

THE COUNTY RECORD.

Published Every Thursday

—AT—

WINGSTREE, SOUTH CAROLINA.

—BY—

C. W. WOLFE.

Editor and Proprietor.

How to write 1900 in Roman letters is a question that has driven out the "What century?" discussion in London. It used to be a fashionable fad in days gone by to head a letter with the year date in Roman numerals. That fad got a death blow in 1888, when it took just 13 letters, "MDCCLXXXVIII." Last year was nearly as bad for it took nine letters, "MDCCCXCIX." But 1900 can be written "MCM," if anybody prefers it that way.

Statistical computations for 1899 show that the total sum embezzled in that period was \$2,218,373, \$3,632,800 below that of the year preceding, and the smallest total in twenty years, except in 1882, when it was \$2,000,000. But the country was not nearly so wealthy then as now and opportunities for embezzlement were far less abundant. In the same connection it is shown that the donations and bequests, if there be a distinction, for the year were \$79,278,986, by far the largest ever given in any single year.

A report by Prof. S. A. Knapp of Louisiana on rice culture in the United States says that there would be no difficulty in producing in the country all the rice that is consumed here. Last year 136,990,720 pounds of domestic rice were marketed. In addition to this, 204,177,293 pounds were imported. The total represents a per capita consumption of about five pounds, which by comparison with the consumption in Asiatic countries is very small. Louisiana leads in rice production, although several other Southern states are considerable contributors of this grain. Professor Knapp thinks there are about 10,000,000 acres of land in the Gulf states well suited to rice culture. Irrigation is necessary, and wherever in these states it can be made readily available, rice-growing can be made profitable.

The Kansas City Journal says: "At Effingham, in Atchison county, the Rev. L. F. Mauzy recently preached a sermon against woman suffrage from which we extract this extraordinary bit of erudition: 'Take the word woman. Anglicize it, whom does it mean? It means wo-man, and transferred to Greek it is woe be man.' At the conclusion of the sermon an enthusiastic woman suffragist in the audience declared that the Bible said 'all men and women are created free and equal.' Parson Mauzy called the man down and said it was the Declaration of Independence, and not the Bible, that said this. The man returned to the charge and offered to bet a dollar that he could find it in the Bible. The preacher refused to bet, and the audience dispersed in full conviction that he had been licked."

Those who flatter themselves that the nineteenth century began its great development in the last few years, should remember that in 1825 the first application of steam to the transportation of passengers was had in England; that the first submarine cable under the Atlantic was laid in 1857, and that the greatest engineering work of modern centuries, the building of the Suez canal, was finished in 1869. With these great initiatory events on its roll, the nineteenth century can view with complacency and paternal pride, the progressive processes and improvements for which the twentieth century will claim such praise. The close of the nineteenth century has to its credit the utilization of electricity as a source of light and power, and the great combinations of financial and industrial energy. Both of these great movements are, however, in their youth of trial, and the twentieth century may see their greater ultimate development, or their growth and decay. Let us hope that the progression will be steadily forward, and that out of their great promise may come an old good for the great body of humanity.

CRONJE RETREATS.

The Boer Commander Moves Towards Bloemfontein.

London, by Cable.—The War Office has received the following from General Roberts:

"Jacobsdal, Feb. 17, 5:50 a. m.—Kelley-Kennedy captured Friday seventy-eight wagons with stores, two wagons with Mausers, eight boxes of shells, ten barrels of explosives and many stores belonging to Cronje's laager, which our artillery was still shelling when General Kitchener dispatched the messenger."

A dispatch to the Chronicle from Jacobsdal under Friday's date says: "After the sixth division evacuated Jacobsdal on Thursday in order to march north, the enemy re-occupied the place. The fifteenth brigade, including the London Imperial Volunteers, attacked and shelled the Boers. The men advanced steadily and in splendid order and drove the enemy over the ridges to the northward. The Volunteers, who had scouted to the right and left, showed veteran-like pluck and steadiness. The Staffordshires made a bayonet charge, but the enemy did not wait. The town was recaptured in three hours and mounted infantry is pursuing the Boers."

Negro Soldiers Riotous.

El Paso, Tex., Special.—Negro troops stationed at Fort Bliss Saturday made an assault on the county jail with the intention of rescuing two comrades who had been locked up there. Twenty or thirty shots were exchanged and a soldier and constable killed. The sheriff called out a posse to prevent the trouble from spreading, and several of the posse are looking for the soldiers who escaped. The city is in a state of great excitement over the affair. The soldiers are armed with Krag-Jorgenson rifles. Early Friday night officers Christy and Scott had to arrest a negro soldier for being drunk and disorderly. The soldier was placed in jail, and nothing more was thought of the arrest by the police until the attack, which occurred in the early hours Saturday morning.

Refuse to Rejoice.

London, by Cable.—The news from Western campaign in the Orange Free State continues to improve, yet England refuses to rejoice. The truth is the relief of Kimberley came in the nick of time to avert a scare which might have become a panic. Thursday night's debate in Parliament might well have disheartened the country. Men of both parties expressed views on the situation and outlook which were fairly appalling in their warnings of national peril.

The Plague at Manila.

Manila, by Cable.—Out of a total of 51 cases of suspected bubonic plague reported, 42 proved genuine and 32 deaths resulted, half of them being Chinaman. There were 12 cases during the week, mostly within the walled city, and a hundred inspectors, under the superintendence of a health officer, Major Edie, are enforcing the sanitary regulations. Thirty of the inspectors are Chinamen who were furnished by the Chinese merchants. The Health Department census shows the regulation of Manila is about 190,000 including 31,000 Chinese.

Killing at a Frolic.

Greenville, N. C., Special.—A murder was committed in Green county about twenty miles from here Friday night. A man named Harrell gave a party, and many people from the neighborhood were in attendance. Among the guests was a man named John Faulkner. He became involved in a dispute with another man whose name could not be learned, and as a result Faulkner was shot and killed. The murderer escaped. All the parties are white.

Joyful at News.

Cape Town, by Cable.—When the news of the relief of Kimberley reached here an immense crowd rushed to the government house, where they sang patriotic English songs and cheered enthusiastically. An attempt was made to get Governor Milner to make a speech, but he declined.

Molieux, in Sing Sing.

New York, Special.—Roland B. Molieux was sentenced to die in Sing Sing prison, during the week beginning March 26th, for the murder of Mrs. Katherine J. Adams, and was placed in the Sing Sing penitentiary Friday afternoon. He made a statement before sentence that he had not been fairly convicted and that "yellow journalism had put a price upon his head, inviting every blackmailer, perjurer and rogue." He entered a specific denial of the charges.

GOLD STANDARD FIXED.

The Senate Passes the Gold Financial Bill

Forty-fifth Day.—The final week's discussion of the pending financial bill was begun in the Senate. The speakers were two Republicans, Mr. Elkins, of West Virginia, and Mr. Wolcott, of Colorado, and one Populist, Mr. Butler, of North Carolina. Mr. Elkins advocated the passage of the pending Senate measure in a brief but forceful argument. Mr. Wolcott, chairman of the international bimetallic commission of 1897, spoke for many Republicans who adhere to bimetallicism, and his speech, earnest and eloquent, was accorded unusual attention. Mr. Butler advocated the adoption of his amendment providing for an issue of paper currency by the government.

A house bill for the preservation of the frigate Constitution was passed the measure providing that the ship should be restored as nearly as possible to its original condition.

A bill was also passed extending the powers and functions of the court of private land claims until June 30, 1902.

The financial bill was then called up, and Mr. Elkins addressed the Senate.

Forty-sixth Day.—The day was spent in a heated discussion of the financial bill. After a short session an adjournment was taken.

Forty-seventh Day.—Throughout its session the Senate had the financial bill under discussion. After 2 o'clock the debate proceeded under the 10 minute rule and at times became spirited and interesting.

Late in the afternoon a test vote, indicating approximately the majority on the passage of the bill was taken. Mr. Chandler, Rep., N. H., offered an amendment to authorize the President to appoint commissioners to any international bimetallic conference that might be called, and it was defeated by a vote of 45 to 25. The Chandler proposition out of the way the discussion proceeded on the amendment brought in by the finance committee, providing that the provisions of the bill are not intended to place any obstacles in the way of international bimetallicism. The Democratic Senators arraigned the Republicans for reporting the amendment declaring they were insincere, and that the proposition was intended to hoodwink the people and to catch votes.

No vote on the amendment was reached.

Forty-eighth Day.—The Senate substitute for the House currency bill was passed by the Senate by the decisive majority of 46 to 29. Prior to the final passage of the bill amendments were considered under the ten minute rule. Only two of these amendments were adopted, viz., one offered by the Finance Committee, keeping the door open to international bimetallicism and one Mr. Nelson, of Minnesota, providing for national banks with \$25,000 capital in towns of not more than four thousand dollars to shield four thousand inhabitants.

The bill as passed, consists of ten sections. It provides that the dollar of 25.8 grains of gold, 9 fine, shall be the standard unit of value and that all forms of United States money shall be maintained at a parity with it; and that the treasury notes and greenbacks shall be redeemable in gold.

The secretary of the treasury is to set apart a fund of \$50,000,000 in gold for the redemption of these notes and to maintain this fund at a figure not below \$100,000,000, he is empowered to sell bonds of the United States bearing interest at not exceeding three per cent.

It shall also be the duty of the secretary of the treasury as fast as standard silver dollars are coined to retire equal amounts of treasury notes and to issue silver certificates against the silver so coined. Under certain provisions, too, gold certificates shall be issued against the gold held in the treasury. No United States notes of treasury notes shall be issued in denominations of less than 10 dollars and no silver certificates in denomination or more than ten dollars.

HOUSE.

Forty-sixth Day.—The day's session of the House was short and devoid of public interest, routine business only being under consideration.

Forty-seventh Day.—The debate upon the legislative bill in the House strayed far from the bill, touching the question of government deposits in national banks, reckless expenditures for pensions, and finally drifting into the question of election methods in Missouri. Some very caustic things were said on both sides.

The reports in the contested election case of Aldrich vs. Robbins, from the Fourth Alabama district were submitted. The majority reported in favor of the sitting member.

Mr. Hemenway made a general explanation of the bill.

Mr. Payne, of New York, the floor leader of the majority, interrupted Mr. Hemenway to announce that in view of the failure to reach an agreement concerning the debate on the legislative bill he would call up the Porto Rican bill on Monday.

Speaking generally about the clerical force in the departments Mr. Hemenway provoked something of a storm by asserting that the departments were filled with incompetents who were kept in by political influences. He said whenever the head of a department proposed to discharge incompetents Congressmen and Senators bulldozed him into retaining them. He cited a case where 14 Senators insisted upon the retention of a man.

Mr. Moody, of Massachusetts insisted

ed that superannuated clerks must be removed. "Unless we can get rid of this dead wood," said he, "the public service will break down."

Forty-eighth Day.—The House completed 26 of the 12 pages of the legislative, executive and judiciary appropriation bill, without amendment. During the general debate which closed at 4 o'clock a variety of topics were touched upon. Mr. Boutwell (Ill.), Mr. Miers (Ind.), and Mr. Showalter (Pa.) discussed the Philippine question; Mr. Grosvenor (O.), and Mr. Gillette (Mass.), civil service reform; Mr. DeLoach (N. Y.), pensions; and Mr. Underwood (Ala.), his resolution to repeal the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution.

TAYLOR FILES PETITION.

He Wants to Restrain Beckham and Castleman.

Louisville, Ky., Special.—Suit was filed in the Circuit Court Wednesday by counsel for Governor Taylor, seeking to restrain J. C. W. Beckham from acting as Governor, and General John B. Castleman from attempting to discharge the duties of Adjutant General. Summons were served on the defendants this afternoon. The suit will be allotted to one of the Circuit Court judges by a drawing. This drawing may not be held for several days. When it is held, an application for a restraining order will be made. The suit is brought by Governor Taylor for himself individually, and as Governor of Kentucky. The petition asserts that Governor Taylor was elected to that office on November 10, 1899, and afterward received a certificate of election and qualified as Governor. The petition continues: "Since the time of his said qualification to the present time, the plaintiff has continuously been and is now performing the functions of the office, and is recognized as Governor by the other State officers. But the plaintiff says that the defendant, J. C. W. Beckham, is now and for some time has been claiming and pretending to be the Governor of Kentucky, and to have the right to perform the functions of said office, claiming that on the aforesaid November 7, 1899, one Wm. Goebel was elected Governor of the said State, and that he, the said Beckham, was then elected Lieutenant Governor, and that by reason of the subsequent death of said Goebel, he, the said Beckham, has become invested with the powers of Governor of said State. And he is now and for some time has been pretending to exercise the powers and performing the functions of the office of Governor aforesaid. He has been pretending to send messages as such Governor to the General Assembly of Kentucky, and has pretended to appoint the defendant, John B. Castleman, as Adjutant General of Kentucky, and to invest him with power and control over the military of said State, and the said defendant Castleman is now claiming and pretending to be such Adjutant General of the State."

Anti-Trust Conference.

Chicago, Special.—The committee on resolutions of the National Anti-Trust Conference, after a stormy meeting, finally agreed upon a report which will be submitted to the conference for adoption. The discussion was caused by a difference of opinion among the members as to the details of how the government should obtain control of the railroad, telegraph and telephone lines. A faction led by Tom L. Johnson, Louis Post and other single tax advocates, insisted that the value of franchise in assuming control should be ignored. They thought the government should take the property without paying compensation to the owners.

John P. Altgeld, George F. Williams, Governor Lee and ex-Attorney General Monett, of Ohio, were for government ownership of these utilities, but thought the cause would be injured by advocating practical confiscation at this time. Finally Mr. Altgeld suggested a compromise, which brought the warring factions together and prevented a fight later on the floor of the convention. The provision denying the value of the franchise right was stricken out, and an amendment substituted, declaring that the owners should receive just compensation for all property taken, irrespective of watered stock or other fictitious securities.

Injunction Refused.

Cincinnati, Ohio, Special.—Holding that the Federal courts had no jurisdiction of the situation in Kentucky Judge Taft Wednesday afternoon refused to grant the application for injunction against the Kentucky State board of elections and the Democratic contestants for State offices. Other than governor and lieutenant governor the case can go ultimately to the United States supreme court.

KIMBERLEY TAKEN.

At Last The Boers are Said to be in Retreat.

THE FORTUNES OF WAR TURNED.

General French, With a Force of Artillery, Cavalry and Mounted Infantry, Enters Kimberley and Dinies at the Club.

London, By Cable.—The War Office announces that General French reached Kimberley Thursday evening. Following is Lord Roberts' message to the War Office:

"Jacobsdal, Feb. 16, 2 a. m.—French with a force of artillery, cavalry and mounted infantry, reached Kimberley this evening, Thursday."

General Cronje, with a start of a day or two, is seriously in full retreat from Lord Roberts, moving northward. Gen. French, with the cavalry, simply stayed over night in Kimberley, and then pushed on to get in touch with the retreating enemy. A long Boer wagon train is moving toward Bloemfontein, followed presumably by a large force of British infantry. In their hasty departure the Boers lost quantities of supplies and ammunition. Military opinion here is that Lord Roberts will not push far after the Boers immediately, because of transport problems, and the need of rest for the troops. He has to feed 70,000 persons in his army, and the whole Kimberley population. He must rebuild the railroad from Modder River down to Kimberley and revictual the latter. General French lost a few men only in action, but the forced marches and heat have probably made many ill. Numbers of remounts must be provided. Lord Roberts has wrought a genuine preliminary success and the impression is that he has done enough for the present. He will need to prepare for another strike.

All over England there have been evidences of public joy. In every theatre and public meeting, around railroad stations and in the streets, there have been expressions of gladness and jubilation over the news. The newspapers are editorially rejoicing.

Those who read the news closely see only one disturbing factor in the Cape situation, and that is, the pressure of the Boers toward Lord Roberts' line of supply through DeAar, which was never more important than now. The Boers under Commandants Delarey and Grob penetrate to the railroad. They have pushed General Clements back to Arundel, and have outflanked him. All are within 60 miles, or two day hard march, of the central railroad. Doubtless Lord Roberts has left considerable forces along the line and can send back more if necessary.

The following dispatch from General Roberts fills the gaps in the earlier dispatches.

"Modder River, Feb. 15.—The Sixth Division left Waterfall drift, early yesterday morning, and marched here, going on the same evening to Rondevaal drift to hold the crossing of the Modder river, and leave General French free to act. Shortly after arriving here the mounted infantry visited Jacobsdal and found it full of women and children with some wounded men, doing well. On the way back, the mounted infantry were attacked and nine men were wounded. Colonel Henry and Major Hatchel and ten men were missing. Both officers were subsequently found at Jacobsdal, slightly wounded. The cavalry division is moving in a northerly direction and has apparently already reduced the pressure on Kimberley, as Sekewick signals the enemy has abandoned Alexandersfontein and that he has occupied it. French has advanced as far as Abonsdam with a slight loss and is pushing on the posts, his rear being held by mounted infantry. Clements, having been pressed by the Boers, has retired to Arundel to cover Naauwpoort."

The War Office points out that the word "here" in the above dispatch means some point on the Modder river other than the Modder river station.

Lumber Interests Pooled.

Norfolk, Va., Special.—It is said that the entire pine lumber interests of Virginia and North Carolina have been pooled. Dr. J. O. White, of Camden, N. J., is reported to have been promoter and to have consummated the deal at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, N. Y., Thursday.

Truce in Kentucky.

Frankfort, Ky., Special.—The agreement to postpone the Taylor-Beckham suit operates as a truce in the legal battle over the State offices and it is not probable that there will be any decisive changes in the situation till then unless the return of the Democratic legislature here next week, adds some unexpected feature. A party of the attorneys on both sides held a meeting Friday evening and made several plans for consolidating the various injunction cases in order to avoid a clash between the different State courts in which they are pending.