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THE COMMONWEALTH.

The Largest Circulation OF ANY Halifax County Newspaper.

J. C. HARDY, Editor and Proprietor.

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VOL. XXX.

SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1914.

NUMBER 10.

Retired Georgia Planter's Advice to Kidney Sufferers.

Regarding the wonderful curative merits of your Swamp-Root, I cannot say to you. After suffering severely for three years or more with severe pains caused by weak kidneys, was finally induced to try Swamp-Root through a testimonial I read in one of the newspapers. I was in such a condition that I was in such a condition that I was obliged to arise from my bed six or eight times every night. I purchased a fifty-cent bottle and before it was used I felt so much relief that I purchased a one-dollar bottle and by the time this was taken the old pains had left my back and I could sleep the whole night through. I am a retired planter, 70 years of age, and owing to Dr. Kilmor's Swamp-Root, I am in the best of health and feel like a boy. I am always glad to recommend Swamp-Root to those who are in need of it.

Sincerely yours,
C. E. USSERY,
Bowersville, Ga.

Personally appeared before me, this 8th of September, 1909, C. E. USSERY, who subscribed the above statement and made oath that the same is true in substance and in fact.

T. H. McLANE, Notary Public
(Letter to Dr. Kilmor & Company, Binghamton, N. Y.)

Save What Swamp Root Will Do For You.

Send the cents to Dr. Kilmor & Company, Binghamton, N. Y., for a sample size bottle. It will convince any one. You will also receive a booklet of valuable information, telling about the kidneys and bladder. When writing, be sure and mention The Commonwealth, Scotland Neck, N. C. Regular fifty-cent and one-dollar size bottles for sale at all drug stores.

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Attorney-at-Law.
Scotland Neck, N. C.
Practices wherever his services are required.

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Physician and Surgeon
Scotland Neck, N. C.
Office in the building formerly used by Dr. J. P. Wimberley.

DR. R. L. SAVAGE
OF ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.
Will be in Scotland Neck, N. C., on the third Wednesday of each month at the hotel to treat the diseases of the Eye, Ear, Nose, Throat, and fit glasses.

DR. O. F. SMITH
Physician and Surgeon
Office in the Crescent Pharmacy, Inc.
Scotland Neck, N. C.

DR. A. C. LIVERMON,
DENTIST.
Office upstairs in Whitehead Building.
Office hours from 9 to 1 o'clock and 2 to 5 o'clock.

Willie H. Ailsbrook
LIFE INSURANCE
Representing the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., of New York
SCOTLAND NECK, N. C.
6-12-14

Wood's Productive Seed Corns.
We offer all the best prize-winning and profit-making varieties: Casey's Pure-bred, Bigg's Seven-eared, Collier's Excelsior, Boone County, Gold Standard, etc.
Descriptions and information in Wood's 1914 Descriptive Catalog. You should surely read it before deciding what to plant for best results.

Wood's Ensilage Corns
are the largest yielding fodder varieties in cultivation. Wood's Catalog tells all about them, and all other Farm and Garden Seeds.
Catalog mailed free. Write for it.

T. W. WOOD & SONS,
Seedsmen, - Richmond, Va.

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LIME
is the basis of all good farming. Write for Bulletin by the best authority in the United States on Lime on the Farm, and get price of the purest lime. Don't buy earth, sand, or a postal will give you reasons.

POWHATAN LIME CO.
GREENSBURG, VIRGINIA

WOODS' GREAT PEPPERMINT CURE
3 Doses 666 will break up Colds & Fever, Colds & Cough. It acts on the liver & lungs. (Children's dose does not apply to children.) Price 25c.

PEANUT INDUSTRY OF HALIFAX COUNTY

For more than twenty-five years the culture of peanuts has been one of the chief agricultural industries in Halifax county, and especially is this true of the lower end of the county, where, next to cotton, it is the principal money crop. Every farmer in the county almost engages in the raising of peanuts, which are mostly of the Spanish variety, although for the past few years the Virginia, or large, pea have come into much prominence and are given more attention by those who engage in their culture each succeeding year.

Strange to say, while the peanut industry occupies so prominent a part in the agricultural pursuits of Halifax county, there is only one

season as high as \$1.40 has been paid, the highest in the history of the peanut industry, and they are now selling at \$1.25. Perhaps more than 200 car loads are shipped from the county annually. There being an average of 1,000 bushels per car, makes the total crop 200,000 bushels, and they are valued at more than \$300,000, the cotton crop having the lead by a very small margin.

Up to about fifteen years ago the peanuts were beaten from the vines by hand, but since that time peanut threshers have come into general use, these being of various types and inventions of recent years. Many farmers make a business of threshing peanuts for their neighbors who do not own a thresher, re-

holding four bushels, and are thus shipped to their destination. Hardly a day passes in the peanut belt at this season of the year one does not witness the marketing of great quantities.

While Halifax county is the great peanut county of the State and Scotland Neck the center of the peanut belt, there are large quantities raised in the upper section of Martin and Edgewood, and in that section of these counties adjoining the southern end of Halifax the peanut crop ranks with cotton as a great money crop. Many farmers in both these counties as well as in Halifax county make enough from their peanut crop alone to pay their year's expenses and have the remainder of



THRASHING PEANUTS AND PREPARING THEM FOR MARKET.

peanut factory, or cleaner, in the county, and this is located in Edfield. During the past few months efforts have been made to have a factory established at Scotland Neck, the great peanut center of Halifax county, but the success of these efforts seems very remote, and the chances are there will be no factory established here.

Halifax county soil seems especially adapted to the successful cultivation of peanuts, and especially is this true of the Spanish, or small, pea, since for this variety a light, or medium light, soil is best, while for the large, or Virginia, pea a heavy, or medium heavy, soil is required. It takes but little cultivation to raise peanuts, and on reasonably good soil but little, if any, fertilizer, some farmers getting splendid results by using practically no fertilizers.

Since the cultivation of peanuts

alizing a nice income from their investment in the machine, which, with the power to drive it, cost several hundred dollars.

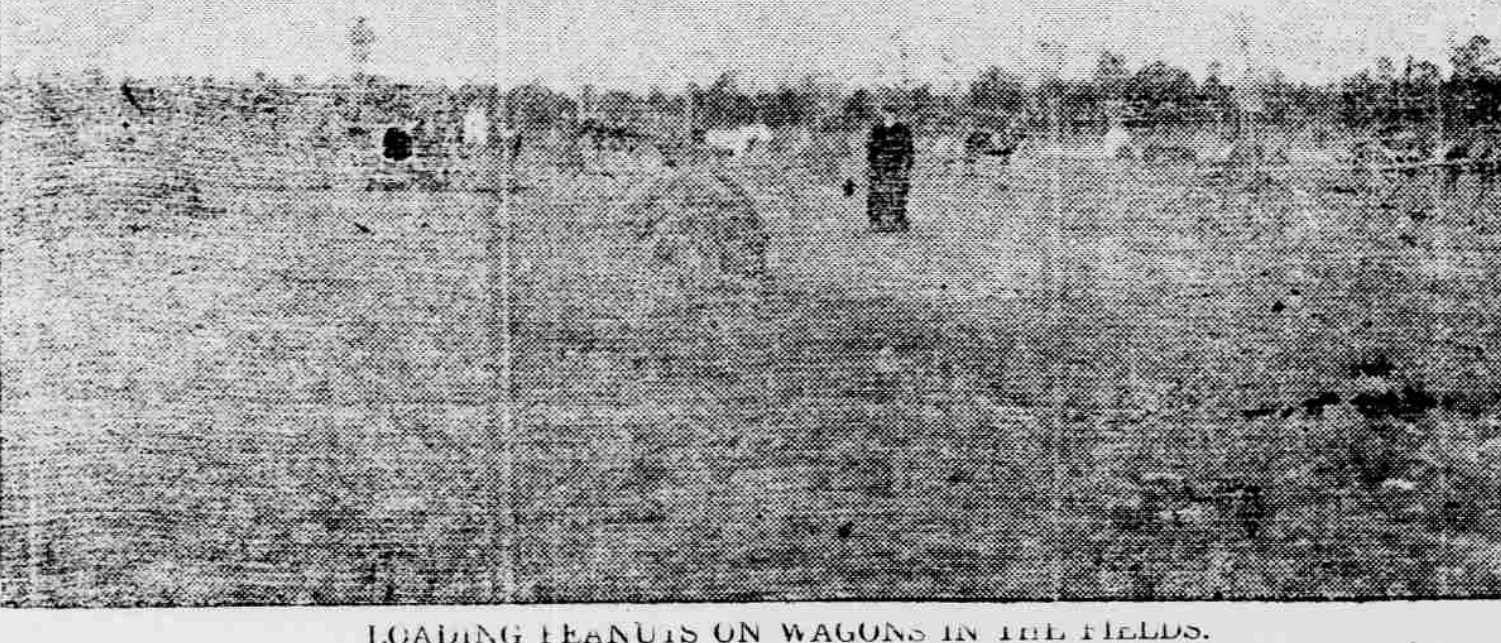
This season of the year, and a little earlier, large areas of peanut stocks can be seen throughout the peanut belt, and it is quite a curiosity to one not familiar with the scene to drive over the county and see these great fields. Sometime ago the writer, while driving through Palmyra and noticed an immense field of peanuts stacked for drying, the whole field containing 2,200 sacks, said by many to have been the largest single field of peanuts ever seen in that section.

The average crop of peanuts per acre is from 30 to 40 bushels, but in many cases where season and soil are favorable as high as 100 bushels have been made from a single acre of land, and this without any special

their crop—cotton, corn, grain and the like—as a profit.

In working the budding and loan associations among the farmers, the farmers who have money to loan would be the investing shareholders, and to those would be added the people of the cities and towns who are willing to aid the associations, and at the same time get good investments for their money. The farmers who desire to borrow should join, of course as the borrowing shareholders. Associations of this character must have both kinds—Insurance Bulletin.

The name of W. C. Hammer has at last been sent in for the district attorneyship for Western North Carolina. Wonder what the Washington correspondents to the North Carolina papers will do now for something to write about.



LOADING PEANUTS ON WAGONS IN THE FIELDS.

has become of such vast importance in Halifax county, it is said by some of the largest buyers in the county that the average price paid per bushel can easily be estimated to be about \$1.10. During the present

fertilizing, and it is not at all unusual to raise from 60 to 75 bushels. Peanuts with reasonably favorable weather conditions and with some fertilizer, can easily be made to yield from 50 to 60 bushels per acre.

Some years ago in the lower end of Halifax county many of the farmers engaged in the cultivation of tobacco, and while some of them still raise more or less of the weed, the great majority have abandoned it, saying they find the cultivation of peanuts far easier and much more profitable and satisfactory, since for tobacco it requires a great amount of labor and attention and much fertilizing, while for peanuts it is just the opposite—but very little labor and practically no fertilizer.

It has been said that in years gone by Scotland Neck was the largest Spanish peanut market in the world, and it lays claim today of being among the largest, if not the largest, in the world. Of course there are larger peanut markets, where both the Virginia and Spanish peas are marketed, but for the Spanish peanut alone, there is but little doubt that Scotland Neck has them all beat.

From the time the season opens to begin threshing peanuts, early in the fall, until the close late in the winter, great wagon trains may be seen coming from almost every direction, bringing the peanuts to market. They are put up in sacks

Brains Dulled by Constipation.
Some People Only Half Alive; Dodson's Liver Tonic Cleans You Out and Wakes You Up.

When constipation is having its evil effects on your body and brain, nature is doing her best to offset them and overcome the cause itself. But usually nature cannot do this unaided.

In the past, many sufferers at such a time used to turn to dangerous calomel in hope of relief. For some people calomel does appear to give a temporary benefit, but as a matter of fact it is a poison that proves to be injurious and even dangerous to many. If you have ever taken calomel you probably have suffered from evil conditions following its use.

But nowadays great numbers of people have learned how to feel better, brighter and healthier by taking Dodson's Liver Tonic instead of calomel. Indeed, this harmless vegetable liquid is recommended by E. T. Whithead Company, who will refund the purchase price to you without question if you are not completely satisfied with it.

Get a bottle of Dodson's Liver Tonic for only 50c, and learn for yourself how easily and naturally it assists nature in getting rid of and correcting constipation and biliousness, how it clears away the sick headache and coated tongue and sets you right without ache or gripe, without any interference with your regular habits. Fine for the children. They like to take it.

R. W. COBB ELECTROCUTED.

Wrote a Confession to Governor Craig Saying Some of the Testimony Was Wrong But He Was Guilty.

We take the following report of the electrocution of R. W. Cobb from the Raleigh Daily Times of Friday, the 6th:

"Promptly at 10:30 this morning eighteen hundred volts of electric current were switched into the body of R. W. Cobb as he sat strapped in the death chair at the State's Prison, and in about six seconds the invisible force was turned off and it was all over; the young white man who killed Thomas Shaw for his money was pronounced dead; he paid the penalty for murder in the first degree.

"Before going to his death this morning the condemned man placed in the hands of Rev. W. McC. White, pastor of the Presbyterian church here, a letter to Governor Craig, in which he confessed that he had shot Mr. Shaw, but said that he had not intended to kill him.

"Cobb made no statement whatever in the death chamber. He did not show any signs of breaking down and appeared composed. Dr. White, who has visited him frequently during the past eight or ten days as his spiritual adviser, did not accompany him to the chair. Some time ago he made a profession of religion and told Dr. White that he was not afraid to die and that he had hope for his soul.

"Warden Sale had invited forty persons to the electrocution, and about thirty-five of these were present. In addition there were the officials, making the total in the room about forty. The physicians on hand were Dr. Jas. R. Rogers, the prison physician, Drs. T. M. Jordan, J. W. McGee, Joel Whitaker, R. S. McGeachy.

"The body was turned over to the Brown undertaking establishment, and under the State law, if not claimed by relatives within thirty-six hours, will be given to the State anatomical board to be used in the advance of science.

"The young man's mother and fiancée were here this week to see him and left on Wednesday for their homes in Norfolk, Va. The mother stated while here that she did not intend to claim the body."

THE CONFESSION.
Wednesday, March 4, 1914.
Hon. Governor Locke Craig,
Raleigh, N. C.

I, R. W. Cobb, do confess to the killing of Mr. Thomas Shaw on the night of May 3, 1912. Henry Gurkin and myself left Rosemary, N. C., at 8:20 p. m., May 3, 1913, for the purpose of robbing Mr. Thomas Shaw, we arrived at his store some time later, I don't know the time, we went to the back of store and stayed there until a few minutes before it was closed. Mr. Shaw's little boy said, "I believe I will go to the house." His father said, "Wait on a minute and we will both go." Gurkin and I left the back of the store then, and went to the dwelling (or between the two dwellings) Mr. Shaw's old and new home to consult as to the best way to hold him up. Gurkin said it would not do for him to do it, for Mr. Shaw knew him and would recognize his voice, so it was decided that I should do the holding up and Gurkin was to come up behind him and search him for his money. Gurkin gave me his revolver, I not having one. I then concealed myself in an angle of the porch of the new house. Gurkin some place about the old one. Pretty soon Mr. Shaw and his son came up from the store. I waited until they were in 10 or 15 feet of me before I stepped out of the shadow of the porch. I told him to hold up his hands, he stopped, and then came toward me again, and said, "Stop your foolishness." I told him to stop, but he continued to advance, removing his hand from his pocket. I thought I saw the gleam of steel or some weapon. It frightened me, and in a frenzy of fear I shot. I had no idea of killing Mr. Shaw. I shot at his legs, but the gun being a cheap "Iver Johnson" jumped and causing the bullet to strike a mortal spot.

I at once ran from the scene, by the lane which leads to the road, and down the road to the place where we had concealed the bicycles. Gurkin, by running across a field, arrived at them first, and was gone before I could get the one I was riding, so I did not see him any more until Monday morning, May 6, 1913. I then proposed that we should say that we went to Weldon, in case we

ROYAL BAKING POWDER

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Insures the most delicious and healthful food

By the use of Royal Baking Powder a great many more articles of food may be readily made at home, all healthful, delicious, and economical, adding much variety and attractiveness to the menu.

The "Royal Baker and Pastry Cook," containing five hundred practical receipts for all kinds of baking and cookery, free. Address Royal Baking Powder Co., New York.

were suspected. I agreed, but we never went to Weldon, on that night, and were not five minutes separated from 8:20 p. m. till 9:45 p. m. I had the bicycle borrowed from Henry Cullom, and Gurkin used the one I borrowed from Clyde Taylor. After leaving the scene of the crime, and getting on the bicycle I rode straight into Rosemary by the county road, and did not go through the woods as was testified at the trial. I was never nearer Horner's gin than the depot, and it was all a mistake about my going or returning that way. I only write this in reference to circumstantial evidence which shows how easily one can be mistaken, although it convicted me of a crime of which I am guilty, it is always best to know positively, for Jesus says in John 3:11, "We speak that we have seen." Now I am not trying to exonerate myself, for I am guilty, but I have great hopes of my soul being saved, even though my life is taken. I have had eight months and eighteen days confinement in one little cell, which gave me much food for thought, and I have prayed to our Father in Heaven the forgiveness of my sins, not only mine, but those of my friends and enemies alike, and I hold no malice in my heart against anyone not even those who circulated the petition to have me electrocuted. I pray constantly for the soul of the man whom I slew. Also for his wife and children. May God bless and be merciful to them all the days of their life.

I can truthfully say I am fully as sorry to have deprived them of their dear husband and parent as they are of losing him, and I trust they will forgive me this great trespass upon their affection and love.

It has been a long wait, but I have lost, as all evil doers are sure to do in the end. But our Lord and Saviour gives us blessed consolation in R-mans 10:9, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved"; and in Matthew 6:14-15, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses," and thank God I have forgiven them every one.

R. W. COBB.

Among those present from near the scene of the murder were J. D. Shearin, brother-in-law of Shaw, J. E. Dobbins and J. F. Stallings.

Cobb was about 23 years old at the time of the crime and was living at Roanoke Rapids. He had been unemployed for about a year. Gurkin is being held under bond and the case against him will likely come up for trial at court next week.

A very good history of the case was also given by the Times a few days before the execution, and we produce it as follows:

STORY OF THE CRIME
The killing of Thomas Shaw, who ran a store about two miles from Roanoke Rapids, took place in May of last year. Mr. Shaw, who was a middle aged man with a wife and nine children, was in the habit of keeping the store open on Saturday nights until 10 or 11 o'clock, and carrying from the store to his home across the road and about a hundred yards away, the money taken in on Saturdays, usually between \$400 and \$500.

Cobb, having learned of this habit, went to Shaw's residence one Saturday night about 10 o'clock and

secreted himself in a corner of the porch where it joined the house by the steps. About 15 minutes later Shaw came along with a shot bag containing about \$400 or \$500. He was accompanied by his little boy, about 11 years old. When he reached the steps of his residence, Cobb rose up and presented a pistol, and commanded Shaw to hold up his hands. Shaw stated before his death that he thought it was one of his neighbors fooling with him, and simply told Cobb to go on away and quit his foolishness and continued to walk toward the steps without raising his hands. Cobb again ordered him to hold up his hands, and about the same time fired, hitting his victim in the stomach.

Shaw fell and cried out. His wife heard the cry and went to him, while the little boy ran down the road and overtook some men who had just left the store when Shaw closed it, and brought them to the scene. Cobb had fled by the time Mrs. Shaw got to the porch steps, and she heard someone running immediately after Shaw's outcry, toward an oat patch at the side of the house, surrounded by a wire fence.

Many neighbors soon gathered, and Shaw stated that he was unable to identify the person who had shot him, but he was sure it was a white man. The bag of money was found lying among some scattered bricks six or eight feet from where Shaw fell. Evidently Cobb had been too frightened to look for it, or had been unable to find it after it was dropped.

FOLLOWING THE TRACK
Tracks were found in the jamb of the porch where the murderer had stood, and no one was allowed to step on them until bloodhounds could be secured. Some of the neighbors went in an automobile to the state farm 25 miles away to get the dogs, and they returned with the hounds about five in the morning. The dogs were put on the track.
[Continued on Second Page.]

A real nerve and Body-Building Medicine
We believe Rexall Olive Oil Emulsion is the best remedy made for toning the nerves, enriching the blood, building up wasted tissues, renewing health, strength and energy—the best medicine you can use if you are run-down, tired-out, nervous, and debilitated, no matter what the cause. It doesn't depend for its good effect upon alcohol or habit-forming drugs, because it contains none. It may not make you feel better in a few hours, but it will make you feel better, we are sure, just as soon as the tonic and food properties it contains have a chance to get into the blood and, through the blood, into the rest of the system. Pure Olive Oil and the Hypophosphites have long been endorsed by successful physicians, but here, for the first time, they are combined into one preparation which as a nerve-food and a builder of strength and health, we believe, has no equal.

If you don't feel well, begin taking Rexall Olive Oil Emulsion today, and build your health and strengthen your system against more serious illness. To convalescents, old people, puny children and all others who are weak, run-down or ailing, we offer Rexall Olive Oil Emulsion with our personal promise that if it doesn't make you well and strong again, it will cost you nothing. If we didn't have the utmost faith in it, we wouldn't offer it with this guarantee, nor even recommend it to you. We are sure that once you have used it you will recommend it to your friends, and thank us for having recommended it to you. Sold only at the more than 7,000 Rexall Stores, and in this town only by us. \$1.00. E. T. Whitehead Company, Scotland Neck, N. C.