

A RAILROAD BOOM now pervades our State, and we may safely assert that never before has there been, at any one time, so much money and so many men employed in building railroads in North Carolina.

The work is going on so quietly and unobtrusively that few persons are aware of its magnitude. We alluded in our last issue to the fact that nearly \$100,000,000 were invested by Northern capitalists in constructing Southern railroads, which statement greatly surprised our readers, and it will be an equal surprise to many to learn the number of miles of railroad now being built in this State.

All over the State, in the extreme East, in the far West, and in Central Carolina, railroads are being built. We can now recall the following, viz: the Norfolk & Elizabeth City, the Oxford & Henderson, the University, the Cape Fear & Yadkin Valley, the N. C. Midland, the Chester & Lenoir, and the Western North Carolina. On all these roads a large force of hands is now busily employed and the work is being rapidly pushed forward.

In addition to these roads surveys are now being made preliminary to building the Midland North Carolina, and also a road from Enfield to Scotland Neck. There may be other roads that we cannot now call to mind, but those above mentioned will give our readers some idea of the great work now going on to develop the resources and promote the prosperity of our good old State.

Not less than three thousand laborers (including convicts) are employed in constructing these roads, and large sums of money are daily expended, and nearly all of it furnished by Northern capitalists. All this will more thoroughly "reconstruct" our State and people than all the Reconstruction Acts that Congress could ever pass, and more firmly cement the bonds of the Federal Union than all the patriotic effusions of politicians.

THE ELECTION has been held, the people have spoken, and prohibition has met with an overwhelming defeat. The voice of the people has spoken with no uncertain sound, for the majority against prohibition is more than one hundred thousand. Thus far we have not heard of any county that gave a majority for prohibition: the nearest approach to it was in Cleveland, which county gave only two majority against. While there was a full vote in Chatham and a few other counties, the general vote in the State was much less than is usually cast at political elections.

DURHAM COUNTY ELECTED, on the 4th inst., a Clerk of the Superior court, a Register of Deeds and a Sheriff. The democratic nominee for the latter office had no opposition, but the nominees for Clerk and Register were defeated.

LIVING UNDER-GROUND is very common in England. It is stated that the number of persons employed in English mines, many of whom live in them constantly, is more than three hundred and seventy thousand; in other words, there are men, women and children below the surface of British soil sufficient to form one of its largest cities of the second rank.

THE CASWELL CELEBRATION at Kinston, on the 3rd inst., was of an imposing character and was attended by an immense concourse. At last North Carolina has paid a tribute of respect to one of her most distinguished citizens, and has reared a monument to the memory of Richard Caswell. This eminent Revolutionary patriot richly deserved every mark of respect that our State could bestow on him.

THE SAME WORDS we have used in regard to the future action of the Democratic prohibitionists, we address to those Democrats of North Carolina who favored maintaining the status quo and objected to the proposed change in our law.

RIOT at Wadesboro. A correspondent of the Raleigh News and Observer, writing from Wadesboro under date of 2nd inst., says: "There was public speaking on yesterday and a very large crowd in town. Everything was quiet and orderly till late in the afternoon, when the town marshal was taking a negro to the guard house. The negro resisted and the officer clubbed him. He fell to the ground senseless. The cry was raised among the negroes that the town officer had killed a negro. In a moment, a crowd of negroes, very much excited, gathered around and an attempt was made to mob the officer, who had to fly for his life, with the mob in pursuit, crying 'kill him.' The sheriff with a posse of whites rushed to the officer's home where he had taken refuge, and kept the mob from entering. By this time there were two or three hundred infuriated negroes, armed with sticks, rocks and pistols, around the house, demanding the officer. Judge Bennett, who soon arrived upon the scene, quieted the turbulent spirit of the mob and had the marshal put in charge of the sheriff and his posse. For a few moments, just before Judge Bennett came, it looked as if a fight could not be avoided. The negro recovered sufficiently in a few hours to go to his home in the country."

A REPUBLICAN Prediction. The Greensboro North State, an anti-prohibition Republican paper, makes the following predictions as to the effect of the late campaign: "We predict as the outcome of this campaign: 1. A determined effort on the part of the women of the State, aided by the preachers, to abolish whiskey, and their ultimate success, if they stick. 2. The abolition of the present system of county government and a return to the election of County Commissioners by the people. 3. The abolition of the color line in politics. Our opinion is that this campaign has been more valuable in its results than any we have had since the war."

THE DUTY OF DEMOCRATS. We commend to the careful consideration of both prohibition and anti-prohibition democrats the following from the News and Observer: "The election is over—and it has been a deluge. The majority of the anti-prohibitionists throughout the State is just about the entire negro vote cast. That shows that the whites were about evenly divided. As many whites voted the anti-prohibition ticket as supported prohibition, and the solid negro vote given to the anti-prohibitionists determined the majority.

THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE has been clearly expressed, and the voice that gave preference to it has been of unequalled volume. And this result is the more noteworthy because for the most part the proachers—the leaders of religious thought in every township in the State—had buckled on their armor to make a great effort in behalf of the prohibition cause, and in addition, the newspapers generally advocated that side of the question. There was quite a thorough canvass and large crowds attended the speaking. The matter was laid before the people in a fair and reasonable way by its advocates. Besides, prohibition and temperance had been gradually finding favor with the people of the State. In several counties, in many townships and towns, and at innumerable points, prohibition had been adopted either by the popular vote or by legislative enactment, and the tendency was all that way.

THE ELECTION has decided against the prohibitory act passed by the Legislature. Things stand as though no law had been passed. Public sentiment has received light on the subject and some have voted as they chose, assuming the responsibility of their actions, and peace should follow. Whatever political results may follow, this much was owned at the beginning, and all through the campaign by those favoring the bill, that there was to be no politics in it, and the off year was chosen for that purpose.

VICE PRESIDENTS UNPOPULAR. Has there ever been a successful administration of the federal government by any man who was not elected to be president? We do not here refer to the case of Hayes, from whom Mr. Tilden's office was stolen, but to those chosen to be Vice President, and who have reached the White House through the death of the President. It would seem that the Vice-Presidents who have thus been promoted have generally made a bungler of it.

FATAL LIGHTNING. A telegram from Charleston, S. C., dated 6th inst., says: "A letter to the News and Courier from the western part of Darlington county, this State, gives an account of a terrible and extraordinary casualty from lightning. On Thursday afternoon a group of twenty men, all white road hands, were standing close to the house of J. H. Clyburn, near Hartsville, when a single stroke of lightning killed four and wounded ten of the number. Five of the wounded are desperately hurt and may die. There was no storm at the time, though heavy rain fell shortly afterwards."

A HORNET'S BITE. A hornet flew into the mouth of a colored girl in New Jersey a few days since, and stung her in the throat as she swallowed it. Her throat was so swollen that for a while death seemed likely to ensue, but the speedy application of remedies saved the girl's life.

EFFECTS OF THE ELECTION. A reporter of the Raleigh News and Observer has interviewed some of the prominent prohibitionists as to the results of the late election: Mr. H. A. Gudger, the chairman of the prohibition campaign committee, said: "In my opinion quiet will follow the election. There has been some bad blood stirred up, but it will soon subside. I have seen it in local option elections. The verdict is against prohibition, and of course prohibitionists will submit. Great good has resulted from the discussions—men have been made to reflect. The avowed intention from the very inception of the movement has been to keep the question out of politics. How it can affect the Democratic party I can't see. We shall not dissolve our committees. The license laws should be made more stringent, and local option should be given in those localities where the people desire it. One thing is evident, the people are not prepared for absolute prohibition."

CAPTURING AN ALLIGATOR. Bro. Creevey, of the Elizabeth City Economist, gives the following graphic description of the capture of an alligator by two citizens of Dare county: "By a log, in a broad and deep lagoon, half lake, half marsh, soft, sticky, deep, in its consistency something more than mud and something less than water, lay a huge alligator basking in the dreamy autumn sunlight. He was a stalwart, monster fellow, with an immense jaw and length and breadth of body that was exceptional. He was sleeping, stretched out like a giant taking his rest in the consciousness of power. He was the very thing these two Dare county Dare Devils wanted. The sight was father to the thought, the thought was father to the act. They undressed; softly, easily, noiselessly, and waded in. The broad lagoon soon deepened, and soon became bottomless. But on they went, slowly, stealthily, went the two Dare Devils. Mud and slush before them, mud and slush beside them; mud and slush behind them; sometimes stepping, sometimes swimming, sometimes on and sometimes under; all ways creeping; went the two Dare Devils. He slept. They neared him. Still he slept. Nearer and still nearer. Still they crept. No thought of danger troubled them or him. Their time had come. The braver of the two, creeping nearer, nearer still, (still he slept) with one superhuman effort, sprang from the compound-mud-and-water, and came down astraddle of the alligator's back. If he had massed his fires and belched them all in one terrific blast upon that alligator's head he could not have been more astonished, as he sprang to life from out that sleep profound. There sat his ruler, mud begrimed, black as Erebus, dripping like the Naiads, holding on to the back of his Leviathan steed, with legs his belly wringing around. And then began a ride, of which John Gilpin, or those 600 who at Ballaklava fell, can trace no parallel. At first the alligator leaped nearly out of the lagoon; then he strove to chew off the legs of his will rider but the vertebrae of the alligator's lower neck are not flexible, and he could not accomplish his purpose. While one of these two heroes of Dare was adjusting himself for his perilous ride, the other was not idle. The two were fishermen, as all Dare men are, and the second Dare Devil, who was now floundering in the compound element to keep himself from sinking into the dominions of the emperor of China, knew all about steering, and wisely concluded that his best position was hold of that alligator's tail. Quick as thought he made a grab for it. Quicker than thought went the alligator's tail against Dare Devil's thigh proximate. Snap went the alligator's teeth. The alligator often brings his food to his mouth by a slap of his tail. But he missed him. His foot saved him. Simultaneously with the slap of the tail, he kicked out, and striking the alligator's side threw his body off, obliquely from his open jaws. By this time the race fairly opened. No 1 astraddle and cheering on No. 2 to his perilous work. On they went headlong towards the centre of the vast lagoon. Everything dear to man or alligator was at stake. No. 2 strove for the tail, and soon became expert at the tail, and always with the same fortunate result. But fortune favored the brave, and the rider and the helmsman were mastering the situation. The tail gradually lost its elasticity, the jaws gashed with feeble ferocity, and at last the beast was subdued, and man, the master, rode him obedient to the shore, where the two Dare stalwarts captured and caged him."

PARAPHRASE ON MARY'S LAMB. Mollie had a little ram, fleece black as a rubber shoe, and everywhere that Mollie went he emigrated too. He went with her to church one day—the folks hilarious grew, to see him walk demurely into Deacon Allen's pew. The worthy deacon quickly let his angry passion rise, and gave it an unchristian kick between the sad brown eyes. This landed rammy in the aisle, the deacon followed fast, and raised his feet again, but ah! that first kick was his last! For Mr. Sheep walked slowly back a rod, 'tis said, and ere the deacon could retreat, it stood him on his head. The congregation then arose and went for that 'ere sheep, but several well directed butts just piled 'em in a heap. Then rushed they straightway for the door, with curses long and loud, while rammy struck the hindmost man and shot him through the crowd.

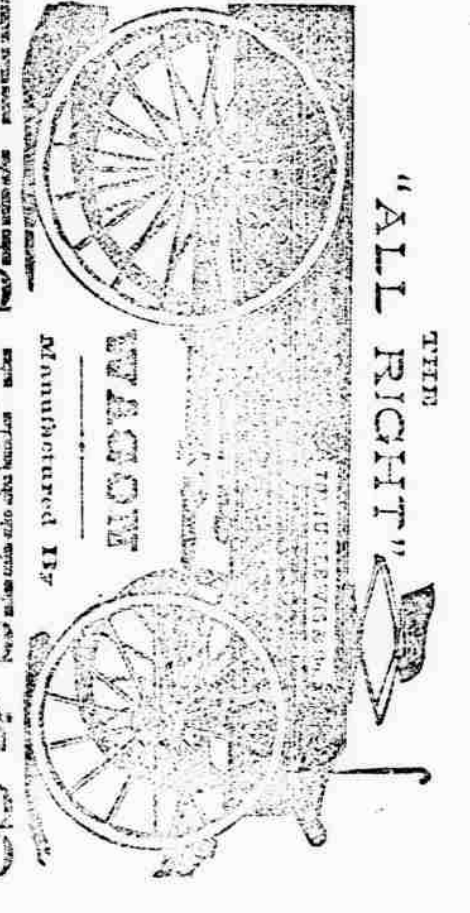
WONDERFUL CLOCK. The four dials of the clock of the House of Parliament are each twenty-two feet in diameter, and are the largest in the world. Every half-minute the point of the minute hand moves nearly seven inches. The clock will go eight days and a half, so as to indicate by its silence any neglect in winding it up. The mere winding of the striking mechanism occupies two hours. The pendulum is fifteen feet long; the hour bell is eight feet high and nine feet in diameter, weighing nearly fifteen tons. The weight of the hammer alone exceeds four hundred pounds.

A PECULIAR ACCIDENT. Mr. Daniel Thompson, of Nelson county, Va., had finished and topped a stack of wheat and attempted to slide to the ground. A pitchfork, with its prongs pointing upward, stood beside the stack, and Mr. Thompson slid upon this with such force that the prongs were driven into him nearly a foot. He died in a few minutes.

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