

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

THANKSGIVING DAY:

Another Thanksgiving Day has come, and once more the people of the United States are called upon to observe one day specially set apart for prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

Never before have any people in any age or country had as much cause for thanksgiving as have the people of the United States to-day. No country or people ever before had so many blessings showered upon them as we have had this year. No country has ever been more prosperous and no people have ever been happier than are now the people of this God-favored country.

Our country is at peace with all the world, and has recently intervened and without shedding a drop of blood kept the peace between warring factions in another country—in the ill-fated island of Cuba. The labors of the husbandman have been rewarded with bountiful harvests. Everybody is able to obtain remunerative employment. No wide-spread epidemics have scourged our people. No extended storms have devastated our land. With the exception of the San Francisco calamity no unusual disaster has occurred.

Never before have the people of any country been so blessed, as we now are, with all that promotes human happiness and comfort. The progress of the age has brought us comforts, conveniences and advantages that have never before been so generally enjoyed. While some persons have more cause to give thanks than others, yet there is scarcely anybody who has not some cause to be thankful.

While the people of the United States in general have so much cause for thanksgiving, the people of North Carolina have especial cause. Never before has our state made such great progress in all lines of development as during the past year. There are more and better churches and school-houses now than ever before, and there are fewer whiskey stills and bar-rooms than ever before. Our people are becoming more tolerant in their religious and political opinions and differences. All the churches are in a more prosperous condition than ever before. Our schools and colleges are attended by more students and our percentage of illiteracy is lower than ever before. There is less discontent and grumbling than ever before, because there is less to grumble about. On the whole the people of North Carolina have unusual cause for observing today with peculiar gratitude.

On this day let the more favored show their gratitude for the blessings which they enjoy by sharing some of those blessings with those who have not been so favored. Let us express our thanks not by words only, but by deeds by helping to make others have cause to give thanks!

The recent arrest of some English cotton mill operatives at Charlotte has called to the attention of the people of this State a law, passed by Congress several years ago, that few of our people knew anything about. It is the law forbidding the immigration to the United States of contract laborers, that is, of immigrants coming to this country under a contract to work.

These English immigrants at Charlotte have been arrested by the United States authorities and will be sent back to England simply and only because they are accused of coming here under contract to work. They are not accused of being dishonest, immoral or anything of that kind. On the contrary they are said to be industrious and well behaved.

This is the first instance of the enforcement of this law in this State, and it certainly seems very strange to arrest and send back a desirable class of immigrants simply because they came here under a contract to work. And this too at a time when the South needs all the labor we can get!

The sooner such a law is repealed will be the better for the South.

Railroad to Cape Lookout.

Raleigh Correspondence Charlotte Observer.

The completion of the long trestle connecting Beaufort with Morehead City is but a step to the building of the railroad on to Cape Lookout, the survey having been made and the route decided upon. The trestle to be built from Leouxville to the "banks" on which is Cape Lookout, will be even longer than that between Morehead City and Beaufort. Down at the Cape there will be not only a summer resort with wonderful bathing but there will be a coal station and all sorts of things. Surely there must be a tip to the effect that the inland waterway is going to be provided for by Congress, for this done and Cape Lookout will be a place of exceeding prominence as a harbor of safety, coal station and other things. Congressman John H. Small has never for a moment lost faith in the construction of that inland waterway.

Killed by Cloudbursts.

Special to Charlotte Observer.

Asheville, Nov. 26.—A story of death and destruction by cloudbursts in Cherokee county reached here today with the resumption of railway traffic and wire communication on the Murphy line of the Southern. According to information received here, between fifty and sixty cloudbursts occurred in the mountains of Cherokee last week, sending great torrents of water into the valleys and carrying houses, trees, rocks, and logs in its path. The cloudburst occurred on both sides of the Fain mountain and also at Marble. On one side of the Fain mountain a man named R. C. Cornwell and his family resided. The rushing waters demolished the houses, killing Mrs. Cornwell and her 8-year-old son. The husband was badly hurt, while a small daughter and an infant escaped with slight bruises.

Bold Robber Captured.

Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 26.—One of the most extraordinary and daring robberies in the history of the Southwest was committed one hundred miles east of Kansas City early today. Between Slater and Armstrong, Mo., a distance of twenty-one miles, a masked man, single-handed, robbed twenty passengers in three cars of the fast eastbound combination Chicago & Alton-Chicago, Burlington & Quincy passenger train. After half an hour's work he secured approximately two thousand dollars, besides several watches and other pieces of jewelry.

The man finally was overpowered by E. B. Haywood, the train conductor, who knocked a raised revolver from the robber's hand and forced him to the car floor. The robber was bound, made to disgorge and four hours after the train robbery was committed, was placed in jail.

Football Casualties of 1906.

Chicago, Nov. 25.—Eleven players were killed and 104 were injured in the United States during the football season of 1906, according to The Chicago Tribune today. These figures are compared with the casualties of 1905, when 18 players were killed and 151 were severely injured, and, according to The Tribune, show that "debrutalized" football has accomplished in a large degree the object aimed at, in rendering the game less dangerous to life and limb.

The decrease in casualties is especially marked among high school players. In the season of 1905 eleven high school players were killed and 47 injured, while in the season just closed seven were killed and 25 were hurt.

Theatre Floor Gives Away.

Newark, N. J., Nov. 25.—Mrs. Rebecca Schwartz was killed, a dozen other persons were so badly injured that they had to be taken to the city hospital and 15 more were less seriously hurt tonight when the floor of a hall, which is used on Sunday nights as a Jewish theatre, collapsed beneath the weight of people standing on it.

When the doors of the hall were thrown open there was a rush for tickets and almost a hundred persons gathered within the space. The flooring suddenly began to give away, and there was a mad rush, in the midst of which the entire floor dropped, carrying down with it the ticket office. Some of the injured may die.

Swept Over Niagara Falls.

Niagara Fall, N. Y., Nov.—An unknown man was swept over the Horse-shoe falls in a small boat this afternoon after a daring attempt had been made to save him. An employe of the Ontario Power Company first saw the little craft coming down river in the grasp of the swift current. The occupant, a man, was standing up, frantically waving his hands. Two row boats started down the Chippewa river, towards the Niagara, to attempt to rescue the unfortunate man, but a cross current carried him away from them, and in a few minutes he was swept over the Horse-shoe falls.

Washington Letter.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)

Washington, Nov. 22, 1906.

It is not often that a Cabinet officer runs contrary to the expressed orders of the President. This appears, however, to be what Secretary Taft has done in the case of the 25th Infantry soldiers who were ordered peremptorily discharged just before the President started for Panama. It is rather a remarkable situation. The President issues a flat-footed order; there is a protest against it from a great many quarters, and the Cabinet officer under whose jurisdiction it comes takes the responsibility of holding up the order for further instructions from his chief. Probably such a thing has never before occurred in the history of the government. In view of the fact that Secretary Taft is now proceeding with the discharge of his original order, it is to be inferred that such thing will not happen again for a long time to come. President Roosevelt gave the order for the dishonorable discharge of three companies of the 25th Infantry after the riot in which they participated at Brownsville, Texas. It was a very drastic order but no one expected that it would precipitate such a storm of protest as it raised in a great many sections in the North. In view of this popular clamor Secretary Taft took the responsibility of holding up the order until he would hear from the President again, but seems that he had rather underestimated the determination of the President to stand by a decision which he had already made. The very prompt response which Mr. Roosevelt gave to the petitions addressed to him was that he would not rescind the order discharging the companies referred to unless new and material facts were presented for his consideration. None of the protests filed contained such evidence as he required and the result has been that the Secretary of War now has to carry out the order as it was originally given.

There has been a great deal of interest in the speech which it was announced Secretary Root would deliver before the trans-Mississippi Congress now meeting in Kansas City. The preliminary interest was largely on account of the fact that he would have something to say about the Monroe Doctrine. It was not thought, however, that he would go so far as to make a speech in favor of a Ship subsidy bill. This, however, is what he did. He made an address before an immense audience, wherein there were a number of South American diplomats, and his expressions on the subject of the Monroe Doctrine were decidedly plain and convincing. He said that this doctrine was not the result of popular ebullition but that it was the concentrated wisdom of the best statesmen of the time and that it was just as virile now as when it was first promulgated in 1823. He gave Germany and other European nations credit for all they have done in the colonization of South America, and said that such colonization was welcome and a help to any South American state. He pictured the vast resources of the tropical and sub-tropical country thus settled, but he said that in case the question ever arose European nations would find that there was no diminution of American insistence on having the doctrine upheld which prevented the political aggrandizement of any European state at the expense of the Latin American republics.

With regard to the Ship subsidy, he made out a tolerably strong case, and one which is likely to have its effect with the next session of Congress. He showed the utter lack of steamship communication between North and South America. He said that during the whole of his trip he had seen but one vessel except his own flying the American flag. He said that the regular steamship lines were essential to foster the trade of this country with South America and he said frankly, that he believed a ship subsidy was the only method by which it could be done.

There is little question that a subsidy bill will be introduced at the next session of Congress. The announcement of Mr. Root may be taken as an announcement from the administration of the government's attitude towards such a bill. It will mean the expenditure of a great deal of money, money which may possibly reach the pockets of those who already have enough and to spare, but according to Mr. Root's showing, it is a very necessary expenditure, and one which indirectly will be apt to benefit all of the producing interests of the United States.

The charges now made against the General Land office of fraud in acquiring control of coal lands by the Union Pacific Railroad in Wyoming have taken definite form. It appears, however, that Secretary Hitchcock has been aware for some time past that there was something wrong in these land deals and that for almost three years he has been trying to get at the real facts in the case.

Illinois Farmers Coming Here.

Wilmington, N. C., Nov. 23.—Through the efforts of Clarence L. Fisher, western agent of the Carolina Trucking and Development Company, of this city, forty-five well-to-do Illinois farmers and truckers have been sent here on a prospecting tour. The western men arrived in Wilmington late Wednesday night. Yesterday they were driven over the city and out to a number of near-by truck farms and carried to Wrightsville sound and to the beach. Today they left for the new town of Artesia, in Columbus county, which is being developed by the Wilmington Trucking Company. It is probable that many if not all of the Illinois farmers will decide to make their future homes in this section. They constitute a substantial, sturdy group of agriculturists of the better class.

Deaths in St. Lawrence River.

Chatham, N. B., Nov. 23.—Half a hundred lives were lost and nearly a score of vessels were swept to destruction on the treacherous reefs and sand bars of the gulf and river St. Lawrence during the season of navigation now drawing to a close. Of sixty persons who perished in these waters within the past year, nearly fifty met death this month, the most disastrous to shipping in the St. Lawrence in a dozen years. The financial losses aggregate a quarter of a million dollars.

With \$4,000,000 still on hand to be devoted to the San Francisco refugees, it is stated that the relief committee has had several executive meetings to determine what shall be done with this money. It is claimed that the directors of relief work find that the need of relief has passed, except such cases as can be taken care of by the regular charity organizations.

Over 3,000,000 pounds of tobacco were sold at public auction at Danville last week which is a record-breaker for that town, which is said to be the largest loose leaf tobacco market in the world.

The State board of pharmacy last week granted license to 18 young pharmacists, among them being one young lady.

The valuation of all the taxable property in Durham county is nearly \$18,000,000.

Hon. Oliver P. Meares, of Wilmington, died last week, in the 79th year of his age.

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