THE CAUCASIAN.

VOL. XV. RALEIGH, N. C., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1897. NO. 42.

ANSWERS OF THE WILSONS.

To The Governor's Notice to Show Cause Why They Should Not be Removed.

DENIAL AND CONFESSION.

They Attempt to Make Sweeping Denials, But Are Forced to Admit That The Material Substance of The Charges Formulated by The Governor Are True—How They Are Both Interested in a Certain Way in The Southern Railroad—Their Failure of Duty Alone Amounts to a Disqualification to Act in The Eyes of The People—The "Overseer" Tries to Save Them With an Affidavit—The Public Awaits The Governor's Decision with Great Interest.

In the last issue of THE CAUCASIAN we published a letter of the Governor's to two of the Railway Commissioners, calling upon them to show cause why they had not become disqualified to act, and therefore be removed as Commissioners. On September the 1st, the day named by the Governor for a hearing, the two Commissioners appeared before him in the Executive office with their counsel. Major John D. Shaw appeared as the attorney for Major Wilson, and Mr. J. C. L. Harris appeared as attorney for Mr. S. Otho Wilson. The respective attorneys read the replies of their clients and followed with short speeches. The replies are as follows:

Maj. Wilson Answer.

Maj. Wilson's answer was as follows:

Raleigh, Aug. 30, 1897.

To Daniel L. Russell, Governor of North Carolina:

Sir: Your favor of the 25th citing me to appear before you on Wednesday, the first day of September, and reply in writing to certain rumors or charges from parties unknown to me, and show cause why I should not be removed from the responsible position as Chairman of the Railroad Commission, agreeable to section 1 of the Act creating this Commission, was duly received.

In obedience thereto I herewith submit this my answer to each charge in the order as given in your letter. It is drawn by myself, and possibly free from the diction which a lawyer would have imparted, but feel sure will carry conviction to an impartial mind.

First—It is not true as alleged that I am "the joint owner with Col. A. B. Andrews, Vice-President of the Southern Railway and general political manager of the same for North Carolina in a certain piece of hotel property known as Round Knob."

Second—It is not true "that said hotel is worthless for that purpose except when designated and patronized by the Southern Railroad Company as an eating house for their passenger trains."

Third—It is not true "that said hotel property has been unoccupied and unused for any purpose for several years past and brought in no revenue to me as one of its owners."

Fourth—It is not true "that it was impossible to use, lease or rent said property unless some understanding, agreement or contract could be made with the Southern Railroad Company to designate and patronize the said hotel as a railroad eating house."

Fifth—It is not true as alleged "that I with the other owner or owners of said property have secured an agreement, understanding or contract from the Southern Railroad Company to abandon other eating houses and designate Round Knob as a eating house, and by virtue of said arrangements with said railroad that I have been able to lease said hotel property to Otho Wilson, or his mother through the said Otho Wilson for profit."

Sixth—It is untrue as further alleged that I have a son in the employment of the Southern Railroad Company at my request and that he was appointed over others entitled by promotion under the practice of the company and this was done for my accommodation and at my request." I hereby denounce these allegations as made to you by "many persons" as false, and demand the proof.

In explanation I will state that about 1881, Col. Andrews and myself built this hotel at a cost of about $8,000. Is it not worthless as stated, but is a most convenient and beautiful hotel with 30 rooms, closets and baths on each floor; and was leased as a hotel for several years with no meals supplied to passengers. The property had not been unoccupied for years as charged but had been leased up to last year at an annual rental of $500 per annum to a responsible party, with no understanding of any kind with the Southern Railroad Company.

In a casual conversation with Mr. Otho Wilson, my recollection is that I spoke of this very desirable property which was then vacant, the lease of Friscard and Company, having expired, and saying that the superintendent of the road had sent the word if some one would open and keep a good house, he would make it a dinner house; the hotel at Hickory was then closed and my impression is that Asheville was not then a regular eating house, but of this I am not sure. Mr. Wilson remarked that his mother was looking around for a boarding house and possibly this might suit her and he would go up and examine the property; this he did; on his return expressed himself as greatly pleased, but said the former lessees had left the property in a bad condition and very dirty. I was aware of this and replied that on this account if his mother would put the place in good repair she could have it the first year free of rent—this much for the profit as charged; the message to me about the eating house was not intended for Mr. Otho Wilson or his mother, but was sent before Mr. Wilson or his mother ever thought of it and intended for any person I could get who would keep a first class table. The management of the property was left entirely to me and my recollection is that I never mentioned the matter to Col. Andrews until the trade was consummated through Mr. Otho Wilson for his mother.

The land upon which the Round Knob property was located, belonged to John Malone, Col. Crockford and myself. This party owed a debt of about $3,000 to R. H. Brown, of McDowell county. I was the only one of the party now living and was alone responsible for the debt. For the hotel itself I paid $6,000. Col. Andrews, $2,000, Col. Andrew's interest being about one-fourth of the hotel with about 10 acres of land adjoining. Before the receipt of your letter I had no idea that any man in North Carolina seriously considered that my owning a piece of property jointly with Col. Andrews, and held by us jointly since 1881, and now rented by a widow, which being in addition to a summer resort was a dinner house for the passenger trains of the Southern Railroad, would ever in any way be so construed as to make me in any form under obligations to the Southern Railroad. Finding however by your letter that there were parties who believed or pretended to believe that this was indirectly a violation of the Act, I promptly under advice of friends to avoid "even the appearance of evil" deeded my undivided interest in the property to R. M. Brown, for his claim about $3,000, about the value at the present depreciation of property. This was done agreeable to section 1. of the Act to avoid any criticism, by even the captious, as to my conduct as Railroad Commissioner, and I have no interest whatever direct or indirect in the property known as Round Knob. Feeling no uneasiness that you as a Judge should be so biased, as to decide that with the showing made, you could with any pretension of justice remove me from the office now held by the unanimous support of the Legislature of North Carolina; for this unprecedented compliment I never before had an opportunity to return thanks.

As to the charges about my son will say that he is no minor as charged, but is 27 years old and is now one of the oldest employes on the Division upon which he is situated. About four years ago the agent at Morganton resigned. My son was his chief clerk and in the very line of promotion. V. E. McBee, General Superintendent of the S. A. L., was at that time Superintendent of that Division; he had previously promised my son as was told that he would promote him at the first opportunity. Mr. McBee kept his promise. I have no recollection of it, but it is more than probable that I spoke to Capt. McBee in his behalf. It would have been a most unnatural father who would have done otherwise. I believe this covers the entire bill of charges.

But as there are other matters of rumor not in your letter, but calculated to prejudice your mind, I consider it but simple justice to state the facts as to each one. It is charged that when the Seaboard system was endeavoring to give the people cheap rates that I interfered. The following is a copy of orders in the case—see report of the Commissioners to the Governor, page 213: "It appears from press reports that reduced rates have been again ordered to be put in effect from certain points within—clearly causing a discrimination in violation of the long and short haul clause of the Act creating the Commission. Justice to the local business of the State requires of us to take prompt action. It is ordered by this Commission that all roads doing business within the State of North Carolina shall reduce their local tariffs of passenger and freight in the same proportion as has been done by them on their through busines."

It was my opinion then that our own folks should at least have as good treatment as outsiders. I drew the order and would do so again under similar circumstances. It is also charged on the streets that the Seaboard system was unfairly dealt with by me in the matter of their proposed change of line at Gaston. The facts are, that the order as given was drawn by Capt. McBee, General Superintendent of the Seaboard Air Line and in his own writing now on file in this office. By his request the Board adopted it as their order, believing it to be a fair solution of the matter. At least the Seaboard should be estopped from objecting. The charges as made against me are so frivilous, that they would have passed them unnoticed, had they not been considered as of serious importance by one who holds the exalted position that you do. It is also charged, that my influence during the session of the Legislature was exerted to prevent a reduction of rates. The last annual report, submitted by the Commission, with no difference of views by the Commissioners, gave the rates of freight and passengers considered by us as "just and reasonable." In support of our views comparison of rates of all the States in the Union, was made and published. We were sworn officers and made this report with due regard to the solemity of our oaths. During the session of the Legislature the members of the Commission were invited to appear before the joint committee on Railroads and give their views as to the justness of the rates now in force. Two of us responded, I for one and was given a most respectful hearing by the committee. In my argument the report of the Commission was sustained by facts and figures. Nothing since has been shown to convince me that I was wrong. The charge that it was argued by me before the committee that to recommend a change of rates would be a reflection upon the Commission is not warranted by the facts; nothing of the kind was ever alluded to by me—in this I am sure I will be sustained by each member of the committee. In justice to myself will say that I never entered the walls of the Legislature during the sessions or expressed my views except when solicited to do so by the committee.

These facts have been intended to be given without feeling and in a most respectful manner and trust they will be so received by you.

In addition to the facts will say that the State of North Carolina has a constitution which you and I have sworn to support. This Constitution and the laws as expounded guarantees protection to its humblest citizen.

To a lawyer of your acknowledged ability it may appear presumptive for me to call to your attention Section 4 and 5 Article C. of the State Constitution, which reads as follows:

"Every voter except as hereafter provided, shall be eligible to office, &c., &c."

"The following classes of persons shall be disqualified for offices—First, all persons who shall deny the being of Almighty God. Second, all persons who shall have been convicted of treason, perjury, or of any infamous crime," &c., &c. See also Article 4 Section 31—Also, Article 1, Section 19 of bill of Rights. This I will copy in full as it is regarded by every freeman as a bulwark of liberty. It reads as follows:

"In all controversies at law respecting property, the ancient mode of trial by jury is one of the best securities of the rights of the people, and ought to remain sacred and inviolable."

See also 14th amendment of Constitution of the United States which forbids any State to deprive a citizen of life, liberty or property without due process of law.

See also decisions of our Supreme Court:

Hoke vs. Ellis, 7 Jones, page 545.

Hoke vs. Henderson, 4 Devereaux page 1.

Cotton vs. Ellis, 7 Jones, page 545.

Bunting vs. Cates, 77 N. C., page 289.

Branson vs. Turner, 70 N. C., page 93.

Howerton vs. Tate, 70 N. C., page 61.

Legislature cannot confer on an executive Judicial powers—See Cooley on Constitutional Limitations.

J. W. WILSON.

S. Otho Wilson's Answer.

RALEIGH, N. C., September 1, 97.

HON. DANIEL L. RUSSELL,
Governor of North Carolina.

SIR—Replying to your notice of the 24th of August to show cause why I should not be suspended from the exercise of the duties of my office as Railroad Commissioner, I have this to say:

I have no interest in any way in the Southern Railway Company, or any other company or corporation over which the Railroad Commission has jurisdiction.

I am not in any way interested in the eating house at Round Knob. I rented the house for my mother—the rent she pays being repairs to the house for the first year, with an option to rent for five years at $250 per year. I have paid my board for myself and family, and have not and am not to receive one cent from the profits of the house. When at home I have rendered my mother such service as I could in managing the house, and the same services have been performed by other members of the family.

The arrangements to have the trains stopped at Round Knob for dinner was made by the railroad authorities upon their own motion, and is determinable by the Southern Railway Company at any time.

I have been owing my mother several hundred dollars borrowed money for several years, and I have purchased furniture and supplies for the Round Knob house and charged same to her in part payment of my debt.

I have no knowledge of the discontinuance of dinner houses at Asheville and Hickory. They were not closed in consequence of an agreement with my mother to make Round Knob a dinner house.

That a month before the notice of the Governor was received this affiant had seen Messrs. Wynne & Ellington, of this city, relative to renting a house for the purpose of bringing his family back to Raleigh. That since that time and before the notice of the Governor was received, the contract of renting was completed and the affiant and family are now living therein.

That affiant and family went to Round Knob for the summer because his wife had been in bad health and the family physician advised this change for the benefit of Mrs. Wilson.

Wherefore I say:

First: That I have not become agent or an emyloyee of the Southern Railway Company.

Second: That I have not acquired any interest in any way in the Southern Railway Company.

Third: Not having any interest in any way in the Southern Railway Company or any other company or corporation over which the Railroad Commission has jurisdiction, I have not become disqualified to act as a fair and impartial judge or Commissioner.

In support hereof I submit the statements of my mother, Mrs. Mary J. Wilson, Col. A. B. Andrews, Maj. J. W. Wilson, Messrs. Wynne & Ellington, and Dr. A. W. Goodwin.

And in addition to this sworn statement of facts, I respectfully refer to my record as Commissioner as proof conclusive that I am not and have not been influenced by any railway company or any other company or corporation over which the Railway Commission has jurisdiction.

I suppose that in due course of law, after reading the absolute and unqualified denials of this answer, supported and corroborated by the affidavits herewith filed, that the unsupported charges against me of a partisan press and malicious meddlers, will be immediately dismissed as without foundation and wilful and maliciously false. If I am mistaken in the view of your decision, then I demand to confront my accusers and cross examine the witnesses against me.

Very respectfully,

S. OTHO WILSON.

(Continued on third page.)

THE COMMON SENSE OF IT.

HOW MUCH $1.65 WOULD DO FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS

Sees his Mistake in Voting Against Better Public Schools—A Conversation Between "George" and the Editor of the New Era"—"George" Now Sees That the Politicians and the Monopoly Newspapers Fooled Him.

We clip the following from the Wilmington New Era. It is an interesting and instructive conversation that took place between the editor of that paper and a Pender County farmer named George. It is as follows:

"Hello! George! How did you vote on the school question?"

"I voted against it."

"Why did you not vote for it, George?"

"Well, says he, because I am opposed to higher taxes."

"Well, are you also opposed to a longer school term and better schools?"

"Oh, no! I want to see better schools, and to prove that I am in favor of educating children, I may tell you that my wife and I are thinking of moving to town. That is, if I can get anything there to do, just so we can get our children in the school five months in the year."

"Well, George, how many children have you, that are old enough to attend school?"

"Well sir, we have five that ought to be in the schoolroom at this very moment."

"Well, can't you send them at home to your free school?"

"Oh, my! We only have about two months' school each year and the children forget what they learn from one school term to the other."

"Well, what would it cost you to send them to a five months' pay-school?"

"It would cost me, sir, at least $25.00."

"Well, would it not be wise for you to send them to a pay-school, since you have no free school worth speaking of?"

"Well, sir, I would do it if I were able, but I am not, and none of my neighbors are in a position to pay for the schooling of their children. So you see, we are all in the same boat and our only hope is to either move to town (and then our farm goes to nothing) or to let them grow up in ignorance and trust to chance for their later education."

"Well, George, how many hundred dollars do you pay taxes on?"

"On $900.

"Well; let's see! How much extra taxes would you have to pay under this local school tax?"

"I have not figured it up."

"Well, how much is it on the $100?"

"Fifteen cents."

"How much on the poll?"

"Thirty cents I believe."

"Well sir, then your extra taxes to give you a five months good schooling at home would have been only $1.65!"

What! Only $1.65?"

"Yes, that's all. This small amount would have enabled you to keep your children five or six months in school during the year, staying on the farm at that, where you could raise your own supplies, which is much better than to be dependent on the cold charity of the city. Besides, when you go to town, your poll, city, state and county taxes are about $7.00 extra. So if you are opposed to higher taxes for school purposes, you better keep out of the city, especially when you and your neighbors, who are too poor to send their children to a pay school at home.

You have thrown away the only opportunity you have ever had to give your children at home as good a school as they could get in the cities at the graded schools, and at much less cost. You have voted down a local tax that would not have cost you more than $1 65 extra, and would have kept your children in the school room five to six months in each year."

"Well sir," says George, "I had never viewed it in that light before, but I must admit that I have acted the fool and in away that my future generation and my community may feel it forever. Had I taken a common sense view of the matter I could have seen it was the co-operation of all the tax-payers that could have given us longer school terms for such a small increase of taxes—cheaper than any other way that I can ever possibly educate my children. Yes I have acted the fool, or rather I have been fooled.

At first I thought I would vote for the school tax. For awhile everybody seemed to be in favor of it, but soon my party newspaper came out against it. It said that we had to pay more taxes now than we could afford to pay. I knew this was true, so I did not stop to think. I see now that it is saving money to pay $1 65 in extra taxes than to pay $25 00 for tuition at a pay school or to move to town with my family." With this, George (realizing the extent to which he had been fooled) began to warm up. Continuing he said:

"They also told me that I would be put in jail if I did not pay my taxes by a certain day and then asked me if I could afford to vote for any more taxes to increase my chance of going to jail. I see now that if I have to pay $25.00 for the tuition of my children or go to the expense of moving to town that I will run more risk of not being able to pay my taxes than I would if I had to pay only $1.65 a year to educate my children."

"Have you seen a line in your so-called Democratic paper (which by the way is owned by the railroads) about people being put in jail for not paying their taxes since the school election was over?"

"No, since you mention it I don't remember to have seen a line about it during the last three weeks. Is it possible that the whole matter was hatched up to keep the people from voting for the school law?

"Exactly! If you had voted for this school tax, the railroads, and other corporations would have had to pay part of it. Besides, the cor-

(Continued on fourth page.)

THE PRESS AND THE GOVERNOR.

What The "Overseer's" Help Say About The Action of Governor Russell in Reference to The Railroad Commissioners.

The Assault on Wilson and Wilson.

Charlotte Observer, Monopoly Dem.)

The movement against Railroad Commissioners J. W. Wilson and S. Otho Wilson, told of in the News and Observer yesterday, is the outgrowth of nothing, of course, except spite and hatred. The Governer and the senior Senator have failed to control the railroad commission, and it suits their malevolent purposes to charge that some one else is doing so. They accordingly unearth a law under which they hope to oust the majority of the commission, the idea being to replace with their own creatures the commissioners when they retire. It is cheap enough and easy enough to say that the railroads run the railroad commission; that is a good disguise for their own desire to do so. The Observer has to say, however, for Maj. J. W. Wilson, what all the State knows to be true, that no influence is strong enough to induce him to do anything wrong, while as to Mr. S. Otho Wilson, he is Senator Butler's own representative on the railroad commission, and seeking to discredit him, the Senator but discredits himself. The whole business is but a bit of cheap demagogy, inspired by malice and having for its end personal, political gain.

What an Excited Organ Says.

(Asheville Gazette.)

The Gazette presents in another column letters from Governor Russell to Major J. W. Willson and S. Otho Wilson respectively, railroad commissioners, which are astonishing, if any thing the Governor could could astonish anyone. That he is getting desperate in his determination to bulldoze everything and everybody in sight into servile submission to his will and domination is evident. Deserted by his own party save those who fawn upon and lick him, and condemned by all others save Butler and some who have vengeance to satisfy or who are, or hope to become beneficiaries of his power, he seems determined to throw discretion and the dignity and high character of his office to the winds and distort powers conferred, and destroy character if necessary, to accomplish his own selfish schemes and establish his personal authority.

We have been told that the governor wanted his brother to be clerk to the railroad commission. Maj. Wilson wanted the old clerk who was honest, efficient, faithful; and the old clerk was re-elected. Can it be possible that the fact that Major Wilson and Col. Andrews happen to own the Round Knob hotel, and that Mr. S. Otho Wilson's mother rents the same and that passengers on the Southern railroad stop there for meals, is to be made the excuse of the governor to remove a majority of the board, in order to give his brother or some other personal henchman a job?

What a spectacle for honest men—honest North Carolinians—we care not what their party affiliations may be!

Senator Butler is the close, confidential friend and ally of the governor. How happy this must make Senator Pritchard and the Republican party.

The supreme court will doubtless take a hand in this attempt of the governor to degrade the powers of the executive into an instrument of personal vengeance and oppression. Then possibly something further may be developed.

A Scheme to Gain Populists.

Lexington Dispatch, (Monopoly Dem.)

In order to advance their own selfish ends, Daniel L. Russell, who once said that a black man smelt like rank guano, and Marion Butler who has always made good trades, have hitched themselves in harness together. They make their first pass at the Railroad Commissioners. The apparent object is to make an impression on the people that they are fighting corporations. It is anything to gain popularity. The fact is, these two worthies have lost cast with the people. The Populists, or at least a great many of them, have declared against Butler and his cunning dark ways, while the vindictive and resentful Russell is by no means in harmony with the rank and file of his party.

It is no more than natural that these two outcasts should come together. They have a fellow feeling and if possible they will hatch up some scheme whereby they may benefit themselves. The man that swaps horses with Butler will get cheated and the man that displeases Russell will get a cussing. Just watch Russell and Butler; there will be cheating and cussing.

The Squeal of a Little Monopoly Organ.

Sampson Democrat.]

Butler and Russell see that their hold upon the people, and therefore upon office, is about gone. Their only game is to do some daring deed which they may turn to their personal advantage. They want to form a party, the platform of which will be "death to the railroads." They expect to live upon the prejudices which they hope to arouse in the people against railroads and other corporations. Failing to make the Railroad Commission, which is composed of men of some spirit and independence, prostitute their offices to aid them, these designing demagogues want to remove the two Wilsons and appoint two sticks in their places whom they can use to their personal advantage.

A Paper That Does not Know Which Way to Jump.

News and Observer.]

The report circulated ten days ago that Governor Russell contemplated removing two of the Railroad Commissioners on the charge that they were so connected by business arrangements with the Southern Railway that they are not fair Commissioners, seems to have had foundation.

Yesterday the Governor sent letters to each of these two Commissioners reciting the allegations against them and giving them until next week to answer the matters alleged. The letters appear elsewhere in to-day's issue.

If the Governor had summarily removed these officers without a hearing, he would have subjected himself to just criticism. The investigation ought to be a full and fair one.

The Governor's Rant.

Salisbury World (Gold—R. R. Organ.)

The Wilsons have filed their answers to Governor Russell's allegations against them and both seek a complete vindication. A very dignified course to have pursued, it seems to us, would have been to completely ignore the Governor's rant. An impeachment at his hands would be an honor to any man.

SENATOR PRITCHARD'S BROTHER SHOT.

While in the Attempt of Arresting a Noted Desperado, Who in Turn Was Shot and Killed by Deputy Blalock.

A special from Cloudland, N. C., says: George C. Pritchard, brother of Senator Pritchard, of North Carolina, who is the Sheriff of Mitchell county, was fatally wounded to-day while attempting to arrest Monroe Garland, a noted desperado, near Cloudland. Sheriff Pritchard had a warrant for Garland, and with a deputy went after him. The desperado fired at the Sheriff, one ball penetrating the lungs and another passing through his neck. Garland, after he had shot Pritchard, turned on Deputy Blalock and began firing, but Blalock was too quick for him, and shot him twice. Garland died in a few minutes, and Pritchard was taken to a nearby house and surgical aid sought.

The following letter from Senator Pritchard to his law partner, Capt. J. M. Gudger, is no doubt the most accurate account of the recent Mitchel county shooting. The Asheville Gazette says: Senator Pritchard, of course, will expect Capt. Gudger to defend the Sheriff in case of recover and prosecution for the killing of Garland. The letter was written at Bakersville, August 29:

"I arrived yesterday at noon and found George seriously wounded. The doctors say that it is possible for him to recover. I will remain here until there is a change in him. The facts are as follows: Monroe Garland, a boy of 18 years of age, has been leading the life of a desperado for some time, and within the last year he has shot and wounded six different persons, one of them being a woman. In most cases he did the shooting from ambush.

The last person he shot was Sirodge and the grand jury took the matter in hand and requested the judge to issue a warrant, which he did, and George, accompanied by Lem Blalock, went out to the head of Bear's creek to arrest Garland. As Garland was leaving the house, where he had eaten his breakfast, George walked up behind and demanded him to surrender. Garland at once wheeled and fired at George, the bullet taking effect on the right side, passing through the upper part of his lung, and lodged in the back. George fired about the same time shooting Garland square through from the left to the right side, picked up his pistol, which had fallen in consequence of his arm being paralyzed, and emptied it, and fired two more shots from his pistol, when he fell from exhaustion. Four of the shots took effect, any one of which was fatal.

"After George ceased firing Blalock fired one shot at the deceased. The reason Blalock did not shoot at him before, was that George was between him and the deceased. Garland died in a few minutes.

CONFEDERATE ROLL OF HONOR.

Effort Being Made to Preserve the Names of the Soldiers of the South.

RICHMOND, Va., Sept. 2.—At a recent meeting of the Confederate Memorial Literary Society it was resolved to press forward the work of registering the names of Confederate soldiers and sailors in a "roll of honor," to be preserved in the Confederate Museum for all time.

The books are now open, and it is urged that those who feel an interest in this work shall send in the names and rank of their friends and comrades promptly, with such mention of their record as they may deem proper, and as far as possible a verified report of the various commands to which they were attached—the names not only of those who died for their country in the hope of victory, but also of those who learned the not less heroic lesson of living for their country in the hour of distress.

Mrs. James N. Dunlop, chairman of the Memorial Committee at Richmond, is in charge of the work.

ALABAMA'S COTTON CROP.

The Output Will Be 30 Per Cent. Less Than in 1896.

MONTGMERY, Ala., Sept. 2.—Reports have been received at the office of Commissioner of Agriculture Culver from fifty-four of the fifty-six counties in this State as to the condition of cotton. The output for the State will not exceed 70 per cent. of last year's crop. There have been heavy losses during the last two weeks on account of rust.

The Railroad Commissioners, who have been over every railroad in the State recently, estimated the crop even lower than the above. These are facts as to the cotton crop of Alabama.

TO PREVENT UNION PACIFIC SALE.

Senator Harris En Route to Washington to Attend Committee Meeting.

LAWRENCE, KAN., Sept. 5.—United States Senator W. A. Harris departed today for Washington to attend a meeting of the sub-committee on Pacific railroads called by Senator Foraker for September 7th. Senator Harris states that determined effort will be made to prevent the sale of the Union Pacific before Congress convenes in order that the government may not lose by the transaction.

Bank's Cashier Gone.

ROCKFORD, Ill., Sept. 2.—The Bank of Durand failed to open its doors today, and Charles A. Norton, cashier and general manager of the institution has disappeared. He is said to have forged the names of prominent farmers to twenty-seven notes for various amounts. The bank had despoists of about $30,000, but a time-lock is on the safe, and cannot be opened until morning.

Norton is thirty-six years old, and was prominent in church and business circles. The bank, a private one, has been running six years, and was about to be reorganized as a State bank. Norton wore three overcoats with pockets filled and carried a satchel when he drove away last night.

THE CAUCASIAN one year and the World Almanac, $1.15.

THE ISSUES BEFORE THE PEOPLE

Great Economic Questions Which Must be Settled and Which the Politicians Can not Dodge or Side Track—A Correspondent Sends an Interview and Asks a Question—All are Pleased With the Discussion.

SALISBURY, N. C. Aug. 17, 1897.

EDITOR CAUCASIAN:—I clip the following from the Salisbury Evening World of yesterday, which is published as an interview with Senator Butler:

Senator Marion Butler, accompanied by Congressman Shuford, supped at the Mt. Vernon Hotel last night.

They were on their way to Concord, where Senator Butler spoke today. He spoke at Newton Saturday, and Mr. Shuford says he had the largest crowd that ever turned out to a public speaking there.

"On what line do you propose to make your campaign next year?" the World asked him when he came out from supper.

"Certain live issues developed in the last Legislature," he replied; "namely: the ninety-nine year lease; stopping of free passes, the reduction of freight and passenger rates to the gold standard level; the prevention of gold notes being taken; the action of certain corporations who do business in the State by courtesy of the State running off to Federal courts and injunctions, denying that they can get justice in State courts. For example the railroad commission reduced telegraph tolls from 25 to 15 cents. The Western Union denies the power of the State to decide on fair rates and also denies the power of State courts to sit in equity. Realizing the ugly light in which this placed them, they have their mouth-pieces today announcing that the reason for this action is that one member of the Supreme Court bench is prejudged against them. Is not the Federal court prejudged the other way, even granting that their contention is true? As an example in the case of the private citizen, should sue the Southern Express Company they would at once run off to the Federal courts, and make it so inconvenient and expensive that the citizen could not prosecute the suit. This must be stopped. These foreign corporations must be made to respect and submit to our State courts.

These in the main are the issues that will be presented to the voters in the next campaign and I feel confident that they will sweep the State."

"But how are you going to explain to the people the increased taxes that your party has put on them?" I asked him.

"Do they object to increasing taxes for school purposes?" he asked in reply.

"But in the extravagances of the legislature, in the matter of public printing and questions of that nature where the money was not applied to education or any other application made that would redound to the good of the people?"

This query he waved of with some vague reply about the old racket of negro being played out

"Will Russell be with you in the next campaign?" I then asked him.

"If he is an honest man," said Senator Butler, "he will fight for the issues which I have defined, all of which he favors. I believe he is an honest man and will be with me."

"How do you and Pritchard stand now?"

"Just as we stood last winter," he said."

Senator Butler says that he is only speaking now by invitation."

Now I wish to say to you, Mr. Editor, that all the Populists around here were not with you, Senator Butler or Gov. Russell in the fight against the lease last winter, but are all solidly with you now. Keep up the fight, you are gaining every day. But I want you to reply to what the Salisbury World says about the extravagance of the last Legislature. We feel sure that Senator Butler did this in his interview, if he had been quoted right. We are all very much pleased with the last two issues of the CAUCASIAN.

Yours truly,

A POPULIST.

[The $120,000 a year which Governor Carr and his Democratic administration robbed from the State and gave to the Southern Railroad on the midnight 99 year lease would cover two or three time all the so-called extravagances to which the Salisbury World refers. As large a loss as $120,00 a year for the next 99 years is to the State, yet it is but a bagatelle compared to what the people of this State have each year robbed from them by the railroads. They take from the people in high freights and fares about $2,300,000 each year more than a fair profit. This is more than twice all the taxes which our people pay to support the State Government and run our schools at. So if the last Legislature had squandered or stolen every dollar of the public money, they would not have robbed the people of half as much as the railroads rob from them each year. When the People's Party tried to pass a bill in the last Legislature to save the people this $2,300,000 a year, a majority of the Democratic members and a majority of the Republican members "fused" to defeat the bill. This amount of money would pay for the public printing at extravagant prices for a hundred years. And yet these machine politicians who help the railroads to rob the people of millions dare to talk about extravagance. We will refer to this matter at more length at another time.—ED. THE CAUCASIAN.]

COTTON GOES UP IN SMOKE.

Over 1,200 Bales of the Staple Burned in New York.

NEW YORK, Sept. 5.—Twelve hundred and eighty nine bales of compressed cotton, which arrived from the South by the Morgan Line and were to have been shipped East by the City of Fall River, were burned to-day in the lighter Mystic alongside the Fall River Line pier on the North River front. Loss, $25,000.

Which is worse, imprisonment for life or a life-long disease, like scrofula, for an example? The former, certainly, would be preferable were it not that Ayer's Sarsaparilla can always come to the rescue and give the poor sufferer health, strength, and happiness.

Andrews Will Consider It.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Sept. 2.—President Andrews said today that he has taken under consideration the request of the Brown University Corporation that he withdraw his resignation.

A LETTER FROM CABARRUS.

Hon. Morrison Caldwell Writes About Senator Butler's Speech at Concord.

THE SPEECH AND ITS EFFECT

He Exposes the Conspiracy of the Politicians and the Monopoly Press—It was as Fearless and Forcible as Cicero's Denunciation of Catiline's Conspiracy Against the Liberties of Rome—The Observer, a Monopoly Organ, Squeals—The Sons of Revolutionary Heroes in the Fight for Reform—A Large Crowd and Much Interest and Enthusiasm.

To the Editor of THE CAUCASIAN.

The tour of Senator Butler in the West was a triumphant procession which gathered courage and enthusiasm at every stop. The crowd that greeted him at Concord came not from Cabarrus alone, but from surrounding counties, and never before in this county, did so many Democrats come to hear a Populist speech, and some who "came to mock remained to pray." The parlor of the Morris House was filled with representative Populists from every section within a radius of twenty five or thirty miles. As the writer gazed upon that group about Marion Butler and saw such champions of reform as Lorance, Calson, Ray, Robinson and White of Iredell; such war-horses of Populism as Beard, McLean, Phillips and Earnhardt of Rowan; such sons of Stanly, of Mecklenburg and of Cabarrus as constitute the bone and sinew as well as the flower and chivalry of this section, all of them from the Catawba to the Yadkin, the descendants of such patriots and heroes as the "Black Boys of Cabarrus" who destroyed the King's powder, and many of them lineal descendants of the signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independance as gazed upon that scene. My mind reverted to Napoleon and his marshals. As they listened to the message of their faithful leader, I saw in their faces a courage that will carry the cause of the masses against the classes, and determination that means political death to the enemies of reform in North Carolina.

For two hours and a half Senator Butler enchained his audience with his invictive, his wit, and his eloquence. Cicero's denunciation of Cataline's conspiracy against the liberties of Rome was not more fearless or forcible than was Mr. Butler's arraigament of the agents and hirelings of trusts. With vigorous and impassioned eloquence he protested against the policy of permitting the trusts to dictate the teaching in our colleges and universities. With a master hand he painted the hypocrisy of the Charlotte Observer and of G. Ed Kestler in the last campaign in endeavoring to prevent the use of the electoral ticket containing both Populist and Democratic electors. He declared boldly that they were both helping Mark Hanna to elect McKinley. This charge has not been denied, but both, the Observer and its participes criminis Kestler have abused Butler since quite severely. Instead of reprinting Senator Butler's speech at Concord, the Observer published a pseudo-phillippic styled an interview of Kestler, wherein he modestly declared that he had no apologies to give for aiding in overthrowing Butler nationally.

The next day the Observer published an abusive editorial which was merely an echo of Kestler, but no attempt to palliate or deny the grave charges of political hypocracy. Such silence is calculated to strengthen the conviction that the Observer is favoring not only gold-bugism in all its hideous forms, but is now guilty of trying to divert the public mind from the real issues in North Carolina, and for the benefit of the Southern Railway Company and others are endeavoring to get up a "nigger scare" and revive the tariff.

The Charlotte Observer declared that "possibly as many as two hundred were present" to hear Senator Butler at Concord, and the News and Observer pathetically asks: "Can it be that the Senator is discouraged by the cool reception he received in his lone campaign in the West?"

Now, the Concord Times, a Democratic newspaper admits that the court house "was crowded with Populists, Republicans and Democrats." A large court house crowded by the presence of Republicans and Democrats to hear a Populist speech fifteen months before an election! Does that look like a "cool reception?" or a "lone campaign in the West?" This "lone campaign in the West" was undertaken for the express purpose of exposing and defeating a nice little scheme laid by Col. Andrews, which the twin Observers were in the act of hatching out when Butler scared them off the nest, hence all this cackling on the part of the two Observers.

Doubtless the editor of the News and Observer, when he penned this pathetic inquiry did feel somewhat "cool" over the news from that "lone campaign in the West" for lo the lone Knight that went forth to do battle with the Galrath of the political Philistines, with three little speeches at Wadesboro, Newton and Concord has caused the hosts of Populism to shout with victory, and has made the Philistines to stand dumb with dismay.

MORRISON CALDWELL.

Concord, N. C., Aug. 20, 1897.

Postal Savings Banks.

Postmaster General Gary has just received from the Postmaster General of Canada a full explanation of the savings bank system in vogue there. He has also received letters in regard to the system from prominent men all over the country, and farmers especially, as banking facilities for the latter are extremely limited. The Postmaster General is gathering all the information possible regarding postal savings banks, and it is believed in his annual report will call attention to the best features of the systems of the various countries having such banks, and will recommend that Congress authorize the establishment of postal savings banks in the United States.