

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

The General Assembly of North Carolina convened in biennial session yesterday at 12 o'clock, as required by the constitution of this State. The Senate was called to order by Lieutenant-Governor Francis D. Winston, and the roll of the Senators-elect having been called they were sworn in by him and the Senate was then organized by the election of the following officers: A. J. Maxwell (who has been the efficient chief clerk for the past six years) was re-elected chief clerk; R. L. Ballou, of Ashe county, reading clerk, and L. B. Pegram, of Raleigh, re-elected doorkeeper.

The House of Representatives was called to order by Mr. Frank D. Hackett, the chief clerk of the last House, who called the roll of Representatives-elect, who were sworn in and proceeded to organize by the election of the following officers: E. J. Justice, of Greensboro, Speaker; Frank D. Hackett, of Wilkesboro, re-elected chief clerk; F. B. Arendell, of Raleigh, re-elected reading clerk, and John A. Lisk, of Montgomery county, doorkeeper.

The election of Mr. Justice as Speaker of the House will give very general satisfaction throughout the State, and especially to those who have the pleasure of his acquaintance. He is a son of Judge M. H. Justice and is a worthy son of a noble sire. He has served in both branches of the General Assembly and was one of the most useful members. He is a lawyer of much ability, and a legislator of large experience, and a most high toned gentleman, who will gracefully and efficiently discharge the duties of the responsible position to which he has been elected. All his competitors for the position were deserving of the honor, and this makes his election the more complimentary.

This Legislature is overwhelmingly Democratic, there being only four Republicans out of the fifty Senators and twenty-four Republicans and one independent out of the one hundred and twenty Representatives. No political party has ever before had so large a majority in the Senate of this State, and yet before the election the Republican speakers and papers were boasting how greatly they were going to reduce the Democratic majority.

With power comes responsibility and the greater the Democratic majority the more careful should the Democratic members of the Legislature be in their proceedings. As has been proved by the past experience of all parties in this State the people of North Carolina will not tolerate the excesses or abuses of any party or set of men, but will promptly rebuke any unjust or ill-advised legislation. Therefore we hope that our legislators will act just as cautiously and prudently as if the Democrats had only a bare majority. Let them all act with an eye single to the best interests of our good old State and all its inhabitants. By so doing they will receive the approbation of their constituents and the approval of their own consciences and prove that the Democratic party is indeed in truth the party of the people and for the people.

Much advice, good, bad and indifferent, will be given the Legislature now in session, and therefore THE RECORD must be excused for making at least one suggestion, and that is, do not put off until the latter part of the session its important business. It is the custom with nearly all the Legislatures to defer until the middle or latter part of the session the consideration of the most important matters coming before them. The work of every Legislature starts off slowly and towards the end there is a perfect rush.

Of course the committees must be appointed and consider the bills before any laws can be enacted, for the best work of legislators is done in committees. Therefore the committees should be appointed promptly and all bills should be introduced promptly, so that ample time may be

given for their due consideration and discussion. Too many bills are introduced near the end of every session and rushed through without due consideration. It would be an incentive for prompt action (and prevent the rush of bills later) if this Legislature would at once adopt a resolution that no bills should be introduced during the last two weeks of the session. Do not idle away the first days of the session and then rush with unseemly haste the enactment of laws during the closing days!

Another suggestion we take the liberty of making to our legislators, and that is, do not have so many clerks and other employees as many of our Legislatures have had. When the Fusionists had control of the Legislatures of 1895 and 1897 they had an army of employees swarming around the capitol, who actually got in each other's way and did nothing but draw their pay. This had example was followed to some extent by the succeeding Democratic Legislatures, which employed more "laborers" &c. than were needed. We hope that this Legislature will inaugurate a reform in this respect.

BLACKBURN'S latest fiasco proves him to be a blatant buffoon and a bawling bully, and it is to be hoped that he is now relegated to the rear. Soon after his defeat for Congress he boastfully claimed that he would successfully contest his opponent's election, alleging all kinds of frauds and all such rot. And yet after all his boasts and threats he did not even file the required notice of contest (which of course he never had any idea of making) and so the "drummer boy" has beaten an ignominious retreat. But the most disgraceful part of his performance was his attempt to back down from the consequences of his vile libel on Gov. Glenn, when threatened with criminal prosecution, by trying to put the blame on his irresponsible henchman, Perkins. His conduct is so disgraceful and cowardly as to deserve the contempt of all decent men, irrespective of party.

THE January number of The Wake Forest Student is very appropriately entitled the "Lee Centennial Memorial Number," being filled with most interesting sketches and reminiscences of Gen. Lee, written by many veterans who served under and personally knew him. It was a most happy idea to commemorate the centennial birthday of Gen. Lee in this manner and the manner of its execution is most highly creditable to the College whose students have thus honored themselves and their alma mater.

RALEIGH is crowded this week to overflowing. The Legislature begins its session, which always draws a large number of aspirants for offices, and besides this the Grand Lodge of Masons is now in session there, which is attended by a still larger crowd. It is a great pity that our Capitol city has not more hotel accommodations for the crowds which so frequently are obliged to assemble there.

North Carolina Cotton Mills.

Raleigh Correspondence Charlotte Observer, 8th. The State Commissioner of Labor this evening issued his annual statement regarding cotton, woolen and knitting mills. It says rapid strides were made during the year. Textile institutions from which returns have been received number 318, which compared with returns of last year, show an increase of 31, 21 being cotton mills. Operator and operative appear to be at peace with one another and few differences have arisen which would tend to retard the progress of North Carolina as a manufacturing centre. In a number of instances two or more mills are reported as one institution, so the actual number does not appear in this compilation, but the returns are accurate.

The 318 mills show authorized capitals of \$41,278,160, 2,558,114 spindles, 52,747 looms, 5,237 knitting machines.

Four Killed in Explosion.

Kenosha, Wis., Jan. 5.—In an explosion in the grinding mill at the Luffin and Rand Powder Mill Company, in Pleasant Prairie, Kenosha county, four persons were killed outright today and two were fatally injured. Two others were badly hurt. One of the dead is Ralph Anderson, the other three are Russias, names unknown.

Washington Letter.

Washington, Jan. 8, 1906. Commissioner of Corporations Garfield is now engaged in a study of water and rail transportation rates with a view to seeing whether the water freight rate cannot be used in many localities to keep down the rail rate. The theory generally accepted by the public as a fact, is that water transportation, being so much cheaper than railroad, there is a great tendency to cut freight rates wherever rail and water lines come into active competition. This is true enough, but the point in Mr. Garfield's investigation so far is that these systems of transportation never really come into competition. It seems that the railroads own or control practically all of the water lines and they are thus able to keep up the price of water-borne freight to approximately the same point as rail freight.

This has been brought out by the Interstate Commerce Commerce Commission in a number of its investigations recently. It has been shown that a number of the trans-continental railway lines either actually own trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific steamship lines or else own the controlling interest in their stock, while they are run ostensibly as separate companies. This is particularly true of the Canadian Pacific, the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern. Turning to the coastwise lines, practically all of them are either owned or controlled absolutely by the railway companies. Railway companies operating to adjacent foreign countries such as Canada and Mexico, own the steamship lines which would compete with them to these countries. The same is true of freight lines on rivers, canals and lakes. In fact, it has been found that the railroads have combined to practically kill freight transportation on the lower Mississippi.

One instance in point was recently brought out when the Interstate Commerce Commission was investigating the transportation of coal into Washington from the West Virginia coal mines. One witness testified that he was offered coal at the mine by some of the independent companies at such a low rate that he believed he could sell it at an immense profit in Washington. He found, however, when he came to make terms with one of the railroad companies that the freight on the coal would just exactly eat up all his profit. He then tried various combinations with the different railroads running into Washington, but found to his surprise that all of their rates, even though he routed the coal from West Virginia into Washington by way of Richmond, came to exactly the same figures. He then tried the scheme of water transportation. There was a very low railroad rate from these mines to the Seaboard at Newport News, but he found after taking his coal to Newport News, that the railroads so thoroughly controlled the Potomac River transportation that it would cost him exactly the same to bring the coal to Washington by rail and water as though he had shipped it by an all rail route.

It is expected that Mr. Garfield's investigation will result in recommendations to Congress tending to entirely divorce railways from control and ownership of water freight routes. Quite an interesting report has been received by the Philippine Commission as to the conditions in the islands and the outlook for the coming year. It is stated that the situation is better than it has been at any time since the American occupation. The improvement is most noticeable in the decline of ladroonism, that is to say, the bandit reign of terror that has so long been the curse of all the Philippines and particularly of Luzon. From all accounts it appears that most of the bandits have been reformed through being buried. The provinces of Cavite and Batangas, which have always been strong centres of ladroonism, have been entirely cleared of bandits and Aguinaldo, the one time head of the insurrection, has actually leased 1500 acres of land from the government in these troubled provinces and has now settled down as a peaceful cultivator of the soil.

There has been a good deal of trouble in the island from locusts, droughts, hurricanes, and the hindmost. But though the hemp crop was damaged to the extent of \$4,000,000, the new species of hemp introduced by the Agricultural Department have proved excellently adapted to the needs of the islands and the crops as a whole have been good. There is a comfortable treasury balance to the credit of the insular government, and the only thing now wanting to complete the happiness of the natives is a little better tariff relation with the United States. The tobacco crop has fallen off, the report says, through lack of an adequate market, none of it being shipped to the United States owing to the prohibitive rates of the Dingley tariff. It is stated that could the rates on tobacco, sugar and hemp be reduced the commerce of the islands would pick up immediately.

Three Suffocated in Fire.

Delhi, N. Y., Jan. 6.—Three lives were lost in a fire that destroyed the American Hotel here early today. All were suffocated. They were permanent guests at hotel. The fire was discovered in the apartments of Mr. Winter and his wife on the third floor, and by the time the firemen arrived the structure was a mass of flames. O'Connor also occupied apartments on the third floor. The other guests escaped by leaping from the windows in their night clothes.

Negro Troops to Philippines.

Washington, Jan. 5.—The Ninth and Tenth Cavalry and the Twenty-fifth Infantry, including all the negro soldiers in the regular army in this country, have been ordered to prepare for service in the Philippines and will sail at different times between March 5th and June 5th of this year. The only other regiment composed of negroes, the Twenty-fourth Infantry, is now doing service in the Philippines.

Seaboard Spreading Out.

Under its new management it looks like the Seaboard Air Line is to extend its lines and develop a great system along the broad lines that were planned when the present lines were united some years ago. There was a great dream of a great Southern system in the men who united the properties. Lately, beyond the Birmingham extension, no building has been done and no new lateral lines acquired. Now, the Seaboard has purchased the Macon, Dublin and Savannah, and by a little building will have a direct line from Atlanta to Savannah, connecting with ocean steamers.

The Seaboard has also bought the "Three C's" railroad, built from Marion, North Carolina, through Rutherfordton to South Carolina. The building of the Seaboard's new line (called the South and West) from the coal regions of Virginia and Tennessee through the wildest section of the mountains will give it, by the completion of a few links, a direct line from the coal fields via Marietta to Savannah and Charleston as well as to Wilmington via Charlotte and Rutherfordton. The building of the South and West road will develop a beautiful mountain section of the state, rich in minerals and timber.

With these additions the present Seaboard management will develop into one of the first systems in the South, and enable it to be a mighty factor in Southern development.

S. A. L. Robbers Arrested.

Huntington, W. Va., Jan. 5.—Percy Martin, of Atlanta, Ga., was arrested here tonight charged with being one of the bandits who held up a Seaboard Air Line train 8 miles south of Richmond on New Year's eve. Headmitch his guilt and delivered to the officers a \$500 diamond ring which had been taken from one of the passengers. He told where most of the money can be found.

Martin says that he and his pal, arrested in Richmond and now in jail in Mecklenburg county, Va., planned the robbery in Washington, D. C.

Martin came here about three years ago from Atlanta, and was employed on the Chesapeake & Ohio as a newsboy. Martin will be held awaiting the arrival of the Virginia officials. There was a reward of \$600 offered for the arrest of the bandits.

Riddance of Rogues.

Washington, Jan. 5.—The authorities in the Philippines are determined to rid the islands of all undesirable characters and to this end they have decided to account for all dishonorably discharged soldiers. It is stated that after their discharge the men have been accustomed to hang around the garrisons and they add to that class of the population which is neither a credit or a profit to the islands.

The military courts that hereafter sentence soldiers to dishonorable discharge will also impose a term of imprisonment and during this time the offender will be transported to the United States. In this way it will become impossible for dishonorably discharged soldiers to be at liberty on the islands and it will rid the Philippine community of their undesirable presence.

Killed in Oil Mill.

Special to Charlotte Observer. Clayton, Jan. 2.—Vernon Ellis, aged 18, son of the chief of police of this place, and employed at the Clayton Oil Mill, was killed and horribly mangled by the shafting in the mill Monday night about 6 o'clock. The last known of Ellis is that he had gone to the upper story of the building to work on some bearings, when, it is supposed, he was caught in the machinery and ground to death before any one knew of his whereabouts. When he was discovered both legs were chopped into bits. He lived about two hours but never regained consciousness.

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Artesian Well From Earthquake.

It has just been discovered that the upheaval of April 18 did funny things to the wells in the court yard at the rear of the San Francisco Mint. For years prior to April 18 these had been ordinary, well behaved wells, yielding water plentifully when a steam pump was employed. But now they are spouting artesian wells, from which a steady stream of water flows when no pumping is done. This was discovered yesterday when the pump was taken out for repairs, the courtyard being flooded within a short time.

The wells were bored many years ago, and are about 175 feet in depth. There was apparently a subterranean connection between them, for the pumping of water from one lowered the water in the other. Normally, the water was within thirty feet of the surface, and that was the condition when the pumps were taken out last March. Yesterday, for the first time since March, the pumps were again removed, when it was discovered that the water flowed freely.

World's Naval Pageant.

Washington, January 8.—In response to a request transmitted to other governments by the State Department at the instigation of the Navy Department nearly all foreign countries have accepted the invitation of the Jamestown Exposition Company to be represented by a military or naval display. The only official information received in Washington so far, however, is that Chile will send two ships; Italy one; Portugal one; and Sweden one. Belgium will send a delegation of army officers, so will Guatemala. Argentina will participate. Persia and Denmark have advised this government that they will not participate. Unofficially it is stated that Great Britain, France, Germany, Japan, and possibly Russia, will be represented by fleets of modern warships.

Fatal Fire in New York.

New York, Jan. 6.—Three firemen were killed during the fire that burned out the interior of Hill's paper warehouse on Roosevelt street tonight.

Just before the third floor of the five-story structure fell all the men were ordered out of the building. Firemen Campbell, Siefert and Lemmon, who had been working within the walls failed to respond and a subsequent round up of the firemen established the fact that the three were beyond doubt buried in the ruins.

Cold Wave at Manila.

Manila, Jan. 8.—A cold wave is sweeping over Luzon and the adjacent islands. The temperature at Manila is 55.6, while at Baguio, the capital of the province of Benguet, it is 30. This is the coldest weather ever experienced in the history of Manila. The nearest approach to it was in 1872, when the temperature was 56.6. The natives are suffering great discomfort, as they are unprovided with proper clothing for the changed weather conditions.

Congress And Collisions.

Washington, Jan. 7.—Senator Carter introduced a joint resolution today providing for a joint committee of four senators and five members of the House to investigate and report to Congress before January 1, 1908, its findings as to the cause of collisions on railroads and the best means of obviating them. The committee is to sit during the recess of Congress and to have a fund of \$25,000 to defray expenses.

Charlotte Observer: While sitting in her home talking with her children last night at 9:30 o'clock Mary Mendenhall, a colored woman who lived at No. 300 East Bondury street, fell from her chair and died without ever speaking again. Death was due to heart trouble. Coroner W. A. Gresham went to the home to assure himself that there had been no foul play and decided that an inquest was unnecessary. The woman was well known among her race and owned the house in which she lived.

Joseph B. Underwood, a prominent citizen, aged 69 years, and a Confederate veteran, died suddenly in front of Hotel La Fayette at Fayetteville last Sunday morning. He was talking to Mr. Walter Holt when he exclaimed, "Catch me," and died in Mr. Holt's arms.

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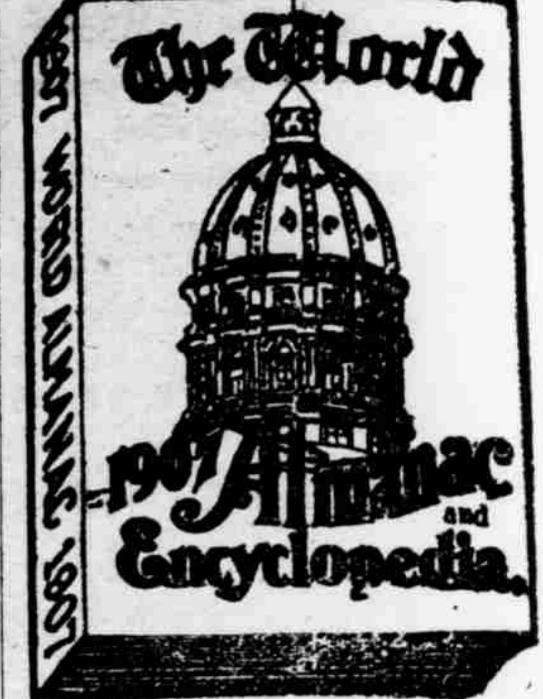
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