WEEKLY JOURNAL

ESTABLISHED 1878.

Published in Two Sections, every Tuesday and Friday at No. 45 Pollock street.

E. J. LAND PRINTING COMPANY
PROPRIETORS.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Two Months	$ .20
Three Months	.25
Six Months	.50
Twelve Months	1.00

Only in advance.

Advertising rates furnished upon application at the office, or upon inquiry by mail.

Entered at the Postoffice, New Bern, N. C., as second-class matter.

TO CORRESPONDENTS

The Semi-Weekly Journal's appeal, made a few weeks ago for more news from country correspondents, had a noticeable effect as we immediately received a number of most interesting letters. Now we are writing again for fear the ardor of our friends will cool. We urge you to keep the good work up. Help us make the Semi-Weekly Journal helpful and interesting to you.

We regard the letters from our country correspondents as one of the means the Journal has of being of service to the section of country through which it circulates. These letters bring the people closer together and tend to the development of a community interest which is most helpful. You help your own community and by suggestion help other communities by sending us the news as it transpires in your neighborhood. Let us hear from you!

Of course it is to be remembered with respect to affairs in Mexico that is is easy for the men in the saddle to promise peace. Bringing it to pass is another thing. A revolution can brew in Mexico with very slight provocation. But recent developments in the national capital should certainly have the effect of making the people generally hesitate to participate in movements calculated to continue the state of unrest and insurrection which has existed so long and which has well nigh wrecked the country.

MODERN CITY HALL BADLY NEEDED.

We heartily agree with our contemporary ,the Sun, in thinking that it is time the city was shamed by the progressiveness of private property-owners on Craven street into building a suitable city hall. If those citizens who are thinking of shying a hat into the ring in connection with the coming city election will adopt as their platform a new city hall and will make it plain that they believe that platforms were made to stand on as well as to get in on, they will get a fine following and will probably get into office on just that one plank. New Bern is getting to be such a wide awake and progressive city that it simply cannot afford to get along any longer without a modern municipal building.

MEXICAN AFFAIRS LOOKING BETTER.

The situation looks decidedly brighter in Mexico. Madero has been forced out by his own men and placed under arrest. His commander-in-chief, Gen. Huerta, has been proclaimed provisional president with the understanding that he is to be succeeded by General Felix Diaz, the leader of the rebellion. Huerta, Diaz and General Blanquet are in charge of the affairs of the distracted republic. The policy of the new government is suggested by the following utterance of General Blanquet

"This inhuman battle must end, The time has come when some drastic means must be taken to stop a conflict in which father is killing son and brother is fighting against brother; when non-combatants are sharing the fate of war—and all this because of the caprice of one man."

That is the sane and sensible view. There is no need for the Mexicans to continue tearing one another to pieces. Now is the time, too, for Mr. Barrett's mediation plan to be put in operation. Let the United States and the other benevolently disposed nations suggest to Mexico the wisdom of establishing peace and the folly of war. Hurrying dread-naughts to Vera Cruz is perhaps necessary, but the appointment of a commission to try to arrange for a permanent cessation of war would be much more agreeable to Mexico and would be a far greater contribution to the sum of human happiness.

THE ENGLISH SUFFRAGETTES.

The English suffragettes appear to have lost their minds. Imagine a woman standing up before an audience as Mrs Pankhurst did Wednesday night at Cardiff, Wales, and brazenly saying:

"We have blown up the Chancellor of the Exchequer's House. The authorities need not look for the women who did it. I personally accept full responsibility for it."

She added that if she were sent to penal servitude she would go on hunger strike and that the government would either have to let her die or let her go free.

One thing at a time for the government would seem to be a wise course. Punish Mrs. Pankhurst for the bomb-throwing and then consider the profile of how she accepts the punishment. Really we can't think that the agitation for woman's rights in this country can ever lead the women to such extremes as their sisters are indulging in in the mother country.

A GOOD CHOICE.

The Chamber of Commerce has done well to name Mr. Thomas G. Hyman as president. As one of the most successful and enterprising business men in his own line he is naturally well equipped to handle with success the undertakings of the city's principal commercial body. He has been for a long time one of the most earnest and effective workers for the Chamber and his elevation to the presidency comes as a fitting reward for duty faithfully and energetically performed.

In the same connection we desire to call attention to the good work done by Mr. L. H. Cutler, Jr., retiring president. He has been a vigorous and efficient chief executive. The people generally ought to think about the unselfish service that men like Mr. Hyman, Mr. Cutler and other presidents of the Chamber of Commerce render to the public and do verbally what the Journal is doing through its columns, namely, make acknowledgement of it. One likes to feel that his services are appreciated. And believe us, it is vastly easier not to be troubled with the leadership of an organization like the Chamber of Commerce than it is to have it on one's hands.

The selection of Mr. J. Leon Williams as secretary was to be expected as he proved his worth, being one of the livest and most capable secretaries in the State

TIME TO CALL A HALT.

The way Sheriff Dick Lane is piling up wealth is alarming. The Journal is against the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few and it holds it to be its duty to point out the danger that obtains in connection with the rapidity with which Sheriff Lane is adding to his personal fortune as a result of the Salary Act in Craven county.

In the month of January alone he cleaned up ten dollars and it's a shame too. Something must be done about it or pretty soon the Sheriff will own the whole county. We cannot tell off hand what should be done, but it is time the loyal yeomanry of the county were getting busy.

Personally we think Mr. Lane a fine gentleman, but we are eternally opposed to permitting him to amass a fortune so much more rapidly than the reat of his fellow citizens are finding it possible to do.

We repeat and with all the emphasis at our command that it is time to call a halt. HALT, Sheriff, and leave something for the rest of us.

JUSTICE MORE IMPORTANT THAN PARTY.

Some one has sent the Raleigh News and Observer a circular letter in which it is claimed that it would be political suicide for the Democrats if they were to order a new assessment of property. The News and Observer points out that if considerations of right and justice demand the re-assessment, considerations of party policy should not be allowed to operate to prevent it. And that seems to be a pretty sensible view to take of the problem. Taxes are very inequitably laid in this State and the only way to approximate justice is to keep on trying. The News and Observer says:

"The suggestion of re-assessment is a suggestion born out of the desire to end the gross injustice in assessment which schocks every sense of justice. There is property in Raleigh worth more than $125,000 assessed from only a little over one-half of that sum, and there is property in Raleigh worth less than $4,000 assessed at its true value. It is a great wrong to compel the person owning a small farm or a small house assessed fairly to pay on a fair assessment and permit the big houses, farms and industries in the State grossly undervalued to continue for two years more to pay taxes upon this undervaluation. This is a discrimination against honest people who pay upon fair valuation that is indefensible.

"The only argument against re-assessment is that it has been the custom of North Carolina to assess property only once in four years, and that this State assessed it two years ago. That is true, but there are only five States in the Union that assess property only once in four years. The other forty-five States reassess property every year or every two years. The right rule is that the tax commission should re-assess property whenever its assessments are too high or two low. Certainly, an assessment ought to be as often as every two years in a growing State like ours. In the old times, when nearly all the property consisted of farms, small stores and residences, there was so little change in the value that quadrennial assessment was all right, but in these days of city building and truck growing and great lumber camps and big factories, it is absurd to make an assessment on property appreciating yearly and let the tax payer pay on the low assessment for four years, when the property may have increased 25 per cent. or more in value one year after the assessment."

We venture to say that there is not a county in the State where there is not to be found the same kind and degree of inequalities as those described by the News and Observer as existing in Wake county. There should be a traveling tax commission that will go into every county in the State and even things up. It should investigate and inspect all tangible property and assess it all alike without fear of favor.

WOULD THE STOCK LAW RUIN HUNDREDS OF FARMERS?

A Pender county man writes the Wilmington Star condemning the Statewide stock law. He says it would ruin hundreds of farmers who have been rasing their own meat supply. But one of the strong arguments for the law is the better quality of stock and consequently better meats which would result under it. As it is the beef which North Carolina raises is under the ban, in short, is not regarded by experts as wholesome. Not only so, but those farmers to whom the Pender county man is referring are raising their stock in many cases on land belonging to other people. That is not just. Owners of hogs and cattle as a matter of justice should keep them on their own premises, and as a matter of best results for the farmer in the enrichment of his land and the improvement of his stock experience is said to have shown that the advantage is all on the side of the stock law.

The Star's correspondent is very positive in his views, but it is possible that he is mistaken.

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Bluffton, Ohio. —"I wish to thank you for the good I derived from Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound sometime ago. I suffered each month such agony that I could scarcely endure, and after taking three bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound I was entirely cured.

"Then I had an attack of organic inflammation and took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and I am cured. I thank you for what your remedies have done for me and should anything bother me again, I shall use it again, for I have great faith in your remedies. You may use my testimonial and welcome. I tell every one what your remedies have done for me."—Mrs Rhoda Wisgate, Box 395, Bluffton, Ohio.

Pentwater, Mich.—"A year ago I was very weak and the doctor said I had a serious displacement. I had backache and bearing down pains so bad that I could not sit in a chair or walk across the floor and I was in severe pain all the time. I felt discouraged as I had taken everything I could think of and was no better. I began taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and now I am strong and healthy."—Mrs. Alice Darling, R. F. D. No. 2, Box 77, Pentwater, Mich.

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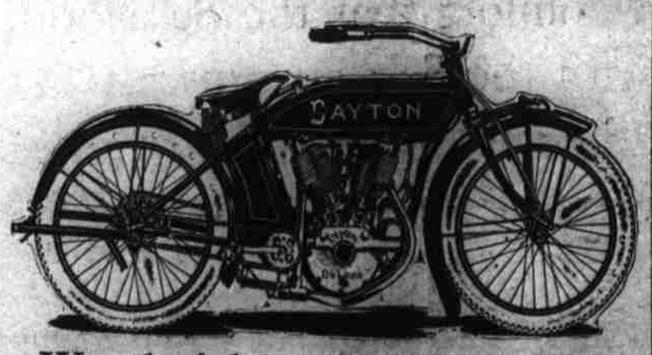

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: Personals :

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21.

M. H. Sultan returned last evening from a visit to several northern cities.

Captain Wilson T Davenny, Field Secretary of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, passed through the city last evening enroute from Belhaven to Goldsboro to deliver an address last night on the subject of "Deeper Waterways."

L. I. Moore left last evening for a short professional trip to Kinston.

Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Fodrie left yesterday for a visit at Norfolk.

Mrs. Richard B. Lane left yesterday for a visit with relatives at Jasper.

E. M. Green left yesterday for a professional visit at Raleigh.

Miss Mary Miller of Bayboro is the guest of her sister, Miss Ruth Miller, who is stopping with Mrs. Walter Pugh on Metcalf street.

Miss Alice Spruill of Ashwood was among the visitors in the city yesterday.

F. H. Sawyer returned last evening from a business trip to Goldsboro.

Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Parsons returned last evening from a short visit with relatives at Newport.

J. W. Waters returned last evening from a business trip to Goldsboro.

Mrs. Charles Pate of Havelock was in the city yesterday shopping.

SATURDAY, FEB. 22.

Mrs. Wm. Dunn, Sr., left last evening for a visit with friends at Philadelphia and Baltimore.

Mrs. K. C. Bennett of Philadelphia, Pa., who has been visiting in the city, returned home last evening.

General Superintendent Witt of the Norfolk Southern Railway Company passed through the city last evening enroute to Goldsboro.

Wm. Dunn, Jr., returned last evening from a professional visit at Washington.

Charles Humphrey of Goldsboro was among the business visitors in the city yesterday.

D. W. Richardson of Dover spent yesterday in the city attending to business.

G. A. Nicoll left last evening for a short visit at Goldsboro.

Deputy Sheriff J. E. Wetherington went to Fort Barnwell yesterday afternoon.

S. M. Brinson went to Goldsboro last evening to act as one of the judges in a debate between the Goldsboro and Durham High School.

Dr. C. S. Barker of Trenton was among the professional visitors in the city yesterday.

J. B. Collins of Trenton spent yesterday in the city.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Mr and Mrs. W. R. Guion and son William returned yesterday from Snow Hill where they have been visiting relatives and friends.

Miss Jennie Coplon leaves today for Baltimore for a visit with relatives.

W. L. Lewis returned last evening from a business trip to Beaufort.

S. M. Brinson returned yesterday morning from a short visit at Goldsboro.

George Atomore left last evening for a visit with relatives in Pamlico county.

N. T. Weeks of Tuscarora was among the business visitors in the city yesday.

George H. Roberts, Sr., spent yesterday at Morehead City attending to business matters.

Mrs. A. D. Ward left yesterday for a visit at Raleigh with Senator Ward.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Perry and little daughter are visiting relatives and friends at Beaufort.

Rev. and Mrs. H. A. Merfeld left last evening for a short visit at Raleigh.

Mark Hall returned last evening from a business trip to Washington.

J. F. Tyndall returned yesterday from a business trip to Norfolk, Va.

H. W. Gibbs of Beaufort was among the visitors in the city yesterday.

D. E. Henderson spent yesterday at Kinston attending to some professional business.

Mrs. J. R. Pigott is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Clarence Myers, in Wilmington.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Skinner of Suffolk, Va., are visiting in the city the guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Pigott.

The House on Friday killed the legalizde primary bill. Oh well, if we can get a six months school, the money to pay for it with and a few other things like that, the Legislature can run along home and wait till next time to give us the legalized primary. It's a good thing and the right thing and a thing is never settled until it is settled right.

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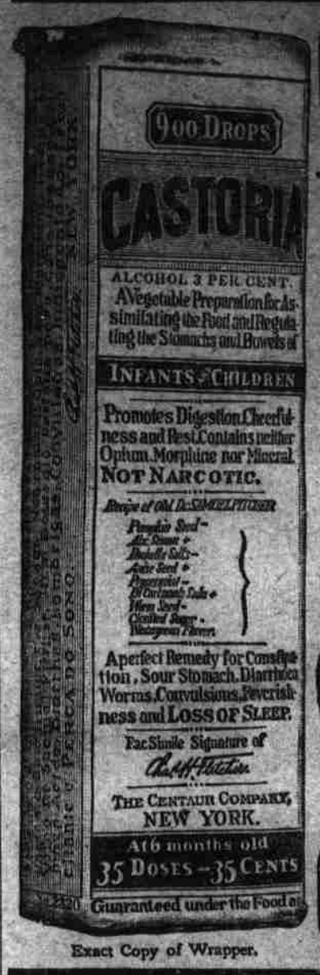

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