

THE OBSERVER.

HURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1895.

NEWS AND COMMENTS.

Post Master General Bissel resigned from the Cabinet last week. Wm. L. Wilson of West Virginia has been appointed to fill the vacancy.

The champion cotton raiser east of the Mississippi river, is a Mr. Wilson, who lives near Yazoo City, Miss. With nine miles he made 300 bales of cotton last year, after selling which at 5 cents a pound, he netted, over and above all expenses, \$3,950.

A Washington dispatch says: The indications are that the President expects to go to North Carolina on a fishing and ducking trip shortly after the adjournment of Congress.

The organized militia of the different States in the Union numbers all told 141,356 men, of whom 107,396 are privates, 20,410 non-commissioned officers, 9,505 commissioned officers and 4,047 musicians.

Wm E. Gladstone has been living a very quiet life in the Riviera. He has been spending most of his time reading, with interruptions only for his meals and two long walks a day.

The British House of Commons, following the German Reichstag, has adopted a resolution favoring the holding of a monetary conference to see what can be done to remedy the evils arising from the fluctuations and growing divergence in the relative value of gold and silver.

The following are the total net receipts of cotton at all ports September 1, 1894. Galveston 1,518,639 bales, New Orleans 2,172,679, Mobile 223,514, Savannah 827,520, Charleston 386,074, Wilmington 221,993, Norfolk 296,141, Baltimore 96,045, New York 157,258, Boston 227,978, Newport News 30,812, Philadelphia 61,887, West Point 253,735, Brunswick 92,577, Vero Beach 592, Port Royal 129,423. Total 15,796,601.

Drunkness has increased alarmingly in Belgium in the last forty years, according to M. Lejeune, lately Minister of Justice. The revenue from the excise in 1851 was 4,000,000 francs, now it is 33,000,000; the number of saloons has increased from 53,000 to 175,000, and the annual consumption of spirits is 12 litres per head of the entire population, or 48 litres for each adult. Crime has increased 20 per cent, and insanity 138, and of every 100 deaths among males 80 are traceable to alcohol.

A bill offering a reward of \$100,000 is pending in Congress to any inventor, of any nature, who shall, before the year 1900, construct an aerial vessel capable of going thirty miles an hour through the air and carrying passengers and freight. But inventors need not wait for this bill to become a law before putting forth their efforts. The sum of \$100,000 might be a trifle to the fortune that would await the man who should construct and cover with patents the air ship thus called for.

Bradstreet's says: While the course of general trade during the first two months of the current year has been disappointing, February ends and March begins with tangible though not as yet satisfactory signs of improvement. It is encouraging to note that gains are reported in the volume of trade at almost every Southern city, notwithstanding advice from Northern cities, whose jobbers supply Southern and Southwestern markets, that low prices for products had curtailed purchasing ability at the South and Southwest.

In thirty years the consumption of tobacco in England has risen from 29,000,000 to 62,000,000 pounds, and from an average of 19 ounces a head to 26 ounces. In the same time the consumption of non-alcoholic drinks has grown far in excess of alcoholic drinks. In 1801, 125,000,000 pounds of tea, coffee, cocoa, and chicory were imported to 365,000,000 pounds in 1893, while the rise in wines and spirits was from the fifty-five to fifty-one million gallons. Beer from 24 gallons a head in 1801 to 33 gallons in 1874, but has fallen off again to 29 gallons.

The Government debt statement issued last week shows a net decrease in the public debt less cash in the treasury during February of \$34,933,327. The expenditures for the eight months this year foot up \$249,171,000, about \$20,000 less than for the eight months of 1894. For February, 1895, they are \$25,605,000, or \$1,250,000 less than for February, 1894. As compared with 1894 the expenditures for the fiscal year up to date show increases of nearly \$2,300,000 in civil and miscellaneous expenses; nearly \$1,000,000 in pensions; \$2,225,000 interest; and a decrease of nearly \$4,000,000 in war expenses; \$1,000,000 in navy expenses and \$60,000 for Indians.

Last week the Belgium cabinet brought before the chamber of deputies the arrangement by which the king of Belgium transfers to Belgium the Congo state. Hitherto the Congo state has had the king of Belgium for its sovereign, but has not been subject to the Belgian government. This is now to be changed and the Congo state will be in effect a Belgian colony. An understanding with France was had before the Belgium cabinet agreed to advise the deputies to receive the king's gift. France claims to have the right to succeed to the control of the Congo state if its present owner dies without heirs, and the king of Belgium should never part with its sovereignty, but agreed to the present transfer from the king to the Belgian cabinet.

SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE.

Latest News from all Parts of the World. Prepared Especially for the Readers of "The Observer."

The Delaware Legislature has elected no Senator yet. All men connected with the building trades' association in New York city were called out at 8 o'clock Friday. More than 10,000 men stopped work. There is no change in the status of affairs between France and San Domingo. Our Government has interfered in the matter of the Government of France ordering seizure of the customs receipts of San Domingo. Populists of the Legislature hold a caucus and try to devise a plan for avoiding the responsibility and consequences of the Douglas resolution. They decide that no more good can come to them by holding joint caucuses with the Republicans. They also insisted on replacing the co-operative board feature in the County Government bill. The caucus also decided that the Criminal Circuit bill was a Republican job. Marion Butler made a speech deploring that the Populists owed anything to the Republicans on account of his election to the Senate. A Chicago firm gets the contract for the public building at New York, N. C. The gold reserve now stands at \$83,948,672. An Illinois Republican convention nominates a candidate for Congress on the 1,476 ballot. The recent municipal election cost the city of Philadelphia \$115,901. Before the adoption of the Australian ballot a similar election cost \$29,300. By the seizure of the schooner Carolina, trying to unload whisky at Charleston, S. C., the Dispensary bill will be taken into the Federal courts. Near Anstilton, Ala., revenue officers find four blockade stills in a ravine of five miles. Morganfield was convicted and sentenced to eighteen years in the penitentiary. He took an appeal. The four cases against him and Secretary's cases were continued. The Secretary has appointed Mr. William L. Wilson Postmaster General. The boldest train robbery ever committed in Texas took place on the edge of Dallas last week. Fifteen thoroughly armed men held up the Austin and Texas Central Express at the Missouri, Kansas and Texas crossing. The engineer and fireman were made to leave the engine, then the robbers cut loose the express and baggage car, placed men on the engine and pulled the train wide open and ran northward, leaving the body of the train on the track. Just before starting away with the express car the robbers captured Engineer Tom Averett, to get into the cab. He was made to run to a point near White Rock creek bottoms, about five miles north of the Dallas union depot. They stopped and compelled the express messenger to open the express car and admit them. After they had finished with the express car they put out the headlight and other lights, opened the engine and express car in total darkness, except the light furnished from the fire box. They told the engineer to back his train as soon as he pleased. The French War Department has completed experiments with a new gun, which is guaranteed for a thousand rounds. After 3,000 rounds had been fired with the heaviest charges of smokeless powder, the rifling was found in fair condition. The muzzle-velocity was 3,000 feet per second. A large number of persons, mostly students, have been arrested in Kiev and Odessa, Russia, on suspicion that they were engaged in revolutionary plots. Among the prisoners are several Poles and Jews. The Brooklyn Baseball Club left New York last week for Savannah, Ga. During their sojourn in the South they play six games each with the Washington and Pittsburgh league teams. Three of the games will be played in Savannah and three in Charleston. Rev. Dr. Lyttleton F. Morgan, one of our most prominent Methodist Ministers in Baltimore, died last week of pneumonia, aged 82 years. He was received into the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Church when but nineteen years of age. About 4 o'clock Thursday afternoon fire broke out in Bryan Fields' stables, Kinston, and rapidly spread to the wooden buildings in rear of Oester Bros' store and the Opera House. The two main business blocks of the town are in ashes, including all the stores and their effects, also the Free Press office. A dispatch says it is by far the severest fire ever in Kinston. The loss is fully two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars and the insurance in the aggregate is small. The origin of the fire is reported to have been a cigarette stump, carelessly thrown by a boy in Bryan Fields' stables. Commandant Le Chateaufort of the French Marine force, fought a duel with Harry Alis, inflicting a wound from the effects of which Alis died in a few minutes. The weapons used were swords. M. Le Chateaufort in the first encounter broke Alis' guard and drove his weapon through his opponent's body, piercing the right lung. The duel was the result of a controversy carried on through the Colonial press. A building in New York which workmen were tearing down collapsed and several men were killed and a number of others wounded. The treasury statement shows a decrease of the public debt during February "less cash in the treasury" of \$33,504,281. For the eight months of this fiscal year the Government expenditures have exceeded receipts by \$36,205,000. The receipts were \$12,000,000 more and the expenses \$250,000 less than last year. There is a marked improvement in customs receipts. The cruiser Montgomery, at Mobile, has been ordered to the coast of Honduras on secret mission. By the wrecking of a pilgrim train in Mexico sixty-five persons were killed and forty wounded, many of whom will die. Max H. Graur, the insurance adjuster convicted in New York of arson, was sentenced to the penitentiary for thirty years, and Mrs. Ida Lieberman gets six years for the same offense. Cuban officials made a raid on an insurgent depot and captured 20 rifles and 12,000 cartridges. Two conspicuous insurgents surrendered themselves. Business failures in the United States for the past week were 250 against 261 for same time last year. Stealing by the agents of Oklahoma Agricultural college has been done on a sensationally large scale. Congressman Bryan is circulating among Democrats of the House and Senate a free silver address to the Democrats of the United States. He wants the free silver Democrats to take control of the party management. The influenza, or grip, is sweeping over England. The sentences of the Hawaiian insurgents range from \$5,000 fine and five years imprisonment to thirty-five years and \$10,000, the former being imposed on the ex-Queen. Four were sentenced to be hanged.

THE LEGISLATURE.

Special Correspondence of the Observer.

RALPHIGH, N. C., Feb'y 25, 1895. The bill in the Legislature to require railroads to redeem unused tickets, and which is known as the scalpers bill has passed. The two most important provisions in the bill are "that at least 50 per cent of the ticket shall have been used, and that it shall be presented before the expiration of sixty (60) days from the date of sale."

This direct tax fund, the disposition of the unclaimed part of which is giving so much worry to our law makers, cannot, according to the proviso of the government when it was refunded, be used until 6 years will have expired, and those six years will not be out before 1897. Then the legislature of that year can repeal or confirm the action of this body as they may deem best.

The following is an outline of the constitutional government bill that the republicans required the populists to adopt: There are to be three counties in each of the ten counties; to allow Currituck to levy a special tax to amend the code regarding statement of actions; to regulate hours of labor in manufacturing; to incorporate the Roanoke railway and bridge company; to incorporate the Morganton and Shelby railway; to protect owners of timber tracts; to enforce the payment of taxes on insolvent debtors; to regulate the practice of establishing a colored normal school; to amend the code regarding the management of the penitentiary during the campaign, with reference to "state" elections; to amend the code regarding the election on the Roanoke Farms so the guards could vote.

Senator Moody's bill to tax inheritance has created much interest. The Senate has passed the bill by a vote of 21 to 10. This tax has been adopted in several States, with good results, but the rate of taxation is much lower than Senator Moody's bill for 3 per cent on \$50,000, and 5 per cent on \$100,000, and 7 per cent on \$200,000. The bill was introduced by Mr. Moody on Monday, and was read twice on Tuesday. It was then referred to the Finance Committee, and on Wednesday it was read a third time and passed.

On Tuesday the following bills were introduced: For the relief of ex-Clerk Watkins, of Craven; to allow members of the legislature to hold other offices; to allow McDowell county to levy a special tax to give Davidson county the convict road law. Bills passed changing the time of holding courts in Durham and Alamance counties. The special order for the day was taken up by the Finance Committee, and the bill to amend the code regarding the sale of liquor in the State was introduced. The bill was passed by a vote of 21 to 10.

On Saturday morning Mrs. Mary S. Speight found dead in her room a young girl, who was the daughter of the late Hon. John H. Bryan of this State, the sister of Mrs. John C. Winder, Mrs. A. P. Bryan, Mrs. Andrew Syms of this State, and Mrs. J. M. Bryan of Baltimore. She was a charter member of the Ladies Memorial Association, and almost from her beginning had been one of its vice-presidents. She was a devoted member of the church on Sunday, and the vestry of both Episcopal churches attended in a body.

On the 6th per cent interest bill several republicans boldly "bolted" the caucus at Kinston and Odessa, and in consequence of this, it was not taken up for a vote for it, as it came from the Senate; French, Ewart, Williams of Craven, and Petret voted No.

There has been a favorable report from the Finance Committee to appropriate \$20,000 to the Atlanta Exposition. The State Temperance bill was tabled in the Senate on Wednesday but the vote was so close that Mr. Tuttle who is such a rabid temperance man will be introduced in the house with some changes.

The case of Mary Cram vs. Katie Coe (one woman suing another for a husband) will come up March 6th. This is of much interest here as Mrs. Cram has been living here for years, and visited by some of Raleigh's best people. Wife No. 1 traced them here, and demands the husband.

The resolution of indignation over the action of the House in refusing to adjourn for Lee and Washington, and then doing so for Fred Douglas, is still rolling on. It created surprise outside of the chamber and telegrams were sent for particulars. The Chamber says that it is false, that the House did not refuse to adjourn for Lee and Washington, but the Raleigh News and Observer of Sunday cites the motion of the House, and the resolution of indignation, and says that the House did refuse to adjourn for Lee and Washington, and then doing so for Fred Douglas, is still rolling on.

Following is the full text of the bill introduced by Senator Abell, of Johnston, and passed by the Legislature to make 6 per cent the legal rate of interest shall be six per centum (6 per cent.) per annum for each time as interest may accrue, and no more; and that the taking, receiving, reserving, or charging a greater rate of interest than that provided for in this act, shall be a forfeiture of the entire interest which the note or other evidence of debt carries with it, or which has been agreed to by the lender, and in case a greater rate of interest has been paid, may recover back twice the amount of interest paid in action in the nature of an action for debt. Provided, that this act shall be in force two years after the payment in full of such indebtedness. Provided further, that in any action brought in any court of competent jurisdiction, to recover upon any such note or other evidence of debt, it shall be lawful for the party against whom the action is brought to plead, as a counter claim, the penalty above provided for, to-wit, twice the amount of interest paid as aforesaid, and also the forfeiture of the entire interest which the note or other evidence of debt carries with it, or which has been agreed to by the lender, and in case a greater rate of interest has been paid, may recover back twice the amount of interest paid in action in the nature of an action for debt. Provided, that this act shall be in force two years after the payment in full of such indebtedness. 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