

Three divorcees were granted to parties in Concord Friday evening and it wasn't a good day for the business either.

Mr. Preston, director of the United States mint, estimates that the world's gold production in 1900 will exceed \$300,000,000.

President McKinley yesterday telegraphed Secretary Sherman to send a cablegram of condolence to the Spanish government on the death of Senor Conovas.

The town of Elkin, in Yadkin county, is to have electric lights. A company has been formed to put in a plant at once. The power of the Elkin Manufacturing Company will be used.

According to the monthly statement of the treasury department the circulation per capita in the United States on August 1 was \$23.53 based on an estimated population of 73,068,000.

Senator Tillman threatens to resign from the Senate and run for Governor of South Carolina. This course, he says, he will take if it is necessary for him to occupy the executive chair in order to preserve the "dispensary."

Whiskey drinking has fallen off during the past year nearly 6,000,000 gallons. The internal revenue commissioner thinks this decrease is due, not to any sudden spasm of virtue, but to hard times, and if prosperity comes bringing flushed pocketbooks in its ways that there will be a corresponding increase during the next fiscal year.

The New York Journal says no patriotic citizen will regret or bewail the return of prosperity, but at the same time the public will demand some substantial evidence of such a desirable change in the country's affairs before it will join in the justification of the politicians are now trying to inaugurate.

The Cumcock coal mine, in Chatham county, is to be sold to the highest bidder September 6. It is likely that the property will run up to \$300,000, the amount of the first and second mortgages. During the past five years at least \$200,000 has been spent on the plant of this mine, which is now a fine one.

The Dubuque, Ia., Herald says as soon as the gold diggers on the Klondike hear that the tariff bill has been passed there will be a big rush for home. It takes a whole month to dig out \$10,000 or \$50,000 up there, but a man can sit here in the comfortable breezes of that wave of prosperity and grow rich by simply watching the "foreigner pay the tax."

Hon. Fleming Du Bignon, of Georgia, who predicts an early disintegration of the Populist party, in a long communication upon the political condition in Georgia and the South, concludes by saying, "I believe the Democratic party should offer them every reasonable inducement to return. There should be no further division among the white men of Georgia and of the South, and there is no better common ground on which they can all unite than the Democratic platform."

The cloudbursts and inundations which have devastated the eastern ports of Germany were the worst which have occurred since 1870. 150 persons were killed in Silesia alone, and in Saxony the number of killed will not fall short of 180. The financial losses foot up over 150,000,000 marks. At Pillnitz the country residence of the Queen of Saxony, the river Elbe rose so fast that it flooded the lower floor of the royal castle, forcing the King and Queen to hurriedly flee from the place and seek refuge at Dresden.

The wheat crop is still growing. A conservative estimate now places this year's crop at 580,000,000 bushels, which is a larger figure than for any year in our history except 1891. The production per acre is unusually large also, so that the cost to the farmer per bushel is less than in former years. This extra bounty of favorable conditions is estimated at 120,000,000 bushels. England, our best customer, will need, it is thought, 180,000,000 bushels of the 182,000,000 or 200,000,000 bushels we shall have for export. The Chicago Tribune estimates that our farmers will this year get more for their crops \$343,000,000 more good news for others as well as for the agriculturist. Its effect on the economic condition of our people is obvious. Every industry must profit by it.

William McKinley and wife, Canton, is the plain entry on the register of the Hotel Champlain.

Treasurer Worth yesterday received a check for \$90,000, the semi-annual interest on the North Carolina Railway.

The editor of the Fitzgerald, Ga., Leader, has sent to Hon. Wm. J. Bryan a watermelon weighing 8 1/2 pounds.

In his report to Secretary of the Navy Long, Assistant Secretary Roosevelt says the naval militia will play an important part in the defense of the country if we become involved in a foreign war.

The premium list of the State fair, which commences on October 18th and continues the entire week, was issued yesterday. Premiums are offered to the amount of \$5,000 in the aggregate. The list shows an increase in premiums in every department.

Commissioner Evans has issued a statement showing that at the beginning of the fiscal year the pension roll of the United States numbered just 983,528. During the year 50,101 new pensions were granted, 3,971 persons were restored to the rolls. Old age and disease, however, are making great inroads into the list, for there were 31,960 deaths during the year.

A Kansas clergyman sweetly remarks: "If a harebrained, silly, mimicking, foolish, sleek, well-groomed dancing man should waltz around a ballroom with my wife I would hunt him up the next morning and kick him around the public square." That clergyman ought to keep his wife away from ballrooms, unless he is looking for trouble.

Birmingham, Ala., reports a big business boom. The Birmingham Rolling Mill Company will at once begin making its entire necessary steel product. The Alabama Rolling Mill, at Gate City, will begin operations in a few days in all departments. There is a general building boom, and over \$500,000 is being put into business and residence houses.

The headstones for the graves of the 48 known North Carolina dead in the cemetery at Winchester, Va., have been put in place. Twenty-one well-known North Carolinians are buried there. September 17th the corner-stone of the monument to the North Carolina dead will be laid. Charles Broadway Rouns, of New York, will be present. He gives \$500 of the cost of the monument. The headstones are of white marble, of uniform height and thickness, and add considerably to the beauty of Stonewall cemetery.

DISPASSIONATELY.

Now that the school tax election is over the question may be discussed dispassionately. There has been much said for and against it through the press and otherwise. The friends of the cause, with the exception of a few, have not fought very vigorously for its success, feeling apparently that it would be a lost effort. This, indeed, was the true situation, the measure being very unpopular from its first announcement to the public. There have, however, been a sufficient number of townships carried for the increased tax in the State to demonstrate either the good or bad results of the law. Upon such results will hinge the future of the new system to a large extent. If it is found to meet the demands of the times for better and longer school terms, the next legislature, no matter what its complexion, will let it remain on the statute. If to the contrary, it will be annulled.

The new law, as far as increasing the school funds, thereby offering inducement for a better class of teachers and giving longer schools in the country districts, appeared good.

The statement that the schools in the country are longer now than the children will attend is not logical, at least is not good argument. This scribe acknowledges that the children do not attend, generally, more than two-thirds of the time. If, however, the terms were lengthened there would be a corresponding lengthening of attendance. For instance, during a four months school the children attend, on an average, in the neighborhood of three months. Now, if the schools were six months, they would attend at least four months, and many of the smaller ones would attend the greater part of the time. It is apparent then that a longer school term would be beneficial.

Again, it is evident that without local taxation the schools will never be longer than now, the State assessment already being up to the limit.

The question, to gain friends, needs to be agitated and the people educated to favor the plan.

THE ALASKAN FIELDS.

The report by Joseph Edward Spurr, the geological survey expert, who headed a party that made a thorough investigation of the Alaskan fields last summer, has been made public. The report is interesting, coming as it does when the country is in a state of excitement over the marvelous gold finds in that region. From it we glean that Forty Mile gold district, or Franklin Gulch, was struck in 1887, which produced about \$1,000 the first year and has since been a constant payer. Davis Creek was discovered in 1888, when there was a stampede from Franklin Gulch. In 1891 gold mining from the interior, as well as on the coast, at Silver Bow Basin and at Tradwell, received a great impetus. In 1892 Miller Creek was discovered. In 1895 many new claims were staked and it is estimated that 80 men took out \$100,000. Since then Miller Creek has been the heaviest producer of the Forty Mile district, and until recently of the whole Yukon. The entire length of the district lies in the British possessions.

With the announcement of gold in the Klondike district in 1896-97 there was a general stampede to the new region. According to latest information 400 claims have been located up to January 1st, 1897, on Bonowa Creek, and about half as many more on Hunker Creek. There is, says the report, plenty of room for many more prospectors and miners. The district where good prospects are shown spreads over an area of 700 square miles. The estimated Alaskan gold production in 1896 by the report is \$1,400,000. The difficulties in the way of speedy development of the country is the climate, with a short summer season and a long cold winter. Prospecting, however, is done more in winter than in summer.

Alaska is not now self supporting agriculturally. The two objections makes it exceedingly perilous to parties going to this region in search of gold.

THE COMMISSION NOT SATISFACTORY.

It appears that the Railway Commission is not satisfactory to the Populist brethren. The commission was a pet lobby of the Populists several years ago and was believed would settle many of the supposed grievances put upon the people by the railroads. But it seems now that the men appointed on the commission have fallen in with the railroads and are winking at the very things they once fought. The Raleigh correspondent of the Charlotte Observer, referring to the subject, says in his letter this morning: "Some of the Populists are dissatisfied with the railroad commission and say it does not put the coulters in deep enough. They go further, and say that unless there is a great change in the next legislature it will abolish the commission."

This is just as might be expected. But there is at least one Populist who is apparently satisfied with the commission. We refer to S. Otto Wilson. He is enthusiastic over it and will champion its cause with great vigor. Otto is essentially, deeply interested in the commission and is no doubt feathering his nest well upon it. But the people he is supposed to represent are getting little. Many of the people, however, are easily duped, and after a little grumbling and an explanation from the commission, will quiet down and have nothing further to say of it.

PEEK A BOO.

It is interesting to note how North Carolina's Senatorial dignitaries, Hons. Pritchard and Butler, play peek a boo at each other. Mr. Pritchard says the Republican party never failed to carry out a pledge. Mr. Butler says they failed in 1896. These statements grate upon each other, and the reading public is left in a quandary as to which is right. It is evident, however, that the veracity of one or the other is at fault. While their language does not harmonize, they are, so far as the people know, on speaking terms with each other, and friendly, to a degree. Both gentlemen are apparently cunning and have a line marked out which will be followed with a dogged determination. Hide and seek is a precious nice game for boys in season, and it is evidently enjoyed by the Senators. But with this kind of tactics in North Carolina's only representatives in the Senate what is likely to become of her interest? Is the question of the people.

It is said that the weather has been so hot in Kansas that corn was roasted on the stalk.

ANARCHISM.

The gospel of anarchy has once more called attention to itself by the assassination of the Spanish premier, murdered, according to the latest cable dispatches, because of his activity in the prosecution of the criminals who a little more than a year ago threw a bomb into a religious procession at Barcelona, killing twelve persons and injuring fifty others. For assisting in bringing to justice the cold-blooded and merciless wretches who committed this horrible crime the Spanish statesman was condemned to death by a secret anarchist tribunal and deliberately shot down almost in the presence of his wife. The object in view was twofold—to avenge the death of their comrades and to strike terror into the representatives of law and thus help forward the cause of anarchy. Whatever satisfaction they may derive from the death of the Spanish premier, the leaders of this propaganda, of slaughter and political chaos ought to realize as intelligent men, which many of them are said to be, that the latter object cannot be accomplished by the means which they have chosen, and that they and not society must be annihilated in the warfare they have inaugurated. To kill a Czar, to murder the President of the French republic, to attempt the life of an Italian king, to strike down a Spanish statesman, effect nothing except to tighten the reins of government and to check the progress of liberal ideas. Society is not frightened by these demonstrations. It knows to well its own power and resources and the weakness and small numbers of those who are attacking it. The murderous programme of the anarchist and nihilist simply bends it together and arouses it to crush out mercilessly the elements that conspire against its peace. The anarchist may continue his campaign of bloodshed with more or less individual cases, but he will never prove dangerous to society or to government as long as he proceeds on the line of assassination.

A Half Gallon, Taken at Once. Mr. M. Crouse went to pick up a rock Saturday to place under his crib when a deadly copper-head, that was concealed there, bit him on the finger. His hand began to swell and he suffered excruciating agony until he was relieved. A dog that killed the snake was also bitten and his head swelled up as large as two dogs for a while. Up in this country where "mountain dew" is plentiful one need not suffer much from a snake bite. A half gallon taken at once will generally bring relief in a few minutes. —Elkin Times.

For a month or more the people living near Bald Knob, Ark., have been finding valuable pearls in a lake near that place. Hundreds of people have been opening mussel shells in search of the pearls and some fine gems have been found, some being sold for as much as \$200. A special from Bald Knob says a syndicate of Memphis parties have leased the lake for a term of five years for \$10,000. They will build a fence around the lake and will begin work with a steam dredger. The lake is said to be the richest pearl producer in the United States.

Judge Tuley has decided that the new city ordinance of Chicago establishing a vehicle tax void. The ordinance permitted the city to collect \$1 a year license from each bicycle owner and for other vehicles proportionately.

At a recent meeting of railroad engineers the following toast was offered: "To our mothers—the only faithful tenders who never misplaced a switch."

It is announced that this season's peach crop in Connecticut will be a record breaker. Unless something new utterly unforeseen shall develop the yield in the nutmeg State will be immense.

The World says that 2,500 babies have been abandoned by their mothers in New York within the past year.

Perry Steadman dropped dead while preaching at New Hope church in Rutherford county on last Monday. He was 60 years old.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

J. H. Emms, the popular druggist of Salisbury, has secured a good thing in the agency for "The Mexican Hair Restorative," the new discovery for restoring gray hair, and general scalp tonic. This remedy is far in advance of the old style hair tonic, and should be given the preference by all. Mr. Emms also carries a full line of drug sundries, prescription work being a specialty. See ad. elsewhere.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

MONDAY. President McKinley played ten pins Saturday.

The pension roll of the United States has almost reached the million mark.

Striking coal miners continue orderly and are gaining accessions to their ranks.

Several cases of typhoid fever is reported in the Vanderbilt household at Biltmore.

Ambassador White denies the rumor that he is to succeed Sherman as Secretary of State.

At Cedar Bayou, Texas, a huge lion was struck dead by lightning as it was about to devour a baby.

The Canadian government has taken steps to enforce the alien labor laws against citizens of the United States.

Second-Lieutenant Morford, of the third infantry, will be court-martialed upon charges of failure to pay his debts.

Miners in the Kanawha, W. Va., region are quitting work. It is believed all will be out by the middle of this week.

The British political officer at Mahakand, India, reports that 2,700 of the tribesmen were killed in the recent uprising.

Mrs. Zolpha Baell Hodgman, of Saratoga, N. Y., celebrated her hundredth birthday Saturday. She still enjoys good health.

The Liberty Bell will be taken from Philadelphia to the Tennessee Exposition and will be received with elaborate exercises.

Davidson Brothers, leaf tobacco dealers in New York, have made an assignment, the amount involved being about \$125,000.

Rev. Alexander Grant, pastor of the First Baptist Church, of Winnepeg, was drowned Saturday while canoeing in the Nepigon river.

A sheriff's posse in Coffee county, Ala., killed Allen Lightfoot and badly injured his son in attempting to arrest them for general crimes.

An explosion occurred Saturday at a cartridge factory near Sofia, Bulgaria. Forty-six persons were killed outright, and of the injured sixty will die.

David Ellsworth Bates, who is under arrest in Chicago, is alleged to have six wives living—two of them in Chicago. His sixth wife is a pretty sixteen-year-old girl.

Two negroes, Essek White and Armond Phillips, assaulted two young ladies near Houston, Tex. White was taken from jail and lynched. Phillips has not been caught.

The Paris Gaulois says a pigeon bearing a message regarding Professor Andree's balloon expedition to the North Pole has been captured near Trieste, in Austro-Hungary.

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"What Fools These Mortals Be."

The Klondike Gold Mining Company, of Philadelphia, are sending circulars throughout the country making some phenomenal offers. This remarkable company proposes to equip an expedition, and send it to Alaska to seek the precious metal.

The profits will be divided among the shareholders. Each share is valued at \$10, but in order to get a start the company offers these shares at \$1 each. Of course this is an easy road to sudden wealth; just put in a dollar and draw out a fortune. Some one is always anxious to take advantage of public excitement and play upon their madness, but it would be interesting to know if anyone in this State is wild enough to throw away a dollar in a scheme which bears folly, if nothing more, upon its face, when there are so many ready investments for one's money here at home.

Summer Items.

Messrs. Scott Saffrit and John Koon went to Concord last week on business. We are glad to know that Miss Cattie Misenheimer who has been confined to her bed with fever for some time is improving. Miss Mary Meisner is now attending school at Crescent, N. C.

St. Paul Breezes.

Late corn and potatoes are looking fine. The storm which we had last Thursday was worse than was at first thought to be. The five months old daughter of Mr. Julius Fesperman is very sick. Dr. Crump is attending it. Misses Bessie and Roxie Holo-bough, who have been spending several weeks here visiting relatives, returned to their home in Charlotte Sunday morning. T. D. B.

Items From Faith.

A large number of legs are coming to Peeler's saw mill. They will be used in Dr. McNairy's residence. A vein in John House's leg which had recently been cut, bursted and he lost a great deal of blood. Artz & Gardner have an order for another lot of window and door sills and are at work on them. J. T. Wyatt is filling an order for a car load of curbing. The Faith photographer took the Litcher township Sunday school convention in a group Saturday. The board of aldermen of Richmond, Va., have concurred in the resolution of the common council, inviting the Grand Army of the Republic to hold their annual encampment in that city in 1898. Great excitement prevails at Trinity Centre, Cal., over a rich strike made by the Graves Brothers in the Driit Claim, Coffee Creek. In four days they took out gold valued at \$95,000. The largest piece was worth \$12,000. The next thing on the program is said to be a Populist daily paper for Charlotte. The man who proposes to run it passed through here last night on his way from Washington to Charlotte. The arrangements for the starting of the new paper have not yet been completed and the gentleman desired his name withheld.

Burdette's Bicycle Ride.

Bob Burdette, he of Burlington Hawkeye fame, has been learning the bicycle. It happened, fortunately, in a foreign land. He thus details his experience in a letter to a friend:

Went out in the moonlight last Friday night, having first locked my family in the house and forbade them to look out of the windows. Led my bicycle out on the turnpike—the Bryn Mawr pikes are broader than the way to destruction, twice as smooth and much cleaner. It's a young bicycle—a coil-foaled '97. Would give the name but for the fact that I had to pay for the wheel. Will only say, therefore, in accordance with the ethics of our profession, that this NOT the wheel anybody says it is.

I held him by the withers right in the middle of the road, and mounted without assistance. I dismounted in the same independent manner. Got on again and proceeded to break him to saddle. Did I ride the first time? Well, say!

People had told me—fiars of all ages and both sexes that I couldn't fall, if when I felt that I was falling, I would stick out my foot. I stuck out both feet and both hands and fell on my head. I fell on one side of that diabolical wheel and then on the other; I fell on both sides at once; I fell on top of it and underneath it, and made "dog-falls" with it. I fell behind the hind wheel and in front of the front one at the same time and don't know yet how I did it. I fell and thrust both my legs through the spokes of one wheel. I met a terrified man in a buggy and drove him clear of the pike through Wheeler's hedge, and I don't think he has come back yet. Every time I fell I slapped the palms of my raw, swollen, throbbing hands on the hard "inelastic" pike, except the time I fell on my head. I fell harder and with a greater variety of landings than any man could fall unless he dropped out of a balloon and lit on a load of furniture. I lost my confidence, my patience, my temper, my clamps, lamp, bell and reputation. I broke one pedal, the saddle and the ordinance against loud, boisterous and abusive language at night. I ran into everything in sight except the middle of the road. I sat down on everything in the township except the saddle. I scoured in a circuit not 15 feet in circumference until you could smell brimstone. I made more revolutions than a South American republic, and didn't get 10 feet from where I started. I haven't been so mauled and abraded, so thumped and beaten, so trampled upon and pounded, so bruised and scratched since I left the army. But I can't tell.

I don't say that I "blew." But I "can."

Do I consider "biking" good for the health? For the health of some people, I do. I don't see how a physician can bring up his family unless his children have something to eat.

But in my own case, I reserve my decision. I will wait until I know whether I am going to die or get well. And do tell Brother Davis to keep his obituary on the standing gallery until he hears from "Slug Nine." I don't believe I've got "30" yet. Although friends who have called to see me break down when they say "good-bye" and walk out of the room on tiptoe. But I wouldn't mind that if I knew what became of my shoulder blades the time I ran under the hay wagon.

Yesterday a couple from the country came here to be married in style by the Governor. They hooted at the idea of a minister or magistrate, and when they found the Governor never married couples they decided to be married by the mayor.—Raleigh Star.

No one can have joy to-day who is worrying about to-morrow.

The board of aldermen of Richmond, Va., have concurred in the resolution of the common council, inviting the Grand Army of the Republic to hold their annual encampment in that city in 1898.

Great excitement prevails at Trinity Centre, Cal., over a rich strike made by the Graves Brothers in the Driit Claim, Coffee Creek. In four days they took out gold valued at \$95,000. The largest piece was worth \$12,000.

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Mexican Hair Restorative advertisement. The Wonder of the Century. Mexican Hair Restorative. Describes benefits and provides address: Des Moines, Iowa.