

With last week's issue the Record completed its twenty-first volume and became twenty-one years old, so that it is now "free, white and twenty-one."

Established in 1878 by its present editor and proprietor the Record has never since made any change and has never missed an issue.

Not only has the Record never changed its editor and proprietor, but it has never changed its politics nor worried in its efforts to promote the best interests of all the people, regardless of their race, politics or religion.

It has not been blown about by every wind and doctrine and advocated measures merely because they happen to have a temporary popularity, but whether popular or unpopular it has steadily and unflinchingly advocated that which its editor believed was best for the public welfare.

And after persevering in this policy for twenty-one years its editor has no cause to regret doing so. Indeed after an existence for so long a time there has not appeared a single, solitary editorial in the Record that its editor is now ashamed of or regrets having written.

Its editorials have always been written with the consciousness that they would remain in print long after the writer ceased to live, and therefore they have not been written for mere temporary approval or favor.

Although the Record and its editor have been frequently slandered and bitterly maligned by despicable demagogues, such attacks and their authors have been noticed only with silent contempt, feeling assured that whatever might be said by such creatures would have no influence with anybody whose opinion is worth having.

The Record has a higher mission than to notice the barking of worthless curs. The Record has no new promises for the future, but will strive to make its future worthy of its past in every effort for the advancement of the best interests of all classes of the people.

A MEETING of the Democratic editors of this State will be held at Raleigh on Tuesday of Fair week (October 24th), for the purpose of organizing the "North Carolina Democratic Editorial Association."

This organization was decided on at a meeting of the Democratic editors, held after the adjournment of the N. C. Press Association last month at Carolina Beach, when a committee was appointed to prepare a constitution and by-laws.

The cruelties committed on the helpless convicts by the Fusion gang, when in charge of the penitentiary, are a disgrace to our civilization and shocking to every feeling of humanity, and the brutal perpetrators deserve the severest punishment.

Our readers will remember that the last Legislature appointed a committee to investigate the Fusion mismanagement of the Agricultural Department and the penitentiary. The former was investigated last month and the most outrageous extravagance, if not corruption, was exposed.

Last week the committee investigated the penitentiary and discovered not only extravagant mismanagement, but barbarous cruelty, which were proved not by the evidence of convicts but of reputable officers, one of the witnesses who gave the most damaging evidence being a brother of Gov. Russell.

From the evidence of Gov. Russell's brother alone it was fully proved that on one farm one convict had been beaten to death—absolutely murdered—and another was beaten so brutally that he could not get out of bed for two weeks, was denied all medical attention and was left without a morsel of food for two days.

Many others were beaten in a most brutal manner and disabled from working for several days. The cruelties and horrors exposed by this committee should excite the deepest indignation among all men, and tinge with shame the cheek of even the most bitter Fusionist!

Buried in a Well.

Lexington, N. C., August 23.—Last Monday evening, while digging a well for John W. McCann, near Fairmont, in this county, Frank Clodfelter and Joe Carriek, two negro men, were imprisoned by falling dirt some forty feet below the surface.

Money Found in Mail Bags.

"It seems almost incredible that in the neighborhood of \$40,000 in actual cash should have been confined to letters during the last year, and harder still to credit that the most exhaustive efforts failed to find the owners of one-fourth of that amount," writes Patti Lyle Collins in The Ladies' Home Journal for September.

Silver in China.

Silver is a legal tender in China; but it is the same kind of a legal tender it was in the time of Moses. All payments are made in silver by weight, and a dollar is not looked upon by the Chinese as a coin, but simply as so much silver with a "chop" or mark stamped upon it by the Chinese as a vouch of its weight and fineness.

Fate in the Dewey Arch.

New York, Aug. 27.—G. Turina, a prominent sculptor, who had been employed for some days on the Dewey triumphal arch, died at his home today.

Died While Riding a Mule.

Mr. William Casey, of Trap Hill, died suddenly last Sunday morning. He arose in usual health, ate breakfast, dressed for church, got on his mule and started alone.

A Little Rock, Ark., Dispatch

says the town of Pleasant Plain has been wiped out by a tornado.

Washington Letter.

Washington, Aug. 25, 1899.

Indications point to a new and daring act of imperialism on the part of the administration in the near future. The army of sixty-thousand men, which is being so hurriedly prepared for the Philippines may be intended for use elsewhere. There is talk—only whispers as yet—inside administration circles about arrangements to buy off Aguinaldo and his principal officers, and thus bring about an early peace in the Philippines, and members of the diplomatic corps have received from more than one foreign government hints of an understanding between Great Britain and the United States, by which the American army in the Philippines and the strong British naval force in Asiatic waters may be used to back up a joint demand made by the United States and Great Britain concerning the future government of China.

This matter has not gone far enough to be publicly discussed, and it may not do so at all, but there are numerous indications, not the least of which is the sudden confidence in administration circles that the Philippine war is almost over, pointing to its probable correctness. Such a move would be imperialistic, indeed.

The Republicans are evidently weakening on their attempt to make it appear that Col. Bryan is losing strength and prestige in the West. The evidence the other way is too overwhelming for them. Hon. Marcus A. Smith, long a delegate in Congress from Arizona, and who may return to public life as a Senator, after Arizona becomes a State, says of the political outlook: "Col. Bryan's name will be the only one before the National Convention. He is even stronger in the West than he was in '96. The Chicago platform will be reaffirmed with additional planks dealing with present issues. There has been a revival of faith in the ability of the Democrats to win in 1903, and men who thought two months ago that the party had no chance are now declaring that Bryan can carry the country next year. My own opinion is that he will be our next President."

The whole power of the Post-Office Department and of the entire administration will be used to prevent the fourth-class postmasters securing any legislation from Congress that will result in increasing their pay. At the last session of Congress one postmaster—Mr. William H. Thomas, of La Grange, Mo.—was discharged for appearing in Washington in the interest of the fourth-class postmasters and for sending out circulars urging them to organize for the purpose of securing an increase of pay; and others are being notified of the existence of a rule prohibiting any postal employee, under penalty of dismissal, appearing in Washington to advocate Congressional legislation of any sort.

The report that the 70,000 fourth-class postmasters in the country are chipping in to employ lobbyists to work for them before Congress is worrying Postmaster General Smith, because he cannot prevent their doing so. He says, however, that he can block any legislation by showing Congress what a large sum of money it would cost to even slightly raise the pay of fourth-class postmasters, but he admits that if this class of Federal employees act together and bring all their friends influence to bear upon Senators and Representatives it will be hard to beat them. He really relies more upon blinding many of them out of joining the National League of Fourth-Class Postmasters than upon any other method of defeating them.

Although there has been no doubt on the subject for some time, members of the administration felt greatly relieved when they knew that Ex-Car Reed's resignation as a member of the House had been received and accepted by the Governor of Maine. The administration is expecting some hard sledding in Congress this winter, and upon several important matters Mr. Reed is known to oppose Mr. McKinley's policy; hence the relief to know that it is beyond Mr. Reed's power to head a Republican revolt in the House. His retirement makes it certain that the House will do whatever Mr. McKinley wishes it to do, but there will be trouble and a heap of it in the Senate, notwithstanding the efforts which have been made to placate certain Republican Senators with commissions in the volunteer service and other patronage.

Fusion Cruelty to Convicts.

Halifax, N. C., Aug. 25.—Lewis Sumnerell, the Supervisor of the Penitentiary farm at Northampton, must go today before the Legislative Investigating Committee his fate was sealed.

David S. Russell is the man who let out the secrets, which have been zealously guarded by Sumnerell and his interested friends. Russell is half-brother of Governor Russell's. At present David S. Russell is steward at the Caledonia farm No. 2. For eight months he held that position at the Northampton farm under Lewis Sumnerell, and there is where he witnessed instances of cruelty and barbarity that are hardly surpassed in darkest Siberia.

The instances of cruelty related by Mr. Russell resulted from the slightest infraction of rules by convicts. But Sumnerell, he said, was a brutal and passionate man, who only showed a kindly feeling towards the unfortunates under him when drinking. Evidently Sumnerell was not drinking when Joe Mayor, a life prisoner failed to step in line. After having been severely whipped by two employes at Sumnerell's command, the latter seized the lash and peeled Mayor over the head with the staff. "Every time he hit him the blood would spout," so the witness testified while speaking of Sumnerell's methods. But that was not all, Mayor's back was beaten "raw," and then the heartless supervisor started awing on his sides.

Not satisfied with having brutally and cruelly tortured the helpless negro starvation was next attempted. For two days the negro was denied any food as he lay helpless on his hard bed—not in the hospital, but in a cell—so Mr. Russell testified.

This was done at Sumnerell's order, the witness said. After having starved him for two days the Czar of the ranch weakened when appealed to by Mr. Russell and permitted him to be given something to eat. For three weeks Mayor was unable to do any work. And to this crime the negro was concealed in his cell, where the physician never called. This is one of the several instances of cruelty related by Russell.

Whitewash seldom sticks. It was ever so. In Sumnerell's instance it has changed into black. Publicity was not to the supervisor's liking, as it placed his deeds too conspicuously before the public. So when the press first sized up Lewis and his methods an ancient and chancy trick was attempted to silence the newspapers and vindicate Sumnerell. A statement was drawn by Mr. Ed. Clark, so Russell says, which set forth that no cruelties had ever been practiced at the Northampton farm, and this was presented to the guards, overseers and employes of the farm to sign. Russell rebelled. He declined to testify to something that was known of all men to be absolutely false and he refused to attach his signature.

From that day he found life a burden at the Northampton farm. Sumnerell made it intolerable for him. Hence his departure. That James Love was murdered in the field there is now little doubt. Russell made this clear yesterday. When Sumnerell went to Russell to order the burial of the murdered convict the supervisor said: "That damn fool Sears beat him to death."

W. R. Dixon, who served as supervisor of Caledonia farm No. 2, under the Fusion administration, was on the witness stand for an hour. Mr. Dixon testified that both of his former chiefs, John R. Smith and J. M. McWhorter, were without executive ability and unqualified to discharge the duties of superintendent of the penitentiary. Mr. Dixon had nothing to conceal, and so far as the committee was able to learn there was nothing to criticize in his conduct as supervisor of the No. 2 farm. The witness stated that he was never consulted as to the management of his own farm, and that he always acted under orders from headquarters. The most interesting information developed in Mr. Dixon's testimony was that the Caledonia farms netted the State about \$25,000 a year clear of expenses. Just how this amount was squandered and an indebtedness of \$110,000 created in addition by the management of the prison last year Mr. Dixon was unable to state.

The Industrial Convention.

Huntsville, Ala., Aug. 28.—Colonel N. F. Thompson, secretary of the chamber of commerce, in charge of the committee on arrangements for the industrial convention, to be held here early in October, today received a letter from Senator John T. Morgan, in reply to an invitation to address the gathering. It is quite likely that the Senator will attend the convention, although he says he cannot make a positive promise at this time. The subject chosen for Senator Morgan is the "Nicaragua Canal," and in relation to it he says:

"The foreign markets are those we must reach out for if we would enjoy the full measure of our advantages. Towards the promotion of this policy nothing can be of greater advantage than a ship canal through the Isthmus of Darien, and that is now secured. I speak with firm confidence in great fact as an achievement that is accomplished in the secure foundations that have been laid and only awaits, for a short period, its completion. A cotton port at Manila that will enable us to reach the Orient with our cotton and cotton goods and our provisions and supplies without the enormous expense we are making and have so long endured, in the tribute to Liverpool as our point of distribution to Asiatic consumers, must be a great factor in the progress of American productions and manufactures.

"The example of the wonderful growth of Hong Kong until it is the third, if not the second, seaport in the world, is a demonstration of what we can do in the Asiatic trade if we avail ourselves of advantages that have come to us even without our seeking them."

Awful Crime at Durham. Durham, N. C., Aug. 28.—Melville Parker, a negro convict, criminally assaulted little Bettie Hurdleston, the eight-year-old daughter of William Hurdleston (white) late this afternoon. The crime was committed at the county convict camp, which is only three miles from Durham.

Parker was a "trusty" and water-carrier. He went where the child was playing, about one hundred yards from her home. The mother of the girl came up while the negro was on the ground, but she did not see the assault. The little victim told the story of the crime, and evidences of the assault were found on the child's clothing. Dr. Johnson made an examination and corroborated the child's statement of the assault. After committing the crime the negro carried water to the camp and then tried to escape, but the mother of the girl soon reported to the guards, and the scoundrel was caught two hundred yards from the camp.

The negro is at the camp to-night and under heavy guard. He will be brought to the city to-morrow. There is tonight talk of lynching him, but nothing has been done as yet, as the crime is not generally known around town yet, and this fact will probably save his life for the present. Parker was serving a two-years' term for larceny, and had been a "trusty" several months.

Shot From Ambush. Wilson, Aug. 28.—Capt. Calvin Barnes was shot in the back from ambush on the side of the road about dusk tonight, within half-mile of Wilson, while returning from his farm. Two little grand children were in the buggy with him. The ball was an old-fashioned ounce Minnie ball, evidently shot from a musket. It entered the back of the left shoulder and went through the body, coming out near the right breast. A negro on the road heard gunning and went to Captain Barnes' assistance and brought him and his grandchildren home. At 9 o'clock Captain Barnes was thought to be sinking. Bloodhounds have been telegraphed for from Northampton and a special train secured to bring them here. A warrant has been sworn out against a white man on suspicion and officers have gone for him tonight. The place where Captain Barnes was shot is being guarded so as to get the trail when the dogs arrive. Crowds on the street are discussing the dastardly crime, and the citizens and officers will take every possible step to secure the perpetrator.

Lady Accidentally Shot.

Beaufort, N. C., Aug. 24.—Miss Dora Taylor was killed today by the accidental discharge of a pistol in the hands of Mrs. George Taylor, at Bogue.

George Taylor keeps a store near the place where Elijah Weeks was murdered a short time ago. During his absence Miss Taylor came into the store and Mrs. Taylor asked if she would like to see her new pistol. She was in the act of passing over the weapon to the young lady, when her finger accidentally caught against the trigger and the pistol being loaded, was discharged, the ball striking Miss Taylor, producing instant death.

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Eldradin Potter, the 14-year-old son of Rufus Potter, was struck in the breast at Suffolk by a baseball thrown by Lighty Reid, aged 15, and killed. The killing was accidental.

Mrs. John Hayes, near Durham, was killed to death last Thursday by pouring kerosene oil to start a fire and the can of oil exploding.

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SEABOARD AIR LINE VESTIBULE LIMITED TRAINS. TO ALL PORTS NORTH, SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST. Schedule in Effect Dec. 11, 1899.

Table with columns for Southbound, Northbound, and Trains Leave Pittsboro. Includes destinations like New York, Philadelphia, and Washington.

Trains Arrive at Pittsboro. Daily except Sunday. Nos. 403 and 402.—The Atlanta Special, Solid Vestibule Train of Pullman Sleepers and Coaches between Washington and Atlanta, also Pullman Sleepers between Portsmouth and Chester, S. C.

Nos. 41 and 38.—The S. A. L. Express, Solid Train, Coaches and Pullman Sleepers between Portsmouth and Atlanta. Company Sleepers between Columbia and Atlanta. Both trains make immediate connections at Atlanta for Montgomery, Mobile, New Orleans, Texas, California, Mexico, Chattanooga, Nashville, Memphis, Macon, Florida.

WILMINGTON & WELDON. And Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company of South Carolina. Condensed Schedule. TRAINS GOING SOUTH.

Table for Wilmington & Weldon showing train schedules to the south with columns for Date, Day, and Time.

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