

# MILEAGE INCREASE OF DOUBLE TRACKS

## Southern Receives Bids on Work to Be Done Immediately on Main Line.

Special to The Gazette-News. Washington, D. C., Jan. 15.—The Southern railway will proceed at once to revise and double track the 28.7 miles of its Washington-Atlanta line between Orange and Charlottesville, Va., the work to involve an expenditure of \$1,500,000 and to result in a greatly improved line both as to grades and curvatures. Bids for the grading are being received from contractors today in the office of W. H. Wells, chief engineer of construction, under whose direction the work will be done.

The completion of this work, together with other work now under way, will give the Southern a continuous stretch of 121 miles of double track out of Washington, and a total of 348.7 miles of double track between Washington and Charlotte, leaving only 41.3 miles of single track divided into four stretches, the longest of which is 20 miles.

The revision between Orange and Charlottesville will eliminate 1302 degrees of curvature or nearly four complete circles and will give a maximum grade northbound of 0.9 per cent and southbound of 1 per cent, as against 1.41 per cent in both directions at present.

The work to be done is very heavy and will furnish labor for a large number of men and cause heavy expenditures in the territory immediately affected. In undertaking it at this time when receipts from both freight and passenger traffic are much below normal, the Southern Railway company is giving striking evidence of President Harrison's faith in the business future of the south and his determination to furnish adequate facilities, the necessary capital fortunately having been provided before the outbreak of the present European war.

# FIRST CIVIL TERM OF COURT OPENS MONDAY

## About 270 Cases on the Docket to Be Disposed of in Three Weeks.

The first of two terms of Superior court for the trial of civil cases, each to be for three weeks, will convene here on next Monday morning, with Judge James L. Webb of Shelby presiding.

Due mainly to the efforts of Judge E. B. Cline, who held the courts in this county during the last half of last year, there will be only about 270 cases on the docket for trial at the approaching term. Heretofore the court usually opened with about 450 cases on the docket and, with the cases that are usually added during each term, when the term ends there are nearly as many cases on the docket as at the beginning.

During the last term of Superior court for civil cases, Judge Cline set a day on which he heard all cases that had accumulated during the past few years and that for various reasons had not been heard. These cases, called "derelict" cases, were heard and about 225 of them wiped from the summons and civil dockets.

The first term of civil cases to convene in this county this year, which will begin next Monday, will continue for three weeks, and immediately following it will come another term for three weeks, beginning on February 3. There will be no court after this until a term for criminal cases convenes on March 15 for three weeks.

# OFFICER TAKES HUDSON TO STATE PENITENTIARY

## Negro Sentenced to Prison for 30 Years to Begin Serving His Time.

Sheriff E. M. Mitchell left yesterday morning for Raleigh, taking with him James Hudson, colored, who was sentenced this week by Judge James L. Webb to service 30 years at hard labor in the state's prison. Hudson pleaded guilty to burglary in the second degree, having been arrested on charges of breaking and entering the residence of J. S. Leverette, an ex-patrolman, on Clingman avenue several nights ago. Hudson was the only prisoner drawing a term in the state's prison at the term of Superior court which closed here yesterday afternoon.

Sheriff Mitchell also took with him William G. Gray, colored, who has been held in the county jail as insane. Gray will be taken to Goldsboro, to be committed to the state asylum for the colored insane.

# Constipation

Biliousness-Headache  
Dr. Chase's Liver Tablets

# BOARD OF TRADE DIRECTORS MEET

## Reports on Important Matters Heard from Various Committees Yesterday.

Thursday afternoon the directors of the Asheville board of trade met in regular session, when reports were heard from the various committee chairmen, routine matters were attended to and important business transacted. At this meeting, the directors gave their unqualified endorsement to the plan suggested by Dr. Turckler Brown of the North Carolina Good Roads association for the publication of a tour book for western North Carolina. Mr. Brown was present at the meeting and explained the plan in detail, those present agreeing that it is an excellent one and should bring a great deal of tourist business into this section.

A report was submitted by Frank M. Weaver of the legislative committee, in which it was pointed out that a bill has been presented by Senator Zebulon Weaver in the North Carolina general assembly providing for the purchase by the state of Mount Mitchell. Mr. Weaver also called attention to those present to the mass meeting that is to be held here tonight for the discussion of the question of whether the people of Asheville wish to vote on the commission form of government. He urged the importance of this meeting, and asked all present to attend and bring their friends.

The report of the advertising committee was presented by Chairman Robert S. Jones, who stated that advertisements of Asheville's offerings to tourists are now being carried in a number of metropolitan papers in the east and that these advertisements are proving prolific of results, a large number of inquiries having been received already as a direct result of this publicity. The board authorized Mr. Jones to arrange for a "ret acquainted" trip of members of the organization to some nearby town within the near future.

Upon recommendation of the Boy's Corn club committee, presented by John A. Nichols, the board will write to every boy who is a member congratulating him upon his success during the past year and wishing for him greater success during the present year. The board will likewise contribute \$10 to a fund to subscribe for the Progressive Farmer for every member of the club.

A report from the committee on industries was to the effect that two plants are to be established here within a short time, although definite announcement cannot be made relative to them at the present time.

# A NEW FACTOR IN THE CITY SCHOOLS

## Miss Gowans Here to Interest Pupils in Gardening and Flower Growing.

Miss Maude Gowans has arrived in Asheville as a field agent in the employ of the United States Commissioner of Education P. P. Claxton. She will confer while here with the teachers and principals of the various city schools, members of the Civic Betterment league and others who are interested in the movement recently started by Commissioner Claxton to have the pupils of the city schools start gardening and flower growing.

In a letter received this week by Superintendent Howell from Commissioner Claxton, it was stated that a special effort is being made to interest the schools in the various cities and towns of the United States in raising vegetables and growing flowers. Commissioner Claxton's idea is to have the pupils either raise the truck and flowers on the school yards or in their home gardens. The raising of vegetables is considered not only an economical factor of great importance but a very strong factor in the education of the child.

Agents are being sent out by Commissioner Claxton to the various cities in efforts to stimulate interest where the growing of truck and flowers has heretofore been done, and to arouse interest in the cities where the idea has never been tried.

These agents visit city schools, only as the county schools have for some time been growing truck and flowers. The idea is not a new one to them.

Miss Gowans will advise with the local school authorities in regard to the matter and suggest ways and means for carrying out the plan in this city. She will visit the various city schools and investigate the conditions of each in regard to using parts of the school yards. Where it is found not to be practical to use the school yard, it is thought that vacant lots in the city will be used, where possible, as many such can be found which, by being tilled, would increase their value and keep them clean.

No more healthful or interesting outdoor occupation could be found for a child than home gardening, it is pointed out, and the flowers that could be grown on the vacant lots of this city would add greatly to the beautification of the city.

In this connection, the letter from Commissioner Claxton refers to the fact that Holland, Belgium and China can only care for the dense population they have by using every available foot of ground and, as a consequence, Holland, Belgium and China was, among the countries of the world where a visit through the city streets and country roads would be a source of enjoyment, as truck patches can be seen everywhere and flowers are in abundance.

# Berlin Reports Torpedo Destroyers Off Coast

Berlin, Jan. 16.—Some torpedo boat destroyers appeared Thursday off the coast at Westende, according to the statement given out yesterday by German army headquarters staff. They were accompanied by some small craft and approached to within about nine miles of the coast. The statement continues:

"The French attacked on both sides of Notre Dame de Laurette, north-west of Arras, and were repelled by our troops."

"A trench taken eight days ago near Ecurie and which has since been occupied by a portion of one of our companies, was lost by us. The fighting in this locality continues to rage."

"The north bank of the Aisne, northeast of Soissons, has been cleared of the French. After continuous fighting, we have succeeded in taking the towns of Cuffies, Crouy, Bucy Le-long, Misy, as well as Vauxrot and Vallerie (all to the north hand northeast of Soissons). The French suffered heavy losses here. In their retreat to the south of the Aisne they were under the fire of our heavy artillery. The conditions which obtained in this battle were somewhat similar to those that prevailed in 1870.

Even though the two battles to the north of Soissons were not comparable to that of August 18, 1870, the battlefields were about as wide as at Gravelotte and St. Privat."

"The French strongly attacked us north of Verdun, near Conseroy and near Alilly, but were repelled. In the region of St. Mihiel, the French delivered an attack against us. They reached our front line but were beaten off with heavy loss."

"In the fighting last night, our troops occupied some of the positions of the enemy, but after rebuilding our positions we voluntarily abandoned those we took from the enemy without a contest."

"A French attacking force north of Mesnil and north of St. Mihiel was beaten off."

"In the Vosges, there has been nothing but artillery duels."

"In east Prussia and in north Poland there is no change."

"Our attacks in Poland, west of the Vistula, are proceeding slowly. We captured on Russian advance point northeast of Rawka, about taking 500 prisoners and gaining possession of three machine guns."

# Brilliant Attack With Bayonets By Zouaves

Paris, Jan. 16.—"From the sea to the Lyx," says the official statement of the French war department issued in Paris on Friday, "yesterday there were artillery engagements, some of which were spirited. We have made progress near Lombaertzyde and near Beclere. North of Arras, a brilliant attack by the Zouaves resulted in the capture at the bayonet point of positions of the enemy near the road from Arras to Lille. In the same region, at Targette and St. Laurente, as well as at points to the north of Andechy, in the region of Roye, our artillery secured advantages over that of the enemy. German batteries were silenced, two pieces of artillery were demolished and a depot of ammunition was exploded. Field works which were in course of construction were also destroyed."

"At one point, two kilometers (one and one-fourth miles) north of Soissons, the Germans yesterday attacked the village of St. Paul. They entered the village but we lost no time in attacking and recapturing it."

"In the region of Craonne and in the region of Rheims, there have been violent artillery engagements. The batteries of the enemy were frequently reduced to silence."

"In the region of Perthes and in the Argonne, as well as on the heights of the Meuse, there were no developments of importance. We destroyed some foodbridges built by the Germans over the Neuse at St. Mihiel, and in the forest of Alilly. We repulsed attacks on the trenches taken by us on January 8."

"In the Vosges, south of Sennones, we repelled a German attack after spirited fighting by the infantry. We broke through their barbed wire entanglements and occupied their trenches."

"Along the rest of the line there is nothing to report."

# AMBASSADOR PAGE DELIVERES MESSAGE

## Express American Sympathy for Italian Sufferers and Offers Aid.

Rome, Jan. 15.—Ambassador Page called in the minister of the interior yesterday and expressed the American sympathy for the earthquake sufferers. He intimated his desire to send members of the embassy to the stricken district to assist the rescue work. He was informed that the Italian government would appreciate such evidence of sympathy.

The ambassador dispatched an automobile filled with supplies. Second Secretary Norval Richardson, Lieutenant Commander Charles Train, naval attaché, and Private Secretaries John Harrison and Marion Sims Wyeth were sent to the afflicted regions.

Avezano, the chief sufferer, presents a scene of wreckage and desolation. Practically every house in the town is in ruins and nearly all the inhabitants are dead. It is thought that many living people are buried and the rescue work continues night and day. Late advices state that 500 bodies have been recovered and about 100 injured taken from the ruins.

A similar situation exists at the towns around Avezano, Magliano and Pescara are practically in ruins. Among the missing is Monsignor Bagnoli, bishop of Pescara. The cold and snow are adding to the suffering.

Foreign Aid Refused. Washington, Jan. 15.—Dispatches from Ambassador Page at Rome place the number of dead among the earthquake victims at between 12,000 and 15,000, and seriously hurt at about the same number. The ambassador inquired of the Italian government if aid was needed and was told that the Italian government would not accept aid from any foreign country. No Americans were among the victims.

Excitement Over Sale of Turnpike. Raleigh, Jan. 15.—The Wilkesboro and Jefferson turnpike, in which the state has \$63,000, furnished excitement in the house today when notice was served by Alexander Webb, chairman of the board on internal improvements, that the road is to be sold for debt January 18. The debt is \$7,000.

Representatives Bowie, Page and Battle were appointed a house committee, with two from the senate, to look after the state's interests. At noon, both houses convened in the house to hear the former president of the University of North Carolina, Edwin A. Alderman, now president of the University of Virginia. Dr. and Mrs. Alderman are guests of Governor and Mrs. Craiz, and tonight will attend the reception of the governor to the general assembly.

Following adjournment of the joint session, the longest session to date was held, with a vast number of local bills passing. Representative Allen's content bill, providing that certain matters be taken before other judges than the plaintiff, passed its third reading in the house.

Troubles of the Day in the Police Court. The following cases were called in Police court yesterday:

D. Dudley and Max Thompson were found not guilty of assault.

Booker Maxwell, colored, was fined \$2 and the costs on charges of disorderly conduct.

E. Grant, colored, was given three months on the roads on charges of larceny, and two other larceny cases against him were not prosed.

Tryon Ponders, colored, was given four months on charges of larceny. John Blackwell was taxed with the costs on charges of vagrancy. One "drunk" was up.

Man 80 Years Old Cremated in Barn. Special to The Gazette-News. Salisbury, Jan. 15.—Miles Holshouser, an 80 years old farmer, lost his life in a fire which he probably started at his place in Moran township at 4 o'clock yesterday morning.

Mr. Holshouser occasionally slept in his barn. This morning the barn burned and the trunk of Mr. Holshouser's body was found in the ruins. Two cows and a horse were also burned, together with the building and much feedstuff and farming implements.

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# TURKS ADVANCING ON PERSIAN SOIL

## Detachments Pressing Towards the Interior—Will Evacuate When Russians Move.

London, Jan. 16.—The Turkish troops, which invaded Persia are continuing their advance into the interior, according to a Teheran dispatch to Reuter's Telegraph company, which says:

It is reported that the Turks, who occupied Tabriz in Azerbaijan province several days ago, shot the Persian governors of Souzbuk, Mar-

gha and Burat, in passing on their way to Tabriz. Small detachments of Turkish troops from Tabriz are now moving in the direction of Ispahan, which is in central Persia, about 200 miles south of Teheran, and that these detachments will be supported by other troops.

Teheran, Jan. 14.—(By Way of London, Jan. 15.)—The Turkish ambassador has notified the Persian government that the port is ready to evacuate the Azerbaijan province as soon as the Russians permanently move out.

The Turkish note is a reply to the Persian ultimatum demanding that the Turkish invaders of Persia be withdrawn. Several towns in the Azerbaijan province have been occupied by the Ottoman forces in the campaign against the Russians.

Cuban Wives. In Cuba married women always retain their maiden names in addition to that of their husbands.

# SIR GEORGE S. NARES, VICE ADMIRAL, DEAD

## Death of Famous British Arctic Explorer Announced Today in London.

London, Jan. 15.—The death was announced in London today of Vice Admiral Sir George S. Nares, R. N., retired. He was born in 1831.

Vice Admiral Nares had a brilliant career in the British navy. He gained fame for his arctic expeditions, in which H. M. S. Alert and H. M. S. Discovery participated. He planted the British flag beyond the eighty-third latitude, north.



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