21,282,100 for two weeks, against 36,629,400 in 1897 are largely due to heavy manufacturing purchases at Boston, but there as elsewhere, the buying is mostly based on expectation that London sales beginning next Tuesday will show an impor-

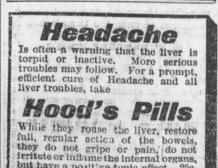
tant advance. Prices here are stiff and the demand for woolen goods of all sorts is strong. Failures for the week have been 140 in the United States, against 174 last year, and 32 in Canada, against 23 last year.

TOTAL BANK CLEARINGS.

New York, Sept. 15 .- The total bank clearings for the week in the United States were \$1,710,393,268, per cent. in crease 28.7.

Exclusive of New York \$610,600,687, per cent. increase 25.9.

Too great a command of language sometimes lessens a woman's matrimonial chances.



but have a positive tonic effect. 25c, at all druggists or by mail of C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.