

ROGERS and Sorrell were sentenced last week to six months imprisonment in jail for attempting to tamper with jurors in the recent trial of the Gattis-Kilgo case at Raleigh. At that time each of them was sentenced by the presiding Judge to thirty days in jail for contempt of court for attempting to tamper with the jurors. Last week they were indicted by the grand jury and they waived a trial and pleaded guilty. A strong effort was made to get the Judge not to imprison them and a petition was presented signed by a large number of Raleigh's best citizens.

Judge Allen, who sentenced these men, is to be commended for his firmness in resisting the strong appeals for their release. Their punishment is none too severe and it is hoped will be an example that will deter others from attempting so serious an offense against a proper administration of law. Certainly these men deserve no leniency until they divulge the names of the men "higher up" who got them into this trouble. Nobody of course, believes that they committed this offense of their own motion, and it is a pity that they cannot be kept in jail until they divulge the names of the persons who induced them to tamper with the jurors!

REPORTS are published of most sensational lawlessness in Tyrrell county. It is said that the illicit sellers of spirituous liquors in that county have formed an oath-bound society to stand by each other to the last extremity. In proof of this is cited the attempts to assassinate the mayor of the county town and the State's solicitor who were prosecuting some of these "blockaders."

Fortunately, Judge Shaw, of Greensboro, was holding court there last week and he determined to break up this lawless gang. Several of them were promptly arrested and confined in jail, where they can at their leisure realize from personal experience that they cannot successfully defy the law. Every one of these men ought to be severely punished and Judge Shaw is the man who will do it.

While this outbreak of lawlessness is the most outrageous of the kind that has occurred in this State, yet it is only an outcropping of the lawless character of the men in many of our counties who are violating our prohibition laws. Immunity from arrest has emboldened these men until they now in some places openly violate the law and terrorize into silence their neighbors who might wish to have them arrested.

It is said that Rollins and Blackburn, the leaders of the two Republican factions, have come to an agreement in regard to the distribution of the Federal patronage in this State. According to this agreement Rollins is to be United States district attorney in place of A. E. Holton, who has so vigorously prosecuted many of the corrupt revenue gaugers and storekeepers. If such prosecutions are continued it might send too many Republican workers to jail!

This control of Federal patronage has long been a bone of contention among the Republican leaders in this State, and they scramble and quarrel over it like hogs at the feed-trough. Indeed, but for the Federal offices there would be very few Republicans in this State, and yet life-long Democrats are called on to desert their old party to join such a gang!

The directors of the North Carolina Railroad Company, at their meeting last week, increased the salary of their "expert railroad examiner" from three to five hundred dollars, and for this they have been much criticised and deservedly so. While this increase of \$200 is a small sum yet the principle involved invites criticism. There is no suggestion even that the newly elected officer is any more competent than his predecessors or that his duties will be any more onerous than theirs. The truth is this position is a sinecure and is not usually filled by men who even pretend to be railroad experts, but is given as a matter of political or personal favoritism.

The Japanese-Russian War.

The fighting in the Far East during the past week has apparently been confined to the Island of Sakhalin, the Japanese being engaged in driving the Russian soldiers from point to point, with a view, apparently, of taking possession of the entire island. The occupancy of this island is considered of importance, as being the only Russian territory that Japan has taken. News from the Japanese army in Manchuria is to the effect that General Linevitch's repeated intention to attack Oyama's forces has apparently been abandoned, and that the Russian commander is not strictly on the defensive. There are reports of epidemics and contagious diseases among the Russian troops, but these are not confirmed. The rainy season in Manchuria is expected to put the roads in such condition that active operations will be next to impossible, so that even though an armistice is not agreed upon, no extensive operations are likely in the near future.

The peace envoys, or most of them, are now en route to Washington. It has been settled that they will hold their sessions at Portsmouth, N. H.

Rural Route Figures.

Washington, July 14.—The semi-annual report, showing the growth and development of the rural delivery system by States and congressional districts, which has just been issued by the postoffice department, gives a total of 975 routes in operation in North Carolina on July 1st, as compared with 578 routes in operation in the State July 1st, 1904. There are now 347 petitions for additional routes pending. Since the establishment of the rural delivery system 2,065 petitions for rural routes have been received from North Carolina, and of this number 743 have been acted upon adversely. The Tar Heel State has had more petitions acted upon adversely by the Postoffice Department than any other State in the Union, with the solitary exception of Georgia, where 962 petitions have been turned down. Bad roads are probably responsible for this situation, but the fact is not to be overlooked that political considerations have always played an important part of the rural delivery system. Districts having Republican Representatives in Congress have always been favored, while Democrats have had to wait.

Tennessee leads all the Southern States in the number of rural routes, having a total of 1,376. Texas takes second rank, Georgia third and North Carolina fourth. The fifth North Carolina district, Representative W. W. Kitchin's, has presented more petitions for routes, has had a greater number acted upon adversely and has more in operation than any other district in the State. There are 168 routes in that district, and 38 petitions are pending. The petitions acted upon adversely number 142. Representative Poy's district, the fourth, ranks second with a total of 101 routes in operation, and 31 applications for additional routes pending. A total of 62 petitions have been turned down.

Divorced, Remarry Forty Years Later.

Montville, Me., July 15.—After living apart for more than forty years William P. Jackson, of Montville, and Mrs. Mary P. Marr, of China, were this week again married, both declaring that they had made a mistake in securing a divorce. The ceremony was performed by Rev. E. Judson Hatch, who recited the events of the past lives of the couple and admonished them to live in happiness in the future and not let the green-eyed monster again enter their home. Mr. Jackson was first married to Mrs. Marr, then a maiden of much beauty, long before the civil war was started. They reared a large family of children, but when the call for volunteers was sent from Washington Jackson forgot his family and was one of the first men to enlist in the State of Maine. He served four years, was wounded several times, and returned to his home a physical wreck, brought about by long confinement in rebel prisons. As his health was returning to him Mr. Jackson and his wife had an estrangement which resulted in divorce.

Both married as soon as they separated, and to each came children. Mrs. Jackson died some time ago, and Mrs. Marr's husband was killed in an accident about the same time. A few weeks ago the man and woman met at Montville, where they had come to visit the children by their first marriage. The latter made overtures to the parents, their differences of the past were overlooked, and a minister was sent for. After the ceremony both husband and wife said they were sorry for what they had done forty years ago, and promised that they would live together during the rest of their lives.

Raymond D. Bynum, who on December 29th, last, shot and fatally wounded his partner "Deacon" J. H. Alford, in Raleigh, on Monday pleaded guilty of murder in the second degree, and was sentenced by Judge Allen to fifteen years in the penitentiary.

Washington Letter.

Washington, July 13, 1905. The President, at least, has been made to appreciate that there is a large sized scandal involved in the "leaks" in the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Agriculture and he has stirred his Secretary of Agriculture up with a sharp stick. A day or two ago Secretary Wilson was saying that the incident was closed, that no further investigation would be conducted and that there was nothing more to be said on the matter. Twenty-four hours later he had determined to cause a thorough investigation of the entire Bureau of Statistics and had turned the evidence in the case over to the Acting Attorney General so that the latter might ascertain if the evidence constituted a basis for a criminal prosecution. Now the Acting Attorney General has transmitted the evidence to the District Attorney and it is assumed that the District Attorney will immediately take steps to bring the matter to the attention of the grand jury.

Meanwhile, information has reached not only the Secretary of Agriculture, but the President as well, indicating that the leaks in the Bureau of Statistics have been going on for a long time and have concerned practically all the crops on which the government makes official reports. Wheat, corn, oats and cotton have all been reported in advance to certain speculators so that they could take advantage of the government's information and secure profits at the expense of the farmers to which they were in no way entitled. How much money has been made by the guilty persons in the Department of Agriculture and by the speculators in this manner no one can possibly estimate but there is reason to believe that it may have amounted to millions of dollars.

No one believes that Secretary Wilson was himself responsible for this condition of affairs beyond the fact that he was what is popularly termed "easy" in his dealings with all his subordinates. Probably no one believes John Hyde, chief of the Bureau of Statistics, to have been dishonestly connected with the leaks but most people believe that Mr. Hyde cannot be held to be blameless, that he failed in his duty to prevent leaks and in trusting Holmes, the associate statistician, to an unwarranted degree and that he has demonstrated, despite Secretary Wilson's contrary opinion, his unfitness to remain in the responsible position he now holds.

The truth is that the Department of Agriculture has long and quietly been approaching a climax in its affairs for the reason that it is not properly organized. Secretary Wilson is a man with an almost holy respect for science which makes him the victim of numerous scientific enthusiasts, not to say cranks. If the Secretary of Agriculture is to be himself a scientist he should at least have a plain, practical business man for Assistant Secretary and the Department would be even better off with a plain, practical business man at its head and a scientist for Assistant Secretary. Scientists are proverbially lacking in sound business sense and administrative ability and what applies to the Department as a whole applies to each of the scientific bureaus. An ideal organization would consist of a Secretary guided only by hard common sense and business experience, whose assistant Secretary was a scientist while each bureau had at its head a scientist, with a practical business man for assistant. With such an organization the scientific enthusiasts would be compelled to demonstrate to the Secretary the utility of the various lines of work they proposed to undertake and when such lines were undertaken the assistant chiefs of the bureaus would be able to look after the business end of each line of work. To accomplish such a reorganization, however, it would be necessary to employ better paid assistants than the Bureau now have, and not to waste all the funds appropriated by Congress on highly trained but generally impracticable, often irresponsible, scientists. Under James Wilson the Department of Agriculture has gone science mad.

The administration is confronted with the necessity of uncovering another unsavory mess of "graft," this time in Philadelphia, where, according to General Humphreys, Chief Quartermaster, U. S. A., there must be a thorough investigation of the Depot Quartermaster's office and of the clothing factory at the Schuylkill Arsenal. Gen. Humphreys frankly admits that political influence has been permitted to dominate affairs in Philadelphia and even intimates that a condition of affairs exists there not dissimilar, although, of course, on a smaller scale, to that which has recently been exposed in the Republican administration of the city of Philadelphia. Emboldened by the exposures brought about by Mayor Weaver, Gen. Humphreys announces that every dishonest man must go, be he civilian or officer. Of course the General did not dare announce any such revolutionary determination so long as Quay, and later Primrose, maintained his influence at the White House.

The State firemen's association is in session at Winston.

Brave Japanese Sailors.

Tokio, June 30.—The story of the loss of the Japanese cruiser Takasago in December last, only published since the destruction of Rojestvensky's fleet, is a military classic. After the Takasago struck a mine and began to sink the crew assembled in perfect order on the upper deck, there to await the battle with a stormy sea and death. Captain Ishibashi ordered every man to use a life belt, and directed that no one jump overboard until the ship actually sank. The crew then joined in singing the national anthem, cheering the Emperor, and lastly they sang "Gallant Sailors," their five hundred voices ringing out above the storm. After that, as a relaxation, the men were allowed to smoke and thus they went calmly to their deaths. Of five hundred men who went down with the Takasago, only 133 were rescued.

General W. W. Blackmar, commander-in-chief of the G. A. R., died last Saturday in Idaho.

Train Has Narrow Escape.

Murphy, July 13.—The Southern train from Asheville, due at this place at 9:45 Tuesday night, has not yet arrived. There was an unusual downpour of rain in this region Tuesday evening, which caused the highest water in the valley river that we have had with in the past three years. Some five miles east of Andrews, this county, the Southern passes through a small tunnel. On either side of this tunnel is a trestle over a mountain torrent. As the train passed over the trestle east of the tunnel the passengers and the train crew felt the trestle give way, but the structure was cleared without harm to the train. Emerging from the tunnel, the engineer stopped his engine, and, going forward to examine the trestle in front, he found the benches gone, and the track swinging over the seething water. The train was in the tunnel, and there it remains at this writing, the trestle east of the tunnel having been swept away a moment after the train passed it. The entrapped train was filled with passengers, who did not get through to this place until late yesterday evening, and they only then made their escape from the imprisoned train by walking several miles, as another trestle west of the tunnel had been carried away, so that a rescuing train from here could not reach them from this end.

It would be hard to say too much in praise of the tireless care of the trainmen who operate the Southern between this place and Asheville. The grades are steep, the road is crooked, winding along treacherous rivers and crossing numbers of dangerous torrents. But so constant and intelligent is the care of the trainmen that no serious hurt has come to a passenger on this line for several years.

Jealous Girl Sent Poison.

Owatonna, Minn., July 15.—Wilda Johnson, a young woman of this county, is under arrest charged with having put Paris green into a well on the farm of John L. Johnson, and with having sent an orange containing strychnine to Mrs. Lundstrum, a daughter of Johnson, who is a teacher in the county schools. The prisoner's preliminary hearing has been set for August 11. According to the prosecution, Miss Johnson was desperately in love with a young man of the neighborhood. She is said to have become jealous of Mrs. Lundstrum, who is a young widow, and with the idea of getting Mrs. Lundstrum out of the way, it is charged Miss Johnson impregnated an orange with strychnine and sent the orange to the school with a note, saying the orange was "for teacher only." The orange was laid aside, and having failed in this direction the girl is alleged to have poisoned the Johnson well. Fortunately, the alleged crime was discovered before any disastrous results ensued. The orange was sent to the State chemist and was discovered to contain enough strychnine to kill a score of people.

Big Riot in Negro Church.

News has just reached the city of a big riot at a negro church in Cedar Creek, during which scores of negroes were wounded, none however fatally. From the meagre particulars so far learned, it appears that a dude negro entered the church during service, and some one in the congregation made a sneering remark about his dress. He promptly drew his razor and made at the offender. In a few seconds the whole congregation was drawn into the fight, the relatives and friends of each of the negroes taking sides and forming themselves into hostile camps, from which sorties were made with knives, razors, brass knuckles and pistols. The battle raged for nearly two hours, and when the conflict ended only a few out of the hundred belligerents were left standing, most of them having been put out of action or fled from the field. At the beginning of the battle the trustees of the church considerably herded the women together and put a special guard over them for protection.

Two Killed in N. & W. Wreck.

Roanoke, Va., July 16.—Two men were killed and four more injured in a head-on collision between two freight trains today one mile north of Midvale, Va., on the Shenandoah division of the Norfolk & Western railway.

The injured men are in the Roanoke City Hospital. Midvale is 64 miles north of Roanoke. The north-bound freight train had orders to wait at Midvale for a south-bound extra freight, but the orders, it is alleged, were disregarded by the north-bound crew.

An Outlaw's Hiding Place.

Waynesville, July 12.—Today, while Nat Williams was digging ginseng on the side of the small mountain near Waynesville, known as the Lee Mountain, a very unusual as well as interesting thing occurred. Williams had been digging in this bed for two or three days and had remarked to some members of his family and to his neighbors about the ground being hollow. As this was a usual thing to find in the mountains the people dismissed him by telling him "that was nothin'." But Williams was not satisfied and struck the ground harder and harder with his mattock. He came to believe that there was a good sized hole under him and began to dig. After he had dug a hole about two feet deep and about two feet in diameter, the ground suddenly gave way and he fell a distance of about 12 feet. Williams was so frightened that he could not call for assistance for some time and was not able to get out again. His efforts were in vain. Williams had a few matches in his pocket and by the aid of these he was surprised beyond measure, on instituting a search, found it to be a cave about 15 feet by 12 feet, the roof being supported by props. He finally succeeded in digging a hole in the part of the roof nearest the ground and crawled out. Once out of the cave, he hurried to his home to spread the news of his discovery. When his friends heard the strange tale they hurried to the spot with guns, axes, mattocks, and weapons for defense against any "varmits" which might be hidden there. When they reached the place lanterns were lighted and a number of the brave mountaineers descended into the pit through the hole made by Williams, who refused to again go into the place, standing the while a good distance away. To their astonishment they found crockers, jars, buckets, bones and an old leather haversack, which was nearly rotten. In this cave were beds of leaves, and small logs arranged for a bed. For years it has been thought that an outlaw named Sam Massey had a cave somewhere on the mountain and that, during the war, he stole much from the women and children during the night. No way of ingress could be found, but a hollow log now rotten, through which it is thought he went in and out, was discovered. It is thought that this Sam Massey piloted the detestable Col. Kirk through the country, and also Col. Bartlett, in their raids for horses and provisions. Dark days they were, and these men living like dogs and beasts helped to increase the terror.

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Excursion Rates to Pacific Coast.

The Seaboard announces account of Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition and other occasions to be held on the Pacific Coast season 1905 they will sell round-trip tickets from principal points at following rates: To Portland, Ore., and return, going via any regular direct route and returning via that or any other regular direct route, \$71.50; going via San Francisco and Los Angeles, \$2.50. These tickets will be sold practically every day until September 30th and bear final return limit of ninety days from date of sale, and will permit of stop-over at and west of Colorado common points, Cheyenne, Trinidad, Fort Worth, San Antonio and west of St. Paul and Chicago.

For further information as to schedules and rates to the Lewis and Clark Exposition, apply to agents, or C. H. GATTIS, T. P. A., Raleigh, N. C.

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Peary Off for the Pole.

New York, July 16.—The Roosevelt, in which Captain Robert E. Peary hopes to reach the North Pole, started on her long voyage today. Captain Peary and a party of guests were on board at the start, and remained with the ship on her trip down the bay, but they left her at the Narrows, returning to the city on a navy tug. Captain Peary started tonight by rail for Sydney, Cape Breton, where he will join the ship. On board the vessel, beside the explorer's party, were a number of guests and newspaper men, who accompanied the ship as far as Sandy Hook, where they were taken off by a naval tug, sent out by Admiral Coghlan. A launch bearing a party of excursionists attempted to run close alongside the Roosevelt after she was under way, and nearly collided with her. The Roosevelt was saluted by all manner of steam and sailing craft on her way to sea.

A Miraculous Escape.

Spencer, N. C., July 15.—A north-bound freight train, loaded with Georgia peaches, had a miraculous escape from wreck, two miles north of Spencer, this afternoon. While running at about sixty miles per hour the engine struck a hand car, just before a long bridge across the Yadkin river had been reached, at once derailing the pony trucks of the engine. Engineer Glenn, who was at the throttle, applied the emergency brakes, but the speed was so great that the train and engine, with front wheels off the track, ran across the bridge and continued one-fourth of a mile before it could be stopped.

John Hyde, the chief statistician of the department of agriculture, has been forced to resign, as a result of the "leakage" in the cotton crop reports.

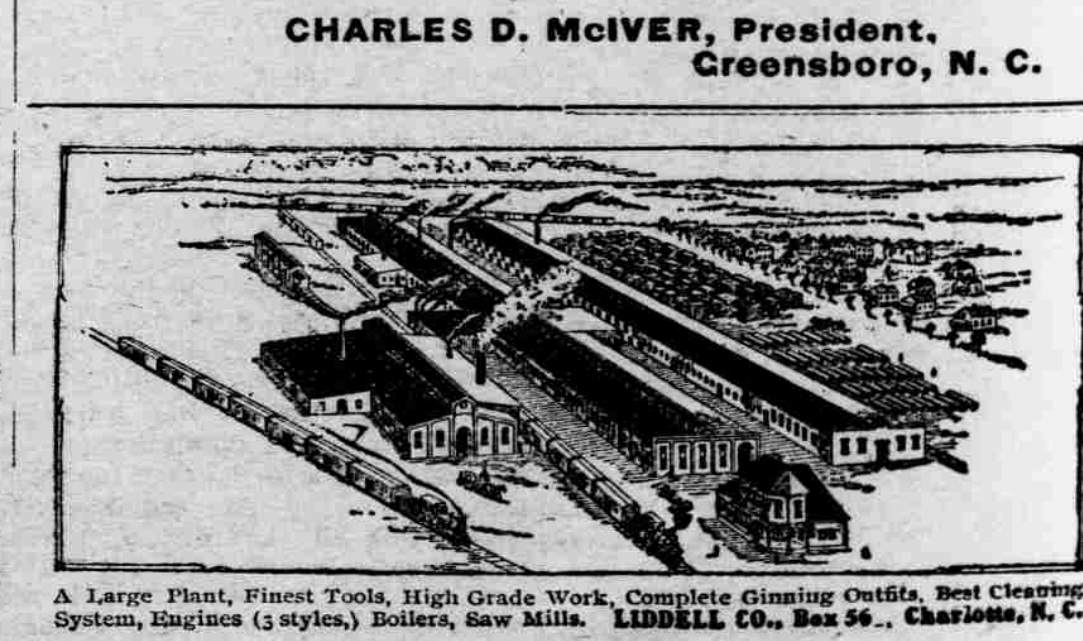
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