

THE WEATHER

For North Carolina: Local thunder showers Wednesday and probably Thursday.

WILMINGTON THE MORNING STAR

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WILMINGTON, N. C., WEDNESDAY MORNING, JULY 8, 1914

WHOLE NUMBER 13,690.

MOST OF THE REAL ESTATE Sold in this city today will be sold as a direct result of advertising. Are you selling yours that way?

FEDERALS DESERT BEFORE VERA CRUZ

Outposts Have Joined in With Rebel Forces

FRENCHMAN IS KILLED

and Held for a Million Ransom—Shot When Payment of Money Was Delayed, Says Brother.

Veracruz, July 7.—Brig. Gen. Funston made public today copies of telegrams exchanged last night between American headquarters and Gen. Carranza, commander of the Mexican Federal outposts.

"A portion of my infantry outposts has revolted and I am about to go out to reduce them to order."

The Mexican commander said he notified Gen. Funston because he desired to prevent alarm among the American outposts in the event of the mutinous troops seeking to enter the American lines or of any action occurring in their vicinity.

Gen. Funston assured Col. Inzunza that the deserters would be arrested if they approached the American outposts.

No unusual activity was reported by the American outposts during the night.

Capt. Aguilar and two lieutenants led the mutinous infantry post of 60 men. They had been in communication with a body of Carranza's troops estimated at 1,000 near Tejeria. The outpost sent forward an emissary to notify the Constitutionalists that Capt. Aguilar was ready to do his part.

The mutinous troops had the mounts of the rural guards and all the ammunition in the vicinity.

Another report that Gen. Huerta was ready to resign and had summoned Gen. Carranza to the capital from Cordoba to succeed him was brought here today by one whose relations with the foreign legations in Mexico City are close.

He said that in diplomatic circles it was accepted as true that Gen. Huerta was prepared to resign and that when he, the informant, was at Cordoba last night, Gen. Garcia Pena was preparing to write a report personally to General Huerta.

Frenchman Killed.

Delay in the payment of a ransom of the million pesos has resulted in the execution by Zapatistas of Juan Velasco, manager of a cotton manufacturing concern, who was taken prisoner near Atlixco, State of Puebla, according to Velasco's brother, who left Vera Cruz yesterday to obtain his release, but returned tonight from his mission unsuccessful.

The prisoner Velasco was compelled to send to the officials of the company in Puebla the demand for the ransom, and his brother started out immediately to aid him. He proceeded as far as Apizaco, near Puebla, where he was going to get in touch with the Zapatistas when he was informed the captive already had been killed. The circumstances of the case have been reported on record at the French consulate with the city attorney. Velasco was a Frenchman, not a Spaniard, as previously thought.

YOUNG WIFE CHARGED WITH KILLING HUSBAND

Mrs. Joseph Johnson, of Martin County, Arrested

She Says Husband Was Shot from Ambush While They Were Out Riding Saturday Night, New Pistol.

Raleigh, N. C., July 7.—Mrs. Joseph Johnson, aged 22, was arrested at Speed, N. C., this afternoon on the charge of killing her husband Saturday night near Holy Christ church, in Martin county.

Johnson, who was a prominent farmer, took his wife out riding. Later the horse was seen near the church running, and was stopped. Close behind was Mrs. Johnson, who said her husband had been shot from the roadside. The man was found dead in the road a hundred yards away. A new pistol, only one chamber of which had been fired, was found along with the corpse. Johnson was shot in the left temple and his ear near where the ball entered was powdered.

COLLEGE FACULTY ANNOUNCED

Contractors Rushing to Completion Work on New Buildings

Charlotte, N. C., July 7.—New members of the faculty of Queens College for its opening in new buildings in Myers Park were announced today by President J. L. Caldwell. They are Miss Elizabeth Sherer, M. A. Mt. Holyoke, in the department of Latin; Miss Effie Londers, M. A. University of Missouri, modern languages department; Miss Tirza Aiken, B. A. Cornell University in charge of the fitting school.

A landscape architect is putting the grounds in shape for the opening next fall and contractors are rushing to completion, work on the buildings.

NEW FEATURE NOW IN BAILEY MURDER

Man Told District Attorney He Knew Murderer

GRAND JURY TO PROBE

District Attorney Will Lay Evidence Before That Body on Thursday In An Effort to Get An Indictment.

Freeport, N. Y., July 7.—The grand jury will begin an investigation of the slaying of Mrs. Louise Bailey Thursday at Mineola, the county seat, District Attorney Smith announced tonight. He added that he would demand that an indictment charging murder be returned against a woman whom he said he was positive was the person who broke a window in the office of Dr. Edin Carman and fired a bullet into the heart of Mrs. Bailey.

The district attorney admitted there was a possibility the grand jury might not heed his demand because of a lack of sufficient evidence. "I believe though," he said, "that the indictment will be returned. I intend to have this woman indicted. If I have to present the evidence to every grand jury that meets in Nassau county for the next ten years."

The story told by a witness, who was examined in secret between sessions of the inquest yesterday, was revealed today. A half hour before the morning proceedings opened a man whose name the officials say will be withheld until Thursday boldly informed a captain of the local police department that he knew who had killed Mrs. Bailey. He then told the captain the story he later repeated to the district attorney.

Briefly the story is as follows: "Last Tuesday morning the woman suspect me him (the new witness), and another man who now is in Kansas City or New York. The woman agreed to give them \$50 each if one would bring a revolver and deliver it to her on the lawn at the side of Dr. Carman's home. The new witness and the man he declared has fled, came to Freeport from New York on the same train with the woman. The missing man had the revolver in his pocket."

"At half past 7 o'clock that night the man went to the Carman home and there met the woman, who said she wanted to 'scare' some one inside. The woman took the revolver, the man propped up the screen and broke the window and then stood to one side while the woman thrust the weapon through the opening and fired. Then, according to the story, she handed the revolver back to the man and the two escaped in opposite directions."

According to the story the man who told it decided to inform the authorities when his companion failed to turn over a share of the money. "If I don't know whether to believe his story or not," said the attorney. "According to the story he told us, the man who carried the revolver is known in New York as a gunman."

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CASE OF LAURINBURG CROSSING UP AGAIN

L. & S. Complains Against Seaboard's Exactions.

Hearing Before Corporation Commission—A. C. L. Submits Plans for Ahoeskie Depot—Repleves Granted Two Men.

(Special Star Correspondence.) Raleigh, N. C., July 7.—There was a hearing today before the Corporation Commission in a case in which the Laurinburg & Southern Railway Co. seeks to get relief from what is alleged to be too expensive a crossing at the intersection of the L. & S. and the Seaboard Air Line. An interlocking crossing is required and the allegation is that too expensive a type is exacted by the Seaboard, which has Southern through crossing equipment which is maintained that is acceptable to the Seaboard.

This is a case of long standing, having gotten into the court way back in the period that the Seaboard was in the hands of receivers G. B. Patterson, of Maxton, and Winston & Biggs, of Raleigh, appeared as counsel for the Laurinburg & Southern, and Murray Allen, of Raleigh, for the Seaboard. Two principal witnesses in the case are W. J. Eck and C. J. Kellogg, respectively chief engineers for Southern and Seaboard Air Line railways.

Plans for Depot Submitted. The Corporation Commission has received and forwarded to the mayor of Ahoeskie plans by the Atlantic Coast Line for considerable improvements to the passenger station there, the purpose being to procure the approval of the mayor and citizens of the proposed changes. The proposed changes are the outcome of a petition by the mayor and citizens to the commission for improvements. If the plans of the Coast Line are acceptable the commission will make an order for the work to be done as speedily as possible.

WILSON PARDONS OLD INDIAN CHIEF

Serving Life Sentence for Murder of White Man

WILL GO HOME TODAY

Murder Was Committed Near Canadian Line in Montana—Old Indian is Hero of Legion Being Told Children.

Washington, July 7.—After 34 years behind the bars under life sentence for murder Spoope, a Blackfoot Indian, was unconditionally pardoned today by President Wilson. He will be released at once from the Federal hospital for the insane here to return to his daughter at Browning, Mont., who he has not seen since she was a baby. A party of Blackfoot Indians, sightseeing in Washington, months ago, happened upon Spoope and established his tribal identity by an Indian song. One of the interpreters recognized in Spoope the hero of an old legend, who had disappeared a score of years ago into some white man's trail. Blackfoot mothers have been singing their children to sleep with a song about him ever since.

Officials of the Indian office, advised of the discovery, began to investigate, which resulted in his pardon. Spoope was charged with the murder of a white man near the Canadian boundary, north of the Montana line. It is thought by the Department of Justice that the murder probably was committed in Canada. Moreover, it is now believed that Spoope killed the man in self defense.

Spoope explained tonight how he had fought against the environments of the insane asylum. He had treasured an old picture of Heaven and whenever his fellow prisoners started a brain racking demonstration, he said, he "thought of the picture," and maintained the self-control that apparently has taken him through his long imprisonment with mind unimpaired.

Spoope will start back to the Blackfoot reservation tomorrow in the care of an agent of the Indian Bureau. Whether he will be entitled to a portion of tribal lands has not been determined. Commissioner Sells said tonight, however, that he would "see that he gets a square deal."

Atlanta, Ga., July 7.—The committee on Constitutional amendments of the Georgia House of Representatives here today voted 5 to 4 to report adversely a bill giving women the right to vote in State and co-elections.

RALEIGH WELCOMES HARDWARE DEALERS

Those of the Carolinas in Annual Session

Business Sessions Begin in Earnest This Morning—Asheville and Columbia Bidding for Next Session of Convention.

(Special Star Correspondence.) Raleigh, N. C., July 7.—President Otis C. Green, Asheville, of the North and South Carolina Hardware Dealers' Association, called that organization to order for the annual convention, in Representatives hall of the State House at 11 o'clock this morning, there being a goodly attendance for the initial session. Mayor Johnson welcomed the visitors for the city, Col. J. Bryan Grimes for the State, and Prof. W. A. Withers for the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce.

The mayor declared that Raleigh is especially glad to entertain an organization with such a splendid personnel of membership as that of the hardware dealers. Secretary of State Grimes spoke of the fraternal feeling that exists between the people of North and South Carolina, declaring that repeatedly in the past the commonwealths and the people individually had striven together for the protection of the rights of the people and the furtherance of great issues.

A. N. Craig, of Charleston, S. C., responded to these welcomes for the members of the association "hailing from his State, paying tribute to the part the Carolinas have taken in the progress of the age and in the affairs of the country at large."

H. M. Ousley, of St. Louis, spoke for non-resident members of the association, also Frank Castle, of Kentucky, both gentlemen speaking in happy vein and eliciting hearty applause. Editor Roy P. Soule, of the Hardware Age, New York, was called out and spoke pleasantly, paying tribute to "The Woman in Business," insisting that her real sphere is in the home, a most important part of the business life.

Columbia and Asheville have put in bids for the next place of meeting, this matter to be settled Thursday. There was a brief business session in the auditorium this afternoon and then the visitors went to the Raleigh-Asheville ball game. The business sessions will begin in earnest Wednesday morning, the sessions to continue through Friday.

WELCH OUTPOINTS RITCHIE IN FIGHT

British Champion Captures Lightweight Belt

FULL TWENTY ROUNDS.

Fighting Was Fierce from Beginning to End with the American Doing Most of the Fighting. Welch Was Favorite.

London, July 7.—Fred Welch, lightweight champion of England, tonight outboxed Willie Ritchie, the American champion, and on the referee's decision won the lightweight championship of the world. The fight took place at Olympia and the 8,000 spectators witnessed a fast and clever bout. Rapid foot work and much in-fighting were pronounced features. The British victor was cheered to the echo, although there was some dissatisfaction among the American spectators at the decision, because neither man was bested at the finish. Although Welch scored the most blows, those of the American appeared to be the more telling.

It was a fine exhibition of boxing. Neither man went to the floor and the struggle during the last six rounds was of a hurricane character. Welch was quicker and tapped Ritchie repeatedly on the face, mainly drawing blood. The American played for a knock-out, but either he was short or Welch got inside or under the swing. Ritchie cried when the decision was given against him. He refused to talk in his dressing room, but later at his hotel he said: "I do not intend to make a 'holier' but I do think the worst. I should have got a win. I was giving Welch a good fight and I was doing the fighting. Therefore I think the decision was not fair to me."

Fine Exhibition. Ritchie hurt his right hand in the bout, but otherwise was not much damaged except for a few bruises on the face.

All the old timers agreed the contest was one of the fastest and finest exhibitions of boxing witnessed in London in recent years. Some expressed the opinion that Ritchie would have come out on top in a finish fight. The Welchman's footwork and dodging were quainter than the American's and he preferred much of the time to get to close quarters where Ritchie could not use his powerful arms. There were altogether too much holding throughout to please the English spectators.

Ritchie forced the fighting in the last four rounds hard for a knock-out, while Welch was not playing to win a decision on points.

The office of Father Foudier, in clerical garb as announcer, was a novelty, but the expected attendance of women fizzled to a mere hundred or so.

Fight by Rounds. Round 1.—Welch won the toss and kept the corner he originally entered, while Ritchie went to the other side. Ritchie immediately followed. Ritchie responded with a right to the jaw. In-fighting followed with Welch getting the better of the argument, when they squared off, however, Welch delivered several body blows.

Round 2.—Ritchie swung hard with his right and missed. The referee cautioned him for eye-biting. In the clinch Welch again shone at in-fighting.

Round 3.—Ritchie opened with a left swing, in a clinch Welch landed on the body. Ritchie put a left to the jaw. Welch followed with a right to the same spot. The round ended with Welch landing, lightly on Ritchie's head. Ritchie again was cautioned for holding.

Round 4.—Welch fought for the body. In a clinch Welch landed two or three left hooks on Ritchie's jaw. Ritchie landed on Welch's head. Welch appeared the fresher, smiling when the gong sounded.

Round 5.—Ritchie got one to the face, Welch replying with a left to the eye. Ritchie landed on Welch's jaw, followed by a heavy blow. Ritchie forced the fighting, but was repeatedly cautioned for holding.

Round 6.—Ritchie's left eye seemed slightly swollen. Welch's left eye also was damaged. Ritchie played for the bad eye. Welch dodged a right swing aimed at the bad eye. Welch's foot work was much the quickest but his blows seemed to have less steam than the American's.

Round 7.—Half the round had passed before Ritchie began forcing the fighting. He landed twice on Welch's face. Welch responded. The American covered up well. It was Ritchie's round.

Round 8.—The work of both fighters thus far has been good. Most of the fighting has been aimed at the body. Clinches were frequent. Welch appeared to be getting more strength in the clinches. He got in one body blow and seemed the fresher at the end of the round.

Round 9.—Welch forced the fighting. He sent two lefts to Ritchie's face. Ritchie's blows continually fell short, while Welch, setting a furious pace, sent blows to the body and had the best of the in-fighting. This was Welch's round.

Round 10.—Welch forced the fighting, scoring repeatedly on Ritchie's jaw. He eluded a light blow. Welch had the better of the fight thus far.

Round 11.—Welch landed a sharp left on the face, Ritchie again failed to reach the spot effectively with his busy right. The fighting was hard and fast. Ritchie regaining some of his ginger.

Round 12.—Welch sent a left to Ritchie's neck. Ritchie replied with his left but Welch eluded them. (Continued on page 2.)

HEALTH OFFICIALS CONFIRM REPORT

Bubonic Plague Situation is Still Serious

NEGRO WAS AFFLICTED

Nine-year-old Darkey, Who Died Some Time Ago, Had Disease—Second Focus of Infection Three Miles From the First.

New Orleans, July 7.—The bubonic plague situation here became more serious today with the confirmation of a second death and the existence of a second focus of infection, three miles distant from the original one. John Jackson, a nine-year-old negro boy, who was found dead on July 2 at his home, 2831 First street, died from the plague, according to the announcement today of Assistant Surgeon Charles Williams, of the United States public health and marine hospital service.

Dr. Williams reported that test by W. H. Seaman, city bacteriologist, had proven conclusively that the boy's death was due to the plague. The report stated that the youth had lived in the city for the past three months and had been ill three days prior to his death. He had cut his foot on a bottle two weeks before.

Charles Lundene, a Swedish sailor, whose movements were traced only for eight days prior to his death, was the first victim. W. W. Wilkinson, isolated ten days ago, is recovering from the disease. No other cases have been reported.

YOUNG WOMAN DROWNED IN PASQUOTANK RIVER

Automobile Plunges Off Ferry Boat in 20 Feet of Water.

Elizabeth City, N. C., July 7.—Miss Ruth Guard, of Coinjock, was drowned in Pasquotank river at Lambs ferry this morning when her father's automobile ran off the ferry boat into the river in 20 feet of water.

Mr. J. T. Guard was coming to Elizabeth City with his daughter and Messrs. A. B. Midgette and V. B. Griggs in his car. When he ran the car on the barge the top of the car and it plunged overboard with its four occupants. The three managed to clear the machine as it rose to the surface and were rescued. The young lady was caught in the top of the car and drowned. Her body has not yet been recovered.

REDFIELD TALKS IN FACTS AND FIGURES

Democratic Tariff Not So Bad After All

Secretary of Commerce Makes Public Some Interesting Facts Concerning Exports and Imports for First Eight Months

Washington, July 7.—Foreign manufacturers sent into the United States the first eight months of the new tariff system just 8.8 per cent. more of their finished product than they did under the old.

Secretary Redfield pointed to this tonight as ample demonstration that there was no ground for fears that American factory owners would be driven from business by the Democratic tariff.

Importations of foodstuffs showed a large increase while foodstuff exports fell off. There was a relatively small proportion in the amount of complete manufactures exported.

"The figures," said Secretary Redfield, "showed the results of the world wide depression in commerce as modified by our own shortage of foodstuffs, arising from the inadequate crops of last year which condition rapidly is passing away, with the promise of fine crops this year. They indicate also that our competing power in manufacturing is well sustained."

The total increase of importation of food stuff, the department's figures showed, was \$56,750,473 while the total increase in all importations for the period was only \$65,136,685.

The decrease of exports of food stuffs, the Secretary added, "amounts in the eight months to \$97,755,558, a fact sufficiently explained by our not having the foodstuffs to sell."

A further decrease appears in manufactures for further use in manufacturing of \$80,668,377 reflecting the depressed condition of industries in foreign countries.

Out of a total decrease in exports for the eight months of \$145,703,640, more than \$128,000,000 was in food stuffs and manufactures for further use in manufacturing. Total imports for the eight months were \$1,233,519,365 for the same period last year. Free merchandise for the two periods was, respectively \$800,214,038, and \$683,015,455. Total imports were \$1,640,365,305 against \$1,786,070,945. Imports for May 1914 amounted to \$164,209,515 compared with \$133,723,713 a year ago. Exports were \$161,784,519 a decrease of 4.9 per cent. since the previous May.

FAVORABLE WORD FROM CONFERENCE

Reports Say That Carranza-Villa Breach Healed.

HOPE NOW FOR SUCCESS

Mexican Internal Affairs May Soon be Settled Which Will Permit of the Settlement of International Matters.

Washington, July 7.—Reports tonight from Torreon that the Villa-Carranza peace conference ended last night and that differences in the Constitutional ranks had been adjusted was encouraging to Washington officials and Constitutional agents here, who hope mediation of the Mexican imbroglio soon may be successfully concluded.

While no official dispatches had been received by General Carranza's agents relative to the settlement of the Constitutional interlocking affairs, a message last night from General Villa addressed to his American agent, Felix Sommerfeld, declared the Torreon conference was progressing satisfactorily and that the differences would be settled.

Later information direct from the conference asserting that terms of settlement had been reached was credited here generally. It was believed a decision by the Constitutional generals as to the invitation for their representatives to meet with Huerta's delegates to discuss Mexico's internal affairs soon would follow.

Dr. Z. Zabala, Luis Sabera, Fernando Iglesias Calderon and Leopoldo Hurtado Espinoza, Constitutional agents, conferred today with Charles A. Douglas, legal representative of General Carranza in Washington at Bryan Douglas had talked with Secretary Huerta regarding future mediation plans. None would discuss details of this conference, but Mr. Douglas made this statement:

Mr. Douglas' Statement. "I have every reason to believe after troubles between Villa and Carranza are settled, delegates from the Constitutionalists will be named to meet with Huerta delegates to discuss the formation of a provisional government in Mexico."

Mutiny among Mexican soldiers near American outposts at Vera Cruz was a subject of interest in American official quarters. The National Guard from General Funston reported that fighting between the Federalists and mutineers was in progress. The Mexican Federal commander previously had warned General Funston that mutineers had threatened to attack the American lines.

An element of humor was injected into the situation when a representative of the revolutionary junta at Vera Cruz asked General Funston for permission to go out and direct the mutiny. Officials here saw danger for General Huerta should the mutiny cut off his exit from Mexico City. His early departure is assumed in official circles, but if the mutineers triumph, it is pointed out that Huerta scarcely could expect safe conduct to the gulf coast.

FAVORABLE WEEK FOR THE COTTON PLANTERS

Crop in North Carolina in Excellent Shape.

General Rains in Territory East of the Mississippi Improve Prospects for Cotton, Says Weekly Government Bulletin.

Washington, July 7.—Local showers over large areas in the cotton region east of the Mississippi greatly improved the outlook, the National Weekly Bulletin for the week which ended yesterday, announced today, and the early planted crop is nearly everywhere reported as in good condition.

Westward of the Mississippi, says the Bulletin, no rain occurred over the greater part of the cotton growing portions of Texas and the late planting in that State is suffering for moisture. The early planted, however, is making satisfactory growth in that State as well as in most portions of Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. Boll weevils are reported as increasing in several sections.

In the principal trucking regions of the South local rains improved the late crops in Florida, but in other portions early crops are generally reported as short.

In Virginia, cool, cloudy weather, with frequent showers in most counties, was beneficial. Some tobacco crops are reported as being in excellent shape, and recent rains will mature early corn.

Heavy rains occurred in the central coastal plain of South Carolina and moderate showers elsewhere, but drought continues in portions of the northeastern and northwestern counties. Tobacco shows effects of intense heat and continued drought, but cotton is doing well generally, while corn and truck are improved. More rain is needed.

Colon, Panama, July 7.—William H. Gale, of Leesburg, Va., newly appointed American consul here, arrived last night to take the place of the retiring consul, James C. Kellogg, of Louisiana.

WILLIAMS TELLS OF GOLD HILL MINE

Comptroller of the Currency Was Offered Stock

BY WALTER G. NEWMAN

His Brother Examined Mine With the Idea of Investing Some Money — Newman Had Other Stock Ventures in Alaska.

Washington, July 7.—John Skelton Williams, comptroller of the currency, today told a special Senate committee he had never had any financial interest in the gold mine at Gold Hill, N. C., the promotion of which through the use of Senate stationery, is being investigated by the committee. The comptroller said Walter G. Newman, who promoted the mine, had offered him some stock, but that he had declined to buy.

Mr. Williams presented a telegram he had sent to Newman at Gold Hill, informing him that Berkeley Williams, the comptroller's brother, and Cleveland Perkins might look over the Gold Hill property with a view of investing. Mr. Williams said, however, that he had arranged an appointment between Newman and Perkins in Washington.

Mr. Williams produced a letter written by Newman urging Williams to join in some stock ventures in which the promoter said he had Alaskan interests greater than those of "the Guggenheims, Morgan or the Standard Oil crowd," and promised to "make the National City crowd green with envy."

No Mine There. Frederick P. Dewey, assayer and acting director of the mint, told of making a tour of the mine at Gold Hill property at the instance of Mr. Williams and Director of the mint, Robert H. He said he found there was no mine there but there was a good prospect.

William C. Bishop, conducting an investigating agency, employed by the Curb Market Association in New York, said he investigated the appearance on the curb of a letter written on Senate stationery and lauding the Gold Hill enterprise. He said he found only about three copies of the letter, but that these copies were shown to him by the curb. He wrote to Senator Chilton about these letters which were on the paper of his committee, and the Senator replied denying all knowledge of them.

The promoters, Pomorene, of Ohio, and Swanson, of Virginia, testified they had bought stock in the mine at their own risk and on their own responsibility. Mr. Swanson said he purchased at thirty cents a share and put in \$5,000. Senator Pomorene did not specify the amount he owned.

Assertions of Comptroller Williams that he had received no communications about the mine were introduced by the systems whose lines except a few telegrams were denied by the promoter when he was recalled to the stand. Newman said he had two letters from the comptroller at his Gold Hill office. He offered to produce them, but Senator Thompson, chairman of the investigating committee declined to receive them and said he was anxious to conclude the inquiry.

RATE EXPERT HILLMAN ON THE STAND ALL DAY

His Examination Yet Far from Completion

N. C. Intrastate Freight Rate Commission Resumes Hearing at Asheville, Chairman Justice Presiding—Proceedings

(Special Star Telegram) Asheville, N. C., July 7.—With Judge M. H. Justice, the chairman of the commission, presiding, the North Carolina Intrastate Freight Rate Commission convened here this morning for the hearing of evidence which will be submitted in an effort to show that the present rates in effect in North Carolina are unfair and discriminatory and the cross-examination of witnesses who were introduced by the systems whose lines traverse this State at the recent sitting of the commission at Raleigh.

The entire first day was spent in the hearing of testimony. Judge H. Hillman, the North Carolina rate expert, who was introduced as the first witness. He was on the stand all day and when a recess was taken late in the afternoon, his examination was far from completion.

The taking of the testimony of Mr. Hillman is tedious and uninteresting, many questions being propounded which require the witness to make calculations for many minutes. With the exception of the attorneys and experts whose work requires that they be in constant attendance upon the sessions, little interest is being shown in the hearing. Several times during the day, people dropped in at the Battery Park ball room, where the sessions are being held, but few remained to hear the testimony.

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