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HICKORY, N. C.
MONDAY EVENING
December 27, 1915

KILLING COCK ROBIN

A writer in the Metropolitan for January gives several reasons why the American dye industry has been put out of business.

Textile industry grew strong, it demanded more protection from the government. Textile people wanted cheap dyes and one by one the duties were lowered on colors until many were placed on the free list.

While the German government encouraged "conventions" among the manufacturers, the American government lowered tariffs allowing German combinations to beat down the prices of domestic dyes.

The Germans stood together; the Americans fought individually, and fell. Now textile men have a lively interest in the revival of dye-making and the whole country feels the need of the development of the business.

It will never be revived on politics alone, and it will be interesting to see what congress will do.

RAILROADS BUSY

If travel on the railroads is an index to the prosperity of the people as a whole, then the people of the south are unusually prosperous at this time.

Southern Railway passenger trains running north and south invariably have been crowded and in many instances two engines have been required to pull the large number of cars.

On the smaller divisions the traffic has been as heavy in proportion. The freight traffic also has been unusually heavy during this month, and there is every indication that December will prove the best month in the history of southern railroads.

We are glad that the railroads have been doing good business, and hope that they will thrive this year as never before. They cannot make too much money, because with good times they improve their service and help the country generally.

The way Colonel Roosevelt sailed into the Wilson administration for the manner in which it has conducted the foreign policies of the government is really fierce. Former President Taft is roasted about as done.

Secretary Lansing today made his first extended address since becoming secretary of state, and the Record feels that its readers will be interested in his remarks.

China may pull off that revolution without much hindrance from the outside, and Japan will be free to grab anything else especially desirable.

Here's hoping that all North Carolina newspapers will experience the best year in their history in 1916.

QUIET IN HICKORY

No Arrests Made by Police—Good Elsewhere.
Christmas passed quietly in Hickory. From Friday until last night the various exercises were held in the churches and Sunday schools in the presence of large audiences, and the events were enjoyed wholeheartedly.

Many people came in to spend the holidays and send a number spent Saturday and Sunday with relatives at other places.

The police officers had less to do this Christmas than ever before. Not one arrest was made. For three weeks it has been quiet in police circles, and Chief Lantz was beginning to fear it might be the calm before the storm, but he was agreeably surprised.

Everybody was simply on his good behavior. The city made a record in which it can take pride.

From every section come good reports. At any rate, there are no stories of arrests as often is the case at Christmas time, and it is inferred that all in all, the state passed the quietest holiday in years.

MAY GET SANATORIUM

Events of the last few days have it seems, made it possible for Hickory to get a large sanatorium. It is said Colonel Thornton has taken the matter under serious consideration of altering and converting St. Paul's Seminary into a modern and up-to-date sanatorium.

If such a good thing for Hickory is accomplished it would be brought about for the special benefit of Mrs. Thornton, who is now in her 87th year and if she could receive such attention as she would get in such an institution she would survive 15 more years or possibly longer, Colonel Thornton says. The two aged persons would live at the sanatorium and rent their fine residence, which is one of the best in this part of the state.

PRESS COMMENT

SMAL COTTON CROP

Government Report on 1915 Output and Consequent Conditions
New York Evening Post.

The year 1915 was one in which the United States gathered larger crops of wheat, oats, barley, rye and hay than ever before, and when its corn crop was within a narrow margin of the bumper yield of 3,124,000,000 bushels, in 1912. Every important food crop was abundant. But cotton, the principal staple of the south, yielded with the exception of that year the smallest since 1905. Recently the agricultural department at Washington gave out its annual estimate of the cotton crop, it named 11,161,000 bales as the crop of 1915, that comparing with 12,069,000 bales named a year ago for the 1914 crop, and with 13,677,000 bales named in 1913.

Cotton is the one leading crop of the United States this year that compares poorly with the past; yet in the south there is no manifestation that the cotton states are badly off by comparison with the grain-growing west. In the west bank clearings, railroad earnings and other measures of business activity are at, or near, to high records. In the south there have been few high records established, but bank clearings at the important cotton centers are at this time not only far beyond a twelve-month ago, but compare favorably with 1913 and 1912, while railroad earnings make a not unfavorable showing. For the whole south, November bank clearings exceeded all records, with a 38 per cent increase over 1914 and a 12 per cent increase over 1912; for such cotton carrying railroads as the Southern, railway and the Louisville the monthly earnings were 17 and 25 per cent above 1914 and within 5 per cent of 1913, when there was no war in Europe to transform conditions in the United States.

It is because there is being realized just that which the south sought to bring about by legislation and persuasion last winter, that the condition of business activity and cheerfulness exists today in the cotton states. Last year, when the war broke out and the economic prostration of the south seemed inevitable, it was planned to contrive a drastic reduction in cotton output in 1915, so that the unprecedentedly large crop of 1914 might find an outlet, at a price that would return a profit. The Washington conference of government and congressmen of cotton-producing states, will be remembered, at which it was undertaken to devise means of compulsory curtailment of the yield of 1915. Senator Hoke Smith's proposal to impose a war tax of 2 cents a pound on all cotton grown in 1915 in excess of half the amount raised in 1914, and Gov. Colquitt's recommendation of legislation punishing by imprisonment any one in Texas who planted more than 20 acres to cotton in 1915, will be recalled.

As it all turned out, the south planted 15 per cent less acreage to cotton in 1915 than it planted in 1914, and gathered 30 per cent less cotton. Deprived of the privilege of supplying the central European markets with its staple, the output of that staple, both because of intentional acreage curtailment and bad weather, has been cut down, so that supply is more in keeping with demand. The current price of 12 5-8 cents for cotton, the highest record of 15 months, compares with 7 1-2 cents at this time last year, which was the lowest record of 15 years.

Our Old Friends, the Pirates
Springfield Republican.

Blackbeard's island between Savannah and Brunswick, Ga., where on stormy nights the ghost of Blackbeard walks the sand straining his eyes seaward for the sight of a low black ship that never comes, is to be converted into a haven for migratory birds hurrying south at the approach of winter. The state of Georgia is planning to establish a preserve in cooperation with the federal government, which owns the island. It will be a new role for this land of extraordinary operations, and it will no doubt be a good thing for the birds.

But it will be a little hard, it would seem, on these shadowy figures of fierce, swashbuckling seamen that arrive on dark nights to search with their lanterns through the heavy underbrush for still more shadowy treasure. It will be a little disconcerting, or, at least, it seems so to those of us who still retain corporality—to have thousands of startled birds blundering through late. Yet so little do we know of the habits and feelings of ghosts that perhaps such fears are unfounded. At all events, it is to be hoped that nothing will happen to frighten the ghosts away from Blackbeard's, for we have so few left in this age of skepticism that we can ill afford to lose the faithful spectres that remain.

That there is still buried treasure to be found, whether or not the shadowy seamen find any on Blackbeard's is shown by the samples exhibited by a man who arrived in New York the other day from the Gulf of Darien. He brought with him an iron bound chest containing ancient coins, gems, jewelry and plate, which, he said, were part of a hoard worth \$1,000,000 dug up along the beach of the Gulf of Darien by a party under the command of Capt. Sackville White, an English veteran of the Boer war.

This is stuff to stir anew the imaginations of all who were brought up on "Treasure Island"—and who of the present generation was not? "Pieces of eight!" screamed Cap'n Flint. John Silver's parrot, "Pieces of eight! Pieces of eight!" Evidently the wicked, wise old bird knew what he was talking about. No doubt he had perched many a time on Flint's shoulder while that infamous pirate apportioned among his crew of swarthy cutthroats the gold and gems of rifled chests.

Charles Reade in "The Cloister and the Hearth," says that gunpowder has spoiled the war and does much to convince us of it by his descriptions of battles in the days when missiles were hurled by the torsion of a rope, the force of "ravity or the tension of a bow. But gunpowder has a long infanciful, and during that infancy the picturesque side of war, especially war at sea, did not wholly disappear. It was especially marked in the wars of the buccaneers, morally detestable as they were. When the low, swift pirate vessels, flying, as one likes to think the skull and cross bones, engaged the great clumsy galleons, it was warfare about as primitive as when the Romans and Carthaginians framed class work at the pinch, as indeed, it did in war at sea until a

much later date. It has remained for the 20th century to show us a truly barbarous as well as a most unpicturesque style of sea warfare. There is little to fire the imagination in the thought of a great battleship heeling suddenly in a quiet sea at the stroke of an unseen foe and going down with never a chance to strike a blow in return. "That isn't war," Long John Silver's parrot island would have protested. "That isn't war," Long John Silver's parrot would have screamed after them. The pirates and the parrots surely have joined the poet-pacifists and the pacifist-poets of today in expressing only horror at the inhumanity of torpedoing a battleship or annihilating a thousand soldiers in 20 minutes by machine guns.

ENTERTAINMENT AT BAKER MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

A very beautiful and attractive program was rendered to a large house by the Baker Mountain School, of which Miss Ella Padgett, teacher, and Miss Ella Padgett, teacher, Just at 2 p. m. the children came marching in singing "Bethlehem's Star," taking their places on the platform. Returning to their places each one took his part on the program in the order in which it came. The first recitation, entitled "Welcome," was given by Guy Sanborn.

- The program was as follows:
1. Welcome—Recitation.
2. Song—By the school.
3. Traps—Exercise.
4. Foreign missions—Exercise.
5. What I can do—Exercise.
6. The missionary's dream—Recitation.
7. Just a penny—Recitation.
8. How does the shepherd call—Exercise.
9. Nothing too small—Recitation.
10. Loving wonders—Song.
11. Turn your back—Recitation.
12. Keep sunny—Exercise.
13. What the brook sang—Exercise.
14. What boys can do—Exercise.
15. An old song with a new meaning—Dialogue.
16. For Christ and the church—Exercise.
17. Not a thought—Recitation.
18. Harvest home—Quartet.
19. Forget me not—Recitation.
20. A little boy's thoughts—Recitation.
21. Missionary Exercise.
22. When Jesus was here—Recitation.
23. Neighbors—Recitation.
24. Lamps of the fold—Exercise.
25. Sending a missionary box—Dialogue.
26. Good cheer—Recitation song.
27. Giving our best—Exercise.
28. Suppose—Recitation.
29. God's hold church shall triumph—Dialogue.
30. Writing a poem—Dialogue.
31. Little helps—Recitation.
32. Hurrah for the corn—Exercise.
33. I am glad there is a world—Recitation.
34. Why not now—Recitation.
35. Violin duet.
36. Offering.
37. Farewell—Recitation.
38. Song by the school.

The large congregation was especially interested in the dialogues, "An old song with a new meaning" and "Sending a missionary box," also the "Missionary Exercise."

This school is run for the special purpose of training boys and girls for foreign missionary work as well as the ordinary pursuits of life. In harmony with their work an offering was taken at the close of the program for foreign missions. The nice little sum of \$48.85 was given.

A closing recitation of "Farewell" was given by Edward Burton.

This school, under the management of Mr. Johnston and Miss Padgett, is proving itself to be a mighty factor for good in its community.

Business Directory

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SCHOOL INSPECTION IN NASH
Raleigh, Dec. 27.—Medical school inspection for the colored schools of Nash county is now the plan of work in which that county's whole time health officer, Dr. J. C. Braswell, is now engaged. Doctor Braswell was a visitor in the office of the state board of health yesterday said that by January 15 he would have completed the school inspection work for about 40 colored schools in Nash county and would be ready to again visit the white schools.

PLACE orders now for cut-flowers for Christmas. Agents for Van Linley Co.
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ACCIDENT AT BADIN
Albemarle, Dec. 27.—Joe Sills of this place met with an accident Friday afternoon at Badin which may cost him his life. Mr. Sills was employed with a force of carpenters at work on the buildings of the Aluminum Company of America and while on the second story of a building his foot slipped and he fell 12 or 15 feet landing on the left side of his face on the roots of a large oak standing near the building. His collar bone was badly fractured and his face badly bruised and cut. At first the physicians thought his skull was fractured but later examinations disclosed the fact that the skull is unbroken, although his condition is still regarded as serious if not fatal. He was brought home Friday night. Those who saw him fall say the wonder is that his neck was not broken and he instantly killed.

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MISS ROYSTER RESIGNS
Raleigh, Dec. 27.—Miss Edith Royster, assistant superintendent of the Wake county schools, has resigned her work and will not return to the office for the spring term.
Miss Royster's resignation was offered Friday evening but has not officially been presented and was to have been kept secret until the meeting of the board of education Tuesday when its announcement would have made known the retirement of Miss Royster from all school work.
B'g Bus'ness.
Willie was small, as he is described in the Philadelphia Record, but he had learned that big things are achieved by dealing with matters in the mass instead of in detail.
"Now," he said to his mother, shortly before Christmas, "I've written a letter asking for what I want and I think it covers everything."
"Is it good?" said his mother. "What do you ask for?"
"Two toy shops and a candy store."
"I believe in the mailed fist," Baltimore American.