

The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1894.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

THE OLD YEAR lies a dying, and in a few days will have passed away and be numbered with the ages that will never return. The close of the old year is always an occasion for sadness and solemn thoughts. It so forcibly impresses us on all the transitoriness of human life and the rapid flight of time, and the older we grow the more rapidly do the years seem to chase each other in their flight. At the close of the year is the time for men notably to take a reckoning of their business and worldly affairs but also of their spiritual condition and to consider whether the past year has added to their chances for future happiness and heavenly bliss or what shall it profiteth a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

Gov. Buford of Oklahoma, is doing his level best to fill Congressional ears with the idea that Oklahoma ought to be a State. He points out the existence of a population of 250,000, growing cities, a top rate public school system, good newspapers, and in fact, everything found in the most progressive of the old States, and demands any good reason for denying statehood to the territory.

Senator Hall's speech in favor of statehood in the Senate was a good one, filled with excellent arguments in favor of claims, but it did not change the views of any Senator, and there is no probability of any change in the Senate rules at this session that will even square toward a cause, although it is generally believed that the Republicans will adopt a course should they regain control of the Senate.

The Dickey Congressional Commission, which has a ready-made so much to return departmental business and to incur needless expenditures, never made a better recommendation than that to divide the separate bureaus of the Coast and Geodetic Survey and the Geological Survey, turning as much of the work they have been engaged in as may be considered desirable to continue over to the survey division of the General Land Office. The so-called "scientists" who have for years drawn big salaries for a very small amount of work done of neither very ingenious nor the pro-valuation of many sinecures all neatly covered by the cloak of science. But it is apparent that these two bureaus have cost a great deal of money and that there is next to nothing to show for it. Congress clipped the wings of the Geological Survey a year ago by cutting its appropriation in half, and thereby spelt a number of previously arranged longer extensions upon which it had been common for the "scientists" to take members of their families, not only leaving their expenses paid, but in many cases getting their on the pay roll as "assistants." These "assistants" own a 52 club house in the fashionable part of the town and won't an enormous social "pull" which is now being worked against the recommendations of the Dickey Commission.

Washington Letter.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21, 1894.

Secretary Carlisle is so thoroughly satisfied that the more his currency reform bill is studied and discussed the stronger it will be, both in and out of Congress, that he used his influence with the House committee on Rules to prevent the original plan, of voting on the bill before adjournment for the Christmas recess, being carried out. He never did a thing that displeased either judgment. The bill is now before the country and the debate in the House this week will furnish an intelligent basis for argument, both for and against the measure, and the time between the Christmas adjournment and the reassembling of Congress—Wednesday, Jan. 2—will be well put in by members of the House in studying how the bill may be improved; also in learning what their constituents think of it. The information thus acquired may be put to good use in the democratic cause which it is proposed to hold on the hill as soon as Congress returns to Washington.

The past year has not been especially different from its predecessors. Like all other years, to some it has been fraught with many joys and much happiness, while with others it has been laden with sorrow and suffering. And such is life. While some rejoice, others mourn; while some are buoyant and elated with success, others are despondent and despairing; while some have been bright sunshine, while with others all has been gloom. During the coming year may the bright sunshines of prosperity and plenty shine upon us all!

Let us all profit by the experience of the past year, and let it not have been spent in vain. It is human to err, and every man can now see wherein he committed many errors during the past year. Let him during the coming year avoid similar errors and profit by his experience, thus turning them into blessings in disguise. Do not let the new year find you at enmity with your neighbor, but bury with the dead year all its animosities and unkindness, and begin the new year at peace with your God and all your fellow men!

THE value of newspapers is appreciated this week more than any other week of the year, because there are so few of them. During Christmas week most of the Weekly papers omit an issue and therefore the few that are published then are the more appreciated. Suppose all the newspapers—the city dailies as well as the country weeklies—should suspend publication for a whole week? What a sensation it would create and what a howl of complaint would be raised!

Few people seem to appreciate the full value and importance of the newspapers until they are deprived of them. That town or county is fortunate that is favored with a reliable, high-toned and enterprising newspaper, and a liberal patronage should be given it. A good newspaper does more for a town or county than most persons are aware of, and a town or county is frequently judged by the character of its newspaper.

MORE crimes are committed and accidents occur during Christmas week than during any other week of the whole year. Instead of the Christmas holidays bringing "Peace on earth and good will to men," they generally bring crimes and accidents. Instead of celebrating Christmas as the nativity of Christ—the Prince of peace—so many persons degrade themselves and disgrace that day by giving themselves up to all sensual indulgences. They then revel in drunkenness and excesses of all kinds, and of course it is not surprising that when men are in that condition they commit crimes. At this season when everybody should be happy and every one contributing to the happiness of others, the columns of our papers are filled with the revolting accounts of "man's inhumanity to man". After all, how closely does man—civilized man—resemble the other animals, whom he calls beasts?

HORSEFLESH may yet become as common an article of food in America as it is in Germany. A few days ago it was the only meat at a notable dinner given in Newark, New Jersey, by Dr. Hopkins, a distinguished veterinary surgeon. He is an advocate of its general adoption as a table meat, and he gave this dinner in order to encourage its use and to demonstrate practically that there is no good reason, but only prejudice, against its use. To this dinner was invited a large number of scientific and literary persons and all the city and county officials. The horseflesh was served or cooked in different styles of the culinary art, and all the guests ate heartily and pronounced it as good as any other kind of meat they had ever eaten.

State Auditor's Report.

(From the *New York World*.)

The report of the State Auditor to the Governor is this year the most complete and exhaustive document of the kind yet presented.

According to the report, values in towns and cities have greatly increased, but the improvement is confined to the towns, cities and corporate property, agricultural regions not showing "that condition of prosperity which the welfare of the people as a whole requires." But with the abundant crops of the past season and indebtedness smaller than in previous years, the condition of the agricultural classes must soon show a material improvement.

The end of the fiscal year 1893 shows a net increase on taxable property of \$1,200,392.15 over 1892. The total increase for the year was \$2,428,629.67 distributed as follows:

On town lots, \$1,764,389.

Personal property, 454,394.

Railroad property, 394,153.15.

Telegraph lines, 13,569.22.

There was an increase of 17,513 hogs in the State, showing that our people are raising their own hog and hams.

In 1892 the total collected for State taxes amounted to \$1,205,829.73.

In 1893 the total was \$1,358,991.75, a decrease of \$16,964.89 from the previous year. The decrease in the tax levy accounts for this.

The State and county taxation for 1893 for all purposes was State, \$1,358,991.75; county, \$1,055,941.69; total, \$2,417,935.44. Estimating the population of the State that year to be 1,675,000, the per capita tax was \$1.47.

A special table is inserted in the report showing the average value per acre of farming lands in the State, the average for the entire State is \$24.16. According to the last census the average number of acres to the farm in this State is 127.

Of the counties in the State Durham shows the highest valuation per acre, \$10.31 and Dare the lowest, \$1.18. The valuation for Wake county is \$6.94.

A majority of the counties now owe no debts at all. The State debt has been greatly reduced.

These facts and the low tax levy, as the report says, "monumental testimony to the honest and earnest endeavors of those entrusted with the administration of State and county affairs for the past twenty years."

A remarkable fluctuation in the number of acres listed for taxation is noted. This cannot be accounted for in the usual way, and it seems to me that the hard times make the land so much mighty.

The total amount spent for pensions this year was \$105,132, an increase of \$5,573, on the roll there are 4,888 pensioners, a net increase of 36.

For new building and loan associations have begun business in this State during the past year. This increase, as Mr. Farman says, "indicates that the value of such institutions, when properly conducted, is being appreciated in the State."

The report treats at length of the public indebtedness and the relative ability of the people to bear taxation. Taxability depends, Mr. Farman says, "upon what people owe and what they own." The carefully prepared tables of property and indebtedness under a gratifying showing for this State. The total debt of the State is now \$3,322,800, represented by 4 per cent bonds.

The report states that "the aggregate public indebtedness of the people, the principle of which is the interest on which, taxes are collected to pay, will not exceed one twentieth of the aggregate value of the tax-paying property of the State."

A State that owes only four per cent, of what it owns is in a right saddle. The report contrasts the condition of the State a few years ago with the present:

"Considering what an enormous burden by way of debt rested upon every county and city, and the State as well, but a few years ago, and considering the condition of affairs today, the people—tax payers—may well thank those who have so faithfully and ably administered their affairs."

Mr. Farman thus closes his letter to the governor:

"It is my pleasure to repeat the statement made in my last report to your excellency, that the state of North Carolina laxes and collects for general purposes a lower rate of taxes than any other State in the Union, comparing in characteristics with this State, and all expenses have been kept strictly within the appropriation and the moneys provided for the maintenance of the government."

A Non-Partisan Postal Service.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Chairman Deforest of the House Civil Service Committee has introduced in the House a bill providing that postmasters shall hold office during good behavior. The cause of the removal of a postmaster by the President is to be communicated to the Senate, and in the case of a fourth class postmaster in the letter of removal Remonstrance by political causes are refused. The postal district system is adopted and the appointments of fourth-class postmasters are to be made on the reports of inspectors as to the qualifications of applicants.

Shot His Wife and Daughters.

VANCOUVER, Dec. 23.—George F. Ashford, a railroad laborer, who has been drinking heavily of late, woke up his wife last night, and telling her that her time had come, shot her dead.

He then shot his daughters, Violet, three years old, and Mildred, nine years old. His two sons escaped and gave an alarm.

A crowd went out and threw him self in front of an electric car. The motorman stopped the car and Ashford was arrested.

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High Priced Informers.

CALIFORNIA, Dec. 22.—The proceedings of the House today were of the usual unusual sort that marks the close of a legislative session, until tonight, when one of the most sensational incidents of the session occurred. The House wants \$5 per diem and the Senate \$4, and at the morning session Speaker Jones appointed a conference committee, who tonight recommended an increase of \$1 per day. The committee did not call the sentiment of the majority of the House and Mr. Cooper, of Colleton, moved that the House proceed under one of its rules to elect a committee. This was carried by a vote of 45 to 44, whereupon the Speaker, construing it to be a want of confidence, immediately left the chair and tendered his resignation. Great confusion followed. The House unanimously refused to accept his resignation, but he would not at first consider it and left the hall. Subsequently, Mr. Cooper withdrew the offensive resolution, and a series of complimentary resolutions were passed and sent to Mr. Jones, through a committee of the majority of the House and Mr. Cooper, of Colleton, dead, shot through the heart.

Island Beach Hotel Burned.

WILMINGTON, Dec. 23.—The Island Beach Hotel, a well known summer resort, situated on an island known as the Hammocks, between Wrightsville and the beach, eight miles from here was destroyed by fire tonight. The building had 150 rooms, and with furnishings cost probably \$20,000. It is said to be insured for nearly one-half value.

Rev. V. A. Sharp, of the North Carolina Conference, M. E. Church, South, died Friday in Gravelyville, N. Y., and was buried in the cemetery of that place.

The national farmers' alliance will hold its next annual meeting at Raleigh, beginning on the 12th of February.

Two Lives Saved.

Mrs. Phoebe Thomas, of Junction City, Ill., was told by her doctors she had consumption and that there was no hope for her, but two bottles Dr. King's New Discovery completely cured her and she says it saved her life. Mr. Thos. Eggers, 139, Florida St., San Francisco, suffered from a dreadful cold, approaching Consumption tried without result everything else then bought one bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery and in two weeks was cured. He was naturally thankful. He then shot his wife and two sons.

Greatly reduced prices! A few pieces of Dress Goods at cost and less than cost.

BARGAINS WORTH YOUR ATTENTION! We mean exactly what we say!

McIVER'S.

Sept. 6, 1894.

A Wonderful Still.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Dec. 24.—A special to the *Age-Herald* from Florence, Ala., says: "The United States revenue officers who have been raiding illicit distilleries in this section the past three weeks made a remarkable discovery yesterday. At the home of S. R. O. Williams, seven miles east of Lexington, in this county, officers found a moonshine outfit consisting of one-gallon coffee pot, transformed into a still capable of making half a gallon of whisky per day. The still was operated easily and operated perfectly. The unique outfit was brought to Florence and placed on exhibition, hundreds viewing it with curiosity.

Williams, the genius who is said to have originated the device, was arrested and placed in jail on charge of operating an illicit distillery.