

# The Hickory Press.

PROTECTION! INDUSTRY! ENTERPRISE! PROSPERITY!

VOLUME 30.

HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 1898.

NUMBER

## REPORT OF JOHN R. SMITH.

SUPT. OF THE PENITENTIARY FOR 1897  
MAKES HIS REPORT.

Those Who Have Been Claiming Fraud, etc.,  
in the Management for That Year Can  
Read and Decide Where to Put  
the Blame, if Any.

To the Honorable Board of Directors of the North Carolina Penitentiary: In pursuance to Chapter 219, Section 5, sub-section 8 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1897, requiring an annual report from the Superintendent of the State's Prison, I respectfully herewith submit my report for the year 1897: In December, 1897, I had an inventory taken on all the farms. This inventory was handed to the board at your January meeting and as the reports from the several officers of the institution had not been completed—these reports mainly consisting of statistics—the report was referred by your board to the chairman, Mr. Claudius Dockery, to complete. As a part of my report would necessarily cover three months of the former management from the 1st of January, 1897, to the 1st of April, 1897 (I did not take actual charge until the 1st of April, 1897, Mr. Leazer remaining in charge, and consequently and necessarily spending a great part of both farm products and money on hand.) Mr. Dockery wishing to deal fairly, employed the clerk of the former board to make out so much of the statistics and report as could only be gotten from the books in the penitentiary. I had an inventory prepared in March, 1897. That inventory differs very greatly from that of Mr. Leazer, for the reason, his report was made on the last of December, 1896, and three months later when I took charge there had been a great many changes made. The supplies on hand were nearly all exhausted, and the property on some of the farms had been transferred to other places; for instance, the Castle Hayne farm is stated in his report as having seventeen hundred and seventy-two dollars and fifty cents worth of live stock on hand. I did not find anything there on the 1st of April, 1897. The farm was abandoned before I took charge. I found the central penitentiary in fairly good condition as to the main body. The front part of the building had never been completed, and was partially boarded up with rough boards and very unsightly. I had this completed and greatly improved. Most of the work was done with convict labor and with very little expense to the State, except for material. I also constructed the Criminal Insane Department. I found only a small garden near the building. I enlarged the garden and it was of great assistance in feeding the convicts at the Central Prison. I found most of the machinery badly out of repair, and the engine at the water supply tank in a dangerous condition. It was worthless and a new engine had to be put in to supply the building with the necessary water. The State had in charge five farms, one known as the Halifax farm, near Weldon, one known as the Northampton farm, near Halifax, N. C., two known as the Caledonia, Nos. 1 and 2, but virtually one farm. All of these farms are on Roanoke River; also one farm in Anson county near Wadesboro. On all of these farms there were a number of worn out horses and mules. Some of them badly crippled and useless, although they had been valued on the 1st of January, 1897, from \$75 to \$100 per head. They were condemned as useless by the Supervisors in charge at the time I took control. I transferred seventeen of those that could be moved to Castle Hayne and succeeded in making a partial crop with them. After the crops were made the chairman of the executive committee ordered them sold, and if no one would have them, to kill them. They were sold to Mr. D. A. Grantlam at a nominal price. There were a number of others so worthless that the Supervisors were directed to get rid of them to the best advantage. Three of these mules were traded by one of the Supervisors for one horse, one at Anson for a cow, one at Halifax was such a mass of sores that he could not be sold, and was given away to avoid having him killed. At the Halifax farm there was a thirty horse power engine and saw mill in almost a worth-

less condition. I found a large per cent of all the tools and farming implements broken and useless, and badly scattered over the farms. Few wagons even in fairly good condition and most of the machinery in like bad order. The cotton gins were so out of repair, that new gins had to be supplied.

There was scarcely a week's supply of provisions on hand anywhere, made on some of the farms, no corn and fodder or other forage.

You gentlemen will remember that the Legislature of 1897 had made no appropriation for the penitentiary and with only \$1,783.10 in the treasury and \$127.72 in the drawer, and as shown by Mr. Leazer's report on pages 22 and 29 for year 1896, his figures, we started the 1st of January with \$20,061.27 less in farm products on hand than the penitentiary started with the 1st of January, 1896. In his estimate of farm products on hand the 1st of January, 1897, he puts the total value of the cotton on hand as a part of the farm products at \$77,111.00, when in fact the cotton actually sold for \$71,533.16. He deducts \$29,000 from the \$77,111 the amount drawn on the cotton and thus the penitentiary was charged with having on hand in cotton the 1st of January, 1897, \$48,111. On January 5th, Mr. Leazer drew \$8,000 more on the cotton, leaving cotton on hand and charged to the penitentiary at a valuation of \$40,111, when in fact the cotton remaining on hand when sold only brought \$36,533.16. The total amount of the cotton that I sold brought only \$20,538.38. Mr. Leazer having drawn out before the 1st of April, \$50,426.68.

I give these figures to show that when I took charge on the 1st of April, 1897, there was only \$20,538.38 in cotton on hand and in the treasury, \$1,783.10 and in the drawer \$127.72, total with which to start business the 1st of April \$22,469.16. The amount I expended for horses and in paying the bills of Mr. Leazer more than consumed the cotton on hand and the cash turned over to me.

With all the farms to be supplied with provisions for man and beast and with each and every Supervisor clamoring for them, wagons and farming implements as shown by their letters on file, you will find that my expenditures were about the same per month as that of Mr. Leazer in 1896. The brick estimated at \$5,517.37 as on hand the 1st of January, 1897, must have been disposed of prior to the 1st of April, 1897, as there was not near this amount on hand at the latter date. Under these great disadvantages I supplied the farms and furnished them with teams and farming implements and machinery. On each farm we increased the yield over any former year in all farm products, and in cotton we made a greater number of bales and heavier bales than ever before. There were made during 1897, 3,116 bales of cotton, an increase of 500 bales over any former year. It should be borne in mind that the price of cotton for the season of 1897 and 1898, was extremely low, and much below the price of 1896 and 1897, while there was no corresponding decrease in the expense of making the crop. It should also be remembered that I was compelled for want of ready money to buy on credit and pay the additional price always demanded when spot cash is not paid.

The farms have all been improved and are in fine condition for cultivation and I consider the penitentiary in better fix than ever in its history, taking into consideration, the present state of the farms and the supplies in farm products, teams, farming implements, etc., on hand the 1st of January, 1898.

The prisoners were well fed, well clothed and kindly treated.

There is preaching at the Central penitentiary and on each of the farms. The Sunday Schools at the Central Penitentiary and on the Anson and Caledonia farms are in fine conditions. It is to be regretted that there is no library on the respective farms excepting Anson. Unfortunately, there are some educated men who are criminals. These are earnestly desirous of spending their Sundays and spare moments in reading. Just prior to the severance of my connection with the penitentiary, I had, with the assistance of a member of your board, directed a library to be placed on each farm. This was done at the Anson

farm and it was my wish to have put one on each farm.

Hoping you gentlemen will continue your valuable assistance to my successor and that you may succeed in making the penitentiary self-sustaining, I remain,

Very respectfully,  
JNO. R. SMITH.

CAPT. CARTER'S DISGRACE.

Dismissed From the Army With Loss of All Pay—Convicted of Defrauding the Government.

Washington Dispatch, 14th.

Captain O. M. Carter, the army engineer officer, who is alleged to have defrauded the government out of \$3,000,000 while in charge of river and harbor improvements at Savannah, Ga., will suffer in punishment more severely than any officer ever tried by court-martial in this country on similar charges. Carter, being found guilty, was sentenced by the court to dismissal from the army, imprisonment in some penitentiary for a period of between 10 and 20 years, to forfeit all pay, and besides all these penalties an additional and unusual one which provides that the 100th article of war shall be applied to his case, and, if it is carried out, the facts in Carter's case will be published broadcast through the country, and at his own home the local papers will be required to print advertisements calling attention to the disgrace he has brought on himself.

Further, any officer speaking to or addressing Carter will be accused and tried for scandalous conduct. It is the intent of this provision to call attention in the most public fashion to an officer's disgrace, and to specifically emphasize the facts before his own people at home. This penalty has seldom been imposed in this country. The case is still before the Secretary of War for action and from him will be forwarded to the President.

J. F. TEAGUE, DEMOCRATIC SHERIFF AND TAX COLLECTOR ASSIGNS.

Has Not Paid in a Cent of Taxes—Treasurer Worth Takes Steps to Get the State Tax.

State Treasurer Worth has received a telegram informing him that J. F. Teague, sheriff and tax collector of Swain county, has made an assignment. The Treasurer at once called Solicitor Pou here so as to take the necessary steps in Wake to get judgment against Teague for the amount of State taxes due.—Raleigh Correspondent Charlotte Observer.

The Home Rule regrets very much to hear of the misfortune of any man, be he Democrat, Republican or Populist. If Mr. Teague was a Populist or Republican the News and Observer and Democratic papers in the State would have his name in large type, followed by a column or two of comments as scandal now away up in the teens, and all because he belonged to the fusion, incompetent gang now in power. Sheriff Teague is a Democrat, belongs to the white man's party, you know, and hence any little discrepancy like the above must be looked over and covered up. He has not paid in a cent of the State taxes, and if the amount cannot be collected out of his bondmen the State will be minus Swain county's taxes this year. We learn that a Pop-Rep fusionist was elected Sheriff in that county at the last election, but the conditions for giving his bond were so exacting that the Democratic commissioners ruled him out and put in Teague. We also learn that instead of the county bonds being worth fifty cents on the dollar they can't be sold for anything. Judge Robinson, who held the last term of court for the county, could, we suppose, tell something of the county's finances. Yet Swain is held up to the people of the State as a model western Democratic county.—Home Rule.

Just What She Needed.

"My appetite was very poor and I was so nervous I could not sleep. I was troubled with dyspepsia and was very weak. After I had taken a few bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla I could eat anything I wished, could sleep well and was much stronger." Mrs. Joann J. Martin, Werrington, North Carolina.

Hood's Pills cure all liver ills. Easy to take, easy to operate; reliable sure.

## WASHINGTON LETTER.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY STILL WORKING.

In Mustering Out the Volunteers the Cavalry and Artillery Will be First to Go.

(Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Aug. 22, 1898.—President McKinley is still working about eighteen hours out of every 24, trying to get things in such shape that he can get away from Washington for a few days of much needed rest. He could not get over to New York to see the review of Sampson's and Schley's ships, but he was represented by the entire Cabinet, excepting Secretary Day, and Secretary Long. He has, as yet, only definitely settled upon two members of the peace commission—Secretary Day and Senator Davis—but expects to announce the other three this week. He isn't pleased with the attitude of the Spanish, either in Spain or in Cuba, but is biding his time to bring them to their senses, should positive action on his part become necessary.

Secretary Alger has been pursued by the fakers of political news for sometime, but none of their misrepresentations have been greater than were contained in the story that he was to aid Gov. Pingree to defeat Senator Burrows, and that Senator McMillan was to leave the Senate for the Diplomatic Service and Secretary Alger to take his place in the Senate. It can be stated upon the highest authority, that the whole story was built upon imagination, started to work by Gov. Pingree's call upon Secretary Alger, while he was in Washington, and his accompanying him to New York to see the Naval review. Unless he changes his mind, Secretary Alger will not even take an active part in the Michigan campaign this year, and he says he has no idea of leaving the Cabinet to enter the Senate.

Those pensioners who have attached revenue stamps to vouchers and other official documents, sent to the Pension Bureau, have spent money they might have kept. Revenue stamps are not required upon any pension papers. Commissioner Evans has taken special pains to disseminate this information, in order that the pensioners may save their money.

Representative Overstreet, of Indiana, Secretary of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee, has returned to Washington from a tour of the western states, and will remain at committee headquarters until the campaign is over. He said: "The glorious achievements of the war will give the republican party a good advantage in the campaign. In Indiana the party was never in a better condition to carry the state. There the fight will be entirely on National issues." Mr. Overstreet thinks the republicans will make decided gains all through the west.

Representative Mudd, of Md., whose renomination will be made this week, says the fight will be made in his district under the Slogan, "gold and growth," the intention being to emphasize the devotion of the party in the district to the gold standard and to the policy of holding all the territory over which our flag has been hoisted. Mr. Mudd expresses confidence that Maryland will again go republican, and that five out of the six members of Congress to be elected will be republicans.

An official of the Department of State, whose position makes it necessary for him to well up in international law, disposed of all the fool talk about this or that foreign government being engaged in negotiating with Spain for the purchase of a naval or coaling station in the Philippines, by saying, "By the terms of the protocol, entirely aside from the surrender at Manila, Spain parted from her sovereignty over the Philippine islands, and the sovereignty will lie in abeyance until the work of the peace commission, which will meet at Paris, Oct. 1, is concluded."

In mustering out the volunteers, the cavalry and artillery will be the first to go, and when the infantry is reached Secretary Alger will endeavor, so far as possible, to leave those regiments in the service whose members are desirous of remaining, the choice being largely left to the governors of the several states.

Business Organizations in the South Directing Their Energies in the Right Direction—New Manufacturing Enterprises.

Baltimore, Md., Aug. 11.—Earnest men in many parts of the South are making greater exertions than ever before for the encouragement of the up-building of small industries. The business organizations of cities like Richmond, Charlotte, Birmingham, Montgomery, Charleston, Mobile, New Orleans, Houston, Little Rock, Nashville, Chattanooga and Atlanta have for months agitated the subject, and the results of their efforts are seen in the persistent advocacy of the establishment of factories of various kinds. The immense peach crop of Georgia has given a spur to the movement for increase of the number of packing houses whereby the benefit of the full crop may be enjoyed. The foundation of the large steel mill at Ensley, Ala., is sure to attract a number of establishments for the manufacture of articles in which steel is used, and the New Orleans Progressive Union is endeavoring to make the city of its home the centre of a furniture manufacturing centre. The papers of Mississippi are also urging the advantages to that State of small manufacturing establishments as of special benefit to farmers. Though the farmers will perhaps be among the first to be benefited by small industries, such as those mentioned, the effects of a more general distribution of such undertakings, would be far-reaching. For the South to maintain the steady progress, commercially, which it has enjoyed for the past few years, it must prepare itself to handle other products than the material for food and manufactures. To the developing lumber interests of the South has been attributed much of the increased grain business at the Southern ports, the railroads being in that way provided with freight for their cars travelling to the grain-producing centres. If to lumber be added in greater quantity than at present, articles made from wood; if to iron and steel and baled cotton be added some of the manufactured products of these bases of industry, the South may hope for an enlarged railroad business in all directions, and, consequently, for material for expending commerce.

The approach of peace is likely to accelerate this expansion. "Behind the success of arms of the United States," says the Manufacturers' Record, "is a solid phalanx of business interests determined to seize every advantage that may be gained under the prestige of victory in sharp competition with other nations of the world. It may be taken for granted that the final outcome of the diplomatic conclusion of the war will not mean a diminution of the commercial importance of the United States. On the contrary there may be expected not only an enhanced trade from this country in old channels, but a rapidly developing commerce in comparatively new ones.

"The South should be alive to her interest at this time. American control in the West Indies may be expected to rid those islands of that influence which breed the yellow menace to certain Southern ports. That accomplishment alone will mean millions of dollars annually to those ports. But there is a greater advantage to be derived by them. According to Senator John T. Morgan, who has for years advocated the building of the Nicaragua Canal, that waterway will be completed within six years. Guarded by Americans, on the east at Porto Rico, and on the west at Hawaii, the immense commerce passing through the canal will be dominated by the United States. Southern ports from Galveston to Norfolk should have a great share if not the greater share, in that commerce, because of their natural advantage of location, both as assembling and distributing points, under the influence of new routes of travel.

"In the invasion of the markets of the world the South should be as prompt to move to the front as it was to sustain the arms of the United States in the conflict which has strengthened the aggressive commercial advance."

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The Kind You Have Always Bought  
Bears the Signature of  
*Chas. H. Fletcher*