The Chatham Record

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H. A. LONDON, Editor.

The new "reform" Board of Agriculture seem to be a most extravagant gang. They meet oftener and do less than any set of officers that we have heard of. As soon as they were appointed last March they all rushed to Raleigh and all they did was to meet for a few minutes and adjourn, and yet every one drew his $4 a day and mileage, thus costing the State a considerable sum for absolutely nothing. And similar meetings have been held since, notably the meeting last week when they went to attend the State Fair at the public expense.

But what better could you expect of men who elected a negro (Jim Young) fertilizer inspector over white men?

And these men pretend to be "reformers"!

The rain interfered somewhat last week with the financial success of the State Fair, and greatly diminished the attendance of visitors. After being without rain for so long a time it seemed a pity for it to come just then.

The exhibits were almost as usual. The best and most attractive were those of Vanderbilt, Col. J. S. Carr and the R. F. Morris Manufacturing Company. The side shows and fakirs were more numerous than ever before, and seemed to be the chief attraction.

Col. John S. Cunningham, of Person county, was elected the President for the next year. He is said to be the largest tobacco planter in the State and is a very public-spirited gentleman.

When the price of cotton dropped down to about five cents during Cleveland's administration all the blame was laid on him and the Democratic party. Yes, many men bitterly denounced President Cleveland and the Democratic party and held them responsible for the low price of cotton, and yet strange to say these very men have not a word to say against President McKinley and the Republican party when cotton is again down to about five cents a pound!

If Cleveland and the Democratic party were responsible and were denounced for the low price of cotton in 1894, why are not McKinley and the Republican party responsible and denounced for the same thing now?

Gov. Russell published in the *Caucasian* last week his excuse for accepting free passes from railroad companies. He says "I have concluded that just as long as they send around their passes to officials and favorites, I will take them when they offer them"!

It is said that a bad excuse is better than no excuse, but in this case Gov. Russell had better not have been tempted to give an excuse at all. He could not give a better one than this. And strange (?) to say the *Caucasian*, which has been constantly denouncing free passes, has not published a word of criticism of or censure upon Gov. Russell for accepting these passes.

The directors of the penitentiary met last week, and practically deposed its superintendent, Mr. John R. Smith, whose management has been very unsatisfactory. The power and authority heretofore vested by Superintendent Smith they have now given to an executive committee, under whose direction he will act.

The directors also forbid the families of the penitentiary officers from residing in the penitentiary. As soon as the "reformers" took charge of the penitentiary their new officers quietly moved their families to the penitentiary and were residing there at the State's expense.

Autumn elections will be held next Tuesday in several states, but that which is attracting the most interest is the election of mayor of the new city of Greater New York. The power and patronage of that office will be greater than the office of Governor of any state. There is an exciting quadrangular contest for that important office, there being four candidates. It is probable that Van Wyck, Tammany's candidate, will be elected.

The two factions of the Populist party, known as the "majority" and "minority" Populists, held secret caucuses at Raleigh last week. Each faction claims to be the only true and genuine Populists, and bitterly denounces the other as traitors. If the half be true, that each of the factions alleges against the other, then they are all a shameless crowd and are not fit to be trusted by anybody!

Washington Letter.

From our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22, 1897.

The administration was scarcely given the satisfaction of a knockout by the administered to Senator Wolcott's international bimetallic combination by England, but it is striving to take it for a verdict and sufficient response. I know that it is already and suspicious of having given England a tip, and, what is more important, it knows that the votes of Senator Wolcott and the other five Senators [illegible] Richard Sharp, Warren [illegible] who pretended to be opposed to any, when other silver [illegible] by Senator Teller [illegible] because it was [illegible] which would [illegible] to [illegible] Democratic [illegible] Democratic [illegible] Democratic