

STATE NEWS

FROM CURRITUCK TO CHEROKEE.

Items of Interest Gleaned From Our Correspondents and Exchanges.

Concord Times: Judge Peebles and Dr. Bassett can sympathize with each other. It has been some time since any one in the State has received such a roasting as has been given both of them.

Greenville Reflector: North Carolina Day in the public schools will be celebrated in December this year. It is a beautiful and patriotic custom and should wake echoes of State love in the hearts of all true North Carolinians.

Tarboro Southerner: The Greenville Reflector announces that if necessary it could name at least one hundred excellent citizens of Pitt who would not vote for Judge Peebles. The Southerner will go further and say with the belief the good people of Pitt being no better, and the Reflector only stating the case mildly, that it would be difficult to find either in Edgecombe or Pitt one hundred men who would vote for Judge Peebles again.

Goldsboro Argus: Alfred Daniel, convicted of the murder of Mr. F. G. Simmons, father of Senator Simmons, was brought here to-day by the sheriff of Jones County and placed in jail for safe-keeping. Since the completion of Wayne County's new jail a number of criminals from other counties have been brought here for safe-keeping. Wayne County has not only one of the strongest and most secure, but one of the largest jails in the State.

Charlotte Observer: Something ought to be done to those fool Texans who are sending specimens of the boll weevil to their friends in North Carolina. That is one way of introducing the pest into the cotton fields of this State. It is traditionary lore that the first English sparrows were sent or brought to this country as curiosities—just to let it be seen how they look and act. As a result they have taken the country and become unspeakable nuisances.

Ashboro Courier: Governor Aycock's proclamation, which appoints Thursday, November 26th, as a day of Thanksgiving, is a model in "brevity, force and felicity," to use a term of the veteran journalist, Maj. Hale, of the Fayetteville Observer: "The State is at peace," he says. "There is abundance in the land. The people have been blessed. Even those in whose lives have come disappointment and sorrow can find cause for thankfulness in the patience which has been wrought out of suffering."

In Washington(N. C.)recently prohibition was defeated, but the aldermen have adopted stringent regulations for the management of saloons. The license is \$500, and saloons must close from 8 p. m. to 6 a. m. No person is allowed to drink in a saloon except at a counter, the counter must not be over forty feet from a street and windows must be clear

so that every passer-by can see clearly inside. The saloons can have no back or rear doors, are not allowed to maintain billiard tables or other gambling devices, nor restaurants or lunch counters in connection therewith.

Charlotte Chronicle: Judge Pritchard is another Tar Heel who is coming prominently before the nation owing to more recent events. The alleged postoffice boodlers are to be tried in his court, and it is likely that they will get what probably they do not want—justice. —The statement of Superintendent Joyner that there remain 101,797 white children in North Carolina who are not in school shows that there is still work ahead of the educational campaigners.

Smithfield Herald: A special tax for public schools was voted in School District No 5, white, Beulah Township, Tuesday, without a vote against it. This is the most remarkable election ever held in Johnston County. We congratulate the citizens of that district for their public spiritedness. It means much for that section and the county. It is the first real country district in the county to vote a special tax for schools. Hurrah, for Beulah! She now has two special tax districts.

Statesville Landmark: John Sharpe Williams, of Mississippi, who received the Democratic vote for Speaker of the House of Congress yesterday must be a pretty good man. He is of North Carolina stock and a lineal descendant of "Lawyer Billy" Sharpe, of Iredell, distinguished as a Revolutionary soldier and a member of the Continental Congress. The fact that Mr. Williams was the Democratic nominee for Speaker—and he was nominated unanimously—makes him the Democratic leader of the House.

Durham Herald: There will come up in the Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond on Friday of this week, a case in which North Carolina is considerably interested, and one in which Durham lawyers appear. This will be the Henderson County bond case, involving \$97,000. The Traveler's Life Insurance Company is the plaintiff in this case. This is a case in which Henderson County issued bonds, later refunded these bonds, and still later repudiated the entire issue. In the trial of the case before Judge Boyd, in Greensboro, the Traveller's Insurance Company won and Henderson County appealed.

Marshville Home: "Holding cotton at ten cents a pound is not such a safe business some think," said a neighbor the other day. "Two years ago it brought ten cents in October and eight cents in the spring." A meditative listener replied: "That year was an exception. As a rule, Providence favors the rich, but that year it was in favor of the poor who had to sell in October, and against the rich who didn't have to sell until spring." And the neighbor who was shaky on holding cotton at ten cents smiled and refused to press his argument further.

COL. W. T. BLACKWELL DEAD.

One of the Most Interesting Figures in the State—He Changed From Millionaire to Pauper, but Never Pressed His Friends.

A telephone message stated that Col. W. T. Blackwell died last night at 11.45 o'clock at his home in Durham. He had been stricken with paralysis last Sunday, and no hope was entertained for his recovery. He died at the home of his mother, Mrs. E. F. Blackwell.

So has passed one of the strangest and most interesting figures in the industrial history of North Carolina. Col. Blackwell was the son of James L. Blackwell, and spent his early life in Person County. For a good many years he peddled tobacco for a livelihood. Shortly after the war he and General Julian S. Carr and James R. Day organized the firm of W. T. Blackwell & Company, which was destined to become the largest tobacco concern in the South, if not in the world.

This firm was successful from the first; and flaunted its great bull in all parts of the universe—even on the pyramids of Egypt, it was declared at one time. The fame of the Bull Durham tobacco became world-wide, and money flowed into the coffers of the three organizers. They spent millions in advertising; had men to go through the shops of London and other great cities and ask for the tobacco, and devised other schemes that made their wares in demand everywhere.

Some fifteen years ago Col. Blackwell sold out his interest in the company to General Carr and several Northern men. He received a large amount for his interest, being paid \$20,000 merely for the use of the trade-mark, the celebrated bull.

In a day almost his fortunes were swept away. There was a financial crash in Durham; nine mercantile firms failed in twenty-four hours and hundreds of individuals were sensibly or seriously depressed. When the day of reckoning came, it was found, to use a current expression, that "Blackwell was on everybody's paper." He had, from his viewpoint, endorsed for his friends. His generosity ruined him—ruined him openly and notoriously.

He pressed nobody, but the courts pressed him—took all that he had to satisfy creditors, excepting only the pitiful \$1,500, which stood for nine negro cottages and one small roof, where a white man might live unpretentiously.

That was over a dozen years ago. Blackwell, changed from a millionaire to pauper, spoke no word of bitterness. "I remember," he said, "when people used to rush across the street to me. Now nobody notices me." He laughed. Philosophy had come with his adversity. But he never pressed his friends; though he remembered that half the real estate in Durham had been his and had been lost by the big-hearted use of his pen.

And he died a pauper. For a good

many years before his death he had no business with anybody, and nobody had any business with him. He walked the streets unnoticed, except when some resident pointed at the shambling figure and marked the man whose hundred of thousands had been dissipated in a day. With the passing of time people forgot to identify him with the great bull that he had painted—almost forgot that his word had once been law in a community, but no one ever forgot that, no matter how wretched and impoverished he became, he never even tried to press his friends.—Charlotte Observer.

Dr. McIver and the Peabody Fund.

The news that Dr. Charles D. McIver, president of the State Normal and Industrial College at Greensboro, is slated to succeed the late Dr. J. L. M. Curry as disbursing agent of the Peabody Fund for the Southern States, is not surprising. Dr. McIver is in closest touch with the general educational situation in the South, and is the fittest man in sight for this important trust. It calls for a man of great tact and keen discrimination, and Dr. McIver has every qualification for the work. It means, no doubt, promotion and better pay. Yet we wish that Dr. McIver could be content to stay at the head of the State Normal and Industrial College. He has been the pioneer in the movement for education of women in North Carolina. He has fought for the idea that the education of girls is every bit as important, if indeed not more important, than the education of boys. "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." The head of the woman of the potent hand should be filled with all that is best in knowledge and culture. For this Dr. McIver has stood. We hope he will still keep in touch with the splendid institution for women he has founded at Greensboro, even if he is placed in charge of the Peabody Fund.—Asheville Gazette News.

Landmark: Alfred Daniels, the negro charged with killing Senator Simmons' father in Jones County a few weeks ago, was tried at Trenton last week, convicted of murder in the first degree and sentenced to be hanged December 11th. An appeal was taken. Ex-Congressman O'Hara, colored, of New Berne, was Daniels' counsel, and while he offered no evidence, he contended for a verdict of manslaughter. O'Hara fought the case persistently, contending that the indictment was void because the negroes had been discriminated against in drawing the grand jury. He was over-ruled on all points.

Charlotte Observer: The Mecklenburg cotton crop is almost one-third shorter than the average crop. The farmers have been holding cotton, but since the price has advanced a great deal has been sold. About the same proportion to this season's crop has now been sold as there was last year at this time notwithstanding the fact of the comparatively low prices. Up-to-date this year, 8,265 bales have been received at the city platform. The receipts for the corresponding period of last year were 13,042 bales.