Charlotte Daily Observer.

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SOUTH DELUGED BY STORM

RIVERS BOOM; SNOW IN NORTH

All of the United States East of the Mississippi in Grasp of a Storm, With Heavy Rains in the South and Snows in the North and Unseasonably Low Temperatures in Both Sections—Most Rivers From North Carolina to Mississippi Expected to Pass Danger Danger Line To-Day—Worst in Gulf States.

Washington, March 19.—The whole of the country east of the Mississippi river, according to reports to the Weather Bureau, is experiencing effects of the prevailing storm, with temperatures below the average for this time of the year. There have been heavy rains in the South and snow in the North. The storm began Sunday night in the South and extended into New England, New York and the lower Lake region and the upper Ohio valley, where the rain turned into snow to-day. The rivers in the States of Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and the Carolinas are bank-full and stages above the danger line are expected to-morrow in a majority of the big waterways.

The storm is expected to pass down the St. Lawrence valley during the next 24 hours.

Montgomery, Ala., March 19.—Owing to incessant rains, the Coosa, Tallapoosa and Alabama rivers are on a rise, and the predictions are that the waters will go over the danger line at Wetumpka, Montgomery and Selma. Owing to warnings, it is believed that comparatively small damages will result.

Railroad traffic has been disarranged by washouts, and at Oxmoor, on the Louisville & Nashville Railroads, 100 feet of trestle are reported washed away. At Bletsher this morning a freight engine of the Mobile & Ohio was overturned because of the weakening of the road bed by water.

State Commissioner of Agriculture R. R. Poole said to-day that crops in Alabama are at least two weeks behind as a result of the heavy rains.

Meridian, Miss., March 19.—During the past 24 hours Meridian and vicinity has experienced the heaviest rainfall in many years, the total for the period being 5.78 inches, at Shubuta it reached 5.50 inches and at Enterprise 7.54 inches. Sowashee creek bounding the city on the south, is a raging torrent and spreads half a mile beyond its banks. Stock and cattle are reported as drowned in several places, and fences and outhouses washed away. No lives are reported lost as yet.

Jackson, Miss., March 19.—Railroad traffic has been paralyzed for the last 18 hours as a result of heavy rains. Many trains are from five to ten hours late, while others have been annulled. The main line of the Illinois Central south of here is tied up with innumerable washouts. Traffic has been suspended on the entire line of the Gulf and Ship Island road, Jackson to Gulfport, Miss., and the various branches are also tied up. The Alabama, Vicksburg road is open, but trains are far behind schedule. Five inches of rains fell in 24 hours, ending at 7 a. m. to-day, the fall being the heaviest in six years.

Atlanta, Ga., March 19.—As a result of the heavy and almost unprecedented rain storm which visited the South Sunday night and this morning the railroad system in this section are in a bad tangle and in some places completely paralyzed.

Considerable damage to crops and freshly plowed land is reported from many sections of the Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. All the lowlands near Meridian, Miss., are inundated and residents are prepared to raft their household goods to higher ground for safety. Stock and cattle are reported drowned in many places.

So far, one death by the storm has been reported. W. H. Armstrong, an engineer on the Mobile & Ohio Railroad was killed near Tuscaloia, Ala., by his engine turning over, caused by a wash-out.

No trains are running on time in this section.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., March 19.—W. H. Armstrong, an engineer on the Mobile & Ohio Railroad was killed early this morning by his engine No. 165 turning over. The accident was caused by a wash-out. Armstrong and his fireman were pinioned under the engine, and he lived several hours in this condition. His home is in Greshamville, Ga.

Macon, Ga., March 19.—The Ocmulgee river is rising rapidly and warnings have been given to all points below Macon. Reports are to the effect that the river will be above the danger line by 7 o'clock to-morrow morning.

PARTIAL TIE-UP IN NEW YORK.

Sub-Way's Capacity More Severely Taxed Than at Any Other Time Since Its Opening—Trolley Schedules Demoralized.

New York, March 19.—Six inches of snow fell here to-day and for a time interfered seriously with the service on all surface roads. The subway to-night was taxed more severely than at any time since the tunnel was opened. The snow storm of last Thursday had left most of the down town streets in bad condition and the added fall to-day made heavy trucking an impossibility. Only a few of the more important throughfares had been cleared when to-day's storm set in. To-night it is raining hard, with fair and colder weather predicted for to-morrow.

Trolley schedules up town and in the suburbs were demoralized to-day and in some cases traffic was abandoned for several hours.

Shipping in the harbor was interfered with, but the only accident reported was a collision between the West Shore Railroad ferry Rochester and the Erie Railroad ferry Passic. The latter steamer was quite seriously damaged. Although the passengers were badly frightened, no one was injured.

Winter Heaviest in Chicago.

Chicago, March 19.—The heaviest snow storm of the winter has been in progress here since last night. In 12 hours four inches of snow fell, and being driven by a high wind from the northwest, it drifted badly and made operation of street cars difficult. Many trains were reported from two to 10 hours late.

BIG SLIDE KILLS 12 MEN

RECORD SNOW IN THE ROCKIES

Avalanche Strikes Boarding House While Colorado Miners Are at Dinner and Nine of 21 Dig Their Way Out—Conditions Worst Since Terrible Snow Slide and Blockade of 1884, Tops of Tall Trees Being Barely Visible in the Canyons—No Trains at Durango for Seven Days.

Silverton, Colo., March 19.—Twelve miners employed at the Shenandoah Mine were caught by a great snow slide to-day and swept to their death. Their bodies have not yet been recovered. Assistance has been summoned from Silverton to help dig the victims from beneath the snow.

According to a report received from Howardsville, the 12 men were killed by a snow slide which struck the boarding house at the Shenandoah Mine while they were at dinner. It is reported that 21 men were caught in the slide, and that nine dug their way out.

Not since the terrible snow slide and blockade of the winter of 1884 when the Denver & Rio Grande branch road between Alamosa and Durango was impassable for weeks, has there been such trouble experienced in this region as at present. No trains have arrived at Durango for seven days and every available man is being taken to the large snow slide on Cumbres Hill. Six dead engines are snowed in between this place and Durango, also one of the big rotary snow pows. A rotary snow plow was sent from Salida to-day, pushed by three engines.

It has been snowing continuously for seven days in the mountains west and south of Alamosa and the canyons are full of snow and in many places the tops of tall trees are just visible.

Coal and eatables have been sent from Alamosa to the working crews and goods are being taken to the snowed-in trains on Cumbres Hill to keep the people there from starving.

SALEM COMMENCEMENT.

Exercises Begin May 19, Programme Continuing Through the 22nd—A Hen Dies at the Age of 22—Twin-City News Notes.

Special to The Observer.

Winston-Salem, March 19.—A freight car jumped the track on the Wilkesboro road Saturday afternoon, delaying the passenger train five hours. Captain Guthrie, who was in charge, got back from Greensboro after 2 o'clock Sunday morning. A special was made up here Saturday evening, leaving for Greensboro on schedule time.

William Thomas, of Belews Creek street, Salem, had an old hen to die last week at the age of 22 years. The chicken was formerly the property of Mr. Thomas' parents and it is estimated that she had laid more than 7,000 eggs, notwithstanding the alleged claim that the hen would never lay on Sunday.

Captain Charles Buford, who has been in Baltimore for a month or more receiving treatment in a hospital, arrived home Saturday improved in health.

Rev. E. E. Williamson, pastor, is arranging to begin a protracted meeting at Burkhead M. E. church April 22. He expects to be assisted by Rev. Harold Turner, of Greensboro, and Rev. J. F. Kirk, pastor of Grace M. E. church.

The protracted meeting announced to begin at Calvary Moravian church yesterday was postponed one week on account of the death of the mother of Rev. J. F. McCuiston. The latter is to assist Paster Crosland.

Mrs. Edwin Williamson Overman, of Salisbury, who came here last week to see her daughter, a pupil of the Salem Academy, returned home to-day. During her stay here Mrs. Overman was the guest of Mrs. W. N. Reynolds at the Phoenix.

The programme for the annual commencement exercises of Salem Female College has been practically completed. The dates and occasions are as follows: Saturday evening, May 19, senior's evening, in the college chapel; Sunday morning, May 20, baccalaureate sermon, in the Moravian Home church; Monday evening, May 21, exercises of the senior class, on the college campus; Monday afternoon, May 21, alumnae society meeting, in college chapel; Monday night, May 21, grand concert by the piano, vocal and elocution departments, in the college chapel; Tuesday morning, May 22, commencement exercises in Moravian Home church, literary address by Hon. N. Page, member of Congress from North Carolina, and the presentation of diplomas.

MONEY WENT UP IN SMOKE.

Pay Roll of $1,000 Destroyed in Fire at W. J. Oliver's Commissary Near Bushnell.

Special to The Observer.

Asheville, March 19.—A gentleman here to-day from Bushnell tells of the burning of the W. J. Oliver commissary at that place Saturday morning. The commissary was completely destroyed and, in addition to the burning of the supplies for the railroad camps operated by the Oliver company, a payroll amounting to between $800 and $1,000 was also destroyed. A considerable portion of this money was in silver and after the ashes had partially cooled a dish-pan full of the melted money was raked up. It is said that the fire caught from a stove in the commissary building.

GEORGIA BANK LOSES SUIT.

Federal Judge Refuses to Compel Minnesota Bank's Receiver to List as Credits Checks on it Cashed Before Its Failure.

St. Paul, Minn., March 19.—Judge Amidon, of the Federal Circuit Court, to-day filed an order dismissing the suit of the Merchants' National Bank, of Valdosta, Ga., against Lyman D. Baird, of Austin, receiver of the defunct First National Bank, of Faribault, an action brought to compel a receiver to list as creditors $7375 in favor of the Georgia bank, the amount of a number of checks on the Faribault bank by the Minnesota Lumber Company, cashed by the Georgia bank, but refused by the Faribault bank on Jan. 5, 1906, after it had passed into the receivers' hands.

Mrs. Thomas Hill, of Guilford, Dead.

Special to The Observer.

Greensboro, March 19.—Mrs. Thomas Hill died Saturday and was buried yesterday at Sink's Chapel, southwest of the city. Her husband died a week ago from an attack of pneumonia. They are survived by several children.

MENDS CONSULAR SERVICE

HOUSE PASSES SENATE BILL

First Step Toward Reorganization of Uncle Sam's Commercial Representatives' Work is Made by Re-Classifying the Service and Raising Salaries $170,000 a Year—Lieutenant Generalship of the Army Abolished, Effective Oct. 12, Securing Promotion to Gens. Corbin and McArthur First—Mr. Grosvenor Defends Army's Moro Campaign.

Washington, March 19.—The House to-day reached a compromise on the question of abolishing the grade of lieutenant general in the army, by providing that it shall not become effective until Oct. 12 next, in order that Generals Corbin and McArthur may be promoted before their retirement.

An important bill declared to be the first step towards a re-organization of the consular service, was passed. The bill already has been acted upon by the Senate. It re-classifies the service and inceases salaries to the extent of $170,000 a year.

During the completion of the general debate on the legislative bill, Mr. Grosvenor, of Ohio, came to the defense of the army in the Mount Dajo battle and was repied to briefly by Mr. Williams, the minority leader, who asserted that all criticism was based on the official reports so far received.

Mr. Grosvenor defended the army. "The gang of Moros," he said, "belong to a class of pirates and professional thieves. They were an organized band of murderers who never surrender, but fight until the last one of them is dead."

In answer to the recent criticism of Mr. Jones, of Virginia, that the mountain should have been surrounded and the Moros starved into surrender, Mr. Grosvenor remarked that Mr. Jones was a farmer by profession; that the mountain was 15 miles around, making this sort of a siege impossible. "There was but one way to get them out, and that was exactly the plan the American soldiers executed."

The retirement of aged clerks received the attention of the House for more than an hour, during which the debate was general, while Mr. Tawney, chairman of the appropriations committee, held the floor in advocacy of the 70-year retirement provision in the bill.

The House adjourned until to-morrow.

Named for Ambassador to Austria-Hungary.

Washington, March 19.—The President to-day sent to the Senate the nomination of Charles S. Francis, of Troy, N. Y., former American minister to Greece, as ambassador to Austria-Hungary, to succeed Bellamy Storer. Mr. Francis' father was formerly ambassador to Austria.

For $25,000 Monument to Gen. Pickens at Clemson, S. C.

Washington, March 19—Representative Aiken, of South Carolina, introduced a bill to-day, appropriating $25,000 for the erection at Clemson College, South Carolina, of a monument to General Andrew Pickens

DURHAM SUPERIOR COURT.

One Divorce Granted and Many Small Cases Disposed Of—Witnesses in Stein Case Leave for Charlotte—New $20,000 Episcopal Church.

Special to The Observer.

Durham, March 19.—Superior Court convened here this morning with Judge Furgerson on the bench. It is a two-weeks' term of court and the docket is very light. Most of the lawyers believe that the docket will be cleared by the end of this week. There are several damage suits for trial, but none of a very important nature. The largest suit is one in which Ike Cooley, of this city, is suing the Durham Traction Company. Last year Cooley was struck by a street car and alleges that he was damaged in the sum of $5,000.

Several small suits were disposed of today, one of these being a divorce granted Mrs. C. F. Vickers from her husband, D. F. Vickers. The suit was not contested, the parties having come to an agreement that the divorce from bed and board should be granted. In the complaint the plaintiff told of cruel and brutal treatment on the part of his husband until life was made such that she could not live with him. There were fourteen issues, all answered in favor of the plaintiff. The Vickers, both husband and wife, are well-to-do and at the last term of court the wife sued her husband and secured judgment for about $2,000 for advances she had made him.

Mr. Delos W. Sorrell, a young lawyer who secured his license from the Supreme Court at the recent session, was to-day sworn in as a lawyer and admitted to practice in the courts of the State. Mr. Frank L. Fuller, a member of the law firm of Fuller & Fuller of this city, stood sponsor for him and Judge Furgerson, in welcoming him as a member of the profession of the State, welcomed him to a "life of hard work and honor." The new lawyer is a member of the firm of Unstead & Sorrell.

The congregation of the St. Philip's church has decided that the new church, to cost about $20,000 is to be built at once. The vestry has awarded the contract to the Central Carolina Construction Company, of Greensboro, and it is expected that the contracts will all be signed to-night or to-morrow. After it was decided to build this church the advance in the price of building materials caused the vestry to halt in the negotiations. It was finally decided to go ahead with the work and it will be pushed until the new church, to be erected on the site of the old church, is completed.

GREENE-GAYNOR WORK GOOD.

General Craighill So Testifies, Basing Opinion Upon Growth of Savannah's Commerce as Alleged Result of Harbor Improvements.

Savannah, Ga., March 19.—Interesting testimony was brought out to-day in the Greene and Gaynor trial. W. W. Osborne conducted the examination of the witnesses for the defense in the absence of Colonel P. W. Meldrim, leading counsel, who was unable to attend because of illness in his family, but who was represented by William Garrard, his law partner.

One of the features of the evidence was the statement of Brigadier General W. P. Craighill, U. S. A., retired, who was formerly in charge of the river and harbor work of this district. He said he regarded the work done under Carter's administration as successful. This belief he based upon the growth of commerce of the port of Savannah, considering that this would not have been brought about had there not been merit in the work done by Greene and Gaynor.

The defense is devoting its efforts to the establishing, in so far as may be possible by the evidence of engineering experts, that the river and harbor contracts secured by Greene and Gaynor were carried out honestly and faithfully and in accordance with the specifications. This is the line of testimony that is now being introduced.

Russia's Largest Tea Merchants Fail for $18,500,000.

Moscow, March 19.—D. & A. Rasstorgueff Brothers, the largest tea merchants in Russia, have failed for $18,500,000.

SEVEN CHARTERS GRANTED

BUSY DAY FOR THE SECRETARY

Wilmington, Palestine, Mt. Airy, Oxford, Swannanoa and Kernersville Get New Concerns—Special Term of Court Ordered for Surry—Cabarrus Negro Begins Ten Years' Sentence in Penitentiary—Governor Returns After Three Days' Absence—Still Captured—Raleigh News Notes.

Observer Bureau,
122 South Dawson Street,
Raleigh, March 19.

Governor Glenn returned this morning to the executive office after an absence of three days, which were spent profitably to his constituency. At Charlotte the Governor was pleased to be in company with the Governor of South Carolina and Hon. Alton B. Parker, together with whom he participated in the special programme as arranged and observed by the Greater Charlotte Club. The Governor expresses particular appreciation as to the cordial courtesies extended to him. He will remain in Raleigh for a number of days, and has announced that hereafter he will, at no time, unless it be specific and urgent business, be away from the office more than three days at a time.

S. H. Buck, one of the cleverest and most efficient inspectors in the employ of the Postoffice Department, will, at an eary day, move his family from Atlanta, Ga., to Goldsboro. Mr. Buck has just returned from Tecumseh, Ala., where he was called by the sudden and serious illness of his aged father, C. M. Buck, who is now 79 years old. This seems to mean that Mr. S. H. Buck will be transferred in the Department service, and the demands in the State have called for the appointment of another inspector, which now gives four to this division. Mr. V. E. Albertie, who has been in the Indian Territory, will work in this part of the State in a like capacity.

SPECIAL TERM OF COURT FOR SURRY.

Governor Glenn has ordered a special term of court in Surry county for the trial of cases, both civil and criminal, beginning April 30, and lasting one week. Judge R. B. Peebles will preside.

Letters from Mr. B. R. Lacy, State treasurer, are to the effect that he will return to his office within a few days, as he will leave Solomonville, Ariz., March 21. It is supposed that he will come straight home. Mr. Lacy's letters would seem to indicate that he is homesick for Carolina, though the benefit to his asthmatic trouble has been wonderful.

Deputies Adams and Downing, of the Revenue Department, have returned from Johnson county, where they effected the capture of a 45-gallon still, with worm and cap, together with 400 gallons of beer and 14 fermenters. Those playing with the law escaped, although the still was operating when the officers arrived. They evidently had the first peep through the woodland. The affair was located four miles east of Denson.

MANY CHARTERS GRANTED.

The Secretary of State to-day made a rich issuance of charters, having furthered the State's advance with the following: Palestine Roller Mill Co., at Palestine, for the cotton, grain and woodworking industries combined; capital stock $25,000, with $3,000 paid; incorporators, W. A. Marks, of Albemarle; Henry Blalock and W. L. Harris, both of Palestine; the Carolina Apartment Co., Wilmington, to build and develop that city, with T. H. Wright and W. Taylor, Wilmington and W. S. Keenan, Lockport, N. Y., as incorporators, and $150,000 authorized and $15,000 paid in; the F. L. Smith Hardware Co., Mt. Airy; stockholders F. L. Smith, J. B. and G. W. Sparge, R. N. Payne, O. H. Quincy, of Mt. Airy, and C. H. Haynes, Dobson; capital $50,000, of which $22,000 is paid in. A second Mt. Airy company is that of the Spargo Orchard Co., to conduct orchards, canneries and evaporating plants; there has been subscribed $5,600, in a total stock of $30,000; incorporators J. B., G. W., E. A., B. F., and J. A. Sparger, all of Mt. Airy; the Oxford Buggy Co., Oxford, will manufacture buggies, carriages and wagons of different styles; capital stock $100,000, of which J. H. Long, R. L. Green, B. F. Taylor and W. J. Long subscribed $40,000; the Mount Mitchell Lumber Co., at Swannanoa, with $10,000 paid in by John Morrow, Marshall; G. M. Mell and L. E. Leighton, of Kane, Penn.; the Forsyth Bank & Trust Co., at Kernersville, capitalized at $50,000, with $6,000 paid in by J. M. Guyer, J. M. Hester, and a number of others of Greensboro, Advance, Winston Oak Ridge, Kernersville.

Sheriff Harris, of Cabarrus county, brought to the penitentiary a negro man by the name of Ernest Scott, who will serve 10 years and two months for attempted assault. This is the negro who last fall made his escape from the sheriff, when the officer assured the State tha he would be recaptured.

SPONSORS FOR REUNION.

Gen. Lee Names Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee Young Ladies for New Orleans Event.

New Orleans, March 19.—By direction of General Stephen D. Lee, commanding the United Confederate Vetrans, Adjutant General Wm. E. Mickle has issued a general order which he says:

"The general commanding is much gratified to announce the following appointments for the New Orleans reunion:

"Sponsor for the South, Miss Josephine Hamilton Nicholls, of New Orleans; maids of honor, Miss Mary Sharp Askew, of Columbus, Miss.; Miss Sarah Ruth Frazier, of Chattanooga, Tenn. These young ladies can boast Confederacy ancestry equal to any in the South.

"The general commends these ladies to the good graces of his beloved associates and feels that every honor and courtesy will be showered on them by the gallant remnant of our armies."

PREMIER WITTE TO RETIRE?

Rumor is Current in High Circles of St. Petersburg—Statement by Premier Himself Interpreted as Announcement.

St. Petersburg, March 19.—In high circles to-night the rumor was current that Count Witte had indefinitely decided to retire from the premiership. The Associated Press is unable to confirm the rumor, as Count Witte had retired and the chancellery was closed when the correspondent called shortly after midnight. From an absolutely authentic source, however, it can be stated that Count Witte, at a session of the council of the empire this afternoon, made an enigmatical statement which is interpreted by many members of the council as a virtual declaration that his career as Premier is ended and that he will be succeeded by Privy Counsellor Kokovsoff, former Minister of Finance.

BAILEY ON RATE MEASURE

WANTS LOWER COURTS TIED

Anxiously Awaited Speech of Senate's Foremost Constitutional Lawyer Reveals Basis of His Contention for Amendment to Prevent Interference by Courts Below Supreme Court—Contends That Congress Has Absolute Power to Prescribe Limitations for Courts Created by It—Favors Final Review, but Wants Arbitrary Suspension by Judges Prevented—Messrs. McCreary and Heyburn Also Speak.

Washington, March 19.—There were three speeches on the railroad rate bill in the Senate to-day, Messrs. McCreary, Bailey and Heyburn being the orators. Mr. McCreary announced his determination to vote for the bill whether amended or not but said that he would not object to a reasonable provision for the review of the inter-State commerce commission's findings.

Mr. Bailey replied to criticism of his suggestion for a prohibition in the bill against the suspension of the commission's orders by courts below the Supeme Court. He contended that Congress had the absolute power to prescribe limitations for the courts, which it creates, and cited a large number of decisions in support of his position.

Mr. Bailey said that all he was contending for was to have the rates fixed by the commission stand until finally adjudicated by the court, because he believed it might be assumed that any rate established by that body would be more just than the rates of the railroad companies, the one disinterested and the other interested. "I appeal to you to say which is more apt to be right. If you give your voice to that fixed by the commission, I demand in the interest of the people that it stand until a final decree to the contrary is recorded."

He read a letter from an attorney in Florida reciting Judge Pardee's course in enjoining that State from instituting a suit to compel the reduction of passenger rates, a proceeding, he said, which shows how far "these learned and upright judges" may go in the use of their powers. He declared that even if he stood alone he would submit to the Senate the question as to whether the courts may exercise arbitrary power like that assumed by Judge Pardee.

"Are we to understand that the Senator favors a final review by the courts?" Mr. Aldrich asked.

"I do," replied Mr. Bailey. "I have never seen the day when I would favor the closing of the doors of the courts to any person, corporate or otherwise. I favor a fair and impartial proceeding. What I contend for is that the courts should not have the power to set aside findings without thorough inquiry."

Mr. Heyburn advocated a review provision, but expressed the opinion that even if it were omitted no person could be deprived of his right of admission to the courts.

The Senate adjourned until to-morrow.

BY THE COUNTY BOARDS.

South Carolina Dispensary Board of Control Decides That Each County Board Must Furnish Assistance for Handling Request Blanks—Confederate Veterans Invited to Meet in Columbia.

Observer Bureau,
1209 Main Street,
Columbia, S. C., March 19.

The matter of request books has given considerable concern to the dispensary authorities. The situation was brought to a focus by County Auditor Gibbes insisting that, if he had to give out the request books and check them up as required by law, he would insist upon assistance, as it would be utterly impossible to do the work of his office and check up the permit books. Governor Heyward to-night had a conference with Commissioner Tatum, Messrs. Rawlinson, Wylie and Black, of the State board of control, and Assistant Attorney General Youmans, regarding the situation. The letter of Auditor Gibbes was read and the members of the board of control took the position that, under the law, it was not their province to provide assistance for the checking up of request blanks by the county auditor, but that it was a question for the county boards. Governor Heyward, with the board of control, wishes to see the law enforced, and, in Governor Heyward's opinion, it is the province of the county boards to furnish to the auditor such assistance as the county boards may deem necessary to carry out the law in reference to request books. Governor Heyward will refer the letter of Auditor Gibbes to the county board of Richland and each board will have to arrange this matter to suit itself.

At the quarterly meeting of the Columbia chamber of commerce to-night a unanimous and warm invitation was extended the State Confederate Veterans' Association to hold its next annual convention here. The invitation was placed in the hands of a committee of five, of which W. D. Starling will be chairman, the other members to be appointed later by the president. The convention went by default last year, so this year's meeting will likely be held early, probably in May. Columbia will arrange for such a splendid reception of the veterans as was given them here a few years ago. A feature of to-night's meeting was the projection and perfection of plans outlined by Secretary Clark to publish a monthly journal of illustrated matter about the city. The first issue will appear in moderate size in about a month.

THE BLOCK SYSTEM.

It Will be Installed on Asheville Division of Southern, Orders Having Been Placed for Material—Will Require 100 Extra Operators.

Special to The Observer.

Asheville, March 19.—The block system on the Asheville division of the Southern Railway is now an assured fact. It was learned from a high authority this morning that the officials of the road have determined to install this modern method of more safely operating its trains and that the order for more than 300 miles of wire and other material to go into the equipment has been placed. This material is expected here within the next 30 days and the work of installing the system with a number of construction gangs will be immediately undertaken. It is the purpose of the officials to put in operation the block system between Asheville and Spartanburg; between Asheville and Salisbury and between Asheville and Morristown.

On the Asheville division there will be a block every four miles. Each block will have a day and night telegraph operator and no two trains, when the system is working, can rug on the same block at once. The block system on the Asheville division will mean the employment of fully 100 additional operators and this item of expenditure alone will increase the payroll of this division more than $5,000.

NEW BREEDS OF COTTON.

Bureau of Plant Industry Promises That They Will Almost Double Value of Crop Wherever Used.

Washington, March 19.—Following experiments over several years, the Bureau of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture, has developed a number of new breeds of cotton, which the bureau says promise to almost double the value of the cotton crop wherever they are used. These new cottons have been bred from the native and short staple upland variety and are from a half to three-quarter of an inch longer in fibre than cotton grown from the parent seeds.

LYNCHED IN CHATTANOOGA

JOLT TO U. S. SUPREME COURT

Negro Assailant Who Had Been Granted Stay of Execution on Eve of Day for Hanging is Taken From Jail in Tennessee City by 75 Men, Hanged to River Bridge, Rope Breaking, and Riddled—Quiet Unbroken in the City at Large—Court's Action Had Angered Citizens and Lynching is No Surprise.

Chattanooga Tenn., March 19.—Ed. Johnson, colored, was taken from the jail at 10:45 by a mob of 75 men and hanged to a beam of the county bridge over the Tennessee river. The rope broke and the negro's body fell and the mob quickly riddled him with bullets. Sheriff Shipp and the jailor were locked in a bath room while the mob secured the prisoner.

The negro was to have been hanged to-morrow under sentence for criminal assault, but the United States Supreme Court to-day granted a stay of execution and this action served to anger the citizens of the city and all day there was great excitement and it was freely talked on the streets that violence would result to-night.

Early in the evening the mob began to form and it was all done so quietly that only those in the immediate vicinity of the jail knew when they were ready for action. At 10:45, 75 determined men assembled at the jail and at once gained admission. Overpowering the sheriff and his deputies, they secured the prisoner and quietly led him to the bridge where the hanging was carried out in the most orderly manner, the mob immediately dispersing. There was not the slightest attempt at rowdyism and the mob was composed of men of mature years.

The negro is said to have confessed when first taken by the mob, but when the rope was placed about his neck he stoutly maintained his innocence.

It is declared the victim was dead of strangulation before the rope broke, but the mob, to be sure of him, filled his body with bullets.

The city was as quiet at the hour of hanging and afterwards as though nothing unusual had occurred.

The crime for which Ed Johnson was lynched to-night was an assault on a prominent white girl at St. Elmo, a suburb, which occurred some weeks ago. Immediately after the crime a mob made an unsuccessful attempt to get the prisoner but Sheriff Shipp had taken him away. At that time the jail was attacked and almost torn down and during the excitement several persons were seriously injured.

STAYS TENNESSEE EXECUTION.

United States Supreme Court Grants Appeal to Negro Under Sentence to be Hanged at Chattanooga To-Day.

Washington, March 19.—The Supreme Court of the United States granted an appeal to-day in the case of a negro named Ed Johnson, under sentence to be hanged to-morrow in Hamilton county, Tennessee, on the charge of assault. Justice Harlan granted the appeal last Saturday, but feeling doubt of his right as an individual member of the court to take this action, advised that formal application be made to the whole court. The order of the court operates as a stay of proceedings.

No reasons are assigned for the intervention and the action to-day will serve to bring the case before the Supreme Court for investigation.

OPERATORS TO MEET MINERS.

Second Joint Convention for District Comprising Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Western Pennsylvania is Arranged—Robbins Quits Leadership of Operators.

Indianapolis, March 19.—That there will be a second joint convention of coal operators and miners of the central competitive district, comprising Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and western Pennsylvania, was definitely determined this afternoon when the operators of the four States met in convention and adopted a resolution setting forth their willingness to meet the representatives of the United Mine Workers. Subsequently, arrangements between J. H. Winder, chairman of the operators, and President Mitchell, of the mine workers, fixed the first session of the joint conference for to-morrow.

Following the retirement of F. L. Robbins, president of the Pittsburg Coal Company, as chairman of the operators and the election of J. H. Winder, of Ohio, as his successor, a resolution was adopted providing that the operators of the four States should elect their own spokesman and that there be no official representative of the four States collectively, either in joint convention or in joint scale committee.

F. L. Robbins to-night refused to make a statement regarding his reasons for relinquishing the leadership of the operators. His successor, Mr. Winder, was equally reticent, and neither would discuss the attitude he will assume on the floor of the joint committee. In anticipation of the action taken by the operators this afternoon looking to another joint session, the miners announced the appointment of members of the joint scale committee who will act for the miners' organization.

MANUAL TRAINING FEATURE.

It Will Probably be Introduced Into the Public Schools of Spartanburg.

Special to The Observer.

Spartanburg, S. C., March 19.—Superintendent Frank Evans, of the city schools, and H. E. Ravenel, chairman of the board of trustees, have returned from Columbus, Ga., where they inspected the public schools. While interested in general school work the Spartanburg visitors to Columbus were particularly concerned in the workings of the manual training departments in operation in the Georgia town, for the public trustees here are considering the practicability of introducing the system into the schools. They will make a report of their observation to the board and it is then expected that plans for an industrial department will be discussed. Superintendent Evans and Mr. Ravenel were shown every courtesy and attention by the authorities of the Columbus schools and they feel that they came upon information that will be of great assistance to them when the proposed plans relative to the public schools of Spartanburg are ready to be put in effect.

Officer Who Commanded Mutinous Fleet Shot.

St. Petersburg, March 19.—Former Lieutenant Schmidt, who commanded the vessels of the Black Sea Fleet, which mutinied in November of last year, was shot to-day at Otchakoff, with three of his sailors.

At Chicago last night the national amateur billiard championship was won by Edward W. Gardner, of Passaic, N. J.

A VICTORY FOR MR. HOLTON

SUB-COMMITTEE UPHOLDS HIM

By Unanimous Vote of Full Judiciary Committee Nomination of Mr. Holton is Reported Favorably to Senate—Mr. Blackburn Denies That Casper Affidavit Was Presented—Senator Simmons Issues Call for Meeting of State Democratic Executive Committee—Senator Simmons Commended for Speech on Rate Regulation Bill.

BY W. A. HILDEBRAND.

Observer Bureau,
1417 G Street N. W.,
Washington, March 19.

Senator Simmons issued a call today for a meeting of the Democratic State committee to be held in Raleigh April 5th, when the date of the Democratic State convention will be selected for the transaction of such other business as may come before it.

The nomination of District Attorney Holton was reported to the Senate today by a unanimous vote of the full judiciary committee. This action was taken after a meeting of the sub-judiciary committee when it was decided to stand by Mr. Holton. The district attorney's final answer to Mr. Blackburn's charges was considered ample. Mr. Holton returned home tonight.

DENIES THAT AFFIDAVIT WAS PRESENTED.

Representative Blackburn said tonight: "The statement that an affidavit was presented before the Senate sub-judiciary committee from one Casper is a falsehood upon its face. No such affidavit was mentioned. I will refer you to all the members at this hearing, each and every member of the sub-committee. Solicitor of Internal Revenue Hayes and Assistant Attorney General Robb. Whose work it is in reporting such a statement as this, I do not know. If Mr. Holton is seeking to use Casper as his tool in prosecuting me, the matter will develop in due time."

COMMENDATION FOR SENATOR SIMMONS.

Since a large number of Senators have expressed their opinions on the pending rate bill, in charge of Senator Tillman, many have been heard to allude, in complimentary terms, to the effort of Senator Simmons. Some of the colleagues of the senior North Carolina Senator have expressed the belief that his speech will contribute very materially to a solution of the vexed question. Senator Simmons is receiving numerous requests for copies of the speech. A letter received by a gentleman here from one of the most prominent lawyers the State has produced, now living in New York, contains these lauditory references to the remarks of the Senator:

"Whatever may be his views on the great questions involved in the debate upon regulation of railroad rates, any candid reader of his argument must conclude that it was the speech of a statesman. Its matter was excellent, its temper admirable. I would have been much struck with it if it had been the speech of a stranger. As it was made by a friend and my State Senator, I am proud of it. I think it ought to be greatly helpful at home in proving that intemperance of language is not proof of correctness of thought. A reputation made by such speeches will bring all pleasure and no regret, while the too common form of political oratory is tinged demagogey and to a sensible man must bring only remorse."

Senator Overman will, in all probability address the Senate on this paramount issue during the present week. From the beginning of this agitation Senator Overman has been convinced that conditions demand some form of medical legislation as that proposed.

Hon. Zeb Vance Walser and Labor Commissioner Varner have returned to their home in Lexington. Messrs. Walser and Varner have done yoeman service in behalf of the bill designed to appropriate funds for the erection of a public building in their thriving little city. Congressman Page will make a special plea in behalf of this bill and there is a distinctive hope in many quarters that his activity will prove effective. This brings to mind a distressing error that crept into the correspondence recently when an attempt was made to tell about the Lexington situation. It was stated that Speaker Cannon told the delegation: "If you don't get what you want roast Page," when the Speaker's little pleasantry obviously: "If you don't get what you want don't roast Page."

THE AFFIDAVIT.

Special to The Observer.

Winston-Salem, March 19.—The friends here of District Attorney A. E. Holton expressed surprise when told this afternoon by The Observer's correspondent that the Senate judiciary committee had reported his nomination favorably. The action of the committee was expressed by those acquainted with the situation. To-day a copy of the affidavit given Mr. Holton by Mr. J. L. Casper, of this city, was secured for publication. It reads as follows:

"State of North Carolina, Forsyth county: John L. Casper, being duly sworn, states that he is a citizen and resident of the city of Winston; is a member of the board of aldermen of the city of Winston, and that he has been a resident of this city for 20 years; that he is engaged in business in the city of Winstopn, being vice president of the King Printing Company, president of the Southern Publishing Company, and president of the Casper Company, the latter company being engaged in the business of rectifiers and wholesale liquor dealers. That on March 2, 1906, in the city of Greensboro, at the Southern Railway depot, he met the Hon. Spencer Blackburn member of Congress, who approached affiant and asked him, 'How much will you give to defeat Mr. Holton's confirmation as United States district attorney?' Affiant told him: Mr. Blackburn, I am practically out of the whiskey business and have made nothing for the last two years and I am not in a position to pay anything.' Mr. Blackburn then asked affiant if he could not see the other people now engaged and who had been engaged in the business of distilling, rectifying and wholesaling whiskies and learn if they would not make up a purse of $5,000 to defeat the confirmation of Mr. Holton, and if they would for this he would guarantee that Mr. Holton would never be district attorney. To this, affiant replied that he would see him later. Mr. Blackburn said he was going to Salisbury, the train being about ready to move. Affiant asked Mr. Blackburn if he knew that Mr. Holton had indicted J. C. and W. Y. Somers, liquor dealers at Salisbury, at the recent term of the court at Asheville. Mr. Blackburn replied: 'The thunder you say.' He then said he would have to talk with them.

JOHN L. CASPER.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 7th day of March, 1906.

(Copy.) H. P. PULLIAM,
Notary Public.