Weather To-Day
CLOUDY

Charlotte Daily Observer.

10 Pages To-Day
ONE SECTION

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: $8.00 A YEAR. CHARLOTTE, N. C., MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 28, 1908. PRICE FIVE CENTS.

WANTS NEIGHBORS TO JOIN

PRESIDENT'S PET IDEA EXPANDS

Dispatches Gifford Pinchot to Canada and Mexico to Invite Those Countries to Get Together With the United States on the Conservation of Natural Resources Scheme—Proposes That a Conference Embracing These Countries be Held at the White House in February—He Believes Such a Conference Will Yield Important Results—The President's Letter, in Part, to Earl Grey, of Canada.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Announcement was made at the White House to-day of a proposed plan for a conference looking toward the conservation of the natural resources of North America, to be held at the White House February 18th next.

Letters suggesting the plan have been addressed by President Roosevelt to the Governor General and to the Premier of Canada, and to President Diaz of Mexico. They will be delivered to the officials in person by Gifford Pinchot, chairman of the national conservation commission, and chief forester of the United States, whom President Roosevelt has chosen as his personal representative to convey the invitations and to confer with the authorities of the two governments. Mr. Pinchot will first visit Canada, leaving to-morrow. He will then carry the invitation to President Diaz, at Mexico City.

The proposed North American conference is the outgrowth of the two conservation conferences held in Washington, in which the Governors of the States and Territories were the principal conferees. At the second conference, in which, on December 8th, President Roosevelt and President-elect Taft participated, representatives of the Canadian government were present and expressed their interest in the conservation movement.

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

The President's letter to Lord Grey, Governor General of Canada, is in part as follows:

"In May of the present year the Governors of the several States and Territories of the Union met in the White House to confer with the President and with each other concerning the amount and conditions of the natural resources of this country, and to consider the most effective means for conserving them. The conference was followed by the appointment of conservation commissions on the part of the nation and of a majority of the States.

"A second conference of the national commission with the Governors, the State commissions and the conservation committees of the great associations has recently been held in this city.

"It is evident that natural resources are not limited by the boundary lines which separate nations, and that the need for conserving them upon this continent is as wide as the area upon which they exist. In view, therefore, of these considerations, and of the close bonds of friendship and mutual aims which exist between Canada and the United States, I take especial pleasure in inviting you to designate representatives of the government of Canada to meet and consult with representatives of the State and other departments of this government, and the national conservation commission in the City of Washington on February 18th, 1909. The purpose of the conference I have the honor to propose is to consider mutual interests involved in the conservation of natural resources, and in this field to deliberate upon the practicability of proposing a general plan adapted to promote the welfare of the nations concerned.

"I have this day addressed a similar invitation to the Republic of Mexico.

"The conclusions of such a conference, while wholly advisory in character, could hardly fail to yield important beneficial results, both in a better knowledge of the natural resources of each nation on the part of the others, and in suggestions for concurrent action for the protection of mutual interests related to conservation.

"Sincerely yours,
"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

SOUTHERN FREIGHT DITCHED.

Six Persons Injured in a Wreck Near Lumber City, Ga.—A Split Switch Supposed to Have Been the Cause of the Accident.

Lumber City, Ga., Dec. 27.—Six persons were injured, none fatally, when a special freight train on the Southern Railway jumped the track near here before daybreak to-day and rolled down a high embankment to become a mass of wreckage within a few yards of the banks of the Ocmulgee river.

The injured are: A. K. Van Evera, Macon, Ga., engineer, bruised and scalded; Thomas E. Skipper, Atlanta, engineer, severely bruised; Ed Langstone, Macon, fireman, bruised and scalded; H. D. Butler, conductor, and A. H. Johnston, brakeman, bruised; A. W. Walker, leg crushed.

Walker was taken to Atlanta for treatment and the others came to Lumber City. A split switch is believed to have caused the accident. Traffic was delayed over the road for many hours.

Christmas Thunderstorm at Newbern.

Special to The Observer.

Newbern, Dec. 27.—A rather unusual feature for Christmas was a thunderstorm Friday evening, accompanied by lightning, rain and hail. For a short time the storm was quite severe, but no damage was done as few people were out. At times the sun would shine bright and in the minutes it would be raining.

Foot and Mouth Disease Develops in Children of Five Families.

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 27.—Ten cases of what is suspected to be the foot and mouth disease have developed in children of five families in the town of Clarkson, Monroe county. One of them, an infant, has died. The child that died had symptoms that resembled cerebral meningitis.

Death of Prominent Rhode Island Banker.

Newport, R. I., Dec. 27.—Alexander N. Harker, prominent in business and banking affairs, was found dead today in his office. The medical examiner decided that death was accidental, resulting from the escape of gas from a heater in the office.

Charles E. Phelps, of Maryland, Dead.

Baltimore, Dec. 27.—Charles E. Phelps, formerly a judge of the Supreme bench of this city, and widely known as jurist, soldier and author, died early this morning at his home in Wallbrook, a suburb. He was 76 years old.

THE EVACUATION OF CUBA.

Work of Removing the "Army of Pacification" Will Begin New Year's Day—Embarkation of the Troops Will Be Effected With as Little Ceremony as Possible—Two Companies of Engineers and Two Battalions of Infantry to Remain Until April 1st.

Havana, Dec. 27.—New Year's day will witness the beginning of the evacuation of Cuba by the army of pacification, which has been in possession of the island since the beginning of the provisional government, October, 1906. The first provisional regiment of marines, numbering about 900, will be among the first troops to leave. About half this regiment will sail from Havana on January 1st on the cruiser Prairie, which will return about the middle of the month and embark the remainder.

Headquarters and Companies A, B, C and D, Twenty-eighth Infantry will embark on the United States transport Sumner at Matanzas, on December 31st. From there the transport will proceed to Havana and embark Companies F, G and H, stationed at Guanajay, and Company E, stationed at Guines.

From that time on, the transports Sumner and McClellan will be employed in the embarkation at intervals of the remainder of the year. Battery B, Third Artillery, and the Fifteenth Cavalry, will sail on February 2d. The headquarters and Eleventh Cavalry, the mountain artillery and Fifth Infantry; the Eleventh Infantry, and the Seventeenth Infantry will leave Havana about February 27th for Newport News. It is the intention to have all of these appear in the inaugural parade at Washington.

This leaves only two companies of engineers and two battalions of the Seventeenth Infantry. These troops will embark April 1st, which will complete the evacuation.

The embarkation of the troops will be effected with as little ceremony as possible. The purpose in deferring the departure of a portion of the Seventeenth Infantry until April 1st has been the subject of considerable speculation, but it is believed that this will be agreed upon at a conference between Governor Magoon and president-elect Gomez. It probably is for the purpose of keeping the barracks and quarters in good order until it is possible to turn over to the Cuban authorities a model camp.

Cubans, with the exception of a few who profess to fear that disorder will follow the evacuation of the island, are greatly pleased at the departure of the American forces as marking the complete establishment of independence. All show the kindest feelings towards the troops.

FOR STANDARD COTTON GRADES.

Definite Steps Toward The Accomplishment of This Idea Will Be Undertaken Shortly by a Committee of Leading Cotton Men of This Country and Europe—Secretary Wilson to Select the Experts.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Definite steps towards the establishment of a standard for the different grades of cotton shortly will be undertaken in this city by a committee of the leading cotton men of this country and Europe in co-operation with the experts of the bureau of plant industry of the Department of Agriculture. The proposed meeting will probably be held in January next. Secretary of Agriculture Wilson is now engaged in selecting the committee of cotton experts.

The proposed standardization of the various grades of cotton which already has made splendid progress, has been undertaken in accordance with a provision of the last agricultural appropriation act requiring "the Secretary of Agriculture, through the bureau of plant industry, to establish a standard for the different grades of cotton, calling to his assistance for that purpose expert cotton classifiers, by fixing a standard of nine different grades to be designated middling, fair, strict good middling, good middling, strict middling, middling, strict low middling, low middling, strict good ordinary, and good ordinary, which shall be the official standard of cotton classifications. These standards are to be prepared in practical form and furnished upon request to any person the cost to be paid when delivered, by the person requesting the standard."

At the present time there is a great diversity in the method and practice of grading cotton as no definite standard exists.

In order to secure the most reliable information as to the present accepted grades, the Secretary of Agriculture has secured from authoritative sources in the United States sets of grades under seal which are now held under seal for examination by the special committee of experts.

"It is proposed to base the new official standards on this old, more or less heterogeneous standards of the cotton exchanges, departing therefrom only in so far as will be necessary to secure uniformity," said Prof. H. T. Galloway, chief of the bureau of plant industry to-day. "At a later date it is hoped that the official standards will be elaborated, without alteration of their fundamental characters, so as to be much more useful than any such standards have been in the past. It is not too much to say that we can now see clearly the possibility, by technical examination of the cotton fibre of this country, of so improving the classification that all interested in the cotton industry will be materially benefited."

MARK TWAIN AIDS RED CROSS.

Will Affix Their Little Stamps Both in Paying Bills and Postponing Them—Sale of the Stamps Has Been Very Successful.

Boston, Dec. 27.—Approximately three million red cross Christmas stamps, the proceeds of which are to be used to relieve and prevent the spread of tuberculosis, were sold throughout the New England States during the holiday season.

Announcement was made to-day by the Red Cross Christmas stamp committee here that its stamp sale had been so successful that it would be continued until the first of the year.

Among the letters received was one from Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain), in which he said:

Ladies: In paying New Year bills and also in postponing them, I will stick on a Red Cross stamp. If you will suggest in print that the whole country do the same the Red Cross will prosper to your content. I know this for I know that all America is warm at the heart and generous at this time of the year and will thank you for your suggestion and follow it.

Respectfully yours,
MARK TWAIN.

A DAY'S SALISBURY NEWS

A RUNAWAY COUPLE HALTED

Father of a Youthful Would-Be Bride Takes Her From Train After She and Her Lover Had Started to South Carolina to Have Ceremony Performed—Passing of Saloons From Rowan's Capital to Be Celebrated at Union Prayer Meeting Friday Night—Rev. C. M. Short Entertains at Dinner Official Members of His Church—Salisburians Rejoice That Senator Overman Will Be Re-Elected by Legislature Next Month.

Observer Bureau,
421 North Main Street,
Salisbury, Dec. 27.

Rev. C. M. Short, pastor of Holmes Memorial M. E. church in East Salisbury, and Mrs. Short entertained the official members of this church at a 7 o'clock dinner last evening. Harmony and good will has prevailed between pastor and church officers during Rev. Mr. Short's two years as pastor of this church, and last evening's gathering at the parsonage was a most delightful affair.

The Christmas exercises at the First Baptist church will be held to-morrow night at 7:45 o'clock and will consist of songs, recitations and Scripture reading.

TO CELEBRATE PASSING OF SALOONS.

The union prayer and praise service to be held in the First Methodist church next Friday night, January 1st, will, to a certain extent, be in celebration of the exit of the open saloon in this city, and will be a step looking to the future welfare of the moral and religious life of Salisbury. Short talks will be made by the pastors of the various churches and also by a number of laymen.

RUNAWAY FRUSTRATED.

This afternoon at 3 o'clock as No. 7 pulled out of the Salisbury station there sat in the first-class coach two happy but nervous young people, Mr. Howard Bixby and Miss Mary Poteat, both mere youths, and their destination was a point in the Palmetto State, the exact place said to be Yorkville, and the object of their journey was matrimony. But their fondest hopes were not realized, as their plans were interfered with by Policeman Shoaf Poteat, of the Salisbury force, the father of the young woman, who had learned of their plans. He appeared at the station just as the train had pulled out and succeeded in having the train stopped about a block from the depot, when he boarded the car in which the runaways were and took his daughter in charge and escorted her home. The young man had a shot gun which he claimed he was taking to Charlotte to return to its owner. The couple have been lovers for some time and, knowing that there would be objection on the part of Miss Poteat's parents, had carefully planned to elope to South Carolina and have the knot tied. Young Bixby also got off the train and did not proceed on his journey. The young girl is a regular attendant of the Sunday school at Holmes Memorial M. E. church, and it was noticed that she was absent this afternoon; but the cause was not known at that time. After Officer Poteat saw his daughter safely under the parental roof, he at once resumed his beat, being on duty today.

Mr. Joseph X. Rouzche, manager of The Post Publishing Company, who has been quite ill for a week or more, is able to again look after his duties on The Post.

Salisburians are looking forward with pride to the election of Senator Lee S. Overman by the Legislature next month to succeed himself. The coming of this election brings to mind the memorable contest of six years ago between Carr, Watson, Craig and Overman for the senatorial toga, when it seemed at times that Salisbury's distinguished and honored citizen would go down in defeat; and when his townspeople took undivided interest in his candidacy and went to Raleigh in great numbers in his behalf, and telegrams of encouragement were sent to Mr. Overman, none of which gave him more encouragement or cheer in the close houres of the battle than the one from Mrs. Overman, which simply read: "Trust in God and keep your powder dry." It will be remembered that Mr. Overman was given a great ovation on his return to Salisbury. Probably the highest prized souvenir in the Overman home is the gold pen with which Gov. Charles B. Aycock signed Mr. Overman's commission as Senator from North Carolina, and which the Governor presented to him immediately afterward.

Prominent Men to Attend Presbyterian General Assembly.

Savannah, Ga., Dec. 27.—Rev. Abraham Krupper, D. D. LL. D., prime minister of Holland, will be one of the principal speakers at the Presbyterian Assembly to be held here in May. His subject will be "Calvin, the Theologian," and will be delivered during the celebration of the 400th anniversary of John Calvin's birth. Rev. Charles D'Aubigne, of France, and Rev. James Orr, D. E., of Glasgow, Scotland, will be other speakers. Revs. Ben J. B. Warfield, Princeton, N. J.; C. R. Reed, Columbia, S. C.; T. C. Johnson, Richmond; R. A. Webb, Louisville; S. A. King, Austin, Tex.; Dr. E. A. Alderman, University of Virginia, and others are on the programme.

Secret Service Officers Unearth Counterfeiting Outfit.

Greenville, Pa., Dec. 27.—John E. Washer, of the United States secret service and Chief of Police J. K. Penman, it is alleged, found a complete counterfeiting outfit including moulds, metal and dies hidden in a bed in the isolated shack of Matthew E. Ralston, a carpenter, 10 miles east of here to-day. Ralston was arrested Wednesday night by local police on a charge of passing counterfeit dollars.

Austria-Hungary Ready to Invade Servia.

London, Dec. 28.—A despatch from Vienna to The Daily Express says that Austria-Hungary has a force of 156,000 men in Bosnia and Herzegovina ready to invade Servia at a moment's notice.

A despatch from Cettinje, Montenegro, announces the departure of the war minister and general staff on a tour of inspection of the Herzegovinan frontier.

Niagara Falls in the Throes of Reform Wave.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., Dec. 27.—This city, where the enforcement of excise and anti-gambling laws has been lax, is experiencing a reform wave. Acting under orders issued by Mayor Douglas, the police to-day rigidly enforced the Sunday closing law against saloons, theatres and other places of amusement, and this was probably the driest and dullest day in the history of the falls.

OPERATE WITHOUT LICENSES.

New York Moving Picture Shows, Protected by Supreme Court Injunction, Open Their Places on Sunday as Usual—Real Fight Will Come To-day in Court When the Proprietors Appear to Show Cause.

New York, Dec. 27.—Protected from interference by a Supreme Court injunction, practically all of New York's 500 and more moving picture exhibition places were to-day in full operation despite the revocation of their licenses by Mayor McClellan on Christmas Eve. Most of them were favored with the customary Sunday patronage, the heaviest of the week. There was no sign of any disposition on the part of the police to interfere, but their proprietors generally eliminated views which the authorities could in any way consider objectionable. In nearly all of them, too, lectures were delivered with a view to bringing the performances within the interpretation of the Sunday law as laid down by the corporation counsel's opinion rendered yesterday, which placed lectures of "an educational character, illustrated by moving pictures" on the permitted list.

Police Commissioner Bigham's action in warning the proprietors of vaudeville houses that they must live strictly up to the Sunday observance law had the effect of greatly modifying the character of the bills in all the houses which open their doors for "Sunday concerts."

The real fight for the closing of the cheap moving picture places is scheduled to begin in the Supreme Court to-morrow. Injunctions granted on Saturday by Supreme Justice Gaynor prohibited the police from interfering with the exhibitions last night and to-day and required Mayor McClellan to show cause on Monday why his order should not be rescinded. The show managers and others financially interested, have formed an organization and, it is stated, raised a large fund with which to resist the move against them. Organizations of clergymen and others are arrayed on Mayor McClellan's side.

There was one arrest to-day of a moving picture show proprietor, Morris Zapier, charged with exhibiting an objectionable picture at his place on the Bowery.

Out of the arrest of a performer in one of the vaudeville shows to-day it was said that a test case would probably be made. The actor arrested had just finished a monologue, an impersonation of a German making a political speech, during which he had worn ordinary street clothes. None of the other performers was interfered with. The arrest was made under instructions to the police to take into custody any one giving an impersonation with or without costumes.

NO PITTSBURG DEVELOPMENTS.

Rumored That the President Sent For Francis J. Heney to Have Him Aid in the Investigation of the Part National Banks Played in the Affair—Preachers Use the Scandal as a Text.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 27.—Officially there were no developments in Pittsburg's municipal scandal to-day. That the voters league has evidence to warrant other arrests and that these would be made when the time was deemed propitious was all that any officer of the league would say.

There is a rumor to-night that Francis J. Heney, who uncovered the Oregon land frauds and was conspicuous in the San Francisco graft prosecutions is coming here shortly at the request of President Roosevelt to investigate the alleged bribery so far as it is connected with Federal institutions. According to Washington reports Mr. Heney was in conference with the President yesterday on the Pittsburg situation. If he comes here it will be in the capacity of a special examiner, it is said, to investigate the alleged use of money by officers of national banks to have their institutions made depositories of the city's funds. A statement was made at the preliminary hearings of the men under arrest that $176,000 had been thus expended.

While there was no official development to-day the alleged corruption in municipal affairs was forcibly brought to the attention of thousands of citizens. Nearly every minister, at morning or evening services in his church, either devoted all or part of his whole sermon to the subject.

Pittsburg Merchant and Clerk Accused of Arson.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 7.—Nathan Schwartz, proprietor of a clothing store in Eighth avenue, Homestead, a suburb, and Thomas Crucox, his clerk, are under arrest in connection with a fire discovered in the store early today, which it is alleged, menaced the lives of eight families occupying apartments above the store room. Fire Chief C. K. Bryce, it is alleged, found lights flickering in two corners of the room, behind screens of box. In each corner the fire chief says there was a burning candle placed between two burlap sacks filled with excelsior.

President-Elect Taft Fails to Attend Church.

Augusta, Ga., Dec. 27.—President-elect Taft observed Sunday as a "day of rest," remaining in his cottage throughout the day. He did not attend church this morning as is his custom.

To-morrow Mr. Taft will receive a delegation from Atlanta who will ask him to set a definite date for his visit to that city.

Frank H. Hitchcock, chairman of the Republican national committee, who is to be Postmaster General in the Taft Cabinet, will arrive here on Tuesday for a conference with the President-elect.

Wolf Attacks Man on Streets of Peoria.

Peoria, Ill., Dec. 27.—A large, lean gray wolf gave Frank Keiffer an exciting five minutes to-day when it attacked him near a lumber yard in the heart of the city and chased him four blocks through the streets to his home. Keiffer entered his house in time to slam the door in the animal's face. Seizing a rifle, he put a bullet through its brain, shooting through a window.

Italian Paper Prints a Ghost Story.

Rome, Dec. 27.—The Italia published a report which has caused a sensation in ecclesiastical circles, that Joan of Arc recently appeared in a vision to the Pope and addressed to him solemn words of encouragement, exhorting His Holiness to continue his present policy which she promised would shortly be crowned with triumph.

SITUATION IN VENEZUELA

BUCHANAN NEARS DESTINATION.

The Armored Cruiser North Carolina Was a Hundred Miles From Curacao Saturday Afternoon, According to Wireless Dispatch—Obeying the Summons of President Gomez, Political Exiles Are Returning to the Country—Invites Those Long Banished to Come Back—Advices From Caracas Say the Situation Throughout the Country Under the New Administration is Excellent—New President Endeavors to Heal Old Sores.

Willemstad, Island of Curacao, Dec. 27.—According to wireless dispatches received here the United States cruiser North Carolina was a hundred miles from Curacao at 3 o'clock Saturday afternoon bound for LaGuayra. On board the cruiser is W. I. Buchanan, special commissioner of the United States to Venezuela. Another wireless message stated that the battleship Maine was following the North Carolina at a distance of about two hundred miles.

Political exiles are returning to Caracas at the summons of President Gomez, who has ordered the prisons to be cleared and has invited those long since banished from the country to come back.

The steamship Zulia arrived here this morning from Maracaibo with eighteen former political prisoners aboard.

EXILES RETURNING.

The Zulia left here this afternoon for LaGuayra with the exiles who represent all political parties. They were given an enthusiastic ovation by the people of Curacao and before their departure were presented with a paper bidding them adieu on behalf of the entire population. In this document it was stated that only one man was the enemy of the exiles and of Curacao, and he had now lost his prestige.

General Gregorio Riera, who for a number of years has been working here in conjunction with the revolutionists against President Castro, joined the exiles on the Zulia and is now on his way to Caracas. He told the people of Curacao that they could consider him always as the best friend of Curacao.

SITUATION EXCELLENT.

Latest advices from Caracas say the situation throughout Venezuela under the new administration is excellent. The new President's policy has been directed towards repairing the injustice suffered by the people of the interior and in establishing harmony with outside powers. This policy has been received with enthusiasm by all parties.

The departure of Jose de J. Paul, until recently Minister of Foreign Affairs, on a mission to Europe, is confirmed. He is to enter into negotiations for the settlement of the existing differences between Venezuela and France and Holland.

RELATIONSHIP BADLY MIXED.

Two Families Inter-Marry in Bewildering Fashion—Aged Farmer's Eldest Son is Now His Father's Father-in-Law and His Youngest Son is His Brother-in-Law.

Washington, Pa., Dec. 27.—Bewildering relationships among members of two East Finley township families have resulted from the marriages of a father and his two sons and a widow and her two daughters. The three ceremonies were celebrated within the last two months. Henry Dillinger, an aged farmer whose second wife died nearly a year ago, engaged Mrs. Maria Richmond as his housekeeper. It was agreed that two daughters of Mrs. Richmond, Lucy, aged 18, and Jennie, aged 19, should live in the Dillinger home with the father and his two sons, Charles and David. After a time the aged farmer married Lucy Richmond, and the two families continued to occupy the same house. A few weeks after the first marriage, Mrs. Richmond became the wife of David Dillinger, the elder son. Jennie Richmond and Charles Dillinger were next stricken with the matrimonial fever and were married last week.

The three families now live in the East Finley township home of the elder Dillinger, all apparently happy and contented.

FISHING TUG WRECKED.

Little Steamer Comes to Grief in Lake Michigan and Four Go Down to Davy Jones' Locker.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 27.—A Detroit News special from Frankfort, Mich., says:

The 15-ton fish tug of Frankfort was wrecked against the harbor piers here last night, trying to make the harbor in a strong southwest gale. The little steamer was broken in two and the four men comprising her crew were drowned.

The loss of the tug was not known until to-day when the cabin of the boat was found on the beach. The cabin clock had stopped at the hour of 7. From this it is inferred that the wreck occurred early last evening, the victims going to their death almost within a stone's throw of home. Captain Hanrath was the only unmarried man of the crew, the others all leaving widows and children.

Negro Woman Probably Fatally Burned.

Special to The Observer.

Newbern, Dec. 27.—Late Friday afternoon in Pavistown, a negro suburb of Newbern, Millie Moore, an aged negro woman, was badly burned, from the effects of which she will likely die. She was lying on a bed near the stove and in some way her clothes caught fire. Her cries attracted the attention of the neighbors, and the fire was soon extinguished. Dr. Rhem, the county health officer, attended her and reports her condition as serious.

Funeral of Mrs. J. H. Howard of Durham.

Special to The Observer.

Durham, Dec. 27.—The funeral of Mrs. James H. Howard, who died yesterday morning, was held this afternoon from the Second Baptist church, Rev. W. C. Barrett officiating. Mrs. Howard was 37 years old and in her young life was known as Miss Lillie Christian. She was an admirable young woman, belonging to one of the old families of the county, and was popular as a girl. She leaves a husband and one child.

Noted Aviators to Race in Italy.

Rome, Dec. 27.—Messrs. Wright, Farman, Delagrange, Bleriot and Rennault-Polterie, the noted aeronauts, have promised to take part in the international aviation races at Brescia in August, 1909.

PALMETTO TEACHERS' MEETING.

Various Organizations Will Hold Annual Convention This Week in Columbia—Several Well-Known Men to Make Addresses.

Observer Bureau,
1330 Berkeley Building,
Columbia, S. C., Dec. 27.

There will be several hundred teachers in Columbia this week to attend the annual convention of the State Teachers' Association and the meetings of the several allied educational organizations, all of which are to be held at the capital during the Christmas holidays instead of during the summer vacation at some resort. The fact that the teachers can get off from work at this time without interfering seriously with other holiday plans and that reduced rates have been given will tend to bring a large crowd to Columbia, which on account of its accessibility to all parts of the State can be reached by the teachers easily.

A very full programme has been prepared, both for the meeting of the State Teachers' Association and for the other organizations. Among the speakers before the main association will be President-elect S. C. Mitchell, of the University of South Carolina; Senator B. R. Tillman; President Harms, of Newberry College, and Superintendent-elect Swearingen. The response to the address of welcome was to have been made by Prof. O. J. Bond, of the South Carolina Military Academy, but Professor Bond is ill of typhoid fever.

Prof. P. P. Claxton, of the University of Tennessee; Mrs. Walter B. Hill, of Athens, Ga., and Miss Martha Berry, of Rome, Ga., will speak before the School Improvement Association, which holds its first meeting Thursday night.

The sessions of the State Teachers' Association will be held in the hall of the House of Representatives; the School Improvement Association will hold nearly all its meetings in the Senate chamber; the Association of County Superintendents will meet at the university; the Kindergarten Association will meet in the State library, as will the department of primary teachers, and the Association of Colleges will meet in the Supreme Court room.

TO PROBE CANAL CONDITIONS.

Twelve Members of the House Committee on Foreign and Inter-State Commerce Will Look Into the Big Ditch and See What Changes Are Desirable—Junket Will Begin To-Day.

Washington, Dec. 27.—To familiarize themselves with conditions under the present form of government of the Panama canal zone and to consider what changes, if any, are desirable, twelve members of the House committee on foreign and interstate commerce will leave Charleston, S. C., to-morrow morning for Colon. It is not thought that any measure having for its object a change in the form of civil government for the zone will receive the consideration of Congress at the present session, but as all but two of the members of the committee will be members of the House in the Sixty-first Congress, the committee will find the information secured now of value later.

There has been some discussion of the advisability of attaching the zone to one of the Southern circuits of Federal courts.

The congressional party not only will investigate this matter, but also will look into all phases of the construction of the canal.

The committee has not had under consideration any suggestion to include the courts on the zone in one of the Federal circuits, nor has there been any suggestion made to it that labor conditions there are unsatisfactory. It has before it, however, a bill introduced by Representative Mann, of Illinois, calling for certain changes in the form of government and the abolition of the isthmian canal commission. The measure provides for the appointment by the President of a chief engineer, a chief counsel and a Governor of the canal zone. It also makes provision for the appointment of a Supreme Court of the zone, with a fixed tenure of office.

EDUCATORS TO MEET TUESDAY.

Sixteen Southern States Will Be Represented in the Nineteenth Annual Session of the Southern Educational Association at Atlanta—Mrs. C. D. Mclver to Represent North Carolina.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 27.—A most important meeting of the educational interests of the South, the nineteenth annual session of the Southern Educational Association, convenes in Atlanta Tuesday morning of this week, continuing through Friday. This association embraces sixteen States and will bring together the leading spirits in every branch of educational work in the Southern States. The various State superintendents of education, as well as many county and city superintendents will be in attendance and the former will deliver annual reports upon the educational progress in their respective States during the past year.

An important feature of the first day's session will be the reading of reports by representatives of the school improvement association, an auxiliary organization. Already this branch association, which is in charge of ladies, has accomplished much in the way of securing better public school houses, improved grounds, etc. The following, who are leading spirits in this special work in their respective States, will be among those present:

Virginia, Mrs. Landon Randolph; North Carolina, Mrs. Charles D. McIver; South Carolina, Miss Mary T. Nance; Georgia, Mrs. Walter B. Hill.

The initial session of the convention will be called to order at 10 o'clock Tuesday morning in the First Methodist church.

A chorus of 150 voices from the girls high school will sing "The Light of Learning" at the opening session.

State Will Rest To-Day in Night-Rider Trial.

Union City, Tenn., Dec. 27.—With the testimony of three remaining witnesses the State will probably close its case against the alleged night-riders on trial here. The hearing of evidence will be continued to-morrow and the defense will probably have its inning with the beginning of the afternoon session of court. The jury, escorted by deputy sheriffs, attended church to-day.

Wilbur Wright to go to Rome.

Paris, Dec. 27.—One of the Paris newspapers states that Wilbur Wright, the American aeroplanist, will shortly go to Rome to give instruction to three Italian pilots in the working of his aeroplane.

FORECAST OF WEEK'S NEWS

MANY GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES

First Day of the New Year in a Number of States Will Mark the Ending of One Administration and the Beginning of Another—Portuguese Parliament to Open and a New President Inaugurated in Switzerland—Report of the National Conservation Will Give the President an Excuse For Another Special Message—Important Civil and Criminal Hearings Interrupted by the Holidays Will Be Resumed.

New Year's week with many important changes in governmental affairs and other spheres of human activity promises to be full of news of wide interest. In many States the first day of the year marks the ending of one administration and the beginning of another, Legislatures will convene and a new order of things governmental thus will be inaugurated.

In the foreign field there will be the inauguration of H. Deucher as President of the Swiss republic and the opening of the Portuguese Parliament in Lisbon. In the same category perhaps may be mentioned the "evacuation" of Cuba by the American troops who for nearly two years have been on duty in the islands. On New Year's day the return of these troops will begin.

In Atlantic City, N. J., the first three days of the week, the American Sociological Society will hold its own annual convention and will also have joint meetings with the American Statistical Association, the American Economic Association and the American Association for Labor Legislation. During the first four days of the week the American Historical Association and the American Political Science Association will hold a joint meeting beginning in Washington and ending in Richmond, Va.

FINANCIAL MOVEMENTS.

Leading financial authorities of the East will confer in New York this week with Senators Aldrich and Teller and Representative Vreeland in favor of the bill to be introduced in Congress shortly after the holiday recess to correct defects in the laws governing the administration of banks. The trip to Panama of the House committee on inter-State and foreign commerce, starting from Charleston, is scheduled for the week. The committee believes the time is near at hand to give the canal zone a permanent code of laws. With this object in sight they are going to look over the ground.

The report of the national conservation commission is expected to be rendered this week. On it the President will base a special message to Congress.

Many cases and hearings of interest interrupted by the Christmas holiday, will be resumed, among them the night-rider case in Union City, Tenn., and the hearing in New York in the matter of the bankruptcy of the Fidelity Funding Company to determine whether the affairs of the failed Kiernan concern with its millions of liabilities seriously affecting a large number of Roman Catholic institutions shall be wound up by the General or State receiver.

THREE CRIMINAL TRIALS.

In the domain of the criminal law there is the decision, scheduled for Monday, in the application for bail for the three men under arrest for the killing of former Senator Carmack, in Nashville, Tenn.; the sentencing of Abraham Ruef in San Francisco on Tuesday for bribery, and perhaps the calling in New York of the case of Sarah Koten, the nurse who killed a doctor in revenge for alleged wrongs at his hands.

The 2-cent postage rate with Germany will go into effect on January 1st. On the same day the Canadian and United States governments simultaneously will proclaim the new uniform fishery regulations which have been adopted for the boundary waters between them.

The New Year's list of winners of decoration of the French Legion of Honor is expected this year to contain the name of Wilbur Wright, the American aeroplanist. Out of Paris this week is due the court decision in the contention of the Count de Castellane that the children of his marriage with the former Anna Gould, now Princess de Sagan, should be taken from their mother and entrusted to him.

There will be two events of particular interest in the automobile world. For the first time in fifteen months an automobile show will be held in New York. It will open on Friday and last a week. The other will be a two-day run to Philadelphia and back of the Women's Motoring Club of New York on Tuesday and Wednesday with only women as drivers and passengers, but each car will be allowed to carry a male mechanist for cranking the motors and such other work.

DURHAM YOUTH IN TROUBLE.

Warrant Issued For His Arrest For Theft of a Horse and Buggy.

Special to The Observer.

Durham, Dec. 27.—Mr. J. T. Fowler, manager of the Fowler Live Stock and Livery Company, last night at midnight issued a warrant and a reward for Kid Morris, well known as a printer and a local reporter for The Herald sometimes, charging him with stealing a horse and buggy. Morris went to the stable yesterday morning and hired a horse, paying in advance for the turn-out. He returned at dinner, had the horse fed and ordered it sent back after noon. He promised to return at 4 yesterday evening; but six hours later, failing to come in, Mr. Fowler issued the warrant and attached $100 reward for the horse, buggy and man.

Morris was in trouble of some kind yesterday, but the officers would not indicate what it was. Mr. Fowler did not at that time know of that trouble else he would not have allowed him to use his horse. The turn-out is worth $300, hence the big reward.

Morris is a cripple and when not as a whiss is a very likable fellow. He lives here and belongs to a good family. He has had trouble before.

Aid Goes to American in Jail For Killing Mexican.

San Diego, Cal., Dec. 27.—In response to urgent appeals by wire from New York, Theodore V. Johnston today started for Trindal, lower California, to render aid to William G. Morse, under arrest there on a charge, it is said, of killing a Mexican. Morse, a son of Prof. S. F. B. Morse, of telegraph fame, was a member of President-elect Taft's class at Yale. He went to the Campbell ranch near Trinidad some time ago for the benefit of his health. Little is known of the trouble that resulted in Morse's arrest, but his friends in New York are anxious that some one go to Trinidad in his behalf, and Mr. Johnston, who is a New Yorker, consented to go.