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BUSINESS CARDS.

H. CABANISS, ATTORNEY AT LAW, AND United States Commissioner, SHELBY, N. C. PRACTICES in the courts of Cleveland and Rutherford counties. Office on West Warren street. 28-1.

B. Frank Wood, Attorney at Law, SHELBY, N. C. COMMISSIONER of Deeds for South Carolina. 11-1.

Shelby Foundry AND Machine Shops, B. B. BABINGTON, Proprietor. CAME MILLS, FLOWS and Castings of all kinds. When in need of anything in that line, give me a call. 16.

FOR SALE. SPLENDID WATER POWER and 420 Acres of well-timbered land within five miles of Marion, N. C., on the C. O. & C. R. Choice location for a large manufacturing plant. Plenty of power. Good merchant mill now on premises. Flouring mill a little out of repair. Terms REASONABLE. For further particulars, address THE NEW ERA, Shelby, N. C. 12.

A FRESH LOT OF Buggies and Phatons. Just received at BOSTIC BROS. & WRIGHTS. Warehouse. Call at once and make a selection of the

FINEST LOT Ever brought to Shelby. WATT ELLIOTT, Fashionable Barber and Hair-Dresser, SHELBY, N. C.

HAVING secured an expert assistant, is prepared to do all kinds of work in first class style. He has moved into his new shop in the Bostic Building on the northeast corner of Marion and La Fayette streets. 14-1.

DRIED FRUIT. ANY one wishing to buy Country Produce or a small lot of dried apples, peaches and unspiced, will do me to write or call on D. J. KEETER & CO., Cata, N. C.

TO ALL WHO OWE US. WE WERE burned out in the late fire and lost \$2,500. We need what is due us, so please come forward and help us in this our time of need. It is not much to you, but all the small amounts put together will help us greatly. Yours truly, GARDNER & QUINN, Shelby, N. C., Nov. 15, 1888.

NOTICE! I will sell my plantation, one and a half miles east of Cherryville, Gaston county, N. C., said plantation containing one hundred and seven acres and a half, described as follows: 25 Acres Wood Land, 25 Acres Bottom Land, 57 Acres Upland, in high state of cultivation, and 57 Acres Upland, in high state of cultivation, 300 Fruit Trees, 2 years old, consisting of apples, peaches, pears and grapes, all of Greenboro's choicest varieties. This property is improved by a two-story brick dwelling containing six rooms, fire place in every room, designed upon the best plan for taste and bandat good well furnishing good freestone water in the yard, good spring near, containing a perfect completion to the dwelling. A good two room tenant house is on the plantation. Any one wanting to purchase a good plantation or a beautiful home in a good neighborhood and a healthy location will find it to their interest to communicate with or come to see me before buying. Respectfully, J. A. PASOUR, Cherryville, N. C.

HOTELS. Shelby Hotel, SHELBY, N. C. J. W. KERR, Proprietor. THE best furnished and best kept Hotel in the Western part of the State. Perfect satisfaction guaranteed. Public patronage solicited. At the beginning of the year the Commercial changed hands, and with the new management the house has been refitted and furnished anew. No effort will be spared to maintain its well-deserved reputation. Rooms never carpeted and neat furnished. Best servant attendance. Table fare first-class. 41-3-1/4.

Central Hotel, W. E. RYBURN, Proprietor, SHELBY, N. C. THE Largest and most costly building in Shelby. Beautifully located. First-class fare. Polite servants. Large and well lighted rooms. Well arranged office and sample rooms. Telegraph office in building. Omnibus and porter meet every train. 35-1.

TO DRAW OR NOT TO DRAW.

To draw, or not to draw; that is the question. Whether 'tis cooler in the mind to venture the doubtful chance of skinning for a straight, Or to stand pat against a C of green-backs. And then by bluffing, get 'em. To draw or not to draw, that is the question. More. But by that draw, to fill; and end The tremors and the thousand direful fears. That hands are bare to 'tis a consummation Devoutly to be wished. To draw—to fill! To fill!—perchance to bust! Ay, there's the rub! For in that vagrom draw what cards may come. When we have shuffled off th' uncertain pack, Must give us pause. There's the foul play. That makes calamity of a bob-tailed flush! For who would stand the blind, the crafty raise, The wait upon the age, the reckless straddle, The insolence of pats, the vile, base cards. The patient player of the dealer. When he as well might his spondulics save, By simply passing. Who would chafing Or grudge and fret under a cruel raise, Forsake his aces up, lay down three queens, But that the dread of seeing after call The undiscovered full, against whose might No flush can stand, puzzles the will. And makes us rather nurse the chips we lose Than curious of hands we know not of. Thus does the draw make cowards of us all. And thus a sanguine four heart speculation Is sickened with a black, unwelcome Jack. And lovely luck-pots of great wealth and moment, About the cars, his fortune arm'd, Hang tight to open. Chicago Herald.

A STORY OF THE WIRES.

"Can I tell you some dot and dash stories? Well, yes, perhaps I can." The operator was an old-time telegrapher, who, being cornered by a Lewiston (Me.) Journal man, was seconded for news.

"Did you ever hear of a deaf and dumb telegraph operator? Don't believe it? Why, man, I taught a deaf and dumb boy his first dots. Believe it? Come, let me give you the facts and a little story with it, off-hand like, and you can work it over to suit yourself and readers."

Thereupon this toyer with lightning reeled off the following yarn:

The deaf and dumb operator was my twin brother, so alike in form and feature, and indeed all save the one great distinguishing mark of speech, as to be often mistaken for myself. At 12 years of age a bright, noble boy, that great scourge of childhood, scarlet fever, robbed him of those two most precious faculties, speech and hearing. When I secured the position of messenger at our local telegraph office, with the promise of opportunity to perfect myself in the art telegraphic, it was he who proposed and carried out his purpose to commence the study at the same time, and so diligently did he pursue his labor that, named as he was, he acquired by constant practice what would seem an impossibility. He read the fast recurring clicks of the Morse instruments, not by sound, as is the rule with telegraphers, but from the sense of touch as he placed his fingers lightly upon the moving armature. His hand had been all home practice from lessons delivered by myself after office duties were over.

"I applied for and secured the management of the office at G—a goodly town on the Kennebec. Here the summer found us, my brother and I, busily employed with office duties. The deaf and dumb operator attended strictly to this branch of business, sitting with fingers lightly resting on the instrument, intent upon calls, or copying with pen the words as they flowed from the quick pulsations of the little brass armature beneath his sensitive touch."

LABOR STATISTICS.

The Annual Report of Commissioner Jones.

The second annual report of the State Bureau of Labor Statistics is a comprehensive document, covering the ground of questions touching labor in North Carolina as fully as could be expected under the circumstances attending the operation of the bureau and doing credit to the energy and capability of Commissioner Jones.

The subjects embraced in the report are contained in six chapters, the first of which is devoted to reports from mechanics in reply to questions as to their wages, hours of labor, &c., and their educational, moral and financial condition. The second chapter is made up of reports from mechanical and other employers of labor with special reference to capital employed, wages paid, articles produced and the condition of employees, the object being to get employers to give facts and opinions with reference to their business affairs, (to be used in a general way), as well as information on those points upon which employers expressed themselves in the chapter previous.

In Chapter III the apprentice law of the state is examined, and opinions with respect to its practical operation are presented from the Superior Court Clerks of the state and others who are supposed to be familiar with it. Extracts from the apprentice laws of other states are also given with a view to throwing light on the subject.

In Chapter IV some ideas with respect to manual training and technical education which have been gathered by the leaders of thought upon the subject are presented.

Chapter V deals with our present public road law. It gives the views of many correspondents in the state representing all shades of opinion on the subject with extracts from the road laws of other states and suggestions from the bureau itself.

Chapter VI and last is devoted to agricultural statistics, showing in the main the productiveness of farming in the state the past year.

Besides these subjects the Commissioner says it was the intention of the bureau to present a chapter in regard to the mining industry of the state, and much information with respect to the business and labor engaged therein was collected, but it was not as full as desired, and as the matter of the report, it was determined to withhold the former for further investigation and fuller data.

"The size of the present report," it is said further, "is due to the smallness of the appropriation made for the support of the bureau, is the excuse for not undertaking the investigation of other subjects which the bureau was requested to investigate by persons interested in them, and which were in line with the bureau's duties."

It appears, however, that a very considerable correspondence has been carried on by the bureau since its establishment with the people of the state, and we are glad to know from the report that "their interest in the department has constantly increased from the beginning." "They have given generous and cheerful aid by responding to inquiries, as well as by words of encouragement. They have recognized the bureau in its true light, as a vehicle for the expression of views upon economic questions and affairs of state, and along with the information furnished of a private nature, the correspondents have given their opinions upon public affairs as well as those that immediately concerned them. The expressions for the most part have been conservative and prudent, and there are but few bitter criticisms even in stating complaints."

All this is very gratifying, for, as the Commissioner says, "what is said will sooner be corrected by a plain, temperate expression than in any other way. The considerable space given to the statement of opinions from correspondents will do good. They will command that attention from all which the voice of the laboring and producing classes should receive."

As Mr. Jones continues, "the bureau is designed to be an educational force; its purpose is to investigate matters pertaining to the producers of the state and to present these matters for public consideration." Hence it will prove of inestimable value if properly sustained. To quote again the report: "The field which it is intended to occupy is not new or untrodden. It is a field well known, practiced and definite, and one from which may be obtained the best results to the state." What has already been accomplished by the bureau—and this is of undeniable practical value—is but an earnest of what can be done. Moreover, the work the bureau has in hand should be well done and that there should be ample provision of funds to that end is but a matter of course as regards the public welfare. The act establishing the bureau allows three thousand dollars for the first year's work and two thousand dollars for each subsequent year. The

COMMISSIONER SAYS THAT "BY THE MOST RIGID ECONOMY IT REQUIRES THE SUM OF THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS TO PAY THE SALARIES, POSTAGE AND INCIDENTAL OFFICE EXPENSES."

following among other suggestions with respect to the matter: 1. The word "master" wherever it occurs in the law should be stricken out and in lieu thereof the word employer substituted. 2. Strike out the requirement that male apprentices shall be bound until they are twenty-one years old, and females until they are eighteen, and let the statute read that they shall not be bound for a term beyond those years. 3. Wherever an apprentice is bound, besides the stipulations in reference to maintenance and instruction in his trade or calling and in an educational way, the clerk of the court should be required to insert in the indenture what the employer is to pay the apprentice in wages during each year of his apprenticeship, beginning with the first and going to the conclusion. If nothing is to be given, let that appear also. 4. It should be provided in the law that on good cause being shown the requirements of the indenture might be modified by the clerk. 5. The present law does not give any remedy to an apprentice for a failure to perform the stipulations of the indenture other than a civil judgment for damages as heretofore mentioned. This kind of remedy would be ineffectual against a solvent person, but such a judgment against an insolvent person amounts to nothing. \* \* \* It would be well to make the willful violation of the indenture by an employer punishable by fine or imprisonment in addition to the civil remedy. \* \* \* Extracts from the apprentice laws of various states are given, and the Commissioner is of the opinion that "a law which would lessen verbal apprenticeship, as the New York law does, would aid in producing better mechanics and a more efficient labor force."

Under the head of Manual and Technical Training, the report points out that our College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts is nearly completed and will be ready for students during the present year—"will be opened for them doubtless during the coming fall."

"This is what has been accomplished thus far towards securing manual and technical training in North Carolina by the state," continues the Commissioner, "and the development of this beginning will be watched with interest, especially by the progressive men of the commonwealth."

Chapter V is devoted to the subject of public roads, and a large majority of the correspondents of the bureau regard the present law with respect to the matter as inefficient and unsatisfactory. Many of those opposed to the present system favor working the roads by means of a combination of assessments upon labor and taxation upon property—the system embodied in what is known as the Mecklenburg Road Law, a compromise measure. As the Commissioner says, in summing up the matter, "any plan that gets the best talent in a community upon the roads, and keeps it there, is the best plan, and he thinks "there is no doubt that it can be most surely accomplished by getting those who know most about road-making in each township, putting them to work in their charge, and paying them for the work they do. Then at least the probabilities are that whatever labor or money is put upon the highways will be judiciously and profitably expended, which is not the case at present."

As some of the correspondents mentioned the subject of taxation in connection with the matter of roads and asserted that the rate of taxation in North Carolina is very high, the bureau has thought it worth while to present the rate of taxation in the various states of the Union, that our own rate may be compared with theirs, and in order to do this a letter of inquiry was addressed to several counties in each state, asking the rate or taxation for state and county purposes levied and collected therein. The result shows that the people of North Carolina pay less taxes than any state in the Union, except Texas. The rate in that state, from the information received, is sixty-five cents on the hundred dollars' worth of property, but it is well known that the rate of taxation of public land are sold yearly and applied to public purposes, and if the sale of these lands is taken into consideration, the rate in Texas will be found to be larger than in North Carolina. The constitutional limitation in this state, for state and county purposes, is sixty-six and two-thirds cents on the hundred dollars valuation, and cannot be exceeded, and in many it is not even reached. Perhaps if the regular and special taxes for the whole state were put together they would not average seventy-five cents on the hundred dollars worth of property. The average rate of taxation for state and county purposes in the various states, as given in the tables, is one dollar and thirty-eight cents on the hundred dollars, which is about twice what it is in North Carolina. So much for the excellence of our Democratic state administration of affairs.

The agricultural statistics given in the report show mainly the productiveness of farming in North Carolina

THE AVERAGE PRICE OF BOARD OBTAINED FOR THE PURPOSE OF GETTING SOME IDEA OF THE COST OF LIVING IN THE STATE IS \$9.05.

The average amount of rent paid by those reporting is \$42.50. The average number of months the public schools are kept open is four. Of the children of families reported to the bureau some what over two-thirds go to school. The average number of hours of labor per diem is 10 1/2—a high average and one that ought to be lessened, says the Commissioner, and we agree with him. The subject of incompetent workmen comes closer to the mechanics of the state than any other, judging from the report, and the Commissioner thinks that the evil indicated may be remedied, with justice to all, "and that, too, as suggested by many correspondents of the bureau," by a system of state certificates like those now given to lawyers, doctors and teachers.

The number of establishments reporting in the chapter with reference to mechanical and other employees is 421, and of this number 336 report the capital employed by them as \$5,531,550. The census of '80 shows that there were 2,802 manufacturing and mechanical enterprises in North Carolina at that time, with a capital employed of \$12,045,639. Now we have 336 enterprises reporting a capital of \$5,531,550, and the Commissioner pauses to indicate how this shows a rapid increase both in the number of our manufacturing enterprises and the amount of money invested in them during the past decade.

The 3,802 mechanical and manufacturing enterprises given by the census of '80 as being in North Carolina reported the employment of 17,109 men, women and children. The wages they paid per annum aggregated \$2,740,768. The articles produced by them were worth \$20,095,037.

The report before us shows the following: Establishments giving number of hands employed by them, 402. Number of men employed, 5,935. Number of establishments giving capital employed in them and also value of articles produced, 246. Capital, \$1,730,150. Value of articles produced, \$9,098,557. Establishments giving value of articles produced and also the amount paid labor to produce these articles, 198. Value of articles produced, \$5,712,751. Amount paid labor, \$1,065,222—nineten per cent of the value of the product.

The average amount paid skilled labor for the state as given in this chapter is, for males, one dollar and fifty cents per day; females, fifty-five cents per day; unskilled men, seventy cents per day; youths, thirty-four cents per day; and children, twenty-four cents per day. The average hours of labor are given at ten and a half. Average price of board per month is eight dollars and eighty cents. Average per cent of wages paid in merchandise, eighteen per cent. Average per cent of adult employees who can read and write, sixty-one per cent. Average per cent of employees owning homes, thirty-eight per cent. Average number of employees reported as non-qualifying, thirty-six per cent.

On account of the many suggestions from mechanics and others with respect to apprentices and the existing apprentice law of the state the subject is given special attention in this the second annual report of the bureau.

Few of the correspondents regard the present apprentice law as adequate to the needs of the state and some say it is practically a dead letter.

Commissioner Jones thinks it can and ought to be added to and changed in many particulars and he makes the

THE 229 CORRESPONDENTS ANSWERING THE CIRCULAR OF THE BUREAU REPORT THAT THEY OWN 101,099 ACRES OF LAND, VALUED AT \$959,046, OR \$9.50 PER ACRE.

The 229 correspondents answering the circular of the bureau report that they own 101,099 acres of land, valued at \$959,046, or \$9.50 per acre. This individual valuation is greater than that given for the land generally in the counties from which reports are made—the average valuation for the counties being \$6.50 per acre, not including town lots.

The number of acres cultivated is given at \$484,776. The total value of the produce made on these cultivated acres was \$267,746, an average of \$10.50 to the acre, or about one-third of a bale of cotton. The cost of production is given at \$290,380, an excess of cost over production of \$23,064. This is a loss of 31 per cent, upon the capital employed—that capital, both real and personal, being put at \$640,395. The per centage of an average crop raised by the correspondents is reported at 74. That for the counties generally is put at 70 per cent. If the per centage of crops raised by the correspondents had been as low as that reported for their counties, that is, 70 per cent, their loss would have been 51 per cent, upon the capital employed. If an average crop had been produced by those reporting, they would have made 81 per cent upon the capital employed, taking the method of computation used by the bureau.

The amount paid hired labor was \$44,802, and the value of the services of members of families working on the farms of those reporting at \$5 per month each, and board, was \$52,811. Total cost of labor, \$97,693. The average cost of labor of persons on farms reported, was \$8.83 for each acre cultivated. The production per acre being reported at \$10.50, the cost of labor was 36 per cent of the product.

The total cost of fertilizers bought and used was \$13,330, or \$58 to the farm, or 60 cents to the acre. The cost of food supplies bought for the farm and not raised thereon was \$91,920, or \$87 to the farm.

The number of persons belonging to the families of those reporting is 1,375, and of these, 838 are at work, and 537 are non-producers.

Thus it appears that there are many interesting facts in regard to agriculture and its productiveness to be gathered from the report. The facts given are taken from the actual experience of intelligent farmers in all parts of the state during the past year, and they represent the farming of the state in as favorable a way as possible with due regard to the truth.

"Of course," the Commissioner says in conclusion, "the past year has been an unusually short crop year in most of the counties of the state on account of drought, excessive rains, &c. In some counties, however, notably in the west and even in some localities where full crops are short, there have been whole crops made; but taking the whole state, the average report for crops—70 per cent—is perhaps a correct estimate, there has been a loss." It appears, however, from the tables given, that many of those reporting made money upon their farms the past year, in spite of the unpropitious seasons. This is especially to be noted in some of the returns wherein grasses and stock are reported as a special feature of farming, and also in instances where crops were diversified and home supplies were raised at home. This is but repeating what has been known to be the experience of the best farmers of the state for a long time, and, indeed, the experience of Southern farmers generally, as attested in agricultural journals and wherever progressive and successful farmers express themselves—that where diversified farming and the raising at home of home supplies have been the controlling ideas, farming has been profitable in season and out of season. When the fact becomes more thoroughly realized our farming will become more profitable.—News and Observer.

Oh! warm was the clasp of his hand; His voice, how tender and true As fondly he gazed in her eyes, And said they were heaven's own blue.

And firm was the strong loving arm, That held her so close to his heart, As he vowed, while he kissed her again, That nothing but death should part!

But baleful the light of her eyes, And sorrowful her pretty lips curl, When she read in the paper one day, That he'd married another girl!

So many mysterious deaths have occurred of late as to give rise to the suspicion that there is an organized effort being made to kill off everybody found guilty of writing "Xmas" for Christmas.—Chicago News.

"So you and Herbert are going to be married?" said one young woman to another.

"Yes, during the holidays."

"You didn't threaten him with a breach-of-promise suit, did you?"

"No. I merely showed him the photograph that I always keep concealed under the sofa."—Merchant Traveler.

Jeweller—The inscription you wish to have engraved on the inside of this ring, if I understand you, is "Margellus to Irene."

Young man (with some embarrassment)—Yes, that's right. But—er—don't put the "Irene" deep.—Chicago Tribune.

At seven a kiss is so sweet, To steal one now and then a treat. At seventeen, they are nicer still, And there's a way where there's a will. At seventy it's just the same, They still keep up the old, old game.—Exchange.

He (pathetically)—All great men have smoked, my dear. She (with animation)—Oh, if you will only swear off until you are great I shall be quite content.—Adapted from the Collegian.

Leap year has been a worse failure than marriage.—Atlanta Constitution.

Adam was a sorry neighbor. When he presented Eve with a spare rib he was too stung to throw in a piece of backbone.—Atlanta Constitution.

A solid citizen sat down with marked emphasis on a sunny flagstone on Broad street yesterday morning. When he was asked to his feet the bystanders were amazed to find deeply indented in the solid stone four deeply, closely scrutinized they proved to be "d-a-m-n," followed by an exclamation point of mellow proportions.—Atlanta Constitution.

The Petulant Pursued—You will make me angry if you persist in your unwelcome attentions.

The Ardent Pursuer—Oh, thanks. I shall consider that a point gained.—New York Herald.

The lace curtains at the window of a house are not so reliable an index of the fiscal policy prevailing in it as the clothes line.—New York Herald.

Society Reporter—Where you going?

Marine Ditto—Going out to see a man. Back soon.

Society Reporter—All right. Bring the man back.—New York Herald.

They couldn't imagine what caused little Johnny Martin, of Sioux City, to fall ill and die, but a post mortem showed thirteen marbles in his stomach.—Memphis Avalanche.

"Were you ever in love, Mr. Clink?" "Yes, my dear, two weeks."

"How was that?" "It took the girl that long to find out that we don't own the house we live in."—New York Evening Sun.

She—I would like to call you by your Christian name, love, but Tom is so hateful and common, you know. Haven't you some pet name?

He—No, I er—haven't.

She—Are you always known as Tom among your friends?

He (brightening up)—No, the boys call me "Shorpy."—Life.

"Do you think your sister cares enough about me to marry me?" asked Merritt, trying to pump her brother.

er.

"I guess she does," returned little Johnnie, "but I am not sure you are solid with the old man. So perhaps before you pop the question you had better question pop."—Exchange.

Boston Girl (in dime museum)—What is that lady's specialty?

Manager—She is the living skeleton. She is the thinnest woman in the known world.

Boston Girl—Why, is it possible? She doesn't seem to be very thin.—Exchange.

Mrs. Westend—And so you are engaged to Clara Vere de Vere? She is so haughty and cold and disdainful I did not suppose any one could ever get engaged to her. How did you manage it?

Adult Son—I didn't. She managed it.—Philadelphia Record.

Young Gentleman—Is smoking unpleasant to you?

Young Lady—It depends entirely on the smoker.—Illinois State Journal.

The old year closed at one and three-eighths.—Chicago Tribune.