

JOTTINGS.

The recovery of immensely rich fields in the barren regions of Alaska has been the means of a few boisterous paper-getting off a little war talk. A genuine war would silence these heroes.

Wool made in the South, and shipped to New York, has been resold and shipped back to Southern Mills. Killing all one summer and making all next summer a bad policy.

The British in Indiana will get an English navy yard for outfitting and repairs. Does England own an interest in the administration.

The tariff bill is law and Congress has adjourned. The tariff will now see prosperity.

The County Commissioners can give Pitt county \$500 or perhaps more than \$1000 by one little act next Monday. That little act would be simply to rescind their order for an election on the school tax question.

No lawyer of much ability doubts its unconstitutionality. It is well known that in this county there are townships which will not hold an election and that in none can there be a legal election as the books &c have not been opened according to law.

The State constitution is dead against discrimination and unless every township in the State votes for it the State cannot discriminate by giving those that do vote for it a bonus at the expense of the others.

And again such a tax will never be collected until the Supreme Court passes upon it. That means a long suit. Who will pay the cost? The county, for the fusion legislators have provided for such suits at the expense of the county in which it is brought.

Will the Commissioners force a burden a debt of \$1500 or \$2000 on the tax payers these hard times? We shall see.

It is a sign of better times that a colored Baptist Association has denounced criminal assaults and those who commit them. Such was done by the above named association in session at Houston Va.

It also defined its willingness to cooperate with the whites in bringing to justice those guilty of such crimes. The average negro is a good citizen and would so remain if not stirred up by debased white men.

The better element in every community is in favor of law and order. And there is a large worthless class and they do the harm. The action of the association should meet universal approval.

Advocates of more taxes are trying to make the ignorant believe that if they fail to vote for the school tax, they will be voting against any public schools. They are telling that if the school tax is not carried there will be no more public schools. That is an effort to deceive by lying.

The August election has nothing to do with the present public school system.

tem. It will remain the same, just as it is now, and there is now enough money to run the schools just as long as parents can afford to send their children.

JOHN H. BLOUNT.

On Thursday last a handsome monument was erected over his grave to mark the last resting place of the late John H. Blount, formerly of Hertford, but later of Greenville. A simple inscription, stating his name, date and place of birth and date of death, is the only record of his life that is graven on the stone, but it is enough. Sculptured words neither add to nor detract from the fame of one who has crossed the narrow confines of mortal life. His friends remember him as he was to them, and standing with bowed heads beside his earthly tomb, they seek not of marble and chiseled phrase, but in silent contemplation and reflection find a sufficient epitaph in the fact that "he was and he is not."—Tarboro Southerner.

AND IN CONGRESS, TOO.

Great, indeed, is the fusion Warren Carver is the name of the fusion fight who was elected to the Legislature from Cumberland county. Tuesday revenue officers found a large blockade distillery on his place and he was arrested for moonshining. There were lots of jailbirds in the two last legislatures. Again, great is the fusion.—Lincolnton Journal.

School Tax Advocates.

Of the 1,116 negroes listed for poll tax in Anson county last year only 278 had been collected by the sheriff when he was allowed his insolent list.—Ex.

The hearing before Kerr Craig as to fraud in the lease of the North Carolina railroad has been adjourned until August.

Proved His Love.

They were two working girls, and they happened to meet the other day at the restaurant where they eat luncheon. The brunette ordered baked beans and lemonade, and the blond selected fruit cake and coffee. "Tomorrow is pay day, you know," she said in reply to the inquiring look of the other.

"Oh! Well, have you heard the news about Mary? She's resigned."

"I know," said the blond. "I was in hopes I'd be the first to tell you. She's going to be married."

"Yes, in a lovely blue silk. I forget the name of the man she's going to marry. He isn't very good looking, they say, but Mary says he's intellectual. She says—"

"Oh, pshaw! You can't tell from Mary."

"No; but Sadie's seen his photograph, and she says he wears glasses."

"Does he? Well, Mary's lucky, if she is redheaded. Why, he would just do anything in the world for that girl!"

"Humph!" said the brunette. "That's the way she talks now, but you can't tell a thing about it until after they're married."

"You can tell it easy enough in this case. He's proved it already," said the blond warmly.

"Said he'd die for her, I suppose," returned the brunette scornfully. "Lots of 'em talk that way before they love to pay the butcher."

"This isn't talk anyhow. He's proved his love, I tell you."

"How? Did he save her life, or tell her that her hair is golden?"

"Neither. He sold his bicycle to buy her an engagement ring."—Chicago Tribune.

A Strange Nursery.

On the slopes of the Himalayas the native women have a most curious plan of disposing of their babies and keeping them quiet while they are engaged at work in the fields during the greater part of the day. Before the mothers set out to work in the morning they wrap their babies in swaddling bands, leaving nothing but their little faces exposed. Then the babies are taken and laid under a ledge of rock from which water is falling, and by means of a bamboo the water is made to drip gently on each baby's forehead. The effect of the dripping water is most soothing, and soon the little ones are all asleep and remain motionless till taken up by their mothers on their return from their work, when they are carried off to be unwrapped, dried and fed.

The Wonderful Marching Ant.

Paul Du Chailu tells of the doings of a queer African species of ant, which the natives call the bashikonay, which marches through the forests in a regular line. This line usually averages about two inches in breadth and is often several miles long, with not a break in the column. "All along the line," says the great traveler, "large and fierce looking ants act as officers, keeping the singular army in order."

EASTERN TOBACCO.

PITT COUNTY AND GREENVILLE, THE HOME AND MARKET OF THE BRIGHT LEAF.

THE GROWTH OF THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY HERE IN THE LAST FEW YEARS—WHAT HAS BEEN DONE AND PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE—A WORD OR TWO ABOUT OUR MARKET, ITS FACILITIES, &c.

Tobacco is a plant indigenous to Eastern North Carolina, as well as many other sections of the United States. The first settlers found the Indians cultivating it and at once learned its use.

At what period Pitt county was first settled is not known. It is the same with the history of the State. Pioneers early found their way from the James river settlements to the headwaters of the Chowan river, and there is little doubt that settlements were made in what are now Gates and Hertford counties as early as 1640, though we have no history of actual settlement earlier than about 1650. So it is with Pitt county. Many settlements had been made in the Pamlico country long previous to the settlement of Bath in 1705, and it is not to be doubted that those settlements extended into what is now Pitt county along Tar river, and even higher. Those first pioneers, conquerors of the forest, found tobacco cultivated by the Tuscaroras inhabiting that section.

Among the first settlers tobacco must have been the principal crop. As early as 1676, while the settlements were principally on the north side of Albemarle sound and numbered probably 3000, tobacco to the amount of 800 hogsheads was exported. At sometimes it was used as money, fees, salaries and dues often being made payable by law in tobacco and other products. The growth of its culture is shown by the fact that its exportation kept pace with the progress of the colony. During the latter part of the administration of Gabriel Johnston as governor (1734-42) the population of the colony was about 45,000, and the exports of tobacco 100,000 hogsheads.

As the excitement and dissensions which culminated in the Revolutionary war increased, more attention was given to raising supplies, and after that war the cultivation of tobacco seems to have extended westward and cotton to have succeeded it in the east, until it has been but few years ago that the cultivation of tobacco was regarded as almost impossible of success in the east.

We remember but a few years ago an "up the country" man, telling of fine tobacco land in Pitt county. Little attention was paid such talk, but finally it was tried. The success of the trial was wonderful. It was of good quality, good color, and commanded the highest prices on the best markets.

The later pioneers in tobacco raising were Messrs. G. F. R. S. and L. F. Evans, T. J. Stuncill, A. A. Forbes and Jacob Joyner, who cultivated considerable crops in 1886. From that period the acreage increased. The quality of the tobacco was very good, and the prices it commanded on the tobacco markets astonished tobacco men. So great fame did Pitt County Tobacco make, that a warehouse at Greenville was talked of. A large crop was made in 1890 and that settled the matter in favor of making Greenville a tobacco market.

The next year a stock company was organized and the Greenville warehouse built. The success of

the Greenville led to the building of the Eastern in 1892. Tobacco brought good prices, the crop was increasing. For 1893 the sales were over 1500,000 pounds. In 1894 the Planters warehouse was built. That season the sales were over 2250,000 pounds. In 1895 the Star warehouse was built. The sales that season ran over 5,000,000 pounds. From the opening of the market the sales have steadily increased. For last season they were 7,000,000 pounds and this year's sales promises to exceed that.

The first year there was one small prize house. As the market grew, more prize houses were built until now the Greenville warehouse has three, the Planters one, the Star one, and there are six others. A hogshead factory was established in 1894 and has been kept busy supplying the increasing demand. Last season there were eleven resident buyers on the market besides many transient ones.

Then to sum up the advantages of the Greenville market we find that it has four large warehouses, averaging nearly 12,000 square feet of floor each, twelve large prize houses, this season there will be about eighteen resident buyers, besides transient ones, experienced warehousemen to look after the sellers interests, two banks with unlimited facilities for cashing checks and a capacity for handling 25,000,000 pounds of the weed. Last season \$600,000 were paid out for tobacco sold on this market. This season it will be over \$1,000,000.

The tobacco crop of Pitt county has steadily increased until this year. The grade of Pitt county tobacco is good. When properly cured and graded, it has never failed to command as high, and more often higher, prices than that of any other section. The Greenville market has always been noted for its good prices. People who come from the upper counties are always enthusiastic over Pitt county as a tobacco growing county. Many have made considerable money out of it. They continue to come every year.

EVANS, CRITCHER & CO.

R. S. Evans, L. F. Evans and A. H. Critcher, Evans, Critcher & Co are proprietors of the Greenville Warehouse. The Messrs. Evans were among our first tobacco raisers. Mr. Critcher is from Person county. He is a tobacco man raised in the business. He has been in Pitt county several years. He married a sister of the Messrs. Evans and has long been associated with them in tobacco farming when they in 1895 they become proprietors of the Greenville Warehouse. All being experienced tobacco men their success was natural. Their judgment of tobacco was a most important factor in making tobacco on the floor of the Greenville bring good prices—its worth. They had a good business that season, but the season of 1896 was much better. They sold much more tobacco and were doing a large and satisfactory business, both for themselves and their customers when a snow storm caused the collapse of their warehouse. For the remainder of the

season they were connected with the Star. The Greenville Warehouse has been rebuilt. It is an improvement over the old one. It is larger, has more light and every convenience for the tobacco business. They have command of all the money necessary to handle several millions pounds of tobacco and refer you to their former customers for any recommendation wanted. (See adv.)

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tree. Brown & Co are proprietors of the Star Warehouse. This warehouse was first opened in 1893. The firm was then Rountree, Brown & Co, Metc. Ernal, being the company. Later he sold his interest and Messrs. Coward and Hooker became members of the firm. Mr. Rountree has been connected with the tobacco market in some capacity from its opening in 1891. He has been identified with every movement looking to the advancement of the interests of the market. He is the firm manager. Seven years has given him a knowledge of the tobacco business that is invaluable in his business and places him in the front rank of successful warehousemen. The season for 1895 his warehouse sold 3,000,000 pounds of tobacco, the season for 1896 it sold 1,500,000. That increase of business speak for itself. If it doesn't their customers will. They have every promise of an increased business this season. The other members of the firm young men of good business qualifications. Mr. Brown is a native of Greenville. Messrs. Coward and Hooker are from Greene county, well and favorably known. This firm possess ample facilities for handling all the tobacco brought them and guarantee the highest prices at all times. (See adv.)
OTHER WAREHOUSES:
The Eastern Warehouse, Evans, Joyner & Co, proprietors is the largest of the four warehouses. It also lead the market last season in the number of pounds of tobacco sold. Of the proprietors, Mr. G. F. Evans was one of our first tobacco planters and one of the first warehousemen in 1791. Mr. O. L. Joyner is the hustling warehouseman who has been on the market since 1892. They are both experienced men and the Greenville market owes much of its success to their push and enterprise.

FORBES & MOYE.
The Planters' Warehouse, Forbes and Moye proprietors has done much towards building up the market. Mr. Forbes had experience on the Henderson market and also here before becoming a warehouseman. Mr. Moye is a good substantial farmer. The Planters has had a large volume of business since its opening. Its increase of business necessitated enlargement last year. Backed by ample capital and managed by experienced men it recommends itself to the people.

THE
The Greenville market can not but be a great success this season. With ample warehouses, plenty of prize houses, lots of buyers, unlimited bank facilities and the centre of the bright tobacco section of Eastern Carolina, it must do a far larger business than ever before. There is no need for the producer going elsewhere. Greenville has been, is and will continue to be the market of the east and the equal of any anywhere.

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