THE FIRST DECLARATION OF INDE-PENDENCE.

Not every student of American history is aware that the Declaration of Independence signed at Philadelphia on July 4, 1776, glorious old document that it is, cannot claim to be the first expression by American people of revolt against British rule. The first Declaration of Independence was put forth more than a year before the immortal second, and its birthplace was the little town of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. The two Carolinas were settled largely by strenuous folk-refugees from religious persecution in Scotland and France, followers of Knox and Calvin. Covenanter and Hugenot brought with them over-sea the sturdy independence and the fearless adherence to principle which had led them to dispute the divine right of kings and uphold to the death the divine right of conscience.-Rheta Childe Dorr in the July Woman's Home Companion.

JOHN MITCHELL.

The leader of the coal-miners and President of the United Mine Workers is thus described in a brief sketch accompanying a striking portrait in The Outlook:

"Like so many other labor leaders in this country he is still a young man. He is thirty-three years of age. He went into the coal-mines as a boy of thirteen. His school education was supplemented by night studies, chiefly upon economic questions, and especially those relating to the organization of labor. He joined the Knights of Labor in 1885, and ten years later, when he was twenty-five years old, he was elected Secretary-Treasurer of a district organization of the United Mine Workers. His subsequent rise in power within the organization was extremely rapid. In 1897 he was elected a National organizer, in 1898 Vice-President, and in 1899 President At the beginning of the great strike in 1900 the power of the organization was almost exclusively among the bituminous coal miners of the West, who had gradually won by "collective bargaining" much better terms as to hours, wages, and treatment than were accorded to the anthracite miners of central and eastern Pennsylvania. Among the latter less than ten thousand out of one hundred and forty thousand were connected with the union. The success of the strike, largely due to Mr. Mitchell, was followed by the accession to the union of nearly the whole of anthracite miners, including the recent immigrants from eastern Europe. At present, therefore, he has supporting him a great organization, but the time of battle is not of his choosing.

ANTI-NEGRO FEELING IN ILLINOIS

Those Illinois Congressmen who are considering the outrages perpetrated by the Southern anti-blacks and seeking to make it the occasion for reducing representation in Congress must find in recent events in their own State that which gives pause to their exuberant oratory. The facts connected with certain proceedings, if we are correctly advised, which have gone on in Saline County, this State, during the past few days, are atrocious beyond anything reported from the South, in this particular respect: The Southerner, speaking broadly, no matter how far he carried his race hatred, has been moved at the outset by what he considered justifying cause. In Illinois the outrages perpetrated by whites, in the instance referred to, were directed against negroes of the better class, against whom no charge of wrongdoing is brought; indeed, it appears that it was the very fact of their superiority that led the low-down ruffians in the community to attack them. Here is what was done: Eldorado the colored public school has been closed and its pupils driven out of town; the Eldorado Normal and Industrial Institute has been broken up; the African M. E. church has been wrecked and its congregation dispersed. At Harrisburg, the county seat of Saline County, notice has been posted that all negroes must at once leave town. The mere statement of the case is a stronger-drawn indictment than a mountain of adjectives could make it. It is too shameful to express, too near home to evade. The local authorities having failed to do so, Gov. Yates should use the full power of his office to restore their property and protect these fellow-citizens in black.—Chicago Farmers' Voice.

The Appalachian Park bill has passed the Senate, but will probably not be acted on by the House at this session.

THE SOUTH AND ITS SCHOOLS.

The greatest need of agricultural communes, and there must be natural forces that will bring the country people together in such communes in remunerative household industries as are to be found everywhere in the homes of the peasantry upon the continent of Europe, good schools, libraries—these are the fundamental needs. a day-school, where head, heart and continually stimulated to activity. The right kind of schools seems to

be the only possible force to bring such a result. Southern civilization will need to be built around the schoolhouse, and we shall need to steer clear, if possible, of the mistakes of other sections of the country. The herding instinct, a racial instinct among some other peoples, seems almost absent in the farming classes of the South. If, therefore, we can gradually set up in every farm community a well-ordered school, where ordinary academic instruction is intelligently given, and where at the same time some of the long hours of the school day are given to such forms of handicraft as can easily be transferred to the homes of the community and become a source of occupation and income; and if, in addition, nature studies, school libraries, mothers' clubs and village industries of all sorts gradually come into existence, then we shall have a different kind of country village in the South. As a rule, country civilization has been built around the cross-roads store, and often the barroom has been an adjunct to this store.-E. C. Branson in the World's Work.

AGRICULTURAL WEALTH OF VARIOUS COUNTIES

From an article written by Mr. T. J. Pence for the Raleigh Post we select the following paragraphs regarding the relative standing of the counties in several particulars:

"Wake County has the largest number of farms of all the counties in the State. The farms in Wake number 5,188. The number of farms with with buildings are 5,029. The acreage of the farms in the county is 476,608, of which 195,548 acres are improved. The value of land and improvements in Wake, buildings excepted, is \$3,252,-640. The buildings are valued at \$1,-371,130. The value of land and improvements in Mecklenburg, Buncombe and Robeson exceeds that of Wake. In Buncombe this valuation is \$4,234,110. In Mecklenburg it is \$4,-150,720, and in Robeson it is \$3,525,-900. Ashe makes a good showing with a valuation of \$3,021,440. Buncombe alone exceeds Wake in the valuation of farm buildings. This valuation in Buncombe is \$1,608,040, Mecklenburg is a close third with a valuation of \$1,317,490.

"The value of farm implements and machinery in Wake is \$218,600, in Davidson \$222,050, Guilford \$206,280, Mecklenburg \$232,690 and Randolph \$231,540, which counties lead in this respect. The valuation of live stock in Wake is \$655,241. Two other counties have a valuation higher than this, Mecklenburg \$708,286 and Ashe \$728,-767. The value of products not fed to live stock in Wake is \$2,163,811. Wake spends \$126.760 on fertilizers. Robeson leads in this respect, expending \$247,280. Johnston expends \$143,530 for fertilizers and Pitt \$166,910."

from Richmond, in which a territorial nal. change has been made, but three counties, Carteret, Chatham, and Currituck, report decreases in the number of farms since 1890." The Chatham decrease is doubtless due also to a territorial change, of which the Census Office has taken no notice. It will be remembered that in the last decade the line dispute between Chatham and Alamance was settled, giving to the last named county territory that had previously been regarded as in Chat-

Hon. C. H. Mebane has again been elected president of Catawba College, Newton, all differences between him and the trustees having been adjusted.

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A YEAR OF FREEDOM.

The one notable thing among white life in the South today is farming folks in North Carolina today is a spirit of independence. The negroes were freed in 1863 the white folks in 1901. It is interesting to hear the wholesome ways. Farm communes, rank and file talk of their freedom. good roads, smaller farms, intensive They love it and are glorying in it. farming, rotation of crops, and such Having tasted it they could scarcely be enslaved again. Parties, platforms, conventions, primaries, nor anything else can hardly be expected to bind them in this year of grace, this first year when they are basking in the sun-Of course, I believe in the supreme shine of freedom. It is this fact the value of wholesome religious instruc- folks who are leading or driving in tion; but I also believe that effective this direction or that must keep in home-mission work will need to make mind if they would plan wisely and every church both a Sunday-school and | act for the good of all the people. This is not the time to force the nominahand, taste, conscience and will are all | tion of a man for office and expect the voters not to scratch his name from the ticket this year fearlessly and generally where they do not like the nomination.-Rev. P. R. Law, in Lumberton Robesonian.

> Raleigh Cor. Charlotte Observer: The need of a Reformatory in this State is pitifully great. There are a score of boys here who might at this moment be in such an institution. The King's Daughters will have a Reformatory, but will require time unless some well-to-do people will make gifts. There is the same practical need for a Reformatory as for orphanages. Maybe some rich man will read this and think of the good to be done by the immediate gift of sufficient funds for a start at least. One case here will illustrate the need. A poor woman, and widow, a faithful soul is at work in a mill. She has two sons, one 13, the other 9, the elder of whom once worked in the mill. Now he refuses to work, and taking his younger brother with him lives mainly on the streets and the woods and fields. Returning to the house, only while his mother is away at work, he smashes a lock or a window and enters, taking anything in sight. The miserable woman says he is ruining himself and her, too, and is even willing, as a desperate measure, to have him sent to the roads. but he cannot be sent there. The only place for the boys is a reformatory and there is no such place in all North Carolina. A magistrate says: "It is one of those cases where the law does not know what to do."

We see it stated that in the county of Vance there are only fourteen whites between the ages of six and twenty-one who cannot read and write. This speaks gloriously for the educational progress of Vance County and we doubt that its record can be matched in the State. After all, the solution of this great problem lies not with the Teachers' Assembly, the Educational Conference or the college presidents, but with the county officials who are in charge of the educational interests of the counties. The education of the masses cannot be done in mass meetings; it is an individual matter and the children must be instructed one by one. Three cheers for Vance!-Charity and Children.

The farmers in Wake County are rejoicing over the fact that they have not had brighter prospects in ten years. Corn and cotton are exceptionally fine. Cotton is blooming and fruiting heavily-plants are strong and vigorous. Corn is tasseling low and stalks are large, color good. And the ears promise to be full and heavy

Tasteful dress is as wholesome and necessary a thing for a woman as good food and drink. But if she makes life a long debauch of clothes she is exactly in the position of the glutton or The census bulletin says that "aside the drunkard.-Ladies's Home Jour-



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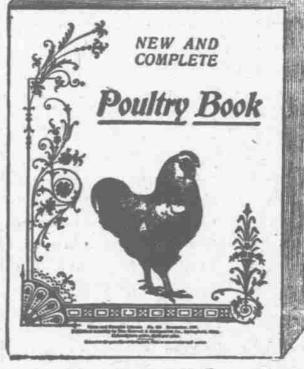
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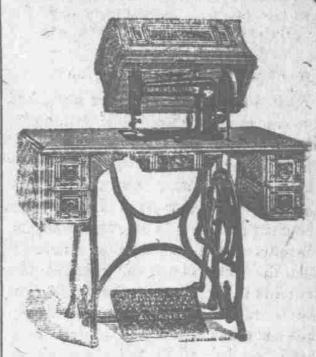
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