

Fair Tonight and Tomorrow--Cooler

GOOD ROADS WILL MARKET PRODUCE AT LEAST COST; WILL ALSO LESSEN TAX

A Good Road is One That is Good 365 Days to the Year. Collected Data Will Prove of Great Interest.

The absolute necessity of a system of good roads which will make it possible not only for every citizen of this State to market his produce at the least cost, but lessen the present enormous tax which each citizen who travels the highways of North Carolina now pays to bad roads is being realized by all thoughtful citizens.

They were framed by men conversed in the art of road building, and hence the laws are not practical. The result is that there is a very great dissimilarity in the road laws of the various counties, and it is believed that if they were more homogeneous much better and more economical results would be attained.

Road Mileage. Number of miles of public roads in the State, 45,375. Number of miles of improved road (macadam, sand-clay, gravel, or especially surfaced), 3,445 1-2. Number of miles of improved roads built during 1911, 1,092 1-2.

Road Maintenance. Amount of special tax collected for roads during 1911, \$1,468,354. Amount of free labor tax (rate at \$1 per day per hand) and of convict labor (valued at cost of keeping and guarding convict), \$16,093.

By Whom Spent. This money is spent, as a rule, by the county commissioners, but in special cases, by township commissioners, county road commissioners, or township road commissioners.

(4) Lack of Maintenance. This is principally the result of the time-honored, but inefficient method, of free labor still in existence in many of the counties. Every road has to be maintained, regardless of the surfacing material. The minute a road is finished, maintenance should begin, or else it will not be very long before the surfacing material will begin to break away and the road go to pieces.

Maintenance. It is a matter of common knowledge that the present system of road maintenance, based on in many cases on convict labor, results in enormous expenditures for this purpose (at least \$100,000 per year) is practically thrown away.

(5) Inadequate appropriation for State aid in the form of engineering assistance and fortifying road materials. (6) Leasing of state convicts to corporations, etc.

Defects of Present System. (1) Administrative. The men selected for carrying on the road work in the majority of the counties are untrained for this kind of work. Technical skill is absolutely essential in road location, construction, and maintenance.

(2) Improper Locations. A great many of the so-called public roads of the State were located by the Indians, or by sheep and cattle. For this reason a great many of the public roads, before being surfaced, should be relocated, at the location of a road is the permanent part of it, and once done right it would never have to be done again.

(3) Lack of Uniformity in County Road Laws. Quite a number of the counties have special road laws at the present time, and in most cases the provisions of these laws do not admit of systematic and effective

road work. They were framed by men conversed in the art of road building, and hence the laws are not practical. The result is that there is a very great dissimilarity in the road laws of the various counties, and it is believed that if they were more homogeneous much better and more economical results would be attained.

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THE MISTLETOE MAD



THE Spirit of the Mistletoe Her spell about the land throws wide. And eyes are bright and cheeks aglow Where stirs the pulse of Christmide.

O gracious branch with berries peared. Yet as the winter, weeping, dies The charm still matters Cupid, so Whence magic sways the whole wide world, Whence'er he looks in Psyche's eyes He sees the mirrored mistletoe.

Rendition of Mikado at the East Carolina Training School

The Mikado, the latest opera given by the members of the East Carolina Training School, was presented on Monday evening, December 14, at the school.

The Board of Trustees of the Teachers' Training School met Tuesday, December 17. The executive committee was in session Monday, Monday evening Mr. Clarence H. Poe, editor of the Progressive Farmer and a member of the board of trustees of the Teachers' Training School, delivered an address to the students and friends of the school.

The Edgar Allan Poe and Sidney Lanier Literary Societies held their regular meetings Saturday evening, December 14. The former took up the study of Edgar Allan Poe, as one meeting of each year is set aside for the study of the poet for whom the society is named.

BAKER SAYS. The picture business with us is fine. Lots of people who haven't had their pictures taken in many years. Have summed up the coverage once more and had their likeness taken for their loved ones. This will be our last advertisement this year. We want to thank the public generally for their kind patronage. We hope our efforts have not been in vain. That our work will bear out our important message to you. We thank you. And hope to share a good portion of your trade in the year 1913.

WHOLESALE RELEASE OF CONVICTS

Columbia, S. C., Dec. 20.—"He has put me out of business," said Gov. Cole L. Blease, after he had sent a congratulatory telegram to Governor Donaghy, of Arkansas, who pardoned 300 convicts, but the governor of South Carolina continued: "If the next legislature does not abolish the hosiery mill at the penitentiary, South Carolina can look for a similar experience to that of Arkansas."

LYRIC ATTRACTION IS PLEASING TO AUDIENCE. The bill offered the many patrons at the Lyric last night was a feature, and well pleased its large and appreciative audience.

CHRISTMAS EXERCISES AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS. The Christmas exercises conducted by the different grades in the Washington Public Schools were more than enjoyable today.

GINNERS' REPORT. The government issued this morning its report of the cotton ginned to December 14th. The report showed 13,424,000 bales, which was about as expected, and it indicates a crop of less than 14,000,000 bales for the season.

MOURNING SHOULD BE REMOVED AT ONCE. Although the adjutant general of the State passed away in August last the armory of Company "G" is still in mourning as the crepe has never been removed.

ONE CASE IS TRIED BY RECORDER YESTERDAY. There was only one case before Recorder W. B. Windley at the City Hall yesterday afternoon. John Jester was indicted for being drunk. He was adjudged guilty and fined \$5 and the cost. There was no case for disposition by the Recorder this morning.

Mr. John W. Chapin, of Aurora, N. C. is in the city.

GOV. WILSON TO SLEEP IN HOUSE HE WAS BORN

Princeton, N. C., Dec. 21.—When Woodrow Wilson wakes up on the morning of December 28th he expects to find himself in the same house in Staunton, Va., in which he was born just 56 years ago that day. The President-elect said today he would leave here on December 27, and will reach his birthplace that night, so as to sleep in the Presidential paragon where he was born. He will spend the next day, his birthday, in Staunton, where a jubilee celebration has been arranged in his honor.

PLACES BLAME ON McNAMARA BROTHERS. Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 21.—Upon the McNamara brothers and Ortle E. McManigal, "the confessed dynamiters, who in the name of labor unions committed crimes against which civilization revolts but in which labor unions, took no part," Chester H. Krum, arguing to the jury in the "dynamite conspiracy" trial yesterday, rested the responsibility for the series of explosions which the 40 defendants are charged with having caused.

R. D. WALLS' CONDITION REPORTED NO BETTER. The news from the bedside of Mr. R. D. Walls, one of Washington's oldest and highly esteemed citizens is, that his condition is no better today. Mr. Walls is between eighty and ninety years of age and is suffering from an acute attack of diphtheria besides other ailments. His conditions is precarious however his many friends wish him a speedy recovery.

CHOIR PRACTICE. All the members of St. Peter's Episcopal church choir are requested to be present at the church this evening for the purpose of rehearsing the Christmas music.

FIGHT. Learn to be a Fighter. Not with fists or clubs or swords—but through the noble mastering of the forces at your command—generated by your own brain.

HALCYON CLUB XMAS DANCE DECEMBER 26. The Halcyon Club annual Christmas dance will be pulled off on the night of December 26.

ARE MOVING. Mr. Augustus Bowers and family are moving to the residence, corner of Main and Pearce streets, formerly occupied by Supt. N. C. Newbold and family.

Mr. John W. Chapin, of Aurora, N. C. is in the city.

Learn to be a Fighter. What is your work today? Make it a battle front! Muster the best that is in you and go out to meet and conquer every obstacle that seeks to keep this day from being the one you will most prize as the one of all your days most worth while—to other people and to yourself. Fight every inch of the way. Give no quarter—and accept none. Go to your bed with the spirit and satisfaction of a Conqueror. Learn to be a Fighter!