

SUNK IN COLLISION

Steamship Wrecked By a Sailing Vessel.

TWENTY PEOPLE ARE KILLED

Accident Occurred in The Waters of The Pacific Ocean—Must Have Resulted From Carelessness.

San Francisco, Special.—A collision at sea, early Thursday morning, between the steamship Walla Walla and an unknown sailing vessel, resulted in the sinking of the steamship and the probable loss of at least 20 lives. The Walla Walla, owned by the Pacific Coast Steamship Company, sailed from San Francisco, January 1, for Puget Sound ports. She carried 36 first-class passengers, 22 second-class and a crew of 80 men. When off Cape Mendocino, on the California coast, at 4:10 o'clock, Thursday morning, an iron bark, believed to be French, loomed up in the haze and crashed into the Walla Walla's bow. Then the sailing vessel slid off into the darkness and was seen no more. All the passengers and crew of the Walla Walla, except the few on watch, were asleep, but were aroused by the crash. The steering quarters were in the bow and it is believed that some of the steering passengers and crew were crushed to death. A big hole was made in the steamer's bow and she sank in 35 minutes. The officers and crew maintained strict discipline and boats and life rafts were lowered.

All who were not killed in the collision got on the boat except Captain Hall. He was picked up later unharmed. A choppy sea was running and the small boats could not make a landing on the shore, a few miles distant. They drifted about all day, and finally 66 people were picked up by the steamer Dispatch, which took them to Eureka. Another boat under command of Engineer Brown, and containing 12 persons, attempted to land at Trinidad and was swamped. John Wilkinson, quartermaster; Wm. Martiel, fireman; L. Drube, passenger, and three unknown men, were drowned. Those in the boat who were saved were Engineer Brown, Fireman McClellan, Coal-Passer Wm. Shinn; Sailor O'Leary, Chief Cook Marshall and Passengers Wm. B. Smith and Wm. Moorehouse. When the Dispatch reached Eureka this morning with the survivors, the tug immediately sent out for missing boats. The tug Ranger picked up one containing 11 passengers and three of the crew.

The Walla Walla was valued at about \$250,000. She was formerly used as a collier and about ten years ago was converted into a passenger vessel at a cost of \$175,000. The vessel was insured for about \$200,000. George Reine of San Francisco, a member of the crew, gave the following account of the disaster:

"It was 4:10 when the French vessel hit the Walla Walla in the bow. All were asleep. The weather was clear, the sea was rolling high. All were panic-stricken. The passengers rushed out of their state rooms and the deck was crowded. Captain Hall went down into the steering and found a family of four fastened in a room by the collision. The shock jamming the door. Two boys were pinned beneath fallen timbers. The girls were released and the family assisted out of their berths. The captain said the vessel would sink and all hurriedly prepared to leave. Life boats and rafts were lowered. Life preservers were put on and passengers lowered to the boats. The collision happened at 4:10 and the vessel did not sink until 4:45, giving the crew and passengers 35 minutes to leave the steamer. Sixty-three were lowered into the life-saving boats then being filled. Panic reigned among the remaining passengers; women screamed and men and boys hurriedly jumped overboard. Several did not leave until the vessel began to sink. The officers were cool and collected, doing everything possible to save the passengers. No one knows exactly how and when the collision occurred, excepting the second officer and he is missing. Immediately after the collision, the French vessel withdrew and apparently made no effort to render assistance."

Parker's Man Located.

Elizabeth City, N. C., Special.—A rumor was afloat here that the man who was met by Mr. Parker between the Crosey residence and Elizabeth City, has been located. Mr. Parker was on his way home from Mr. Fletcher's, about 7 miles from town, and in passing the Crosey residence, about 11 o'clock on the night of November 20th, saw a man and woman standing at the gate. Very little attention was given to this couple and Mr. Parker could not say definitely who they were, but afterwards he met another man, whom he thoroughly observed and described. The official committee since then have been trying to locate this party, so he should be able to throw some light on the tragic death of Nellie Crosey.

Sanjour's Condition Hopeless.

Washington, Special.—Admiral Sanjour's malady progresses slowly but very steadily toward the end. Medical science cannot check it. Symptoms of arterial degeneration have appeared, such as is incident to his malady, inflicting great uncertainty into the case. Moreover, the patient is becoming less tractable and responsive to treatment.

Postoffice Robbed.

Chattanooga, Special.—Inspector in charge, Williams, was notified Thursday of the robbery of the postoffice at Hixson, Ga. The assistant postmaster was assaulted and all the stamps in the office, money order blanks, and keys taken. The postoffice at Smallwood, S. C., was robbed and stamps stolen. Inspector Corbett caused the arrest of Charles Harrows, at Mason, Ga., on the charge of breaking into and robbing a postoffice.

STATISTICS.

A Report of Great Value to the People of the State.

Agricultural statistics will form one of the most interesting features of the forthcoming annual report of the Commissioner of Labor and Printing, Mr. H. B. Varner. Advance sheets, prepared by Chief Clerk W. E. Faison, give a great deal of interesting information relating to the farming classes.

The following average tables are compiled from blanks filled out by representative farmers from every county in the State. The farmers always respond promptly. In this chapter is also published letters showing the needs and condition of farm labor.

The returns were received during the period from June 15 to October 1, 1901, which explains the difference in the selling price of cotton and other products shown in table No. 5.

Table No. 1 shows an increase of 12 1/2 per cent. in value of land in twenty-one counties. Seventy-six counties report no change. Eighty-two counties report fertility of land maintained, and fifteen report fertility not maintained. Forty-seven counties report tendency to have smaller farms, nine larger and twenty-one no change.

Table No. 2 shows that the mode of living in ninety counties is improved. Sixty-three counties report the cost of living increased. Ninety-six counties report negro labor unreliable, and one reports no negro labor. Thirty-nine counties report employment regular.

Table No. 3 shows the highest wages of men \$15.62, and the lowest \$9.65. The highest wages of women is \$9.75, and the lowest \$6.35. The wages of children is \$5.39. Forty-six counties report an increase in wages and fifty-one report no change. These figures show an average increase of nearly 20 per cent over 1900.

Table No. 4 shows that sixty-seven counties produce cotton at a cost of \$28.40 per 500-pound bale. Eighty-six counties produce wheat at a cost of 61 cents per bushel. Ninety-six counties produce corn at a cost of 43 cents per bushel. Ninety-four counties produce oats at a cost of 31 cents per bushel. Fifty-four counties produce tobacco at a cost of \$6.49 per 100 pounds.

Table No. 5 shows the market price of cotton 8 cents per pound, wheat 80 cents per bushel, corn 71 cents per bushel, oats 43 cents per bushel, tobacco \$8.30 per hundred. These prices make the profit on products \$3.30 per bale for cotton, 19c. per bushel for wheat, 29 cents per bushel for corn, 11 cents per bushel for oats, and \$1.31 per hundred for tobacco.

Table No. 6 indicates that the educational condition is good in three counties, fair in forty-one, poor in fifty-three. The moral condition is good in twenty-one counties, fair in seventy-three, and poor in three. The financial condition is good in one, fair in forty-three, and poor in fifty-three.

The question, "Do you favor a compulsory school law?" was answered by 83 per cent, "Yes," and by 17 per cent, "No."

Increased Valuations.

The Corporation Commission has prepared a statement showing the increased assessment to be \$20,35,334.

The increase in real and personal property is placed at \$21,622,438, which is in accordance with the official figures from the State Auditor's office published in the News and Observer Christmas day.

The figures of the Corporation Commission are based on complete returns from 91 counties, and estimated figures based on partial returns from five counties. Only one county is not included. The News and Observer's figures from 90 counties showed that the increase in real and personal property over last year is \$20,181,078. The Corporation Commission's figures from 96 counties show an increase of \$21,622,438.

The total valuations from all sources are \$329,425,593 as compared with \$309,097,359 last year and \$287,339,253 in 1899. This gives an increase of \$20,326,334. One of the largest sources of the increase, aside from the real estate tax, which is \$5,867,000. This is the tax the corporations pay on capital stock.

The Department of Insurance makes a good showing, the increase in the amount of revenue paid nets the treasury last year by that department, being \$34,471.45.

The increase in tax returns in detail are as follows: Real estate \$173,728,969 \$166,444,283 Personal prop. 107,834,449 93,508,612 Cor. excesses 5,867,000 Prop. Cor. Com 45,148,798 45,510,967 R. and L. As 604,181 387,305

Totals \$329,425,593 \$309,097,359 The gross income for 1901 are \$1,589,651, yielding a revenue of \$18,790 which is an increase of \$15,129.70 over the amount of revenue received in 1900. The gross income for 1900 were \$919,913, yielding a revenue of \$5,266.81. The increase in revenue equals a valuation of \$3,523,438.

The above statement is compiled from reports of Register of Deeds of the various counties of the rise and personal property, and that part relating to banks and corporations as from the certificates of the auditor of the State.

President to Be Invited.

Washington, Special.—Rev. I. Garland Penn, of Atlanta, who had charge of the negro exhibit at the Atlanta Exposition, called upon President Roosevelt and arranged for the reception of delegates on Saturday, January 13, who are to invite him to a Young Negroes' Christian Congress, in Atlanta, next August, which is to consider the moral and spiritual training of young colored people. President Roosevelt told Rev. Penn that he looked upon the movement to be promoted by the Atlanta congress with favor.

BRYAN ON BOERS.

Makes a Vigorous Speech Favoring Their Independence

GLAD OF WHAT WAR COST ENGLAND

Four Thousand People Present and Heartily applauded the Sentiments of the Speaker.

Cleveland, Special.—Four thousand people attended a pro-Boer meeting in Gray's Armory Sunday afternoon. There was enthusiastic applause for every expression of sympathy and encouragement for the struggling Boers. An unexpected event in the meeting was the appearance of Hon. Wm. J. Bryan, who is in this city as the guest of Mayor Johnson. When the committee in charge of the meeting learned that the Democratic leader was in the city an invitation was sent to him and the mayor to attend and address the gathering. Both gentlemen accepted, and when, towards the close of other speeches, Mr. Bryan and Mr. Johnson entered the hall, the whole audience rose en masse and repeatedly shouted "Bryan!" and "Johnson!" and greeted them with hurrah and hand-clapping. The audience was composed mostly of men, although a number of women were present. The tri-color of the Boer republic was a prominent feature of the armory's decorations and little streamers were tied in the button holes of many of the men. Upon the stage were several native Boers who had been in some of the early conflicts of their countrymen against the English soldiers. They were driven from their country, and are now residents of this city. The meeting continued for four hours, the principal address being by Hon. John J. Lentz Rev. August Franz, a local Reformed Lutheran clergyman, also spoke. When the formal speeches of the afternoon were concluded Messrs. Bryan and Johnson were called upon to address the vast audience. Mr. Bryan spoke for about five minutes, during which time he said:

"Sad will be that day, fallen will be the star of our destiny, if the time ever comes when struggling freemen feel that they cannot look upon the people of these States for sympathy."

Mr. Bryan said that he was in entire sympathy with the intent of the meeting, and urged the fighting South African farmers and urged them to continue the struggle. He said that he was glad the war had cost England so dearly, and that the disastrous cost in money and life would be a much-needed lesson for the English government, because it would teach, and has already taught a lesson that will not be soon forgotten.

Mr. Bryan said that he considered it a compliment that the Boers looked to the United States for aid and sympathy in their struggle, and that he considered it a disgrace that no official expression of sympathy had yet been made by this government. Mr. Bryan believed that English people are opposed to the continuance of the war because they, too, are suffering because of the unhappy conflict and are the ones that must bear the burden of the cost.

Mayor Johnson spoke briefly and said that he was in full sympathy with the intent of the meeting. A resolution of great length was proposed and will be sent to the President of the United States. It calls the President's attention to the continuance of the war for the past two years and states that it has been characterized on the part of the British as a conflict of savagery by the confiscation or destruction of property of inhabitants and non-combatants lying within the zone of war.

Attention is called to the denunciation by President McKinley of the system of concentration camps. A question from the Manchester, (England) Guardian, of September 4, 1901, is made, which states that a degree of suffering and death exists in these camps without a parallel in history. In conclusion, the President is asked to enforce the treaty of Washington, May 8, 1871, denying to vessels operating under British authority opportunity for the augmentation of supplies of war from the United States. President Roosevelt is asked to continue the efforts of his predecessor to bring to an end the horrors of concentration camps and warfare which by its "unexampled ferocity and enormous cost of life and treasure, has astounded the civilized world."

Texas Anti-Trust Law.

Austine, Tex., Special.—Anti-trust papers today filed against the John H. Kirby Lumber company for \$345,000 worth of penalties charging that said company was operating in violation of the Texas anti-trust law. Some weeks ago the suit was filed but was dismissed upon the statement that the company had not acquired the companies that it was charged with buying up. Now, however, it is claimed that the consolidation has been made and that the suit is refiled. Suits were also filed against the National Cotton Oil company, the Taylor Oil company and the Southern Oil company for \$275,000 damages for violating the Texas anti-trust law.

The Liberty Bell.

Philadelphia, Pa., Special.—The historic Liberty bell which is to be placed on exhibition at the Charleston exposition was taken from Independence hall at 3 o'clock Saturday afternoon, where it will remain under guard until Monday morning when it will start on its southern journey. The bell was accompanied to the station by a military escort, a committee of councilors and heads of the various city departments.

THE TREASURY'S STRENGTH.

The Government Begins the Year With Abundant Cash.

Washington, Special.—"The Treasury is in a condition of unexampled strength," said Secretary Gage, when asked to briefly review the Treasury situation at the close of the year. "Only a month ago, in my annual report to Congress, I reviewed those conditions. The figures for the last month have made but little change. For the calendar year we show receipts in excess of the ordinary expenditures amounting roundly to \$100,000,000. Such an excess might have resulted in serious embarrassment had not the Department been able, by means of this surplus to reduce the public debt to large amounts. Since April 1 last the Treasury has redeemed and cancelled United States bonds to the par value of \$58,714,700, which have been applied to the sinking fund and the disbursement resulting therefrom was \$212,218,645. The available cash on hand is therefore, about \$30,000,000 larger than the amount a year ago.

"Comparing the situation as it is today with April 1st, 1897, the result is most gratifying. On the latter day the Treasury held money of all kinds to the amount of \$250,573,000, including \$100,000,000 as a gold reserve, leaving therefore \$150,000,000 as a cash balance. Today in money of all kinds the Treasury holds \$298,659,000, and if we deduct the \$150,000,000 now held as a gold reserve the balance stands at \$148,659,000 or \$4,000,000 less than it was April 1, 1897. It will be seen, therefore, that substantial equilibrium has been maintained.

"There has been a very material increase in the money in circulation since March 1, 1897, as well as in the amount per capita. The volume of money on that date, outside the Treasury, was \$1,675,694,953, and the amount per capita was \$32.14. On the 1st of December last the amount of money outside the Treasury was \$2,250,256,230, and the amount per capita was \$38.73. The increase in amount, therefore, was \$571,561,277, and the increase per capita was \$6.59."

Another B. & L. Failure.

Rosnoke, Va., Special.—At the suit of W. W. Gwynn, of Huntington, W. Va., the Iron Belt Building and Loan Association has been placed in the hands of receivers by a decree entered by Judge Simonon, United States Circuit Judge. The bill was filed on December 27th in the United States Court at Lynchburg, and the decree was entered by Judge Simonon, sitting in chambers at Charleston, S. C., on the 28th, appointing E. B. Jacobs and James R. Terry receivers. The passing of the January dividend on its full paid stock, because of recent West Virginia decisions, is the chief ground upon which the suit is based. The association holds extensive properties in several Southern States and is one of the largest corporations of its kind in the South. Messrs. Jacobs and Terry, the receivers, reside at Rosnoke.

Schley to Make a Tour.

Washington, D. C., Special.—Admiral Schley left here Tuesday afternoon for Baltimore to pay a long-deferred visit to his sister. He will return on Thursday to act as honorary pall-bearer at the funeral of the late Rear Admiral Roe. On January 8, Admiral Schley will go to Savannah, Ga., for a ten day's visit to General William W. Gordon. On the 25th, 26th and 27th of January he will be the guest of the Hamilton Club, of Chicago. January 29th and 30th he will visit Louisville as the guest of the board of trade and the Knights Templar of that city; February 1, 2 and 3 he will be in Nashville as the guest of the board of trade and Knights Templar. He will visit Knoxville on February 5, 6 and 7 as the guest of the city. The Memphis trip has been arranged finally for the last week of April.

Consorship Withdrawn.

New York, Special.—The Commercial Cable Company sends out the following notice: "We are advised that the Eastern Telegraph Company makes the announcement that the American Government has withdrawn the consorship on messages to Manila, but the Government claims the right to inspect the messages to which this measure applies."

A Jeweler Shoots Five Persons.

Turner's Falls, Mass., Special.—Louis Bitzer, a jeweler of this place, shot five persons, two of whom—his clerk, Miss Ida Columbe and Bitzer's five-year-old son—are dead. The other victims were his wife, Christina, and his two daughters, Annie, about 16 years of age, and Carrie, 12 years old. It is thought they will recover. There is evidence that it was Bitzer's purpose also to take his own life, but his prompt arrest apparently prevented him from carrying out his purpose. He is about 35 years of age.

Wages Increased.

Philadelphia, Special.—The Press says: "An increase of from 4 to 12 per cent in the wages of about 45,000 the lines owned or operated by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. It will apply to all the trainmen on all the lines owned or operated by the company. The clerical force is not included in the plan."

Southern Soap Makers.

Atlanta, Special.—It is understood that Southern soap manufacturers are organizing for a consolidation of all places south of the Ohio river. Edward O'Neil, secretary of the largest soap manufacturing concern in Atlanta, said that his company had been asked to join the combination which Mr. Miles said, would affiliate with similar associations in the North and West. The organization will be known as the Southern Soap Manufacturers' Association.

CANAL OFFERED US

Formal Offer Made to United States Government.

PRICE, FORTY MILLION DOLLARS.

The President Will Communicate Offer to Congress, Which Alone Has Power to Act.

Washington, Special.—A formal proposition to sell the Panama canal properties to the United States government for \$40,000,000 was submitted to the authorities here. It was made by M. Boeufve, representing the company, to Admiral Walker as chairman of the isthmian canal commission. M. Boeufve acted under cable instructions received today from the Panama canal officials at Paris. Admiral Walker brought the proposition to the knowledge of the secretary of state and the president, going directly to the State department for that purpose.

The submission of this offer carries out a plan which has been under consideration for the last two weeks. The first step was taken when M. Hutin retired from the presidency of the Panama company. This brought about an entire change in the management, the main feature of the change being that those in authority desired to make a definite offer of the Panama properties to this government for \$40,000,000. There have been numerous meetings at Paris with this end in view but the one which brought about the final proposition was held yesterday. It had been the intention to make the offer through Edward Lampre, secretary general of the company, who is due to arrive at New York on the steamer Aquitains tomorrow, but the meeting appears to have taken a view that the offer should be made without waiting for the arrival of M. Lampre. Accordingly the cable instructions were forwarded to M. Boeufve. He went at once to the office of the isthmian canal commission and advised Admiral Walker of what had been the determination of the company. In substance the notification to Admiral Walker was as follows: "The Panama Canal company declares itself ready to transfer to the government of the United States on payment of \$40,000,000, its properties and concessions, estimated at that amount by the isthmian canal commission, in conformity with the terms and conditions of the estimates of said commission."

Except to submit the proposition in the foregoing terms, there was no discussion with Admiral Walker as to what further steps were likely to be taken except to bring the proposition to the attention of the secretary of state and the president. Admiral Walker called at the State department this noon and communicated to Secretary Hay the offer which M. Boeufve had submitted in behalf of the canal company. The matter soon thereafter was brought to the attention of the president.

It can be stated that the president will communicate the proposition to congress. This course will be pursued because the administration holds that the canal question is now one for legislative determination and that as congress is about to consider the subject it should have possession of all facts that have come to the executive branch. The offer as made to Admiral Walker and later communicated to the president and secretary of state refers to the estimates of the isthmian commission's report. This failure of the commission's report appears under the caption "Total Value of the Panama Canal," and is as follows:

Summing up the foregoing items, the Panama railroad stock at par \$4,550,000; maps, drawings and records, \$2,000,000.

"To which add 10 per cent. to cover commissions, making the total valuation of the Panama canal \$40,000,000."

Collision Near Atlanta.

Atlanta, Special.—As a result of a head-on collision between two freight trains of the Southern Railway, early Sunday morning, near Rex, Ga., 11 miles from this place, three of the trains' crews were killed and a number of freight cars destroyed by fire. The dead are: Engineer C. C. Wallace, Atlanta; Flagman Z. H. Harris and Fireman Prather.

Killed By Boiler Explosion.

Parkersburg, W. Va., Special.—The boiler in the South Penn Oil Company pumping station, at Harry Rhodes, in Doddridge county, blew up, scalding to death Harry Rhodes, a pumper for the company; Merrick Frick, who ran a string of well cleaning tools, and Dell Ash, his assistant. The men were all in the boiler house warming themselves when the explosion occurred. They broke open the door, which had become locked, and escaped to another house a mile away. All were scalded so that flesh fell from them on the way. After reaching the other boiler house they collapsed, and in a few hours were all dead.

White Boys Steal.

Charlotte, Special.—Jim Biggs, Baxter Osment and Bruce McLelland, all white boys of this city and all under 15 years of age, were arrested by Policeman Farrington and Barnhardt on a charge of stealing gold pens and pencils from Stone & Barringer. The thefts which were very bold, were committed Tuesday. While the store was crowded the boys walked in, opened the show cases in the front part of the store without being seen and skillfully managed to steal about \$50 worth of pens and pencils. They reckoned the fruits of crime at small value, and disposed of several of the pens worth \$3 and \$4 each for 25 cents apiece. Most of the stolen articles have been recovered.

Street Railway Sold.

New Orleans, Special.—E. H. H. Pearson, of the Pearson Syndicate of Philadelphia, gave out the statement that out of the 75,000 shares of common stock of the New Orleans City Railway Company, the syndicate had secured \$0,000 and would enter into the lease by January 15. The dissolution of the Louisville pool, which held 25,000 shares of stock and would not sell, is considered to have brought about the deal.

AT THE UNIVERSITY.

A Great Deal of Good Work Being Done There.

Chapel Hill, Special.—The University Law School has completed its most successful session, and will open in the New Year with the brightest outlook in its history. During the fall term, from September to December, the enrollment has been larger than it ever was before, reaching nearly two score men. The signs are that the roll will be a yet longer one in the coming session, opening on next Thursday. The school will lose a few men who stand for license in February, but the accessions will quite make up for the loss. A much larger and more convenient class-room will be occupied after Christmas. The mantle of the University's and the State's great teacher of law, the Gamaliel of so many of North Carolina's most successful lawyers, the late Dr. John Manning, has descended upon most worthy shoulders. Hon. James C. McRea, a lawyer of long experience and trained legal mind, whose talents have adorned the bar and the bench of both Superior and Supreme Courts, is the able dean of the law school. He has fine assistance from Dr. Thomas Ruffin, a graduate of Georgetown, and a member of a historical family noted for legal ability and acumen.

Murderer Arrested.

Sallisbury, Special.—John Brady and Ernest Griffin, the two negroes charged with the murder of a Mr. Smith at Elon College on Christmas day, were captured here at 12:30 Sunday morning by Officers Torrence and Cables at a house on Church street where a brother of Griffin is staying. At first both men denied all knowledge of the affair and maintained this attitude until Monday when Griffin admitted having been present and seen Brady do the shooting. Confronted with this statement, Brady admitted its truth, and asserted that the killing was in self-defense and not in cold blood, as has been charged. The deceased, he asserted, was attacking him with a knife at the time. The men claimed that they had walked here from Elon College, following the road through the country and arriving at noon Saturday. The mayor of Elon College was notified by telegraph of the capture and replied that officers would be here in the morning to take the prisoners into custody.

Burglary at Durham.

The home of Mr. D. C. Christian, living in the western part of the city, was burglarized and \$160 carried off by the robbers. He had the money in his pants, intending to deposit it the next morning. The robbers opened a window and pulled the pants out with a long pole. The matter was reported to the officers and an effort made to keep the matter quiet, hoping in this way to find the guilty parties, but it leaked out last night. No clues have been discovered sufficient to cause arrest. The internal revenue receipts for the Durham office during the month of December amounted to \$152,485.65. During the month the factories were closed about one-fourth of the time. The year 1901 shows the largest revenue business ever done in Durham.

Reidsville Telephone Company.

Reidsville, Special.—The Reidsville telephone exchange has been sold to a new corporation, composed of some of the leading citizens as stockholders. The transfer is effective at once. Papers incorporating the new company are being prepared and as soon as a charter has been issued directors and officers will be elected. The new company will have an authorized capital of \$30,000 and a paid-in capital sufficient to meet all present requirements of the exchange. Extensive improvements will be made at once and the new company will in a short while have one of the best exchanges in the South. Several important long distance lines will be built. All-night and Sunday service will be put on at once.

Negro Splits Another's Head.

Raleigh, Special.—A special to the News and Observer from Morehead City, says: At Swans Quarter two negroes, residents of Beaufort, Joe Joyner and Ellis Baxter, engaged in the oyster trade, had a difficulty on Capt. Harry Hall's boat. Joyner's head was split open by Baxter with a shovel. Baxter was taken into custody.

White Boys Steal.

Charlotte, Special.—Jim Biggs, Baxter Osment and Bruce McLelland, all white boys of this city and all under 15 years of age, were arrested by Policeman Farrington and Barnhardt on a charge of stealing gold pens and pencils from Stone & Barringer. The thefts which were very bold, were committed Tuesday. While the store was crowded the boys walked in, opened the show cases in the front part of the store without being seen and skillfully managed to steal about \$50 worth of pens and pencils. They reckoned the fruits of crime at small value, and disposed of several of the pens worth \$3 and \$4 each for 25 cents apiece. Most of the stolen articles have been recovered.

Ordered to Fort Monroe.

Washington, Special.—The Seventy-third Company of Coast Artillery, now on detached service at Buffalo, N. Y., has been ordered to return to Fort Monroe, Va., with the exception of a detachment of one non-commissioned officer and twelve men, under Second Lieutenant H. L. Martin. Artillery Corps, which will remain at Buffalo to complete the work on hand.