

The Oxford Public Ledger.

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NORTH CAROLINA NEWS.

CULLED FROM THE VARIOUS PAPERS OF THE STATE.

Tar Heel Items for Tar Heel Readers—Some Happenings in Old North State.

The Citizens' National Bank of Gastonia purchased the entire issue of bonds, amounting to \$75,000, voted by the citizens of Gastonia on July 2nd, for municipal improvements.

In Cleveland county last Saturday four negroes were playing cards in the woods and booze and pistols were "in their midst." Ward Thompson has been buried and Tom Falls is in the tall timber.

The Messenger and Intelligencer, of Wadesboro, says that three of the saloon keepers of that town, who will have to close their business January 1st, because of the result of the recent prohibition election there, will move to Wilmington and open saloons.

Rev. R. W. Boyd, who has been superintendent of the institution since it was founded 18 years ago, and Rev. A. Shorter Caldwell, financial agent, tendered their resignations to the regents of the Barium Orphans' Home at the meeting of the regents at the home, and they were accepted. Mr. Boyd's will not take effect until next June.

The Lenoir News learns that robbers blew open the safes in the office of M. B. Starnes and the postoffice at Granite Falls, Caldwell county, Saturday night, securing about \$600 from the Starnes safe and about \$160 from the postoffice. The work was done so quietly that the villagers didn't know about it until next morning and there is no clue.

News has reached Concord of the finding of oil at Mount Pleasant, in the very heart of the place. For some time the well at Mount Amoena Seminary has been filling with oil, and it was thought that some one was out of meanness, pouring oil into the well. It became so full of oil that an examination was led to, and it is believed that the oil is a natural flow and is genuine kerosene.

The Wadesboro Messenger relates that Mr. W. T. Webb, of Gulledge township, Anson county, grew this season "1,460 bushels of juicy Norton yams" on one fourth of an acre of land. The yield was so great when the potatoes were harvested that Mr. Webb had to borrow some land on which to hold them, the fourth of an acre not being sufficient.

In Anson Superior Court last week R. J. Phelps brought suit against J. J. Little to recover the value of a mule and harness he had traded Little. Phelps claimed that when he made the trade he was so drunk he didn't know what he was doing. There was evidence both ways as to Phelps' condition at the time but the jury decided that he was sober enough to know what he was doing and gave him no damages.

A distressing accident occurred at the lumber mills of Hoffman & Mull at Drexel, a small village five miles from Morganton, Friday afternoon, which cost D. C. Franklin, one of the men employed there, his life. He was engaged with a fellow laborer in fixing a belt, which in some manner became entangled in a line shaft making 500 revolutions a minute, and was hurled around several times before the machinery could be stopped, causing instant death.

Mr. W. A. Mabry, a druggist of this city, had an exciting experience with a pick-pocket. This occurred outside of the fair grounds, when a pick-pocket was caught with his hand in the pocket of an aged gentleman. Mr. Mabry saw him in the act of robbing the old man and caught him red-handed. He fought desperately to get away and Mr. Mabry held him some five minutes, for the police but none of them would come and he was released. However he did not take any money with him.—Durham Sun.

Major W. A. Guthrie is wise when he goes to a fair where pick-pockets are likely to operate. We would like to have seen the chagrin on the face of that thief that touched his hip pocket and got a pocket book with nothing but a reference to a Supreme Court case. That may, however, be valuable information to the pick-pocket. But we guess he took the Major's stick to support him to the next pocket, after he found out the contents of the Major's book. It is wise to carry two pocket books—even if you do not have anything in one.—Durham Sun.

FINE MUSICAL CONCERT.

Victor and his Elegant Band Capture Our People.

On last Thursday night Victor and his fine Band gave an excellent entertainment at the Opera House to a large and appreciative audience. It was one of the Star Courses and a better pleased audience never assembled in the Opera House than this one.

This is Victor's second visit to Oxford and the music was the best we ever heard on any stage and completely captured the very large audience.

The vocal solos of Miss Lourie, who has a fine voice, won storms of applause from the delighted audience.

Whenever Victor and his celebrated band comes to Oxford they will meet with a warm reception at the hands of our music loving people.

Hurt Playing Foot Ball.

In the game of football between Warrenton School and Horner School teams Saturday at Henderson two of the Horner team were badly hurt. Major Tate was badly stunned and did not regain consciousness for several hours, and Cadlet Thomas had two ribs broken. Both are doing well. The game resulted in 17 to nothing in favor of the Warrenton boys.

Growth of Masonry.

Grand Secretary John C. Drewry, of the Grand Lodge of Masons, has a petition for a new lodge at Wentworth, in Rockingham county, and the dispensation will be granted in a few days. It is said Masonry is growing very rapidly in this State and this year will show a decided increase in the strength of the order. He believes the increase will reach 1,500 or 2,000, which will give close to 20,000 Masons in the State.

Death of Former Granville Men.

We learn from the Durham papers that two former Granville men died in that city on Monday. Mr. W. J. Coley, a merchant, fell a victim of typhoid fever, and leaves a mother and one son and a daughter, and two brothers and one sister in Granville to mourn his death. They are Messrs. J. E. and H. O. Coley, of Northside, and Mrs. W. L. Clark, of Lyon. The remains were interred at the old home place near Northside.

Mr. Eli Allen was the next one claimed by the grim monster, death. He was 63 years of age. The remains were also brought to Granville and buried at Rock Spring church some 8 miles from Creedmoor.

Tom Upchurch Hangs Himself.

Tom Upchurch, the negro under sentence of death for assault, who was to have been hung in Louisburg last Wednesday was found dead in his cell Sunday morning. Though under close surveillance Upchurch had in some manner secured a coil of wire. During the night he fastened one end to a girder of his cell, tied the other around his neck and jumped from the cot. He committed an aggravated assault on a 50-year old white woman, Miss Perry, near Louisburg in August last.

The jailer found him hanging by a wire around the neck, cold in death. His toes touched the floor and were badly lacerated in the struggle.

Worthy of Your Patronage.

Mr. Thad. G. Stem, a most excellent young man of old Granville who was recently granted license to practice law by the State Supreme Court, has located in Oxford, his county town, to practice his chosen profession. He is a graduate of University Law School and is well equipped for the practice of law. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Stem, of Tally Ho township, and a most worthy young man, and we feel sure will take a high stand in his profession. Read his card in another part of this paper, and accord him some of your legal business, which will receive prompt and careful attention. He occupies the office in the Hicks' building, Hillsboro street, recently vacated by Mr. W. H. Harrison.

The editor is a warm friend of the young men and delights in their success, as they take we older ones places as we fall by the wayside and pass beneath the shadows, and hence should receive our encouragement in the commencement of the great battle of life.

IF YOUR watch has gone on a strike and your clock has quit striking why bring them to W. D. Stinson and he will adjust the matter promptly and properly. Located at Paris Dry Goods store.

Obstinate cases of constipation and nasty, mean headaches promptly disappear when you take DeWitt's Little Early Riser Pills. Sold by J. G. Hall.

WAR ON TOBACCO TRUST.

UNCLE SAM SEIZES TOBACCO AT NORFOLK.

It was Shipped from Durham to British-American Tobacco Co. Great Britain.

The Federal Government took another sensational and advanced step Monday in its pretended warfare against trusts. It seized trust goods passing in interstate traffic.

Acting under orders from the Attorney General at Washington a \$7,000 shipment of leaf tobacco, consigned from Durham to the British-American Tobacco Company of Great Britain, was attached at Norfolk. The action has been taken by invoking section 6 of the Sherman anti-trust law which authorizes the seizure and condemnation by the Government of property of any trust, while in interstate or foreign commerce. This is the first time the section has ever been enforced.

Although the Tobacco Trust is involved in this particular instance it is understood that similar action may be taken against the products of other trusts against which suit for dissolution is pending.

The British-American Tobacco Co. is declared to be the foreign branch of the Tobacco Trust, and the government charges that one-third of its thirty million dollar capital is held by the Imperial Tobacco Company and the balance by the American Tobacco Co.

The government further charges that the British American Company has been created as an instrumentality and for the special purpose of defeating and violating the laws of the United States and that while its principal office is in London the chairman of the board of managers is an officer of the American Tobacco Company against which suit for dissolution is already pending.

If the administration follows up its seizures of tobacco owned by the trusts as it goes from State to State or as it is listed for foreign shipment as the law requires there is good reason to believe that something will really be done to the trusts after all.

The Company whose goods are seized must go into court and prove that it is not a combination in restraint of trade. Nearly all the output of the Durham branch, for instance, is shipped out of North Carolina, and if the government officials follow up their method in this case they will soon have a large quantity of tobacco and the American Tobacco Company would soon be put out of business unless it can show to the satisfaction of the courts that it is not a trust.

The new tactics of the administration is causing considerable discussion in Washington and further proceedings are looked forward to with interest. It is a puzzle to know whether the Department of Justice attorneys have been merely ignorant of such a plain provision of the law all these years or have been willfully neglecting to do their plain duty and enforce the law.

Great Loss to the State.

John Charles McNeill, poet and raconteur, whose contributions in verse and prose to The Charlotte Observer, and one of the leading magazines, have attracted national attention died at his ancestral home in Scotland county, aged 33 years. He was a master of arts of Wake Forest college, and for some time professor of English, in Mercer University. He had published one volume of verse under the title, "Songs, Merry and Sad," and second "Under the Persimmon Tree" was in preparation.

The following beautiful poem on sleep was the last written by this lamented young man on September 23rd: Wherein have I displeased thee, fickle sleep,

I perish for some spell to call and keep

Thee near me, that thy gentle arts may steep

My brain with calm, from dusk till dawn of day!

The night's long hours are blind and love delay,

But, with thee, I would bless them that they creep.

Once, night by night, love's own self was thou;

And with thy own cool hand assayed my brow;

Wherefore I pray thee, keep not from me now,

For I am summer, and thou art her showers.

DO IT NOW—Send in your heaters and coal stoves to be repaired before cold weather comes and avoid the rush. J. F. Edwards. 2m

WIFE-MURDERER SUICIDES

RANSOM GODWIN, OF JOHNSON SHOOT'S HIMSELF.

On the Night of August 7th Shot his Wife in Cold Blood and he Dies by his Own Hand.

Selma, Oct. 22.—After two previous attempts at self-destruction, Ransom Godwin, a farmer of Johnson county, who on the night of August 7th, last, shot his wife in a most brutal and cold-blooded manner, shot himself this morning through the heart with a gun, death following instantly, the scene of the deed being the woods about a half mile from his home. The coroner this afternoon held an inquest over the dead body, after which it was interred by relatives.

Godwin had been hunted by officers since the night of his diabolical deed in August, but had effectually eluded capture staying in the dense woods in the vicinity of his home all the time, it is believed, and being in communication with his son. Once when officers were hot on his trail he tried to end his existence with his gun, but the attempt was a failure. A second time, when he learned that the Governor had offered a reward of \$100 for his capture, he made an effort at suicide by cutting his throat, but this attempt also did not result in death.

The cold weather coming on and the old man being unable longer to lead a sylvan existence, he deliberately set about planning a third effort to put himself out of this world. Some weeks ago a lawyer visited him and papers disposing of what property he had—not a very great amount—were drawn up. This having been done in good shape, he told his son yesterday evening where to look this morning for his dead body, and at the place designated it was found early to-day.

Godwin was in his 76th year and was in good health and sound mind.

Must Stand Together.

The citizens of any prosperous town are always public spirited and united. Stand together, work for the interests of the whole town. Always stand ready to do your part, don't grumble and spend your time in prophesying failures, but help to make every enterprise a success, be it great or small. Be energetic and enterprising and your example will be imitated.

A Compromise Probable.

The Charlotte News has it on the very best authority that there is a strong probability of a compromise between the state and the railroads in the suits now pending under the terms of which the state will dismiss its suits and the fines imposed if the railroads will submit to the rate law and try it fairly until the next session of legislature.

We would be exceedingly glad to see this vexing question settled in this way. We believe it would go far toward allaying the feeling that now exists against the railroads. And we believe further, that if after a fair trial the 21-cent rate proves too low that the people of the state will see to it that justice is done the railroads.

We sincerely hope that some such amicable solution as that suggested above may be reached at an early date.

Race Riot in New Orleans.

A party of negroes barricaded themselves in a down town house at New Orleans last Thursday night and started a small riot. One policeman was killed and several were wounded.

The trouble started in front of the Second German Presbyterian Church during services when several negroes became boisterous. Patrolman Campbell, who attempted to arrest them, was killed. The negroes ran to a nearby house, which they barricaded. With shotguns, revolvers and razors they awaited the police; a few of them gathered quickly and stormed the house. Sergeant Cambions was mortally wounded and Patrolman Wenck and Corporal J. W. Dunn received serious wounds.

A company of local militia which happened to be drilling in front of police headquarters when the fighting was reported volunteered for service and were rushed to the scene of the riot.

The riot ended after an hour and a half siege of the house by the police. The officers routed the negroes by burning them out, mortally wounding one and arresting five others.

If you take DeWitt's Kidney and Bladder Pills you will get prompt relief from backache, weak kidneys, inflammation of the bladder and urinary troubles. A week's treatment 25 cents. Sold by J. G. Hall.

OKLAHOMA LETTER.

Mr. Walter Stradley Writes Interestingly of Indian Chief.

Editor Public Ledger—Your readers will envy me an experience I enjoyed last Sunday afternoon when in the hotel lobby at Tulsa, I. T., I saw the notorious Apache Chief, Geronimo. Old Geronimo has about the worst record—murder, torture, robbery—of any Indian in the history of the country. Several years ago he was captured by the troops of Uncle Sam, and he is now held as a prisoner of war near Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He is allowed some freedom to roam about in a few Indian villages, but is kept under strict surveillance.

The Old Chief, now eighty-five, was on his way to Collinsville to attend perhaps the last great Indian powwow. The Indians form all over the Indian Territory this week at Collinsville under the leadership of Spy Buck, a Cherokee Chief, to welcome statehood, at least so they say. Old Geronimo is attending this powwow under permission from the Secretary of War. According to the newspapers he is now, after a career of cruel and merciless warfare on the whites, at this fair to talk peace to five thousand Indians.

In appearance Geronimo is a typical Indian—high cheek bones, narrow, deep set, black eyes, from which the winter of life has not yet quenched the fire of deviltry. Age has, however, wrinkled and furrowed his face. His skin looks like a sun-dried perchment.

In the lobby of the hotel the old Chief and his party, consisting of his eighth (consecutive) wife, his guide, David, an Apache Scout, and his wife and papoose, and his manager, a white gentleman, were surrounded by a throng of people seemingly as eager to see the old renegade as if he had been Bryan or Roosevelt—amongst whom I admit I was one of which. The old rascal was writing his autograph as fast as he could, which was not very fast, at twenty-five cents per auto. The government permits him to make a little spending money this way. The crowd was so thick around him that I could not get near enough to negotiate for his autograph; but later on the train I paid him twenty-five cents or one quarter of a dollar to write his notorious name on the back of an old envelope. This I shall keep and probably exhibit to my—that is to the children and grandchildren of my friends.

I am writing this from Okmulgee, the old capital of the Creek Nation, now the county seat of Okmulgee county, new state of Oklahoma. It looks and feels sort of natural here, for there are plenty of negroes in the county and many in the town. They belong to the Creek Tribe, many of them, and all who do belong to the tribe will get their allotments of land. They belong to the tribe because they were held as slaves by the Creeks before the war.

Just across the street from the hotel is the old Council House of the Nation, an old weather beaten brick structure with a little belfry on top of it. This morning about 9 o'clock the bell rang out calling the Council together. I asked a gentleman why they should meet now—what is there for them to legislate about—and he said what I knew that there is not much for them to do, but that they meet largely from force of tradition and habit. To be sure the Great White Father at Washington has some money in soak for them, and like the white man they are not above scenes of graft.

The Council is composed of two houses—a house of Warriors and a house of Kings. The lower house, the Warriors, are negroes; the upper house, the Kings, are Indians. The proceedings are conducted in the Creek language and hence I did not attend the session. The ancient burying ground of the Nation is near here and I want to see it if I have time. If I do, I'll write you about it. Here, this county went Republican in the election, and unless the legislature disfranchise the negroes, it will keep on going Republican. The negroes out here vote the Republican ticket. Ain't that funny?

WALTER P. STRADLEY.

SOME people say that never in their lives did they save any money until they secured a home auxiliary steel bank. Loaned free by the Oxford Savings Bank.

WANTED.—A capable responsible white tenant to locate on our plantation near Gela, N. C. Will furnish a good comfortable house of 5 rooms and give the right man a good chance. CALDWELL & TOPPING.

Subscribe to the Public Ledger.

ITEMS FROM EXCHANGES.

NEWSY, POINTED ITEMS GATHERED FOR OUR READERS.

Short and Seasoned, Wise, Pert, Gay and Solemn Things Talked About in the Merry-go-Round.

Contrary to the advice of Secretary Taft and the slurs and wishes of President Roosevelt the people of Oklahoma adopted their State constitution by a majority of 168,759. The vote against it was 72,077.

Our contemporaries are having a good deal to say because a man named Corn is a candidate for office in Tennessee. It is presumed that it will not be hard work to persuade the Tennessee voters to swallow Corn.—Star.

Hon. Wm. J. Bryan's Commoner says: "President Roosevelt would have the constitution stretched to cover present conditions. But wouldn't it be better to force conditions to become such that the constitution would cover them?"

The ovation given ex-Gov. Aycock at the Bryan banquet in Greensboro Wednesday night surpassed that given the distinguished Nebraskan himself, and shows how the people in North Carolina regard their own brilliant citizen.—Newbern Sun.

Did it not border on disrespect to should say that the fluttering and twittering of Mr. Roosevelt over the theories flung from Mr. Bryan resemble the fuss a jaybird makes over a new acquisition from his neighbor's nest.—Norfolk Virginian.

The fact that one million dollars was subscribed at the Episcopal convention in Richmond as a mere thank offering and without any special purpose being named suggests the reflection that there are no religious bodies these days whose spokesmen can say, "Silver and Gold have I None."—Chronicle.

Death comes to the human family in many curious and unexpected ways. At Owensboro, Ky., almost instant death befell 10-year old Jesse Goro when a candle moth flew into his mouth and lodged in his wind pipe. A doctor was in the house at the time, but could do nothing to save the boys life.

Type writer girls may find their occupation gone if what is said of a new invention turns out to be true. It is exhibited at the business show in Madison Square Garden, New York, and is an automatic typewriter run by compressed air and capable, it is said, of writing from 5,000 to 10,000 words an hour for 24 hours at a stretch.

Mr. William J. Bryan spoke to an immense throng in Raleigh Thursday. It is estimated that the crowd numbered between thirty-five and forty thousand souls, but not near that number could get in hearing distance of the distinguished speaker. All honor was paid Mr. Bryan, coupled with cordial North Carolina hospitality.

The beginning of wireless telegraphy communication across the Atlantic for news and commercial purposes, which took place Thursday, is a great event in the world history. It is one of the most conspicuous of the many triumphs of science and another of the marvelous benefits which the students, the theorists and the men of science have conferred upon mankind.

President of the State Fair says that this year's fair was a record breaker every day of the week in point of attendance. He declares there were 5,000 more people to hear Bryan than were on the grounds two years ago when Roosevelt spoke. At any rate the fair was certainly a success in point of attendance, and it is the crowd that makes a fair. The weather was another record breaker. It is almost unheard of for every day of the week to be just right, but such was actually the case.

A most remarkable condition of political affairs exists in America today. There are two men conspicuous above all others and who dominate their party. One is Roosevelt who can have the Republican nomination for President if he will accept it; the other is Bryan, who can have the Democratic nomination for President if he will say the word. Was their ever such political hierarchy in the history of this government? These two must be pre-eminently very great men, or the balance of the so-called statesmen in the country must be very small men.—Greensboro Record.

I HAVE on hand two second hand moving machines that are in tip top running order, and am offering them at a very low price. If you are in the market for a mower take advantage of this offer, as they are bargains. J. F. Edwards. 2m.