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A Georgia editor says that a man who would cheat a country editor out of a year's subscription would give a nickel with a hole in it to the forlorn missionary fund, and sigh because the hole was not bigger than the nickel.

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THE EDITOR'S CHAIR.

HOW THINGS LOOK FROM OUR STAND POINT.

The Opinion of The Editor and the Opinion of Others which we Can Endorse on the Various Topics of the Day.

THE EDITOR'S CHAIR.

During the recent Railroad Commission campaign in this county, this writer charged that the net profits of the W. & W. Railroad Company for the last year were over a half a million dollars. This was stated by us in answer to the claim made by the attorney of the road that the rates now charged by the road were reasonable, low, netting the stockholders only eight per cent dividends. Our charge was emphatically denied; but now the official figures are out (and we are sure they do not exaggerate the facts) and they show that the gross total earnings of the road for the year ending June 30th, 1890, are one million three hundred and fifty thousand, eight hundred and fifty-three dollars and forty-six cents. The total expenses were only \$681,137. This leaves a net profit of not only a half a million, but sixty-nine thousand, seven hundred and sixteen dollars more than a half a million. A month or more since the Raleigh News and Observer took us to task about our articles on a Railroad Commission. That paper claimed that the rates were already reasonably low, lower than the rates in Georgia where a Commission is in operation. The editor established his position published a table of what he claimed to be North Carolina freight rates, which were lower than the published Georgia rates. We went to work and gathered a hundred freight bills taking in a dozen different points in the various quarters of the State, and we found them all higher than the rates as published by the News and Observer, and the average much higher than the Georgia rates as published by the Commission of that State. We then called upon the News and Observer to produce its freight bills or state over what roads and between what points such freight rates exist as published by that paper. The answer to this inquiry that paper has so far neglected to give. Mr. S. R. Kepler, President of the Railroad Commission Club of Asheville, seeing the same article in the News and Observer wrote to the editor calling upon him for the same explanation we had asked for through the columns of our paper a few weeks before; but getting no answer he publishes a copy of his letter in the Asheville Citizen of November 20th. We do not wish to believe that the News and Observer (which professes so much love for the farmer and the people generally in the abstract) is a corporation paper, nor do we wish to believe that it was imposed upon by the railroads in that freight table business, and being imposed upon is unable to realize the imposition. Yet such appears to be the two horns of the dilemma. But to secure reasonable rates is only one of the six points to be gained by a commission.

AMEND THE CONSTITUTION. Last week we published an editorial headed, "A change in the Organic Law Needed." The following, from the Boston Globe, covers part of the same ground contained in our editorial:

"If there is any sense or reason in allowing a defeated Congress to go on and legislate for three months after the people have repudiated it, we should like to have it explained. We see no sense in it. The Congress elected November 2nd could assemble in Washington on December 1st, 1890, just as well as the old Congress. It would be fresh from the people, prepared to do the people's will, would not be disgraced and discredited, with the stamp of the people's condemnation upon it. Some member of Congress ought to propose a constitutional amendment making each Congress expire one month prior to the election of its successor, so that the spectacle of legislation by a repudiated Congress—a spectacle which will soon be seen in Washington—will be seen no more. We believe the people would ratify such an amendment with practical unanimity."

Every Democrat in the country is interested in Washington this winter, because of the important political events certain to occur here. In the first place the Democratic minority in Congress, feeling that the policy of their party has been endorsed by the country, are determined to resist every attempt of the Republicans to pass radical political legislation, and they expect the moral support of every Democrat.

The Democratic majority in the next Congress now figures up 168. There are 25 Republican Congressmen from the South in the present Congress. There are only three elected for the next.

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DUNRAVEN RANCH.

A Story of American Frontier Life. By Capt. CHARLES KING, U. S. A., Author of "The Colonel's Daughter," "From the Stars," "The Desert," etc.

CHAPTER I. I WAS nearly midnight, and still the gay party lingered on the veranda. There had been a fortnight of "getting settled" at the new post, preceded by a month of marching that had brought the battalion from distant service to this "Canaan" station. The new comers had been joyfully welcomed by the officers of the little garrison of infantry, and now, in recognition of their many courtesies, the field officer commanding the arriving troops looked on with a pleased and contented expression. The officers and ladies in the garrison were a host in himself, but preferred not to draw too heavily on his reserves of anecdote and small talk, so he had called in two of his subalterns to assist in the pleasant duty of being attentive to the infantry ladies, and just now, at 11:15 p. m., he was wondering if Lieut. Perry had not too literally construed his instructions, for that young gentleman was devoting himself to Mrs. Wells in a manner so marked as to make the captain, his lawful lord and master, manifestly uneasy.

Mrs. Belknap, however, seemed to enjoy the situation immensely. She was a pretty woman at most times, as even Mrs. Wells admitted. She was a healthy woman at all times, was the verdict of the officers of the regiment when they happened to speak of the matter among themselves. She was dark, with lustrous eyes and sweeping lashes, with corns and much hair, and a way of glancing sideways from under her heavily fringed eyelids that the younger and more impressionable men found quite irresistible when according to the rare luxury of a tete-a-tete. Belknap was a big and belted man, Mrs. Belknap was small in stature, and soft—very soft—of voice. Belknap was either brusquely repellent or oppressively cordial in manner; Mrs. Belknap was either gently and exasperatingly indifferent or warmly sympathetic. She was a woman who attracted, or carelessly sweet to those whose attentions she desired.

In their own regiment the young officers soon found that unless they wished to be involved in an unpleasantness with Belknap, they had better be most carefully devoted to his pretty wife, and to those to whom an unpleasantness with the big captain might have had no terrors of consequence were deterred by the fact that Mrs. Belknap's devoted attention to the "youngsters" had invariably become an object of coldness and aversion to the other dames and damsels of the garrison. Very short lived, therefore, had been the little flirtations that sprang up from time to time in those former days when Capt. and Mrs. Belknap were among the chief ornaments of society; but now matters seemed to be taking other shape. From the very day that handsome Ned Perry dismounted in front of Belknap's quarters, the "youngsters" had naturally turned to the then commanding officer that Col. Brainerd and his battalion of cavalry would arrive in the course of two or three hours. Mrs. Belknap had evinced a constant interest in the coming of a unit of cavalry, and she had naturally to annoy her garrison sisters more than a little. For the time being all the cavalrymen were bachelors, either by actual rank or "by brevet," as none of the ladies of the garrison had any particular objection to the idea of a man being stationed at the post, and none were expected until the stations of the regiment in its new department had been definitely settled. The post surgeon, too, was living a life of single blessedness as the early spring wore on, for his good wife clung to him like a leech, and he, in return, to the distant east as soon as the disappearance of the winter's snows rendered staging over the hard prairie roads a matter of no great danger or discomfort. It was the doctor himself, seated in the veranda, first called the colonel's attention to Perry's devoted attitude at Mrs. Belknap's side. She was reclining in a hammock, one little, slipped foot occasionally touching the floor and imparting a gentle, swinging motion to the affair, and making a soothing swish-swish of skirts along the matting underneath. Her jeweled hands looked very slender and fragile and white as they clung to the arm of the chair, and she, from the open windows of the parlor. They were busied in straightening out the links in the gold cord of his forage cap and in rearranging a little silken braid and tassel that was fastened in the hair of the lady's head, and she, seated in a camp chair, was bending forward so that his handsome, shapely head was only a trifle higher than hers, and the two—both so dark and rich in coloring, his so fair and massive, and strong—rather too close together for the equanimity of Capt. Belknap, who had essayed to take a hand at what in the parlor.

One or two of the ladies, also, were silent observers of the scene—silent as to the scene because, being in conversation at the time with brother officers of Lieut. Perry, they were uncertain as yet how comments on his growing flirtation might be received. That their eyes should occasionally wander towards the hammock and then glance with sympathetic significance at those of some fair ally and intimate was natural enough. But when it became apparent that Mrs. Belknap was actually unfastening the little silken braid that had hung on Ned Perry's cap ever since the day of his arrival—all the while, too, looking shyly in his eyes as her fingers worked; when it was seen that she presently detached it from the button and then, half hesitatingly, but evidently in compliance with his wishes, handed it to him; when he was seen to take it carelessly—even contemptuously—away and then bend down lower, as though gazing into her shaded eyes, Mrs. Lawrence could stand it no longer.

"Mr. Graham," said she, "isn't your friend, Mr. Perry, something of a flirt?" "Who?—Ned?" asked Mr. Graham, in well feigned amazement and with sudden glance towards the object of his inquiry. "Ned?—Belknap?—to me of the little tassel on the button of his cap? He has worn it when off duty ever since he came; and we supposed it was something he cherished; I know so did."

Graham broke forth in a peal of merry laughter, but gave no further reply, for Belknap, who had been seated in his chair, and sauntering over to the hammock, brought mighty relief to Belknap at the white table and vexation of spirit to his pretty wife. The flirtation was broken at a most interesting point, and Perry, rising suddenly, came over and joined Mrs. Lawrence.

"Because I see that he has been indulging in a flirtation with the little tassel on the button of his cap. He has worn it when off duty ever since he came; and we supposed it was something he cherished; I know so did."

"You must remember that Mrs. Wells is a very strict Presbyterian, Mr. Perry, and, for that matter, none of us have seen a dinner such as the colonel gave this evening for ever and ever so long. We are quite unused to the ways of civilization; whereas you have just come from the east—and look at Perry! He is the fashion to be all devotion to one's next door neighbor at dinner."

"Not if she be as repellent and venerable as Mrs. Wells, I assure you. Why, I thought she would have been glad to leave the table when she saw that I refused sherry and Port-Caneet for upwards of an hour, her glass was filled with champagne when she happened to be looking the other way."

"It is the first dinner of the kind she has ever seen here, Mr. Perry, and I don't suppose either Mr. or Mrs. Wells has been up so late before in years. He would have enjoyed staying and watching what, but she carried him off almost as soon as we left the table. Our society has been very dull, only you—only you, selves at the post all this last year, and nobody outside of it."

"One would suppose that with all this magnificent cattle range there would be some congenial people ranching near by, and there none at all."

"Absolutely none! There are some ranches down in the Washita country, but only one fine one near us; and that might as well be on the other side of the Atlantic. No one from there ever comes here; and Quinn is the only living soul in the garrison who ever got within the walls of that ranch. What he saw there he positively refuses to tell, despite all our entreaties."

"You don't tell me there's a ranch with a mystery here near Rossett?" exclaimed Mr. Perry, with sudden interest. "Why, I do, indeed! It is possible you have never here two whole weeks and haven't heard of Dunraven Ranch?"

"I've heard there was such a thing. I saw it from a distance when out hunting the other day. But what's the mystery?—what's the matter with it?"

"That's what we all want to know—and cannot find out. Now, there is an exploit worthy your energy and best efforts. Mr. Perry, there is a big, healthy, well stocked ranch, the finest homestead buildings, we are told, in all this part of Texas. They say it is beautifully furnished—that it has a fine library, a grand piano, all manner of modern conveniences, and refined manners among its occupants—but the owner only comes around once or twice a year, and is an iceberg of an Englishman. All the people about the ranch are English, too, and the most repellent, lordly, discourteous set of men you ever saw. When the Eleventh were here they did everything they could to be civil to them, but not an invitation would they accept, not one would they extend; and so from that day to this the Eleventh have had an interesting course with the people at the ranch, and the soldiers know very little more. Once or twice a year some very ordinary looking man arrive who are said to be very distinguished people—in England, but they remain only a little while, and go away as suddenly as they came."

"And you have never seen any of them?" "Never, except at a distance. Nor has any one of the officers, except Dr. Quinn."

"And you have never heard anything about the inmates and why they keep up this policy of exclusiveness?" "We have heard all manner of things—some of them wildly romantic, some mysteriously tragic, and all of them, mysteriously absurd. At all events, Capt. Lawrence has told me he did not wish to repeat what I had heard, or to be concerned in any way with the stories about; so you must ask somebody else."

"The doctor," to change the subject, this Perry looked on have less than my serious little silken braid and tassel you saw on your cap button. I fancied there was some romance attached to it, and now it is gone."

Perry laughed, his blue eyes twinkling with fun. "If I will tell you how and where I got that tassel, will you tell me what you have heard about Dunraven Ranch?"

"I cannot, unless Capt. Lawrence will draw his promise. Perhaps he will, though, for I think it was only because he was tired of hearing all our conjectures and theories."

"Well, will you tell me if I can induce the captain to say he has no objection?" persisted Perry.

"I will to-morrow—if you will tell me about the tassel to-night."

"Is it a positive promise? You will tell me to-morrow all you have heard about Dunraven Ranch if I will tell you tonight all I know about the tassel?" "Yes—a promise."

"Very well, then. You are a witness to the compact, Graham. Now for my confession. I have worn that tassel ever since our parting last at Fort Riley. That is to say, it has been fastened to that button ever since the bell went to-night; but I've been mighty careful not to wear that cap on any kind of duty."

"And yet you let Mrs. Belknap take it off to-night?" "Why shouldn't I? There was no sentiment whatever attached to it. I haven't the faintest idea who it was, and only did it there for the fun of the thing and to make Graham, here, ask questions."

"Mr. Perry!" gasped Mrs. Lawrence. "And do you mean that Mrs. Belknap knows—that you told her what you have just told me?" "Well, no," laughed Perry. "I fancy Mrs. Belknap thinks as you thought, that it was a gag of amusement. Hallo! look at that light away out there across the prairie. What can that be?"

Mrs. Lawrence rose suddenly to her feet and gazed southeastward in the direction in which the young officer pointed. It was a lovely, starlit night, and a soft wind was blowing gently from the south and bearing with it the fragrance of spring blossoms and far away flowers. Others, too, had arisen, attracted by Perry's sudden exclamation. Mrs. Belknap turned languidly in her hammock and glanced over her pretty white shoulder. The colonel followed her eyes with his and gave a start of surprise. The doctor turned slowly and composedly and looked slowly towards the glistening object, and then upon the officers of the cavalry there fell sudden astonishment.

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FRUITFUL NORTH CAROLINA FRUITFUL IN 1890. For the first time the corn crop is excellent in every county from Cherokee to Currituck. The Commissioner of Agriculture tells me this is very remarkable. There never was so large a corn crop, and this remark applies to cotton, sweet potatoes and ground peas. All the cultivated crops during the year were good, save wheat and oats. In this section corn crops of from forty to sixty bushels to the acre, on uplands, are not at all uncommon, while sweet potatoes sell at 30 to 40 cents per bushel. In the wheat-growing section of the State, where very little cotton is planted, the new wheat is sown. In the counties, where more wheat is grown year after year, the cotton crop, much of which is yet unpickered, has so required the farmer's attention that not much wheat is yet planted. But if this favorable weather continues quite a large crop will be put in. There will be a remarkably large increase in the acreage in clover.—Raleigh C. of Wilmington Messenger.

INQUIRIES ABOUT NORTH CAROLINA. There are just now a great number of inquiries regarding North Carolina by persons who state that they intend to become settlers. These inquiries are made as regards all parts of the State—from the coast counties to the most extreme western ones. A great deal of information of the most practical kind concerning North Carolina is being sent out from the State, where very little attention is paid to outsiders.—Raleigh C. of Wil. Messenger.

The delegates from this State to the Southern Inter-State Immigration Convention which meets in Asheville December 17th can do the State much good, if they are posted on the States' great resources and natural advantages in climate, soil, minerals and timbers.

OFFICIAL RETURNS According to "Depopulator" Porter. Below will be found a carefully prepared transcript, prepared by the American Press Association, from the official returns of the Federal Census of 1890, showing the population of cities and towns in North Carolina with the figures of 1870 and 1880, thus indicating the growth of the last twenty years. We do not pretend to say that it is correct, but it is the official report that Porter will make:

Table with 4 columns: City, 1870, 1880, 1890. Rows include Asheville, Charlotte, Elizabeth City, Fayetteville, Goldsboro, Greensboro, New Bern, Raleigh, Salisbury, Washington, Wilmington, Winston.

It is dangerous to neglect catarrh, for it leads to bronchitis and consumption. Hood's Sassaaparilla cures catarrh in all forms.

PHYSICIANS ON THEIR WAY TO EXAMINE THE CONSUMPTION CURF.

The N. Y. Star says: Dr. H. Holbrook Curtis, Dr. W. F. Norton and Dr. J. M. Ransom have united with Dr. David Orr Edison, and have sent him to Europe to listen to professor Koch's lectures and procure a supply of the lymph. Dr. Edison sailed in the Normanna yesterday. These gentlemen have already secured a small supply of the precarious fluid, and expect to arrive in this city on the 1st of December.

They have leased the house No. 30 East Thirty-third street, and will fit it up as a sanitarium for the treatment of cases of consumption after the Koch method.

Other physicians who left yesterday on the Normanna for Berlin to study Dr. Koch's consumption cure were Dr. James Guiteras of Philadelphia, who goes to represent the University of Pennsylvania; Dr. J. W. Campbell of Michigan, and Dr. Ludwig Weiss and Dr. Charles W. Ellis of this city. The Carnegie Laboratory of the Bellevue Hospital Medical College will send a representative in the person of Dr. David Hunter McAlpin, who leaves on the Lahn next Wednesday.

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