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W. E. MURCHISON, JONESBORO, N. C. Practices law in Harnett, Moore and other counties, but not for fun. 3201y.

ISAAC A. MURCHISON, FAYETTEVILLE, N. C. Practices law in Cumberland Harnett and anywhere services are wanted.

WILMINGTON & WELDON R. R. AND BRANCHES. AND SCHEDULE RAILROAD. Condensed Schedule Dated Jan. 17th, 1898.

TRAINS GOING SOUTH. Leave Weldon 11:52 am, 8:43 pm. Arrive Rocky Mount 12:55 am, 10:36 pm. Leave Rocky Mount 12:12 am, 6:01 p. m.

TRAINS GOING NORTH. Leave Florence 9:48 am, 8:15 pm. Leave Fayetteville 12:12 am, 10:15 pm. Leave Selma 1:47 am.

Train on the Scotland Neck Branch Road leaves Weldon 3:55 pm, Halifax 4:30 pm, arrives Scotland Neck 5:20 pm, Greenville 6:57 pm, Kingston 7:55 pm. Returning leaves Kingston 7:50 am, Greenville 8:52 am, arriving Halifax 11:58 am, Weldon 11:33 am, daily except Sunday.

Trains on Washington Branch leave Washington 8:20 am and 2:30 pm, arrive Farmville 10:10 am and 4:00 pm, returning leave Farmville 9:35 am and 6:30 pm, arrive Washington 11:00 am and 7:20 pm, daily except Sunday.

Train leaves Farmville, N. C., daily except Sunday 5:30 pm, Sunday 4:15 pm, arrives Plymouth 7:40 pm, 6:10 pm. Returning leaves Plymouth daily except Sunday 7:50 am, Sunday 9:00 am, arrives Farmville 10:05 am and 11:00 am.

Trains on Nashville Branch leave Rocky Mount at 4:30 pm, arrive Nashville 5:05 pm, Spring Hope 6:30 pm. Returning leave Spring Hope 8:10 am, Nashville 8:35 am, arrive at Rocky Mount 9:05 am, daily except Sunday.

Train on Hinton Branch leaves Warsaw for Clinton daily, except Sunday, 11:20 am and 4:15 pm. Returning leaves Clinton at 7:00 am and 3:00 p. m.

Train No. 75 makes close connection at the depot for all points North daily, all rail via Richmond.

H. M. EMERSON, Gen'l Pass. Agent, J. R. RENLY, Gen'l Manager, T. M. EMERSON, Traffic Manager.

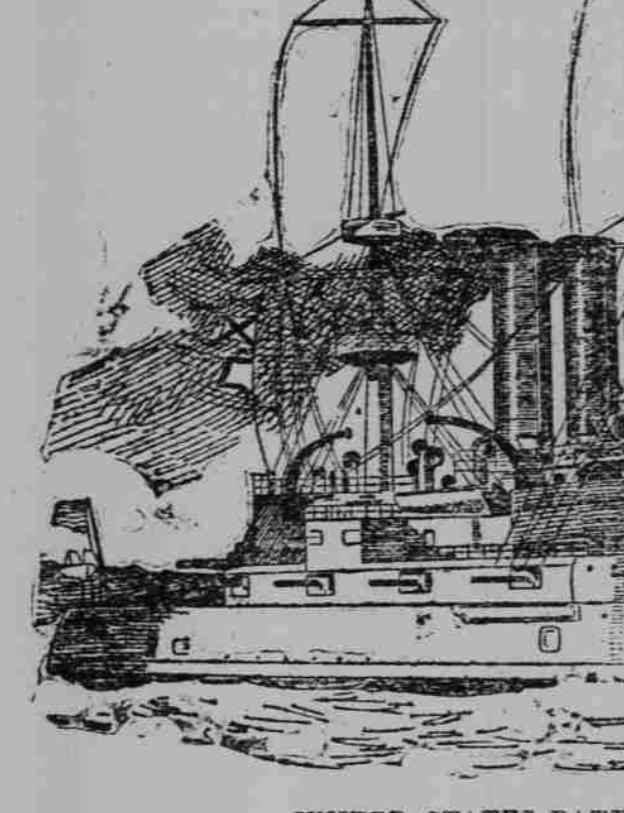
The Audubon Society of New York City, in a public meeting recently, entered a vigorous protest against the use of feathers and even whole birds as military adornments.

FLORIDA'S QUARANTINE. The Law Will Be Applied to All Naval Vessels.

GOES INTO EFFECT APRIL 1ST. Seward Reports the Facts to the Navy Department—Nothing Definite From the Board of Inquiry.

The court of inquiry into the Maine disaster has resumed its session at Havana, Cuba, after finishing taking testimony at Key West, Fla., but nothing official as yet has been given out by the War Department at Washington, and, as stated previously, it may be weeks before the board makes its report in the matter.

The latest from Havana, Cuba, says three more bodies have been recovered from the Maine's ruins. Spain has now in the harbor at Havana three of her war ships.



UNITED STATES BATTLESHIP MAINE.

been removed from the wreck. The United States Government, says the Pittsburg (Pa.) Post, has just closed a contract with Pearl, Peacock & Kerr, coal contractors, for the delivery at Key West, Fla., within forty days of 40,000 tons of steam coal.

There is no concealment of the fact that the administration is impressed with a sense of duty in putting the two war branches in the highest state of efficiency to meet any emergency. There is no disposition to anticipate an emergency, or to say that any situation will develop which will call into use the preparations now on foot.



HAVANA HARBOR—SCENE OF THE MAINE DISASTER.

lead to an issue between the government of the United States and the State of Florida, if the officials of the State endorse the stand taken by the local officials at Key West. The latter have notified Admiral Seward that on the first of next month they propose to enforce the State quarantine law against all craft arriving from Cuba, as a measure of prevention against the in-

Canon and Ammunition. A ten-inch breech-loading rifle, 34 feet long, loaded on a special flat car, passed through Augusta, Ga., on the 5th bound for Pensacola, Fla. It came from the Brooklyn navy yard over the Atlantic Coast Line. Two car loads of ammunition taking the same route also passed through here.

The Condition of Business. Bradstreet's report for the past week says: "Nearly all the signs point to an unprecedented volume of business being done or arranging for at the present time. Aggressive strength of prices, record-breaking bank clearings and continued large exports; very heavy volume of business in iron, steel and kindred lines, and generally satisfactory reports as to the volume of the spring trade at the leading distributive centers are among the leading features of this trade development."

Desirable Site Secured. The trustees of the projected Mary Washington Hospital, at Fredericksburg, Va., have secured a desirable site for the building.

CONVICT CONTRACT CLOSED. Federal Prisoners to be Sent to Raleigh Penitentiary.

25C. PER DAY PER PRISONER. It is Expected This Spring Term of Courts Will Sentence 100 to the Penitentiary.

A Washington special to the Raleigh Post says the Department of Justice has closed a contract with J. M. Mewborne, superintendent of penitentiary at Raleigh, for the maintenance of United States convicts from Tennessee, West Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas at 25 cents per day. It is expected this spring term of courts will sentence 100 to be sent to the penitentiary at Raleigh.

The Chance for the Lease. The status of the lease of the Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad may now be stated in a very few words. If the railroad commissioners (Caldwell and Pearson) do as the Governor desires them to do, they will, upon the strong showing made by the railroads, revoke their order reducing passenger fares.

Awarded Him a Quarter. The Record says there is a citizen of Cleveland county who will not receive or handle a quarter of a dollar. The reason for this eccentricity is that, some years ago, he had a claim against a neighbor and it was referred to arbitration to settle, and they awarded him a quarter of a dollar, and he was so disgusted at their award that he not only refused to receive the quarter, but vowed he would never touch another quarter.

Snow in a Thunder-Storm. The Boone Democrat of last week says: "The beautiful snow" has been falling every day for a week. The hardest snow storm of the winter was on last Sunday evening, the 27th ult., while peals of thunder were roaring and vivid flashes of lightning were playing. This was a phenomenon which is seldom witnessed.

Paint Mine at Cleveland. V. J. Morrison, of Holly Bush, has a fine paint mine. He painted his house with pieces of the rock gathered from the mine and it is a thing of beauty. This mine would doubtless pay handsomely if it was properly worked. There are eleven different kinds of rocks.—Shelby Star.

Have Forsaken the Towns. The Mormon elders seem to have forsaken the principal towns and are now working in the country districts of the State. In some sections the ministers have found it necessary to make an active campaign against these Utah missionaries, and they are circulating widely anti-Mormon literature.—Charlotte News.

More Money for the Schools. The Superintendent of Public Instruction has received the check for \$850 of the Peabody school money. Of this \$850 goes to the Greensboro school, \$100 to the Normal at Winston and \$100 to High Point.

Baby Burned to Death. The Mockville Times says a two-year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Swing, of the Pino community, was burned to death a few days ago. She was left alone in the house and her clothing caught fire.

Object Lesson for Any Farmer. The Farmers' Alliance proposes to have an "encampment" at Hillsboro. Col. Julian S. Carr offers the use of his known and admired Oconeechee farm as an object lesson for any farmer.—Charlotte Observer.

Teaching a Negro School. A correspondent of the Asheville Colored Enterprise complains that a white man, who "has been kicked out from the members of his own race," is teaching a colored school in Burke county.

Furniture for Cuba. High Point Citizen: We learn that the Asheville Furniture Co. shipped a solid car of furniture to Cuba this week.

To Prepare a History. Dr. Kemp E. Battle, former president of the University, has expressed his intention to prepare for publication a history of the early academies and schools in North Carolina.

Nugget of News. Wilmington had twenty-five fires in February. There are now 438 inmates of the insane asylum for negroes at Goldsboro.

Goldboro has sold three million pounds of leaf tobacco in the year just closed. The Deep River Gold Mine Company is about ready for operations. The stamp mill and boiler have been put in place.

During February no less than thirty-four illicit distilleries in the fourth district were destroyed. At State Guard headquarters it is learned that plans are on foot to have three regiments at Charlotte May 20.

The Southern convention of the Christian Church is called to meet in Raleigh April 29th. It meets bi-annually. The Monroe Enquirer says that a man was granted a divorce in Union court last week and the next night was married again and is now living with wife No. 2.

Strike Ended. The strike of the 3,500 employees of the Peppercell and Loomis Cotton Manufacturing Corporations, at Biddford, Me., which began on January 17, when a general reduction of 10 per cent in wages went into effect, has been declared off and the big mills have started up again.

Domestic Merchandise. Domestic merchandise from the United States to the amount of 5,351,350 tons passed through Canada in last year from one point in the United States to another.

NORTH STATE CULLINGS. Exceptions to Passenger Rates. The Southern Railways on the 2nd filed its exceptions to the order of the railroad commission reducing passenger rates.

It says that the commission has no power to reduce capital save upon due and prior ascertainment of capital, earnings, and cost of operation, but that in this case it disregarded the company's incontrovertible statement showing the impossibility of conducting its passenger business for any fares lower than heretofore charged; that the latter do not exceed those expressly allowed by the commission, and are lower than fares generally charged in adjoining States; that the company's service has been improved beyond any ever before or anywhere furnished in this State, and it is maintained at a cost necessarily and greatly increased beyond that when the present fares were fixed and allowed; and this improved service has been maintained without any increase in charges; that the rate now ordered will prevent the Southern from earning a reasonable dividend upon its preferred stock, and is likely, ultimately, to imperil its continuing ability ever to pay its lawful obligations, both preferred stock and obligations representing actual cost investments to an equal amount over and above their cash invested therein; that the reduction of fares amounts to confiscation of property, as it renders the conduct of business at a fair profit or any profit whatever impossible.

The Atlantic Coast Line has also filed with the railroad commission its exceptions to the commission's order reducing fares. The exceptions set forth that even at present rates a number of trains are operated at a loss.

North Carolina Veterans. The first reunion of the North Carolina Division of the United Confederate Veterans in the State will be held in Charlotte on the 20th of May. Not only every comrade belonging to the organization, but every worthy Confederate, whether a member of the U. C. V. or not, is cordially invited to attend.

Old Soldiers Ready for War. C. H. Hill, of Charlotteville, Va., who was lieutenant colonel of artillery, C. S. A., writes Governor Russell, tendering his services for defense of the United States in case of war with Spain. He says: "I want to march to the front in defence of the stars and stripes."

J. W. St. John, of Wilmington, late captain of the Thirty-third separate company, national guard, State of New York, also tenders his services to the Governor in the national guard of North Carolina as called on for service.

Large Fertilizer Sales. Fertilizer Inspector Allen, who has just returned from a fortnight's trip in the eastern counties, says he never before saw so much commercial fertilizer in his life, and that the quantity used this season in that part of the State will be twice as much as last year, and the increase being for the tobacco crop, the acreage of which will be doubled.

In Middle North Carolina it is found that less fertilizer will be used this season than was sold last spring.—Raleigh correspondent Charlotte Observer.

Grinds Corn With a Wind Mill. The Boone Democrat says Captain Critcher, of New River, Watauga county, has a large wind mill on his barn that runs a corn mill, and it is said that when the wind is right he can grind a bushel in three minutes. He will attach a feed cutter and other machinery soon.

Safe Blowers at Work. At Aberdeen safe blowers dynamited the safe of Mr. Eckert, but got only \$20. Eckert has begun work on a railroad, thirty miles long, from Aberdeen to Mangum, Richmond county, and the cracksmen evidently thought that safe was full of money. The door of the safe was blown twenty feet.

Increase in the Output. The executive committee of the Farmers' Alliance has inspected the shoe factory at Hillsboro, and reports that this month there will be an increase of 20 per cent in the output. The shoes are well made and of good appearance.

New Railroad in Montgomery County. A. F. Page, of the Aberdeen and Asheboro railway, has completed arrangements for building a four-mile branch from Troy to Mt Gilead, Montgomery county. The survey has been begun.

Prominent Cotton Mill Owner Dead. John H. Ferree, of Randleman, one of the leading cotton mill owners in this State, is dead.

Uncle George—"So you think Mr. Caxton is a literary man?" "Carried 'Oh, I'm sure of it. When he wants to find anything in a book he wastes half an hour hunting for it before he thinks to look at the index."—Boston Transcript.

Walter—"Did Uncle Jack see Santa Claus last night?" Carolyn—"I guess so. They say he saw almost everything one could imagine."—Yellow Book.

FIFTY-FIFTH CONGRESS. Proceedings of Both the Senate and House Day By Day.

THE SENATE. 51ST DAY.—Hon. Henry W. Corbett was denied admission to the Senate as a Senator from Oregon, on appointments by the Governor, by the decisive vote of 51 to 19. After disposing of the Corbett case, the Senate began the consideration of the Alaska homestead and railroad right of way bill, and had not concluded it when it adjourned.

52D DAY.—The Senate today passed the resolution offered by Mr. Bacon, of Georgia, providing for a bronze tablet to be erected at some suitable place in the capitol, in memory of the officers and sailors who lost their lives in the Maine disaster. A motion by Mr. Hoar, of Massachusetts, to non-concur in the House amendments to the bankruptcy bill, drew a speech from Mr. Stewart, of Nevada, in which he vigorously denounced the measure passed by the House. A resolution, introduced by Mr. Hoar, of Massachusetts, authorizing the committee on judiciary to send for persons and papers upon the case of H. C. Ewart, nominated for United States District Judge of the Western District of North Carolina, was adopted.

53D DAY.—Debate in the Senate on the Alaska homestead and railroad right of way bill was decidedly spirited. Mr. Carter, of Montana, delivered a vigorous speech in reply to Rawlins, of Utah, in the course of which he made a strong defence of the honor of the Congressional committee and officials in the several government departments. As soon as the Senate convened on motion of Hale, of Maine, it went into executive session. At 12:30 p. m., the Senate resumed the open session.

Mason, of Illinois, of the committee on postoffices and post roads, presented a concurrent resolution from the committee or investigating the Lake City, S. C., postoffice murder. On objection by Mason, of Nebraska, the resolution was laid over.

54TH DAY.—In the Senate the resolution providing for a congressional investigation into the murder of the postmaster at Lake City, S. C., and his family and the burning of his home was laid before the Senate, discussed and referred to the committee on contingent expenses. McLaurin, of South Carolina, in the course of his remarks stated that the South Carolina authorities were making an active effort to bring the perpetrators to justice. The remainder of today's session was taken up in considering the Alaska homestead and railroad right-of-way bill, which was not completed.

Mason introduced a resolution for the relief of the colored postmaster recently killed by a mob at Lake City, S. C. It is the same as that introduced in the House of Representatives by White, of North Carolina, except that the amount is made \$10,000.

55TH DAY.—After a debate lasting several days, the Senate passed a bill extending the homestead laws, and providing for the right of way for railroads in the District of Alaska.

THE HOUSE. 56TH DAY.—The House passed the sundry civil appropriation bill today, after four days' debate. The appropriation of \$75,000 to employ detectives to inform the authorities of the violation of the internal revenue laws was passed in the bill and passed. So the managers will have to move their bills off the road into the swamps.

Representative Bromwell, (Rep.) of Ohio, introduced a resolution that this country appropriate \$20,000,000 to buy war ships with. Representative Gibson, of Tennessee, also introduced a bill appropriating \$20,000,000 for the maintenance of a national honor and defense.

57TH DAY.—The House today entered upon the consideration of the Loud bill, relative to second class mail matter, but the second class matter bill, which is restricted to newspaper and periodicals issued at least four times a year, from a known office of publication, and publications issued under the auspices of benevolent or fraternal organizations, trades unions, or orders having a membership of not less than 1,000. Mr. Keating, Democrat, of North Carolina, introduced to make a general political speech, but was called to order by the Speaker, who announced that hereafter he proposed to hold members strictly to the subject under consideration by the House. This rule, he said, would be enforced impartially against both sides.

58TH DAY.—In the House the Loud bill, relating to second class mail matter, was discussed by the speaker, as a rule, attracting little attention. Clark (Dem.) of Missouri, said it would never do for Populists, Democrats and Free Silver Republicans to support it. Knoxville, Tenn., was made a port of entry.

59TH DAY.—The Loud bill to correct alleged abuses of the second class mail matter privilege, which last year passed the House 144 to 104, was buried under an overwhelming majority by the House. The vote was not taken directly upon the bill, but on a motion to lay it on the table. By a vote of 162 to 119 the motion was carried. Forty-seven Republicans joined with the Democrats and Populists in accomplishing this result, and 10 Democrats voted with the majority of the Republicans. The refusal of Mr. Loud to permit a vote on an amendment at the last minute was responsible in a measure for the result, but the strength of the measure undoubtedly waned throughout the three days' debate. Representative White, of North Carolina, the only colored member of the House, offered a resolution for the appropriation of \$10,000 for the relief of the family of the murdered postmaster at Lake City, S. C., but consideration was objected to.

60TH DAY.—Two more appropriation bills were sent to the President by the House today, and the consular and diplomatic bill, both of which went through their final stage in the House. This was private bill day. The most important action taken was acquiescence in an agreement to make the bill appropriating about \$1,200,000 for war claims approved by the court of claims, under the provisions of the Bowman act, a special order next Friday. The claims carried by the bill, 739 in number, are for stores and supplies seized during the war in the Southern States.

If all the lies told in a political campaign were nulled, the rail factories would have to run twenty-four hours a day.

IN AID OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS. A Pamphlet on Local Taxation in North Carolina.

RANKS SEVENTH IN ILLITERACY. Number of Children of School Age in the State is 621,249—The Amount Spent for Each is \$1.60.

At the request of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Prof. J. Y. Joyner, has prepared a pamphlet on local taxation in aid of the public schools. It says:

"For more than a quarter of a century the State of North Carolina has been striving to establish an efficient public school system by a general tax for schools. The tax has been gradually and slowly increased to 20 cents on \$100 valuation of property and 6 cents on the poll. The amount raised from this tax, added to the amount derived from fines, penalties, liquor license, and all other sources, aggregates \$1,045,816. The number of children of school age in the State is 621,249. The amount spent for each child of school age, therefore, is \$1.66. The average length of the schools provided for these children is, white 12.45 weeks; colored 11.83 weeks. The average salary paid the teachers of white children, white \$23.00; colored \$22.00. With the single exception of the Territory of New Mexico, North Carolina has the most illiterate white population in the United States. About one white person out of every four in North Carolina cannot read. Counting both white and colored population, she ranks seventh in illiteracy. This, briefly, is our condition. This is what we have been able to do in a quarter of a century for the education of our thousands of uneducated people by a general tax."

Old Rate Just and Reasonable. The Seaboard Air Line's exception to the rate of 2 and 24 cents for passenger fares, ordered by the Railroad Commission, has been met with a quite vigorous. It says: "The old rate is just and reasonable, and does not yield more than a sufficient return on the investment, and barely pays the actual cost of operation. The commission is reasonable interest upon the funded debt, and does not yield sufficient income to pay any dividend; that the reduction will very probably result in an actual deficit; that the commission substantially requires the carrying of passengers without reward, under the presence of regulation of fares and amounts to taking private property for public use, without justification and without due process of law; that the commission reached its determination without any petition or complaint, and without any evidence to show that the old rates were unreasonable or the new ones just, and in 1893 it adopted the evidence offered, and that if the order is enforced business will be carried on at a continued loss."

Earnings of the Railroads. The annual report of the railway commission has been made public. Its most interesting figures are the following regarding the lines in North Carolina: Atlantic Coast Line, gross earnings from operation, \$2,598,477; operating expenses, \$1,520,892; net income from operation, \$1,077,585; from other sources, \$48,511. Southern Railway, gross earnings from operation, \$4,382,908; operating expenses, \$2,928,171; net income from operation, \$1,454,737; from other sources, \$494,625.

Wants to Disclose Its R. & S. Bonds. The town commissioners of Stoneville, through their attorney, have filed suit at the next term of Rockingham court, to test the validity of a \$50,000 issue of bonds to the Roanoke & Southern Railroad, of date January 1, 1899. The charter of the town, granted in 1857, allowed the commissioners to levy taxes for internal improvements, streets, etc. The plaintiffs in the action claim that they had no authority, none having been granted by the legislature under the charter never having been amended, to levy a tax for the payment of bonds to build or aid in the construction of a railroad.—Charlotte Observer.

War Munitions on Hand. The following is how the State troops stood up to Feb. 25th: 1,800 rifles, 45-calibre; 256 Lee magazine rifles, one Gatling, calibre 45; two rapid fire Hotchkiss rifles; three 8-inch breech loading naval guns; three 4-inch breech loading howitzers; one 8-inch muzzle loading howitzer; 110 rounds. There are on hand 80,000 rounds of calibre 45 ball cartridges.

Improvements at State Institutions. The State Auditor has issued warrants for \$20,000 for new buildings and improvements at the white institution for the blind; \$8,000 for the institution for the negro deaf-mutes and blind, at Raleigh; and \$10,000 for the school for deaf-mutes at Morganton. All these are on account of special appropriations, which last year could not be obtained, the treasurer claiming that there were not funds enough in hand to meet them.

Will Make a Big Fight. The State will make a big fight against the payment of the Pamlico and Carteret oyster claims, and the treasurer declares that the publication of the lists of names shows that many are dead and some unknown.

State Items. The State charters the Planters' Tobacco Warehouse, at Smithfield, capital, \$5,000.

Perry Williams, who killed B. L. Tate, at Gastonia, was taken to Charlotte, to prevent lynching.

The Navassa Guano Company has added \$80,000 to its plant and increased its force to 250 men.

The Caraleigh Cotton Mills, at Raleigh, have begun for the first time to run all night, nearly doubling the force.