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Any kind of Republican activity is "pernicious activity" to chairman Simmons and his machine.

The paramount issue in Randolph county now is the question of good roads. All citizens of the county should give this question their earnest consideration.

Crime is on the increase in North Carolina, notwithstanding the state is almost a prohibition one. Attorney-general Gilmer has completed and published his report for 1905 and 1906.

HOME RULE.

As our readers know, this paper is a firm believer in the principle of local self-government. We believe that the people can govern themselves better than anybody else can govern them.

Democrats Against Local Self-government.

The following is from the Hickory Times-Mercury: "If the General Assembly is for the people, it will give the people the right of local self-government, the right of electing their magistrates, school boards and county Superintendents."

The Proper Proposition.

In his message to the legislature Governor Glenn suggests a law that will curtail suing of railroad companies. He suggests that if a man is walking on a railway track on the premises of the company, and ignoring the signs which deny trespass, and is killed, that suit cannot be brought.

By A. M. STACK.

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In his commentaries on the Gallic wars, Caesar tells us that all Gaul was divided into three parts, one of which the "Belgae" inhabited. The territory occupied by that people nearly 2,000 years ago was approximately the same as modern Belgium.

If Julius Caesar could re-visit by the light of the moon the Belgian part of his province he would not recognize it at all. It is now full of teeming millions of busy people whose victories of peace are no less renowned than those of his wars.

The soil produces abundantly everything that will grow in this climate. A large portion of the country on the north and west is perfectly level like Holland. Much of it is rolling and hilly, but all of it is rich and productive.

Perhaps no one thing would surprise old man Caesar more than the highways and bridges in the northwest of his province. No other country has better or prettier public roads, and it is a pleasure to drive over them.

Belgium is essentially a manufacturing country, and it makes a little of everything from a steam engine to the fine lace which the ladies rave over so much.

Belgium is one of those countries that have no language of their own. The language of the court is French and Flemish, and every lawyer must be able to plead in both, but the people generally speak everything.

The country is thoroughly Roman Catholic. Out of over 7,000,000 people, less than 50,000 are Protestants. The public schools are in the hands of the clergy, and Catholic the country will remain.

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ought to visit this country, and it will give his sectarian pride a jolt. A large per cent of the people never heard of John Wesley and John Knox, and some evidently never heard of John the Baptist.

The Belgians do some things like they do over in Holland, but not a great many. They tax doors, windows and dogs, and also a special tax for every servant horse you keep.

While in Brussels I have looked up some historical places and visited them. I was anxious to see the house in which occurred that famous ball given by the Dutchess of Richmond on the eve of the battle of Waterloo.

There was a sound of revelry by night," etc. Like the birth of Andrew Jackson, it happened at more than one place. There is no trouble in finding the place—there are four of them.

But there is no doubt where Waterloo is, and I spent a day there. The field of battle is three miles from the village of Waterloo, but Wellington had his headquarters in that village.

Nearby is a museum full of doleful reminders of that fatal day—caps, coats, guns, pistols, sabers, bullets, cannon balls, bones, skulls, etc., including Napoleon's silver spurs and brass coffee kettle.

I paid a visit to the "Palace of Justice" in this city, in which twenty-seven different courts are held. The building is a gigantic structure which cost \$12,000,000 and is made of marble of nearly every country in the world.

Some of the courts were in session and I dropped in to witness a Belgian trial. In one room the divorce mill was running rapidly and grinding out separations for the unhappy.

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a veteran of the civil war, lost a leg at Gettysburg and still carries in his body eleven bullets from Southern guns. He showed me a gold medal given him by Congress for bravery on the battlefield. His tribute to Southern soldiers was outspoken and undoubtedly sincere.

Some of his conversation tickled my State pride. Said he, "I am glad to meet a North Carolinian. I have met them when it was not a pleasure to do so, happily those days are gone. The North Carolina soldiers were the best fighters in the war, and the Northern army so considered them. They always staid longer."

The Belgian lawyers have an unusually high code of professional ethics. They are not allowed to advertise, nor permitted to talk to clients out of their offices (except at client's home when sick). No one is allowed to bring a client to a lawyer's office.

Prosperity is General. Increase in wages has become a regular feature of the daily news. All over the country wages are going up, and while higher wages must make the cost of living go up the increase is comparatively small.

Parents and Child. The preacher thinks of the poor salary and the deprivation and he longs for his boy to be comfortable and independent; or, he reflects upon the joy he has had in the service, and he wants that joy shared by his son.

The increased wages paid to mechanics enhances the cost of building and that raises the rent, but an abundance of work and good wages makes an increase in rent and living expenses a light burden. It is much better than no work at any kind of wages.

The general prosperity has come and stayed under a Protective Tariff. It is insured for two years more by the Republican majority in Congress. When the time comes, if it ever does come, when the Democrats get either Congress or the Presidency and begin tinkering the Tariff, prosperity will recede just as it did a dozen years ago.

ishment is capital or the imprisonment five years or more, or in political crimes and offences where the press is concerned. Capital punishment is still adjudged but never carried out. Even in larceny there is no jury. I saw a woman tried for larceny and three judges tried the issue of her guilt or innocence. Her lawyer was making a game fight for her, but the Belgian lawyer has a small ring in which to fight. The judges can consider any kind of evidence they wish to hear, or they can reject any testimony they do not care to hear.

The great writ of habeas corpus has no place in the Belgian law. Their laws are taken from the Code Napoleon, but modified to suit the spirit of modern times and the customs of the country. They have no such institution as the grand jury, but have a "public prosecutor." His functions correspond somewhat to those of our grand jury.

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The talk about changes in the Tariff will do very well for the minority party. It must have something for an issue, but so long as the people remember the Democrats hard times the Democrats will be the minority party in Congress and in the Presidential issue.—Jersey City Journal.

AT THE GATE. Lift up your heads, unfold ye doors: Be lifted up, ye gates! Before the New Year's portal now The King of Glory waits. The gray dawn breaks; the new day wakes: The bells of New Year ring. Throw wide the gateway of the year And welcome in the King. The Hosts of Pride and Greed and Hate, The Lords of Shame and Sin, These all await the opening gate And haste to enter in. Nay! bar the threshold fast against This rebel spawn of Cain. The gates wide fling to hail the King Whose right it is to reign. No pomp and pageantry of power, No gilt of shield and lance, But hope and joy and righteousness Attend His meek advance. Love is the banner over Him, Peace is His gift to men. Lift high your heads, ye New Year's gates, And let your King come in. —W. E. G., in Christian Evangelist.

A CALL FOR A SQUARE DEAL.

We are not prepared to go as far as The Monroe Enquirer does in criticism of Senator Simmons on account of the bushels of charges he has filed against Federal office-holders in North Carolina for their pernicious activity in politics, but are prepared to say that any man who eats his bread from the hand of a political party and yet does not lift his own hand to do anything he can in a decent way for that party is a tolerably sorry white man. Senator Simmons would have a poor opinion of a Democratic office-holder who pursued the policy of inaction which he would enforce upon Republican office-holders. He has not protested against the political activity of any Democratic State or county officer and should not protest. In the Cleveland days there were postmaster-editors in North Carolina and office-holders in various branches of the Federal service who were openly active as party workers, as they should have been, and no voice of objection was heard. Yet notable among Senator Simmons' charges is one against Mr. R. D. Douglas, the editor of the Industrial News, of Greensboro, a paper of especially high character, which manifests at all times a purpose to tell the truth and be fair, who has been nominated for postmaster of his town and whose nomination is held up by the postoffice committee of the Senate, of which Mr. Simmons is a member, largely at the instance, according to report, of Representative Kitchin, of the fifth district, our next Governor, because Mr. Douglas wrote something in his paper—though nothing defamatory or insulting—about him, which Mr. Kitchin did not like. We cannot understand the affiliation with the Republican party of a man like Mr. Douglas, but in all justice he is entitled to his confirmation. No doubt some of the people against whom Senator Simmons has filed charges which he demands be investigated, have acted scandalously and should be ousted, but this cannot be said of men who have merely, without neglect of their official duties, done decent and legitimate service for their party, and it is not right to demand their punishment, when, were conditions reversed, there would be a mighty outcry if there were registered charges against Democrats who had acted similarly. The import of this writing is simply the suggestion of a square deal to every man.—Observer.

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