

THE WHISTLING BILL

The Views of an Experienced and Practical Engineer.

Mr. W. C. Petty Points Out What He Regards as the Dangers in the Justice Bill Pending in the Senate.

The bill of Senator Justice that engineers shall warn people walking on the track by both blowing and whistling has been made a special order for next Wednesday. Some of the strongest men in the Senate earnestly favor the bill and others equally strong will vigorously fight it. It promises to be a debate well worth hearing.

Mr. W. C. Petty, manager of the Carolina Railway, who has had thirty years' experience as a practical railroad man was in Raleigh yesterday. He has off and on run an engine for many years, and on his own road today runs an engine often because he likes to do it. He has decided views about the Justice bill and thinks it ought not to pass. Speaking of the bill, he gave his views as follows:

"I have not the pleasure or honor of an acquaintance with Mr. Justice, the author and introducer of this bill, but feel assured that he had, in introducing the bill, the welfare of the people of the State at heart; that he was moved by a desire to protect human life, a laudable purpose on the part of any man."

"Neither do I think he introduced the bill with the view of working a hardship on the railroads of the State, for I must think he recognizes in them a great industry, which has gone far towards the development of North Carolina."

"But the putting of this bill as a law upon the statute books will work a great hardship—and being unnecessarily, a large number of suits for damages against the railroads, and at the same time greatly increase the number of people killed by trains, on account of walking on railroad tracks, the very thing, I think, the introducer of this bill is trying to prevent. And why? Because the people will then think that the trains will be compelled to ring their bells and blow their whistles at them, and that there will be no danger of being hit by a train, and a much greater number of people will risk walking on the tracks, and the result will be a large increase in the number of people killed in this way, on account of the great number taking the risk."

"I have been in the railroad service thirty years, and have run a locomotive thousands of miles, and have rode thousands of miles with other engineers, and yet I have to find an engineer that did not ring his bell to warn a person that he saw walking on the track ahead of him, and blew his whistle, too, if he failed to notice the bell. Railroad engineers are not a set of murderers that run over a man or a woman every time that they get a chance. The trouble is, they do not always see them, and again the people will not heed their warnings."

"I heard some speeches in the Senate Chamber on this bill on the 6th inst., and am quite sure the men making them never run a locomotive, and did not know from practical experience the trouble in this matter, that causes so many deaths. And I think I will be sustained in what I say by any practical engineer. I said a while ago they do not always see the people walking on the track ahead of them. You are probably surprised at that statement. But I hope to make clear to you, and if when you are on the track the engineer's eyes are always looking ahead, and on the rails, you are mistaken. That is his business in the main, and he is always looking ahead when not compelled to attend to other matters that are just as important, and necessarily claim a little of his time. In old times the engine valves and cylinders were oiled by the fireman going out to the steam chest and putting in oil or tallow while the engine was rolling down grade. But all modern engines are oiled from the cabs by a sight feed lubricator, with three tubes, one feeding the air pump and the other two, the right and left cylinders. These tubes feed two to three drops a minute, and it is important that they feed all the time, or your valves become dry, and your cylinders are cut, hence the engineer has to occasionally turn his eyes to the lubricator to see that the lubricator is feeding, and this will take him ten to twenty seconds, during which time he will cover a third of a mile, and may run over a man and never know that he had killed him, because he was otherwise engaged at the time, and did not see him. Again, he has to see that the water is kept at the right gauge in his boiler, hence he has to throw his eyes to the water gauge occasionally to see that he has plenty of water, and again the injectors some time fail to work when he goes to start them, and he is forced to give that a few seconds of his time, and during this time he may run a man down on the rails and kill him—yet has never seen him."

"Thus you will clearly see that it is impossible for an engineer to always see the people walking on the tracks, however careful he may be. Now, to the people heeding the warning. And here is where the greatest trouble comes in. I have often times rung my bell and blown the whistle at people walking the track ahead of me, and they would look back to see how far I was from them, and then continue on the track until I was so near them before they attempted to get out of the way, that had they stumbled, in attempting to get off, no power on earth could have prevented me from killing them. You have not the remotest idea unless you have had experience of the carelessness of the people walking on the tracks of a railroad. Now, if you blow the whistle and ring the bell there is great doubt about their noticing them. I came over here on a train today, and I presume the engineer blew all the crossing blows, but if I was sworn as to the truth of the matter, I could not say that they did. I did not hear them. And why? Because I was not listening, and my mind was occupied, so I did not notice it when it blew, hence you will see there will be many suits in the courts against the roads for killing people on the tracks, claiming that the engineer did not blow his whistle nor ring his bell. Passengers will be brought up to prove that the

whistle was not blown and they will swear that they did not hear it, and they will be asked, 'could you not have heard it, if it had been blown?' 'Certainly I think I could,' and the man swears honestly, but the trouble is, he was not paying attention, hence did not hear it."

The engineer is the only man on the train that could swear positively correct in the matter. Hence the railroads will be forced to pay large damages on account of the passage of this bill and a great number of people will lose their lives. "If the Legislature wishes to protect the lives of the people who will walk on railroad tracks, make them walk at their own risk, and at public crossings. Then fewer people will walk on the tracks and consequently, fewer will be killed, and the railroads will be saved many damage suits."

Child Labor in Cotton Mills.

To the Editor: It strikes me that there is a great deal being said in regard to child labor in cotton mills by people that do not know anything about it. I am sure that no child should be employed in cotton mills or factories under the age of twelve years, while there is school in force of them, but when school is out I think all boys over ten years of age should be put to work. I don't think girls under twelve should be employed at any time under any circumstances, but I think you had better let your boys work anywhere than have them on the streets from morn till night smoking cigarettes and swearing, etc., and I wish to say right here, in my judgment, the cigarette is making more pale faced, puny boys than all the labor they do in cotton mills. I have worked in cotton mills all my life since I was eight years old, except what time was in school. My parents would stop me and put me in school each year as much as four months, but the other eight months I had to work, and I think them for it. You are not apt to hurt a boy working him, but are more apt to hurt yourself getting him to work. My opinion is that the mill owners can adjust the labor question much better than people that don't understand the situation. And in my candid opinion, a man can manage his own business much better than some one that is not familiar with both sides of the question. Cotton mill people are the happiest people we have in our midst. They make good wages, more than the average farmer, they are paid off regularly and a great many of them own their own homes, and the mill child, as a rule, is as stout as the up-town or the farm child. However, I don't want it understood that I am in favor of the use of child labor in cotton mills, but I am in favor of an age except as above stated. The mill owners don't want them for they are the most expensive help that is employed in the mill. I don't think that the State need get alarmed about the condition of the child labor in North Carolina, when if they will stop and think for a moment and consider that the best and noblest men of North Carolina are the men that are at the head of the great cotton mill industry. They will take care of the children.

W. C. YORK, Supt. Sanford, N. C.

The Child Labor Law.

To the Editor: Doubtless the courteous thing to do would be to allow Mr. L. Vinson to reply to your note at the foot of his letter published in Sunday's News and Observer, but if you and he will allow me, let me add my opinion to this in regard to child labor question, and say as he does, if we are to have a law to regulate the employment of children in factories, let's have one to protect them in all occupations, particularly farming. If farming was "least remunerative, and most laborious," in the days of the great English statesman, it is even more so now, and of all the occupations of men and children—(although they labor in the open fields, in the broad day light), I am confident that less is known of the trials and hardships of a poor farmer's life than any calling in the world. Poets have sung, and editors of agricultural papers behind polished desks have been writing about "the happy days down on the farm" for generations, but did you ever hear the testimony of a "farm lad" who rises at 5 a. m., feeds the horses, milks the cows, and cuts wood all by sunrise, then goes to work in the field with a plow or hoe until noon (with more feeding of the stock), and then labors until dark, with dirt in his shoes, wet with perspiration in summer or half frozen in winter? If such a boy could express himself I would like to hear his evidence on the subject. There is another factor that should be considered: Most of the families who work in the factories in the South are those who have reached the very bottom of abject poverty on the farm before they left, and I never knew one of this kind ever to go back to the country after they once secured work in a factory.

At every well regulated factory there are schools, churches and good water and sanitation, and better homes to live in than can be found among the same grade of people in the country, and they can enjoy too, that dearest boon to the human heart, social intercourse without going miles to see their neighbors. Did you ever compare the child operative of the modern factory with the child laborer on the farm? Take the children of the factories of the Piedmont section of the Carolinas and compare them with the poor of the rural districts of the eastern portion of these two States where there are few factories, and little opportunity to escape the trials and drudgery of the farm, and then draw your parallel, and you will find that in dress, appearance and education, the factory child is in advance of the poor children of the farm, and I am confident that if the children of the factories were given an opportunity to go back to the country not one in a hundred would go.

Doubtless there are cases of abuse, and of children being over-worked at too young an age, but the trouble is not with the mill owners or operators, or the actual fact of being at work indoors, but if you will investigate, you will find that in most cases the fault lies in a human parasite, in the shape of an idle, worthless father who has shifted the support of the family to the tender shoulders of his little child. If there will be enacted some legislation to put this brute to work and keep him there, we will have made all the laws we need on the child labor question at once."

J. D. BULLUCK

MONEY FOR THE SCHOOLS.

Mr. McCulloch Comments on Letter From St. P. of Public Instruction.

(Continued from First Page.)

To the Editor: The letter published in your issue of the 14th instant from the Superintendent of Public Instruction, informing the County Superintendents, County Boards of Education, and the public generally that the second hundred thousand dollars appropriated for a four months public school term is "either in hand or in sight," comes like a clap of thunder in a clear sky, and places "the devil and the deep blue sea." The committee have contracted with the teachers for a four months term, and in many instances in this section the full term has been taught out, and in others nearly so, all of them having now run over the time for which there is money in the county treasury to pay them. Now, the question arises, who is responsible for this middle, and what are we going to do about it? The Democratic party solemnly and strenuously proclaimed from every hill-top all over the State only a few short months ago that there should be given a four months term in every school district in the State, and according to the reports of the most prominent newspapers this fight was taken up and pressed by the State Board of Education, and the people were guaranteed by every promise and pledge that they should have a full free four months term. Each legislative candidate and some of us that were not candidates, plead with the people to stand by the party that was educating and going to continue to educate their children. We pointed with special pride to our four months terms last year, and solemnly avowed that we had only just commenced in the good work. Two years ago when we were in the throes of the greatest political battle ever fought in the State, when our blood was at boiling heat, and when good men, men that had been true to the Democratic party in every contest, that had stood by her platform, and upheld her banner when these men, many of them illiterate and poor, but brave and true, began to falter and hesitate because they feared the educational qualifications that we proposed to adopt,—feared that its adoption would mean the disfranchisement of their children, we allayed their fears by solemnly assuring them that we would provide a four months free school term in every district in the State, and that every poor, illiterate boy should have ample opportunities to learn to read and write before 1898.

With this assurance coming from the great Democratic party, whose record for truth and honesty has never been questioned, and with the double assurance of the State Administration, it is not natural that the County Boards of Education, the school committees, and the teachers should have the utmost confidence that the second hundred thousand dollars appropriation should be realized? And especially is this true when the matter has been allowed to run until this late date before there came a note of warning from the State Board of Education, and with the information could not have been furnished as easily thirty days ago as now, and have saved numbers of people from being placed in this embarrassing position?

Is it possible that the Democratic party is going to forfeit its pledges made to the people in the last two campaigns because there does not happen to be the necessary amount of money in the treasury? To keep in good faith our pledges, and to perform all that we promise to the people is of far more importance than a temporarily empty treasury. If I remember correctly we faced this same condition of affairs a year ago, but our very efficient treasurer, with the aid and assistance of the administration, procured a loan that tided us over this trouble and enabled us to fulfill our pledges. Why can not this plan, or some other equally as expedient, be again adopted, or if necessary, appeal to the Legislature to save the honor and integrity of the Democratic party? The issuing of bonds or borrowing the money is preferable to forfeiting our integrity. The promises were made and accepted by the people in good faith, and it has always been the history of government that when a party fails to meet its obligations to the people, its tenure of life is short.

Some of the State institutions are asking the Legislature for extra appropriations. I would not be understood as opposing any appropriation that is needed by the higher institutions of learning when the financial condition of the State is such that the appropriation can be made.

I would be glad that each State institution could be fully equipped to meet all demands of the times, but until we can lift the State out of the mire of debt, rural districts of North Carolina, and prepare the little ignorant boys for the duties of life by teaching them to read and write, thus fulfilling our pledges made to their fathers, it would be well to let chemical laboratories and physical and electrical apparatus rest.

E. F. McCULLOCH. White Oak, N. C., Feb. 10, 1903.

Y. M. C. A. Student Conference.

(Special to News and Observer.)

Chapel Hill, N. C., Feb. 14.—The Southern Student Conference of the Young Men's Christian Association will be held at Asheville School, near Asheville, June 13th-21st. The location of the conference among the mountains is exceedingly attractive. The programme, which is being arranged, assures a very successful meeting. Mr. Robert E. Speer, who has always been a favorite at this conference, will again be one of the platform speakers. Other leaders of Christian thought and work among the different denominations, will speak from the platform. About twenty students from North Carolina were at the conference last summer. Three of these were from the University. A large number will probably go from the colleges of this State this summer.

The work of the Young Men's Christian Association at the University during the past association year has been good. More interest has been taken in the Bible study work, in the devotional meetings, and in missions than in several years.

The new officers for the coming year are: Messrs. R. M. Harper, president; F. S. Hudson, vice-president; C. P. Russell, corresponding secretary; J. V. Howard, recording secretary, and E. McDonald, treasurer.

SMOKE "La Josephine," 5c Cigars.

Breathing Spell Until Tuesday.

(Continued from First Page.)

commissioners of Elizabethtown to levy a special tax.

Davidson, of Buncombe: To enable the Asheville Electric Company to consolidate with and acquire stock of other companies.

Waddell, of Forsyth: To provide for the better drainage of certain bottom lands in Forsyth county.

Alken, of Transylvania: To place D. A. Ingraham on the pension roll.

Simpson, of Union: To provide for the election of trustees of graded schools of Monroe, and aldermen of the city.

Crocker, of Wilson: To provide for biological analyses in the interest of public health.

Vann, of Hertford: To amend chapter 388, Laws of 1901, relating to Dispensary for Winton.

Hamlin, of Madison: For the relief of B. B. Davis, Register of Deeds of Madison county.

Jarrett, of Macon: To provide for the working of the public roads of Macon county.

Wodley, of Chowan: To regulate compensation for sales under deed of trust.

Mason, of Carteret: To incorporate the Carolina Coast Railroad Company.

Mason: To repeal chapter 439, Laws of 1899, and chapter 605, Laws of 1901.

regulating the shooting of wild fowl in Carteret county.

DeHart, of Swain: To protect fish in Swain and Clay counties.

DeHart: To amend chapter 196, Laws of 1901, in reference to printing county financial statements.

Dockery, of Richmond: To authorize the town of Hamlet to issue bonds for building school houses.

Dekery: To amend chapter 14, Private Laws of 1897.

Carlton, of Duplin: To allow persons drawing pensions from the State to become citizens of the county home.

Carr, of Greene: To prevent hunting of squirrels and possums in Greene county.

Waddell, of Forsyth: To protect birds and wild fowl in Forsyth county.

Gay, of Northampton: For the protection of owners of live stock.

A REPUBLICAN REPORT.

Mr. Freeman, of Henderson, rose to a question of personal privilege, and read from an article that appeared in a paper published in Hendersonville, to the effect that Representative Freeman, of Henderson, was between the devil and the deep-blue sea; that the Republican caucus had determined to oppose temperance legislation.

This Mr. Freeman denounced as absolutely false and an "unqualified lie." It had emanated, he said, from an employe of this General Assembly, and he considered that it would be only justice to the Republicans in the Legislature, and to the gentleman from Henderson, that that employe recant.

REVENUE BILL.

Governor Doughton secured unanimous consent to introduce the Revenue Bill, which the Committee on Finance had just completed. He moved that the consideration of the bill be made a special order for next Wednesday at 12 o'clock, and that 500 copies of it be printed. This is not a new Revenue Bill, but merely amends the act of 1901. It leaves many sections intact, however.

Mr. Whitaker, of Wake, obtained unanimous consent to introduce a bill to establish Olive Chapel Graded School district in Wake and Chatham counties.

D. L. AND W. CLAIM. The resolution to pay the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad \$201.92, for transportation of 16 members of a band for enlistment in the Second North Carolina Volunteer Regiment in the Spanish-American War.

Judge Graham, who was on the committee that considered the question two years ago, stated that that committee had considered it a claim that should be paid by the General Government. It was the understanding then that, if the Government did not pay it, the State would do so. Accordingly he favored adopting the resolution at this time, and urging our representatives in Congress to secure the payment of the claim by the General Government.

Mr. White, of Halifax, chairman of the Committee on Claims, explained that the Adjutant-General had ordered the transportation of the band, and therefore the State was in duty bound to pay

NASAL CATARRH CURED

Pe-ru-na Cures a Case of Five Years' Standing.



Mr. Rudolph M. Patterson, Chicago, Ill.

Hon. Rudolph M. Patterson, a well-known lawyer, of Chicago, Ill., writes the following letter to The Peruna Medicine Co., of Columbus, Ohio:

Gentlemen:—I have been a sufferer from nasal catarrh for the past five years, and at the earnest solicitation of a friend I tried Peruna and am glad to say it has afforded a complete cure. It is with pleasure I recommend it to others.

Mrs. J. C. Garrett, of 38 West 117th street, New York City, writes: "I can honestly recommend Peruna as a great catarrh remedy. It heals and heals quickly and permanently."

"This is simply the whole story in a word. I have for years suffered with catarrh, aggravated when I took cold and Peruna cured me. It is indeed a great medicine, and worthy the highest praise, for it is reliable and will never disappoint you."—Mrs. J. C. Garrett.

"There are two things that the whole medical profession agree about concerning catarrh. The first is that catarrh is the most prevalent and omnipresent disease to which the people in the United States are subject. All classes of people have it. Those who stay indoors much, and those who go outdoors much. Working classes have it and sedentary classes have it. The doctor finds catarrh to be his constant and ever-present foe. It complicates nearly every disease he is called upon to treat. The second thing about catarrh on

which all doctors agree, is that it is difficult to cure it. Local remedies may give relief but they fail to cure permanently. Sprays or snuffs amount to little or nothing except to give temporary relief.

Catarrh is frequently located in internal organs which cannot be reached by any sort of local treatment. All this is known by every physician.

To devise some systemic internal remedy which would reach catarrh at its source, to eradicate it permanently from the system—this has been the desire of the medical profession for a long time. Forty years ago Dr. Hartman confronted this problem. He believed then that he had solved it. He still believes he has solved it. He cures thousands of people annually. During all these years Peruna has been the remedy upon which he has relied.

It was at first a private prescription, afterwards manufactured expressly for him in large quantities. This remedy, Peruna, is now to be found in every drug-store and nearly every home in the land. It is the only reliable internal remedy ever devised to cure any case of catarrh, however long the case may have been standing.

Mr. Camillus Senne, 27 West 129th street, New York, writes:

"I have fully recovered from my catarrhal troubles. I suffered for three years from catarrh of the head, nose and throat. I tried all kinds of medicine without relief, but at last I have been cured by the wonderful remedy called Peruna."

"I read of Peruna in your almanac, and wrote you for advice, which I followed. After taking one and one-half bottles of Peruna I am entirely cured, and can recommend Peruna to anyone as the best and surest remedy for any catarrhal troubles."—Camillus Senne.

A course of Peruna never fails to bring relief. There is no other remedy like Peruna. Its cures are prompt and permanent.

If you do not derive prompt and satisfactory results from the use of Peruna, write at once to Dr. Hartman, giving a full statement of your case and he will be pleased to give you his valuable advice gratis.

Address Dr. Hartman, President of The Hartman Sanitarium, Columbus, Ohio.

Why is the manufacture and sale of liquors taxed? It is admitted by all candid, honest men that drunkenness is an evil—a curse to mankind—a cause of much crime, but never of any good.

Why are men taxed for crimes? Two men fight. One or both are wrong, and are fined. Why? The fine they pay is set what of a compensation, but an inadequate one, for the wrong done.

Men are not taxed for eating food. That is needful. Men sell clothing, food, etc., which is an advantage to the public. But intoxicating drinks are permitted to be made and used under a license.

What right has the State to tax a man who manufactures such things? The State does not issue license to men to cultivate farms, or pursue other kinds of business. Whoever heard of a man buying a license to cultivate a farm? Why then does the State require a man to purchase a permission to manufacture or sell intoxicants? Why do not the liquor men cry out against that?

If the State say that only ten men in a town of 2,000 shall open bar-rooms, cannot the State limit that number to two? to one? to none? Is it necessary to have liquor for the good of a town? The more liquor a man drinks the more worthless he is. Even a drunkard would prefer a sober man to attend to his business.

Then why sell liquor to encourage drunkenness? If there was no liquor drunk would there be any drunkards? Why do liquor men oppose every measure that lessens the use of liquor? The cry against dispensaries is that they increase drunkenness—that they lessen taxes, etc. We would be glad to lessen taxes or revenues, if we could diminish drunkenness. Sobriety is worth more than money.

To watch the objection made to dispensaries is to see the fallacious pleas drinking men offer for this traffic—this vice.

We never expect to see drunkenness eradicated from this world. There is no place but heaven that a drunkard cannot enter, but we do hold it to be an urgent duty and a privilege to enter our voices in behalf of society for the sake of public decency, the good of society, the protection of women and children, the betterment of every man, woman and child in the country, yes, even to the betterment of dumb beasts.

P. D. GOLD.

Stale Chestnuts of the Bar Men.

Charity and Children. We are sorry to see the flippant reference made to the movement for better temperance laws by the moral manhood of North Carolina, in some of the papers. It is not a preacher's movement as has been alleged, but if it were does that discredit it? What class have done so much for the moral welfare of our citizenship as the preachers? But the truth is, the movement developed champions in all the professions and callings whose logic and learning made the few liquor lawyers who dared to face them look pitifully small. And in every community, go where you will, you will find the intelligent, the decent and the substantial

Capt. London Right. The resolution offered by Capt. W. L. London at the Good Roads meeting to put the State convicts on the public roads instead of working them on State farms is a very sensible one. The State ought never to have gone to farming in competition with the farmers.