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The Marion Record.

DEMOCRATIC NEWSPAPER.

MARION, N. C.

The Startling Industrial Development of Japan.

What a dangerous commercial rival Japan has already become to the Western nations, is shown by some significant figures in Le Genie Civil. Within the last ten years the introduction of machinery and the endeavor to manufacture articles cheaply and in large quantities has transformed the native industries. Japanese pottery is no longer bought merely for its artistic qualities. It is now made by patterns and exported in quantities. In 1884 16,000 workmen made 73,500,000 pieces, in 1888 some 27,000 workmen made 129,000,000 pieces. The exportation rose from half a million pieces, valued at \$1,200,000, in the former year, to a million and a half, worth \$2,400,000, in the latter. In the manufacture of silk goods there is a like development. Though the Japanese are not yet able to make dress goods more cheaply than those of Europe, and though they do not dye their silks, the exports rose from \$135,000 in 1887 to \$1,800,000 in 1891, in which year, too, \$2,800,000 worth of silk handkerchiefs were sent out, of which \$1,800,000 worth went to the United States. The same holds good of other products peculiar to the country, of lacquer, of bronzes, and of paper. Besides the Japan paper, they now manufacture excellent paper like ours.

But it is in the new manufactures imported from the West that the progress of Japan is most surprising. That in some of these she must shortly drive the Western nations from the Eastern markets seems inevitable. After the Paris Exposition of 1878 the Japanese Government imported from Europe the most improved machinery for cotton spinning, and distributed it in certain provinces; in 1884 there were 35,000 bobbins, now there are over 380,000; the 31,900,000 pounds of raw cotton imported in 1889 had become 67,000,000 in 1891; up to that year the greater part had come from China; then suddenly more than half was taken from British India. The country is steadily diminishing its importations of manufactured articles and increasing that of raw material. The 57,000,000 pounds of textiles imported in 1889 had sunk to 23,000,000 in 1891; in 1893 Hong Kong, a British colony, bought half a million dollars' worth of Japanese cotton cloth. The Japanese have already begun to supply their own markets with the goods formerly furnished by Europe, and have invaded the centres of distribution in which the West has hitherto held a monopoly. With the best machinery of the West at their command, with their recognized artistic and inventive skill, with labor paid 12 cents a day for a man and 6 cents for a woman, they should be able to undersell any competitor.

Other European manufactures have also taken root. Japan exported in 1890 matches worth fifteen hundred thousand dollars, and one firm alone sent 80,000 cases of soap to China, which also bought half a million umbrellas and millions of umbrellas frames. The Government is developing the metal industries for commercial purposes as well as for war. The Japanese have rope works, glass works, brick yards, breweries, tanneries, in which European processes are used; they make Portland cement, sulphuric acid; they manufacture shoes, clothes, knit goods, and felt hats on European models, and lately they have started a watch factory. This represents a development of ten years at the most.

The Japanese have come to us for our educational system, for our laws, for our war ships, for our military system, for our mechanical devices; they are now showing us that they have the brains and the energy to make use of what they have learned so rapidly from Western civilization.

Father 70; Mother 68.

(Charleston News and Courier.)

The Greenville (S. C.) News of last Sunday says: "Reports reach here from Hendersonville, N. C., of the birth of the most remarkable infant ever heard of. It was born the early part of this week and its father is 70 and its mother 69 years old. The parents are prominent people, of high standing, and the ages are well authenticated. The medical reports tell of no similar case, and the local traditions of this section halt at the age of 55 for maternity. Such matters are not usually subjects for publication, but this is likely to be a case world-wide fame." The News is rightly excited about this incident in question. Several similar cases have been reported, as it will find on consulting the book of Genesis. It is not surprising, moreover, that such a thing has happened in this section this year. These are record-breaking times in the Carolinas, and the only matter of wonder, indeed, is that the new-comer was not born on this side of the State line. The News has forgotten, by the way, in its excitement, to say whether it is a boy or a girl. Our contemporary should not get "rattled" so easily.

ON TRIAL FOR MURDER.

A Recent Tragedy in Murphy Under Review. MURPHY, N. C.—In the Dockery-Watson murder trial in progress here Judge Shepherd directed a verdict of not guilty in the cases of J. J. Phillips and William Meroney for aiding and abetting in the murder. The case against Watson has been changed to manslaughter. Much interest is manifested in this case.

Watson is the town marshal and attempted to arrest Jim Dockery, when he and his brother John closed in on Watson. John with his knife open. Four pistol shots were fired, all taking effect in the body of Dockery. Watson received two cuts on the neck, severing two arteries and cutting his windpipe to the hollow. Dockery died and Watson recovered. Phillips and Meroney threw some rocks at the Dockerys, one hitting John Dockery on the temple. Meroney hit Jim Dockery in the side with a rock.

There was a circus in town and the Dockerys had a fight with the managers. Shortly after this fight Watson tried to make the arrests. The murder occurred last summer. The array of counsel on both sides is brilliant.

VIRGINIA ROAD BUILDING.

BETTER COUNTRY ROADS THE KEY IN THE OLD DOMINION.

The Meeting at Richmond is the Beginning of a New Era for Farmers and Landowners.

Highway improvement has become a question of vital interest to the people of Virginia. The agitation begun months ago by the Young Men's Business League of Roanoke, which culminated in the recent convention in Richmond and the permanent organization of the Virginia Good Roads Association, has given a great impulse to road improvement in all parts of the Commonwealth.

The papers read at the Richmond convention were of unusual interest. The problem was considered in all its bearings, and there was a general review of ways and means looking to permanent highway improvement and scientific road construction. One thing was particularly noticeable. The utility of improved public thoroughfares was touched upon only in an incidental manner, as the importance of the matter is generally understood, while the burden of discussion was devoted to plans for raising money to build roads. Here the whole situation turns, and the very fact that the men of Virginia gave chief attention to this topic affords ground for the hope that permanent road improvement is about to begin.

The present condition of the highways in Virginia was graphically set forth by the president of the Chamber of Commerce in welcoming the delegates to Richmond. He said in substance that everything else in Virginia had been praised except her roads. "Men of the Old Dominion had accomplished all that could be expected of them; the women were the fairest and quietest in the world; the resources of the State were the perfection of nature's handiwork, and they had been marvelously developed by the industry of the people; mountains, rivers and valleys afforded a landscape unsurpassed in beauty, while the climate of Virginia was the most salubrious to be found on the planet; the State had been gridironed with railroads to supplement the natural watercourses, and the harbors at the mouth of the James river welcomed the commerce of the world, but the less said about public highways the better." "They are," he added, "a disgrace to the State," and it is to this point that the energy, wealth and sacrifices of the taxpayers must be directed if the Old Dominion is to prosper in days to come.

In discussing ways and means the ground was taken that the particular form of road construction should be left as a matter of detail to expert engineers. Whether Virginia is to have Macadam or Telford pike, whether the tidewater counties are to be satisfied with shell roads, or whether dirt highways, well graded and drained, are preferable to stone roads, should be left to the judgment of the engineers employed by the county or by the State.

The chief questions involved in road improvement were shown to be those of taxation and labor. Several speakers were found to favor the employment of convicts upon the highways, while others opposed it. The sentiment of the convention was almost unanimous against statutory labor on public roads, the opinion prevailing that whatever taxation was assessed should be returnable in money, and that the proper authorities should be entrusted with the funds and authorized to construct permanent highways with a view to future use as well as present convenience. In general, it was agreed that the farmers and landowners of Virginia would not submit to a much higher degree of taxation. It was, therefore, argued that bonds for the construction of wagon roads should be issued, and taxation have to do only with the creation of a sinking fund, the payment of interest and the maintenance of the newly-improved highways.

Various schemes were advocated with reference to these bonds. One speaker maintained that they should be guaranteed by government credit; another thought that they should be authorized by the State Legislature and secured by the counties themselves, while the third speaker advocated an unqualified appropriation from the government for roads, as for river and harbor improvements. There was hardly a unanimity of sentiment on the subject, and there was one upon the kind of road to be employed, convicts on the highways, but both these questions were exhaustively discussed, and the views of the several speakers were stated clearly and vigorously.

Better than all, the Richmond convention eventuated in a permanent association, the energy and efficiency of the officers of which can be depended upon to push and reform until it is practically realized. The formation of branch leagues in all parts of the State to co-operate with the central association in educating popular sentiment and working upon the members of the Legislature will also have a beneficial effect. At the next session of the Legislature it may be expected that some kind of a road law will be enacted which will form a basis for united action in all the counties toward hard and smooth highways.

Negroes in the Textile Business.

Something new under the sun is to be tried. It is a well known fact that no negroes are employed in textile mills anywhere, except perhaps in the engine room. Some of the leaders of the race now have an eye on bringing the man of color into prominence in the textile world. A wealthy colored man of New York City, Benjamin F. Hunter, is taking the initiative in the matter, and has purchased through his attorney, Henry F. Johnson, a plot of ground in Richmond, Va., upon which he will build in 1895, a large silk factory, which, when completed, will cost \$80,000, and will furnish employment to 120 colored men and single women. It is the further intention in the course of two or three years to have at least six large factories operated by negroes, going at full blast in the South. Mr. Hunter has a high standing among his race, and enjoys their confidence. He wishes to furnish employment for at least 1,100 colored men and women in the near future.

The results of these experiments of colored people in the textile business will be watched with great interest.

SOUTHERN FARMERS' TRUST.

J. T. Roddey Proposes to Organize It to Save Money to Southern Cotton Producers.

COLUMBIA, S. C.—The State prints the following from John T. Roddey, member of the New York Cotton Exchange, and a son of a wealthy South Carolinian. He has for some time been advocating some concerted action by Southern farmers:

"To the Thinking Farmers of the South: "For the past two years I have made cotton commission my business, and daily have I witnessed the downward tendency of your product. If you will think for a moment, you will realize the fact that though you are the producers of this country and should be the most independent yet, you are the most dependent people of America. Why? Because there are combinations on nearly every article you use. The manufacturers of the North combine on everything and say what it shall bring, while you sell your products for whatever they are willing to pay you. Why cannot you protect your cotton in the same way?"

"I should like, if it meets your approval, to organize a trust company called the Southern Farmers' Trust Company, for the purpose of protecting your products from the depressing influences of speculators, spinners and capitalists, and provide a means by which you can name the price for your products, instead of having the price dictated to you, as is now the case. I feel satisfied this can be done by forming a trust which would be able to handle most of the cotton you now grow. Let the capital stock be \$50,000,000 to \$100,000,000, subscribed entirely by the farmers of the South, and divided into as many shares as may be necessary, and small enough for every cotton planter to subscribe. Let each farmer take stock to his utmost capacity and support the trust in every possible way.

"In case you receive 10 cents for your cotton, instead of 5 cents which you are now receiving, you save on a crop of 8,000,000 bales about \$200,000,000, at least twice as much as the capital stock of the trust company. In case speculators should become frightened even at the mention of the trust and advance the price of cotton, so much the better for you, but very likely they would attempt at first to bluff you.

"I think it is now time to act. What benefits the farmers or laborer unquestionably benefits all classes. If such a plan should meet your approval, I should be more than glad to meet a representative cotton grower from each State or Alliance, either in New York or in some Southern city, to see if something cannot be done to bring about some benefit to the South. Something must be done or your lands will not be worth cultivating. (Signed) "JOHN T. RODDEY."

REBUKED BY SECRETARY MORTON.

A Candidate for Congress Who Wanted to Bribe Women Voters With Flower Seeds.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—There is one candidate for Congress, where women have the election franchise, who sought the assistance of the Agricultural Department in the vote-getting process, who will not again ask for help in that direction. The following letter, which was sent to him by the department in the mail, tells the whole story:

"The department is in receipt of your communication of the 22d inst., requesting that a lot of flower and garden seeds be sent to you for distribution among the women of your county, in order to influence the result of the election to be held next month, in reply to which I would say that the appropriation for the purchase of seeds made to this department by the government was not intended for any such purpose. To act upon law and public decency. The Democratic party was placed in power by the people on the assumption that it would act honestly and justly toward all the people, irrespective of political or religious beliefs; and if one were to choose some method for the destruction of the Democratic party I do not think that he could devise a scheme which, if carried out in detail, would more effectively do it than to listen to your suggestion. I am sure that the list of honorable gentlemen which you gave as references would be among the last in the United States to endorse what you propose."

President Cleveland will shortly go duck shooting on the lighthouse tender Violet. Secretary Carlisle will be his companion, and the hunting grounds of North Carolina and the Chesapeake Bay will be visited.

THE EASTERN WAR.

The Japanese Still Conquering the Chinese.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Department of State received the following cablegram from Mr. Denby, at Peking: "Japanese troops entering into Manchuria." This is the first authentic information that had been received by the United States government that any Japanese forces had entered Chinese territory.

A DELICIOUS JAPANESE VICTORY. YOKAHAMA.—The Japanese have gained a decisive victory at Kintan over 16,000 Chinese. The enemy fled toward Antung. The Japanese captured a quantity of booty, 30 guns and 200 tents as well as a quantity of provisions. The Chinese lost 200 killed, and a number were wounded and many were taken prisoners.

The fleets of China and Japan are now off Chefoo and a battle is expected shortly.

One-Cent Car Fares.

A street-railroad was in Savannah has resulted in a reduction of fares to one cent. This was in operation for some weeks now, and the railroads claim to be more than satisfied with the outcome. In one day last week it is reported that 50,000 people were carried by the street cars of that city, practically moving the entire population. It will be an interesting subject to watch the final outcome of this rate-cutting and see its effect upon the total volume of business in proportion to expenses.

Bookkeeping is first mentioned in Italy about 1569.

PITHY NEWS ITEMS.

A \$50,000 flour mill is to be erected at Spartanburg, S. C.

The Newton (N. C.) Cotton Mills are now running day and night with a full force.

A cotton mill company is being organized at Asheboro, N. C.

The foundations have been laid for the new Attoaca Cotton Mills, Morganton, N. C.

At Norfolk, Va., the Virginia Beach Hotel and Club has been chartered to conduct a seaside resort and fisheries, to own 1000 acres of land, and the capital stock is to be \$50,000.

The Tredegar Iron Works, Richmond, Va., will be rebuilt.

A dividend of 10 per cent. will be paid after November 1 by Junius Davis, receiver of the Bank of New Hanover, Wilmington, N. C.

The new slate pencil works at Charlottesville, Va., will employ 25 hands and produce one and a half million slate pencils per month. Verily, the South should lead in education.

Half a million brick have been contracted for by the Cherokee Falls Mfg. Co. With the many thousand they already had on hand when their factory burned, the new building will rapidly rise out of the old ruins near Blacksburg, S. G.

Another new cotton yarn mill is in early prospect for the Piedmont region of Carolina. Irving Kraft, of Louisville, Ky., who is a prominent textile manufacturer, has been traveling through the region named for the past two weeks, examining sites. He spent a short time at Charlotte, and then went to Concord. He will establish a very large mill at the point selected.

Sweet potato stories are now going about the eastern shore of Maryland. One farmer raised this year 480 bushels on a half acre of land. Another shipped to Connecticut a barrel filled with just sixty nine enormous potatoes. Another reports a potato weighing four pounds and two ounces, and still another weighing six pounds.

News from Murphy, Cherokee county, N. C., says that a wedding recently occurred near that place that is puzzling a great many people. Last spring Steve Miller's wife died, leaving him with several small children. Last Sunday he married his mother-in-law, which now makes him his own father-in-law, and a grandfather to his own children.

Northern capitalists are preparing to build a magnificent hotel on Cumberland Island, Ga., and to make that place an all-year-round resort. It is said that \$3,000,000 capital is behind the scheme.

Mrs. J. E. B. Stuart, the widow of the Confederate general, is the principal of the diocesan school for girls in Staunton, Va.

At Morganton, N. C., John Campbell raised 1,200 bushels of sweet potatoes on six acres. The deaf and dumb school raised 600 bushels on two acres. The State Hospital has not yet been heard from, but will raise between 1,500 and 2,000 bushels.

Columbia, S. C., now has a fourth city dispensary. One has also been established at Mayesville, Sumter county.

At Clinton, S. C., fire destroyed a warehouse with 500 bales of cotton.

The Washington (N. C.) Gazette reports the killing of a 200-pound bear within two miles of the town a week ago, and the mate to the one killed has been seen in the neighborhood.

\$2,000,000 Textile Concern.

It is reported that a company has been organized of Southern and Northern capitalists, with two million dollars paid up capital to erect a vast textile plant in the South. It is incorporated as the Roanoke Rapids Power Co., and they have purchased a fine water power and 3,000 acres of cotton growing land, near Weldon, N. C., in the northeastern part of the State. This they will develop by erecting a 20,000 spindle cotton and weaving factory; hosiery is also to be manufactured and they will have a large knitting factory. Employment will be given to 1,000 operatives, and it is said that the foundations for the buildings have begun. W. M. Hableston, Petersburg, Va., is president and W. G. Maxwell, N. Y. City, vice-president.

THINK THEY HAVE A CLUE.

An Ex-Convict and His Pal Thought to Be the Murderers of Mr. Copps.

COLUMBIA, S. C.—Governor Tillman has received information which leads to the belief that an ex-convict named Manuel Williams and his pal are the murderers of County Treasurer Robert Copps, of Orangeburg, and warrants have been issued for their arrest.

Some four or five days before the murder Williams and his pal turned up in Barnwell, not very far from Orangeburg, and a day or two after that they left town with guns, saying they were going up the Edisto river on a hunt. It will be remembered that the cartridges used by the murderers were what is known as "rim fire," and it is said that Barwell is the only place in that section where such cartridges can be obtained. It is also stated that the shoes worn by the men fit the tracks made by the murderers.

The Stamp Thieves Taken to Washington.

COLUMBIA, S. C.—Detective Barker, of Washington, left for that place with Beach and Simbaugh, the stamp thieves, arrested in this city.

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OLD FORT, N. C.

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All who owe subscriptions to the Record will be dropped from our list unless they pay up at once.

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