Scraps and Facts.

— The Panama canal will be in condition to pass vessels all the way across the isthmus within the next seventy days, it was learned in Washington last Saturday, unless unexpected obstacles are encountered. This is the judgment of a high canal official who declines to fix the date more definitely. The only remaining obstacles to prevent the passage of vessels now are the Cuyaracha slide, which clocks the cut at Culebra, and the other small slides in the same locality. Dredging is progressing on these slides. In view of the uncertain conditions surrounding the work it has been deemed impolitic to attempt to fix a definite date for the opening. Even after a passage is possible, several months must be spent in training the operating force before the waterway is opened to commerce.

— Treasury officials last Saturday night expressed the belief that the Underwood-Simmons tariff act will produce several millions more revenue annually than had been estimated by tariff experts. The treasury expected revenues to fall off about $45,000,000 a year, but reports for the first two months have led to the belief that this estimate is excessive. Officials predicted the falling off would not amount to more than $36,000,000 a year, which would give the government $9,000,000 more than was counted upon for 1914. Customs revenue fell off more than $4,000,000 during November, but for December, figures just out show the decrease under December 1912 was only about $2,700,000. The net balance in the treasury general fund December 31, was $11,854,317 and the grand total of assets in the treasury $2,038,864,977.

— The possees that have been searching the Utah-Apex mine at Bingham, Utah, for Ralph Lopez, gave up their work last Saturday night as hopeless. After killing two deputies in an underground battle on November 29, making six in all he had killed within eight days, Lopez called to his pursuers that six men would have to sacrifice their lives if they expected to capture him. No more men were killed, but that he had escaped was conceded by his pursuers. Sheriff Smith declared that his sudden determination to abandon the search was reached only after he was satisfied that the desperado either had escaped or had been crushed to death beneath some cave-in, which would prevent his body being found. However, many miners planned to begin a search on their own account tomorrow, hoping that Lopez's body was overlooked. A reward of $1,000 was offered for his capture or the recovery of his body.

— Political conditions in Portugal are regarded by many observers as very chaotic. No man has yet been found who can bring the discordant elements together, and the very worst is prophesied in some quarters for the republic. The recent latest attempt to start a revolution was, however, of the comic opera variety. The authorities are said to have been afraid to bring the fleet to Lisbon, fearing that the navy would turn against the government, and the army has been kept on the move for the same reason. The only thing that prevents the government from being overthrown is that the revolutionists are as badly off for a leader as are those in power. All this gives credence to the repeated reports that the British and German governments are in very earnest negotiations in regard to the Portuguese colonies in Africa. There has long been an understanding as to the division of these colonies when the expected breakup of Portugal comes. Some have even gone so far as to express the opinion that three German ships now visiting the West Coast of Africa are there to take over some of the colonies at an opportune moment. As to what is to become of Portugal itself no one can be found to express an opinion, but it has been suggested that the country might come under the protection of Spain with the support of the powers.

— Washington, Jan. 5: Announcement from London today that Great Britain is about to transfer Sir Lionel Carden, its minister at City of Mexico, was regarded by official Washington as a substantial manifestation of the purpose of the British government to remove every obstruction to the execution of President Wilson's plans for dealing with the Mexican situation. At the state department it was denied that the United States had made any protest to the British foreign office against acts or utterances ascribed to Minister Carden. From other sources, though, it was learned that Ambassador Page did seek information at the British foreign office some time ago regarding the attitude of its representative in Mexico. About the time this occurred a semi-official statement was issued in London repudiating a statement attributed to Sir Lionel that President Wilson's policy towards Mexico would not have been adopted had he not been in ignorance of the facts. Officials here believe the transfer of the British minister will impress the Huerta government with the fact that there is no division among the powers from which it might expect to profit. A cablegram from Rear Admiral Fletcher today, dated Saturday, said it was feared another attack was to be made upon Tampico. In anticipation of trouble the German cruiser Bremen had gone there from Vera Cruz.

— Financial circles throughout the country and especially in New York, were much interested last Friday by the announcement of the great banking house of J. P. Morgan & Co., that the men making up that firm of financiers, had withdrawn from the directorates of about thirty corporations, including railroads, trust companies, industrials corporations, etc., and that other withdrawals were under consideration and would be announced later. The Morgan firm for many years has been the dominant figure in American finance and through its various officers acting as directors, controlled a large per cent of the enterprises in which they were interested. It has been the policy of the Morgan company for years to carry on its business affairs as it saw proper and take the public into its confidence only as it saw fit. Contrary to this fixed policy, Mr. J. P. Morgan, Jr., last Friday, gave out a statement to the effect that the members of his firm, five in number, had decided to withdraw from some of the directorates which they held; first because it was inconvenient for them to hold so many offices of this kind, and further that the reason they held these offices was because of the fact that the Morgan company had been instrumental in organizing and reorganizing a great many of these corporations and that in selling securities to people all over the world they permitted the use of their names on directorate boards in order to give confidence to the investor. But times are changing in regard to directorates. "Indeed," says Mr. Morgan, "it may be in the view of the change in sentiment upon the subject, that we shall be in better position to serve properties and their security holders if we are not directors." It is generally believed in New York that the action of the Morgan company is due more to a fear that congress will enact laws forbidding interlocking directorates than to a mere matter of attending directors' meetings. The Morgan firm, through its various members, held directorships to the number 746 in 134 corporations, with a total capitalization of $25,325,000,000.

— Pass Christian, Miss., January 3: With the departure today of the scout cruiser Chester, bearing John Lind, the president's envoy, back to Mexico, to continue his observations of Mexican affairs, the mystery that has enveloped Mr. Lind's visit to President Wilson was partially cleared. Just why the nation's chief executive decided not to permit Mr. Lind to have any more "shore leave" and took upon himself the inconvenience of being transhipped four times at sea, has not been explained. President Wilson volunteered no explanation, but one of the suppositions current is that he did not wish the special envoy to be subjected to the inquisition of the newspaper correspondents. Another theory is that the president desired to show Mexico that there is no change in the American policy and no actual interruption of Mr. Lind's mission to Mexico. The peculiar movements of the revenue cutter Winona and the long delay before the president and Mr. Lind actually met were partly accounted for today when it became known that the lack of wireless facilities on the revenue cutter had confused plans. When the Chester reported her arrival the Winona's launch had to make a 15-mile trip to shore and back again before arrangements could be made for the president's visit. The president was the only source of information concerning the conference. He spoke of it today only in broad generalities, declaring that nothing specific had been developed and that nothing of any definite character occasioned the meeting. The president asserted that he discussed no particular plan of action. Norman and John Lind, Jr., returned here from the Chester late today after five hours with their father. They said they obtained but little information about the Mexican situation from their father, adding that their conversation was confined largely to domestic topics. The Linds will start for their home in Minneapolis tomorrow. President Wilson worked in his study all the afternoon reading documents and writing letters. He had enjoyed a morning of golf and seemed greatly benefitted by today's weather.

The Yorkville Enquirer.

Entered at the Postoffice in Yorkville as Mail Matter of the Second Class.

YORKVILLE, S. C.:
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1914

As an "instigator of mob law," Governor Blease is somewhat of a failure. There was only one lynching in South Carolina last year, and even Georgia had eight.

Cables from Europe indicate another outbreak of the troubles in the Balkans this spring. Russia is represented as not being at all satisfied with the present situation, and all the Balkan states are said to be preparing for another war.

Mr. Joseph E. Nunnery who recently purchased the Chester Lantern, has changed the name of that paper to the Semi-Weekly News. The first issue under the editorial direction of Mr. Nunnery, makes quite a creditable showing, both editorially and mechanically.

The editorial we are reproducing from the Charleston News of 1857 in the Footsteps of the Fathers, is rather a jarring commentary on the good old times when politics was purer. There may have been some rougher talk on both sides during the recent hearing over the proposition to investigate the Whaley election; but nothing more impressive was said on either side. It is quite evident that if the balance of power between the contending factions in Charleston was purchasable in 1857, it is hardly more so now.

We are printing elsewhere in today's paper two interesting articles describing the new regional currency system and the office of the new regional banks. These articles are written in non-technical language by people who understand the subject for the benefit of the average reader. We consider this information of very great interest and importance to business people, and recommend that they not only study these articles; but that they study everything else they can find on the subject. As we see it, the new currency law is not calculated to have a great deal of effect on the average individual, one way or the other; but it is bound to have a tremendous effect on business as a whole sooner or later, and the more every business man can learn of the changes that are taking place, the better for all.

THE REGIONAL SYSTEM

Non-Technical Explanation of Office of New Central Banks.

Lucid beyond the generality of such articles is the digest of the Glass-Owen currency act appearing in the current issue of "America" (New York), and the article is reproduced here for that reason:

"The currency bill, which is now law, has for a longer title 'An act for the establishment of Federal reserve banks, to furnish an elastic currency, to afford means of rediscounting commercial paper, to establish a more effective supervision of banking in the United States, and for other purposes.' Its official short title is the 'Federal Reserve Act;' and indeed on reading it finds that it has to do with the establishing of such reserve banks their management and powers. This being so, the question arises: Why then is it called, both on the title page of the copy printed by the government and by the commercial world at large, a currency bill? The answer is that the solving of the problem of an elastic currency, that is, one which adapts itself to the country's needs, expanding when there is demand for money, contracting as the demand slackens, is the chief object it has in view; the reserve banks are means used to attain the end.

"What is a Federal reserve bank in the sense of the act? Here there may be some confusion. One knows what Federal courts are as opposed to state courts, and the idea may come up that the Federal banks are to be departments of the Federal government. The idea is not altogether wrong. A state bank is one established under the laws of a state and existing under its supervision; the Federal banks will be established under this act of congress, and will be under the supervision of the national government. Moreover, they will be more closely connected with the national government than the national banks heretofore existing. They will be controlled by a board appointed by the president of the United States, with the advice and consent of the senate. Of this board the secretary of the treasury and the comptroller of the currency will be ex-officio members. In their operations they will be more closely connected with the treasury of the United States than any of the national banks. They will be exempt from the jurisdiction of state governments.

"Nevertheless, there seems to be another and a more intimate reason for the name. The country is to be divided into districts. In each of these one of the new banks is to be established. Its proprietors are to be, first the national banks of the district, which are obliged to subscribe to its capital a sum proportioned to their capital stock and surplus, and, second, approved state banks, which are allowed to subscribe under similar conditions. Should these not suffice to give the necessary capital, private individuals will be permitted to subscribe for a limited amount of stock under certain restrictions, and, should the required capital be still lacking, the United States treasury becomes a subscriber. The bank is not to engage in general business. Its interesting functions are, first, to receive on deposit the reserves of the proprietary banks, which are obliged to place with it a certain proportion of their reserve and may deposit the whole of it. Hence, the proprietary banks are federated within their district, which is called a Federal district, the bank of the district, is properly called a Federal bank.

"Secondly, the Federal bank, may also receive in current account the current account funds of any member bank. Thirdly, it may, under certain restrictions, re-discount the commercial paper of such banks. It may also deal in exchange, bullion, loans, United States bonds, municipal obligations, etc., in open market. Fourthly, it may receive from the Federal reserve board notes of issue similar to existing national bank notes. But the security it will give for these may be the rediscounted commercial paper already mentioned, in which a certain margin is fixed to secure the United States treasury from loss.

"From this one sees the scope of the new banks. In them the member banks pool their reserves, so that in time of commercial tension each may be aided according to its necessities. That no individual bank may victimize its associates through imprudent speculation, a strict inspection of each is provided for and the taking over by the Federal bank of the administration of any member in case of need.

"To appreciate this provision one must consider the object of a bank reserve. Some think that this is primarily to stave off a run. This is quite untrue. Of course a reserve may be used for such a purpose to a limited extent. But a run upon a bank is a lawless proceeding.

"If the bank is solvent it should be protected; if it is not, or even if it is only doubtfully solvent, it has no right to exhaust its reserve by paying certain creditors in full, to the detriment of others. Its duty in such a case is to close its doors, call in the examiners, and, if it is solvent, reorganize, if not, go out of business.

"The real object of the reserve is to protect the solvency of the bank against unforeseen depreciation in the value of its assets. For example, we have seen in England consols fall from above par to about 71. Some institutions are so strong that they have been able to write off the depreciation in their holdings out of their ordinary profits; others have had recourse to the reserve for this purpose. Those that could do neither have failed.

"If the depreciation is but temporary, as in commercial crisis, a strong reserve is a guarantee that whatever may be the loss on assets, the bank will come through unharmed. Again a bank may be weak in reserve, and yet solvent, if it be given time to realize its assets. In the great panics such have been saved by institutions of strong reserve coming to their relief. But this has been a sort of financial charity. Others, that might have been saved, have been wrecked for the lack of it.

"The Federal reserve bank provides relief for all members that deserve it, and by its system of inspection takes care that no member shall be underserving. Secondly, it provides for an increase of currency, when this is most necessary. The old national banks had to deposit United States bonds to secure their notes. The result was that they could have any amount when money was not in demand, for they could then increase their bond holdings. But when money was needed they could not do this, and so they were brought to a standstill.

"The Federal reserve bank can put commercial paper into the United States treasury as security for currency. In the normal times of increased demand for money, e. g., the spring trade, or the moving of crops this system can not but work well. In abnormal times, as in a crisis arising from over-trading, it will have to be watched.

"However, if the new system be carried out loyally, if inspection be intelligently rigorous, it will be a great check upon over-trading."

FEWER LYNCHINGS

Aggregate of 44 for Last Year, Only One in South Carolina.

"Only 44 lynchings known to be such beyond doubt occurred in the United States last year," according to a dispatch from Chicago to the Philadelphia North American, "and this is the lowest number for many years, more than fifty being recorded the year before, and as many as 250 in some previous years.

"The decrease in lynching in southern states is attributed largely to efforts made by governors, sheriffs and prominent citizens to prevent mob violence.

"A notable example was set on August 18, by the sheriff at Spartanburg, S. C. In spite of the fact that dynamite was used, he prevented a mob from lynching a negro who was accused of assaulting a white woman. Later the negro was tried before a white jury and found not guilty.

"The record shows decided improvement in other respects than in numbers.

"So far as the newspaper accounts show none of the victims were burned at the stake. Nor were any of the lynchings accompanied by the so-called race riots, which always added to the number of victims and intensified antagonism of the white and black races.

"Harrison, Miss., furnished the nearest approach to a 'reign of murder,' when two drug-crazed mulatto boys, on September 28, ran amuck and started a riot, in the course of which three white men, four negro men and one negro woman met death.

"As the two boys met death while resisting capture the case cannot strictly be classed as lynching.

"In the 44 lynchings the victims of all but one were negroes, and all but two occurred in southern states.

"North Dakota and Montana were the two northern states in which lynchings occurred. At Ray, N. D., Cleve Culbertson, a white man, accused of the murder of three persons, was taken from the jail and hanged. At Mondak, Mont., in April, J. C. Collins, a negro, who shot and killed the sheriff and deputy sheriff of the county, was hanged by a mob.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each were as follows: Alabama, 2; Arkansas, 1; Florida, 4; Georgia, 8; Kentucky, 1; Louisiana, 4; Mississippi, 8; Montana, 1; North Carolina, 1; North Dakota, 1; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 2; Texas, 6. There was at least one lynching for every month in the year. August, the hottest month, leading with eight.

"Double lynchings occurred at Blanchard, La., Cornelia, Ga., and Pauls Valley, Okla. At Houston, Miss., two negroes were lynched a day apart, being accused of complicity in the same crime. At Drew, Miss., a negro was lynched by members of his own race after he had shot and killed two negro women and two negro men.

"As in previous years, murders of white persons and crimes or alleged crimes against white women caused most of the summary executions. The murders were in the big majority, and cases in which attacks on women were charged showed a decrease.

"Nineteen of the victims of the 44 lynchings were accused of the murder of white men. Four were charged with murdering white girls or women. Attempted criminal assault is on record as responsible for nine of the lynchings. Two negroes were lynched for frightening white women, one for insulting a white woman, and one for being found in the bed in a woman's room. Two negroes were lynched for shooting or assaulting white men, one for robbery and shooting, one for assisting or assaulting white men, one for robbery and shooting, one for assisting a negro murderer to escape, and another for horse stealing. In one case the crime charged was not stated."

The Banks Loosening.—When the currency bill was under discussion and the outcome unsettled many of the banks of the country curtailed business at the loans counter. This action was not felt to an oppressive extent in the south, but it did affect in some measure the moving of business. The movement was not so large as it might have been with a liberal financial policy. The money sent out for crop aid helped considerably and its beneficial results were manifested in all southern financial centers. In recent days, the Observer learns, there is a tendency on the part of the banks to resume the former elastic policy. In fact, the Lowry Bank, one of the largest institutions in Atlanta, is leading the way, having resumed the loaning of money under old conditions. It is a lead which no doubt will be followed in other financial centers in the south and will be taken as a practical indication that the country feels itself on a safe basis and that the dreams of the alarmists are things of the past.—Charlotte Observer.

LOCAL AFFAIRS.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

Cloud Cash Store—Emphasizes the good qualities of Walk-Over, E. P. Reid and Buster Brown shoes.

Lyric Theatre—Has "Ivanhoe" today and tonight, and gives programme for remainder of week.

P. W. Love—Wants his iron-wheeled wagon. It is painted blue.

Etiwan Fertilizer Co.—On page four gives its record as a grower of prize corn acres in South Carolina.

Thomson Co.—Announces the coming of a representative from the tailoring house of Isaac Hamburger & Sons, Baltimore tailors.

Carroll Bros.—Ask you to see them for fence wire, for coffees, and for buggies, wagons and farm tools of all kinds.

C. C. Hope, Rock Hill No. 1—Will pay for trouble in recovery of a lost black and white spotted hound, lost since last Wednesday.

W. White Jackson, 6 Yorkville—Offers market prices for all "scrap" cotton that he can buy.

J. L. McManus, Lyric Theatre—Has a 6-year-old horse, buggy and harness for sale at right prices.

D. T. Woods, Clerk—Gives notice of installation of W. O. W. officers on Thursday night. Refreshments will be served.

Chas. E. and W. H. Williamson, Guthriesville—Give notice of dissolution of firm of Williamson Bros., and purchase of business by W. H. Williamson.

J. S. Brice, Chairman—Calls for sealed bids for construction and heating of proposed court house building.

Remedy Sales Corporation—Asks why Mrs. Person's remedy stands so well where it has been used. Booklet on request.

James Bros.—Invite farmers who contemplate buying mules or horses, to come and see them before making a "buy" or trade.

M. E. Plexico & Son—Solicit the patronage of all persons needing livery service, draying, transferring, etc.

Louis Roth—Says that if it "is something to eat and it is good, I have it."

Yorkville Bargain House—Wants you to make it a visit when you are out shopping. It promises good service and right prices.

W. H. Ruff and T. K. Elliott, Admrs.—Give notice that on February 5, they will apply for discharge as administrators of estate of A. R. Ruff, dec'd.

The responsibility of the corn club boys will be as great this year as ever. Last year was a year of poor seasons for corn. It does not frequently happen that two years of poor seasons is followed by another of the same kind.

One hundred and twelve subscriptions, including new ones and renewals, were entered upon our books yesterday.

There is an old saying to the effect that the first twelve days of the year foreshadow the weather of the ensuing twelve months. If there is anything to this, May yesterday and June today, promise to be dry enough to suit the sandy land folks.

If it should happen that some subscribers who have complied with every requirement should fail to get the next issue of The Enquirer, we ask indulgence. The work of correctly revising the mailing list of The Enquirer at the beginning of the year is always something fierce.

So far as The Enquirer is able to gather the new currency law has had no appreciable effect upon business in this community up to this time. The banks have made no change in the policies they have been pursuing of taking care of their customers, and people who lend money at interest are going ahead as usual. One Yorkville business man made a loan amounting to nearly ten thousand dollars a few days ago, and we have heard of a number of other loans somewhat smaller in amount.

There is a noticeable slacking up in the cotton mill business at the present time largely because it is generally believed, of the unsettled condition of banking and currency. It is believed that it is necessary for the business world to go through a kind of a settling down process because of changing and changing conditions, and buyers of yarns and the like are not disposed to enter into contracts for too long a time ahead. Some of the mills in this vicinity have orders ahead and others are running from hand to mouth. It is generally believed that the present unsettled condition will hardly last longer than the first of February, and the business equilibrium may be restored even before then.

Nearly all of the local merchants, especially the livest advertisers among them, are steadily developing business along parcel post lines. It has grown to be a common thing on the part of people living at nearby postoffices or along rural routes to order whatever they like and have it sent by parcel post, and the arrangement works delightfully at both ends of the line. One of the most serious drawbacks is the small orders that come from customers who have no regular accounts with requests to "charge." This results in the multiplication of small accounts that give the business people no end of annoyance. About the only way, of course, to guard against this is to require the customer to send checks or stamps, or have it understood that the packages be sent C. O. D. Of course, in the case of people who have regular accounts, the smallness of an order is of no concern, and it is without consequence whether the money accompanies the orders or not.

CLERK'S SALES

In accordance with previous advertisement the clerk of the court sold three tracts of land before the court house door yesterday morning, as follows:

C. H. Sandifer vs. John B. Timms. A tract of 43½ acres. Bought by C. H. Sandifer for $500.

William R. Carroll vs. Walter W. Love, et al. There were three tracts included in this sale—97 2-5, 3 2-3 and 15 acres respectively. These were bought by W. R. Carroll as one tract of 116 1-15 acres, at $20 per acre.

R. L. Wilkerson and others vs. Sarah G. Wilkerson and others. Tract of thirty acres. Bought by R. L. Wilkerson at $15 per acre.

BETHEL AND THE CHAINGANG

About forty or more citizens of Bethel township gathered last Friday in answer to the published call for a mass meeting to consider the question of asking the county's delegation in the general assembly to so amend existing laws as to exempt Bethel township from further tax charges on account of the support of the chaingang.

On motion of Dr. T. N. Dulin, Hon. W. B. Riddle was called to the chair, and presided throughout the proceedings, Dr. Dulin acting as secretary. The following resolutions, introduced by Dr. Dulin, were adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That as a great majority of the qualified voters and freeholders of Bethel township, York county, have signed a petition requesting the legislature of South Carolina to release Bethel township from further support of chaingang, for the following reasons: That an act of the legislature requiring the chaingang to build and maintain the road from Yorkville to the Gaston county line, near Bethel, and a spur road on the north and south road leading to Filbert from Landsford to the Chester county line; and that neither of these roads touch Bethel township; and that Bethel township has not been given a just proportion of the chaingang labor; and that even when citizens of Bethel township offered a cash subscription of $5,000, they are still refused the chaingang;

Resolved further, That we believe more miles of road can be built with less cost by free labor and that if Bethel township is released from the chaingang tax, she will take steps to improve her roads that will be far better and cheaper than under the present plan; that the committee be elected at this meeting; be instructed to carry these resolutions before the proper authorities, in securing release from the chaingang tax, and in recommending plans for road improvement in Bethel township.

After the adoption of the foregoing, on motion there was a call for nominations from the floor of suitable committeemen, and the following were elected principals and alternates by acclamation:

Principals—W. B. Riddle, L. L. Campbell, R. L. Campbell, H. A. Quinn J. L. Currence, G. L. Suggs, Thos. N. Dulin.

Alternates—T. C. Barnett, J. D. B. Currence, I. H. Campbell, W. M. Stanton, S. S. Glenn, T. H. Riddle, T. J. Patrick.

BETHEL IMPROVEMENT

Dr. Thos. N. Dulin, president of the Bethel Improvement association, recently announced the following standing committees to serve the association another year:

School Improvement—J. W. Jackson, A. C. Harper, G. L. Suggs, A. J. Sturgis, W. B. Riddle.

Public Libraries — Rev. Robert Adams, Mrs. B. J. Currence, Mrs. J. B. Ford.

Good Roads—W. P. Boyd, T. H. Riddle, H. A. Quinn, J. D. B. Currence T. E. Brandon.

Domestic Science — Mrs. Robert Adams, Mrs. T. H. Riddle, Mrs. R. J. Davis.

Community Health—Dr. L. L. Campbell, R. Saye Riddle, Thos. M. Martin.

Social Gatherings — Miss Maggie Querry, Mrs. A. L. Thompson, Mrs. H. G. Stanton.

Agriculture—H. G. Stanton. S. S. Glenn, Harold Davis, Frank Jackson J. M. Miller.

Mineral Resources—Joe. S. Riddle T. G. York, W. R. Stanton, Fred Cook H. L. Johnston.

COURT HOUSE LOCATION.

"I wish you would tell the people that I am one of the men behind that petition that was referred to in The Enquirer last week as being circulated in the hope of saving the present court house building to the town and the value of the site to the county," said Dr. R. A. Bratton of Yorkville, to The Enquirer this morning.

"My reason for desiring this information to go out," Dr. Bratton continued, "is that I am hearing of certain rumors that have been put afloat that are carrying false impressions as to ulterior motives, etc., and I want it distinctly understood not only that I am helping to circulate the petition; but that in doing so, I feel that I am discharging a public duty.

"An effort is being made to have it appear to people who do not know any better that I am actuated by a selfish desire to sell the county another site in exchange for the present site. If anybody wants to believe that they are welcome; but it is not true. It is a fact that I have a very good site that I am willing to sell or exchange for the present building and site; but it is not a fact that I am at all anxious to make the sale or exchange. My only reason for making the offer was to prevent, if possible, what I conceive to be the fearful mistake the commission seems bent on making.

"The present building and site are worth $16,000 cash. There is no question of that for this amount has been actually offered and refused. Rebuilding on the present site involves the tearing down of the present building and the removal of the public records and offices while the new building is going up. That means several thousand dollars additional expense—I would say a total of not less than $20,000—it will cost the taxpayers to rebuild on the present site. Others figure the cost still higher. They are likely to be higher but I am reasonably certain that my estimate is not too high.

"On the other hand, if we get another site no matter where, at a cost of say $10,000, we will save at least $10,000 to the county—probably more. There will be no interruption of the public business while the new building is going up, and no danger of loss or damage to the records on account of the two removals to which they will otherwise be subject. Besides this, when the present building and site pass into private hands they will go on the tax books at much higher prices than are now assessed against any lot that is likely to be taken for the new site. That will mean still another and perpetual advantage to the county that is not to be overlooked except from a very shortsighted viewpoint.

"As to whether the commission takes my lot on the basis of an offer I made to it some time ago, I positively do not care two cents. It may take the lot or let it alone. As I have said, all I want is to secure the location of the proposed new building on a new site and for the reasons I have given. Those who have read the petition to which I refer, and which is now being widely signed will see that there is absolutely nothing in it, that is intended to bind the commission to take my lot or any particular lot. It merely seeks to prohibit the use of the present site. I would be glad to withdraw my lot from consideration except that I prefer to have it at the disposal of the commission in case it shall be deemed most suitable. Infinitely I prefer the acceptance and use of the lot donated by Mr. F. E. Smith rather than rebuild on the present site at the tremendous expense the use of this site will involve; but as I understand this petition, and as I am sure I understand it correctly, there is no intention or desire to compel the selection of the Smith lot. The only object sought is to compel the erection of the new building on some other than the present site."

WITHIN THE TOWN

— Southern train No. 117 which has been arriving at Yorkville at 9.50 p. m., now arrives at 9.35 p. m.

— The county board of supervisors of registration met yesterday and registered ten or fifteen voters.

— The Yorkville banks paid their usual semi-annual dividends on the 1st; the First National bank 3 per cent, and the Loan & Savings bank 5 per cent.

— There were very few people in town last Saturday, hence there was little business. The bitter cold kept a few away, while many others were waiting to come yesterday. Practically all the dry goods and grocery stores were closed by 8 o'clock.

— Mr. A. D. Dorsett has recently moved his stock into the handsome new storebuilding he has erected on Charlotte street. The new building is much larger and more convenient than the old location, and he will be able to much better handle the large patronage he now enjoys.

— The McLain house and lot on Charlotte street, is now the property of Miss Ida Hamel. It was purchased by Mr. C. F. Sherer, at the auction sale of the McLain property some weeks ago, and sold to Mr. M. L. Thomasson the next week at a fair profit.

— At the Ancona Mill Chapel, Sunday evening, immediately after services conducted by Rev. J. H. Machen, a number of Baptists met and took preliminary steps looking to the organization of the Second Baptist church of Yorkville. Eighteen names were given in as tentative members of the new church, and it is expected that a permanent organization will be effected on the first Sunday of February.

— The Ancona Cotton mill in Yorkville continues to make noted improvements to its property. Each house in the mill village is being lighted by electricity while the streets are also illuminated by the same method. This is something new for Yorkville, since none of the four mill villages have ever before had this convenience. The work of installing new machinery is still going on and will be finished shortly.

— Yesterday was salesday for January and a great crowd of people from all parts of the county were in Yorkville, many on business and many others who came merely for the purpose of seeing who was here. Although not rushed, the local merchants did a very good business in spite of the fact that salesday is always a poor time for mercantile business. There were numbers of horse traders from surrounding counties, but very few of them were well pleased with the day's trades, since nearly everybody wanted to sell instead of buy. A number of horses and mules were sold at auction, but there were comparatively few swaps around the lots and stables. The crowd was orderly and quiet throughout the day, very little liquor being in evidence.

— Ivanhoe is the attraction at the Lyric today and the people who have seen this great four reel feature during the morning say that it comes fully up to expectations. The reels require about an hour in their presentation, and they give a remarkably full and accurate reproduction of Scott's famous masterpiece. Ivanhoe, Front de Boeuf, Bois de Guilbert, the Black Knight, Cedric, Wamba, Gurth, Isaac and Locksley are all there and so are the beautiful Rebecca, and the queenly Rowena, all going through their respective parts as in the days of old. It is truly a wonderful picture play, and intensely interesting alike to those who have drunk in the pages of this thrilling romance, and those who have not. The picture was shown at Winthrop college last night, and was enjoyed immensely. People have been dropping in at the Lyric all the morning, and of course the audiences will be largely increased this afternoon and tonight.

ABOUT PEOPLE

Miss Emma Wilkerson of Yorkville, is visiting in Lancaster.

Mr. C. S. Gordon of Lewis Turnout, visited friends in Yorkville, this week.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Rose of Leesville S. C., are visiting relatives in Yorkville.

Miss Virginia Watson of Richmond Va., visited friends in Yorkville, last week.

Miss Mary Fant Herndon of Yorkville, returned to Converse college, Spartanburg, Sunday.

Probate Judge L. R. Williams is able to be at his office again after an illness of two weeks.

Mrs. John F. Gordon of Tirzah, visited relatives and friends at Hunterville, N. C., last week.

Mr. M. B. Hall of Yorkville No. 1, left this morning for Gibsonville, N. C. where he will enter school.

Mr. A. Knox Quinn of Rocky Mount N. C., is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Quinn, in Yorkville.

Mrs. J. E. Efird and daughter, Miss Grace, of Monroe, N. C., visited Mrs. A. E. Hall in Yorkville, last week.

Messrs. L. W. and W. W. Jenkins, Jr., have returned to Spartanburg, after spending the holidays in Yorkville.

Mr. Andrew H. Louthian of Charlotte, visited the family of his father, Mr. L. W. Louthian, in Yorkville, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Carroll of Cincinnati, O., are visiting Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Carroll and other Yorkville relatives.

Miss Louise Dobson has resumed work at her school near Clover, after spending the holidays with relatives in Yorkville.

Mrs. E. E. Gillespie and children have returned to their home in Yorkville, after a visit to relatives in North Carolina.

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Dunlap and children of Charlotte, are visiting Mrs. J. S. Mackorell and Mrs. W. H. Herndon in Yorkville.

Mr. Carroll Grist left Sunday for the Georgia Tech, Atlanta, after spending the holidays with Yorkville relatives and friends.

Miss Willie Baber has returned to Davenport college, Lenoir, after spending the holidays with friends and relatives in Yorkville.

Miss Tilie Femster has returned to the Forest Hill school after spending the holidays with relatives and friends on Yorkville No. 4.

Miss Mattie Ratterree left this week for Kershaw, after spending the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Ratterree on Yorkville No. 1.

Miss Zula Stephenson who has been spending the holidays at her home on Yorkville No. 5, has resumed her school work at Delphos.

Miss Clara Alexander who has been spending the holidays at her home on Yorkville R. F. D. 4, left this week to take charge of her school near Kershaw.

Mr. J. R. Connolly who for several years past has been living on Yorkville R. F. D. No. 2, has moved his family into the Bell house on Lincoln street.

Miss Mary and Mr. Boyce Plaxco, have returned to school at Due West after spending the holidays with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Plaxco, on Yorkville No. 1.

Misses Edna Horton and Mabel Hartness have returned to their respective schools in Lee county, after spending the holidays with relatives in Sharon.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold D. Dawson, Jr., have returned to their home in Gastonia, after a visit to the family of Mr. F. Marley on Yorkville R. F. D. No. 7.

Mr. Sewell Hartness has returned to the Boiling Springs High school, Shelby, N. C., after visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Hartness, on Yorkville No. 5.

Miss Ruth Ferguson has again taken up the work of her school at Blackstock, after a visit to the family of her father, Mr. S. T. Ferguson on Yorkville R. F. D. No. 5.

Miss Lottie Belle Simrill, who has been spending the holidays with relatives on Yorkville R. F. D. 7, has returned to Bethel, the school at which place she has in charge.

Prof. John B. Paysinger of Sharon, stopped over in Yorkville, Sunday after spending the holidays with relatives at Prosperity, S. C. The Sharon school began work yesterday.

Chester Reporter: Mr. C. N. Wrenshall, until last week editor and proprietor of the Chester Lantern, has accepted the temporary editorship of the York News to succeed W. A. Fair, who resigned last week. Mr. Wrenshall expects to return to Yorkville for only a few weeks.

Rock Hill Herald: A. A. McKeown, who is to be farm demonstration agent in York county in the country surrounding Rock Hill, today began his work. Mr. McKeown recently removed to the city and is residing on Hampton street. He is now engaged in shaping up his work so as to be ready to begin the active work of demonstration when the season opens.

A TRIP TO THE WEST

"We saw some good people in Texas and also some mighty fine land that would be great if we had it in this country; but with the lack of churches, schools and general social advantages, the miserable weather, water pits and cyclone pits, and one thing and another along that line, I was not impressed with the idea that Texas is anything like as good a country as ours, and my present location will suit me for some time to come."

This sizing up of the Lone Star state is according to Mr. Jeff D. Whitesides, who with his brother, Mr. W. M. Whitesides, and Messrs. John A. McGill, and R. N. Plaxco, returned last Thursday after a visit of a week or two days to the little village of Chicota in Lamar county. The object of the trip was to visit the daughter of Mr. W. M. Whitesides, Mrs. F. C. Whitesides at Chicota, the family of Rev. W. A. M. Plaxco at Brighton, Tennessee, and incidentally to take a little vacation and see some of the great western country.

Speaking of the trip yesterday Mr. Jeff D. Whitesides said that the party went from Texarkana to Paris, and from Paris to Chicota. They remained at the home of Mrs. Whitesides two days and two nights and came back home over pretty much the same general route that they went, stopping a while with Rev. W. A. M. Plaxco, at Brighton, and finding him well on the way to recovery from his recent severe attack of blood poisoning.

"We did not enjoy the trip as much as we might have done under other circumstances," said Mr. Whitesides, "it has been raining out in the Red River country ever since last September. The people say they only had about three weeks of fairly good weather in which to gather the crops, and it was still raining on us all the time we were there. They have no roads out that way. There are five miles of gravel road out from Paris toward Chicota that is first class; but the remaining ten miles is over a sticky black mud that is simply horrible. It is worse than anything I ever saw. The people use wagons altogether, and the mud cakes between the spokes until the wheels become a solid mass. Horses and mules are able to travel only a few miles until they are completely exhausted, and so far as a man being able to walk along these roads at this season of the year is concerned, he simply cannot do it.

"In the section we visited they don't farm anything much but cotton, corn and alfalfa. Their alfalfa is fine and so is their corn; but I could not see that their cotton was any better than was ours at home. They had a better and larger weed; but not so much fruit. However, you know they do not fertilize, as they do not work as hard as we do.

"They are not fixed up out in that country as we are. They have no such things as barns and sheds to shelter their stock, vehicles and implements. The stock is kept exposed in enclosures, and wagons and the like stand out in the weather. The mules and horses are fed in troughs out in the open. People out there say their stock does better that way.

"One thing I noticed that interested me very much was a great village of people in tents, and when we asked the people we were visiting about it, they explained that these were the cotton pickers. They come down from Oklahoma and the mountains in the spring to chop out cotton and again in the fall to pick cotton. Each family has its own wagon, most of them have three horse wagons. They bring along tents, bedding, cooking utensils and the like, and they set up a camp from which they do their work, taking up the cotton country section by section. The wet weather having come on them this year about the time they were through picking or a little before, they were unable to get away and are still there.

"I saw quite a lot of corn in the fields too. In most cases the renters get ten rows of corn and leave the landlord five rows. Generally the renters have gathered their own corn, and that which is still in the fields belongs to the landlords.

"I saw one piece of land out there," said Mr. Whitesides, "that would have made anyone envious if they had other things to go with it—schools, churches, social advantages and the like, It was about one and a half miles wide, five miles long, as level as a floor and as rich as cream. With land like that in this country a man ought to be able to raise almost anything and as much of it as he could want."

All the members of the party enjoyed the trip immensely except for the wet weather; but, none of them were sufficiently impressed during their stay to want to make Texas their future home.

LOCAL LACONICS.

York Ranks Tenth.

Official figures have recently been made public as to the list of counties in the United States running cotton mills with more than 100,000 spindles. According to the statistics, York county ranks tenth in this state, with a total of 178,584 spindles.

Mr. Haile Sells Drug Business.

Fort Mill, January 3: The stock of drugs and the good will of the Fort Mill Drug company, owned by J. R. Haile, was today sold to S. W. Parks, formerly a druggist here. Mr. Parks will continue the business at its present stand. Mr. Haile, whose health is somewhat impaired, will, after attending the next session of the legislature, probably give his personal attention to his farm near here.

Tax Collections.

Treasurer H. E. Neil and his assistant, Mr. J. B. Parrott, were kept very busy last week. The 1 per cent penalty took effect January 1, and it seemed that everybody was in a hurry to pay taxes at the last moment. More than $140,000 was collected last week alone, and the officers are still very busy. Up to Friday morning December 19, only $29,555.05 out of a total of $226,377.93, had been paid. Up to this morning, the total collections were $174,163.08, leaving a balance of $51,747.85. "We are getting along pretty well with collections," said Treasurer Neil, this morning, "but the money is going out as fast as we get it in."

Fort Mill Municipal Politics.

Fort Mill special to Columbia State: The books of registration for the municipal election to be held on the 13th of this month, closed today with a total of 131 voters registered. This is the largest registration ever recorded in Fort Mill and indicates the interest that is being taken in the selection of a mayor and aldermen to serve for the next two years. Up to this time the following candidates are announced: For mayor, J. J. Bailes, A. R. McElhaney, the incumbent, and W. L. Hall; for alderman—Ward 1, W. L. Ferguson, W. J. Steele, H. D. Harkey; Ward 2, J. T. Young, M. J. Adcock; Ward 3, A. A. Bradford, O. T. Culp; Ward 4, J. B. Elliott, A. C. Lytle; at large, J. L. Spratt, S. W. Parks, S. L. Meacham. The new council will have several very important matters to pass upon, the most important probably being the proposed issue of bonds for the purpose of installing a waterworks system for fire protection and domestic use.

Death of W. C. Moore.

Rock Hill special of January 6, to Charlotte Observer: Mr. W. C. Moore of the Bullock's Creek section of the county, died last Thursday at his home of tuberculosis, after a long illness. Mr. Moore was 26 years of age and leaves a wife, who was Miss Ethel Wade of Wilkesburg, Chester county. He is also survived by his mother, Mrs. A. M. Moore of this city, and the following brothers and sisters Messrs. S. R., J. A., S. T. R. and C. L. Moore; Mrs. T. G. Hope and Misses Ina and Margaret Moore of the city. Mr. Moore was a member of Walnut Camp No. 4, Woodmen of the World, of this city. The remains were buried at Bullock's Creek church Friday, the funeral services being conducted by Rev. J. B. Swann, with the usual exercises by the Woodmen. The following acted as pallbearers: Chas. Curry, J. C. Kirkpatrick, J. Jones, J. A. McAlilly, C. Jones, A. Vincent.

Installation at Smyrna.

The installation of Rev. B. G. Pressly, as pastor of Hickory Grove and Smyrna A. R. P. churches took place last Friday at the Smyrna church before the united congregations of the two churches. Rev. E. B. Hunter of Sharon, who was to preside, was unable to be present on account of sickness in his congregation. Rev. J. L. Oates moderated the meeting and addressed the pastor. Rev. G. L. Kerr of King's Mountain, N. C., preached the sermon and addressed the people. The new pastor of the Smyrna and Hickory Grove churches, comes from Timber Ridge, Va., and has already won for himself a warm place in the hearts of his congregation. Rev. Mr. Pressly is a son of Rev. Dr. N. E. Pressly, who is engaged in missionary work at Tampico, Mexico. Quite a co-incidence in connection with the installation of the new pastor is that the pastorate was held by his two predecessors, Rev. Kerr, now of King's Mountain, being the late pastor, while Rev. J. L. Oates, now of Yorkville, was pastor of the two churches for a period of ten years.

MERE MENTION

A Cleveland, Ohio, girl, a cripple from birth, now 13 years of age, afflicted with a deformed spine, has had her back straightened by a wonderful surgical operation, involving the transfer of a splinter from the shin bone of her right leg and inserted on the inner side of the vertabrae of the spine. The girl says she has been "ironed out all straight and smooth." The operation promises to be entirely successful.....An English aviator on Friday looped the loop in an aeroplane carrying himself and a woman passenger.......A Mt. Victory, O., school teacher on Friday attempted to start a fire with kerosene oil. An explosion followed, igniting the young woman's clothing. She saved herself by running out of the building and rolling in the snow.......A. B. Callahan of Juneau, Alaska, charges that more than 6,000 salmon cannery workers of Alaska are virtually slaves under the peonage system. A congressional investigation is likely.......Geno Montani, a chauffeur, now serving a sentence of eighteen years in Sing Sing, for a taxicab robbery in New York, last February, charges that two New York police officials offered to drop the case against him if he would put up a bribe of $5,000 each for the police.......Andrew B. Nelson, a master mariner, is held at San Francisco, on the charge of attempting to murder a ship's captain on the high seas. The additional charge of piracy is lodged against Nelson.......Hearings on the claims of various southern cities for one of the regional banks to be established under the new currency law, are to be held in Atlanta, Ga., February 16, 17 and 18.....A drastic child labor law is to be introduced at the next session of the Kentucky legislature.......In a report by the Thompson-McFadden pellegra commission, read in Atlanta, Friday, before the American Association for the Advancement of Science, it is stated that pellagra is probably the result of bad sewerage. The commission does not place credit for the disease on any special food.......A Louisville, Ky., widow is asking the Tennessee courts to give her $100,000 as damages in a breach of promise suit against a millionaire of Memphis.......Among Mayor Mitchell's first appointments after taking office in New York on January 1st, was Miss Katherine Bement Davis, who is now commissioner of corrections, having in charge the various prisons of the city.......It is officially estimated that there were 24,000 executions in the province of Sze Chuen, China, during 1913. Most of those killed were robbers, but a large number of these were political offenders.......The foreign trade of the United States for the calendar year 1913, approximated $1,750,000 in imports, and $2,500,000,000 of exports, leaving a balance in favor of the United States of $740,000,000.......A recent estimate given out by the agricultural department, places the value of American farm products for the year 1913, as $9,750,000,000.......The last issue of the Jewish Year Book, just out, places the number of Jews in the world at over 13,000,000, of whom 9,950,175 are residents of European countries, and 2,294,061 live in America. The remainder are scattered throughout the world.......An official of one of the large express companies, is authority for the statement that the express business was approximately 25 per cent less during the holidays of 1913 than for the holidays of 1912. Reduced express rates, approximating 17 per cent, are to become effective early in February, by order of the interstate commerce commission.......“General” Rosalie Jones and her band of woman suffragettes, are making a hike to Albany from New York city, to present petitions for suffrage to the next session of the legislature of that state.......The total foreign missionary contributions of American Protestant churches last year was $16,398,000, according to a statement given out by the secretary of the Laymen's Missionary movement.......During 1913 the Philadelphia mint coined 160,067,626 pieces of money from all metals, amounting to $20,182,841. A good portion of the coinage was in buffalo nickels.......Diamonds and other precious stones imported into the United States last year totaled $46,137,328.......Dr. John Coulter, secretary of the rural credit commission, Washington, is authority for the statement that the southern farmers pay exorbitant interest rates because their land titles are questioned and advocates farm land banks such as are to be found in Germany.

SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS.

— Governor Blease failed to deliver an address before the Blease political club at Gaffney last Saturday night, because he was not feeling well and because of the inclement weather. Addresses were delivered by Representatives W. H. Buice and W. D. Kirby, and Solicitor Albert E. Hill.

— Union, January 4: Henry Rector, accidentally shot and almost instantly killed Spurgeon Kelly here at 6 o'clock this evening. The killing occurred while the men were toying with a revolver. The ball penetrated Kelly's chin and came out on the right side of the neck, severing the artery. He was an operative in the Excelsior knitting mills here and leaves a wife and one child.

— Columbia, January 3: Thousands of young boys and girls in South Carolina will next year be enlisted in the tomato, poultry and corn clubs. The corn clubs have been extended to every county in the state; the tomato clubs will be extended to twenty counties and the poultry work is to be started in ten counties. The dream of the late Dr. Seaman A. Knapp was to make South Carolina "a model agricultural state." If the development keeps up, this dream will be realized. The fund for the work is being given by the United States department of agriculture and by local aid. Last year over 2,000 girls were enlisted in the tomato clubs.

— Denying that they were guilty, Harry Thompson and Albert Cantey, two Charleston negroes, were electrocuted at the state penitentiary last Friday afternoon. Cantey and Thompson were convicted at the fall term of court in Charleston and sentenced by Judge Bowman to death. The murder of A. W. Steeger, a merchant on the Meeting street road, which occurred last March, was one of the most cold-blooded ever known in this community and also puzzling as to finding the perpetrators. A third negro was also accused but was released. Romeo Cantey, now in the penitentiary for manslaughter, accused his brother and Thompson of the murder, and his testimony played an important part in the trial, the material evidence being largely circumstantial. The date of execution was set for early in December, but the governor reprieved the two negroes, a 30 days time being given for the finding of any additional evidence. The crime itself gave few clues, as the merchant's body was found upon the road the following morning, his pockets rifled and no trace of his assailants to be had.

— Lancaster News, January 2: The many friends throughout the county of Mr. Marion J. Long, will be grieved to hear of his death, which occurred in Columbia, on Tuesday last. He had been in declining health for some time and for the past few weeks the end was expected. Mr. Long was a quiet, unassuming man, but one of sterling qualities. He united with the Baptist church in his early childhood and was a consistent follower of his Master. He was 63 years old on the 11th of July last, and was married to Miss Mathias Sims. He was a son of the late Jesse and Henrietta Long. His first wife pre-deceased him several years ago. He is survived by one son, Mr. R. A. Long of this place, and six daughters, Mrs. T. S. Riddle of Blair, Okla.; Mrs. F. E. Smith of York county; Mrs. J. E. Estridge, Mrs. W. A. Lingle, Mrs. R. A. Williams and Miss Amanda Long, all of this county, by his first marriage, and a wife and two young children by his second marriage, who now live in Kershaw county. Also by one brother, Mr. W. J. Long, and three sisters, Mrs. S. M. and Mrs. M. C. Bowers and Mrs. J. T. Adams of this county. The remains were brought to Lancaster, Tuesday, and interred by the side of his first wife at Camp Creek (Baptist) church Wednesday. Rev. B. F. Carson conducted the funeral exercises.