

# The News and Observer.

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### A MAJORITY FAVOR THE PANAMA CANAL

#### Isthmian Canal Commission in Session.

#### MAY FILE REPORT TODAY

#### The Commission Divided on Every Proposition Submitted.

#### WALKER DESIRES A UNANIMOUS REPORT

#### He Hopes That by Carrying the Matter Over Until Today He May be Able to Harmonize Differences Among Members.

(By the Associated Press.)  
Washington, Jan. 17.—When the Isthmian Canal Commission of which Rear Admiral John G. Walker, is chairman, met today, and it was with the understanding that the session should continue until a majority at least had reached a definite conclusion respecting the nature of the recommendation, which will be sent to the President, and that that recommendation would in all probability be submitted today. It is learned upon the highest authority that the commission is not a unit on any one of the propositions which have been submitted. A member of the commission today said to a representative of the Associated Press:

"The fact that there is a discussion, shows there is a diversity of opinion among the members of the commission regarding the selection of a canal route." Although no positive information was given out regarding the feeling among the members of the commission, it is learned that the acceptance of the offer of the Panama Company will be urged by a majority of the members. There were no witnesses at today's session, it having been agreed that sufficient data had been presented to enable the commission to reach a decision.

Admiral Walker late this afternoon, announced that the commission would be unable to file their report with the President until sometime tomorrow. It was stated on excellent authority that Admiral Walker is desirous of presenting if possible a unanimous report to the President and hopes, by carrying the matter over until tomorrow, to harmonize the differences known to exist among the members of the commission.

#### DISCUSSED BY THE CABINET.

#### Formalities to be Observed on the Occasion of Prince Henry's Visit.

(By the Associated Press.)  
Washington, D. C., Jan. 17.—The time of the Cabinet meeting today was largely occupied in the discussion of the formalities to be followed upon the occasion of the visit of Prince Henry of Prussia. It is the desire of the President to show the Prince every honor befitting him as a Prince of the royal blood and as the personal representative and kinsman of the German Emperor. But at the same time the program is to be as simple as possible. As far as agreed upon it is as follows:

Upon the arrival of Prince Henry in New York he will be met by a squadron under command of Rear Admiral Evans, and national salutes of twenty-one guns will be fired both by the warships and the harbor batteries. Visits of courtesy will be made upon the Prince by the commander of the department of the East and the ranking naval officers at New York and Assistant Secretary of State Hill probably will also formally welcome the Prince as the special representative of the President. When the Prince reaches Washington he will be the guest of the German Ambassador. According to precedent, it will be the duty of the Prince to call upon the President who will return the visit. A dinner will be given at the White House in the Prince's honor.

It was decided that all arrangements for Prince Henry's reception should be confined to a special committee, composed of Dr. David Jayne Hill, representing the State Department; Major General Henry C. Corbin, representing the United States Army; Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans, representing the Navy; and Count A. von Quadt-Wykradt-Isny, the counselor and first secretary of the German Embassy.

During the afternoon Count Quadt came to the State Department to see Dr. Hill and the latter having meanwhile communicated with General Corbin and with the local representatives of the railroad companies, some progress was made toward arranging the program. It was decided that the members of the Committee on Reception above named should proceed to New York in time to welcome the Prince on his arrival there about noon, February 23. He probably will be brought to Washington that night, arriving here Sunday morning and will rest quietly at the Embassy that day. An effort is being made to arrange matters so that the Prince shall be present at the Capitol when the Senate and House meet on February 27th to hear Secretary Hay deliver his memorial address in honor of the late President McKinley.

There is little doubt that the Prince will be able to accept some of the invitations that have come to him from various cities. The committee here will

arrange a program which will take the visitor as far west as St. Louis, and it is possible that Charleston will be included in the return trip, as the exposition authorities have made a strong plea for his appearance. Niagara Falls also may be taken in on the outward trip. The State Department has been notified that the Prince's American visit will last but sixteen days in all, as he will sail for Germany on the Columbia on March the 8th.

### EXPLOSION IN POSTOFFICE

#### Clerk Injured by an Explosive Sent Through the Mails.

(By the Associated Press.)  
Knoxville, Jan. 17.—J. W. Martin, a postoffice clerk, was injured today by the explosion of a package of powder, nitro glycerine or an infernal machine. While stamping letters and packages with the receiving stamp, a package addressed to a local hardware store, exploded when struck with the stamp. Examination revealed on it the name of a New York smokeless powder concern. The interior of the parcel showed a tin box in which the explosive had been packed. The local hardware firm disclaim having ordered such a package or having been notified of its shipment. The postal authorities have begun an investigation. Arrests may follow.

### For Public Building at Jacksonville.

(By the Associated Press.)  
Washington, Jan. 17.—The House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds today decided to make a favorable report on the bill appropriating \$200,000 for a building at Jacksonville, Fla.

### A STARTLING CHARGE

#### Minister Incarcerated in Asylum for Fighting Whiskey Traffic.

(By the Associated Press.)  
Richmond, Va., Jan. 17.—Unusual interest was aroused this morning at the session of the Anti-Saloon League State Convention. Rev. Dr. H. E. Johnson, of this city, requested Dr. J. B. Hawthorne to eliminate the sentence in his speech last night which is to be printed in pamphlet form, in which he said: "We have no need of the Prohibition party."

Dr. Johnson said Dr. Hawthorne's remarks were misleading. A sensational statement by the Rev. James Suddith, of Longdale, Va., in which grave charges are made against certain persons, was the chief feature of the convention.

Some time ago Mr. Suddith was arrested, charged with larceny, and was sent to the asylum at Staunton, Va. At present he is out on furlough, and declares he is still being watched and forced to promise not to visit certain sections of the State under threat of further incarceration in the asylum. He charges that he never suffered mental derangement, that he is now and has always been in his right senses, and that he was the victim of a conspiracy.

### THE GREAT FAIR AT ST. LOUIS.

#### One Year's Postponement Advocated to Secure Notable Foreign Exhibits.

(By the Associated Press.)  
Washington, Jan. 17.—Since arriving in Washington ex-Governor Francis, president of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, and Adolphus Busch, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the exposition, have become convinced that if the exposition is to secure a really notable collection of foreign exhibits that will eclipse the exhibits heretofore sent from European nations to other expositions there must be a postponement of the opening of the great fair to be held at St. Louis from 1903 to 1904. The gentlemen named made an admission of this fact today in the course of a conversation at the White House, where they had called to interest the President in efforts they are making to urge on foreign governments the desirability of full and complete presentation at the St. Louis exposition. Prior to this call they had seen a number of the ministers and other representatives attached to the foreign legations and embassies in Washington and as a result had become convinced that elaborate foreign exhibits could not be counted on for an exposition in this country during the year 1903.

They find for instance that a great Japanese fair is to be given under government auspices in 1903 and if the exposition is postponed until 1904 everything of interest exhibited there can be brought to St. Louis the following year. "In 1903 we can make the exposition as great as any ever given," said Governor Francis, "but if we postpone it a year it will surpass anything in the exposition line ever attempted. We can be ready in 1903 but it is questionable whether we can secure what we want from abroad by that time."

The banks of the city will be closed on Monday, January 20th, in honor of General E. Lee's birthday, which falls on Sunday, the 19th.

### QUESTIONS OF PARTY POLICY DISCUSSED

#### Democratic Representatives Meet in Caucus.

#### NO DECLARATION IS MADE

#### Pending Questions Should First go to the House.

#### DECLARATION OF POLICY MAY FOLLOW

#### This Seems to be the Sentiment at the Meeting. Representative Henry's Resolution Touching a Democratic Caucus Defining Policies.

(By the Associated Press.)  
Washington, Jan. 17.—The special commission of Democratic Representatives appointed at the last caucus to consider numerous resolutions defining party policy, held an extended session today with a view to framing a report for presentation to another caucus. Representative Henry, of Texas, proposed a resolution, declaring that it was beyond the province of a Democratic caucus to define policies in contravention of a national platform, and that the policy defined by a national convention was binding until the next convention was held. The meeting lasted about four hours, and at its close Representative Richardson, of Tennessee, the chairman, stated that no final results had been reached, and pending an agreement no announcement would be made. It is understood, however, that the sentiment at the meet-

### APPALLING LOSS OF LIFE BY THE EARTHQUAKE IN MEXICO

#### From Three to Six Hundred People Are Said to Have Been Killed in the City of Chilpancingo.

(By the Associated Press.)  
Mexico, Jan. 17.—Details from Chilpancingo are still meagre. It is known that the State capitol, the parish church and many houses are in ruins. The estimate of lives lost is now three hundred and the injured even greater in number. The shock also was very severe at Chilapa, also in the State of Guerrero. That region always has been the focus of seismic disturbances. Laredo, Texas, Jan. 17.—A telegram from the City of Mexico says a telegram

ing was opposed to a strict declaration of policy on pending questions before such questions actually were presented for consideration in the House. Another meeting will be held to continue the discussion of today's meeting, and after that a caucus of all Democratic members will be held.

### The McKinley Memorial Association.

(By the Associated Press.)  
Cleveland, Jan. 17.—The following bulletin was given out today from the McKinley Memorial Association headquarters in this city:

"Hon. James A. Gary, chairman of the Executive Committee of Maryland, reports to the McKinley National Memorial Association that the members of the Memorial Association of Maryland have already begun action and there is every prospect of gratifying results." Governors Hunt, of Idaho, and Candler, of Georgia, write, saying that the day will be generally observed in those States. Governor Jennings, of Florida, says an appeal will be published throughout the State. There is an active auxiliary of twenty-five members in Florida. Governor A. H. Longino, of Mississippi, in replying, says: "President McKinley was not only a great and noble man, but possessed such a rare combination of all the Christian virtues that his name deserves to be fittingly and enduringly commemorated, and in your noble undertaking you will have the sympathy and support of the South, which has recently remembered him with the most profound gratitude and reverence."

### Last Day of Court.

In the court yesterday, the last day of this term, the following cases were disposed of:  
Robert O. King, vs. Raleigh and Augusta Air Line. Defendants allowed fifteen days after adjournment of court to answer.  
J. W. Hardin, Jr., et al. vs. Morehead Banking Co., and others. Non suit as to J. W. Hardin, Jr., and the National Bank of Raleigh.  
John Lucas & Co., vs. Zachary and Zachary. Judgment against plaintiff for costs.  
Junius Booker, assault with deadly weapon, thirty days on roads.  
Henry Horton, affray, thirty days on roads.

### THE SHIP SUBSIDY BILL ON THE ROAD

#### Senator Frye's Measure is Favorably Reported.

#### OPPOSED BY DEMOCRATS

#### Vote Solidly to Strike Out the Subsidy Provision.

#### SEVERAL AMENDMENTS MADE TO BILL

#### Frye Summarizes the Report, Arguing That no Shipbuilders' Trust is Possible Under Bill and Estimating Cost of Ocean Mail Service.

(By the Associated Press.)  
Washington, Jan. 17.—The Senate Committee on Commerce today authorized a favorable report upon Senator Frye's Ship Subsidy Bill. The report will be made by Senator Frye. The Democratic members of the committee voted against reporting the bill. They also voted solidly for a motion offered by Senator Mallory to strike out the general subsidy provision of the bill. The committee made several amendments to the bill. The most important were: Allowing mail carrying vessels under the bill to be either iron or steel instead of steel only, as originally provided, and another reducing to the thousand gross registered tons the vessels receiving a bounty under the bill. Senator Frye furnishes the following summary of the report: "The establishment of this complete

steamers, mainly for cargo, are American, \$35; British, \$26; German and Scandinavian, \$17.

"The general subsidies proposed equalize American and foreign costs on these bases."  
"Based on actual navigation of American vessels in foreign trade in 1900, the subsidies proposed would amount to \$1,672,000 divided as follows: Steam (excluding mail vessels), \$559,000; sail, \$513,000. Geographically: Atlantic ocean, \$444,000; Pacific ocean, \$467,000; square rigged ships on both oceans, \$181,000.

"Full compliance with all requirements for the bill would fix the initial expenditures at between \$800,000 and \$900,000. "Under the general subsidy increase in expenditure depends on increase in ship-building. The completion of 200,000 tons of ocean steamers for foreign trade in one year, involving \$1,300,000 in subsidies, will place the United States in advance of Germany as a ship-building nation."

### Telegraphers Get a Raise.

(By the Associated Press.)  
Roanoke, Va., Jan. 17.—The general committee of the Norfolk and Western Railroad branch of the Order of Railway Telegraphers has been in session here for the past two weeks. The work which it had in hand was the arrangement of a new agreement with the management of the Norfolk and Western Railway. It is said that a substantial increase in pay has been granted the operators and an overtime scale fixed along the line of the railway trainmen. The increase will affect more than 500 men. A new set of working rules also was adopted for the Norfolk and Western operators. The new arrangement will go into effect on February 1.

### TO HANDLE OUR TRUCK

#### Norfolk and Southern Company Capitalized at \$5,000,000 to be Formed

(By the Associated Press.)  
Baltimore, Md., Jan. 17.—A syndicate is being formed in this city to finance the Norfolk and Southern Company, a security owning company recently chartered under the laws of New Jersey. The company will be capitalized at nearly \$5,000,000 and under the plan agreed upon will own the control of the Norfolk and Southern Railroad, and the Lake Drummond Canal and Water Company. The Norfolk and Southern Company will issue \$1,300,000 of an authorized issue of \$1,500,000 of stock, and will also put out \$3,500,000 five per cent fifty year gold bonds. Payment for the securities to be acquired will be made partly in cash and partly in the stock of the new company. The combined earnings of the two properties provide for interest on the bonds to be issued, and leave 1-4 per cent for the stock. The scheme places under one directing influence the two properties which have been competitors for the business from the early truck regions of North Carolina, the fish and oyster industries of the sounds of that State and the traffic which comes to the shores of the sounds for an outlet. A considerable saving in the handling of freight is expected to result from this. It is authoritatively stated that no advance in freight rates is contemplated, and the economies to be gained in handling traffic is the motive for creating the new company.

### The Sharkey-Maher Fight.

(By the Associated Press.)  
Industrial Athletic Club, Philadelphia, Jan. 17.—An attempt made late in the afternoon to prevent the fight by the arrest of both Sharkey and Maher had no effect on the attendance and the big barn-like structure was packed when the first of the three preliminaries was called.

It was 9:15 before the first of the preliminaries began. There was just enough pepper in the opening bouts to whet the appetite of the crowd for the big fellows. "Kid" Fitzgerald, colored, of Baltimore, met the "Kentucky Rosebud" of Philadelphia. It was a good draw. Jack Hagerty, of Trenton, bested "Kid" Fisher, of Brooklyn. Lew Ryall and "Young" Kelly, both of this city, fought six tame rounds to a draw.

### Everybody Likes Her.

The remarkable good business of the Una Clayton Company at the Academy of Music convales, and the excellent performance of "The Little Detective," given by Miss Clayton and her clever supporting company last night is a guarantee of a good house tonight. Miss Clayton in the protean part of Della Riddisford showed her great versatility—assuming no less than five distinct disguises, one being from a swell young man in dress suit and overcoat, to a ragged Irish boy in less than two minutes and the entire company gave splendid support. The Prentice Trio were very amusing in a nondescript sketch filled with good comedy. The popular vote of the patrons of the Academy of Music for the play tonight was 152 majority for "Under Two Flags." Manager Morey announced that the popular vote should decide it. Under Two Flags will be the bill for tonight. The version played by this company is called the "Bennett Version," and is said to be the best and most concise of any. The watch to be given at the Saturday matinee was set going at 6 o'clock last night. It is a handsome gold one and will be given to the party guessing nearest to the hour at which it stops. It is in the window at Mahler's jewelry store.

### THE STATE'S GAIN IS NOW \$8,558,124

#### Auditor's Report of Valuations and Taxes.

#### A SPLENDID SHOWING

#### The Increase in Personal Property Values is \$7,157,790.

#### THE REAL ESTATE GAIN, \$1,400,354

#### The Total Value of Real Estate is \$167,368,632; Personal Property, \$94,081,247. Total Tax Amounts to \$566,474.74.

The State Auditor's report was finished yesterday, showing the valuations of real and personal property in the State, and the amount of taxation thereon, at the rate of 21 2-5c., on \$100. The report shows a gain in the total value of real estate of \$1,400,354; and a gain of \$7,157,790 in the personal property valuation. The total gain is \$8,558,124.

There are 27,550,593 acres of land in the State, 104,816 acres of mineral and quarry lands, and 83,164 town lots. The total valuation of real estate is \$167,368,632, and the total tax \$263,632.04. The total valuation of personal property is \$94,081,247, and the total tax \$203,842.70. Thus the total valuation of real and personal property is \$261,449,879, and the total tax on real and personal property \$5,664.74.

The items of personal property and their valuations are as follows:  
Horses . . . . . \$ 6,930,066  
Mules . . . . . 6,068,118  
Jacks and Jennets . . . . . 48,617  
Goats . . . . . 28,243  
Cattle . . . . . 4,829,727  
Hogs . . . . . 1,730,198  
Sheep . . . . . 300,584  
Farming utensils . . . . . 1,743,790  
Tools of Mechanics . . . . . 414,290  
Household and Kitchen Furniture . . . . . 6,063,643  
Provisions . . . . . 2,28,152  
Firearms . . . . . 385,502  
Libraries . . . . . 407,113  
Scientific Instruments . . . . . 161,990  
Money on Hand or on Deposit . . . . . 4,817,798  
Solvent Credits . . . . . 21,549,690  
Shares in Incorporated Companies . . . . . 6,793,721  
Cotton in Seed or in Lint . . . . . 1,485,670  
Tobacco (Leaf or Manufactured) . . . . . 2,904,862  
Turpentine, Rosin and Tar . . . . . 46,345  
Brandy and Whisky . . . . . 92,765  
Musical Instruments . . . . . 1,000,791  
Bicycles . . . . . 133,969  
Plated and Silverware . . . . . 143,316  
Watches and Jewelry . . . . . 637,617  
Other Personal Property . . . . . 23,023,990  
There are 174,235 horses, 136,471 mules, 1,067 jacks and jennets, 40,639 goats, 575,218 cattle, 1,219,743 hogs, and 303,830 sheep.  
Gross incomes from property not taxed, five per cent, \$12,331. Incomes and profits from salaries, fees, etc., \$908,764.

### SUDDEN DEATH SUMMONS FOR JOSEPH J. JOHNSON.

#### A Prominent and Successful Business Man of Raleigh Found Dead in a Room in His House.

A sudden death yesterday afternoon about 3 o'clock was the painless end of the life of Mr. Josiah J. Johnson. He had been a sufferer for years from rheumatism and was also afflicted with paralysis, but there was no idea of any immediate danger, and it was with startled surprise that friends and acquaintances heard of his death.

### Titus Sure it is Kerns.

New York, Jan. 16.—Captain Titus, of the Detective Bureau, said today that he was sure the man arrested yesterday in Louisiana was Edward Kerns, the former valet of Baul G. Thebaud. Kerns stole about \$50,000 worth of jewelry from the Thebauds two weeks ago.

Late this afternoon Captain Titus received the following telegram from Sheriff Marrow, of New Orleans: "Man answers all descriptions. Denies identity. Says if identified will return without requisition." Mr. Thebaud, accompanied by Detective Sergeant Jap. F. Kelly left for New Orleans tonight.

### Telegraphic Briefs.

Goldboro, N. C., Jan. 16.—Joe Dinkins, the man struck by Dave Smith, is dead. Smith has not been captured.  
The State Superintendent of Education of Alabama has been informed of the arrest of eight negroes in Henry county, who appeared for an examination with a full list of the questions and answers as prepared secretly by the board of education. County Superintendent Espy had them arrested and they claimed that they had received the questions from a negro preacher named Brooken, paying him \$5 each. Investigation showed that Brooken had procured the papers from Oscar Hall, a negro teacher of Troy, Ala., paying \$15 for them. All of the parties are under arrest except Hall, who has escaped into Georgia.