

The Commonwealth.

E. E. HILLIARD, - - - Editor.
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1901

SHALL WE HAVE A GRADED SCHOOL?

The question of a graded school is being seriously considered by the people of Scotland Neck. As will be seen elsewhere in the report of a meeting held in Futrell's opera house a few nights ago, a special committee has the matter under consideration.

THE COMMONWEALTH believes that a graded school in Scotland Neck would be a long stride towards a development that is much needed here. And aside from what this paper thinks it is its province to speak of the matter as an item of news; and we are fully convinced of the fact that a large majority of the citizens of the town desire a graded school. The sentiment of the meeting referred to was strongly in favor of it and we have heard very few persons express any opposition to it.

If steps are to be taken during the sitting of the present Legislature to make such a school possible, the special committee appointed in the matter have no time to lose; but need to make this investigation earnestly and quickly in order to give the desired information when another meeting shall be called.

There are many good arguments for a graded school. A well managed graded school would certainly improve the educational advantages for the people who live here already; and it would be the means of bringing many other good and first class people here and keeping some here who will probably move away if the graded school is not established. Then it would be in keeping with the progressive educational spirit that is coming to the front all over North Carolina.

Can Scotland Neck afford to fall any farther behind than it already is? It is an important question and ought to be settled wisely, but quickly.

PEANUTS AND THE STATE FARMS.

TO THE EDITOR: The question of growing peanuts on the state farm is being discussed on the columns of your paper. It is generally conceded that the state is producing one fifth the Spanish peanut crop. A fair yield of Spanish peanuts is forty bushels per acre. At seventy-five cents per bushel the farmer realizes thirty dollars per acre. If the State were not increasing the production one fifth, the farmer would realize ninety cents per bushel or thirty-six dollars per acre. This is a clear loss of fifteen cents per bushel or ninety-dollars on a crop of fifteen acres, the usual money crop to the horse. To make a safe estimate admit they would be worth only ten cents per bushel more, instead of fifteen, there is still a loss of four dollars per acre or sixty dollars to the crop of fifteen acres. Now, Mr. Editor, if every farmer in the state were paying the additional tax of from forty to fifty dollars even on the horse crop, to meet this competition of the state farm, there would go up at once to the Legislature now in session, petitions from every township in the state to abolish state farms and let us support the convicts to do nothing. But we do not say do nothing.

Mr. Winston's bill to give each county its convict farm is a good one. A farm on which to raise a support for the convicts, and in addition to the farm work improve our county roads thereby giving us the one thing most needed and not bringing the whole state convict force in competition with the few peasant farmers, at such a great loss to them, and such a small profit to the many farmers and taxpayers of the state. Now, Mr. Editor, we are not asking for class legislation to protect our infant industry—Spanish peanut growing—but that a few farmers may not sustain such a great loss in competition with state. Much more might be said on this subject.

Yours truly,
L. J. BAKER.
Palmyra, N. C., Jan. 29, 1901.

Pepsin preparations often fail to relieve indigestion because they can digest only albuminous foods. There is one preparation that digests all classes of food, and that is Kodol Dyspepsia Cure. It cures the worst cases of indigestion and gives instant relief, for it digests what you eat. E. T. Whitehead and Co.

Mr. Chas. H. Nowell becomes owner and editor of the Rocky Mount Argonaut. He is among clever people and his first work as editor of the paper shows well.

CASTORIA.
The Kind You Have Always Bought
Sells Everywhere
Warranted Pure
Prepared by
J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass., U.S.A.

OUR RALEIGH LETTER.

IMPORTANT LEGISLATION PROPOSED.

Correspondence to The Commonwealth.
Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 28, 1901.

Five of the most important measures of legislation proposed (most of them my last letter) are still pending, though two of them will probably be disposed of this week. All of these bills originated in the "upper house." I refer to the Aycock bill pending for State adoption of a uniform series of school books; the school bill; the Brown bill to prohibit the sale (no manufacture) of cigarettes in N. C.; the Ward "anti-trust bill," and the Henderson bill pending for alimony (at discretion of trial Judge) in cases of absolute divorce. Each of these measures is of great importance to the people of the entire State.

The Aycock bill is probably the most important of all, for a uniform series of school-books, through State adoption, is one of the great needs of our people, because it means cheaper school-books and avoids the necessity of purchasing different books when children change from one school to another.

The system provided by the machinery of the bill for selecting and contracting for these books (through a State commission, with the Governor at its head and the Supt. of Public Instruction as its Secretary), will open the doors of competition to all and the "book trust" will therefore not be able to control the supply.

BILL DON'T SUIT BOOK TRUST.

The Johnson Publishing Co., of Richmond, and other independent school book firms, have stated through their attorneys, to the legislative committee on education, that they are satisfied with the Aycock bill and would be glad to see it made a law—although it is not exactly what they would have suggested.

The attorneys of the University Publishing Co., and the American Book Co., both of New York, and which some claim are the leaders in the "trust," opposed the Aycock bill at a joint meeting of the two legislative committees held Thursday night—a meeting that lasted till one o'clock a. m. Friday morning. The bill is now in the hands of a sub-committee and will be reported back to the full committee tomorrow (Tuesday) evening. The bill will be reported favorably to the Senate this week. Judge Connor will seek to amend it by exempting graded schools of the towns from its provisions but it is doubtful whether the committee will take that course.

The reform school bill introduced by Senator Broughton of Wake is still in the hands of the Senate Committee on Penal and Charitable Institutions. It will be reported favorably, after being amended in several particulars, later on. During the past week the two committees held a joint meeting and were addressed eloquently and argumentatively by advocates of the measure, including the president of the Reformatory Association, the president of the W. C. T. U., the Secretary of the State Board of Charities, U. S. Commissioner Nichols and others.

The Ward "anti-trust bill" has been succeeded by the Robinson bill (the latter being accepted as a substitute), it being a copy of the Texas law on the subject of trusts, etc. The Senate committee on the Judiciary held two lengthy meetings during the past week and considered this measure—without getting through with even the first section (which defines a conspiracy) and the bill is still before that committee. What is to become of it is hard to foretell at this juncture.

While all the lawyers on the committee (and every one of its eighteen members is a lawyer, and they all good ones too) recognize that an effective law which would reach trusts and monopolies would be very desirable and is badly needed, yet, with few exceptions, it seems to be their opinion that these monsters cannot be reached by State legislation or State control; that national legislation, by Congress is the one and only means of effectively reaching a monopoly or "trust;" that while we might frame another bill (there are two already on the statute book, designed for the same purpose) to "satisfy popular clamor" or "for political effect" (I am using the expressions of committeemen) it could not be used effectively to reach the "conspirators" we most want to get hold of—the big concerns chartered in other States and controlling the prices of oil, sugar, fertilizers, tobacco, etc. here and in other States—while the large "home industries" of our State could be reached and would be, the first ones "pulled."

"We can't prevent the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Co., or the Standard Oil Co., or the Armour Co., or the American Tobacco Co., for instance, from shipping their goods into North Carolina in the original packages, but we could indict such concerns, for instance, as the R. Reynolds Tobacco Co., and others and run them out of the State. Now the question is: Do we want to do that; would it be wise to take that course?"

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THE LEGISLATURE.

(Continued from first page)
FRIDAY, JAN. 25.
The Morning Post.

SENATE.—The Board of Agriculture got a skinning in the Senate yesterday.

Senators Scott of Alamance (author of pending bill) and Woodard of Wilkes (one of the best lawyers and brightest men in the "upper house") led in the official cutting stripping act.

Neither appeared to enjoy the work overmuch, but stoically performed it as a public duty—as one Senator declared in commenting on the occurrence.

Senator Woodard declared that the \$65,000 spent by the Agricultural Department made as little showing in returns as any similar sum ever expended in North Carolina, and that the board was not doing the work expected of it.

Senator Scott declared that the object of his bill was to rid the Board of Agriculture of broken-down or incompetent politicians who knew nothing of farming and cared little for the farmers' interests.

He also alluded vigorously to the button-holing he had been subjected to since introducing his bill, saying he had never received so many attentions before, and previously had no idea he was a person of such importance.

This bill required that only "practical farmers shall be eligible as members of the agricultural board, and created some warm comments from several senators. The bill was finally re-committed in order that it might be amended (upon consent of author of bill, Senator Scott) so as to leave the selection to Governor without saying in so many words that "none but practical farmers shall be eligible" to appointment and service on the board.

HOUSE.—In the House the contested election case of J. W. McNeill (Republican) against H. L. Green (Democrat), from Wilkes, was decided in favor of Mr. Green, the sitting member.

So palpably clear was Mr. Green entitled to the seat that he received the vote of two Republicans and Populist members of the House when the ballot was taken on the result.

Aside from the charges of irregularity of the count of the vote, there was a constitutional question involved, which debarred Mr. McNeill was assistant postmaster at Wilkesboro at the time of the election, and the Constitution of North Carolina says any person who holds a public position of profit shall not be eligible to election as a member of the General Assembly. This violation of the Constitution was so plain that Mr. McNeill's contest was voted against by members of all parties.

SATURDAY, JAN. 26TH.
News & Observer.

SENATE.—The only general legislation enacted by the Senate was a bill restoring the election of keeper of the capitol to the Board of Public Works and Grounds, which is constituted by the Governor and other State officers. An effort to give back to the keeper of the capitol the appointment of janitor of the Supreme court building failed and that position remains in the hands of the marshal of the Supreme court and the keeper of the capitol jointly.

HOUSE.—Two bills of general interest caused some little discussion, which resulted in each case in the bill being re-committed for further consideration. The first of these was the bill to establish the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association, and regulate the practice of veterinary medicine. Several of the members feared that the measure would limit the profession to such an extent that some districts would suffer for want of a veterinarian. Mr. Daughtridge said that in his county, where dairy interests were growing, there was no veterinary surgeon, and diseases among cattle were increasing.

Mr. Winston explained that the object of the bill was to protect the people from quacks, and that it did not prohibit from practicing those who had formerly doctored horses and cattle.

THE DOG TAX.

The bill to tax all dogs in the State fifty cents a head, in order to raise more money to educate the children, was debated with some humor.

Mr. Rothrock, who introduced the bill, said its object was clear. It was to help the State in its present situation, and making it possible to appropriate more for the children of the State. Moreover, he had many of the best citizens of his county at his back in the matter.

Mr. Rountree offered to amend the bill so as to make its provision legal. He stated he was heartily in favor of the bill.

Judge Connor said he was pleased to have the opportunity at last of supporting a measure to tax dogs, but the bill should be amended so that it would have effect it was intended to have. He feared, as it stood, that it was not in proper legal form.

Mr. Rothrock said he was deeply interested in the bill; but of course he bowed to the lawyers in the matter of

the legality of the bill, and very gladly accepted the amendment of Judge Connor.

Mr. Rountree moved to commit to the Committee on Judiciary. He said he would like to have a full vote on this bill.

MONDAY, JAN. 28TH.

SENATE.—In the Senate one of the most important measures was the bill introduced by Senator Glenn for high license on bar rooms in Greensboro. It provides that liquor license may be \$1,000 in Greensboro.

HOUSE.—The House met twice beginning with an ante-breakfast session at 7:30 a. m.

The early legislative session which had no terrors for Speaker Moore and forty-seven members of the House, was not barren of good results. For the first time since the Legislature convened the Speaker was enabled to break the news that the calendar had been exhausted.

The house met promptly at 7:30 a. m. and did a good hour's work before adjourning for breakfast. At 10:30 a. m. the second session began and lasted for two hours, when the calendar was cleared.

A notable fact connected with the session was that more bills were passed than at any previous session and not a debate resulted. The majority of the bills were of a local nature and the measures that were State interest were sidetracked for one cause or another. The bill to make compulsory the reading of the Bible in public schools was given a soft berth on the table in short order.

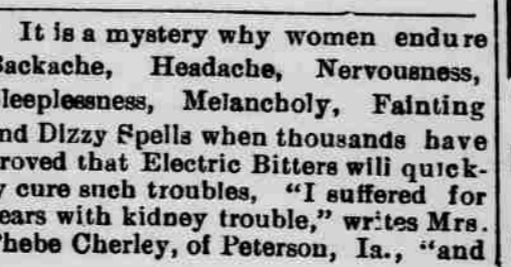
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Thousands Have Kidney Trouble and Don't Know It.

How To Find Out.
Fill a bottle or common glass with your water and let it stand twenty-four hours; a sediment or settling indicates an unhealthy condition of the kidneys; if it stains your linen it is evidence of kidney trouble; too frequent desire to pass it or pain in the back is also convincing proof that the kidneys and bladder are out of order.

There is comfort in the knowledge so often expressed, that Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney remedy fulfills every wish in curing rheumatism, pain in the back, kidneys, liver, bladder and every part of the urinary passage. It corrects inability to hold water and scalding pain in passing it, or bad effects following use of liquor, necessity of being compelled to go often during the day, and to get up many times during the night. The mild and the extraordinary effect of Swamp-Root is soon realized. It stands the highest for its wonderful cures of the most distressing cases. If you need a medicine you should have the best. Sold by druggists in 50c. and \$1. sizes. You may have a sample bottle of this wonderful discovery and a book that tells more about it, both sent absolutely free by mail, address Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. When writing mention reading this generous offer in this paper.

It is a mystery why women endure Backache, Headache, Nervousness, Sleeplessness, Melancholy, Fainting and Dizzy Spells when thousands have proved that Electric Bitters will quickly cure such troubles. "I suffered for years with kidney trouble," writes Mrs. Phebe Cherley, of Peterson, Ia., "and



Cure Cold in Head.
Kermott's Chocolate Laxative Quinine, easy to take and quick to cure cold in head and sore throat.

The One D. Gold Cure.
For colds and sore throat use Kermott's Chocolate Laxative Quinine. Really takes the cold and quickly cures.



A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND IS HER MOTHER.

Kenosha, Wis., Nov. 15, 1900.
Warner's Safe Cure Co., Rochester, N. Y.
Gentlemen:—I know Warner's Safe Cure saved my life. Last spring I had a severe attack of jaundice with other complications, which laid me up for several weeks. I lost my appetite, became nervous and irritable, lost flesh and courage and found no relief. As the doctor's prescription did not help me mother talked with our druggist, who advised her to try Warner's Safe Cure. She brought me a bottle and as that seemed to help me I tried another, and then another and inside of a month I was well and have enjoyed good health ever since. I gladly endorse your splendid medicine.

MISS CLARA ARNDT, Sec'y North Shore German Club
BACKACHE AND HEADACHE CURED.

Milwaukee, Wis., Nov. 9, 1900.
Warner's Safe Cure Co., Rochester, N. Y.

Gentlemen:—Last spring I contracted a severe cold which I neglected, to my sorrow. It settled in my kidneys, producing inflammation, with severe backache and continual headache. We had a part of a bottle of Warner's Safe Cure in the house which my brother had been using and I tried it. To my surprise I began to mend very rapidly. I took a second bottle and a third and kept on improving until at the end of five weeks I was entirely well. Yours truly,
MISS ROSALIE T. TELLER, Sec'y Floral Club, 1143 Oakdale Ave.

RESTORED TO COMPLETE HEALTH.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Oct. 25, 1900.
Warner's Safe Cure Co., Rochester, N. Y.

Gentlemen:—Warner's Safe Cure is the only medicine that could cure me. I was afflicted with female trouble brought on by being thrown from a carriage in a runaway in the fall of '93. I spent hundreds of dollars on doctors and medicines without relief, but Warner's Safe Cure restored me to health in two months. My general health is also improved and I would not be without it in my home for ten times its cost. Accept hearty thanks from
Yours gratefully, VIRGINIA TOWNSEND,
Vice President Young People's Christian Temperance Union,
211 Schermerhorn St.

Notice—Change of Charter.
Notice is hereby given that application will be made to the next session of the Legislature of North Carolina to amend the charter of the town of Scotland Neck. By order of the Board of Commissioners.
W. T. CLEMENT, Mayor,
Scotland Neck, N. C., Jan. 9, 1901.
1-10-01

HARDWARE!

1901 finds us at the "same old stand" selling first-class Hardware at reasonable prices. We buy from the largest dealers and manufacturers in the United States. We endeavor to keep the very best goods and buy them so they can be sold cheap, and that is why our trade has increased so during 1900 and promises to increase the more during 1901.

"Keen Kutter" Axes, Grub Hoes, Ditch Axes, Hand Saws, Chisels, Auger Bits, Hatchets, Hammers, Drawing Knives, Farming Implements of all kinds, Cook and Heating Stoves.

Don't fail to see that new style Buggy Harness; and if you want a first-class Buggy give us a trial. We sell them almost as fast as we can get them in. If you need anything in Hardware, Mill Supplies, Cart and Buggy Material, Tin, Steel or Paper Roofing, give us a trial and we will convince you that we can sell you as cheap as any other Retail Hardware Store.

BICYCLES.—We will handle Bicycles again this season and can suit you in price and quality. Yours for business,
G. C. WEEKS.
With R. C. Josey & Co.'s Hardware Store.

Parties wishing to buy please come quickly, as I am going to sell, and that cheaply.
1-3-01
S. F. DUNN.

Notice to Tax Payers!
This is to Notify the Tax payers of Halifax county that the Tax collector will be required to settle 1900 Tax by the 1st Monday in May, 1901. The Tax payers are, therefore, requested to pay promptly and save the collector trouble.
By order of the Board of County Commissioners,
J. H. NORMAN, Clerk
Jan. 9, 1901.

Extra Fine Mules and Horses
always on hand.
Reasonable Terms.
We sell Very Low for Cash or on Time.

Horses and Mules

See us before you buy. We will make it to your interest to do so.

Prince & Co.,
One Block South of Hotel, opposite Ray & Co.

Mules and Horses

We will keep constantly on hand a good lot of Stock to select from, and will give you Bottom Prices and most favorable terms.
BIGGS & JOHNSON
1-17-01

A Watch Talks!
Wind me up with care
And let me have far play,
And I will surely tell to you
The precious time of day.

If within twelve months I should
And forget to give the hour,
Take me back to Mixon's shop
And he will give me power.

You will also find a fine line of Watches, Clocks, Jewelry and Silverware at
CRUMPLER & MIXON'S
Jewelry Store
Under Hotel Lawrence,
Scotland Neck, North Carolina