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WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent.

Washington, Feb. 27.—It is not unusual for the cabinet of a president to be announced before his inauguration. To the best of my knowledge there has always been doubt and uncertainty until after the official announcement of the President from the White House. It is however, characteristic of the candor and non-secretiveness of the President-elect that the country now knows that with the acceptance by Mr. MacVeagh, a merchant, of Chicago, of the Treasury Portfolio, the cabinet of the new President is arranged and fixed. There are only two holdovers from President Roosevelt's cabinet-men who have sat with Judge Taft at the council table of the nation. They are Mr. Meyer, at present Postmaster General, who will be Secretary of the Navy in the Taft administration, and Mr. Wilson, the venerable Secretary of Agriculture who will remain at his present post. The present cabinet will be distinguished for a remarkably strong battery of eminent lawyers, with the President himself on the bench as it were in the cabinet room. Five members of the present cabinet are distinguished members of the legal profession, men of ripe learning and experience in various branches of the law.

The President-elect who is now in New York, is expected in Washington on Saturday, the 27th inst. and will remain here as a guest of the Boardman until after March the fourth, when he will transfer his activities to the White House. It is announced that soon after his inauguration, he will visit the ranch of Charles P. Taft near San Antonio, Texas, where a residence for him is building and golf links are laid out.

Interesting information comes from China in the form of an official private letter to the President-elect in which the attitude of the Chinese Government as represented by the Regent concerning vital Chinese questions, is explained at length. This letter confirms the intention of the Chinese Government to carry out the reforms and the progressive policy which the world has understood to have depended mainly on the recently deposed Grand Counselor. It also expresses the wish that the Japanese may withdraw entirely from Manchuria and that they, at some future time, may find it advisable to relinquish their occupancy of Korea. The President-elect is peculiarly well informed in matters relating to China. His long residence in the Philippines; his visits to China and Japan his tour through China, Siberia and Manchuria has given him an insight and a sympathetic interest in questions relating to the policy and the progress of this great Oriental Empire. This letter of the Chinese Regent is doubtless a recognition of his interest and his expected influence in vital matters pertaining to Oriental civilization and is another indication of our prominence in world politics.

During the past week, I went to Old Point Comfort to see the incoming fleet returning from its around-the-world voyage, accompanied by eight big iron-clads that had been sent out on the Atlantic to meet and to conduct it home. I cannot say that the spectacle was very impressive. Sixteen large white iron-clads moved up the still waters of Hampton Roads at a speed of only seven knots per hour and saluted with boom of cannon the President's yacht, the Mayflower, as each iron-clad passed. It is something for congratulation that so powerful a fleet has circumnavigated the globe without the firing of a destructive shot at anything expect a harmless target. The ships had anything but a wauworn or weather-beaten appearance and it is hoped that they are worth as much as they cost and that in preserving peace according to the idea of the President, they will pay for

their enormously expensive upkeep. Apropos of the Navy, the President has sent another message to Congress urging a greater Navy, advising radical changes, recommending more authority for the Secretary of the Navy and favoring continued preparedness for war. He insists particularly on the co-operation of the Navy Department and the War Department as recently reorganized in defensive preparations and in the establishment of naval stations, calling attention to the good work done in the reorganization of the Army under the plan formulated by Secretary Root. He urges remodeling along the same lines, the naval establishment and administration.

The President's interest and activity up to almost the last day of his administration is not unexpected. He has however, stopped making appointments, announcing that petitions for places must be presented to his successor after March the 4th. Congress is not paying much attention to the President's recommendations, treating them very much as James J. Hill treats the President's Farm Uplift enterprise, "as of little more importance than the twittering of the first robin in Spring," to which Mr. Hill says we might as well listen as to the report of the Farm Commission appointed by President Roosevelt.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

FORM ELON COLLEGE.

Elon College, Feb. 26.—The Clio Society has been very fortunate to secure a distinguished speaker in the person of Senator Simmons, who will deliver the annual Literary address before the literary societies of the Institution, on Tuesday morning, June 1, 1909. Senator Simmons is well known as the senior Senator and as one who has won for himself a distinguished position of influence and responsibility in the distinguished body of which he is a member. A large audience will greet him at the approaching commencement occasion. Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt, State Geologist and Prof. of Economic Geology in the University of N. C. delivered an interesting, scholarly and instructive address in the college auditorium on Thursday evening. Dr. Pratt chose for his subject a theme of great importance at the present time "The utilization and conservation of our natural resources." His address not only displayed his accurate knowledge of Geological formations of the old North State, but a thorough grasp of general principals on which the utilization and conservation of our natural resources depends. It is needless to say that his address was well received and made a lasting impression.

The Ladies Aid Society, an auxiliary organization of the Christian church at this place has decided to give a play entitled "The Spinners' Return" on Tuesday evening of next week at 7:30 o'clock. The play will take place in the college auditorium and the proceeds to be used to defray the expenses of the new church soon to be built in this town. The society has been working toward this end for a number of years and has already accumulated a considerable amount of money.

Prof. Wicker has recently come to deserved honor in the Masonic Fraternity. It is already known that he is one of the best masons in the state and his expert knowledge and equipment in masonry have won for him this new honor, that of Deputy Grand Master for the district, including Orange, Alamance, Guilford and Caswell counties.

If you fail to send your vote and list of items for next week, you will miss voting for the winner.

The Dispatch is the peoples paper, R U A Subscriber?

The Dispatch is the rural carriers friend, "Nuf said."

OUR RALEIGH LETTER.

Last week was a very strenuous one in the legislature. The pendulum would swing from the very arduous and monotonous task of considering and amending the "Revenue and Machinery Act" to some of the sharpest and shrewdest political moves that has occurred during the session. It has been found that the revenue act of two years ago failed to raise sufficient funds for the needs of the State, and instead of it raising the \$500,000 to make the necessary permanent improvements at the several hospitals of the State, the same having been appropriated two years ago, it has been found necessary to issue bonds for the full amount. The Senate Committee has reported favorably a bill providing for the removal of the Capitol to Greensboro, but I hardly think it will be done, and the people of Alamance would doubtless object to its passing through the county either on a goat wagon or a flat car.

There is a proposition up in the legislature to issue a half million in bonds to enlarge the capitol and it seems that it is difficult to agree on the motion, some wanting to enlarge the capitol and others wanting to let it remain as it is, and build separate buildings for Supreme Court Library, Museum and fireproof vaults for records etc., that are now in danger of destruction by fire.

There was an interesting affair in the House one night last week when a bill came up to allow an ex-Confederate soldier to peddle without a license. Some of the minority members spoke in opposition to it, and several of the majority members advocated it vigorously, and did not see the trap they were being led into until two or three of the minority members sent forward amendments allowing all Ex Confederate soldiers to peddle if they wished without a license—then they saw that it was the minority members that were the real friends of the old soldiers and not the majority as they were trying to make the people believe. There is promise of something interesting here this week, in fact, the closing days of a session of the legislature is always interesting, and it is thought that there will be some very radical measures brought up and an effort made to rush them through right at the close. These members that are looking out for those things will be on the alert for the balance of the session to head off if possible, all such measures. It seems now that the session will not adjourn before Monday March 8, although the pay of the members stops on Saturday, March 6. There is considerable work to do yet before adjournment. Will probably stop the introduction of bills, now in a day or two, as well as cut off debate, then business can move on more rapidly.

R. F. D. No. 5.

Mrs. Will Johnston, of Haw River, spent a few days last week at the home of Mr. L. M. Johnston. Miss Blanche Robinson attended the Teachers' meeting at Graham last Saturday.

Fate has decreed that we shall not talk over the 'phone—it seems far since at last the wire is strung—now the boxes are lost on the railroad, but we still keep living in hopes if we die in despair.

Several of the young people on our route attended a dance at the home of Mr. H. J. Pritchetts last Friday night. They report a grand time.

Mr. Walter Aldridge has the sympathy of his many friends in the death of his brother, which occurred at his home in Caswell, February 19th.

Mrs. Rate Wyatt spent several days last week at the home of Mr. R. D. Aldridge.

Several young people spent last Sunday afternoon with Miss Ara Rogers.

Mrs. Yancy Chandler, of Caswell, is spending sometime with her son, Mr. John Chandler, on route 3.

Mr. Geo. Patton is all smiles—it is a boy.

The public school at Long's

Snow Camp No. 1.

That there has been no news published in the Dispatch from this "neck of the woods" don't mean that there is "nothing doing," and we hereby challenge any carrier in the county to show a better record for improvements, especially in new houses and barns.

Mr. C. F. Coble, the hustling manager of the firm of J. R. and C. F. Coble and Co., of the town of Snow Camp has about completed one of the most stylish, up-to-date cottage houses ever built in the county, and is having it nicely painted by Oscar Curris, an experienced painter of Burlington.

Mr. O. O. McPherson, one of No. 1's best farmers, has completed and painted a splendid two-story house, which adds greatly to the appearance of his well kept farm.

N. E. Workman near Holman's Mill has built a handsome two-story house and barn.

Mr. Gray McPaerson, another of No. 1's big farmers has completed a new two-story dwelling, and is arranging to build another in the near future on his farm near Bethels.

R. F. Holman the clever merchant-farmer, at Holman's Mills has under way a splendid building, which when finished, will be one of the largest and most complete in the country.

Mr. James McPherson, another hustling Cane Creek farmer, has remodeled his old home and the result is a handsome two-story building.

Messrs. Ira Guthrie and Co., contractors and builders, have built several of the above described dwellings.

A. L. Foust has completed a large two-story barn, and his brother, J. M. Foust has one nearly completed.

Miss Daisy Wood is teaching a very successful school at Bethel this winter.

Mr. George Roberson, a student at Elon, came home a few days ago sick, which proved to be a case of measles, but we are glad to say he is able to be out again and will soon return to school. George deserves lots of credit in striving for an education.

We, and the people who travel the road near Spring Church, are indebted to J. H. Woody for some much needed work on the road. Let the fever spread to other sections.

C. W. Johnson, one of Spring's most industrious farmers has remodeled his old house and built a two-story one instead.

The Wilson-McBane Co., are kept busy every day at their new plant near Chatham Church, filling orders for furniture, matching and dressed lumber.

Robert M. Lindley, who has been right sick, we are glad to note is improving.

N. C. Stuart, who was painfully hurt a few weeks ago by being thrown from his wagon in a runaway, has recovered sufficiently to be out again.

Prof. J. B. Ingle, principle of Center Graded School, and Mrs. Ida Lindley his assistant, are making extensive preparations for their school closing march 19. Prof. Ingle is one of the most untiring, energetic school workers we ever have known, and he has had wonderful success at Center, so much interest being taken, that at one time every child of school age but one was attending. The committee has very wisely contracted with him for the next term.

Chapel closes Friday, March 5th, and Saturday p. m., March 6th. The Long's Chapel boys expect to cross bats with the Cross Roads boys at the school house. The Public is invited.

Mrs. James Anderson and daughters, Misses Carrie and Myra, spent Saturday at Mr. R. T. Aldridges.

Our mail carrier, Mr. D. S. Hall, bade us good-by today (Monday) for a week. He says he is going to leave for Washington tomorrow to attend the inauguration, and while we will miss his good humor and cherry smiles, yet we are glad that he is so favored, and wish for him the very best time that is possible.

R. F. D. No. 1.

Mrs. D. E. Clapp and children, of Gibsonville, accompanied by Miss Emma Clapp, of Whitsett visited at W. V. Montgomery's last week.

Mr. and Mrs. L. C. May, of Route 4, spent Thursday night at W. R. Shepherd's.

Rev. J. D. Andrew made several calls on our Route last week.

Uncle Abner McKeel who is superintending W. L. Spoon's farm spent Saturday night and Sunday in Burlington visiting his wife and family.

Mrs. Waller and Miss Swanna Patterson paid us a short call Sunday evening. Hope they will come again.

E. F. Waddell is attending court this week as juror. Ed don't do much business courting the girls. We don't know what he will do courting the men.

Miss Minnie Montgomery who taught school on No. 9 this winter, has closed her school and is at home for vacation.

Mrs. Geo. Bradshaw, of Burlington, visited J. W. H. Islev, of Alamance Sunday. Also Claud Ward was a caller at Mr. Islev's Sunday. Claud has a long face this week.

Uncle Gaston Sharpe put out 3 fish baskets the other day and is expecting to make this his occupation for a while. Hope he will have good luck and will give us a mess or two.

Misses Jennie Vaughn and Ella Robertson were visitors on our Route Sunday afternoon.

We are sorry to learn of little Wayne Patterson being sick; Hope he will soon recover.

Miss Joy Coble, of Whitsett, spent Saturday and Sunday at home with her parents.

Misses Florine Robertson and Minnie Coble attended the Teacher's Association Saturday.

Misses Novella and Lizzie Foust and Maud Isley spent Sunday with Miss Maud Culler, of Rock Creek.

Several of the young people spent a pleasant afternoon at a musical sociable at the home of Miss Malone Paterson last Thursday. Those being present were Misses Ann and Sallie Moser, Novella and Lizzie Foust, Elizabeth Homewood, Maud Culler, Florine Robertson, Maude Isley and Bulah Murray. Messrs. Martin Murray, J. A. Dwiggins, O. E. Culler, Henry Murray and Roy Homewood.

Prof. J. B. Robertson has purchased him a home here and has moved into it, he is now keeping bachelor hall, but we understand he intends to soon cut this out. Hope we will not lose any of our postoffice clerks.

Mrs. G. L. Simpson spent one night last week with us.

Today (Monday) is our first day on our third year for "Uncle Sam."

The two years which we have served No. 1 has marked many changes. Two years ago our route was handling 3,000 pieces of mail per month where now we handle 5,000, where there were no houses there is now a dozen new houses and a number of old houses remodeled, a handsome State High School building has been erected which is doing good work. A telephone line has threaded a greater portion of our route. Farming has improved much and in fact everything has improved wonderfully except our roads, which is no better at places. We have become better acquainted with our patrons, and appreciate serving them, we are grateful to them for their many acts of kindness which has helped to make these two years time a pleasure instead of a hardship. Now we hope that the next two years will only mark greater success for all.

Mr. Lacy Cable, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Cable, died in the home of his parents on Adams avenue Friday night at 11 o'clock, age 18 years 3 months and 16 days. The funeral was conducted in the home by Rev. J. D. Andrew on Sunday afternoon and the body laid to rest in the Shallow Ford Christian graveyard.

R. F. D. No. 8.

C. E. Tapscott after spending a few days on No. 4 visiting relatives and attending the wedding of his sister returned home last Friday.

We saw John Becom one day last week. He has not got all-right again, he has not named the baby yet, in fact John is about out of names.

We had the pleasure of calling on our general good-looking No. 7 carrier. We enjoyed looking at his fine chickens, he has some as fine as we ever saw, buff and wyandotte. Now what he does not know about chickens, don't ask us. Anyone wishing fine stock will no well to call on No. 7.

Mrs. G. L. Simpson spent part of last week in Burlington visiting her daughter.

Quite a number of our farmers sold tobacco on the Burlington market last week and were pleased with the prices.

Will Paschal spent Tuesday night with us, we were glad to have him.

One of our No. 8 farmers took tobacco to Greensboro a few days ago, on his way home he got so very muggy that he had to buy a new suit of clothes. Moral—Take your tobacco to Burlington.

The work on the car line is progressing nicely, it looks as if we could ride to Graham and Haw River some day, we are interested in the line, it goes by our house.

L. E. Gattis, who recently purchased the Apple place near Isleys school house is making quite a lot of improvements. He will have a real nice place when he gets it completed.

J. F. Smith is quite a chicken fancier, he has the white leghorn all first class stock. There is good money in poultry, we don't see why more people don't go into it. We sold some hens, just plain "eating" hens for 80c each the other day.

We made a mistake last week in regard to Clyde Iselys fancy driving it was Saturday night instead of Sunday night. It was on Monday we think, that he met John Conklins' old mule that had not been scared in 27 years and the mule got scared at Clyde and took to the woods.

We regret to note that Grace Somers is on the sick list. Hope she will soon be well.

T. B. Barker spent Monday in Graham, 'squire got so used to going to Graham every first Monday that he can't break the habit. He is our good friend.

R. A. Matlock and family spent Sunday with J. F. Barker.

Miss Carrie Conklin spent Sunday at home returning to her work Monday.

L. H. Holt, our genial county surveyor, spent last Friday on Altamahaw No. 2 surveying the Hicks property, also telling jokes; Lewis is good at telling jokes.

Gov. Kitchin has appointed J. H. Gilliam, of Altamahaw No. 1, a notary public of merton township.

J. N. Garrison, of Altamahaw No. 1, killed a hog that weighed 522 lbs as good a one as our No. 3 carrier killed last winter. That's the kind to raise, big ones.

The Betterment Society of maywood school will have an entertainment box party etc., at the school house Saturday night, the 13th. A game of ball will be played at 2 p. m. The Junior Order will raise a flag over the school house. Prof. Roberson, secretary of the state Sunday School Association will speak. Then the boxes will be sold and enjoyed. Everybody interested in education, the betterment of our school or base ball is invited. Special invitation is extended to the young ladies to bring boxes, and young men to bring their pocket change to buy said boxes. The proceeds will be used for improving the school building. Let's all go and have a good time and help a good cause. Don't forget your pocket change.

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