The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, - Dec. 5, 1901.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

THE Attorney General of the United States has thrown a bombshell into the ranks of the Federal office-holders in this State, which has created consternation. He has issued an order forbidding Federal officers and employees from making themselves "unduly prominent in local political matters." He also forbids them to "take an active part in political conventions or in the direction of other parts of political machinery."

The full force and effect of this order in North Carolina may be imagined, when it is stated that nearly every member of the Republican State executive committee is a Federal office-holder, and there never was a Republican State convention that was not dominated completely by Federal office-holders!

Indeed if the Federal office-holders are eliminated from the Republican party in this State that party would almost disintegrate and be without leaders. It has often been truly said that the Republican party in the South is held together by "the cohesive power of public plunder." They certainly have manipulated their party machinery and political conventions ever since the organization of the Republican party in the South, and that is our reason why that party is so odious to the great bulk of the respectable white people of the South.

SENATOR Heitfeld, of Idaho, published a letter last week, addressed to the chairman of the Populist State central committee, announcing his withdrawal from the Populist party and his affiliation with the Democratic party. He was elected in January, 1897, as a Populist to the United States Senate, and his term will expire in March, 1903.

In his letter of withdrawal Senator Heitfeld says that the Democratic and People's parties are now striving for the same purpose and should combine. And yet there are some Southern Populists, who were once Democrats, now joining with the Republicans in fighting the Democratic party!

THE second trial of the noted Gattis-Kilgo case closed on last Saturday night with a verdict in favor of the plaintiff for $15,000.

At the first trial a verdict was given for $20,000, but the Supreme Court on appeal ordered a new trial, because of error of law in the judge's charge. The defendants' attorneys hoped for a verdict in their favor at this second trial. Public opinion is divided as to the verdict, but a majority of the disinterested public probably approve it.

A suit has been begun at Wilmington by some bank officers to test the revenue act of the last Legislature. They allege that they were not allowed to deduct from their bank stock the debts due and owing by them, and that the act was not passed according to the constitutional provision.

They applied to Judge Allen for a restraining order against the sheriff collecting this bank tax, but he refused to issue the order and an appeal was taken to the supreme court.

THE two largest religious denominations in this State are this week holding their annual State meeting. The North Carolina Baptist State Convention is in session at Winston, and the North Carolina Methodist Episcopal Conference is in session at Fayetteville. Both are notable gatherings.

The Baptist Convention represents fifty-five associations and 1,668 churches with a membership of about 175,000.

THE first session of the fifty-seventh Congress began on last Monday. A quorum was present in both branches. The House was organized by the re-election of all the old officers, who of course are Republicans, that party having a majority of 39 in that body.

For the first time since the war there is not an ex-Confederate soldier in the North Carolina delegation. This seems quite significant as well as sad.

THAT was a notable game of football Thanksgiving on last Saturday. It was the annual match game between the army and the navy—between the cadets at West Point and the cadets at Annapolis. The army team was victorious by a score of 11 to 5. An immense crowd witnessed it, among the spectators being President Roosevelt and members of his cabinet, together with Admiral Dewey, Gen. Miles and many other distinguished naval and army officers. The President and other officials became as excited and enthusiastic during the game as any school boys, and for the time cast aside the dignity of their high positions. Special trains were run from West Point and Annapolis, which carried all the cadets at each academy and many prominent officers.

THE Exposition at Charleston was formally opened on last Monday with impressive ceremonies. The President of the United States started the machinery in motion by touching an electric button at Washington.

The orator of the day was the Republican Senator Depew, of New York. We are pleased to note this as meaning good for the fact that southern hospitality is efficient. The exposition will close Sept. 1 of next year.

THE cotton ginned to Nov. 14th, last Tuesday, estimated the cotton crop of the United States this year at nine million, six hundred thousand bales. This will no doubt raise the price of cotton to eight cents or more. It went up about thirty points in New York on Tuesday.

Increase in Pension Roll.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.

While the population of the United States has increased 24 per cent in the past decade the pension roll has increased 47 per cent in the same period. The number of pensioners January 1, 1901, was 993,529, an increase of 31,000 over the number on the roll January 1, 1900. The total amount paid for pensions during the year was $139,000,000, the greatest amount ever paid out in any year by any government on any account. Already one in every 45 of the population is a pensioner, and if only the applications in sight are allowed this proportion will be reduced to one in every fifty-eight.

The pension roll is now the largest in the history of the world, the nearest approach being that of Germany, with 907,835 names. [illegible] pensioners belonging to new classes. The budget.

The Philippines a Burden.

Washington, Dec. 2.—Opinions were rendered in the United States Supreme Court today in the last two of the Insular cases, one of them a decision of great importance, involving the relationship of the United States to the Philippine Islands from a commercial point of view, and the other, which is known as the Dressler Case No. 2, involving the constitutionality of the collection of duty on goods shipped from New York to Porto Rico.

In the first case, the court, through Justice Brown, held that the general rates brought in from the Philippines and even those for rice, which have always been free, are exempt from duty under the Paris treaty of peace, so that really made the Philippines a foreign country. The decision in the Philippine case followed closely that of the first Porto Rican case of last term.

Mother and Child Burned.

Beaufort, Dec. 2.—Mrs. Taylor, living in Cedar Island township, near Beaufort, Saturday night, during Deputy, who was sleeping upstairs, was aroused by seeing flames of smoke. He rushed down stairs, rescued his wife, carrying her and one child from the burning dwelling. He returned for another child, and his wife, realizing that there was no children asleep in the house, in her frenzy rushed back into the burning house and, when last seen, arrived on the scene. Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Daniels are in the child burned to a crisp, nearly and expected to die and Mr. Taylor is injured, and his mental condition such that it is impossible to get the particulars from him. His condition is critical and fears are entertained for his life. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Purchase of Danish West Indies.

Copenhagen, Dec. 2.—A full agreement has been reached between Denmark and the United States for the sale of the Danish West Indies. The treaty will probably be signed this week at Washington.

The price fixed is between $4,000,000 and $5,000,000. The questions of free trade and citizenship will be decided by Congress, which, it is believed here, will grant these concessions.

Washington Letter.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28th, 1901.

"Has President Roosevelt been playing an extremely clever game of politics?" That is the question which in Washington has taken precedence of all others and beside which economic problems, committee appointments and local appropriation "grabs" pale into insignificance. No one ever suspected such a thing until congressmen began to arrive for the session and then general discussion at local conditions revealed such an extraordinary consternation consciousness (?) that it simultaneously dawned upon a number of people that the young gentleman in the White House had been perfecting an organization preparatory to the 1904 convention with a degree of political skill which no one ever suspected that he possessed.

"The discovery," such is called, was discussed in every hotel lobby in Washington last evening. "I never believed him capable of it," said a republican Senator, "with his charming naivete with which he has made appointments and turned down candidates has cackled to out, said another. "That was the was childlike and bland," he has announced that he would appoint only good men to office and all indications are that he has been quietly manipulating affairs behind the scenes in the interests of the Taft Roosevelt boom. A Thomas democratic congressman, a Western republican, Democrats and republicans alike were equally in the dark. Even the most conservative to [illegible] republicans that were expected to become members of the Taft movement party.

The surprise which a discovery of this character must create in the minds of the men who regard themselves as the leaders of their respective parties in their own states, can hardly be exaggerated. Even Cabinet officers, who are supposed to be in the secret of the President's plans, are [illegible] at the turn of events. Secretary Root, who is the ranking member of the Cabinet, is [illegible] to be the President's chosen successor, and Secretary Hay, who is the idol of the Republican masses, is [illegible] to be the President's choice. The Republican leaders are [illegible] for the purpose of [illegible] the question and [illegible] a name for the occasion. The most important [illegible] have to be found in [illegible] of Congressional and the committee on foreign relations. It is generally conceded that Senator Allison, who is the senior Republican member of that committee, will succeed to the chairmanship.

Hunter Accidentally Shot.

Connellsville, Pa., Nov. 30.—Samuel Harper, of Dunbar Township, was accidentally killed while hunting this morning. He and a cousin, John Lynn, were together near Bacon Vista, when Lynn's gun became tangled in the wire of a fence and was discharged. The charge entered Harper's leg just above the knee, opening all the large arteries. Lynn tried to stop the flow of blood but was unsuccessful, and Harper died in his arms.

A Sad Ends in a Tragedy.

Kissimmee, Fla., Dec. 2.—Miss Belle Starr was shot and instantly killed this afternoon, at her home on Springle street, about three miles from here, and Harry Kindell is probably mortally wounded. He was starting home, having, it is supposed, shot Miss Starr accidentally, then attempted suicide. He was found speechless, but when handed pencil and paper wrote that he wanted to commend of the world as speedily as possible. They were married yesterday and the best of friends. Kindell has recently returned from the Philippines.

The detail of troops assigned to guard the tomb of President McKinley, at Canton, O., has been reduced to five non-commissioned officers and forty privates under command of Lieutenant William Ashbridge.

The Programme of Congress.

Washington, Dec. 1.—One of the first measures of national interest which will be introduced in the Senate at the session which begins tomorrow will be a resolution looking to public action concerning the death of President McKinley. This will be presented tomorrow by either Senator Foraker or Senator Hanna, probably the former, and after its introduction the Senate will adjourn immediately as a mark of respect to the memory of the dead President. The annual message of President Roosevelt will not be received until Tuesday, and on this account the session of Monday will be exceedingly brief. It is not now expected that anything will be done on that day beyond the announcement of the death of Senator Kyle, following which the senate, in accordance with custom, will adjourn for the day. On Tuesday the President's message will be read and after its reading the announcement of the death of President McKinley will follow, whereupon under the precedent established when Presidents Lincoln and Garfield died, a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee to act with a similar committee of the House of Representatives to take appropriate action relative to the matter, and then calling for immediate adjournment for the day, will be adopted. Heretofore [illegible] have appeared to arrange the details of public exercises, but it is understood that a change will be made in this case and that Dr. Barker, the [illegible] minister, will be invited to deliver a funeral address.

[illegible] will be the introduction of [illegible] Aldrich will be [illegible] Alaska. Also the [illegible] will be [illegible] Senate Finance Committee [illegible] Senate Finance Committee [illegible] Senate Finance Committee