

OUTLINES.

Two hundred or more miners lost their lives yesterday morning by a fire-damp explosion in a Prussian coal mine; at least accounts 164 dead bodies had been taken out and many more were removed in a terribly injured condition; 600 men were in the shaft when the explosion occurred.
In the Senate yesterday, Beveridge, of Indiana, spoke on his anti-child labor bill, and declared that the cotton factories, railroads and coal operators in the South oppose a child labor law.
Nine men are now in the jury box for the trial of Harry K. Thaw, in New York, for the murder of Stanford White; the taking of evidence may begin Wednesday; all the Thaw family were in court yesterday, as was also May McKenzie, who denied that the family fell out over her attendance and intimacy with young Mrs. Thaw.
By the explosion of an ice machine in the Armour plant in Chicago yesterday three men were killed and sixteen injured. A street car conductor upon whose wife Dr. Charles W. Townsend is said to have performed an unsuccessful operation, causing her death, has been arrested in New York for the mysterious murder of the doctor early Saturday morning.
A terrible squall at Hong Kong, China, yesterday morning resulted in the sinking of fifty vessels and the loss of 109 lives in the space of ten minutes.
Stocks took another tumble on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday, said to be due to nervousness in financial circles over President Roosevelt's anti-corporation crusade.
New York markets: Money on call, steady at 2 1/2 to 4 per cent; ruling rate, 3-4; closing bid, offered at 2 1/2; spot cotton, steady, 11 cents; flour, dull, but steady; wheat easy, No. 2, 81 1/2 elevator; corn, easy, No. 2, 55 1/2; oats, steady, mixed, 41 1/2; turpentine and rosin, firm.

Many a job is open to the individual who carries weight enough to sit on the lid of the family jar.

The North Carolina Legislature is disposed to make it hard for the people to have a soft snap in selling soft drinks.

President Roosevelt is blamed for the fall of the stock market and yet Senator Foraker is determined to go on inviting his finish.

The Indianapolis Star insists that "opportunity is knocking at the door of Democracy." What we want to see is whether it will walk in and make itself at home after it sees the man who is going to open the door.

We prefer the recent visit of Florida weather to the visitation of the Dakota variety which the weather bureau forecasted and which came in on schedule time on Sunday. However, we are lucky in missing the sleet and snow which caught the up-country.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch remarks: "There is now a movement under way to secure equal rights for husband and wives. Bitter opposition from the married ladies is, of course, anticipated." Suppose equal rights are provided for, married men will want to know who is going to enforce them in their behalf.

The importance of forests is emphasized by the determination of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to grow forests for a future source of supplying cross-ties. This should impress everybody in North Carolina that every tree has a positive value. The wanton destruction of a tree is a crime and a forest fire is a calamity the magnitude of which we do not begin to appreciate.

The Jamaican earthquake or the eruption of Meana Loa, Hawaii, seems to have affected the Gulf Coast oil fields. A Galveston dispatch says seventeen oil wells in Texas and Louisiana ceased to yield any oil the second day after the earthquake, and all the wells on the coast have decreased 45 per cent in the yield. However, the wells in North Texas increased 100 per cent after the Jamaica quake and the product is much lighter. Is it a result or merely a coincidence? Here is a chance for the scientists to get busy.

This item comes from the Charlotte Observer: "When an Observer man called on Gen. G. F. Duke at the police station yesterday and asked him if there was anything doing he answered not in word but by pointing his finger to a basket under the table. In the vessel were 18 bottles of beer. Hard by was a dress suit case that contained two jugs of corn whiskey. Sergeant Pitts and his men raided the home of Carrie Davis, at 510 South Mint street, and got the honor out of Josie Gist, a sister of Will Chalk, who lives at Spencer. Chalk had fled when the officers reached the place." Will's sister Josie seems to have been well tanked on this occasion. Her carrying capacity is like that of a freight car.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No Matters of Special Importance in Either House of Legislature Yesterday.

TWO BILLS BY MR. MORTON

Prisoners Must be Separated and Fed Well.—Senator Bellamy's Bill For Brunswick Railroad—Act Relative to Firemen and Etc.

(By So. Bell Long Distance Phone.) Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 28.—The proceedings in neither branch of the General Assembly were especially important today. Many of the members were absent over Sunday, and did not return until well in the day. Among the bills of note introduced in the House today were the following:

Blount, to require banks holding State funds to pay interest on the same.
Koonce, to relieve the people from unreasonable restrictions in fire insurance policies. This provides that it shall be unlawful to include in policies the co-insurance clause and any restriction that would prevent the insured in case of fire from receiving the full amount of his policy for which premiums had been paid. The penalty prescribed is \$25 for each violation.

Wells, to appoint justices of the peace in Rocky Point township, Pender county.
Harris, to create a Firemen's Relief Fund and increase the efficiency of the fire departments in the State. This is the bill urged by the State Firemen's Association providing that one per cent of premiums in towns and cities shall go to a relief fund for the firemen and their families in case of accidents or death.

Weaver, to amend the revisal relative to State boundaries.
Morton, of New Hanover, to separate the races in jails, convict camps and other places of imprisonment.

Morton, of New Hanover, to provide class of food for prisoners in jails, convict camps and other places of imprisonment.

Cowles, to amend the law increasing the property limit for pensioners from \$500 to \$750. No soldier may receive a pension if he owns more than \$750 in property instead of \$500 as now.

The House today passed the Laughinghouse bill prohibiting the use of pound and Dutch acts in Pamlico river. The discussion of this bill lasted more than two hours, and was passed in the House in spite of an unfavorable report from the committee. The House also passed the bill giving an additional \$20,000 to the Jamestown Exposition.

In the Senate the following were among bills introduced:

Buxton, of Forsyth, to prevent the sale and manufacture of adulterated products in North Carolina; to provide a uniform stamp for articles of gold and silver merchandise in the State; to prohibit the manufacture and sale of adulterated and deleterious foods, drugs and liquors.

Thorne, to amend the charter of the Bank of Rocky Mount.

Bellamy, to authorize the commissioners of Brunswick county to subscribe to the stock of the Wilmington and Brunswick Railroad Company, having for its purpose the building of a line from Navassa or Wilmington.

Among the bills passed were the following:
To amend the charter of the town of Lexington; to amend acts of 1905 relative to close of season for hunting in Pender county; to increase the number of commissioners in Harnett county, adding W. T. McDonald and W. H. Turlington to the board as now constituted.

The Senate tabled the bill pending for some time to define the rights of passengers on entering and leaving railroad trains.

By unanimous consent, Fleming, of Pitt, introduced a bill re-districting the State as to judicial divisions, making 20 instead of 16, with a separate judge and solicitor for each. The bill was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

To Present Military Play.

Mr. Edouard D'Oize, of New York, has arrived in the city and will assist in presenting the military drama "D'Arcy of the Guards" for the benefit of the Wilmington Light Infantry on the evening of February 8th, at the Academy of Music. Mr. D'Oize is pleasantly remembered here from his production of Damon and Pythias assisted by local talent about three months ago. He is now awaiting the manuscript for which has to be paid a heavy royalty for which has to be paid. As soon as the manuscript arrives Mr. D'Oize will assign members of the cast and rehearsals will begin at once. The production promises to be a notable one and will include some of the best known and most talented local thespians.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

John-Gowan's Pneumonia Cure. J. W. H. Fuchs—Big Sale Wednesday.
W. J. Reeves & Newkirk Bros—New Machine Shop.
Business Locals. Wanted—Type-setter. Wanted—Position as Clerk.
Join the Crowd at Rebdor's Clearing Sale.

A CRYSTAL WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schnibben Auspiciously Celebrated Fifteenth Anniversary of Most Happy Wedded Life.

At their hospitable home, northwest corner of Fourth and Dock streets, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schnibben last night most delightfully celebrated their crystal wedding or fifteenth anniversary of their marriage. The pretty home was tastefully decorated and brilliantly lighted for the occasion and during the evening hundreds of friends called to pay their respects to the popular couple and partake of their hospitality in an event fraught with so much happiness for them. Mr. and Mrs. Schnibben were married in Wilmington on the 27th of January 1892 and their home has been blessed with five (five) sons and a daughter, who shared in the honors paid to the host and hostess last evening, each and every one expressing the hope that they might be present with Mr. and Mrs. Schnibben on many more anniversaries of a happy wedded life. A large number of very handsome presents in cut glass and the like were received.

An elaborate wedding supper was served during the evening and the health of the host and hostess was proposed and drunk with hearty good cheer time and time again. Among the responses the happiest were by Rev. W. A. Snyder, pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church; ex-Alderman M. G. Tencken and Mr. Carl W. Polvogt. To each of these expressions of high regard, Mr. Schnibben responded in his accustomed cordial manner.

Mrs. Schnibben was assisted in receiving the large number of guests by Mrs. John H. Hiltze and Mrs. Minnie E. Mitchell, who were extremely gracious and made every one a most cordial welcome.

The host of the occasion has been since its reorganization as a paid institution, chief of the Wilmington Fire Department and the city has no more popular and efficient an official. Many friends who could not be with Mr. and Mrs. Schnibben last night upon their wedding anniversary will join the Star in wishing them a full measure of happiness as the years roll by for the pretty affair last night was a bright reflex of a most happy wedded life.

TOURIST HOTEL PROJECT

Meeting at Chamber of Commerce Tomorrow Afternoon For Report.

Whether Wilmington is to have a first-class new and modern tourist hotel anywhere in the near future will depend on the interest manifested and the encouragement given at tomorrow afternoon's mass meeting of citizens to be held in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce at 4 o'clock. Mr. Dick, who has the matter in special charge and committee appointed to forward the movement will make report and it is hoped that there will be a full attendance of all citizens. An attendance upon the meeting does not entail an obligation to subscribe to stock and it is hoped to have many who will lend their moral support to the movement if nothing more.

The plans of the committee will be gone into fully and the report will be found interesting to those who have the good of Wilmington at heart. It is hoped to have a very large attendance.

New Machine Shops.

Messrs. W. J. Reeves and W. S. and H. F. Newkirk have opened a first-class machine shop at No. 109 Water street, the stand formerly occupied by the C. M. Whitlock shops, and announce that they are now prepared to give first class service, especially in all kinds of machine, engine and boiler repairs. The gentlemen composing the firm are practical men and the new shop promises exceedingly well. They are fully equipped and respectfully solicit a share of the public patronage. The style of the firm is W. J. Reeves & Newkirk Bros.

Bishop-Riggs Marriage.

A wedding of much interest to many friends was that of Miss Nollie Bishop and Mr. Julian A. Riggs, both of this city. They were married Sunday evening at 6:30 o'clock in a quiet but very pretty ceremony in Market Street M. E. parsonage, the Rev. W. L. Rexford officiating. A number of friends and relatives of the young people witnessed the happy event. After receiving the happiest congratulations of their many friends, Mr. and Mrs. Riggs repaired to their comfortable new home, 903 Orange street, where they will reside in the future.

Penalty Suite Again Continued.

The 300-odd penalty suits by the Hannah Box Shook Company against the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company were again continued in Justice Furlong's court yesterday until this morning at 10:30 o'clock. The continuance was to give Herbert McClammy, Esq., attorney for the plaintiff, time to make answer or replication to a further demurrer in behalf of the railroad company.

Boy about 14 years old wanted to make fires, bring water, etc. Apply at the Star Office.

Visit Geo. O. Gaylord's today for values.

SEARCHING INQUIRY

Legislative Committee at Raleigh Would Have Railway Officials On Rack.

QUESTIONS ARE DIKECTED

Southern, Atlantic Coast Line and Seaboard Officials are Asked All About Their Business—Must Have Answers.

(By So. Bell Long Distance Phone.) Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 28.—The joint committee on railroads and public service corporations of the Senate and House of the present session of the North Carolina Assembly today sent letters to the general officers of the Southern, Seaboard Air Line and Atlantic Coast Line railway companies containing 27 questions, which they desire answered in three days to assist them in making a report on the various railway legislation bills now pending in the Assembly. The questions submitted in the main are as follows:

The value of tangible property in and outside the State.
Itemized salaries of officials receiving \$2,000 per year and more.

Accounts of all private car expenses.
List of persons receiving free transportation during the year 1906, exclusive of operators, but including attorneys.

Produce the books of the company for the past year, with a proper person before the committee to swear to the accuracy of the same.

Give terminal expenses in detail for North Carolina.

Give all attorney's fees except those paid regularly to attorneys in court trials.

Amounts paid directly or indirectly in connection with the Legislature of any State and paid direct or indirectly to any and all newspapers.

Give amount of money raised during the past five years on the sale of stocks or bonds outside of regular earnings.

Give detailed statement of expenses for maintenance of way and expenses for past five years, especially itemized since 1906.

Give amounts charged to cross-ties since 1900 and amounts actually spent together with what became of the remainder.

Further questions are asked as to distribution between inter and intra State expenses of operating trains; amount of mortgaged bonds outstanding and the present value of same; amount of common and preferred stock and value of same.

The Atlantic Coast Line is asked as to the issuance of additional stock to the holders of original stock in the old Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, the value of all such distribution to these stockholders, together with the reasons therefor.

Emphasis is laid on the fact that these figures are wanted by Wednesday, when the joint committees will be again in session for the hearing of pending legislation. At the capital the request of the committee is regarded by many as unreasonable, not only as to the time it is required that the answers be before the committee, but as to the subject matter of these inquiries.

The House Committee on Public Service Corporations tonight voted 9 to 5 to report favorably the Manning bill to require different telephone companies to maintain joint stations for transmitting long distance and local messages. Representative Young, for the committee, reported that so far as his committee could ascertain, every telephone company in the State opposes the bill as impracticable.

In the House today Dr. Gordon, of Guilford, introduced a bill providing that all roads in the State earning \$1,400 per mile or more shall charge only 2 and 2 1/2 cents a mile passenger rate, and roads earning less than that per mile 3 cents passenger rates.

NEW GROVE OF DRUIDS.

Preliminary Meeting Held Last Night—The Charter Forwarded.

Myrtle Grove No. 3, Ancient Order of United Druids, is the name selected last night for the new branch of the popular order recently organized in Wilmington by State Organizer Frank Meier, of this city. There were about 40 present to affix their names to the charter list which was forwarded at once to the Supreme Arch at his headquarters in New York. Mr. Meier presided at the meeting and made a splendid address on the objects of the organization and the beautiful principles which inspire members of the order. The meeting was very enthusiastic and augurs well for the new grove which is composed of some of the leading men in the city in all walks of life.

A reception committee with Mr. S. J. Davis as chairman was appointed to arrange for refreshments upon the occasion of the installation of the Lodge by Linden Grove No. 2, upon receipt of the charter.

Big Life Policy Paid. Through Capt. W. M. Stevenson, the local agent, the Prudential Insurance Company yesterday paid to the estate of the late John F. Garrell \$12,500, the same being amount of the policy carried by Mr. Garrell in that company.

FIGHT WITH BAD MAN

Deperate Negro Charged With Abducting Wife of Another Man, Gave Officers Lively Encounter Yesterday Afternoon.

Neal Blackmon, a big and powerful negro, "kept the flies off" Constable Savage and Messrs. Tom and Lattie Croom, while resisting arrest for ten or fifteen minutes at the restaurant of Peter Evans, colored, at Water and Grace streets early yesterday afternoon. The officers were after the big negro on a warrant from Justice Furlong's court charging him with running off with the wife of Frank Freeman, a negro from Cronly, N. C., the noon train and located the truant wife and Blackmon at the Peter Evans hostelry. He immediately applied to Justice Furlong for a warrant charging the man with abducting his wife and the officers named went to serve the papers. Blackmon quietly submitted to arrest at first but when started up town to the magistrate's office, he gave a jerk which sent Constable Savage, Officer Croom and himself rolling on the pavement. A desperate fight ensued, in which Mr. Savage had a hand badly lacerated and bruised as the result of a blow he dealt the big fellow across the mouth. Officer Croom dislocated a thumb in the melee. The negro emerged from the fray with a black eye and several other bruises. The officers took from the negro's person a pistol and razor which he was not given an opportunity of getting into action else the consequences might have been more serious. Once subdued, the negro went on to jail without trouble and the officers went to the nearest drug store and had their wound dressed. Special Officer Lattie Croom was in charge of the Freeman woman at the time and was not injured. She too was locked up in jail and the hearing will take place before Justice Furlong at noon today. Additional warrants have been sworn out against Blackmon, charging him in two cases with carrying a concealed weapon. The penalty for abduction of a man's wife as charged in the original case ranges from one to ten years confinement in the State prison and aggrieved husband who remains in the city from Cronly is confident that he can make out a case against Blackmon.

FOUND DEAD IN WOODS.

Body of George D. McKinnie, Who Disappeared a Week Previous.

One arm under the head as if in quiet repose, a tarpaulin thrown over him the lifeless body of George D. McKinnie, a white fisherman living in the southern part of the city, was found in the woods near Greenfield mill pond by Mr. Ed. Littleton Sunday morning. Mr. McKinnie had been missing from his home in the city since Sunday a week ago, and the finding of the body cleared up the mystery as to his disappearance. He was secretive in his temperament and frequently left home without informing his family, so they were not unduly alarmed when he had been gone several days, thinking, perhaps, that he had gone down the river on business.

The body was in a badly decomposed state, and Coroner Bell who was summoned to view the remains, gave the opinion that death had resulted from heart failure and exposure. He had evidently been wandering in the woods and became sick, lying down and expiring before he could get near enough the road to summons assistance.

The remains were taken in charge by Undertaker W. W. King, and were interred in Bellevue cemetery Sunday afternoon, after funeral services by Elder P. T. C. Green, of the Front Street Advent Church. The deceased leaves two sons and two daughters, the latter being Mrs. A. T. Piver and Mrs. Luther Curtis, of Wilmington.

COLD WAVE ON TIME.

Weather Bureau "Right There With the Goods" Saturday.

The cold wave predicted by the Weather Bureau Saturday came in on time Sunday, which was a very disagreeable day. Rain fell intermittently during the day, with a slowly decreasing temperature, so that nightfall brought the first sleet of the year. However, this continued but a short time. There was a good fall of snow in Richmond and Norfolk during the day, and evening trains arriving Sunday were covered with the "beautiful." The fall in Richmond was three inches, and it continued this way as far south as Rocky Mount. Yesterday it was quite cold, the temperature at 8 o'clock yesterday morning having been seven degrees below freezing. Thermometers went one degree lower after sun-up, but toward night there was a rise of the mercury only freezing being recorded officially at 8 o'clock last night. The forecast for today is fair and warmer, light to fresh northeast winds.

Preacher in The Toils.

A colored preacher giving the name Rev. Thomas DeBerry was arrested by Constable Savage yesterday on a charge of abandonment and non-support. He will be given trial this morning at 9 o'clock. Herbert McClammy, Esq., appears for the defence and Walter P. Gafford, Esq., for the prosecution.

Ladies' cloaks below cost today at Gaylord's.

TAXES ARE SETTLED

Books of Retiring Sheriff Stedman Audited and Accepted by Commissioners Yesterday

VERY CREDITABLE SHOWING

Special Meeting of Board to Consider Several Important Matters—Further Legislation Including Bond Issue For Road.

Sheriff Frank H. Stedman yesterday made settlement of taxes collected for the year 1906 and now retires to private life, after having served the county faithfully for four years. Since his term expired on the first Monday in December, he and Deputy James H. Taylor, Jr., have been hard at work on the delinquents and their efforts in this direction show up well on the receipts as turned over yesterday to County Treasurer Green, the percentage of collections as shown from the figures being something over 99 per cent of the book showing. Of course, some delinquent taxes not shown on the books contributed to this percentage of the total, but the showing is a remarkable one. What remains yet on the books is turned over to the county attorney for collection as "back taxes."

The settlement with the sheriff was made at a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock, with Treasurer Green present in an advisory capacity. The figures show collections during the year as follows: General County fund, \$47,263.34; road sinking fund, \$5,140.06; special county fund, \$1,285; school fund, \$38,834.68. The total of all taxes collected was \$92,522.68. In the county there were 1,097 delinquent poll tax payers, of which number 509 are white and 588 colored. While the number seems large, it includes many who have removed from the county and many who have died without property since the first of last June. The number is not really quite as large as last year.

Mr. Taylor, who has been with Sheriff Stedman as office deputy, retains that position with Sheriff Cowan, and began those duties yesterday. He will prove an excellent man to New Hanover's excellent sheriff.

At the meeting of the Commissioners yesterday afternoon a number of other matters of general interest were taken up. In view of the improvements that are to be made at the jail beginning early next week, the sheriff was instructed to employ extra deputies to securely guard the prisoners confined there while the work is going on. The sheriff is authorized to confine the prisoners in either the front portion of the jail or in the city prison, as may be arranged.

A resolution was passed instructing the County Attorney to prepare a bill to be presented to the present session of the Legislature, empowering the County Commissioners to employ a licensed accountant to examine and audit such books of the county officials as the Commissioners may direct.

The county attorney was also instructed to prepare and forward to the Legislature a bill authorizing the Commissioners to call for an election on an additional \$50,000 in bonds for the continuance of the permanent road and bridge improvement of the county. While the power under the bill may not be exercised, it was pointed out that the Legislature does not meet again in two years and there can be no harm in having the authority conferred in case it should be deemed advisable to call for more bonds. This is especially with a view of building an iron or steel bridge over the Northeast river at Castle Haynes, in which the counties of New Hanover and Pender will join. The present road fund is by no means exhausted, and until it is there will be no second issue.

The matter of sending a delegation to Raleigh to urge the passage of the Recorder's Court bill was discussed at the meeting yesterday and it is probable that the committee from both the city and county will leave for Raleigh today. A hearing on the bill will be had either tomorrow or Thursday night. County Attorney Bellamy will go with the delegation, and they are confident of a favorable report from the committee, and the ultimate passage of the measure by both houses of the Assembly.

Young People's League.

The young people's leagues of the four Methodist congregations in the city are arranging to hold a series of meetings jointly during the second week in February. Pastors of Wilmington churches will be asked to be the speakers at the several meetings to be held during the period named.

Project Will Probably Fail.

Until a new law is gotten through the Legislature, it is likely that the project of re-paving Front street will fail. A number of property owners along the street are signing a petition asking the Aldermen not to repave the streets, if the cost of same is to be assessed against abutting property owners who have already paid their pro rata share of the cost of the present pavement.

Wanted, young man experienced in running cylinder presses, and who is a fast feeder. Apply at Star Office.