

Wade H. Harris, Editor.

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MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1909.

AN INTERNATIONAL TRUST. For some time there have been intimations that the steel trust was in some way prepared to give up its tariff of seven dollars per ton and let steel rails be put upon the free list.

Now comes the definite story, published in The New York Tribune, that the steel rail makers of the world have formed a combination, or trust, and that the combination has the price of rails better in hand than if they relied upon the tariff.

FRUIT CROP LORE.

At present the outlook for the crop is not encouraging, but one cannot tell. If the fruit trees bloom in late January and early February and a killing frost comes along, there is a chance for re-blooming in March and a good crop. If, however, the blooming process is delayed until near the ordinary time and a cold snap comes, it is good-bye to the fruit crop.

STIR OVER ANTI-TRUST BILL.

The tobacco interests of Durham and Winston are exercised over the prospective passage of the anti-trust bill pending in the Legislature. The Winston Sentinel explains that Mr. Lockhart, father of the bill, represents Anson county in the General Assembly, a county which produces no tobacco, while several of the most ardent friends of the bill are also from counties that have no tobacco trade.

CONSERVATION OF WATER.

The rainfall gives us waters which run back to the ocean in streams. The President has pointed out in a special message upon conservation (among other things) that these waters may be so handled as to be of definite service to mankind.

SHIPS FOR WAR AND PEACE.

Congress provides two new, big battleships. It is charged and denied that these two monsters of war are voted with an eye on Japan. But why continue to augment the number of our fighting vessels, when we have no transport ships for men, munitions and supplies?

CONNECTION MADE.

The Chronicle understands that the Carolina, Clinchfield & Ohio made connection Saturday with the Seaboard Air Line road, at Bostic. There is a little surfacing up yet to be done, but the joining of these two roads at the point named means that Charlotte and Wilmington are now open to Johnson City and the coal fields.

BRINGING OUT THE COTTON.

Ten Cents Causes a Jam in Concord—Farmers Scrap For Place in Line. Concord Tribune, 23rd. About 1 o'clock the jam at the platform became so intense that the police force had to be called out in order to prevent trouble among some of the cotton sellers who were scrapping for positions in line to the platform.

STRINGING TOBACCO BAGS.

An Industry in Mt. Airy That Puts Out From \$100 to \$125 a Day. Blue Ridge Breeze. The stringing of tobacco bags is becoming quite an industry in the city of Mount Airy.

ANOTHER COTTON MILL.

Capt. J. M. Odell to Embark in the Business Again. Concord Tribune. Contract for the erection of another cotton mill in the city has been let.

A Western View of Settle.

Asheville Gazette-News. The fine political work accomplished during the recent national campaign by Hon. Thomas Settle, of Asheville, one of the most eloquent speakers and astute politicians in the South, has spread, and in a recent issue of The San Diego, Cal. Sun is a short story relative to Mr. Settle's political activity with a very fine likeness of that gentleman.

Schools Closed on Account of Epidemics.

Newbern Journal. Under advice of the county health officer, the city schools will be closed today.

Never Satisfied.

Durham Herald. Some of them have grumbled because a prohibitionist was not elected Speaker of the House, just as if the thing had not been settled in May.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

Vernon Bailey, who has charge of the Division of Geographic Distribution of the Biological Survey, has done much traveling in the hunt of animals and written much concerning their habits. The gophers is one of the animals of which he has made a special study.

ODD THINGS IN THE NEWS.

According to a clause in the will of William Griffith Wilson, of Baltimore, who died on December 31st last, the member of the class of 1894 of Princeton University who, at the time of the twenty-fifth annual reunion of the class at Princeton, in 1919, shall have living the largest number of relatives in the world.

AND IT CLICKED.

Click, little meter, for the range is lit. Much gas is burning, so keep track of it. Though each click is but a trifle, Little things make life—It's a button for the collar.

Click, little meter, for your work's begun.

You'll get a layoff with the rising sun. Set the hands in steady motion, For you should take note, That a cog space means a button.

Click, little meter, it is up to you.

Big oaks from acorns, so they've told us, grew, Take down every stray heat unit, For you know they are there, Just so many vaporous chuggings.

Mr. Taft is off for Panama, to-day.

In the best ship in the navy bearing the name of the best State in the Union. A pleasant journey and a safe return for him!

THE WIRELESS.

The value of the wireless telegraph service has just had a practical demonstration in the collision of the two big steamships, off Nantucket, Saturday morning. The ships in collision were the White Star liner Republic and the Italian liner Florida.

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