

What's the Matter With the Southern?

The following is from the Charlotte (N. C.) News:

"What's the matter with the Southern Railway?" said a reporter to a railroad man yesterday, and he replied:

"Incompetence."

"What's the charge?"

"Why, I hate to make it; but some facts and conditions speak so loudly that they admit of but one conclusion. The head officials of the Southern, themselves, must acknowledge that they are suffering from some sort of, incompetence."

"You are quite right," says the man who knows that the Southern has been the victim of the worst run of bad luck ever befalling any railway, but he doesn't account for a derangement of traffic and a delay of passenger trains that accompanied in the history of railroading. The road has the utmost sympathy of the public, yet the public must see that the Southern is suffering because of some sort of unskilled management."

"Does a merchant ever expect to get his freight on time over the Southern? Does any passenger ever expect his train to leave on time? Why, you know he doesn't."

"Everything seems to be out of joint. Only the other day a crowd of people who were coming from Hendersonville to Charlotte arrived in Spartanburg just 15 minutes after their train had pulled out. They were forced to stand the expense of staying all night in Spartanburg, not to speak of the delay of many hours. Is that modern railroading?"

"If you start from here to any point in the western part of the State, you can't count on arriving at your destination in a reasonable length of time, and you know that it is idle to refer to the railroad schedule."

"So, it is to be on time when it reaches Charlotte. Who ever hears of it being on time now?"

"Some of the best fellows in the world are in charge of the running departments of the road, and the Charlotte division, especially, is in good hands; but the Southern's men do not seem to pull together. As a body, they pay too little attention to the convenience of their patrons."

"Even in the old days, when railroad travel was new in this section, the first thought in the mind of a railroad official was the comfort and convenience of the patrons of the road; but you know, and everybody knows, that missing attention on the Southern is a daily occurrence now."

"To the public, it looks as if the whole Southern system was rattled, and out of gear. One feels like saying to them, 'come up and get together, and for goodness' sake be a little more good-natured, polite and considerate. You are running your trains like a lot of petulant school boys. You have all sorts of reason to be blue over your hard luck, but you needn't vent your spleen on the public. While you are trying to keep your own common stock, think about the common customer and his opinion, every-day wants that you are obliged to print."

How To Build Up The Country.

The country school is, single-handed, powerless to save our country boys and girls from making our country and city poorer and worse. We need industrial training more than anything else. We should teach a variety of the ordinary industrial trades. But particularly we should foster the hand arts and crafts that are best adapted for practice in a spare moment of quiet, close to nature, and where there are vast treasures of time run to waste from lack of employment. We need a list of more than thirty arts, crafts, and small industries well adapted to country conditions and which are already successful in different places. We should have a good deal of reading in history, literature and the sciences and the study of nature directly from nature. And so we should train up a capable and hopeful generation for the self-existence of a normal country life; and those we send to the city will have cash in their hands to do all they desire to do.—Pressey's Solution of the Country Problem.

Interesting Notes From State Capital.

Raleigh, N. C., Aug. 19, '03.

A successful manufacturer, who is interested in a large number of cotton mills in the State, was in the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction a few days ago and requested Superintendent Joyner to recommend a suitable person to superintend the graded school recently established in his town. He said his factory interest would pay about eighty per cent of the taxes for the support of the school, but experience had taught him that it is cheaper to educate the children into usefulness than to pay their fines in the police courts. He said, "as a business proposition it costs less to provide schools than to employ extra police and pay the court fines."

In one district in Randolph county where an election for schools was pending, the opposition approached one honest old man who worked night and day to keep body and soul together, and ask him if he intended to vote for the tax, asking him at the same time how could he afford to pay an extra tax when he could barely support his family. His reply was that he certainly intended to vote for school; "for," said he, "if such an opportunity had been given me when I was a boy, I would not now be doing the word of a negro, and my family would be better."

A campaign for better education has just been completed in Lincoln county. Superintendent Heafner has shown much wisdom in arranging his rallies by townships and especially in organizing the school officers and in preparing the way for the speakers. Immense crowds gathered at all the appointments except at one place where there was a misunderstanding as to the date; and in each of the five districts, before the meeting closed, the people came together and signed a petition asking for an election. When the matter was presented to them they were readily convinced that it is the duty of the community to provide for the education of all the children in the community.

Prof. Jno. E. Ray, who has just returned to Raleigh after a two weeks educational campaign, says he has never seen the people so easily aroused on any other question as that of the duty of the community to provide for the education of all the children of the community.

This enthusiasm is not confined to any section of the State. The following counties have carried elections for schools during the present year: Aitahoe in eight districts; Burke in one; Caldwell in one; Caswell in one; Catawba in one; Cleveland in one; Chowan in two; Cherokee in one; Cumberland in one; Gaston in two; Gates in one; Granville in one; Guilford in eight; Halifax in one; Henderson in one; Johnston in two; Lenoir in one; Martin in one; Nash in one; Orange in one; Pitt in three; Randolph in two; Polk in one; Richmond in one; Robeson in three; Rutherford in one; Surry in one; Tyrrell in one; Union in four; Washington in two; Wilkes in two; Wilson in one and Yankin in two. Wherever a local tax district is established it stands as a complete argument that carries conviction to other districts as is shown by the large number of districts where local taxation is now pending. Currituck is preparing to vote in four districts; Duplin in three; Sampson in one; Union in one; Dare in sixteen; Wake in one; Northampton in seven; Cabarrus in eight; Burke in two; Guilford in one whole township; Randolph in three districts; Gaston in one; Nash in two; Vance in one; Lincoln in five; Orange in one; Halifax in one; Beaufort in two; Rockingham in three; Gates in one; Forsyth in one; Yadkin in one, and Cleveland in several.

Valuable Property Changes Hands.

Greensboro, Aug. 19.—Sheriff Jordan who has been very sick for two weeks, is getting better. He was able to sit up today.—Prof. M. H. Holt, of Oak Ridge, is getting well of an attack of typhoid fever.

The Greensboro Real Estate Exchange yesterday sold for the Benbow estate, the Round Knob Hotel and 1,200 acres of land to Mr. E. D. Steele of High Point, for \$12,500. Steele represents a syndicate which will at once proceed to develop and improve the property. The present hotel building of 36 rooms will be remodeled and its capacity enlarged to 75 rooms. Electric lights and other modern conveniences will be installed in an effort to make Round Knob a popular and fashion all-the-year-round mountain resort. It is the purpose of the company to begin work at once, so that the hotel will be open for guests on January 1st.

G. W. Vanderbilt The Purchaser.

George W. Vanderbilt is the purchaser of the Henderson county farm of the Western Carolina bank, which was auctioned last month by Receiver W. W. Jones.

It was first reported that Mr. Vanderbilt was the real purchaser, although the property was bid off to J. B. Bostic. This was then denied, and it was then said that Capt. J. P. Sawyer was the real party interested.

Mr. Bostic and Capt. Sawyer purchased as agents and the property was bought for Mr. Vanderbilt. The deal is made out to Mr. Vanderbilt.

This purchase, although the firm does not adjudge the Vanderbilt property, is of great significance, and is taken to indicate that Mr. Vanderbilt will acquire large holdings in the beautiful and fertile Mills river valley. He already owns lands not far away, but these have been considered as part of the mountain property, while the purchase of this farm indicates that extensive farming operations the valley are contemplated.—Citizen.

That Unique Blind Tiger Has Been Captured.

The Watauga Democrat of this week gives a description of the capture of the "Watts Law" blind tiger near Blowing Rock, on Tuesday last. Although a full account of the public operation of this mountain saloon was published in the News and Observer two weeks ago, no effort whatever, it seems, was made by the local authorities to suppress it. The Democrat of this week published the News and Observer article in full, and seemed to think that the United States revenue officers were the ones at fault for not making an arrest, apparently oblivious of the fact that under the Watts Law, it became the duty of the State and county authorities to enforce the law. Unfortunately for the blind tiger, it seems that the publication was made just prior to this holding of Watauga Superior court by that scourge of law breakers, Judge Shaw. As soon as he reached Boone he inquired if the fact related in the papers could possibly be true. He found them to be not only true, but that the names of the men running the tiger were well known.

He immediately issued a bench warrant for the arrest of Joe Crump and Miles Townsend. Three deputy sheriffs and a United States marshal proceeded to the place desired dropped a quarter in the drawer of the fortress, pulled out a pint bottle of liquor and then proceeded to pull the proprietor.

These were Joe Crump of Caldwell and Miles Townsend of Skull's Mills. A government license in the name of Bube Livingstone was tacked to one of the walls inside the fortress. Soon after the arrest of these men a team entered Boone: halted at the jail. Livingstone alighted and asked to see the prisoners. The request was granted and more than a hundred dollars in cash was paid into his hand by them, which was, of course, taken at the "tiger." Livingstone left town under whip, but a warrant was soon issued, and he was overtaken near Dr. Little's, on New River. Here he sprang from his wagon and ran for all that was in him. He was soon overtaken however, and is now in jail awaiting his trial.

Did Secretary Root Decline to run with McKinley

Washington Special to Philadelphia record.

Elihu Root might have been President now if in 1900 he had accepted President McKinley's invitation to him to take the second place on the ticket.

It was formally announced for the first time at the dinner given at the Country Club Saturday night in honor of Secretary Root by the general staff that he had been offered and had declined this opportunity to be Vice President and subsequently President.

Postmaster General Payne, vice chairman of the Republican national committee, told his story to the other guests and read a letter written by Secretary Root to him in the spring of 1900, stating that he could not allow his name to be used because he believed he should remain at the head of the War Department and work out the problems issuing from the Spanish war.

Mr. Payne said it was an illustration of the patriotic self-sacrifice with which Mr. Root had served as Secretary of War.

News From State Capital.

Raleigh, Aug. 19.—Among the callers at the executive office to-day was Judge M. H. Justice, who was on his way to hold court in Hertford.

Robert B. Glenn, always looking well and smiling, was here yesterday for a few hours. He was introduced by a friend as "our next Governor," and smiled at the compliment. He is, of course, in the race for the governorship, though, modest gentlemen that he is, he is a trifle skittish about admitting the fact. There may be more than a dozen aspirants for the office. If there is not a lively time at the next State Democratic convention, then all the signs will fall badly.

To-day the State Auditor received from the corporation commission the certified assessments of the properties of the railways and other common carriers, aggregating some \$74,000,000. The Auditor at once posted these assessments along to the State Treasurer, who will proceed to collect the taxes thereon. There are no signs of suits or injunctions to restrain the collection of the taxes on the new assessments, nor is it believed by the officials that there will be any trouble along that line.

State Superintendent Joyner is advised that the town of Jonesville, Yankin county, has voted in favor of a local tax for its public schools.

That was a pretty story about Dewey's stealings from the bank at Newbern, to the effect that the directors had secured \$25,000 to "strengthen the bank," and that Dewey had coolly "swiped" this also. It is a pity to have to deny this story, it is such a good one, but a bank man here tells me that the \$20,000 which the directors procured was safe when Dewey left. He says he has positive information as to this.

James H. Pon Gives In Largest Income.

The reports as to the tax on incomes at Raleigh show that J. H. Pon, attorney, gives the largest income, \$11,500. Chief Justice Walter Clarke, who was last year the only judge that returned his income, and who again this year did not return them, may go before the State Court.

The convicts have begun work on the extension of the Durham & Charlotte Railway, from Pittsboro northward up the Haw river toward Graham. The convict camp has been established at Pittsboro.

President Spencer Talks About Saluda Grade.

A recent issue of the Spartanburg Herald contains the following:

Recently Mr. H. E. Ravenel, chairman of the railroad committee of the Chamber of Commerce, wrote to President Spencer, of the Southern railway in reference to the Melrose grade, and the many accidents and injuries, losses of life and destruction of property that are traceable over the system to that point. The letter embraced some sensible, practical suggestions as to a remedy, and urged the immediate action of the company in regard to eliminating from their system such a dangerous menace to life and property.

Mr. Ravenel has received the following reply from President Spencer:

Southern Railway
Office of the President
80 Broadway, New York.

Mr. H. E. Ravenel, Chairman of the Railroad Committee, Chamber of Commerce, Spartanburg, S. C.

Dear Sir:—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your valued favor of the 15th, in respect to the Saluda grade on the Asheville & Spartanburg road, and in response beg to say that your suggestion shall have immediate investigation and consideration.

I feel, however, that I should say in addition that surveys have been made, looking to the reduction of this grade in some form or other, but so far no quite satisfactory solution of the problem has been found.

Appreciating fully the spirit in which your letter is written, and assuring you that it shall have full consideration, I am,

Yours very truly,
S. SPENCER, President.

Madison County Settles her Debt.

Asheville, Aug. 19.—It has been learned that the indebtedness of Madison county to Buncombe county has been settled to the satisfaction of both parties. The matter was settled by a compromise but the Buncombe commissioners were of the opinion that more money could be realized by this than by carrying the matter into the courts as was at first proposed.

The entire indebtedness was something like \$800, and has been accumulating for ten years. It is mainly for jail fees and the feeding of Madison prisoners. Fugitives from Madison are arrested here and kept in the Buncombe jail until they can be transferred. The payment for this was deferred until the sum total amounted to the above named sum.

Southern Will Try To Avert Further Disaster.

The wrecking of trains on Saluda mountain will be reduced to a minimum. The high officials of the road who were here Sunday, Monday and yesterday have decided on a plan by which there will not be any more runaway trains, if the trainmen attend to their duties.

A meeting of the officials was held and a contract let to H. L. Cole for the construction of two safety tracks. The steepest portion of Saluda mountain is three miles long. Of the two switches one will be located one mile from the top and extended about one-half a mile at an angle from the main line. It will be built on an incline and guarded by switchmen who will be on duty night and day. The switch will always be left open and after the switch has been installed a signal will be determined upon which will warn the switchman whether or not to let the train take the siding.

The second switch will be located one mile further down the track and operate after the manner of the first one. If a train starts to run away the engineer can remain aboard with perfect safety as he will take the side track and start his train up hill, which will check its speed.

The construction of the switches means the expenditure of many thousand dollars. It will be necessary to cut through high embankments to place the switches. The maintenance will be of considerable expense, also. It will require four extra men to guard the sidetracks.—Gazette.

Trade Conditions Of The Week.

New York, Aug. 21.—Bradstreet's tomorrow will say:

Weather and crop conditions are still the keynote to fall trade. In the Northwest, Southwest and South buyers are taking hold energetically and reports as a whole are as good or better than a year ago. In the east fall jobbing has started in well. Retail trade is seasonably quiet and collections are reported backward in a number of instances.

Among the great industries few important changes are noted. One of the notable developments is the general softening of the pig iron prices following the heavy buying of two weeks past. Fewer industrial operatives are on strike now than for months past, but the idleness of cotton mill operatives tend rather to increase. The lumber trade is active west and north but in the east it has not as yet recovered from the depression induced by labor troubles. Shoe manufacturers is notably active the country over and eastern shipments are breaking all records. Railway earnings for the first half of August continue to show good gains.

American Yatch's Easy Victory.

New York, Aug. 22.—In a splendid 12 to 15 knot breeze, over a windward and leeward course of 30 miles, the gallant sloop Reliance to-day beat Shamrock III in exactly nine minutes, actual time, or seven minutes and three seconds after deducting the one minute and fifty-seven seconds which the defender concedes to Sir Thomas Lipton's third challenger, on account of the sailing plan of the measurements.

Lord Salisbury At Death's Door.

London, Aug. 21.—Since the bulletin issued Thursday night announcing that the condition of Lord Salisbury was critical, the members of his family, including Viscount Cranborne, Lord Arthur Cecil, Lord Robert Cecil, the Rev. Lord Wm. Cecil, Lady Gwendolin Cecil, the Earl and Countess of Selbourne and later, Premier Balfour, who came from Scotland, have been gathered in the vicinity of the sick room awaiting the final call. It is realized that death is inevitable, though the patient is making a wonderful struggle. The heart weakness, which has been the most dangerous feature since the patient's last seizure, is hourly becoming accentuated, and the marquis is gradually sinking away. He does not suffer much pain and has only brief periods of consciousness.

Telegrams poured in all day from notable men throughout the world. Late in the afternoon King Edward telegraphed for additional information, though his majesty has been kept informed by bulletins. There was a continual stream today of callers.

The Noted English Lord Succumbs to Grim Messenger.

London, Aug. 22.—Lord Salisbury died this afternoon. The end of the distinguished statesman was a peaceful one, without the slightest evidence of pain. When death became imminent the attending physicians summoned the waiting members of the family, who gathered at the bedside and took farewell of the dying man, who, however, was unconscious of their presence.

Within a few minutes of the death a brief announcement was handed to the newspaper men and simultaneously the death knell from the tower of the church of which the Rev. Lord William Cecil, a nephew of Lord Salisbury, is pastor, told the people of the little village of Hatfield that the long struggle was over.

Plenty of Candidates For Governor.

There will be plenty of candidates for the Democratic nomination for Governor. A high politician declares that he knows of 20 men who want the place, although exactly a dozen have been named so far. Some persons are talking about the possibility of the Republicans making a showing in the next campaign, but of this there does not appear to be the slightest prospect. It will require several years for the Republican party in this State to get on a footing again and members of that party say the acts of President Roosevelt have retarded this rehabilitation of the party for a more or less indefinite time.—Charlotte Observer.

Death of Prominent Asheville Lawyer.

Asheville, Aug. 22.—J. McD. Whitson died shortly before midnight last night, of Bright's disease. Mr. Whitson was born in Buncombe county 37 years ago, and his friends and acquaintances were legion. He was a member of the law firm of Whitson, Flint & Company, and was prominent in legal circles, and his untimely death will be keenly felt by men of his profession. Mr. Whitson leaves a wife and one child and several brothers. There was a meeting of the Asheville Bar Association this morning, to take action on the death of Mr. Whitson. Judge Fred Moore presided over the meeting, and S. G. Barnard was made secretary. A committee consisting of Mr. J. D. Murphy, Judge Merriman, Gen. T. F. Davidson, J. C. Martin and Frank Carter, were appointed to draft appropriate resolutions, to be presented at the next term of Superior Court. On motion, the members of the Bar Association were requested to meet in Temple Court tomorrow a half hour before the hour announced for the funeral, to attend the funeral in a body.

Senator Pritchard's Short Vacation.

Asheville, Aug. 11.—Judge Pritchard returned to Marshall this morning, after a visit to friends in this city. Judge Pritchard will leave tomorrow morning for Washington, as he has found it necessary to resume his judicial duties, owing to the illness of one of the judges with whom he is associated.