

THE FIELDS ACQUITTED

WERE CHARGED WITH ROBBERY Two Young Men of Durham Cleared of All Charges Against Them—Reflex Being Given the Small Railroad—Governor's Reply to Richmond—Mr. W. W. Ashe Appointed State Forester—Charter Granted Stamp Vending and Machine Company—Assistant Labor Commissioner's Report on Cotton, Woolen and Knitting Mills—Eighty-Six Per Cent. Do Not Employ Children Under 12—Business of Fire Insurance Companies.

Observer Bureau, The Holloman Building, Raleigh, Feb. 5. James and Bascomb Fields, of Durham, who have been on trial here this week in Federal Court for the theft of \$3,000 from a registered package, were acquitted this afternoon.

Charter is granted the National Stamp Vending and Machine Company, of Fayetteville, with authorized capital stock amounting to \$100,000. There was a little snowfall this morning, the fifth one of the winter. There has been only one snow worth speaking of this winter and the season has been quite a dry one.

From inquiry at the State Treasury to-day regarding Treasurer Lacy, who has for many weeks been in Arizona with his brother, it was learned that he had entirely recovered his health and is having no more trouble with asthma. He is going for good weather to come before he returns home.

RELIEF FOR LITTLE ROADS.

Your correspondent met President John A. Mills, of the Raleigh and Southport Railway, to-day and found him all smiles. He said that the short line roads felt very grateful to Governor Glenn and to the Legislature; also to the general public for the sympathy so practically shown as regards their condition. He said that on the very day the Governor issued his call for the special session of the Legislature he applied for relief from the 15 per cent. charge which had been put upon the road. The Legislature granted this by giving the corporation commission power to arrange the rates for such roads on a different basis from those of the other lines. Now the little roads can make a living and go ahead. Chairman McNeill, of the corporation commission, said to your correspondent that President Mills had applied for a relief from the 15 per cent. charge so far as his own road was concerned and that it had been granted. No doubt the other roads will immediately apply for it, and of course the commission will look into their requests and take action upon what is found to be the situation of affairs.

Governor Glenn left to-day for Richmond to deliver an address this evening before the Virginia Anti-Saloon League, and he is expected to return to-morrow afternoon. The Governor finds, in the matter of the payments of money to the soldiers in the war with Spain, that some of them have died, leaving no administrator, etc., and he is writing to the War Department in order to get permission to pay the sums due them to the next of kin. No doubt this permission will be given. Yesterday afternoon seven cars on the Southern Railway loaded with phosphate for the Raleigh phosphate mill, were derailed on the Caraleigh branch and were not until midnight the passenger train on the Raleigh & Southport Railway, which uses the Caraleigh branch as part of its line.

The Agricultural and Mechanical College will have a summer or spring course for the training of teachers to be held in May. It is in a way to be a teachers' institute, and the work will be in charge of Superintendent Zeb Vance Judd, of the Wake county school.

W. W. ASHE IS FORESTER. The State geological board elects William W. Ashe, of Raleigh, to the position of State geologist. He comes March 1st to take charge of that work in North Carolina. The board asked Head Forester Gifford Pinchot, of the United States Agricultural Department, to recommend a man for the place. He named Ashe, who accepts the new position, but will be retained on the United States civil service list so he can return to his duties at Washington at any time. The United States Agricultural Department says it will do anything possible to aid this State in forestry work.

Tyree G. Williams, a native of Forsyth county, aged 87, died at the Soldiers' Home to-day. He served in Company I, Thirty-third North Carolina Troop, and lost a leg at Gettysburg.

Charles H. Gattis, of the Seaboard Air Line, says that after a critical investigation he is certain that Assistant Industrial Agent Bigham did not commit suicide by jumping from a window of a Pullman car six miles west of Raleigh.

REPORT ON MILLS. To-day Assistant Labor Commissioner M. L. Shipman made up a very interesting report regarding the cotton, woolen and knitting mills of the State. Of the mills reported there are 328, which show an authorized capital of \$45,777,535. These contain 2,768,576 spindles, 52,272 looms, 6,131 knitting machines, the horsepower used totals 14,540, and 70,707 men and women are employed. Of these 25,383 are males and 20,221 are females; 83 per cent. of the mills report to employ 85 per cent. of the children employed 89 per cent.

AS TO CHILD LABOR. In response to a special inquiry as to children under 12 years of age working in factories, 86 per cent. of the manufacturers answer that there are none, 5 per cent. admit the presence of children under that age, while 9 per cent. say they are absolutely against the law to employ children under that age, but the law is defective in failing to give the labor commissioner full power of inspection, this being the weakest point in the law; and it makes him dependent upon what may be termed the courtesy of the mills as to inspection, information, etc. Of the replies to the inquiry as to whether compulsory education is favored for children in the mills 65 per cent. say they favor it, 15 per cent. oppose it, while 20 per cent. express no opinion whatever.

The returns show that the average number of hours of the day's work is 10.45. The highest average wages for men daily are \$2.56, lowest 82 cents; highest average for women, \$1.31; lowest 67 cents; average wages of children, 49 cents. Of the 112,552 per cent. pay wages weekly, 41 per cent. semi-weekly, 5 per cent.

FOR STATE HEALTH OFFICE

BILL PASSES PALMETTO HOUSE. This Officer, If This Measure Becomes Law, Will Have Important to Do as Chief of State Sanitation—An Appropriation Made For Another Dormitory at Winthrop College—Governor Ansel Transmits His Annual Report on Work of Dispensary Winding-Up Commission—Legislation to Protect the State's Interest Asked For—Senate Kills Prohibition Bill—Vote on Senate Bill to Fix Passenger Rates Set For To-Day.

Observer Bureau, 1422 Main Street, Columbia, S. C., Feb. 5. The business of the House moved nervously and fitfully this morning, but some important bills had been passed before the session ended.

The most important to get through was the bill of Mr. Nash, of Spartanburg, providing for the appointment of a State health officer at a salary of \$4,000 and with large powers. The passage of this bill is noteworthy. It makes a strong, decided movement forward in the matter of State sanitation and putting into effect vigorous measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. The debate was spirited and the vote, 72 to 20, surprised many members. Its defeat had been freely predicted.

The bill provides for the appointment of the State health officer, who must be a practicing physician, graduate from a reputable college and experienced in public health matters, by the executive committee of the State health board, whose secretary he shall be. He "shall have power to declare, when the facts justify it, any place to be infected," and take all necessary steps to prevent the spread of disease from the infected locality.

Section 4 provides that "The State board of health shall have power through its health officer to impose upon all railroads and navigation companies, vessels or cars, such restrictions and regulations as to inspections or sanitary rules as in their judgment may be necessary to protect the health of the people of the State."

Local boards of health have proved ineffective in this State in important instances on account of local men of influence getting in the way. The House killed Mr. Rucker's bill directed against "they day clubs" and other nearby secret societies, after it had reached third reading, by a narrow majority. Mr. Rucker resorted to all the parliamentary tactics to save his bill, but the majority increased as he went.

DORMITORY FOR WINTHROP. The House by a large majority and after a very brief debate passed the bill appropriating \$45,000 for a new dormitory at Winthrop. The college, which now accommodates nearly 500 South Carolina girls, will when this bill becomes law, increase its capacity by providing room for 200 more girls. About 400 applicants were turned away last year. It is President Johnson's ambition to finally have a new South Carolina girls' school, which will be able to pass the required examinations and open the doors to girls from other States. He wants the South Carolina girls to come in contact with the outsiders.

REPORT ON DISPENSARY. In transmitting the annual report of the dispensary winding-up commission to-day Governor Ansel sent a special message to the Legislature, in which he made this reference to the Pritchard matter: "It is confidently expected that the cases now pending in the Federal Court will soon be decided in favor of the State."

He advised "that such legislation be enacted as will protect the interests of the State," and urged the Legislature to adopt the recommendation of the commission as to either renting or selling the real estate without further delay.

He calls attention to the fact that the act creating the commission stops the pay of the members with the beginning of the new year and urges that the pay be continued as the commission has much work ahead of it by way of investigations.

Resolutions were offered in the House to-day to hereafter apply the five-minute rule to all debate and to forthwith shut off the introduction of bills, but both were defeated. The House declined to be hurried in its work regardless of newspaper criticism.

The Senate spent about half of its morning session debating a bill by Mr. Clifton, which has an important bearing on the fire insurance business. The bill provides that warranty or covenant in a policy shall not void the policy unless fraud is shown. It seems that several wildcat concerns have been dodging payment by resorting to technical provisions in the policy which hardly any policy-holder knows anything about. The bill passed by a comfortable majority.

The members and attaches are anticipating a delightful stay in Charleston next Saturday, both houses having now accepted the city's invitation, and people who know a little bit about Charleston hospitality know what it means to be entertained by the city.

MR. SMITH STATE ORGANIZER. At the convention here to-day of the South Carolina Cotton Association E. D. Smith was chosen State organizer, and resolutions were adopted urging organization in every township and that warships be erected wherever needed. Resolutions were also adopted calling for a 25 per cent. reduction in acreage and fertilizer. Mr. Smith will re-organize on the 19th as general organizer to devote his entire time to this State. Mr. Smith was re-elected president. E. L. Archer, of Spartanburg, was made vice president, and J. H. Hyatt, secretary and treasurer, F. H. Weston retiring as secretary.

Mr. Smith is to appoint the executive committee. A strong finance committee was named, and the Senate to-night put off its passenger rate reduction debate till to-morrow, at which time the agreement is to take a vote. The lien law debate was also adjourned till to-morrow.

By a vote of 24 to 13 the Senate to-night killed the Talbert prohibition bill. The issue was in fact already dead, the House having killed the Nash bill.

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LINCOLNTON NEWS NOTES.

Fire Damages Plant of W. W. Motz Fiddlers' Convention a Success—News in Brief. Special to the Observer, Lincolnton, Jan. 5.—A very threatening fire in the sash, door and blind factory of W. W. Motz last night damaged that plant considerably. The night watchman discovered the fire, the origin of which is not known for sure, about 7 o'clock and promptly turned in an alarm. Prompt action of the local fire-fighters only kept the entire building and thousands of feet of lumber from being destroyed. The greater part of the damage, which is not thought to exceed \$500, was done the betting and finished lumber. The plant was not insured.

The old-time fiddlers' convention, held here Monday and Tuesday nights, was quite a success, over a score of fiddlers entering the contest and playing those "quick and devilish" tunes which can only be played by the old-timers. Mr. Don Richardson rendered in connection with the convention classical selections, thus contrasting the old with the new and showing two distinct schools of playing the fiddlers and the violinist, Mr. Richardson's selections were heartily applauded and he was encored again and again. A prize of \$15 was awarded Mr. Morrison for the best old-time first fiddling; \$10 to Mr. Seagle for the best second fiddling, and \$5 to Mr. Chapman for the best banjo picking.

Mr. Don Richardson gave a recital at Fessenden yesterday, and his selections, beautifully rendered, were immensely enjoyed by all present. A handsome silver offering was received at the door for the Children of the Confederacy Reinhardt memorial fund.

"One Christmas Morn" will be played Friday night by the Children of the Confederacy for the benefit of the Wallace Reinhardt memorial fund.

SURVIVORS AT BOSTON. Small Boat Rescued From Burning. Cuthbert Taken to Boston—Baldy Burned and Need Careful Nursing.

Boston, Feb. 5.—The survivors of the steamer St. Cuthbert, who were taken from their burning and sinking vessel by the steamer Cyrric last Monday, 400 miles from this port, after fourteen of their companions had perished, were landed here to-day. Six of those who arrived here to-day were in need of careful nursing and two of them, Captain John Lewis, the commander of the vessel, and Armand Jobart, a seaman, were so badly burned about the head and face that they were taken to the hospital. Both, however, will probably recover.

Four other members of the crew were taken to the hospital, but will probably be out in a few days. There were a number of stowaways on board and it is expected that the Americans, five in number, will be allowed to land. The British seamen and the officers of the St. Cuthbert will be sent back to Liverpool, a majority leaving on the steamer Winthrop.

Eloquent Plea For Stoesse's Acquittal. St. Petersburg, Feb. 5.—The court-martial of Lieutenant General Stoesse is not yet finished. To-day Deputy Syrlanoff, counsel for the defense, made an eloquent plea for the acquittal of Port Arthur's commander, picturing the heroic resistance offered by the defenders of the fort under the most trying conditions and declaring that not until it was inevitable did the fortress fall.

"General Stoesse is an old and invalid soldier," he said, in closing, "and he faces his judges to-day asking only for justice."

Final judgment in the case will probably be given to-morrow.

Young Lady Burned to Death. New Philadelphia, O., Feb. 5.—Elna Struchmacher was burned almost to a crisp to-day and her aged mother was seriously probably fatally burned while attempting to extinguish the fire in the girl's clothing. The girl's dress ignited from an open grate. The girl died in great agony.

Student Drowned While Skating. Bordentown, Pa., Feb. 5.—Rafael Sabordo of Havana, a student at Ursinus College, Collegeville, was drowned in the Perkiomen Creek at that place to-day while skating. Several students made efforts to rescue him but without avail.

To Prohibit Betting in Kentucky. Kentucky, Ky., Feb. 5.—A bill introduced in the Senate to-day seeks to prohibit betting on horse racing at any track in the State. Another bill introduced provides for the repeal of the act creating the State racing commission.

Baldwin Works Lay Off Men. Philadelphia, Feb. 5.—Ten thousand men have been laid off since December by the Baldwin locomotive works, of this city, because of a lack of orders for engines. The work may be closed entirely unless conditions improve.

Fire At Peoria. Peoria, Ill., Feb. 5.—Fire to-night destroyed four business buildings and damaged adjoining property. Guests of the Grant hotel were driven from their rooms. The damage is \$250,000.

BRIEFS. —Mr. John R. Ross, business manager of the Observer, is confined to his room to-day with throat trouble. —Rev. E. A. Osborne expects to conduct services in the Episcopal church at Statesville Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, and again in the afternoon at 4 o'clock. At the same services an address will be given, the Holy Communion will be partaken of.



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100 SEABOARD 100 These arrivals and departures as well as the time and connection with other companies, are given only as information and are not guaranteed. Direct line to the principal cities North, East, South and Southwest. Schedule taking effect January 10th, 1908, subject to change without notice. Tickets for passages on all trains are sold by this company and accepted by the passenger with the understanding that the company will not be responsible for failure to run its trains on schedule time, or for any such delay as may be incident to their operation. Care will be exercised to give correct time of connecting lines, but this company is not responsible for errors or omissions. Trains leave Charlotte as follows: No. 9, daily, at 4:30 a. m., for Monroe, Hamlet and Wilmington, connecting at Monroe with 21 for Atlanta, Birmingham and the Southwest; with 38 for Raleigh, Weldon and Portsmouth with 56 at Hamlet for Raleigh, Richmond, Washington, New York. No. 12, daily, at 10:15 a. m., for Lincolnton, Shelby and Rutherfordton without change. No. 4, daily, at 5:30 p. m., for Monroe, Hamlet, Wilmington and all local points, connecting at Hamlet with 43 for Columbia, Savannah and all Florida points, and No. 8 for Raleigh, Richmond, Washington and New York. No. 12, daily, 7:30 p. m., for Monroe, connecting at Hamlet with 43 for Columbia, Savannah and all Florida points, and No. 8 for Raleigh, Richmond, Washington and New York. "Seaboard Florida Limited" at Hamlet at 11:15 a. m., for Jacksonville, Tampa and New York. With 22 at Monroe for Raleigh, Portsmouth and Norfolk. Through sleeper on this train from Charlotte to Portsmouth, Va., via Charlotte. Trains arrive in Charlotte as follows: No. 12, 10:30 a. m., daily from points North and South. No. 8, daily, 12:35 p. m., from Wilmington and all local points. For information, time-tables, reservations or onboard descriptive literature apply to ticket agents or address: No. 12, daily, of the group Hutchiford, Shelby, Lincolnton and C. & N. W. Railway points. No. 22, 12:25 p. m., daily, from Wilmington, Hamlet and Monroe. Connections are made at Hamlet with through trains for points North, South and West, which are composed of vestibule day coaches between Portsmouth and Atlanta, and Washington and Jacksonville, and sleeping cars between Jersey City, Birmingham, Memphis and Jersey City and Jacksonville. Cafe cars on all through trains. JAMES KER, JR., C. P. D. 21 Selwyn Hotel, Charlotte, N. C.

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