

THE RALEIGH ENTERPRISE.

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BY

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Decent papers do not publish indecent cartoons.

The Charlotte Observer's society pages are—well they are.

The Japanese are surprised at the stupidity of Russia in not realizing that she has enough.

Lieutenant Peary wants to make another trip after the North Pole. It is time for him to swear off.

With wheat at \$2 per bushel, the hole in loaves of bread are likely to be large enough for horses to fall into.

Russia is determined to get all the free advertising she can for the Baltic fleet. It is rumored that the fleet isn't much anyway.

Gen. Grippenburg is to command the second great army that Russia is going to raise—on paper. All right, General, we have got your name.

We notice that a number of prominent newspapers are again declaring that the Populist party is dead. In times past that was proof of activity.

The Supreme Court has affirmed the case of Editor McNeill, of Carthage, and he will get \$4,500 damages. He was injured in a railroad wreck while riding as a passenger on an expired pass.

Just so long as the Russians and Japs fight around Port Arthur, Mukden and Harbin, we advise hands off. But if they move to some towns with unpronounceable names, the powers should stop it at any cost.

The headon collision at Newmarket, Tenn., last Saturday, was one of the most appalling wrecks that has ever occurred in this country. More than sixty people were killed and one hundred and twenty wounded.

These be terrible times. Robert T. Paine, who has been a Democrat, and who was prominent enough to be offered the nomination for Governor by the party in Massachusetts four different times, has left the party because it is against Booker Washington.

NO ECONOMY HERE.

From published advance sheets of Chairman Simmons's Handbook it is apparent that an effort is being made to show that the State government is conducted on a more economical basis than it was under Republican-Populist rule. There is a mistake somewhere—a serious mistake.

In 1898, according to the Auditor's Report, the total receipts were \$1,342,647.85. The disbursements were \$1,287,641.18.

In 1903 (the last report of course) we find that the total receipts were \$2,371,636.60. The disbursements were \$2,322,404.24. The difference between the disbursements of 1898 and 1903 is \$1,034,763.06. That is the amount that was wrung from the taxpayers of the State last year and spent—how? Read it again: one million, thirty-four thousand, seven hundred and sixty-three dollars and six cents. That is the amount in excess of what it cost to conduct the State government in 1898. You were told by organs and spellbinders that the State was being ruined; that extravagance and even stealing was going on. Now you know that the organs and spellbinders were telling falsehoods. We knew it at the time, and simply publish a comparison of the figures to prove it to you. "State savers" come high.

In 1878, when Vance was Governor, the total disbursements were \$539,102.10. It now costs almost five times as much to conduct the State affairs. Of course the population and taxable property has increased every year and the legitimate expenditures should increase proportionately. But note carefully that in 1898—twenty years later—the fusion expenditures were only a little more than twice as large as they were during one year of Vance's administration, while in 1903, only five years later, the State savers have run the expenditures up to almost five times as much as it cost to run the State during Vance's administration.

Put it another way. It cost nearly twice as much for the State savers to conduct the State in 1903 as it did the fusionists in 1898. At the present ratio of increase the State savers will own the State and everything in it in less than twenty years.

We are not accusing anybody of stealing. Oh, no! We presume that there is some semblance of legality in most of it. We have given the facts and figures. Take warning! This thing can't go on much longer. There is a limit to everything. In the near future we will tell where much of this money is going.

THE ORGAN TRYING A NEW TUNE.

That wheezy old organ, the News and Observer, which stands for silver one year and gold the next, is trying to practice a new tune. The organ is trying to tell independents and working men what they are and what they must do. It is the grand censor of all that takes place in this country. It tries to be boss, dictator, censor, everything.

Outside of a select ring of State savers and other spoilsmen in Raleigh the News Observer has absolutely no influence in this city. It is too well known. Throughout the

State it has a lot of prejudiced followers who have not yet learned the exact character of the paper. It is possible that with the aid of its lieutenants here it may be able to control a baker's dozen votes. But the average business man and working man will make up his ticket this year without consulting the News and Observer.

Mr. Sully is in the fight again. He says cotton will go to at least thirteen cents. Sully was wise last fall. However, thirteen is an unlucky prediction.

IF A BODY KISS A BODY.

The staid old Baltimore Sun publishes an editorial account of a case in which it was held that if a man attempts to kiss a woman and "reasonably believes" that the woman will allow it and "does not intend to use force to obtain the kiss," then it shall not constitute an assault. The name of the learned judge is not given, but the Southwestern Reporter tells of the case. It was further held that as there was no intent to injure in the case mentioned, only the feelings of the lady were injured, and it was intimated that little or no punishment should be meted out.

Perhaps this is opening the gate too wide. But we can't help extending a vote of thanks to the Judge. "If a body kiss a body, need a body cry?" Certainly not. The great question at issue, however, is how to size up the situation. It is a very easy matter to feel "reasonably sure" about such things when you get in rifle shot of a pair of ruby lips. But judges and juries are liable to disagree with you. It will not do to kiss every pretty lip, though you may be egotistical enough to think, or "reasonably believe," that there will be no complications. If this was not campaign year we would refer the whole matter to our learned friends of the Evening Times and the Charlotte Observer. Perhaps they could make up a rule that would apply in most cases, if they had time. Until the courts get acclimated, we shall avoid getting mixed up in "mental anguish" suits, at any rate.

A few days ago a new item was headed: One hundred thousand dollar fire in Charlotte." We thought the town was half burned up. But, after reading the dispatch, found that only one corner of a building was burned.

Great moves are being made in the Eastern war, but no great battles have occurred in a week. The Japanese have gained important positions at Port Arthur. The capture of the fortress can hardly be much longer delayed.

It has been thought that the deposit of soft coal in Chatham County known as the Cumnock mines is all that this State can do in the way of coal. News comes from Walnut Cove, Surry County, that a Pennsylvania company will probably work for anthracite coal in that section. This State produces nearly everything else, and we hope coal will be found in paying quantity and quality.

Cream of the Press.

Governor Odell, of New York, did all the necessary deliberating before he called himself to order in convention.—Detroit Free Press.

The North Carolina editor who offered Judge Parker a job would have been in a pretty pickle if he had accepted it.—Durham Herald.

Brass bands will be in great demand this fall to draw crowds for speakers. But after all it will take votes to elect.—Hickory Mercury.

Kuropatkin has conducted a masterly retreat and it is not impossible that he may yet eat his Christmas dinner in St. Petersburg.—Birmingham News.

Canada is so swelled by the prediction of future greatness made by former Secretary Root that her next winter's mantle of snow may not fit her.—Pittsburg Press.

"New York has a boy who is not happy unless he is whipped every day." He ought to join the Russian army.—Richmond News-Leader.

A friend exclaimed, "Bob, you've been married three times!" Governor Taylor replied, "Yes; I was elected twice and counted out once!"—Bristol Courier.

A Pennsylvanian offers \$25 reward for the return of his wife. Some of these Pennsylvanians think as much of their wives as they would of human beings.—Washington Post.

It is astonishing how much time some people have to spare for the supervision of other people's business, and how well they do it—in their minds.—Binghamton Press.

Coney is fifty years old, but is as gay and youthful as Candidate Davis after listening to one of "Tom" Taggart's pipe dreams.—New York Tribune.

William Pinkney Whyte, aged 80, is to take the stump in West Virginia for Parker and Davis. Candidate Davis has always been popular with the young men.—Washington Post.

The Sultan of Turkey will undoubtedly prick up his ears and assume a grateful smile every time Japan talks of collecting indemnity from Russia.—Washington Evening Star.

A Bostonian has been arrested for expressing his opinion of John D. Rockefeller on a postal card. How he managed to do it within so small a space is what is mystifying most people.—San Francisco Chronicle.

So Carnegie is going into a project to promote Canadian independence. That's a more promising way to die poor than promoting free libraries and church organs, at any rate.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

A Boston man says the kiss was originally the noble Roman's method of testing whether his wife had been tampering with the wine jug during hubby's absence. Shoe's on the other foot now.—New York Herald.

For goodness sake do not let the coal barons hear of this theory that "breathing gold dust is a cure for consumption," or they will require the consumer to pay them for conducting a health cure.—Chicago News.

We learn that a new journalistic star will rise here tomorrow—the Republican State Journal—edited by Mr. Claud Dockery. We wish the new paper success.