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PLAN FOR SIX MONTHS PUBLIC SCHOOL TERM

A Strong Array of Facts and Figures Touching Upon This Vital Question

No Increase in the Fund Necessary, Says Mr. Butler—Charge That Too Much is Now Expended For School Machinery and For "Other Purposes."

Special to The Caucasian.

The people of North Carolina are pledged, through their State Constitution, to a four-months' public school term, and they are willing to be taxed without stint for that purpose, but they want these taxes equitably and economically expended. The public school fund now amounts to nearly two million dollars annually, which is by far the largest fund which the people are required to pay for any one purpose in the State, and they are especially desirous that this vast sum shall be so expended as to give us the longest school term possible in order that the children of the State may be the chief beneficiaries of the people's taxes, and not the numerous school officials who dispense this fund.

It is necessary to have proper supervision of our schools and these officers should be paid an amount commensurate with their work, but the expenditures for this purpose should not increase year after year faster than the school term increases, for the children, and not the distributors of the school fund, are the special objects for which these taxes and appropriations are procured.

Too much money has been spent in the recent past in our State, in the name of public education under the list "other purposes," and not enough has been expended directly for the education of our school children.

The money now being expended annually for our public schools, including State and local taxes and the $200,000 appropriation, should in my judgment, give us a six months' school term over the State instead of the seventeen weeks which we now have. State Superintendent Scarborough, in his recommendations to the legislature of 1895, found on the first page of his biennial report, says: "The total receipts as reported by the county treasurers for schools for the school year 1893-'94 were $777,079.29. This sum as shown by the reports of the county superintendents, gave for the same year a fraction less than thirteen weeks. This falls short of four months by over sixteen days. A calculation will show that the sum of $12,500 is required for one day. Multiply by sixteen and we have $200,000 needed to carry the schools to eighty days." It therefore appears from the estimates made by Superintendent Scarborough in 1894, that $977,079.29 was the amount required to furnish the children of the State a four-months' school term. In 1904, just ten years later, our school fund was $1,908,675.00, which is about twice the sum required in 1894 for a four-months' term, and would give us an eight-months' school term, provided the number of schools and the salary of the teachers and other expenses not increased since that date. The reports show that since 1894 the number of schools have increased less than 10 per cent, and that the salary of the teachers have increased less than 16 per cent but that the school fund has increased over 150 per cent, therefore, it appears that "other expenses" have consumed the greater part of the increase in the school fund since 1894.

The following information gathered from the biennial reports of our State superintendents will throw some light on suggestions above, and will prove interesting to all friends of public education:

Year	School Fund	School Term	Cost Per Day
1884	$580,311.60	57 1-2 days	$10,000
1887	647,407.81	60 days	10,790
1890	721,756.38	60 days	12,000
1894	777,079.29	64 days	12,141
1896	824,238.08	62 days	13,300
1898	988,409.11	70 days	14,120
1900	1,031,327.94	73 days	14,120
1901	1,119,746.17	77 days	14,500
1902	1,484,921.34	82 days	18,108
1903	1,584,222.13	83 1-2 days	19,000
1904	1,908,675.00	85 days	22,431

The above statistics show that since 1884 the cost per day to run the public schools has increased nearly 125 per cent. The total school fund for all purposes about 250 per cent, but that the school term has increased less than 50 per cent.

The following table will give the number of children in the State of school age for the years named:

Year	No. of Children of School Age
1884	515,404
1887	566,270
1890	586,668
1894	601,900
1896	634,185
1898	628,480
1900	659,629
1901	667,981
1902	676,612
1903	678,556
1904	686,009

The above shows that the number of school children have increased only about 30 per cent since 1894, and we have shown above that the cost per day has increased since that time nearly 125 per cent and the school fund over 250 per cent.

We give below the average salaries of the public school teachers, white and colored, for 1886, 1900 and 1904, as follows:

Year.	White teachers.	Col. teachers.
1886..	$25.00 a month.	$22.50 a month
1900	24.78 a month.	20.48 a month
1904..	29.00 a month.	22.22 a month

It will be observed from the above that the salary of the colored teachers have not increased since 1886, but have slightly decreased, and the salary of the white teachers have increased only about 16 per cent since 1886, but that the cost of each day's schooling has increased about 125 per cent and the school fund about 250 per cent.

Now let us compare the expenses of our public schools for the past five years:

Year.	For County Superintendents.	Pay and Expenses of County Boards of Education.	"Other Purposes."
1899	$21,175.25	$ 8,469.12	$40,744.41
1900	21,421.74	9,494.75	46,451.25
1901	23,596.85	8,678.09	63,883.56
1902	34,483.83	17,162.67	73,865.16
1903	39,434.20	15,611.89	74,944.04
1904	48,636.90	18,018.61	85,054.45

The above table gives us interesting information. It shows that county superintendents get money two and one-half times as much as they did only five years ago. It shows that county boards of education are paid more than twice as much as they were in 1899, and it shows that the expenditures, not itemized, but appear in the list of expenditures under the term "Other Purposes," have more than doubled in the short period of five years, as shown above.

In 1901 the number of public schools taught were 7,858.

In 1902 the number of public schools taught were 7,888.

In 1903 the number of publis schools taught were 7,824.

In 1904 the number of public schools taught were 7,817.

Consequently there were not more schools taught in 1904 than 1901, in fact fewer were taught, but the school fund in 1901 was $1,119,746 and the school term was 77 days. In 1904 the school fund was $1,903,675 and the school term was only 85 days, therefore the school fund was $788,928 more in 1904 than in 1901, and as there were only eight days more school it will be seen that the average cost of each day's increase in the school term has cost the tax-payers of our State $98,616. We have seen above that the average cost of a day's schooling in 1901 was $14,500, and therefore to have increased the school term eight days at the cost in 1901 and prior thereto, would not exceed $116,000, but since the statistics show that these eight days did cost $788,928, it therefore appears that $672,928 more was expended for this eight days' increase in the school term than it would have cost the State any time prior to 1901.

The total school fund in 1894 was only $777,079.29 and that sum gave us 64 days school in the State; and just why it has required $788,729 to increase our school term only eight days since 1901 is not clearly understood by the ordinary layman.

All this fund may have been judiciously expended, but these are strange figures, and especially so when we recall that there were fewer schools taught in 1904 than in 1901, and more remarkable still when we find that the teachers of the State receive less than $150,000 of this $788,928 increase.

Since our State stands near the bottom of the list in illiteracy, it seems to us that we should see that every dollar of our school fund goes to educate the children and to decrease our rate of illiteracy, with the strictest economy possible in the expenditures for "other purposes." We should be just before we are generous. Like the poor, we need the necessities of life before we are supplied with any of its luxuries.

Expensive school houses, rural libraries, high priced teachers and higher priced superintendents all do very well, but far more important to our State, to its reputation abroad and its citizenship at home is that our enrollment in the public schools be increased and the length of the school term. This will decrease our rate of illiteracy and prepare our children for citizenship.

The writer of this article is a friend of public education and desires to see every child in the State qualify himself for citizenship prior to 1908, and therefore wants no background steps taken in our educational system, but there are features in this system that are open to comment and perhaps criticism, and he has directed the attention of the public to these articles which have appeared recently in the State press. The department of education have prepared two answers to one of these articles, the first article appeared in the News and Observer of January 8th and the second appeared in the same paper of January 13th, and two statements appeared in these answers that are open to comment.

The State Superintendent says: "The city school fund is not included in the above calculations, nor was that fund included in the fund on which Mr. Butler based his calculation for 1898-1899. The reports of receipts of city schools were first included in the State superintendent's report 1901-1902."

In this statement there is error, for by reference to Superintendent Mebane's report on page 155 the item for disbursements of city schools appears and was included in the total school fund, and, therefore, the total school

(CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE)

CONSPIRACY OF GREEDY COMBINES

The President Foils Their Scheme to to Rob the Treasury—The President to Take a Southern Trip—The State's Interests Suffering—Senator Pritchard's Record Contrasted With That of the Democratic Senators—A Cabinet Place For the South—Are Congressmen Violating the Law as Attorneys?—The Progress of Railway Rate Legislation—Why Southern Congressmen Are Not Supporting the President in This Great Fight — The Great Work of the Agricultural Department.

Washington, D. C., May 22, 1905.
Special to The Caucasian.

All North Carolinians will be delighted to know that President Roosevelt has decided to take a trip through the heart of the South early next fall, leaving here probably about the first of October. The President will make at least one stop in North Carolina, and if he makes only one it will be at Raleigh where he will deliver a short address.

This Southern trip will extend as far as Arkansas. The President will stop a day or more at the home of his maternal ancestors in Georgia, where his mother was born. During his stay in Georgia he will be the guest of Senator Clay. When the President shall have finished this trip he will have visited, since he has been President, every State in the Union.

THE PRESIDENT BALKS A SCHEME OF A GIGANTIC, GREEDY COMBINE.

The President and Secretary of War have instructed the Isthmian Canal Commission that in leasing or purchasing ships and in buying material and supplies for the construction of the Panama Canal, to make such purchases abroad in the markets of the world if reasonable prices could not be secured at home from domestic concerns. This order has raised a howl from the greedy combines who had entered into a combination and a conspiracy to hold up the Government for enormous prices on things needed. The trusts and combines have tried to make it appear that the administration in taking this action has violated the principles of protection for American labor and American industries and swung right about face towards free trade. Of course, this howl, from those who have prepared to rob the Government, will not deceive any, except those who desire to be deceived. The President's action in this instance is bold and courageous as it has been in all other matters. The result of this action will not be the purchasing of much material abroad, but it will force those who were preparing to rob the Government to sell supplies at a reasonable price.

THE STATE'S INTERESTS SUFFERING.

The failure of the North Carolina Senators to come to Washington promptly and to save the Gettysburg Battle Field commissionership for North Carolina, has caused considerable comment and complaint on the part of North Carolina.

The North Carolina troops were not only in the hottest of the fight at the great battle of Gettysburg, but they advanced further into the enemy's line than any other troops. Besides, it is well known that North Carolina furnished more soldiers to the Civil War in proportion to population than any other state. Indeed North Carolina furnished more troops than she had voters. The State had only about 110,000 voters and furnished more than 120,000 soldiers. Indeed the record of the North Carolina on every battle field is one of the most remarkable in the history of the world. In view of these facts it is too bad for the State to lose this commissionership.

A STRIKING CONTRAST.

A prominent North Carolinian, commenting a few days ago upon the State losing this commissionership, contrasted the present conditions with the success of Senators Pritchard and Butler when they were in the Senate, in caring for the State's interests on every occasion. So wide awake and zealous were they in securing everything possible for North Carolina that it was a matter of frequent complaint and comment on the part of Senators from other States that North Carolina was getting more than its share.

This complaint was frequently made when river and harbor bills were passed. It also was made when appointments were being made to positions for the District of Columbia and elsewhere where the appointees could be selected from any part of the Union. It was also made when appointments were being made for the Spanish War.

On every occasion North Carolina not only got her full share but, as we have said, complaint was made by other Senators that she got more than her share. Senator Pritchard succeeded in getting President McKinley to offer to General Hoke of North Carolina, a position as major general. He secured the appointment of Judge Osborne on the Court of Private Land Claims. He secured the appointment of Judge Adams as Chief Justice of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Citizenship Court in the Indian Territory. He secured the appointment of a Minister to Persia and a Minister to Liberia and a great number of consuls, among them, Consul General Gudger at Panama, who has just recently been made judge of the canal zone strip.

Senators Pritchard and Butler also secured an appropriation for the Guilford Court House battlefield the establishment of a fish cultural station at Edenton, and the establishment of a biological station at Beaufort for the whole United States.

These are only a few of the many things accomplished for the State. The North Carolinian, referred to, in commenting on these things, said that the present Senators would have to get a considerable move on them to make anything like such a record.

A CABINET PLACE FOR THE SOUTH.

It is current rumor and well known here in Washington that there will be many changes in President Roosevelt's cabinet during the coming year. Indeed, several changes will probably occur within the next few months. It is not improbable that there will be nearly an entirely new cabinet within twelve months.

This being so the South should certainly be recognized for a cabinet position, while these changes are being made, and there is no States in the whole South that should be considered for that place in preference to North Carolina. There is a great industrial revival going on in the Old North State, and it is abundantly rich in natural resources, and there is no reason why it should not soon become one of the richest States in the Union.

With this industrial development, the sentiment in favor of protection and in favor of Republican policies generally, is rapidly growing. Therefore the selection of a cabinet officer from North Carolina would be a just recognition of these conditions, and it would do much to hasten the progress of such events.

ARE ANY CONGRESSMEN VIOLATING THE LAW?

There is more or less talk here about rumors that certain Congressmen are appearing before the Departments for clients as attorneys. It is difficult to believe that there is any foundation for such rumors, because if any Congressman should be so ignorant as not to know the law, he could not have failed to be familiar with the recent indictment of Senator Burton of Kansas for committing this same offense. He went to the Postoffice Department, or wrote letters there, in the interest of certain concerns who were fearful that a fraud order would be issued against them preventing them from using the mails for their business.

Of course it is the duty of a Congressman in his official capacity as a Congressman to go to the Departments in the interest of any of his constituents whenever justice demands it, but to appear there as a paid attorney would be to sell his political influence, which is not only wrong in principle, but in direct violation of the letter of the law.

Of course a Congressman who should appear before the Internal Revenue Department for an illicit whiskey distiller as a paid attorney would violate the law to the same extent that Senator Burton violated it in appearing before the Postoffice Department.

THE GREAT WORK OF SECREARY OF AGRICULTURE WILSON.

Not only the Administration, but the whole country, is to be congratulated upon having such a man as Secretary Wilson at the head of the Department of Agriculture. It is hard to estimate the value of his practical administration to the farmers and all agricultural interests of the country. He is a man of great common sense, progressiveness and has besides collected around him a number of most practical and valuable men, who devote their time to making experiments and investigations to advance the agricultural interests of the nation.

One of the greatest discoveries within a century has been that soil which is poor in nitrogen can be enriched by inoculating the soil with a bacteria, which will cause all leguminous plants to greatly enlarge their roots, by breathing nitrogen from the air and storing it in the soil in the bulbous part of the root. They have found that by thus inoculating of the soil that the common cowpea bulbous soul will be about double in size, thus storing twice the amount of nitrogen, as the ordinary cowpea in a poor sandy soil, which needs nitrogen worse than any other kind. This discovery will practically double the amount of crops that can be raised in such soil and of ccurse will greatly enhance the value of such land everywhere. This discovery is a god-send to eastern North Carolina and to land everywhere that is wanting in nitrogen.

THE REGULATION OF RAILWAY RATES.

The movement started by President Roosevelt to secure the enactment of a law that would justly regulate railroad rates and stop rebates, as a remedy for the great trust evil, as well as to lower the burden of high freight rates on all the people is gaining strength each day.

The great mass of people in the business world who have so long felt the oppression, but who were helpless to remedy the evil without the help of the Government, are rallying to the support of the President. Besides it is to the credit of some railroad men that they have been frank and honest enough to admit that there should be such a regulation in the interest of shippers. Of course, the hope of the railroads, that are determined to fight the President, is to block the passage of such a measure in the Senate, but it is not believed that they can control enough Senators to stifle such a great measure of common justice.

A NORTHERN DEMOCRAT ARRAIGNS HYPOCISY OF SOUTHERN DEMOCRATS.

The failure of Southern Democratic Congressmen and Senators to come in to the support of the President in his fight for regulation of railroad rates and the curbing of trusts has been much commented on recently.

This recalls a notable speech made by Congressman Baker, of New York State, just before the close of the last session of Congress. He severely arraigned the hyprocacy of Southern Democratic leaders for their treachery in the last campaign. He said that the real Democrats of the North did not want Judge Parker for a candidate. That the trusts and Wall street sent August Belmont and David B. Hill down South to capture the Southern Democratic leaders for Parker, with the promise that they should have campaign funds and offices as the price of their betrayal of principle. He said, turning on his Democratic colleagues, that "You Southern Democrats made a deal and forced Judge Parker on the Democrats of the North and West, and the masses of the people everywhere repudiated the bargain and sale."

No Southern Democratic leader has yet attempted to answer the charge. The Washington Post made the same charge in a leading editorial recently and no Democratic organ has dared to reply.

NORTH STATE CROPS

Conditions For Past Week as Given Out by the Department.

Heavy rains continued during the past week, generally ceasing in the west on the 16th and in the east on the 17th, the average precipitaion, about 1.00 inch for the State at large, was slightly above normal. The rainfall was unfavorable for growth, and kept the soil so wet that work could not be resumed until quite late in the week. The temperature continued high at first, but fell below the normal during the latter portion, checking growth and positively injuring some tender crops, especially cotton. The mean for the week, however, averaged nearly 2 degrees above normal. On Thursday, under the favorable influence of dry, clear and cool weather farmers resumed the necessary work of cultivation with vigor; crops were very foul in nearly all sections, but the work of killing grass and weeds made good progress, though another week of dry weather is necessary to enable the farmers to thoroughly clean all crops. Growth has been rather slow during the week, but crops continue to look fairly well.

Planting cotton is now very nearly completed; some replanting is necessary where grass made so much headway that fields cannot be cleaned without injuring the cotton; these will be plowed over and replanted; chopping cotton is well advanced, but not yet finished; good stands are generally reported; the low temperatures during the latter portion of the week caused some cotton to turn yellow and die. Corn planting is not finished, lowlands having hardly been touched on account of their wet condition; cultivating corn is proceeding, good stands have been secured, but most fields are still very foul; there are many complaints of damage to corn by cut and bud worms, to the extent of even ruining the stands in places. A large portion of the tobacco crop has been transplanted, but the work has not been completed in the most important central—northern section of the State, and here, on account of inability to transplant due to the wet, unprepared lands, many plant beds are overgrown and nearly ruined; early set tobacco is being cultivated and appears to be doing well. Reports on the condition of wheat, oats and rye continue to be favorable, with comparatively little damage by rust or Hessian fly. Clover and meadows are fine. Peanuts are coming up nicely. Many sweet potato slips were transplanted during the week; irish potatoes look healthy, but the damage by the potato beetle seems considerable. Garden and truck crops are in fair condition. Reports on the condition of fruits are rather diversified; in the west, a fair, even crop of both apples and peaches is indicated, while in the east considerable dropping of fruit is reported, though probably not more than is usual at this season; cherries are ripening and wild blackberries have set fruit nicely. The strawberry season is practically over except in the west.

Rains reported: Goldsboro, 1.26; Lumberton, 1.92; Newbern, 0.30; Weldon, 1.14; Wilmington, 0.40; Hatteras, 1.60; Nashville, 0.98; Greensboro, 2.00; Raleiga, 1.24; Foster, 1.50; Lexington, 1.24; Wadesboro, 1.75; Angier, 0.87; Moncure, 0.29; Ramseur, 0.11; Charlotte, 1.50; Asheville, 1.40; Marion, 1.53 and Settle, 2.40.

Clay Grubb Shot.

Salisbury, Special.—Monday morning about 9.30 o'clock, Clay Grubb and Clarence Thompson, the star witness for the defense in the recent trial here, drove in a gallop to Salisbury, both wounded all over the body and bleeding very freely.

Forty-five minutes before, both men were shot from ambush two miles across the Yadkin river between Mr. Grubb's home and the toll bridge. The men were driving along feeling secure from attack in open daylight. When least expecting it, Mr. Grubb felt a sharp pain about the head, heard simultaneously a shot as of a pistol. Both Messrs. Grubb and Thompson looked back and three more shots were fired. Mr. Grubb thought a rifle or a pistol was used, but all the wounds appear to be from large No. 2 shot.

On being struck, the men whipped up their horses and drove rapidly to Salisbury. Their top buggy was filled with shot and one of the horses was struck. There was a wound through his forehead, a flesh wound only, and another shot went through the flesh of his chin. He was struck in the shoulder, in the hand, the elbow and his face was bloody. Young Thompson was struck first in the hands, the flesh being considerably lacerated. In his back there are seven gunshot wounds and he suffered considerably. He was much the worse for the experience. Mr. Grubb has 13 wounds and Mr. Thompson 10. Forty-eight marks were observed in the buggy.

Mr. Grubb recognized one of his assailants. He is a desperate negro, Nat Crump, and was bribed once before to shoot Mr. Grubb, when the prisoner was released Saturday, he remarked upon returning home that he was not uneasy about anybody's attacking him except this negro. Crump once worked for Mr. Grubb; they fell out and Mr. Grubb whipped him. Since then the negro has been on the lookout for him.

Mr. Grubb was warned Sunday of a possible attack. Oscar Walser, who first communicated Obe Davis' offer of $50 for the slaying of Grubb, also foretold him what was about to happen again. Mr. Grubb went to bed early last night, locked everything securely and slept soundly. He had no fear of attack in the day-time, and was not prepared to do battle with the murderers. The only weapon about them was a small pistol in the foot of the buggy.

Ox Hitched to Sleigh.

The novel spectacle of an ox hitched to a sleigh was seen on the streets of Westminster, Vt., during the winter. Mr. Farnham of the south district was the driver.

THE A. & N. C. RAILROAD

Why Was a Road Paying $78,000 Leased For $53,000 Per Year—Mr. Wooten Wants to Know—An Interesting History is the Road—It's Net Receipts Are Increasing at the Rate of $28,000 a Year—It is Rented For Less Than Half Its Value.

Kinston, N. C., May 20, 1905.
To the Caucasian:

Living on the line of the Atlantic & North Carolina railroad and familiar with its history, I purpose to give a brief sketch of its management.

The road was completed to Goldsboro in the spring of 1858. The people of New Bern, on the 15th of April gave a big dinner and trains came from every road in the State and brought a large crowd. Dr. Hawks and H. W. Miller delivered addresses. New Bern has ever been noted for her hospitality, but on this occasion she simply surpassed herself.

The original stockholders of the road never expect in their day to ever receive any dividends, but the money they gave they considered as a donation, which they were willing to make for the prosperity of the State. My father, Council Wooten, was one of the original directors appointed by Governors Bragg and Ellis. The road hardly paid expenses, and I have heard him say that he and Mr. L. C. Desmond, a director from Lenoir County, gave their note to the bank for $35,000 to get money to run the road.

The men of that day were patriotic and they were willing to jeopardize their property for the State.

Col. John D. Whitford was the first president, and was a very competent one. He was president until after the war. In March, 1862, the yankees captured New Bern and the trains ran no further than Kinston, so about two thirds of the road was in possession of the Yankees.

Mr. E. R. Stonly, a republican of New Bern, was the first president after the war, and was a good officer. At that time, all the road could do, was to exist. Nobody thought of a dividend. Colonel Humphrey was president a short time under Governor Brogden. When Governor Vance was elected in 1876, he made Major John Hughes of New Bern president. In 1879, when Vance was elected Senator, Jarvis succeeded as Governor and Colonel Whitford was made President. I was a director during Jarvis' whole administration of six years.

During Whitford's administration, about 1881, the road was leased to W. J. Best. In consideration for the lease of the road Mr. Best proposed to build an air line from Goldsboro to Salisbury, and connect with the Western North Carolina railroad. The proposed road would have gone through a fine country that had no road and would have been of untold value to the State. Governor Jarvis was in favor of leasing the road to Best and get this new road built and thus develop the State. It was a noble and patriotic idea of Governor Jarvis, and he was actuated by the purest motives. I had no faith in Mr. Best's ability to build the road, for I looked upon him as an adventurer, and that he simply wanted to get control of the Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad to get what he could out of it. I being appointed by Governor Jarvis, I would have been glad to carry out his policy, but I could not do so believing as I did that Mr. Best would not be able to build the projected railroad, so I voted against the lease and subsequent events proved that I was right, for in a year Best gave up the road and surrendered the lease.

The road was in a dilapidated condition, no improvements having been made, so Colonel Whitford had to spend all the money he could make to put the road in condition to do business. Pending the consideration of the lease, the directors met at Morehead City, and Governor Jarvis was present, but he made no effort to influence any director and induce him to vote for the lease. He left each man to exercise his best judgment as he saw proper. Some governors would have threatened those who were thus thwarting his policy, but Governor Jarvis did no such thing. He is a noble, patriotic and a great man.

When Governor Scales was elected Governor in 1884, he made Washington Bryan president. His policy was to improve the road. He mortgaged the road for three hundred and fifty thousand dollars to buy iron to replace the old iron. At the time I thought this was an unwise step, for the old iron would have answered for several years.

In 1888 when Governor Fowle was elected, he made W. S. Chadwick, of Beaufort, president. His policy was to practice the most rigid economy, make no permanent improvements. He accumulated money and declared a dividend—the first in the history of the road. He was heralded as the great Napoleon of railroading. He managed the property well, so far as economy was concerned. The truth is there never has been a day in the history of the road when it was in a condition to declare a dividend, for the earnings ought to have been applied to permanent improvements and equipping the road.

Messrs. Hancock and Patrick, Governor Russell's appointees, pursued the same policy that Chadwick did, and declared a dividend, for if they had not, there would have gone up a howl, that the Fusionists were incompetent.

In 1899, James A. Bryan was made president, and continued president for five years. He reversed the policy of Chadwick and said the earnings should be put upon the road. He was right in this, but the trouble was he did not make judicious use of the money in his improvements.

Without going into details, I will mention only a few of the improvements he made that were improper. He built a warehouse in Goldsboro for $12,000.00 that was not necessary, for I heard a Goldsboro man say so; he built a large warehouse at Beston, a small station between Goldsboro and LaGrange that cost $2,500, when a five hundred dollar house would have answered; he spent about $30,000 at New Bern on a warehouse, that was not needed at present. At other small stations he built magnificent warehouses, when cheaper ones would have done. Then he bought the hotel at Morehead and spent fabulous sums on it in improvements. Everybody knows about the free board and drinking at that hotel. A committee was appointed by Governor Aycock to investigate the affairs of the road. One gentleman, who was a witness, admitted that he had free board for himself and family, but said his services to the hotel were worth it. He was asked what service he rendered, and he said he was general entertainer. Free passes were granted indiscriminately.

At the stockholders' meeting Mr. Bryan in his report in 1903, said the road was in a deplorable condition and woul have to borrow money to put it in a proper condition for business. After reading his report there went up throughout the State a demand for a lease. At a special meeting on the first Thursday in September, 1904, a lease was made to the Howland Improvement Company of Rhode Island.

After the lease was made the stockholders met in New Bern on the fourth Thursday in September in their annual meeting. Mr. Bryan, as president, submitted his annual report. This report was published in the News and Observer, a paper friendly to Governor Aycock, in its issue of the 28th of September, 1904. In his report Mr. Bryan says that the gross earnings of the road during the preceding ten years under Chadwick, Hancock and Patrick were $1,584,390.02. The gross earnings for the five years of Bryan's administration were $1,351,183.98, or within $197,206.04 of the total gross earnings of the ten preceding years. It will be seen that the road was increasing in business at a rapid rate. Mr. Bryan says that the annual average increase of ernings during the five years of his administration was $28,754.12; he says that during the last year of his administration, 1904, the earnings of the road were $331,132.80, being an increase over the earnings of 1899, the last year of Patrick's administration of $143,770.60. Mr. Bryan says that the last year of his administration the net earnings of the road, after paying interest, expenses, permanent improvements, new equipment, machinery, real estate and woodland were $78,829.61.

In speaking of the lease, he says that for the first twenty years the rental is $53,916.00 per annum, which is $24,913.61 less than the road earned in 1904. Now think of that, and then the earnings of the road increasing at the rate of $28,754.12, as Mr. Bryan says, per annum, so at that rate the road in 1905 would earn $107,583.73; so the property is leased for one-half less than it is earning, with an annual increase of $28,654.12—would you call that a good business transaction? If the Fusionists had leased it at that rate, the Democratic leaders would have said get your "red-shirts" and your guns, and drive out the incompetent rascals.

By this article I don't intend to cast any aspersions upon Mr. Bryan, for he is a gentleman and a scholar and is my friend. I have simply given the facts, and the reader can form his own conclusions.

C. S. WOOTEN.

Bryan's Accounts Considered.

New Haven, Conn., Special—A hearing upon the account of William J. Bryan for $2,500 for services as administrator of the estate of the late Philo S. Bennett, was conducted here. The estate had a value of $291,000, with $67,000 yet to be received from the firm of Bennett, Sloan & Company, of New York, of which the deceased was a member.

Killing on Excursion Train.

Crandall, Tenn., Special.—In a shooting affray on an excursion train Monday night near this place, George W. Fisk, an employe of the Tennessee Lumber Company, and formerly of Williamsport, Pa., was shot and instantly killed by Will Parsons, who is supposed to have been firing at another man. At a preliminary hearing today, Parsons was bound over to court.

Gayner-Green Judgment.

Montreal, Special.—Judge La Fontaine, the extradition commissioner, having had time to prepare his judgment in the case of Gaynor and Greene, Monday remanded them until next Monday, when he expects to be able to hand down his decision.

Three Injured in Hotel Fire.

Dallas, Texas, Special.—A special to The News from Sherman says that in a fire which destroyed the Texas House today the following were injured by jumping from the windows: G. B. Galtney, one rib broken, and external injuries; William Kiley, severe cuts in foot; John Perry, back injured and body bruised.

17 Tunnel Workers Killed.

Vienna, By Cable.—According to news received here from Yiezen, in Styria, 17 persons have been killed by an explosion caused by fire damp in the Bosruck tunnel there today. The explosion took place in the lower galleries on the southern side of the tunnel. There were 17 men in the tunnel at the time, and it is feared that all have perished.

Rojestvensky's ships are reported to have left Indo-Chinese waters, sailing northward, Sunday.

Bishop Favors Child Labor Law.

The bishop of Rhode Island is taking a prominent part in the present agitation for a stricter child labor law, now pending in the state legislature.