

OUTLINES.

On account of an explosion in the Stewart coal mine in Fayette County, West Virginia yesterday 50 or 60 miners lost their lives; their families are crowded around the shaft and the scenes are distressing.—By a delayed blast on the South & Western Railroad four Italians were killed yesterday near Bristol, Va.—New Cumberland, W. Va. is stirred up because Miss Nellie Campbell, chief operator of the local telephone exchange was assaulted and found unconscious, gagged and bound to a chair.—In Philadelphia last night fire caused by an explosion burned an entire section of the Baldwin Locomotive works, causing \$1,000,000 damage and throwing 1,000 men out of employment.—The Thaw trial in New York was marked by a big surprise yesterday, when for reasons withheld by the court, two of the jurymen heretofore accepted were excused from further service; two others were accepted, but the jury lacks three of being completed: Thaw was in high spirits and his mother, sisters and wife and May McKenzie all chatted together in the most friendly manner.—In the House yesterday Representative Lever, of South Carolina, stirred up a hornet's nest by offering a rider to the Agricultural appropriation bill providing \$3,000,000 for the proposed Appalachian and White Mountain forest reserves bill: Towner objected, but Lever expressed his opinion of Speaker Cannon and his henchmen for holding up the bill.—New York markets: Money on call steady 2-2 to 3-4 percent, ruling rate 3-1-2, closing bid 2 offered at 2-1-2; spot cotton steady 11 cents; four firm, but dull; wheat steady, No. 2 red 51-3-4 elevator; corn steady, No. 2 55 1-2 elevator; oats firmer, mixed 42; turpentine firm 73 1-2 to 74; rosin firm.

A pessimist—Oh, yes, he's the fellow who takes drinks out of a pony glass and sees all kinds of nightmares coming down the pike.

"How can we make women charming?" asks a magazine writer. You can't make 'em. It is up to a woman to make herself charming. No one else can do it for her.

No use to fall out with Governor Swettenham, of Jamaica, till we find out whether he is a harmless freak or has made up his mind to be the Governor Vardeman of the tropics.

Senator Bailey blames his troubles on William Randolph Hearst and his string of yellow journals. A "yellow" is one that doesn't agree with us or suit our taste.

The North Carolina Legislature is going to pass a law that will thrice the trusts," declares a contemporary. If it does President Roosevelt will hanker after borrowing the Legislature to coach Congress.

"A groveling controversion" faculty is what Senator Carmack, of Tennessee, attributes to Senator Tillman. The South Carolina Senator has a decided knack at knocking, and could easily be promoted to the chair of past master of rag-chewers.

In considering those bids to construct the Panama Canal, President Roosevelt and the Isthmian Canal Commission did not seem to consider that Anson M. Beegs was a Roland for ox Oliver.

January 24th Horace George Rayner shot and killed William Whiteley, the pioneer of department stores, in London, Eng. Four days later, January 25th, Rayner was found guilty of wilful murder. English justice doesn't seem to be slow moving.

Says the Raleigh News and Observer: "The people of North Carolina demand an anti-trust law that has teeth, and woe to the Legislator who fails to support such a law. It were better for him that he had never been born." Yes, but how is a poor legislator to know but what they'll put off on him an anti-trust bill with false teeth?

The Texas Legislature is to investigate the newspaper men reporting its proceedings because some of the newspaper fellows wrote their papers that Senator Bailey carried his point with the legislators "by the use of wine, women and money." The newspaper men may be lying, but they know what it takes to make legislators come across, if anything will.

Says the Indianapolis News: "Sometimes it almost seems as if the Senate might be better engaged than in wrangling over the race question in a way that doesn't accomplish anything except rouse the ire of its members." This is a question which should be avoided unless it is handled in a serious manner by sober-minded men who are seeking to lessen its acuteness in every possible way. The extremists should let it alone and the uninitiated should gum shoe around it.

INCREASED REVENUE

Conference of Board of Education and School Committees Held Yesterday.

MORTON BILL ENDORSED

Want Special Tax For Maintenance And Bond Issue For Building Accommodations—Enthusiastic Addresses by Many.

In response to the call of the County Board of Education there was a fairly large and enthusiastic meeting of the members of that body and school committees from the city and county, together with a number of other persons interested in education, at the Court House yesterday morning at 11 o'clock. The meeting was called for the purpose of considering educational affairs in general and the source of revenue in particular. For a long time the needs of the schools in the latter respect have been apparent and various means have been devised to meet the requirements of the schools, but all the efforts have been unsuccessful thus far. It is now proposed to have the Legislature provide the machinery for calling a special election for the maintenance and improvement of the schools from year to year, and provide for a bond issue to meet the building requirements at present. These provisions are contained in a bill now pending in the General Assembly, having been introduced by Mr. Morton several days ago, but certain alterations and amendments in the original will likely be made to suit the ideas of the committee and members of the Board of Education as expressed at the meeting yesterday.

The proposed legislation required for the proper maintenance of the schools and the enlargement of the building accommodations was presented at the meeting yesterday by Mr. Eugene S. Martin, who had drafted a bill suitable to the Board of Education's ideas of what is wanted. It is proposed to levy a special tax of 15 cents on every \$100 worth of property in the county or in the district. Whether this is to be left to a vote of the people of the county or the district was not stated. The proposed bond issue is for buildings only and the amount asked has not been definitely agreed upon. The plan of the greater revenue was endorsed yesterday and a resolution looking to pressing the matter before the Legislature was unanimously adopted.

There were a number of addresses during the meeting, notably by Mr. W. H. Sprunt, chairman of the Board of Education; Mr. Jas. H. Chadbourne, Mr. John D. Bellamy, Jr., Mr. J. A. Taylor, Capt. Donald MacRae, Mr. George Rountree, County Treasurer Green, Mr. B. B. Humphrey and others. The advantages of consolidation of districts and the establishment of a High School in the city with better support were urged. The reports of Superintendent Blair were quoted to show the absolute need of better accommodations. There are now 2,140 white children enrolled in the schools of the city, with a daily increasing attendance. Only Monday morning there were children from four families who have recently moved to the city, one each from Norfolk, Durham and Wilson and three from Richmond. The enrollment is increasing at the rate of 100 a year and the rooms are already crowded and every desk is occupied, in spite of the fact that 100 were recently added.

Among those present at the conference yesterday were Messrs. Sprunt, MacRae, Rountree and Catlett, of the Board of Education; Superintendent Blair, of the city schools; County Treasurer Green, Mr. Martin, Messrs. J. A. Taylor and Sam Bear, of City School District No. 1; Messrs. J. C. Stevenson, Jas. H. Chadbourne and John D. Bellamy, Jr., of City District No. 2; Messrs. J. R. Canady, J. P. Walton, J. W. Costin, J. P. Herring, C. W. Bishop, W. Hollis, B. B. Humphrey, Owen Martindale, R. M. Wilphrey, J. H. Hanby, E. L. Ennett and others of the county districts. After the meeting the visiting committees were shown over the city schools, a pleasure for each one of them.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

- Academy—Parsifal.
- Jas. M. Hall—Wash Rag Free.
- Atlantic National Bank—Statement.
- J. Hicks Bunting Drug Co.—Laudation.
- Southern National Bank—Statement.
- Murchison National Bank—Statement.
- Peterson & Rufts—Walk-Over Shoes.
- N. Jacobi Hardware Co.—Asbestos Side Irons.
- Business Locals.
- Wanted—Two or Three Rooms.

—There was filed for record yesterday a deed to correct title from Mrs. M. M. D. Hollingsworth to W. R. Walker, for property at southeast corner of Fourth and Chestnut streets. W. M. Cumming and wife transferred to M. W. Teachey, for \$250, property on north side of Wright, 33 feet east of Fourth street, 32x66 feet in size, and on east side of Fourth, 140 feet north of Wright street, 29x132 feet in size.

MINSTREL BENEFIT

Elite Entertainers Will Give Big Production For Knights of Columbus. Monday Night Week—Some of Those to Make The Fun.

Rehearsals for the big benefit minstrel performance to be given at the Academy of Music Monday night, February 11th, by the Elite Entertainers, are progressing satisfactorily and the indications are that the production will be one of the best amateur shows ever undertaken in this city. It is for the benefit of the Wilmington Council, Knights of Columbus, and some of the best talent in the city has been enlisted. Mr. Jere Carewe, of fine stage appearance and most pleasing address, has been secured for interlocutor, and the "ends" will be in capable hands as follows: John Meier, Julius P. Taylor, Willie Daniels, J. M. Rafferty, F. W. Gerken, E. A. Campbell, E. Wilson and A. E. Cornell. Among the sweet singers are Fred Banks, R. C. (Justice) Banks, Matthew D. Meier, A. Dozier, "Fox" Reilly, Willie McGirt, W. B. Muse, Joe Quinlivan, Jas. Williams. The music will be directed by Prof. John F. Kneissel and the full Academy Orchestra will furnish music incidental to the production.

In the big first part some of the numbers will be: "In the Evening by the Moonlight, Dear Louise," by Mr. F. Banks. "I've Said My Last Farewell," by Mr. Campbell. "Somewhere," by Mr. Ed. J. Reilly. "Abraham Jefferson Washington Lee," by Mr. F. W. Gerken. "Love Me and the World is Mine," by Mr. Robert C. Banks. "Anybody But You," by Mr. John Meier. "Will You Love Me in December as You Do in May?" by Mr. W. McGirt. "Turn Over You," by Mr. Julius P. Taylor.

In the olio the Knights of Columbus Band will give a number of tunes, while the Acme Male Quartette will be heard in old favorites; Wilson and Daniels will have a buck and wing dancing skit; Pat Gerken will endeavor to entertain with a monologue on current events; illustrated songs will be put on with accompaniments by Messrs. Reilly and McGirt and a full-fledged blacksmith scene will be given with Mr. Joe Quinlivan at the forge and anvil. All new costumes will be used and all the stage accessories will be first class. At noon on the day of the performance a big street parade will be given and it will be worth walking miles to see. Due announcement will be made of the opening of the box sheet.

COMING OF PARSIFAL.

Richard Wagner's Great Christian Drama at Academy Next Week.

One of the most notable events in the history of the stage in this country, was the grand and magnificent spectacle of Wagner's world renowned drama of "Parsifal," witnessed at the Metropolitan Theatre in New York City. Scholars and students, musicians and artists, and all lovers of the refined and beautiful looked in thousands, from all parts of the New World, to witness this wonderful work.

The press and clergy vied with each other in extolling its many beauties. The intelligent public at large praised and lauded it without exception. "Parsifal" was then, and always will remain so, in the minds of the thousands that witnessed it, by far the most magnificent and beautiful spectacle ever placed upon the stage or presented to the public. It was not limited in name to "opera." Even talented musicians referred to it as a "music drama," or "grand spectacle."

These statements can best be understood by the many of our readers who are more or less familiar with the mythical stories of the "Holy Grail," made famous throughout the world by the most renowned of our poets and scholars. It is a theme that has stirred the hearts and souls of men for ages. It will continue to do so for ages to come. Messrs. Martin and Emery's company, which will present this famous festival play at the Academy Thursday, February 7th, is the only traveling organization doing so. Its massive scenic requirements and the expense of carrying a company large and competent enough to do justice to so grand a production, does not warrant the average theatrical manager in undertaking the task. Two special cars, carrying the paraphernalia and company, are required for this production.

Judgment Against Railroad. In one of the 300-odd penalty suits brought by the Hannah Box Shook Company against the Atlantic Coast Line for delayed freights, judgment was given yesterday against the road by Justice Furlong. The amount was \$35 and Thomas W. Davis, Esq., counsel for the road, gave notice of an appeal. The trial lasted more than two hours. The hearings will be resumed to-day. Mr. Davis signifying his purpose to have a detailed hearing upon each of the complaints. At the rate of progress thus far, it will require more than a year to hear all of the suits and quite as much time in the higher court. Herbert McClammy Esq., appears for the plaintiff.

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

THE REFORMATORY

Associated Charities of Wilmington Gives Its Unqualified Endorsement to Movement

WILL SEND A DELEGATION

Annual Meeting Held Yesterday at The Y. M. C. A. Building Was Enthusiastic in Its Interest in Juvenile Criminals—Action.

The reformatory for youthful criminals in this State received a substantial endorsement at the annual meeting of the Associated Charities of Wilmington yesterday afternoon in the Y. M. C. A. building. Dealing as it does with all classes of abject poverty and depravity in the largest and most important seaport in the State, the Associated Charities is well qualified in perhaps the most valuable enthusiastic endorsement given the idea it spear heads the most valuable when analyzed, that could be proffered in the movement. The action was not alone formal, but it was enthusiastic, several members of the body speaking to the subject and the organization resolving to send a committee to Raleigh to assist the King's Daughters of the State with their fight for a house of correction for youthful offenders. This committee will be named later and in plenty of time for the hearing before the committee of the General Assembly which will probably be next week. The King's Daughters will send to the Legislature a large delegation, several of whom will go from Wilmington. They will bring all possible pressure to bear upon the State lawmakers to provide the much-needed institution.

At the meeting of the Associated Charities yesterday afternoon all the old officers and directors were re-elected except some of the directors whose terms of office have expired. The annual reports were read showing a great amount of work accomplished during the year and the finances in good shape so far as they usually go. Miss Carrie L. Price, the secretary, submitted an exhaustive report of the work and received the warmest thanks of those present for her energy and zeal in the work. Further reference to the splendid work of the Charities will be made in an official manner later.

MR. JOHNSON'S LECTURE.

Very Large Audience Heard Returned Traveler at Church Last Night.

A very large audience completely filling the large auditorium and the gallery of the First Presbyterian Church, heard with infinite pleasure last evening the lecture by Mr. Cameron Johnson, lately returned from Japan. As on the evening before a large number of very fine views were used to illustrate the subject in hand and those present were simply charmed with the entertaining and instructive discourse. The subject was Japan, a country in which people of the United States are peculiarly interested just at present.

To-night the lecture by Mr. Johnson will be repeated and the subject will be Korea, in which country Mr. Johnson has traveled quite extensively, gaining much other valuable information during his long experience in China and Japan. The public is cordially invited to attend. There is absolutely no charge for admission. Rev. A. J. Parker, pastor of Bladen Street M. E. Church, requests that announcement be made that there will be no prayer meeting service at his church to-night and members of the congregation have a cordial welcome to hear the lecture by Mr. Johnson.

THE W. L. I. PLAY.

Saturday Night, February 9th Decided Upon as The Date.

The charity ball to be given on the night of February 8th, has been the cause of the Wilmington Light Infantry's gracefully yielding that date and selecting Saturday night, February 9th, as the time for its big production of "D'Arcy of the Guards," under the direction of Mr. Edouard D'Oize, who is so pleasantly remembered for his recent Pythian benefit in this city. The manuscript for the play arrived yesterday, the company having paid a large royalty for the use of the same. It is a military drama of splendid possibilities and will be put on with an all-star cast of local thespians. Mr. D'Oize met with the members of the company last night at the armory and assigned the parts so that rehearsals will begin at once. Further announcement as to the play and players will be given in due time. The admission will be \$1.00.

The Wasp to Leave.

The U. S. S. Wasp, which has been in port since Sunday last on recruiting duty will leave this evening or early to-morrow morning for Charleston. A number of young men have been interested in the opportunity of the Navy and have been enlisted. To-day will be the last that recruits will be received here and Commander Creghan would be glad to talk to any young man interested, during the hours to-day.

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

THE BERRY ACREAGE

Reduced From 25 to 50 Per Cent. According to Report From Leading Growers—Poor Transportation and Scarcity of Labor.

The Carolina Fruit and Truckers' Journal in its issue this week prints a resume of advices from correspondents over the strawberry belt in which a reduction of acreage from 25 to 50 percent is indicated for the season of 1907. Editorially the Journal ascribes this falling off in acreage to the poor transportation facilities offered for the movement of the crop last year. There is a general complaint among the growers as to a scarcity of labor during the gathering season and this also is given as a reason for the reduction.

The decrease in the Whiteville, ville, Chadbourne, Mr. Tabor and Grists sections is estimated by Mr. J. A. Brown at 25 per cent, though it is stated if the labor can be secured at gathering time, the yield will not be materially cut off as 25 per cent. of last year's crop rotted in the field for lack of laborers to gather it. Dr. Geo. F. Lucas, estimates that the falling off in the Currie section will be one-half. Mr. T. J. Armstrong estimates a decrease of 30 per cent in the Rocky Point section. Mr. W. F. English says the decrease in acreage in the Mount Olive section will amount to \$3 1-3 per cent. from last year when the yield was 50 per cent. less than the high record. Mr. W. J. Boney thinks there will not be more than a half yield in the Wallace section and complains loudly of the transportation service which has contributed to this end. Mr. J. L. Williamson finds acreage reduced one-third in the Cerro Gordo neighborhood. Mr. H. R. Reeves reports about the same decrease at Parkersburg and Mr. R. C. Powell estimates the reduction at Vineland at 20 per cent. Mr. J. H. Moore thinks the acreage will be 25 per cent. short at Burgaw. Mr. H. C. Bridger, of Bladenboro, estimates a shortage of from 40 to 50 per cent. in his section. Mr. W. R. Newbury, of Magnolia, says the acreage is off about one-third there, but the crop prospect is bright. C. C. Pridgen estimates the shortage at Tabor about 20 per cent.

Agents of the Truckers' Association and the transportation lines are busy gathering data as to the crop with the idea in view of seeing what refrigerator equipment it will be necessary to bring into this territory during the coming month.

BAD NEGRO BOUND OVER.

Neil Blackmon, Negro Who Stole Another's Wife and Fought Officers.

Neil Blackmon, the Columbus county negro who ran off with the wife of Frank Freeman, colored, of Cronly, and engaged Officers Savage and Croom in such a lively encounter at Water and Grace streets Monday afternoon, was given preliminary trial before Justice Furlong at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Freeman and his wife became reconciled after her arrest and the case of abduction against Blackmon was withdrawn, the wife promising to return with her husband to their home near Cronly. Blackmon was held, however, on two charges of carrying a concealed weapon, a razor and a pistol, and for resisting an officer. He went to jail in default of bond. He had nothing to say for himself at the trial. Freeman says that Blackmon is regarded in his native haunts as a very bad man, and is now out on bond to appear at Whiteville court. He is employed at a saw mill as a sawyer, and has had much trouble before, traveling under several aliases among them being Neil Graham and "Big Fish." He has sent to his employers in Columbus county for bond.

PETITION IN BANKRUPTCY.

Clinton Merchant's Affairs Thrown Into United States Court.

Henry A. Grady, Esq., of Clinton, counsel for the D. L. Gore Company, W. B. Cooper, Morris Bear & Brothers and other creditors, yesterday filed in the United States Court here a petition asking that A. W. Aman, general merchant of Clinton, be adjudged an involuntary bankrupt, and that his affairs be wound up in the bankruptcy court. Aman made an assignment last Friday to F. R. Cooper, Esq., but certain of the creditors desire the assets to be thrown into the Federal Court for adjudication there, hence the petition yesterday. Aman is the retiring sheriff and treasurer of Sampson county, and his liabilities are said to be \$30,000, with assets of not more than \$10,000. The business was conducted under the name of the Clinton Supply Company.

Mr. R. L. Payer Dead at Burgaw.

Mr. R. L. Payer, a highly esteemed citizen of Pender County, living near Burgaw, passed away after a brief illness at 3 o'clock Monday afternoon at his home. He was a Confederate Veteran and a useful citizen. He is survived by his wife, four sons and four daughters, the children being Messrs. Boney, Robert, Thomas and George Payer and Mrs. Fred Croom, Mrs. Hampton Moore and Misses Minnie and Julia Payer. They have the sympathy of many friends in their bereavement. The funeral of Mr. Payer will be conducted this morning at 11 o'clock from his late home and the interment will be in the family burying ground.

CORPORATION BILLS

General Assembly Continues to Deal With Railway and Transportation Problems.

THE COMMISSION'S DESIRE

Constitutional Amendment Necessary For All Powers It Wants—Large Number of Local Measures in Each Branch.

(By So. Bell Long Distance Phone.) Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 29.—In the House today a bill was introduced by Laughinghouse, of Pitt, for the Corporation Commission, enlarging its powers. The bill represents all that the Commission wants in the way of increased power in controlling railroads and other corporations, except the authority to issue injunctions and mandamus in proper cases and render judgments for penalties appealable direct from the Commission to the Supreme Court, as is the law in Virginia. This, the Commission says, can only be had by an amendment to the constitution of the State, and it is ready to prepare such a bill if the Assembly desires to act upon the same, in the way of amendment of that sort.

The bill introduced by Mr. Laughinghouse today provides change in the present law, empowering the Commission to require railroads to furnish improved roadbed facilities; operate special trains when necessary; maintain connections with trains of other roads; compel improvement of way and other equipment; better regulate telephone rates for long distance, telephone rentals and telegraph tolls, and employ counsel for the prosecution of its work.

A great number of local bills were introduced and passed in both branches of the Assembly today, perhaps as many as fifty in the House alone. Among the notable ones in the House were:

McRacken, of Columbus, to change the dividing line between Lee and Whiteville townships in his county.

Clifford, of Harnett, to make the general election law for cities and towns apply in his county.

Clifford, of Harnett, to authorize Dunn to establish a dispensary upon a majority vote of its citizens.

Kennedy, of Sampson, to incorporate the town of Garland.

Manning, of Durham, a bill to require insurance companies to deposit an amount in cash or in securities with the State equal to 30 per cent. of its gross earnings in the State; also to deposit \$2,000 in the State upon the issuance of licenses.

The House passed the Senate bill to amend the law relative to certificates of good character to be presented by applicants to practice law in the State. Good moral character is defined in the act.

Another bill passed was to empower the Corporation Commission to require railroad depots nearer than five miles of one another.

The Laughinghouse bill prohibiting pound and ditch nets in Pamlico river, which passed second reading yesterday after a lengthy discussion, was re-committed to the committee today when it came up for third reading. This is a victory for the opponents of the bill. Another bill of some interest passed by the House was that to regulate keepers, clerks and employees of dispensaries in the State prohibiting them from receiving any gifts or privileges from parties having goods to offer for sale to the institutions in which they are engaged.

A bill of interest was presented by Mr. Davis, of Hyde, prohibiting dredging for oysters in the State for a period of two years. When the bill came up for discussion, it was debated at considerable length, but was referred to the committee to await a bill being prepared and embodying the recommendation of the Fish Commission in this respect.

The Wilmington bills authorizing the Y. M. C. A. of that city to issue bonds and to increase the efficiency of the James Walker Memorial Hospital passed the House today and were sent over to the Senate.

In the Senate Holt introduced a bill to provide for the erection of a fire proof building for the State library and hall of history and records.

Thorne, to enlarge the powers of minority stockholders in corporations. Etheridge, to protect and promote the shell fish industry in North Carolina.

An oasis in the desert of railway legislation for the corporate interests was a bill by Mr. Stubbs, of Martin county, providing for an amendment of the Revisal, Section 3622, so that penalties cannot be collected from railroads in a greater amount than the value of goods lost or delayed in transit.

Mr. Breece, of Transylvania, introduced a bill to erect on the present site of the State Supreme Court building in Raleigh a structure suitable for the executive and legislative branches of the government, offices of the State librarian, hall of records and State Museum. The bill carried with it provision for a bond issue of \$750,000, and is advocated by the opponents of the bill to enlarge the Capitol or State House. It specifies that the State House shall be used only for the Legislature, and the present

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