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JUSTICE FOR THE RAILROADS.

Charlotte Chronicle.

Child labor is one great hobby of the politicians. Railroads is another. There seems to be an element in the North Carolina Legislature that is very antagonistic to the railroads of the State. Now, living on the line of the Southern, we happen to know that this particular railroad has done a great work in the development of that section of the South through which its lines run. Wherever a company wants to put up a cotton mill, it has run in the necessary spur tracks. More than that—through its industrial department it has built cotton mill towns along its lines, converting old fields into factories and creating industrial centres that would have remained old fields for uncalculated time but for the help of the railroad. Columns could be written about this, but let us take in the ninety miles between Charlotte and Greensboro. To begin with, the Southern has extended its lines north, east, south and west of Charlotte, to reach any sort of a manufacturing plant that might pop up. At Concord it has laid a net work of spur tracks to accommodate the manufacturing plants there. It is now laying tracks for the new town of Cannonville. Further on is the manufacturing town of Landis, an industrial centre of the Southern's own creation, and a mile further is China Grove, which has developed into a manufacturing town mainly by the grace of the Southern. Then comes Salisbury, Lexington, Thomasville, High Point and Greensboro, a chain of industrial towns the equal of which is not to be found in the South—all served and nurtured by the Southern—the industrialism of each of which, it might be said, was born of the Southern Railway Company. And it seems that this particular developer of Southern industries is to be pilloried by the Legislature.

In a speech to the Bowdoin College alumni, a few days ago, General Thomas H. Hubbard said: "There are no railroads in any country that are as well and as cheaply run as our railroads. The fault to be found with the roads in this country is that they kill more people than those in other lands. This is the fault against which crusaders should direct their attention. If the railroads were making more money than they are they would be able to equip their lines with the expensive life-saving contrivances now used by the wealthiest of the lines, yet the reformers say, 'Down with the railroads!' profit; they are making too much money already."

That, we contend, is a good point for the legislators to consider. Be reasonable with the railroads. Give them a living chance. They are not incorporated enemies of the country, but are friends and developers. They have rights which ought to be respected. Let the Legislature deal with them in a practical and not a demagogical spirit, and thus serve the interests of the progressive State which it represents.

The Chronicle is not a champion of the corporations, but it hopes always to be a champion of fair play.

TRACKING THE EARTHQUAKE.

St. Louis Republic.

The earthquake on the Island of Jamaica, coming in considerably less than a year of those which shook California and Chili, will freshly turn investigation and discussion to the causes of these visitations, so terrible when they attack populous cities. Though something has been learned of the laws of their action, their causes are so obscure that one theory concerning them is as good as another. In one way or another, though, they may be accounted for by the changes in the earth's crust as the molten mass within gradually loses heat.

The one thing known for certain about the earthquake is that it radiates from a definite centre of disturbance far down in the bowels of the earth. Surveys and observations made by members of the British Royal Society of the scenes of earthquakes in Italy enabled these men of science to trace the radiations from this center of disturbance in definite curves and sometimes in complete circles.

The vibrations leave such distinct traces that it has been found possible to measure the angle at which they emerge from the surface, and in this way, it is declared, the depth at which the original shock occurred may be ascertained with a close approximation to mathematical accuracy.

The ground immediately above the original focus of disturbance is not shaken; the earthquake, as it is felt at the surface, occurs hundreds of miles away. It was by measuring the angles at which the vibrations of the Charleston earthquake, twenty years ago, came out of the ground that seismologists in Washington reached the conclusion that the underground shock which caused that disaster occurred under the Alleghany mountains in Western North Carolina.

The tremors which so frequently rock our Pacific coast and the Pacific coast of South America doubtless have their origin in centers underneath the Rocky Mountains and their southern extension, the Andes. This backbone of the continent was upheaved by a breakage of the earth as its surface contracted with cooling, and there still no end of underground trouble going on along that line of cleavage.

Possibly the Jamaica earthquake had its origin under the mountains of Mexico. As the island belongs to Great Britain, the scientific men of that country may yet do us the favor to find out, if they can, where the center of the disturbance really was.

HOW THINGS GO.

Charlotte Observer.

Representative John M. Julian, of Rowan, editor of The Salisbury Evening Post, sends to his paper, daily, most interesting comments on what is going on in the Legislature and in Raleigh, with an occasional prophecy of what is to be. We take a few extracts from his letter of the 27th: "On all sides is heard praise of Mrs. Stonewall Jackson's courteous but emphatic declination to become a pensioner of the State as provided by the bill. The letter was in fine form and taste and spirit and was made a part of the Senate record."

"The battle royal in this Legislature will not be on until the measure of further improvement of service made fixing railroad rates and kindred matters, emerge from the committee room. In the House Speaker Justice will lead the fight for the bills, to which I have heretofore referred, and which stand for rates that the railroads declare would deplete their net earnings to the extent that their credit would be wiped out and further improvement of service made impossible. The middle-ground men—the legislator who believes that rates should be reduced and better service required, but wedded to no particular measure or sentiment—is having no snap in taking his bearings. He is more nervous than would be suspected from a superficial observation, but his trouble just now is finding a common ground with those who feel and view matters as he does."

"It is apparent this early in the game that the Legislature will not complete its work in sixty days. Knowing ones say that the session will certainly continue two weeks over-time. Unless debates upon legislation of local or under general importance is limited, a lengthy session is inevitable."

"My prophecy of a week ago that the reformatory measure is destined to come upon many tribulations, still holds good. A bill to increase the appropriation of the Jamestown Exposition by \$20,000 has passed and Representative Preston, of Mecklenburg, who introduced the House bill for a reformatory, tells me that he fears the poverty plea will be offered when his measure comes up. The women of the State are in earnest about this matter and no day goes by that the legislators counted as doubtful on this proposition are not importuned by them to change front."

This affords a clear insight into the things touched upon at Raleigh. If Representative Julian is not elected to the next Legislature from Rowan, as he should be, there is a job for him there as newspaper correspondent.

MOUNT PLEASANT COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE.

U. F. M. in Letham Visitor.

The spring term at the Collegiate Institute has opened auspiciously, there being an increase of 20 per cent. in attendance. The Athletic Association has perfected a schedule for a series of games with other schools of the State, to begin the latter part of March. The Y. M. C. A. has been recently reorganized. A good percentage of the students are enrolled as members of the association, and there is promise of much good work. Meetings are held every Tuesday night, when interesting and helpful programmes are rendered.

Dr. E. G. Williams, the new pastor of the Reformed church, recently delivered an able lecture before the student bodies of the Institute and Mont Amoenia Seminary. His subject was, "Man's Exalted Place in Nature." The lecture was highly appreciated by all who heard it. The speaker showed himself to be a thinker of more than ordinary ability and a master of English.

The literary societies are to be congratulated upon their selection of a commencement speaker. Dr. H. N. Snyder, president of Wofford College, has accepted the invitation from the societies, which fact insures an address of a high order.

The Gerhardt Society will give its annual public exercise on the 21st of February. The question to be discussed, "Resolved, That North Carolina should establish a Reformatory for youthful criminals," is one of lively interest, and the exercise promises to be of a kind for which the society has a reputation—good.

The annual sermon before the students of the Institute, setting forth the claims of the Gospel ministry, was preached (as per appointment of the president of the North Carolina Synod) on Sunday, January 27th, by Rev. J. C. Shank. As is characteristic of the speaker, the sermon was splendid in conception and unusually persuasive in presentation. Certainly it was as such to confirm the convictions of the young men who had already decided to enter the ministry, and to cause others to think soberly before answering the question of the text, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

Charlotte Observer.

The ministerial union of Danville, Va., has presented to the mayor of that town resolutions requesting him to stop the publication and sale of Sunday papers there. At a recent Sunday Observance Convention at Greensboro, N. C., ex-Judge Shaw made an address in which he proposed that the law suppress Sunday papers and stop the running of Sunday trains.

If Sunday papers were suppressed some scores of newspaper workers would enjoy what is called "a much-needed rest." Whether their readers would equally enjoy the freedom from the distraction which these publications furnish, is another matter. If Monday papers were suppressed—all the work on them is done on Sunday, while only three or four hours of Sunday work is done on Sunday papers, and this by not all the force connected with them—a much more needed rest would be enjoyed by a class, for seven nights' work a week is strenuous; a wide departure from the simple life. The Monday paper is the real offender and it is no argument in its favor, so far as the morality of the matter is concerned, to say that it is almost uniformly the most interesting paper of the week. We cannot entertain the argument against the Sunday paper that it keeps people from church for this pre-supposes that it is more entertaining than the minister, which we are not prepared to admit.

If Sunday trains are to be discontinued, street cars must be discontinued also and livery stable shut up. Again it is no argument to say that one should be shut down and the other not, for the reason that street cars carry many people to church, while the livery stable carriages do not. It is true that the street cars carry people to church and the carriages none, but on summer evenings the cars carry men, women and children to the park, which is worldly, while in the afternoons the carriages take them into the air and scenery of the country, which is equally an offence.

And if the newspaper workers—"soldiers of the day and night"—newspaper readers, railroad people, postoffice employees and the others mentioned are to be given legally much-needed rest—at reduced pay, of course—the telegraph offices must be closed, the hello girl relieved, and when the men who operate the electric lights which furnish part of the illumination for the Sunday night services are paid off Saturday afternoon they must be told to knock off at

midnight and not report again for duty until Monday.

If we are going to do this thing at all, let's do it right.

The Narrow of The Yadkin.

Charlotte Observer.

Mr. Arthur Page, of New York, spent yesterday in the city with friends. Mr. Page is engaged in securing material for a special article which he is to write for the Southern number World's Work, to be issued in April. He has just returned from a visit to the big hydroelectric development of the Whitney Reduction Company at the Narrows of the Yadkin, near Salisbury. "I cannot tell you of the stage of the work," Mr. Page remarked to an Observer reporter yesterday, "for this is my first trip. They tell me over there, however, that the wheels will be turning in the power house by the first of next year. The place, well styled the Narrows of the Yadkin, is an ideal site for a great electric development. If it were in New York it would have been in operation years ago and would now rank with Niagara as a factor in industrial progress. Piedmont Carolina is a section rich in water powers. The work of the Whitney Company and the Southern Power Company is just beginning to be recognized in the North. I was deeply impressed with the development destined to play no inconspicuous part in the industrial progress of Piedmont Carolina."

This Man Is Always Cold.

Canton, Ohio, Dispatch.

Among the latest arrivals here this week was Frank M. Bemis, traveling man for a Michigan furniture house. Bemis is to be pitied, for he is afflicted with a strange disease which the doctors are unable to cure, and which renders it impossible for him to keep warm, even during the hottest days of the summer.

The year around he is obliged to wear five suits of underclothing, a heavy overcoat, a large pair of boots, and several pairs of socks. Despite all of this, he is always cold. He rarely contracts a cold and possesses a heavy appetite. He sleeps under eight blankets, a number of quilts, and does not take off his clothes. Notwithstanding this, he is none too warm. While at home his gas bill is in the neighborhood of \$90 a month.

He has been at a number of resorts to obtain relief for his strange disease, but received no help whatever. Physicians are unable to determine the cause of his condition.

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Blow Gives Sight to Man Blind Quarter Century.

The Rev. Samuel H. Cummings, a Methodist minister of Baltimore, and totally blind for twenty-five years, has had his sight partly restored by a blow. Last Saturday he slipped on the icy pavement and fell face downward. A bit of projecting ice struck his eye with painful force, but when he got up he found that the blow had shocked one eye into seeing, although indistinctly. Mr. Cummings is able to read the title on a magazine cover. He says he can distinguish persons, but that they are out of proportion and strangely confused.

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The Charming Woman

is not necessarily one of perfect form and features. Many a plain woman who could never serve as an artist's model, possesses those rare qualities that all the world admires: neatness, clear eyes, clean smooth skin and that sprightliness of step and action that accompany good health. A physically weak woman is never attractive, not even to herself. Electric Bitters restore weak women, give strong nerves, bright eyes, smooth, velvety skin, beautiful complexion. Guaranteed at all Druggists, 50c.

The Douglass bill to regulate "soft drinks" at soda fountains was defeated by a big majority by the House of Representatives last week. Since they couldn't down coca cola there will probably be no effort during this session to prohibit the sale of snuff and tobacco.—Our Home.

Why Suffer from Rheumatism?

Do you know that rheumatic pains can be relieved? If you doubt this just try one application of Chamberlain's Pain Balm. It will make rest and sleep possible, and that certainly means a great deal to any one afflicted with rheumatism. For sale by all druggists. Concord, and A. W. Moose, Mt. Pleasant.

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