

## THE LEDGER.

THURLOW S. CARTER,  
EDITOR AND MANAGER.

ISSUED WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1904

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.50 PER YEAR

### The Value of Farming Land in Lancaster County.

Lancaster cor. The News and Courier: "Small farms have advanced in price 100 per cent and large plantations fully 25 per cent in the last twelve months," replied Col. Leroy Springs, president of Lancaster's bank, railroad and cotton mills, to an inquiry by your correspondent as to his views on the present value of farming lands in this county.

Mr. T. S. Carter, who is doing a fine business as a real estate broker, gave almost identically the same answer, the only difference being, Mr. Carter said that the advance in the value of large bodies of land was from 25 to 50 per cent.

These percentages are borne out by actual sales within the last thirty days, of which there have been an unprecedented number, more plantations and small farms changing hands than ever before in the history of the county in a given length of time.

The mention of but a few of the many sales, selected almost at random, will show the phenomenal advance in real estate values. What is known as the Little Place, six miles north of town, containing 200 acres, which was bought year before last for \$10 an acre, sold the other day for \$17 per acre.

Another 200-acre plantation, five miles from here, has just been sold for \$20 per acre. It could have been bought three years ago for half that price. An offer of \$40 an acre was refused last week by the owner of a farm north of town which cost him less than \$10 per acre about ten years ago. A young farmer bought a small tract of land a few miles from town last year for \$1,450. He declined to take \$2,200 for it a day or so ago. The Jordan plantation, near town, containing 531 acres, has been sold at an advance of 200 per cent on its purchase price some years ago.

But very little land, comparatively speaking, has been sold at public auction thus far this season. The only notable sale was that of the Ben E. Blackmon place, seven or eight miles east of Lancaster, containing about 475 acres, which was sold yesterday in this month, as noted in this correspondence at the time. It brought, it will be remembered, 300 per cent more than it sold for at private sale some years ago.

Of course lands within a few miles of town command better prices than those at a distance or in remote sections. The average price of farming lands throughout the whole county is now from \$10 to \$15 per acre, while a year ago it was from \$5 to \$10.

The advance is confined altogether to farming lands, there being little or no change in the value of town property, and is due to good crops and good prices for cotton.

If Judge Parker had been elected and his election had been followed by the big slump in the price of cotton that has followed Roosevelt's election the Republicans would have talked it and blowed about it until every Democrat's ear-drums would have been sore. But now they are dumb. What's the matter?—Waxhaw Enterprise.

### Trenton Accepts Suicide Theory.

No Doubt That Hughes Killed His Family and Himself.—All Evidence Indicates This.

The State, 11th inst.

The horrible tragedy at Trenton Wednesday morning has not ceased to be a subject of interest and conversation all over the State, and there have been many inquiries for further information.

A gentleman who has been in Trenton since the occurrence stated yesterday that the people of the community, reluctantly as they accepted the theory, now have no doubt that the extermination of his family was the work of B. B. Hughes himself. "From every possible circumstance that has been brought to light," said this gentleman, "it is clearly shown that it was a clear case of murder and suicide to end all before financial embarrassment came on." The position of the pistol and the wound in Hughes' right temple point to his self destruction, if there had been no other circumstances. On a closer examination of the locks it was found that every door leading to the house was either locked or bolted, showing that no one could have escaped from the house after the triple murder was committed.

It is now stated that Hughes had confided to some of his friends that he was threatened with financial troubles which he considered beyond his power to satisfactorily settle. He had told of his inability to sleep, and appeared more worried than the circumstances seemed to his friends to warrant, as there were several sources from which he could have secured assistance. It is most likely that this trouble preyed upon his mind until his brain snapped, as it were, in a sudden fit of insanity the terrible slaughter of his loved ones was committed.

### Japanese Shelling The Town.

Port Arthur is Being Heavily Damaged Naval Force Said To Be Disabled

Tokio, Dec. 12, 4 p. m.—The commander of the Japanese naval land battery reporting today, says:

For Russian battleship, two cruisers, one gunboat and one torpedo storer ship lying in Port Arthur harbor are completely disabled. There is no further necessity for bombarding the Russian naval force.

"Are now engaged shelling the town of Port Arthur, which is being heavily damaged."

—The condition of Miss Florence Craig, which has been very serious for a week or longer, is now much improved and yesterday her physician expressed the opinion that there is a chance for her recovery.—Rock Hill Herald.

Mr. A. F. Funderburk's House in Chesterfield Burned last Week.

News has been received in the city of the burning Tuesday night of the residence of Mr. A. F. Funderburk at Dudley in Chesterfield county. Mr. Funderburk was in North Carolina at the time and there was no one in the house, which was totally destroyed. Mr. Funderburk is of the opinion that the fire was incendiary, as he had recently had some trouble with a negro about a mule and this negro will probably be arrested. The loss of the house about \$1500 a State.

### Happenings in the State.

As Chronicled by the Alert Correspondents of The Columbia State.

#### DIED OF HYDROPHOBIA.

Chesterfield, Dec. 11.—A negro woman who lived about two miles from town died last week of hydrophobia, caused by the bite of a mad dog about 21 days before.

#### NEGRO BOY SHOTS FATHER.

Laurens, Dec. 9.—Sam Dunlap colored, was shot very seriously, possibly fatally, by his boy, Sam Dunlap, aged 15, at his home two miles east of the city last night, as the result of a quarrel between the two. He was shot with a shotgun at close range, most of the charge taking effect in his abdomen.

#### AN ARTIFICIAL STONE BUILDING.

Summerton, Dec. 9.—A handsome new store has just been completed for Capers & Co., druggist, and they are now busy getting in shape in their new quarters. The building is something new in this State, being made of artificial stone, composed of sand and Portland cement. It is among the first if not the first, to be completed in the State.

#### DIED OF SELF INFLICTED WOUNDS.

Sumter, Dec. 8.—Robert W. Terry died at 11 o'clock this morning at the Mood-Osteen infirmary.

He shot himself in this city on the night of Nov 30 while under the influence of whiskey. While conscious the day after the shooting he stated that he did not remember anything about it; that he had been drinking for several days more than he ever did, and it was done while in this condition. He had no reason for shooting himself.

#### KEPT THE CHANGE.

Rock Hill, Dec. 11.—J B Smith of Chattanooga, Tenn., was arrested and brought here yesterday. Smith was a seller of pictures and failed to return to the home of Mr O S Stevens with the change for a \$10 bill which Mr. Stevens had given him during a transaction involving the sale of certain of Smith's pictures. He departed for Yorkville and thence for the country, where a warrant found him. He was also accountable to the city for selling goods without a license, but was able to arrange his troubles satisfactorily.

#### BURNED HIS WAY TO LIBERTY.

Greenville, Dec 9.—Alonzo Smith, a negro who is wanted by the authorities here on the charge of having attempted to criminally assault a negro woman some weeks ago, was arrested Monday afternoon at Liberty and placed in the guard house to await the arrival of Sheriff Gilreath or a deputy.

A deputy was sent over yesterday afternoon to bring the prisoner back, but on his arrival at Liberty he found that the negro had made his escape from the guard house by burning out.

The officer who had Smith under arrest neglected to go through his pockets carefully, with the result that he left several matches on his person. The building is a wooden structure, and it was comparatively an easy matter to burn the wood around the hinges to the door and walk out.

#### At Public Auction.

I will sell at public auction at my home near Sapp X Roads, on Monday, Dec. 19th, 1904, 2 fine young mules, 2 good milk Cows, 2 splendid buggies, 2 2-horse wagons, and all my household and kitchen furniture, also my farming implements, and other things too numerous to mention.

M. Yarborough,

# WATCH OUT BARGAIN SEEKERS! \$100 IN GOLD TO BE GIVEN AWAY.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

For the next 30 days we are going to slaughter prices Right and Left on dry goods, Clothing, Shoes, etc.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Our object in cutting prices for the next month is to benefit the trade by giving them the best goods for the least money. Also to reduce our stock as much as possible by the 1st of Jan., as we are going to repair our building and make changes in stock by moving dry goods in lower part of building and groceries where dry goods are at present.

This will be an immense job to have to move

: : SUCH A LARGE STOCK : :

as we have at present and think it best to make such inducements to the public in order to make the goods walk about.

We mean business in what we say and all we ask is for you to come and inspect our stock and cut prices and you will be convinced that what we say is true.

So Come at Once and

Make Your Purchases

before the stock is greatly reduced and get the best advantage, for remember one month is a very short time.

THANKING EVERY ONE FOR PAST PARONAGE AND HOPING FOR MORE, WE ARE,

Yours to serve,

-Heath Banking & Mercantile Co.-

LANCASTER S. C.