

NOTE FROM BRO. SEAWELL.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer. VILLANOW, N. C. The weather has been such that I have not been able to fill my appointments. Please tell the brethren to be patient and I will see them and to hold their shoe orders till I come. I attended the Otham County Alliance and though the weather was severe the brethren turned out. I sold several pairs of shoes and got a club with cash for the Progressive Farmer. The brethren paid my expenses and gave me a good dinner. The brethren in this county are yet very much in earnest and alive in Alliance work. V. N. SEAWELL.

PRODUCERS VS. ACCUMULATORS OF WEALTH.

The New York Financier of February 23rd, inst., says:

"It is interesting to note that while in the fiscal year 1896, we exported 4,659,866 bales of cotton for which we received \$190,048,166, we have already in the seven months of the present fiscal year forwarded 5,587,155 bales which netted only \$154,000,000."

Thus it will be seen that the importer received above \$40 per bale for our cotton in 1896, while in 1897 it netted him only \$20.50 or \$12.50 per bale. The present year's exports at 1896 prices which were unreasonably and ruinously low would have netted at least \$232,500,000, whereas the aggregate was \$154,000,000, showing a loss in seven months sales—\$78,500,000. This much for the producer. Now look at the side of the accumulator. We quote from another statement in same paper:

"The Financier publishes in this issue a table showing the deposits of the larger National banks of the United States as made at the call of the Comptroller of the Currency, February 4th. The list, it may be remarked in explanation, is not complete, as the statements of half a dozen banks entitled to position have not been received, although every effort was made to secure them in time for publication. When the missing institutions are added, the table will include over one hundred banks, the largest number ever known in the history of the National system. In October, 1896, when we first began the compilation of a "five million dollar bank" list, only fifteen banks in the United States had gross deposits exceeding \$10,000,000, and none had over 31 millions. Now nearly fifty banks can show deposits of ten millions, and above, one has deposits of over one hundred millions, two over fifty millions and under the first figure, and four over forty but under fifty millions. Needless to say these advances have necessitated a rapid growth, and instances are common where the banks have doubled and even quadrupled their business in three years."

Scarcely a day passes without the daily papers recording the formation or incorporation of some new trust or combination. The latest formed or in process of formation include manufactures of or dealers in ice, breakfast cereals, cans, enameled ware, tinware, whisky, canned salmon, prunes, window glass, tobacco, and many others. A noticeable feature of many of these is the immense capital named in the articles of incorporation, in some cases as high as \$50,000,000. There seems to be an epidemic of these great corporations, and nothing seems able to stem the tide. One Chicago paper facetiously observes that there are now just 11 common commodities not controlled by trusts. These are cut flowers, spectacles, millinery, coffee and tea, fruits (except prunes), vegetables, pies and cakes, eggs, butter and cheese, poultry and game, watches and jewelry.—Rural New Yorker.

THREE OF YOUR NEIGHBORS.

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For two new yearly subscribers we will send it to you free six months, and for one new yearly subscriber, three months.

If these new subscribers also want the twice a week Courier Journal tell them they can get it and THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER one year for only \$1.45.

MORE AS TO THE NEGRO QUESTION.

Correspondence of the Progressive Farmer. Theologians teach us that God uses human agencies to accomplish His purposes. That to this end the enslavement of the children of Israel was permitted. That thereby they might be made a united people; that by their sojourn among the Egyptians, the most enlightened people of that period, they

might acquire a knowledge of agriculture, mechanic arts, and manufacture. That there were skilled workmen among them is evident from the account given of the construction of the Tabernacle, Moses, their great leader and lawgiver, acquired in the Court of Pharaoh all that knowledge that fitted him for his exalted station; and some even claim that he there acquired much of the knowledge of the ritual of the Levitical economy. Yet after enjoying all these privileges and witnessing the display of God's power in their behalf they were found to be unfit for the exercise of Liberty; and an entrance into the earthly Canaan. So Moses under the command of God turned them back and marched and counter-marched them in the wilderness till all except two from twenty years old and upward died in the wilderness. Now is it not reasonable that the Almighty in order to maintain true religion on the earth chose the noblest and most faithful man of his time. Yet with a preliminary training of 400 years as a race his descendants were not fit for liberty. Now is it reasonable to expect that a people, descended from the lowest race of people on earth, a people of low moral and mental organization, within a few generations should emerge from the thralldom of ignorance and superstition and rise to the dignity of lawgivers, to sit in council and govern Anglo Saxons the noblest race on earth who attained to their lofty eminence of civilization and liberty after a struggle of a 1,000 years? Yet every candid man must admit that the progress of the negro race has been phenomenal. Many persons soon after they were freed predicted that the race would die off, in a few generations. Others as confidently predicted that they would lapse into barbarism. Their improvements in chastity and honesty should have been more marked yet it might well be questioned, whether any race would have done much better under the same circumstances for in their slavery the marriage tie was not regarded by their owners. Large numbers of opposite sexes were herded or crowded together in small cabins and as a general rule no great care was taken to preserve the chastity of the females. After their freedom the carpet baggers advised them to steal and to rob their former owners and a very abiding impression was made that remaineth even unto this day. Yet in these respects there has been an improvement except in the criminal classes around railroad centers, villages and cities. Perhaps as much has been done for the training and education of the colored race in the United States as any where else in the world. Yet all has not been done that should have been done. Better houses, with more rooms, enforced sanitation, and the circulation among them of better reading matter. Now we send missionaries to foreign lands that are learned in letters and skilled in manufactures. Many young ladies of refinement go to the heathen Chinese and Japanese; people sunk in every kind of vice; and also to the Siamese, of whom a returned missionary remarks that he would prefer to teach and associate with negroes rather than them. Had our Southern people just after the war taken more interest in the education of the colored race and the training of them for citizenship among us results might have been different. The negroes might have been divided in politics; but by their treatment in the South, they are united and vote as one man. Now a certain set of philo-sophers claim that good comes out of evil and the result of all this prejudice against the negro race will sooner or later eventuate in their gradual emigration to a more congenial clime where they can exercise freely to appreciate audiences their powers of oratory; and make laws for and govern people of their own color. But while the race remains with us let us make amends for past neglect and instead of curtailing the school privilege; rather increase them. For should the negro school fund be restricted to what would come from their own race the school term in Alabama county would be reduced to two weeks. As a race they are too poor to send to subscribed schools. Viewing the matter from a moral stand point, the school fund should be increased rather than decreased; for by withholding knowledge from them the race will be debased, and as a result the white race also to a certain extent, for it is an inexorable law of nature, that one object is attracted by another just as Sir Isaac Newton observed the eccentricity of the orbits of the planets, and finally discovered that it was caused by the attraction of one to the other. B. F. WHITE.

The Senate of Missouri has passed a House resolution asking Congress to provide for the election of United States Senators by the direct vote of the people. Thus grows the movement,

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

We stated in last week's Progressive Farmer that "three Populists and one Republican" in the House voted for the Constitutional Amendment. This should have been four Populists, viz: Tarkenton, Crumpler, Johnson of Sampson, and McIntosh. The vote in the House on third reading was as follows:

Ayes—Speaker Connor, Messrs. Abbott, Alexander, Allen of Columbus, Allen of Wayne, Besley, Boggs, Boushall, Brown of Johnston, Brown of Stanly, Bryan of Granville, Bunch, Carr, Carraway, Carroll, Clarkson, Cochran, Council, Craig, Crumpler, Currie of Bladen, Davis of Franklin, Davis of Haywood, Dees, Ellen, Foushee, Gambill, Garrett, Gattis, Gilliam, Harrison, Hartsell, Hauser, Hoey, Hoffman, Holman, James, Johnson of Sampson, Johnson of Johnston, Julian, Justices of McDowell, Kennett, Lane, Leak, Leatherwood, Leigh, Lyon, McIntosh, Maitland, Mauney, McLean of Harnett, McLean of Richmond, Moore, Nichols, Nicholson of Beaufort, Noble, Overman, Patterson of Robeson, Patterson of Caldwell, Powell, Ranson, Ray, of Cumberland, Reeves of Ashe, Robinson, Rountree, Stevens, Stubbs, Sugg, Tarkenton, Thompson of Davidson, Thompson of Onslow, Trotman, Wall, Welch, Williams of Halifax, Whitfield, Willard, Williams of Dare, Williams of Iredell, Winston—81.

Noes—Messrs. Barnhill, Burrow, Bryan of Madison, Carter, Coates, Curtis, Eaton, Hampton, Hendren, Justus, Lowery, McFarland, McNeill, Nicholson of Perquimans, Petree, Pritchard, Redding, Reinhardt, Smith Snipes, Tharp, White of Davis, Williams of Gramam, Williams of Yadkin, Wrenn, Wright—27.

SENATE.

FORTY-FOURTH DAY—Feb. 18.

As stated in last week's paper, the Senate passed the bill providing for a Constitutional amendment. We then told how the Senators voted. In opposing the bill, the negro Senator, Fuller, of Warren, made the ablest speech we ever heard from the lips of a negro. The Raleigh Post said of it: "Fuller (col.) had prepared a speech which was clothed in chaste language and well fitted for a funeral oration. He read extracts from noted constitutional authorities, from Victor Hugo, Tennyson, Aesop's Fables and the Asheville Citizen. And to the credit of the vast assemblage, no man ever spoke to a more respectful, attentive audience, and to the credit of the man, he spoke without heat, passion or partisan prejudice. Were the busy, bustling world of to day less prosy and practical the speech would go down in tradition side by side with the classic one, beginning 'Go, the poor Indian.'"

The applause which greeted the colored Senator when he concluded was not confined to his own race, but was a spontaneous tribute from sympathetic and brave members of the race that is determined to rule in future the destinies of both—for the good of both."

Senator Travis made perhaps the best speech in defense of the bill. He said he realized the highest ambition his hopes had ever attained. "I desire," said he, "to refute the intimation that this bill is aimed at the African race from any spirit of spite or prejudice towards an inferior race. The act gives the negro race the best opportunity they have ever had to qualify themselves for intelligent citizenship."

"The right of suffrage has been the greatest curse to that race. It has made the negro the tool of unscrupulous office hunters. It has caused him to invariably oppose all this that his best white friends wished to obtain in the way of material progress."

"We are taking the right of suffrage from the negro just as we would take a razor from a child to keep it from cutting its own throat."

"As to the constitutional argument, my opinion is that we can disqualify an entire race, not on account of color or servitude, but on account of the essential qualities of citizenship. We do not disfranchise even the negro. We enfranchise all who are in any way in possession of the capacity to exercise the suffrage discreetly. Another class of citizens are qualified for the discreet exercise of this privilege by inheritance, coming to them through centuries of enfranchised ancestors. The descendants of the Anglo-Saxon race have inherited the capacity for self government, just as some breeds of dogs have inherited an instinct for certain kinds of hunting. You cannot teach a hound to set birds: neither can you teach a negro in a few short years how to intelligently conduct government or exercise the franchise."

Senator Goodwin, Populist, sent up an amendment to the effect that all persons that might be disqualified under the amendment should be exempt from the payment of poll tax and from the performance of all civil and military

duties. Senator Butler asked him if the poll tax of the disqualified voter did not go to educate and qualify his children. The amendment was lost by a vote of 6 to 42.

HOUSE.

The House took up the public printing bill.

Mr. Justice demanded the yeas and nays upon his amendment, and the work should be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, and be confined to North Carolina. The amendment was adopted, yeas 83, nays 18. The bill as thus amended passed its readings.

The next bill taken up was the one to establish a bureau of labor and printing, under the charge of a commissioner, with an assistant, who is a practical printer. This was a pendant to the bill just disposed of. The Democratic caucus will select the commissioner (with \$1,500 salary) and the assistant (salary \$900). Actual traveling expenses are allowed in the collection of statistics, etc. Mr. Williams, of Iredell, offered an amendment, which was adopted, reducing the salaries to \$1,200 and \$700 respectively. Mr. Overman offered an amendment, striking out provision allowing employment of assistants to collect statistics. He said the bill carried \$3,500 for expenses. His amendment was adopted. He then made a motion to reduce the appropriation from \$3,500 to \$3,000. This was adopted. Mr. Clarkson offered an amendment providing for the election, after 1901 by the people of the Commissioner of Labor. This was accepted. It also pays the cost from the general fund of mailing the reports. This bill passed.

The next special order taken up was the insurance law bill. Mr. Allen, of Wayne, interrupted the reading to say he hoped there would be postponement, as he favored the combination of the duties of the railroad commissioners, insurance control and supervision of banks and building and loan associations. Finally, after debate the bill was made the special order for Thursday at noon, Mr. Allen making the motion, and Mr. Boushall consenting not to press immediate consideration.

A bill passed to allow Davidson county to pay rewards for hawk scalps. A bill was taken up to allow the holding of local option elections in towns and counties at any time of the year, but not oftener than once in two years, and not in the year in which a general election is held. Amendments were sent in excepting Transylvania, and that no election be held in Person until after 1900 (the bill referred to is Evangelist Lee's bill), excepting Bertie, Craven, Cumberland, Pitt, Jones, Gates, Beaufort, Washington, Edgecombe, Polk and Rowan. At this stage Mr. Carroll asked consent to withdraw the bill. It met, therefore, the same fate as in the Senate.

Bills passed to establish a dispensary at Clayton; to allow Tarboro to establish waterworks and sewerage; also bill to allow it to establish electric lights (\$40,000 for the former and \$10,000 for the latter).

The bill to give Mecklenburg a dispensary was taken up with a unanimously favorable report. Mr. Ranson said he favored the bill, and hoped the House would unanimously pass it. Mr. Clarkson said he heartily concurred in what Mr. Ranson said, and that a majority of over 200 of the white citizens of Mecklenburg demanded the passage of the bill. Mr. Stevens said he doubted the wisdom of the measure, particularly at this time, but he deferred to the wishes of the people of Mecklenburg. The bill passed its second and third readings by a unanimous vote.

SENATE.

FORTY-FIFTH DAY—Feb. 20.

The calendar was taken up, and bills as follows passed their final reading: To incorporate Union City, Robeson county; to amend charter of Winston; to amend charter of Goldsboro; to amend chapter 144, laws of 1895, in regard to levying a tax in Graham county; to establish graded schools in Morganton; to authorize Fayetteville to establish and operate an electric light and power plant; for graded schools in Lincoln; to establish graded schools in the city of Newbern; to amend the Mecklenburg road law, "and the same, as amended, be the register of deeds for registering crop liens (applying only to Anson county, and allowing the register of deeds to receive 50 cents for registration and the clerk of the court 10 cents); in regard to the graded schools at Wilson; to provide a short form of agricultural liens and chattel mortgages. This bill allows the clerk 10 cents for probating and the register of deeds 30 cents for registering. It applies to Forsyth, Granville, Cumberland, Vance, Nash, Edgecombe, Greene, Duplin, Wayne, Lenoir, Buncombe, Person, McDowell, Martin, Rutherford, Rowan, Durham, Caswell, Robeson, Bladen, Brunswick, New Hanover, Moore, Polk, Burke, Beaufort, Chowan,

Ashe, Watauga, Sampson, Alleghany, Warren, Carteret, Catawba, Pitt, Alamance, Craven, Jones, Gaston, Richmond, Lincoln and Gates. The counties especially excepted from the provisions of the act are Cherokee, Halifax, Warren, Harnett, Davis and Washington, and Northampton.

The matter of the election of directors for the deaf and dumb school at Morganton was taken up.

M. L. Reed, of Buncombe county; M. H. Holt, of Guilford; V. V. Richardson, of Columbus; N. B. Broughton, of Wake; R. A. Grier, of Mecklenburg, were elected.

The bill relating to the establishment of the Geological Survey (providing for the investigation of the oyster and fish interests of the State) passed final reading, as did bills regarding permission to catch oysters in Carteret, Onslow and other eastern counties; to appoint justices of the peace for Cumberland county; as to removal of cases before justices of the peace; to amend the charter of the Bank of Rutherfordville, in Rockingham county.

The bill "to prevent frauds on the part of persons obtaining advances on crops" was tabled.

HOUSE.

The following bills passed: To allow Greene county to levy a special tax; to allow Wilmington to refund its bonded indebtedness; to allow Rutherford county to levy a special tax; to allow Forsyth to levy a special tax to pay court house debt (Mr. Lowery offered an amendment that the question be left to the qualified voters, saying that in 1889 the people had voted it down; that the people were now divided on the question and dissatisfied; that he was not in favor of repudiating a debt of \$50,000 for the court house, Mr. Kennet said there appeared to be an attempt at repudiation; that the debt was just and there was no need of delay. Mr. Lowery's amendment was lost, getting only four votes); to allow Greensboro to issue bonds; to incorporate Oriental and Gibson.

The House took up as special order the election of trustees of the deaf and dumb school at Morganton, and elected M. L. Reed, M. H. Holt, N. B. Broughton, and R. A. Grier. Bills passed to amend the charter of Albemarle; to allow Alexander county to levy a special tax.

The House took up as another special order a batch of bills regarding salaries and fees of State officials the heads of various institutions, etc. There was also a substitute presented by the committee on salaries and fees. The substitute was therefore considered. The bill does not affect the salaries of the present State and judicial officers, as the Constitution forbids such legislation. The substitute as drawn provided that the act should take effect upon its ratification. Mr. Allen said it could not apply to any constitutional officer. He also said that by the act of 1895 the salary of railroad commissioners was reduced to \$1,500, effective at the expiration of Major Wilson's term (April 1, 1899).

The bill was taken up and considered by sections. Section 1, reducing the salary of State Treasurer from \$3,000 to \$2,250, was adopted. Mr. Rountree took issue with the committee in reducing salaries from 30 to 25 per cent, saying first class men cannot be secured for any such low prices. He said the railroad commission was inefficient and a disgrace to the State, because the pay is so small that able men will not take places on it. He said the new railroad commission would be given something to do. Mr. Williams, of Iredell, said it was found that the railroad commission worked only 24 days in the year and that they got big pay. He said Judge Furches said that but for the honor of the thing, he would rather be railroad commissioner than judge. Mr. Rountree said he and this House had little regard for Judge Furches' view; that it had put the judge on the shelf. He went on to say that Superior Court judges were poorly paid. Mr. Williams said the people who paid the taxes got much less than 25 per cent reduction on their product.

Section 2 of the bill, fixing the salary of the chief clerk of the State Treasurer at \$1,200 was adopted. Other reductions named were Secretary of State \$1,800 (these were adopted); railroad commissioners \$1,500 each. Mr. Allen, of Wayne, said he hoped the last would not be adopted, as a bill would be introduced to tomorrow re-establishing the railroad commission and giving it work to do, with many new duties, and requiring it to be in its office at least 20 days in each month. He moved to strike out the section as to the railroad commission. Mr. Currie, of Moore, opposed this, saying we wanted the bill to go through as it stood. Mr. Allen said that under the act of 1895 the salary would be \$1,500 after April 1st. His amendment to strike out the section was adopted.

The salary of Superintendent of the State's prison was named as \$1,500. This was stricken out, on Mr. Win-

ston's motion, there being now no such office. The salary of judges was named as \$2,000 a year. Mr. Robinson moved to strike this out, saying it was an outrage on the judges and an injustice to the State. Mr. Robinson said there were other things than the price of farm products which entered into the calculation. Mr. Currie said that high prices had not resulted in getting better judges. Mr. Justice said there was great danger of doing wrong here; that some able lawyers who had been made judges had resigned because they could make more money in their profession; that it did not pay to have cheap judges. He admitted that some judges in recent years were dear at any price; dear if they worked for nothing. Mr. Moore said the bill did manifest injustice to the judges. Mr. Williams said that the judges will continue to get \$250 for traveling expenses, Mr. Moore said that a judge's expenses in making his tour of the State were \$750 to \$1,000 a year. Mr. Moore opposed a reduction of judges' salaries. The committee finally agreed to the striking out of the section as to judges.

Mr. Patterson moved that the vote by which some of the preceding sections had been stricken out be reconsidered. The motion was lost.

Section 3 was taken up, reducing the salary of State Librarian to \$750. Mr. Moore offered an amendment making it \$900. Mr. Alexander moved to table the amendment, which would have carried the bill with it. His motion was lost, 25 to 55. Mr. Julian said that in the past ten years the work of the librarian had been increased 50 per cent. Mr. Robinson said the reduction savored of demagogery to him; that Capt. Sherrill, a disabled Confederate soldier had been selected to have the place, and how he could live on the salary and maintain his family he did not see. Mr. Currie said 500 one armed or one legged Confederate soldiers could be found to take the place at \$750. He said there was no demagogery in the matter. He said he was told there were paid lobbyists here who would defeat the bill. Mr. Robinson said the people want justice done, and this applies equally to employee and employer. Mr. Gattis offered an amendment to let all these offices to the lowest bidder. Mr. Leatherwood moved to make the salary \$800. Mr. Ray moved to strike out the section altogether. This was lost, 39 to 44. Mr. Moore's amendment was adopted, 58 to 36.

The salary of the keeper of the capitol was named as \$600. Mr. Allen said a bill had already passed to make the salary \$50 a month. The section was stricken out.

The pay of the secretary of the board of public charities was fixed at \$3 a day.

The salary of the marshal and librarian of the Supreme Court was named as \$750, a reduction of \$250. Mr. Allen opposed the reduction, as said Librarian R. H. Bradley was one of the best men in the United States. Mr. Moore moved to strike out the section. The committee agreed to this and Mr. Moore's motion was adopted.

The salary of the reporter of the Supreme Court was named as \$500. (It is now \$1,000). It was fixed at \$750. The salary of the clerk of the Supreme Court was fixed at \$200 and fees.

The House adopted the motion of Mr. Moore reducing salaries of the asylum superintendents, presidents of the University, Agricultural and Mechanical College, Normal and Industrial College and Blind and Deaf-mute institutions to \$2,000.

Section 14, naming \$700 as the salaries of stewards at each of the institutions referred to, was adopted.

Section 15, fixing salaries of deputy inspectors of shell fish at \$35 per month, was adopted.

Section 16, fixing salary of private secretary to the Governor at \$1,000 was adopted. The 17th section was adopted that salaries may be paid monthly. The bill, as amended, then passed second and third reading.

SENATE.

FORTY-SIXTH DAY—Feb. 21.

The Senate resumed session, and Senator Glenn continued his speech in support of the bill to ratify the Madison county bond issue of 1887. (It will be remembered that some days ago this bill was reported unfavorably, and a favorable minority report was submitted by Senators Glenn, Osborne, Travis and Daniels.) Senator Glenn argued the justice of paying bonds, and said that the decision in this case would be general and hurtful in effect. Senator Bryan was opposed to the act of ratification. He knew what it was for a county to be mulched out of \$200,000 by mismanagement. He thought the matter ought to go before the courts for decision as to how much Madison county. He thought the people of that county had been swindled by a ring of speculators.

Senator Osborne said he always voted for a debtor to pay an honest debt, and

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