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### A BIG DAY AT DUKE

#### Erwin Cotton Mill Started With Capacity of 35,000 Spindles.

Splendid School in Operation--Big Department Store--New Churches--Fine Bank Building--and Everything For Modern Manufacturing Town.

(Special to News and Observer.) Duke, N. C., Nov. 19.—Thursday was a great day for Duke. Erwin Cotton Mills Company's people and their many friends and neighbors saw the engine start which will run the new No. 2 mill. Since the summer of 1902 this company has been at work building the town and this new mill. The people have watched the progress with keen interest, and Thursday a large crowd gathered to see steam turned on for the first time. They were not disappointed for at 2:30 o'clock the engine started, cheered by the clapping of hands from the visitors.

As a result of eighteen months of labor and the expenditure of a large sum of money a well timbered woodland has been converted into a town, now ready to accommodate three thousand people. In the center of the town stands the Erwin Cotton Mills No. 2 now ready to begin operations which will soon give employment to a thousand hands.

Duke is fifty miles from Raleigh on the Cape Fear & Northern Railroad, four miles out from Dunn. Situated on a high plateau (shaded by long leaf pines, and having a view line as to that of Pinehurst and Southern Pines—a healthier place could not be found. In fact, the town was laid off with the idea of having an up to date city and nothing has been omitted. The streets are one hundred feet wide. There are about three hundred houses, ranging in size from three to ten rooms. These were built by the company and are most substantially constructed by modern plans and painted in various tasty colors. Each house is provided with a lot large enough for a garden and every house affords a comfortable and convenient home desirably arranged for the operatives. In fact nothing has been left undone for the comfort of those who are to live in these houses.

The Cole-Johnson Co., run a large department store and keep everything for sale that is needed for a good substantial living. They occupy the first floor of the store building, which is 100 feet square, built of brick. The second story is fitted up for a graded school and auditorium. The school department is made into five large rooms. The first story is fitted with all the up to date equipments and has a seating capacity of 1,250. Finished in native pine, hard oiled, lighted by electricity, heated by steam, well ventilated and protected from fire by approved appliances—a more attractive auditorium and school rooms could scarcely be found.

The mills, which are the centre of attraction, were planned by one of the best mill architects in the New England States. The buildings are beautiful. The smoke stack stands one hundred and sixty-one feet high as a monument to American enterprise, not only to the capitalists, and to the inhabitants, but to the country around. The outside of the mill looks good but the interior is better. Well lighted and ventilated, equipped with electric lights, steam heat and the sprinkler system for fire protection. The building is so arranged that if a fire should be kindled inside the buildings and left alone it would have great difficulty in doing much damage. The mill machinery is an entirely modern in every detail and each machine is arranged with reference to the other that a minimum handling of the stock will be necessary.

The capacity of the mill will be 3,500 spindles and sufficient looms to consume their product. The latest system of Humidifiers has been installed which facilitates the manufacture of the goods.

A handsome bank building is soon to be built for the Duke people, which is at present doing business in the store building. The people here have always been busy, that is a characteristic of the Duke people, but with the opening of the bank, the opening of the new store, the starting of the school, and the increased force in the mill help in making Duke quite a busy centre.

Two teachers have charge of the school and are making a success of it. The number of students have been doubled in three weeks. The church people have not been idle. They have a live Sunday school and are hard at work on their church which they expect to have completed by Christmas. This will be one of the prettiest village churches anywhere to be found and will seat 400 people. The Baptists have a preacher here and a good Sunday school. They, too, are raising money to build a church. In less than a year we expect to see four live, working churches—Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian and Episcopal. The Episcopal congregation have their plans and are almost ready to begin their building and they will have regular services when the church is completed.

Duke is not cut off from the surrounding country, but has graded macadamized roads leading out in different directions. A magnificent drive leading from the mill to the new iron bridge which spans the Cape Fear river at Smiley's Fall, a mile and a half away, is one of the leading features.

In Harnett county live some of the best people of the State. Farmers who have been successful have branched out into other lines of trade and have made themselves independent and are broad gauged and liberal minded men. To visit their homes



Washington Post.

### After the Avalanche.

reminds one of the hospitality that Thos. Nelson Page loves so much to write about that existed in the South before and just after the war. One only has to visit Duke to be convinced that it is the busiest, most progressive and up to date town in the State.

One thing that appeals to the people and makes them feel proud of Duke is that only Southern money is invested there and that Southern men have the management of its affairs. The officers and managers of the Erwin Cotton Mill Company, at Duke are as follows: B. N. Duke, president; Geo. W. Watts, vice-president; W. A. Erwin, secretary-treasurer; Thos. H. Webb, manager; F. P. Tate, civil engineer and superintendent of construction.

The officers of the Bank of Harnett are: B. N. Duke, president; W. A. Erwin, vice-president; E. R. Haskins, cashier and E. P. Davis, assistant cashier.

#### TWO NOTABLE BOOKS.

A Review of "The Law of the Land" and of "God's Good Man."

By FRED B. WARREN.

Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 12.—Mr. Emerson Hough, author of "The Mississippi Bubble," allows himself to wax exceedingly melodramatic in his last novel, "The Law of the Land," which I have just read. This melodramatic element, in conjunction with two other reprehensible errors in good judgment, comes very near to spoiling the story.

The author has chosen for his motto a question which must be handled with very soft gloves under all circumstances—the present day race problem in the far South. Further, he has not approached his subject in an equal spirit of non-partisanship; in too many places the glaze of fiction runs very thin and impassioned argument betrays the personal opinions of the writer undisguised. Of course, some of the greatest novels have been aimed at the correction of social wrong and it is considered well within the province of the story writer to turn his pen to this high aim, but it is a grave question whether or not Mr. Hough has shown good taste in thus running a rancorous probe into the very center of one of the sore spots of our national social structure.

The greater part of the tale's action has for its theater the plantation of one Calvin's Blount, situated in the very heart of the "Black Belt" in the river bottoms of Northern Mississippi, where, as that fiery gentleman himself says, the whites are living on the top of a black volcano. The author has conjured up a situation—not unusual, I admit—where in the brutal negroes under the leadership of a voodooistic "queen" commits acts of desperate ferocity against the handful of whites who represent the thin line of law and order in the district. In retaliation the whites even exceed the blacks in the cruelty of their reprisals and to the uninitiated dweller beyond the border it seems that "the law of the land" is nothing but the conspicuous absence of all law.

Against misdirected enthusiasts of the North, who are constantly urging upon the negro his right to share in the government, Hough lays all the blame for the conditions he depicts in his novel. He says that such agitators have even wrought in the minds of the blacks the dream of a black republic in the South; that they have

caused the negroes to have faith in a John Brown redivivus. Here is what Hough gives as the Southern's protest against the attitude of the North:

"But we denounce and always will denounce that false decree which says that black is white; that inequality is equality; that lack of manhood is manhood itself; that the absence of a heartstone can mean a home; that the absence of a home can mean a permanent society."

This particular paragraph is not so bad. Hough is evidently sincere in these sentiments and there can be detected nothing of the poseur in his attitude. But in the working out of the clash between white and black in the story he introduces situations which certainly would well adapt themselves to the 19, 20 and 30 cent "home of refined melodrama."

A score of murdered negroes sit stark along the benches of their flooded meeting house, with alligators rasping their grisly way across the slimy floor. (Green catium and shivery music.) Or again, the booming of an African war drum in a cantabral and the chanting of barbaric tribal incantations by citizens of the United States, black albeit. This borders on the sensational to say the least. Bobbs-Merrill, of Cincinnati, are the publishers of this story of the law of black against white.

#### God's Good Man.

I approach the task of criticizing Marie Corelli's new book, "God's Good Man," in a manner which I believe is the most practical, yet not the most orthodox. I intend to handle the book in terms of bulk just as one would figure upon a carload of potatoes or invoice a shipment of sheep. The story comprises 523 pages of fine print, closely set in type, about 450 words to the page being the average arrangement; in some of the dialogues each of the interlocutors delivers himself of from 300 to 500 words without a pause for breath; many of the author's reflections upon life and things occupy space of 1,000 words or more. Gigantic is the word to be properly used in describing this literary effort.

Though I have had this book on my desk for three weeks, a recent night of strenuous reading barely sufficed to close the six day's effort at completing it—and that with several jumps over Miss Corelli's assertions not related to the thread of the story, numerous bespattered throughout the book.

In a liturgical preface of some length Miss Corelli prays sarcastically to be delivered from the hands of the critics. "From willful misquotations, from sentences garbled and randomly set forth to the public without context, continuation or conclusion, in attempt to do injury to both the story and the writer, from the novel-skimmer's epitome, abridgement synopsis or running commentary may an honest press deliver me."

This is comprehending enough, bitter enough, bearing enough of Corelli's egotistic stamp, and of course the dishonest critic shrivels before it and draws in his horns. In all contrition then, and with due humility, I venture to propound several questions which I think the author owes it to the ever critical book and newspaper fraternity to answer as their small intellect has been sadly disturbed by a reading of her book:

Is the "Good Man" in her story the only "Churchman" Miss Corelli could ever tolerate, and if so, was it because he read Epictetus?

Did the Rev. John Walden's goodness lie in finding utter abomination

in everything appertaining to the leisure class?

If the Rev. John Walden shared Miss Corelli's beliefs concerning the present condition and future spiritual state of orthodox religionists would he long be holding that comfortable "thing" at St. Paul's?

And lastly in my cross fire of questions—did Maryilla have appendicitis?

What is the plot of the book? But that is interdicted by the author's litany in the front of the book: "from the novel-skimmer's epitome, etc." However, there is a plot and it is rich in incident. Miss Corelli calls her work a simple love story—and simple it is. The story differs from many of Miss Corelli's former novels in that it does not contain any burning messages of redemption to a sin-ridden world. No opportunity is avoided by the author for getting in a slap at some of her favorite scapegoats. She is a sterling good later and now that the good Queen Victoria is no longer able to stand sponsor for her literary style by marked favor, the lady who conceived in one of her books of the sorrows of Beezlebub, finding herself without royal protection in a harsh world, assumes the offensive and, forsooth, is able to do battle quite ably.

#### LARGE ADVANCE.

Virginia-Carolina Chemical Co.'s Business Make Improvements This Fiscal Year.

(Wall Street Journal.) The securities of the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company have had a large advance recently, based largely on the improvement in the company's business so far this fiscal year.

It will be remembered that a few months ago the company supplied itself with an additional working capital by the sale of \$6,000,000 of preferred stock, which was sold principally to Blair & Co. The raising of this additional capital placed the company in a stronger position than it had ever been in before as regards its finances, and the management has been able to show better results in the way of earnings by having ample funds with which to carry on the business.

There has been a larger demand for the company's product this season owing to the prosperous condition of the South resulting from the large cotton crop the past year. Cotton growers have had more money with which to purchase fertilizers, which is one of the Company's principal products.

It is stated on good authority that while there are no prospects of the common stock receiving a dividend again for possibly a year or longer, the earnings are at the rate of 8 per cent per annum on this issue. If the remainder of the fiscal year shows earnings as good as the past few months, the total results for the fiscal year will in all probability be the best in the company's history.

The bankers who became interested in the company during the past year are giving close attention to the affairs of the company, having sufficient prominence on the board of directors to dictate its policy in all essential matters.

#### Gems in Macon County.

The Asheville Citizen quotes Mr. Henry G. Robertson, of Macon county, as saying: "Gems have been mined in Macon county that have brought fortunes and one gem company now owns hundreds of acres in the county. Besides am-

thysts the celebrated Oriental ruby has been found, and many other precious stones. I know of one man who made a million and a half dollars out of gem mines in the county and can state that the most expert corundum miners and manufacturers in the world are to be found in Macon county. These men are of the opinion that in the near future there will be an opening in Macon county for a really abusive material."

#### JURY WAS DISCHARGED.

The Judge Wouldn't Try Case With Jury That Would Not Receive The Law as Char ed by The Court.

Chatham Record. State against J. A. Cresswell; unlawfully selling whiskey; verdict of not guilty.

There were six of these cases and in the first four of them the defendant was acquitted. In the fifth case the Judge charged the jury that if they believed the witness, whose evidence was not contradicted, they should find the defendant guilty. The jury retired for a few moments and then returned a verdict of not guilty, whereupon the Judge at once discharged them, saying that he would not try cases with a jury who would not receive the law as charged by the court. In the sixth case the defendant testified for himself and was acquitted.

#### COL. CRAIG NOT PLEADED.

He "Will Proceed to Vindicate Himself."

(Reidsville Review.)

Colonel J. N. Craig is very much displeased at the finding of the military court-martial in the case of the soldiers who were killed while en route home from the encampment at Morehead City. Their verdict that "the colonel and other regimental officers were remiss in the performance of their duties," he thinks, is an unjust one, and he will proceed to vindicate himself. He informed a representative of this paper the other day that he was not even on the train at the time of the accident; that the case was a letter to her. By some means the billet doux got into the hands of the colored woman and the trouble began. The inspector stated that the letter, which invited the woman to meet him at a certain place, was meant for a white woman, and not for the wife of a negro pastor. This made matters worse, in the opinion of the officials, and accordingly Arnold's official head dropped into the basket.

#### Arnold's Explanation Made Matters Worse.

The New York Sun alluding to Hunter Arnold's dismissal from the position as inspector of rural free delivery says: "Arnold's explanation convulsed the postal authorities. It appeared he became enamored of an attractive widow in Asheville and addressed a letter to her. By some means the billet doux got into the hands of the colored woman and the trouble began. The inspector stated that the letter, which invited the woman to meet him at a certain place, was meant for a white woman, and not for the wife of a negro pastor. This made matters worse, in the opinion of the officials, and accordingly Arnold's official head dropped into the basket."

#### Terrible Storm at Ocracoke.

(Washington Messenger.)

From private sources we learn that the inhabitants of Ocracoke say that the storm that visited that island on Sunday last was the severest in some time. We hear the wind reached the greatest velocity known to the islanders in over 20 years.

### BLACK A BOLTER

#### Much Depends Upon Cannon as to Extra Session.

Statue to Frederick the Great. John C. Dancy's Opponent--Cockrell's Retirement--Taft and His Tariff Reduction Proposition.

BY CICEIRO W. HARRIS.

(Special to News and Observer.)

Washington, Nov. 19.—The mention so prominently here of Gen. Black, of Illinois, as the coming Commissioner of Pensions recalls the career of this gentleman and excites research as to his political status. John C. Black was appointed to the Civil Service Commission as a Democrat. But he supported Palmer and Buckner and is not regarded as a thick-and-thin adherent of regular Democracy. The comment is made by some Republicans that if Black is made Commissioner of Pensions it will show that the President has determined to be pretty independent during his term of office. A Republican who is a very intelligent and fair-minded man who has served in a responsible expert position in the Pension Bureau under half dozen Commissioners, says that Black is perhaps the most conservative and just to all interests concerned, veterans and public, of all the heads of the office he has known.

There has been a little talk here of the Republican legislature choosing Senator Cockrell to succeed himself. This is all in the air and merely caps the good opinion held in this city among all classes and parties of the distinguished Senator from Missouri. There is general regret at the prospect of his leaving public life. This is all that is meant by the gossip alluded to. A Republican far inferior to General Cockrell will be elected Senator and the Democrats will have to redraw the State in order to return Francis M. Cockrell to the place he has so much adorned and in which he has been so useful for many years. By that time, however, he may have become superannuated and tired of life's struggles or have passed off the stage of action altogether.

A great deal depends on what Speaker Cannon advises as to the calling of an extra session of Congress to consider the revision of the tariff schedules. I am informed that a business man who visited the White House yesterday ascertained that Mr. Roosevelt had a very decided inclination to an extra session at that time. It would seem, if this information is correct, that the arguments of Payne and Dabell made no deep impression upon the executive mind. Certainly there is no doubt entertained here by any well-posted person that the President personally approves of an early revision of the tariff. The question is, can he exercise the pressure against revision brought by the great body of the stand pat leaders of his party. They are the sinews of the organization. They furnish the heavy ordinance and the munitions.

The unveiling yesterday of a statue of Frederick the Great of Prussia in this city was an event of something more than ordinary significance. The President could not well refuse the gift of the statue of the great conqueror, and although he was not in any peculiar sense the friend of our people in the Revolution, he was a great military man whom the country respects as the ally of England in the seven years' war with France which the colonies waged along with England. Frederick was one of the very greatest except Bonaparte and Marlborough. He is to be named after the class of military commanders in which Epanimondas, Alexander, Hannibal, Caesar, in ancient times, and Gustavus, Adolfus, Torstenson, Conde, Frederick, Moreau and Moltke, in modern, are the leading names.

It is said a strong fight is to be made by influential Western Senators to displace John C. Dancy as register of deeds of the District of Columbia, in favor of Charles Cottrell, a prominent negro of Toledo, Ohio. Nothing is known as to the President's intentions.

There is likely to be a big row at the approaching session of Congress over the proposition of Secretary Taft to reduce the tariff from 75 to 50 per cent of the Dingley rates. The tobacco trusts wish the tobacco duties to remain as they are, that is at 75 per cent. They will decidedly oppose the proposed reduction to 50 per cent, or less. They admit such a reduction would not be ruinous, but say it would be harmful to them. They are not backward in declaring that they will fight the proposed reduction. Quotations from the leading tobacco journal are reprinted here at full length in the city newspapers. It is likely there will be great excitement when the subject comes up in Congress.

Two additional city carriers have been given by the Postmaster General to Charlotte post office, to begin service December 1.

#### Carthage News Notes.

(Carthage Blade.)

The Tyson & Jones Buggy Co., is receiving twice the orders and turning out far more work than ever before in its history.

Center church is to be dedicated on Friday before the fourth Sunday. Rev. S. T. Hoyle of the Sanford Circuit, is to preach. Two services may be expected. A cordial invitation is extended the general public.

A fight is on among local Republicans for the Carthage postoffice. L. R. Ritter, the present incumbent, is not an applicant, we understand, and the fight is among C. McLeod, E. S. Shields and P. R. Pleasants, all of whom are good citizens.