

# The News and Observer.

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## LEADS ALL NORTH CAROLINA DAILIES IN NEWS AND CIRCULATION.

### The Queen Signs To-Day

#### THE CORTES DISSOLVED, RATIFICATION OF TREATY FOLLOWS.

#### In Cuba General Brooke Will Now Recognize no Government but That of the United States.

Madrid, March 17.—1 a. m.—The Queen Regent will sign the ratification of the peace treaty today.

DECREE DISSOLVING CORTES.  
Madrid, March 16.—The Queen Regent tonight signed the decree dissolving the Cortes, convoking the new Parliament and authorizing the payment of arrears of pay to the repatriated troops.

TELEPHONED TO PRESIDENT.  
Thomasville, Ga., March 16.—The news received by the Associated Press, that the Queen Regent of Spain would sign the peace treaty of ratification today was telephoned promptly to the President. The President was much gratified at the fact that this last step necessary to the end of hostile relations was accomplished, though never doubting such would be the outcome. Arrangements for exchange of ratifications and the payment of the twenty million dollars yet to be made, but no action by the President will be needed before he returns to Washington. It is likely that on Friday night the President will start for Jekyll Island for a day or two.

#### NEW RULE AS TO RATIONS.

Must Hereafter be Charged Against Customs Receipts of Provinces.

Havana, March 16.—An order was issued to-day by the United States military authorities to the effect that all rations distributed to the Cuban poor, after the supply now on hand is exhausted, shall be charged against the customs receipts of the province in which they are distributed. Monthly requisitions will be made as heretofore, and the United States authorities will supply, buying in the Cuban markets, such articles as sugar and rice, if they can be obtained to better advantage here. The rest of the rations will be bought in the United States.

General Fitzhugh Lee has returned here from Cienfuegos.

Chief of Police Menocal, owing to the recent censures of the force, carries his resignation in his pocket. He has tendered it two or three times, but on reconsideration has withdrawn it.

The new police force has unfortunately created a bad impression. During the last few days the policemen have shown timidity in handling people. They appear to be undetermined and undecided what to do or how to do it. People have no respect for them and pay little attention to their orders, which are not enforced.

Several of the policemen have asked for a detail of American soldiers to help them arrest law-breakers, saying our soldiers are the only men the law-breakers will obey.

General Pedro Betancourt has arrived from Matanzas and conferred with Generals Pedro Diaz, Jesus Montegudo, Luis Robau, Alberto Nodarse and Francisco Peraza, who last night decided to act in conjunction with him in condemning the action of the military assembly.

Considerable interest attaches to the attitude they will adopt with respect to General Gomez, because they command over twenty thousand Cuban soldiers. If they adhere to Gomez, it is asserted that their action will probably be the assembly's death blow. The general feeling is that they will support him, but they would like to secure the co-operation of General Mayia Rodriguez, commanding general in the Provinces of Pinar del Rio, Matanzas, Havana and Santa Clara, but this may prove difficult, as he has already publicly expressed his adherence to the assembly.

Should Rodriguez continue to defend the assembly's course, and should these generals declare in favor of Gomez, trouble might follow. They are corps commanders under him, but their united influence is considered stronger than his. The meeting they had arranged for this afternoon was postponed.

The talk of Gomez for President of the Cuban Republic is increasing, as a very natural reaction against the censures passed upon him by the military assembly.

#### ASSEMBLY MUST KEEP QUIET.

Washington, March 16.—There has been further telegraphic correspondence between General Brooke and the War Department regarding conditions in Cuba, with the result that hereafter General Brooke will confine himself wholly within the terms of the resolution adopted by Congress before the war. No Government, organization or set of men will be recognized. The United States Government will deal with the people of Cuba. It is not stated who the "people" are, but it is inferred that the United States authorities will determine that point as different questions arise. In the same connection it is regarded as important that the census which has

been determined upon, should be taken so as to ascertain the resident citizens of the island. The Cuban Assembly will be dealt with as any other organization. If its sessions provoke riot and disturbances it will be dispersed like any other disorderly body. If its meetings are harmless and amount to nothing more than the vociferation of men, no attention will be paid to it. If the Assembly gets in the way of the United States authorities in the preservation of the peace and tranquility of the island, then the Assembly or any other set of men must in the language of the American police "move on."

#### THE GERMAN ARMY BILL.

A Scene of Turbulence in the Reichstag is Followed by its Passage.

Berlin, March 16.—In anticipation of the third reading of the army bill to-day both the Reichstag and the public galleries of that house were packed.

The various items of the estimates were first discussed, and the proceedings were so turbulent that the President, Count Von Ballenstein, was repeatedly compelled to call the house to order.

When the army bill was taken up, Dr. Lieber, the Centrist leader, moved the acceptance of the committee's proposal to reduce the peace effective by seven thousand men, adding a resolution to the effect that the House was willing in the event of figure granted by the committee proving inadequate, to enter into fresh negotiations with the government.

Dr. Lieber also moved that civilian artisans instead of active soldiers be employed in the offices and workshops of the army.

After debate the general discussion was closed and the articles of the army bill were debated.

Article 1, which the committee did not alter, was adopted.

Article 2, as drafted by the committee and amended by Dr. Lieber's motion was adopted.

Then the whole bill was adopted by a vote of 222 to 132.

#### SEA DRILLS FOR THE MILITIA.

The Auxiliary Cruiser Prairie Will Make Practice Cruises.

Washington, March 16.—The Navy Department today announced the itinerary of the auxiliary cruiser Prairie, which will be devoted this summer to actual practice cruising for the benefit of the naval militia of the Atlantic Coast States. The cruise will commence at New Orleans April 10th, ending at Massachusetts about October 1st, giving the naval militia of each of the coast States a full week of actual sea drill. This is the first time that the Department has been able to devote a vessel exclusively to the use of the militia, and it is considered the greatest aid to this branch of the service that has ever been attempted.

#### CONDITION OF THE TERRIBLE.

Bursting Steam Pipes Kept the Men in a State of Terror.

Portsmouth, Eng., March 16.—An inquest was opened here today into the circumstances of the death of the stoker of the British first class cruiser Terrible, who was killed by a boiler explosion on board the cruiser while she was on her way from Malta to Davenport. The evidence showed that during the cruise of the homeward voyage five steam pipes burst and that at various times the fires had to be drawn from under three of the boilers in order to prevent disaster. The stokers and engineers were almost in a state of panic and were afraid to go on duty, not knowing at what moment an explosion might occur.

#### SMALL POX IN THE SENATE.

And the House Votes to Vaccinate All the Members.

Little Rock, Ark., March 16.—Members of the Legislature were panic stricken today when it was announced that physicians had diagnosed the illness of Senator Lankford as small pox. After a half hour's debate, the House voted to vaccinate all its members.

#### RAILING BEGINS WORK.

New York, March 16.—Rudyard Kipling is steadily improving. He was moved today from his room on the second floor to a suite on the floor above, which has been in readiness for him for several days. He will have more sunshine there, and the apartments are brighter than those he has been in. Mr. Kipling is already at work again. His tremendous energy has already asserted itself, and he has tackled yachts. A message was sent to a well known publishing house today for some books on yachts, yacht building and points about the building and sailing of this class of craft. Books were sent to the author's rooms.

### Shot to Death For Arson

#### MURDEROUS WORK OF TWENTY MASKED MEN.

#### Negroes Plotted to Give Palmetto to the Flames—Shot Under Guard—The Governor's Proclamation.

Palmetto, Ga., March 16.—Twenty men, armed and masked, rode into this little town at an early hour this morning and put to death four negroes, fatally wounded one, shot another and broke the arm of a seventh man. Two others who were of the crowd upon which the bullets were showered, miraculously escaped. These unfortunates were under guard of three men awaiting the hour of 9 o'clock when they were to have a hearing before a justice of the peace on the charge of arson. William Cotton, the leader of the nine men, confessed some time ago that a conspiracy had been entered into which resulted in two incendiary fires here in February and on this evidence the men were to have been tried.

The dead are: William Cotton, Jr., Harrison Hudson, Ed Brown, Henry Bingham. Fatally wounded: John Bigby. Wounded: John Jameson, George Tatum, arm broken, Isham Brown, Clem Watts.

The other two members of the gang escaped injury. After the inquest they were turned loose and left on the train for Atlanta. The town is quiet tonight and under the protection of the Capital City Guards of Atlanta and a posse of well-armed citizens.

The negroes were confined in the office of the Johnson warehouse, a one story stone building just across the track from the Atlanta and West Point depot. They were arrested yesterday, and tied together with ropes, were passing the night under the protection of three guards sworn in for that purpose. Their preliminary trial was set for 9 o'clock this morning.

About 1 o'clock this morning, about twenty men masked and mounted, rode up to the warehouse and dismounted. Without waiting to announce themselves to the guards within, they easily forced the door of the warehouse and a second later stood in the office of the Johnson Company where the negroes were lying on the floor around the fire. The guards were covered by Winchester, and with hands up were marched to one side of the little room and stood against the wall.

The negroes who were frightened into silence by the bursting of the door now realized their peril. Scream after scream went up from the victims as they saw the gleam of the fire arms in the dim light from the fireplace. Their appeals for mercy were unheeded. A short, heavy-set man, whose features were completely concealed by a white handkerchief, acted as leader. He cursed the blacks into silence for a moment and told his men to get ready. After looking at each negro he commanded them to get up. The trembling, crying wretches, tugging at their ropes in a vain effort to get away, obeyed the words of the mob's leader. A last appeal for mercy went unheeded and the word: "Fire," rang out in the little room. The volley filled the room with fire and smoke and the negroes fell in a heap on the floor. The noise awakened the little town, and as lights began to twinkle in windows here and there, a second volley sealed the doom of those who were fortunate enough to escape the murderous fire of the first charge. As the mob made ready to depart three or four men with pistols sent bullets into the prostrate forms on the floor, and inside of ten minutes after the masked crew had entered Johnson's warehouse on their murderous errand, they had completed their work and were on their way to safety on the backs of fleet horses.

Soon citizens began to arrive at the warehouse, being under the impression that the guards were murdered by the negro prisoners. When the horrors of the affair was presented Mayor Arnold telephoned Governor Candler, at Atlanta of the occurrence and asked for some militia. He then deputized 75 citizens to preserve order, and arming them with rifles placed them on duty in different parts of the town.

Daylight in the warehouse revealed a sickening sight. Blood covered the floor and the walls were indented with bullets from Winchester and other arms. Wives and children of the negroes to whom the news of the tragedy had spread on rapid wings, knelt by the bodies of their dead and endeavored to console the wounded. The cries of the negro families filled the room and sent a shock through the hearers.

Doctors bent over the wounded and administered to their wants at intervals until noon, when friends of the injured came and removed them to their homes. The dead, whose bodies were horribly mangled, remained where they were until shortly after noon when a coroner's jury was empanelled. In the absence of Coroner Dunlap, Justice of the Peace Cummings summoned the jury and conducted the inquest. Clem Watts, one of the negroes who miraculously escaped being shot, was the first witness. He said:

"I was at the warehouse and a crowd of masked men, about 20, called upon the guards to throw up their hands. They made them leave the guard room. The leader then ordered his men to fire on the prisoners, first counting 1, 2, 3. The men afterwards loaded and fired again."

Guard Baker testified that the mob filled the room and the guards were forced to the wall.

"The leader of the mob gave a count and the shooting began. They had pistols, shotguns and Winchester rifles."

"They did not stay over five minutes. I don't know which way they came or which way they went when they left." J. J. Conner, the other guard examined, said:

"I was guarding the prisoners about 1 o'clock. A crowd of masked men came into the room by forcing the door open and moved the guards back."

"The prisoners were commanded to line up, and then the order to fire was given, which was obeyed. They shot and reloaded and shot the second time. The room was filled with the masked men. I don't know the number."

The jury then rendered a verdict which presented in writing, read:

"We, the coroner's jury, empanelled in the cases of the death of Harrison Hudson, Wm. Cotton, Jr., Ed. Brown and Henry Bingham, find that they came to their death from gunshot or pistol shot wounds from a crowd of masked men to the jury unknown, a little after midnight or on the morning of the 16th of March, 1899.

(Signed) "T. J. Ballard, Foreman."

The town has been visited by two incendiary fires since February 1st, and the citizens have been afraid to rebuild, owing to the oft repeated threats of the negroes that they would do the same thing again. The county authorities have been very active in their efforts to apprehend the incendiaries, and yesterday arrested nine negroes. William Cotton had confessed to Dr. H. L. Johnson that he and eight companions had conspired to burn the town and loot the stores.

The burning part of the programme was successfully carried out, but the fires spread so rapidly and the buildings went up in flames so fast that they were unable to obtain anything from the stores. Dr. Johnson got the names of the eight accomplices from Cotton, and on this evidence the warrants were sworn out.

The Capital City Guards of Atlanta, fifty men, under command of Colonel John S. Candler, late of the Third Georgia volunteer regiment, arrived at 11 o'clock and reported to Mayor Arnold. The Mayor distributed them throughout the little town, and together with the citizens now doing duty as deputy sheriffs, it is believed there is a force sufficient to quell any uprising by the negroes.

From the best information obtainable the mob did not exceed 20 men. They made no noise to announce their coming, and the dispatch with which they got away from the scene of the crime would seem to indicate that the number employed in the work was small. The two negroes who have talked, say the room was crowded with negroes, but the office would not hold over 30, mob, prisoners and guards.

The doors of the warehouse were not bolted and were forced without any trouble. The town is quiet to-night. The only sign of life is the solitary patrol every few paces walking back and forth on his beat. The citizens apprehensive for the night have quieted down, and place complete confidence in the ability of the militia to preserve order.

#### GOVERNOR OFFERS A REWARD.

Such Outrages, He Declares, Must Cease in Georgia.

Atlanta, Ga., March 16.—Governor Candler is very bitter in his denunciation of the Palmetto lynching and terms the killing an outrage. In an interview today the Governor said:

"I regard the outrage as simply inexcusable. These men had been arrested, as I am informed, and proof was at hand to convict them. They were in the hands of the law. The law was amply able to punish them, and the interposition of this mob of disguised men was entirely unnecessary since with the proof in the hands of those who had made the arrests conviction and punishment were absolutely certain."

"I offer the largest reward the law will authorize for the apprehension of any one or more of the perpetrators of this dastardly deed, and I will try to see to it that they are prosecuted to the limit of the law. Such outrages must stop in Georgia."

Later in the day the Governor issued the following proclamation:

"Whereas, official information has been received that on the night of March 15th, 1899, an unknown mob foully murdered Henry Bingham, colored, Tip Hudson, colored, Ed Brown, colored, and Bud Cotton, colored, while

### The Capture of Cainti

#### CHARGING ACROSS RICE FIELDS UNDER HEAVY FIRE.

#### Fighting in the Streets—Four Hours of Battle—Lack of Ammunition Forces Americans to Withdraw.

Manila, March 16.—1:30 P. M.—The insurgents at the outposts and in the trenches beyond Calococan fired several volleys last night upon the Montana and Kansas volunteers, and a part of the Fourth regulars, desiring, it is supposed, to discover if the American line had been thinned by the movement of General Wheaton's command. The Americans in the trenches replied warmly to the fire.

H. Y. Beecher, of Company A, of the Montana regiment, was killed in the engagement.

A battalion of the Twentieth regular infantry routed a small band of Filipinos on the Laguna road, and some sharpshooters who were firing from a house over which a French flag was flying were dislodged.

A gunboat entered the lake and silenced a one-gun battery in the foothills.

3:55 P. M.—The strongly fortified village of Cainti, northwest of Pasig, was captured to-day, after a desperate fight, by the Twentieth regular infantry.

The troops first encountered the rebel outposts in the dense jungle on the banks of the river. The enemy was dislodged after half an hour's fighting.

The Americans advanced in splendid order under a heavy fire until it was necessary to volley the rebels from the trenches. The latter had a great advantage and dropped a number of our men. The Americans charged across the rice fields, making four advances on the enemy, who numbered a thousand men, five hundred of whom were entrenched, and in the face of a cross fire. Our troops, however, carried the town after four hours' fighting, and burned the outskirts, the rebels firing from the windows and keeping up a running fire in the streets. The Americans then withdrew in order to obtain more ammunition.

The rebels lost about 100 men and the American loss was Corporal Johnson, of Company C, and Private McAvoy, of Company L, killed. In addition the following Americans were wounded:

Sergeant Check, Company L. Corporal Households, Company M. Private Kelly, Company C. Private Kinney, Company C. Private Tinker, Company C. Private Gilley, Company G. Private Varley, Company G. Private Casey, Company F. Private Mahan, Company L. Private Griffiths, Company L.

said parties were incarcerated and well guarded, awaiting a commitment trial upon the charge of arson, in the county of Campbell.

"I have thought proper, therefore, to issue this, my proclamation, hereby offering a reward of five hundred dollars for the apprehension and delivery of the first member of said unknown mob and a further reward of one hundred dollars for each additional person so implicated, with evidence sufficient to convict to the sheriff of said county and State."

"And I do moreover charge and require all officers in this State, civil and military, to be vigilant in endeavoring to apprehend the said members of the unknown mob in order that they may be brought to trial for the offence with which they stand charged. Given under my hand and seal of the State this, the sixteenth day of March, 1899.

"A. D. CANDLER, Governor. By the Governor, "PHIL COOK, Sec. of State."

Clem Watts, one of the alleged incendiaries, who escaped death at Palmetto this morning, arrived here to-night. He said he did not know how he came to be released. He was not taken before any judge after the coroner's inquest, nor was any formally looking to his release taken. He was simply told he could go and he doesn't know who imparted this information to him. He says he had nothing to do with the burning of Palmetto in February, and if Cotton made a confession, he (Watts) knew nothing of it. He still maintains that there were but twenty men in the mob.

#### MERRITT AT FORT MONROE.

He and His Wife Are Stopping at the Hotel Chamberlin.

Newport News, Va., March 16.—General Wesley Merritt and wife arrived at Fort Monroe from Washington today and are stopping at the Hotel Chamberlin. A salute of thirteen guns were fired from the fort as the steamer bearing the General turned her nose ashore.

#### KILLED BY HIS OWN GUN.

Columbus, Texas, March 16.—John Scott and a deputy sheriff engaged in an altercation today, when Scott remarked that if he had a revolver he would fight. Ex-Sheriff Reese offered him a revolver and the shooting began. Reese and Charles Boeme, a by-stander, were killed, and a small boy named Williams was badly injured.

Private Lafayette, Company L. Private MacFarland, Company L. Artie Cluckmann, the regimental "mascot" carried a parrot into action, and was wounded in the knee.

#### TIFE TRANSPORT SHEERIDAN.

Arrives at Port Said on Her Way to Manila.

Port Said, March 16.—The United States transport Sheridan, which sailed from New York on February 19th for Manila, has arrived here.

The troops on board the Sheridan are the Twelfth United States infantry and a battalion of the Seventeenth United States infantry, the detachment being under the command of Colonel Smith.

#### THE INSURGENTS LESS ACTIVE.

The American Advance Has Cut the Country in Two.

Washington, March 16.—The following from General Otis reached the War Department to-day:

Manila, March 16th. "Adjutant General, Washington: "Reports from Iloilo indicate improvement; less activity on the part of the insurgents of the island; reports from Negros are most encouraging; the inhabitants are enthusiastic; quiet prevails throughout the island, and Colonel Smith is directing affairs in framing the internal government. Cebu is quiet, business is progressing under United States protection; reports from Samar and Leyte indicate a desire of the inhabitants for United States troops; these islands are occupied; the insurgents' control is confined to Luzon, and the occupation of the Pasig river line with control of Leguana de Bay has cut the country occupied by the Tagalos in nearly two equal parts.

(Signed) "OTIS."

#### FILIPINO REPUBLIC MORIBUND.

Minneapolis, Minn., March 16.—United States Senator Kyle, of South Dakota, said here to-day, while en route home, that President McKinley had lately received private advices to the effect that the Filipino Republic was on its last legs. The Senator said he had received this information from sources very near to the President, and that the latter anticipated the final collapse of Aguinaldo's Government and the complete possession by General Otis within a few days.

#### SIX FROZEN TO DEATH.

Sad Fate of a Party on the Valdez Glacier.

Seattle, Wash., March 16.—The steamer Excelsior, which arrived tonight from the mouth of Copper River, Alaska, brings news of the freezing to death of six men on Valdez glacier, about the first of March. They were: Adolph Ehrhardt, New York. Maximilian Aleeman, New York. Dr. Edward Logan, Denver. Rudolph Ellerkamp, Louisville. August Schultz, New York.

All the bodies except that of Dr. Logan were recovered and buried at Valdez. Ehrhardt, Miller and Aleeman were members of the Scientific Prospecting Company of New York.

#### A SOLDIER MURDERED.

Washington, March 16.—The War Department has received the following:

"Guantanamo, March 16. "Adjutant General, Washington. "Private Robert T. Tanksley, Company H, Third United States volunteers, died at Santa Rosa, at 12 m., gunshot; murdered. (Signed) "RAY, Colonel."

#### TAMPA AN EXCHANGE OFFICE.

Washington, March 16.—The Postmaster General has issued an order constituting Tampa, Fla., an exchange office for the money order business of Cuba. The business has been done heretofore at New York City.

#### RUSSELL SUCCEEDS HERSHELL.

London, March 16.—Baron Russell, of Killowen, Lord Chief Justice of England, has been appointed to succeed the late Baron Hershell on the Venezuelan Arbitration Commission.

#### EDITOR OF TRIBUNE DEAD.

Chicago, Ills., March 16.—Word was received here to-day from San Antonio, Texas, that Joseph Medill, proprietor of the Chicago Tribune died there early this morning.

#### THE PHILADELPHIAS ARRIVE.

Charlotte, N. C., March 16.—The Philadelphia baseball club arrived here this morning. The club will begin practice at Latta Park to-morrow.