

OUTLINES.

President Roosevelt yesterday sent to Congress a special message urging the passage of a bill giving nearly \$4,000,000 away to the steamship companies in subsidies for lines to South America and the Orient; he argues that other nations subsidize their ships and in order to compete with them we must follow suit. The fire at Richmond destroyed \$322,000 in property, including the buildings of the Marburg Tobacco Company, the Southern Paper Company and other.

FOR BETTER STREETS

Legislative Committee of Board of Aldermen in Session Yesterday Afternoon.

BILL FOR A BOND ISSUE

The Amount Will be \$200,000—Further Issue for Water Works and Sewerage—Striking Facts Considered—Another Meeting.

The legislative committee from the Board of Aldermen, consisting of the Mayor and Aldermen P. Q. Moore and J. A. Karr, held a very satisfactory conference yesterday afternoon with City Attorney Marsden Bellamy, Jr., relative to the new street bill that will be presented shortly to the Legislature. While the draft of the bill has not yet been definitely made, its salient features have been decided upon and there appears no doubt but that the bill will go to the General Assembly without opposition.

The act will authorize the city to vote at the municipal election in the Spring on an issue of \$200,000 in bonds for a systematic plan of permanent improvement to run for a period of years and bear not more than four or five and a half per cent interest, a sinking fund being provided for the liquidation of the debt during that period and the payment of the interest on the bonds semi-annually. Under the plan the bonds can be issued without an mill increase in the taxes of the city; in fact the present amount appropriated annually for permanent improvement can be diverted to other sources of public improvement. The present annual appropriations for permanent streets would liquidate the bonds in six or eight years if that fund were used for that purpose. The committee went carefully over these facts yesterday afternoon and agreed upon the provisions of the bill upon the assumption that the bond issue would certainly carry. It is pointed out that with a property valuation second only to that of the city in the State and with a rapidly increasing valuation, the city of Wilmington is sixth of the cities in the State in the amount of bonded indebtedness, more enterprises being municipalities having already voted bonds and made these necessary public improvements. Out of the bond issue it is proposed to reimburse the city for a loan to be made for the purpose of repairing Front street from Red Cross to Orange in the meantime. It was not decided by the committee yesterday afternoon whether this public improvement will be undertaken under the supervision of a Street Commission or not. This will be decided at another meeting of the committee to be held next Wednesday afternoon. A report to the full meeting of the Board of Aldermen will be made at the regular monthly meeting in February.

The committee is also conferring with the City Attorney relative to the preparation of a bill allowing the city to vote on an issue of \$100,000 for the municipal ownership of the water plant and sewerage system. The vote will be at the same time as the vote for better streets, though the latter is regarded just at present as the greater public necessity.

The bills will be printed in full before they are submitted to the Legislature for enactment, so that the public will be fully informed as to all the provisions and will be able to vote intelligently at the election.

"OUR NEW MINISTER."

Chance Humor of the Country—Academy of Music Saturday.

Who hasn't laughed at the chance humor of a country store? For off-hand wit and banter, it is as good as a caucus meeting sometimes. The country store in Denham Thompson and George W. Ryer's Hardscrabble comedy, "Our New Minister," is funnier than the real thing, naturally. It's just like a country store, too, the scene, with its long porch, three or four steps up and the boots and things hanging right beside the ham. No attempt to show the bargaining that sometimes goes on at the store is made by the authors, but they get their characters into some interesting and amusing talk on the porch. Taken altogether the store part of "Our New Minister," which will be at the Academy Saturday matinee and night, is a most interesting part of the play. Seats will go on sale tomorrow.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Julius Taylor—Grand Spring Opening. Academy of Music—"Our New Minister."

Gem Cigar Company—Cigars and Tobacco. Metropolitan Life Ins. Co.—Liberal Policies.

Orient Lodge, A. F. & A. M.—Emergency Communication. Business Locals.

Board—For Man and Wife or Young Men. Carpenters Union—Notice to Contractors.

Wanted—Position by Registered Druggist. C. R. L. & P. Co.—Genuine Welsbach Lights.

DR. E. SCOTT PIGFORD

Well Known Wilmington Physician Passed Away at Hospital Last Night After Lingered Illness. Practiced Here 20 Years.

Dr. E. Scott Pigford, one of Wilmington's well known and most popular physicians, for twenty years or more an active practitioner here, died last night at 10 o'clock at the James Walker Memorial Hospital, as the result of a recurrent attack of apoplexy. Dr. Pigford had been in poor health for several years, and had suffered several previous attacks during which his life had been despaired of, but lately he had improved to a remarkable degree and his friends had been encouraged to hope for the best. The announcement of his death now will come with poignant sorrow to a great many, for Dr. Pigford was a man who made many friends and lasting ones.

Early last night Dr. Pigford was discovered by a servant in his bathroom in an unconscious condition. He was hurried from his residence on Grace street to the hospital and everything possible was done for him, but all efforts to revive him were fruitless. He passed away at the hour indicated, while the physicians were yet constantly in attendance at his bedside.

Dr. Pigford was 53 years of age, and was a native of Sampson county. He removed to this city about 20 years ago and engaged in the practice of his profession as a homeopathic physician, being signally successful with his treatment, especially of children, being engaged by some of the most prominent families in Wilmington by all. He was a member of Orient Lodge, No. 395, A. F. & A. M., and was held especially valuable as a member of that order.

The funeral arrangements have not yet been made, but the remains may be interred in the family burying ground in Sampson county.

L'ARISO CLUB GERMAN.

Delightful Dance Last Night in Masonic Temple Ball Room.

The January german of L'Ariso Club in the Masonic Temple ball room last night was a thoroughly delightful affair in every respect for the large number of couples who participated and not a few spectators, who occupied seats in the gallery. The german was led by Mr. Richard Bradley, the decorations were in every way fitting an affair of the kind and the music by Kneissel's orchestra was excellent. Among the couples present and dancing were:

- Miss Madeline DeRosset, Mr. Alex P. Adrian; Miss Lilla Bellamy, Mr. J. Hargrave Taylor; Miss Leonora Canwell, Mr. W. G. Kraft; Mrs. T. C. DeRosset, Mr. Swift M. Boatwright; Miss Patterson of Petersburg, Va.; Mr. Milton Calder; Miss Daisy Burbank, Mr. H. B. Peschau; Maj. and Mrs. E. W. VanCourt Lucas; Miss Elovin Burruss, Mr. J. C. MacRae, Jr.; Miss Heloise Beebe, Mr. Burke H. Bridges; Mr. and Mrs. J. McRee Hatch; Miss Pugh, of Raleigh; Mr. Louis B. Hatch; Miss Bessie Burruss, Mr. A. Sydney Bayles; Mr. and Mrs. J. Victor Grainger; Miss Minnie Beebe, Capt. C. McD. Davis; Mr. and Mrs. Edwin A. Metts; Miss Luella Murchison, Mr. R. E. Williams; Miss Margaret Bridges, Mr. Raymond Hunt; Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Willard; Miss Bessie Gore, Mr. Harry P. West; Miss Ellis, of New Orleans; Mr. John B. Peschau; Miss Willis, of Richmond; Mr. E. P. Bailey; Miss Alexander, of Chapel Hill; Mr. Robert E. Calder; Miss Jean Pemberton, of Fayetteville; Mr. W. L. Smith, Jr.; Miss London, of Pittboro; Mr. George Davis; Miss Seabreeze, Mr. Clayton Giles, Jr.; Miss Reba Bridges, Mr. Graham Kenan; Miss Jennie Murchison, Mr. Preston Cumming, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. Marsden Bellamy, Jr.; Miss Tallulah DeRosset, Mr. N. J. Heyward, of Charlotte; Miss Ida Evans, of Warrenton, Va.; Mr. W. L. Moore; Miss Mary Calder, Mr. Paul W. Schenck, of Greensboro; Mrs. Jessie Kenan Wise, Mr. A. B. Skelding.

UNION DEPOT MATTER.

Hearing Today Before Corporation Commission in U. S. Court Room.

Members of the North Carolina Corporation Commission will today begin at 10 o'clock this morning a hearing to the railway officials of the Seaboard Air Line and the Atlantic Coast Line, with reference to the petition of business men, asking that the roads establish a union depot in Wilmington, the needs of which are generally apparent. The hearing will be held in the U. S. Court room through the courtesy of Postmaster T. E. Wallace, who is custodian of the building. The petition of citizens will be presented by President J. A. Taylor, of the Chamber of Commerce, and President L. B. Rogers, of the Wilmington Merchants' Association.

Superintendent W. J. Jenks, of this division of the Seaboard Air Line, and Corporation Commissioner E. C. Beddingfield arrived in the city this morning on the beated train from Hamlet but it is thought that other members of the Commission were left in Hamlet last night as the train from Raleigh was late and did not connect with the Wilmington train. Supt. Jenks and Mr. Beddingfield were at Lumberton looking after the union depot being built there.

CORPORATION BILLS

Most Sweeping One of All in General Assembly By Williams Yesterday.

SIMMONS IS RE-ELECTED

Unfavorable Report on Douglas Soda Fountain Bill—Large Number of Local Measures in Both Houses Proceedings in Detail.

(By So. Bell Long Distance Phone.) Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 23.—In the lower house of the General Assembly today the most sweeping public service corporation bill of the session was introduced by Williams, of Duplin. It will live in history as the "Williams' Earning Bill." It provides that railroads and other public service corporations shall not be allowed to declare more than six per cent dividends annually, this to be estimated on the actual value of the property as will be fixed by the Corporation Commission. Each company shall be permitted, however, to reserve ten per cent of its property valuation as a reserve fund but all other earnings must be paid into the State treasury for the benefit of the State. The Corporation Commission is to have power to investigate all the affairs of officials, reducing them when excessive and otherwise exercising a general control of such affairs. The bill went to the Committee on Public Service Corporations, but is not taken seriously by a majority of the members of the Assembly.

The House and Senate in joint session today verified the vote for United States Senator as cast in both branches of the Assembly yesterday, this being required by law. The result was declared by President Winston and Speaker Justice as follows: Simmons, 116; Spencer B. Adams, 24; J. J. Britt, of Buncombe, 2. The election of Senator Simmons to succeed himself was duly declared.

In the Senate today Mr. Lovell, of Watauga, introduced a bill to allow a payment of \$100 per month to Mrs. Stonewall Jackson, of Charlotte, during the term of her life. The bill was referred to the Committee on Pensions.

In the House. Important bills in the House today were: By Knoox, of Onslow, to promote the safety of the traveling public and prohibiting the movement of ordinary freights on the Sabbath; Williams, of Duplin, to provide for the working of the Kenansville and Magnolia sand clay road; to amend the charter of Grove Academy, of Duplin; to amend 1409 of the Revised Code, relative to the election of Justices of the Peace; providing for the payment of jurors serving in the allotment of widows' dowers; to validate certain defective probates.

Mr. Morton, of New Hanover, introduced a bill to allow the commissioners of New Hanover county to issue bonds and call for a special tax election for public school purposes. The main object of the bill is to provide larger and more adequate building facilities in Wilmington.

Among the bills passed by the House: To increase the number of commissioners in Harnett county; to prevent the felling of trees and damming of waters in Sandy Run, in Onslow county; to amend the charter of a school in Sampson county; Senate bill ceding to the United States public building sites in this State, giving the national government exclusive jurisdiction; joint resolution empowering the Senate and House railroad committees to send for books and papers of corporations in their investigation of public service corporations; to appoint Justices of the Peace in Columbus county; to make ten years absolute separation grounds for divorce, where there are no children; to define boundaries between North Carolina and Virginia; to regulate the making up of cases on appeal.

In the Senate. Among bills introduced in the Senate today: By Turner, of Pasquotank, to compel Superior Court judges to open courts promptly on Monday of the term; Pharr, of Mecklenburg, to amend chapter 83 of the Revised Code to building and loan associations; Holt, to define special school tax districts, making township lines the unit; Aycock, of Wayne, limiting the amount of land to be held by corporations; Bellamy, of Brunswick, to punish larceny or the temporary use of automobiles and street cars; Turner, of Pasquotank, to require different uniforms for members of the chaingangs where the violation is only for a misdemeanor; Lovell, of Watauga, to prevent the damage of timber by setting fire to woods; Drewry, of Wake, to define the status of persons soliciting life insurance.

Among bills passed: To legalize acts of T. J. Hagood, a justice of the peace in Bertie county, who had married a couple after his commission had expired; to amend section 5435 of the Code, so as to allow veterinary surgeons to register without examination until 1908, instead of 1906, as now; Drewry's bills to regulate insurance companies and prohibit diversion of funds for political purposes; to prohibit misrepresentation by life insurance companies.

The Senate discussed at length a bill by Drewry to prevent discrimination by insurance companies, taking life risks, but it was referred to the committee.

The Committee on Propositions and Grievances today concluded its hearing of the Douglas soda fountain bill and voted seven to six on an unfavorable report. This means that there will be a minority report, and the bill will be fought out on the floor. The bill makes it a misdemeanor to sell from soda fountains any decoction containing caffeine, strychnine, cocaine or coal tar products. There were quite a number of petitions from druggists all over the State against the bill, notably from Charlotte, Wilmington and Fayetteville.

A girl who has had experience in and work and feeding ruling machines may obtain employment by applying at the Star Office.

AFFAIRS IN RALEIGH

Several Corporations Chartered—Legislative Hearings—Resignation of Col. James—State Bar Association—Other Notes.

(Special Star Correspondence.) Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 23.—The Corporation Commission will go to Wilmington tomorrow to hold a hearing on the union depot matter.

The Secretary of State today granted a charter for the Vulcan Engine and Machine Company, of Wilmington; capital, \$10,000 authorized and \$3,000 subscribed. J. A. Lockfaw, J. L. Grafflin and others are the incorporators.

The House Committee on Propositions and Grievances has begun the hearing of the Douglas bill to prevent the sale of "dope" drinks at soda fountains in the State, and final action as to favorable or unfavorable report will be taken tomorrow evening. Representatives of druggists associations in the State and attorneys for Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Cola and a number of the other leading fountain drinks are actively opposing the bill before the committee.

The joint railroad committees of the House and Senate will begin tomorrow afternoon the hearings, pro and con, on the several bills that are pending in the Assembly for the reduction of freight and passenger rates and the more general control of railroads by the Corporation Commission. The sessions are to be held afternoons and evenings in the Senate chamber, with a view to affording an opportunity for all the legislators who so desire to hear the discussions. Senator Graham, of Orange, is chairman.

The legislative committee of the North Carolina Firemen's Association is here for the purpose of getting through the General Assembly a bill allowing the Association two per cent on the premiums paid in the State for a fund to benefit injured firemen and their families.

The executive committee of the State Bar Association held a lengthy session here last night for the consideration of several matters including some legislation for which the association went on record at Wrightsville last summer. Another meeting will be held in the Spring to decide the place of meeting which will be Waverlyville or Towaway.

George R. Roberts, of Wilmington, is president and Thomas W. Davis, Esq., of Wilmington, secretary and treasurer.

A recruiting office is to be opened here Friday and sixteen branch offices will be located at different points in the State; one being at Wilmington. Captain Winston, U. S. A., will be in charge of the stations.

Col. T. C. James, of Wilmington, lieutenant colonel of the 2nd regiment of the National State Guard, has tendered his resignation to Adjutant General Robertson—an announcement which will be received with regret.

Colonel James has been prominently identified with the State Guard since 1875 and was especially conspicuous for his patriotic services in the Wilmington race troubles of 1898. The successor of Colonel James will be elected at a meeting of the officers of the Second regiment to be called at an early date.

POLICE COURT YESTERDAY.

Dissolute White Woman Deported. Negro Held for Larceny.

Margie Butler, a white woman of ill repute at whose house in Wilson's alley young William I. Taylor committed suicide during the holidays, was before the Mayor yesterday on a charge of being drunk at Orrell & Alexander's stables and beating a hack driver Tuesday midnight. She had been given orders to leave the city just after the suicide, but explained to the Mayor yesterday that she had not yet had time to get her household goods off. She said that she wanted to reform and had made an honest effort to do so, but the cotton mills had closed their doors to her and she had no alternative to the life she was leading. At length she promised to go to her home at Charlotte and was seen by an officer off on the Seaboard train yesterday afternoon.

Chas. Fisher, colored, drunk and down, was given 30 days on the roads. Maggie Davis, colored, charged with vagrancy, was found not guilty and discharged. Chas. Jones, charged with the larceny of a pair of pants from a Syrian merchant and arrested by Officer E. Piner, was required to give \$100 bond for the Superior Court.

tion by insurance companies, taking life risks, but it was referred to the committee.

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(Continued on Fourth Page.)

SIX FOR LIFE TRIAL

Five Arraignments For Capital Felonies in New Hanover Superior Court Yesterday

ALL PLEADED NOT GUILTY

Jail Cases About All Off the Docket. Several Sentences to Roads. Suits for Recovery of Insurance Policies on Boat.

The defendants in five of the six capital cases for trial at the present term of court were formally arraigned in New Hanover Superior Court shortly before the recess for the day at 6:30 o'clock yesterday evening. They are Sergeant Smith, colored, charged with burglary in entering the residence of Mr. W. M. Godwin while in a drunken condition about 10 o'clock, Saturday night a week ago; Kate Fisher, an Albino woman who entered the home of Section Master A. T. Lamb, at Wrightsboro, just before the holidays; Frank James, an ex-convict charged with the murder of Beatie Johnson by cutting her throat at Eleventh and Market streets on the night of November 17th; William Ashe, colored, who is charged with the murder of Mary McCoy on Sept. 26th, last year, and Lonnie Snipes, the young brewery clerk, charged with the killing of W. L. Williams, a traveling man, in a house of ill repute on MacRae street, on Sept. 14th last year. All entered the formal plea of not guilty and arrangements are now being made for setting the trials this and next week. The sixth capital case is that of Joe Murphy, colored, charged with inflicting injuries which subsequently caused the death of Ellis Benjamin, a negro, at his home in Florence, S. C. The grand jury has not yet returned a true bill in this case but it will probably do so today.

With the proceedings of the court yesterday, nearly all the jail cases except the capital felonies have been disposed of. Solicitor Duffy and Judge Long having made phenomenal progress with the docket during the past three days. The greatest interest in the capital cases will be in that of young Lonnie Snipes. He appeared in court yesterday for arraignment with his attorneys, Messrs. Marsden Bellamy, Herbert McClammy and Walter P. Gafford. He wore a neat black suit, well fitting rain coat and betrayed little nervous excitement at the ordeal which awaits him. An effort was made to set the date of his trial after the arraignment but nothing was agreed upon. In answer to an inquiry from the court Mr. McClammy thought it would require four days for trial. Mr. Bellamy thought at least three days would be a fair estimate, while Solicitor Duffy saw no reason why it should not be completed within two days at most. The great difficulty of securing a jury was recognized as more than half the battle.

Frank James and William Ashe are without counsel and were represented in their formal arraignment by Woodson Kellam and Herbert McClammy, Esqs. Judge Long remarked upon the injustice of the present attorneys to the defense of the cases, very often at a personal sacrifice to the attorneys appointed and said that he would take some time to make inquiry as to what attorneys he would appoint, at the same time advising the defendants to secure counsel if they could. Sergeant Smith and Kate Fisher, the Albino, charged with burglary, are represented by Brocke G. Empe, Esq. Mr. Duffy said yesterday that these two cases would probably be taken up first. He will have no assistance in the prosecution of any of the capital cases.

Court met yesterday morning at 9:30 o'clock and Sheriff Cowan returned the talesmen ordered for the day. Mr. Stephen Jewett was the only one of the number who succeeded in having his excuse for non-service O. K'd by His Honor. The docket was entered upon at once. EM. Davis, colored, was given 30 days on the roads. Henry 3 1-2 months on the roads. Henry Davis, colored, charged with implication in the Mamie Garfield shooting at Second and Brunswick streets last Saturday night, was given five months on the roads.

About 1 o'clock the jury which had been out all night on a case of carry concealed weapons against Dystan Henderson, Mr. Empe's client, brought in a verdict of guilty. The following order was made in the case by Judge Long: "The jury having been out for some time before rendering a verdict, incurring cost for board and lodging, the court in lieu of imposing a fine, adjudges that the defendant pay the cost of the board and lodging of the jury, officers and other court costs and upon doing so, judgment is suspended on good behavior." The negro paid up according to the order and was discharged.

Wm. H. Clay, LeRoy Jackson and Estelle Gause, colored, charged with burglarizing the store of Mr. Louis Tyndall in the northern part of the city some time ago and receiving goods stolen from the stock knowing them to have been stolen, were found guilty. Clay was given four years on the roads; Jackson two years on the

(Continued on Fourth Page.)