

NORTH STATE COLLINGS.

STATE TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Biennial Report Shows How the State Stands Financially.

The biennial report of the State Treasurer has been prepared and below are the figures: As to the educational fund it shows receipts of \$12,171, for the two years ending November 30, 1896. These were as follows: Entries to vacant lands, \$4,234; sales of swamp lands, \$5,000; corporation tax on railroads, \$1,250; interest on 4 per cent. bonds held, \$5,730; direct tax fund, \$27,000. The disbursements of this fund were \$15,200, divided as follows: Expenses survey of swamp lands, \$2,117; normal school for Croatan Indians; paid to public schools, \$7,182; surrender of land grants, \$6,048.

The general fund receipts contain the following items: Tonnage tax on fertilizers, \$58,957; banks, \$6,333; tax on bank shares, \$12,503; building and loan licenses, \$1,575; tax on stock, \$2,929; received from Secretary of State, \$13,192; penitentiary earnings, \$140,925; Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad taxes, \$25,832; druggist's liquor tax, \$922; express companies, \$1,296; railroad companies, \$65,282; public and special taxes, \$629,123; sewing machine licenses, \$2,169; sale of Supreme Court reports, \$3,636.

Disbursements: Disabled soldiers, \$1,490; Board of Public Charities, \$1,453; contingencies, \$32,842; fugitives from justice, \$4,500; judiciary, \$61,735; railroad commission, \$11,589. The Legislature cost \$72,164; the public printing last year, \$24,780; this year, \$14,600.

Gold in North Carolina.

A dispatch from Raleigh says: "The people of Granville and Vance counties have the gold fever. Six months ago quartz richly imbedded with gold was discovered on a tract of hilly, rugged land ten miles in length and five miles in width, situated between two streams in the counties of Granville and Vance. Since then the richness of the find has rapidly spread and miners are arriving from all parts of the country every week. The strata of quartz is said to yield handsomely. Only a short time ago complete mining machinery was located in a mine by an Englishman named Horne. Horne gave a \$30,000 option, payable next March, on a small tract of land. Senator Stewart has a representative at the hills named Harris, who took an option on sixty acres for \$20,000. The mines are forty-four miles from Raleigh.

The State Penitentiary.

The directors of the penitentiary will meet again January 5 to receive the report of Superintendent Leazar. The fiscal year of all the other institutions ends November 31. Superintendent Leazar will make a better showing this year than ever before. Notwithstanding a loss of \$80,000 by reason of freshets last spring on the State farms, he will have on hand after paying all the running expenses of the institution \$10,000 of created surplus, without having touched a dollar of the \$25,000 appropriation per year made by the last General Assembly. This appropriation was to cover running expenses, but it will revert back to the treasury.

The Statesville Landmark says:

"The Landmark recently made note of the fact that a Yadin county man boasted that he was 60 years old and had never been drunk and never carried a watch or pistol. W. W. White, of this vicinity, can show a better record. He is 66 years old, has carried a watch but never carried a pistol, although he has owned one; has not sworn an oath since he can recollect and doesn't think he ever swore one; never smoked a pipe, cigar or cigarette."

There are ninety-seven Confederate pensioners in Mecklenburg county.

A distinguished ex-Confederate officer from this State makes application to Governor Carr, saying: "Should the present complications with Spain bring on war with the United States, and should the President call for volunteers, I beg to tender my services to raise a regiment of North Carolina ex-Confederates of this State's quota. I should like once more to hear the old Confederate yell on a charge, and when it was over, where would the Spaniards be?"

Col. A. B. Galloway, of Elkin, raised forty bushels of Irish potatoes on less than one-eighth of an acre. He then sowed the land in turnips, but owing to the dry weather the first sowing failed. He sowed the second time about the middle of September, and on the 9th of December dug eighty-five bushels from the sowing, besides using turnips from the patch all the fall.

Governor Carr has offered \$100 reward for the capture of John Dixon, of Buncombe county, the murderer of John Deck, who was killed with a base ball bat while picking up a brick at a brick yard.

President O'Donnell, of the Liquor Dealers' Association, says there is no purpose on the part of the liquor dealers to ask any favors of the coming Legislature, further than to be let alone. He is not in favor of the proposed plan of having a State Excise Commission. He thinks the county boards are best.

Governor Carr's message to the Legislature has been almost completed. It will be quite a long one, containing about 15,000 words.

COMMERCIAL REPORTS.

Bad Effect of the Northwestern Financial Flurry -- Business Conditions Very Unsatisfactory.

R. G. Dun & Co., in their weekly review of trade, say:

The failure of two important banks, the oldest in St. Paul, with some others dependent on them, closes not favorably a month which promised to end with only moderate commercial disasters. It does not lessen the effect of these failures that one was caused by enormous loans in aid of an electric railroad and other concerns and that the other appears to have resulted from heavy ventures in unsuitable real estate. Since several thousand business men and depositors are just now embroiled as much as the speculators that caused the trouble, the breakdown is the reverse of hopeful at present, although it comes when money markets are well supplied and where no serious effect in business is to be apprehended. Other important events of the week are the failure of the hotel and rail pools to find a basis for agreement, and the somewhat general discharge of hands or reduction of wages in the shoe manufacture.

The holiday trade has been fair but generally in articles of medium grade. The reports of earnings are not cheering and the aggregate for December thus far has been 4.5 per cent. less than last year, the Grangers and other Western roads showing most decrease. The fall in steel billets from over \$4 to about \$16 at Pittsburg, and in steel rails from \$28 net for mills to \$25, less broker's commissions, produces so great a change in the market that it is reached and some of the most important contracts have been made covering the wants of most producers for three months and some for the whole year of 1897, and it is said that such large contracts have been made at \$15 at Pittsburg and \$17.50 at the East. Bessemer pig has declined to \$11.15, and grey iron to \$9.65 at Pittsburg, while bar and other finished products remain unchanged, though 100,000 bundles of cotton ties have been contracted for at 60 cents per bundle. The production of coke increases rapidly, 3,600,000 tons being in blast, with an output of 97,155 tons for the week.

In the cotton manufacture there is further decrease in some staple goods and takings by Northern shippers are disappointing. Print clothes accumulated and prices do not advance. Raw cotton comes forward just as it did in other years when official and other strings of injury came in great crops. Sales of wool are restricted by the general conviction that prices asked by interior holders are too high. There is a considerable disposition to unload speculative reserves at seaboard markets. Most manufacturers have more wool than they have orders, and are not yet so satisfactory demand for goods. The volume of business in all branches considered, is not large. Payments through clearing houses have been for the week \$2,800,000, a decrease of \$1,000,000 from the week before last. Failures for the week have been 297. In the United States against \$22 last year and \$4 in Canada against \$4 last year.

BRADSTREET'S TRADE REVIEW.

Very Small Volume of Wholesale Trade During the Holidays -- Conditions Less Pronounced Than Expected.

Bradstreet's Weekly Review says: The arrival of the holidays, the close of the year and the period of annual stock-taking have further checked the volume of the wholesale business. Only filling-in orders are being received and trade is slow. Retail demand for holiday goods has been active but it is for cheaper grades than in previous years. In other lines the distribution of merchandise has been smaller at a number of distributing centres. Failures of important banking institutions at Northwestern cities tend to unsettle confidence in commercial and banking circles.

The moderate trade revival which followed the last presidential election has been disappointing in that, aside from the Christmas trade, there has been no revival of activity for a month past than for a corresponding period in many years. The confidence which merchants and manufacturers have in the future is less than a year ago. The delayed trade revival early in February next is less pronounced than it was, while the prospect for legislation next spring and the uncertainty of the future of the Pittsburg coal-grease situation are more than likely to put off a permanent revival in business until next fall.

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Internal Revenue Collections.

Internal revenue collections as shown by the monthly statement issued by the commissioner of the internal revenue bureau for November have fallen off \$227,357 for that month. The receipts for last November were \$2,813,392. Whiskey receipts show the only notable increase for that month. For the last five months the increase from this source amounted to \$1,407,622, and for November \$283,211. The five months of the present fiscal year the decrease in the general collection was \$651,957.

Bryan's Christmas Gift.

Governor W. J. Stone shipped a magnificent Kentucky thoroughbred saddle horse to Lincoln, Neb., as a Christmas gift to William J. Bryan. The animal is coal black in color and has been the Governor's favorite saddle-horse for some months. He bought it in Kentucky with several other horses about a year ago.

In Troy, N. Y., Friday, the mercury ranged from 3 to 5 degrees below zero. In nearby places it was 10 to 15 degrees below zero.

A Cardiff clergyman hit upon a novel plan of recovering his lost umbrella. He inserted the following note in the parish magazine: "Over a million umbrellas are manufactured in this country every year. We are not concerned as to what becomes of this enormous number, but we should like to know where one of them is." The lost gingham turned up next day.

Wille--Are you the nearest relative I've got, mamma? Mother--Yes, love, and your pa is the closest relative you've got--Judge.

THE FIFTH-CENTURY CONGRESS.

Work of the Senate and House Briefly Told.

CUBAN QUESTION DISCUSSED.

Charles R. Crisp Sworn in as a Successor of His Father--About Immigration Laws--Takes a Holiday.

MONDAY--The report from the committee on foreign relations on the joint resolution on the independence of Cuba, and offering the friendly offices of this country to Spain in order to bring about the independence of Spain and the Republic of Cuba, was presented to the Senate. It is a document of great length and deals thoroughly, though briefly, with the history of the Cuban question from the time of the discovery of the island to the present. It is a document of great length and deals thoroughly, though briefly, with the history of the Cuban question from the time of the discovery of the island to the present.

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WEEKLY NEWS BUDGET.

Southern Fencil Painters.

Governor Atkinson, of Georgia, recently pardoned two notorious forgers--Henry Hill and Sidney Lassiter, better known as "Lord Berford."

Miami, Fla., has been nearly wiped out by fire. One man was killed by the explosion of a gas fountain. The loss will amount to about \$50,000; insurance about \$12,000.

Fort Monroe, Va., has had a \$20,000 fire. It is stated that Rev. T. T. Talmage, the Washington divine, is to make a lecture tour, commencing his first lecture in North Carolina in February, and that W. F. Bogart, of Greensboro, N. C., is to be his manager.

Congressman, Dayton, of West Virginia, has closed negotiations with Philadelphia parties whereby two large plants are to be established in the timber field of Randolph in February, and that W. F. Bogart, of Greensboro, N. C., is to be his manager.

Governor Charles T. O'Ferrall, of Virginia, has been elected to membership in the Old Dominion Democratic Club at Richmond because of his stand in the recent campaign. Other Democratic clubs in that city talk of dropping the Governor from their honorary list.

Ex-Congressman J. Randolph Tucker is critically ill at Lexington, Va.

It is said that the Georgia penitentiary contains 144 boys under the age of 16 years, who have been sentenced for longer or shorter terms.

The Illinois Central freight depot at Jackson, Miss., has been burned with lots of freight for Jackson and adjoining towns. Loss \$75,000; little insurance.

The comptroller of the currency has declared a sixth dividend of 5 per cent. to the creditors of the Commercial National Bank of Nashville, Tenn.

Geo. H. Hoffer, cashier of the first National Bank of Lebanon, Ky., is a self-confessed embezzler to the extent of \$110,000. He has been at it for six years.

All About the North.

The Supreme Court of New York has decided that the bequests for \$600,000 for free libraries in the will of Samuel J. Tilden are invalid and the money is to be apportioned among the heirs.

The county jail at Hartsville, Wright county, Tenn., was burned with the loss of two prisoners, Chas. Harper, colored, and Lem Lankester, white, were cremated.

Harry R. Durant, of Waterbury, Conn., manager of the football eleven composed of players from several colleges with Captain Durant, making a tour of the South. The team played its first game Christmas day at Nashville, on Dec. 28 at Chattanooga, on Dec. 29 at Birmingham, and will play New Orleans New Year's day.

At Boston, Mass., John L. Sullivan, the pugilist, sat in the poor debtor's session of the municipal court to explain why he had failed to settle a creditor's bill. The case will be brought on further before the court.

The will of the late Henry L. Pierce, ex-Mayor of Boston, has been filed in probate. Upwards of \$2,000,000 in public bequests are distributed by the document.

The oldest bank of St. Paul, Minn., has closed its doors.

The crack pigeon-shoot of America was killed in a bar-room brawl at Oskaloosa, Iowa.

A large number of families living in Union county, Arkansas, are in a destitute condition, and many of them are absolutely starving. Their unfortunate condition is due to failure of crops in the vicinity last season, caused by a severe drought. A mass meeting at Eldorado has been called to ask the State Legislature, the Governor and Congress for relief.

As a result of a mail vote of the members of the American Bankers' Association, the tenth annual convention of the association will be held at Detroit. The convention will be held some time in August.

The Masonic Hall, the largest building in New Brunswick, N. J., has been destroyed by fire. The edifice cost \$800,000, and the loss is about \$400,000.

Street Commissioner Waring, of New York city, has expended \$60,000 in freeing the streets of the city from snow.

Jacob Hurst, postmaster at Garrettsville, Iowa, committed suicide by swallowing earthenware. He was short in his funds to the amount of \$250.

At San Francisco, Cal., the strike at the Pacific Rolling Mills is at an end. The men have agreed to a 10 per cent. reduction of their wages.

Near Delaware, O., a daughter of Mrs. B. Close, while building a fire in a kitchen stove narrowly escaped death. It is suspected that some one placed a stick of dynamite and cap in some wood used to burn in the stove. The building was shattered.

A hundred bushels of grain have been burned at St. Paul, Minn. Loss, \$100,000; insurance, \$30,000.

Miscellaneous.

In New York, Frank P. Slatin, of Australia, and Bob Armstrong, of Mexico, fought. In the fourth round Slatin after two minutes and fifty-six seconds of fighting, threw up his hands and quit.

Officials in confidential relations to the Secretary of State and President appear to attach no importance to the story published by the London Times, as originating in Paris, to the effect that Germany had informed the United States that it was prepared to side with the rebels.

A dispatch from Constantinople to the London Central News says that the sultan has issued a decree granting amnesty to 2,000 Armenians who have been convicted either of crimes against the government or against persons or property, who were awaiting trial on such charges.

The country, says one of the leading New York papers, is being flooded with "counterfeit" standard silver dollars, of which it gives a most interesting and suggestive account.

According to the recent census the population of Greece is 2,418,000 souls, or an increase of 250,000 over the figures of 1889.

Confirmed gambling is, according to the recent decision of the Courts of Appeal at Paris, regarded as sufficient grounds for divorce in France.

Washington Notes.

Consul General Lee, wife and daughter, have arrived in Havana, Cuba.

The annual report of the secretary of the treasury has been transmitted to congress. Mr. Carlisle summarizes the condition of the treasury and reviews the former recommendations for early and effective legislation to provide for the retirement of treasury notes.

Chicago has a family of father, mother, three sisters and eight brothers, whose combined height is 83 feet 7 inches. An illustration of the fact that in union there is strength.

At last accounts potatoes were selling in some of the Alaska mining regions for \$10 a sack. There is a rush to the mine, but they are certainly no place for the impetuous.

PROSPERITY IN THE SOUTH.

The Tide of Desirable Immigration On the Increase.

MANY COLONIES MATURED.

Vice-President Finley, of the Southern Railway, Says the Outlook for Dixie Was Never More Apparent.

Vice-President W. W. Finley, of the Southern Railway Company, has given to the Manufacturers' Record a general summary of the business outlook for the territory tributary to the Southern Railway, which practically embraces everything from Washington to the Mississippi river. Mr. Finley says:

"The business outlook in the regions traversed by the Southern Railway were never more promising than at the present time. The tide of desirable immigration, coming from all portions of the North and Northwest as well as from Europe, has been, and continues to be, steadily on the increase. This steady increase of population has been accompanied along conservative business lines. New developments are going on in the South, and many more will be composed of homogeneous people who are rising, in many respects, to the rewards of their labor, judiciously directed.

"New mines have been opened and old ones rejuvenated by better systems and increased capital, and the iron industry has entered upon a new and vigorous career of prosperity, developing a trade with foreign countries which has assumed large proportions. New developments are going on in the gold mining industry and the primitive methods of the ancient miner with his crude devices for gathering the precious metal, have been superseded by the latest and most approved scientific modes known to the mining world and promise best results. The wood working establishments of the South are making good progress and all developments and branches of this industry are growing stronger and are steadily widening the area of their work at a minimum cost.

"Cotton and woolen industries are all in a flourishing condition and are daily growing in importance, as they are constantly being strengthened by accessions of capital and skill. New lines of work are being introduced and old ones improved by better machinery and enhanced skill.

"Lines of travel by rail and water are being extended and better established and proved, so as to fully keep abreast of the demands made upon them by the increasing volume of enterprise. The increased interest in diversified farming, through which the South is now raising many of the supplies which it formerly purchased from other sections, is another sign of progress and development, as well as largely adding to the wealth and prosperity of all branches of agriculture.

"Upon the whole, the outlook for increased prosperity in the South was never better than at present."

CONFIDENTIALLY INFORMED.

Could Not Remain Impassive in the Event of the United States Abandoning the Attitude of President Cleveland and his Cabinet.

The London Times Saturday published a dispatch from Paris saying that the United States has been confidentially informed in the most friendly terms that the European powers could not remain impassive in the event of the United States abandoning the attitude of President Cleveland and his cabinet.

"Should the United States presume to exercise pressure on Spain by recognizing the Cuban insurgents or encouraging them in their resistance, Germany is already in Europe generally might become uneasy at the idea of such an extension of international action by the United States, inasmuch as it might give momentary aid to the powers whose possessions are in proximity to the United States and might tempt the spirit of enterprise and encroachment that is inspiring the senate committee on foreign relations."

"It," continues the writer, "is more correctly stated, the United States has been confidentially informed that Germany is already quite prepared to side with Spain in the United States showing that she is disposed to side with the rebels."

"Moreover, academic conversations are passing in certain foreign offices about the measures the powers should take to form a radical anti-socialist coalition, which is now menacing all political organizations. It was during these conversations that the friendly warning to the United States was originated. Senator Cameron's resolution for the recognition of the Cuban insurgents being regarded in some quarters as revolutionary."

The strike of the Boston, Mass., street railway employees is at an end, and the dispatches say the employees are tumbling over one another to get back to work.

BRAYAN'S LECTURES.

V. E. McBees Transfers His Contract to a South Carolina Firm.

W. J. Bryan, on his return to Lincoln, Neb., from Atlanta, Ga., last week, to a Southern Associated Press reporter said of his lecture engagements: "Mr. V. E. McBees, with my consent, transferred his contract to H. Briggs & Co., of Greenville, S. C. Only five more lectures have been arranged for up to this time, and whether I shall deliver any in addition to that number is yet uncertain. I have some work on hand which may interfere with the delivery of any other lectures during this season. Mr. Bryan will remain in Lincoln for an indefinite period."

Dre dful Famine in India.

Er-Judge Goodrich has written to the Englishman, a newspaper of Calcutta, stating that every day thousands of persons are dying from starvation in the central provinces of India. He declares that the government arrangements to cope with the situation are entirely inadequate, and that the famine is now beyond control.

A freight and working train on the Air-Line division of the Southern came together under full speed Saturday, between Clifton and Spartanburg, S. C., derailing several box and flat cars and demolishing the engine. One engineer and conductor were hurt. The wreck was caused by one train prevailing in the meeting point, but the other was twenty minutes ahead of time.

"OVERCOMERS" IN JERUSALEM.

Believers From America Are Suffering for Necessaries of Life.

The Washington Post says: "There are a queer lot of American colonists in ancient Jerusalem according to United States Consul Wallace. In a report to the State Department he says that of the 530 United States citizens residing in Palestine 438 are Jews who are only nominally Americans, having stopped in the United States on their way from Washington only long enough to take out American papers and passports. Of the other 92 nearly all have come to Jerusalem because of some peculiar religious belief. 'The one idea which seems to possess them all is that there will be a second advent of our Lord and that this will take place in Jerusalem. Some of them during their period of waiting are suffering for the necessities of life, but are content to endure privation in the hope of witnessing His coming. The Springfield colony of 'Overcomers,' as they call themselves, have been recently increased by the addition of 117 Swedish-Americans, mostly from Chicago. The leader, Mrs. Spofford claims to be under the direct protection of the Almighty and to possess prophetic powers. They are a peaceable and law-abiding community.

OLD-TIME MASONRY.

Arch of Burnt Brick Constructed 4,000 Years Before Christ.

Explorations made in the vicinity of the site of ancient Babylon by the University of Pennsylvania have resulted in the discovery of engineering work constructed 4,000 years before the time of Christ. In the accompanying cut an arch of burnt brick placed at the outlet of a drain under the foundation of the

TALL SYCAMORE OF WABASH.

Senator Daniel W. Voorhees May Retire from Public Life.

It is expected in Indiana that Senator Daniel W. Voorhees, who for nearly twenty years has represented the Hoosiers in the upper house of the National Legislature, will soon retire from public life. He is afflicted with heart trouble and his physicians advise rest.

At Farmer's Ky., Reed Padgett, a drunken prisoner set fire to the city prison and was burned to death.

MASONRY LAID 6,000 YEARS AGO.

temple of Bel, which was found in the ruins of the ancient city of Nippur, is shown. The fixing of the date of the building of this arch means that primitive man must have existed many thousands of years previously, certainly as early as 7,000 B. C., as the work speaks a high state of civilization.

This is naturally surprising to those who have been taught to believe that mankind has inhabited the earth for less than 6,000 years. This impression is not warranted by the Bible itself, and is not generally held by students of to-day. It is due to the fact that the Oxford Bible contains the chronology of Archbishop Usher, who died in 1656.

The archbishop calculated that the world was completed at 10 a. m., Sept. 7, 4004 B. C., and his conclusions, which were generally accepted by the scholars of the day, have been perpetuated in the chronology on the margin of the Oxford Bible. There is nothing in the Bible itself to fix the dates, and the recent discoveries are in no way in conflict with the testimony of the scriptures themselves.

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RAINEY & JORDAN, DUNN, N. C.

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