

State News.

WHAT TAR HEELS ARE DOING.

Cream of the State Press—Drops of Turpentine and Grains of Rice From the East—Clusters of Grapes and Tobacco Stems From the North—Stalks of Corn and Grains of Wheat From the West—Peanuts and Cotton Seed From the South.

Doctors report four cases of white people with smallpox within two miles of Grover, Cleveland county.

The steamer City of Jacksonville, which stranded September 19 near Portsmouth, N. C., has been floated.

New lodges of Odd Fellows recently formed in this State brings the number of lodges up to 116 and the membership to over 6,000.

Mr. Crawford has deferred the appointment of a cadet to West Point until after his contest is decided. He will then have a competitive examination to fill the place.

The R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., has bought out the business of T. L. Vaughan & Co., one of Winston's oldest and largest plug tobacco manufacturing firms.

The Pearson-Crawford contested election case from the ninth district of this State, has never been determined in Congress, and there is no prospect that it will be soon.

Fifteen of Charlotte's representative citizens went to Washington to invite President McKinley to be present at Charlotte during the week of May 20th. He may come.

High Point Enterprise: The wheat in this section looks well and if there are no devastating storms the yield will, in all probability be large. There was an extra large crop put in in Randolph this year.

The Baptists seem to have a cinch on gubernatorial candidates in North Carolina. They have two—Aycock (Democrat) and Adams (Republican), while the Methodists have one, Thompson (Populist).

Prof. C. H. Mebane, Superintendent of Public Instruction, is very busy working up the North Carolina Teachers' Assembly and reports the prospects for a great meeting this year are very encouraging.

Prof. J. B. Carlyle, of Wake Forest College, has accepted an invitation to deliver the literary address at Cary High School commencement and Rev. Plato Durham, of Trinity College, will preach the sermon.

The commencement exercises of the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Raleigh begin May 27th. The baccalaureate sermon will be delivered that day (Sunday) by Dr. Charles E. Taylor, president of Wake Forest College.

Insurance Commissioner Young says that since January 1 he has collected from the companies \$55,000, in amounts ranging all the way from 50 cents to \$600, and that he has carefully examined the reports of 160 companies.

Any young man in the Fifth Congressional District who may desire the West Point cadetship should write to Hon. W. W. Kitchen, Washington, D. C., for permission to enter the competitive contest, which will occur soon.

Raleigh Times-Visitor: Zallie Smith, a negro 22 or 23 years old, was killed by a train on the S. A. L. near Wake Forest, Sunday. His head was badly crushed, and his body was found about two feet from the railroad track.

Newton Enterprise: The rains have so delayed farm work that planting will be very late this year. Wheat about doubled its height during the warm rains last week. There is every indication of a fine wheat crop in this country.

Elenton Courier: The catch of shad and herring in the waters tributary to Elenton within the past two weeks is enormous. Many of the shad that are now being caught are being hauled out on the farms for manure owing to the extreme low prices at home and abroad.

President E. A. Alderman, of the University of North Carolina, who has recently been elected to the presidency of Tulane University, New Orleans, is one of the youngest college presidents in the world, it appears. His age being given as but 38 years, says the Richmond Dispatch.

Secretary Hyams, of the Republican State committee, says his party will open the campaign at Winston, May 15th when Pritchard, Spencer, B. Adams, Walser and others will speak. He says that in the next ten days there will be 40 Republican speakers on the stump in North Carolina.

Tuesday morning at 2 o'clock a crowd of citizens numbering about 150 visited the jail at Graham, and showing pistols in the face of the jailor, demanded the keys of the jail. Deaving the majority of the crowd on the outside, four or five of the leaders went directly up to the cell of the negro Sellars, imprisoned for attempted assault on a young white girl, on the outskirts of Burlington Monday, and mutilated him. There was no excitement.

News and Observer, 5th: It is stated here that Rev. J. E. White, the chairman of the committee to recommend a president for the Baptist Female University, is to be the new president of that institution to succeed Dr. Blasingame, resigned. Those in position to know decline to say whether the report is true or not.

For several years the Democrats have controlled Greensboro's municipal affairs without opposition, but there is to be a fight this year. A citizens' mass meeting has nominated L. M. Scott, a prominent lawyer, for mayor, and an aldermanic ticket, which will be run in opposition to the Democratic ticket, which has not yet been nominated.

Raleigh Post: Some of our friends assume that the two conventions—Mr. Butler's and Mr. Pritchard's—have each put up a whole State ticket to be consolidated later by cutting out some parts of each and dove-tailing the two together. We think they are mistaken. So far as the two State tickets are concerned we think they are up to stay.

Raleigh Correspondence Messenger: Democrats of influence and information say they fear over-confidence in the matter of ratifying the constitutional amendment; that hard work every day is essential to success; that the organization of the opposition is simply remarkable—more thorough even than in 1896. Democrats ought to heed this warning.

Goldsboro Argus: Mr. Simeon Wooten, a well known business man of LaGrange, and a most excellent citizen, was assaulted Friday night by Bill Harper, a white man who runs a livery stable there, and severely and dangerously cut in several places on the arm and body. Harper immediately fled and is still at large. Mr. Wooten is reported in a critical condition, but his physician and friends are hopeful of his recovery.

The Christian Endeavor Convention in Raleigh last week re-elected the following officers for the ensuing year: Rev. A. D. Thaler, of Winston-Salem, president; Miss Ruth Worth, of Raleigh, secretary; Miss Mamie Bays, of Salisbury, superintendent of the press department. H. W. Smith, of Kenly, was elected superintendent of the junior department. A new department was created, that of penitentiary work, and Mr. Chamblee, of Raleigh, put in charge.

Charlotte Observer: This is to be a notable month in Charlotte. On the 10th and 11th there will be here the greatest representation of the cotton milling interests ever assembled at one place. The meeting of the Southern Cotton Spinners' Association, in its immediate membership and in the guests which it will attract, will represent more capital invested in cotton mills than was ever before assembled. Following this event, will be a week of festivities, ushered in on the 21st, in celebration of the 20th of May. It is hoped to make this year's celebration the most elaborate and interesting of all. It is believed that it will be signalled by the presence of the President of the United States, who has expressed a hope that he will be able to be with the North Carolinians then.

The British steamer Virginia, from Cuba, bound for Baltimore, with a cargo of iron ore, a crew of 26 men, stranded on Diamond Shoals near Cape Hatteras about 6 p. m., Wednesday, May 3rd, during thick weather. The entire crew took to boats and attempted to leave the ship. One boat with fifteen of the crew got away, but the other boat was swamped and six men were drowned. The remaining five got back on the steamer, where they remained till Friday morning when they were rescued and brought ashore by the crews of the Creed Hill and Cape Hatteras Life Saving Stations. The ship stranded on the outer diamond about twelve miles from the shore and owing to the thick squally weather which has prevailed for several days she was not discovered by the life savers until Friday. The vessel is a total wreck.

General News.

SPARKS FROM THE WIRES.

The Latest Reliable News From the Earth's Four Corners Selected and Condensed for Progressive Farmer Readers.

The president of Aguinaldo's late cabinet has been captured.

A lone bandit held up a train on the Iron Mountain Railroad, near Higginson, Ark., Friday, and robbed the passengers of about \$300.

The Illinois Populists have instructed their delegates to the National Convention at Sioux Falls to vote for Bryan's nomination.

Ex-Postmaster-General William L. Wilson, of West Virginia, who followed Cleveland in his bolt in 1896, says Bryan will be elected this year.

The argument in the Taylor-Beckham contest for Governor of Kentucky before the United States Supreme Court has been completed and court has adjourned till the 14th inst.

Despite the naming of Thomas E. Watson, of Georgia, to head the ticket by several Populist conventions, Mr. Watson has issued a card saying he can accept no nomination whatever and asking to be left in peace among the politically dead.

Immigration for the first three months of this year is greatly in excess of what it was last year, and the prospect is that it will go on increasing. The total up to March 15th was 48,001 at the port of New York. The greater number of these are south Italians.

When Hawaii was annexed to this country it had a bonded debt of about \$4,000,000, drawing a heavy rate of interest. This debt still exists, but under the act signed by President McKinley it is to be assumed by the United States. The terms of the debt will be looked into and if the permit payment at any time the debt will be wiped out as soon as the law goes into effect in 45 days.

A desperate fight took place at Leambanao, in the center of the island of Panay last week in which a reconnoitering party of the Twenty-sixth infantry was surrounded, and four Americans killed and sixteen others severely wounded. The remainder of the soldiers had a narrow escape. Reinforcements were sent from Iloilo as soon as news of the affair was received, whereupon the Filipinos retreated to their mountain stronghold.

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Davis, who spent his vacation in South Africa, has returned and resigned his position in order to go through the country and speak for the Boers. He is a Republican and hopes to rouse his party, which has a majority in both houses of Congress, at least up to the point of passing such resolutions in regard to the little Dutch Republics as Congress did the Hungarians in Kosuth's day, the Greeks, &c.

The results of the Cuban census surprise most of the press. Instead of being dangerously near the condition of Haiti, it appears that there are about 80,000 native white Cubans qualified to vote, as against 26,000 colored. The negroes constitute 32 per cent. of the population, being most numerous in Santiago, where they constitute 43 per cent. The native whites constitute more than one-half of the population, or 58 per cent. Three-fourths of the Cuban population are illiterate.

The situation in the Philippines gains added interest from the fact that General Otis considers his work virtually done. To show the feebleness of the native resistance, Gen. Otis recently reported that in the 124 skirmishes since January 1 the American loss was 81 killed and 164 wounded, while the insurgent loss 1,426 killed and 1,450 captured, most of whom were wounded. The Americans have also captured over 3,000 small arms and 165 cannon. But the War Department does not take Gen. Otis seriously. The number of troops in the Philippines is greater than at any time during the war, and detachments of new men are being sent to the archipelago on every transport that leaves this country. Ammunition is being forwarded to Manila in a manner that would indicate that it was needed for a protracted struggle. The experience of last year is causing army officers to believe that the insurgents will become aggressive during the summer. The country will shortly be flooded and it will be difficult to conduct any kind of an active campaign. Press reports received from Manila state that the insurgents are well armed.

DISASTROUS MINE EXPLOSION.

SALT LAKE, May 1.—Mine explosion occurred at 10 o'clock this morning in the Winter Quarters coal mine, at Scofield, a hundred miles south of this city and probably fifty miners were killed and a hundred more injured. The bodies of thirty miners have been brought out and the work of rescue is going on. The mine explosion is believed to have been caused by the blowing up of a number of kegs of blasting powder, but the point at which the internal explosion took place is not yet known.

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DEAD. SALT LAKE, Utah, May 4.—The latest dispatch from Scofield, says that 250 will be about the total number of dead. There are not enough coffins in the camp to bury the dead, and to add horror to the situation the bodies are rapidly decomposing, and it has been suggested that cremation may have to be resorted to. Comparatively few of the men recovered were killed by the explosion. The majority having no bruises or wounds had evidently met death by asphyxiation caused by the after-damp succeeding the explosion. The concussion, however, was so great that five men working in the open air around the mouth of the mine were severely hurt.

One man was blown with his horse a distance of two hundred yards. If any one man is to blame for the accident it will never be known, for no man who can tell the story has come out of the mine alive. Many old coal miners, familiar with these mines, state that they have always been regarded as among the safest in the State.

MANILA, May 5.—The American garrison at Catubig, Island of Samar, consisting of thirty men, belonging to the Forty-third regiment has been attacked by rebels. Twenty of the Americans were killed. The remainder were rescued.

The Americans were quartered in the Catubig Church, which the enemy, numbering several hundred men, surrounded and fiercely attacked. The Americans fought for two days and then the rebels managed to ignite the roof of the church and it burned away and finally fell upon those inside the edifice. The walls remained intact, however, and were used as a shelter by the besieged Americans for three days longer, the enemy attacking the building on all sides at once.

The Americans continued firing from the windows and doors of the church and did great execution among the Filipinos. It is estimated that over 200 of the latter were killed, many dead bodies being removed from the scene of the fighting.

After five days' resistance by the Americans a lieutenant and eight men arrived from Loan and engaged the besiegers who thereupon retired. The fortunate arrival of these reinforcements prevented the annihilation of the American forces entrenched in the church, who had repeatedly declined to surrender when ordered to do so by the Filipinos.

The ten survivors were without food, had little ammunition and were physically exhausted when relieved.

M. E. CHURCH'S MARVELOUS GROWTH. CHICAGO, Ill., May 3.—The feature today at the Methodist General Conference was the reading of the Bishop's quadrennial address by Bishop E. G. Andrews. The address was prepared at a recent meeting of the Board of Bishops in Indianapolis. It showed that during the past hundred years the Methodist Episcopal Church had developed ninety-seven fold.

The Bishop's address stated that the church will not abandon its position on the liquor question. On the contrary "aroused and indignant at the aggressions of the liquor power, at the inexcusable miscarriage of the anti-temperance law, and at the new perils in which the nation is involving its new possessions, it will summon and pledge all our ministers and people to a more determined struggle against this enormous evil."

As to marriage and divorce, the address continued: "In the presence of this evil the church cannot allow its rules on the subject of divorce and remarriage to be in any case inoperative and void. Let, if need be, the church law be amended to more perfectly express the New Testament rule of marriage. But by the voice of its public assemblies, by its pulpits, and by the judicious exercise of discipline, the church should keep itself pure, and aid the civil law and the practices of society to become pure."

The Thinkers.

INDEPENDENT VOTERS.

Parties are good in their place, but most if not all reforms come through the independent voter. The muggump or independent is generally headed by men who are readers and who see ahead where parties are drifting and allow themselves to be abused by old party leaders; nevertheless they persist and keep leavening the lump till large crowds are converted to their way of thinking.

The political boss is a born enemy to the independent. Why? Because he, the boss, cannot rule the independent by the pop of his whip. The father of the political boss is the party being in power for several years, which breeds the boss system.

No new party has a boss, but if they stay in long, likewise, one and all of them will have their boss. Hence, a good idea for no party to be kept in power very long.

It is a good thing for the people, for political parties to be very near equal in strength, because the "ins" will think if they do not govern well the "outs" will get in.

After the election, the good citizen will always do all possible to help the lawfully elected officers to govern by doing all possible to help them administer the laws whether the officers are of their choice or not.

Each man should study the issues and read up on both sides of a public question if possible, go to the speakings and then form his own conclusions and vote as he thinks best.—D. L. Gore, in Southport Standard.

EDITOR GREEN ON THE AMENDMENT.

In his literary address at the commencement of Marshville Academy, Prof. Henry Louis Smith, Davidson College, said if the fear of negro domination is removed from politics in North Carolina it is very uncertain as to what political party would be in control, and there is a great deal of meaning in what he said. We have said before and we still say that there is not a question in politics that appeals so successfully to the passions (not to reason) of men than the race question. To eliminate this question means a great deal towards elevating North Carolina politics to a decent and higher standard. Pass the amendment as it is and it will partially eliminate it, but as the negro race becomes educated the same question will come up again in a few years. Why not incorporate an additional section making it unconstitutional for a negro to hold office in North Carolina? This would forever remove the fear of negro domination and take that question permanently out of politics, and such amendment would not be in conflict with the Federal Constitution either. If the Democratic party is sincere in their claim that they want the negro out of politics, they can, by taking this course, get practically every white man in the State to aid them in passing such amendment.—Marshville Home.

There are men in this country, white, black and of every shade between the two, who could not be made good citizens or safe voters with any conceivable amount of book learning. In fact, education of the intellect alone would only add to their efficiency as enemies of organized society. To qualify men for the exalted duties of sovereign citizens of a great republic, the moral nature must be trained until a high sense of personal honor and a realization of personal responsibility, becomes second nature and instinctive. They must be educated in patriotism as well as in books; Men who practice bribery and corruption are not illiterate, however their moral natures may be perverted, and one such is a greater power for evil than a hundred voters who cannot write their names. The South has spent millions of dollars in educating the colored race. Are they better qualified as citizens than they were before? There are many negroes who are good citizens and vote honestly and intelligently, while there are whites who never do. To be worthy of the right of suffrage there must be a sort of esprit de corps, a realizing sense that the individual is a part of the nation and responsible, as well as his fellows, for the character of the government which he has helped to establish; a personal pride in his high position as a citizen. Such qualifications are burnished and brightened by learning and intelligence.—Texas Farm and Ranch.

To keep posted, read The Progressive Farmer.

Correspondence.

The Editors are not responsible for views expressed by Correspondents.

AN OPPONENT OF THE AMENDMENT.

Mr. Meacham Tells Why He Opposes the Measure—Unfair Features of Our Election Law Attacked.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer. In several issues of The Progressive Farmer there have appeared articles from different writers, some favoring and some opposing the proposed Constitutional amendment. As yours appears to be one of the very few papers in the State fair-minded enough to give both sides a chance to express their views on the subject, we beg space in your columns to give a few reasons why we oppose the measure, and why every wage-earner, farmer and artisan should oppose it.

In reviewing the arguments which from time to time have appeared in your columns favoring the measure, we have utterly failed to read or hear but one excuse for favoring it, and that is that it will have the effect of disfranchising the negro. And if carried at the polls, it will undoubtedly disfranchise many of that class of voters; but if the law is impartially enforced it will accomplish the same result with many, if not more of the whites. It is a subject that is so interwoven with partisan politics, that it is almost impossible to discuss it apart from partisanship, as it had its origin in the ranks of professional politicians. However, we will steer as clear of partisan bias as the case permits. If, as many claim, it is intended to take the negro out of politics in this State, it is a stupendous failure, for no law can stand that does not take in both races alike, and until the 15th amendment is erased from the Constitution of the United States, the negro will hold the balance of power in the South.

No one will deny that the amendment is aimed at the negro voter, which voter is called purchasable although we have found the negroes as hard to pull away from the party of their choice, either with money or promises of special favors, as a black-snake is to pull out of its den in the roots and brush. As we have seen that we can enforce no law that will disfranchise the negro that will not disfranchise the white man who occupies the same position, it follows that the adoption of the amendment will not eliminate the negro from politics; something else must be resorted to in order to accomplish that result; for we cannot eliminate that class otherwise than by practicing fraud. And as soon as that becomes general, which it must, then our representation in the United States Congress is at an end, for it will only be necessary for the seats of candidates elected under our election machinery to be contested by the opponents of this measure in order to secure the seats; in fact, this work has already begun.

Every effort made by the peace-loving patriots of both sections of our country (the North and the South) to obliterate sectional prejudice has been thwarted by the professional politician, and every move having for its object the disfranchisement of voters in the opposing party serves only to widen the breach and fan the prejudices of the North and West.

The negro has been in the South what the imported miners and shop operatives in the North and West have been to those sections: whatever material prosperity has been advanced, he has done the most of it. We could not have been where we are without the negro.

As a laborer and servant no class has been able to supplant him and up to this time with all the bombastic blowing about the necessity for educating him, experience proves that in giving him a literary education, we ruin him for any other service than to preach, eat the swell and travel on the cars. Our best behaved and most useful class of colored people are those who were former slaves, whom it was unlawful to educate in their youth. And now to debar them rights conferred on them by the highest law in the land and select as a means for doing that, the want of education which was denied them by the people whom they labored day and night to feed and clothe while these masters reveled in indolence, satiety and voluptuousness is a moral wrong. True, there were some exceptions to this rule, but they were comparatively few.

The more we examine the proposed amendment, the more dangerous and

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 6.]