The Chatham Record.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1898.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

PRESIDENT McKinley's message to Congress was read to the Senate and House on last Monday. It is quite a long document, and most of it is in regard to our war with Spain.

The message begins with a reference to "a very satisfactory and steadily increasing degree of prosperity," and says that "manufacture has been productive, agricultural pursuits have yielded abundant returns and labor in all fields of industry is better rewarded." This statement will be news to, but will hardly be believed by our Southern farmers. Northern and Western farmers may admit as true, but Southern farmers will all deny, the statement that "agricultural pursuits have yielded abundant returns."

The President does not suggest the kind of government to be given our new possessions taken from Spain, but says this may more appropriately be discussed after the treaty of peace has been ratified. He concurs in the recommendation of the Secretary of War that the regular army be increased to 100,000 men, and says that as soon as this is done he will discharge all the volunteers now in service.

The President also approves the recommendation of the Secretary of the Navy for the construction of several warships at a cost of nearly $50,000,000, so we need not expect any reduction in the expenditures of the Federal government, and therefore no reduction in Federal taxes.

THE Congress of the United States met last Monday. This is the second session of the Fifty-fifth Congress, whose Representatives were elected two years ago, and their terms will expire on the 4th of next March. The Representatives elected a month ago will not take their seats in Congress until December of next year, unless an extra session is called by the President, which he will probably do. This is called the "short session" of Congress because it cannot continue longer than the 4th of March. The first session of every Congress is called the "long session," because it frequently continues until July or August.

The business that will chiefly engage the attention of this short session of Congress will be the very important questions arising from our war with Spain. The time of the Senate will be chiefly occupied with the treaty of peace recently agreed on by the peace commissioners. Every treaty between the United States and any foreign government must be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the Senate. Very little, if any, attention will be given to a solution of the perplexing financial question, which at the time of the election (in 1896) of the Representatives to this Congress was regarded as the "paramount issue."

ANOTHER useless expense, that our next Legislature should cut off, is the payment of sixty cents for notifying every magistrate and constable of his election. According to our present law it is the duty of the sheriff of every county to notify every magistrate and constable of his election, and he is allowed a fee of sixty cents for every such notification. This one item must have cost the taxpayers of North Carolina at least $2,000 at the late election. It cost the taxpayers of this Chatham county $31.20 for the sheriff to notify our 39 magistrates and 13 constables, which was just that much money thrown away, because of course every magistrate and constable who was elected knew of his election in a few hours thereafter.

THE North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, has just held its annual session at Elizabeth City. Bishop Fitzgerald, of Tennessee, presided and made a most favorable impression. And by-the-way he was born and reared in this State—is a native "Tarheel." Resolutions were adopted condemning the means used for obtaining from Congress the appropriation to the Nashville Publishing House. Resolutions were adopted for the formation of a stock company to buy half of the Christian Advocate and publishing another organ for the Conference, and Rev. Dr. Ivey was elected its editor.

The Conference will meet next year at Washington.

[illegible] and their majorities officially ascertained. The [illegible] carried every district [illegible] majorities [illegible] ninth, 238. It will be seen that the seventh district—where Kitchin defeated Harrison—gave the largest majority. The majority for Thomas [illegible] in the First district [illegible] —only 180.

The Republicans [illegible] the negro White in the second district, and Linney in the [illegible] district. White's majority [illegible] was 2,896, but his [illegible] over Fountain and Lloyd [illegible] Populist candidate [illegible] 2,227 votes was only [illegible]. Linney's majority was [illegible]. At the last election [illegible] crats carried only one district [illegible] ninth and that by only about 100 majority.

Currency in the Philippines.

Silver is the only currency [illegible]

To Rebuild a [illegible] Face.

The surgeons [illegible] St. [illegible] hospital [illegible] will be to replace the lost eye with one of glass.

Windsor Ledger: The question of letting the negro be taxed for the education of the negro children and the white man be taxed for the education of the white children, [illegible] considerable discussion in [illegible] county—especially among the people of the county. And the sentiment is rapidly [illegible] in its favor. [illegible] at their [illegible] meeting at [illegible] Friday.

Sanford Express: A white woman and a negro man from the western part of the county were tried in the Superior Court at Carthage this week for living together. The woman was sentenced to a term of six months in the county jail and the man given a term of two years on the public roads of Chatham county. Judge Bynum says thirteen cases of this kind have come under his observation in the State during the past two years. Five or six of them were found in one county.

The President has authorized, from available funds, the expenditure of $50,000 for cleaning Havana so as to make the city as healthful as possible for the residence of soldiers and citizens.

Citizens of Newbern are incensed at the action of the Republican board of county commissioners and propose to make them vacate.

Our Washington Letter.

Washington, Dec. 2, 1898.

Mr. McKinley [illegible]

[illegible] Mr. McKinley. [illegible]

[illegible] Found.

[illegible]

A blast shipment of North Carolina and Virginia bright leaf tobacco will be made to Japan for the manufacture of cigars and cigarettes. The shipment will [illegible]

[illegible] Explosion.

[illegible]

New Pensioners.

Washington, Dec. 1.—Pension claims are being received at the Pension Bureau [illegible] for [illegible] of disabilities occurring during the war with Spain. There have been received 2441 such claims [illegible] since May 15, when the first application [illegible].

Up to last week practically all [illegible] filed were for wounds [illegible]. More than the majority have been for disabilities from sickness.

No estimate can be given yet of the amount of claims that will be presented as a result of the recent war. Commissioner of Pensions Evans said [illegible] that even an approximate estimate would not be [illegible].

[illegible]

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Trains Leave Pittsboro

[illegible] 3.20 p. m.

Trains arrive at Pitts[boro] [illegible] 3.25 p. m.

[illegible] 1898

Southbound.

[timetable illegible]

Northbound.

[timetable illegible]

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