

**NORTH STATE NEWS**

Items of State Interest Gathered and Told in Brief.

**Claims Toxaway Site—Will Carry Case to Court.**

Asheville, Special.—George Washington Fisher, a farmer of Polk county, it is learned here, claims that he is the rightful owner of the property that is now occupied by the Toxaway Inn at Lake Toxaway. "While I was in the asylum at Morganton for about one year," Fisher is quoted as saying, "returning in 1896, two of my brothers sold the land, of which I have an interest, to the Lake Toxaway people." In making out the deeds, it is alleged, for the company the Fisher boys signed the paper for their insane brother as his guardian.

Some time after the deal was made it was found that the title and deed of this land was void for the reason that George Washington Fisher never had a guardian appointed by the courts. So, it became necessary to sign an entirely new deed with George Washington's signature to the papers. On this ground Fisher expects to win his suit and regain the lands or a part thereof.

Fisher was only temporarily insane, staying at the asylum one year. He is now a farmer of Polk county, 3 miles from Tryon, where he owns considerable lands. For the past three months he has been working hard in getting up records and having a survey made of the whole tract in question. The lands were known as the William Barton and Frank Barton places, Johnnie Bagwell tract of land and a part of the Tom Cantrell lands. An interesting part of the deed covering this land and supposed to be signed by George Washington Fisher and wife, Addie, is that his wife also says that she knows nothing about the paper which bears a clear handwriting of the signatures of the two parties. Fisher is a man of no education and can barely write his name so that people can read it.

**Seven Prisoners Escape.**

Smithfield, Special.—Tuesday night there was a jail delivery here, seven prisoners making their escape and so far none have been apprehended.

One prisoner, a negro man, was held on the charge of murder. It is reported that a prisoner who was a "trustee" was responsible for the escape. He is said to have secured a file by which the prisoners affected an exit by sawing the bars to a window of the jail.

It is also said that the prisoners were on top of the cells when the jailer locked the doors the evening before.

**Lee H. Battle Not Guilty.**

Greensboro, Special.—The jury in the case of the government against Lee H. Battle, cashier of the City National Bank, on trial in the federal court here for the past two weeks, returned a verdict of not guilty at 10 o'clock last Saturday.

District Attorney Holton announced that he would not prosecute two other cases against Battle and he was discharged. Judge Boyd, in thanking the jury, said it was evident that the community believed Mr. Battle had committed no intentional wrong.

**Clair Factory Organized.**

Murphy, Special.—At a meeting of the Murphy board of trade Monday night it was decided to organize a chair factory, to be capitalized at \$15,000. C. E. Wood, J. M. Vaughn and C. B. Hill were appointed to solicit subscriptions. The stock was taken up immediately. A meeting of the stockholders will be called at once, when officers will be elected and the business will be pushed right along, it is thought the company will rent power from the Murphy Power & Light Co.

**39,480,326 Pounds Plug.**

Winston-Salem, Special.—Local tobacco manufacturers have shipped, the past eleven months of the present year, 39,480,326 pounds of plug tobacco, an increase of 4,446,700 pounds over the same period of last year. The manufacturers have paid out to the United States government for revenue stamps, the sum of \$2,368,819.93 this year, an increase in favor of the present year of \$266,802.47.

**Lincolnton Mill Burns.**

Lincolnton, Special.—The entire plant of the Michal Gheen Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of sash, doors, blinds, etc., here was destroyed by fire at an early hour Friday morning. The machinery, buildings and raw material are a total loss. Insurance for \$7,300 was carried but the loss will reach higher figures than this. Mr. Victor F. Motz of this place was the principal owner in the company. The fire had quite a good headway when discovered about 3 o'clock in the morning.

**Plans to Check Boll Weevil.**

Raleigh, Special.—The North Carolina board of agriculture has passed a regulation having for its purpose the keeping of the boll weevil out of the State. The regulation forbids the importation of cotton seed, cotton seed hulls, loose cotton in any shape and baled cotton unless compressed from Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi and Alabama.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Major Graham Commissioner of Agriculture Reviews the Agricultural Status in North Carolina—Receipts of Department \$132,258.75.

Raleigh, Special.—For the annual meeting of the State Board of Agriculture which convened here Wednesday for probably three days' session, the feature for the day was the annual report of Commissioner W. A. Graham treating farm conditions in North Carolina and the work of the various divisions of the department. The report declares the results of farming operations this year were in different sections of the State and that while the yields were very good in some sections they were quite inferior in others. So that the North Carolina crop census in connection with the general census by the United States government will not show an average yield for the State. Farmers, he says, have given far better attention to their work this year than in the past, especially as to improved culture of corn, due in a large measure to institute work and corn clubs in connection with demonstration work. He says the great interest in agricultural work is phenomenal and urges the board to devise some method of assuring its permanency.

**Soil Improvement and Diversity of Crops.**

The report urges the necessity of striving more effectively for permanent improvement of soils and diversity of crops through raising all farm supplies. Attention is directed to the fact, as he stated it, that North Carolina pays to dealers in other States for supplies that could be produced on the North Carolina farms more money than is gotten for the entire cotton crop of the State. As long as this is the case the only cotton money left in the State is that realized by profits by the dealers selling the supplies.

The yield of cotton in this State will, he says, be the smallest per acre on record. This will also be the case as to corn. At the same time some yields of both crops will be abnormally large.

**Receipts for the Year \$132,258.75.**

Commissioner Graham reports receipts of the department for the fiscal year ending Dec. 1, 1909, \$132,258.75. The amount remaining in the treasury at the end of this fiscal year was not given in the report. He reported \$15,000 paid on the debt for the A. & M. Agricultural Building and a balance due of \$15,000. This he recommended to be speedily liquidated by special appropriation from the receipts of the department.

The commissioner reported the finest agricultural exhibits at the State and the district fairs this fall ever made in the State, due largely to the attractive supplemental premiums provided by the State Department of Agriculture. He recommended that the amounts especially the department of women's work, be increased.

He recommends definite effort and provision by the State Department for raising improved breeds of stock and cattle. And stated that the mountain test farms will undertake to demonstrate the possibilities of sheep raising.

**Progress in Horticulture Shown.**

Progress in horticulture as demonstrated by the very creditable high premiums carried off by North Carolina at the National Horticultural Congress at Council Bluffs in the contest with all the other apple-growing States, was presented with special compliment for State Horticulturist W. M. Hutt.

Treating soil survey work the report mentioned the resignation of Mr. Drane to take an appointment in the United States assay office at Charlotte and the substitution of Mr. Brinkley to take up his work in co-operating with the national government the last work being in Pitt, Gaston and Scotland counties, there being 22 counties and special sections already mapped.

Treating animal industry, the commissioner recommended the appropriation of \$500 for the preparation and distribution of hog cholera serum to check the spread of this disease, especially in Eastern Carolina.

He recommends legislation that will check hydrophobia among cattle, declaring that several thousand head of cattle were lost the past year from this disease. Cattle tick eradication was declared to be progressing well.

Fine progress in dairy demonstrating department, the department of entomology and in the department of agronomy were reported, special attention being asked to action to prevent the introduction of the boll weevil into this State which, he said is expected to reach this State through natural progress in 1923. There was special mention of the farmers institute work under T. B. Parker, held each year in every part of the State.

In conclusion the commissioner reported that the new oil division turned over to the treasury Nov. 30 the sum of \$10,500.

**COMMISSIONER M. L. SHIPMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT.**

Raleigh, Special.—The forthcoming annual report of Commissioner of Labor and Printing, M. L. Shipman will show decided improvement in the chapter of farms and farm labor, especially in application of better methods of farming, in the efficiency of labor, and an advance toward intensive farming. The report declares that a gratifying increase in breadth of vision is noticeable among the farmers generally, says the report, due largely to the effective effort through the state department of agriculture and the special bulletins issued by the various divisions. Increased diversification of crops. Market value of 87 counties. Decrease in fertilization is reported in fourteen counties. The great majority of the counties. The great majority ward smaller farms. Reports from 95 counties claim that negro labor is unreliable. General increase in the cost of living is reported. Report as to wages show highest average for men \$24.11, an increase over last year. The lowest average is \$14.76 an advance of \$1.39 over last year. Reports show financial condition of working people good in 20 counties, fair in 42, poor 30; bad 3. Improvement is reported from 71 counties. As to cost of production 68 counties show cotton producers at average cost of \$33.39 per bale; wheat in 77 counties at 77 cents per bushel; corn in all counties at 53 cents; oats 38 cents; 51 counties tobacco average 47.71 per hundred pounds. In the general introductory to the report covering the whole scope of work of the department Commissioner Shipman says the disinclination, especially on the part of some manufacturers to furnish the required reports has largely disappeared, but there are still many that give trouble by neglecting to promptly fill out and return the blanks. The effort to give statistics of organized and unorganized labor failed this year but it is the purpose to have such a report for the next year. Commissioner Shipman or Assistant Commissioner George B. Justice have gone into every section of the state wherever necessary to make sure of getting the fullest and most accurate reports possible. In spite of great effort, the commissioner says it has been impossible to secure absolutely complete reports of miscellaneous factories. However the reports of cotton, woolen and silk mills are complete.

**Politics in Great Britain.** London, Special.—The whole of Great Britain is immersed in the political campaign which has been inaugurated by the refusal of the House of Lords to consent to the budget. The country is divided into two great camps, composed of those who support the Lords' action and those who contend that the House of Commons must have absolute control of the finances of the nation. There are, of course, many other issues, such as tariff reform versus free trade, but these are being pushed into the background by the conflict between the two houses. While the various local organizations are busy selecting candidates and preparing for the contests in their respective districts, the leaders of the great parties are carrying on a general campaign. The radicals, who had long foreseen the fate of their finance bill, are not allowing the grass to grow under their feet. In London Saturday afternoon one of their organizations the National Democratic League, held a demonstration as a protest against the action of the Lords which was one of the most notable ever held in the metropolis. Fully 20,000 persons, mostly of the laboring and artisan classes, gathered in Trafalgar square and cheered the radical speakers, who condemned in unmeasured terms the members of the upper chamber.

**Snow Ties Up Trains.** St. Paul, Minn., Special.—Cold and snow are now delaying freight traffic on the Northern Pacific and some parts of the Great Northern railroads more than the strike of switchmen, according to statements issued by the general managers of those roads Sunday night. According to General Manager Slade of the Northern Pacific, freight is more or less tied up all along the system on account of the snow and especially in northern Minnesota and North Dakota. Passenger trains are from one to four hours late in St. Paul Sunday night.

**Strike About Over.** St. Paul, Minn., Special.—With 1,500 men imported to take the place of the striking switchmen who are members of the Switchmen's Union of North America and those strikers who are members of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, returning to work, managers of the Great Northern Railway Friday night asserted that the strike was about over. The strike leaders, however, despite the desertion, asserted that the strike had only begun. Freight congestion is not appreciably relieved.

**Southern Congress Meets.** Washington, Special.—"A greater nation will come into being through a greater South." This is the slogan of the Southern Commercial Congress which convened here Monday for a three-days' session. The congress has announced that it has two objects—to hasten a clearer self-knowledge throughout the South and to compel the balance of the United States and of the world to set a correct valuation upon the South as a region of opportunity.

**80,000 Armenians Starving.** Worcester, Mass., Special.—No less than 80,000 persons are starving in Armenia, according to advices received by Emily C. Wheeler, secretary of the National Armenia and India Relief Association, which has its headquarters in this city. The secretary states that in addition to this number there are 5,000 orphans who need aid, and that unless aid is sent speedily from America a large number of Armenians will perish.

**NEWS BREVITIES**

Condensed from Wide Fields, Domestic and Foreign.

**AS THEY ARE HAPPENING DAILY**

Suited to the Wants of Busy Readers Seeking a Knowledge of What is Going on.

The Charlotte, N. C., aldermen have determined that the pop-stick noise and confusion shall not form a part of the Christmas celebrations this year. This action was taken on account of the abuses of the privileges heretofore.

Four Austrians, near Cumberland, Md., last Saturday, were thawing 50 pounds of dynamite for blasting, when it exploded and all were fearfully injured.

Navigation closed on the great lakes at 12 o'clock Sunday night. Twenty-five vessels and 62 lives were lost during the last season.

Fred C. Palin, of Newton, Ind., was awarded by the National Corn Exposition at Omaha, Neb., Saturday, the distinction of having the best single ear of corn the world ever produced.

The New Orleans Times-Democrat says letters received confirm the report that Zelaya had the bodies of Groce and Cannon burned and the ashes swept in dust and filth and then into the San Juan river.

The four-masted schooner, Marie Palmer, stranded near Pan Shoals, N. C., Wednesday, is a total wreck. Very little of the cargo was saved.

Two Bolivian Senators, Fernandez Malina and Adolfo Frigo Acha, fought a duel with pistols Sunday. Molina was shot in the head and instantly killed.

There were 55 deaths from Pella-gra in Alabama for the first nine months of the year and there are 38 cases now under observation. Twenty cases yet living were habitual users of corn meal.

It has been satisfactorily ascertained that an inexperienced boy, not properly instructed, left a car with hay upon it near an open torch that caused the great Cherry mine disaster. The boy escaped to tell the tale on the witness stand.

Antonio Mangino at Cleveland, Ohio, on last Saturday, murdered his wife and three children, two of whom were his step children, in the most horrible way, crushing their heads and stabbing them beside.

George Marly, of Norfolk, Ohio, who is 81 years old, got his neck broken some time ago and he has been successfully treated, the physicians believing he will soon be entirely recovered.

J. Pierpont Morgan has secured a majority of the stock and therefore a controlling interest in the Equitable Life Insurance Company.

Half of Charles Warriner's stealings from the Big Four Railroad cannot be accounted for.

A fire, on Thursday did \$600,000 damage in the wholesale department in Baltimore. It was the largest fire Baltimore has had since 1904.

A Federal grand jury at Louisville, Ky., on Thursday found bills against the Louisville and Nashville and the Louisville, Henderson and St. Louis railroads and the American Tobacco Company for rebating.

The House of Commons strongly censures the House of Lords for turning down the budget and refusing to vote sums for running the English government.

Hampton's Magazine has bought the American and Canadian right to Commander Peary's North Pole story for \$50,000.

Three prisoners in the State of New York contain 24 men condemned to die in the electric chair.

Little Norwood Herbert, of Washington city, fell from a tree some days ago and his back was broken. The vertebrae were replaced and he was put in plaster of paris case with reasonable expectation of complete recovery.

The America Consul at Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, has applied for and has gotten permission to move his place of business from the consulate to the legation as a place more safe and congenial.

The Switchmen's strike that has its centre about Chicago is doing great damage to commerce as the railroads cannot move freight.

The great Frisco and Rock Island railroad merger was dissolved Wednesday by the purchase and changing ownership of the San Francisco road.

A mine explosion occurred at Marion, Ill., last Monday in which one man was killed, but the 100 others in the mine escaped uninjured though there was something of a panic.

Three persons were seriously injured and five less seriously hurt in a derailment of a train on the Pennsylvania railroad near Fairhaven.

North Carolina has the distinction of manufacturing more plug and smoking tobacco than any other state in the Union.

The police of Cleveland, Ohio, discovered a plot to assassinate John D. Rockefeller Tuesday. The aged multimillionaire seemed little disturbed ever it and declined a guard.

The German steamer Brewster was stranded at Diamond Shoals off eastern Carolina Sunday night and is a total loss together with its cargo of bananas and coconuts. The crew was saved.

**KNOX PLAN APPROVED.**

Board of Examiners Will Pass Upon the Fitness of All Applicants For Position of Secretary and the Records of Efficiency Will Be Preserved.

Washington, Special.—To improve the personnel and efficiency of the diplomatic service and to encourage and commercial foreign relations of for promotion to the rank or ministers, President Taft has approved a plan suggested by Secretary of State Knox, and published it as an Executive order.

The new prospect provides for a board of examiners to pass upon all applicants for appointments as secretaries and prescribes the standard plan to the President, points out the remarkable growth of the political and commercial foreign relations of the United States and the increasing difficulty of the problems to be dealt with.

Records of efficiency of all the under secretaries will be preserved in the State Department and appointment from outside the service to secretaryship will be made only to the class of third secretary of embassy; or, in case of higher vacancies, of second secretary of legation, or of secretary of legation at posts which have assigned to them only one secretary. Vacancies in secretaryships of the higher class will in the future be filled by promotion from the lower grades, and efficiency and ability demonstrated in the service will be the tests of advancement.

All the secretaryships in the future will be graded according to the importance or difficulty or other aspects of the work done at each mission, and these classifications will be made known to the service so that every man may know just where he stands.

The examining board will determine the fitness of candidates designated by the President for examination.

The examinations will be held at Washington and will be both oral and written. A physical examination will be supplemental.

Candidates must be between the ages of 21 and 50 years. The department will aim to apportion representation fairly among the States and Territories.

**COTTON MEN WRONGED.**

Commissioner of Corporations Denounces the Practice of Dealing in Futures.

Washington, Special.—Both the producers of cotton and the dealers in that commodity are the victims of the system of trading in vogue on the cotton exchange of the country.

This is the burden of parts 4 and 5 of the report of Commissioner of Corporations Herbert Knox Smith on the conduct of such exchanges. The practice of dealing in futures, as it is carried on at present, is condemned, carried on at present, is condemned, the existence of the exchange.

"The brief discussion of general speculation in this report," says Mr. Smith, "recognizes the possibilities for good inherent in a great central market like a cotton exchange, and the need that this good be developed and evils eliminated by regulations in line with economic law."

The report is especially condemnatory of the dealings in futures, branding this form of speculation as pure gambling and highly injurious to legitimate trade. In quotations for "future" deliveries of cotton, the market is so uncertain and so many elements of change enter into the transaction that all bids are made at a much lower figure than those offered for cotton actually in existence.

The effect of these fictitious quotations, the report points out, tends to mislead the cotton planted as to the true value of his crop, honestly grown. In addition it leads brokers to "play" both sides of the market to protect themselves against loss in such trades, with the result that the producer is forced to pay in the end, while the farmer loses likewise.

The report, while recognizing that the exchanges in New Orleans and New York are necessary, does not

mince words in criticising the New York exchange. After declaring that the New Orleans methods of conducting the transactions in cotton followed natural lines, the report draws attention to the fact that it has been proven that the abnormal depressions in the future price in New York "were almost wholly due to improper artificial conditions now maintained by the New York cotton exchange. By maintaining them the New York exchange is responsible for a very real injury to the producer and merchant."

**King of Sweden Mingles With the People.**

Stockholm, By Cable.—King Gustave on Saturday inaugurated a new departure for sovereigns. Disguised as a stevedore he spent most of the day carrying sacks of coal from a lighter. In an interview, after it was all over, the King said that this was only the beginning. He intended to mix with all classes of laborers, so that he might ascertain their opinions and wishes. Already he added, he had obtained many valuable hints from the men with whom he worked.

**W. J. Calhoun Likely to Accept the Chinese Ministership.**

Chicago, Special.—William J. Calhoun, a Chicago attorney and diplomat, Sunday night admitted that Secretary of State Knox had offered him the post of minister to China. The admission came in denial of a report that he had declined to accept the offer. Mr. Calhoun explained that he had been induced by Secretary of State Knox to reconsider a determination not to accept the appointment which was offered two weeks ago.

**WASHINGTON NOTES**

The Supreme Court of the United States Monday granted the petition for the writ of certiorari in the contempt cases of Samuel Compers, Frank Morrison and John Mitchell, officers of the American Federation of Labor. The effect of the decision will be to bring the entire record in the Buck's stove and range case against these men to the Supreme Court for review.

Senator Rayner, of Maryland, will in all probability introduce a resolution in the Senate during the coming week with reference to the Nicaraguan controversy and will address the Senate upon it. His point will be the apprehension and trial of Zelaya, the dictatorial President of Nicaragua, whose rule is drawing to an end rapidly, for what Senator Rayner considers the murder of two American citizens, soldiers in the revolutionary army of Estrada.

The Central American junta, composed of diplomats and patriots from the five turbulent little republics on the neck of land between Yucatan and South America, is one of the latest acquisitions of the Capital of the United States. It is unofficial, but vociferous, and its sessions are held in the cafe of a leading hotel. The junta is the clearing house for all the information that leaks unofficially from revolution-torn Nicaragua, while the diplomats have framed up a half-dozen new alignments of the five republics, each with a view to the equitable distribution of the "balance of power."

Representative Charles W. Fowler, of New Jersey, gave out a statement outlining and commenting on the tariff commission bill which he will introduce in the House. The bill provides that Congress shall fix the maximum and minimum tariff rates and that the commission of 15 members is to fix the actual rates to be paid at some point between the maximum and minimum rates so established by Congress. But no rate so fixed and approved shall become effective or operative for 18 months after it has been promulgated by the President, in order that every industry affected by tariff changes may have ample time to adjust itself to the new conditions.

President Taft, the members of the Cabinet, the Governors of five States, members of Congress and other men prominent in national life attended the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, which began a three-days session in this city Wednesday.

At the first conference of the Democratic members of the Senate in the coming session of Congress, Senator Culberson submitted his resignation as chairman of the Democratic caucus. This determination on the part of the Texan has been reached because of his serious illness, which probably will prevent him from attending the sessions of the Senate for at least two or three weeks.

President Taft is developing into a twentieth century Haroun Al Raschid. He is acquiring a habit of prowling around the streets and parks of the capitol at all hours of the evening. When the conference on the proposed changes to be made in the interstate commerce law ended at 6 o'clock Monday, Secretary Dickinson and Attorney General Wickersham were coming out of the executive office when they were hailed. "Hold on there a minute," called the President. A moment later he appeared, struggling with the refractory buttons of his light overcoat. "How about a walk," he said "Let's strike out." Both chorused that a stroll in the dark was exactly the thing they had been pining for. The stroll took them over the wind swept reaches of the Potomac river bottom. The trio walked briskly back to the White House, where the President waived a farewell and disappeared.

Announcement is made by Secretary Mitchell Carroll, of the Archaeological Institute of America, that David G. Hogarth, M. A., curator of the Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford, will be the first foreign lecturer under the Charles Eliot Norton Memorial Foundation, recently endowed by James Loeb, of New York. Mr. Hogarth began his lecture tour under the society's engagement at Halifax, N. S., and will address half a dozen societies of the institute in Canada before coming to the United States. Afterward he will lecture for the institute at Buffalo, Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia. The institute's officers are gratified at securing Mr. Hogarth for the first foreign lecturer. He is an eminent archaeological explorer, geographer and author, having explored Asia Minor on four expeditions, excavated the site of the Temple of Diana at Ephesus for the British Museum and conducted many other important excavations and explorations in Egypt, Crete and Asia Minor.

**Following a lengthy conference at the White House it was announced Monday night that the administration will exert its influence towards securing a comprehensive revision of the interstate commerce law by the incoming Congress. A rough draft of the proposed amendments to the law was submitted by Attorney-General Wickersham, and while this was considered in all its details, no decision with respect to it was reached.**