W. T. Sharp Receives Letter Telling Him Must, on Pain of Death, Leave \$1000 Under Church.

DYNAMITE IS VERY CHEAP. MR. SHARP IS REMINDED

Rumor Is to the Effect That Officials of Champion Fibre Company Likewise Received Threatening Letters.

Special to The Gazette-News. Canton, Oct. 18 .- A daring and cowardly attempt at blackmail of W. T. Sharp, one of the wealthiest if not the wealthiest citizen of this town, and prominently identified with Canton's commercial life, has just come to light, and with it facts which lead to the conclusion that a gang of the 'Black Hand" are operating in this Since the attempt to blackmail Mr. Sharp has become known there are rumors affoat, which have received a certain amount of verification, to the effect that officials of the Champion Fibre company have also received lefter from the "Black Hand" threatening to blow up part of the plant if they did not obey their wishes regard to the employment of cer tain men. A well laid ruse Fr'day night, however, failed to trap the perpetrator. A letter was mailed at Canon, postmarked at 9 o'clock Septem-

"On Oct. 15, before 11 p. m., you place under the S. E. corner of Locus Field church, \$1000 in large bills; failure to do so means certain death to yourself and perhaps your family. Dynamite is cheap; Spies means same

ber 27, addressed to W. T. Sharp and

(Signed) "BLACK HAND," Upon receiving the letter, Mr. Sharp hardly knew what to do, and after several days thought he decided to consult friends, and after a consultation it was decided to lay the matter before government officials. The first part of the letter was written in a poor hand, but the last line or so and the signature showed a well developed style of writing. "Locus" and were the only words not grammatically correct, so that the writer must be a man of some degree of education; evidently trying to disguise his handwriting in the first part, last, completed it in a characteristic

handwriting. At the Church. Friday night was the night the money was to be deposited, so late evening two government officials left Asheville, and leaving the train near the high trestle, walked towards Canton by a circuitous route, where a package with two dollar bills was prepared to be deposited at the church. In the meantime, Mr. Sharp, acting at the instance of detectives, drew from the bank \$1000 in cash which he was told to leave in his safe. the stockholders. Hon. Dark came on, and the hour drew near for the deposit of the fake packtold by the detectives that he should in person go to the spot and deposit the package. In the meantime, Depuly Sheriffs Lyerly and Cabe, and Stansbury Smathers, accompanied by the government officials, went to the lonely church and graveyard, a distance New York. of about one-quarter of a mile from the center of town and took up the watch-"waiting at the church" as it Seaboard Air Line on January 2, 1908 were. Two of them hid out in the was placed by Judge Pritchard in the graveyard behind tombstones, and the hands of S. Davies Warfield, R. Lanothers so that they could guard every caster Williams and E. C. Duncan as he was shot. approach to the church. It was about o'clock that Mr. Sharp was due to leave his home for the lonesome graveyard; but as the hands of his

watch approached the hour his emo-

tions were aroused; to go perhaps

meant death to himself, and not to go

might mean ruin to his whole family

out of the door; the night was very dark; only here and there the light of an electric light and over across the railway the giant plant of the Fibre company running smoothly along; he started to go; but no, he could not go alone; the graveyard was "haunted;" the way was dismal and dark and who knew but that the very "Black Hand" would reach out of the Stygian darkness and "snuff out" his life? Then he thought of the \$1000; that would be some protection if he was waylaid: but again his heart failed him, and he onsulted friends. Two finally agreed to acompany him part of the way; but the road was being paved; it was dark and full of holes; what if he should fall into one of those. A thought came to him, and from the closet was brought an old bull's eye lantern. Ah! that would light the way. So the three proceeded and as the dreaded churchyard was neared his compan-Mr. Sharp reached the church—or rather a corner of it. He stopped not

an almost paisted hand deposited there the package—the corner, how-ever, was the northeast. Then taking a few forced steps he broke and ran back to his house.

to see what corner it was, but with

THE BLACK HAND SANTO DOMINGO DISTRICT DISTURBED BY REVOLUTION TAFT TO REST



It Is Thought the Death of Williams Buchanan in London Was Due

to Heart Failure.

London, Oct. 18.-An autopsy was held this afternoon following which it was officially announced that W. I. Buchanan had died of heart failure London, Oct. 10 .- The inquest into

death of William I. Buchanan the American diplomat, whose bod was found in Park Lane Saturday night, will be held Wednesday. The investigation thus far

failed to throw any light on the Officials [of the Zelayan Government movements of the diplomat the few hours preceding his death. Friends who had seen him the day say he appeared to be the in the best of health and spirits. He left the hotel just before the dinner hour Saturday. There were no cy idences of assault or robbery and it is supposed death was due to bear trouble or appopleptic stroke

Mr. Buchanan was formerly Amer ican minister to Panama. At the time of his death he was under appointment as agent of the United States for future arbitration at the

and becoming impatient towards the Judge Pritchard Issues Decree That the Property Be Turned Over to the Company.

Judge Pritchard will this afternoon sign a decree to the effect that the Seaboard Air Line receivership will day night was shot to death at the end November 4, when it will be turn- door of his home there, S. J. Sanders from Red Cried over to the railway company in accordance with the plan of reorgan ization which has been approved by Watts, general counsel for the Seaboard Air Line, and James F. age at the church, and Mr. Sharp was Wright, assistant general counsel, of Portsmouth, Va., appeared before Judge Pritchard this afternoon for in the shooting. the rallway company, and Brown of the firm of Burnett & Cutchins of New York appeared for the Continental Trust company of

It was upon the complain Continental Trust company that the receivers. The receivership will have lasted 22 months when it ends. This action means much for the development of the property and that section of the country through which it

It was a crucial moment; he looked SEABOARD LETS CONTRACTS FOR ENGINES, CARS. ETC.

Will Have 20 New Engines, 1000 Box Cars, 25 Stock Cars, and Other Equipment.

Norfolk, Oct. 18 .- The Seaboard Air Line has awarded contracts for 15 passenger and five switch engines, 1000 box cars, 25 stock cars, and one 6000 steam wrecking car, together with Wright byplane this afternoon. passenger equipment.

The High Wall of Folly.

We can only reiterate, it is economic follow to build a high wall of costly "protection" (discrimination) which no subsidy ladder, no matter how high or strong, can permanently lot machine. Shortly after ascending surmount. Let us begin the estab- the monoplane, as a result of a false lishment of a merchant marine upon shift of the rudder, fell, mortally sound principles; not upon a system lons fell back in the shadows of the sound principles; not upon a system trees and alone and with faltering of graft which the taxpayer will desteps, guided by the lantern's light, stroy when he wakes up to the iniquity of it.

A Princess Confirmed.

Berlin, Oct. 18.-Princess Victoria Louise, daughter of the German emperor, was confirmed in the Church of Peace at Potsdam today,

Spends Busy Seven Hours in San Antonio Before Setting Out for Charles P.'s Ranch.

WILMINGTON IS PLANNING FOR PRESIDENT'S VISIT

Expects to "Delight and Dazzle" North Carolinians Who Go to See Him on the Ninth of November.

tate, where he is to stand four day esting. Charles P. Taft has had golf course constructed on the ranch horseback riding the president expectto have a thoroughly good time president visited Fort Sam Housto

The President's Toast

San Francisco, Oct. 18.—Presiden at's toast to the Portola festival has en cabled to London, Paris, Vienna tome, Berlin and the Hague, to be sed at banquets to be held at the American embassies in those cities to morrow at noon in honor of the onen or of Pertola

At Wilmington.

Are Given Choice, and Are Ban-

ished by Estrada.

New Orleans, Oct. 18.-Several

prominent officials of the Zelayan

repted banishment at the hands of

General Estrada, in preference to prison, according to special de-

to Have Grown Out of a Blind

Tiger Case.

Beaufort, N. C., Oct. 18 .- Charges

with the murder of H. Z. Newberry

mayor of Newport, N. C., who Satur-

B. F. Sanders, also is under arrest as

Circles Eiffel Tower, and

Then Returns.

Paris, Oct. 18,-Count De Lam-

bert, the French aviator, made a re

markable and sensational flight in a

Leaving Juvisy aviation field he

about 1200 feet, and then returned to

A Disastrous Full.

wounding a woman and injuring a

The Columbia Has Accident.

New York, Oct. 18 .- The steamship

ity of Columbus, reported by wire-

from Boston to Savannah, that she

less, while off Cape Henry, enroute

dozen other persons.

ccurred.

Juvisy.

government in Nicaragua have

is Former Governor, Lopez, of

Wilmington, N. C. Oct. 18 - President Taft, on his record breaking swing around the circle " embracing journey of 15,000 miles across the online at and return, has now reachthe Land of Cotton. journey is rapidly drawing toward greet him by thousands on Tuesday November 9. Wilmington will put or spatchs received here. Among them her best togs to receive the president The committee is light and dazzle the visitors who ar

Twelve blocks of the streets will be seause of the fact that they will be to a system of electric next beautiful and dazzline effect t nation will be done according to new plan, and it is proposed to make districts A brillianti palities, and the effect on stranger is well as home people is so pro

The decorate is for the Taff vis and elaborate, the will be profuprincipal scher the fact that th is "The Land of th Along Front stree Long-Leaf Pine to Market, and a today is in jail here, while his brother, Market from the harbor to Fourte street, fine spens of long-lear pl accessory. The prisoners were brought trees fifteen for thigh will be plante here last night by Sheriff Hancock af- twenty feet apart on either side ter a coroner's jury at Newport had the streets. h trolley pole alon returned a verdict that Mayor New- the streets will ily a brace of larg berry's death resulted from guirghot United States thus attached to cross wounds inflicted by S. J. Sauders, and spears, and the trolley guys overhead that his brother also was implicated from post to most will be decorate

most effective advertisement for

The assassination of Mayor New-A welcome at h to be erected a herry was the direct outcome, it is Front street mediately sald, of the presccution of a "blind Wilmington's h adsome brown stan Great excitement pre- postoffice will toolfy Wilmington's glad vailed in Newport after the tragedy hand to the prtors from afar and near. The and The dead man's wife was ill in bed will be a pretta architectural design at the time of the murder and his littastefully and ctistically decorated tie daughter stood by his side when and it will be illuminated by cleatric designs that will make it a thinof beauty. Endrelling the top will be Wilmington's hearty greeting: "Welcome to the Land of the Long-Leaf SENSATIONAL FLIGHT

MADE BY DE LAMBERT ALFONSO IS ANGRY WITH THE PREMIER In Wright Biplane He Sails from Juvisy,

Him Over the Ferrer

Execution.

flew to Paris circled about the Eifel Paris, Oct. 18 .- A special from tower, at times reaching a height of violent quarrel with the premier because of the latter's failure to give hanging. Alfred M. Blance, a French aerhis majesty opportunity to exercise the royal prerogative of pardon in the case of Ferrer.

The dispatch says an unpleasant in terview followed when the king learned of the tempest that had been raised abroad by Ferrer's death.

SPANISH FORCES VICTÒRIOUS:

IF DRESSED BY MEXICANART THE WEALTH OF HOW MR. TAFT WOULD LOOK



One of the staff artists of El Heraldo of the City of Mexico has produced above suggestion regarding a feature of the wardrobe for the use of President Taff when he closed the international boundary line to be the guest of the Mexican republic and President Diaz.

How the American president would look eneased in a glove-like charre stume, with everything of his ordinary appearance altered except the fancous smile, is happaly portrayed by the imaginative artist in a manner would doubtless appeal to the humorous sensibilities of even the victim of the cartoon himself.

ELEPHANT TURNED "JUST IN TIME"

a Narrow Escape When Shooting His First Elephant.

close range. Both Cunninghame and honor today, Roosevelt got behind trees, and Mr. Cunninghame fired and turnd the bull from Mr. Roosevelt just in time,

SUPREME COURT TO REVIEW FINDINGS IN M'CUE CASE

This Is Case in Which Liability to Pay Insurance on Life of a Man Who Was Hanged Is Under Test.

Washington, Det. 16 .- The Su-Said to Have Had Violent Quarrel With preme court announces its determination to review the findings of the lower courts in the case of McCue vs the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance

This is the case wherein the estate of McCue, who was hanged for wife murder, is suing for the insurance on McCue's life, and involves the nov Madrid says King Alfonso has had a el point whether an ordinary insurance policy insures against death by

Union Shop is Still in Business.

Since the unionizing of the J. R. Rich plumbing establishment several days ago some people have been led to the conclusion that the Union Plumbing company at No. 7 South Lexington avenue had gone out of MOORISH LOSES WERE HEAVY business. This is error. The estab-Melitia, Morrocco, Oct. 18.—The Cauble and F. M. Lindsey, two of the Spanish forces, while reconnoitering union plumbers originally identified yesterday west of Nador, engaged and with the shop, who are continuing the oulse, daughter of the German embad struck some obstacle and broken defeated the enemy. The Spanish had struck some obstacle and broken defeated the enemy. The Spanish had struck some obstacle and broken defeated the enemy. The Spanish had struck some obstacle and broken defeated the enemy. The Spanish had struck some obstacle and broken defeated the enemy. The Spanish had struck some obstacle and broken defeated the enemy. The Spanish had struck some obstacle and broken defeated the enemy. The Spanish had struck some obstacle and broken defeated the enemy. The Spanish had struck some obstacle and broken defeated the enemy. The Spanish had struck some obstacle and broken defeated the enemy. The Spanish had struck some obstacle and broken defeated the enemy. The Spanish had struck some obstacle and broken defeated the enemy. The Spanish had struck some obstacle and broken defeated the enemy. The Spanish had struck some obstacle and broken defeated the enemy. The Spanish had struck some obstacle and two captains killed, and struck some obstacle and two captains killed, and struck some obstacle and two captains killed, and shout ten miles an hour, and having fourteen mep wounded. The Moor-like the enemy of Nador the Spanish had struck some obstacle and broken defeated the enemy. The Spanish had struck some obstacle and two captains killed, and struck some obstacle and two captains killed, and struck some obstacle and two captains killed, and spanish had struck some obstacle and two captains killed, and struck some obstacle and two captains killed and two captains killed and two captains killed and two captains killed and

SUDDEN DEATH OF JUDGE J. C. M'RAE

Mr. Roosevelt, the Mighty Hunter. Had The End Came Last Night and All Class total resource November, 1908, of Work Has Been Suspended

for the Day.

Nairobi, Unitish Eart Acres, Oct. 17. Special to The Gazette-News. Creaswell, the government engineer | Chapel Hill, N. C., Oct. 18.-Judge at Neori, came into Nairobi this after. James Cameron MacRae, head of the noon, and brought word that Mr. law department of the university, died Roosevelt had a very narrow escape last night of heart failure, in his sevwhen shooting his first elephant built enty-first year. He was formerly Mr. Roosevelt, accompanied by Mr | judge of the Supreme and Superior Cunninghame and guide, followed the courts, and a member of the univerusual procedure and killed his ele- say faculty for ten years. His stuphant at the second shot. Suddenly, dents, and all who have come under before Mr Roosevelt could reload, and his kindly presence, will mourn his other elephant bull charged him at los. All classes are suspended in his

MRS. BATENYI'S DIVORCE CASE AGAIN UP FOR TRIAL

Two of the Questions to Be Decided Relate to Defendant's Unfaithfulness.

New York, Oct. 18 .- The second trial of Mrs. Francis Burke-Roche Batenyi's divorce sult against Aurel Batenyi began here today. In outlining her case, Mrs. Batenyi's attorney to be decided relate to the defendant's alleged unfaithfulness.

Batenyl was on hand when the case was called but his wife had not appeared by the time a jury was obtained.

Negroes Would Not Work.

Memphis, Tenn., Oct. Johnson-Ketchel fight had its effect on leaving a net income for 1908 of \$5,the steamboat service on the Missis- 455.96. sippi, according to reports from river men who said they found difficulty in pany during 1808 carried a total of securing deck hands from the negro 187,734 persons, but lost \$3,388.57. race, as they wanted to remain ashor-

to get returns from the fistic battle. THE WEATHER.

Forecast until 8 p. m. Tuesday to Asheville and vicinity: Fair weather any in the state, being \$331,286; the tonight and Tuesday.

King Manuel Confined to His Bed.

Lisbon, Oct. 18.—King Manuel is confined to his bed with incentinal trouble, accompanied with light fever.

Facts Relating Thereto Are Given in the Annual Report of the State Corporation Commission.

FIGURES ARE PRINTED OF INTEREST TO ASHEVILLE

The Earnings of Asheville Electric Company, Were Larger Than Were Received by Any Other Road in State.

The report of the North Carolina corporation commission, covering the car 1908, which has just been issued, shows many interesting facts regarding the wealth of quasi-public corporations in North Carolina, and also report covers railway, street railway, telephone, telegraph and express companies as well as banking institutions, and also contains a digest of the cases which it has decided during the past

Last year there were 49 railway companies operating in the state with 4.351 miles of single track, and 829 nifes of soling and double track. The outhern railway operated 1,332 miles of main line and 281 of siding; the Attentic Coast Line 947 miles of main ine and 259 miles of sidings; the Seaboard Air Line railway 616 miles of onin line and 153 miles of siding and the Norfolk and Southern 467 miles of main line and 71 miles of siding, The Caroline Clinchfield with its line o Bestie added 247 miles of main

The Steam Roads.

The gross earnings of steam roads for 1908 was \$27,238,130, of which \$7,712,246 came from passenger and 19,247,048 from freight and \$278,835 from other sources. from other sources. The operating expenses amounted to \$18,981,259. The state received in taxes from the railways \$849,438. During the year '0 persons were killed and 948 inured in railway operations. Of those killed six were passengers, 34 were employes and 42 were trespassers; of those injured 354 were passengers, 448 mployes and 65 trespassers. The railways transported \$8,869,626during the iscal year and employed 17,906 perons within the state. The corporaion commission assessed altogether \$92.982.956 against \$91.724,853 for ailway properties.

There were 90 miles of street railav in the state, assessed at \$4,184,-00 against \$3,771, 00 in 1907. street railways transported 15,999,260 passengers There were 102 telephone ompanies in the state assessed at \$1,-101,334, with 5,866 miles of poles and 30,545 of wire, with 11,945 business and 18,957 residence phones in use.

In the state in 1908 were 306, state, private and savings banks, with a \$47,915,076; capital stock \$7,602,058, and deposits \$31,995,995. Local Electric Companies.

Of particular local interest in the ommissioner's report, is that having to do with street railways. The Asheville Electric company, with its 13 miles of main line track and one mile of siding, earned \$272,106.16; its opcrating expenses were \$175.088.51. making its income from operation 197,017.65; while it received \$896.16 from other sources, making its total income from all sources \$97,913.84; the largest income of any railway company in the state. The nearest approach to these figures is the Tidevater Power company of Wilmington, whose income from all sources was 197,017.65; while it received \$896.19 Fries Manufacturing and Power company of Winston, \$75,117.39, while the Charlotte Electric and Power company's income was \$51,303.42. Asheville Electric company also carried the greatest number of persons, 3,471,321. Charlotte Electric Railway company being next with 3,-341,766, and the Tidewater Power company third with 2,387,209. The Asheville Electric company carried 267,017 per mile of track, Charlotte 256,856, and Winston 210,855. Asheville Electric company has 13 miles, Asheville Rapid Transit company 5.25. Charlotte 18.25, Durham 5.90, Winston 3.80, Greensboro 11.5, Raleigh told the jury that two of the questions \$.24. Salisbury and Spencer 4.11, Wilmington 15 miles of main line electric rallway.

However, the Asheville Electric company, according to their statement to the corporation commission did not clear \$97,913.84; but paid interest on funded debt \$37,500, sundry interest \$8,491.38, taxes \$13,350, permanent improvements \$6,272.28, and other de-18 -The duction from the income \$26,843.22.

The Asheville Rapid Transit com-The company has now changed hands, the old company being placed in hands of receivers and the property sold.

The Tax Assessment, The plant of the Asheville company assessed for taxation greater than Asheville Rapid Transit company \$12,-050; Charlotte Consolidated Traction company \$219,895; Durham Traction company \$154,200; Fries Manufacturing and Power company \$57,890; Gransbore Flastric company \$17,800;