

# Watauga Democrat.

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## PROFESSIONAL.

W. B. COUNCILL, JR.  
ATTORNEY AT LAW.  
Boone, N. C.

W. B. COUNCILL, M. D.  
Boone, N. C.

Resident Physician. Office  
on King Street north of Post  
Office.

E. F. LOVILL  
ATTORNEY AT LAW,  
Boone N. C.

DR. L. C. REEVES.  
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON  
Office at Residence.  
Boone, N. C.

L. D. LOWE,  
Attorney at Law

NOTARY PUBLIC,  
BANNER'S ELK, N. C.

J. Q. WILBAR,  
DENTIST,  
ELK PARK, NORTH CAROLINA.

Offers his professional services  
to the people of Mitchell,  
Watauga and adjoining coun-  
ties. *No fee material used  
and all work guaranteed.*  
May 11 y.

J. F. Morphew. E. S. Blackburn  
Marion, N. C. Jefferson, N. C.  
MORPHEW & BLACKBURN  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW.

Will practice in the courts  
of Ashe, Watauga and Mitch-  
ell counties, also in the Fed-  
eral courts of the Dist. and  
Supreme Court of the State.  
*Collection of claims solicited.*  
April, 10.

## Notice.

For sale, 900 acres of land,  
on Rich Mountain, Watauga  
County, on which is asbestos,  
and fine land for sheep ranch.  
Selling private. L. D. Lowe &  
J. T. Ferguson, Ex'rs. of  
Mrs. A. P. Calloway, decd.  
Banner Elk, Nov. 15 '90.

## Money to loan.

Persons wishing to bor-  
row money, who can secure  
it by mortgage on good real  
estate, can be accommodated  
by applying to  
J. F. Speinhour, Boone N. C.  
or A. J. Critcher, Horton N. C.  
4-24.

## NOTICE.

Parties putting papers in  
my hand for execution will  
please *advance the fees* with  
the papers and they will re-  
ceive prompt attention, other-  
wise they will be returned  
*not executed* for the want of  
fees. D. F. BAIRD SHEFF.

## MILLINERY.

I would like to say to my friends  
in Watauga and surrounding  
counties, that I have now on hand  
and am receiving every week, a  
nice line of

SPRING AND SUMMER  
MILLINERY AND NOTIONS

When you come to Lenoir, I  
would be pleased for you to call  
and see me. I solicit your cus-  
tom. Orders filled promptly by  
mail. Most Resp.

MRS. M. N. HORTON.  
Lenoir, N. C., May 21.

## WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent

Once in a while you will find an honest and conscientious republican who does not believe that the financial policy of the administration is dictated from Wall Street. Well, perhaps it isn't, but appearances certainly give one that impression. For instance: Secretary Foster sends out a circular letter notifying the holders of the 4 1/2 per cent bonds that will mature next September that they may be extended at 1 or 1 1/2 percent interest. As soon as that letter is made public he goes to New York, where for four days he was a guest of one of the Wall Street money kings, and now, he thinks that it will only be justice to the banks which already own about half of the \$60,000,000 of these bonds and which will take all that are surrendered by other parties, to make the interest 2 per cent, which was the figure mentioned by the Wall Street men. Doesn't that look suspicious?

By the way, Secretary Foster is inclined to indulge in self-glorification over the fact that he can sell a government bond bearing as low rate of interest as 2 per cent. He does not tell that these bonds are absolutely necessary to the banks which propose to take them to be used as security for their circulation. His talk in this respect has been on a par with his trying to make the public believe that the Treasury was not cramped for ready cash, and then following up his boasts with a call for \$3,000,000 from the banks in which government funds are deposited.

Secretary Noble will find when he returns to duty, which will probably be this week, a very much mixed up condition of affairs in his department. Assistant Secretary Bussey has white-washed a crooked chief of a division in the Pension Office, and Assistant Secretary Chandler is gathering facts to prove Bussey's favoritism and the crookedness of the aforesaid chief, and it may end in one or the other of the Assistant Secretaries having to go. Chandler is an honest, straightforward sort of a fellow, who believes that crookedness ought to be punished no matter who are the friends of the crook; it was he who endorsed the papers in the case of young Raum "Immediate dismissal," and he only agreed to let the disposition of the case made by Bussey stand, when told that such were the orders of Secretary Noble.

Another trouble for Mr. Noble will be to assist Mr. Harrison in finding another victim to take Raum's place at the head of the Pension Office, as it seems to be conceded on all sides that the head of Raum will soon find its way into the basket. Somebody has kept a record of the time Commissioner Raum has been absent since

he became the head of the Pension bureau, and it shows that during the nineteen months he has been in office he has been absent 240 days, or nearly half the time. He has simply used the office as a tender to his private business schemes, and it is not surprising that with such an example before him young Raum should have gone into the business of selling appointments to office and promotions.

The republican leaders are badly frightened at the prospect of having the Knights of Labor solidly opposed to the republican ticket in Ohio this year. It is said that the Knights of Labor through its Executive Board, which is making a fight for the removal of Capt. Meredith, chief of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, has given Mr. Harrison its ultimatum, and it is that Meredith must be removed or every Knight of Labor in the State of Ohio will vote against the republicans at the coming gubernatorial election. Secretary Foster, who is an adept in the art of bamboozling is relied upon by Mr. Harrison to help him out of the scrape in some way, but he will find it very difficult.

The talk about immigration which republicans, particularly those connected with, or hoping to be connected with the administration, are now indulging in is all for a purpose. There was very little improvement made in our hodge-podge immigration laws by the Billion dollar Congress; but it provided for a Commissioner of Immigration at \$4000 a year, which Ex-Congressman Owen, of Indiana has fallen into, and for sending a commission to Europe on a delightful summer tour for the avowed purpose of investigating the subject. Ex-Congressman Grosvenor of Ohio, who recently insulted the foreign born citizens of Wisconsin in a newspaper interview and then added cowardice to indiscretion by denying the interview, which he openly boasted of here, is a member of this commission.

## Better Times.

It needs no argument to prove that this means better times for the farmer. A bushel of wheat will buy twice as much sugar, a third more tea and coffee, a fourth more cotton goods, woollens and dress materials than it would a year ago. The same is true of rye, corn, barley, potatoes and truck. Tobacco and cotton also will command good prices in market at the close of the year, while the demand will be equal to the peanut, rice, sugar and fruit crops of the South. The necessities of life have not greatly changed in price, except food products, and the farmer will be enabled to purchase what he consumes at the old figures, while his income will be measurably increased.—New York Herald.

Solo, N. C.,  
June 10, 1891.

## Editor Democrat:

Some time since there appeared in your paper a communication from Moretz Mills signed 'E' relative to the proposed compulsory school law. I was pleased to hear the other side of the question, as we had had an article or two in favor of such a law; but I must confess to a sad disappointment after reading said article. That considerable argument can be produced against a compulsory school law, there seems no doubt, but 'E' in the communication above referred to signally fails to produce any reasonable grounds why such a law should not be enacted. True, he conjures up some imaginary reasons and urges them against such a law. If the conditions and reasons he supposes should really exist, then 'E' has a plain case in his favor; but has any one, or does any one suppose a sane set of law-makers would enact a law that would require impossibilities of the people?

The compulsory school law that I would favor would not be a complicated and mixed up law that the people could not understand, nor would I favor a law that would make it an indictable offense to not send children to school. But I favor a law modeled somewhat after the road law. Or something like this: Let the school register be evidence of the attendance and non-attendance of the scholars in a district, and then the school committee should be required to hold a meeting at which all who failed to comply with the requirements of law, in not having their children in school, should be allowed to give their reasons for failing to comply with the law. If the reasons seem to be sufficient in the minds of the majority of the committee, further action will be unnecessary, but if insufficient, then it should be their duty to report said delinquent to some justice of the peace, who shall issue his judgment against the delinquent, and such judgment should be made collectable as taxes.

Now we think that even 'E' can see that where there were barriers to prohibit the attendance of children upon the schools, there would be neither trouble nor expense. But we would certainly have a much better attendance at our schools, and consequently a better educated people.

'E', after stating his wide experience in teaching, observes that in the States of his operation he has observed this "phenomena" of the small attendance upon the free schools. In my experience in school work, which does not cover so much ground, scarcely taking in two states; I did not observe this as a phenomena, or in any wise phenomenal (if I may be allowed to use that word in regard to human affairs.) On the contrary, I learned to look for this state of affairs with more certainty of its fulfillment than any other

part of the school work.

Now, in writing the foregoing, I disclaim a fixed determination to hold to the belief here set forth, but on the contrary I am open to conviction and hope to hear the views of all who are opposed to, as well as all who favor a compulsory school law.

I waited long, hoping some abler pen would answer 'E', and thus draw out the people pro and con, in this "off" year, for when a political campaign is on, people will not reason. But one thing is certain, N. C. should do something to relieve her of the blasting stigma of being one among the first states in illiteracy. Those opposed to the compulsory law must give some other plan. I know from experience that the plan proposed by 'E' will not meet the requirements of the people. I think most of teachers do their duty in that respect, 'E' included.

## WEBSTER'S BLUE BACK.

## Telephones and Post Offices.

Judge Walter A. Clarke has a very interesting letter in the News and Observer, on the government ownership of telephones for the use of the postal service. We give below an extract from his letter.

"Telephones, if established by the government, as suggested, at every country post office would be useful in many ways. News of danger to crops from approaching frosts could be promptly sent, would save many useless trips over bad roads for freights by telephoning to the nearest railroad station it could be learned had not arrived. In cases of illness a physician could be promptly summoned. Witnesses in the courts could be notified when to come and be saved many days of useless attendance at the county court house. The expense of establishing such a system would be small, for posts and wire are very cheap. Not a single employee would be added to the government, as every one who can talk can use a telephone. If established by government a telephone rate of 2 cents could be adopted and pay a profit. There would be no decrease in mail matter. By adopting a "nickle-in-the-slot" device the post masters would easily keep the account of messages sent.

This matter is suggested because it is in the interest of the people that it be looked after before some corporation takes it up who will establish high rates and be interested in preventing legislation of this kind. This has already been done as to telegraphs. The transmission of messages by telegraph is as much a governmental function as sundry letters by railroad and no private company should have been allowed to take charge of it. Yet it was allowed and has been found so profitable that no Congress has yet been elected that would assert the government's right and duty to furnish telegraphic facilities to the people.

## THE THUNDER STORM.

By Willie S. Miller.

For The Democrat.

The black volume appearing above the horizon is approaching. It is riven assunder at almost every minute by streams of fiery fluid and deep groans issue from them. Yonder a streak of zigzag lightning rent the cloud and and now—*Horrible dictu*, the terrible shock of atmospheric compression has bursted loose the sound waves. Now the dark electric cloud has obscured the sky, and drops of rain are plashing upon the ground. Yonder! look! the giant oak that has braved the tempests of centuries and withstood the fury of the north winds, is shivered and splintered from top to bottom, and the fragments are strewn upon the ground by the lightning. And from the same place comes a peal of loudest thunder.

Crash! crash! goes the voice of the elements, while the rain descends in torrents that are dashed furiously about, with a roar strongly blended with the thunder's crashing.

It is now an hour since the storm burst. Its loud reverberations are growing faint as the cloud passes. At last we see a rent in the clouds, and through it we see the deep blue sky. The storm is over and the glorious sunshine is kissing away the rain drops from the flowers and grass, and drying vegetation and earth. The birds at once pour out melodies of praise to the All-wise Creator who "Hears the ravens when they cry." Filled with their inspiring rapture, the orchards seem more than delighted as we walk about them. We saunter along, gazing first at Nature's beauties, then up on the distant storm-cloud, which but a short time before had flashed its frightful fires above our heads and thundered with the voice of heaven. The contrast is so striking and so significant! We are now filled with joy, and feel that no harm can befall us; we were then in dread lest we should instantly be destroyed by a stray thunderbolt. But it is pleasant to realize that God does not forget his people, even when their enemies seek to take them by storm and flash their darts of fiery indignation and roar the heights of their rage, nor does He forget to take care of them when the elements are stormy. We are joining our praises to God with those of more thankful inhabitants of earth. We know from the terrible manifestations, this evening, of his power that He has not forsaken us.

The Alleghany Star says: that Mr. Alex. Young, one of our prominent citizens was bitten by a spider about two weeks ago, and has been so seriously ill from the effects that the doctors in attendance gave up the case. Nature did more than medical skill, and for the last two days he has been improving.

We have a new Dr. who seems to be a character in the way of treating his patients. Uses only roots and liquor and of course he will gain favor.