The Chatham Record

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H. A. LONDON, Editor.

THE SEASON has again arrived when the public highways throughout North Carolina are becoming muddy, dirty and almost impassible. For the next three or four months the public roads in this section of the State at least, will be in such a bad condition that nobody will travel on them unless absolutely compelled to do so. This applies to the whole condition, which everybody well knows from painful experience. It is also needless to mention what a very great inconvenience and we may truly say nuisance our bad roads are to everybody using them. That also is well known by the experience of the past. What we want to know is, shall this continue forever? Are our people willing to have such bad roads all their lives? Are they willing for their posterity to have such roads—the inheritance we have had?

Is there no way of improving our public roads? How can it?

Can this question be answered? The man who can answer it satisfactorily and successfully ought to be a public benefactor. He would be doing more for the people of North Carolina and for the promotion of their prosperity than any man has ever yet done. This is quite a strong assertion, but we believe it is by no means too strong. And this must be our excuse for so frequently calling attention to the bad condition of the public roads. We know that it is a trite subject, and that all the talk of what we have said will be tired by everybody, yet no good has been done and nothing practical has been accomplished. While we appreciate the sad fact that worse and worse are our roads continually, we feel as ever yet the likelihood of their continuing to agitate the subject and calling public attention to it.

We would respectfully suggest to the anti-alliances that at their meetings during this winter they consider the condition of the public roads and discuss such a practical way of improving them. The farmers of the State are now preparing to have good roads and we hope that a class of our citizens will not thwart the success and progress of what we are all of having them. We believe that good public roads would be of far greater benefit to our interests than all the sub-treasuries that could be established between now and the day of judgment.

THE ANNUAL [illegible] North Carolina [illegible] held at Greensboro last week. The attendance was very large, lots of preachers and laymen present and were most hospitably entertained. Bishop Galloway of Mississippi presided and great power was manifested by the presence of the Holy Ghost. The sermons delivered were of a high order of excellence, and will be remembered by those who had the privilege of hearing them. The next session will be held at Goldsboro.

THE reports of the various [illegible] departments of the Conference work. They reported the Publishing House and Orphanage in a flourishing condition, and showed that all the other colleges and schools of the Conference are in a prosperous condition and continuing to increase in their usefulness. Two new districts were established, and in the re-arrangement of the districts caused thereby, Pee Dee and Black River circuits were transferred to the Durham district to the Fayetteville district.

THE next session of the Conference will be held at Goldsboro.

MCDOUGALD has been acquitted and discharged. The case was given to the jury at 5:30 p.m. Monday and a verdict of not guilty was rendered at 9:30 on Tuesday morning.

This trial is one of the most remarkable that has ever been held in this State and has attracted much attention. It occupied two weeks and is said to have cost $8,000. The murder for which McDougald was tried, was one of the most diabolical ever committed, and notwithstanding the prisoner's previous good character, he is generally believed to be guilty. The victim was named Condy, and was an uncle of McDougald. On account of public opinion being against the prisoner in Robeson county (where the murder occurred) the trial was removed to Cumberland county.

THE CHARLOTTE CHRONICLE is now "a thing of beauty" and we hope may be "a joy forever" to all its readers. With its new press and type it is wonderfully improved in its appearance, which we hope is a proof of its increasing prosperity.

CONGRESS will meet next Monday. The Representatives who were elected over a year ago will then take their seats for the first time since they were elected. It is only a few ridiculous so-called Representatives in Congress so far in all of the time in Congress to-day.

MUCH interest seems to be [illegible] by the election of the Speaker of the House. There is a struggle [illegible] between Mr. Reed of Maine and Crisp of Georgia.

THE Democrats have a large majority in the House this year and [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible]