

The Asheville Gazette News.

WEATHER FORECAST:
RAIN; WARMER.

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ASHEVILLE, N. C., WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 6, 1914.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

LOCAL BANKERS ARE OPTIMISTIC

Express Satisfaction With Business of Past Year and Believe Prosperity Will Be Enjoyed in 1915.

STATEMENTS MADE BY FIVE BANK OFFICIALS

Confidence in Western North Carolina Business Conditions Should Be Helped by Their Views.

That last year's business conditions Asheville and western North Carolina were not greatly crippled by the absence of the European war is indicated in optimistic statements issued by five bank officials today as Asheville's bankers. The bankers of the county are generally the most conservative thinkers and this fact will add weight and confidence to the expressions of local bankers to the effect that the past year has been satisfactory, and that they are looking forward to an exceedingly good year in 1915.

The statement made by an official of the Battery Park bank is short but very much to the point. This official said:

"The financial and business situation here has improved very materially within the past 30 days; and it has improved wonderfully throughout the country within the past 60 days. This improvement, of necessity, is slow, because it is being made along conservative lines; but we consider the outlook for our 1915 business as exceedingly bright."

A very gratifying and optimistic statement is made by Edwin L. Ray of the Commercial bank. He said:

"To the best of my knowledge and belief, 1914 was the best year Asheville has ever had. The reason therefore I know not, unless it is that a new spirit has come over us and we are more intelligently directing our affairs and making advantage of the wonderful resources nature has placed at our disposal. To no great degree have we either benefited or suffered by the European war. It would seem, then, we are improving our opportunities more than ever and, with some outside assistance and local co-operation, are making every dollar count. There has never been a time when desirable houses were so scarce, nor when real estate was on a more stable basis. The merchants have had a good year and, while there is not enough money on hand to give everybody all they want to develop and to invest, it is hardly

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LITTLE CHILDREN IN TAR HEEL MILLS

Lewis Hine Causes Sensation at Meeting of the National Child Labor Commission.

Gazette-News Bureau
Wyatt Building
Washington, Jan. 6.
Lewis W. Hine, staff photographer for the National Child Labor commission, made the statement to the commission yesterday at its eleventh annual conference that while child labor conditions in the south had improved he had found two little girls six years of age working in the North Carolina cotton mills. The statement caused a sensation among the delegates.

TO URGE CAUSE OF SHORT LINES

Collector Bailey Will Ask General Assembly to Repeal the "Long and Short Haul" Clause.

MANY BUSINESS MEN ESPOUSE THEIR CAUSE

Short Lines Deny They Are Catspaws for Big Roads—Much Interest in the Situation.

(By W. T. Best.)
Raleigh, Jan. 6.—The short lines of North Carolina railroads have committed their interests to Collector J. W. Bailey of Raleigh, who will present their case to the general assembly. They ask the repeal of section 9 of the Justice act, the long and short haul clause.

Representatives of numerous roads met here and discussed the situation which is confessedly bad. They took up line upon line the story in which Secretary John C. Forrester of the Greensboro chamber of commerce, alleged a conspiracy to overthrow the Justice act, the longer lines using "the shorter as catspaws" to bring about that end.

The interview of Mr. Forrester was answered by a colorful petition of business men over the state who have been greatly disappointed, according to letters quoted in the workings of the Justice act. The smaller roads have been here often, so have the longer ones, but the big lines have indicated no uneasiness. They have asked for the repeal of the ninth section, not because they couldn't live and do well under it, because they alleged that it deprives other sections and the companies declare themselves unable to obey conflicting laws.

Tate Heads Petition.
At the head of this petition which must have 5000 signers, including substantially every business house in High Point, is Fred N. Tate, of High Point, president of the Just Freight association, and one among the fiercest fighters in the rate cause. Mr. Tate writes a letter admitting his disappointment with the rate situation. Hubert Ramsey, organizer of the association, also signs the petition and business houses fall over themselves to register their discontent. In Raleigh there has been no open movement of the larger roads to subvert the Justice act. In fact, two of the bigger lines passing through the city have declared their perfect satisfaction with it and they are getting a pound of competitive business in this state.

Vice President H. P. Edwards of the short line roads association, said yesterday: "I have never heard that the larger lines desire the repeal of this section 9. I don't see why they should. They get every bit of the business that we would get and we cannot possibly get any business of theirs owing to that section. If you attend any of these hearings before the corporation commission, you saw very plainly that those roads did not fear the long and short haul clause. In fact, I believe you said they asked for its application in one of the articles in your paper. We have fifteen thousand signatures to our petition. I should say, and I have never heard one say that he thought it was a hardship upon any but the small roads."

At this conference were Mr. Edwards, M. T. Nichols, general manager of the Carolina and Northwestern; W. E. Price, general manager of the Carolina and Yadkin; L. C. Parker, general freight agent of the Virginia and Carolina Southern; R. P. Terrell, general superintendent of the Warrenton railroad; J. L. Hawley, general superintendent of the Rockingham railroad.

Immense Strength of Russians Apparently Beginning to Tell

On Most of the Various Fields Russians Are Victorious and Seem to Be Holding Own Elsewhere—Interest in the Western Theater of War Still Centered in French Gains in Alsace.

If Petrograd dispatches are to be credited Russia's immense fighting strength is beginning to show results in most of the many fields in which the Russians are operating. The most striking evidence of this, so far as can be ascertained from the available news, is shown by the results in the Caucasus, where the defeat of two Turkish armies is reported. In the Carpathians the routed Austrian army, floundering in the deep snow, is being harassed by the pursuing victors. In East Prussia the Russians continue to keep their lines along the Mazurian lakes, while they seem to be holding their own in the effort to prevent the fall of Warsaw. Again the Russians are drawing nearer Cracow, which has been one of their goals since the first of the war.

In the west the greatest interest is still centered in Alsace, where the French are fighting with such determination to take Sennheim—or Cernay—and thus open the door to Meulhausen, as to give some ground for the opinion that the allies may attempt to concentrate their main efforts in this region, when they begin the postponed general offensive. Some ground has also been gained by the allies on the western end of the line near the Belgian coast. Artillery duels continue to prevail, few infantry attacks being made.

The Petrograd reports of victory over the Turks are the more readily received since the Russians made no attempt to belittle the stubborn valor of the Turks. Now, however, Petrograd declares that the Russians have administered a crushing defeat to the Turks at Ardahan, driving out the invaders, who had just taken the town. This column is said to be fleeing. In the fighting about Sari-Kamysh the Russians claim even greater success, having taken thousands of prisoners in rounding out their victory.

FIRE DISASTER IN NEW YORK SUBWAY

Hundreds of People Are Overcome When Fire Breaks Out in Train—Hundreds Brought Unconscious to Surface—12 Dead Bodies Recovered.

New York, Jan. 6.—More than 100 persons were overcome by smoke, cut by glass and otherwise injured as the result of a fire aboard a train in the New York subway at the height of the rush hours in transportation. In the panic and confusion that followed, the police headquarters first issued a report that 21 persons had lost their lives. This proved to be unfounded, as only one death has so far been recorded.

The entire fire fighting force of Manhattan, every ambulance and every pumper that could be found were brought to the scene of the disaster. The fact that scores of people were rendered unconscious by the smoke led to the early reports of the higher death list. Later, Police Commissioner Wood and Fire Chief Kenton stated that so far as they knew there were no fatalities, but a surgeon at the Polyclinic hospital said that one injured woman had died while being conveyed to the hospital in the ambulance.

Elevated and surface cars were packed to overflowing all over the city with the throngs that were turned away from the subway.

Firemen said that the fire started in the train, between Fifth and Fifty-Ninth street stations. Some of the hundreds of people who had reached the stations from the train stated that there was an explosion, and that almost immediately the train came to a standstill, and that

DEMOCRATS WORRY OVER SHIPS PURCHASE BILL

Republican Opposition Threatens to Endanger Administration Congress Program.

Washington, Jan. 6.—Continued republican belligerence toward the government ship purchase bill has begun to worry administration leaders. With but two months in the life of the sixty-third congress remaining, all of the big supply bills still undisposed of by the senate, and minority senators manifesting a determination to fight the ship bill to the last ditch, fears were expressed by democratic leaders that the administration's legislative program is in danger.

GERMAN SPIES ENLIST WITH THE CANADIANS

Train at Havana.

St. Louis, Jan. 6.—The St. Louis Federal baseball team will go into training at Havana, Cuba, late next month, according to announcement last night.

GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF OFFICER'S DEATH

German Cavalryman Tells of How Lieut. Von Bethmann-Hollwig Met His Death.

Berlin, Jan. 6.—One of the German cavalry who was with the son of Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollwig, the German chancellor, when the young officer was killed while on patrol duty in Poland, has described the manner in which the young man met death.

Lieutenant Von Bethmann-Hollwig and 19 cavalymen were on night patrol and were riding through a forest when about 30 Russian Cossacks opened a heavy fire on them. The lieutenant was shot in the head and abdomen. Two of his men held him on his horse while the Germans galloped away and it was only when they reached safety that they discovered that the officer was dead.

HYSLOP SHOT TWO AND THEN KILLED HIMSELF

Akron, Jan. 6.—Charles L. Hyslop shot and killed his wife early today, shot Joseph Schrader, who was boarding at the same place as Hyslop and his wife, and then killed himself. Schrader is not expected to live.

PURSUED BY POLICE HE COMMITS SUICIDE

Atlanta, Jan. 6.—Walter Burdette, aged 29 years, sought by the police on charges of stealing automobiles, was killed on the roof of the Woman's club early today. The police say he committed suicide. The young man's death occurred after his police had pursued him during the greater part of the night.

URGES A TEMPERANCE LAW FOR MINNESOTA

St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 6.—Winfield Scott Hammond was sworn in today as Minnesota's eighteenth governor. In his inaugural address, he urged the passage of a temperance law.

WOOTEN NAMED, GARDNER ALSO

Lenoir Man Chosen for House Speakership by Democrats of the North Carolina General Assembly.

HIS THREE OPPONENTS AGREE TO WITHDRAW

Gardner Chosen for President Pro Tempore of Senate by Unanimous Acclamation—Officers.

Raleigh, Jan. 6.—At caucuses held last night by the democrats of the house and senate of the general assembly of North Carolina, which convened today, E. R. Wooten of Lenoir was chosen as speaker of the house, and O. Max Gardner of Shelby was selected for the presidency pro tempore of the senate.

The naming of Wooten for the speakership was the result of an agreement between the other announced candidates for the place—T. B. Bowie of Ashe, L. H. Allred of Johnston and A. A. F. Seawell of Lee—who decided to withdraw in favor of Mr. Wooten, after promise of a very strenuous fight for the place. In the senate caucus, however, Senator Gardner was named for president pro tempore by unanimous acclamation. It had been stated that F. B. Hobbgood of Guilford would oppose Senator Gardner for the senate honor, but Mr. Hobbgood manfully seconded the nomination of Mr. Gardner, when his name was proposed.

Senator Stubbs of Martin was chairman of the senate caucus. Mr. Gardner was nominated by R. D. Johnston of Duplin county, and Mr. Wooten was placed in nomination by Representative Gallatin Roberts of Buncombe.

COURT REFUSES TO CUT RUROEDE'S BAIL

New York, Jan. 6.—Efforts of counsel for Carl Ruroede to obtain a reduction of his client's bail of \$20,000 have failed again. Ruroede is one of twelve men arrested Saturday in connection with an alleged conspiracy to defraud the government through use of fraudulent passports to which German reservists might travel to Europe. United States District Attorney Marshall contended that Ruroede had conducted a bureau which fraudulently obtained from the state department passports to be used by Germans serving their country as spies or in other capacities. The plan, he asserted, "would expose every citizen of this country on the other side to great inconvenience and perhaps danger."

GOV. BLEASE EXTENDS CLEMENCY TO 9 MORE

Columbia, S. C., Jan. 6.—Governor Blease yesterday extended executive clemency to nine state prisoners. Two of the men were pardoned, five paroled and two had their sentences commuted. During his four years as South Carolina's chief executive, Governor Blease has exercised clemency toward more than 1,600 prisoners. Joe Bowman, a negro under life sentence for assault, was among those paroled yesterday.

MAIL SERVICE IS OPEN WITH TSING TAU, JAPAN

New York, Jan. 6.—The Commercial Cable company announced today that the company had been notified by the Japanese postoffice department that mail service had been re-opened with Tsing Tau, which the Japanese captured from the Germans.

WILL THERE BE A COMMISSION?

As General Assembly Convenes, Asheville Business Men Consider Commission Form of Government.

SENTIMENT HAS GROWN IN FAVOR OF CHANGE

Organizations at Work Here for the Measure, But Necessary Co-operation Has Not Been in Evidence.

In the spring, when the North Carolina general assembly meets, the thoughts of the Asheville business men quickly turn to commission government. The general assembly convenes in Raleigh this morning, and now the question arises as to whether or not the newer form of government will be provided for this city before the session closes 60 days hence. The question has a variety of sides, and all of them seem likely to enter into consideration before the matter is definitely decided.

A large number of the citizens of the city have been anxious for a commission form of government for many years, and four years ago they were given an opportunity to vote on the matter. The issue lost by a narrow margin. There was some agitation for such a change two years ago, but nothing came of it at that session of the general assembly. Since then there has been, apparently, an ever-increasing sentiment for a change in the present form of city government; and during the past year there have been many converts in Asheville to the idea of commission government. It is believed now that the people generally want a change. They want a more economical government; and it seems that the majority of them favor a commission government. It is believed now that the people generally want a change. They want a more economical government; and it seems that the majority of them favor a commission form.

It is generally understood that Buncombe county's three legislators this year—Zebulon Weaver in the senate, and Gallatin Roberts and H. L. Nettles in the house—want to give Asheville a chance to have a commission form of government if there is a wholesome demand for it; but it is likewise generally understood that this demand must come generally, from people in all walks of life here. It must be in other words, a very democratic demand. It is not thought that the legislators will lend an ear to any particular organization or any special coterie of men; but if there is a healthy co-operation between individuals and organizations, and the sentiment ex-

CERTIFICATION NOT ENOUGH GUARANTEE

The Plan Pleases Britain But Would Not Stop Contraband, English View.

London, Jan. 6.—Although the foreign office regards with high favor the American government's plan of certifying cargoes destined for Europe, it was said that England cannot accept such certification as an absolute guaranty of the nature of the cargo in case cause for suspicion arises after a vessel leaves America. In other words, the right of search cannot be waived because of the possibility of shifting cargoes at sea.

The government constantly is in communication with representatives of Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Holland, and it is reported these nations are taking steps to revise their lists of prohibited exports to correspond with the British contraband list. That would make possible a resumption of shipping to neutral European countries from America without delay or danger of seizure.