

The Herald.
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ALL ABOUT MONAZITE.
Where It is Found and Why It is Valuable.
FOUND IN MANY LANDS.

What Prof. W. E. Hidden Has to Say on the Subject—First Found in Berkeley County in Commercial Quantities—Not a New Mineral, but Known to Exist in North Carolina for Fifty Years.

Monazite! A new word to conjure with. A new mineral to cause man to scratch the upper crust of old Mother Earth as he digs and delves for it. A new commodity of which men may dream until they imagine themselves millionaires rolling in wealth all evolved from this wonderful "sand" that hides away somewhere in its tiny particles the thoria about which so much has been said and written of late.

And yet, in a way, monazite is not a new mineral at all, as THE HERALD learned yesterday from Mr. William Earl Hidden, the celebrated mineralogist, to whom North Carolina is indebted for the discovery and demonstration of the fact that monazite could be found here in commercial quantities.

Away back in the fifties, says Mr. Hidden, Professor Charles Upton Shepherd, of Amherst College, visited North Carolina, and, in company with ex-Senator Clingman, made a tour through the Piedmont section, and noted the presence of monazite in the placer gold mines of the section. In 1879 when the great inventor Edison was experimenting with a view to perfecting his incandescent electric lamp he wrote to Professor Dana, the great geologist and mineralogist, and asked him where he could find thoria. Prof. Dana replied that thoria was found in monazite, but that there was not an ounce of monazite in all the cabinets in America. A few days later Mr. Edison sent Mr. Hidden to North Carolina to look for platinum, and it was while here on that mission that Mr. Hidden discovered that monazite could be found in abundance, and actually shipped to Mr. Edison from the Brindletown gold mines in this county fifty-five pounds of the monazite sand. Out of this shipment Edison sent to Prof. Dana a pound of monazite, with his compliments, writing on the package that there was a wide difference between the theoretical mineralogist at his desk and a practical mineralogist in the field. Edison was at this period experimenting with platinum wrapped round "rare earth," like thoria, with which he hoped to secure a perfect incandescent lamp. The experiment proved a failure, and the Wizard of Menlo Park soon after found in the carbonized fibre of the bamboo the material for which he had searched in vain throughout the mineral kingdom.

About five years after this date Mr. Hidden came to North Carolina to obtain a supply of zirconia for the Welsbach Company, which they then used in the manufacture of their celebrated incandescent hoods for gas burners and shipped them from Henderson county twenty-six tons. It was then known that thoria was a much better material for the purpose, because of their zirconia hoods, by reason of their great expansion and contraction, were very short lived, and Mr. Hidden then made an effort to convince the Welsbach people that thoria (then held to be immensely valuable) could be had in commercial quantities. In 1887 Mr. Hidden shipped from the Brindletown district in this county, twelve tons of monazite, although eminent mineralogists had asserted up to that time that there was not a ton on the whole continent. This was unprecedented in the history of mineralogy. During 1888 and 1889 one Thomas G. Ashe, an employee of the Philadelphia Welsbach Company, came to Dysartsville, McDowell county, near the Brindletown mines, and began to purchase "sand" from the placer gold mines, many tons of which he shipped to Philadelphia from Brindletown and Glen Alpine stations in this county.

Such is the history of the monazite industry in the United States hitherto an increased demand for thoria sent representatives of the Welsbach Company to the North Carolina field again, causing an active business in the counties of McDowell, Rutherford and Cleveland during 1893 and 1894 and which has drawn hither in 1895 buyers and prospectors from points as far away as Dresden, and Vienna, the competition among the buyers already running up the price of monazite to double the figures ruling for the two years past.

Monazite, Mr. Hidden says, is a constituent part of all gneissic and talcous rocks—and the gneissic rocks predominate throughout the world, so that monazite is found in greater or less quantities in practically every country on the globe. The reason why it is found in such quantities in this region is because the great disintegration of gneissic rocks has liberated great quantities of it, and for ages past it has been washed down from the hills to be deposited in the beds of streams and throughout the valleys, its great specific gravity causing it to sink through the lighter earths and form a deposit of varying depths and richness.

The greatest deposit of monazite in the world is on the coast of Brazil, in the province of Bahia, near the island of Alcobaco. Here the waves do the work of the miners, the surf as it breaks against the cliffs, washing away the lighter earths and leaving immense deposits of monazite very

rich in thoria. Sacks filled with this sand were shipped to New York in 1885, the deposit having been taken for barilla, or tin ore. It was found to be monazite, then believed to be of no commercial value. The output of this mine is now controlled by companies, who ship the sand to Liverpool and Hamburg as ballast. The placer gold mines of Siberia are very rich in monazite, which is rafted down the Lena and the Yenisei to European ports; but this is very expensive and operations are necessarily confined to the few months when the rivers and the ocean are free from ice. Large quantities of monazite are also found in Norway, a large dealer having established himself at Christiania.

Monazite is mined just as gold in the placer mines, the water carrying off the lighter earths and leaving the heavier monazite, which in order to be of commercial value should be two-thirds pure monazite.

Monazite usually yields from two to four per cent. of thoria, "sand" containing less than two per cent. being at present unmarketable. The percentage of thoria contained can only be determined by analysis; color and specific gravity indicating nothing as to the amount of thoria. Some of the finest samples of the "sand," apparently, yield no thoria whatever and again the same kind of sand, at all appearances, has yielded as high as fourteen per cent.

The analysis is very difficult, very few chemists being able to make it accurately. Mr. Hidden controls a new and very economical process for extracting the thoria from the monazite in commercial quantities, but this discovery, being of great value, he has never divulged.

The price of monazite has varied from twenty-five cents per pound in 1888 to \$2.00 per pound in 1894, but buyers are now in the field offering ten cents per pound for some of the better grades. Mr. Hidden smiles at the story that thoria is worth \$200 per pound, as has been stated; and thinks he can find parties who will contract to deliver it at from one-fifth to one-eighth of that price.

As information to miners, it may be stated that it is of no value except for the manufacture of the Welsbach gas light, and that at a fair estimate a ton of monazite will furnish enough thoria to make from 10,000 to 20,000 Welsbach lights according to the percentage of thoria contained. It will thus appear that, notwithstanding the present immense demand for these lights, the market is a limited one, that it would be very easy for all the companies controlling the Welsbach patents to form a pool to keep down prices, and that there is a possibility that, by reason of the discovery of new fields of supply or of a new material equally good for the purpose, the demand for our monazite will cease.

Mr. Hidden, who furnishes us these facts, has just returned from a two months' stay in Europe, where he went to meet with the parties controlling the Welsbach patents, and the information given is strictly from "inside" data; and, furthermore, Mr. Hidden's principal work for the past sixteen years has been largely in the line of investigating the so-called "rare earths," of which thoria is a member. He has done more than any living man to show that the so-called "rare earths" are in reality very common and are all to be had in quantity, and has, in his investigations, discovered and named at least four new minerals, all of which are very rich in thoria.

THE FOURTH ESTATE STILL ON TOP.
The Penny Press is a daisy. It is edited by W. S. Christian at Greenville, N. C. It is a small paper but full of news and local matter.

The Rockingham Rocket and Index have been having an editorial war for the past two weeks and we fear that "arbitration" will be necessary.

Our Farms is the name of a new paper that comes to us from Franklin, N. C. It is primarily an agricultural paper and is devoted to the interests of farming and stock raising.

The Salisbury News has given up the ghost, quit, sold out and moved away. We are sorry for we hoped Messrs. Crowson and our old friend Murphy would succeed with their venture.

The Asheville Citizen and the Statesville Landmark can't agree about some poetry the latter has been publishing. The Landmark says the poem was published "by permission of the Citizen," but the Citizen files a "disclaimer" and says no such permission was given. We suppose the matter should be referred to the Charlotte Observer as referee, with the Statesville Mascot and Asheville Register as counsel.

The Newbern Journal, always progressive and well to the front, got out a "Fair number" last week. It is a hammer, with horns too. It gives the premium list, programme, list of marshals, exhibits, &c., besides a general history of the East Carolina Fish, Oyster, Game and Industrial Association, than which there is no better in all the Southland. The Journal is one of the very best papers in the country too.

Beware of Ointments for Catarrh that Contain Mercury. Mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the whole system when entering it in any form. Such articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians, as the damage they will do is tenfold to the good you can possibly derive from them. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O., contains no mercury, and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. In buying Hall's Catarrh Cure be sure you get the genuine. It is taken internally, and made in Toledo, Ohio, by F. J. Cheney & Co. Testimonials free. Sold by Druggists, Price 75c. per bottle.

STRICTLY PARTISAN.
That's What the Legislature is—Kept to Observe Lee's Birthday.
CREATING MORE OFFICES.

Instead of Reducing Expenses They Have Added Them Over \$250,000—A Neglect One of the Fusion Leaders in the House—Will Seat Every Radical or Populist Who Will Contest a Democratic Seat.
From Our Regular Correspondent.

RALEIGH, N. C., Jan. 21, 1895.—Several weeks ago Marion Butler, Dr. Mott and other fusionists assured your correspondent that the legislature would be extremely conservative; that the status of affairs would force conservative action. A prominent populist after wards said that he had the action of commissioners in certain counties refusing to accept the bonds of populists and republicans would make it very much harder to control the fusionists, or "co-operationists" as they persist in calling themselves.

There is something else which may as well be said. This is that Marion Butler, today has more power with republicans than their State chairman has, or, indeed, more than any two republicans in the State have. This cannot be denied. High indeed is his position and vast is his power.

The fusionists do not like speeches by democrats, and the committee on rules seeks to put a stop to all filibustering. The longest debate will be on the bills to repeal county government and the election law. It appears that they are willing to give more latitude in this matter. It is said one of the colored republicans (Young of Wake), who is one of the leading speakers in the House, will cut a figure in this debate. He always speaks with great bitterness regarding the county government law and of course hates the election law.

A review of the work of the legislature for the past six days shows that there is quite a rush of bills. It is an "undoing" body, and bills "to abolish" are more frequent than any others.

Tuesday, the 15th, the chief bills introduced were to reduce the salaries of state and county officers; to reduce the appropriation to the State Guard to \$3,400; to abolish county boards of education; to regulate life insurance business by making a judgment against a company liable on all its property, real and personal, and to amend Ashe, Alleghany and Watauga counties in building a railway; to provide for appeals from decisions of county commissioners; to repeal the public printing act (this bill has passed both houses); to repeal the death penalty; for the relief of the poor of North Carolina. (Under this queer title was masked a bill to repeal the railway commission act, a radical from Craven introduced it. The vote for State Treasurer was canvassed on Tuesday and Worth was declared duly elected. He has made up his bond, \$255,000, the bondsmen being headed by Julian S. Carr. He takes charge of the treasury day after tomorrow, and retains one democratic clerk. The Senate did a very queer thing in refusing to adopt a resolution instructing our Senators and Representatives in Congress to vote against all bills which did not aid the free coinage of silver and the abolition of all banks of issue.

Wednesday, the most important of the new bills were: to forbid railways to give free passes; to abolish the office of county superintendent; to prevent lynching by providing for a special judge, to be at the command of the Governor; to relieve building and loan associations from taxation; to extend the time of setting State taxes in Cherokee, Graham, Jackson, Rutherford, Clay and Macon; to prohibit the use of railway passes by county officials; to amend the constitution so as to enforce the anti-trust law; to require the public printer to be the lowest bidder and to be a resident of this State. (It is quite well understood here that Editor Goslen, of the Winston Republican, is to be the public printer and he says he is sure of the place.) The fusionists elected John W. Brown, of Granville, editor of a populist paper enrolling clerk. Henry Brown, populist, from Jones county, contestant, was seated, and by a unanimous vote.

This is the more important of the new bills were to make it unlawful to issue false and fraudulent election tickets; to repeal the act requiring railways to be prompt in the delivery of forfeits; to abolish county boards of education and reduce salaries of county superintendents; to compel all railways to pay taxes; to make the education of blind children compulsory; to allow ex-Confederate soldiers voting previous to worth over \$500 to receive pensions (this failed to pass, as did another of the same tenor); to allow county officers to give bonds in security companies; to abolish the State Guard and the Naval Reserves; to allow the legislature to elect the supreme court reporter; to abolish the criminal and inferior courts and to establish courts of oyer and terminer; to equalize tax assessments; to provide for the inspection of illuminating oils; to secure to physicians payment for services. The Secretary of State was given authority to return to bidders for the public printing under the act of 1893 their bills and checks; the bids not to be opened unless nothing on the envelope showed who was the bidder. The democrats wanted all these bills opened, so that it could be seen what the lowest bid was, in order that when the fusionists award the contract a comparison might be made, but this proposition the fusionists unanimously voted down.

Friday the chief new bills were to abolish the geological survey; to forbid telegraph companies from giving franchises; to amend the homestead provision in the constitution by reducing the personal property exemption from \$500 to \$200 and on real property from \$1,000 to \$500; to reduce the marriage license fee to \$1.50; to raise the "age of consent" to 12 years.

of votes by forcing roll calls. The fusionists have matters so arranged that they can at any time suspend the rules. The fact is that a good deal of the legislation was arranged weeks, or months, ago. There have been trades upon trades. The republicans and the populists both have their eyes upon the offices. A republican here (who, by the way, posed several weeks as a straight-out and by no means in love with fusion) has said openly that he expects to be made the superintendent of one of the State's important institutions. It is no secret that Ocho Wilson expects to be either railway commissioner or superintendent of the penitentiary and that he has no fear of not being able to fill either position well. It is no secret that he is to be given one or the other of these positions.

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(This bill was reported by the judiciary committee as a substitute for one making the age 14 years. It is made a special order for Wednesday of this week.) In the House R. M. Croom, republican, was given the seat he claimed from Pender county. On this there was a hot fight. The vote was 67 to 35; not quite a party vote, as some democrats voted for Croom.

The Senate and House passed the bill to require the commissioners of Pitt county to reduce the Sheriff's bond from \$72,000 to \$60,000. The democrats certainly made capital out of this matter. The fusionists had in their speeches asserted that the bond had been increased to \$90,000. They had to apologize for making this misstatement. The democrats showed that the bond lacked \$400 of being double the amount of the taxes. The fusionists were angry because the commissioners examined carefully the solvency of the fusion sheriff's bondsmen. They forced the ratification of the bill Saturday.

The House voted on Friday to observe the public holiday Saturday, General Lee's birthday by adjourning until Monday afternoon, this being on motion of French, republican, of New Hanover, who declared the day ought to be observed. But the Senate refused to concur in the joint resolution and so was in session three hours. The House was in session only half an hour and did no business. In the Senate one of the most important bills of the session was introduced by Lindsay, populist. It proposes to reduce the expenses of all the State institutions 33 1/2 per cent. and to create a general board of three members, to visit all of these and see that the reduction is made. Lindsay is an extremist and his bill is certainly an extreme one. He introduced a bill to amend the Code that the Governor in thanks giving proclamations "is empowered to require all Christian men and women, whenever he may deem proper, to offer up prayer before Almighty God to avert from the State the tyrannies and oppositions of ungodly laws and the baneful effect of the acts of the wicked rulers and people, and moreover to render thanks to Almighty God that the conditions are no worse than they are."

Lindsay, speaking in support of his bill, was so religious as to say there was nothing whatever to be thankful for this year. A democrat raised a great laugh by offering an amendment to insert the word "political" before the word "conditions." Some republicans threw cold water on this crack bill and it was tabled. On motion of a democrat the Senate adjourned until 3 o'clock Monday, as a mark of respect to the memory of Lee.

The nominations of Butler and Pritchard have been ratified by the fusionists and it is agreed that fusion is to continue. There is no break between the fusionists. There is anger on the part of several republicans, but this they are now trying to smother, while they all cheer for Pritchard.

It is said by some zealous democrats that while it is a bitter pill to swallow, yet extreme legislation by the fusionists will be the best medicine for the democratic party. Unless the latter gets in line and is a unit it will be wrecked in '96. Of this there is no doubt. The healing of divisions has begun with this senatorial matter in the caucus.

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GUNS—
A SPECIALTY!
All kinds of machine, roofing and plumbing contracts taken. Estimates furnished on application. Mail orders filled promptly.
Respectfully,
T. I. GILLAM.
MONEY LOANED.
LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES WANTED.

As is my custom, at the beginning of New Year, I am sending out statements to all who owe me accounts, and as the year we have just passed through was one of the hardest in the mercantile business for years, you will understand that I need money. Buy goods for cash and my customers get the benefit of close buying. I am of course willing to carry accounts as long as I can, but just now I have need for all my available resources and am compelled to call on a who owe me. Come in and pay up and start the New Year with a clean page. Hoping you will respond cheerfully and once, I am,
Respectfully,
I. I. DAVIS.