

Judge Pritchard Vindicated.

Charlotte Observer.

At this period in the history of North Carolina, when talk is so free and suspicion is so heedlessly breathed upon character, one should not be surprised at detraction of any man. It is, however, none the less to be deplored and deprecated, but the more so, when the object of attack is a judge, even though he be the judge of a United States court and a Republican. Most unfortunate assaults, assaults to be regretted and reprobated, were made in the lower house of the Legislature last week, upon the official—and necessarily the personal—integrity of Judge J. C. Pritchard, of the United States Circuit Court, it being alleged "that on the day [he] heard the railroad cases a contract had been signed by his rock quarry company to sell rock, at great profit, to the Southern Railway, and the evidence was accidentally found in the rate hearing in Washington." The facts in the case are thus stated by the Asheville correspondent of The Industrial News in a special of January 31st.

"The only semblance of a foundation which can be discovered for the attack upon Judge Pritchard in the House today is that he, together with a number of Asheville citizens, owns an interest in a rock quarry, and that some rock has been sold to the Southern. The quarry in question is a small one, very near the tracks of the Southern just west of Asheville. Horace Brown, an expert quarryman, J. M. Gudger, Jr., and other citizens share with Judge Pritchard the interest in the land on which the quarry is located, and the greater part of the rock has been sold to Buncombe county and the city of Asheville, and whatever stone the railroad company has purchased for ballast has been bought at the same price at which it was quoted to the city of Asheville and Buncombe county, or to private parties.

"Judge Pritchard does not, and never has, controlled the business. He is not even an officer of the company. This, to the positive knowledge of your correspondent, has been made to do service as the basis for this strangely vicious attack by a public man in a public place upon a man who cannot, in the very nature of the case, hit back."

In addition to this, leading members of the Asheville bar, all Democrats, unite in a statement, that Judge Pritchard has done nothing wrong in the matter in question. From a political and every other standpoint the attacks were a mistake. Judge Pritchard is an honest man is entitled to exemption from charges involving his character which cannot be sustained.

Eighty Degrees of Frost.

Dundee Advertiser.

It is difficult for us to form any conception of the degree of cold represented by the 80 degrees of frost recorded on certain parts of Russia. Sir Leopold McTintock tells how in one of the Arctic expeditions, a sailor was foolish enough to do some outdoor work at precisely this temperature. His hands froze, and when he rushed into the cabin and plunged one of them into a basin of water so cold was the hand that the water was instantly converted into a block of ice. At 25 degrees, Dr. Kane says, "the moustache and under lip form pendulous beads of dangling ice. Put out your tongue and it instantly freezes to this icy crust. Your chin has a trick of freezing to your upper jaw by the luting aid of your beard; my eyes have often been so glued as to show that even a wink was unsafe."

Portuguese Monarch.

Lisbon, Feb. 1.—King Carlos, of Portugal, and the Crown Prince Luiz Philippe, were assassinated today and the city is in a state of uproar. The King's second son, the Infanta Manuel, was slightly wounded but Queen Amelie, who strove to save the Crown Prince's life by throwing herself upon him, was unhurt.

A bank of men, waiting at the corner of the Braco Do Commercio and the Rua Do Arsenal, suddenly sprang toward the open carriage, in which the family were driving to the palace, and levelling carbines which they had concealed upon them, fired. The King and the Crown Prince, upon whom the attack was directed, were each shot three times, and they lived only long enough to be carried to the Marine Arsenal nearby, where they expired.

Almost at the first shot the King fell back on the cushions dying, and at the same moment the Crown Prince was seen to half arise and then sink back on the seat. Queen Amelie jumped up and threw herself toward the Crown Prince in an apparent effort to save his life at the cost of her own, but the Prince had received his death wound. The police guard fired upon the assassins and killed three of them.

The royal family were returning from Villa Vicosa, where they had been sojourning, and were on their way from the railroad station to the palace. A strong guard was in attendance because of the recent uprising in the city and the discovery of a plot to assassinate Premier Franco and overthrow the monarchy, but the band of murderers had selected the most advantageous spot for the commission of their crime, as they were concealed from the eyes of the police until the carriage had wheeled into the Praco Do Commercio, a large square.

Before any of the guards were aware of what had happened the assassins leaped toward the carriage and instantly a fusillade of shots rang out. In a moment all was terrible confusion, the King and Crown Prince being shot down without the slightest chances to save themselves. Police guards sprang upon the regicides: the number of whom is somewhat uncertain, and killed three of them and captured three others. One of these committed suicide after being placed in prison. It is charged that one of the murderers was a Spaniard named Cardova.

Work.

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The attack on the integrity of Judge Pritchard has been condemned alike by both democrats and republicans. No right thinking man in North Carolina would for a moment doubt the honesty or motives of Judge Pritchard. He is a clean, square, honest judge, all attacks on him by irresponsible degenerates to the contrary notwithstanding.

Burbank Potatoes.

Seedless oranges, seedless apples, the creation of new flowers, the production of the thornless edible cactus—these wonders constitute only part of the miracles which Luther Burbank has performed at his Santo Rosa estate in California. His chief work has been with the potato. He created the Burbank potato, which, it is estimated, has added to the wealth of the nation upward of \$20,000,000. His latest success is with the so-called aerial potatoes. He grows potatoes on a tomato vine in the air, instead of in the ground. While the potato and tomato are very closely allied in family ties, being indeed not far separated blood relations, they are as far apart as the poles when it comes to any satisfactory amalgamation, but some very remarkable results have developed in his attempts to cross the two. For example, he has produced tomatoes from the seeds of plants pollinated only from potato pollen. He has produced what he aptly calls "aerial potatoes," most peculiar in form, growing on a Burbank potato vine, grafted on a tomato plant. These open-air potatoes are of different shapes and sizes, as well as colors. Some of them assume grotesque forms and appear quite like little pigs.

The recent gift by Andrew Carnegie of \$12,000, to be spent by Mr. Burbank in further experiments, has done much to center attention on this genius.

Without a university training and with only a fundamental education upon which he has builded by wide reading, he yet leads the scientific world in the department to which he has given his life. He has suffered as few men suffer, not only from actual physical want and privation, but from the unjust criticism of those who did not comprehend.

He now is comfortably established but has never sought wealth. He spends his entire time in superintending the experiments and is always enthusiastically busy.

A Timber Famine Predicted in Twenty Years.

Scientific American, Jan. 25th.

Gifford Pinchot, the government forester, made the declaration, on the return from a six months' inspection trip, that "in twenty years the timber supply in the United States on government reserves and private holdings, at the present rate of cutting, will be exhausted, although it is possible that the growth of that period might extend the arrival of the famine another five years." Mr. Pinchot urges that the magnitude of the danger should not be underestimated, for every man, woman and child in the country would be affected by such a famine. Although about one fifth of the forest area or the country is made up of government reserves, attention is called to the fact that the government does not control a corresponding fraction of the timber supply, because the government lands are not so good as those owned by private owners. Money is to be asked for to extend the forestry service, and to push the work of reforesting the denuded timber lands, although it is claimed to be utterly beyond the powers of the service to meet the situation and prevent serious trouble. An effort will be made to protect the Appalachian forest and promote the growth there.

The State forester of California has advocated a plan that is being watched with much interest. In that State, under the police power, the forester is attempting to protect the watersheds and to prevent

Lenoir.

Reformed Church Standard.

The third Sunday in January the editor spent in the town of Lenoir. The town itself is beautifully located, nestled among the hills at the foot of the mountains. The inhabitants are noted for their intellectual culture, their genuine refinement and their unbounded hospitality. On the particular occasion he was the guest of the Presbyterian congregation and the reason for his being such was the fact that the beloved pastor of that congregation was away resting and regaining strength lost in strenuous work and the further fact that the little mission of the Reformed church was also shepherdless at this time. Services were conducted morning and evening in the Presbyterian church. This is a new building erected during the pastorate of the Rev. C. A. Monroe, a brother greatly beloved by the people. The attendance was large, the attention given the world was earnest and the interest manifest was great. This is an active congregation and the contributions to all purposes lead any congregation in the Presbytery.

While in the town he was the guest of Mr. E. F. Reid and his charming family and also shared the hospitality of Col. J. G. Hall's home and that of Maj. Harper and J. M. Barnhardt. It was a delightful day and thoroughly enjoyed. Of course the members of our own mission were present at the services and an opportunity was given to speak a word to many of them in their homes. They are a brave little band having a good name for good works and in good repute with their neighbors.

In his absence the editor's pulpit was most acceptably filled by Brother W. W. Rowe whose sermons both morning and evening were greatly enjoyed by the large audience.

Asked the Fireman up.

Cleveland Leader.

When the first fire company, in response to an alarm, reached the long row of tenements, the fire captain at once jumped from his engine and endeavored to locate the fire. When he had intellectually hunted through three or four structures for it, he desisted an old woman sticking her head out of a window of the topmost floor, of an eight story tenement, a little farther up the street.

"Any fire up there?" he yelled, when he had reached the pavement beneath this building.

For answer, the old woman motioned for him to come up.

Accordingly, the captain, with his men lugging their heavy hose behind them, laboriously ascended the eight flights and burst into the room where the old woman was.

"Where is the fire?" demanded the captain, when no fire or smoke became visible.

"Oh, there ain't none here," replied the old woman, flashing an ear trumpet. "I asked y' up cause I couldn't hear a word you said 'way down there."

If the peach crop had as much sense as the groundhog, it would have learned long ago that all that glitters is not summer.

G.W.F. HARPER, Pres. J.H. BEALL, Cashier. W.A. SHELL, A-Cashier

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