

The heavy decline in the price of cotton is a severe calamity on the South. The crop of this year cost more than nearly any crop ever before raised.

A decline, therefore, from sixteen cents to less than half that price was entirely unexpected and comes as a crushing blow on the South.

The government report, made last Saturday, estimates the cotton crop of this year at 12,162,000 bales, the largest crop ever produced in the United States, and a larger crop than almost anybody had expected.

Indeed, it is to be doubted if they ever reach there in such shape as to materially change the situation. The Japanese have doubtless taken the necessary steps to overhaul the squadron in its divided state, and this will likely be done when least expected.

If Judge Parker had been elected President every Republican would have exclaimed, "I told you so." The decline in cotton would, of course, have been ascribed to his election, and Republican demagogues would have tauntingly compared Roosevelt sixteen cent cotton with Parker seven and a half cent cotton!

CONGRESS convened last Monday, and on Tuesday the President sent in his message, which he begins with a reference to "the noteworthy prosperity" of the country. This reference will not be assented to as true by the farmers of the South, who cannot now sell their cotton at the actual cost of raising it!

The message says the President will communicate with Congress later on the subject of the tariff, a revision of which should be the first business of Congress.

The North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, held its annual session last week at Henderson, and it was one of the most interesting sessions ever held.

The annual session of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention is being held this week at Elizabeth City. The editor of the Biblical Recorder informs the Raleigh Post that "This has been easily the best year's work in the history of the denomination in North Carolina."

President Roosevelt has signified his intention to appoint as a cadet at West Point the only grandson of Stonewall Jackson, young Stonewall Jackson Christian.

This is most commendable and is eminently fit and proper. It will present Mr. Roosevelt to the people of the South in a more favorable light than he has heretofore appeared.

The Japanese-Russian War.

The Japanese have captured Two Hundred and Three-Metre Hill, the so-called "key to Port Arthur," and they expect to take the city about December 10th. This is the principal development of the past week in connection with the war in the far East.

The indications are that the Russians are determined to bend every energy toward holding out until the Baltic fleet can reach the scene of operations. The report of the capture of Two Hundred and Three-Metre Hill, however, has apparently caused a gloomy feeling in official circles in St. Petersburg, for it is feared that the end is not far off.

The Japanese may not be able to take advantage of the location. That, however, seems a vain hope judging the future by the past achievements. The Japanese are said to have lost 15,000 men in the capture of this hill.

The news from the interior of Manchuria has been rather meagre during the past week but the activity seems to have been of minor importance, a sort of tag-playing engagement for positions here and there.

Opening Day in Congress. Washington, Dec. 5.—With the Senate in session 13 minutes and the House 53 minutes, the last session of the 58th Congress was assembled today.

The gavel of Senator Frye, President pro tem of the Senate, and Speaker Cannon, of the House, fell exactly at 12 o'clock. The opening prayers were made by the chaplains, Rev. Edward Everett Hale, D. D., in the Senate, and Rev. N. H. Conden, in the House.

Lieutenant General Nelson A. Miles has accepted an appointment as adjutant general on the staff of Governor-elect William L. Douglass, of Massachusetts.

The official vote of South Carolina for President follows: Parker, 52,833; Roosevelt, 2,271; Debs, 22; Watson, 1.

Washington Letter.

Washington, Dec. 1, 1904. Hope is a light diet, but very stimulating—in fact, nourishing. If this country had gone to the dogs every time a party was defeated in a general election we should have been in the kennel of the canines most of the time since the first Adams failed of re-election.

The Republican members are, of course, very much inclined to rub salt in the sore spots of the defeated party. The hilarious laughter of "our Chauncey" can be heard resounding all over town every time he repeats to a new audience his joke about the Irishman who didn't vote.

The collision was between through freight No. 183, westbound, and the Oxford & Clarksville passenger train, which was being taken to the "Y" to turn around. It is said that the headlight on the freight was not burning, and that the crew of the other train did not see the approaching freight until too late to stop.

Ridgely, N. C., Dec. 1.—A head-on collision between a passenger and freight train on the Danville and Western branch of the Southern Railway occurred today between the stations of Dan River and Stokesland.

The scene of the wreck was at a curve in the road, and the engineers were unable to see the other train until the crash had almost occurred. Both trains were running at full speed. The accident, it is claimed, was due to a misunderstanding of orders.

Portland, Ore., Nov. 30.—The construction work on the grounds and buildings of the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition, which will be held in Portland, Oregon, next summer, opening June 1 and closing October 15, is progressing rapidly.

The expositions, which is to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the exploration of the Oregon country by Lewis and Clark, will be representative of the great Pacific Northwest. It will exemplify the amazing growth of this comparatively new country, and will serve several millions of people, who have never before had the chance to visit a national exposition.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY EXCURSION RATES VIA SOUTHERN RAILWAY. 1904-1905.

Account Christmas and New Year Holidays, Southern Railway will sell tickets at extremely low rates. Dates of sale of tickets to the general public, December 23, 24, 25 and 31, 1904, and January 1, 1905, with final limit January 4, 1905.

Spencer Blackburn's majority for Congress in the 8th district was 248.

Good Effects of Watts Law.

Washington, Nov. 30.—Until the Watts law went into effect North Carolina led every State in the Union in the number of grain distilleries operated. A year later, the State dropped to rank fourth, being outstripped by Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Virginia, and there has been a falling off in the number of grain distilleries in operation from 392 to 78.

Fatal Collision at Durham. Durham, Dec. 1.—There was a head-on collision on the Southern at East Durham tonight at 9:30 o'clock. Tom Trollinger, colored fireman, was probably fatally injured, and Jack Price, yard conductor, is suffering from scalded feet. Trollinger has badly broken ankle and knee, his right leg is cut, and he is scalded and probably hurt internally.

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Young Farmer Assassinated.

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 1.—John Plummer, a prominent and influential farmer, living a few miles northwest of this city, was instantly killed last night by an unknown assassin. At the time of the murder Mr. Plummer was sitting on the front porch of his residence, playing a violin, and near him was one of his farm hands. The crack of a gun was heard, and Mr. Plummer fell to the floor, expiring in a few moments.

RECTOR OF ST. LUKE'S. Ashburnham, Ontario, Testifies to the Good Qualities of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

AND SALE:—By virtue of an order of the Superior Court of Chatham county made in the special proceedings entitled "D. F. Gross, administrator of July Ann Gross, against C. D. Gross and others," I will sell for cash at 12 m., on

Mortgage Sale. Under and by virtue of three several mortgages, one of J. C. Palmer and wife to C. H. Belvin, registered in Book C. F., page 218, et seq., one from Mary A. Young to C. H. Belvin, registered in Book C. F., page 218, et seq., and one from Mary A. Young, registered in Book C. S., page 193, et seq., default having been made in the payment of the bonds secured thereby, I will on

HEALTH INSURANCE. The man who insures his life is wise for his family. The man who insures his health is wise both for his family and himself.

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Great Dissolution Sale.

The partnership of Bynum & Headen will expire by limitation January 1st, 1905. In order to close up the business their mammoth stock of goods will be sold at a

Big Sacrifice

for the cash. No one need apply for credit. All of those who are indebted to the firm of Bynum & Headen will have to settle on or before January 1st, as the business will positively be closed up on that date.

BYNUM & HEADEN.

The business will be reorganized and resumed in the same old stand after January 1st, under the management of A. Headen Bynum, Nov. 10th, 1904.

NOTICE FOR PARDON. Notice is hereby given that application will be made to the Governor of North Carolina for a pardon for General Fearington, who was convicted at February term, 1904, of Chatham Superior court, and sentenced to the roads of Union county for two years.

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