

STATE NEWS

FROM CURRITUCK TO CHEROKEE.

Items of Interest Gleaned From Our Correspondents and Exchanges.

Charlotte dispatch: Dr. John W. Stagg, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, and one of the best known divines in the South, has accepted a call to First Church of Birmingham, Ala. He expects to leave Charlotte the middle of April.

Davie Times: We learn that the Commissioners of Yadkin County will refuse to grant license for distilleries at Shore and Williams. They claim that these two places were incorporated because the proprietors were Democrats and the Commissioners, being Republicans, will take this step.

Gastonia Gazette: Reader is there among your acquaintances or anywhere within your knowledge, a 16-year-old boy in Gaston County who cannot read and write? If so, speak an urgent word to him about seeking an education. He will be 21 years old in 1908 and cannot vote unless he can read and write.

Lumberton dispatch: Druggists in this town have been forbidden by the town authorities to offer Peruna for sale. This action has been taken because of the testimony of some parties who stated that they had been intoxicated by this medicine. Every effort is being made to uproot drunkenness here.

Landmark: The State law makes it a misdemeanor to sell liquor to minors and as barkeepers have no way of telling the ages of their customers they have to take chances. At the request of the bar men Greensboro aldermen have passed an ordinance making it an offence for any one under 21 to buy liquor in Greensboro, and hereafter the minor who buys liquor in that town will be as guilty as the seller, and this is right.

Col. Olds: State Chemist Kilgore to-day had a letter from the chairman of the Texas cotton boll weevil committee saying that about 20 car loads of North Carolina cotton seed, all carefully selected, had been bought by Texas growers. Prof. Kilgore was the means of selling these seed and said the sellers got 75 cents a bushel for them, instead of 30c. [It will be remembered that Dr. Kilgore published his letter about the seed in The Progressive Farmer.]

Cold Olds: Many inquiries are naturally being made as to what will probably be the increase in the value of property in the State as assessed this year. Nobody knows, but an official said to-day that it looked like there would be an increase of \$220,000 in real estate since 1899, when the last assessment was made. Of course no one can hazard a guess as to what will be the increase in the value of railroad property, etc., as for the first time really the intangible value, that is the franchise, will be assessed.

A Wilmington dispatch, 31st ult., says: "Dr. J. F. Harrell, one of the oldest practicing physicians in this section of the State, died suddenly this afternoon at his home in Whiteville. He was a native of Robeson County, and was about seventy years of age. He served during the Civil War as surgeon of a North Carolina regiment. He leaves a wife, one daughter and a number of grandchildren." The Progressive Farmer regrets to hear of the death of Dr. Harrell. He was a good friend of this paper and one of the best Alliancemen in his county.

The statement has been recently made that investigation discloses the fact that 25 per cent of the food stuffs offered on the markets in North Carolina is adulterated. There is no reason to doubt it. The adulteration of this class of goods in the United States is something fearful. There is a large milling establishment in this State which has a contract to furnish corn cobs by the carload to a concern which puts a food stuff on the market. Ground corn cobs will not hurt anybody, but many of these adulterants are really hurtful, especially those that enter into flour, and the corn cob story affords some sort of indication of how far this thing goes.—Charlotte Observer.

News and Observer: In speaking yesterday concerning the correspondence between Chairman McNeill, of the Corporation Commission, and Dr. Graham, of Charlotte, in regard to the equalization of taxes, and the distribution of pension money, State Auditor Dixon said, speaking of the work of the pension board: "We are trying to correct the evil existing as regards pensions by changing the complexion of the County Pension Boards. Heretofore these have been composed of the sheriff, clerk of court and Board of County Commissioners, but under the new law the Board will be composed of three ex-Confederate soldiers, who can be relied upon to purge the roll in order that where there are now persons on these without cause the evil may be corrected."

Charlotte Observer: There is much interest in the causes of insanity. From the tabular statement in the Morganton State Hospital report covering admissions for two years ended November 30, 1902, it is seen that the cause most frequently assigned by the commitment papers is ill health—33 cases; next in order, religious excitement—17; then domestic affliction—12; domestic trouble and over-work—6 each; intemperance and la grippe—5 each; financial troubles, hard study, heredity, jealousy, trouble and typhoid fever—4 each; and on down. Of the occupations of those admitted during the two-year period it is learned that of the total of 248, 58 were farmers, 40 farmers' wives, 16 farmers' daughters and 6 farmers' sons. (This aggregate, though nearly 50 per cent of the total, is not a disproportion, seeing that about 82 per cent of our population is agricultural.) Eighteen were laborers, 16 had no occupa-

tion, 12 were housekeepers, 8 were carpenters and 8 factory operatives, 6 merchants, 3 clerks, 3 doctors and 3 seamstresses, and so on down. One hundred and twenty-five are married, 105 single and 18 widowed.

An Unusual March.

Unusual spells of weather are very common, but as a matter of fact there has been practically no March weather as we know it in this climate during this month of March. There has so far been no March wind and the weather was unusually warm. Vegetation has advanced very rapidly and there has been so much rain that a cold snap—and people who "borrow trouble" are anticipating one—might do considerable damage. The past few days have been cooler and there have been light frosts, but not enough to do any damage.

Easter comes on the 12th of April and until after that date a freeze is not improbable. An old citizen of Charlotte who has kept a weather record for 39 years, tells the Observer there was but one year in all that period that a cool spell and frost did not come on or about the 25th of March, and the record held good this year.

The wheat crop is unusually forward and wheat has begun to joint. The prospect is good for a very fine crop, but a freeze might do considerable damage. It is just as well, however, to wait until the freeze comes and then find how bad we are hurt. A very disagreeable anticipation is the prospect of a windy summer. There is a theory that if there is no wind in March the March winds will blow in the months following, and it doesn't make one feel good to think of high winds and dust in May and June.—Statesville Landmark.

The Nash and Davidson Monuments.

The New York Sun congratulates "the Hon. Joseph M. Morehead, of Greensboro, N. C., president of the Guilford Battle Ground Association, and the people of the Old North State generally on the recent selection of Guilford Battle Ground as the site of the monuments of the Revolutionary Generals Nash and Davidson, for each of which Congress last July voted an appropriation." People of several localities urged their claims with vigor, says the Sun, "but Guilford Battle Ground was too obviously the appropriate place." Regarding the location decided upon by the Governor, the paper quoted continues:

"Guilford is the only battle-field of the Revolution which is preserved in its entirety as an historical document to be handed down to posterity. It was purchased by private contributions of patriotic North Carolinians. The alignments of the American forces under General Greene and of the British and German forces under Lord Cornwallis at all stages of the engagement are accurately and permanently marked. There are an excellent museum of Revolutionary relics and a fine auditorium, where Fourth of July celebrations

are held. Over the entire field there are placed monuments in granite and marble to those who died in this particular engagement, as well as to North Carolina patriots who, like Nash and Davidson, gave their lives on other fields in the cause of American independence. Guilford Battle Ground, as kept and marked by the gentlemen of the association of which Colonel Morehead is president, is in itself the monument to North Carolina in the Revolution—a monument such as no other State in the zone of that mighty struggle can boast.

"It is 126 years since the Continental Congress voted a monument to General Nash for his bravery on the battlefield of Germantown, where he lost his life, and it is 122 years since it voted that General Davidson be similarly honored for gallantry at Cowan's Ford, where he, too, was killed. The Continental Congress appropriated \$500 for each of these monuments. The Fifty-seventh Congress appropriated \$5,000 for each of them. But in 1777 and in 1781 the United States was poorer by a few dozen billions of dollars than it is now. And as for the delay of a little matter of a century and a quarter or thereabouts, that should not be charged up against the Republic as ingratitude. Absence of headlong impetuosity is the way to express it.

"But the monuments are a certainty at last, and now let Colonel Morehead at their unveiling get up such a resonant, rousing, reverberating Fourth of July celebration as even Guilford Battle Ground—long noted for enthusiasm and oratory on that glorious day—never has seen equaled."

The Importance of the Trucking Industry.

Truck farming has become a very important and profitable industry in some sections of this State. The cultivation of early vegetables and fruits in many of our Eastern counties has become an extensive, and at some seasons, a very profitable business.

For instance, the Fayetteville Observer stated last week that one hundred thousand dollars worth of lettuce would be shipped from that town within the next month. This large amount of money will be realized from an entirely new industry, which was not dreamed of a few years ago. And it is paid for lettuce raised in small patches in and around Fayetteville, and is just that much extra money made by the persons who raise and ship this lettuce to the Northern cities.

The cultivation and sale of strawberries has grown to immense proportions, especially along the Atlantic Coast Line from Goldsboro via Wilmington to the South Carolina line. During the strawberry season many long trains are loaded with strawberries every day in that section, and the fields are teeming with men, women and children all busily picking strawberries. A good price is paid for these pickers, some making as much as two dollars a day, and everybody can find employment. The strawberry season will open this year by the middle of April and continue until the first of June.—Chatham Record.