

OUTLINES.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., charging criminal libel, had warrants issued yesterday against the publishers of the New York American, alleging that an article published December 12th tended to injure his character. S. S. Carvalho, president of the company, was arrested and arraigned for trial December 26th.—The second day of the trial of eight alleged night riders, at Union City, Tenn., indicted for murder of Capt. Rankin, developed several surprises, and resulted in the completion of the jury.—General Antoine Simon, leader of the revolution, has been elected President of Haiti.—The New York Produce Exchange will be closed Dec. 25th and 26th and Jan. 1st.—By unanimous vote the House calls on the President for the evidence on which he based his charges against Congressmen.—Senator Elkins calls on the public printer applicant, but as he could give no information as to Donnelly's qualifications it was not acted upon.—It is announced that there is no foundation for the recent rumors as to serious condition of King Edward's health.—The Alabama Corporation Commission makes a sweeping charge against many railway and steamboats, in a complaint to the Interstate Commerce Commission, of collusion to give the Atlantic Compress Company a monopoly.—Tatt stopped over in Washington yesterday to hold a conference with Roosevelt, then continued his journey to Augusta.—Southern peanut growers ask the Ways and Means Committee to increase the tariff on this farm product.—Henry Harvey was hanged at Rockingham yesterday. The sheriff is ordered to remove from Stanly county the negro who assaulted Mrs. Moss.—New York markets: Money on call firm at 2 to 3 1/2 per cent., ruling rate 3 1/2, closing bid 2 1/4, offered at 2 1/2. Flour dull and nominally lower. Wheat easy, No. 2 red 1.06 3/8 to 1.07 1/8 elevator. Corn easy, No. 2, 65 1/2 elevator. Oats easy, mixed 64 1/2 to 65. Rosin steady. Turpentine quiet. Cotton quiet, middling uplands 9.10, middling gulf 9.35.

The more that Guilford county muddle is stirred the worse it gets.

Wasn't that denunciation of Congress by the President pie for Tillman, though?

The Charlotte News says "the doors of the Ananias Club are flung ajar." It should have said flung "wide open."

If Forker should lose his seat in the Senate the President would gladly give him one in the Ananias Club.

Anyhow the insurgent Republicans and Democrats in the House had Cannon and his followers scared for a while the other day.

Castro appears unconcerned about the news from Caracas. He may not be so really; but we bet he is not surprised.

The Government won the first fall in the tussle with the Tobacco Trust, but that does not prove that it will win in the end.

Prosperity seems to have reached the chicken and turkey thieves in Fayetteville; but it will last only until the next term of court.

With the large number of peremptory challenges the night riders now on trial have, they will be apt to secure a jury they can count on for acquittal.

We have just found out why Roosevelt has been unusually cantankerous of late. He has just learned that the Kaiser is suffering with insomnia, which makes him very irritable.

We suppose the public understands that these manufacturers and other business men who are going before the Ways and Means Committee are speaking for themselves.

The Savannah News dubs as the "spanking committee" the one appointed by the House on the Roosevelt Panama scandal. But it has not spanked Roosevelt yet.

Uncle Sam is getting uneasy. He is afraid Castro is trying to secure Germany's protection against Holland. That would be jumping out of the frying pan into the fire.

While corn and wheat are advancing in price that of cotton is dropping—a plain object lesson to the farmers of the South on the importance of diversifying crops.

Under the resolution adopted by the House of Representatives yesterday in reference to the President's attack on Congress it is up to him now to put up the evidence or to shut up.

The United States armored cruiser Montana, which undocked at the Norfolk Navy Yard after receiving attention to her bottom and the installation of a new set of propellers, has received a large quantity of ammunition preparatory to leaving in the next 48 hours to join the other vessels of the new Atlantic fleet now assembling in Hampton Roads.

FINANCES OF STATE

Treasurer Will Recommend to Legislature Radical Changes in Source of Revenue.

DAY'S DOINGS RALEIGH

Only 21 Successful Applicants Before State Board of Pharmacy Teachers' Assembly—Charters Granted—The Court on Pardons.

(Special Star Correspondence.)
Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 17.—That there be no change in the present State tax rate and that the present Revenue Act be re-enacted without material change by the Legislature, is a feature of the biennial report and recommendations by State Treasurer Lacy now ready for transmission to the Governor and the General Assembly.

The report declares that there will not be any funds available to justify any permanent improvement for State institutions by the approaching Legislature. He recommends that the penitentiary bonds be paid on maturity in January and that provision be made for funding \$3,427,000 State bonds that mature 1910. The exact figures are not yet made public but it is understood that there is about \$59,000 deficit in the State treasury with about \$400,000 money borrowed to meet the expenses of the State.

Only 21 of the class of 46 applicants for licenses to practice pharmacy examined before the State Board of Pharmacy this week were successful. One of these, James A. Henderson, Fayetteville, was a negro. The others are Edward C. Adams, Cherryville; Roy R. Bost, Newton; Beverly P. Costner, Dallas; Chas. D. Cashwell, Mocksville; E. Lee Dameron, Charlotte; Phifer Fulewider, Monroe; Guy C. Hayes, Greensboro; D. O. Hauser, Maxton; L. W. Jenkins, Stanley; L. J. Lea, Roxboro; H. W. Layden, Spray; C. T. McGuire, Southern Pines; L. B. Powers, Wake Forest; R. H. Triplett, Lenoir; H. W. Sloan, Jonesboro; E. L. Vinson, Halifax; G. F. Wright, Weldon; W. L. Witte, Gastonia; R. E. Wiley, Southern Pines; C. R. Yoder, Newton.

The Executive Committee of the State Teachers' Assembly will meet here Monday to decide on the place for the next annual session of that body early in the summer. The committee is composed of T. R. Foust, Greensboro, president; R. D. W. Connor, Raleigh, secretary; Dr. D. H. Hill, Raleigh; R. L. Moore, Mars Hill; J. F. Webb, Oxford; Dr. J. R. Bridges, Charlotte; L. C. Brogden, Kinston; Harry Howell, High Point, and Miss Edith Royster, Raleigh.

The Decatur Cotton Mills (Inc.) Lexington, is chartered with \$125,000 capital by G. A. Hunt, Jr., Geo. Montcastle and others. Other charters are to the Eagles' Club (Inc.) Charlotte, by Adam Fisher, D. B. Paul and others, for social and literary purposes, and the Fenner-Avent Stock Improvement Co., Rocky Mount, capital \$10,000 by J. M. Baker and others.

That the Governor cannot recall a pardon when once granted unless some specified term under which it was granted is violated is a ruling just made by the Supreme Court, the case being that of Dick Williams, convicted in Burke county, for retailing liquors and sentenced to work on the county roads. R. L. Huffman, Esq., as counsel for the prisoner had obtained a pardon, conditioned on payment of costs in the case and on the future society and good behavior of the prisoner. In the meantime the costs were paid in Burke county court and the pardon sent to the Sheriff of Gaston for the release of the prisoner. Before the pardon reached from Governor Glenn revoking the pardon. Then followed a writ of habeas corpus before Judge Justice and the pardon was held to be in force in spite of the telegram of revocation. This appeal came to the Supreme Court, the ruling being sustained.

The State Commissioner of Insurance authorizes the Afro-American Mutual Life Insurance Company of Charlotte to take over the Eastern Carolina Mutual Life of Wilmington, both being negro insurance corporations.

Annie Turner, serving a life sentence for admitting Sam Walker to the residence of Col. L. Banks Holt, of Burlington, on an attempt at assassination of Col. Holt, is pardoned by Gov. Glenn, on the ground of doubt of her guilt.

Stole Tea Set Case.

Mr. A. H. Oliver, of Mount Olive, who was in the city yesterday had the misfortune to have stolen from him a very valuable tea set case which he had carried to the union shed of the railroad company, expecting to leave on the evening train. The theft was reported to the police and elsewhere in today's paper a reward of \$5 is offered for the recovery of the property and "no questions asked."

A Practical Christmas Gift.

Open an account with The People's Savings Bank in name of Wife, Mother, Sister, or Child. The Pass Book you receive will make a fine gift, and will be an everlasting and daily reminder of the donor. Interest will begin January 1st.

DISTRICT ODD FELLOWS

Meeting of Eleven Lodges in This Jurisdiction Will be Held in Wilmington This Evening—The Programme.

All arrangements have been completed for the district convention of the eleven lodges of Independent Order of Odd Fellows in the five counties composing this subdivision of the Grand Lodge jurisdiction in the State, and a most enjoyable and profitable meeting is being anticipated in this city this evening.

A joint committee of arrangements from the four lodges of the order in Wilmington with Mr. H. O. Craig, chairman, and Mr. P. H. Murphy, secretary, has completed all arrangements for the entertainment of the visitors of which there will be a number in the city. Dr. John A. Stevens, district deputy supervisor, will be in charge of the meeting and a number of subjects of interest to all Odd Fellows will be discussed. The meeting will be held in the Odd Fellows' building, Third and Princess streets, and members of Cape Fear, Orion, Wilmington and Hanover lodges of this city together with all visiting members of the order in the city are cordially invited.

The programme, copies of which were issued yesterday, will open with the opening ode of the order after which Rev. A. D. McClure, D. D., pastor of Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church, will offer prayer. The welcome address will be by Past Grand B. F. King and the response by District Deputy Supervisor Stevens. Then will follow the enrollment of delegates and the election of officers of the Sixth District for the ensuing year.

The discussion of the various topics of the district meeting proper have been assigned as follows: "Best Method of Getting Members to Attend Meetings," to the Clinton Lodge; "Visiting the Sick," to the Warsaw Lodge; "The Orphan's Home," to the Burgaw Lodge; "Relation of Odd Fellows to a Community," to the Wallace Lodge; "Our Paper," to the Southport Lodge; "The Conferring of Degrees," to the Chadbourn Lodge; "District Benefits," to the Vineland Lodge, while special addresses will be "The Rebekah Degree" by Past Grand Master Marcus W. Jacob and "The Encampment" by Grand Worthy Patriarch W. L. Smith.

In addition to the set addresses there will be remarks by Grand Master H. M. Shaw, of Oxford, and Grand Secretary B. H. Woodell, of Raleigh, who will be special guests of honor. The exercises of the evening will conclude with the closing ode and other ceremonies after which the visitors will be entertained at a smoker, which has been provided by the committee. While in the city the delegates will be entertained at the Colonial Inn and among those who are expected from the several lodges out of the district are the following: J. E. Lamb, J. D. Carr and J. H. Jeffries, of Wallace; H. G. Owens, F. C. Middleton and J. M. Loftin, of Warsaw; A. C. McCullen, Geo. P. Jordan and A. H. Padison, of Burgaw; M. C. Guthrie, J. A. Williams and B. J. Holden, of Southport; R. C. Powell, H. F. Schulken and Dr. H. B. Maxwell, Vineland; F. B. Johnson, T. H. Patrick and A. J. Cooper, of Clinton. The committee has not yet been furnished with a list of the delegates from the Chadbourn Lodge, but a good representation is expected.

MR. F. M. PRIDGEN.

Claims Attractive Rocky Mount Bride-Ready Wedding.

The many friends of Mr. F. M. Pridden, formerly of this city, but now of Rocky Mount, will be interested to learn of his marriage there on Wednesday to Mrs. Addie V. Ferguson, an attractive young woman of that city. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. D. W. Morton, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, at the conclusion of which they repaired to the depot, being showered with congratulations upon their departure on a bridal tour to Northern cities. They will spend Christmas in this city, at the home of the groom's mother, Mrs. F. A. Pridden, No. 128 South Eighth street.

Mr. and Mrs. Pridden will make their home in Rocky Mount, where the groom holds a responsible position with the Tar River Lumber Co.

Among the out-of-town guests present at the marriage was Mr. J. W. Pridden, of this city, a brother of the groom.

LAND CONTROVERSY

Case of T. M. Thompson Involving Fort Reservation Taken Up in U. S. Court.

WITNESSES ARE EXAMINED

Progress is Rather Slow and Hearing May Continue Into Next Week. Endeavoring to Establish an Old Line.

All of two sessions in the United States Circuit Court yesterday before Judge Waddill was taken up with the beginning of the land suit by Mr. T. M. Thompson and others, of Southport, against Maj. M. F. Harmon, commandant of the United States Army Post at Fort Caswell at the time of the institution of the suit, in which the plaintiff seeks to recover a part of the government reservation on Oak Island, containing about 300 acres and valued at \$5,000 according to the complaint.

Only the full examination of one witness and the taking of a part of the testimony of two others had been completed when a recess for the day was taken at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The court room is filled with attorneys, witnesses and others interested in the case and it is entirely probable that the case will continue into next week. For the plaintiffs, the attorneys are Messrs. John D. Bellamy & Son and ex-Judge E. K. Bryan, of Wilmington, and C. Ed Taylor, Esq., of Southport. The interests of the government are being looked after by District Attorney Skinner and Assistant District Attorney Giles. The testimony is being taken in shorthand by Mr. Whitaker, private secretary of Judge Waddill, who is giving close attention to the progress of the case.

What is known as the "Baker line" is in dispute and in the court room is a blue print of a survey recently made by order of the court by Capt. Walter G. Macrae and Mr. Raymond Humphreys, private engineers. The government also has its engineers present with blue prints and drawings of the property in question.

After the jury was secured yesterday morning, the usual preliminaries were observed in beginning the trial and the plaintiffs introduced much documentary evidence, some of the county records having been brought in by Register of Deeds John Haar.

Mr. Isaac Reynolds, of Southport, was the first witness yesterday and his examination was completed in the afternoon. He had freighted wood and naval stores from the place at a very early period and gave evidence of a very accurate memory of the old Baker line in dispute and as pointed out to him as early as 1857. He located it on the map in court the same as now contended for the plaintiffs.

Mr. Theodore MeeKithan, now nearly 80 years of age and very infirm, was a most interesting witness. He testified as to the bluffs on the river as laid out on the chart and told of the possession and acts of possession as to the lands for many years, the original titles dating back to the year 1825. His cross-examination by the government was deferred until today.

The last witness for the day was Mr. John W. Galloway, of Southport, who told of the bluffs on the river, the location of the lands and acts of possession. His father rented turpentine timber lands from the vendors of the plaintiff. Mr. Galloway's cross-examination went over until today.

QUARTERLY CONFERENCES.

Announcements by Presiding Elder For the Wilmington District.
Rev. W. L. Cuninggim, presiding elder of the Wilmington district, M. E. Church, requests the Star to announce that he will preach and hold quarterly conferences at Southport, Sunday, Dec. 20th; at Lebanon, Mt. Tabor circuit (the old Waccamaw circuit), Dec. 26th and 27th; at Vineland, Friday night, Dec. 25th; at Whiteville, Sunday night, Dec. 27th; at Rocky Point, Burgaw circuit, Jan. 2nd and 3rd; at Bladen Street church, at night, Jan. 3rd; Swansboro, Jan. 7th, at night, and 8th, and Mayaville, Onslow, Jan. 9th and 10th.

WORKED CLEVER SWINDLE

Well Dressed Strangers Claiming to Represent Mail Order House Got Away With Considerable Money of Confiding Purchasers.

WITNESSES ARE EXAMINED

Progress is Rather Slow and Hearing May Continue Into Next Week. Endeavoring to Establish an Old Line.

Claiming to represent the Cash Buyers' Union, a large and responsible mail order house of Chicago, Ill., taking many orders and receiving part payment therefor in advance, two well dressed strangers are reported to have made a successful get-away with between \$400 and \$500 of the hard-earned money of more than a score of the thrifty colored people and a few whites who live in the fertile section of the country around Scott's Hill, in this county.

From all accounts the strangers left the city between suns Wednesday night or early yesterday morning, abandoning a horse and buggy which they had hired from Davis' livery stable in this city to the care of John Foy, a colored man living near Scott's Hill, with instructions to bring it to the city yesterday morning, since which time the strangers have not been heard from in spite of persistent search made for them not only by the confiding purchasers around Scott's Hill but by Mr. Davis, who is out something over \$10 in livery charges since last Monday morning.

The strangers appeared in the city last Thursday and hired a turn-out from Mr. Davis for the day, going out in the early morning and returning after night each day, settling the bill of \$2.50. This they kept up until Monday morning when one of the men went to the stable in the absence of Mr. Davis and secured a turn-out for two or three days' use from a colored attendant. In the meantime Mr. W. B. McClellan, of this city, had his attention called to some remarkable bargains offered in the country on spring wagons, the salesman offering them at \$26 and "throwing in" a set of harness for good measure, receiving a deposit of \$10 and telling the innocent purchaser that when the goods arrived, if they were not satisfactory, they could be returned. He told Mr. Davis of his suspicion that a clever swindle was being perpetrated on the people in the country and Mr. Davis' horse and buggy not having been returned yesterday morning, he and Mr. McClellan set out to find it. They met the colored man, Foy, driving it to the city in East Wilmington. Foy said that the men overtook him coming to the city Wednesday afternoon and had him accompany them to the city. They stopped at a bar room on upper Market street, purchased liberally a supply of liquor and told Foy to take the turn-out back home with him that night and bring it to them the following morning. He was returning it in good faith when accosted by Mr. Davis and Mr. McClellan yesterday morning. Along with Foy was a small army of colored people who had been "taken in" by the evident swindle of the strangers. One of the number, after making a liberal purchase from the men, had grown suspicious and from Scott's Hill telegraphed the Cash Buyers' Union in Chicago, receiving the reply that they employed no agents, selling by mail from their catalogue only. Receipts for the partial payment on order were given on the ordinary stock receipt blank purchased at a local stationer's. They evidently picked up a catalogue of the Chicago house and were using it to give color to their clever swindle. They would offer any article wanted by the purchaser for sale and would quote glibly from the catalogue whether the article was listed there or not, and price was no object.

Upon their return to the city Messrs. Davis and McClellan secured an accurate description of the men as possible and sent several telegrams with the hope of apprehending the men, but without success. One is described as a large man with brown overcoat and brown derby hat. He did the principal work in the country though a smaller young man with a foreign accent usually secured the teams and accompanied him. While in the country they ate and slept at negro houses and seemed to avoid any more contact than was impossible with intelligent people. In the usual rush of business at the union depot, City Ticket Agent Edwards could recall the leaving of no such persons by any of the trains yesterday morning, though they remained in the city until after midnight Wednesday. They have probably made a successful get-away with the money entrusted to their care by the unsuspecting victims.

His Auto Ditched.

While driving with a party of friends on the Castle Haynes turnpike early last evening about five miles from the city, the automobile of Mr. Louis T. Moore was ditched and those in the car were more or less shaken up, but no one was injured. Mr. W. H. Dock went out in one of the cars from his garage and towed the disabled machine in.

No Need to Worry.

Over your Christmas presents, go to The People's Savings Bank and open an account in the name of Wife, Mother, Sister, or Child. The Bank Book you receive will make a fine present. Small accounts are welcome at this bank and interest will begin January 1st.

PUBLIC WATERWAYS

Apprehensive of President's Recommendation of Changes in System of Improvement.

SPECIAL MEETING YESTERDAY

North Carolina Waterways Association in Resolution Prepared by Mr. Sprunt, Expresses High Appreciation of Engineers.

Important action with reference to the method of continuing the present system of government improvement of public waterways was taken at a special, called meeting of the Executive Committee of the North Carolina Waterways Association at the office of Mr. James H. Chadbourn, the president, in the Southern Building, yesterday at noon.

In view of the great importance of the public work now under the control of the United States Corps of Engineers, and feeling apprehensive lest the recommendation in President Roosevelt's annual message relative to material changes in the composition of the Engineer Corps be enacted into law, and appreciating the great value of a scientifically trained Corps of Engineers in the service of waterway development, and being in position to know the value of the Engineers in charge of the Cape Fear river, namely: Captains Craighill, Stanton, Bixby, Lucas, Johnston and Brown, the president of the Waterways Association requested Mr. James Sprunt, because of his large familiarity with the subject, to prepare a resolution touching the matter.

Mr. Sprunt presented a very comprehensive paper, which, after thorough discussion in every provision, was unanimously endorsed by the Executive Committee. The Committee also requested that the Chamber of Commerce give its endorsement to the resolution, and a special meeting of that body is called to be held this morning at 11:30 o'clock, the purpose being to forward the resolution thus endorsed to our representatives in both houses of Congress. The resolution prepared by Mr. Sprunt follows:

Wilmington, N. C., Dec. 17, 1908.
The North Carolina Waterways Association, actuated by a desire to promote the best interests of our Commonwealth, and by feelings of National pride in the traditions of that superior arm of our common country's military defense, the Corps of Engineers of the United States Army—whose standard of excellence has been exemplified in the services of R. E. Lee, Meade, Johnston, McPherson, Humphreys, Newton, Wright, Warren and Robert; by Abbott, Meigs, Totten, Hains, Raymond and Sigsbee; and by the later chiefs Craighill, Wilson, McKenzie and Marshall, to say nothing of the present services of such distinguished officers as Goethals, Sibert, Gallard, Chittenden, Black and Lockwood—has perceived with apprehension and even alarm an insidious influence in high places, which seeks, under cover of specious arguments, to minimize the importance and effectiveness of the present system which employs upon the waterways and river and harbor improvements of our country the best technical talent, whose professional integrity places the service of the Corps of Engineers above suspicion.

We recognize, after years of intelligent personal contact and careful observation, the superior advantages in the public service of a body of men representing the flower of the American army, whose training by the State has fitted them with a maximum mental and physical equipment for great undertakings, and whose ever increasing usefulness is saving millions of revenue to the Federal Government.

"On the other hand, we regard, with due deference to his comprehensive knowledge of public affairs and to his careful investigation of this important subject, the recommendation of President Roosevelt, that the plan which promises the best and quickest results is that of a permanent Commission authorized to co-ordinate the work of all the Government Departments relating to waterways, and to frame and supervise the execution of a comprehensive plan."

"If we may, with proper respect for such eminent authority, question his remark that the virtually permanent detail of the Corps of Engineers to Civilian duty necessarily impairs the efficiency of our military establishment, we might maintain that such work as the development of our waterways and other great public utilities should make this valuable military arm more effective in time of war, because of the knowledge acquired with reference to such details, to say nothing of the active employment of talents which, duly exercised in the pursuit of peaceful arts, might reach a higher degree of efficiency in time of war."

"We might also dissent from the opinion of the President, that the military engineers are necessarily unsuited by their training and traditions, to take the broad view and to gather and transmit to Congress the

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