

NORTH AND SOUTH TREND OF COMMERCE.

Mr. Rainey Says the Railroad Building Period is About to End and the Water Controlling Period is at Hand—East and West Movement of Commerce to Be Followed by the North and South Movement.

Asheville Gazette-News.

Altogether one of the most interesting speeches we have read in a long time is that of Representative Rainey, of Illinois, delivered in the House yesterday on the canal question. It is packed with new ideas like sardines in a box. Mr. Rainey was discussing the Panama canal and its relation to a deep waterway from the Great Lakes to the Gulf. This is an era of canal building, insisted the speaker. He pointed to the Suez and Baltic ship canals. Greece has just completed a canal across her isthmus which Alexander the Great planned 2,400 years ago and from which the first earth was spaded in the time of Nero. Mr. Rainey, continuing, made this striking statement and expanded it: "The era of railroad building is about to come to an end, and the water controlling period of the world is upon us. The greatest dam ever constructed by man has just been completed across the Upper Nile in Egypt, and the flow of that ancient river through its fertile valley is now absolutely controlled. The city of Chicago has started to build a road to the sea for its own shipping and for the shipping of the Great Lakes, and without aid or assistance of the State government or the national government has already expended for that purpose \$35,000,000, and has already constructed a great canal, through which almost any vessel that is able to go through the Suez canal can pass. Already the city of Chicago has restored the Great Lakes their ancient outlet, and the blue waters of these inland seas are now again flowing through the Illinois and Mississippi rivers to the Mexican gulf. The State of New York has just determined to expend millions of dollars in enlarging the Erie Canal. The citizens of Philadelphia are clamoring for a 35-foot channel to the sea."

Mr. Rainey did not of course attempt a thorough resume of canal enterprises; he would have doubtless referred to the proposed Florida ship canal and the great inland waterway from Norfolk, Va., to Wilmington, N. C., in which Representative Small, of North Carolina, is greatly interested. But in addition to his point that waterway development is succeeding and superseding that of railroads, he made another exceedingly interesting generalization from his studies of the expansion of commerce. We quote him in full: "The time has arrived in the history of the western world when the east and west movement of commerce is, in a measure, about to end, and when the north and south movement of commerce is about to commence. The building of the canal is a most important step in this direction, and its immediate construction becomes a matter of vast importance to every man, woman and child living in that part of our country which lies between our great mountain ranges."

"During the past century and a quarter of our national existence commerce has moved along east and west lines. Our development has been from the east toward the west. Raw material has been brought from the west to the eastern states. The manufactured product has been shipped back from the east to the west. "As a result of these conditions great transcontinental railroads have been constructed. The idea heretofore has prevailed that there is some normal law which compels the movement of commerce across meridians of longitude. As a matter of fact, the natural direction for commerce to move on this continent and in the world is across parallels of latitude. The north and south movement is about to commence. "Our country is now practically fully occupied. There is no longer any considerable westward movement for our population. On the contrary, immigration on this continent has been reflected, and an army of farmers are crossing our northern boundary and occupying the wheat lands of Canada. Already and within the last twelve months, 100,000 men have left this country and crossed into

Canada. The peaceful conquest of that country has commenced. "Our manufacturing establishments are seeking a location near the fuel they burn and the raw material they consume. Within the last five years fires have been started in thousands of factories throughout the Southland. "We are beginning to realize that the Omnipotent God has provided the great central portion of our continent with the grandest system of natural waterways in all the world, intended for the purpose of conveying to the sea the products of the Mississippi valley."

BOYS IN CONFEDERATE ARMY. Very Many of the Soldiers Were Only Sixteen Years Old or Less.

New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Quite a large number of those who battled for the Lost Cause enlisted at the age of sixteen, or under and many of these yet survive in the gray-haired men of today who gather at the annual reunions of the veterans. Almost any old Confederate soldier who will let his mind revert to the personnel of his own immediate command will readily recall many—very many—warriors whose cheeks were yet as smooth as a maiden's when the Conquered Banner was furled in final defeat, but who had borne with knightly valor the part of heroes in a score of fiercely contested battles and skirmishes. They will recall, too, the delicate features of many a bright eyed lad who sank to final slumber on the embattled field, while others yielded up their young lives in the tents hospitals, or the private homes of patriotic and sympathetic people, victims of the slow and insidious attacks of disease due to military exposure. From the Potomac to the Rio Grande—from the Ohio to the Gulf of Mexico—the hills, the valleys, and the plains are dotted with the grass-grown mounds of the confederates whose death in their early teens but too truly illustrated the brevity of the step which separates the cradle from the grave. But many of them yet survive, and some have attained prominence. We call to mind several who came from within the radius of a few miles in Mississippi. Capt. James Dinkins of New Orleans, whose literary contributions to the history of that struggle attracted wide and deservedly favorable notice, wore the gray at the age of sixteen, as did also W. H. Howcott, a wealthy and highly respectable business man of this city. Congressman Scott Fields of Texas and Judge Land of the Supreme Court of Louisiana were likewise in martial harness at that early age, as were also Judge Robert Powell of Mississippi, and (if we err not) the immortal Private John Allen of Mississippi. The Hon. John Rogers, Judge of the Federal Court for the Western District of Arkansas, who delivered the magnificent address at the Confederate reunion in this city last spring, and Federal Judge William Fitzgerald of New Mexico, entered the Confederate army at fifteen years of age. All these, with the exception of ex-Congressman Allen came from a radius of but a few square miles, and they constituted but a small percentage of the boys of sixteen or under who enlisted from that same territory. We take it that there was no greater ardor and patriotism evinced there than existed elsewhere in the Southern States, and instancing this little section of Mississippi we suppose we are fairly illustrating the spirit and conditions that prevailed all through the Confederacy. Those who clearly remember those thrilling times will surely not have forgotten with what vigilance the lads of from twelve to sixteen years old had to be watched to prevent them from running away from their homes and going to the front. The present minority leader of the house, the Hon. John Sharp Williams, might a tale unfold concerning his experience were he disposed to talk. He started for the army before he had entered his teens, and his guardian (his father had fallen at the battle of Shiloh) had to send after and bring him back by main force. Give the Confederate boys the credit that is due them. They constituted no less than 15 per cent. of the firing line, and they did their duty with a firmness and valor that would have reflected credit upon the grim and battle-scarred veterans of the Old Guard.

UNCLE SAM'S OWN BOYS. Youngsters Who Serve in Various Capacities are Numbered by Thousands.

New York Times.

Uncle Sam is a great employer of boys. There are nearly 10,000 youngsters in his service, earning a living in various capacities, and they find him on the whole a satisfactory taskmaster. He pays good wages and the work he requires is not very hard. Forty-five boys are employed by the treasury in the bureau of engraving at Washington. They enter as "apprentices" at \$1 a day, and in the course of an educational term of four years' duration they pass through all the departments of the establishment. For a while they serve in the room where the inks are mixed, learning how to grind and prepare them; then they are transferred to the division where the oils requisite for inks of various colors are made ready; and finally they go to the press room, where they help the pressmen to handle the white sheets of fibre paper on which notes and certificates are printed, and in other ways assist in the business of turning out the crisp new bills with green and yellow backs. The boys are usually about sixteen years of age when they enter. In the fourth year of their apprenticeship they are allowed to take charge of all presses—all of the money printed by the treasury is turned out from hand presses, each of which is operated by one man—and to stamp the steel plate designs for themselves upon the sheets of paper. After a twelvemonth spent at this work they become full fledged "journeymen," and receive so much per 1,000 printed sheets, the pay they get amounting to \$5 a day.

The U. S. Weather Bureau has in its employ about 100 boys, one or two being attached to each of its stations, which of course, are scattered all over the country. It is the business of these youngsters, chosen for their intelligence and activity, to deliver forecast cards and fresh weather maps, which are required to supply the local demand. Most of the forecast cards are sent out through the mails, but many people, particularly commission firms, which are obliged to look out for weather changes, with a view to the shipment of perishable products,—are anxious to obtain the warnings more quickly. After awhile, when they have learned how to read them, they demand the maps in preference to the cards, preferring to examine for themselves the weather conditions on which the forecasts are based. In either case the official bicycle messenger is the agent of distribution. One of the principal ways in which the Government finds employment for boys is for service as "special delivery" messengers in the postoffice department. There are now in the regular postal organization in this country no fewer than 2,917 youths, most of them 14 or 15 years of age who are attached to the staffs of the post offices in various cities. Boston, for example, has 100 such boys for the local delivery of "urgent" letters and parcels; New York (Manhattan Island alone) has 380; Chicago has 117; St. Louis 52, Detroit 20, Cincinnati 35, and Hartford 10. The importance of this work in connection with the mails, all of it performed by boys, may be judged from the fact that these youngsters during the last fiscal year delivered 10,000,000 letters and packages. To such an extent is the popularity of the service growing that during the above mentioned twelvemonth about 1,000,000 more pieces of mail were handled by special delivery than in the best previous year. In each postoffice the boys take regular turns in making deliveries, each one as he returns from an errand finding himself last in order among the boys who are waiting for letters to carry. The pay is 8 cents a letter and does not amount to more than \$5 or so weekly, but there is always a waiting list of candidates for vacancies. In the patent office at Washington are employed a number of boys, whose business it is to perform various minor duties, but chiefly the "pulling" of patents. People are constantly coming or sending for copies of patents, and, inasmuch as there are nearly three-quarters of a million of them, to find them and pluck them from the pigeon holes in which they are stored is no small task. The youngsters in question, however, if they have the right sort of stuff in them, can learn much that is useful. Some of them have risen to be examiners, and others have found their

NO FUTURES FOR HIM. This Farmer Bought Spot Cotton and Sold 268 Bales for 14 Cents, Realizing \$17,244.66.

Charlotte Observer, 26th.

Mr. J. I. Orr, farmer and small merchant, of Indian Trail, Union county, walked out of the office of Heath Bros. with a check for \$17,244.66 in his hands, and he never paused until he had dropped the money in the Charlotte National Bank. Then he breathed a sigh of gladness and relief. The sum represents the sale of 268 bales of cotton at 14 cents. All the cotton belonged to Mr. Orr. He lives in a small place, and there has never been a superfluity of wealth about, but since he was a boy, and a very poor boy, he has made the most of his opportunities. As a farmer he is a hard worker; as a merchant he is a hard worker. Last year he planted cotton as thick as was lawful on all his land. He bought cotton—skimped and saved and kept on buying cotton. He bought it outright. Every cent he made in his store and all the money he could make by outside trading, he used to buy cotton. He didn't keep up with what the big speculators were doing. When cotton jumped to 9 cents and beyond, he didn't get palpitation of the heart like the big mill men. He merely sold goods for cotton, and stored every bale that he got in the Merchants' Warehouse in this city. When cotton was at a little over 12 cents he offered to sell at 13 cents, and could find no purchaser, but when cotton went to 13 cents he shook his head when the market price was tendered him. Saturday Heath Brothers of this city offered Mr. Orr 14 cents for all his cotton, and he at once closed with the offer and was given his check. Mr. Orr is the most refreshing figure that has been seen on the local cotton platform in a twelve month or more. His cotton and its price represent industry and sagacity, and he will be generally congratulated over his success.

THE BEST PAID BOYS IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE are the pages of Congress, of whom there are sixteen in the Senate and forty-three in the House. They get \$2.50 a day, including Sundays and holidays, with an extra month's wages each session as a gift. A Senate page serves four years, eight members of the staff being replaced every two years. They wear knickerbockers and are very gentlemanly little fellows, most of them being orphans with widowed mothers to support. When the Senate is in session they sit on the steps below the desk of the presiding officer and respond to a hand-clap from any grave and reverend Senator who may have an errand to be done. It is a part of their business to see that all of the desks are clean, and that the ink wells are full, and that the Senators' pens are new. The Senate pages share the aristocratic ideas and traditions of the dignified body which they serve, and, as a rule, they do not associate with the pages of the House. Of the latter twenty-four serve on the floor, responding to calls by members, which are conveyed by electricity; the others stand at the doors and receive visitors' cards. They do not hesitate to accept tips, which the pages of the Senate regard as infra dig. But all things are relative in this world, and even the Senate pages are looked down upon by the three highly exclusive pages of the United States Supreme Court who draw \$90 a month, and reflect in their bearing the austere demeanor of the Justices. To tell the truth, it would be very hard for Uncle Sam to get along without the boys. They are useful to him in many capacities and if they declined to serve it is difficult to see how he would manage to transact the public business, either in war or in peace.

THE WAY OF THE WORLD. Durham Sun.

This is a topsy turvy world. One man is struggling for justice and another is fleeing from it. One man is saving to build a house and another is trying to sell his for less than it cost. One man is spending all the money he can make in taking a girl to an entertainment and sending her flowers in hopes, eventually to make her his wife, while his neighbor is spending the gold he has to get a divorce. One man escapes all the diseases man is heir to and gets killed on the railroad. Another goes without getting hurt and dies with the whooping cough. Such is life.

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THAT COLD SATURDAY.

Mr. Rufus Patterson Mistaken About the Date—A Bothel Man Says it Was Feb. 6, 1836.

Yorkville Enquirer.

In the last issue of the Enquirer was reproduced from the Gastonia Gazette a paragraph in which it was stated that Mr. Rufus Patterson of Kings Mountain, N. C., had fixed the date of the "Cold Saturday" as the 2d of February, 1835. Mr. J. F. Chambers of the Bethel neighborhood, challenges this statement, and says the date of the "Cold Saturday" was February 6, 1836. "I am quite certain of the matter," says Mr. Chambers, "for I was born on the Cold Saturday." He went on to say that he had since heard his parents and other older people speak of that notable day. Among the incidents of which he has knowledge is the fact that several men from his neighborhood attended the general muster that was held in Yorkville, got drunk and lost their ears from frost bite. He also understands that many trees of the forest were killed by the intense cold. Mr. Chambers is evidently correct in his date. Reference to the calendar shows that February 6, 1836, fell on Saturday, while February 2, 1835, was a Monday. Mr. Patterson of King's Mountain is undoubtedly mistaken.

SENATOR COCKRELL'S MISSING LUNCHBOX.

Washington Post.

Senator Cockrell confines his daily luncheon to two plump, red apples. Yesterday, when the usual hour for his lunch arrived, the Missourian clapped his hand twice. A small page stood at his elbow. "Boy, take this to my clerk in the committee room," said he, giving the youth a scrap of paper carefully folded. The page ran out of the senate chamber, up the marble steps and into the far northeast corner of the senate wing, where Mr. Cockrell has his office. The note was delivered to the clerk, who handed the page two plump apples. That was what the note instructed him to do. A half hour passed. Senator Cockrell was enduring the pangs of hunger. "What became of the boy who went after my apples?" said he to Barney Layton. The lad, entirely unsuspecting of anything amiss was summoned into the senator's presence. He explained that he thought the apples were his reward for delivering the message. He had eaten them. The frugal Missourian saw the joke in the situation. He could not restrain a laugh. Being out one luncheon, he resumed attention to the senate proceedings and bided his evening meal.

New Etomine Collars. Crushed Leather Belts.

These are two of the newest things out for ladies' wear. In the

New Etomine Collars and Cuffs

We have the stamped sets ready for working, as well as the finished sets ready for wearing. Be sure to see them; they are among the prettiest of all the new things.

New Things in Belts.

The crushed leather belts are the newest out in this line of goods. Just arrived—in white, black, tan, red, and gray. The very newest for shirt waist suits.

Piques.

Fancy weaves, yd., 10c, 15c, 20c, 25c. Mercerized, figured, 15c, 20c, 25c, 33 1/2c, and 50c yd. Plain whites, 10c to 50c yard.

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Elegant quality, 15c, 20c, and 25c yard. Linen Skirtings, 25c yard.

Plain Silks.

We have just replenished our stock and have a full line of plain silks from 19 inches to 36 inches wide in the leading shades and black and white. See our 36 inch black taffeta, our leader at 95c, and compare it with others before placing your order. Remember our embroideries and laces at 5c, 10c, 15c, and 20c per yard.

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HIS FRIEND—THE ENEMY.

A Romantic Story of Generals Grant and Longstreet.

Lova Register and Leader.

The death of Gen. Longstreet, the last but one of the great Confederate generals during the "late unpleasantness," recalls the remarkable manner in which his life was linked to that of Gen. Grant—cousins by marriage, friends by fellowship at West Point and service on battlefields and in camp together, yet enemies in the last great struggle. The Longstreet-Grant entente finds few parallels in history. One of the minor parallels is the association of Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis in the Black Hawk campaign which so involved Iowa and Iowa's interest. Grant and Longstreet were together at West Point, where each formed a high opinion of the other. Longstreet reports that in the bitter hour of defeat and despair at Appomattox, Grant sent the clouds scudding across the horizon by linking his arm with that of Longstreet and saying in the old tone of camaraderie: "Come on Pete, let's go back to the good old times and play a game of 'brags' as we used to." That word "brags" will bring back memories to the veterans of '61, for in those days "brags" meant all that poker, whist, cinch or euchre can mean nowadays. It was Longstreet who welcomed Grant at Jefferson barracks, where he had preceded Grant by a year, and who took him out to visit his uncle, Frederick Grant, where Ulysses met Julia Dent, whom he subsequently married, thus making Grant and Longstreet cousins. The parallelism continues through the Mexican war, in which both won captaincies. Afterwards, however, the men drifted apart; Grant to be the great hero of the north and Longstreet to be "the grand old man of the Confederacy." When the struggle was over and Grant became president he appointed Longstreet surveyor of customs at New Orleans. When Grant died there was no more stricken heart than that of his comrade and friend, Longstreet. It was General Longstreet who sent the flower of the southern soldiery to death with a simple nod of his head. Pickett's gallant brigade was sent to its annihilation at Gettysburg by orders given through General Longstreet by Lee. Longstreet knew it meant death. When Pickett asked for the word "Old

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