

## OUR COAST FISHERIES

Observing Station Proposed in Beaufort Harbor

### SENATE PASSES THE BILL

Representative Small Will Press the Measure to Passage in the House—Report of Senate Committee Showing the Importance of the Work and the Problems to Be Studied—Value of the Fishing Industry.

Washington, Feb. 14.—Special.—The Senate has passed a bill to establish a station in Beaufort harbor, North Carolina for the investigation of problems connected with marine fishery interests on the middle and Atlantic coast. The report which accompanies the bill gives some interesting data in connection with the matter. It says:

(1) The object of this station is the investigation of problems connected with the marine fishery interests of the Atlantic coast from Long Island to Florida, just as the stations already established on the New England coast (at Woods Hole), on the Pacific coast, and on the Great Lakes investigate similar problems for these regions.

(2) The annual value of the fishery interests of the States bordering the Middle and South Atlantic coast (excluding New York on the north and Florida on the south) is about \$16,000,000 for general fishery interests, and over \$9,000,000 for the oyster interests alone. Certainly this industry is one deserving a fair amount of attention and investigation at the hands of the government, and it is believed that such a careful investigation continued through a period of years may result in considerable increase in the extent of the industry.

(3) Among the problems it is proposed to have investigated at this station are: (a) Breeding times, places, and conditions, and the habits, food and feeding ground of the more important food fishes of the middle and south Atlantic shore; and the enemies of these fishes, both during the earlier and later stages of their growth. (b) A thorough investigation as to the food and feeding and breeding habits, under different and varying conditions, of the oyster, clam, shrimp and the edible crabs and other marine forms which have an economic value either as food for man, or as food for, or enemies of, other edible species. (c) A careful and thorough study of the general biological conditions which appear to be the most favorable for the growth and development of these and other useful and interesting marine forms. Mr. Alexander Agassiz, perhaps the ablest and most experienced naturalist of the country in connection with these matters, has well said that all such observations should be carried on year after year in connection with the regular work of a government Fish Commission station, for the reason that they are not only germane to its investigations, but are essential to its full success.

(4) The special advantages offered by the North Carolina coast region for the location of such a station grow out of the fact that it is midway ground, where the more northern forms extending southward and the southern forms from Florida extending northward overlap in their distribution. And about these extensive North Carolina sounds there is an intermingling of fishes and other marine forms from all this middle and south Atlantic coast. Cape Hatteras, which was once supposed to form a dividing line between the northern and southern faunas, does not constitute such a division in any important sense in connection with the fishery interests, as these forms pass easily around the cape and enter the sounds freely at the several inlets, both to the north and to the south of the cape. About Beaufort Harbor, where it is proposed to locate this station, the fauna of the open sea, that of the partially enclosed sounds (where both salt and brackish waters are found), and that of the neighboring fresh-water streams are brought into close proximity, and consequently we find there animal life in greater variety and probably greater abundance than at any other point on the Atlantic. This fauna includes and furnishes food for a large variety of food-fishes and other abundant economic forms, such as the oyster, clam, shrimp, crab, etc.

(5) The policy of maintaining a few Fish Commission stations at which ample opportunity is offered for such investigations has been fully justified by the history of the station on the New England coast at Woods Hole. The results of the voluntary (unpaid) researches of the naturalists who have annually visited this station are of the highest value. In no way can the Fish Commission accumulate useful information concerning fishery interests and the general animal and plant life of a coast region so rapidly and at so little expense as by maintaining a well-equipped laboratory open to all who come to study the natural history of that region.

(6) On the entire Atlantic coast south of New England there is no such laboratory at which the fauna may be investigated. This will doubtless continue to be the condition unless the government co-operates in this work, since research laboratories open to the public are not established by private individuals or corporations. We can hardly expect any State to establish such a laboratory, for the reason that the larger problems to be solved relate to fishes which are migratory along the shores of a dozen or more States.

Our knowledge of the life history of the food-fishes and their food supplies and of the fauna of the middle and

southern Atlantic coast is extremely meager, and yet it is sufficiently great for us to have learned its high economic value and its deep interest in connection with the great fishery problems of the country.

This bill will now go to the House and Congressman Small will use his best efforts to push it through. Few measures affecting North Carolina have attracted such wide-spread attention. Senator Butler, who originally introduced the bill received letters from all over the country urging its passage. Henry F. Natchez, Professor of Biology in the University of Minnesota wrote:

"Several years of experience at Beaufort, N. C., however, will not permit me to be silent on the question of location. I have not the slightest hesitation in asserting no better locality on our Atlantic coast could be found for such a station as the Fish Commission will maintain if properly supported. The fauna is varied and rich, and the locality offers excellent opportunities for many experiments having a direct economic bearing, while several conditions there make it a most important connecting and completing link."

Professor Edwards of the University of Cincinnati says: "Not only is this project important from economic considerations, but for science, which always precedes and paves the way for economic applications, it will be invaluable."

Professor Graham of the University of Alabama in endorsing the project writes:

"The whole Southern coast is zoologically to a very great extent unknown. The services of the various scientists who would be attracted to a well-equipped Fish Commission station would certainly be of very great value and importance to the commission; and these services would be rendered voluntarily. All students of biology would feel that the opportunity thus afforded for studying marine zoology and botany would justify them in spending a large part of their vacations at the station. They would thereby be much better fitted to teach biology in the colleges and universities, and in this way the cause of education would be greatly helped."

Professors Kellogg, of Williams College, Massachusetts; Osborn, of Hamilton University, St. Paul, Minn.; Conn, of Wesleyan College, Ohio; Kirkland, of Vanderbilt University, Tennessee; Hamaker, of Trinity College Durham; Alderman, of the University of North Carolina; Mark of Harvard University and others have all lent the weight of their names to this project, and it seems assured of success. The bill carries an appropriation of \$12,500.

Senator Pritchard has almost given up hope of Judge Ewart's confirmation. In the last Congress the subcommittee reported against him, and now a new sub-committee has done the same thing. The full committee of the Judiciary Committee will act on the case next Monday.

The change that seems to have had especial weight with the sub-committee—Simon (Rep.) and Pettus (Dem.)—was the one in which Judge Ewart was connected with the contracts with the Cherokee Indians was involved. Life acted as their agent in selling their timber. The amount received was \$25,000, of which Judge Ewart received \$3,550 and other parties, J. M. Moody and Mr. Boyd, sums that ran up the amount to nearly \$10,000. The Indians have only received \$5,000. Even yet the matter is tied up in the courts, but Judge Ewart approved the report which gave him his commission and his silent partners, it is alleged, their fees.

Phayton Schmidt of Winsteadville, has been granted a pension of \$6, and John A. Aaron of Winnabow of \$8.

## FAYETTEVILLE.

Democratic Committeemen Meet—Survey Begun Preliminary to Establishing an Electric Power Plant.

Fayetteville, N. C., Feb. 14. Correspondence of The Morning Post. The committeemen of the different precincts of the county will meet at noon today at the call of Mr. H. L. Cook, chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee, for the purpose of formulating plans for the coming campaign, mapping out the work of the canvass, etc.

Mr. Cook and his assistants are full of energy and zeal for the coming work, and are confident that the county can be carried for the amendment, although they know that the contest before them is no child's play, and that every Democrat must be up to the full measure of his duty.

Mr. Robert Strange, civil engineer, is to make at once a preliminary survey of the main streets of Fayetteville, in anticipation of Dr. J. M. McNeill's work of laying a trolley line, of which readers of The Post have already been informed.

Mr. Cooke, an electric expert, has been here surveying the ground for the future establishment of power for the mills and street lights, etc., by electrical transmission from Buckhorn. Mr. R. P. Gray, of Greensboro, one of the principal officers of the Cape Fear Power Company, has also just made us a visit.

Mr. Dwight Ashley, proprietor of the silk mill, spent a day or two here, looking after his important manufacturing interests. He is much pleased with the progress made and the satisfactory character of this colored labor.

Rev. K. H. Basmajoin, an Armenian of scholastic culture, an ordained Baptist minister, has been greatly pleased by the large audiences in the Baptist church by his able sermons, and in the armory by eloquent lectures, in which he displays remarkable dramatic power.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Jennings gave a reception at their residence in Gillespie street last evening in honor of their guests, Rev. Dr. and Mrs. W. B. Jennings, of Detroit. Refreshments were served with tasteful and dainty accompaniments, and of the awards for the pleasant games of the evening.

Mrs. T. M. Hunter won the first prize, while the booby fell to the lot of Mr. R. G. Haigh.

Chief Marshal Flowers yesterday arrested Dennis Parker, colored, in consequence of a telegram from Wilson, charging him with housebreaking in that town.

Peter McCoy, a negro, an alleged law-breaker, intrenched and barricaded himself yesterday in his house in Flea Hill township, ready to kill any one who ventured on his arrest. A little strategem, however, on the part of the officers, bagged McCoy, and there was no carnage either.

## CONCORD.

Cannon Manufacturing Company Pays a Semi-Annual Dividend of Five Per Cent—A Prosperous Industry.

Concord, N. C., Feb. 14.

Correspondence of The Morning Post. At a meeting of the stockholders of the Cannon Manufacturing Company in their offices here today the usual semi-annual dividend of five per cent was ordered paid. As an evidence of the phenomenal prosperity this company has enjoyed under the management of Mr. J. W. Cannon, secretary and treasurer, I will state that it was organized eleven years ago, commencing with 4,000 spindles. They now have, with the big new mill just finished, 23,300 spindles and 850 looms, employing about 900 operatives. Mr. Cannon is also at the head of several other large cotton mills, all of which are wonderfully prosperous.

## DEDICATION AT SOUTHERN PINES.

A new building just erected at Southern Pines for the use of the Pickford Sanitarium was dedicated on the 8th instant. The leading address was made by Hon. Richard H. Battle, of Raleigh. He pictured the Southern lady of ante-bellum days, starting out in the morning with her well laden basket of medicines and delicacies to visit the sick on her plantation, and reminded his hearers that this and similar institutions must now take the place of the once devoted mistress. He paid an eloquent tribute to the untiring and self-sacrificing labors of Dr. Scruggs in this undertaking, and made an earnest appeal that a hearty and generous support be given him in his work. It was much to be regretted that on account of the forbidding aspect of the weather in the morning the audience assembled to listen to this eminent representative of the bar of Raleigh was smaller than it would otherwise have been. The audience was, however, a very attentive and appreciative one.

Much study has been given of late by medical men to consumption, a disease which has been so prevalent among all classes and conditions; and the opinion is now, we believe, generally held that in the earlier stages, if patients can be put under proper care, with suitable food, and plenty of pure, dry, fresh air and sunshine, a cure can frequently be hoped for.

Southern Pines offers a most favorable location in these respects. While the number of sanitariums, hospitals and homes for those afflicted with this disease which have been recently brought into operation, shows the deep interest taken in these unfortunates, it is the proud distinction of North Carolina to be the first of all the Southern States to provide such a sanitarium for the colored citizens.

This Sanitarium is located on high ground, a short distance west of the central part of the town, and very near the line of the trolley road connecting Southern Pines and Pinehurst. It owes its existence to the devoted and persistent efforts of Dr. L. A. Scruggs, a colored physician, well known in Raleigh. His first donation of money came from Mrs. Pickford, of Lynn, Mass., and with this and moderate contributions from other sources, two modest buildings were erected about two years ago, and the work begun. The third building, now dedicated, has been built and furnished by a New England woman, Mrs. S. H. Tingley, and named from her family—Hubbard Cottage. The Hubbards were a noted family at the time of the Revolutionary war, some five hundred men of that name having, it is said, served in the Continental army from Massachusetts and Connecticut.

This pioneer institution of the South is run on essentially the same lines as that of Dr. B. L. Trudeau at Saranac Lake, New York; the Massachusetts State Hospital, at Rutland, Mass., and other similar institutions. Unlike some of those, however, it has no endowment, but needs only the generous financial aid of citizens of the Old North State to make it equally successful in its laudable work.

The officers and trustees of the Sanitarium are: James McKee, M. D., president; Berry O'Kelly, temporary treasurer; L. A. Scruggs, M. D., secretary and general manager. Trustees—James McKee, M. D., Raleigh; Col. J. S. Carr, Durham; Mrs. C. J. Pickford, Lynn, Mass.; Prof. A. W. Peppers, R. H. W. Leak, E. A. Johnson and L. A. Scruggs, M. D., Raleigh; Berry O'Kelly, Method; John T. Patrick, Southern Pines; Dr. H. C. Faulkner, Chicago; Bishop W. J. Gaines, Atlanta, Ga., and W. C. Coleman, Concord.

### Postage-Stamps Books.

Mr. Madden, third assistant postmaster general, has introduced an innovation in his department which promises to be the most popular thing of his administration. It is the issuance of stamps in book form, at so small an advance in cost that the public will gladly pay the difference in exchange for the great convenience it obtains, says the Washington Star.

For a long time the office of the Third Assistant Postmaster General, which has charge of postage stamps, has been considering a means whereby the great annoyance of stamps stuck together could be overcome. Shortly

after General Madden came into office this subject was called to his attention, and, realizing its importance to the people, he proceeded to perfect his plans. He thought a modest cover of thick paper, with alternating leaves of stamps and paraffine paper, would answer all requirements. Since that time the details have been slightly changed, so as to permit printing on the cover of the book a succinct statement of the postal rates in the United States and foreign countries.

The book will be of a convenient size to carry in the pocket, and will contain stamps to the amount of twenty-four cents, forty-eight cents, and ninety-six cents. An advance of one cent on each book is all that is to be charged the general public, and if one-tenth of the stamps now sold in loose packages are distributed in book form, the government will realize a handsome profit from the investment. The government will pay but \$2 a thousand for these books, and they will be sold for \$10 a thousand in advance, of course, of the face value in the stamps they contain. It is believed the book containing twenty-four cents in stamps and costing twenty-five cents will be the most popular.

It is the intention of the department to add to the details of the book as the necessity arises. The post-office officials are confident that the stamp books will become popular, and they believe time will be saved in the handling of stamps at the different post-offices.

The Postoffice Department has been receiving complaints and inquiries for years concerning stamps rendered useless by sticking together, and in the summer time the complaints run up into many hundreds a day. With the use of these stamp books it is believed much of this annoyance will be overcome for with the paraffine sheets between the stamps, sticking is impossible. The addition of the postal information on the cover of the book promises to be a desirable feature; for there are few people who are fully acquainted with the postal rates of the United States.

When the matter was presented to Postmaster General Smith, he took a keen interest in the subject and promptly approved it. The books will be ready in two or three months.

### Progress of Siam.

United States Consul General Hamilton King reports the following improvements in Siam: Thirty-five years ago there were no streets in Bangkok. All traffic was carried on by boats, and the numerous canals still compete with the street traffic. As late as ten years ago there no more than nine miles of paved streets in the whole city. Today there are over forty-seven miles, and many new streets are being opened up each year, on which the old iron and wooden bridges are being replaced by modern steel bridges. The King himself builds one steel bridge each year out of his private funds as a gift to the city, and this is opened to public with some ceremony on his birthday.

### Agriculture in Puerto Rico.

At present little in the way of plant products is exported from Puerto Rico outside of coffee, sugar and tobacco. All other crops are considered unworthy of the serious attention of the planters, their cultivation being generally left to the desultory efforts of the most ignorant of the population. There has been little attempt at the improvement of varieties, either by selection or by the introduction of superior seed.

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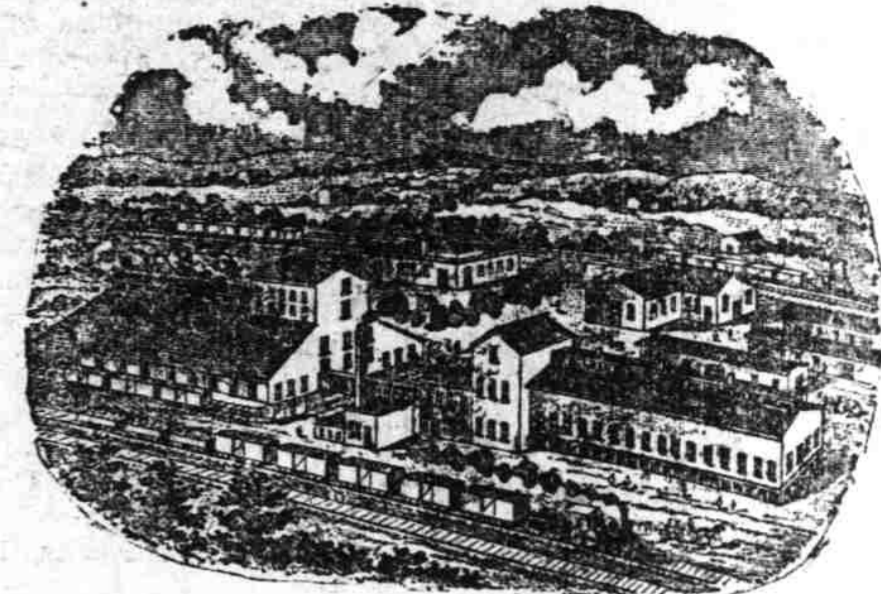
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when a boy had the croup, his mother used to reach up to the shelf over the fireplace and get the familiar black bottle, filled with the mauseous compound that the cross-roads druggist sold as a panacea for all ills of the flesh; when his twelve-year-old sister had the measles, the same old black bottle was brought into use; and when the old lady herself was touched with the "measmatiz," the aid of the same familiar cure-all was invoked. Sometimes the cure-all cured—sometimes it didn't; but it was handy and it was cheap, and so people kept on using it, and the men who made it got rich and went abroad every summer. In pretty much the same ignorant way

## Farmers Used Manure

on all crops, because, like the old, plausible compounds, it was handy and cheap. But, nowadays, farmers know that the growing plant requires the right sort of plant food, just as the growing child requires the proper kind of food, and so, when they plant tobacco,

## Now They Buy

a specially prepared tobacco fertilizer; when he plants cotton, he buys a special cotton fertilizer; so with corn, so with wheat—each with all crops; he knows that certain crops require much ammonia, some but little ammonia; some crops require heavily poisoned fertilizers, others only phosphoric acid. And the farmers of the Old North State have learned something else that is equally as important, to-wit: that the

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