

THE NEWS IN BRIEF

Items of Interest Gathered By Wire and Cable

GLEANINGS FROM DAY TO DAY

Live Items Covering Events of More or Less Interest at Home and Abroad.

The Chamber of Commerce of Petersburg have secured an option on the Index-Appeal of that city and will buy the paper in order to boom the city.

The two and one-half passenger rate on all railroads in Virginia except the Norfolk and Western goes into effect April 1st.

Mrs. Mary Farmer was electrocuted at Auburn, N. Y., Monday morning for the most brutal murder of Mrs. Sarah Brannon, last April.

William Brant Eyster, of McKee Rocks, Pennsylvania, is now of the opinion that he is the long lost Charlie Ross. He discovered that his foster parents, who are now dead, were not his real parents. Charlie Ross was kidnapped 35 years ago.

Four persons were killed and five fatally wounded near Pittsburg, Pa., last Saturday by a head-on collision.

Gunjiro Aoki, a Japanese, and Miss Helen Gladys Emery, the daughter of Archdeacon Emery, of the Episcopal Diocese of California, were married at the Trinity Church, Seattle, last Saturday. They came from California, where they could not be legally married.

Three dry kilns just outside of Norfolk burned Wednesday, consuming a fine lot of timber. The loss is estimated at \$20,000.

An offer for Willie Whitla to go on the vaudeville stage at \$1,000 a week has been received by his father, who merely remarked: "They will have to go higher than that."

Lawrence R. Boyle, who had been for 20 years the staff of the Boston Globe, in a fit of despondency last Saturday night, shot and killed his wife and himself.

The State of Georgia has abandoned the former method of leasing convicts from the penitentiary and an order has been issued against putting chains on women convicted of misdemeanors.

Dr. W. M. Ader, a North Carolinian was shot and mortally wounded in the late Indian uprising in Oklahoma.

The Southern Life Insurance Company of Fayetteville, N. C., which came so near being wrecked by the Seminole disaster, has been absorbed by the Jefferson Life Insurance Company of Raleigh, and policyholders are thereby secured and the stockholders get about 90 per cent of original investments.

In Raleigh, N. C., the citizens Democratic ticket won Tuesday in a very exciting municipal primary, carrying all before it but one alderman.

At Cumberland, Maryland, last week, a woman dying of blood poison, in token of the intense love she bore for her nurse, requested a kiss. The nurse complied, but caught the disease and died a few days later.

The Confederate Veterans' Reunion will be held this year at Memphis from June 8th to 10th.

San Francisco is said to be putting \$12,000,000 annually into slot machines.

The United States Commissioner at New York has decided that Jan Janoff Pourren was a revolutionist and is not to be extradited to Russia for crimes committed.

A man said to have murdered a girl in Indiana 32 years ago, was recently found living in Texas, married and wealthy.

Foreign Affairs.

Six thousand persons were rendered homeless, and 30,000 domestic animals were drowned by late heavy floods in Southern Russia.

The French bark, Jules Henry blew up at Marseilles Thursday and 12 men were killed. It was a petroleum carrier and being inspected when it is believed the fumes of empty tanks caught from the inspectors light.

The last batch of U. S. troops left Cuba Wednesday noon to return to America, leaving the islanders again to govern themselves.

Accused of embezzling upwards of \$51,000 from the Russian Government, a man believed to be Isaac Yakovlev Matsaenko was arrested in Philadelphia Tuesday night.

Count Zeppelin and a small party ascended in his airship at Friedrichshafen, Germany, last week, and were caught in a hurricane. One motor refused to work and he could not safely land until he spent 11 hours in the air. He then landed in a 35 mile gale.

Washington News Notes.

April 1st was the first check issuing day for President Taft and \$5,625.01 is the sum.

President Taft has approved The Baltimore Sun's suggestion of a new system of accounting for the Government departments.

After April 1st no opium in any form whatever can be legally shipped into the United States except it be strictly for medical purposes.

GUILTY IN SECOND DEGREE

Earl Cotten, Tim Holderfield and E. A. Hopkins Convicted.

Raleigh, Special.—After being out all night the jury in the trial of three men for the murder of Dr. E. W. Smith, of Richmond, Va., Saturday morning brought in a verdict of murder in the second degree against Earl Cotten, Tim Holderfield and E. A. Hopkins, otherwise known as "Red" Hopkins, young white men. With regard to Hopkins the jury recommended mercy.

Judge Lyon, of the Superior Court, sentenced Cotten to 30 years in the penitentiary, the full limit, holding him as the leading spirit in the murder. Holderfield, because he was in the employ of Cotten at his cafe, and because of testimony that he was of good character, was sentenced to only 10 years in the penitentiary. "Red" Hopkins was sentenced to 2 years.

Enterprise at a Crisis.

Wadesboro, Special.—While nothing authoritative on the subject can be obtained, there is every reason to believe that the unfortunate litigation in which the Rockingham Power Company has been involved for the past year will ultimately result in the sale of the Blewett Falls property, and that, too, at no distant day.

Factional fights have long prevailed in the company. These fights have been between what are known as the North Carolina interests, headed by Hugh McKee & Co., of Wilmington, and the Northern interests, with headquarters in New York and Boston. The warring factions have made several unsuccessful efforts to get together and this means that, unless they yet compromise their differences the great water power must inevitably be sold under the hammer. Over a million and a half dollars have already been spent at the Falls, and it is said that it will take at least as much more to complete the development.

Plant is Sold.

Greensboro, Special.—Trustee in Bankruptcy of the Industrial News, Underwood, Saturday afternoon reported to Referee in Bankruptcy Ferguson that he had effected a sale of the property to E. C. Duncan, for the amount of the mortgage, \$8,000, and recommended that this price be accepted. Referee Ferguson made an order confirming the sale upon payment of the purchase money. Mr. Duncan's purpose in buying the Industrial News is understood to be to resume the publication in Greensboro of a Republican State daily paper. It is rumored that Z. P. Smith, of Raleigh, will be general manager of the business.

Lenoir Hotel Gutted.

Lenoir, Special.—The Hotel Archer, F. V. Archer, owner and proprietor, here Sunday morning. The fire company and citizens using the fine water system just installed, by the two hours' heroic effort extinguished the flames and saved the walls and rooms of the building intact, but as a result of the fire and water together, the remains are almost worthless.

The building was originally constructed for a sanitarium at a cost of \$20,000. Rooms were finished in the finest woods procurable. The loss cannot be estimated, insurance \$10,000.

Will Build Power Plant.

Asheville, Special.—A franchise has been granted to George E. Lashaw, Gabriel Cannon and A. L. White, all of Spartanburg, S. C., for the building and operation of a \$250,000 power plant at Potts Shoals, on Green River, a point seven miles from Hendersonville. The officers of the company will be at Hendersonville.

Troopers From Washington.

Charlotte, Special.—Through the efforts of Senators Simmons and Overman and Congressman Webb and Morehead, the War Department has agreed to send to Charlotte during the 20th of May celebration troopers, flags and other accessories of the department which will aid materially in the grand event.

Norfolk & Western Trestle Destroyed by Fire.

Durham, Special.—The Norfolk & Western passenger train due here Monday night at 9:15 was annulled and will not be able to make the trip in several days. The trouble comes from the bridge over Staunton river, 35 miles this side of Lynchburg, five spans being burned out and rendering the track on it unsafe for passage. The company made up a train from this point and sent it out there Monday night. For several days the passengers will be transferred.

Fire at Wilmington.

Wilmington, Special.—One battery of three dry kilns of the Anglo Lumber Company, just north of the city, was destroyed by fire of unknown origin early Saturday afternoon, entailing a loss of about \$10,000, covered by insurance. The local fire department did valiant service in confining the blaze to the kiln in which it originated, the fire having raged fanned by a west wind, for three hours.

WASHINGTON NOTES

Officials of the internal revenue bureau of the Treasury Department are of the opinion that the temperance movement, which has taken such a strong hold of certain sections of the country, particularly in the South, has resulted in increasing the number of violations of the internal revenue laws in the distillation of illicit whiskey.

Recent reports indicate that in many Southern States, especially in Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina there has been greater activity on the part of the lawless mountain element, who always have been troublesome to the revenue agents, than in many years. These three States now have laws prohibiting distilleries from operating within their borders. In Alabama the law went into effect on July 1, 1908; in Georgia on January 1, 1908; and in North Carolina January 1, 1909.

Many legitimate distilleries have moved to Florida and other States where the prohibition does not exist. Whiskey being more difficult to obtain in a legitimate way has greatly increased the profits of illicit distilling, with the result that the activities of the internal revenue bureau at this time is largely directed towards the mountain sections of these three States.

Eleven members were in their seats Saturday when the House of Representatives met to further consider the Payne tariff bill. It was the smallest attendance of the special session and demonstrated the fact that interest in the debate had practically disappeared.

Mr. Sparkman (Democratic), of Florida, opened the discussion by making an earnest plea for a restoration of the Dingley rate on lumber and the imposition of a duty of 5 cents a pound on all cotton imported into the United States.

The Philippine Islands were again heard from when Mr. Benita Legardo resident commissioner, spoke in opposition to the proposed free trade between that possession and the United States. His views were practically along the lines of those expressed Friday by his colleague, Mr. Pablo Ocampo de Leon.

South Carolina Wins Suit.

The famous South Carolina dispensary case, involving the disposition of about \$900,000 of dispensary funds held by the State dispensary commission, was decided in the United States Supreme Court Monday in favor of the commission.

The case was instituted by the Wilson Distilling Company and the Fleischmann Company in the United States Circuit Court for the district of South Carolina to collect debts contracted by the State in the purchase of liquor in the State from 1892 to 1907 while the dispensary system was in vogue.

The commission, consisting of W. J. Murray, John McSwain and Avery Patton, was appointed in 1907, when the State resolved to go out of the liquor business. This commission was empowered by the Legislature to collect all moneys due the State and to pay all of its debts.

At the time the suits were instituted about \$800,000 had been collected and there still was about \$100,000 due. Bills for something over \$600,000 were presented by liquor dealers and when the commission declined to pay them as promptly as the creditors considered it desirable they brought suits for their collection.

The commissioners were charged with bad faith while they claimed the right of such delay as was necessary for investigation and collection.

That the tariff bill in its final form will provide for a permanent tariff board was confidently predicted Tuesday by H. E. Miles, chairman of the executive committee of the committee of 100 appointed at the recent Indianapolis tariff convention to foster such a scheme.

Mr. Miles announced that Senator Aldrich, chairman of the committee, has informed him that he favors some such arrangement, and added that "Senator Aldrich may be expected to distinguish himself by working out the problem." Senator Root, according to Mr. Miles, has also declared himself in favor of the tariff board.

"The mistakes in the present bill," said Mr. Miles, "some of great consequence, some small, and one whole schedule known to be radically wrong, with no chance of making it right in either house at this session—this and the general need of world markets are making the need of this tariff board clear to every one."

The Tawney amendment to put lumber on the free list was defeated in the House Tuesday.

The fixing of rates for the new tariff bill was begun Tuesday by the Senate committee on finance. Night sessions will be held. It was agreed that no person shall be heard by the committee from now on, except that limited time may be given to some Senators during the forenoon sessions.

FIRE AT FORT WORTH

Destroys \$5,000,000 Worth of Property.

SIX LIVES WERE SACRIFICED

Fire Breaks Out in Fashionable Residence District, Gets Beyond Control Within Fifteen Minutes—Dynamite Effective—Assistance is Rushed From Neighboring Towns.

Fort Worth, Tex., Special.—Fanned by a stiff wind, a fire in the southern portion of this city Saturday afternoon swept over an area of ten blocks in length and seven in width, destroyed property roughly estimated in value to be in excess of \$5,000,000, and caused the death of six persons.

The fire, which broke out in a fashionable resident district, was beyond all control within 15 minutes after it started, and was not checked until dynamite was resorted to, four hours later.

The spread of the flames was not checked until they had eaten their way to the Texas & Pacific Railroad reservation on the east. On the south the fire was checked at the Texas Pacific passenger station, this steel and stone structure forming a bulwark that saved the wholesale district of the city, which at one time was in imminent danger of destruction.

A patient whose identity has not been learned, perished in Walker's Sanitarium and three men were electrocuted and their bodies burned to cinders in the Sawyer electric plant. Herbert Stacy was fatally burned in an endeavor to save his dwelling, and a fireman fell from a house top and was killed.

It is estimated that 500 families are homeless. Many of these have gone to Dallas, where shelter has been offered.

A party of small boys carelessly handling cigarettes is believed to have been the cause of the fire.

SULLY'S PLAN.

Would Save Great Sums to Cotton Farmers—The Warehouse Plan—No Faith in it Say Augusta Cotton Exchange Men.

Atlanta, Ga., Special.—Daniel J. Sully, the one-time great cotton bull manipulator of New York was here Friday and set forth a scheme by which he claims \$150,000,000 to \$250,000,000 may be saved to the raisers of cotton in the South.

He said, "A minimum fund of \$10,000,000, subscribed by the most conservative financiers of the United States, is available to be invested in such iron-clad securities as shall insure the ability and the responsibility of the plan's promoters to redeem their promises and obligations to the last detail."

"The people of the South will be given the first opportunity to invest in this project, if, upon receiving it, it commends itself to their judgment."

The plan contemplates a chain of warehouses across the South sufficient to hold one-third of the cotton crop and thereby enable farmers to store their cotton and draw small amounts upon it to enable them to sell at will instead of by compulsion. A Savannah special of Sunday however, says the plan does not commend itself to the cotton factories there. They claim that the scheme is not practical or it would have been adopted already through the Farmers' Union without the aid of Sully. They claim that no improvement may be expected from this source.

Killed in Duel With Officers.

Fitzgerald, Ga., Special.—Robert Gresham was killed early Sunday morning in a pistol duel with Chief of Police Brubaker and Patrolman Johnson. The man was being hunted by the officers and fired upon them from a hiding place in a dark alley. The officers jointly opened fire and Gresham fell with four bullet wounds.

Three-Cornered Duel in Streets of Georgia Town.

Hazlehurst, Ga., Special.—Eugene and J. L. Williams, brothers, were shot down on a street of this place by V. T. Stowers, formerly of Conyers, Ga., J. T. Williams being probably fatally hurt. The brothers are members of the firm of Jarman & Williams. It was stated that Stowers had given this firm a check the bank would not honor; that Eugene demanded the money and a fight resulted. J. L. Williams went to his brother's rescue, it is alleged, when Stowers drew his pistol.

Whole Jury Panel Unfit For Services

New Orleans, Special.—In the criminal district court Thursday Judge F. D. Chretien dismissed the entire jury panel on motion of District Attorney Adams, who charged that the panel as a whole had shown itself unfit for service; that although the State presented clear cases against a number of accused persons it was unable to secure any convictions before the jurors.

NO TRACE OF YEGGMEN

Fleeing Safe Cracker Succeeds in Eluding Buncombe Officers—Tracked to the Madison County Line.

Asheville, N. C., Special.—The efforts of deputy sheriffs and a posse of citizens Monday night to capture Garner Moore, alias "Tennessee Duteh," the yeggman parmer of Barton, who was captured near Asheville Monday evening, proved futile. The yeggman who escaped from Greenville, S. C., Sunday night, were heading for Knoxville, when in intercepted and Barton caught. Moore, after taking Officer Rogers' pistol, escaped and while officers followed almost to the Madison county line, no trace of the man could be found. Sheriff Hunter said that he had sent telephone and telegraph messages all along the line and that he hoped that the man would be taken.

Barton is in jail here. He was severely injured in his fight with Officer Rogers and several boys and young men who aided the officer. Barton has two had scalp wounds made by rocks and also a serious injury to the back. When Barton was overpowered he had a bottle of nitroglycerine, and somehow managed to get the bottle out of his pocket and raised his arm in an effort to dash it to the ground, at the time saying that he would kill himself and the crowd. Before the bottle could be hurled to the ground, however, the desperate man's arm was caught, and the bottle wrenched loose. It was then thrown into the river.

GIVES STANDARD'S SIDE.

John G. Milburn Reviews the Early History of the Standard Oil Corporation From the Viewpoint of the Defense—Claims That the Corporation Has Done Much For American Industries.

St. Louis, Mo., Special.—John G. Milburn, of New York, the Standard Oil Company's chief counsel of record, late Tuesday began the presentation of the defendant's side of the case in the government's suit to dissolve the Standard Oil Company, of New Jersey, for alleged violations of the Sherman act, now before the United States Circuit Court.

Although Mr. Milburn addressed the court only 40 minutes, he found time in that brief period to tell much of the early history of the Standard Oil corporation from the viewpoint of the defense.

The two principal points made up to the closing hour by Mr. Milburn were that the corporation had done much for American industries and that the oil business of the early days was of a nondescript type.

"Wherever," said he, "the foot of civilized man had trod; wherever the hoof of the camel had made its imprint upon the sands of the desert, or wherever an artificial light is burned, and wherever flies the flag of any nation, there will be found the product of Standard Oil, the product of America and Americans."

The Federal attorney, Mr. Kellogg, concluded his opening address for the government shortly after noon, and then C. B. Morrison, formerly United States attorney in Chicago and now Mr. Kellogg's chief associate, finished the government's opening argument by a discussion of the alleged unfair competition, scoring the Standard Oil Company for its alleged secret gathering of reports, showing the business of competitors, and charging it further with maintaining a secret spy system.

Many Hurt in Tornado.

Marion, Ill., Special.—Many persons were hurt and considerable property was damaged by a tornado which struck this city and vicinity Tuesday. The storm came from the Southwest and was preceded and followed by heavy rains. The monetary loss is \$150,000. The Marion State and Trust Bank and a number of offices were partly blown down.

Lee's Farewell.

Augusta, Ga., Special.—The Beech Island Farmers' Club Sunday gave over to Dr. T. E. Oetel, of Augusta, for safety deposit purposes, the original draft of Lee's farewell to his soldiers at Appomattox. The address has been photographed and will be carefully protected. The club has possessed the address for some time. President Taft and Postmaster Hitchcock were guests of the club in January, and inspected the document. The club is an organization just across the river from Augusta in South Carolina.

Prohibition Law is Valid.

Montgomery, Ala., Special.—The Supreme Court has declared the State prohibition law valid, all the judges concurring in the opinion. This is the second time the court has upheld the State-wide act of the past Legislature. It was attacked on several constitutional grounds. The Alabama State-wide prohibition law went into effect January 1. It is understood now that the law officers will enforce the act.

RAILWAY FINISHED

Virginian Road Connects Norfolk and Deepwater, W. Va.

BIG CELEBRATION THE SEQUEL

The Great and Splendid Enterprise Financed by H. H. Rogers Gives an Auspicious Send-Off.

Norfolk, Va., Special.—The opening of the Virginian Railway, extending from Sewell's Point, Norfolk, to Deepwater, W. Va., on the Kanawha river, a distance of 446 miles, took place last Friday with a most auspicious celebration here, made more notable by the presence of H. H. Rogers, who built the "Virginian" at a cost of about \$40,000,000; Samuel Clements (Mark Twain); and several prominent New York financiers interested with Mr. Rogers in the undertaking.

The celebration festivities began with the arrival early in the day of 625 people from along the line of the new system, on a special train of 12 coaches and two Pullman cars.

The day was filled with events of interest, the programme of entertainment for the visitors including an inspection of the Norfolk harbor, the new Virginian coal piers at Sewell's Point, the largest in the world with a dumping capacity into ship bottoms of 36,000 tons per day, and finally, a public reception to Mr. Rogers and his guests. Mr. Rogers was the guest of honor at a \$20-per-plate banquet Saturday night.

The Virginian Railway, begun in March, 1902, was completed February 17, 1909. More than one million acres of coal lands in West Virginia have been made accessible by it and the road has opened up a country never before enjoying railway facilities.

Facts About New Railway.

Built by Henry H. Rogers at a cost of \$40,000,000.

Extends from Sewalls Point, tide-water, Virginia to Deepwater, West Virginia, a distance of 446 miles.

Work of construction started March, 1902, and the road was completed February 17, 1909.

Sewalls Point coal pier is the largest one in the world and has a dumping capacity of 36,000 tons a day.

Section traversed by the road one of the richest and most productive in the East.

With a whoop and a hurrah, the echo of which sounded along the line from Norfolk to Deepwater, in the rugged mountains of West Virginia, 442 miles west, Henry H. Rogers' Virginian railway was officially proclaimed completed and ready for business Friday.

Mr. Rogers, the president of the road, as well as the man who furnished most of the money and inspired the building of the road was here to make the announcement. With him were his friend, Mark Twain, to see that all went well; his son, Henry H. Rogers, Jr., and his son-in-law, Urban H. Broughton. Here as guests of the city and the Virginian Railway, were 700 business men from along the line of the Virginian, and mingling with these were the citizens of Norfolk. Of course, the center of attraction was in Mr. Rogers, and then everybody wanted to see Mark Twain.

The celebration came to a close Saturday night with an elaborate \$20 a plate banquet, given in honor of H. H. Rogers, at the Monticello Hotel by the business men of Norfolk. Among the speakers of the evening were H. H. Rogers, W. H. White, president of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railway, who acted as toastmaster; President W. W. Hubley of the Southern Railway; George W. Stevens, of the Chesapeake and Ohio; Alfred P. Thom, general counsel of the Southern Railway; Governor Claude A. Swanson, of Virginia; W. R. Mayo, of Norfolk and Samuel L. Clemens, (Mark Twain).

The features of the evening were the brief speech by Mr. Rogers and a humorous talk delivered by Mr. Clemens.

Shortly after Mr. Rogers had announced that the road was completed and ready for business, the first steamer, the M. C. Holm, Captain Hagelberg, arrived at the great coal pier of the road at Sewells Point for coal for her bunkers. Four hundred tons were put aboard of her by means of the loading apparatus in us at the pier in three-quarters of an hour. This is probably a record for bunkering ships on the Atlantic seaboard. The steamer Everett arrived at the pier Saturday for a cargo of 7,500 tons of coal for Boston. Mr. Rogers and many others watched the dumping of this coal.

When those here from along the line of the Virginian arrived aboard two trains at 8:30 o'clock Friday morning they were conducted by various committees to hotels and cafes for breakfast. Then they were taken on an excursion about the harbor, an oyster roast being served aboard the steamer used. A buffet supper was served at the Business Men's Association early in the evening and after that everybody went to the theatre.