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## STATE NEWS.

### Interesting North Carolina Items In Condensed Form.

Peter Steele, colored, died of smallpox at High Point Friday.

The roster of the North Carolina volunteers in the United States service in the war with Spain has been completed. It contains over 4,000 names.

Mr. D. L. Ward, a prominent attorney of Newbern, and Miss G. Louise Schollenberger, of the same city, were married in the Episcopal church at Newbern Wednesday afternoon.

Lexington Dispatch: The smallpox epidemic in Rowan has so far cost that county \$5,000 and the end is not yet. Salisbury will help the county by paying \$1,000 of the above amount.

Thomas Welcher, a white man, was committed to jail at Winston Friday to await trial on a charge of committing a criminal assault upon Miss Ina Starr, aged 19, of Guilford county. Welcher denies the charge.

John Taylor and Robert Fortune, negroes, were tried and convicted Friday at Nashville court of murder in the first degree for killing Mr. Robert Hester, near Rocky Mount, last December. They will be hanged March 15th.

The State has chartered the Durham Telephone Manufacturing company, capital \$12,000; stockholders, Julian S. Carr, George W. Watts and L. A. Carr. Also the Independent Steamboat Line, of Newbern, capital \$5,000; Jesse J. Lassiter and others, stockholders.

Benjamin Ross was hanged at Lumberton Friday. Just before he was swung off he made a short talk, protesting his innocence and denouncing white people who were instrumental in his hanging. It is said that he told a negro that he was innocent of the crime for which he was convicted but that he was guilty of the assault on a young white woman of Rockingham, for which a negro, John Evans, was hanged.

A white man named H. Jackson, said to be a Virginian, was jailed at Raleigh Monday for swindling several Cary merchants. He was arrested at Goldsboro and taken back to Cary Wednesday night. There he tried to throw himself under a moving train, and got within a few inches of the rails, dragging the deputy sheriff with him. The latter had a narrow escape. Jackson, after the failure of this attempt, begged the deputy to lend him a knife, saying he wanted to cut his throat.

Raleigh Cor. Charlotte Observer: A member of the Democratic State committee said that he had been east and found a strong sentiment in favor of nominating Dr. C. H. Mebane. State superintendent of public instruction, as the Democratic candidate for that position. It is a very high compliment to Dr. Mebane, and who will say it is not a deserved one? Some of the Republicans have criticised Dr. Mebane for not placing himself in antagonism to the constitutional amendment. They were worried at the news your correspondent gave that he would support it. A little later, perhaps, they will be worried when they know the Progressive Farmer will support it. They will be still further worried when they find that some leading Populists on whom they have made so bold as to count as "dead sure" will also vote for it. There are quite a lot of surprises for the Republicans and machine Populists this year.

### HE APPEALS TO JUSTICE.

#### Justus Goebel Calls on Kentuckians to See That is Done.

Frankfort, Ky., Feb. 8.—Justus Goebel, brother of the dead governor, issued an open letter tonight in which he calls on Kentuckians to sweat by his blood to "see justice done to those concerned in his foul taking off. If you fail in this then your laws are dead letters." He says:

"If he could speak he would say now as oft before 'let the law take its course.' Will designing men of high station be permitted to use the ignorant outlaw to further their ambition and when that ambition is disappointed turn the red handed murderer loose under the very roof of the executive mansion?"

#### The Best Prescription for Chills

and Fever is a bottle of Goebel's TARTARUM EMETICUM. It is simply iron and quinine in a tasteless form. No cure—no pay. Price, 50c.

Artistic job work is the kind you get at THE FREE PRESS OFFICE.

## THE CHURCHES.

Services will be held at the churches in Kinston tomorrow as follows, to which everybody is invited:

### Methodist Church.

Class meeting at 10 a. m.  
Morning subject: "The Bible and Our Money."  
Evening subject: "Are Half or All the People Saved; or May Any Man be Saved?"  
Sunday school at 8 p. m.

### Christian Church.

Morning subject: "Judge Not."  
Evening subject: "One Church for All."  
Sunday school at 8 p. m.

### Episcopal Church.

Services both morning and evening.  
Sunday school at 9:30 a. m.

### Presbyterian Church.

Preaching both morning and evening.  
Sunday school at 3 p. m.

### Baptist Church.

Preaching both morning and evening.  
Sunday school at 9:30 a. m.  
B. Y. P. U. meets Monday evening.  
Subject: Baptist Beginning in North Carolina.

### Christian Science.

Services every Sunday morning at 11 o'clock in the opera house.

### TAYLOR WILL NOT SIGN NOW And He Intimates That He May Never Sign.

Frankfort, Ky., Feb. 9.—Gov. Taylor announced to the Associated Press representative this afternoon that he would take no action in regard to the Louisville agreement for some time, if at all.

Ex-Gov. Bradley denied the charge of Democrats that the filing of a petition in the federal court was base treachery and a violation of the peace agreement.

### Taylor's Petition for Injunction.

Louisville, Feb. 9.—A petition for federal injunction in behalf of Gov. Taylor and Lieut. Gov. Marshall has been prepared and is held pending the action of Taylor on the peace agreement. Ex-Gov. Bradley has the petition with him in Cincinnati. It will be filed in the federal court there. The petition is made on the part of voters of Kentucky, asking the federal court to enjoin Beckham and the legislature from further interfering with the governor and lieutenant governor.

### Warrants Issued for Absentees.

London, Ky., Feb. 9.—Representative Slack received a telegram from Gov. Taylor today instructing him to put warrants into the hands of the sergeant-at-arms for the arrest of representatives. A similar telegram was also received by the president pro tem of the senate. Warrants were at once issued for the arrest of absent legislators and placed in the hands of the sergeants-at-arms. They left on the midnight train for Louisville, where they expect to find most of the absentees.

## GENERAL NEWS.

### Matters of Interest Condensed Into Brief Paragraphs.

The house committee on labor has reported favorably the bill to interdict interstate transportation of prison-made goods.

Nine people were killed in a railroad collision at Ford River switch, in Michigan, on the Chicago and Northwestern, Thursday night.

The circuit court of appeals of New York has ordered a stay in the Carter case until the supreme court acts on the application for a writ of certiorari.

A serious rebellion has broken out in Swatow, in the province of Kwang Tung, China. The viceroy has sent troops and gunboats to suppress the insurrection.

Three persons were killed and three seriously injured in a head-on collision Thursday between last freight trains on the Beech Creek division of the New York Central railroad at Gordon Heights, Pa.

The total cost to date of the Spanish and Philippine wars is put down at \$355,000,000, including the \$20,000,000 deal for the Philippines. Of this amount \$255,000,000 was spent on the army and \$69,000,000 on the navy.

A tornado swept through eastern Illinois and western Indiana Thursday, injuring at least 15 people and leveling telegraph poles, houses and other structures. There was a blizzard in Nebraska. A dispatch, Feb. 8, from Kansas City, says: A fierce snow storm, with a wind velocity of 42 miles an hour, has prevailed in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Indian Territory since last night. The worst blizzard in years is also raging in northern Iowa, where business is practically suspended. A blizzard is raging through central Illinois and at Mennewaukan, N. D. The mercury touched 25 below zero last night and is much colder tonight. The blizzard now raging in Wisconsin has already left 14 inches of snow at Chippewa Falls. In Minnesota all St. Paul railroad trains are abandoned.

### FERTILIZERS HIGHER.

All the Crude Materials Have Materially Advanced. President Morgan, of the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company, Says the Selling Price Is Lower Than Cost of Materials Warrant.

Richmond, Va., Feb. 1, 1900. To the Editor: My attention has been called to a communication in the News & Observer, published under date of Jan. 31st, 1900, in reference to the advance in the price of fertilizers, wherein it is stated that the farmers of Pitt county, North Carolina, propose to organize and fight the advance in the price of fertilizers, and by insinuation our company is censured as the cause of this advance.

I desire to make a plain statement of facts and conditions as now obtained in the fertilizer trade, and to show to the dealers and consumers of fertilizers that the advance in the price of manufactured fertilizers is not only just and warranted but is absolutely necessary, and that the manufacturers of fertilizers could not afford to sell them at the price ruling last year unless they did so at a very heavy loss.

Now to get down to facts and figures, we will see what has really caused the price of fertilizers to be advanced this year over last:

Acid phosphate being one of the principal ingredients in all complete fertilizers, I desire to show here how much this article costs to make in excess of the cost price for the same thing last year. The advance is pyrites, from which sulphuric acid is made, is more than \$2.00 per ton over last year. The advance in nitrate of soda, which is a necessary ingredient in the manufacture of sulphuric acid, is fully \$8.00 per ton more than last year. Phosphate rock has advanced a minimum of \$1.75 per ton at the mines, and in some grades of rock the advance is more than \$3.00 per ton. These three articles constitute what is necessary to make acid phosphate. Put them together in the proper proportion and a ton of acid phosphate will cost \$2.07 per ton more than it did last year.

Bags are costing us 20c. per ton more than they did last year, so that the crude material going into a ton of acid phosphate is costing approximately \$2.27 more than it did a year ago.

Every piece of factory supplies and machinery, coal, and everything necessary to operate a factory, is from 25 to 100 per cent. higher than it was a year ago. This will add certainly an addi-

tional 10c. to the cost of a ton of fertilizer, making in the most conservative and reasonable estimate possible a ton of 13 per cent. acid phosphate, bagged and ready for shipment, cost the manufacturer \$2.87 more than it did twelve months ago.

Now let us look at complete ammoniated fertilizers: We will take what is commonly known as standard grade of complete fertilizer; running, say 3% per cent. of ammonia, 8 per cent. of available phosphoric acid, and 1 per cent. of potash. As I have above demonstrated acid phosphate costs \$2.07 more than last year. This is equivalent to a little more than 10c. per 100 pounds. In making the 2% 8 and 1 fertilizers, 1,200 pounds of acid phosphate would be necessary, so at 10c. additional cost per 100 pounds, the additional cost for acid phosphate would be \$1.20.

If cotton seed meal was used for the ammonia, it would take approximately 700 pounds, and cotton seed meal is now \$6.00 per ton more than last year, which is equivalent to 80c. per 100 pounds, and 700 pounds would cost \$3.10 more than it did last year. Now add 20c. for extra cost for the bags and you have \$3.50 per ton more for the materials than we paid for these same materials last year.

If tankage or blood was used for the source of ammonia instead of cotton seed meal, the advanced cost over last year would be \$3.20 per ton, as ammonia from tankage or blood is now 80c. per unit higher than last year, so for 2% per cent. of ammonia the extra cost over last year would be \$1.60.

Sulphate of ammonia is the only other source of ammonia commonly used in the manufacture of fertilizers. Twelve months ago this article was selling at about \$43.00 per ton. We paid for it this week \$62 per ton.

Now I assert that the price of fertilizers has not advanced nearly so much as the price of raw materials going into them. Let us see who is to blame, if any one, for the advance of these crude materials. Take pyrites: We buy from Spain more than three-fourths of all we use. Nitrate of soda: We buy entirely from South America. Potash salts: We buy entirely from Germany. So it can not be said that our company controls or is in any wise responsible for the advance of these materials, as we have no interest whatever in any of these properties, either directly or indirectly.

Take phosphate rock: We do mine a small proportion of our wants of phosphate rock, but we mine none for sale and we buy from other mines more than two-thirds of what we consume. So no one will suppose that we were anxious to put up the price of phosphate rock.

As for cotton seed meal we have no interest either directly or indirectly in any cotton seed oil mill, so we are not responsible for the advance in this article. Blood and tankage are made by the large packers in the west, and we have no interest and no control over these products in any way.

Why, then, should the Virginia-Carolina Chemical company be blamed for the advance in the cost of crude materials, and would it be business like for us to want an advance in crude materials, of which we have to buy almost entirely all of our needs and of which we produce absolutely nothing, except a small quantity of phosphate rock?

It is our aim and purpose to manufacture fertilizers as cheaply as possible and to sell them at as low a price as we can afford, thereby stimulating a large consumption of fertilizers and their general use for all crops.

Let us see how the farmer is situated. He is getting this year from 2 1/2 to 3c. a pound for his cotton more than last year, and we understand that for a great deal of the cotton seed the cotton seed oil mills are now paying 25c. per bushel. Are these advances wrong, and are the manufacturers who are having to use this product condemning the parties who produce them, simply because the demand is such that the price has increased so enormously over last year? At present prices the farmer can sell the cotton seed from one acre of land and buy as much fertilizers as he usually puts over two to three acres, even though there is a small advance in the price of fertilizers, caused by the manufacturers having to pay high prices for the materials entering into them.

We propose to be perfectly fair and candid in our statements and believe that when an unprejudiced farmer looks into the situation he will realize that he is not charged as much for fertilizers as the cost of materials under present conditions warrant.

Yours very respectfully,  
S. T. MORGAN,  
Pres. Virginia-Carolina Chemical Co.

White's Black Liniment. It cures Sciatica, Rheumatism and Neuralgia. A 25c bottle for 15c. I. E. HOON.

## BEATEN BACK AGAIN.

### Buller Falls Again. The Repulse of Plumer. Armored Train Driven Off. Buller's Third Retreat Before The Boers.

Boer Headlaager, Ladysmith, Feb. 8.—The British who were in possession of the kopje at Midon's Drift abandoned it after a bombardment by Boer cannon this morning and retired across the Tugela river to their former position. A desultory cannonade is proceeding at the Tugela this morning, but otherwise everything is quiet.

### Buller Falls Again.

Lilpsic, Feb. 9.—The Neuste Nachrichten prints a special dispatch from a correspondent who claims that Gen. Buller's third attempt to relieve Ladysmith has completely failed.

### Repulse of Plumer.

Pretoria, Feb. 5.—Col. Plumer's force, Feb. 2, attacked the Boer position near Ramoneta, and after heavy fighting, including an endeavor to take the place by storm, the British were repulsed. Their loss is unknown. No Boers were injured.

### Armored Train Driven Off.

Headlaager, Ladysmith, Feb. 7.—An armored train yesterday made a sortie from Chieveley towards Colenso and landed 2,000 British troops on the right of the Boer position. The Boers immediately crossed the river and made an attack with rifles and artillery, forcing the withdrawal of both the train and the troops to Chieveley.

The fighting on the upper Tugela river lasted until 8:30 yesterday evening. Particulars are lacking. Firing at both Colenso and along the upper Tugela has been proceeding since 5 o'clock this morning.

### BULLER BEATEN AGAIN.

#### Report of His Third Retreat Before The Boers Officially Confirmed.

London, Feb. 10.—Buller's third attempt to reach Ladysmith failed and the British have again retired south of the Tugela river. A dispatch from the Boer Headlaager at Ladysmith, February 8, reached London last evening announcing that the retirement occurred Thursday morning. Inquiries at the war office and in the house of commons in the course of the evening only drew out the assurance that the government had received no news, and at midnight the war office officially intimated that it had received nothing confirming or contradicting the report of Buller's withdrawal. Just before the house of commons adjourned Mr. Balfour stated that Buller was not pressing his advance from the position he occupied Wednesday, and a little later Laffan's special dispatch from British headquarters at Springfield Bridge reached London, conveying the first definite announcement from the British side that the troops had been withdrawn. Springfield Bridge is south of Little Tugela River.

Thus the British people are called upon for the third time to face a serious check to British arms in Natal, and the relief of Ladysmith is again indefinitely postponed. The war in Natal now seems to be at a deadlock.

A belt slipped from the governor on the engine in Gilliam's saw mill near Yale, Sussex county, Va., Wednesday. Luther Wells, the sawyer, ran to shut off steam, but before he could reach the valve the engine "spurred" under the increased pressure, and the fly-wheel of the engine burst. A piece of metal struck Wells in the right side and passed through his body, literally cutting the trunk in two.

### Question Answered.

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If you do not obtain all the benefits you expect from the use of the Vigor, write the Doctor along N. Address, DR. J. C. AYER, Lowell, Mass.