

A. F. JOHNSON, Editor and Manager

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 1911.

SANFORD had a \$25,000 fire on Monday of this week.

THERE must be something wrong with the G. O. P., for the Colonel has not said a word in its favor since election day.

ON Monday night at Albany, N. Y., William F. Sheenan was nominated for U. S. Senator to succeed Chauncey M. Depew.

COL W. J. STICKS, who for many years was Superintendent of the Oxford Orphan Asylum, died on last Saturday morning and was buried in Raleigh on Monday.

THAT Senatorial whitewash is of a very poor quality; it won't stick! Maybe a little salt would help it, but it is too late to change the recipe so as to help Ballinger and Lorimer.

THE Senate Judiciary Committee has reported favorably for the election of United States Senators by popular vote. The staidpatters do move after all when they fear the people.

THE voters having killed off the Colonel, the President doing his best to kill off himself, and the stalwarts lying in wait to bat the insurgents, the Republicans hardly know where they are at.

ANDREW CARNEGIE, who was an ardent standpatter as long as he was running the steel trust, prophesies that Taft will be renominated. From a Democratic standpoint it is to be hoped that Carnegie is a true prophet, for Taft is an easy one to beat.

THE "Lame Ducks" are beginning to grow impatient; and if President Taft does not take care of these Republican patriots before March 4th, they will make the summer White House at Beverly anything but a restful place.

THE ship subsidy hunters, including President Taft, have agreed to another modification of the subsidy bills before Congress, in the hope that this Congress will pass such a legislation; but a small dose of subsidy is just as bad as a large measure except in the quantity.

THE decision of the Board of Trustees of Louisville Female College held in Raleigh last week to provide for the expenses of the financial agent other than to take it out of the contributions to the new building is a very wise one and will no doubt be a great help towards raising the necessary amount.

HIS many friends in this district will regret to learn of Hon. E. W. Pou's decision to retire from the Ways and Means Committee in Congress. His statement containing his reasons for doing so will be found on another page in this issue. They are both patriotic and generous.

MANY of the Rhode Island Republican members of the Assembly refuse to attend Senatorial caucus, and a prolonged contest is possible, as the Aldrich-Brayton machine is evidently out of gear and the new Republican bosses cannot control it; therefore, the legislature is deadlocked.

THAT sturdy Republican newspaper, the Baltimore American, says "the country is still waiting to hear that drop in food prices". It seems impossible for the American to get through its standpat head that the country will keep right on waiting as long as the high tariff protection on good food prevails.

THE Democratic celebration at Baltimore on January 17th was the grandest and largest political assembly of the kind ever attempted. All of the thousand tickets, which was

the number for sale, have been disposed of at \$10 each, and a large number of belated applicants will have to be satisfied with being mere spectators of the doings of their brother Democrats.

A GREAT many public men have become quite sensitive about their political reputations in these strenuous times; but Senator Lorimer seems to be proof against all the arrows that are being shot at him. Other stalwart standpat senators are dodging the shafts that are flying so thickly, as though they were guilty themselves!

THAT Vermont congressman David J. Foster, who is chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, declares that if Japan wants the Philippines the United States will gladly give them up. It was not long ago that there was a great shouting that when the flag was once raised over United States territory it would never come—no never, come down.

WEDNESDAY, February 22, has been designated by Superintendent of Public Instruction Joyner as Bill Nye day in the public schools of North Carolina. A specially prepared program of selections from the humorist's works, and a statement setting forth the memorial movement, on which the newspaper men are working so hard, will be read to the children, and each pupil will be asked to contribute a penny to the fund, which, as is generally known, will be applied to the erection of a Bill Nye memorial building at the Stonewall Jackson Training School. Superintendent Joyner is cooperating earnestly with the editors to make the occasion a success.

MONTAGUE TO DIE

On the evening of January 16th, 1911, the death sentence was read to Nathan Montague, the Granville county murderer. The trial only consumed a short while and the jury was out only eight minutes. He was sentenced to be electrocuted on February 15th.

THE LEGISLATURE.

Since our last issue both branches of the legislature has been kept pretty busy. Many bills have been introduced and several passed on but none that effects Franklin County especially. A bill to provide for the building of a \$1,000,000 state building has been introduced, also a bill to provide a home for the widows of Confederate Veterans, and a bill to supplement the pensions of the Confederate Soldiers.

The majority of the work done so far has been of purely a local nature and not of much importance to our readers.

POPULAR VOTE ON SENATORS.

If the joint resolution for the election of the United States Senators by direct vote of the people is passed by Congress, it will leave all details as to the voting in the several States to the Legislatures. The vote of the Senate Judiciary Committee upon favorable reporting the joint resolution was 10 to 2, the two opposed being Depew, of New York and Dillingham, of Vermont. There was a determined effort to load down the resolution with objectionable amendments, one of which was defeated by the tie vote of 6 to 6. It is unlikely that the Senate will act favorably at this session, for there will be no time for prolonged debate, so the matter will in all probability go over until the next Congress.

Portentous Rumors

There are a number of disquieting rumors about the activity of the Japanese in the Philippines. A cable dispatch from Manila on December 29th reported that the authorities had continued the search of Japanese houses for explosives and incriminating papers. The search began on December 27th, when Major General William P. Duval, U. S. A., commander of the department of the Philippines, received reports that Japanese spies were active at Corregidor. Neither papers nor bombs were found, but the move aroused much resentment among the Japanese in Luzon.

Again, on December 29 the cable reported that one Japanese had been

deported as an undesirable because he was discovered installing a complete wireless telegraph outfit in the vicinity of the naval station at Olongapo.

Then on January 2 a rumor of war with Japan was circulated among the midshipmen at Annapolis, and was reported to be remarkably full and explicit on every point. "The midshipmen" says the special dispatch, "fired with visions of winning super-dreadnaughts, have been in a state of wild excitement all day. This rumor may not be founded on fact, but it must be remembered that some of the most intelligent officers are on duty at the Naval Academy, and who would be more likely than they to have advance information that matters were strained between the two countries? And such information would be very likely to leak out so that some midshipman would hear or be informed of it—in confidence, of course.

It is rather strange that these small matters of information should all be published at about the same time, and it may be only a part of a scheme to work on the nerves of the Naval affairs Committee of the House of Representatives who at that time were considering the Naval appropriation bill! There are objections to the building of two or more super-dreadnaughts and other warships at this time when it is almost necessary for the appropriation bills to be cut down to meet the estimated revenue. It is to be hoped that this is the case, but it is not impossible that all the evidence furnished by the high officials of the Army to the effect that the country is entirely unprepared for war may have induced the Japanese to believe that it would be a good time to strike before the United States is better prepared.

It is quite probable that Japan could take possession of the Philippines before the United States could re-enforce the troops or the navy there so as to effectually resist such an attack. The working of the Eastern mind would perhaps be induced to take advantage of such an apparently unprepared situation, while hardly comprehending that time and money would eventually turn the scale.

We all know that any attack upon any territory of the United States would so arouse the people that no country could long resist the power that would be brought into play. It would be a great misfortune to the United States to be compelled to fight, but it is certain that she would never stop fighting until her banners were victorious.

MR. POU'S STATEMENT.

(Continued from First Page)

Clark and Mr. Underwood will very cheerfully endorse this statement. The prospects for Democratic victory in 1912 are so bright that I would feel like a criminal if I had pursued any other course. I would gladly serve on the Committee on Ventilation and Accoustics, if by so doing I can help elect a Democratic President in 1912.

"The tentative argument reached is entirely agreeable to me. I could not be better satisfied even if I had made a fight from a selfish standpoint. I think the country will see the Democrats on the next House more united, if possible, under the leadership of Mr. Clark and Mr. Underwood than we have been before. North Carolina will have representation on a larger number of the great committees which formulate and control legislation than ever before. I shall very gladly support Mr. Kitchin in the caucus for a place on the Ways and Means committee. His services deserve the very highest recognition.

"If I had done what is best to promote the success of our party without surrendering one of the principles in which I believe, if I have done what is best for the interest of my colleagues from North Carolina; if the result shall enable me to show my gratitude to some of those who for years have so loyally supported me, it would seem that I have some reason to be content."

Hon. Champ Clark read Mr. Pou's statement before it was given to the press and said: "Every word of the statement respecting what took place between him and me is the exact truth. His course from the beginning is deserving of the very highest commendation."

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