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SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1897.

NO. 4.

THE EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS.

Points and Paraphrases of Things Present, Past and Future.

The frequent lynchings which occur in this country are an index finger that points to the fact that the people do not think they are getting justice in the courts. Let the courts remember it, and let jurors do their duty.

The X-ray experiments have ceased to be experiments, but are now downright business operations. A few days ago two officers of the fire department of Norfolk got into a difficulty when chief Martin J. Ryan was seriously shot in the thigh. By the use of the X-ray it was found that the ball ranged downward and directly in and lodged near the bone two-thirds of the distance from the knee to the hip. It thus had to be located by looking through considerable thickness of flesh and bone, which was easily done, and the ball was so well located that it left little trouble to take it out.

Truly the work of science is wonderful and the progress of this age is dazzling.

The cigarette habit is ruining more of the boys and young men of the land than many suppose. Recently in Salisbury a boy thirteen years old died from the result of cigarette smoking. His sudden sickness baffled the physicians at first but they learned before his death, which followed in a few days, that the disease was the result of cigarette smoking. Though quite young he had been smoking for years. We saw three small boys at a railroad station a few days ago smoking a cigarette together. One would whiff and then another. They were testing skill at swallowing the smoke.

Surely the effects of the cigarette are dangerous and all prudence ought to be used to keep boys from using them.

Nothing is more important to the young, both male and female, than wise and extensive reading. Youth is the time in which to do much profitable reading, and alas! too many persons put off the reading of books until they find themselves so pressed with business and the duty of bread-winning that they can not get the time to read.

A good man who writes much for the press recently wrote this paragraph:

"How I wish I had read more when young of the kind of reading that would have had the effect of making me a more useful man than I am! But the past can not be recalled, and I will have to have the assistance of glasses to get into my head what once I could have got without their aid."

Let the young men and young women, the boys and girls, who read THE COMMONWEALTH, wisely take the suggestions of this earnest man of frosty years, and read several good books every year. It is one of the best investments of time that they can make.

The colored man, Isaac B. Allen, who was elected Counselor to the Governor of Massachusetts at the late elections, seems to be a disturbing element in Republican circles up there. The Republicans are offering him large sums to resign. He is reported as saying recently:

"A few days after I was elected I met on the street a man whom I know well, who said: 'Allen, your fortune is made. There is no need of your worrying any more about earning a living. I have a check for \$5,000 in my pocket, and it's yours if you will resign or get out as Counselor.' 'Never,' said I. 'I am in this to stay. It is a race matter with me. You have not got money enough to buy me out.'"

"Next two men came to my house and tendered me a check for \$10,000 if I would go to Europe for a year 'for my health.' as they expressed it. They said that the money was contributed by prominent Republicans. On my refusal they said they would make it \$20,000 if I desired. I thereupon ordered them to leave the house, and could with difficulty restrain myself from throwing them out bodily. I put my race above money, party, or anything else, and I would not disgrace it. Yes, sir, I'm going to advise the Governor, and shall be on hand at every meeting of the council."

THE LEGISLATURE

CONVENED WEDNESDAY, JAN. 6.

Things the Law-makers are Doing.

The General Assembly of North Carolina assembled in Raleigh at noon last Wednesday, 6th.

HOUSE.

Chief Clerk Satterfield called the House to order. The first business was the election of Speaker of the House. A. F. Hileman, Populist, and John S. Cunningham, Democrat, were put in nomination. The vote stood Hileman, 89; Cunningham, 28.

Associate Justice Montgomery of the Superior Court administered the oath of office to Speaker Hileman, Messrs. Cunningham and Dockery having escorted him to the chair.

Mr. Hileman, upon taking his seat said: I beg to show you my appreciation of the honor which you have conferred upon me to preside over the deliberations of this honorable General Assembly. I will make errors, no doubt, but they will be from the head and not from the heart. I wish the co-operation of every member of this House, and I shall preside impartially over every deliberation. I hope I may have the support of every member of this body."

Mr. Blackburn, of Ashe, nominated for chief clerk Mr. Ed. Masten, of Wilkes county.

Mr. Smith, of Johnston, put in nomination J. W. Perry, of Johnston, as the Democratic nominee for chief clerk. The vote resulted as follows: For Masten, 85; for Perry, 29.

For reading clerk, Mr. Frank B. Benson, of Yadkin county, was put in nomination by Mr. J. R. McCrary (Rep.), of Davidson.

Mr. Nelson (Dem.), of Caldwell, put in nomination Mr. Jno. L. Gaultney. The vote resulted as follows: Gaultney, 26; Benson, 85.

For position of door-keeper there were put in nomination Mr. W. Lee Brown, of Mecklenburg; by Mr. Parker (Dem.), of Mecklenburg; by Mr. Parker (Pop.), of Perquimans, Mr. D. T. House, of Pitt.

Mr. Brown, as stated by Mr. Ransom, in his nominating speech, is a one-armed Confederate soldier.

The vote resulted as follows: House, 86; Brown, 28.

For assistant door-keeper, Abe Middleton (negro) by Sutton (Rep.), of New Hanover; H. C. Brown, of Guilford; by Burch (Dem.), of Guilford. Mr. Brown is another one-armed Confederate soldier, as stated by Mr. Burch in his speech, "a man," added Mr. Burch, "who swears to his own hurt and changest not." The vote was as follows: Brown, 80; Middleton, 25.

Mr. Brown, of Buncombe, introduced the following resolution that rules of last House be those for the present House until it be the pleasure of the House to change. Passed.

Mr. Cook, of Warren, had moved to adjourn but gave way to Mr. Lusk's resolution. Mr. Sutton, of Cleveland, now moved to adjourn, but Mr. Lusk thought that it was but due respect to the Governor to receive his message before adjourning. Mr. Houser (Pop.) of Lenoir, at this point insisted on going into nomination of engrossing clerk, and as there seemed to be general acquiescence, he nominated Mr. B. F. Scarborough, of Lenoir, and Representative James (Dem.) of Pender, nominated Mr. Bloodworth, of Pender.

The vote resulted as follows: Scarborough, 85; Bloodworth, 28.

A resolution was introduced by Mr. Cook, of Warren, providing for the appointment of a committee of three, who, with a committee of the Senate, should wait upon the Governor and inform him that the House was ready to receive any communication that he might see fit to make. The Speaker appointed the following committee: C. A. Cook, of Warren; J. B. Schulken, of Columbus; McKenzie, of Rowan.

The House officers elected now came forward and qualified.

A message was received from the Senate stating that it was ready for business; another naming the committee on the part of the Senate to wait upon the Governor as follows: Senators McCaskie, Smathers and Parker, of Alamance.

On motion of Mr. Lusk, a resolution was passed to notify the Senate that the House was ready for business.

SENATE.—The rules of 1895 were adopted with the amendment that after this session of the legislature seats of senators be drawn for as prescribed by the rules of the national house of representatives—referred to the committee on rules.

Senator Grant submitted the names for several standing committees as adopted by the republicans and populists, stating that there were vacancies left open to be filled by the democrats at some future date.

The joint resolution on Cuba was received from the house and referred to the committee on federal relations.

Senator McCaskie introduced a bill providing for counting the votes cast at the last election for state officers and carrying out the provisions of article 3 of the constitution—referred to the judiciary committee.

When all the Senators had taken the oath of office, the Lieutenant-Governor

announced that fifty Senators having presented their certificates, the Senate was ready for the transaction of business, and declared that the first business in order was the election of principal clerk.

Senator Atwater nominated and Senators M. C. Caskie, and Smathers seconded the nomination of Hill E. King, of Onslow. Senator Abell nominated John A. Narrow, of Johnston county.

The vote stood: King, 46; Narrow, 7. Senator Smathers said that in accordance with an agreement between the Populists and Republicans he nominated, for Sergeant-at-Arms, T. N. Halliburton. Seconded by Senator Ashburton.

Senator Parker nominated N. L. Wagstaff, of Person.

The vote stood: Halliburton, 40; Wagstaff, 7.

For Assistant-Door-keeper, Mr. Atwater nominated D. J. McArthur, of Sampson. Mr. Scales nominated L. E. Howerton, of Guilford county.

The vote stood: McArthur, 40; Howerton, 7.

For Reading Clerk, Mr. McCarthy nominated J. W. Watson, of Craven. Mr. Parker nominated J. C. Brown, of Durham.

The vote stood: Watson, 38; Brown, 8.

For Engrossing Clerk, Mr. Atwater nominated J. A. Buchanan, of Clay. Mr. Buchanan represented Clay in the House as a Democrat in 1891 and as a Populist in 1895. Mr. Anthony nominated D. S. Lovelace, of Cleveland.

The vote stood: Buchanan, 42; Lovelace, 7. Senator Ray voted for Buchanan, saying he was his neighbor and a first-class man.

The officers elected, except Mr. Watson, who will arrive to-day, were then sworn in.

Mr. McCaskie introduced a resolution to appoint a committee of three to co-operate with a committee from the House to wait upon the Governor and inform him that the Legislature is ready to receive his message.

The chair appointed McCaskie, chairman; Smathers and Parker.

Mr. Smathers presented a gavel with the compliments of the White-Heckell Manufacturing Company, of Mebane.

On motion of Mr. McCaskie the usual resolution to inform the House of the readiness of the Senate to transact business was passed.

SECOND DAY.

HOUSE.—The most of the day's session was spent in listening to the Governor's Message.

At the conclusion of the reading Mr. Sutton sent forward a resolution asking for the printing of 2,500 copies of the message. Mr. Schulken wished to amend by putting 250 instead of 2,500.

Mr. Brown, of Jones, moved to have one copy for each member, and the balance for the State Library. Mr. Sutton sustained his motion by saying that it was better to have none than 250, as 2,500 was only half of what was printed last time. Mr. Parker, of Perquimans, moved to make it 500. The motion was declared carried to print 250 copies, but Mr. Harris, of Hyde, demanded division but was declared out of order.

ABOUT SPAIN.

GRANDEE SPIRIT, COLONIAL POLICY AND AGRICULTURE.

Some Rambling Thoughts.

BY "NEMO."

(Copyrighted.)

(These "Thoughts," by a layman, are read in five hundred thousand homes, scattered in every State of the Union. In this country they will be found week by week in the columns of this paper only, as we have made arrangements with the author for their exclusive publication.)

Allow me to continue and conclude a necessarily brief consideration of Spain as a decaying nation. In last week's "Thoughts," the assertion was practically made that a nation must have some ideal before it beyond the forcing of a creed or the piling of wealth. In both of these directions Spain has been at fault. Three further enervating causes have been at work undermining its national strength.

THE GRANDEE SPIRIT: For centuries after the destruction of the Roman Empire by the Goths and Vandals, the human intellect was almost benumbed. Until the Renaissance and the Reformation a pall of darkness was over all; the nobles being almost as untrained as their serfs, and the serfs being utterly crushed by those of nobler blood. Humanity in Europe lay like a giant chilled by the cold. But since that time stimulation of thought has caused the great heart of the world to throb with increasing power, till the life of a common humanity thrills, in large measure, even those most separated by birth and wealth. Each age has had peculiar characteristics; ours is the "People's Age." But against the tendency of the people to think and act, hope and accomplish, the proud and stubborn spirit of Spanish grandeurism has stood forth with fierceness. Yet just as Canute by his word could not hold the sea in subjection nor Mrs. Partington sweep back the waves with her broom, so no dynasty or power, even hoar with age and crusted with heroic deeds, can withstand successfully, by narrow-minded repression, the rising tide of human aspiration. If it turn a deaf ear to the cry of the poor for life and liberty, for education, for hope, the cry will not die out but its pleading tone will be turned in the fierce and fateful growl of a cornered beast. Thus has it been with Spain. Far more organized and dangerous than Nihilism in Russia, is Anarchism in Spain. The Kingdom is so thoroughly honey-combed with the sentiment of a lawless breaking down of the government, that the men in power try constantly to divert public thought from home affairs, and are glad of anything in foreign lands that will form a safe outlet for the combative spirit. They are under the hopeless necessity of watching and guarding against the home population as thoroughly as they would have to watch an invading army. I believe I am safe in saying, not even excepting Russia, that no other nation in Europe but Spain is in this anomalous condition. It stands revealed before the world as a nation that has not controlled the growth of hope and thought, but withstood it instead; with the inevitable disaster coming nearer every day.

COLONIAL POLICY: I fear if we look back at the conquests of three or four centuries ago, when constant tidings of new continents, wealth, etc., fired men's adventurous souls, the skirts of no nation will be found entirely free from innocent blood. With a few notable exceptions, in spots, like Rhode Island under Williams, Pennsylvania under Penn, and Maryland under Calvert, cruelty and illiberality have almost universally accompanied the work of establishing a new colony. But gentler times have brought gentler methods; and various nations seem now to vie with each other in the liberality and excellence of their colonial policies. Take England for instance. Its illiberal treatment of its most valuable possession, now the United States, has entirely passed away; so that at the present it is practically true that many small possessions in various parts are better ruled, better prospered, and stronger as dependencies than they would be as separate and independent governments. The policy of England and other nations who try to rival her in colonizing activity, is to look only for indirect results from good government. Internal development is aimed at with the confident hope that the resulting prosperity will react favorably to the home country by reason of increasing trade, etc. But Spain's policy has remained unchanged while other nations have marched onward. Her colonies have always been regarded as fair prey to be stripped of everything valuable that was compact and transportable. The

fiere greed of Cortez and Pizarro is apparently unchanged. Whatever positions of power were open for filling, have seemed to be regarded as the rightful heritage of the Spanish nobility without any regard as to fitness, or the benefit of the country they ruled over. Indirect gain from the development of a colony has never been regarded with such favor as the direct results by squeezing out taxes and farming out productive positions. This is simply another evidence of the mad spirit of self-destruction that has possessed Spain. The inevitable result has been the loss one by one since the end of last century of the very jewels of her diadem of empire.

AGRICULTURAL UPGRADUING: About the beginning of the 16th century Spain possessed a religious fury very adroitly mingled with greed, expelled the Jews and Moors and confiscated their property. By so doing it inflicted a severe national injury to itself as France did when it drove out the Huguenots, stripping itself of its best farmers and mechanics, tradesmen and merchants. In 1609, if my memory serves me right, Spain gave a further fatal blow to itself by expelling all the Christianized Moors. As a result up to the present, agriculture, the necessary basis of national prosperity, is very undeveloped. The most primitive instruments are still in use and great regions that the Moors had made productive have fallen back to wildness. Similar shortsightedness characterized her abroad. When Pizarro landed in Peru the strip of land fifty and more miles wide stretching from the ocean front to the foothills of the Andes, supported a prosperous population of about 700,000. The patient Peruvians had made this sandy desert blossom like the rose by vast irrigation works. In some cases they had constructed aqueducts hundreds of miles long and even pierced mountains in order that this particular region might be watered. Now the desert is again triumphant. The conquerors seeking those things alone that could be gained by the sword, neglected the real essentials of prosperity, until now only a few thousand exist where hundreds of thousands were once prosperous. The same lamentable neglect was shown in Mexico. The strange creatures whom Montezuma ruled were exceedingly progressive in their way. But their works and plans and agricultural gains were scattered to the winds by their blood-thirsty conquerors. Now the spiritless Peon seems sunken beyond all hope of revival.

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