

THE MONROE JOURNAL

Vol. 11. No. 50.

MONROE, N. C., TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1912.

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

OLIVER DOES SOME TALKING.

Writes About Things in General, But Especially About Low Price of Cotton.—Will Hungry Folks Steal?

The year 1912 opens up with the South in distress on account of the slump in the price of cotton. But the farmers have been taught the lesson not to depend wholly upon one crop for their money. The cotton belt of the world lies between Virginia and the RioGrande, and it is in the power of the people of this section to bring on a cotton famine. In 1862 the Confederate Congress passed a law forbidding all the Southern farmers to plant more than five acres to the horse in cotton. The result was that in Manchester, England, cotton was \$1 per pound, and thousands of mill operatives had to be fed at soup houses. And you may come on down from 1865, and the more cotton is made the cheaper it is.

Now for the remedy: Col. Tom Moore gives part of it, and H. C. Whortler gives part about the young western mules being sold to negro farmers at \$200 and \$250 a piece. He plants cotton as long as he can get guano and cotton seed to plant. I heard a man say that he saw a negro farmer give up a pair of mules he had bought last spring for \$500, and had paid \$300 on them. That had swept him clean. Today many negroes and white men are in the same boat. The white man is to blame, for the mule and buggy has brought many a negro to the chain gang. The white man who sells a negro a mule or a pistol and then loses his life or gets burnt out for making him pay for it, need blame no one but himself. If the landier will confine the negro to part of the crop, as a cropper or for wages, and see that he makes bread and meat to feed his family on, both would be better off. I know a man in Union county who sold a negro land and mule and that fellow had white croppers on his land. The carpetbaggers and scallawags didn't even put croppers under negro landlords in Union county, but a Southern white man did for filthy lucre's sake. All the negro wants on God's green earth is to rent a farm, get a buggy and mule, and license to preach. I know a colored preacher who had bought land, mules and a buggy. He fell from grace and served three years on the chain gang for forgery. I asked his brother-in-law the other day where he was, and he said he was now a D. D. in the State of Alabama.

Our ice bark of this winter is nothing compared to that of 1867. Then the timber broke night and day till it was relieved of its great load. The old timber in the forests show signs of it still. The government and the cotton mill men jumped on Mr. Sully for bullying the cotton market, but we find now that a cotton famine was at the bottom of it. My friend Col. Tom Moore need not be wasting his prayers to the Lord to get him to take down that bow he put in the clouds as a token to his servant Noah that he would not again destroy the earth with water. If the 7 and 8 cents cotton don't stop the farmer from hauling guano, the chain gang and the poor house will, Benjamin Franklin said that it was hard for an empty sack to stand up. He meant that it was hard for a hungry man to be honest. Ask the Confederate soldier if that is true.

Last July I asked a leading hardware man in Charlotte if he was going to the reunion in Wilmington. He said no. He had been in my regiment, and so I told him he ought to go down on the East Cape Fear river and pay that old farmer for the ham he stole in April, 1864. As he had been under arrest at the time, I asked him how he had gotten out of the scrape. He said that word had come that the Yankees were coming from Newbern by the thousands, and the guard house was emptied, and every man who could carry a gun was ordered to fall in at double quick time for the depot at Goldsboro. Hunger drove Daniel to eat the saw bread, against the law.

Abraham Lincoln became involved in debt when a young man, and thought to pay the debt by making rails, but the more rails he made the lower the price got. He made 1500 per day but his creditors sold him out for debt. And had it not been for a friend, Abraham Lincoln would have died in a debtor's cell instead of the presidential chair. Good friends saved Henry Clay and Alexander Stephens from debtor's cells. General Oglethorpe opened the prison doors to the debtors of England and colonized them at Savannah, Georgia, the Empire State of the South.

At Baltimore June the 25th. The National Democratic executive committee met in Washington on the 9th and selected Baltimore as the place of meeting of the next national convention and June 25th as the date. This is one week later than the meeting of the Republican convention.

After a lapse of more than ten years, American troops are again to enter China. They are to aid in keeping open the railroad from Peking to the sea. In the course of eight or nine days 500 regular infantry will be disembarked at the little Chinese port of Chinwangtao. The movement was ordered after mature consideration of the policy involved in landing American soldiers in a foreign country under the peculiar conditions now existing in China.

ROSS TO DIE FEBRUARY 16.

The White Man Whom He Swore Helped Him Kill the Dixons Tried and Acquitted.

John Ross, one of the negroes under arrest for the murder of Mr. and Mrs. John Dixon of Cleveland county, was promptly convicted at the special term of court held in Shelby last week, and sentenced to die in the electric chair at Raleigh February 16. He has already been taken to Raleigh. The other negroes implicated by him were released, and Frank Gladden, a white man, whom John said planned the murder and made him help, was tried, and released. John had told so many stories that the jury felt that it could not convict another man on his unsupported testimony.

Ross, who had been on the stand four hours in the trial of Gladden, said he had started 'possum hunting and met Gladden and that Gladden asked him to go with him and get some money. When asked where he was going to get it, Gladden said from John Dixon; said he agreed to kill Dixon and that Gladden placed the axe at the barn and told him where to get it. That after Gladden got Dixon out of the house, they would pass the barn; that Gladden was to signal him, whereupon he was to spring from behind and crush Dixon's head with an axe.

Gladden, he said, then went into the house, while he waited, and killed Mrs. Dixon, or thought he had left her for dead.

Gladden, he declared, had promised him one hundred dollars to kill Dixon.

They only obtained twenty-five dollars from the Dixons home, he said.

Gladden told him to pass there next morning and tell people that he saw two white men at the barn, and if the people did not believe it then to tell that it was Hack and Will Ross.

They smoked together the day of the inquest as other witnesses testified that it was generally known that Dixon had money about him.

John Ross says the Lord appeared to him and told him to tell the truth and that he now knows he must meet death for his horrible crime.

Gladden's wife and three children and his father sat in the court room with him.

Frank Gladden is a tall, well-dressed man of about 30 years of age, but has a hard face and a bad reputation. He was a painter and a farmer by trade, but a few days after the tragedy his conduct was suspicious and he moved to Shelby, where he rented a barber shop and donned his best clothes he had. The State contends that he knew something of the \$300 Mr. Dixon was to get that week and that his purpose in committing the deed was robbery.

Mr. Dixon's purse contained \$25 or \$50, which was missing from his dead body and John Ross says Gladden told him that he needed the money to move on with, but that he would give him \$100, if he would lay the crime on Will and Hack Ross, whom they knew had unsatisfactory dealings with Mr. Dixon about a hog and a mule. Gladden is married and has three children.

Waxhaw Banking and Trust Co.

The stockholders of the Waxhaw Banking and Trust Co. held their annual meeting Wednesday, Jan. 10th. The president, Mr. J. L. Rodman, read his annual report, which was most gratifying to the stockholders. A dividend of 10 per cent was declared, and the sum of \$2350 taken from the undivided profits and placed in the surplus fund, which now makes that fund \$12,500, besides a nice sum still remains in the undivided profit column. The Bank has a capital of \$25,000.00.

Resolutions of thanks were passed at this meeting thanking the officers for the fine showing made during the past year.

The following board of directors were elected: J. L. Rodman, C. S. Massey, R. A. Morrow, J. M. Belk, W. C. Heath, J. W. McCain, M. M. Tillman, B. F. Price, C. O. Howard, W. N. Davis, C. E. Parks.

At a meeting of the board of directors Mr. J. L. Rodman was re-elected president; Mr. C. S. Massey, vice-president and Mr. Jesse A. Williams, cashier.

Shot in the Neck.

Wheeler Godfrey, the 16-year-old son of Mr. G. M. Godfrey, a prosperous farmer living in the Waxhaw Baptist church community, was shot Friday evening in the heel by his cousin Willis Keziah, and 18-year-old boy. The gun was accidentally discharged while they were in the fields hunting birds, and the accident occurred while they were returning home and young Keziah had the weapon under his arm pointing to the ground when the shot fired, the full load taking effect in young Godfrey's heel and leaving it in a horrible manner.

Dr. McCain, from Waxhaw, dressed the wound, but was unable to remove all the shot.

Young Keziah is a son of Mr. C. L. Keziah of Charlotte and was at Waxhaw on a visit to his cousin.

The wound is not dangerous but very painful and will probably destroy the use of that estimable young man's right foot through his future life.

Mrs. Grover Cleveland, whose husband, the late President Cleveland, signed the original bill providing for the creation of national forests, has been elected a life member of the American Forestry Association.

JUDGE CLARK ON PENSIONS.

States the Reason Why He Advocates Federal Pensions For Confederate Soldiers.

The South has paid since the War 1,500 millions of dollars to pension Federal soldiers, of which 112 millions of dollars has been paid by North Carolina. Of this enormous war contribution very little has come back to the South. It has helped more than all else to keep the South poor. Of the 150 million dollars now annually paid for pensions North Carolina pays annually about 4 million dollars, much more than the total expense of our State government for all purposes, including education.

Now that it is proposed to add 75 million dollars more for Federal pensions, of which about 8 million dollars will come out of North Carolina, I have modestly suggested that if this is done North Carolina soldiers were simply fighting for their State, as the Northern soldiers were fighting for theirs, should also be placed on the pension list. This would help all our people as well as our Veterans, by keeping a part of this fund at home. But instantly there goes up a cry from professional politicians against it.

Senator Ransom made his successful appeals for re-election, as we well know, largely upon the ground that out of the large appropriations for river and harbors he got a small slice for North Carolina rivers and harbors. The same plan is now being made by Senator Simmons and a strong point being made for him is that he will be made Chairman of the Senate Committee which will apportion appropriations. We also remember that in the tariff matter he justified himself for retaining the tariff on lumber that a portion of the benefit would come to a few of our rich people. Yet when a proposition is made to retain this pension fund in the State, for the benefit of the whole State, and in justice to our Veterans, a cry goes up from the machine politicians that this will never do. They fear that it may jeopardize getting the presidency and the offices appertaining thereto. For this reason for 40 years past the South has been made to bear this burden without any return.

We are told that it will start the cry of disloyalty. What disloyalty is there in this demand for justice? Suppose it did, what harm would it do? The North has a very lively remembrance of the trouble we gave them in 1861-5. If they were less assured of our abject humility, which we have shown for the last 40 years, without any benefit, they would be more disposed to do justice. A little fear of disloyalty down here would bring us some recognition. England has done this in South Africa and in Ireland and will do more. The North would do it if we were less abjectly humble.

It is hard to see why it is commendable to get a small slice out of the rivers and harbors appropriations and retain the tariff on lumber and yet a matter of such condemnation to retain in our State for the use of the brave men who endured the hardships and dangers of the war a part of the sums which is proposed to be raised out of us to the extent of 2 million dollars per year, for the Federal soldiers in addition to the 4 million dollars per year the people of North Carolina are already paying for that purpose.

Our humility for the past 40 years has brought us the presidency for only 8 years and the offices which we got thereby were nothing compared to the lack of self-respect and the millions of dollars we have paid at the dictation of the Tariff Barons and Pension Attorneys who want an excuse for high tariff. I have been assured by more than one U. S. Senator that the Southern soldiers would have been put upon the pension list, in common with the Federal soldiers many years ago if those who were sent to Congress from the South had demanded it. If elected Senator from this State I expect to accomplish this in justice to my old comrades and to benefit the people of the entire State by keeping that much money at home which else would go North. Very respectfully,

Walter Clark.

He Carried a Gun.

"He's sitting in prison, and sorrow is his'n, he's wishing he never had carried a gun; he thought it was clever to pack one forever, and aim it at people in the spirit of fun. And, one fine morning, went off without warning, and plugged a bystander, who turned up his toes; and now he is wallin' in the wearisome jail in, and no one has pity for him in his woes. The boneyards are crowded with gentlemen shrouded, and sleeping in boxes, the victims of fools; of pin-headed varnints who loaded their garments with all kinds of deadly and murderous tools. And widows are sighing and orphans are crying all over this country because of the blocks, who always are plannin' to spring a big cannon and brandish it gally till somebody croaks. Oh, let the law step on a fool with a weapon, and bury him deeply and load him with chains! No lunatic's greater; it seems the Creator in building forgot to equip him with brains."

John W. Guy, 79 years old, the father of 32 children, is dead at his home near Mofia, Va. Of Mr. Guy's 32 children, 21 of whom were sons and 11 daughters, 23 are still living, the oldest, a son, being 56 years old.

WOE OF WIDOW AND CHILDREN.

If This Can Happen to a Servant of a City, What About Those Not so Well off?

Charlotte Chronicle, Saturday. Penniless and with one day's supply of coal and wood and an infant of nine days of age upon her knees, Mrs. John P. McGraw sat this morning in her humble home with the other five children gathered about her. In the next room the husband, cold and stiff in death, lay in a cheap casket provided by friendly subscriptions.

Mayor C. A. Bland walked into the room. The widowed mother looked at him and uttered not a word. A question or two was asked her and some incoherent reply was made. She was wretchedly weak and sat staring out upon the snow-covered earth. Not a complaint, not a murmur of distress, not a sign of anything but abject and dazed misery.

"It was the most pitiful sight I have ever seen," said Mayor Bland. "It's good for a man to go sometimes and see such poverty, such dejection, such misery, for it makes him more charitable, more generous and yet more miserable."

Chief Christenbury went to Mrs. McGraw. The dead husband was a loyal member of the police force and one of the best officers Chief Christenbury has ever had under him. He took her \$50, raised in \$1, \$2 and 50 cent donations from the policemen, employees and servants around the city hall. The children didn't have a change of clothing. There was no food to speak of in the house. Mrs. McGraw didn't have money to buy more. "I purchased with the money at Mrs. McGraw's request something to eat, some wood and coal, some clothes for them all and to-day they are a little easier. She didn't realize. She is benumbed with bewilderment. Absolutely destitute. It was just awful."

Mr. McGraw received for his services on the police force \$60.00 a month. Nine days ago the sixth child was born. The oldest is now ten years of age. The officer turned over every penny of his earnings each month to the maintenance of his family. He rented a house at No. 1223 North Davidson street, where he died Friday morning at 5:30.

Muskrat Farm Profitable Industry. Newark, Del., Dispatch.

Running a muskrat farm may be a queer business, but that it is profitable Mrs. John Fox can vouch. Mrs. Fox owns 400 acres of marsh land between Silver Run and Appoquinimink river, in the lower part of New Castle county, on which nothing whatever can be raised except muskrats, yet they will clear in the four months from November 15 to March 15 more money than any wheat or corn grower in the State will in a year on a farm of the same size.

The muskrat crop this year is unusually good and as a consequence Mrs. Fox is fattening her bank account. In the past 15 days men employed by her have trapped 1,700 muskrats. The pelts are now worth 45 cents apiece and the bodies 5 cents, making the price 50c for each animal. During the entire season it is expected that 10,000 muskrats will be trapped on her marsh land, which will bring in \$5,000, and of that amount at least \$3,000 will be profit.

(Mr. John Whitley is the biggest muskrat catcher in these parts, but he is not up with Mrs. Fox.)

To Have a Primary and Limit Expense Money.

In a statement to the press last week Governor Kitchin made public the correspondence he has had with the other candidates for the United States Senate relative to holding the proposed senatorial primary. He and Senator Simmons agree on the advisability of inducing the State Democratic Executive Committee to meet early to order a State primary on the senatorial question. Ex-Governor Aycock and Chief Justice Walter Clark favor leaving the whole matter of the senatorial primary and when it shall be held to the State convention.

Governor Kitchin says all the candidates are on record as desiring that the primary expenses, including campaign expenses, shall be held down to the minimum. He is eager to join in seeing to it that these expenses are kept very much below the maximum that is allowed by the Federal statute, which requires that all candidates, whether elected or not, shall make, under oath, an itemized statement of expenses except those for postage, telegrams, clerk hire and printing.

Must Have Had a Cork Head, Too. Rockingham Post.

Cork Leg, the young negro who was shot on Thanksgiving day by Fannie Mayfield, is still living and Tuesday was carried to Hoffman, to be cared for by his people. Our readers will remember that the bullet was one of the 25 calibre automatic steel bullets and went entirely through his forehead and coming out at the back. In spite of the fact that at the time his brains ran out at both ends of the wound, and physicians said he could only live a few hours, he is still a live and is now perfectly rational.

George Neeley, Democrat, was Tuesday elected to Congress from the seventh Kansas district to succeed the late Representative Edmund H. Madison, Republican.

DR. COOK IN CHARLOTTE.

Had a Good Audience and made Some Very Strong Remarks. Charlotte Chronicle.

Dr. Frederick A. Cook spoke to an audience of 675 people at the auditorium Thursday evening. His story of "My Attainment of the Pole," was rehearsed along with stereoscopic views. A more interesting lecturer has seldom been heard in the Queen City.

The hearers were in thorough sympathy with Dr. Cook and accorded him generous applause. President Clarence O. Kuester, of the Greater Charlotte Club, introduced him, saying, "On April 21, 1903, I say it, Dr. Cook discovered the North Pole."

After showing all of his pictures and telling of the trials and hardships of the trip, Dr. Cook took occasion to vent himself on Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary and in his regard made the most remarkable statements. He also took a filing at the National Geographical Society of Washington, of which he stated it was neither national or geographical that a wash woman and a diplomat's wife have the same rights in the society if they paid the annual dues of \$2, but the \$2 he insisted were very necessary.

The doctor also talked of his McKinley expedition and accused bribery on the part of those who took the trip avowing that for three years that the summit of the high peak had been reached and afterwards swore that Cook had faked his reports and that the expedition was an entire failure.

Describing with wonderful vividness the arctic regions, his mode of travel and the life he and his two Esquimaux companions led, he stated regarding his success:

"Pin-point accuracy I have never claimed. Even within a range of many miles, it is beyond the scope of human possibility to secure it. But the fact that a point was reached at which the sun in its revolutions maintained practically the same altitude above the horizon and when shadowy lengths were unchanging is enough to satisfy real explorers, even if not the arm-chair journalists."

Dr. Cook spoke for an hour and a half. His speech was a little too long, but was enjoyed to its uttermost. Had he shortened it half an hour the audience would have heard the closing remarks with more interest, but instead there were many leaving the hall during that half hour and those remaining were tired and cold, for the Auditorium was poorly heated and the still cold was very uncomfortable.

Taking Precautions.

Knowing the temptations that "Green River," and other brands of whiskey kept at the depository here for some evil minded person or persons, especially during cold weather, Manager Presson has taken steps to "avoid the appearance of evil." Three raids in times past on the faithful cupboard in which he keeps the public "spirits," have made him shy of cold and dark nights, and so he has fortified his castle. Over the glasses of the front doors iron bars have been nailed, and the back doors have been plank up with two thicknesses. As for the cupboard itself, it has been given a new combination lock. And rumor has it that on specially bad nights Mr. Presson sets steel traps or stays in there with a gun.

Man With Broken Neck. Salisbury Post.

Thos. W. Peters, the man with the broken neck, arrived in the city last night, and was walking around the city today and talking with the people. He is one of the very few men who have lived and have been able to move about with a broken neck.

Mr. Peters returned only a short time ago from a trip to Europe. His neck is strapped up and if the straps were removed his head would fall over his shoulders.

He is a native of Arizona, but was injured at Quebec, Canada. Mr. Peters is an iron worker and was only one of the 90 men who escaped with his life in the accident which broke his neck. The case of Mr. Peters is a remarkable one and is a marvel to physicians.

Great Temperance Convention.

The next great event in Raleigh is the convention of the State Anti-Saloon League to be held on the 25 and 26 of January. It has been customary to hold these conventions in Raleigh bi-annually in January. Delegates will be sent from local organizations all over the State, and an immense crowd will be present. Among the speakers will be Congressman Richard Pearson Hobson and many other men distinguished nationally. The State executive committee, of which Mr. R. F. Beasley of Monroe, is chairman, met a few days ago and called the convention, which will consider all phases of the temperance work.

A Bible's Big Price.

In less than two minutes bidding for a bible ran up to \$27,500 at Wednesday night's session of the Hoe library auction in New York. The treasure was a copy of the famous Gutenberg Bible of 1459; the original of which was sold for \$50,000 from the Hoe collection last spring. It was secured by Bernard Quatrach, of London.

No man, no nation, no party can stand still—we must progress or decay.

ONLY A "COLD SNAP."

Snow Has Shrouded the Country, and the Mercury Has Been Low, But Not Like It Was 13 Years Ago.

While we have had considerable cold snap and the whole country has been covered in ice and snow, the folks who complain of not having "weather like we used to," can still keep it up. On last Saturday the government thermometer down at Rock Rest registered 13 above zero, and early Sunday morning it went as low as 5 1/2 above, which is the lowest reached. The same instrument on Monday, Feb. 12, 1899, registered 4 degrees above, but on Tuesday morning, 24 hours later, it had dropped to 20 below, a fall of 24 degrees in 24 hours, which is the lowest point reached at any time since the records have been kept. The weather bureau promises a bettering in conditions during the week. A bulletin issued on Sunday night at Washington says:

"The general pressure distribution as shown by the weather map of the Northern Hemisphere during the last several days is such as to indicate a general reaction to normal temperature conditions over the Eastern half of the country by the middle of the week and to temperature above the seasonal average in Western districts throughout the week.

"The week will be one of generally fair weather east of the Rockies, except that a short period of rains in Southern and snows in Northern States will attend a disturbance which will appear in the Northeast Tuesday, cross the middle West Wednesday or Thursday and the Eastern States about Friday. Precipitation will be above the normal in the North Pacific States."

Northfield, Vt., with a registration of 26 below zero, was officially the coldest place in the country today. Temperatures nearly as low were recorded in many inland and New England points. The North Atlantic States suffered less, the minimum at Boston being 2 below. Alike temperature was recorded at New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore. On the South Atlantic coast 28 above was the reading at Jacksonville, Fla., while on the North Carolina coast it was 10 above and 6 below at Lynchburg, Va. The States in the Mississippi valley suffered less, the minimum at Chicago being 12 above.

Lower Still.

The above article was written on yesterday, Monday. This morning the mercury went still lower, registering, some time before day, 5 1/2 above zero. The government thermometer at Rock Rest hangs out in the open away from the ground. It is self registering, and the reading shows the lowest point reached any time in the 24 hours.

THE BIG FIRE DAMAGE.

Flames That Destroyed the Equitable Building Endangered Many Millions of Securities.

New York, Jan. 11. — Between \$300,000,000 and \$400,000,000 in cash and securities were removed intact late today from the vaults of two of the financial institutions whose quarters were destroyed in the fire that gutted the Equitable Life Assurance society building Tuesday. The vaults of the Equitable Trust company, alone yielded \$300,000,000, which were transferred to the company's temporary offices.

Many millions more were taken from the vaults of the Mercantile Trust company, of which \$5,000,000 was represented in a single box of gold certificates, which an officer of the institution carried through the streets tucked under his arm with only a lone policeman to protect him.

There remains yet to be opened the great vault of the Equitable Assurance society itself with its treasure of \$300,000,000 which was still buried so deep today under tons of ice cemented debris that the doors could not be reached.

The body of a Battalion Chief Walsh is still in the ruins, and its recovery seems likely to be a task of days.

One of the peculiar freaks of the fire came to light today with the discovery that the clock in the offices of the Mercantile Trust company was still telling the time. The mahogany case had been nearly burned away, but the pendulum was still faithfully swinging and the hands pointed to the correct time.

A contribution of \$20,000 to a fund for the benefit of the workers at the fire was announced late today by a committee of directors of the Equitable Life Assurance society.

"The official investigation of the Equitable building fire reveals pretty certainly that the disaster was caused by the careless throwing away of a match," reads a report submitted to Mayor Gaynor today by Fire Commissioner Johnson.

Poultry Show Frozen Out.

The Monroe Poultry Show, scheduled for Thursday, Friday, Saturday and yesterday, was frozen out. The weather was so bad that exhibitors could not get their entries here. A few came by express, but were promptly returned. Beside that, the gentlemen who had been selected as judge, got sick and could not come, and it would have been impossible to get a man at the last moment.