

W. T. CAHO.
(FORMERLY OF BAYBORO, N. C.)

J. B. LEIGH.
(FORMERLY OF COLUMBIA, N. C.)

Law Office

Caho & Leigh,

SOUTH FRONT STREET, OPP. GASTON HOUSE.

P. O. BOX 413.

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THE JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT, RALEIGH, N. C.
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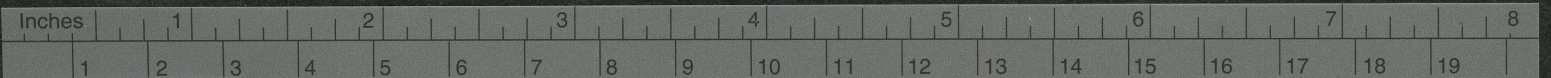
Real Estate Brokers and Agents for the sale of Timber and Farming Lands. Collections promptly made in any part of the State.

New Berne, N. C. Sept 20th 1893

Dear Governor,

I hope you will pardon me for this intrusion upon your time, and with the lengthy letter which I shall have to write. But the question is one of vast importance to the state, and especially so to our section and our people. So in the outset I will say, that you, know how easy it is for people to be lead astray, by what at the time would seem to be, placing of dollars in their pockets, and when, scheming men, looking forward to their own personal gains can by a system of demagoguery falsly, impress the people, or a portion of them it is an easy matter to mislead them, as to their true interest. Demagoguism can succeed in this way when, truth patriotism and statesmanship will fail. This is patent to all observers of all matters especially public affairs,

The question that I am directing your attention to is the most important question that I think



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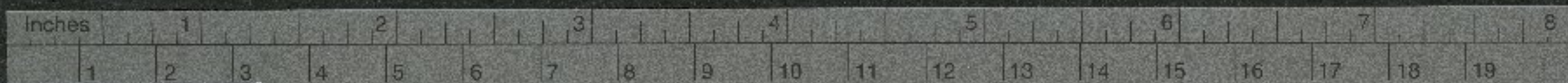
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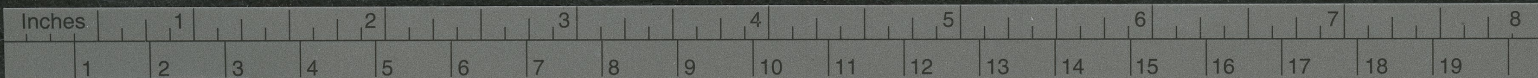
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New Berne, N. C. 189

You will be called upon during your administration
to solve, to wit the "Oyster question"

In a few days you will in the discharge of
your duties, have to appoint a shell fish Com-
mission. That appointment will either be for
good or evil to this great industry. It will
mean whether North Carolina shall be a home
market for her products or whether some other
State shall reap the benefits of her products.

I have no doubt but you like others
who have not given this subject much thought
or at least a thorough investigation of the facts,
having heard but one side of the case, feel
that a great hardship has been done to the
people of the oyster section. Oystermen think
so, and have been taught to look upon their
best friends as their worst enemies, because
the denials used by those schemers appear plausi-
ble. Now I swear to you that what I have
to say is from no selfish standpoint, but
from what I am honestly convinced to be the best



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(LAWYER & ATTORNEY AT LAW)

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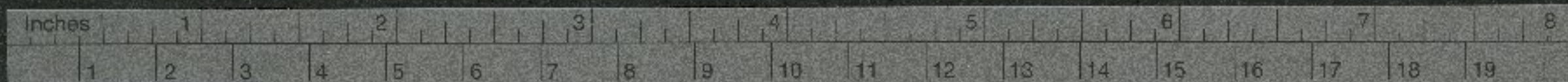
New Bern, N. C.

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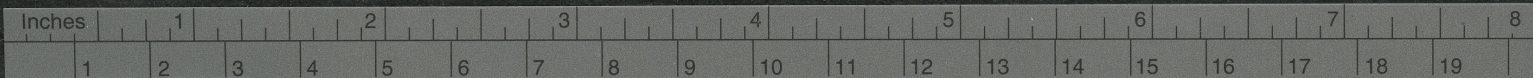
New Berne, N. C. 189

interest of the state and all her people

The present oyster laws are detrimental to the oyster interest, and while I can not go into all the detail, in this letter, I will give you some facts to consider in this connection.

up to 1887, the oyster laws were very crude and of no practical value. other states however there had been following in this same line, to the north of us owing to the growing demand of Canned goods had had directed their attention to legislation for the protection and propagation of oysters. their first efforts were met with opposition, but the demand increasing all the while legislation was enacted first in Connecticut then New York & New Jersey & later Maryland. While the laws enacted were then only opposed by the oyster men, in those states

Now the oystermen are the strong supporters of the law. at first it seemed to them an encroachment upon their rights, to the oyster domain now they regard it as a protection to the oyster domain, and their peculiar rights



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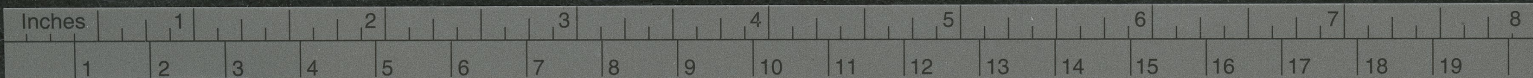
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New Berne, N. C.

189

The same is fast becoming the sentiment among
the oysterman in this state though they have here-
tofore strenuously opposed legislation on this
line

Am for some facts or evidence, as I stated up to
1887. The legislation was crude and imperfect
but in 1887. Our state like those to the
north of us passed some legislation on the
same line, in 1889 the legislation of 1887 was
supplemented, from 1887. to 1891. The oyster
industry was builded up. 8 factories and
13 shucking houses were opened, a million
of dollars and over was ^{being} expended in this
industry ^{annually} over 3000 laborers were employed
and were receiving wages from \$1.00 to \$5.00
per day. Eastern North Carolina was in a "boom"
so to speak. The legislature of 1891 met
and against the protest of all those who
had invested their Capital in this industry
the legislature changed all legislation, most
radically. What was the result



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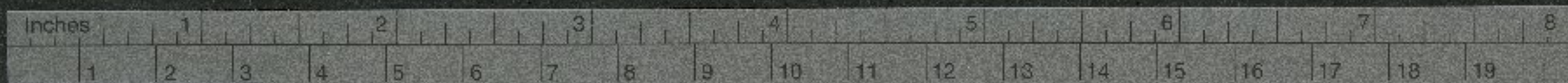
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New Bern, N. C.

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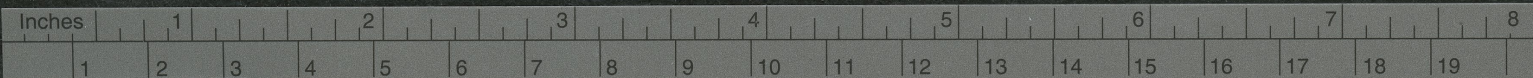
S-

New Berne, N. C.

189

The factories closed down, and went back to Baltimore and Norfolk from whence they came, instead of 3000 laborers being employed at from \$1⁰⁰ to \$5⁰⁰ per day not over 300 are now employed, and at wages from \$30^{cts} to \$1⁰⁰ per day Oysterman instead of being flush with money are barely living, 9/10^{ths} of them having gone into some other occupation. instead of a million dollars being expended not a half million cents are being expended now, and all manner of business feels this loss, and all of it is due to the legislation of 1891 & 1893.

Last year one factory opened up and was operated part of the season, to the loss of the operators. This season none will open up, the legislation of 1891 was ruinous, but in the language of the Bible, "As my father chastised you with the rod I will whip you with scorpions", so did the legislature increase the disastrous legislation in 1893. The legislation was bad enough



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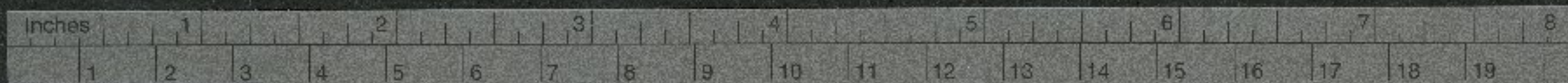
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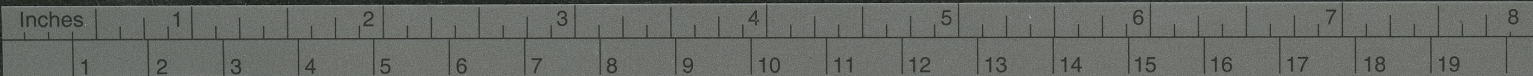
New Berne, N. C.

189

but the administration of the law was never
and now no factory would open at all
as long as Lucas has the administration
of the law.

I am desirous of seeing the factories open
up here again in our state, it will give
profitable employment to thousands of our people it
will cause the expenditure of thousands and
tens of thousands of dollars annually in
our midst whereas now what little that is
expended in this industry for North Carolina
often is expended in Norfolk & Baltimore
and our people get but little of it.

It could be made a source of great revenue to
the state, but not under the present line of
legislation, and with the present Chief Commissioner
to have the execution of the law, and his false
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I know the factorymen will not open up while



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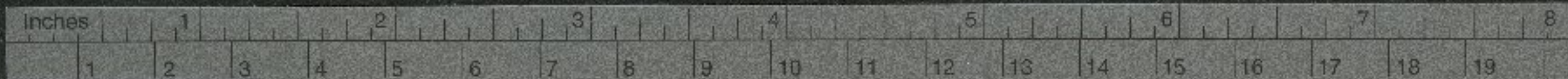
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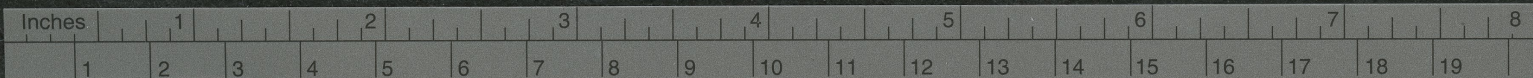
7

New Berne, N. C.

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Lucas is retained in ~~office~~, and I write
to ask, you to please not reappoint him
and to ask the appointment of Wm. F. Howland
of Beaufort Carteret County who is a
good man, not connected with any of
the factions and who understands the
Oyster question as well possible as any other
man, and who will be able to do as much
or more to open up the factories as any man
in North Carolina,

I make this request not from any per-
sonal motives or interest but purely
& solely, for what I am honestly convinced
to be the best interest of the State, I must
not ask you to do a single thing but what I
conscientiously believe right, I am a friend
and supporter of you, I have and will continue
to uphold your administration of affairs & would
do nothing that I did not honestly think would
be to the best interest of all our people
I know the appointment of Lucas means



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J. B. LEIGH.
(FORMERLY OF WASHINGTON, D. C.)

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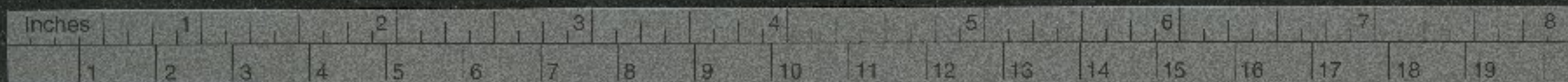
Real Estate Brokers and Agents for the sale of Timber
and Farming Lands. Counselors promptly made
in any part of the State.

7

New Bern, N. C. 189

Lucas is retained in office, and I write
to ask, you to please not reappoint him
and to ask the appointment of Wm. J. Howland
of Beaufort Currituck County who is a
good man, not connected with any of
the factions and who understands the
Oyster question as well possible as any other
man, and who will be able to do as much
or more to open up the factories as any man
in North Carolina,

I make this request not from any per-
sonal motives or interest but purely
& solely, for what I am honestly convinced
to be the best interest of the State, I would
not ask you to do a single thing but what I
conscienceably believe right, I am a friend
and supporter of you, I have and will continue
to uphold your administration of affairs & would
do nothing that I did not honestly think must
be to the best interest of all our people
I know the appointment of Lucas means



W. T. CAHO.
(FORMERLY OF BAYBORO, N. C.)

J. B. LEIGH.
(FORMERLY OF COLUMBIA, N. C.)

Law Office

Caho & Leigh,

SOUTH FRONT STREET, OPP. GASTON HOUSE.

P. O. BOX 413.

REFERENCES:

THE JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT, RALEIGH, N. C.
THE FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK, NEW BERNE, N. C.
THE CITIZENS BANK, OF NEW BERNE, N. C.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF NEW BERNE, NEW BERNE, N. C.
HONS. M. W. RANSOM AND Z. B. VANCE, U. S. SENATE.

Practices in the Superior Courts of Beaufort, Carteret,
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8

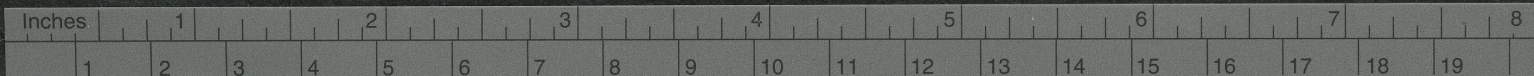
New Berne, N. C.

189

a continuation of the same fight that
is now going on, and will only make
those who have invested their money in
this industry in this state feel that the
Executive as well as the legislative depart-
ment is against them, and will have
the effect of killing out the last spark
of hope that they have left

I am sincerely and truly your
friend.

W T Caho



W. T. CAHO.
(FORMERLY IN CHARGE, N. C.)

J. B. LEIGH.
(FORMERLY IN CHARGE, N. C.)

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