

The session of the Legislature will be closed in less than three weeks. The members are very busy now, as the end of the session draws near, and the House has begun to hold night sessions.

On last Friday the Senate discussed at much length and with much earnestness the Ward bill, which passed its second reading on that day by a vote of 25 to 16. Next day it passed its third reading in the Senate and is now pending in the House.

This bill prohibits the manufacture of whiskey in all towns with a population of less than one thousand inhabitants, and will be a great blessing to the small towns now cursed with whiskey stills. In the Senate discussion the chief argument used by its opponents was the same that was used against the passage of the Watts bill, and that was that it would ruin the Democratic party. Fortunately, however, the success of the Democratic party does not depend upon whiskey stills or saloons. It is earnestly hoped that the House will pass this bill.

We much regret that this Legislature is not as much opposed to divorces as it is to whiskey. There is no hope of repealing our disgraceful divorce laws, and the petitions of the churches will be unheeded. It is sad to think that the churches of this State have so little influence with our legislators.

The first death of the session occurred on last Thursday, when Representative Phipps, of Watauga county, died of pneumonia after a short sickness. At nearly every session of our Legislature one of the members dies, and usually of sickness caused by going out of the heated capitol into the cold air.

There is no probability of the Legislature making an appropriation to enlarge the capitol. There is more need of enlarging our charitable institutions, especially the insane asylums. They should receive increased appropriations even if no increased appropriations are given to the A. & M. College at Raleigh and the Normal School at Greensboro. These two colleges usually get the lion's share of appropriations at every session of the Legislature.

The committee on appropriations, both in the Senate and House, should closely and carefully scrutinize every bill asking for an appropriation, and recommend only such as may be actually necessary. If this is done there will be no need of any bond issue, as is urged by some.

The Legislature has not yet taken any steps to pay the judgment against the State rendered by the United States Supreme Court in favor of South Dakota. Gov. Glenn has sent a special message on this subject, and something should be done to pay this judgment, and also to settle the other bonds on which judgments may eventually be taken.

The salary of the Supreme and Superior court Judges will be increased from \$2,500 to \$3,000 a year. The bill for that purpose passed the House yesterday by a vote of 63 to 40. The Senate had previously passed a bill increasing it \$750, but will now accept the House amendment increasing it \$500.

The Senate has passed a bill to establish a bureau of immigration, with a commissioner at a salary of \$2,500. If this bill becomes a law we hope the commissioner will be a successful business man and not a played-out politician.

Since the above was written we are pleased to note that the House has passed on its second reading the divorce bill repealing all our recent divorce laws.

The execution of McCue, on last Friday, at Charlottesville, Virginia, was highly creditable to the administration of justice in that State, and was in striking contrast to the frequent miscarriage of justice in this State.

This was a notable and extraordinary case. McCue was a prominent lawyer, had been mayor of Charlottesville two terms, and had been considered a man of good character. On the night of the 4th of last September immediately on the return of himself and

wife from church to their house he brutally murdered her, and pretended that a burglar had killed her. Suspicion was aroused and he was arrested in a few days and in November was convicted of the murder. A new trial was refused on appeal to the Supreme Court, and the Governor refused to pardon him.

On the morning of his execution he confessed his guilt to his spiritual advisers, and met his death without a tremor.

The fifteenth annual reunion of the United Confederate Veterans will be held at Louisville, Kentucky, on the 14th, 15th and 16th of next June. Extensive preparations are being made for a grand occasion, and the railroads have given the low rate of one cent a mile.

A Whining Corpse.

A corpse came up on the Seaboard last week to be shipped on over the Southern. The transfer people had a negro driver in charge. There was loaded on this wagon a crate of hounds, besides the corpse, but the negro failed to make any mental note of the hounds, so engrossed was he with his gruesome freight.

With all his nerves tingling, he drove on until he got between Eleventh and Twelfth streets. Here the dogs began whining, but the negro had forgotten that he had any dogs along, and attributed the pitiful beseechments to the dead man. "Who!" he cried, instinctively, leapt from the wagon, and tore it up to the Seaboard depot.

The transfer people got messages from several sources, reporting the presence of the driver at the depot and the presence of the corpse and hounds between Eleventh and Twelfth streets, where the horses had halted. They thought that the dead man had slid from his conveyance or that the wagon had bogged or that the team balked. So they sent to the depot to inquire of the negro, but "Lawd," said he, "how c'n you expect me to keep on drivin' a whinin' daid man?"

The driver was not impervious to reason, however, and when he was convinced that the hounds, and not the dead man, had done the whining, he climbed to his perch again, and made in safety his terminus at the Southern.

Leaf Dealers Burned Out.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Feb. 14.—The rear end of the brick building in Chestnut street, occupied by Curran & Coleman Bros., dealers in leaf tobacco, was gutted by fire this morning. The first floor in the front part of the building was slightly damaged by water and a quantity of leaf tobacco in the east end of the factory, where the fire started, was practically destroyed. A large number of hogsheads filled with leaf in other parts of the building were saved. It is thought the fire originated from a hot box on a drying machine which was in operation. The loss, which is several thousand dollars, was covered by insurance. The automatic dryer and other machinery used by the firm was practically ruined, and the loss on this is larger than on the leaf tobacco. The firm has secured other quarters and will continue business without interruption.

Cut Father and Son.

Scotland Neck, N. C., Feb. 13.—There was quite a serious disturbance Saturday evening at Spring Hill, a small town a few miles away. Mr. W. B. Biggs and son became engaged in a dispute or misunderstanding with a colored man named Anthony, about some fodder. The colored man attacked them and badly cut both Mr. Biggs and his son. Mr. Biggs was cut on the neck just under the ear—a gash five inches long, and the son was badly cut on the hand. The negro fled as soon as he gashed his victims. They shot at him as he fled, but it is not known whether or not they touched him.

A physician was telephoned for from Scotland Neck. The wounds were soon dressed and Mr. Biggs and son were getting on very well at last report. The wounds are not dangerous.

Heavy Overcoat Saved Him.

Elizabeth City, N. C., Feb. 14.—Thomas McPherson attempted to kill Claude Relfe yesterday at Cainland, this county, by shooting him with a gun loaded with bird shot. Relfe wore a heavy overcoat and the shot took no effect. Both of them were participants in the feudist fight of several weeks ago, being among the leaders on each side, and it is alleged that after the fight McPherson vowed that he would shoot Relfe when he had an opportunity.

Relfe had to pass McPherson's home in going to his work. McPherson saw him coming, got his gun and blazed away, the load striking him with the effect stated. At 5 o'clock he had not been arrested.

Washington Letter.

From Our Regular Correspondent.

Washington, Feb. 9, 1905.

Democratic Senators, with the aid of a few Republicans, administered a signal defeat to the Republican leaders in the upper House this week and passed a Statehood bill which, if accepted by the House, will admit two new States to the Union and leave Arizona in a position to apply for Statehood later on. The final fight over the Statehood bill lasted for nine hours, during which every tactical advantage was seized upon by both sides, the result being a contest such as has seldom been witnessed in the Senate. With the Republican leaders defeated and Senator Beveridge in the depths of despair, what Senator Bailey declared to be a "trade" was effected and the tables turned, only to be turned again by the departure of the decrepit Senator "Trade" referred to by Senator Bailey consisted of the adoption of a previously rejected amendment offered by Senator Kearns of Utah, whereby 7,000 square miles of Arizona are annexed to Utah, despite the solemn pledge contained in the enabling act of the former territory guaranteeing that the territory should never be increased or diminished without the consent of a majority of its population. In return for 7,000 square miles, Mr. Kearns changed his allegiance and voted with the Beveridge faction, but the departure of Senator Platt later made it possible for the Foraker phalanx to win out.

Despite the spacious arguments advanced in the Senate against granting separate Statehood to Arizona and New Mexico, the real reason for its being opposed by the Republican leaders was the fear that proposed States might increase Democratic representation in the Senate. Intense interest now prevails regarding the fate of the amended measure in the House. There is a clear majority in favor of the bill as passed by the Senate in the lower chamber, but it is made up of the entire Democratic minority and a number of Republicans, and under the autocratic powers granted to the Speaker it is altogether possible that the measure may fail, despite the fact that a majority favors its adoption. The measure, which contains an appropriation, will have to go to a committee before the Senate amendments can be agreed to and the possibility of its being left in committee is not remote, while the fact that the Speaker can refuse to recognize any member who desires to make a motion unacceptable to the Republican leaders makes the fate of the measure especially dubious.

The House has determined to pass the Townsend-Esch railway rate bill and a vote will be taken today at which the success of the bill is assured, but it is almost certain that no action will be taken by the Senate. That this is the situation is regarded by earnest advocates of railway legislation as not altogether an unmixed evil and even the President appears to be resigned to the prospect of the Senators failure to act. The reason for this is that the House bill has been demonstrated to be entirely inadequate to correct existing evils and in view of the crowded condition of the Senate calendar it would be a physical impossibility properly to amend the bill at this session. That this is the case is largely due to the fact that certain Republican Senators, closely allied to railway interests, would persist in killing time were amendments calculated to make the bill more effective offered, but the President believes that by letting the matter go over until next fall he will secure a really efficient and comprehensive remedy for the evils to which he has directed the attention of Congress and of the country.

There are those who believe that the President is making a grave mistake not to insist on Congress either enacting some railway legislation at this session or, as an alternative, on calling a special session for the coming spring. The President, on the other hand, is of the opinion that public sentiment is with him and will merely gather force during the summer recess so that when he calls Congress together in the autumn public opinion will compel the Senate to enact legislation which will prove adequate, constitutional and comprehensive. There is a bare possibility that he may yield to the arguments of those who urge an earlier session, but present indications are that he will not.

The ceremony of canvassing the vote of the electoral college for President and Vice-President took place on Wednesday, February 8. There was, of course, no uncertainty regarding the result but, contrary to popular impression, Roosevelt and Fairbanks were not, properly speaking, President and Vice-President elect until this ceremony, which is prescribed by the constitution was performed.

The intense cold has caused the death of thousands of ducks in Currituck sound. The sound was frozen, with the exception of air holes, where the ducks gather. They dive and come up under the ice, and so were drowned. One man got 250 of the dead ducks, and another 200.

The Japanese-Russian War.

From The Charlotte Observer, Feb. 13th.

The Russo-Japanese war has been in progress for one year—last Wednesday, the 8th instant, being the anniversary of the attack on the Russian fleet at Port Arthur—and while there have recently been in circulation persistent stories of steps to bring about a cessation of hostilities, there is little upon which to base a belief that the fighting will terminate at any early date. The Russians, it seems, continue to get the worst of the fighting in Manchuria, but they are probably not yet ready to quit. Their troubles at home have to a large extent subsided, although the unrest in many industrial centers, including St. Petersburg, continues, and will doubtless in time cause something in the nature of a revolution. In conversation with a son of Count Leo Tolstoy Saturday, the Czar said he was only awaiting a favorable opportunity to give the people a voice in the government. If this concession is made it will be for the reason that the stability of the government is considered in danger under present conditions.

In a review of the war for the year just closed, The New York World prints some interesting figures, showing the losses of the combatants in the principal battles. On May 1-2 the battle of the Yalu was fought, the Japanese losing 1,000 and the Russians 3,500; June 14-16 the battle of Telesu resulted in 2,500 loss to the Japanese and 5,600 to the Russians; at Nausan Hill, May 26, the respective losses were 3,500 and 600; at Liao Yang, August 30-September 3, each side lost 25,000; on the Sha river, October 6-20 the Japanese loss was 15,879 and the Russian loss 45,000, while in the fighting on the Hua river on the 26th and 27th of January last the Japanese lost 7,000 and the Russians 13,000 men. These figures total losses of 54,379 for the Japanese and 72,700 for the Russians, and do not include numerous smaller engagements in which many lives were lost. The siege of Port Arthur cost the Japanese 50,000 men in round numbers, but the loss of the Russians is more or less a matter of guess work. It was, however, heavy. These figures, it will be noted, have only to do with the losses of the respective combatants on land. The losses of the Japanese at sea were inconsequential, save in one or two instances, while the Russians had a powerful fleet put out of action and nearly all the vessels destroyed or captured, and lost a considerable number of men.

The end of the first year's fighting, the total financial cost of which is estimated at \$2,500,000 a day, finds the Japanese in possession of the I-tao Tung peninsula as far north as a line drawn through Mukden, with complete possession of the sea, threatened only by the fleet of Admiral Rojestevenko, which is, for the time being at least, shut out of Valdivostok by ice, and there is no other Russian port at hand. Its interference with Japan's plans grows less probable as the days pass. On the side of Russia, there has been nothing but defeat and humiliation as a result of the brave efforts her troops have made to stem the tide that is almost daily engulfing them. The foe the mighty empires despised and scarcely thought worthy of serious attention has proved to be one of the foremost military powers of the world. It has, indeed, been a year of sore trial for the country of the Czar of all the Russias, and the result cannot but be beneficial to the Russians themselves as well as the entire civilized world. A government which dominates its own people like Russia has been shown to do should not be permitted to extend the sphere of its rule.

There has been no important fighting during the past week, the activity of the Japanese, however, is marked by the movements of troops here and there around about Mukden, and news of a further clash of some magnitude may be expected almost any time. The armies have found that the can fight despite the cold, and will doubtless not wait for spring if

seems advisable to hasten matters. There was apparently no truth in the reports that General Kurapatkin had relinquished his command, for he is apparently at the same old stand near Mukden. The Russian authorities at St. Petersburg last week published figures showing that the Russians had in the field some 50,000 more men than the Japanese, and apparently extracted considerable hope from this situation. It is not likely, however, that the Russians know actually how many men Oyama has under him, for the Japanese possess the faculty of keeping their own secrets.

Sad Drowning Near Wilmington.

Special to Charlotte Observer.

Wilmington, Feb. 10.—William B. Ellis, of Freehold, N. J., who has been experimenting with fruit growing and making some agricultural researches on Topsail Sound for the past several months, was drowned off the coast, about one mile south of Topsail Inlet, yesterday afternoon. Ellis and a Norwegian seaman, named Boe, had started to Wilmington from Topsail in a gasoline launch, when their engine broke down, and they were forced to take to a skiff in an effort to reach shore. The skiff capsized soon after the launch was abandoned, however, and both men were forced to cling to it to keep from going down. Mr. Ellis being unable to swim. Finally the Norwegian, of powerful physique, told Mr. Ellis to keep hold on the skiff, and, heroically and at great risk of his own life, he swam to the beach, a distance of nearly a mile. The weather was intensely cold, and when he reached shore, he was forced to roll over and over in the sand to get up the circulation of his blood again. Nearly frozen and almost exhausted, the Norwegian then plunged in the sound again in an effort to reach some fishermen across the channel. Before getting across, however, he fell on a shoal in the channel, and the fishermen were attracted by his shouts of help. They came to the man, heard his story briefly, after which he relapsed into unconsciousness. The fishermen then put out across the channel for the beach and found the body of Mr. Ellis under the capsized skiff, which had washed ashore. The body of Mr. Ellis was brought here this afternoon and embalmed, awaiting the arrival of relatives from the North, where the remains will be sent for interment. Mr. Ellis was a man of means, and was held in highest esteem by the people of Topsail, with whom he was generous and helpful.

Peculiar Sad Death.

Special to News and Observer.

Scotland Neck, N. C., Feb. 13.—Some days ago there was a particularly sad death in a hosiery mill here. Mrs. R. Staten, who was working in the mill for the support of her small children, died suddenly. Her husband was working on the Publico road of the county, serving out a sentence for abusing his wife and children while drunk. Before Christmas he was intoxicated and so abused his wife and children that they could not live with him in peace. He was tried in a magistrate's court and sent to the roads. He was liberated to come home and see his wife buried. He has six or seven children, but they have been looked after and given homes.

Death Under Peculiar Circumstances.

Special to Public Ledger.

Mrs. Morena A. Morse, of Brunswick county, died under peculiar circumstances several days ago. Accompanied by several relatives she went to church. During the services she gave her experience and testified to her faith and acceptance of God, and she was ready to go whenever the Master called her. She sat down and the next moment fell over dead. The attack following the declaration of her faith caused much excitement among the congregation.

Engineer Holsbosser Injured.

Special to Charlotte Observer.

Spencer, Feb. 14.—Engineer H. T. Holsbosser, of this place, was brought to his home here yesterday in a badly bruised condition, as a result of what came near proving a fatal experience under his engine near Greenville, S. C. His train had stopped, and the engineer was under the locomotive, looking after some repair work when a shifting train plunged into train No. 1, dragging Mr. Holsbosser about a hundred feet under the engine. His body was held firmly by the rods from the air brakes, and he was severely bruised about the face, arms and back.

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