

THE OXFORD PUBLIC LEDGER.

BY JOHN T. BRITT.

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A Wyoming couple has just been married for the fifth time, having been divorced four times, in the last twenty years. The divorce lawyers must look upon them as regular customers.

More than ninety per cent. of North Carolina counties have prohibition, but the amount spent annually for liquor does not indicate that that percentage of Tar Heels are temperate.—Raleigh Times.

Commissioner Varner's report that there are one hundred and five furniture factories in North Carolina with an aggregate capital of nearly three million dollars. That is indeed a fine record. We are great in many things in North Carolina.

J. J. Smith, of Laurens, S. C., was shot dead by his son last Thursday. Smith was beating his wife and had drawn a gun, when his son interfered. Smith tried to shoot the boy; but was not quick enough, and the father was speedily sent across into the undiscovered country.

W. D. Justus and W. F. Ball, of Asheville, reached home Friday morning from Jamaica, where they were in the thick of earthquake and escaped with the skin of their teeth. Others were killed all around them. Their miraculous escape is attributed to the fact that they were book agents, it being asserted that these rarely suffer death.

An expert criminal in New York is said to have shaved the cuticle from one hand, leaving the nerves on the surface almost, in order that he may turn the combination on safes and secure their contents. It is said that when he turns the lock he actually can feel when he has made the right combination.

Judge Biggs got his place The Industrial News said was marked off for him on the state, and now Mr. Kitchen and Mr. Brooks admit they are after the ones that paper assigned to them. Now, how about the senatorship in 1909. Will somebody admit he is after Senator Overman's place?—Wilmington Messenger.

The Legislature is a powerful assembly of powerful men, capable of accomplishing almost anything, but, in our humble opinion, they will reach the finis of their strength, and strike a powerful slung when they attempt to keep a lady from wearing her new Easter bonnet wherever she likes.—Charlotte News.

A man died in a New York hospital last week whose case for five years has baffled the best medical experts in America. Since 1902 he has been gradually growing larger. His bones doubled in size, and his head and limbs were monstrous. The disease is little known and there is nothing to do for it. It is called acromegaly.

Since the close of the last session of Congress, Georgia S. Nixon, of Nevada, has become one of the richest members of the Senate. He was one of the original boomers of the Tonopah district, having picked up there numerous prospects that have developed into properties of vast value. His interest in three mines alone represents a cash valuation of \$20,000,000.

The fight over abolishing the dispensary at Waynesville is now on and waxing warm. Both sides will have lobbyists at Raleigh to impress upon the Solons of the General Assembly the logic of their views. Some say it should be left by a vote, but the anti say it was put on the town without a vote, therefore should make its exit through the same door it came in.

The government has signified to the English government that it has forgotten the unseemly incident occasioned by Gov. Swettenham, of Jamaica, in refusing aid from American warships. Swettenham's action caused great indignation in Jamaica, America and England. He is a pig-headed Englishman that rather prefers the Jamaicans to suffer than allow Americans to help them.

Judge Graham Vindicated.

When the Supreme Court of the United States decided that South Dakota's claim could be enforced there was a question as to what course North Carolina ought to pursue. The former and the present Governor, the Council of State and other good men took the ground that the State ought not to permit the bonds upon which South Dakota held a lien to be sold at the door of the National Capitol, but ought to pay that judgment, and then to pay all other outstanding bonds of that character at the same rate paid to South Dakota. There were at least four men in North Carolina, who take deep interest in public affairs, who took strong ground against that course. They declared that South Dakota owned nothing that could be separated and sold, and if the sale were effected under the decree the purchaser could get nothing but an equity that could not be enjoyed until 1919. But, they argued if it is advisable to pay the South Dakota claims, held valid by the Supreme Court, not one cent should be paid Shaffer Brothers, the dummies for certain men closely allied to the Southern Railway, who had procured Russell, Butler and Pettigrew to work the scheme of a fraud upon the jurisdiction. A committee was named of good men and after much discussion, the committee recommended a settlement upon the terms stated in the Democratic State platform plus interest from the time the State debt was readjusted. When the bill came up in the Legislature, Judge Alexander W. Graham, of Granville, cast the solitary vote given against the bill providing for the issue of bonds to pay the Shaffer Brothers claims. No judgment had been rendered that touched any bonds except those held by South Dakota, and Judge Graham and three other gentlemen who agreed with him held—and correctly—that the only way the crowd behind Shaffer Brothers could collect these bonds was to give them away to some State that could sue. In view of their belief that these interests had started the litigation with a view to frightening the State into selling to them the North Carolina Railroad at a song, these gentlemen believed that not a dollar should be paid them for their perfidy. Judge Graham was the only one of the four in the Legislature and solitary and alone he voted against the bill to pay the Shaffer bonds except at the same rate paid to all other holders of like bonds. Recent history shows that here was another instance in which the conviction of one man was sounder than the views of the other one hundred and sixty-nine men. If Judge Graham did not enter a protest on the Journal, it was not because he did not feel deeply enough that a mistake had been made to do so, but out of deference to the honest views of his associates and in confidence that history would vindicate his position.

It has already been printed how the Governor of South Dakota—an honorable man—has recommended that the Legislature of that State return to North Carolina the \$27,400 paid by this State for South Dakota's claims.

North Carolina two years ago issued \$250,000 of four per cent eight year bonds which brought a premium, netting the State about \$264,000. Of this sum South Dakota got \$27,400 while the men who were behind the Schaffer dummies and a few others got all the balance that did not go to Russell, Butler and the other unnamed traitors to their State. If the views of Judge Graham and the other gentlemen who did not believe in being "held up" had prevailed, the State would have paid out only \$27,400 until the Schaffer crowd was ready to take the same amount paid to all the other bondholders.—News and Observer.

The editor of the Public Ledger heard a member of the Legislature two years ago that Judge Graham so valuable to the State, in looking after its every interest, that it could well afford to pay him \$5,000 a year as a regular member of the Legislature.

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Compulsory Education.

A bill to be entitled an act to require attendance upon public schools for sixteen weeks in each school year between the ages of eight and fourteen.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. The qualified voters of any school district, township or county may petition the County Board of Education of such county, asking that compulsory attendance be ordered upon any school or schools in such district, township or county. And if the County Board of Education shall find that such petition has been signed by a majority of the qualified voters of such district, township or county, then the said Board of Education may, in its discretion, order compulsory attendance upon the school or schools named therein, as provided for in this act.

Sec. 2. The County Board of Education may, upon such petition, hold an election, submitting to the voters of such district, township or county the question of compulsory attendance. For such election the said Board of Education shall designate the time of holding the same, shall appoint a registrar and two poll-holders for each voting place, and shall advertise the same by posting notices at the courthouse door and three other public places thirty days before such election. If the election be for a district, then the County Board of Education shall also designate a voting place; if for a township or county, the polling places shall be those of the preceding general election. At such election those favoring compulsory attendance shall vote a ticket on which is written or printed "For Compulsory Attendance"; those who are opposed shall vote a ticket on which shall be written or printed "Against Compulsory Attendance."

The result of such election shall be reported to the County Board of Education by the judges of election, and no other report shall be required. In all other respects except as provided herein, the election shall be held under the law governing general elections as nearly as may be. The expense shall be paid out of the school fund.

If it appear that a majority of the votes cast in such election are in favor of compulsory attendance the County Board of Education shall order compulsory attendance upon the schools or schools named in the petition, as provided for in this act.

Sec. 3. Whenever it shall appear that the enrollment in any school in any district for the preceding school year has been less than sixty per cent. or the average daily attendance, upon said school less than thirty-five per cent. of the school census of said district, the County Board of Education, without petition or elections, shall have the power, in its discretion, to order compulsory attendance upon such school under the provisions of this act.

Every parent or person having control of a child over eight and under fourteen years of age shall cause such child to attend the public schools in the district where such parent or person resides for sixteen weeks in each school year, such year beginning on the first day of July and ending on the thirtieth day of June, unless the parent or person having control of such child shall show that the child has elsewhere received during the year regular instruction for sixteen weeks in the branches of study taught in the public schools.

Children over twelve years of age shall not be subject to this requirement while lawfully employed at labor at home or elsewhere.

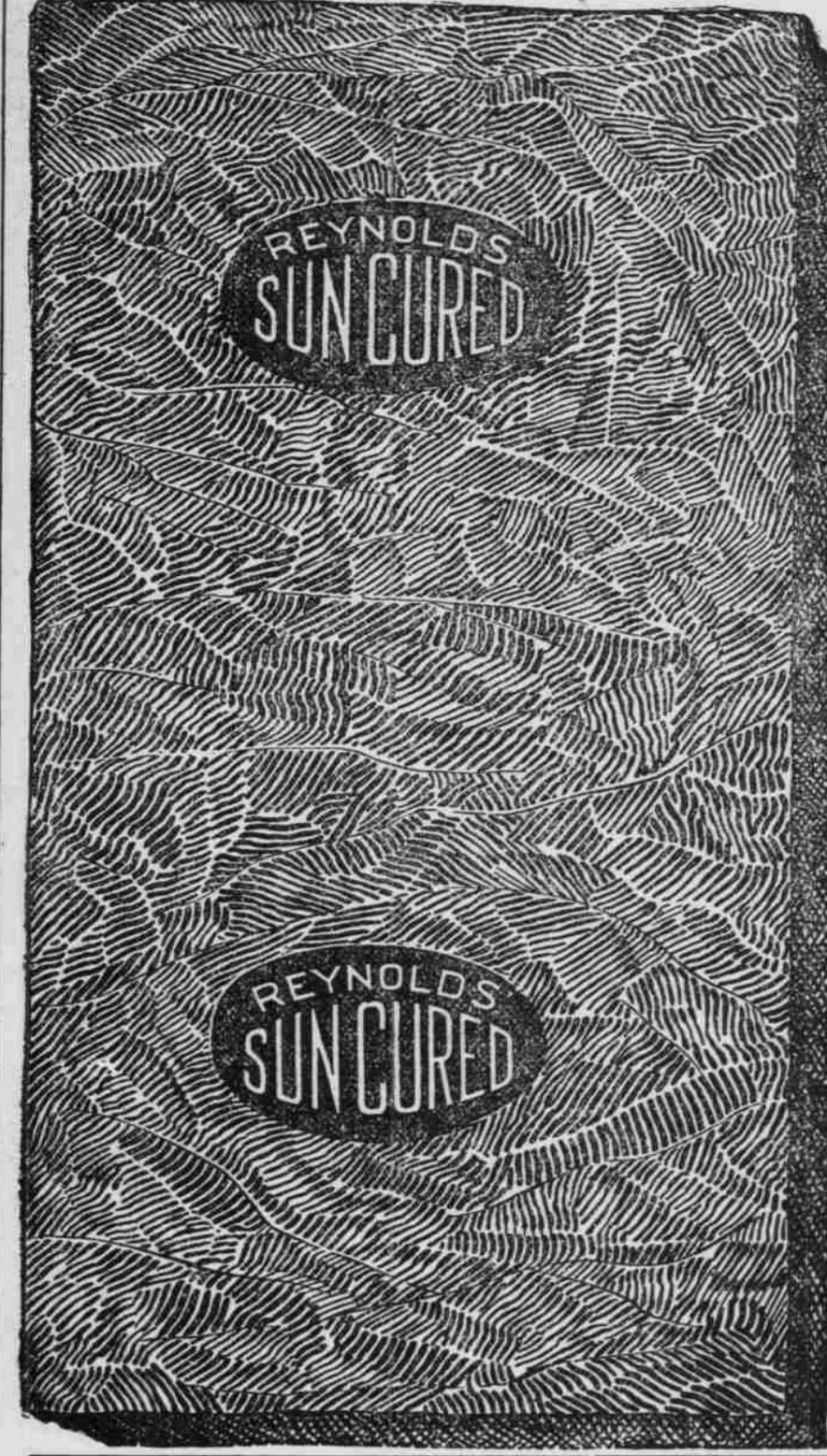
Sec. 5. Any person violating the provisions of the foregoing section 4 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not less than five dollars nor more than twenty-five dollars: Provided, that if the parent or person having control of a child shall show that the child is destitute of clothing suitable for attending school, and such parent or person is unable to provide suitable clothing, or that the child's mental or physical condition is such as to render its instruction inexpedient or impracticable, such parent or person shall not be convicted of a violation hereof.

Sec. 6. Every person who shall regularly employ any child under 12 years of age, or shall authorize or permit the regular employment of such child upon premises under his control during school hours while the school such child should attend is in session shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, unless the child so employed shall have attended school for sixteen weeks prior to such employment and during the current school year.

Sec. 7. The person taking the school census of any district shall obtain the information as to the age of each child in the district from the parent or person having control of such child, and the written report sworn to by the census taker shall be prima facie evidence in any court of the age of each child therein enumerated.

Every parent or other person having control of a child who shall make any false statement concerning the age of such child, with intent to deceive the census taker or the teacher of any school or the employer of such child, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and

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Sec. 8. At the end of a term of a public school the teacher or principal of such school shall make a report to the County Superintendent of Schools of such county, showing the names of the children between the ages of eight and fourteen who attended such school and the number of days each child attended. Such statement shall be sworn to by the teacher or principal, and shall be prima facie evidence in any court both as to the facts stated therein and that any child not enumerated therein did not attend such school.

Sec. 9. It shall be the duty of the County Superintendent of Schools to furnish annually to the constable of each township in his county, or to some other lawful officer of the county a list of the children who have not attended school as required by law, and upon such information it shall be the duty of said constable or officer to cause the offending persons to be prosecuted before some justice of the peace of such township.

Sec. 10. Whenever the County Board of Education shall order compulsory attendance upon any school or schools, either upon petition, as provided in section 1 hereof, or after an election, as provided in section 2 hereof, or after order made, as provided in section 3 hereof, the provisions of this act shall be in full force and effect in the territory described and for the schools named, but this act shall not apply to any school except upon order of the County Board of Education as herein provided.

Sec. 11. It shall be the duty of the County Board of Education of each county to furnish to the Clerk of the Superior court of such county a list of all schools which have been placed under the operation of this act. The said Clerk shall keep a list of the same in his office, and shall furnish to each justice of the peace of the county a certified list of schools in the township of such justice of the peace which are so included. And the said list as kept by said Clerk, or a certified statement made by him, shall be conclusive evidence in any court that the provisions of this act apply to the school or schools therein named.

Sec. 12. This act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

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Railroads do curious things sometimes, especially when they get tangled up with one another's right of way. At Lumberton the Seaboard refused to deliver a consignment of rails to a new railroad that was building, in order to stop the new road from laying track over Seaboard right of way, but the new road got rails anyway and proceeded to put them down.

Hunting for Trouble.
"I've lived in California 20 years, and am still hunting for trouble in the way of burns, sores, wounds, boils, cuts, sprains, or a case of piles that Bucklen's Arnica Salve won't quickly cure," writes Charles Walters, of Alleghany, Sierra Co. No use hunting, Mr. Walters; it cures every case. Guaranteed at Hamilton's drug store. 25.

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