

GERMANS HOLD THE WHIP HAND

The Potash Question Continues a Source of Serious Concern—It Is Occupying Much of President's Time.

SALISBURY'S POSTOFFICE TO HAVE A SAVINGS BANK

President Will Take up the Salisbury Contest Immediately After the End of the Christmas Holidays.

Gazette-News Bureau, The Hotel Hamilton, Washington, Dec. 23.

THE writer was in error recently in saying the White Mountain and Appalachian forest reserve bill would be voted on next month by the senate. Those who have looked up the calendar say the bill will not be taken up for consideration until the middle of February, and that the few opponents of the measure arranged this late date thinking it would thereby prove easier to talk the bill to death.

President Taft indicated to Senator Overman, who yesterday went to the White House to see about the German potash question, that he would take up the matter of the Salisbury postoffice contest immediately after the holidays. All hands feel that the president should do something about this contest as soon as possible. Mr. Hobson, who is now drawing the salary as postmaster by virtue of a recess appointment, has been here this week, with the postmasters from other states who represent offices that have been designated as postal savings banks. Thus far only one such bank has been established in each state, the plan being now in the experimental stage. It was felt that Salisbury would be a good place to make the experiment in North Carolina, since there are a large number of wage earners about Spencer and Quarry, a number of foreigners being residents of the latter place. It was largely for the benefit of the foreign population in the various states that this postal savings feature was established, for the reason that a great many foreigners do not have implicit faith in all our regular banking institutions. Very small amounts will be accepted by the postal savings banks and the one in connection with the Salisbury office will be opened early next month. Postmaster General Hitchcock explained the workings of the plan to Mr. Hobson and other visiting postmasters.

More About the Potash Row.
The German potash question continues a matter of serious concern. When Senator Overman went to the White House yesterday to take the matter up with the president, he found a number of southern members there on a similar mission. The Washington Star says this potash question has occupied much of the time of the president, who has tried to reassure his callers. It is known, however, that the president and those who have discussed the subject with him feel no little concern over the outlook. Congressmen Thomas, one of the few members of the North Carolina delegation who will spend the holidays here, says all sorts of difficulties are encountered in handling a situation of this sort. He says Senator Simmons and Congressman Burleson of Texas, once tried their hand at inducing the French government to let down oil, but a little lower to cotton seed oil. These gentlemen were over the ground with Secretary Knox, but the secretary got little encouragement from France. The French do not think much of cotton seed oil except as an adulterant. They take the position that our cotton seed oil is sent over there, canned and sent back as olive oil, a big price being secured for the product, and they do not see why the French government should not profit by the transaction. Moreover, they inform our state department with French politeness, that the country has a protective system, not at all arranged for their benefit, and they beg leave to entertain the notion that they ought to have a similar privilege when it comes to tariff making.

It is realized that Germany has the whip hand in that potash business, a lever by which they may be able to wring from this country a number of concessions in the matter of minimum tariff rates.

W. A. H.

Schubert Theater and Other Buildings Burned.

New Orleans, La., Dec. 23.—The Schubert theater and several adjoining buildings in Baronne street were destroyed by fire this morning. Loss \$180,000.

Fourteen Deaths Total Result Philadelphia Fire

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 23.—The number of deaths as a result of the building factory fire Wednesday night stands at 14. The work of clearing away the debris continues. The police and fire chiefs do not expect to find any more bodies.

RECESS IS TAKEN IN THE OIL HEARING

Curious Contentions of Attorneys for Standard, That They Have Proved Prices Too High.

NEW YORK'S N. C. SOCIETY WILL DISCUSS CONSERVATION

At Their Annual Dinner Talk Will Have Special Reference to Forest Reserve Bill.

Gazette-News Bureau, Chamber of Commerce Rooms, Holleman Building, Raleigh, Dec. 23.

The hearing in the Standard Oil company prosecution for violation of the North Carolina anti-trust law that has been on the boards here for nearly two weeks in the police court, with City Attorney Walter Clark, Jr., and Attorney General T. W. Bickett conducting the prosecution for the state, stands in suspense now until Wednesday of next week when the contending counsel will throw out the contentions in law and the force of the evidence before Police Justice Stronach. The counsel for the Standard company has offered no witnesses and will contend in their argument that the state has not made out a case. The charges are that the Standard is selling oil abnormally cheap on the Raleigh market and is selling the highest grade of oil under the lower grade brands with a view to still further handicapping its competitors. The Standard Oil counsel are claiming that they have in the cross-examination of the witnesses offered by the prosecution, refuted the charges made in that they claim to have accounted for all the differences in the price of oil in neighboring towns as compared with Raleigh through peculiar freight and delivery conditions in the respective localities. There is remarkably little interest in the case here. A remarkable thing about the outcome of the hearings is that the Standard people are claiming that they have proven by the witnesses offered by the state that the prices of oil are still considerably too high in Raleigh as compared with Richmond, Norfolk, Baltimore and other points, and that, too, in a suit in which they are being prosecuted for selling oil too cheap to the people of Raleigh.

Will Discuss Forest Reserve.

Col. F. A. Olds has received the following letter from President E. B. Pritchard of the North Carolina society of New York:

My Dear Col. Olds: The annual dinner of the North Carolina society of New York this year promises to be one of rather unusual interest and importance. The theme of the dinner is to be "Conservation," with special reference to the merits of the proposed Appalachian forest reserve. The other state societies here which are particularly interested—Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, Maryland, Georgia and West Virginia—have been invited to cooperate and a very large and representative attendance is expected. Hon. Gifford Pinchot and Hon. J. A. Holmes, chief of the bureau of mines, will be among the speakers. Hon. Whitehead Klutz of Salisbury will also be present and speak. We have some reason to expect two other speakers of national importance in connection with the general subject of Conservation, to be present, and it is our hope and belief that the occasion will have a weighty bearing upon pending congressional action upon this matter. You can assist materially in assuring a success for the dinner by exploiting the matter through the state press, urging a representative attendance of North Carolinians at the dinner. The date, by the way, is January 18, at the Hotel Astor.

We shall greatly appreciate your co-operative interest, to which please add my personal appreciation.

Supreme Court Adjourns.

The North Carolina Supreme court adjourned for term today without leaving a single case to go over to the next term. Only two opinions were handed down today, W. L. Moore, et al., vs. B. B. Meroney and the town of Murphy, from Cherokee, no error; Isaac Tinner Holly, plaintiff in error, from Guilford, affirmed. The latter is the case in which Holly was given five years on the road for a series of charges including, only, of \$10 worth of clothing. Holly served more than a year, then Associate Justice Walker of the Supreme court refused a writ of habeas corpus asked on the ground that one year was all the prisoner could be held to serve. Holly appealed and the full court now affirm Justice Walker's ruling. The Cherokee case of Moore vs. Meroney and the town of Murphy was to compel removal of a house from a site claimed to be in the right of way for a road and compel the town to keep this roadway open. The court below found no such right of way and the highest court affirmed this judgment.



New York Herald and The Gazette-News.

SILLY SEASON STARTING EARLY

DRUNKEN NEGROES FIRE AT THE WHITES

Race Feeling Stirred in Brevard—No Damage Done by the Bullets—Several Negroes in Jail.

NO TROUBLE IS ANTICIPATED, ALTHOUGH ANGER IS EVIDENT

No Provocation for Shooting, Which Was Done by Negroes in Crowd of Ten or a Dozen.

Special to The Gazette-News.

Brevard, Dec. 23.—The town is stirred up over the shooting at three of its citizens by a crowd of drunken negroes, at 9 o'clock last night. Clyde Ashworth, in company with two friends, was passing the corner of Main and Caldwell streets when the party were fired into by some of a gang of ten or 12 negroes. The shooting was entirely without provocation. Two of the bullets passed close to Mr. Ashworth's head, burying themselves in the walls of Mitchell's store.

A posse was quickly formed and at 10 o'clock this morning have several of the negroes in jail. A lot of feeling is manifested, but the negroes are all off the streets and no trouble is anticipated.

NOTHING HEARD FROM THE AMERICAN AVIATOR, GRACE

Attempted to Return from Calais, France, Last Evening—May Have Fallen into North Sea.

London, Dec. 23.—No news this afternoon regarding the fate of Cecil S. Grace, the American-born aviator, who disappeared in a fog, attempting a return flight to Calais, France, to Dover yesterday. It is feared he fell into the North Sea. A great fleet of motor cars was out all night searching for the aviator. A fleet of warships lined the coast and swept the waters with wireless inquiries in vain. Grace was contesting for the Baron de Forest prize of \$20,000.

Confederate Record's Destroyed by Fire.

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 23.—Confederate records that cannot be replaced were destroyed by fire last night in Odd Fellows hall. Loss \$40,000. Fire caused by person carelessly throwing a lighted cigar aside.

Fire Destroys Biscuit Co. Factory.

Toledo, Dec. 23.—Fire today destroyed the Toledo Biscuit company building. Loss \$225,000.

\$100,000 Fire at Ithica, Ia.

Ithica, Ia., Dec. 23.—A hundred thousand dollar loss was sustained today when four business blocks burned.

PARRICIDE CASE NEARING A CLOSE

Killing Father, Will Be in Hands of Jury Today.

Special to The Gazette-News.

Hendersonville, Dec. 23.—The case of State against Meredith and Zan Lyda, brothers, charged with killing their father some weeks ago, is nearing a close. The testimony was concluded yesterday and argument of counsel begun. Mr. Spainhour, who is assisting Solicitor A. Hall Johnson, made the closing argument for the state. It is believed the case will reach the jury about 4:30 o'clock this afternoon. The state is asking for a verdict of first degree murder and the consensus of opinion seems to be that the case has been ably handled from the state's standpoint.

The grand jury yesterday returned a true bill of murder against Joseph Cairnes of the Mills river section man who is charged with killing Clayton Davis, a guard on the Vanderbilt estate. The case has been continued until the next term of court. No arrangements have been made to allow Cairnes to give bond.

RAILROAD WAGE DISPUTE SITUATION IS CRITICAL

Negotiations Between Engineers and 61 Railroads May Be Broken Off at Any Time.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—The wage dispute between the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and 61 railroads, west, north and south of Chicago, became critical today. It was admitted in all quarters that a sudden break in negotiations might come. None of the parties to the controversy would talk. When Mediator Charles P. Nellis was called in the engineers were asking an increase of 15 percent in wages and the railroads offered approximately nine and a half percent. This difference was finally put more than half.

The suggestion of arbitration stirred the trouble anew.

Arkansas Will Be Launched Jan. 14.

Washington, Dec. 23.—The navy department has been notified that the 25,000-ton battleship Arkansas will be launched January 14 at Camden, N. J.

6000 Granite Cutters Out of Work.

Barre, Vermont, Dec. 23.—Lack of business has thrown out of employment over 6000 granite cutters.

Two Days to Christmas.

DECEMBER 23.

Last call for Christmas shopping.

Lima, Peru, Dec. 23.—Insurgents attacked a train near San Mateo, stealing \$50,000. The cabinet crisis continues.

CHILDREN TODAY REIGN SUPREME

In the Several Kindergartens of City the Little Ones Were Given Genuine Taste of Christmas.

HANDSOME DECORATIONS AND GIFTS FEATURED OCCASION

Toys and Candy and Nuts Made Glad the Hearts of the Wee Tots—Teachers Did Good Work.

Christmas is distinctly the children's festival, and to give the little ones happiness and watch them in their fresh pleasure, is one of the greatest joys of the holiday season. The Kindergartens are the children's kingdoms and today they have reigned supreme in all the Kindergartens of the city. In every one the taste and earnest effort of the faithful teachers is shown by the fresh, white draperies at the windows, the growing plants, the bright pictures and, best adornment of all, the joyously expectant faces of the little people.

At the Sara Garrison Kindergarten on East street, in charge of Miss Ethel Ray and Miss Corrie Chambers, the little people were given the double delight of a dazzling Christmas tree and a jolly Santa Claus who dispensed the gifts and gave a realistic touch to the very pretty celebration. Miss Ethel Ray and Miss Corrie Chambers, the teachers, decorated the room appropriately for the occasion. The tree was real monarch of the forest and the children's graceful handiwork, bells, stars, tiny lanterns and chains were largely used in adorning it. Dolls, little horses, toy pistols and little tea sets were gifts that gladdened the hearts of the children, and bags of candy and nuts and oranges made them happy with a foretaste of the great day. A Christmas program of songs, marches and games completed a morning of delight to the little pupils.

At the Orange street Kindergarten, Miss Annie Kerr, Miss Lelia Bostic and Miss Gussie Smith, the teachers, a merry program of Christmas music and games was given this morning by the children. Many of the parents were in attendance and a charming feature was the presentation of the gifts made by the busy little fingers of the tiny tots for their parents, teachers and little classmates. Santa Claus then, arrived, the redoubtable old Kris Kringle himself, and opened his sack of toys; dressed dolls for the little girls, toys for the boys, and candy and oranges for all, made the children radiantly happy.

At the Ashland avenue kindergarten, perhaps one of the prettiest in the city, with its walls of a warm buff, gay with bright pictures, and its broad windows draped in crisp white muslin, a beautiful Christmas tree had the place of honor. It was prettily trimmed and after an appropriate musical programme, 28 dolls, daintily dressed, were put to the motherly arms of many little girls and every fascinating wagon. Miss Wagner and Miss Mabel Stokely, the teachers, received the reward of many weeks of labor in the bliss of the little pupils and the appreciation of their visitors.

At Park Avenue, where Miss Hattie Scott, Miss Julia Smith and Miss Elsie Swarts are the teachers, Christmas story was told while the children sat with rapt attention, with eager eyes fixed upon a lovely Christmas tree. Pretty Christmas songs and games and the dispensing of appropriate gifts, with the welcome bags of candy, completed the interesting program.

At Murray school Miss Clegg and Miss Buttrick are the kindergarten teachers. In spite of the bad weather a gratifying number of the parents were present at the Christmas exercises this morning, and the children were out in full force, to gaze upon the wonderful tree, all the lovelier because its decorations were almost entirely the work of their little hands; bells, chains, bright cornucopias and the many little gifts they had made for parents and friends were hung among the green branches. Dolls and a variety of toys and candy and nuts were given to the children and a gay little program of songs, marches and Christmas games ended the happy morning.

NURSES SERIOUSLY INJURED IN A FIGHT WITH A PATIENT

Insane Man, Armed With Knife, Wounded 215 Pounds—Ran Amuck in Hospital.

Cincinnati, Dec. 23.—Serious injury to two nurses and two patients, and injuries to other inmates of the "strong" ward of the city hospital resulted today from a life and death fight with an insane man weighing 215 pounds who was armed with a knife. He released himself today, obtained the knife and ran amuck in the hospital.

Began Work as Clerk; Gets \$50,000 Christmas Present

New York, Dec. 23.—The Central as a Christmas present, Mr. William Trust company will give the president, James M. Wallace, a \$50,000 check.

GIVE UP FAITH OR GIVE UP FORTUNE

Will of J. F. Hanson Leaves Fortune to Grandchildren but They Must Abandon Theosophy Which Broke Up Family.

MRS. HANSON, A MEMBER OF SECT, BEQUEATHED \$50,000

The Original Will Was Drawn in 1908 but Codicils Were Filed During the Present Year—Number of Special Bequests Made.

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 23.—If such members of his family as are identified with the Universal Brotherhood, and who now reside at Point Loma, Cal., renounce their allegiance to this creed and remove their residence from that point, they may enjoy the munificence of his estate as soon as they are legally capable. Such is the leading provision of the will of Maj. John Fletcher Hanson, president of the Central of Georgia railway, which was filed for probate in common form in the court of the ordinary Tuesday.

This provision is made on certain minor contingencies, but in the main it covers the provisions. Aside from a liberal bequest to his adopted son, John F. Hanson, Jr., the entire estate is left to members of his family.

Will Drawn in 1908. The original will was made September 18, 1908, but codicils were filed during the present year. These are concerned, however, only with the manner in which the property is to be handled by the trust company into whose care it will be given. According to the terms of the original instrument, certain proportions of the estate were to go to the children of Mrs. Fannie Hanson White and those of the late Walter T. Hanson, who have espoused the beliefs of the Theosophical or members of the Universal Brotherhood who are living at Point Loma, Cal. This property was to be intrusted to the care of the American Securities and Trust company of Washington, D. C., and through their agency turned over to the proper parties at certain ages.

In a codicil this arrangement was altered to the extent that such heirs would receive one-third of their legacy at the age of 21 years, provided they had renounced the Theosophical faith, and had moved away from California. In such case they would receive another third at the age of 25 years and the balance when they attained 35 years.

As regards Mrs. Hanson, who is also a member of the sect mentioned above, a provision of \$50,000 to be held in trust was made. This will provide the necessary amount for alimony as agreed upon at the time of the separation. The instrument further provides that the house which is ordered sold shall not be disposed of until after her death, unless she consents thereto and agree to accept instead of her homestead therein the sum of \$2,500 a year.

The Special Bequests.

Following are the special bequests: Mrs. Annie Hanson Garrett will receive \$50,000. John F. Fletcher, Jr., an adopted son, will also get \$50,000, the same to be held in trust by the American Securities and Trust company, out of the proceeds from which his educational expenses are to be paid. Robert Garrett, a grandson and son of Mrs. Annie Hanson Garrett, will receive \$10,000, to be held in trust by his mother until he becomes 25 years of age. Walter T. Hanson is given \$1,000 in full for his claim. To Mattie Owens, a faithful servant, the will gives \$500, and \$1,000 is likewise given to William Gregg, a servant, on the condition that he live with his employer to the death of the latter.

After all special provisions and bequests have been satisfied the instrument provides that the residue of the estate shall be divided into 36 equal parts. These are to be bestowed as follows: To Mrs. Annie Hanson Garrett, five-twentieths; to John F. Hanson, Jr., his adopted son, a like amount; to the children of Mrs. Fannie Hanson White, the same; to the children of Walter T. Hanson, the same.

The will provides that such property as is not given to the designated beneficiary at once shall be held in trust by the American Securities and Trust company, and specifies that the same shall be invested in stable securities, preferably those of the Southern Railway company, and if not in these, in such as will insure safety rather than larger income.

To John F. Hanson, Jr., his adopted son, the royal silver service presented to the testator by the Bibb Manufacturing company, together with a three-quarter life size oil portrait, painted by Nagley, and one-half of his pictures are given. The other half goes to Mrs. Annie Hanson Garrett.

Dr. Frederick A. Cook, the Explorer, Alleges That He Is Still an American Citizen.

New York, Dec. 23.—Dr. Frederick A. Cook, from temporary refuge at his brother's home in Brooklyn, telephoned his interviewers he intended to devote his time to convincing the American people that he really thought he reached the north pole.

When the traveler arrived yesterday from Europe, he announced he would go to the Waldorf-Astoria to spend the night. Instead, Dr. Cook went to his brother's home. Asked over the telephone today if he was going to stay in this country Dr. Cook said: "Certainly I am; most certainly I am. I never had any other intention than to return to my native land. I am an American citizen, entitled to protection under the American flag, and expect to claim that protection. My wife and two children are now abroad, but will shortly return to me and we will make our home here."