

A BOLD SWINDLE.

Bouncing the Negroes Out Their Hard Earned Dollars. HOW THE GAME IS WORKED. One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars Has So Far Been Stolen from the Trustful Colored Brother.

A dispatch from Washington says thousands of ignorant colored people in this country are being induced to believe that they are to be pensioned by the United States government upon being unable to show that they were formerly slaves. The promoters of this scheme, which has all the earmarks of a systematic attempt to extract money from credulous colored people, by holding out to them false hopes of a government pension, have been at work for some time, and it is estimated that over \$150,000 has been collected by the self-constituted missionaries having the project in hand.

The subject came to the service a few days ago through some correspondence between a colored preacher, in one of the Southern States, and a United States senator. The preacher wrote to the senator to inquire as to the matter in view of the fact that so many of the colored people in his State had been assessed to defray the expenses of the proposed legislation. The senator, who is one of the most influential members of that body, by reason of his long services (three terms), and his appropriate committee assignments, instituted an investigation, and his report, which stated that he was in possession of the information that he sought, is as follows:

All persons 70 years of age to receive \$500 and also \$150 more during their natural lives. Persons 60 years to receive \$300 and \$125 more. Persons 50 years to receive \$100 and \$85 more. Persons less than 50 years to receive \$40 more, etc.

The circular sent out by the association, a copy of which is now in the hands of the senator referred to, is in the name of the National Relief Company, and is headed "On to Victory." It also contains a picture of General Manager Dickerson. It is addressed to "All ex-slave associations in the United States. We come greeting as general manager and promoter of the movement, which has been so much opposed and more so lately, in its own country, and more so elsewhere, of the present day."

CONDITION OF THE CROPS.

The Weekly Summary of the United States Weather Bureau. The following is the weekly crop bulletin of the South Carolina section of the climate and crop service of the United States weather bureau issued Wednesday by Director Bauer:

The week ending May 15th averaged 7 degrees per day warmer than usual, with the maximum temperatures ranging from slightly below to considerably above 90 degrees each day, and with the minima correspondingly high. The rainfall for the week was generally very light; with moderately heavy rains in the vicinity of Charleston and over the Pee Dee region. The need of rain is general, and the lack of it has materially injured oats, and to a lesser extent wheat and gardens. Rain is also needed to permit cotton and corn planting to be completed, and to germinate recently planted seeds. Oats are failing rapidly, and spring oats are already a failure. This grain is about all headed, and over the more easterly counties is ripe. Wheat has also deteriorated, but not to the same extent as oats, and in places continues very promising.

Corn continues to maintain a healthy color, and with limited exceptions, has a good stand; its general condition, for the whole State, is very satisfactory. In places it has received its second working. Cotton has come up to from very good to fair stands, except on red lands where the ground is baked and hard and seeds did not germinate well. Cultivation and chapping to stands is general. The young plants are small but healthy and vigorous. Tobacco is in urgent need of rain, but to finish transplanting and to maintain stands which, although general good, are in places very poor. Melons have improved. Rice is excellent. Truck is making rapid growth. Gardens are variable, according to moisture conditions. Berries need rain. Apples and cherries are dropping. Minor crops generally are doing well.

Over the greater portion of the State the weather was favorable for cultivating crops and for general farm work and the staple crops, with the exception of oats, continue in a very promising condition.

A Fatal Lasso Throw. The still of eleven year old Frank Beaumont of Chester, Pa., throwing a lasso resulted in his death Thursday evening. Since a Wild West show exhibited in the city recently the boys of Chester have been practicing with lassos. Young Beaumont, tired of lassos boys of his own age, looked for bigger game. He stationed himself along the Reading railroad near his home, No. 412 Front street, and prepared to fasso the engineer of freight train No. 56. The end of the lasso was tied about his waist. As the engine came swiftly up the grade, with a whoop he sent the loop whistling through the air. The engineer was leaning out of the cab window, unconscious of the boy at the side of the track, and was startled to suddenly find his arms plucked by his sides. The loop of the lasso had fallen with great precision, and as the train moved forward the rope was jerked taut, rendering the engineer helpless. The fireman was on the other side of cab and knew nothing of the tragedy being enacted. Young Beaumont, thrown off his feet when the jerk came, and unable to untie the rope around his waist, was dragged for a square, the roar of the train drowning his shrieks. He was finally drawn under the car wheels. The engineer succeeded in freeing his arms and stopped the train, but when the boy was picked up it was found that he was dead. The wheels had torn the scalp from his head and mangled him terribly.

INSURANCE FIGURES.

Interesting Statistics of the Business Done in this State. IT GOES UP INTO MILLIONS. The Comptroller General Publishes the Figures of the Amount of Insurance Underwritten in the State in 1898.

Comptroller General Derham has had some interesting statistics compiled relative to the insurance business done in this State. The tables show how many hundreds of thousands of dollars are sent out of the State for insurance premiums and, on the other hand, how much money is received here in losses. The insurance business is growing in this State, and it is a great pity that there are not more conservative companies doing business in the State, and that some responsible men do not go into the life insurance business on a sound financial basis.

The reports gotten up by the Comptroller General's office show the premiums collected and losses incurred in which returns are published. FIRE INSURANCE. Aetna Fire Insurance Company, written in 1898 \$2,632,159, premiums \$36,297, losses incurred \$27,153. American Fire Insurance Company, Philadelphia, written in 1898 \$1,360,722, premiums \$20,911, losses incurred \$17,668.

Life Insurance. The accident insurance business also is on the steady increase. The records of companies reporting business in this State show: Aetna Life, accident department, risk written \$689,500, premiums received \$1,444, losses paid \$144. American Surety company, risk written \$385,400, premiums received 1,540, losses paid none.

MANY NEW DOCTORS.

Result of the Recent Examination at Columbia. SEVENTEEN FAILED TO PASS, But Forty-eight Did and were Licensed. One Lady and Five Negroes in the Class.

The following is the list of candidates who passed the examination before the State Board of Medical Examiners last week: Rowland Alston, Charleston. J. B. Andrews, Charleston. Mary R. Baker, Marion county. J. R. Bell, Charleston city hospital. H. C. Beckman, McClellanville. J. V. Bickley, Irmo. C. W. Birnie, colored, Sumter. W. G. Blackwell, Parkville. S. T. Cade, Bordeaux. G. W. Cardwell, colored, Reidsville, N. C.

Run Down by Bloodhounds. A dispatch from Chattanooga, Tenn., says Jessie Haffley, a Negro, eighteen years of age, has been arrested at Dayton as the assailant of Miss Bessie Sparks, whose room at the home of Mrs. S. A. Watson, Leslie. The negro was apprehended after an exciting bloodhound chase. The dogs of Detective Phipps, of Chattanooga, were placed on the trail soon after the crime and traced the negro several miles into the country, followed by a mob of excited and infuriated men. The bloodhounds were first introduced to a pair of old shoes the negro had left in the young lady's room.

Hampton Thanks His Friends. To the people of the State: My duties during the past week at the Reunion in Charleston left me no opportunity of expressing to my friends my grateful sense of the spontaneous and almost universal sympathy shown by them for the relief afforded by their presence, who passed by the hour, and who I am profoundly touched by their manifestation of kindness and by the proposal to rebuild my house. But they must pardon me for asking them to abandon this intended act of kindness, though the motives which prompt it are fully and gratefully appreciated. I cannot accept from my friends a testimonial of regard such as they propose, but the affection shown by them in wishing to reimburse me for my loss can never be forgotten, for it is prized by me far more than any gift from them could ever be. It is the duty of every citizen to serve his State whenever called on to do so, and his sole reward should be the consciousness of having fulfilled that obligation. If my fellow citizens think that I have ever been able to serve my State in any manner I am discharged by my duty in doing so, and I am amply compensated for any service rendered by their verdict of "Well done, good and faithful servant." I am, with heartfelt thanks for the great kindness shown me, your fellow citizen, Wade Hampton.

A HOME CHATAUQUA.

A Charter Applied for by Prominent Educators of the State. THE ISLE OF PALMS. Selected for Its Location. The Object to Promote Literary, Scientific, Moral and Aesthetic Culture.

A Chatauqua association, the purpose of which is to be to the South what the Northern Chatauqua is to the North and East, is in process of formation and promises to be a great success. For some time Mr. St. Julien Grimke has been in the field explaining its objects and purposes to the people of this and other States. As a result of this work he has secured as incorporators of the association, which is to be founded under the act of this State controlling social and charitable organizations, many men than whom none in the South stand higher in educational and literary circles.

Two Cannons From Dewey. Admiral Dewey has sent and the National Museum has received two cannons which he captured from the Spaniards at Cavite, near Manila. In one of them two shells and a grape shot were found, and the museum officials are wondering whether or not it had been fired by the Spaniards during the fight with Dewey and the gallant admiral incautiously sent it home as an engine of destruction under certain conditions. At any rate, there was a small-sized panic at the museum when the discovery was made. A gunner from the navy yard was sent for and finally came. He brought the shells and grape shot to light in ship-shape fashion. Both shells were of the percussion cap variety, but the caps were missing. The powder, however, was in them, although a little moldy. The museum people incline to the belief, that in spite of the mold, the powder would explode if subjected to fire. The fact that pieces of coal also were found in the cannons led to the conclusion that they were brought here in a transport's coal bunker.

Formosa Head Hunters. Formosa advises give details of a terrible massacre in the vicinity of Rakov, China: a town in the central district. Thirty unarmed villagers were ambushed by about 80 savages, who killed 29 of them. Only one escaped. The cause of the massacre is said to have been a dispute between savage tribes over the paternity of an illegitimate child and the death of its mother. The child and the death of the child denied the charge and refused to make compensation to the tribe to which the girl belonged. An appeal to head hunting was the only way by which the injured tribe could prove their righteousness to its ancestors. After the massacre the savages indulged in a feast at which the heads of the murdered villagers were conspicuously displayed.

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