

The Hickory Press.

PROTECTION! INDUSTRY! ENTERPRISE! PROSPERITY!

VOLUME 29.

HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1897.

NUMBER 3

WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON Jan. 18.—Congratulations have been showered upon Senator Sherman since he returned to Washington and made the formal announcement that he had decided to become Secretary of State under President McKinley, and congratulations have also been wired to Maj. McKinley on his success in getting so able and experienced a man for his Secretary of State. The great business interests of the country will welcome the selection of Senator Sherman for this important post, because his well known conservatism is a guarantee that while the foreign policy of the McKinley administration will be firm and strongly American it will not be tinged with the disturbing element of jingoism—it will maintain the rights of American citizens abroad, just as its internal policy will protect Americans at home, but it will not get up war scares for political effect, which disarrange all branches of business and add to the timidity of capital. The corner stone of the McKinley administration will be confidence, and no one thing could have made that plainer to the country than the choice of Senator Sherman to be Secretary of State. Mr. Sherman's resignation as Senator will not take effect until the close of this session of Congress, as he is deeply interested in matters which may be legislated upon by this Congress. Besides, it would not be good policy to have a vacancy in the Chairmanship of the Committee on Foreign Relations at this time, as there is no certainty that the Senate, as at present composed would allow the republicans to name his successor.

The republican steering Committee of the Senate has given the Nicaragua Canal bill the right of way in the Senate similar bill has passed the Senate several times, and there is little doubt that this one will pass, but its chance for getting consideration in the House is not considered especially good.

Senator Gear has reported his bill to the Senate for the appointment of a Commission to be composed of three members of the Cabinet to determine upon a just and equitable settlement of the indebtedness of the Pacific Railroads to the Government, together with a unanimous report from the Committee on Pacific Railroads, of which he is Chairman, in its favor. The fate of the bill is dependent upon favorable action by the House on a similar bill, as it would be a mere waste of time for the Senate to pass it until assured of the attitude of the House. Meanwhile the legal officers of the government are getting ready to apply to the Courts for an order foreclosing the Mortgage.

Col. Fred D. Grant, representing the Army of the Tennessee, and Gen. S. B. Lee, of Miss., representing the Confederate Veterans Association, made a joint argument before the House Committee on Rules for the setting apart of a day for the consideration by the House of the bill for the purchase of ground around Vicksburg, in order that future generations may see the battle-ground and study the maneuvers made by Gen. Grant, which resulted in the capture of what was known as the Gibraltar of the Confederacy—Gen. Grant's first really great military achievement. Speaker Reed, who is Chairman of that Committee, told the gentlemen that inasmuch as the bill carried an appropriation, it could not be considered from a sentimental standpoint alone, and that the committee could not at the time make a positive promise.

The return of Hon. Thomas C. Platt to the Senate by the New York legislature, recalls the remarks made by himself and Senator Conkling, when they resigned from the Senate. Mr. Conkling said: "This ends me so far as politics is concerned. I shall never again allow the use of my name in connection with any political office. I am done for all time with the game of politics." Mr. Platt said: "I will re-enter politics at this very moment and stay until I die—Maybe to get even with certain perfidious scoundrels who have deceived us, and maybe to go back to the Senate of the United States."

Before passing the Oklahoma Free Homesteads Bill, the Senate amended it by making its provisions apply to all homesteads on lands acquired from

the Indians, and the amended bill is now in the hands of the House Committee on Public Lands. So far as can be learned, the reports of an attempt to kill the bill in Committee have no better foundation than guess work.

The republican members of the House Ways and Means Committee are making progress on the new tariff bill, but it is not probable that the bill can be completed before about the first of April, even with the most diligent work. Attempts, which have been made, to give any schedule of the bill at this time are simply silly. Chairman Dingley himself would not try to do it.

NEW SCHOOL BILL.

The Teachers' Assembly Committee Agree Upon Its Provisions—Dr. Curry to Address the Legislature.

RALEIGH, N. C., January 15.—The committee from the Teachers' Assembly appointed to present a bill for the better supervision of the public schools adjourned to-night. It has agreed upon a bill to be presented to the joint meeting of the educational committees next Friday, deeming it not practicable to have the bill considered before the senatorial fight is over.

The general features of the bill agreed upon are: A division of the state into educational districts, with an average of two or three counties in each district, to be in charge of a superintendent who must have experience in teaching and whose duties shall be to examine teachers and grant certificates, hold educational institutes and instruct teachers in subjects taught in public schools, in principles and methods of teaching and in regard to public school law of the state, recommend courses of reading and professional study for teachers of the district and stimulate educational life by public addresses, inspect as many schools as practicable and make an annual report to the state superintendent on the work and improvement of schools; the state to be divided into districts by the state board of education; the superintendent to receive as many examination fees paid by teachers as will equal 3 per cent. of the school fund. The maximum amount allowed county superintendents by the law abolished two years ago was 4 per cent. of the school fund.

It is interesting to note that the supervision of city schools requires from 8 to 15 per cent. of the school fund. All admit necessity of some supervision. The question is how to secure the most efficient system at the least cost.

Superintendent Grimsby, member of the Teachers Assembly committee, arrived today.

Dr. Curry, general agent of the Peabody fund, is expected to address the general assembly on the 25th or 26th.

The Finest Residence in the World.

Mr. George Vanderbilt has probably near Asheville, the finest private residence in all the world, more than rivalling the houses of British or continental nobility. It seems that he is also preparing to farm it on a great scale. He has 150 square miles comprising 100,000 acres, a most royal demesne. It is reported that he has now running "a stock farm, a sheep farm, a dairy farm, an apiary, a hog and general crop farm, thus combining on the one tract nearly all the forms of agricultural production." If it is managed on strictly business principles and with scientific results it may prove a source of instruction to others. It is also said he "makes brick with the most improved machinery. He quarries stone for building purposes and he cuts and saws lumber for shipment. When the lands are denuded of their forest growth in the interest of commerce, he goes to work to restore the lands with timber areas with an eye to future demand, and is endeavoring to replace in time that which he exacts in this respect from nature." More than all this he is said to be something scholarly and to speak three or four modern languages. George seems to be asserting his intelligence and a right to be a citizen of so good a state as North Carolina. Success to him in his farming operations.

Prof. N. Y. Gully, professor of law at Wake Forest, has made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors. Mr. Gully's failure was due to bad business investments. His liabilities are about \$25,000.

BRADSTREETS AND DUN

Trade Relations Are Not Improved Except in Some Cities South.

BUSINESS GETTING DOWN TO BED-ROCK.

Prosperity in 1897—It Takes Time, Say Dun & Co., For New Confidence to Reach, Though Easier Money Markets Prevail.

NEW YORK, Jan. 15.—Bradstreets tomorrow will say: Except at a few Southern cities, as reported last week, wholesale merchant throughout the country report no noticeable change in trade relations and few indications of improvement in the near future. Mercantile collections continue slow. Some jobbers at Chicago, St. Louis, Baltimore and other large cities report increased demand for dry goods, hats, shoes, hardware and groceries for spring delivery, but that in other lines business is very dull. Dealers in staples at cities in Texas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina report a better demand for hardware and agriculture supplies compared with last week.

Some Baltimore salesmen are securing relatively fair orders. There has been no revival in textile circles, except purchases of wool at Boston by some of the larger manufacturers. Cotton goods continue depressed at first hands with little prospect for improvement until after production has been restricted.

December gross railway earnings are relatively more favorable than those in preceding months, showing a decrease of 1.5 per cent from December 1895. The last December reports were by southwestern roads, which show gains over December totals in 1895.

Bradstreets' comparison of prices of 108 staple articles and products at quarterly intervals for a series of years show an upward tendency on the part of quotations during the last quarter of 1896 were conspicuous among most of the leading cereals, for live stock, meats, dairy products, some vegetables, hides, leather, wool, various grades of iron, copper, lead, brick, glass and spruce lumber.

Prices this week show advances for leather, pork, lard, petroleum and cotton, while decreases are reported in prices of hides, wheat, corn, coffee, pig iron and steel billets. Heavy stocks continue to depress cotton goods. Iron and steel have not met with the increased demand expected, while sugar and coffee prices have been affected by competition among leading dealers.

There have been 478 business failures in the United States this week, compared with 486 last week.

R. G. Dun & Co., will say tomorrow in their weekly review of trade:

The greatest growth and prosperity the country had ever seen came suddenly in 1879, after several months of disappointment because specific resumption had not yet brought the benefits expected. It takes time for new confidence to reach—though easier money markets, larger orders, resuming mills, expanding employment, and a larger distribution—to the result which make still greater and lasting gain possible. Such gradual and steady improvement has been in progress for more than two months. The output of pig iron has gained 41.6 per cent since October 1. The output of coke has increased 88.7 per cent. Sales of wool have become large. Money markets feel a steady increase in demand for commercial and manufacturing loans. Additional works have gone into operation each week in January, and the working force is larger than at any other time for six months. The gain may be ascribed to the deliberate judgment of the ablest and most prudent men in business.

It is no time of high prices. Many who are anxious to get hold on the market are making for the moment lower prices than they could afford to maintain. With the increase in the output of pig iron, the price is a shade lower at the east and Chicago, but heavy purchases already advance Bessemer a shade at Pittsburgh. Steel bars have been reduced to one cent and some other finished products \$1 per ton, but the demand is on the whole growing steadily.

Textile manufacturers are not encouraged by the demand for goods, though more print cloths were sold

than for many weeks. Lower prices are expected in goods, and slow buying is not unnatural since cotton has fallen 17.8 per cent since September 11. Though woolen goods do not improve, there have been purchases by large mills which cover for two weeks of January 11, 110,200 pounds at the three chief markets, against 11,817,600 last year. Some large purchases of leather indicate that some shoe manufacturers are seeing their way to more active work, and shipments from the east in January thus far are twenty per cent larger than last year. Hides at Chicago are 2½ cents lower. The Pennsylvania and some other roads have commenced to buy rails, and several costly improvements have been ordered, the Columbia bridge alone calling for 7,000 tons of steel and a terminal improvement for the Erie will cost \$1,000,000.

The money market has been disturbed by a combination of large bankers not to lend on call below two per cent which invited all sorts of financial institutions to take the market caused payment of bank loans for some millions and left supplies of funds so heavy that the loans were sharply marked down. More was done in commercial paper, though offerings increased but moderately. Receipts from the interior exceeded shipments by \$1,500,000. Exports continue to exceed last year's for the week 8 per cent while imports fell ten per cent below last year's.

Failures for the week have been 455 in the United States against 395 last year and 71 in Canada against 81 last year.—Raleigh Tribune.

Exterminating the Microbes.

Reported for the Charlotte Observer.

SENATE.

RALEIGH, Jan. 16.—The Senate was called to order at 9:30 o'clock by Lieu tenant Governor Reynolds, and after prayer by Rev. Mr. McNeil, of the Senate, the journal of yesterday was read and approved. Leaves of absence were granted Mr. Scales and Mr. Justice. No bills or resolutions were introduced. The Senators were evidently too deeply engrossed in the subject of grip germs to draw up bills.

The calendar was taken up and the following bills were disposed of: By unanimous consent the Senate took up the House bill repealing ch. 466 laws of 1895, known as the "assignment act" and it passed its several readings and was ordered to be enrolled for ratification.

The Senate then adjourned until 4 o'clock Monday afternoon.

The committee on grip and grip germs, composed of all the doctors of the Senate and several from the House of Representatives, made no report, though they had a meeting and decided that it was not necessary to take up the carpet, but would wage the war on the microbes by sprinkling the carpet with a solution of bi-chloride of mercury and looking after the ventilation of the Senate chamber.

HOUSE.

The House met at 9:50 and was opened with prayer by Representative Lawhorn, one of the five preachers who are members. The session lasted precisely ten minutes, when it ended so the microbe exterminators could get in their work.

Two bills of merely local importance were introduced. Speaker Hileman announced several committees, as follows:

Insurance: White of Randolph, Fagan, Price, Pool, Allen, Harris of Halifax, Cunningham, Lawhorn, Edkins.

Fish interests: Hancock, Duncan, Babbitt, Pool, Hodges, Alexander, Parker of Perquimans, Harris of Hyde, Elliott, Cox, Daniels, Fagan, Rountree, Chapman, Spruill, Drew, Hare, Burgess, Gallop, Howe.

To investigate charges of fraud in the senatorial contest: Schulken, Lusk and Nelson.

Additions: To insane asylums, Hartness and Young; to privileges and elections, Duffy; to judiciary, Hartness; to agriculture and mechanics, McPeters.

Surgeon General Tryon of the Navy will be promoted to the rank of the Navy will be promoted to the rank of Medical Director, the highest grade of naval surgeons, through a vacancy caused by the retirement of Medical Director Wells on reaching the age limit of sixty two years the 30th inst.

EUROPE ALARMED.

At the Ravages of the Plague in India. Fears of its Spreading to the Western Countries—Stopped by Nothing but Burning of the Houses.

LONDON, January 16.—The eyes of the European world are turned this week toward India. Each day's intelligence from that stricken land makes it more apparent that the greatest tragedy in modern history is being enacted there under the double curse of plague and famine. The heart of Europe has been touched at last and the universal sympathy is perhaps more keen because it is now tinged with apprehension. It would not be surprising if within a month a genuine plague panic should spread through Christendom. The great powers show alarm and the news comes today that Italy has summoned an international conference to meet forthwith at Rome to consider measures for dealing with the danger. There is little doubt that the response of other governments will be favorable, and all the resources of modern science will be speedily arrayed against this hideous foe.

Reliable information about the real extent of the plague in Bombay and vicinity is lacking, and regarding the mortality it is only said in general terms that more than half of those [attacked succumb. The news service of the London press is strangely inadequate and it is from private sources that most of the information comes. The point which most interests Europeans is whether the awful disease is likely to flourish in northern latitudes if infection should be introduced here but no evidence is forthcoming yet. It is argued by medical men, however, that if the plague was dangerous in Hongkong it will find an equally prolific field in London and Paris so far as the climate is concerned.

It is generally admitted that the plague is a filth disease, but there are certain peculiarities connected with its spread. Dr. Hankin, a well known bacteriologist, who is investigating the subject in Bombay, fastens the responsibility for carrying the infection upon rats, and other insects. Rats in houses have the plague; they die and are eaten by ants, which carry the germs into the crevices of the buildings, to water taps and sinks. Thus the poison is diffused and cannot be eradicated except by fire. This explains the efficacy of the old method of cleansing by conflagration, and at the same time, the futility of isolating the sick. The only thing to do is to remove the healthy. It is stated in The Daily Mail's dispatches, which are the only ones worth reading in the London papers, that large business houses in Bombay which are infested by rats have been rendered untenable by the ravages of the plague among those vermin. They die by hundreds in the walls and the human occupants have been compelled to vacate the buildings. It is not observed that any larger animals are subject to the infection.

The French, Austrian, and Italian governments have already taken stringent precautions against the importation of the plague, but it can hardly be possible to escape a series of alarms from this cause during the next few weeks.—New York Sun.

Brooklyn Saloon.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., Jan. 16.—After the performance of Hyde & Rebus's Theatre this evening, Bob Fitzsimmons with some friends went to a near by saloon where they drank freely. At midnight an 18 year old newsboy with a bundle of papers under his arm entered the place. Fitzsimmons grabbed the papers from the boy and called him a vile name. The lad turned and smashed Fitzsimmons on the nose. Fitzsimmons started in to beat the boy. The crowd interfered and whipped Fitzsimmons. The lights were turned out and the police called. Fitzsimmons is now locked in the saloon awaiting the arrival of the police.

Wilmington Messenger: The barn and stables of Col. S. B. Taylor, at Catharine Lake, Onslow county, were destroyed by fire on Tuesday morning before day, together with a lot of cotton, spirits turpentine, dog-tongue, corn, fodder and other produce, and a valuable mule. It is not known how the fire originated, but it is believed it was the work of an incendiary. Colonel Taylor was in Newbern at the time.