

State News.

FROM CURRITUCK TO OHERO-KEE.

Free city delivery of mails will begin in Salisbury September 1st with three carriers.

Moore County Democrats instruct for Judge Walter Clark for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

A corps of surveyors and laborers are locating a proposed electric railway line from Elkin to Sparta.

Troy Examiner: Several farmers have brought year before last cotton to the market recently. They are not broke by any means.

Col. Olds: From all directions comes the news of glorious crop prospects save as to wheat and oats. All the farmers say the weather is "just right."

The Erwin Cotton Mill Company proposes to erect a new mill at Durham which will have 35,000 spindles and about 1,000 looms and will cost about \$600,000.

Fayetteville Observer: It is reported on right good authority that a \$600,000 cotton mill will be erected at Smiley's Falls, thirty miles above Fayetteville, on the Cape Fear River.

The Imperial Tobacco Company, which is fighting the American Tobacco Company, has leased a storage warehouse in Durham and expects to buy much leaf on that market the coming season.

The State Press Association will meet at Hendersonville June 25-26. Free entertainment was offered but the executive committee decided on the pay feature, and a rate of \$1 a day at hotels was made.

Salisbury Sun: The tax books of Sheriff Julian show that many negroes in Salisbury Township will be deprived of their vote on account of their failure to pay poll tax. In this township only about 125 negroes liable to poll tax have paid this tax. Last year nearly that number voted at Spencer.

Nashville Graphic: The erection of a cotton seed oil mill for Nashville is almost an assured fact. More than half the amount of capital stock of \$20,000 has been subscribed and ere many weeks have passed, the full amount will no doubt have been secured and things assume a more tangible form.

Madison County Record: J. D. Bright, of Spring Creek, was here a few days since. Mr. Bright recently returned from the Philippines and says that he was present and heard General Chaffee's order to General Smith read, directing him to kill all males over 10 years of age and to burn and destroy all property and crops.

Clinton Democrat: The strawberry crop was cut considerably short by the excessively dry weather, and it is probable that not more than two-thirds of an average crop was gathered, though the growers may have realized about as much from the crop. If not more, than they would have if the crop had been a full one throughout the berry section.

Washington Correspondent Post: A North Carolinian here says that Gen. Julian S. Carr has decided to enter the Senatorial race and that he will shortly make formal announcement of his candidacy. Mr. R. B. Glenn, who was here today, favors the primary plan for the nomination of the Senatorial candidate, and he expressed the belief that a primary would be held.

A Washington correspondent states that 42 counties have made returns of poll tax payments to Chairman Simmons. The delinquents who failed to pay are as follows: Democrats 2,920; white Republicans 4,832; negroes 12,238. This indicates that the delinquents in the 97 counties will approximate these figures: Democrats 6,745; white Republicans 11,160; negroes 28,264.

Lanark: The growing of lettuce is a big industry in the Fayetteville section and during the past season thousands of dollars worth of lettuce grown in the territory contiguous to Fayetteville and in the truck section in the eastern part of the State was sold on the Northern markets. A correspondent of the Lumberton Robesonian says that one man near Fayetteville cleared \$340 from the lettuce sold from one-fourth of an acre of ground. This is quite remarkable, yet there are other similar instances. The wonder to some of us is that there is such a great demand for lettuce—that so much of it finds ready sale at good prices, for to many people lettuce as an edible vegetable is just about as inviting as corn fodder or ordinary grass.

Newton Enterprise. The nearer harvest approaches, the worse grow the reports of the wheat crop. The fly is reported to be injuring what was not frozen out by the severe winter. The general opinion is that the crop in Catawba County will not average three bushels to the acre. It will not pay the fertilizer bills. It is the worst crop since 1894 when wheat was killed by the severe freeze the last day of March.

Wadesboro Messenger: According to the tax books there are 1,547 white polls in Anson and 1,311 colored polls. Of whites 1,333 paid their poll tax, while only 379 negroes did likewise. It is estimated that after errors and removals from the county are deducted, there will remain not more than 125 white men in the county who have disfranchised themselves by failing to pay poll tax. Of this number probably not more than 50 are reliable Democrats. Many of the negroes who failed to pay poll tax can read and write and could have voted had they attended to that matter.

Colonel Olds: But work goes on with great activity. The farmers are literally as busy as bees. "I never saw them harder at work or more hopeful," say the rural mail carriers who make daily such lengthy loops amid the farming country. A year ago at this time the great and deplorable rain had set in and was doing its work of destruction. Now all is fair and smiling.—Librarian Sherrill said today: "Do you know that we have not a copy of the 'Bragg fraud commission' report in the library? None has been there since I took charge. A book seller here has one. Ex-Governor Russell has one." Of course the library wants one of these books. It used to have many copies, but no doubt persons interested in having these tell-tale books destroyed procured their destruction.

Greensboro Correspondent Post: Among some of those who are here I have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Griffin of Woodland, Northampton County, and Mr. Henry Cutchin, of Whitakers, Edgecombe County. From both I learned that the farmers of Edgecombe and Northampton were never in a more prosperous condition; that the smaller class of farmers and the tenant class were out of debt; most of them had money ahead; all of them were buying buggies and carriages who did not have them before; the farms were being more carefully looked after; diversity of crops was largely succeeding the old ruinous one-crop system; the prospect for this year was good, and peace and happiness prevailed throughout their borders.

News and Observer: The Williamson Enterprise has a two column article devoted to the life and good works of the late Dennis Simmons, of that place, who died in Norfolk Sunday morning. He was one of the most successful and useful men in North Carolina, rising from poverty by his own efforts to affluence. The possession of wealth did not change him in the least. His best monument is the Dennis Simmons Nursery at the Baptist Orphanage. He had given liberally to the care of the orphans and had given the money to furnish a hall at the Baptist Female University. The tributes by his pastor, Rev. B. K. Mason, and his life-long friend, ex-Governor Jarvis, ought to be preserved. [It is said that Mr. Simmons was worth \$200,000, of which the Baptist Orphanage will get \$60,000 and the Baptist Female University \$15,000.]

Washington Correspondence Post: The Charlotte postmaster still hangs fire. The President has said that if it is established that Mullen was intoxicated while in Washington he will withdraw the appointment. The statement is made here that Chief Justice Furches will not be a candidate for re-nomination, and Republicans openly declare that a Democrat will be nominated for chief justice. The names of several prominent Democrats are being discussed by Republicans in Washington.—The fight over the Henderson post office has been settled and Pryce Jones, a straight Republican, wins. Zack Garrett, the present postmaster, who as a Populist was prominent in fighting the leadership of Senator Butler in the People's Party, has been turned down. Other candidates were S. G. Satterthwaite and D. H. Gill. Senator Pritchard has recommended Jones for appointment.—The bill giving a pensionable status to ex-Confederates who joined the Union Army prior to the close of the war has been favorably reported by the House committee on pensions. The bill, which was introduced by Senator Pritchard, has already passed the Senate.

DEMANDS OF ORGANIZED LABOR.

Charlotte, N. C., May 23.—The State Federation of Labor in session here yesterday adopted about twenty reports besides electing officers and transacting other business. The chief report adopted was that presented by the retiring President, W. M. Tye.

The resolution read in part as follows:

"Resolved, That we, the delegates of the second annual convention of the State Federation of Labor, demand the adoption of the initiative and referendum—the people's vote—to be installed through rules of procedure in legislative bodies, followed by a constitutional amendment."

It is further provided that all candidates shall be questioned and those favoring the demands of organized labor shall place themselves on record in writing, and all members to be urged not to vote for any candidate who may fail to place himself on record that he will work and vote for the immediate establishment of majority rule.

Other reports were adopted favoring arbitration and condemning indiscriminate use of injunctions by the judiciary, also that North Carolina shall make National Labor Day a legal holiday in this State. The Convention declared in favor of municipal and governmental ownership of public utilities.

NORTH CAROLINA REGIMENTAL HISTORIES.

By request of Mr. M. O. Sherrill, State Librarian, Raleigh, (from whom copies of the Regimental Histories may be ordered) we publish the following notice:

This work, which is a complete history of the North Carolina Troops in the great war of 1861-'65, is now ready in five large octavo volumes of over 800 pages each, a total of 4,100 pages.

The histories were written and the work edited entirely by participants in the war, without charge for their services; and the engravings were furnished by friends. The State furnished paper, printing and binding and owns the work, which it is selling at cost. For the above reasons the book is being sold at the marvelously low figure of \$1 per volume.

There are over 1,000 fine engravings of officers and private soldiers, including all of the 35 Generals from North Carolina. Also 13 full-page engravings of battles and 32 maps. The indexes are complete and embrace over 17,000 names. It is a magnificent work, telling the story of the finest soldiery the world has seen.

The edition is limited. Now sold at \$5 for the set or \$1 per volume. When the edition is exhausted the set will doubtless sell rapidly at a very high price. Persons purchasing the books must pay express or postage. Express within the State on single volume, 25 cents; postage on each volume anywhere in United States, 34 cents.

SHIPP MONUMENT UNVEILED.

Charlotte, N. C., May 21.—The one hundred and twenty-seventh anniversary of the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence was celebrated here yesterday by the entire city and between eight and ten thousand visitors. The event of the day was the unveiling of the handsome monument in memory of the late Lieut. Wm. E. Shipp, killed July 1, 1898, at the battle of San Juan Hill during the war with Spain.

The orator of the day was Col. John P. Thomas of Columbia, S. C. Col. Thomas said in part:

"We are assembled on this historic day to do honor to a heroic son of North Carolina, who on the field of battle in the Spanish-American war, gave up his life for his country. The 20th of May, heretofore dedicated to the immortal memories of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, is henceforth to be further linked with the gallant career and the touching sacrifice of the lamented soldier in honor of whom this monument is reared. Nor is this the only significance attaching to this occasion. It was in this city that William Ewen Shipp began his military life and received his first military impress among the cadets of the Carolina Military Institute. Here began the brilliant though comparatively brief career of Lieutenant Shipp as an officer of the United States Army in which capacity he was to show his adherence even unto death to the motto—'duty, honor, country'—which West Point inscribes on its coat of arms."

General News.

CUBAN REPUBLIC LAUNCHED.

Havana, May 20.—Cuba is now an independent republic and American military occupation is at an end. President Palma was inaugurated in the palace at noon today, and with his inauguration the new republic in the Western Hemisphere was formally launched.

President Palma attached his signature to a document, as President of the Cuban Republic, after an exchange of congratulations, and the veteran General Gomez ascended to the roof of the palace, where he was accorded a great reception.

General Wood personally lowered the American colors, which were saluted, and with his own hands hoisted the Cuban flag, as an act of the United States, General Gomez assisting. General Wood, his staff and the American troops embarked immediately after the hoisting of the Cuban flag and the American ships steamed out of the harbor.

President Roosevelt's letter, submitted by General Wood, was as follows:

White House, Washington, May 10, 1902. To the President and Congress of the Republic of Cuba:

"Sirs—On May 20 the military governor of Cuba will, by my direction, transfer to you the control and government of the Island of Cuba, to be thenceforth exercised under the provisions of the constitution adopted by your constitutional convention as on that day promulgated; and he will thereupon declare the occupation of Cuba by the United States to be at an end.

"At the same time I desire to express to you the sincere friendship and good wishes of the United States, and our most earnest hopes for the stability and success of your government, for the blessings of peace, justice, prosperity and ordered freedom among your people, and for enduring friendship between the republic of the United States and the republic of Cuba."

Washington, May 20.—The following cablegram from President Palma was received by President Roosevelt this afternoon:

"The government of the island having been just transferred, I, as the chief magistrate of the republic, faithfully interpreting the sentiments of the people of Cuba, have the honor to send you and the American people the testimony of our profound gratitude and the assurances of an enduring friendship, with wishes and prayers for the Almighty for the welfare and prosperity of the United States."

PRESIDENT OF A NEW REPUBLIC.

Leaving Cuba in chains twenty-four years ago, Gen. Thomas Estrada Palma now takes his place as President of the new republic. In 1878 he was deported from Havana to Madrid in shackles, after having had his estates confiscated. Now he occupies the palace from which the order for his arrest was issued.

His life has been a struggle for Cuban liberty. Born to riches, of aristocratic antecedents, he became a patriot and friend of the oppressed. He would listen to no compromise. He would have nothing short of liberty for Cuba.

Gifted with a strong constitution, he was able to stand the trials and hardships of the course he marked out for himself, and at the age of sixty-six he is strong, active, vigorous, and determined in character. A scar on his lip, where the arting of his gray mustache is widened, is the mark of a Spanish bullet. He is kindly of manner and democratic in spirit, but withal he has a quiet dignity and simple reserve.

As constitutional ruler of the new republic his powers and duties are similar to those of the President of the United States.

A recent remark of President Palma is worthy of the consideration of our coming citizens. It is this: "The European nations are banding together, and the time may come when the United States will need all the aid she can possibly get. It may not be war, it may be a terrible struggle; but whatever it is, when it comes we Cubans will be only too glad to show our feeling toward the mother country. My highest ambition is that we may prove worthy of her."—Exchange.

THIS TRUST WOULD PLUNDER COTTON FARMERS.

Baltimore, May 24.—It is believed that efforts are being renewed to bring about a big consolidation of Southern cotton seed and cotton baling companies. Such a combination would be a gigantic one. It is said that John D. Rockefeller tells his associates that the only industry that can duplicate the success of the Standard Oil Company is to be found in a proper combination of the cotton ginning, cotton baling and cotton seed industries, covering the various products of cotton seed oil, including cattle feeding and fertilizers.

The international potash and fertilizer combination which representatives of the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company are now working on in Germany, is regarded as a preliminary move to this greater scheme.

The scope of the operation of such a combine is indicated by the average annual value of the cotton crop which exceeds \$400,000,000. Many branches of employment in this field are already or, it is felt can be, dominated by the companies that would make up this combination. The ginning business amounts to \$20,000,000 a year. There are 5,000,000 tons for crushing, of which about one-half is now utilized. If this was completely treated the combined values of the oil cake and meal, hulls and line produced, it is estimated, would amount to \$111,025,000.

Last month there was incorporated under the laws of New Jersey the American Products Company. This is believed to be the corporation through which the merger will be effected. Among those who are named as financially concerned are the interests identified with the American Tobacco Company in the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company, the First National Bank of New York in the cotton oil company, and J. P. Morgan with Boston and New York capital in the Planters' Company. In the American Cotton Company are the Fourth National Bank of New York interests represented by Hon. C. N. Bliss and James G. Cannon; New England interests represented by Hon. Wm. C. Levering, and Southern and Western interests represented by Hon. D. R. Francis, A. C. Case and others.

PEACE WITH THE BOERS?

Although no definite assurance of peace is yet forthcoming from South Africa, there are indications that the Boer leaders in the field are disposed to accept the latest terms offered by Great Britain. The principal obstacle to the successful conclusion of negotiations has been the unwillingness of the loyalists in Natal and Cape Colony to see the principle of amnesty extended to the Afrikaner rebels who have joined the Boers of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. If, in deference to their objections, the war should be prolonged for another twelvemonth, the British taxpayer will have good reason to complain; for, according to the latest Parliamentary statement, the war in South Africa will have cost him \$1,115,000,000 by the close of the present fiscal year. That is a stupendous price to pay for the satisfaction of ruling over the Transvaal.—Collier's Weekly.

LORD KELVIN'S VISIT.

Lord Kelvin, better known to many as Sir William Thomson, which was his name before a peerage was conferred upon him in 1892 in recognition of his scientific work, has just come to the United States for his fourth visit, and all who are interested in science, pure or applied, have united to do honor to the man who is probably to be regarded as the most eminent living scientist. Prof. Elihu Thomson, attributes a large amount of the progress achieved in the last twenty-five years in practical electricity to Kelvin's efforts, and terms him the "father of electrical engineers," asserting that before his time there had been practically no electrical engineering.—Presbyterian Standard.

The recent harvest of death is without a parallel in many years. The literary world has lost Frank Stockton, Bret Harte and Paul Leicester Ford; DeWitt Talmage and Archbishop Corrigan have gone from the ecclesiastical field; three prominent Congressmen, Cummings, Otway and Salmon, died within five days; Potter Palmer has been taken from the mercantile ranks; Admiral Sampson has just been buried, and it has not been long since the death of Cecil Rhodes.—Exchange.

PALMETTO STATE DEMOCRATS CONDEMN McLAURIN.

Columbia, S. C., May 21.—The State Democratic Convention met here today. A pledge fixed for candidates for the Senate and House of Representatives requires them to stand on the party platform and to vote with their colleagues on party questions. It was not as extreme as had been anticipated.

A resolution welcoming Cuba into the world of nations, declaring that she would be welcomed as a State in this Union if she applied of her free will, and in the meanwhile declaring she should have the benefits of reciprocity was adopted amid cheers. Without remarks or protest, a resolution of a dozen words, condemning the course of Senator McLaurin was passed. By a standing vote, resolutions impressively read by Senator Tillman, speaking of Wade Hampton's services to his State in the highest terms, were unanimously adopted. A resolution condemning child labor in the mills and declaring that a limit should not be less than 12 years, was adopted, after some debate.

MINE EXPLOSION KILLS TWO HUNDRED OR MORE.

Coal Creek, Tenn., May 19.—The worst disaster in the history of Tennessee mining occurred at 7.30 o'clock this morning when between 175 and 225 men and boys met instant death at the Fraterville coal mine, two miles west of this town, as a result of a gas explosion.

Fraterville mine is the oldest mine in the Coal Creek district, having been opened in 1870. It is fully three miles from the mine opening to the point where the men were at work. They had not been at work long, before the terrible explosion occurred. There was a fearful roar, and then flames shot from the entrance and the air shafts.

Knoxville, Tenn., May 21.—The latest estimates as to the loss of life in the Fraterville coal mine disaster at Coal Creek is 226, including contract miners, day laborers and boy helpers.

Up to noon today 141 bodies had been removed from the mine. No one has been recovered alive. Thirteen bodies were found in an entry. Five of them had written letters before life became extinct. One of these letters gave the time of day. It was written 2.30 o'clock Monday afternoon, thus indicating that these and perhaps other entombed men lived many hours after the terrible explosion, which occurred Monday morning at 7.30 o'clock. The letters gave a general suggestion of the suffering that was undergone, indicating that the men were gradually being strangled to death by the foul gaseous air that was filling the mine. One piteously read: "My God for another breath."

WHAT THE DISPATCHES SAY.

Edwin Lawrence Godkin, editor emeritus of the New York Evening Post, died in Brixham, England, last week.

The Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company has bought up all the fertilizer manufacturing plants in Alabama, except one located in Troy.

Four white officers and three negroes were killed and six persons wounded in a battle between policemen and negro desperadoes in Atlanta a few days ago.

Exchange: Liberty Enlightening the World, in New York Harbor, has had her torch lighted again. It was extinguished nearly three months ago because it was useless as a lighthouse. It has been relighted for sentimental rather than for practical reasons.

Following the disaster of St. Pierre, La Soufriere on the Island of St. Vincent began eruptions, and the loss of life, judging from missing inhabitants is 2,000; the area covered by lava comprises 16 square miles. Two of the five active volcanoes in Mexico also show ominous signs.

The only legislation of importance accomplished by the House of Representatives during the past week has been the passage of the Naval Appropriation bill. Noteworthy among the provisions of the bill are that three of the naval vessels for which the bill provides shall be constructed in government navy yards; that no part of the funds appropriated shall be used for the purchase of the Maclay history; and that hereafter what are now known as "naval cadets" shall be known as "midshipmen."