

The Legislature has now been in session one-half of its constitutional term. Of course during its remaining second half many more bills will be passed than during the first half of the session.

The Senate had its first interesting debate on last Thursday on the bill to increase the salary of the Supreme and Superior judges to \$3,500 a year. After quite a protracted discussion the bill passed the Senate by only one majority, the vote being 24 to 23.

The House had quite a lively debate on the bill to repeal the bill passed the day before to relieve Treasurer Lacy from the payment of \$374 stolen by the Republican Chief Clerk Martin. Although the House had passed the Senate bill to give this relief, yet on the very next day it passed by a large majority a bill to repeal that law, which had been so quickly enrolled and ratified.

When this repealing bill reached the Senate a motion was made to lay it on the table (and thus cut off debate) but that motion was not adopted, and the bill was made a special order for yesterday. It was unfortunate that any bill was introduced in this Legislature for Treasurer Lacy's relief, as a similar bill had been ingloriously defeated in the last Legislature.

The accidental "anti-jug" law has been repealed, but a bill has been introduced for a new law on the subject so as to cover the entire State.

THE Southern Inter-State Cotton Convention held last week at New Orleans was largely attended, and it is hoped that important and beneficial results will flow therefrom. It was in session three days and its proceedings were deeply interesting.

An organization was perfected to be known as the Southern Cotton Association and embracing all the cotton producing States and territories. Its object is to regulate cotton production, cotton supply and financing and especially cotton marketing, using every effort to secure broader markets and to limit the production to the demand at remunerative prices and to reduce to a minimum all expense of handling cotton and its products from the time it leaves the field until it reaches the consumer. There are to be State and territorial, county and parish and sub-divisional associations all related to the parent system.

A resolution was adopted "That the officers of this convention will be required and instructed immediately to formulate a plan to pool 2,000,000 bales of the present crop and retire the same until October 1, 1905."

Another resolution was also adopted to reduce the acreage in cotton this year 25 per cent and to buy 25 per cent less fertilizers. If this is strictly carried out we may expect cotton to sell for ten cents a pound.

THE Newton Enterprise has been publishing for several months a series of articles written by Mr. William A. Day, of Catawba county, who was a private soldier in the 49th N. C. regiment during the war between the States. These articles are written without any attempt at literary style, but are written in a plain and simple way, giving his every day experiences during the war in a most graphic and realistic manner. They are exceedingly interesting, indeed of thrilling interest, and give a better and clearer idea of what a Confederate soldier endured than any book that we have ever read.

The simple facts narrated by Mr. Day, or rather the facts so simply narrated by him, of almost every day occurrence are of thrilling interest and give the reader an idea of the many hairbreadth escapes, the many sufferings endured, and the many dangers that were survived by the writer and all other Confederate soldiers who went through the war. He narrates and mentions as an every day occurrence how this and that comrade was shot dead by his side, and the fearful sufferings endured by him and his comrades without complaint. No person can read these articles without having a most exalted opinion of the heroism of the Confederate soldiers, and it is to be hoped that all these articles when complete will be published in book form so that they may have a wider circulation.

General Stoessel's Career.

Perhaps the only Russian reputation which has stood the test of the war with the Japanese, in the estimation of the outside world, is that of General Stoessel, the heroic defender of Port Arthur. Now that the defense of the famous fortress has passed into history, the commander of the gallant garrison has become a national hero, whose name will be handed down, in song and story, to future generations.

Anatoli Mikhailovich Stoessel is the subject of conflicting biographies. He is called a Russian, a Swede, a Swiss, a German, a Jew. There is not much to be said of him. Born, July 10, 1848, in St. Petersburg, of a family of Swedish origin,—so much may be said to be known,—he was educated in the Pavlov Military School, in the Russian capital, in the same class with General Kuropatkin, and entered the army in 1864. He served with distinction in the Russo-Turkish War, 1877-78. He was made a colonel in 1889, and a major-general in 1899. The next year he became commander of the Ninth East Siberian Sharpshooters' Brigade. For his service in the campaign against the Boxers, in 1900, he was made a lieutenant-general. In February, 1904, when the war with Japan broke out, Stoessel was appointed commander at Port Arthur, and soon afterward was made commander of the entire army corps ordered to the defense of that fortress. General Stoessel is really a military scientist. He knows thoroughly the engineer's work, as well as chemistry, fortification methods, and sanitary improvements. Russia could not find any better defender for a besieged city. In recognition of his gallant defense, Emperor Nicholas has conferred upon him the title of aid-de-camp to the Czar, and the German Emperor has given him the German order of "Pour le Merite."—From General "Stoessel: Russian Defender of Port Arthur," in the American Monthly Review of Reviews for February.

Russian Offensive Movement Foiled.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 30.—11.50 p. m.—General Kuropatkin's attempt to break through the Japanese left wing and outflank Field Marshal Oyama's position on the Shakhe river, seems to have failed entirely. Few details, however, are available beyond the information contained in the official dispatches. Field Marshal Oyama, as at the battle of the Shakhe river, appears to have answered the Russian advance with a counter offensive movement; but no great disposition was shown to carry the warfare into the territory held by the Russians. At the War Office there is an inclination to lay the chief blame for the failure of the movement to a sudden change of the weather to intense cold, 20 degrees below zero, with a high wind which drifted the snow and rendered it hazardous to expose the troops to camping in the open plain, and also impeded the transportation of guns, supplies and the wounded. The operations entrusted to the second army, under General Gripenberg, was the capture of Sandepas, which in Russian hands would serve as pivot for a flanking movement against Field Marshal Oyama, but Sandepas proved too hard a nut to crack, but the Japanese, taking advantage of the check of the Russians, hurried up their reinforcements and assumed the offensive on the Hun river as well as along the railroad and the government Mandarin road. The Russians, however, appear to have been completely successful on the defensive, repulsing all the Japanese attacks.

Shot at Everything.

Durham, N. C., Jan. 30.—Clifton Baxter, a negro, created considerable excitement in the streets early this afternoon by pulling a large pistol and shooting at everything in sight. Fortunately for those who happened his way, his marksmanship was not very good and no one was wounded. When Officer Sorrell reached the scene the negro attempted to shoot him and was knocked down by a citizen who went with the officer. The negro was then overpowered and locked up. The negro is now charged with assault with deadly weapon and with resisting and abusing an officer. After his arrest it developed that Baxter went on a rampage last December and that there was a warrant for similar conduct as that enacted today. The defendant works for a railroad and every pay-day, or as soon after as possible, he has been raising all kinds of trouble. He will be tried tomorrow on four charges.

Homicide at a Festival.

Fayetteville, Jan. 30.—On Friday night, in the extreme western part of the county, while a negro festival was in progress, Abe Dolleman was shot in the abdomen, dying in 20 minutes. His ante-mortem statement was that the fatal shot was fired by Alex Graham, who escaped. Another negro, Alex Watson, who fired about the time that Graham did, was arrested and committed to jail.

Washington Letter.

Washington, Jan. 26, 1905.

The plans of the administration with regard to Santo Domingo constitute the chief topic of discussion among Democrats in Congress this week and the comment is generally unfavorable to the methods which have been pursued. An authorized statement has been given out at the State Department announcing that the United States is about to take control of San Domingo affairs, collect the entire customs of the Republic, turn over to President Morales 45 per cent of the gross receipts for administrative purposes and apply 55 per cent on the foreign indebtedness, which includes \$4,481,250 due to citizens of the United States. The total indebtedness of San Domingo is estimated at \$32,280,000 and it is further estimated that with the United States administering its customs houses not less than \$1,000,000 a year can be applied on the indebtedness. It is explained by the State Department that the representatives of those foreign powers to whose citizens San Domingo is indebted have urged upon this government the propriety of the United States taking possession of San Domingo affairs, inasmuch as this country opposes their forcible appropriation by European nations, and that facing this alternative the Administration determined to adopt the former course. It is further declared, moreover, that the United States is acting on the request of President Morales who appreciates the hopeless insolvency which confronts his country and who regards a virtual receivership held by this country as San Domingo's only salvation.

In addition to the official statement made by the State Department it has been declared by officials of that Department that conditions in Venezuela present an almost analogous condition and it is intimated that eventually a similar course will have to be pursued with the Castro government, which has sought to evade honorable performance of the obligations imposed on it by the Hague Tribunal. The chief question involved is this, Shall the United States, after declaring the Monroe doctrine, namely no European power shall acquire or increase its territorial possessions on this continent, permit European powers to seize customs houses and collect port dues where Central or South American countries repudiate their just debts, or shall the United States itself compel the payment of such just debts to European creditors and insist that no reprisals shall be made on this continent by any European power?

Subordinate to this question, however, although attracting greater attention at the present time, is the question of how far the President shall go in determining upon so momentous a policy and carrying it into effect without consulting the Senate. The Constitution provides that all treaties shall be made by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and shall be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the Senate. The Administration objects to the term treaty as applied to the agreement with San Domingo but the constitutional lawyer in the upper chamber insists that any agreement made between the United States and a foreign power is, de facto, a treaty, irrespective of the name applied to it by the State Department.

In the present instance the President and the Secretary of State decided upon the policy to be pursued with regard to San Domingo without consulting a single member of the Senate and it is unofficially, but apparently credibly, stated that terms of the agreement with San Domingo will take effect February 1, although no mention is made of the possibility of the Senate's refusing to approve the agreement. Moreover, a considerable naval fleet is being assembled in San Domingo waters, seven vessels being already in that vicinity and several more on the way. Reports from the island assert that there are indications of revolt against the agreement entered into by President Morales, in some of the ports to be turned over to the United States in the event of which American forces will have to interfere and the agreement so formally entered into may result in a condition closely approximating what Senator Bacon has introduced in the Senate a resolution inquiring of the President if any agreement has been entered into with San Domingo and if so, the character of its provisions. This resolution has been sent to committee but the indications are clear that the Republican leaders are not wholly at ease over the situation.

Ex-Mayor McCue, of Charlottesville, Virginia, will be hanged on the 10th of this month for murdering his wife. The Supreme Court has denied him a new trial.

A bill allowing the Supreme Court to grant new trials in capital cases upon discovery of new evidence, passed the House by one majority Tuesday.

In a race last Monday at Orlando, Fla., 100 miles was made in 79 2/5 minutes by an automobile.

The Japanese-Russian War.

From The Charlotte Observer, Jan. 30th.

A week ago all eyes were turned upon events transpiring in St. Petersburg to the neglect of the situation in Manchuria, where nearly a million men, with 2,500 guns, were drawn up in battle array. Now, however, the centre of public interest has been largely shifted again to the hostile camps along the Shakhe river near Mukden. Whether with the design of arousing the patriotism of the people at home and thereby divert their attention from the strike and the bloodshed incident thereto, or as a natural outcome of his plans, General Kuropatkin has suddenly become active and Russian dispatches from the front assert that a battle of even greater import than that at Liao Yang is imminent. It is stated that Russians have made preparations for the receipt of an immense number of wounded even as far back from the front as Harbin, some 200 miles north of Mukden. It is stated at St. Petersburg that General Kuropatkin intends to drive the Japanese from their winter quarters, and that an effort will be made to cut off Japanese communication along both lines to the sea.

An engagement of considerable magnitude was in progress on January 26th and 27th, and over 1,000 wounded Russians had been taken to Mukden up to Friday night. It seems that despite the cold, conditions are favorable for fighting, the ground is frozen hard, and the rivers are solid to a depth sufficient to allow the ready passage of soldiers and artillery.

There is little news from Tokio regarding the present operations in Manchuria, and this lends color to the idea which seems to be current in St. Petersburg that the fighting in the Far East is largely forced by reason of the serious situation in Russia itself. A dispatch from Field Marshal Oyama tells of the beginning of the fight on the 25th instant, when Kuropatkin advanced a full corps upon the Japanese position, and one victory is claimed for the Japanese.

Advices from Tokio indicate that the fighting of Saturday and Sunday resulted in victories for the Japanese, the Russians being put to flight.

It is estimated that the Russians have nearly 300,000 men and over 1,100 guns in position, and it is regarded as likely that the Japanese are fully as strong, so that if the expected general engagement takes place any time soon, it may be in the nature of a decisive conflict. The thermometer in the vicinity of Mukden at this time remains considerably below zero, but both armies are doubtless pretty well acclimated, and in position to do great slaughter.

Russia being without a capable fleet, has only the one hope of driving the Japanese back through Manchuria whence they came, and this is apparently too big a task for Kuropatkin's army, which in some quarters is regarded as not in a position to more than hold its own in case of a general movement. A St. Petersburg correspondent of a London newspaper hears that there has been serious mutiny among the Russian troops at Mukden, owing to the privations they had to undergo, and it is asserted that the Japanese along the Sha river are keeping the Russian troops fully acquainted with conditions at home. As bearing on this alleged situation at Mukden, the St. Petersburg correspondent of the London Telegraph asserts that Kuropatkin's offensive power is seriously hampered by the obstinate reluctance of the soldiers from the European provinces to advance against the enemy. General Kuropatkin's army is also said to suffer from a shortage of food, and a dispatch of much graver import, but the contents of which are unknown, is said to have reached St. Petersburg during the past week, and caused a hurried counsel of the war party. These things add still further to the intimation from St. Petersburg that Kuropatkin has taken desperate chances in order to detract attention from troubles at home.

Reports from Tokio tell of work being done to put the warships in good condition and plans for the new vessels to take the place of those destroyed. Fifteen submarine boats will be provided this year, and ten of these have already arrived, with American instructors. It is expected that the Japanese will soon begin a blockade of the port of Vladivostok, Russia's only remaining port in the Far East, where a remnant of the Port Arthur fleet took refuge some months ago. Japan is apparently concentrating her forces for a decisive blow during the coming spring. A fifth army, under command of Lieutenant General Kawamura, whose position has been that of commandant of the Tenth Division in the Japanese War Department. All men under 40 years of age in Japan are drilling and the calling out of many more reservists and conscripts is contemplated.

The strike situation in Russia has greatly improved so far as actual bloodshed is concerned, and in many instances the men are returning to work, and the authorities appear to have the situation pretty well in hand in St. Petersburg and Moscow. The strike, however, is spreading and the news from Poland is by no means reassuring. The attempt of un-

armed men to oppose soldiers with modern firearms has, of course failed, and revolution in the form of street demonstrations such as those undertaken Sunday a week ago with such bloody results have in most cases been abandoned. In place of open revolt, however, we have stories of many plots to overthrow the government. Russia is naturally a hot-bed of secret plans to cause a revolution, and a London dispatch to The New York Sun says there are millions of conspirators in the Czar's domains at this time, and it is said that much of their energy is being devoted to the military, and the statement of the St. Petersburg editors to Prince Mirsky that the time was at hand when the government could no longer rely on the troops is regarded as the truth. The Czar, himself a weak man, is said to be entirely under the domination of the Grand Duke Vladimir and Sergius, his brothers, who are represented as playing the part of the power behind the throne with a great deal of satisfaction. It is the general belief among European students of the situation that Sunday's butchery was sought by the grand ducal coterie with the view to bringing about a crisis in Russian affairs. The situation in Russia, while apparently less critical, in the matter of the shedding of blood, is yet by no means one of tranquility.

Fatal Fight at a Circus.

New Orleans, Jan. 30.—At a row at Baldwin, La., Saturday night during the performance of Reeds circus there, Charles Peterson was killed and Martin Ashley Baldwin fatally wounded. According to reports some of the audience was ridiculing the performers, when the latter became indignant and attacked the scoffers with shot-guns and circus stakes. Peterson was beaten to death. Ashley was shot three or four times. Both of the men were outlookers. A deputy sheriff assisted by a number of citizens, succeeded in arresting and jailing twelve of the circus people said to have been implicated, including Mrs. A. H. Reed, owner of the circus. Her husband escaped, taking the circus receipts with him.

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Won't Let Negro Troops Go.

Atlanta, Jan. 29.—Negro troops from Georgia will not be allowed to attend the inauguration of President Roosevelt, March 4. Governor Terrell will not grant permission to the colored troops to leave the State. The Lincoln Guards, of Macon, commanded by Saady Lockhart, have already made arrangements to attend the inauguration of the President, but when formal request for leave of absence of the company is made, it will be denied by the Governor on the ground that he does not want the State of Georgia represented on such an occasion by negro troops.

Fire at Portsmouth.

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 29.—Almost a score of buildings were destroyed or seriously damaged by the fire which started in C. B. Nash's ice warehouse, on Queen street, Portsmouth, early this morning. The loss is placed in the neighborhood of \$50,000. But for the heroic work of 250 United States marines, sent by Admiral Harrington from the navy yard with a yard fire engine, together with assistance rendered by a Norfolk engine company, the entire business section of the city would have been swept away. The fire started at 1:30 o'clock, and was not controlled until 4 o'clock this morning.

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Almost Killed by Engine.

Washington, N. C., Jan. 28.—William Latham, fireman on the steamer "Albemarle," narrowly escaped death yesterday while on duty. Latham was using a crowbar to facilitate the movement of the engine which had stopped for the moment, and starting up unexpectedly the engine caught the iron bar in its turn and threw Latham with great force against the machinery, cutting a gash in his head and otherwise bruising him severely. Drs. Tayloe and Brown rendered instant aid at the Washington Hospital, an institution recently organized here.

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