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NORTH CAROLINA AFFAIRS

Items of Interest From Many Parts of the State

MINOR MATTERS OF STATE NEWS

Happenings of More or Less Importance Told in Paragraphs—The Cotton Markets.

Case Falls Through. Charlotte, Special.—The case against Della Dellingham, Henry Gillespie and George Irvin, the first named a woman, charged with the brutal murder of the Lyerly family at Barber Junction last July...

Epidemic of Barn Burning. Charlotte, Special.—Another barn burning, believed to be of incendiary origin, this time in Clear Creek township and the fourth fire of this kind reported during the present month, occurred Wednesday between 8 and 9 o'clock.

Threatened to Storm Jail. Wilmington, Special.—John Gudger, a negro fifty years of age, was brought to Wilmington from Whiteville and lodged in the New Hanover county jail.

Paper Pulp Plant. New Bern, Special.—It is learned that the plant of the Gray Manufacturing Company, opposite this city, is to be converted into a paper pulp factory.

Horseford Shoals Water Power. Newton, Special.—Messrs. J. M. and W. R. Odell, of Concord, have deeded to Mr. G. H. Getner, of Hickory, the Horseford Shoals water power.

Negroes Beat Engineer. Asheville, Special.—Two negroes jumped on Engineer Guy Ralph and beat him up in a frightful manner. Both negroes are in jail.

New Monroe Cotton Mill Soon to Begin Operations. Monroe, Special.—The new cotton mill company, which has taken over the Crow Knitting Mill property, has been organized and expects to have the new cotton mill started within 2 months.

Large Law Class. Wake Forest, Special.—About fifteen law students are preparing to go up before the Supreme Court to stand examination for license next Monday.

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TAR HEEL LAWMAKERS

What Our State Lawmakers are Doing in Raleigh.

Dillingham's Bill.

Dillingham's bill, introduced, is one of the most important before the Legislature, and 300 copies of it are ordered printed. It is understood that this bill is recommended by the Senate and House committees on education after a long and careful consideration...

Every parent or person having control of the child over 8 and under 14 years of age, shall cause such child to attend the public schools in his district for 16 weeks in each school year...

Winborne introduced a bill to amend the constitution by extending the operation of the "Grandfather Clause" to 1918.

A favorable report is made on the Senate bill making 10 years' separation a cause for absolute divorce.

To revise the charter of Lexington to appropriate \$20,000 additional to the Jamestown Exposition, making the total \$50,000.

To amend the charter of the South & Western Railway, so as to give it the power to condemn land on the right of way of other railways which are necessary for the use of the latter.

The following bills passed third reading: To revise the charter of Lexington to appropriate \$20,000 additional to the Jamestown Exposition...

not used, but was reported as used; what proportion of money has been expended in improvements and how much for new lines.

A plan is on foot to have a garnishment law enacted by the present legislature, and looking to this end the Retail Merchants' Association throughout the State have decided to have introduced a measure on the following lines:

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of North Carolina and it is hereby enacted by authority of the same that on and after the passage of this act, the salary, wages or income due laborer, clerk or other employee of any individual, firm or corporation within this State, shall be subject to seizure upon the following manner: Fifteen per cent. of the monthly wages, salaries, or income of from \$15 to \$20, or in the same ratio of daily or weekly service; 25 per cent. of the wages, salary or income from \$20 to \$30; 35 per cent. of wages, salary or income of \$30 or upwards, and in no event will there be a greater amount exempted than \$30.

In the Senate, bills were introduced requiring every county to levy a special tax to support one or more public schools; to promote immigration of trained and industrious farmers and laborers from Saxony; Ormond's bill to save expense to counties by directing clerks not to issue subpoenas for witnesses not wanted...

There was another long discussion on the bill making ten years' separation and no issue, cause for divorce, and it passed second reading.

Mitchell declared that he believed there were mercenary motives behind the bill.

The judiciary committee reported unfavorably the joint resolution to pay stock certificates of the old Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company.

Petitions were presented by Preston for a reformatory and one from the American Congress on Divorce for a uniform divorce law in all States.

Bills were introduced to give the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Raleigh \$50,000 annually for support, \$25,000 annually for sewerage and water plant and \$25,000 for a mechanical and engineering building; to provide for paying election officers; to require registration of conditional sales of railway equipment and rolling stock; to prevent the escape of dangerous criminals; to exempt the graded schools of Roanoke from using the present school text books; to protect forests in western North Carolina and the State's interests in public lands; to regulate labor in cotton mills; to prevent fraud in packing and selling flour.

By a vote of 89 to 31, the House Thursday passed the Kershaw bill, providing for a board of examiners to pass upon the fitness of railroad telegraphers. The bill is a radical one, prohibiting any one of less than two years' experience to work as a railroad telegrapher in handling trains, without a license from the board, which is to examine the applicants as to mental, moral and physical fitness as well as ability.

Among the new bills introduced in the Senate were the following of general interest: Authorizing the running and marking of the North Carolina and Virginia State lines.

Repealing chapter 22, acts 1905, regarding Sampson county. Extending for two years the time for settling the State debt.

To provide for uniform stamping of gold and silver articles of merchandise. To require every county to levy a special tax to support one or more public schools.

TRIAL OF HARRY K. THAW

Twelve Men Secured After Much Delay

INSANITY MAY BE THE PLEA

Length and Breadth of the Ground to be Covered by Mr. Jerome in His Opening Address for the Prosecution Not Disclosed, but a Dramatic Recital is Expected.

New York, Special.—The trial of Harry K. Thaw for the killing of Stanford White began last week and promises to run for a great length of time.

There was but a single vacant chair in the Thaw jury box when court adjourned and it is expected that District Attorney Jerome will begin his opening address to a completed jury.

The length and breadth of the ground has not been disclosed. Just how far back he will delve into the history of the principles in the famous case no one but Mr. Jerome knows. He has not related the plan of his opening address to any one, though it has been intimated authoritatively that the direct evidence of the prosecution will be of the briefest possible character, dealing only with the incidents leading up to the killing and the story of the tragedy itself as seen by eye-witnesses.

NEWSY GLEANINGS.

Socialists lost heavily in the German elections. The New York Central began its electric train service on the Harlem division.

Nearly 30,000 persons viewed the body of Senator Alger as it lay in state in Detroit.

Ralph N. Blakeslee, of Waterbury, Conn., gave a "straw ride" to 6000 children in that city.

The annual report of the Pittsburg postoffice showed big gains for the year 1906, the net profits being \$1,236,000.

It was learned that the Brooklyn Rapid Transit had formulated plans to spend \$6,000,000 on new tracks and an addition to one of its power plants.

Many well known clergymen attended an interdenominational conference to devise means of suppressing Sunday concerts and race track gambling.

It was reported at Berlin that the German Government was not willing to take a definite position in regard to the discussion of armaments at the peace conference.

Archbishop Nuttall of Jamaica, said that Kingston needed funds. In spite of the generous contributions, and hoped that the imperial Government would extend aid.

Marquis Saionji, the Japanese Premier, in an address to leading business men, urged action to prevent inflation of money.

President Norvold, of the North-eastern Metal Dealers' Association, sent a letter to Attorney-General Bonaparte to show that copper was being withheld from the market to create an artificial scarcity.

New York City is said to be probably the greatest market in the world for automobiles, and the demand is constantly increasing.

FEMINE NEWS NOTES.

Louisiana has enacted a law which permits cities of over 10,000 inhabitants to appoint women factory inspectors.

Mrs. Jessamy Steele, daughter of the late Bret Harris, sick and penniless, was admitted to the poorhouse at Portland, Me.

Queen Amelia of Portugal was educated as a physician and trained nurse and employs her knowledge for the relief of the sick poor.

Nora Breckenridge, night telegraph operator at Arlington, Kansas, prevented a wreck of two Rock Island freight trains a few nights ago.

Reports from Sweden that a league has been formed there for the purpose of restraining extravagance in woman's dress, have an Elizabethan ring about them.

The oldest woman in Maine, Mrs. Louisa Cox, celebrated her 108th birthday at her home in Harrington. She is an inveterate smoker and also very fond of candy.

Mrs. Spender-Clay, of London, who before her marriage was Pauline Astor, and who is the only daughter of William Waldorf Astor, has given birth to a daughter.

Princess Mary of Saxe-Altenburg, former Queen of Hanover, who died in Gmunden, Upper Austria, on January 9 last, left \$750,000 to various charities in the former Kingdom of Hanover.

Mrs. James Bryce, wife of the new British Ambassador to the United States, was Miss Marion Ashton before she married Mr. Bryce, in 1859. Her social success has been notable in London.

An American woman, Mrs. Joan Leslie, who was Leonie Blanche Jerome, of New York, is unofficial adviser in fashion and dress of the Duchess of Connaught and Princess Patricia, to the former of whom she is lady in waiting.

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REVIEW OF WORK OF CONGRESS

What Our National Lawmakers Are Doing From Day to Day

Mr. Lever Warm's Up.

Representative Lever, of South Carolina, stirred up a hornet's nest in the house when he offered to the agricultural appropriation bill an amendment appropriating \$3,000,000 for the purchase of the Appalachian and White Mountain forest reserves.

Mr. Tawney objected to the personal attack on the Speaker, and said he would object to further consideration.

Wants People to Know It.

"Oh, it's not a personal attack on the Speaker," replied Mr. Lever. "It's an outspoken statement as to where the objection to the bill is. Personally I have profound regard for the Speaker, but he and some of his henchmen are blocking consideration of this bill and by the gods I propose that the people shall know it."

Mr. Tawney replied that he was not questioning the motives of the gentleman from South Carolina, but he was questioning the language used. Mr. Lever tried to make it appear that the agricultural committee was unanimously in favor of the bill, but Mr. Haugen, of Iowa, with considerable warmth, replied that he had not voted in favor of the measure and he gave notice that he would vote against it if the bill should ever get before the House.

To Abolish Pension Agencies.

The House voted to abolish all pension agencies throughout the country, 18 in number, and centralize the payment of pensions in the city of Washington. This action was taken on the pension appropriation bill after spirited opposition on the part of those having pension agencies in their States.

By a vote of 58 to 114 an amendment offered by Mr. Dalzell, of Pennsylvania, restoring the number of agencies to 18 as at present, was defeated, and then an amendment offered by Mr. Gardner, of Michigan, consolidating all the agencies in one was adopted without division.

The pension appropriation bill carrying \$138,000,000 in round numbers was passed.

A message from the President was read relative to insurance, and at 2:30, out of respect to the memory of the late Senator Alger, of Michigan, the House adjourned.

A Brief Session.

The Senate was in session Saturday only for a little more than an hour, the early adjournment being taken to permit attendance on the funeral of the late Senator Alger.

A few bills of minor importance were passed, but most of the time of the sitting was devoted to the further discussion of Senator Hale's resolution providing for an inquiry into the personal interest manifested by naval officers in the navy personnel bill. The resolution was ultimately referred to the committee on naval affairs.

The Chald Labor Law.

Senator Beveridge occupied the attention of the Senate throughout the day with a continuation of his argument in behalf of his child labor bill. He had but reached the legal and constitutional phases of the question after speaking for more than four hours and arrangement was made whereby he will continue. In taking the position that as to power, Congress could exercise any power it saw fit in inter-State commerce, Mr. Beveridge met a fusillade of questions by his colleagues and his progress in argument was slow. While he said the power to regulate was absolute, he maintained that the question of policy would always restrain any harmful regulations.

Mr. Beveridge stated that three-fourth of the cotton-factories of the South were opposing the bill, that the railroads of the South were opposing it and that the coal mine operators of the South were opposing it. He presented an illustrative map showing the location of the opposing industries, and said that in anticipation of this weighty opposition he should devote the major portion of his speech to setting forth evidence of the deplorable conditions he had pictured. This evidence, he said, was all sworn to and in the form of affidavits.

Anxiety Felt for Tug.

Norfolk, Va., Special.—Anxiety is expressed here for the safety of the tug Murrell and a barge now five days overdue from Charleston. The tug was sighted off Diamond Shoals light vessel Friday, but has not been heard from since.

Both vessels are owned by the Boston and Baltimore Towboat Company.

EXPLOSION SUFFOCATES

SCORES IN COAL MINE

Powder Shot Ignites Dust in a West Virginia Colliery.

RESCUING PARTIES AT WORK

Two Hundred Were in Shaft at Time of Accident—Sixty Perished Instantly—Victims in Pit 600 Feet Deep.

Charleston, W. Va.—With a detonation heard for miles around, coal dust and gas in the Stuart mine, near Fayetteville, exploded, bringing a terrible death to the eighty men who were at work more than 500 feet below the surface. There is no chance that any of the men will be taken out alive, for it is thought that the terrific force of the explosion snuffed out their lives instantly. It will not be possible for the rescuers to reach the bottom of the shaft for forty-eight hours.

Most of the men were Americans, and many of them were married and had large families. There were a dozen negroes and fifteen or more foreigners.

The rescue work was begun as soon as the wrecked parts of the shaft house could be repaired. About two hours after the explosion three men were lowered into the shaft. Before descending sixty feet two of the men were overcome with foul air, and the third was barely able to give the signal to his comrades at the top. All further attempts were abandoned for the time.

Air was siphoned to the mine by several large fans, but the mechanism was damaged, and the fans were idle for about two hours. The fans were then started again, and if the men were not all dead by the force of the explosion, it may be that they will have air enough to survive until the rescuers reach them.

The scene about the mine is pathetic, men, women and children crying for their dear ones and imploring those on the ground to go to their rescue.

The Stuart mine is a shaft 568 feet deep. The development is in the Sewall seam, which ranges in thickness from four to five feet. The mine is located on the White Oak Fuel Company's private land, connecting with the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad at Carlisle. The manager is F. P. Dixon. The mine is owned by the Stuart Colliery Company.

The bodies lie 600 feet below the surface of the earth.

Fifteen men had just left the mine and were far enough away from the mouth to escape injury when the explosion occurred.

The echo of the explosion had hardly died away before the men on the outside began to arrange rescue parties. It was found that the force of the explosion had put the ventilating fans out of commission and disarranged the cage so that it took two hours to get things in condition for the first venture.

Superintendent Dixon, Tom Davis and James Whistle started down in the cage, but had not gone far when they found themselves overcome by the fumes and had to give the hoisting signal. Dixon was the only one who had sufficient strength to let it be known to those above what was wanted, and but for him the three would have perished. They were drawn back and no further attempt has been made to go into the mine.

PRESIDENT CHECKS FRAUDS.

Directs That Examination Be Made Before Patents Issue.

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt has determined to put an end to the patent frauds in the acquisition of public lands by individuals and corporations. He has directed that hereafter no patent shall be issued to public land until an examination of the ground shall have been made by an authorized officer of the Government.

The President's order is in the form of a letter to Secretary Hitchcock, and under its provisions orders are being sent out by the officials of the General Land Office.

F. C. STEVENS OLIVER'S BACKER.

Superintendent of Public Works Behind Panama Canal Contract.

Albany, N. Y.—Frederick C. Stevens, the State Superintendent of Public Works, announced that he is the financial backer of William J. Oliver, who is to get the Government contract for building the Panama Canal.

Mr. Stevens has made millions of dollars as a man of large affairs and is essentially a business man of this period.

MANY CHINESE DROWNED.

Over a Hundred Lives Lost in Squall at Hong Kong.

Hong Kong.—A heavy squall broke over Hong Kong, and in ten minutes sank more than fifty Chinese craft in the harbor, more than 100 natives being drowned. There were no casualties among the white population. Launches rescued many persons. The harbor was littered with wreckage from the sunken junks.

Must Pay Earthquake Losses. In a test case in San Francisco, Judge Whitson decided against the earthquake clause in insurance policies exempting companies from payment of losses in the recent disaster.

Empress William Lauded. Popular laudation of the Kaiser and brilliant illumination in Berlin marked the celebration of the German sovereign's birthday.