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Friday, January 12, 1917

However, the contempt of Lawson and Congress seems to be mutual.

And we suppose there are State officials who consider Senator Little small.

The 1917 backsliders from the New Year Resolutions appear about as numerous as usual.

Only a few more weeks before the early gardeners will begin spring garden work in earnest.

About the only point of agreement we share with Tommie Lawson is his contempt of Congress.

The more one reads of the work of the State Legislature, the more genuine respect and esteem he has for the legislature-less government of the Fiji Isles.

Unless Governor Bickett fails to measure up to the expectations of the majority of North Carolinians, he is due to give the Old North State a memorable administration - such as we have not had since the term of Governor Aycock.

That the people of this community have resolved to save more money during 1917 than ever before is strikingly indicated by the fact that both of the local banks sold completely out of Christmas Savings Club coupon books and had to re-order by wire to supply the demand.

We understand that the Seaboard Air Line has earned greater profits during the year just closed than ever before in its history, which is reason No. 5,673 why the citizens of this community should appeal to the Corporation Commission for an order compelling the Seaboard to give decent accommodations to the travelling public at Roanoke Junction.

Among the Biennial Recommendations of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to Governor Locke Craig, may be found several which should certainly be adopted by the Legislature during its present session. Recommendation No. 7 for health instruction and medical inspection of the children of the public schools is vitally important, and we believe the uniform appointment of members of county Boards of Education by a State council of education instead of the haphazard method of legislative appointments, and popular election, which obtains in six counties, would be an immense aid in getting the greatest possible amount of efficiency in the enormous work of educating the children of the State.

We acknowledge with pleasure receipt of invitation to be present at the Seventh Annual Convention of the North Carolina Forestry Association in Raleigh, January 24 and 25, at which Mr. Job Taylor, of this city, will be one of the principal speakers. The conservation of our forests is probably one of the most important problems of the age, one which vitally affects every citizen of the State. The Forestry Association seeks to afford protection to the young growth of timber, promotion of the scientific cul-

ting of original growth, reforestation and the devastating forest fires which last year caused a property loss of more than four millions of dollars. All who are interested in any phase of Forestry are invited to be present during this Convention.

The Times Have Changed

Five cent cotton in 1888-9, seven cent cotton in 1904-5 and again in 1914-15 found us with empty pantries, cribs, and smokehouses and no money with which to fill them. These periods of bankruptcy ought to have taught us an unforgettable lesson. And we did learn a good deal from these hard experiences. The most remarkable year in food production in the history of agriculture in the South since the war was the year 1915.

But the war prices of cotton have again dethroned our better reason. We have this year slipped back in food production, and despite the appearance of prosperity in 20 cent cotton and 20 cent tobacco, the reality is a further postponement of aiding prosperity in North Carolina and the South.

And every farmer who exchanges 20 cent cotton and tobacco for corn at \$1.50 a bushel, flour at \$12 a barrel, and hay at \$20 a ton will not have money enough left over by New Year's day to grease the house cat properly.

If only we were a self-feeding farm civilization, and cotton and tobacco were surplus money crops, the South would be rich beyond the dreams of avarice in ten years.

The report of the Bureau of Crop Estimates, December 16, 1917, is worth thinking about long and hard. -University News letter.

Schools Should Not Close For Epidemics

"To close schools in case of an epidemic is not considered by expert epidemiologists as the best plan of controlling an epidemic," says the State Board of Health. "The plan of a few years ago of closing schools everytime whooping cough or measles broke out and turning loose the children to congregate down street or meet in the alleys has not proven a wise one. The old way has been found to be expensive and in no way to check the spread of the contagion; if anything, it aided its spread.

But careful epidemiologists who have made studies of both methods, say that it is better in the face of an epidemic from both the financial and public health stand-point to keep the school open and to employ a medical inspector and a school nurse, at least till the epidemic is under control. Sometimes an efficient school nurse can take the place of both and thereby decrease expenses.

"Children are themselves the natural agencies for the spread of contagious diseases, such as measles, diphtheria, smallpox and scarlet fever, and is only when they are under control as to their habits and means of spreading infection that an epidemic has any chances of being reduced. Therefore, the teacher, as well as the nurse and the inspector, is an important factor in checking the spread of a disease in her school. Cleanliness as to both room and the children cannot be minimized, while fresh air, sunlight and a temperature not over 68 degrees are other essentials not to be overlooked."

TRIM RED RASPBERRY BUSH

Plant Nipped Back Bears Fruit Where Nipping is Done—Work Must Not Be Neglected.

A red raspberry plant nipped back bears its fruit just below where the nipping is done and on the short branches that spring out from the main stem.

But if allowed to run wild it soon exhausts itself in producing cane, and only bears a few berries on the end of the cane. Hence it will not do to neglect a red raspberry patch in this respect in the least.

Let Us Print Your Sale Bills

On the Mail Route By H. M. EGBERT

It was seventeen miles by dog sled to Esquimaux Harbor, and Alphonse had plenty of time to cover it. He anticipated no difficulty, and in any event some could exist. He was the mail carrier, and it is an axiom of the service that the mails have to go through.

But Alphonse had another cause for looking forward to his arrival at Esquimaux. There lived Nanette, his sweetheart, who had pledged herself to become engaged to him as soon as he secured the contract. And he had secured it, and was on his way to present the visible proof in the shape of his own presence.

He knew how bitterly his rival, Jean Pettit, had resented his winning the girl's love. Jean had been half drunk ever since Alphonse secured the mail contract, and Alphonse learned all along the road of the threats that he had made against him.

Alphonse was not thinking of them. Nor was he thinking of Jean Pettit. All his thoughts were concentrated upon Nanette as the dogs swung over the hill into the miles of stunted birch wood that line the trail to within seven miles of the terminus.

As he did so a figure leaped out from among the undergrowth of the preceding year, tall sticks of aborted trees and tangled briar roots, and seized him by the arm. Alphonse recognized Jean, mad with drink, mad to the point of murder. He knew that



To and Fro They Staggered.

he was no match for him in physical strength. Alphonse was wiry, but Jean was built like a stunted giant.

The dogs seized the opportunity to come to a standstill. The leaders promptly coiled themselves up in the snow, while the two men struggled in the sleigh.

Jean hurled Alphonse into the snow and, before he could arise, sang himself upon him again.

"So—you are going to Esquimaux, and you think you will see Nanette there?" he sneered.

Alphonse said nothing, because this was hardly a time to talk. He wished he could get at his knife, but it was in his belt and the leather sheath had shifted around to the back.

"I am going to kill you," said Jean Pettit. "I am going to kill you, and nobody will know who did it. Your bones will have been picked white by the wolves long before the carrier passes here on his way from Esquimaux."

Alphonse still said nothing, but he could see murder in Jean's eyes and smell his whisky-laden breath.

"After a few months I shall ask Nanette to marry me," continued Jean. "She loved me before you came, and she will love me again."

He whipped the knife out of his belt, but Alphonse, who had been watching for that movement, sang himself at him, and the two men wrestled in the deep snow. To and fro they staggered. Jean was much stronger than Alphonse, but the two were fighting for one man's life, and that man's desperation lent him new strength. Finally Alphonse managed to shake off his assailant and leap into the sled.

"Mush!" he shouted to the leaders, and as they rose he saw, out of the corner of his eye, Jean rushing toward him again.

But the sleigh started off, and Jean was left behind. He could not catch the fugitive, with his foot dogs. Alphonse turned and saw Jean sitting by the roadside, looking at him.

Then to his horror Alphonse realized that one of the sacks of mail had fallen out of the sled. He saw it lying by the side of the trail. He knew that it was safe enough, for Jean Pettit, though he was willing to take the chances of murder, would not dare to touch the mail. But the loss of it meant the loss of Alphonse's position. Besides, there was the matter of duty—and Nanette.

TOP BUDDING IS DESIRABLE

Practices is Better Than Grafting for Working Over Defective Trees White Young.

Top budding is better than grafting for working over undesirable trees if they are discovered while young. After the tree has passed its second year in the orchard it should be headed back severely in early spring and the new shoots headed in August.

NOTICE: ALL COLLECTORS are hereby forbidden to enter upon my premises during the working hours of any work day and hinder my hands. This 9th day of Jan. 1917. Geo. T. Powell, Rosemary, N. C. 1-12-17

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