

### State News.

#### FROM CURRITUCK TO CHEROKEE.

Items of Interest Gleaned From our Correspondents and Exchanges in all Parts of the State.

J. T. Dawson has been appointed postmaster at Halifax to succeed a negro who was in the office for two or three years.

Greensboro will probably secure a large silk factory, the chief inducement being exemption from taxation for number of years.

The Concord Times has recently put in a new outfit. From a typographical standpoint The Times has no superior among North Carolina newspapers.

Clinton Democrat: Congressman Charles R. Thomas has appointed Mr. Walter E. Pridden, of Kerr, to a West Point cadetship. The appointment was made on competitive examination.

In the list of newly appointed cadets to West Point are the following from North Carolina: Hugh H. Broadhurst, R. I. Howard, T. W. Jones, Jr., St. Clair Newborne, W. E. Pridden, L. P. Schoenmaker.

The President has commuted the sentence of Nicholas Politz, who was convicted in North Carolina, of counterfeiting, and sentenced to serve six years in prison. His sentence is commuted to expire June 13, at which time he will have served two years.

Reidsville Review: Petitions have been circulated for a route of rural free mail delivery from Reidsville to a number of points in the eastern part of the county, and it is highly probable that this popular service will be recommended by the post-office officials.

Charity and Children: The valedictorian at Wake Forest this year was Mr. Rooke, a poor boy, who could not afford to board at a boarding house, but bought his his rations and did his own cooking. We have heard that his record as a student was the best ever made at the college. The world will hear from the young man in his life is spared.

At the University commencement this week the following changes in the faculty were announced: Charles Lee Raper, elected associate professor of economics and history. Dr. Isaac H. Manning, elected professor of physiology. Eight instructors and assistants have been chosen and the executive committee is authorized to elect a professor of the Romance languages.

Raleigh is to have an auditorium. At a recent meeting, the directors of the company were authorized and directed to purchase the Academy of Music from the trustees of the Methodist Orphanage; also to purchase the building adjoining so as to increase the width of the building 22 feet and give it a seating capacity of 2,000. The stage will be so spacious as to seat 350 persons. There is \$10,000 in cash available.

Monroe Journal: Mr. John H. Benton sold and caused to be sold in Union county last year about 75,000 fruit cans. That means 75,000 quarts of fruit, vegetables and berries saved that otherwise would have been lost. At ten cents a can, the value of this fruit, etc., is \$7,500. More fruit and vegetables were saved in the county last year than five preceding years, and nearly all this has been and is being consumed by the producers.

At their recent commencement the faculty and students of the North Carolina Baptist Female University presented gold medals inscribed, "For heroic service, February, 1900," to two young lady students who volunteered to nurse another student who had smallpox in the month mentioned on the medal. The people of to-day honor noble deeds no less than did our ancestors. Nor are opportunities for doing knightly deeds rarer than in the "brave days of old."

Charlotte Observer: Mr. Will Van Ness and Mr. Warren Roark spent yesterday at Tuckaseegee Ferry, on the Catawba, where the recent flood uncovered a lot of Indian graves. They were searching for relics and were quite successful, securing a tomahawk, an iron axe, several clay pots, pipes, arrows heads and several Spanish coins. The graves of the Indians are on a hillside, about 50 yards from the banks of the river. The recent freshet washed away the earth in such a manner as to leave the skeletons of six Indians exposed from the feet to the shoulders. All the Indians were buried with their feet to the river.

The S. H. Loftin bank failure at Kinston has many distressing features, that of the numerous small depositors being greatest, as some of these had their all in the bank. The Great Eastern Railway is generally credited as being the cause of the failure. Money was heavily advanced to build the road, and the road was not collateral against over-drawn accounts. There is a report that the Vanderbilt interests would absorb the Great Eastern.

What has become of all the copies of the Bragg fraud commission report on the "special tax" bonds? A State official wants a copy. He was told yesterday there was not one in the library. A lot of people, good, bad and indifferent, were more or less interested in getting that report out of circulation. There is a supply, but a limited one of the Shipp "fraud commission" report, but these have for years been secured and destroyed whenever practicable.—Ex.

Col. Olds: Governor Aycock today received a letter from Miss Henrietta Aiken Kelley, now in Italy, and also a number of packages of the seed of the white Italian mulberry (the best for silk worms), which she requests the Governor to distribute through the Agricultural Department to the people of the State, with a view to the promotion of silk worm culture. It is a wonder that the people in North Carolina do not devote more time and care to this industry.

Bishop Cheshire in his annual address to the North Carolina Episcopal convention, which met recently in Durham, stated that the total number of clergy in the diocese is now 45, with cures embracing 8,000 souls. St. Mary's school for girls, he reported to be in such a flourishing condition that it is now an important question how the students shall be accommodated another year. The debt on the property has by the energetic efforts of the financial agent, Rev. A. A. Pruden, been reduced to \$17,000, in the past two years.—Ex.

Wilmington Messenger: The Messenger's Raleigh letter of yesterday's paper gave a statement made by a person who had made calculations as to the cost of the penitentiary, and he is probably accurate or not far from the mark of expenditures. He said that "if the money which the legislature has in the last 32 years expended on the penitentiary had been applied to the public debt, it would have entirely extinguished the latter, including the \$1,500,000 mortgage on the North Carolina railway."

Salisbury Sun: A corps of experts, consisting of eight men, sent out by the U. S. Agricultural Department, are making a soil survey in Western Rowan. The gentlemen now have their headquarters in Salisbury. They examine the soil in different localities and classify it. The object is to find what kind of fertilizers are best suited to various soils and what crops are most adapted to the soil. Samples of the soil are taken and sent to Washington for analysis. The corps is working in connection with the State Agricultural Department.

Rowan has set a good example to the other counties of the State in building a county asylum for the care of its insane who cannot be gotten into the State Hospital at Morganton. It is on the jail premises but apart from the jail, so that none of the opprobrium which attaches to jail confinement will attach to the inmates of the asylum. It appears that provision for all the insane in North Carolina will never be made by the State, and in this case it behooves the counties to look around and determine what they will do themselves about this class of their unfortunates.—Charlotte Observer.

At its recent meeting President Winston, of the Agricultural and Mechanical College, made a report to the board of agriculture, showing that the enrollment was 302, representing 84 counties and the States of Virginia, West Virginia, South Carolina, Alabama and Florida. One-third of the students are self-supporting. They earned \$2,464 last session. Nine-tenths of the students work all their spare time. There are 10 post-graduates, 26 seniors, 13 juniors, 62 sophomores, 71 freshmen, 71 short-course students, 17 special students and 32 taking irregular courses. In the college courses 37 are taking agriculture, 5 scientific (now abolished), 47 textile, 121 engineering and 82 mechanic art. In his report President Winston said: "I cannot

speak too highly of the conduct of the students during the year. The faculty unites in declaring that the year's record for character, conduct, scholarship and efficient performance of duties generally has far surpassed that of any other year in the history of the college."

Fayetteville Observer: Fayetteville is to have a negro exhibit at the Charleston Interstate and West Indies Exposition that will be a credit to the State and to the South. Rev. T. W. Thurston, Superintendent of the Ashley Bailey Silk Mill in this city, has been appointed Chief Director of the Manufacturing Department of the Negro Buildings at this great exposition. Superintendent Thurston will send several of his best machines to the exposition in charge of a number of his picked employes, and will thus give practical demonstrations of silk manufacturing by negroes. The cloth which is woven there will be cut into numerous pieces and distributed to visitors.

A textile school is already operating in connection with the North Carolina Agricultural and Mechanical College at Raleigh and is being greatly enlarged and improved. Its new building is now approaching completion. In its construction, arrangement and equipment it will be a model. Instruction in North Carolina's textile school is already both technical and practical, but the practical operations will be much more extended when the new building is opened. The State gave \$20,000 for this structure and it will receive much from individuals in North Carolina and outside friends of textile education in the State. Georgia has one of the best textile schools in the country as a department of her School of Technology, and we are glad to know that North Carolina will soon have a first class establishment of like character.—Atlanta Journal.

#### OUR TRUCKING INTERESTS.

Wilmington Messenger: The papers outside are finding out that big trucking is done in North Carolina. It may be mentioned that the strawberry men have had a good run with good average prices. The lowest prices have been about \$1.50 per crate, delivered at the railroad platform. We find the following appearing outside:

"The trucking industry in North Carolina is assuming immense proportions. The official figures show that last year 66,495 packages of vegetables, 4,544,050 pounds, 48 cars, 12,504 crates of cantaloupes; 23 cars, 4,153, crates of dewberries; 55 cars, 32,840 crates of beans; and 349,989 crates, 17,499,450 pounds of strawberries were shipped from Wilmington section alone."

If North Carolina's great capabilities could be fully developed in all of its manifold interests it would astonish the natives and arouse the curiosity of the people beyond.

#### NORTH CAROLINA RESOURCES.

We find the following in an exchange. It is a condensation, we suppose, of a report sent out from one of the State departments at Raleigh:

"North Carolina has 153 varieties of native woods, 177 varieties of minerals, 20 kinds of gems, and immense stores of mica and corundum."

"North Carolina has 3,300 miles of rivers, of which 1,100 miles are navigable. North Carolina has produced in the past century \$21,700,000 in gold."

"North Carolina, it is estimated, could furnish 5,223,000,000 feet of long leafed pine."

We may add that there are eighty rivers and innumerable lakes, sounds and canals. It is possibly the best watered State of all in the American union, now.—Wilmington Messenger.

#### GOOD SCHOOLS AND GOOD ROADS.

We have declared many times before that good roads and good schools are the two great needs of our people. It must rejoice the heart of every loyal North Carolinian to see hope for these ripening into reality. Never before in the State's history has there been such interest in these two lines of permanent progress. Especially has the news from the May elections all over the State on graded schools been gratifying. On every hand we are hearing and reading of more schools more books, more libraries—all of which means a freer, greater, and more enlightened people.—Gastonia Gazette.

### General News.

#### "ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO PRINT."

The Facts Boiled Down and Presented in Convenient Form for Busy Readers.

The slight improvement in Mrs. McKinley's health which manifested itself about a week ago continues and hope begins to be felt that she may after all recover from the present attack.

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Lease has filed a petition in bankruptcy. Her assets are \$2,298.75 and her liabilities \$3,247.55. This is the Mrs. Lease who canvassed with Gen. Jas. B. Weaver in 1892.

Hon. Charles Foster, of Fostoria, Ohio, ex-Secretary of the Treasury, has made application in the United States Court there as a voluntary bankrupt. His debts are set down at \$747,700, and there are no assets. Rather complete failure.

John D. Rockefeller has agreed to give \$15,000 to Carson and Newman College of Mossy Creek, Tenn., provided the trustees raise \$50,000 additional by 1905. Carson and Newman is a Baptist college, co-educational, supported by the Baptists of East Tennessee. It has about three hundred students.

One of the ablest of English reviews is authority for the statement that the English Government has already spent over \$725,000,000 in South Africa, and that the present rate of expenditure is something like \$30,000,000 a month. It estimates that the eventual cost of the war will be about \$1,000,000,000.

Ex-Senator Charles A. Towne, of Minnesota, last week announced that he is out of politics for good and that henceforth he will devote all of his to business. Former Governor Hogg made a similar announcement a few weeks ago soon after he began making big money in the Beaumont oil field, and a declaration of the same kind is expected soon from Governor McMillan.

The Cabinet last week unanimously decided that existing conditions do not warrant the calling of an extra session of Congress this summer. Secretary Root and Attorney-General Knox both rendered opinions to the effect that the authority to govern the Philippines vested in the President by the Spooner amendment is ample. These opinions were concurred in by all the members of the Cabinet.

There seems to be a general understanding among the Democratic representatives who have from time to time visited Washington since the adjournment of Congress that there will be no contest next December for the minority leadership such as marked the scramble for the honor two years ago. There was much opposition to Representative Richardson, of Tennessee, who received the nomination last time after a rather sharp campaign. This year, however, it is asserted that Mr. Richardson will be unanimously nominated just as will be Mr. Henderson, who was Speaker in the last Congress.

#### PUNISHMENT OF WEST POINT CADETS.

In the dismissal of five cadets from the Military Academy at West Point and the suspension of six others for one year, it has come to light that the pledge given by cadets to the congressional committee on January 19, to abstain from having, has not been kept. The hazing since that date, it is said, has been less severe, so much so, in fact, that the cadets consider that they were living up to the spirit of the pledge; but the academy authorities understood the pledge to mean that all hazing was to cease, and took measures to enforce the law forbidding it. This strict enforcement made Colonel Mills, the superintendent of the academy, unpopular with some of the cadets, and, after two of their number had been punished for hazing, a large number of them, on the evening of April 16, "engaged in an insubordinate demonstration directed at the superintendent of the Military Academy," as Colonel Mills says in his report of the affair, and the demonstration culminated in "the moving of the reveille gun from its accustomed place to a position on the plain immediately in front of the superintendent's quarters, at the door of which the muzzle was pointed." This led to an official investigation by a board of officers, who reported all the facts obtainable to the superintendent, and the superintendent made his report and recommendations to the Secretary of War, and upon this re-

port the Secretary acted as related above. The eleven thus punished are said to be the ringleaders, and and the others who took part in the demonstration are to be dealt with later, with less severity.—Literary Digest.

#### FROM FIVE TO TEN PER CENT.

This Seems to be the Increase in the Cotton Acreage.

NEW YORK, June 15.—Dispatches to Dun's Review from the entire cotton belt make a most satisfactory showing. Unfavorable weather condition during the opening weeks of the season injured much of the seed and made replanting necessary. This adds to the cost of the crop, but does not prevent a full yield. There seems to be from five to ten per cent increase in the acreage under cultivation, and while damage undoubtedly has been severe in some sections, fairly good weather from now to the beginning of picking would insure an abundant yield. Excessive rain has made the growth of grass unusually rapid, and the scarcity of labor, together with large grain crops, makes it difficult and expensive to keep the fields in good condition. Injury from insects is light in most States, except for boll weevil in parts of Texas, and lice in regions where moisture has been exceptionally heavy. These pests are not as harmful as usual, however, and aside from the probable increase in cost, the planters have cause for gratification.

#### WHY TEXAS IS WILD WITH THE OIL FEVER.

The Recently Discovered Beaumont Wells Yield More Oil Per Day Than All Other American Wells Combined—Aladdin's Lamp Outdone.

BALTIMORE, June 15.—In editorial correspondence in a recent issue of the Manufacturers' Record Mr. Richard H. Edmonds summarizes the results of his observations in the Beaumont oil field. He traces the events which in four months have given what was known to a few as an important lumber and rice center a national and world-wide name. He shows the marked difference between the circumstances surrounding the search for gold in California and the Klondike and the discovery of oil in Pennsylvania and those connected with the Beaumont developments. He describes the leading features of the speculation in the new field, and he gives a warning of the dangers involved, although for the time speculation has halted. Regarding the present situation and the prospects of the field Mr. Edmonds says:

"The gushers which have been struck so far are all within a small area, probably half a mile in diameter. The smallest is said to have a capacity of 35,000 barrels a day, and it is claimed that the largest can produce 50,000 barrels a day. But suppose that all were turned on at the same time and that their aggregate output was 100,000 to 200,000 barrels a day, that would be greater than the total product of the 70,000 or 80,000 wells now in operation in the United States. In other words, these Texas wells may be able to produce more oil than the entire output of the United States at present. But nobody expects them to continue to have such an enormous flow. When the tremendous pressure which forced the oil 150 feet or more into the air in a great stream has been relieved, pumping will doubtless be necessary as in other places; but, admitting this, we will have a condition that is of world-wide importance and influence. The new wells now being bored will soon prove the extent of the field. If it be confined to the narrow area where all the gushers have been found, then we have a remarkable discovery of immense value; but if the field is broad and over a great area and the only final test, the drill, proves that oil exists in anything like the quantity to be reasonably expected from the conditions already known then we have a proposition, which, as has well been said, must stagger the world's oil trade. If it is found that as much as 200,000 barrels a day can be safely depended upon from this field, then possibly \$100,000,000 or more will need to be invested in order to provide ample pipe lines, storage facilities and tank steamers, of which more would be needed than the whole tank steamer fleet of the Standard Oil Company.

"Of course, there has been a wild speculation in land and in stock companies. Land within the charmed circle of the 'gushers',

which was worth \$5 to \$10 an acre four months ago, now commands \$75,000 an acre spot cash. The actual cash sales of land since the boom commenced four months ago have been over \$10,000,000, so a leading banker informed me, all of the transactions having been for full cash, no deferred payment sales having been made. Many fortunes have been made and stories without end could be told of individual profits.

"A Southern Pacific Railroad mechanic who moved to California a year ago tried without success to sell a small tract of land near Beaumont for \$500. Unable to find a buyer he kept the land and when first well was struck he returned and sold his \$500 property for \$160,000 cash. A friend from Mobile who was with me met an old acquaintance who had gone out with money to invest but had refused to pay \$5,000 for a tract of land only to see it sell for \$240,000 within a week.

"Such fairy tales are heard everywhere, but unlike fairy tales they are true. But speculation has reached a dangerous point and conservative investors are now holding off. While many sound oil companies have been organized a great many wild cat companies have been started to catch unwary buyers.

"Wherever there are chances for such enormous profits there must be corresponding chances of loss, and hence oil stocks are hardly a wise purchase for any one who cannot afford to lose his entire investment. The buyer of stocks may win heavily, but he may also lose and hence such operations are not suitable for people of limited means. It is really a rich man's game because he can afford to take the chances of loss for the chance of making a big strike.

"All Texas is stirred up over the oil business and the activity which it has started will spread to neighboring States and inaugurate a greater general industrial and railroad activity in that section than the South has ever witnessed. These things suggest that the whole South should make a careful investigation of its undeveloped wealth, for it may find riches as little dreamed of now as was Texas oil six months ago."

#### PLATT AMENDMENT ADOPTED.

The Cubans Agree, by a Vote of 16 to 11, to Make It a Part of Their Constitution.

HAVANA, June 12.—The Cuban constitutional convention today accepted the Platt amendment by a vote of 16 to 11. A resolution to accept was carried without discussion. Immediately after the opening of the session Senores Tamayo, Villendas and Quesada, constituting a majority of the committee on relations, submitted as a substitute for the committee's former report the Platt amendment as passed by Congress, recommending that it be accepted and made an appendix to the constitution. In the vote on the resolution the 27 delegates present divided as follows:

In favor of acceptance: Senores Capote, Villendas, Jose M. Gomez, Tamayo, Monteagudo, Delgado, Betancourt, Gibera, Luorente, Quesada, Sangnully, Nunez, Rodriguez, Buerriell, Juilez and Ferrer.

Opposed to acceptance: Senores Zayas, Aleman, Eudaldo, Tamayo, Juan Gualberto Gomez, Cisneros, Silva, Fortun, Laeret, Portuondo, Castro and Manduley.

Senores Rivera, Corrooso, Gener and Robau were absent. The latter two voted against acceptance in the previous division. Senator Ferrer voted with the Conservatives, explaining his change of attitude by asserting that he believed acceptance would be the best solution of the problem. The convention will now appoint a commission to draw up the electoral law.

#### WASHINGTON OFFICIALS GRATIFIED AT THE NEWS.

WASHINGTON, June 12.—The news of the adoption of the Platt amendment by the Cuban constitutional convention was received with genuine gratification here. The administration officials all along have felt confident that its ratification would be accomplished when the Cubans realized that this government was firm in its attitude regarding the amendment and its acceptance would be necessary before the United States would consent to withdraw its supervision from the island. Now that the Cubans have demonstrated their good faith in the United States it is expected that a fairly speedy evacuation of the island will follow, contingent only upon the establishment of a stable government in the island.