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WILMINGTON, N. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1908.

WHOLE NO. 12,872.

OUTLINES.

Andrew Carnegie was a witness before the Ways and Means Committee of the House yesterday and for eight hours was put through a grueling examination, regarding the steel interests of the country. He accepted the cross-examination questions good naturedly, but avoided figures and failed to enlighten the committee to any extent on the steel question—Since the departure of President Castro from Venezuela, Vice President Gomez has established a new government by replacing the old ministry—Frank Fehring, self-confessed night rider, at the trial in Union City, Tenn., yesterday told a startling story of the Rankin murder, and a score more of other outrages. Mrs. Emma Thurman Johnson, an alleged victim of the band, also made a good witness for the State—Snydam, the man shot by Lumsden dies in hospital. Lumsden is held without bail. By order of the President, Major Dorrance is suspended from the position of engineer commissioner of the District of Columbia—The court of inquiry yesterday began its inquiry into the sinking of the cruiser *Yankee*—Night riders destroying ginnersies are becoming alarmingly frequent in Laurin county, S. C.—Mrs. Annis and other witnesses gave damaging testimony against Thornton Hains yesterday—The "Wets" win in the liquor election in Abingdon, Va.—Taft yesterday held a conference with John H. Hammond, president of the National League of Republican Clubs. He says he has made no more Cabinet appointments—New York markets: Money on call firm at 3 to 3 3/4 per cent., ruling rate 3 1/2, closing bid 3 1/4, offered at 3 1/2. Flour dull and barely steady. Wheat firm, No. 2 red 1.06 1/8 to 1.07 5/8 elevator. Corn easy, No. 2, 64 1/2 to arrive elevator. Oats steady; mixed 54 to 54 1/2. Roshin and turpentine quiet. Cotton quiet, 5 points decline, middling uplands 9.15, middling gulf 9.40.

Christmas this week. Do you feel it in your bones?

If Taft hangs up his Christmas stocking in Augusta next Thursday night it should be one big enough for the South to put a cabinet officer in.

That Chicago man who boasted that he had never lied to his wife turned out to be an old bachelor. He knew the value of a successful alibi.

The fellows who seek a brazer Friday morning of next week will have to have it sent across the State line or hunt it in the Uger jungles.

The next thing you know Congress will be demanding that the secret service shall advertise in the papers every mission one of its members is sent on.

Roosevelt was so overcome at the story of that California man who says he saw an alligator kill an eagle in mid-air that he could not sign his commission as a "nature faker."

Russia must have a feeling of sympathy for Venezuela every time she hears of the destruction of a fleet of the latter's splendid navy by the overpowering naval forces of Holland.

The Ways and Means Committee should surely embrace in its tariff revision report the free importation of "chief executive muzzlers" especially those of German manufacture.

Everyone knows that St. Louis preacher who urged women to paint and to powder on the ground that to beautify oneself is a woman's duty did not have a wife with a pretty complexion.

It is said Taft is going to Panama because of the revival of the idea that a sea-level canal is preferable to one with locks. The Gatun dam landslide must have been worse than the public was led to believe.

Roosevelt can't send to Congress any more special messages until January 4th; but that does not mean that he can't occupy the intervening time in writing a few to be fired at the Congress as soon as it meets.

While on his return-trip from his African hunt Roosevelt ought to make a stop-over at Constantinople and give the Sultan some pointers on how to bulldoze a Congress. He might cross over into Russia and do the same for the Czar.

President Roosevelt has not yet publicly declared his intention to fall in line with his friend Kaiser William, in the latter's life-long water-wagon procession. He will wait until he gets through the reptile-infested jungles of Africa before doing so.

Football Game With Savannah. The strong Wilmington football aggregation, will play a team from Savannah, in the closing contest of the season, at New League Park on Christmas day. Both teams have made good records during the season and the game next Friday will doubtless attract much interest.

FISH DRIFT ASHORE

Rare Phenomenon Witnessed Sunday and Yesterday at Wrightsville Beach and Sound.

CAST UP BY THE BARRELS

Probably Killed by Dynamite Used in Wrecking or by Discharge of Heavy Artillery at Fort Caswell. Fertilizer Purposes.

No end of speculation as to the cause of the phenomenon has been created by the appearance of drifts of hundreds of barrels of manhaden or "fat backs" with other varieties of sea fish along the coast, both in the sounds and on the beach, in the vicinity of Wrightsville Beach.

The fish first made their appearance on Sunday morning and when cast up by the water were either dead or so badly injured or diseased that they died after leaving their natural element. Hundreds of people who went to the beach Sunday and yesterday to witness the phenomenon are unable to account for the presence of the fish unless they were killed in schools as they passed up the coast by dynamite used by the United States Revenue Cutter *Seminole* in blowing up some wreckage off Cape Lookout last week or were killed by the concussion of the big guns at Fort Caswell during practice at floating targets some miles off shore last Wednesday.

Still another theory is that in migrating southward with the change in the temperature of the water the fish were attacked by some fatal disease and were cast up by the tide. At any rate the fish appeared in such large numbers along the beach and in the Sound at Wrightsville that the Tidewater Power Company and residents there became apprehensive lest when decomposition set in they would be a menace to health and they set to work with others who desired to use them for fertilizing purposes to clean them up with pitchforks and all other implements available. The fish were largely "fat backs" or menhaden, which are unfit for domestic use, though there were among them a number of flounders and speckled trout. Three freight cars were loaded with the fish yesterday for commercial purposes and others were hauled away by residents on the Sound for compost purposes on their farms.

Were the Summer season in progress at present, the unusual story of the "flood of fish" would undoubtedly be credited to the vivid imagination of the press agent, but the situation Sunday and yesterday with residents and the Tidewater Power Company was one which they would have been very glad to have gotten away from. The United States Revenue Cutter *Seminole* was in port yesterday forenoon and it was stated that the officers on board did not believe the dynamite used in the wrecking would have caused such wholesale destruction of the fish as wrecks are frequently blown up along the coast with no such results. The same was stated with reference to the practice with the big guns at the fort, a well known local mariner stating that even if the fish had been killed by the concussion of the current off Caswell it to the south-east and it would be hard to account for the drift further up the beach.

It is recalled by seafaring men that 10 or 12 years ago about Cape Lookout very large fish, eight or ten feet in length, were thrown up by the tide along the beach, but no one seems to have a satisfactory explanation of the present phenomenon at Wrightsville Beach. The theory that the fish were killed and injured by dynamite is strengthened by the similarity of their appearance to that of fish killed in the same manner in small streams and lakes. There is a flock of blood at the gills and they appear to have been stunned. At any rate the "fish question" yesterday divided time with the preparations for the holidays in great shape.

UGLY AFFAIR AT DUNN

White Man Died in Guard House and an Arrest Follows Autopsy. (Special Star Correspondence.)

Dunn, N. C., Dec. 21.—Mr. R. F. Thornton, of Harnett county, died in the guard house here Saturday night about 11:30 under very suspicious circumstances. Mr. Thornton came to town about 9 o'clock in the morning and was apparently sober until about night, when he suddenly became very stupid and would not talk. He was supposed to be simply drunk. About 10 P. M. Mr. Thornton appeared to be in an unnatural sleep and Drs. Leo and Hicks were called but he was dead when the physicians arrived. Several rumors of an ugly nature were at once afloat and the coroner, Dr. Caviness, of Lillington, arrived about 7 o'clock and summoned a jury and at this writing are holding an inquest but no verdict has been reached. Later the evidence developed was of such a nature that an autopsy was necessary. As a result of the investigation Mr. George Moore Lee is in jail without bond.

Steeze soles and crocheted slippers at Peterson & Ruffin.

MARRIED IN PHILADELPHIA

Mr. Thomas Philip Hammer, of Wilmington, Claims Bride in His Native State of Pennsylvania—To Live Here.

The Philadelphia Press of Sunday contains the following account of the marriage of Mr. Thomas Philip Hammer, of this city, and Miss Thalia Lynch Dobson, which will be read with much interest by numerous friends of the groom in this city:

"Two lineal descendants of original settlers in Pennsylvania were united in marriage yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock in St. Philip's Protestant Episcopal Church, Forty-second street and Baltimore Avenue, when Miss Thalia Lynch Dobson became the bride of Mr. Thomas Philip Hammer.

"The ceremony was performed by Rev. Norman Van Felt Lewis, assisted by Rev. Clarence Watt Bispham, rector of the church. "The bride was charming in her gown of asphodel satin, trimmed with point de Burano lace, made with court train. Her tulle veil was caught with orange blossoms and she carried a bouquet of lilies-of-the-valley and white Killarney roses.

"The matron of honor, Mrs. Francis Salsbury McIlhenny, herself a recent bride, wore a gown of pale pink chiffon with a hat of Ottoman silk, with pink plumes. The flowers she carried were bridesmaid roses and white lilies.

"The little flower girls, Miss Edith Lindsay Walker and Miss Eleanor Wells Walker, wore white tulle frocks, massive Empire, and white socks bonnets trimmed with baby roses. They carried baskets of bridesmaid roses.

"Mr. John Levering Hammer, brother of the bridegroom, was best man, and Master Lawrence Godley and Master Henry Godley were pages. The ushers were: Mr. James A. Walker, Mr. Robert Corson, Jr., Mr. Ritter K. Walling, Mr. Holman White, Mr. William H. Blaney, of New York City, and Mr. Barnes, of Washington, D. C.

"Following the ceremony a reception for the family and intimate friends was held at the home of Mrs. Henry Godley, 214 South Forty-second street, after which Mr. and Mrs. Hammer left on their wedding journey. "The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hadley Dobson, of 414 South Broad street. She is a direct descendant of Lewis Walker who was one of the first settlers in the Chester Valley.

"The bridegroom was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, class of 1904. He was a sprinter and broad-jumper. He won his "P" for his broad jumping in the Intercollegiate of 1904 and was one of the five-man relay team that broke the world's record for one mile, March 5, 1904, winning the "Hanna" medal. In his Junior year, he won the Frazier prize for the highest scholarship of all the athletes in the University.

"Mr. Hammer is a lineal descendant, on his father's side, of Dirk Keyser, and on his mother's side, of Weigard Levering, who were two of the original settlers of Germantown.

"His family possesses the first marriage certificate made in Pennsylvania, between Johan Frey and Anna Katherina Levering in 1690. A very quaint document written by Francis Daniel Pastorius and signed by many of the first settlers in Germantown.

"Mr. Hammer is a member of the Cape Fear Club and the Carolina Yacht Club, of Wilmington, N. C., where he is engaged in the lumber business and where he and his bride will make their future home."

Ku Klux Klan Academy tonight, 10, 20 and 30 cents.

WATER WORKS DEAL

Negotiations Will be Taken Up Again as Soon as Bonds are Realized Upon.

LETTER FROM PURCHASERS

Only Few Formalities Now to be Passed Upon and Money Will be Available—Committee to Investigate Pipe.

It having been tentatively agreed upon by the Board of Aldermen that nothing conclusive will be attempted toward consummating the deal for the present water works plant until the proceeds of the recent bond sale are in hand, it will be of interest to know that on yesterday a letter was received from the purchasers, N. W. Harris & Co., of New York and Boston, which indicates that there will be no hitch in the proceedings and that the money will be available early in the New Year, if, indeed, not before that time.

The letter from Messrs. Harris & Co., stated that they were very much pleased that the regular proceedings, sent to guide their attorneys in passing upon the validity of the bonds, were in such complete shape. In making up a record bondholders have to include some unimportant matters for the satisfaction of their purchasers and the latter yesterday simply requested certain certificates as to purely formal matters which are entirely routine, so that no hitch is expected in the further proceedings towards consummating the deal. N. W. Harris & Co., have been furnished with the additional unimportant information and the money for the sale of the securities is expected to be deposited at once subject to draft by the city.

While nothing conclusive will be attempted by the Board of Aldermen pending the receipt of the proceeds of the bond, the committee which has the matter in hand is getting all necessary information for the enlightenment of the Board when it meets to finally pass upon the question of whether the established plant will be purchased and, if so, at what price.

The question of the condition of the pipe underground which was raised at the recent meeting, will likely be settled by the committee this week. The Clarendon Water Works Company has given its willing consent for the pipe to be unearthed at any point or points that the committee may designate and Chairman Wood, of the committee, has conferred with the Mayor in regard to the same with the understanding that the committee will make the request again of the water company and the pipe will be taken up and examined to ascertain the truthfulness of the charge that it is corroded and damaged by long use. There is very little talk now of employing another expert to pass upon the physical plant, members of the Board freely admitting that even if another appraisal by an engineer were made, if his estimate did not coincide with their views on the value, they would be free to discard his opinion of the matter.

Much emphasis has been laid upon the fact that any valuation of the plant should be as to its utility for enlargement and improvement. It is recalled, in the light of recent developments, that this was the value placed upon the property by Col. Ludlow, who gave his figures based upon its value as a going concern. It is expected that soon after the Christmas holiday, the Board of Aldermen will be called together to pass upon the matter finally.

SHOOTING AND ACCIDENT.

One Croatan Shoots Another—Negro Mangled in Cotton Oil Mill.

(Special Star Correspondence.)
Lumberton, N. C., Dec. 21.—Yesterday afternoon there was a shooting affray about five miles from town in which Alfred Thomas shot Pink Woods, the ball taking effect in the head. Woods was brought to town and Dr. Knox gave the necessary surgical attention. The trouble seems to have originated about an organ which Woods sold Thomas upon which there was a mortgage. Both are Croatans.

At 7 o'clock this morning Sam Bennett, colored, employed at the oil mill, got his hands caught in one of the presses and both were terribly lacerated. He was hurried to the hospital where his right arm was amputated just below the elbow. Dr. Thompson performing the operation. Dr. Thompson fears it will be necessary to amputate the left arm also as it is terribly mangled and tonight there are indications of gangrene.

THE VACANT JUDGESHIP

Several Aspirants For Judicial Position of Late Judge Thomas R. Purnell, of the United States District Courts.

There is much speculation just at present as to the possible successor of the late Thomas R. Purnell, judge of the United States District and Circuit Courts for the Eastern District of North Carolina, and a number of names of distinguished North Carolinians are being mentioned in connection with the place.

A dispatch last night from Raleigh says that ex-Judge E. W. Timberlake has for several days had endorsements from a number of people in the State, including, it is said, Governor Glenn, and that he is making an active campaign for the appointment. Col. Harry Skinner, the present district attorney, is also a candidate for the place and it is stated that by his right of succession and eminent qualifications, he will in all probability be the appointee. Col. Skinner, who is decidedly popular in Wilmington, where he made a reputation for himself in the prosecution of Henry Scott and the other mutineers captured off this coast a few years ago, has received the endorsement of a number of the leading attorneys of the Wilmington bar who have large practice in the Federal Courts of the District and this was telegraphed yesterday morning to Washington as an entirely voluntary expression from his friends here.

Mr. Ireddell Meares, of this city, who has been frequently mentioned as the possible successor of Judge Purnell, had refrained from actively participating in a contest for the office but it is known that strong influences very close to the President are in his favor. A special last night from Raleigh states that it had been talked there that Mr. Meares was a candidate but that it is understood there now that the Wilmington bar, including Mr. Meares, has endorsed Col. Skinner and that in the event of the latter's appointment Mr. Meares will be named to the district attorneyship of the court. The special from Raleigh further states that the general expectation is that Col. Skinner will get the appointment and that his successor will be either H. F. Seawell, of Charlotte, George B. H. Campbell, a brother of the ex-Senator, or Mr. Meares, of Wilmington. Mr. Seawell spent yesterday in Raleigh, presumably looking after his possible appointment.

The Charlotte Observer of yesterday mentions Judge Spencer B. Adams, head of the G. O. P. forces in the State as a possible successor of Judge Purnell and states that District Attorney Holton, who stands high in official circles in Washington, may get the appointment. Judge Adams and District Attorney Holton, however, are both from the West and it is not believed they would interfere in an Eastern District appointment. Mr. Meares, of Wilmington, is also mentioned by the Charlotte Observer, which says that he would reflect honor upon the office.

Mr. Meares is known to be very friendly to Col. Skinner and recognizes his prior claim to the appointment and friends here hope that a reconciliation of all differences may come with the appointment of Col. Skinner to the judgeship and the naming of Mr. Meares as the successor in office of Col. Skinner, who is an exceedingly able and dignified jurist, acquainted with the machinery of the courts and eminently qualified to bring to the bench its traditional knowledge of the law and judicial temperament.

CLOSE FOR HOLIDAYS.

Wharf Merchants Will Transact No Business Friday and Saturday.

On account of the Christmas holiday, the following wholesale grocers and brokers have agreed to close their places of business on the wharf Friday and Saturday of this week: J. A. Taylor, S. P. McNair, Brown Bros., Hall & Pearsall, Inc., Wilmington Brokerage Co., O. H. Wright & Co., J. C. Stevenson Co., R. H. Pickett, The Worth Co., J. H. Watters, McNair & Pearsall, F. E. Haskagen Co., Crescent Candy Co., Boney & Harper Milling Co., E. M. Gregg, W. A. Whitehead & Son, Brown, Toon & Co., Jas. I. Metts, the McDiarmid Co., John R. Turrentine & Son, J. S. Funchess & Co., and John T. Rankin. Other merchants are expected to be added to the list before the holiday.

Married Near Scott's Hill.

On Saturday at the home of the bride's father, Mr. Henry Tompkins, near Scott's Hill, Justice of the Peace R. N. Sweet, of Castle Haynes, officiated at a very quiet but pretty marriage ceremony which united in wedlock Miss Bessie May Tompkins and Mr. William A. Sandlin, of Verona. An elegant supper and reception with music and other delightful features followed the ceremony.

Communication With Onslow.

The Onslow Telephone Company, recently chartered by the Secretary of State, is now constructing lines in Onslow county, radiating from Jacksonville, N. C., and early in the new year, it is stated that connection will be made with the Southern Bell lines in this city. This service would be greatly appreciated by the business community and the people generally here.

AFFAIRS IN RALEIGH

Funeral of Late Judge Thomas R. Purnell, Conducted on Sunday Afternoon.

THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Annual Report of Work Accomplished by Department—Statistics of Manufacturing in State. Governor Glenn.

(Special Star Correspondence.)
Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 21.—The funeral of the late Thomas R. Purnell, judge of the United States Circuit and District Courts, of the Eastern District of North Carolina, here on Sunday afternoon was attended by a great number of people.

The service was from the Church of the Good Shepherd, and was conducted by Bishop Cheshire, Dr. I. McK. Pittinger, the rector, and Rev. M. A. Barber, of Christ Episcopal Church. The honorary pallbearers included E. C. Duncan, Seaboard Air Line receiver; Col. A. B. Andrews, Col. Harry Skinner, district attorney, and Messrs. George Green and Sam P. Collier, clerks of the Federal courts, respectively at Newbern and Wilmington. The interment was with L. O. O. F. honors by the two Raleigh lodges.

Secretary R. D. W. Connor's biennial report of the work of the State Historical Commission declares that the Legislature has been liberal to the commission and its work and the commission has nothing to ask except that it be given opportunity to demonstrate the importance of its work. He declares that North Carolina is now both making and writing history. The report reviews at length the progress of the gathering, compiling and preserving of material for North Carolina history and the equipment for this work provided by the commission in the State House, and presents the undertaking of the commission, to place busts of prominent Carolinians in the niches of the State House rotunda, the first to be that of William A. Graham, prominent in the early history of the State and the Nation.

Governor Glenn, who went to Greenville, S. C., to confer in regard to the late State's missionary work which he will undertake later, went from Greenville to Washington to look after some personal interests there. He will return Wednesday.

Nearly \$43,000,000 capital invested in miscellaneous manufactures other than cotton, woolen, knitting mills and furniture factories, is the showing made by the annual report of the Commissioner of Labor and Printing, an increase of nearly a million over the previous year. There are 555 factories, employing 30,053 persons, 83% less than last year. Wages and hours of labor are shown to be about normal. Total horse power used is 114,092. Steam predominates with water and electricity, respectively, second and third rank. Eighty-two per cent. of the owners declare in favor of a general State compulsory education law.

MURDER IN BLADEN

Negro Arrested Here Recently Will Have to Face That Charge.

Henry Spivey, the negro arrested upon his arrival here on the Seaboard Air Line train Sunday a week ago, has been taken to Bladen county and placed in jail on a charge of murder, his father-in-law, Frank Shaw, having died last week of the wounds inflicted last Thursday night at his home near Abbottsburg. Shaw had had trouble with his son-in-law, who is generally regarded as a desperate character, and on the night in question, he went out to a pump in his yard to get a bucket of water and was fired on from ambush. Both his eyes were put out and he was otherwise injured. Later investigation proved that prior to the shooting a pot of kerosene with a shuck in it had been placed under Shaw's house with the evident purpose of arson, the opportunity to shoot having later presented itself. Hounds tracked Spivey to his home and he afterwards disappeared, being later spotted by Captain W. B. Williams, conductor on the Seaboard train, and turned over to an officer upon the arrival of his train at Wilmington. Spivey attributes the shooting of his father to night riders and said he was leaving the county to avoid the same persons. However, he is generally regarded as a bad negro and has spent most of his life roving around the country, where he has had the general reputation of being a gambler. He is said to be wanted under a \$1,000 reward in Florida.

Comes to Hospital Here.

Dr. Paul Peyton Lane, of Wilson, N. C., who has recently completed his course, has successfully stood a competitive examination for the position of interne at the James Walker Memorial Hospital in this city and has already entered upon his duties. He succeeds Dr. Kerr, who has resigned the position at the hospital to connect himself with the Relief Department of the Atlantic Coast Line at the general offices in this city. Dr. Lane will be cordially welcomed to Wilmington and Dr. Kerr will have the best wishes of many friends in his new position.