

# The News and Observer.

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## Leads all North Carolina Dailies in News and Circulation

### THE IDEAL HOME FOR FINE APPLES

President Van Lindley of Western North Carolina.

### HOW OUR TASTES CHANGE

The Strawberries of the Eastern Counties Are Most Profitable.

### WHAT A LIVE SOCIETY COULD DO

Great Work That Lies Before the Horticultural Society. The State Now Stands Third in Number of New Varieties of Fruits.

At the meeting of the Horticultural Society held in Asheville last week, these officers were elected:

President—J. Van Lindley, of Pomona. Vice-President—W. F. Massey. Secretary and Treasurer—Franklin Sherman, of Raleigh.

District Vice-President—George E. Boggs, R. C. Simon, Oliver Warren, J. S. Westbrook, O. W. Blackwell, D. E. Parker, C. R. B. Caldwell and Dr. Balmere.

Executive Committee—B. Van Herff, P. H. Beck, J. F. Gulliver, J. Van Lindley and Franklin Sherman.

### THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Mr. J. Van Lindley, president, then delivered an address as follows:

"As president of the society, it becomes my duty to point out the work for the society, and to give my own opinion and observations of the fruit interests of the State, or at least a few points.

"Eastern North Carolina. The growing of strawberries has become immense. About 12 years ago, while attending a nurserymen's association at Chicago, a question was asked: 'What are we going to do about growing strawberries?' We no longer get fancy prices; the south gets the fancy prices, and when our strawberries are ripe prices are down. A party answered: 'Go South, young man, if you want fancy prices.'

Then the noted editor, the late Orange Judd, took the floor, and pictured great fields of strawberries about Norfolk and Charleston that he had seen the past season, the fruit rotting in the field, and was a disgusting sight, and said that too many had already gone south. So his words were discouraging to every southerner or any one thinking of going south. At that time growers in eastern North Carolina were shipping only a few crates a day during the season, but now, regardless of what the eminent editor said, as high as twenty crates a day are being shipped, netting the growers a good profit. And now strawberry farms are opening up rapidly all along the line from Goldsboro to Wilmington, which is the main strawberry section.

"In middle North Carolina all summer fruits succeed well; only a few varieties of winter apples will succeed. The same can be said of the east also, as there is not a farm in the entire State but what can have a supply of fruit if they knew what to plant, varieties, etc. Here comes in the work for places in the United States. So he who they have been compelled to listen to and take advice from missionaries sent out by the nurserymen; and by them much advice has been given, and great improvements have been made.

"New fruits, or foreign fruits: Some are disposed to work against foreign fruits, forgetting that many of our old fruits are from Europe. The Bartlett pear is from Europe; Neverfail or Genet apple, and the majority of old standard pears and plums are of European origin, which were so popular twenty years ago, but since the introduction of the oriental fruits, principally from Japan, the pears and plums, they have nearly isolated the old varieties, and nearly every one who plants a pear today wants Keiffer, LeConte, Garber and Magnolia, all of the oriental class; or if plums, he wants Red June, Abundance, Burbank, Wickson, and all Japan varieties. Three-fourths of our sales are from this class of stock today.

"Peaches are ripening now five weeks earlier than when I was a boy. New varieties: The Elberta peach originated about twenty years ago in Georgia. Today it is a national variety, and has made peach growing a success in Georgia and many other places in the United States. So he keeps up with the fruit interests needs to plant new varieties, or he might get left. The world is moving; everything is changing for better; the same thing occurs in varieties of fruits. Improvements in varieties are as great as in any other line of business.

"Western North Carolina, the ideal apple section of America. I have been preaching this doctrine for thirty years. Soon after the war, at a meeting of the American Pomological society at Richmond, Va., a collection of western North Carolina apples carried off the prize. The same results have been obtained wherever they have been shown on either side of the Atlantic. Hundreds of letters have I answered from people writing me on North Carolina fruit growing, and I

could cite them to western North Carolina and telling what could be done, and some day it would be the apple paradise of America. Mr. George E. Boggs, of Waynesville, this year's crop pays him for all he has ever done to his orchard. Mr. M. H. Cone, of Greensboro, N. C., has in the past three years planted about 30,000 apple trees near Blowing Rock, in Watauga county; and other parties are now seeing what can be done and are planting on a larger scale. So it will be but a few years before western North Carolina will be what is claimed for the ideal apple section of America. Why do I say this? Because the climate, soil and elevation suits the apple. What you want to do to make a success is plant the proper varieties; take care of the trees, then properly put the fruit on the markets. In gathering apples they should be handpicked and placed in barrels, not poured in; carefully sorted, each size put to itself. It costs some more to gather and pack in this way than it would to shake and frill the fruit to the ground, then pitch them into wagons and off to market, every apple bruised, and, of course, would not bring one-third the third the price the handpicked and barreled would. A wagon load of apples passed my place, from Patrick county, Va., a few days ago. The man had traveled about 70 miles over a rough road. His wagon-bed was full, piled in loose—not an apple in the lot but what was bruised and in a decaying condition; and varieties, too, that if they had been properly handled would have kept in a sound condition till March. Now is there any danger of over-production? I say 'No.' We are practically on the border of the apple-growing section. Look at the broad cotton States nearby that produce no winter apples, the growing manufacturing towns all through the said country, and I believe I have never heard a man, woman or child say they did not like apples. So there is a vast territory that Western North Carolina could and should supply.

"The apple bulletin sent out last July gotten up by the Secretary of Agriculture, T. K. Bruner, gives much good information on apple for western and other sections of North Carolina. I am glad to see Mr. Bruner take such lively interest in fruit growing. "I wish here to give a little explanation. All States have a horticultural society, and nearly all except North Carolina get State aid. They are in direct correspondence with the Pomological Department at Washington; and being president of our State Horticultural Society for several years of course I was appealed to when the subject of the Paris exposition came up. Having no means, our secretary, Mr. T. L. Brown, arranged with the Washington department to \$75 to go towards the expense of getting up a collection of Western North Carolina apples. I could not do it, Dr. McIver of the State Normal College, would not let Mr. Brown off to do the work; so I appealed to Mr. S. L. Patterson, our Commissioner of Agriculture, and finally made arrangements for everything to be turned over to his secretary, Mr. T. K. Bruner, who proved to be the proper man. He knew little about fruits, and I never knew him to take much interest in pomology, but he took the work in earnest, and after travelling all the western section of North Carolina he then took the exhibit to Paris. After that short lesson of one season he became so interested and enthusiastic over the work, and with what he saw in his search for apples, he was able to get out what is known as the Apple Bulletin, which is equal to that of any good student in pomology. That was work which should have been done by the State Horticultural society, but we had no State aid, and we welcome Mr. Bruner as a co-worker in horticulture.

"The Pest Commission is a board organized under State laws, with full power to do what is thought best to keep out of our State, or exterminate in the State, whatever is dangerous to trees, insects which injure fruit and fruit trees; one of the main ones is San Jose scale. They have recently sent out an order prohibiting every nurseryman in the State from shipping nursery stock unless it is thoroughly fumigated with hydrocyanic gas that kills every living insect it comes in contact with. I consider it a good law, and one that should be obeyed to the letter; and it is a good protection to fruit growers. All live nurserymen are continually introducing new tree diseases than any other class. So it is important for their own protection. To strictly follow the instructions of said commission, others should obey their instructions if their premises are affected.

"I have alluded to the State Horticultural Society. A few of us have kept up the organization for 20 years. We have worked hard, and have spent our own money, most of us, to keep alive the fruit interests of North Carolina. We have had a petition before nearly every Legislature for the past 20 years. At one time we came very near getting the appropriation. We asked only \$600 a year, ample to pay our secretary and public our reports. I think an horticultural society in North Carolina is very important. A live horticultural society could bring in more emigrants of the better class than any institution in the State for the amount of money spent. It is our duty to watch varieties, note their success in various parts of the State, look up new varieties. On new varieties that are national standards our State stands third in number of varieties. I am sure that if we had a live horticultural society we would soon stand No. 1 as I know from what I have seen at fairs from Western North Carolina and other parts of the State that there are yet hundreds of valuable varieties yet unknown that would be standard fruits when known.

### WILL NOT OPPOSE THE CULLOM BILL

Reply of Wilmington Chamber of Commerce.

### A POSITIVE STAND TAKEN

Objections of Louisville Board of Trade Considered and Answered.

### POWER OF THE INTER-STATE COMMISSION

The Opposition of the Louisville Board Involves the Very Existence of the Interstate Commerce Commission Itself.

Wilmington, N. C., Dec. 19, 1900.

The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, through a special committee appointed for that purpose, has prepared a report on the "Cullom Bill" that is so excellent that I send it to the News and Observer, the exponent of just railroad regulation, in order to insure for it a wide reading. The report is as follows:

Your committee to whom was referred the communication from the Louisville Board of Trade, asking the concurrence of this body in opposition to the "Cullom Bill" has had the honor to receive the following report:

We have not thought it necessary to go into an extended discussion of the merits of the proposed bill. The matter has been thoroughly considered by the Chamber within a year, and a report by Mr. J. Allen Taylor, recommending the passage of the bill was adopted. The chief objection to the bill which is now mentioned by the Louisville Board of Trade, was then presented by Mr. Taylor, but the necessity of some radical legislation, such as embodied in the Cullom Bill, extending and enlarging the powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission seemed to be so pressing that it was thought best to overlook several possible objections and recommend the adoption of the bill as a whole rather than that there should seem to be any division among commercial organizations on this all-important question.

The communication from the Louisville Board of Trade calls attention very probably to every possible objection to the bill. These objections are presented in such terms as to cause them to appear unduly important, and we believe that any one who is desirous of continuing the existence of the Interstate Commerce Commission, and who will weigh the objections carefully, can but come to the conclusion that they are of much less consequence than the Louisville Board would make them appear.

We were so fully persuaded that practically the entire commercial interests of this country admitted the necessity of the extension and enlargement of the powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission, that the closing statement of the Louisville Board that the "proposed legislation is ill-considered and unnecessary," together with the fact that some of the objections presented, seem to be of such insignificance, while made to appear all-important; and the additional circumstance that there is not a word of commendation even for those portions of the bill which all could advocate, but its unconditional rejection is urged; cause us reluctantly to adopt the conclusion that some influence not entirely in sympathy with the interests of the patrons of transportation lines, is agitating what seems to be a concerted opposition to the bill.

The first objection urged by the Louisville Board in regard to the proposed amendment to the "long and short haul clause" of the Interstate Commerce Law is doubtless worthy of careful consideration and has some weight.

However, the decision of the United States Supreme court in the Social Circle Case, is a bar to the arbitrary enforcement of the clause, and there is no reason to believe that the Commission would ignore competitive conditions in respect of water competition.

There is no question but that cases do exist and may hereafter arise where it would be unwise to make it imperative for transportation companies to charge no greater compensation for a shorter than a long distance over the same line. But the bill provides that the Commission shall be empowered to suspend the rules in special cases, and we are forced to believe it is much better that this power to suspend should be given to the Commission rather than left to the whim of the freight agent of the transportation company.

filed sixty days before it can become operative, will serve to enable the Commission to intelligently investigate the situation; thus giving stability to traffic conditions. It often happens that a majority of the Commission is in different parts of the country hearing separate causes or prosecuting investigations, and shorter notice than sixty days would not give the Commission time to submit the cause to the hearing of a full court without interrupting other important business. In the light of these facts, it seems that this particular objection is very much strained, and certainly cannot be held to be in support of stable rates.

This contention together with the next which opposes the publication and distribution of a National Classification to be observed by all lines engaged in interstate Commerce, are both questions upon which even railroad experts are not agreed, and certainly do not give cause for unequivocal opposition to the entire bill.

The fourth and last objection to the bill is simply and plainly opposition to conferring greater powers on the Commission. It was not to be expected that this portion of the bill would be adopted without strenuous opposition, but it was hardly to be expected that opposition would come from any organization of business men. This opposition involves the very existence of the Interstate Commerce Commission itself, for every one knows who has given the matter any consideration at all, that as at present constituted, and under recent decisions of the courts, the Commission has been emasculated to such an extent that its powers are virtually NIL.

The Louisville Board says "the whole effect of this section (7) is to give the Commission absolute power over the rates of all interstate traffics." We were under the impression that the object of the law creating the Commission was to give it this power. Certainly the law supposed the Commission had this power under the law, and it was exercised up to six years ago when the question was raised and the courts decided that it did not possess it under the law as it then stood. This bill we hope will legally confer this power upon it.

The Louisville Board says "under the provisions of the law as it now stands, the Commission has the power not only to hear complaints filed by shippers or commercial bodies, or others, but also to make investigations of its own motion." What tremendous and far-reaching consequences are involved in this? Even your own committee could do as much and their investigations would accomplish the same results! Any one who has watched the "hearings" of the Interstate Commerce Commission, including that in our own city, and has noticed how permanent rest, can but come to one conclusion, and that is that the Commission itself has decided not again to expose its own impotence to public gaze, if it can avoid it.

The power to investigate in the restricted sense in which it belongs to the Commission does not extend to and embrace the right to legislate a remedy. Under the present law, this power is limited to a judicial determination of the fact; and while the rate may be adjudged, the power to operate to restrain its enforcement, except on appeal, the Commission is without power to prescribe and legislate what in its judgment is a proper and righteous rate. In a word, its present powers are judicial as distinguished from legislative, and the primary purpose of the "Cullom Bill" is to remedy this defect by clothing the Commission with the legislative powers operating in conjunction with the purpose to regulate interstate commerce will become a realized fact.

Under present conditions an analogous case would be a system of civil jurisprudence wherein a wrongful taking and holding of property having been established, the court would be powerless to force restitution.

Such a condition would be a travesty on justice, and such a system would not be endured, and yet the traffic conditions which restrain the growth and arrest the progress of Wilmington are no less a travesty on equal commercial opportunity, while the Commission is powerless to give redress, and therefore, obviously reluctant to pass a judicial opinion in the absence of power to legislate a remedy.

The final argument of the Louisville Board in opposition, we are willing to quote in support of the bill: "The Commission under this law, if enacted, would become rate-maker for all railroads, and would have power to affect the commercial interests of every city and town in the United States . . . and would permit the Interstate Commerce Commission to absolutely dominate the transportation and commercial interests of the entire country."

### THE TAX HEARING COMPLETED HERE

The Next Hearing Will be at Wilmington.

### IT BEGINS ON DEC. 27TH

Nearly a Score of Witnesses From Durham Examined.

### IS NO SYSTEMATIC UNDERVALUATION

The Evidence Taken Here Has So Far Been a Complete Refutation of the Contentions of the Railroads in Their Complaints in This Case.

The State yesterday completed the taking of its evidence in the railroad taxation cases at this place for the present.

The next hearing will be at Wilmington on December 27th.

The witnesses put on the stand yesterday with one exception, were from Durham county, and their evidence did not materially differ from that given by the Wake and Johnston witnesses. The exception was Mr. James W. Stevenson, register of deeds of Johnston county who testified, not only as to the general rule, but especially as to particular tracts in the county that were overvalued or undervalued for taxation as shown by their sale since. The list of tracts that brought less than the taxation value was much larger and for most of those that brought less than the assessed value there was some circumstance that fully accounted for the difference.

The Durham witnesses were almost to a man assessors and they were most emphatic in their declaration that the true cash-value of assessment had prevailed in their county, and that in 1899 all lands in the county were, taken as a rule, assessed for all that they would have brought on the market.

In the city of Durham property has increased very rapidly in value in the past year. Some of the witnesses thought the increase had been about 50 per cent in case of the most desirable property. Others put it at from 20 to 25 per cent.

In the country, remote from the railroads, they thought the increase in value had been less marked. "But whether in town or in country," most of the witnesses said, "a fair cash value was placed on every acre of it for taxation in 1899."

One of the witnesses, Mr. C. R. Wilson, said he was summoned here for the railroads when they were taking evidence, and that he came, but when Capt. Price privately questioned him as to what his testimony would be, he (Capt. Price told him that he (Wilson) would not be needed by the railroads, so he was paid his per diem and mileage and sent home.

The witnesses put on the stand yesterday were as follows: C. W. O'Brien, B. W. Matthews, Jas. W. Stevenson, B. W. Barbee, J. W. Allen, C. R. Wilson, G. D. Markham, J. W. Burroughs, J. J. Thackston, W. P. Clements, G. R. Blackwell, M. W. Carrington, J. A. Henderson, D. A. Turrentine, Dr. W. N. Hicks, J. V. Riggsbee, J. R. Harp and R. G. Russell.

### Bribed By Their Own Pockets.

(New York Journal.)

Many a man is called incorruptible who is bribed every day of his life. Many a nation, including our own just at present, has been bribed without realizing it. The man who would rage justifiably at the suggestion of a bribe, the man who would spurn an offer of any amount from another, can be easily bribed by the money in his own pocket.

This writer has in mind a man of great ability, who illustrates singularly well the corrupting power that lies in a man's own money.

When the man mentioned was young he was enthusiastic in the cause of the people. His ideas were sound, his ambitions lofty. He had nothing, and his sympathies went out to others who were as poor as he. Today his inmost feelings and ideas are the same as of yore. But his financial condition has changed. There used to be nothing in his pockets. Now his bank account, safe deposit vault and real estate foot up twenty millions of dollars.

many men of practically no fortune were bribed by their pockets or their future financial hopes in the late election? The Republican party managed to create the impression that with them lay financial prosperity.

If a voter said: "Trusts are dangerous, vicious and illegal." The Republican party replied: "If you destroy trusts you will frighten rich men; rich men will lock up their money and you will not be able to get any of it."

The country, bribed by its pockets, voted to continue the trusts in power.

An extremely intelligent politician, Mr. Stockler, said to this writer long before election: "The savings bank depositors decide elections. If the Republicans once succeed in frightening them they are sure to win."

The Republican party, with ingenious falsehood and plausible talk, did succeed in frightening the savings bank depositors. It was no great sum of money that bribed the average savings bank depositor.

Seventy dollars, two hundred dollars, perhaps five hundred dollars sufficed in tens of thousands of cases to dwarf all noble considerations in the minds of the voters.

Imagine the average hard-working man saying to the Republican party: "Why do you ignore the Declaration of Independence? What excuse have you to offer for changing our system of government without the people's consent?"

The Republican party replied: "Never mind the Declaration of Independence, and as to your other question, we don't want any excuse. Listen to this. You have two hundred dollars in the saving bank. Haven't you? Very well. Vote for the Democrats and that money will shrink to one hundred dollars."

The statement is false, and the voter feels that it is false. Yet he has some slight dread that there may be something in it. He knows all about his two hundred dollars. He puts and loves the greasy brown bank book. About other things he can only speculate.

### RESOLUTION OF SYMPATHY.

Pupils of Buie's Creek Academy Appeal For Aid in a Noble Cause.

To the Editor: Buie's Creek Academy, the largest preparatory school in North Carolina, was consumed by the flames at 4 o'clock on the morning of December 20, 1900. No clue to the cause, as yet, can be obtained. The following resolutions were adopted by the student body, and we trust that all will heed to the needs of the principal, and the cause of the institution:

Resolved 1. That we, the students of Buie's Creek Academy, do hereby extend our deepest sympathies to the principal and faculty of our much loved and excellent institution. We pray that God may visit them by his spirit, and teach them to be resigned amid calamity.

2. That we will ever stand by, and uphold the excellent Christian faculty for their kindness, and for the many helps extended to the poor boys and girls of our State, by our principal.

3. That we feel that the trouble and loss is not only upon the students, faculty and community, in this Christian work, but upon the entire State, and therefore, we appeal to every generous hearted educator and Christian worker to support the institution, and see that it is rebuilt, for nothing could do more for the glory of God, and the cause of education.

4. That we, the students, will use every effort to raise by contribution, in our respective communities, funds to rebuild, and extend the work of the institution. We pledge our loyal support in the effort to extend its patronage. May God put it into the hearts of the people of our respective communities and State, to rally to the support of this most excellent institution, and its able faculty.

(Signed.) E. D. POE, H. A. RIVES, J. D. HOWELL, J. B. TUGWELL, LILLIE MATTHEWS, PENNIE DANIELS, NORMA BURT, R. T. UPCHURCH, J. A. CLARK, Committee, Buie's Creek, N. C., Dec. 29.

### Armenian Customs

In Erzerum, Armenia, Christmas-tide is the season when the maidens fancy they can choose the love of their dreams, and they have a unique way of getting the question decided. In the early morning, before sunrise, the maiden makes a corn cake. While it is in the oven, she dresses herself in her prettiest costume, for this is an offering to fate and she must look her best. When the cake is done, the maiden bears it to the roof where she places it on the terraced house-top, then hides herself behind the great chimney. Suddenly there comes a whirr of wings, and she sees a great bird looking toward the cake. Finally he swoops down in swift flight and seizes the maiden's offering to fate. This is the supreme moment. The girl's eyes never waver a moment in watching the bird's flight, for where he rests will be her future mate, for she chooses to have him. If the bird flies far away her fate will not be settled during the coming year.

### THE NORTH CAROLINA YEAR BOOK.

Warren Record. We note that the News and Observer Company, of Raleigh, announces that they will issue an annual North Carolina handbook of the leading events of the State about the first of January next. This is a good move, and we hope that the enterprise will be so successful as to cause the News and Observer to issue one every year. It is a good thing to have the events and facts of each year put up in a nutshell, in a convenient form. Let it be full of useful information told concisely and we believe that it will be accepted by the people of the State. Success to you, Brother Daniels, in this work.