

# The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, FEBY 26, 1891.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

ONLY two more weeks remain for our legislators to help to save the country, and then the places which now know them will know some of them no more forever. They will soon return to their constituents and be merged in the mass of our common humanity. For doing or not doing some things they will be censured by some and praised by others. All people cannot, or at least do not, think alike, and that which one man condemns another approves.

A bill has been passed by both the Senate and House, which should be condemned by all law abiding citizens. It shows such a disregard of human life that we cannot understand how the representatives of a civilized people could have passed it. The practical effect of it is that one man may snap a pistol in the face of another, and the heaviest punishment that can be inflicted upon him is imprisonment for thirty days or a fine of fifty dollars. We do not believe that the law abiding citizens of any civilized country can approach such a law, and we confidently predict that the next Legislature will repeal it. The bill strikes out the words "where no deadly weapon is used" in section 892 of The Code so as to give justices of the peace exclusive original jurisdiction of all assaults, including those in which a deadly weapon is used. Section 897 of The Code limits the punishment, that may be inflicted by a justice of the peace, to a fine not exceeding \$50 or imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding 30 days. Therefore a man who uses a deadly weapon in a fight, where no serious damage is done, cannot be fined more than \$50 or imprisoned more than 30 days. If he is a man of influence or is particularly friendly with some magistrate, he may escape punishment altogether!

The Senate has defeated the interest bill, which elicited much discussion. This bill prohibited the taking of more than six per cent. interest on any contract. The present legal rate of interest is six per cent., but by special contract a person may agree to pay eight per cent. We think that the Senate acted wisely in not changing the existing law. If a man thinks that he can make money by borrowing at eight per cent. the Legislature ought not to forbid his doing so. If this bill had been passed by the Senate it would have made money much scarcer in this State, and everybody knows it is scarce enough now.

The House has decided to protect miners, and has passed the bill prohibiting the hunting of them between the 1st of February and the 1st of October. This bill does not apply to the whole State but only to fourteen counties, among them being Chatham, so the possessors of this county can govern themselves accordingly.

The Senate has passed a bill and made another appropriation that will no doubt be considerably criticised. It is a bill for making a geological survey of the State and appropriates ten thousand dollars for that purpose.

The House did not increase the school tax as much as was asked for by the Committee on Education. On its second reading the bill was passed to increase the school tax from 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents to 16 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents, but on its third reading it was changed to 14 cents. We do not think that a majority of the tax payers will complain because this tax is made no higher.

It is settled that no new county will be established. On last Friday the House, after a full discussion, defeated by a vote of 34 to 66 the bill to establish the county of Richlands out of a portion of Beaufort county. This proposed new county had a better chance of being established than any other, and its defeat means that all the others will be defeated.

The House has defeated the bill which had been passed by the Senate, to pay the Solicitors a salary, instead of their receiving fees on convictions. If this bill had been passed a Solicitor who did very little work would be paid as much as one who did much more work, and therefore it would have been unfair.

On last Monday the Senate discussed at some length a bill to compel railroad companies to issue free passes to all the State officers and members of the Legislature. One Senator offered an amendment to include "all farmers". Senator Lucas, of Hyde, spoke in opposition to the bill. From the published report of his speech we copy the following: "He was opposed to the whole thing on principle. He could not see how Senators could come here hoodwinked."

## Our Washington Letter.

(From our regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29, 1891.

Quite a political sensation has followed the announcement of Senator Gorman, whose political astuteness cannot be gainsaid, that he was not and would not under any combination of circumstances be a candidate before the democratic national convention next year, and that he favored the nomination of ex-President Cleveland as the strongest and most available man, and proposed to do all in his power to get him nominated. It is yet too early to see what effect this announcement will have upon those democratic Senators and Representatives who have expressed the opinion that Mr. Cleveland's letter against the free coinage of silver has destroyed his availability as a candidate, and what adds to the interest of the situation is the fact that some of these gentlemen have been, since the publication of Mr. Cleveland's letter, strongly in favor of nominating Senator Gorman.

The Senate has passed a bill to appropriate \$15,000 a year for the Agricultural and Mechanical College.

The revenue bill was introduced into the House and discussed on last Tuesday. The House refused to change the purchase tax paid by merchants. This bill makes few, if any, material changes in the existing law.

The Senate has under consideration a bill proposing an amendment to the Constitution in regard to the homestead exemption. By this proposed amendment a man may waive his homestead exemption in making contracts. We hope it will not be adopted. There are at least two good reasons against its adoption. One is that it may turn the wife of an improvident man entirely out of house and home; and another is that it will open the door to too many frauds, because the contracts in which the homestead is waived will not be registered and a man may make several such contracts and thus defraud his creditors. Rather than adopt this amendment it would be better to reduce the exemption of all.

The last session of the Fifty First Congress will expire next Thursday, and a large majority of the people of the United States will greatly rejoice thereat. No Congress has ever before made itself so unpopular or been so severely rebuked by the American people; and no Congress has ever before so much deserved such a rebuke. Yes, the places which now know Speaker Reed and his gang will, after next Thursday, know them no more forever!

### Fatal Mine Explosion.

HALIFAX, N. S., Feb. 21.—The first great disaster in the history of the Cumberland coal fields occurred this afternoon, when an explosion took place in the east slope of the Spring Hill mines, resulting in large loss of life. It is impossible as yet to ascertain the exact number of the killed, but already twenty-six bodies have been recovered and ten men have been brought up alive, but terribly maimed. They are not likely to recover. The latest information says that there were over one hundred men down in the shaft of the east slope at the time of the explosion, and that there is no doubt that the loss of life will reach between eighty and ninety, and perhaps one hundred.

The cause of the disaster is a mystery, as the slope was examined by a committee of the men last week and conjectured yesterday by the Deputy Government Inspector. It is impossible to ascertain the number of men down in the mine at the time of the explosion, but it is estimated at between seventy and a hundred.

The mine has been completely wrecked, choke damp set in immediately after the explosion and all the men beyond the debris where the explosion occurred are of course dead.

Ventilation has been partially restored and it is not believed that the mine is on fire.

Brave volunteers are still down the pit, attempting to cut through the debris to the victims who are known to be dead beyond the point where the explosion occurred, but this work is carried on with great difficulty, as the rescuers are driven back by the deadly choke damp. It is estimated that fully forty men were killed. Doctors and nurses are arriving by train from Parrsboro, Amherst and Oxford.

The most terrible scenes were witnessed at the pit's mouth as the bodies were brought up. The air was sent with the heart breaking shrieks of the wives and mothers of the victims.

LATER.

SPRING HILL MINES, N. S., Feb. 23.—A revision of the list today shows the number of dead to be 120. Of these 54 were married men, 41 single men and 25 boys.

### An Abaster Quarry in Colorado.

DENVER, Feb. 24.—News has just reached this city of one of the most remarkable discoveries in America the present year. The find is an abaster quarry, the ledge being of great thickness and extending for miles the foothills near Canon City. A pair of gentlemen who visited the place say that blocks of any size that it is possible for the ingenuity of man to handle can readily be quarried. The specimens shown vary from the perfect white to every possible tint of the rainbow, and some of it will stand a pressure of 1,000 pounds to the square inch, and it all takes on a most beautiful polish.

A portion of it makes a most merchantable plaster of paris, while the brown varieties can be used in an hydraulic cement. Rumor has it that a Dutch New York and St. Louis syndicate have an option on the property at what sounds like a fabulous price.

## Flood at Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 22.—At 6 o'clock tonight the Ohio river at Cincinnati stood 51 feet 4 inches above low water, and was rising one inch an hour. The rise below Cincinnati is not correspondingly rapid, as the lowest tributaries have not been flooded, though the Kentucky river is pouring out a moderate freshet.

In these men are here preparing for a rise of not over fifty-six feet and six inches from the present flood. It is expected that the maximum stage will be reached here by 6 o'clock to-morrow night, and that the river will remain stationary till 6 o'clock on Tuesday night, when it will begin to fall.

Riverside, a beautiful suburb of Parkersburg, containing about a thousand inhabitants, was overflowed by the Kanawha river. Several houses have been swept down the river and others have toppled over, but many are still standing and floating along with the swift current. Immense flour and meal mills, large soap factories, foundries, machine shops, stores, vaults and other business places were either entirely buried beneath the waters or deeply submerged. The losses will be very heavy. The people abandoned their homes and took refuge in the court house, churches and other public buildings or safer quarters of the town.

In the second story of one house were two families crowded together in the rooms, and in the fourth was a sick man and his little girl. The last family entered when the windows of the house gave way, a few inches more would probably have drowned many of them. These people, although they had given some notice by the red signal committee, had been suffering greatly from lack of food, pure water and medical attention.

In many other houses, fortunate enough to have two stories, similar groups were crowded in the upper story. Many of them had been confined for four days. On the tops of many houses are furniture and other property. Derived from one story to the other, the roof became the only retreat.

One man anxious to save his two cows, which he made a living by, had left them in his garage, and as the waters came up and almost drowned them, his efforts to rescue them were extremely laborious.

Seaside towns escape from drowning are rare, but no lives have yet been lost. In some sections on the other side of the Kanawha, the bottoms are inhabited by people who were driven from their homes. A great many people are, despite the efforts to remove them, actually suffering from the lack of food and fuel. In many cases persons were driven from their homes during the night, and were compelled to leave their clothes behind.

The loss of property in Parkersburg will be enormous, as there is scarcely a business house or factory that is not more or less submerged, and many families have lost their all. From the port of Fort Bremen, there is not an acre of land to be seen with a building of six inches.

The historic Braintree-Hassett Island, for so a famous name is not, is owned entirely by Hungry Gap, the last chief of the hill tribes being about stable. The dancing hall, bowling alley, &c., are floating in the Kanawha. There are such houses home-made only by the Indians and the entire valley is inundated. Immense suffering is experienced there, and many families spent the night on the banks in the river-bottoms. Here, as at Riverside, great loss was sustained. Populous suburbs are deserted and the people are wandering about homeless and many with their little ad destroyed.

**Collision in a Tunnel.**

NEW YORK, Feb. 20.—There was a collision at 7 o'clock this morning between two trains on the Fourth Avenue tunnel at Eighty-sixth street. What is known as the "Shop," consisting of empty cars, was being drawn to the Motel Haven yard when, for some reason as yet unexplained, it ran into a stop in the tunnel. Train No. 10 of the New Haven local, which left the Grand Central depot at 7 o'clock this morning in charge of Engineer Fowler, Fireman Goodell and conductor George Hutchinson, ran into the rear of the standing "shop train." The work of rescue began at half past ten o'clock. Five dead and seven injured have been removed. The injured were taken to the Presbyterian Hospital; none of the passengers are known to be among the killed or injured. They are all believed to be employees of the road. Passengers on the New Haven train were badly shaken up, but beyond some slight cuts and bruises none were badly hurt.

Gen. Thos. F. Drayton, an ex-Confederate in the last survivor of President Davis' class at West Point, died a few days ago at Florence, S. C. Representative Wickham, of Ohio, Chairman of the House Committee on Cottages, has submitted to the House, by authority of the major of the Committee, an adverse report on the Senate bill for the free coinage of silver.

A Kansas City dispatch says Fredrick Warner, a distancer, lived with his wife and five children on the bank of the river, but the flood undermined the house Saturday night, and it fell into the river. The whole family were drowned.

John W. Young, son of Brigham Young, has completed a big railway deal in New Mexico by which he and other Mormons have secured control of valuable railroad properties and farming and grazing lands.

Let quality, not quantity, be the test of a medicine. Ayer's Sarsaparilla is the concentrated extract of the best and purest ingredients. Medical men everywhere recommend it as the surest and most economical remedy.

It can do you no harm but will positively cure you, we refer to Old Saul's Calmar Cure.

## Population of North Carolina.

County.	1880.	1890.
Alamance	14,613	18,271
Alexander	8,355	9,430
Alleghany	5,486	6,523
Anson	17,994	20,027
Ashe	14,437	15,028
Buncombe	17,474	21,072
Brown	16,339	19,176
Brunswick	9,389	10,900
Buncombe	21,909	35,266
Burke	12,309	14,939
Cabarrus	14,964	18,142
Caldwell	10,291	12,236
Camden	6,274	5,661
Carteret	9,784	10,325
Caswell	17,825	16,023
Catawba	14,943	18,639
Chatham	23,453	23,413
Cherokee	8,132	9,976
Clay	7,900	9,167
Cleveland	3,316	4,197
Columbus	14,439	17,856
Craven	19,729	20,533
Cumberland	23,836	27,321
Curtin	6,476	6,547
Dare	3,243	3,758
Davidson	20,333	21,762
Davie	11,096	11,621
Duplin	18,773	18,690
Durham	26,161	24,113
Edgecombe	18,070	23,434
Franklin	20,329	21,090
Gaston	14,454	17,764
Gates	8,317	10,552
Graham	2,335	3,331
Greene	31,236	24,484
Gwinnett	10,057	10,639
Hanover	23,505	28,052
Harnett	10,862	11,576
Haywood	10,271	12,587
Henderson	10,281	12,588
Hertford	11,845	11,861
Hyde	7,765	9,928
Iredell	22,675	23,362
Jackson	7,343	9,512
Johnston	23,461	27,200
Jones	7,491	7,107
Lincoln	15,314	14,879
McDowell	9,336	10,133
Macon	8,033	10,102
Madison	12,805	15,265
Martin	13,110	15,221
Meskerburg	34,175	46,973
Mitchell	9,455	12,397
Montgomery	9,374	11,239
Moore	16,821	20,479
Nash	17,531	20,571
New Hanover	21,576	23,625
Northampton	20,632	23,242
Onslow	9,829	10,520
Orange	23,658	24,312
Pamlico	6,369	7,143
Pasquotank	10,369	10,674
Pender	12,403	12,511
Peterson	9,466	9,263
Perry	13,719	13,151
Pitt	21,794	23,519
Polk	5,062	5,362
Randolph	20,836	25,346
Richmond	18,245	21,398
Robeson	23,880	24,853
Rockingham	21,744	23,531
Rowan	10,963	11,423
Rutherford	15,198	17,570
Sampson	22,894	23,690
Schuyler	10,564	12,436
Stokes	15,353	17,439
Surry	15,262	16,231
Swain	3,784	4,557
Transylvania	5,048	5,997
Tyrrell	4,515	4,225
Union		