

State to Collect Valuable Figures.

New Act Provides for Something Long Needed.

For a long time South Carolina has been at a great disadvantage because of the fact that she has had no means of collecting facts and figures about her cotton mills, etc. The only statistics available since the great development of the textile industry began have been what the newspapers could collect and what could be given by means of the charter record. Henceforth, however, under a new act of the general assembly such information is to be officially obtained through the tax machinery of the State, and that it will be of great value goes without saying.

Looking to the carrying out of the provisions of this most important new act Comptroller General Derham yesterday issued the following circular letter to the auditors in the several counties in the State:

Dear Sir: As required in the act approved 19th day of February, 1901, of "An act to provide uniformity and equality in the assessment of property returnable for taxation by persons, firms or corporations engaged in textile industries, and canals providing power for rent or hire, and cotton seed oil companies and fertilizer companies," you will immediately, on the adjournment of your county board of equalization, send returns of all such companies in your county to this office, with a tabulated statement giving, in the case of cotton mills, the capital stock, number of looms, number of bands employed and amount of cotton consumed during the preceding year, and such other suggestions as you may deem proper. And in the case of cotton seed oil companies, their capital stock, amount of cotton seed consumed, etc., etc.

And in the case of fertilizer companies, give their capital stock, quantity and value of material used, and such other information relative thereto as will be useful to the State board of equalization.

Give me the name and address of the chairman of your county board of equalization, who is ex officio a member of the State board of equalization.—The State

HIS TITLES.

It was evident in his swagger that he was a scion of the British aristocracy and the most casual observer could not have failed to note that he was a stranger to the city. He touched a well dressed, suburban-haired young man who was loitering in front of a Broadway hotel on the shoulder.

"Pardon me, my dear man, but could I trouble you for a match?" After lighting his cigar, he continued: "By Jove, this is a remarkable city. This is my first visit to New York, d'ye know? I'm a ducal stranger, but on the other side I'm a person of importance. I am Sir Francis Duffy, Knight of the Garter, Knight of the Bath, Knight of the Double Eagle, Knight of the Golden Fleece, Knight of the Iron Cross. D'ye mind telling me your name and dear man?"

Replied he of the suburban hair, in a deep, rich brogue: "My name is Michael Murphy, night before last, night before that, last night, tonight and every damn night—Michael Murphy."

SELF-DISSECTED.

Toledo, O., March 24.—Mrs. G. Brunschneider, residing near the city limits, occupies a ward at St. Vincent's hospital and is in a serious condition as a result of horrible injuries self-inflicted.

About 5 o'clock last evening, armed with an ordinary pair of scissors, she cut off all toes of her left foot, both her ears close to the head and about an inch of her nose. She then cut out a portion of her right cheek, inflicted five gashes in the left cheek and finally began on her arms. Beginning at her left forearm she removed every vestige of skin laying bare the muscles. She also lacerated the right arm in a horrible manner. Nothing was known of the affair until her husband, who was absent during the night, returned home this morning and found her in bed in a semi-conscious condition. A surgeon was called at once and she was taken to St. Vincent's hospital. Her recovery is doubtful. The woman is about 59 years of age. It is thought she was temporarily insane on account of domestic troubles.

The Rev. John L. Sewall, pastor of the First Congregational church in North Brookfield, Mass., has announced to his parishioners that he will accept a reduction of 10 per cent of his salary of \$1,500 a year, inasmuch as many of the congregation are facing a 10 per cent reduction in their wages earned in the local shoe shop.

Reading the Columbia Record is a real meal—so much plate matter.—Greenville News.

Thank. Reading the News is asphyxiation—too much gas.—Columbia Record.

Cotton Growers Must Cut Acreage.

Farmers of South Carolina Asked to Organize.

The farmers of the southern States—those producing the cotton—are being asked by those whom they themselves have chosen to take the proper steps to curtail the acreage this year and prevent a starvation price for the crop now about to be planted. A short time ago the Southern States Cotton Growers' Protective association was formed by delegates from all the cotton growing States, and Harvie Jordan of Georgia was made president. At that time it was determined to do everything possible to reduce the acreage this spring in not only this but other cotton growing States.

A few days ago the planters of Verdery in this State forwarded to Mr. Jordan the following:

"We, the farmers of Verdery and surrounding vicinity, realizing the necessity of reducing the acreage in the present cotton crop now being prepared and soon to be planted, not only to secure prices at a living rate, but to force prices on the same basis of last fall for the cotton now on hand, and seeing no way by which this can be accomplished but to ask all the cotton growers to cooperate with us and reduce the acreage one third, we address you. If all the farmers who raise cotton to any extent will reduce their crop one third, and will show their willingness to cooperate in the measure, we shall see cotton (spots) advance within 60 days and we shall realize 8 cents for the crop now soon to be planted. Without this we cannot hope for more than 5 or 6 cents this fall."

"With these gloomy features staring us in the face, we earnestly solicit cooperation in the cotton States. Now we ask the president of the Cotton association to call a meeting not later than the first Monday of April, to see what can be done."

"Now should the farmers feel an interest in this step, or any other that is calculated to advance the price of cotton and keep it up we heartily concur with them. The outlook just now indicates that cotton will go down to a price that the labor working for half will abandon their crops and we shall fail to get it gathered."

"These things are not impossibilities and now is the time to provide against them."

"This is respectfully submitted to the farmers for their consideration."

President Jordan has in the last few days written Mr. Wilborn, who is president of the association in this State urging him to issue a call and saying "I shall issue a call in all the counties of this State (Georgia), and ask that the same be done in all of the other States through the different presidents of our State organizations. If something is not done to check the downward tendency of the market, the cotton producers will be almost financially ruined next fall. No man can pay the present high prices of guano mules and supplies and sell his cotton at 6 cents and meet his obligations. The future work of our associations will avail nothing if an enormous acreage is planted. The farmers will fix the price of the staple during the next 30 days."

President Wilborn of the South Carolina association has consequently issued the following call for the cotton growers to meet in each county in this State and take up the matter: To the Cotton Growers of South Carolina:

At the earnest request of Hon. Harvie Jordan of Georgia, president of the Southern Cotton Growers' Protective association, and prominent farmers in this State, I issue this call for the farmers of our State to meet at their respective court houses on the first Saturday in April to consider the advisability of reducing the acreage for the present year, and also to discuss ways and means for protecting the price of our staple from present manipulations. If the cotton acreage of the south be increased, the price of cotton will go down to 6 cents next fall, which will result in the greatest financial calamity that has befallen the southern farmer in years. Now is the time for action, because the price of the staple next season will be fixed according to the acreage planted this spring.

Let every cotton farmer in this State attend these county meetings on the first Saturday in April, and determine to protect their property from utter annihilation.

J. C. Wilborn, Pres. S. C. Cotton Growers' Pro. Ass'n. It may be mentioned here that the Southern association is to hold a general convention in Atlanta on Aug. 31, next, for the purpose of reaching a decision as to the best methods for the handling and marketing of the crop now being planted.

"It is beginning to be believed by a good many experienced lawyers and statesmen," says The San Francisco Chronicle, "that the Supreme Court will find a way to dispose of the group of insular cases known as the 'Porto Rico cases' without deciding the ex proprio vigore point at all. There is no doubt that it will do so if it can. The Supreme Court never decides a constitutional point that affects a political situation until positively compelled to."—Charleston News and Courier.

CHINA ASKS FOR AID.

Russia Seizes Territory Unopposed.

London, March 25.—The Chinese minister called at the foreign office today and urged the British government to bring pressure to bear in order to prevent Russia from securing the necessary signatures to the Manchurian agreement. The foreign office is still in the dark tonight as to whether the agreement will be signed or allowed to lapse when the time expires, March 26. The officials of the Japanese legation are inclined to believe Russia will succeed in getting the necessary signatures.

The Chinese appeals for support have failed to produce any direct remonstrances from Great Britain or apparently from any other power to St. Petersburg, for Russia persistently adheres to her contention that the secret agreements concern no one except herself and China.

Mr. Matsui, first secretary of the Japanese legation, today made a statement of the issues involved. He said: "Russia's insistence, China's helplessness and the probable victory of Russian diplomacy tomorrow will bring us to the brink of a dangerous situation in which none of the powers is so deeply concerned as Japan. Even if the secret treaties have been modified, as is alleged, the changes are so trifling as to make the documents thoroughly objectionable to Japan."

"Assuming that China signs the treaties I suppose Great Britain Germany and the United States will protest to Russia. But that is about as far as they will go and about as much as they will get. With Japan it is a matter of fighting."

"The question is whether we are to fight Russia now or to fight her later on. She has no right to Manchuria and if she secures Manchuria she will be on the way to securing Korea."

"Our government, I believe, are seriously considering the crisis. Their eyes are wide open and they will not be driven to participate action by the jingoists of Japan, who are openly clamoring for immediate war. Yet, if they see that war is unavoidable they will not hesitate to strike."

TRAIN BLOWN OFF THE TRACK.

Columbus, Ga., March 25.—A mixed train was blown off the Central of Georgia Railroad tracks one mile east of Buena Vista, 37 miles from Columbus late this afternoon. The train consisted of an engine and tender, baggage car, two coaches and 12 freight cars and was going 15 miles an hour when struck by the wind. The engine was lifted from the track, the tender was turned over, the baggage car, two coaches and three freight cars were thrown on their sides. The rest of the train, however, remained on the track. No one was killed.

Japanese Squadron Off for Korea.

London, March 25.—"A Japanese squadron, Admiral Tsubiwa commanding, left Nagasaki Saturday for Korea," says the Yokohama correspondent of the Daily Mail. "The general opinion here is that the situation is serious. Urgent instructions have been issued by the minister of war, Gen. Viscount Katsura, to the commanders of forts to attend a conference in Tokio to consider questions of home defense."

"The war rumors are causing a fall in prices on the various bourses. The feeling of the country is uneasy and intensely anti-Russian but the cabinet shows no indication of its policy."

The Columbia State recently said: "The town of Greenville is a queer sort of place. Her chief of police arrests gamblers in the act and her mayor imposes fines. Rather unusual, isn't it?" This town is peculiar in other respects. The police under instructions from the mayor have cleaned out an entire district of dissolute women, who not only treated the premises occupied by them, but went outside of the corporate limits to stay. And now the police are working upon fire bugs.—Greenville Mountaineer.

Senator Tillman entertained Senator Redfield Proctor of Vermont at his Trenton home last week. While together the two senators, one democrat the other republican, should have made arrangements for a monument over the political grave of the former's confederate, Senator McLaurin, for old man Proctor owns and controls practically all the tombstone marble in the United States. We suggest as the design for the monument McLaurin charging upon a fleeing Filipino with fixed bayonet white Tillman stands guard with a broken pitchfork.—Newberry Observer.

St. Petersburg, March 23.—Privy Councillor Pobiedonostzeff, chief pro-curator of the Holy Synod, narrowly escaped assassination early Friday morning. While writing in his study shortly after midnight, two bullets shattered a window and passed close to the procurator and buried themselves in the ceiling. Two other shots were fired but did not enter the room. The would-be assassin was identified as one Lagowski, a provincial official.

MRS. GEORGE McCOWN KILLED—OTHER PERSONS INJURED.

Special to The Daily Item. Darlington, March 26.—A terrific tornado swept across the country two miles north of this place yesterday afternoon about 5:30 o'clock. A great deal of damage was done, houses and fences being blown away. The residence of Mr. George McCOWN was blown down. Mrs. McCOWN was killed and Mr. McCOWN and one of his granddaughters seriously injured. On a neighboring place a negro was killed.

In the multitude of acts of that general "assembly that never breaks up" for forty days and nights, and the statutes "that have no end," is there any statute now of force and virtue regarding our road work, or has Sumter county been excepted from its operation? If any statute applies is there any official or officials whose duty it is to enforce such law and who is or are drawing pay for the performance? If this duty is being neglected is there not some higher power to which the negligent official or officials is or are amenable? If this delinquency comes within the purview of the grand jury's prerogatives, surely that honorable body don't need to inquire into or to have the condition of the roads specially reported, unless they are all asleep while going to the Court House or depots, and if so be they can sleep while traveling over our present roads—well, they'll never wake any more, and we might as well draw on the treasury and employ an undertaker to undertake them and have a grand funeral of the grand jury. Then there is the County Board of Commissioners and a supervisor, and if this weather, and the roads, continue to get worse much longer, they'll not be able to gather around the green table, in the probate office, to pass any more accounts until they are ready to pass in their own cheeks.

The topography and alluvium of our county is such that there is not one excuse for our not having as fine highways as any in the world, and surely the cheapest. The proper constituents already exist in the soil, sand, clay and gravel, and the proportions sufficiently proximate to build roads almost anywhere without any tools, implements or appliances other than pick and shovel, with an axe or two.

The grand jury, we know, can but present their report to the court and receive instructions therefrom.

Now, therefore, we do respectfully make this our presentation to the Honorable the Grandjury of Sumter county as follows, viz:

1st. That the subject populace have not been summoned, warned or ordered to do any road work for the past three years.

2d. That the roads are in most execrable condition, and even where they have been raised, graded and drained by the chain gang and road machine, only a short time since they are already eaten in holes and cut into ruts by the murderously destructive hatchet edge tires used for hauling. That these holes are growing longer, larger and deeper with every wet spell, and that no move whatever is being made by any one so ever to keep these or any other portion of roads in any sort of repair.

3d. That the farm plows are using the highways as "turn rows" where the rows are at right or other angles to the road, and that where they run parallel they, in many places, infringe upon the right of way permitted and enjoined by statute. That where these plows turn in the roads they are carelessly, negligently and with malice aforethought permitted to gouge into the side track, and to throw slods of earth upon the same to the great detriment thereto and to the comfort, patience, fervent piety, and Godliness of drivers, pedestrians, predestinationists and peddlars (and especially the last, who are rapidly sinking into a chronic state of backsliding). Also that these same plows, also disc and other harrows and farm implements are often dragged along the highways, adding to the injury of same and harrowing the feelings of above mentioned travelers.

4th. We present the telephone poles as also, in many places, transgressing upon the right of road, without cause, excuse or justification. Moreover, we respectfully present to your honorable body that the present condition of our county roads are a crying disgrace, a menace in some places, and upon the whole a heavy reflection upon the pride, push, energy and spirit of enterprise and progress which we should possess, and which is being manipulated in a most practical manner by some of our more progressive and neighboring counties.

In conclusion we would respectfully suggest that you do make particular inquiry as to who is or who are responsible for the condition and recreant to his or their duty, report them, or him to the court and have him or them make answer and show cause why he or they should not receive the condemnation meted out to delinquent and truant officials.

Respectfully submitted, G. W. "Wee Wee Villa," March 25, 1901.

A remarkable case of rapid growth has occurred in the town of Isip, L. I., where a young man aged 18 years confined to bed with fever grew four inches in six weeks, and at last accounts was still elongating.

The Darlington Storm.

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The trial was held the next day, and the future senator made a brilliant speech to the jury. He exhibited the Bible and pointed to the inscription, "To My Darling Boy, From Mother."

"We are professional safe blowers and have been for five years. This Bible has a double cover and opens like this" (here the self confessed criminal pressed a hidden spring in the thick cover and disclosed a hollow in which there lay two steel files and a small saw), "and this old drawer has a secret bottom, where we keep our tools."

The future senator confiscated the Bible and the drawer.

"One of the thieves shouted angrily, 'We'll get those things back yet, you mark my words!'"

Several years passed, and then the incident was brought back to Mr. Spooner's recollection in the following manner: One evening he and his family attended an entertainment, and no one was left at the house. When they returned at a late hour, they found that the house had been entered by burglars and ransacked, but that nothing apparently was missing. The next day's mail brought a letter which read:

Dear Sir—Please excuse the way we came to last night, but the door was locked. We never did think you treated us square by swiping our cuffs, and so we came back after it and found you were not at home. We always keep our word. Yours truly, JACK AND JIM. —Saturday Evening Post.

FROM THE WIRES.

Tien Tsin, March 24.—The Rev. Stonehouse of the London missionary society has been murdered by brigands 14 miles east of Tien Tsin.

Cape Town, March 24.—The bubonic plague continues to spread here. There is an average of six fresh cases officially reported daily. Most of the victims are colored persons.

Madrid, March 24.—Dispatches from Lisbon say that a cabinet council has closed the chapel of the sisters and withdrawn the sanction of the statutes from the assertions of Mozambique missionaries and that the Church of St. Francis and St. Paul has become state property and a Jesuit house has been closed.

Berlin, March 24.—A dispatch to The Lokal Anzeiger from Stuttgart announces that Baron Schott von Shotenstein, the Wurtemberg premier, whose sudden withdrawal from the cabinet owing to his being implicated in a pending trial, created sensation, has committed suicide at U m.

Mrs. Nation is now editing a paper called "The Smasher's Mail." Her publisher is Nick Chiles, colored, formerly of Greenville, S. C. We remember him as a very prompt, reliable, and courteous newsboy.—Christian Advocate.

The passing of Gen. Harrison removes from earth the most ultra American president the country has had since Lincoln. The sturdy stock of old Tippecanoe was so firmly engraved in his nature that no set of his would admit of the word imperialism in connection with it, even in jest.—Anderson Bulletin (Ind.).

Reflection of a Bachelor.

A really good girl is the last one of them all to be shocked. About all a man gets in this life are the things he doesn't want and the things he takes.

The best way for a man not to have any big failings is for him to have a lot of little ones. There is something fundamentally wrong with a woman who has no use for a man that smokes.

The bigger the place a man has in a woman's heart the less able he is to turn around in it.

A woman has the advantage over a man; when she laughs when she ought to have cried when she can always claim it was hysterics.—New York Press.

TEACHING A YOUNG LARK.

How Its Mother Coaches It to Hop About and Fly. J. M. Barrie, the noted Scottish story writer, in Scribner's Magazine told how a young lark got its first lesson. A baby lark had got out of its nest sideways, a fall of a foot only, but a dreadful drop for a baby.

"You can get back this way," its mother said, and showed it the way. But when the baby tried to leap it fell on its back. Then the mother marked out lines on the ground on which it was to practice hopping, and it got along beautifully so long as the mother was there every moment to say, "How wonderfully you hop!"

"Now teach me to hop up," said the little lark, meaning that it wanted to fly, and the mother tried to do it in vain. She could soar up, up, very bravely, but she could not explain how she did it.

"Wait till the sun comes out after the rain," she said, half remembering. "What is sun? What is rain?" the little bird asked. "If you cannot teach me to fly, teach me to sing."

"When the sun comes out after rain," the mother replied, "then you will know how to sing."

The rain came and glued the little bird's wings together. "I shall never be able to fly or sing," it wailed. Then of a sudden it began to blink its eyes, for a glorious light had spread over the world, catching every leaf and twig and blade of grass in tears and putting a smile in every tear. The baby bird's breast swelled, it did not know why; it fluttered from the ground, it did not know why. "The sun has come out after the rain!" it trilled. "Thank you, sun! Thank you! Thank you! Oh, mother, did you hear me? I can sing."

THE BURGLAR'S BIBLE.

He Said That He Would Get It Back Again, and He Did. Senator John C. Spooner of Wisconsin when a young man was attorney for two men charged with stealing. There had been taken from the men a well worn Bible and a small drawer. On the fly leaf of the Bible was the inscription, "To My Darling Boy, From Mother."

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THE BARGAIN CRAZE.

Men, It Is Alleged, Are as Much Infected as the Women. "This perennial joke about the love of women for bargains wearies me," said a bright business woman the other day. "With most presumptuous superiority men charge our sex with an extravagant zeal for bargains, but I see enough of business men to assure me that they are just as eager as women are to get an article at a few cents less than the usual price."

"Mr. A— is generally extravagant in his personal expenditures, but he is keen after bargains. The other day he came into our office wearing an air of great satisfaction, and his jubilation had no other foundation than the discovery of a street stand where 'seconds' in lead pencils were sold at 2 cents each."

"If you know a good pencil when you see it," he explained, "you can rummage in the pile and pick out 5 and 10 cent pencils at 2 cents each or three for 5."

"And that reminds me of another bargain. You know the 10 cent cigars I smoke? Well, there is a little shop down near the ferry where you can get them four for a quarter. I just heard of the place and ran down there at lunchtime and filled my pockets. Great bargain."

"And would you believe it, that man, whose transactions run into the millions, went on telling my employer of bargains in clothes, stationery, etc., and Mr. B— stopped in the midst of his estimates on a big contract to note addresses and to tell Mr. A— of bargains he had discovered in neckwear and shoes and household supplies."

"Yet women are said to monopolize the bargain hunting disease."—New York Press.

A Good Memory.

A bad memory in most cases might be more properly described as one rusting from sheer want of use. The fact is our brain cells are always "ready to oblige," but we do not give them sufficient encouragement in their well meant efforts. Naturally the individual may cultivate a memory for certain details more readily than for others, but the general basis of all recollective acts is the same, and there is no department of human mental activity in which the motto that "practice makes perfect" holds more truly than in the science of mnemonics. The view may be expressed, indeed, that we never forget anything presented to our brain cells. When we say we have forgotten, we really mean that we cannot find the mental photographic negative whence we can print off a positive reproduction.—London Chronicle.

From an Author's Notebook. The following is an extract from the diary of an impecunious author: "Rose at 5 and had a sonnet and a glass of cold water for breakfast. I retired early in the evening without supper, as I feared the neighbors would be annoyed by the rattling of the knives and forks."—Atlanta Constitution.

A Blind Sale.

An exchange tells of a novel plan adopted by an English hostess to secure funds for a charity in which she was interested. She gave a dance, introducing in the cotillon an auction figure. In this the favors were for sale. A table was spread with them, from which selections were made. After the choice the purchaser found the price affixed on the reverse side. This might be a penny or a pound, the limit of cost, and was set without any regard to the apparent value of the article to which it was attached. The most trifling article perhaps had the topmost mark, and vice versa, making choice so far as price was concerned pure chance.

Why He Grewled.

Hoax—I saw you at the theater last night. You were in the dog seat.

Hoax—Sir, what do you mean?

Hoax—Weren't you sitting in K-9?

—Philadelphia Record.