

THE TAR HEEL.

Vol. 14,

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHAPEL HILL, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1906.

No. 15.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

THE REIGN OF ICE.

Unprecedentedly Heavy Fall of Sleet Works Havoc With Campus Trees and Entails Much Inconvenience.

The dawn of last Friday morning found the University campus, in common with the surrounding country, in the clutches of a sleet storm, probably unprecedented in the century of its existence as the University campus. The sleet had begun to fall about 7 o'clock Thursday night and continued to fall without cessation. That which reached the earth melted and none was visible on the ground by morning, but that whose fall was checked by the superabundant trees and wires melted not, but clung with undiminished tenacity.

The scene presented to the eye by the campus Friday morning was one of an indescribably majestic beauty blended with touching pathos. Beautiful, to see almost a veritable forest of stalwart giants laden so heavily with the brilliantly glistening ice that their highest boughs touched the earth, rising again, round heaped upon round in prodigal profusion, into a veritable tower of silver; pathetic, to see, in other places, other mighty sons of the forest, victorious though battle-scarred perhaps, in many a hard fought struggle with the elements, lying prostrate upon the earth, or, stripped bare of their proudest branches, standing, yet tottering at their foundation. The terrific strength of the lightning's power, the irresistible rush of the angry tornado—these, for decade upon decade, they had fought and withstood. But in an evil hour, unexpected and unannounced, unaccompanied by the lightning's glare, the thunder's peal or the warning roar of the tornado came the sleet, and silently, unostentatiously it waged its war.

With what effectiveness? The campus, changed in a night from the pride of the State to a wilderness of uprooted trees and poles, broken branches, and other trees bent to the earth at such an angle that their branches impeded progress, mingled with a maze of telephone, telegraph, and electric wires answer the question. Some trees which were forked were split by the weight of the clinging sleet into two parts all the way to the ground and measured their length on the earth. Some trees as much as three feet in diameter were uprooted bodily and many of the branches severed from the body of the mother tree by the tremendous weight were from one to two feet in diameter. The tree in the immediate vicinity of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity hall was uprooted Thursday night and hurled against the building, striking the roof of the front porch and damaging it (falling, however, it is said, to wake one of the inmates who occupied a room adjacent to the porch).

This was the scene Friday morning. All during the day and night the sleet in a drizzling rain continued to get in its work. Scarcely half of the damage had been accomplished. All day and all night came at intervals the "k-r-a-a-k" of breaking branches and the groan of uprooted trunks. And nery indeed was the pedestrian who failed to cast upward ever and anon apprehensive glances and who started not at the ominous sound overhead. And well might he start, for the falling timber gave scant warning of its coming, while its size and weight guaranteed death or serious injury to him who perchanced to break its fall.

The grounded wires and fallen poles created their usual havoc. The telephone company abandoned service, telegraphic communication with the outside world was cut off and the question of whether the University buildings would be supplied with electric lights became a mooted one. The Chapel Hill Unlimited (in point of time) was several hours late in arriving and since telegraphic communication was cut off, the wildest rumors were afloat. Some said that so many trees had fallen across the track that the train crew had despaired of reaching their destination and that consequently the engineer had turned his engine around (!) and was coming back. Another was that a man who had promised to bring the engineer a bunch of birds at Robson had failed to show up, thus necessitating delay.

At Commons it was announced at dinner that supper would be served at 5 instead of 6 o'clock, on the ground that a supper at Commons in inky darkness would tend toward confusion, disorder, and perhaps (who knows?) biscuit throwing. This announcement was taken to mean that there would be no lights anywhere, and rife indeed was the speculation precipitated by it. Would "no lights" be a valid excuse for unprepared recitations or a half-suspected quiz? It looked reasonable but—there was a whole afternoon. What about that? And Saturday? The case looked doubtful and the wise virgins began to trim their lamps while the foolish, who had none, comforted themselves with the reflection that if the worst came—well, they could at least go to bed.

But when night came the situation proved not quite so bad as it had appeared for awhile. Lights came on as usual in three of the buildings, the South, the Old East, and the Old West. The occupants of the Mary Ann Smith and Carr buildings, however, groped their way without the aid of electric illumination and over all the campus and town darkness prevailed.

The falling of timber continued throughout the night but by Saturday morning the weather changed for the warmer and the worst was over.

FOOTBALL MADE HUMANE.

A Few Suggestions Regarding Proposed Changes in the Rules—Extreme Roughness Eliminated.

The following, ostensibly the work of Mr. George Ade, has appeared. The article says:

It is hoped that these rules will be approved by that vast army of editorial writers whose knowledge of the game has been obtained by reading the headlines.

Selection of players—The eleven players constituting the team shall be selected by the faculty, and the student who has received the highest grade in Greek mythology shall be captain of the team. No student shall be eligible for the team unless he is up in his class work and has a reputation for piety.

Preliminaries—When a team appears on a field for a contest, it shall greet opposing team with the Chautauqua salute, which consists of waving the handkerchief. After this a few friendly chats concerning books and writers may precede the opening of the game.

Substitute for "the toss"—Instead of tossing a coin to determine which side gets the ball, the two captains shall be called upon to extract a cube root of a given number provided by the professor of mathematics. The captain who is first to hand in the correct solution gets the ball.

Advancing the ball—The ball having been placed in the center of the field, the umpire, who must be a professor of geology, exhibits to the team having possession of the ball a fossil. All members of the team who think they can name the geological period to which the fossil belongs hold up their right hand.

The umpire selects a player to name the period. If he answers correctly he advances the ball two yards. If, in addition, he gives the scientific name of the fossil he advances the ball five yards. If no members of the team can answer the questions propounded by the umpire, the opposing team shall be given a trial. If successful it is given the ball.

Offside plays—Any player who makes a grammatical error, mispronounces a word or seeks assistance from a fellow student, shall be deemed guilty of an offside play and his side shall be penalized at least five yards.

Substitute for kicking goal—After a touchdown has been made, the team making it shall be credited with five points and the captain of the team shall translate 500 words of Caesar's Commentaries. If he does so without an error his team is given an additional point, the same as if a goal were kicked. If he fails, the ball goes to the opposing team on the twenty-five yard line.

Conduct during game—No pushing, scuffling or boisterous conversation will be permitted. Both players and spectators must maintain

absolute silence during the mental tests.

Another Slight Diversion.

A horse attached to wagon (both the property of Green McDade, a colored man who lives in the west end of the village) on becoming convinced that things needed livening up, conceived the idea that the task was his and, accepting the responsibility cheerfully, straightway set about its execution. This was down town on the main street of the village about 8:30 Monday morning.

Taking one last glance about him, the horse closed both eyes, took a deep breath and proceeded to annihilate simultaneously both space and time. What cared he for the speed limit? He was no blooming automobile. He was the latest make of a thirtieth century flying machine. At least this was what he fondly imagined and what he whispered confidentially to himself as he clove the atmosphere into two equal parts. What cared he for street or sidewalk? He was no patent leather-footed dude, but just to show that he could and that he didn't give a whicker one way or another, he turned upon the sidewalk near MacRae's store and like a whirlwind traversed it up the street.

We said the horse's purpose was to create a diversion. He created it. A half-dime novel would inform you, while you were holding your breath, that the "hoarse shouts of excited men, the shrill shrieks of frantic women, mingled with the terrified cries of panic stricken children [perhaps with a few "enraged barks of frightened dogs" for good measure] rang out upon the clear morning air." Well, that was what really happened. Although it was early in the morning, quite a crowd was on the streets and the people fled headlong hither and thither. The horse smashed both rear wheels of the wagon, overturned boxes and barrels and left a scene of destruction behind him. But "not a moment stopped or stayed he." At the Brockwell corner he crossed the street and chose the opposite sidewalk.

When did he stop? when he had arrived safely home, and not before. But, as a matter of fact, after he had left the business section of the town he slowed up to get his breath and settled down to a trot. But the thought of the havoc behind him, the recollection of the "tumult and the shouting" his little stunt had occasioned was too much for him and all the way home, ever and anon, he chuckled to himself.

—The following gentlemen will leave here Saturday for Raleigh, where they stand the Supreme Court examination on Monday: Messrs. Carter, Brothers, Hoyle, Bean, Sherrod, Simmons, Townsend, Elliott, Gash, Philipps, Hassell, and Sorrell.