

NORTH STATE HAPPENINGS

Occurrences of Interest Gleaned From All Sections of the Busy Tar Heel State

\$12,500,000 A YEAR WASTED.

What the South Can Save in the Item of Damage to Cotton.

Charlotte, Special.—It is a fact well known that the South annually loses more than twelve million dollars as waste on its cotton crop. The following timely article on that subject is from the pen of Col. Jno. D. Frost, of Columbia, S. C., who is a cotton man of wide experience:

Hon. B. Harris, president Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union, Pendleton, S. C., and Hon. E. D. Smith, president S. C. Division, Southern Cotton Association, Columbia, S. C.

Gentlemen: The time for picking cotton having arrived, has it ever occurred to you to look into the question of damage brought about by a lack of care for the staple from the time it is ginned to the time of marketing? Having lived on a plantation for twenty-one years, and at present owning and operating one, as well as being in the cotton business for the past ten years, I thought possibly that my observations along this line might tend to show the great amount of money lost to this cotton producing country. I desire to impress upon the farmer the necessity of caring for his cotton after laboring hard all the year to make it, and thereby lessen friction between producer, buyer, and manufacturer. A large portion of the farmers, as well as the carriers treat the staple as though it were coal, allowing it to lie on the ground for months after ginning subject to climatic conditions, which results in rot and country damage.

When the cotton is ready for the market it is picked up and offered for sale, the damage, as a usual thing, being disregarded until subjected to the buyer's inspection who, in protecting his interests, will either dock for the damage or have the cotton picked, resulting in great loss to the farmer. Unquestionably it is to the farmer's interest to store his cotton in a reputable warehouse thereby protecting himself from loss by fire as well as damage, and in addition he can secure warehouse receipt for same which is prime mercantile paper, and can be discounted at any bank, allowing the farmer to sell his cotton when he desires to do so.

My object, however, is to impress upon the farmers to house their cotton as soon as it is ginned, whether it be in a warehouse, or in their barns, or dwelling, thereby reducing the element of damage to a minimum. To my mind, one of the most important things the Farmers' Union and the Southern Cotton Association could handle is the caring for cotton after it is ginned, and up to the time it is marketed. Having personally handled, during the past ten years, about 300,000 bales of cotton of all grades and staple, this cotton being shipped here from Texas and Oklahoma on the West, to North Carolina on the East, I do think I am in a very fair position to speak intelligently of the item of damage, largely caused by carelessness.

In addition to the rotten cotton on thousands of bales, varying from five to as much as three hundred pounds per bale, all of which has to be picked off before settling for and which is caused by allowing the cotton to sit on one end or lie on one side in the mud and rain for months before being offered for sale; there is another element of damage which is not so easily detected, but which has a far more reaching effect on the buyer, as well as the manufacturer. I refer to what is called country damage.

When cotton is allowed to stand in the weather after being ginned for any length of time, although the owner may turn it about from side to side to keep it from rotting, the staple of the cotton on the outside of the bale is affected just in proportion to the time it is allowed to remain exposed to climatic conditions. To illustrate, a bale of cotton ginned and packed December the first and allowed to remain in the weather until the first of March, will have about half as much country damage as the same bale would have if it remained in the weather until May the first, and when the manufacturer opens this bale, he will find that the cotton sticking to the bagging and extending inward is practically without any strength of staple, and as a result all of this affected cotton will go in waste or be found in the shafting overhead. Should the buyer detect this country damage the farmer is the loser, should the buyer not detect it, the buyer is the loser; in any event, dissatisfaction is the result, all of which could have been avoided by housing the cotton. The

Wilmington Druggist Makes Assignment.

Wilmington, Special.—J. C. Shepard, who has been in the drug business here for the past fifteen years, made an assignment Thursday afternoon, naming L. V. Grady, a lawyer, as trustee. The amount of the assets and liabilities is not yet known. This action followed the serving of an execution on the firm by the sheriff. The trustee is empowered to sell the stock at retail or in bulk.

amount of country damage varies in proportion to the time the cotton lies out in the weather, and will vary from three to twenty-five pounds per bale. I have carefully estimated that on every 11,000,000 bale crop produced, the producer, the carrier, and the compress together, allow 250,000 bales to be destroyed by rot and country damage, and when you figure this at ten cents per pound it amounts to \$12,500,000, all of which could be saved to the producer, the buyer, and the manufacturer, should they exercise the proper precaution against damage. Three years ago a farmer brought twenty bales of cotton to the warehouse for storage in March, which had been out in the weather since it was ginned in the fall. Some of the bales were so badly damaged and water soaked that they weighed one thousand pounds per bale. I asked him why he allowed his cotton to get in that condition; he replied that he was so busy making preparation for another crop that he had not cared for what he had already made. When this cotton was conditioned for market, he had about ten bales of merchantable cotton left out of the twenty. A bale of cotton ginned dry and housed until marketed will hold out better than one allowed to remain in the weather subject to climatic conditions, and will not possess the element of damage and will also retain its strength of staple even to the bagging.

Travel where you will, and you will see cotton sitting at railroad stations in the mud and rain, or you will see it lying on the ground around farm houses, where it will remain until ready for market, and when marketed, the bagging will be so rotten that you can not handle the cotton.

Owing to the seeming negligence displayed in the care of cotton after ginning, the buyer, when purchasing a lot of cotton has to take into consideration the element of damage or he would rather send his classes or receive the cotton, thereby establishing the amount of damage before payment is made. Where you find a section of country where great care is taken with the cotton, after ginning, and before marketing, there you will find cotton sought after by the buyers, and everything else being equal, a premium will be paid for same.

The manufacturer will pay better prices for cotton free from rot and country damage, because his percentage of waste will be decreased.

The point I desire to impress is: Take care of your cotton, handle it as though you thought something of it. If you cannot put it in a warehouse where it is insured and you can use the receipt, put it in your barn, or shed room, or anywhere to keep it from climatic conditions until you market it, and by doing this every pound will be spinnable and no dissatisfaction between producer, buyer, and manufacturer will result.

There are some places in South Carolina where warehouse facilities are adequate, but are unfortunately not utilized. My own experience is that four lots of cotton out of every five shipped from places where cotton is not warehoused are badly damaged, due to the fact that it is allowed to sit on one end for weeks and months in the open before it is offered for sale, and as a result heavy claims are made, and yet the best character of cotton, so far as body and staple is concerned, is produced at these places, and could be very much sought, were the elements of damage eliminated.

In conclusion, I would strongly urge that this matter be brought to the attention of all concerned, and thereby save twelve and one-half million dollars per year to the South-land.

Very truly yours,
JOHN D. FROST.

Lumberman Kills Himself.

Washington, N. C., Special.—Quite a sensation was produced in this city Tuesday morning by the suicide of Mr. George Bennett, a middle-aged lumberman of this city. It seems that Bennett had been drinking for the past few days and being out of work temporarily became despondent. He came home and told his wife that he had taken laudanum and intended to kill himself. He then went upstairs to his room and was later found by members of his family in a semi-conscious condition with an empty two-ounce bottle labeled laudanum on a table in the room. Drs. R. T. Taylor and E. M. Brown were immediately summoned and did everything possible to save him but without success, and he died at 12:30. Mr. Bennett came here from the town of Edenton several years ago. He leaves a wife and several children.

Negro With Punctured Heart Likely to Recover.

Jacksonville, Fla., Special.—Oscar Grimes, a negro, in a fight with Mary O'Brien Friday afternoon stabbed the woman and, thinking her dead, deliberately drove the knife into his own breast seven times, the heart being penetrated by one gash. He was hurried to a hospital, where the surgeons took three stitches in the heart. The negro is still alive and it is believed he will recover.

CONDITIONS OF BANKS.

Summary Just issued by the Corporation Commission, the Figures Showing a Gain Over Last Quarter's Report.

Raleigh, Special.—A summary of reports of the condition of North Carolina State, private and savings banks, just issued by the Corporation Commission, shows an aggregate of resources for the three classes of banks of \$45,386,556.38 and money on deposit \$25,931,194.13, these figures being some gain over the previous quarterly report of the banks. The last quarterly report of the national banks as shown by the reports of the national banking department of the government three months ago, showed \$41,976,973.68, resources, so the total banking resources of North Carolina are at this time about \$87,343,530.06.

Notable items among the resources of the State and savings banks scheduled in the statement are: Loans and discounts, \$32,261,708; banking houses and furniture, \$1,346,070; demand loans, \$1,400,643; due from banks and bankers, \$4,961,865; trust and deposit, \$1,266,631. The summary shows capital stock paid in by State and savings banks of \$7,477,625; surplus fund, \$1,501,233, and undivided profits, \$1,463,117.

Meeting of Truckers.

Wilmington, Special.—The twelfth annual meeting of the Eastern Carolina Truck and Fruit Growers' Association was held here last week. The secretary, Mr. H. T. Bauman, submitted his report to the board of directors for this year ending August 18th, 1908. The following is quoted from the report: "The acreage of strawberries reported planted this season was 4,783 1-2 acres, a decrease from 1907 of some 500 acres. The output this season was 201,808 crates, divided as follows: Refrigerator, 257,679 crates; express, 34,138 crates, an increase over last season of 47,736 crates. The total number of refrigerator cars used last season was 896; this season, 1,094, an increase of 198 cars. The average loading last season was 239 crates to the car; this season 236 crates. Last season the average pick per acre was 46 crates; this season it was 61 crates. The former was on a 50 per cent. crop and the latter on a 60 per cent. crop. The average net returns for 1907 was \$71 per acre; this season \$103.70 per acre.

"In 1907 we shipped 244,582 crates, average sales \$3.60 per crate, making the returns \$733,746 less expenses of \$1.50 per crate, leaving a net to the growers of \$366,873. This season we shipped 201,808 crates, average sales \$3.20 per crate, making the returns \$645,785, less expenses, \$1.50 per crate, \$496,073.60, which shows an increase to the growers of \$129,200.60 for 1908. The increase in the number of crates shipped was 4,248.

"There was a large increase in the shipment of vegetables, lettuce, etc., from the various sections, the express showing a total movement for 1908 of 79,121 packages; the refrigerator, 94,281 packages; in ventilated box cars, approximately, \$2.25 per package, making \$468,994.50 less expenses, estimated at 75 cents per package, \$156,301.50, leaving a net to the grower of \$312,693.

"The value of the strawberry and vegetable crops for 1908 was as follows: Strawberries, \$1.50 per crate, \$933,785.60; vegetables, etc., \$2.25 per package, \$468,994.50, giving a total of \$1,402,780.10. The expense of raising these crops and preparing them for shipment was about as follows: Strawberries, \$1.56 per crate, \$437,712; vegetables, 75 cents per package, \$156,301.50, giving a total of \$594,013.50. This deducted from the sales leaves a balance net to the growers of \$808,676.60."

Was Determined to Die.

Tarboro, Special.—William Alton Christenberry, a young farmer, committed suicide Thursday night at the home of W. E. Thone, near here, by swallowing an ounce of iodine and then shooting himself in the temple with a 38-calibre revolver. He has been despondent for some time and left a note to his sweetheart telling of his intentions. No reason was given for the deed. He told friends before retiring that it was his last night in this world, but they thought he was joking. His preparations were carefully made. He was 23 years of age.

Meeting of Veterans.

Winston-Salem, Special.—More than two thousand heroes of the "lost cause" participated in the great gathering of the North Carolina division of the United Confederate Veterans, held here last week. There was much enthusiasm among the visitors and the entertainment was first-class. The place of next meeting has not yet been decided upon.

Father Killed; Family Saved.

Tarboro, Special.—Township No. 13 was the scene of another tragedy in the criminal history of Edgecomb Logan Jones in a drunken rage, stated that he would wipe out his entire family, and upon attempting to make good the threat was shot down by his 15-year-old son. He was also attacked with an axe by another child. He died instantly from the shot wound.

FLOODS IN CAROLINA

Heavy Rainfall Puts All Rivers On Rampage

GREAT DAMAGE TO RAILWAYS

Bridges Are Swept Away, Railroad Transportation is Tied Up by Washouts and Landslides and Business at a Standstill Owing to Unprecedented Rainfall in Piedmont Carolinas.

Charlotte, N. C., Special.—The Piedmont section of the Carolinas has been suffering from the most disastrous floods ever experienced. The rainfall has been unprecedented since the establishment of the weather bureau here, thirty years ago. The rainfall, which was heavy all last week, has increased since Sunday, and all streams have been swollen beyond all previous records. Much damage will result to crops as well as roads and bridges. The railroads have abandoned all schedules and the Charlotte street railway has been compelled to suspend traffic on part of its lines. The city is practically cut off from communication with the rest of the world.

Columbia, S. C., Special.—The rainfall Monday night was the heaviest in many years, and in a number of places was heavier than during the famous Paeolet flood, when it was erroneously thought that a cloud had "burst" somewhere in the valley of the Paeolet river.

The local office of the Weather Bureau received reports from a number of places in central and western North Carolina and western South Carolina of heavy rains, as follows: Charlotte, 2.80 inches; Greensboro, 2.10; Raleigh, 4.48; Mount Holly, 6.16. From South Carolina points the following were reported: Batesburg, 2.16 inches; Pelzer, 2.96; Greenwood, 1.94; Chapells, 2.70; Blairs, 4.47; Catawba, 3.54; Greenville, 4.47; Catawba, 3.54; Greenville, 6.02; Spartanburg, 2.42.

The Broad river at Blairs stood 22 feet at 8 a. m., and will probably rise much higher when the upper waters reach there. The Saluda at Pelzer was 8.3 feet and rising, but at Chapells it was only 12.9 and rising. It will probably rise to 20 feet there.

Warning For 28 Feet.

The Weather Bureau issued a warning for a 28-foot stage during the next 36 hours. If this stage be attained it will exceed slightly the famous Paeolet flood, when the highest stage was reached at 1 p. m., June 8th—namely, 27.2 feet. The highest stage on record occurred as follows: August, 1840, 33.7; September, 1852, 34.4; February, 1865, 34.0; May, 1885, 31.2 feet; June, 1886, 30.3; June, 1903, 27.2.

Heavy rains in the central and western portions of the State will increase the river stages throughout the State. A special from Anderson says there are twelve inches in Anderson Railroad traffic is blocked in various directions on account of washouts. The Columbia train to Greenville was shut off at Williamston and the C. N. & L. train out of Laurens to Columbia was annulled on account of fear of crossing the bridge near Laurens. Traffic is blocked between Laurens and Greenville and between Laurens and Augusta by washouts.

Bridge Gone; Many Missing.

A telegram from Camden gives an account of the dramatic carrying away of a hundred-foot span of the vehicle toll bridge over the Wateree river (Catawba in North Carolina) at Camden. A number of people were on the bridge at the time watching the raging river. Of twenty-five persons on the bridge only six have been accounted for. Among those known to have been drowned are Mr. M. D. Raborn and his son. A Mr. Savage, a prominent northern man recently removed to Camden, is in a perilous position in a tree, with two negroes in midstream. Two thousand people were on the scene shortly after the catastrophe, which happened at 4:30. The financial loss is \$15,000.

Traffic on the Seaboard is blocked by washing away of the bridge at Abbeville.

SOUTH CAROLINA PRIMARIES.

Only a Light Vote Polled in South Carolina Democratic Primary Tuesday and Reports Are Slow in Coming in.

Columbia, S. C., Special.—At 10:30 Tuesday night the vote from the State has been reported slowly. Indications point to a landslide to Ansel for governor. The total at this hour from all points is: Ansel, 8,948; Blease, 5,407. Laurens and Abbeville, claimed for Blease, will go for Ansel. The senatorial race tabulated at 10:30 stands: Martin, 370; Smith, 3,633; Evans, 2,994; Johnstone, 2,210; Lumpkin, 516; Rhett, 2,695; Grace, 38.

State Superintendent of Education—Swearingen, 2,559; Mellineham, 1,708; Elmore, 1,453.

Caughman and Candler are leading for Railroad Commissioner. Jones is re-elected Comptroller—General over Brooker.

Bleese's home county, of Newberry gives Ansel 706, Blease 734. Rains in the up country will cut off probably 15,000 from the total vote.

A CASE OF LEPROSY

North Carolinian Discovered With Well Developed Case

IN HEART OF WASHINGTON CITY

North Carolinian Develops Case of Leprosy in Washington City and is Put in Quarantine.

Washington, Special.—John R. Early, a leper, is held prisoner in a tent at an isolated spot in the outskirts of this city.

Early arrived in Washington 10 days ago and was discovered to be suffering from the disease while living in a Salvation Army lodging house on Friday.

The health department officers have written to the authorities of North Carolina, to obtain permission to move the leper to Lynn, N. C., his home. The public health and marine hospital service are co-operating with the local authorities.

If the North Carolina authorities refuse to take care of Early, he probably will be sent to the leper colony in Louisiana.

Early has a wife and child, a mother, two sisters and a brother living in Lynn, N. C., from where he came to Washington to attend to his pension. He served in the army for nearly 9 years and is supposed to have contracted the fatal disease in the Philippines.

Early is 35 years old and the health officers say he has had the disease for over a year. In that time he has been employed in various stores and mills, and was actively engaged in Salvation Army work in numerous cities in New York State. Among the places in which he has lived since he was discharged from the army at Plattsburg, N. Y., in November 1906, are Winchester, a suburb of Boston, Mass., Troy, Granville and Oswego, N. Y. At the last two places the symptoms of leprosy first became pronounced. From Oswego he went to Canton, N. C., in May of this year, and was employed in a pulp mill employing 800 hands. Later he went to Lynn, whence he came to Washington.

Valuation of N. C. Railroads.

Raleigh, Special.—The work of fixing valuations for assessment as taxation on railroad and other corporations of quasi public character in North Carolina is just completed by the corporation commission and shows an increase in valuation over that for 1907 of \$1,458,003. There is also a showing of 245 miles' increase in the mileage of railroads in the State, of which the Norfolk & Southern has 100 miles increase. The synopsis of valuations follows: Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, 947.8 miles at \$23,434,900 valuation; Seaboard Air Line, 616.71 miles at \$12,500,000 valuation; Southern Railway, 1,332.74 miles at \$33,913,168 valuation; miscellaneous roads, 1,454.23 at \$10,932,635. Total railroad mileage in the State, 4,351.51 valued at \$85,780,703. The aggregate of valuations of other classes of corporations assessed are: Electric light and gas companies, \$1,196,396; bridge and canal companies, \$167,350; refrigerator companies, \$111,136; steamboat companies, \$131,633; telephone companies, \$2,190,951; waterworks companies, \$445,225; Southern Express Company, \$419,099; telegraph companies, \$917,974. Total, \$7,402,153. Grand total, \$93,182,856.

Big Fire in Constantinople.

Constantinople, By Cable.—Fire broke out Sunday evening in the Stamboul quarter and within a very brief period a terrible conflagration was raging. A strong wind carried the flames at great speed, and for six hours they swept over the section destroying 1,400 houses and shops. The fire was still burning at 9 o'clock at night, but the wind had decreased considerably.

No. 38 Jumps the Track.

Atlanta, Special.—Train 38 on the Southern Railway, known as the Southwestern Limited, which left Atlanta shortly after noon Sunday was wrecked four miles north of Swannee, Ga., about 3 o'clock. The colored fireman, Mason Watkins, was killed instantly and the engineer, B. F. Dewberry, of Atlanta, was so badly scalded that he died later, both being pinned underneath the engine after it left the track and turned over. The mail car, baggage car and combination car also left the track and turned over rolling down a 15 foot embankment.

Rapist Escapes From Sheriff.

Montgomery, Ala., Special.—Mack Holland, the negro rapist, was taken from Montgomery to Greenville by Sheriff Watson, of Butler county, and escaped from the sheriff at the Greenville depot. A large posse is said to be in pursuit. The negro attempting to assault a little daughter of W. Y. Watson at Avant, last Wednesday morning. Sheriff Watson is an uncle of the girl.

NAVAL MANOEUVRE

Practice Cruise Started in the Pacific Ocean

TORPEDO BOATS CARRIED ALONG

Steamers Out of San Francisco on a Log Voyage to Hawaii and Samoa.

San Francisco, Special.—Eight armored cruisers and a torpedo boat flotilla, comprising the Pacific fleet, steamed out of San Francisco on a long cruise to Hawaii and Samoa. According to the schedule arranged by the Navy Department, the fleet will arrive at Honolulu on September 2; leave Honolulu September 10 and arrive at Pago Pago September 20; leave Pago Pago September 27 and arrive at Honolulu October 17 and arrive at San Diego October 30 and arrive at Magdalena Bay November 1; leave Magdalena Bay November 30 and arrive at San Francisco December 4.

While at Pago Pago two armored cruisers and two destroyers will visit Apia for two days. The four vessels to make the visit will be designated by the commander-in-chief upon arrival at Pago Pago. The dates of departure are fixed, but the dates of arrival may vary according to the ease or difficulty with which the destroyers are towed. During the sojourn of the fleet at Magdalena Bay the vessels will engage in target practice and general manoeuvres. The vessels constituting the fleet are:

First division—West Virginia, Colorado, Maryland and Pennsylvania. Second division—Tennessee, California, Washington and South Dakota.

First torpedo boat flotilla—Truxtun, Hull, Whipple, Hopkins. Second torpedo boat flotilla—Perry, Preble, Stewart.

Torpedo supply ship—Solace. Colliers—Justin, to Honolulu only.

Censures Commission.

Atlanta, Ga., Special.—The prison commission of Georgia will be severely censured in the report of the special investigating committee of the legislature which has been engaged for the past five weeks in probing the prison system of the State. There will be no impeachment of the members. Neither will the commission be abolished. A severe censure for inattention and lack of diligence will close the record. This was decided upon at the final meeting of the investigating committee. The report of the findings has been made up and unanimously signed and will be presented, with a transcript of all evidence, to the extra session of the legislature which meets later.

Besieged by Begging Letters.

Hot Springs, Va., Special.—Scores of begging letters are arriving daily at the Taft headquarters, addressed to the candidate as the next President. A Cedarville (Ohio) man claims to be a namesake of President Roosevelt and asks Taft to answer his letter because Roosevelt did not. A Newark, (N. J.) man wants \$200. A Winchester man says he is a Rebel Republican and wants aid to dye his clothes. An Ashland (Ohio) man sends advice in reference to Taft's answering Bryan's speech of acceptance. He claims that Bryan is deader than a door nail. All the letters remain unanswered.

Mob After Murderer.

Little Rock, Special.—James Cartwright, a white man who is charged shot and killed his wife at their home near Conway, Ark., several days ago, was removed from the Conway jail and is being hurried to this city to prevent summary punishment being meted out by a mob of farmers who, it is said were preparing to storm the Conway jail.

Death of Baron Von Sternberg.

Berlin, By Cable.—Baron Speck Von Sternberg, ambassador from Germany to the United States, died Monday in Heidelberg, following an operation for cancer, from which he had suffered for ten years. The popular official had achieved distinction in many posts. He was a close friend of President Roosevelt and a frequent caller at the White House, where he played tennis with the President. He married Miss Lily Laugham a Kentucky belle.

Called From Home and Stabbed to Death.

New York, Special.—Phillip Bendannago was called from his home and killed Monday morning. His body when found by his wife had three stab wounds near the heart. He had won \$50 gambling and it is thought that somebody who saw him with the money stabbed him for the purpose of robbery, but was frightened off before getting the money.