

Probably the biggest battle of the war is now raging and the case looks hopeless for the Russians. Their total defeat would not surprise the world.

The legislature adjourned yesterday. In spite of a good deal of hostile criticism, the session did very good work. Among the more important things are the completion of a new code, the strengthening of the Watta law, provision for increased facilities at the hospitals, the passage of a strong divorce law, settlement of the Shaffer bonds, and other things. In the way of local legislation, our representatives enacted the following laws:

A medical dispensary to go into effect June 1st. If the people become dissatisfied with it they can vote on the question in ninety days. This is a genuine prohibition measure, and no liquor can be bought except for cases of absolute sickness. Violations of the law are to be punished by heavy fines and imprisonment.

Allowing the chain gang to work the streets of Monroe at the town's expense in case township funds become exhausted.

A landlord and tenant act. Election of road commissions by the people of Monroe township.

Incorporation of Wingate and Mineral Springs.

Allowing a vote in Monroe on the question of refunding bonds and a sewerage system.

Strenuous Times at the Inaugural. Washington Special, 11th to Raleigh Post.

Roosevelt luck was in evidence to-day and did not desert the man who was transformed from president by chance into president by choice. It was an ideal spring day, and this too in spite of the forecast of rain by the local weather bureau. "Just Teddy's luck," was the comment of the tens of thousands of people who came here to participate in the celebration of the nation's greatest holiday occasion. There were a few thin clouds just before noon that indicated rain, but they soon disappeared.

The crowds were simply immense, greater, in the opinion of veterans of inauguration ceremonies than were ever known before. North Carolinians were everywhere, taking a prominent part in the festivities of the day. It would be impossible to enumerate them, for included in the extremely large representation were the governor, members of the legislature, men prominent in the business life of the State, and girls—lots of them—as pretty as the prettiest that give life and color to the great throng that swept over Washington.

Governor Glenn was the central figure of the North Carolina colony, and he experienced one of the strenuous days in his life. Besides witnessing the ceremonies at the capital, attending the administration of the oath to the president and vice president, the governor rode at the head of the North Carolina troops in the parade and witnessed the inaugural ball. At all times he was attended by his staff save one. It was then that he felt like issuing a "strayed, lost or stolen" advertisement, but happily the chief executive came into his own. The governor's staff had an engagement to meet him in Delaware avenue after the capital ceremonies were over, but the immense crowd swarming everywhere was responsible for their separation. It was then that Governor Glenn abandoned all idea of participating in the parade, and he made his way to the president's reviewing stand, where he had complimentary tickets.

His arrival there was not without hardships. At one time he was caught in a flying wedge of two contending crowds that were endeavoring to make the same point, though from opposite directions, and was fairly lifted from his feet. A woman near the governor was crushed and fainted. As soon as he reached the reviewing stand the governor was located by his staff, and then he returned to the avenue, where he secured his mount and took part in the parade. He was enthusiastically cheered, as were the two companies of North Carolina troops from Charlotte and Wilmington, at various points along the line of march.

The greatest crowd ever seen in Monroe was the jam of people getting the great bargains at The People's Dry Goods Company's great red tag clearing sale last Saturday. Great sacrifices on clothing, dry goods and shoes. Buy now even if you lay the goods away for future.

Wood's Grass AND Clover Seeds. For clean fields and clean crops, the best quality obtainable. Wood's Seed Book gives the fullest information about Grasses and Clovers, best times and methods of seeding, kinds best adapted to different soils, quantities to seed per acre, best combinations for hay or pasture, and much other information of the greatest value to every farmer. Wood's Seed Book is mailed free on request. Write for it, and Special Price List of Farm Seeds. T. W. Wood & Sons, Seedsmen, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA. WOOD'S SEEDS. GRAND PRIZE - ST. LOUIS, 1894. GOLD MEDAL - PARIS, 1904.

Will Farmers Hold to Ten Cents or Take Mr. Price's Seven?

To the Farmers of Union County: I want to call your attention to the importance of your holding your cotton. It is one of the purposes of the Southern Cotton Association to make the remainder of the 1904 crop now in the farmers' hands bring 10 cents, as well as to secure a minimum price of 10 cents for the crop of 1905. And to accomplish this the association has asked all cotton growers to reduce their acreage at least 25 per cent, and to hold the cotton now on hand until June, by which time it is proposed to have 2,000,000 bales re-fired, tied up so as not to let it go on the market until after October, and thus enable the holder to get 10 cents for the remainder, and with reduced acreage and its consequent small crop, the 2,000,000 bales so re-fired will bring 10 cents. Can it be done? The braviest men in the South say that it can, that it is perfectly feasible. Will it be done? That depends upon the co-operation of the farmer. Will he hold and plant less and thereby insure prosperity to himself and country, or will he sell and go on in the old go-as-you-please way and invite disaster? This is now the bone of contention among the cotton bearers. The farmer's friends say he will, the bears say he won't.

Mr. Price knows that the Southern Cotton Association, with the co-operation of the farmer, can accomplish its purposes, and in consequence he is spending hundreds and thousands of dollars in sending out bear literature, and in advertisements, to stampede the farmer into selling his cotton and thereby thwart the purposes of the association. Mr. Price don't care whether the South plants much or little, just so they turn loose their holdings now. He is distressingly short on cotton—so much so that he has written to thousands of cotton buyers in the South for prices on dog-tail cotton. He wants cheap cotton to fill his contracts, and cotton he must have or go to the wall. Are you going to let him have it at his price, or hold for the price set by the Southern Cotton Association?

There is to be a meeting of the executive committee at New Orleans next Friday to perfect plans by which 2,000,000 bales can be re-fired, and Mr. J. A. Brown is on that committee and for that reason he cannot be with us as expected, but has promised that if he can spare the time, to be with us later.

I therefore call a meeting of Union County Cotton Growers' Association for March 18th, at 11 o'clock, at court house in Monroe, to transact such business as may come before it. In the meantime let the collections be pushed in every school district and the amount be brought and reported to the county meeting, when a county treasurer will be elected.

Hold your cotton! The feeling of a great many Union county farmers could be expressed in the following words of the Mississippi poet: "I'll hold on to my cotton 'til the redoubt of pen, 'till the redoubt of pen, 'till the redoubt of pen, 'till the redoubt of pen."

But when cotton goes back to 10 cents, to use the language of Mr. Hayne: "You'll wish to holden, You'd wish to holden, You'd wish to holden, You'd wish to holden."

T. J. W. BRIDGES. Border Friendship—Should Force Vaccination. Although Dudley is no longer a postoffice since the farmer's friend, the R. F. D., supplies its place, this is still known as the neighborhood of Dudley. In this, my initial letter to the Journal I will give some reasons why I think it might be interesting to readers of the Journal to have some news from our busy little place in it sometimes.

We who live so near the North Carolina line are almost Tar Heels. Our people and yours are very closely allied. We trade with each other, attend the same places of amusement and the same churches. We marry each other, visit each other's sick, and help to bury each other's dead. So we are not strangers, we South Carolinians and our friends across the line. Now for a few items. Mrs. A. M. Funderburk is quite sick. Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Fletcher of Hartsville, S. C., Mr. and Mrs. I. P. Mangum of Chesterfield, and Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Curlee of Monroe visited here recently. Mr. Curlee always takes an active part in our Sunday school and we are always glad to have him come. Messrs. F. B. Funderburk and Willis Jenkins have put up a new outfit of machinery here for ginning, sawing and grinding, and are already sawing. Mr. W. C. Funderburk and Miss Annie Fowler of Mint Hill, N. C., were married recently. We wish them long life and happiness.

There is a case of smallpox in our midst. We wish there were some means of quarantining country smallpox families or compelling country people to be vaccinated, for it is sure to spread if something is not done to stop it.

Mr. T. A. Funderburk has returned to the Magdalen Hospital at Chester for treatment for the abscess in his side. His son Oscar, who was also treated there, is about well. The Journal is an interesting paper, full of the latest happenings and discussions of up-to-date subjects, and we wish it much success. E. N. F.

Go to Flow's store for reliable fresh garden seed, horse and cattle powders, Brannon's carbonated ales—fine healthy drinks, sugars, rice, coffee, jellies, rolled oats, canned corn, baking powders, soda, cakes, cheese, crackers, candies, tobacco, pipes, fine honest old time N. O. molasses, lamps, lanterns, red oil, lamp and lantern globes, dried apples and peaches, and anything else in the eating line, cheap.

The greatest bargains ever shown in men's and boys suits, overcoats and pants at the great red tag sale of The People's Dry Goods Co. Don't miss this great sale.

Russians Being Badly Defeated.

The little news which is permitted to sift through from Manchuria indicates that General Kuropatkin has met a severe reverse, and his army is now threatened with utter ruin. According to a dispatch which the Russian commander is said to have sent to the Emperor, a Japanese force of some 200,000 men has broken through the lines, and is now en route to Mukden. This news, which comes via Berlin, is interpreted by German government officials to mean that General Kuropatkin has, in fact, been fully beaten; that his army will be dispersed, and the railroad north of Mukden will be cut. The information here quoted may or may not be entirely accurate, but there is every reason to believe that the Japanese have the Russians practically at their mercy, and that if the Czar's troops have not already abandoned Mukden and begun the retreat toward Harbin, on the north, it is only a matter of short time until they will do so. The sudden shut-down of the censor upon news from the field of hostilities a few days ago doubtless had an ominous meaning. That the Japanese have continued the work of bettering their position is not to be doubted, and they were in all probability prepared to rush Kuropatkin toward the outer edge of Manchuria just as they have, step by step, pushed him back since troops were first landed in Korea, nearly a year ago. Harbin is generally recognized as marking the northern extremity of Manchuria, so far as Japan is concerned. Therefore, whenever Oyama succeeds in making Kuropatkin retreat thither, he will have attained one of the things for which Japan went to war—the evacuation of Manchuria by the Russians. Harbin is one of the new towns which Russia established when she built the Siberian railroad. It is located 300 miles north of Mukden, and is the most important inland point in that portion of the country. The railroad from Moscow—the Russian soldiers' sole dependence for supplies—branches at Harbin, one prong going to Vladivostok, on the east, and the other down to Port Arthur, via Mukden.

Should the Japanese succeed in cutting the railroad between Mukden and Harbin before Kuropatkin's troops have gotten away, they would be in desperate plight. Little has been said recently about the strain on the Siberian railroad in transmitting troops and supplies to the front, but a recent dispatch asserts that few troops can now be handled, and that a new danger now threatens Russia: that towns along the road must be furnished with supplies, in addition to the great amount that is necessary to send the troops. All in all, General Kuropatkin is now perhaps in the saddest plight that he has been in since his defeat in the great battles of some months ago, if, indeed, his situation is not worse than it has ever been.

Realizing the deplorable condition at home and abroad, the Czar has yielded to the people and made a definite promise to allow them a share in the government. He expresses a faith in the ultimate outcome of the war, and urges his subjects to rally to the support of the throne. The unrest seems to grow throughout the empire, and it remains to be seen what effect the manifesto of Friday last will have on the situation.

If it is a bilious attack take Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets and a quick cure is certain. For sale by C. N. Simpson, Jr., and S. J. Welsh. Get interested in our line of fancy mixed cakes. V. C. Austin & Bro. The pills that act as a tonic and not as a drastic purge are DeWitt's Little Early Risers. They cure headache, constipation, biliousness, etc. Early Risers are small, easy to take and easy to act—a safe pill. Mack Hamilton, hotel clerk at Valley City, N. D., says: "Two bottles cured me of chronic constipation." Sold by English Drug Co., and S. J. Welsh. Try our peanut brittle for sandwiches. V. C. Austin & Bro. Best grade Cuba molasses. V. C. Austin & Bro.

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The Case of Rev. Mr. Bradley.

Following the report and inferentially the recommendation of an investigation committee of the Methodist church, composed of Rev. Messrs. M. H. Hoyle, C. M. Picketts and L. A. Falls, Presiding Elder J. Ed Thompson of the Charlotte district recently suspended from the offices of the church the Rev. F. W. Bradley of the Monroe circuit on the ground that he had recently married a woman who had been divorced from her husband for other than the "scriptural" cause.

It has not been proved, nor indeed has it anywhere been intimated, that the character of Mrs. Bradley is anything else than good; and the cause of her obtaining a divorce was her abandonment by her first husband, whose character is well shown by the fact that he is at present serving a term in the State's prison for house burning. These facts have no weight with the investigating committee or the presiding elder, however, and Mr. Bradley was suspended to await his trial by the conference of his church at Greensboro next fall, having in the meanwhile to give up his work as a minister and retire to his home in Gastonia.

It does seem that the facts involved in the above statement show almost a reduction ad absurdum of the laudable crusade of the churches for more stringent laws on the subject of divorce. Nothing was ever gained by the extreme exploitation of a theory, however desirable it might be in the abstract. But this action, based as it doubtless is upon the movement for pure divorce laws, oversteps the bounds of reason and strains at the gnat to the injury of a good man. These preachers should realize that there can be sincerity of conviction without attendant persecution; and that a too zealous and too narrow pursuit of even a worthy idea is always ready to be used by a more wicked, but broader-sighted, world as worse than the blindness which it really is.

Where is the logic in making a cause for reprimand out of the wrongs of a good man to a good woman, because the latter having been betrayed into an unfortunate marriage was afterwards released from her burden by a duly constituted court and jury? And who shall dare to say that the pure woman married to a criminal husband who has deserted her is to be blamed or held to reproach if she desires to avail herself of the laws upon the statute books which hold out to her a means of escape?

The Wadesboro Messenger and Intelligence, published in the county in which Mrs. Bradley was born and raised, says: "Mrs. Bradley was Miss Minnie Lowery of Morven before her marriage to H. H. Smith several years ago. Her family is one of the best in the county and in her trouble she had the sympathy of all good people who knew the circumstances of the distressing situation in which she was placed, and if ever a wife was justified in securing a divorce she certainly was."

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Business Meeting of the Merchants Protective Association.

At the regular meeting of the Merchants Protective Association held Monday evening the secretary was instructed to ask each member, who has not already done so, to send in his delinquent list by Friday the 10th, in order that they may be published in pamphlet form and each merchant furnished with copy of said delinquent list. The association consists of the following merchants to wit:

M. K. Lee Mercantile Co., J. L. Austin Co., Marsh Lee Co., Griffin Supply Co., Crow Bros., Perry & Phifer, Outen & Perry, Monroe Hardware Co., Houston Lee Supply Co., J. N. Price & Co., McRae Mercantile Co., Shannon & Co., Collins & Biggers, S. B. Hart, W. H. Helk & Bro., Bruner & Huey, V. C. Austin & Bro., D. W. Flow, A. Levy, J. R. English & Co., C. H. Richardson, Helms, Richardson & Co., John R. Simpson, M. Waller, Lee & Lee, H. M. Broom & Co., L. N. Presson, Heath-Lee Hardware Co., The Union Trade & Live Stock Co., The A. W. Heath Co., R. J. Belk & Co., C. Broom & Son, D. S. Davis, English Drug Co., W. A. Stewart & Bro., M. C. Broom, C. N. Simpson, Jr., S. J. Welsh, Nisbet Bros., Winechester Howie Co., T. J. Gordon & Co., Oscar Simpson, J. D. Parker, N. S. Ogburn, T. L. A. Helms, J. A. Parker, A. P. Phifer, J. N. Sturdivant.

For an Impaired Appetite. Loss of appetite always results from faulty digestion. All that is needed is a few doses of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. They will invigorate the stomach, strengthen the digestion and give you an appetite like a wolf. These tablets also act as a gentle laxative. For sale by C. N. Simpson, Jr., and S. J. Welsh.

It will bring rich, red blood, firm flesh and muscle. That's what Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea will do. Taken this month keeps you well all summer. 35 cents, tea or tablets. English Drug Company.

The Union Trade & Live Stock Co.

We desire to call your attention to the fact that we have on hand a lot of the finest mules that has ever been offered on this market. At our stable you can find any kind of mule you want—small, medium or large—all well broke, no trouble to handle, trim heads, thin ears, clean, smooth limbs, carry their heads up, with tails pointing straight to plough beam. Union county has a reputation for good stock, and our Mr. E. W. Griffin having years of experience in handling stock and knowing the kind of stock the farmers of the county demand, selected just such as he knew would fill the demand, and anticipating lower prices for cotton, and having the spot cash in hand, bought these mules so as to enable us to sell them at prices that will meet competition on any market. Now if you are going to buy a mule and want something that will work a crop the coming year and increase in value for several years to come, don't fail to see our stock before you buy. We can save you money. Every mule that goes out of our stables must prove as represented. If you want to swap bring your "critter" along and we will do everything possible to make the exchange satisfactory. Stables at Old Courthouse.

E. W. GRIFFIN, Mgr. Sale Stables. Remember, we have also opened up a stock of Heavy and Fancy Groceries in the two south rooms in the Loan and Trust building. Flour, Meal, Bran, Mill Feed, Lard, Tobacco, Snuff, Cigars, Soap, Soda, Starch, Salt, Molasses, Canned Meats, Canned Fruits, Candy, plain and fancy—Apples, Oranges, Coconuts, Bananas and everything found in a grocery store, which we offer as low as same goods can be bought elsewhere. We also handle Baled Hay. Give us a share of your trade. Bring your country produce, peas, chickens, hams and eggs. We will treat you right. We also buy cotton and cotton seed. Respectfully, T. B. STINSON, Mgr. Store. W. J. HUDSON, General Manager.

\$10,000 worth of Clothing at Cost!

NO FAKE! No doubt you have heard of cost sales until they sound FISHY—taste of the can—but this sale is no fake, as I bought the Lichtenstein interest in the firm of Lichtenstein & Flow at a murderous SACRIFICE and am in position to sell this stock at first cost and make a small profit, besides getting rid of our immense stock of clothing. As we are unloading to your advantage, you cannot afford to miss it. You have the advantage of my years of experience in buying which costs you nothing. When in need of anything in the clothing line come and see how much a dollar will cover in a cost sale. It will surprise you. D. WILL FLOW, Successor to Lichtenstein & Flow.

A DUTY!

Our last car load of horses and mules went like hot cakes, and we have another load just in. They were selected to suit this section's trade by our buyer from among thousands of head, and were bought with cash and will be sold at small profits, and must be to our customers when bought by them just as represented by us. All our business time, brains, money and energies are devoted to the horse and mule trade alone, so that we may be able to buy cheapest and sell cheapest. We want to make you our customer for life; to do so we must treat you right in every trade. It is a duty you owe to your wife and children, heirs and assigns, administrators and executors to come and examine and price our stock before you buy. E. A. ARMFIELD & SONS.

Why Does It Pay TO USE Peruvian Guano? BECAUSE This is no fancy brand. It is the only natural manure obtainable. It is solid plant food and humus. Each ton has over 600 lbs. of actual Potash, Ammonia and Phosphoric Acid. Each ton contains about 400 lbs. of Lime. It contains no "filler." It benefits the land and does not bake it. It is cheaper than manufactured fertilizers. INQUIRE of your dealer. USE LESS and BUY THE BEST. J. M. FAIRLEY, Agt.

COME AND LOOK at our Stock of Furniture. We have a large array of pretty and good stuff. We want you to see our lines of best selected Bed Room Suits, Sideboards, Extension Tables, China Closets, Book Cases, Desks, Hall Racks, Center and Parlor Tables, Chairs, Rockers, Rugs and Matting. Remember, we do not keep good goods—we sell them. T. P. DILLON, Furniture Dealer and Funeral Director.

BARGAINS IN WHITE GOODS. The demand for white materials for shirt waists and shirt waist suits equals any of the past seasons. The bargains we are offering in the popular white materials surpass anything we have put on sale. Our efforts to intensify the interest in our every "white" department have met with splendid success. Our large purchases have in every instance been made under the market, and our customary way of selling everything at a close profit makes our bargains in "white" much under usual value. 25c. White Mercerized Madras at.....10c. 28-inch Full Mercerized Madras, all new designs and patterns, cheap at 35 to 45c., all at one price,.....25c. English Long Cloth Underpinned. Our well known 200 quality, 12 yds. to piece, regular \$1.25, price for this week, per bolt.....98c. 15c. India Linous at.....10c. Beautiful Sheer White India Linous, extra quality, cheap at 15c. yd., but for our white goods sale only.....10c. A Bargain in Dimities and Nansooks. Several odd pieces, 15 and 18c. yd., all at one price, your choice.....10c. One case yard wide Percals, pretty figures and stripes, 8 1/2c. quality, for this sale only, per yard.....5c. Arnold's Mohair Lustre at 15c. This fabric is one of the new materials in cotton for early spring wear. Patterns exact copies of the dainty spring wool mohairs and silks; in mixtures, small plaids and two-tone effects; price 15c. yard. Big lot 50 and 75c. Silk to close at 25c. yard. Don't want to carry a single piece over, so we have cut the price over half in two. Laces and Embroideries. Showing a beautiful range of patterns, edging and insertions to match. 7 1/2-12 and 10c. quality Torchon Lace at 5c. Big lot 5c. kind, sale price 3c. W. H. BELK & BRO. Cheapest Store on Earth.

When you Buy a Harrow you want an implement that will do the work you require of it. We keep the "Deer" flexible harrow. It is strong, simple in construction, gives good service and hard wear. Does not readily get out of order. Good for all kinds of work and does it thoroughly. Dress your beds down and plow out your ditches. The danger of break-down and delay is small if you use the Deer. Come and look it over or ask your neighbor about it. Monroe Hardware Co'y. Randolph Redfearn, Manager.

W. S. BLAKENEY, President. J. E. STACK, Vice-President. W. C. WOLFE, Cashier. THE BANK of UNION MONROE, N. C. This Bank has been operated in the interest of the people at large as well as its stockholders. Its officers have done their best to build up Monroe and the surrounding country. It provides every safeguard for the depositor and is always liberal to the borrower. No reasonable person could be dissatisfied with its methods. Remember what it has done for the people thus far and let every body know that it will meet all legitimate competition in the future. Patronize it with your accounts and thus show your sympathy for a progressive and obliging institution. It is your friend and it is here to stay.

At Our Store You will find everything that a first-class, up-to-date drug store should have, and it is a pleasure to fill your wants. C. N. Simpson, Jr.