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THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1902.

THE ROANOKE DYKES.

Elsewhere in this issue appears communication concerning the dykes along the Roanoke river. It was writt n by a farmer who has had many years of observation and experience, and the facts which he cites are worth about it. studying.

Recently there appeared in the Raieigh Post an article by Maj. James W. Wilson setting torth certain principles about freshets in the Roanoke river. The correspondent who writes for THE COMMONWEALTH practically takes issue with Maj. Wilson's position.

THE COMMONWEALTH is not authority on the subject of dykes along the Roanoke river; but we make free to say that the lowlands of this river are too valuable to be allowed to go to waste if they can possibly be saved.

Several years ago we agitated through these columns the question of dyking the Roanoke river with State convict labor. A meeting was held in Scotland Neck which was attended by prominent men from this and adjoining counties, among them Mr. F. D. Winston (now Judge), of Windsor.

In consequence of that agitation : bill for dyking the river by convict labor was introduced in the Legislature made a fair showing for the first effort in the project-a vote, we believe, of about 30 in favor to 40 or 50 against it.

As our correspondent suggests, perhaps the time may come when a grea corporation will make effort to keep the water in bounds as is sometimes done to spread it over the land by irrigation.

Anyhow the Roanoke lands are fer tile beyond compare, and we hope to see them in safety from the floods some day.

SCIENCE DISCOUNTED.

A German scientist has discovered that most of the ills of the flesh are due to poorly masticated food and he declares if every person would chew his food seventy-two times 85 per cent. of the stomach troubles would disappear. He points out that animals do not have indigestion because they do not wet their food as men do Gladstone "chewed" every bite thirtytwo times before swallowing it. There is much of sense in the scientist's suggestion, but would life be worth living if you had to count 72 "chews" cu every delicacy you enjoyed?-News

These scientists are always troubling other people with their discoveries. We sometimes wonder how the people managed to live at all in the time of Abraham, as they had none of the advantages of modern science and advanced ideas.

We do not question the fact that it is a good thing to chew food well-we thoroughly believe it is-and the more we chew it the better, perhaps; and if we did not know that nothing THE COMMONWEALTH says, nothing the News and Observer says, and nothing any other newspaper says would make people count their chews on their food, we would not be saying this.

But the scientists' declaration frequently do not tally with experience. We remember two men whom we knew in our boyhood days whose habits of mastication put to rout all this theory about how many times one ought to chew his food before swallowing it.

One of these men was a very intelligent teacher and was careful, almost to the point of painfulness, to chew his food well. He would lay down his knife and fork at the table and chew and chew and chew; but after all he died young. The other man was ignorant, so far as books and science gowe believe he could not read or write his he was tenderly attached, caused him name-but when he sat down to eat he did not mince matters. He ate for all gifted woman and lived to a ripe old the world as if he had received orders for a forced march of ten or a dozen days and that he thought it probable he would never get another square meal this side of eternity itself; and this man is living yet, and for all we know eating in a hurry still.

thing to chew food well, and we think many people suffer because they disregard it; but we have cited these cases merely as a passing recollection.

SKINNER AND KEITH.

Harry Skinner has been appointed district attorney for the eastern district of North Carolina and B. F. Keith has been appointed collector at the por of Wilmington.

Mr. Skinner's appointment is in th place of C. M. Bernard and Mr. Keith' appointment is to fill the vacancy caused by the appointment of John Dancy, colored, as Recorder in the District of Columbia.

It is said that the old time, straight Republicans do not like these appointments, but they are saying little

LAND POVERTY.

It seems paradoxical, perhaps, speak of a person's having so much anything that is genuine property that he becomes poor from the fact of such possession. For instance, the ma who has five thousand dollars in hard cash could hardly be convinced that he is as well off as the man who has te housand dollars. And perhaps if the matter were considered from the basis of money in hand it would not bear applied to the possession of land.

Although apparently the proposition sition. s paradoxical, it is nevertheless true that a man can become what is some much land.

As an illustration, a lady recited to us recently the case of a farmer she knows who "keeps himself poor buying land"-as she expressed it. Every tract of land that comes upon the market within reach of him he buys; and all his work until he pays for it Straightway he goes and embarrasses himself again by going in debt for anues from year to year.

This is only one of hundreds and thousands of cases, and he who can uccessfully show the farmers who vice to our noble yeomanry.

The following from the Sanford Ex press is a most sensible observation on the subject :

"The farmers of North Carolina, eslabor. They themselves will admit it. Agriculture that he was "sick and These two evils, inherited from slavery, tired" of having his expressions on the largely consume the profits of their in- subject "thrown In his face." Mr. dustry. There is doubtless a certain Wilson, I am told, expressed regret at satisfaction in owning broad acres of having given utterance to his yiews land, in having a large number of ten- and assured Mr. Roosevelt that nothing ants about one, but there is no pros perity in it. In New England it is the exception for the farmer to own fused to appear before the Ways and much land or employ much labor, and Means Committee, although it is well as a rule the New England farmer is more prosperous than the North Carolina farmer-he keeps his wagon and buggy in better repair, wears better clothes and gives his children a better sip in regard to cabinet changes, but education. No one will dispute this.

"But it is not without a struggle that the North Carolina farmer gives up his land. He knows that he has main uncultivated and go to waste, but it has been handed down to him by tire plantation go under the hammer."

RINGWOOD NOTES.

Ringwood, N. C., Jan. 28, 1902. Mrs. Chas. Judge died suddenly last week of congestive chill, aged 55 years.

she was a good woman. The grain crop seems to be a failure. The hard freezes and stock running at large have about destroyed it all. Considerable increase in tobacco crop is contemplated.

Mr. C. A. Williams is trying stock raising. He has fine Short-horn cows and Essex hogs pretty as a picture all the way from Ohio.

All who have cotton seed are hauling them off at the unprecedently high price, though they are needed on the

Rev. A. G. Willcox will preach this year at Anticch and Turkey Branch, but not at Bear Swamp as formerly. The death of his aged mother, to who much grief. She was a remarkably age. Like a clock worn out by the attrition of years, the wheels of life at last stood still.

Your last issue was full of good read-

THIS CLIMATE IS GOOD

enough for anybody with weak lungs. The patient need not travel. He can from any form of oplum.

DEMOCRATIC POLICY IN CON-GRESS.

Correspondence to The Commonwealth

Washington, D. C., Jan. 27, 1902 The Democrats of the House of Repesentatives held their long deferred caucus on Friday, and under the skillful guidance of Mr. Richardson and other Democratic leaders, determined upon a policy which it is believed will prove most effective, not alone in furthering the interests of the party but also in stemming the tide of plutocratic egislation which it is expected the Republican majority will attempt to impose upon the country. Some of the members did not consider it within the province of the caucus to reverse any of the decisions of the last national convention, but apart from their contention it was determined that there was no necessity at this time for se doing. It was further decided that it would be wiser for the members of the party to devote their whole attention to checkmating raids of the opposition on the Treasury and endeavoring to protect the whole people from legisla tion inspired by the great vested interests whose liberal campaign contrithe same discussion that it will when butions secure for them such extensive influence in the councils of the oppo-

The Ways and Means Committee is still giving hearings to the Representatives of the beet sugar and tobacco intimes called "land poor" by owning too Gustries in this country and in Cuba. The beet sugar lobby is growing des perate and is contemplating a coalition forces with the Democrats in an effort to reduce the protection on refined sugar. The beet sugar men are, of course, inspired by animosity to the sugar trust, but they trankly admit that they would be in a better position then he is kept under high pressure in to develop their industry if the trust were destroyed even it reciprocal privileges were granted to Cuba. The Democrats are naturally and consistently opposed to a duty which puts imother tract of land. And so he contin- mense profits into the hands of the trust at the expense of the vast body of consumers. Representative McCali Republican member from Massachusetts, tells me that he will vote for reciprocity as he does not consider that suffer in this way that they are mak- a moderate concession would injure ing a great mistake will do a great ser- American interests and he believes the United States owes it to Cuba to at least start her on the road to pros-

Apropos of the beet sugar question there is a story going the rounds in inner circles of a very stormy cabinet pecially those of the cotton belt, own meeting at which the President is too much land and employ too much alleged to have told his Secretary of more would be heard from him on the subject. He has persistently reknown that he is adverse to any reciprocal treaty which will lower the duty on beet sugar. Of course the above incident has given rise to renewed gosno change in the Agricultural portfolio

is contemplated at this time. Senator Mason attempted on Friday to commit the Senate on the Schley to pay high taxes on it, and that from matter, at least to the extent of thankyear to year a great deal of it must re- ing the Admiral "for his brave and able conduct while in command of the American fleet at the victorious battle his foreparents for several generations of Santiago," and presenting him with back, and he regards it as a sacred a sword, but the opposition was on the holding. Not intrequently, however, alert, and despite Senator Mason's proin trying to hold it all he loses it all. tests, Senator Hate insisted upon the It is better for him to sell a part of it, reference of the resolution to the comeven at a sacrifice, than to see the en- mittee on Naval Affairs where there is every reason to believe that it will be

The House has passed the Urgent Deficiency bill, but did not until the Democrats had compelled Mr. Cannon to amend the wording of the approprition of the clause providing \$500,000 for the establishment of a military barracks at Manilla. Sixteen Democrats voted for the bill, not because they approved of the course of the administration in the Philippines, but because they felt that American soldiers should be provided with comfortable quarters wherever they were. There is, in fact, reason to believe that other Democrats would have voted for the proposition had their votes been necessary to carry it and upon the same ground, but so long as the Rethe measure they felt it their duty to protest against the imperialistic policy of the administration.

LATE LITERARY NEWS.

ticle on "The Naval Strength of Na- town. It is also made a misdemeanor, tions," which gives not only a most in- punishable by a fine of \$10, for snyone teresting and comprehensive account to explode or cause to be exploded any of the navies of the great powers but fireworks within the town. Other also a clear insight into world politics. towns desiring to be rid of the danger Few men possess such knowledge as and annoyance of fireworks at Chistthe author's, gained from years of ex- mas might well follow this example of perience in a diplomatic and political Scotland Neck and go at the matter Bear in mind, we believe it a good get well here with the help of Allen's career. The article is so broad in scope early. Lung Balsam, taken frequently when and straightforward in treatment that coughing and shortness of breath after it will be read with interest not alone exercise serve notice upon him that serious pulmenary trouble is not far by statesmen but by every one whose away. Allen's Lung Baisam is free thoughts travel beyond the immediate wants of a single day.

DYKES ON THE ROANGKE.

The breaking of the dykes on the

State farm on Reanoke river last May and the damage to crops have caused

The valley of the Roanoke below is composed of two classes of land-what are called the first and second lov grounds. The first is the section nearest to the river and is yery fertile in production of corn. It is naturally the richest soil in the State and up to Southern people, but no one was 1865 produced many thousands of bar rels of corn, but since the introduction of free labor and the destruction of the dykes it is almost valueless from over

The second section is higher and grows all kinds of crop and is not subject to overflow except in very high high water, but since 1865 it has decreased very much in value. There are two causes for this-the freeing of the slaves and abolishing of the dykes. with safety?

As to its being worked by free labor admits of no doubt. It is the natural stand the climate, while the white man would prefer to live there.

river has been discussed for many causes higher water, but the record of the freshets since 1845 shows higher water since the dykes were abandoned. From 1849 to 1864 the water as measured by a staff was 24 feet with the dykes all up. From 1865 to 1901 it assured. But the greatest thing in sions 25 to 251. I don't know that elevated, pure, noble, knightly, grathe dykes caused lower water, but the clous character. ecord shows it.

eason why they did not stand was that they were not properly located and that there was no concert of action by the owners. Each farmer dyked to suit himself. It would be practical to locate them half a mile more or less from the river by a competent surveyor and as straight as possible according to the bend of the river. This would shorten the dykes and make them stronger. A parrow current in reason will not rise as high as a broad one in a freshet. It has a swift, strong current-empties the water farther and prevents sand bars while a broad one causes sand bars and in a freshet rises higher.

It has been said that the Mississippi liver would not be navigable if the dykes were down, and he "Eads Jetties" at its mouth proves the wisdom of narrow channel.

Another question has been raised If one section is dyked, will it cause higher water to the adjoining lands? It will not. Low water at Weldon in May last year was followed by higher water below the falls while higher water in December was followed by lower water below the falls. The dykes at the State farm were up in May and down in December. It has been ar gued that the dykes at the State farm caused this but that is a mistake. The same condition prevailed 35 miles below Weldon-higher water in December at Weldon tollowed by lower water below, and lower water in May was followed by high water here. The condition of the lower river controls the water below the falls.

It the lower river is high and swamps full high water follows, but a low river with dry swamp takes off the water rapidly and will not cause a

There are several reasons why dykes break-improperly located, too narrow, boring of musk-rats and want of Ladies' Shoes from \$2 down to 75 cents. attention.

I think in the future that this river Clothing 50c a sult and more; will be dyked, if not by individuals, by For bargains come to our store. the government. Companies are formed to supply water to dry lands by irrigation and possibly they may undertake to keep water off of the land by

THINKS IT A GOOD ORDINANCE.

Scotland Neck is taking time by the forelock and has taken steps early in the year to be relieved of a dangerpublicans had the strength to enact ous nuisance when the next holiday season comes. We see from The Commonwealth that the Commissioners of that town have adopted an ordinance making it a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of \$50, for any person to bring any fireworks within the town, and \$25 Sir Charles W. Dilke contributes to additional for each and every day such The Cosmopolitan for February an ar- fireworks are allowed to remain in the

M'CLURE'S TRIBUTE TO LEE.

Wilmington Messenger.

Colonel Alexander K. McCiure, who is so well known as an editor, being out now of the harness and much advanced some discussion throughout the State. In years, is amusing himself with writ A short sketch and the practicability ing articles of interest and sometimes of dyking this river may be of interest. of value. His papers in the great outrage upon Schley are memorable. Writing recently at some length upon General Robert E. Lee, he gave expression to an opinion ahead of his people. He said this:

"The South had many heroes who called out the deepest affections of the universally loved as Robert E. Lee, and his memory will eyer be cherished by them as that of the ideal hero and gentleman. The passions of civil war are now almost entirely effaced, and I sincerely hope that before another decade shall have passed there will be erected on zeminary Hill, by the joint appropriation of the State of Virginia, and water. A great portion of it is above Pennsylvania, an equestrian statue o Lee corresponding with the statue of Meade on Cemetery Hill." The author of that famous paper that

appeared in Blackwood's (Edinborough) Now the question is, will free labor Magazine about 1870, entitled, "The work it and can the dykes be rebuilt Battle of Dorking," in another paper in Blackwood said that the three greatest soldiers of the English speaking race were-Marlborough, Wellington home of the negro. They are able to and Lee, giving the names in the order of birth. He was the highest recog s not; and if protected from water they nized authority in military matters in Great Britain at that time. Many The practicability of dyking this years after General Lord Wolseley when commander-in-chief of the Brit years. The general idea is that dyking ish army, in a paper bearing his signature, said that General Lee was a greater soldier than the Duke of Wellington, and there is good reason, we add, for holding that crinicn. Lee's place in history as a great captain is measured 271 feet, on several occas- Lee is not his genius for war, but for

Prior to 1865 the dykes were kept up Cut this out and take it to E. T. but they were not perfect and would Whitehead & Co.'s drug store and get often break, but it was a success. The and Liver Tablets, the best physic.

A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT.

Goldsboro, N. C., January 27. A shocking fatal accident occurred on the banks of Neuse river, in Johnston county Saturday evening. Mis-Minnie Rose, daughter of the late Mr James Rose and grauddaughter of Mi W. T. Cox, of this city, in company with her brother's wife, went down to the river bank to carry dinner to her brother and party who were constructing a craft. The two ladies took a seat on one of the large logs on the sloping

In some mysterious way the log started rolling. The other lady jump ed to the next log above and thus started it rolling. Miss Cox was caught by the skirt by the first log and jerked under it, and both logs rolled over her, crushing the life out of her instantly.

She was a most excellent young lady, and her shocking death is deeply de plored by all who knew her.



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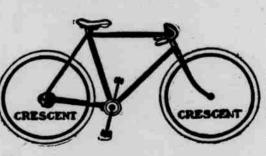
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Notice.

NORTH CAROLINA, | Superior Court. Bertie County. Burges Urquhart, Adm'r of Wm. Charles Hardy, deceased.

John M. Hardy, R. Lee . Hardy and others, heirs-at-law of Wm.

Charles Hardy, dec'd. By authority of an order of the Superior court of Bertle county in the above entitled special proceeding, I will sell at public auction at Palmyra N. C., at 12 m., on Wednesday, Feb 19, 1902, the store and farm at Pal myra in Halifax county, which was owned by Wm. Charles Hardy at hideath and known as the Hyman farm. which contains 250 acres more or less. Terms of sale: One third cash, with palance in one and two years. The purchaser may elect to pay all cash and take his deed. The land is sold to ony the debts of Wm Charles Hardy.

This January 13, 1902 BURGES URQUHART, 1 16 4t

J. E. Odom. Fruit and Produce Commis-

sion Merchant. Roanoke Dock, Norfolk, Va., Dec. 2, 1901.

EGGS AND POULTR /. Egge, stiff, per doz. Old Hens, each Large Spring Chickens Medium ' 15@20 12@15 Turkeys, per lb. 9@10 Diessed Greese, each. 55 65 Dressed Chix, per lb. 10@ 121 Pheasants, each HAMS, ETC.

Smithfield, fancy, per lb. Va. cured, 6 to 8 lb av'ge N. C. cured, 6 to 8 lb av'ge 10 to 12 lb av'ge Middlings, per lb Shoulders Dressed Hogs, per lb

HIDES. Dry Flint, per lb Dry Salt, per lb Green Salt, per lb. PEANUTS.

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> > Taylor's Grocery Store.

We have purchased the 12@14 stock of E. W. Hyman, and have some Special Bargains 7@8 which we are offering daily to the public. We propose to make business lively at Mr. Hyman's old stand, and respectfully solicit a share of the public's patronage.

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I underwent a treatment for catarrh, for three months, without any success, consulted a number of physicians, among others, the most eminent car specialist of this city, who told me that only an operation could help me, and even that only temporarily, that the head noises would I then saw your advertisement accidentally in a New York paper, and ordered your treatment. After I had used it only a few days according to your directions, the noises ceased, and to-day, after five weeks, my hearing in the discased ear has been entirely restored. I thank you heartily and beg to remain

Very truly yours.

F. A. WERMAN, 730 S. Broadway, Baltimore, Md.

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