

CONSERVATION BILL FAVORED

Committee Favorably Reports
Measure for Protection of
Forests—Anti-Prison-
Uniform Bill.

MEASURE IN INTEREST
OF CONVICTS CARRIES

Brockett's Bill Fails in House
After an Energetic Fight—
Measures Pertaining to
Western Counties

(By W. T. Bost.)
Raleigh, Feb. 9.—Senator Snow's bill to eliminate the hair-cropping, the prison uniform, etc., went through the higher house easily yesterday and ended the debate about "Wake's barbarism."

Everybody down here favored the senator's bill, albeit a bevy of folk didn't like the publicity which a score of senators gave the conditions here. Editor Sam Parnham of the Times who championed the bill in the interest of removing all prejudice from a defendant, writes sarcastically in the afternoon paper about the whole thing. If personal privilege isn't a senatorial resource today it can't be said that one editor was afraid to speak out.

Brockett Loses Bill.
Representative Brockett made a desperate fight for his age of consent bill, but the house outvoted him 42 to 47 on a minority report.

The bill was designed to raise the age from 14, as at present, to 16 and to prescribe a misdemeanor instead of a felony in the discretion of the court. The Guilford man fought hard for a majority but was beaten after debate that never grew picturesque as it promised to be when Mr. Benton of Columbus spoke.

Mr. Brockett called for an eye and no vote and when he lost, Representative Doughton laid his bill forever away in the house by moving reconsideration of the minority substitute and tabling it. Mr. Brockett tried to speak, but he wasn't in order, parliamentary shape. He was ready for remarks, however.

The House.
There were sent forward a score of additional petitions for the enactment of the State Anti-Saloon league bill for the prohibition of the delivery of liquors.

There came from the committee a favorable report for the bill for the conservation of the forests of the state from the ravages of forest fires and the bill takes its place on the calendar.

New bills were introduced as follows:
Foster—Abolish capital punishment.
Gibbs—Repeal the 1911 Swain county road law.
Kilian—Repeal the office of treasurer in Clay county.
Williams of Yadin—Prevent the moving of property at public sales until it is paid for.
Witherspoon—Provide special tax for certain indebtedness in Cherokee county.
Valentine—Fix the salaries of certain officers in Henderson county.
Noland—Cure certain probate defects.
Foster—Amend the reciprocity clause of the medical act.
Stacy by request—Amend the revision as to administrators.
Doughton—Act to raise revenue. On motion it was ordered that three hundred copies be printed and that the bill be taken up as a special order Wednesday at noon in committee of the whole.

Clark—Regulate conveyances by husbands when the wife is insane.
Conley—Authorize bonds by the town of Marion for floating debts.
Conley—Amend the charter of Marion.
Bills passed final readings as follows:
Authorize bonds in Sylva township, Jackson county.
Regulate the buying and selling of quail in Chatham, Guilford, Randolph, Davidson, Anson and Macon counties.
Amend the law as to hunting and trapping in Henderson county.
Regulate hunting in Yancey county.

The Senate.
There was an unfavorable report for the bill by Senator Snow for the confederate veterans in the soldiers' home.
New bills were introduced as follows:
Thompson of Iredell—Amend the charter of the Davenport college for women.
Ward—Dispense with the committee to investigate the sale of the stock of the Atlantic and North Carolina railroad.
Bills passed final readings as follows:
Authorize a special tax for paying off the floating debt of Burke county.

FIRE DESTROYS VENEER PLANT

Factory of Carolina Veneer Company Completely Consumed in Spite of Bucket Brigade's Efforts.

INSURANCE PARTIALLY
COVERS THE LOSS

Flames Beyond Control Before
Help Arrived—About Seventy-five Men Are Out
of Employment.

The plant of the Carolina Veneer company, located on the Swannanoa river, on the outskirts of Blittmore, was totally destroyed by fire last night, with a loss estimated at \$70,000 which was partially covered by insurance. The fire, which was of unknown origin, was discovered about 10:30 o'clock by the night watchman, the first blaze being noticed on the second floor. An alarm was at once turned in and the citizens of Blittmore rushed out in large numbers, and formed a bucket brigade, but the flames had gained such headway that it was impossible to save the plant. The Asheville firemen were asked to render aid and arrived on the scene in a very few minutes, but were powerless to give material aid, owing to the fact that the pipes around the plant were rendered useless by the fire.

The building was of frame, on a foundation of brick and stone, and was two stories high. It burned very rapidly, the flames spreading to every part of the structure in a short time. The building was filled with dry lumber, used in the work turned out by the plant and after this large amount of lumber started burning, it was realized that all attempts to save the plant would be in vain.

The fire could be seen from all sections of Asheville, and dozens of people from the city went out to the scene of the fire, despite the cold weather, many offering their services to help fight the flames. Volunteers were not lacking, but the water that could be thrown on the burning structure by buckets did no good.

The Carolina Veneer company was organized here about two years ago, with J. E. Koeha of Blittmore as president, treasurer and general manager; Kingsland Van Winkle vice president, and F. H. McGlone of Blittmore secretary. The company bought the plant and outfit of the Blittmore Veneer company, which operated the plant about four years. About 75 people were employed by the Carolina Veneer company. The finished product was shipped to all sections of the United States.

It could not be learned today whether or not the company would rebuild the plant, as Mr. Van Winkle is in New York. It is expected he will return to Asheville at once. It was stated today that Mr. Van Winkle had planned to return to Asheville next Saturday, but it is believed now that he will arrive here tomorrow night. Upon his arrival it is expected an announcement will be made as to the future plans of the company.

The past year had been one of the best since the company was organized. It is stated, and a large number of orders were on file, which now of course will have to be turned over to another company. The plans of the company, it is understood, include several improvements in the plant in the near future which would insure the employment of a larger number of workmen and consequent increase of production.

Authorize special tax in Rutherford county.
Amend the Macon county road law.
A bill to provide a board of engineers for licensing architects came up and met with considerable opposition and went over to another day. In opposing the bill Senator Muse argued that there is no reason for architects.
The senate passed the bill to amend the charter of Davenport Female college, and then took up the Snow bill to prevent the dressing of prisoners in prison uniform and the shaving of their heads when brought to trial. This was the bill that was argued so strenuously Saturday and was brought over as unfinished business.

A substitute was offered by Senator Ward to avoid complications when a prisoner has his hair cut in prison. Senator Snow did not like the Ward substitute, saying that it also left out the penalty on officers for violating the law. He said it took the heart out of his bill. The amendment was voted down. Then the Snow bill passed with an amendment by Senator Muse excepting prisoners brought in from the roads for trial.

Battles Grow In Intensity At Extremities of Eastern Front

Conflict in Front of Poland Subsiding—Germans Have Apparently Assumed Offensive from Plock to Lipno—Number of German Women Taken Prisoners While Fighting in First Line Trenches, Dispatches State.

SOUTHERN ICE MEN IN MEETING HERE

Southern States Well Represented at Annual Convention in Asheville.

IMPORTANT PAPERS AND VERY ABLE DISCUSSIONS

Business Meetings Varied by Banquets, Dances and Mountain Climbing Parties.

The twenty-sixth annual convention of the Southern Ice exchange began a three day session in Asheville this morning with the registration of delegates at the convention hall, in the ball room of the Langren hotel. Ice men from all the southern states, many of them accompanied by their families are gathering here, and the program announced promises a very interesting and important meeting. Special papers will be read by men of experience in the topics assigned, and discussions following the papers add to the practical interest of the meetings.

Fred Kent of this city, who was elected president at the last convention will submit his annual report dealing with the work and growth of the exchange, at this afternoon's session. Three papers to be read at today's meeting are: "Together Again," by W. J. Rushon of Birmingham, Ala.; "Boiler Efficiency," by S. A. Fowler, Paducah, Ky.; "Spray Nozzles, with and without Spraying Tower," read by Earl T. Scott of Atlanta.

Tonight at 8 o'clock, delegates and their families will attend a banquet and dance at the Battery Park hotel. Elaborate preparations are being made for this social feature of the convention.

Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock, after a business meeting, three speakers will deliver addresses. C. S. Campbell of Columbia, S. C., will discuss "The Ice Man in Relation to the Public." Ellis Burnett of Montgomery, Ala., and Leon Burton of Helena, Ark., will give their views on "High Cost of Living not Affected by Prices of Ice." General discussion will follow, and impromptu speeches by delegates on "Some Troubles I Have."

At 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon the delegates will take a drive over the Blittmore estate. After dinner the delegates will attend the theater in a body.

On Thursday, the last day of the convention, the business meeting starts at 11 o'clock. At this session C. I. Day of Jacksonville, Fla., will discuss "The Ideal Engineer—From the Manager's Standpoint." "Cold Storage, its Advantages and Disadvantages," will be the text of a discussion by President Fred Kent.

Then will follow the election of members, reports of committees, and election of officers for the coming year. In the afternoon the visitors will go out for a short mountain excursion. At 6 o'clock they will dine at Grove Park Inn, where the farewell dance takes place after dinner.

MRS. W. A. NELSON DIES IN ATLANTA

Well Known Wife of Former Asheville Pastor—Had Many Friends.

Information comes to Asheville today of the death in Atlanta, Ga., of Mrs. W. A. Nelson, wife of the late Dr. W. A. Nelson. Mrs. Nelson was well known and had many friends in Asheville, having lived here several years while Dr. Nelson was the popular pastor of the First Baptist church. Mrs. Nelson was an aunt of J. D. Nelson, Mrs. John W. Neely, and Mrs. B. K. Davis, all of this city.

Dr. Nelson died about six years ago in Atlanta. Mrs. Nelson's friends here will learn with regret of her decease.

Even the woman who has perfect feet worries all the time for fear nobody will see them.

London, Feb. 9.—The fierce German attack on Warsaw is again at a standstill, according to information received from both Berlin and Petrograd. On each wing of the eastern battle front, however, the conflict is still fiercely waged. The Russians claim progress on the Hungarian side of the western Carpathians and also successes in the direction of Mezoladoracz, which resulted in driving back the enemy and the capture of a considerable number of guns and prisoners. The Austro-German troops are said to have suffered reverses on the Galician side of the Uzk and Beskid passes.

Balancing these successes the Russians admit that they have retired in Bukowina and the Austrians claim to have entered the town of Kimpoling in the crownland.

In East Prussia, the fighting appears to have become more desperate; and this may account for the reported lull around Warsaw, as the German East Prussian troops may have been reinforced by some of General Von Hindenburg's veterans.

The fighting in the west is pursuing its usual monotonous course with sporadic infantry assaults on the trenches, accompanied by artillery activity.

The full text of the German proclamation decreeing blockade of British waters has been received in London. It is a theme in which the use of the American flag by the Lusitania figures. Most of the London papers defend the course of the Lusitania.

Petrograd, Feb. 9.—Engagements at the two extremities of the eastern battle front, in East Prussia and the Carpathians, are growing in intensity, according to information reaching Petrograd. The same source says that the battle in front of Warsaw is subsiding. The fighting from the province of Plock in Poland to Tilsit in East Prussia is virtually continuous. The Germans appear to have assumed the offensive from Gumbinnen to the Mazurian lakes as far as Lipno, on the right bank of the Vistula.

Dispatches from Warsaw state that a number of German women were taken prisoners by the Russians at the fighting at the junction of the Bzura and the Vistula rivers. Some were said to have had rifles in their hands and to have been filling places in the first line trenches.

EXHUMATION OF MORS' VICTIMS TO BE MADE

Yonkers, N. Y., Feb. 9.—Investigation of the story of Frederick Mors that he killed eight aged inmates of the German Odd Fellows home, where he was employed as a nurse, centered in efforts today to obtain sufficient corroboration of the story to warrant exhuming the three bodies of the men Mors said he poisoned.

The other five men were killed with "anesthesia," he said, so that their exhumation would be of no value. The question of Mors' sanity is being investigated at Bellevue hospital, New York.

CREW FEARS TO SAIL WITH STEAMER DACIA

Cotton Cargo for Rotterdam Delayed for Lack of Sailors.

Norfolk, Feb. 9.—The American steamer Dacia with a cargo of cotton for Rotterdam, failed to sail from this port yesterday because at least 11 members of her crew refused to go with the vessel.

The Dacia completed coaling and moved out into the ocean early yesterday. She was scheduled to sail at noon, but when members of her crew insisted on being paid off, Captain McDonald decided to look for new men.

W. B. Cahmichael, a fireman, who said he represented other members of the crew, appeared before Collector of Customs Hamilton and requested that he be given his discharge and the wages due him. He said there had been trouble among the fire room crew. He also stated that he and several of his shipmates were afraid to sail with the Dacia for fear she would be captured by British warships. He was paid off. Others appeared before the shipping commissioner, demanded their wages and were paid off. Five men complained of being sick and were discharged. The work of securing men to take the places of those who left the ship had not been completed last night.

THE COTTON LOAN FUND PLAN ENDS EXISTENCE

Applications Made for Only \$28,000—Will Be Otherwise Cared for.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Loans under the \$135,000,000 cotton fund plan have been closed and the plan virtually ended its existence last night with an announcement from the central committee—the federal reserve board acting as individuals—that subscriptions probably would not be called for. Applications amounted to only \$28,000 and this was not obtained from the fund, but elsewhere on notes and collateral offered with the applications.

Subscribers to the central committee points out, have not been released from liability for their proportionate share of the \$25,000, but if all the loans are paid, subscriptions will not be needed.

The announcement says that subscriptions aggregated \$101,035,100, from 487 banks, 185 firms and 17 individuals, ranging from \$100 to \$500,000 and representing 64 cities in 19 states and the District of Columbia.

"The beneficial effects of the fund," says the announcement, "are not to be measured by the small amounts actually loaned."

PRICE OF LOAF BREAD ADVANCED IN SOUTH

Raised From Five to Six Cents in N. C., S. C., Ga., Ala., Tenn. and Fla.

Spartanburg, S. C., Feb. 9.—August Gelfuss, president of the Southern Master Bakers' association announced here last night that bread would be advanced in price to six cents per loaf at once over the six states, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and Florida, embraced in the organization. He says bread is now selling for six cents in Wilmington, Charlotte, Greensboro, Greenville and Asheville and that prices become effective in all small towns throughout the section today. The advance in the price of flour is responsible for the increase in the price of bread. From the local bakery nine thousand loaves are shipped daily, and according to Mr. Gelfuss, the raw flour contained in the output cost \$62.50 more per day than it cost before war was declared.

DEMOCRATS TRY DRASTIC MEANS

Arrest of 16 Senators Opposing Ship Purchase Bill
Propose to Compel Attendance.

SENATOR JONES STAYS ON FLOOR ALL NIGHT

Speaks for 13 Hours and 55 Minutes Opposing Fletcher's Motion to Amend the Clarke Motion.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Drastic measures designed to insure the constant attendance of the senators opposing the administration ship purchase bill and to break the opposition to the measure were attempted by the democrats today, following an all night session of the senate. An order for the arrest of 16 senators was issued at the instance of Senator Fletcher, who is leading to fight for the bill. Senator Reed presented an order to compel each senator to remain in the chamber until excused.

Those for whom orders for arrest were issued were: Senators Bankhead, Borah, Burton, Camden, Cathron, Coff, Harwood, O'Gorman, Root, Sutherland, Vandeman and Weeks.

Senator Jones of Washington was on the floor all night speaking in opposition to the Fletcher motion to amend the Clarke motion to recommit the bill. The amendment would require the committee to return the bill immediately with an amendment on which the democrats had decided, it is said, to gain the support of Senator Norris.

Senator Jones began speaking late yesterday, after a parliamentary struggle which developed the fact that the democrats had control of a majority of the votes. He yielded the floor at 8:30 o'clock this morning, after speaking 13 hours and 55 minutes. His only relief was at times when calls were made for a quorum. Senator Jones' speech has been surpassed in length only twice in the history of the senate: Senator La Follette spoke 18 hours and 6 minutes in opposition to the Aldrich-Vreeland currency measure, and Senator Burton spoke over 14 hours on a rivers and harbors bill.

The republicans insist that they will be able to keep up the fight until the fourth of March if necessary, but the democrats today were equally determined. They had prepared to retain a majority within call in a effort to carry the struggle to a definite conclusion. Throughout the night they made few efforts to interrupt Senator Jones.

The ante rooms of the senate chamber had been hastily fitted with cots in order that the senators might snatch a few minutes sleep.

SHERIFF ARRESTS 22 MEN AT COCK FIGHT

Raid Made Late Yesterday Near Skyland Results in Big Capture.

When the cages against the defendants arrested yesterday afternoon by Sheriff Mitchell and his deputies, were called before Magistrate B. L. Lyda at 11 o'clock this morning, only three answered to their names and the cases were continued until 4 o'clock. The hearings this afternoon will come up before Magistrate Lyda in the Police court room.

Calling out the reserves Sheriff, E. M. Mitchell and his deputies yesterday afternoon between 5 and 6 o'clock swooped down on a crowd of about 100 men gathered about a mile from Skyland, near Busbee mountain, for the purpose of holding a cock fight, and the officers arrested 22 men and captured a large quantity of "fighting material." Forty-nine fighting birds were also captured by the officers, which are said to be valued at hundreds of dollars.

Rumors of the proposed cockfight reached the officers of the law yesterday and newspaper men who asked them about the fight were requested to hold back any information they had until after the raid had been made.

The following men, who were arrested by the officers were required to each furnish a bond in the sum of \$25 for appearance at preliminary hearings to be held before Magistrate B. L. Lyda today: Martin Mathis, Alken Mitchell, Earl Mathis, Cal Ledbetter, S. C. Cody, Frank Wilson, R. H. Mull, alias Dodson, Mar Martin, Earl Martin, Berry Platt, Frank Rhodes, M. G. Burge, Odis Jones, W. M. Tate, J. O. Sales, D. F. Hay, M. Martin, Clarence McDowell, Grady Lyster, T. H. Houston, R. L. Russell and T. Davis.

THINK BRITISH SLOW TO MOVE

French People Just a Little Puzzled at England's Slowness in Throwing Men Into Fighting Line.

MILLERAND'S VISIT MAY CLEAR MATTERS

British Papers Begin Campaign of Explanation as to Why More British Troops Are Not Sent.

London, Feb. 9.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press)—For the first time since the outbreak of the war the British press is admitting that the French people are a little puzzled about the slowness of Great Britain in throwing men into the fighting line. A vigorous campaign of education to promote mutual understanding is what is needed, according to the Paris correspondent of The Times; and he hints that the recent visit to England of M. Millerand, the French minister of war, "will be an encouragement" in this direction.

"It is hard," says this writer, "to explain to the Frenchman in the street the many difficulties England has had to contend with in the formation of her new armies. A great many Frenchmen are under the impression that in England we have obligatory service. A still greater number believe, in the absence of news to the contrary, that we have but the original one hundred thousand men in France. They are all ignorant and informed—frank and generous in their admiration of our troops, but they cannot prevent a certain wistful envy from arising now and then, when they read of our normal lives at home."

"Much useful work is now being done by several of the large newspapers which have for some days past been explaining the extent of the effort we are making. More work of the same nature can be done both in England and France, and M. Millerand's visit will be encouragement to all efforts in this direction."

Naval Raid Victims.
The complete list of the killed and wounded in the naval bombardment on the east coast may never be tabulated. At Harlepool the death toll to date is 113 and the wounded approximately 300. At Whitby three were killed and only two wounded. At Scarborough the list is not procurable though it is known that 11 at least died and 28 were injured. These figures are rather under than over the actual totals.

War Cost Already \$2,500,000,000.
Reckoning each man as a wealth-producing force equal to a mere \$2,500 in capital the economic waste of human life in the present European war on the basis of a million dead and permanently incapacitated has already cost Europe \$2,500,000,000, according to F. W. Hirst, a well known financier.

Addressing the Sheffield bankers on the political economy of war, he also said in the first three months of this year, Britain had actually spent more than her entire three years' campaign in Crimea, or two and a half years in the Boer war.

WOODHOUSE IS AFTER COAST GUARD PLACE

Gazette-News Bureau.
Wyatt Building.
Washington, Feb. 9.
Captain J. E. Woodhouse, of Currituck county, is one of the candidates for superintendent of the coast guard in the seventh light house district, a place which will be vacant as soon as P. H. Morgan, of Shawboro, who was nominated for the position today, is confirmed by the senate. Mr. Morgan has held the place for several years, but it was necessary for him to be nominated again under the new law consolidating the life saving service and the revenue cutter service in order to be retired with pay. He is already of retirement age and will step out as soon as he gets in under the new law. Mr. Morgan's successor will be chosen from among the lighthouse keepers.

A petition from the North Carolina legislature to the North Carolina delegation in congress asking that the Tar Heels here do all they can to have congress disburse with the requirement that claimants for losses during the civil war must prove their loyalty to the union was presented to the house by Representative Fox today.

Leslie McIlhenny, of Kings Mountain, has been appointed special agent for the bureau of the census of manufacturers. His appointment was secured by the North Carolina senators.