

THE RALEIGH ENTERPRISE.

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BY

J. L. RAMSEY, Editor and Prop.,
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It is evident that the Equitable Assurance Society has a very tough Hyde.

We learn from the Greenville Reflector that the ice plant in that section escaped injury by the recent frost.

The last Legislature increased the number of magistrates in Sampson County from 82 to 130. Must have gone outside of the party to get them.

An exchange heads a news item: "Sam Jones in a Tight Place." Alas! Has Sam fallen? Has he been caught in one of those horrible places?

It requires two primaries in Raleigh to select city officials, and already a number of one primary towns are pointing the green-eyed finger of jealousy at Raleigh.

Joseph Jefferson, the great actor, is dead. Probably the worst thing that might have been said of him while he was living was that he was a friend of Grover Cleveland.

In publishing the alleged intentions of the Russian and Japanese officials in the coming naval fight, we have had a display of news faking that has hardly ever been equalled.

Andy Carnegie is so proud of his niece, who married a coachman instead of a defunct foreign nobleman, that he will probably give her a few millions just to show that there is no hard feelings.

Notice is hereby given that the Enterprise will no longer receive cord-wood and poems about the beautiful snow on subscription. It requires cold cash to secure visits from this spasm of virtue.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

One small land engagement is all we have to report in that direction.

The Baltic fleet has left Kamranh Bay, but the exact location of it is unknown. We leave that to the Japanese and fully expect that they will take care of it.

SYSTEM IN THE STATE FAIR.

Just after the last State Fair closed the Enterprise suggested that the Fair could be made far more attractive by arranging for each county in the State to have a building or special space set apart to display the products of the county. The idea was advanced that there would be more rivalry between the counties, and that an outsider could get a much clearer conception of the desirability of this or that county if looking for a location, either for farming or other business, thus making the State Fair a mecca for prospecting Northern visitors.

Secretary Pogue endorsed the plan at the time, and we learn that he is, at least, going to make an effort in that direction this year. While it will not be possible to get every county interested this year, we believe that the co-operation of sufficient counties can be secured to develop the advantages of the system in making exhibits instead of scattering exhibits in a confused jumble.

A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT.

Two years ago the Legislature passed a law for Union County which provides that when as much as a quart of liquor is found in the possession of any citizen it is prima facie evidence that he is engaged in the sale of liquor, and the burden is on him to show that he is not. A case involving the constitutionality of this law was before the Supreme Court a few days ago and a majority of the court sustained the law. Justice Geo. H. Brown, who is a very able lawyer, dissented, and in concluding his opinion, says:

"In conclusion, I may say that I sympathize deeply with all legitimate efforts to extirpate the illicit traffic in intoxicating liquors, and will be found sustaining all such law when within the legislative power, but I cannot conscientiously assent to laying the judicial axe to the most valuable and sacred of all, the fundamental rights of civil liberty, viz., the legal right to be adjudged by the court innocent unless the State has offered evidence tending to prove the commission of a crime. The citizens of Union County are as much entitled to their protection of this organic law in the prosecution of any and all offenses as are other citizens of the State, and when it is denied to them, as it is in this statute, they are denied the equal protection of the law of the land and are at the mercy of capricious and uncertain jurors."

Of course Judge Brown is right, and the people of North Carolina will one day place their number ten's down upon a few things which have transpired in this State during the past few years.

We have no quarrel with the people of Union County if they prefer prohibition, nor with any sensible efforts to enforce the law. That is their business. But, of course, the people of Union County did not ask for, nor expect, the passage of that law. It is only a part of the well-laid scheme of certain politicians to place this State under the South Carolina curse—a State Dispensary law—and the inevitable graft. The people of North Carolina are getting a surplus of cranky legislation, and, also, of Supreme Court made laws. Hit or

miss, the carnage of legislation and "decisions" goes on. The "powers" that be do not hesitate to give us far more than we ask for or care for.

Pretty soon we will have a law which will convict a man if he is found with more than ten pounds of salt in his kitchen. Why? That will be considered prima facie evidence that he intends to steal pork and salt it down. And such law would be just as sensible as the law regarding liquor, for the Constitution gives a man the same right to have a quart, gallon, barrel or any other quantity of liquor in his house as it gives him to have a hundred pounds of salt or flour in his house, provided he buys it and pays for it; and we hold that no legislative or judicial body has any moral right under the Constitution to invade the privacy of the home, or to curtail the privileges of any citizen who might be found carrying or hauling whiskey or any other commodity on the highways of the State.

It is well for legislators and judges to be on the side of temperance and morality. But temperance and moral lectures fired into the higher grade of animals known as men, in the form of arbitrary law, from legislative and judicial "big guns," will never prove very effective. They dam up the stream for a time, but sooner or later the dam will be swept away and the current will run stronger than ever. Unfair laws and the injustice and cruel administration of them has made 90 per cent of the people of Russia law-breakers and law-haters. Intemperate temperance laws will surely bring about a similar condition in North Carolina, and Justice Brown does the State a service in sounding a note of warning in his dissenting opinion.

A WONDERFUL MIRROR.

The X-ray mirror owned by Mr. D. H. Milton, of this city, who holds a clerical position in the office of the State Insurance Commissioner, continues to attract attention and still the mystery is unsolved. His son, Mr. L. G. Milton, will probably exhibit the mirror at a number of places this summer.

Some months ago Mr. Milton moved his family to Raleigh from Reidsville. He did not move his old furniture, but bought new furniture here. The bureau or dresser containing the mirror is an ordinary piece of oak furniture, probably manufactured in this State. It is not yet known whether the mirror was made in this or some foreign country. The X-ray properties of the mirror were discovered accidentally. If you will hold your hand in front of the mirror the bones can easily be seen. Objects can be distinguished through a half inch oak board by the aid of the mirror.

The manufacturer of the mirror no doubt did it unintentionally and probably could not explain how it was done. But it is possible that those familiar with glass working may be able to get at the secret and greatly improve upon what has been done accidentally.

The germ that causes laziness will now hold the boards for a season.

HE IS OUR PAUL.

A few days ago the announcement came from Paris that United States Ambassador Porter had found the remains of John Paul Jones, the famous privateer and naval fighter who whipped the English navy near a hundred years ago. The remains were buried in a copper coffin in a grave-yard in Paris, and it is believed that the identification is complete.

As was to be expected, the claim that Colonel, Admiral or General Jones was a North Carolinian, has already been put forward. Whoop! Hurrah! *Esse quam videri*. First in North Carolina, Second at the British, Last at Paris.

Wanderings of Bilkins.

"Zeke Bilkins" writes a letter each week for the Raleigh Enterprise. We have printed several of his effusions. They are brim full of humor and good sense, an exceptional combination. Zeke has "writ up" Durham, Hillsboro, Greensboro and other points in his unique style and in his wanderings seems to have "dropped in and upon" the Twin-City.—Winston Republican.

Some Kind References.

The Raleigh Enterprise, edited by Bro. J. L. Ramsey, was one year old on the 20th. We are glad to know it is on a self-sustaining basis. Everybody should take it; it would be a good investment.—Hickory Mercury.

The Raleigh Enterprise, J. L. Ramsey's excellent paper, is one year old. It has met with marked success thus far, and the editor is a man who knows his business and writes readable stuff at all times and on all subjects.—Southern Publisher.

We congratulate our contemporary, the Raleigh Enterprise, who last week was one year old. The Enterprise represents what its name means. It is an up-to-date weekly newspaper, splendidly printed, well-edited, the get-up being typographically a "bouquet of beautiful flowers." Its circulation has increased by leaps and bounds, "Zeke Bilkins" doing his part each week to add to the other interesting reading matter which appears weekly within its columns. Editor Ramsey is to be congratulated upon the splendid paper that he is giving the public, his large number of readers appreciating the good work done in their behalf. The Harbinger wishes the Enterprise continued success.—Raleigh Harbinger.

A Colorado clergyman says the world has but two more years to exist. He is probably going on the theory that the world cannot stand another Colorado election, which is scheduled two years hence.—Washington Post.

A Philadelphia trolley car crashed into a bakery wagon and sent a load of pies through the air. What with germs in the drinking water and pies in the air, Philadelphia must be an unhealthy place indeed.—Buffalo Express.

Some of the newspapers are claiming that the issue of government ownership of public utilities in the Democratic platform for 1908 will score a big victory for the party. We are not from Missouri, but you'll have to show us.—Wayne County Courier.

Russia is accusing England of giving away the route of the Baltic fleet. Isn't it just like the Russians to think they could steal up on Togo with their sixty-seven warships and sink him before he observed them? Too bad England went and told Togo about it.—Atlanta Journal.