

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

As has been its custom for several years, soon after the adjournment of the Legislature, the News and Observer issued on last Sunday its biennial edition.

Everybody is presumed to know the law (which is a most violent presumption), but in fact even the lawyers would not know for several months what laws had been passed by any Legislature if the News and Observer did not publish its biennial legislative edition.

A grand ovation greeted ex-Senator Burton, of Kansas, on his return home last week after being released from jail, where he had served a six months' sentence.

His conviction and sentence did not seem to degrade him at all in the estimation of his fellow townsmen. On the contrary it seemed to have made a hero of him.

Mr. J. W. Bailey will resign as editor of the Biblical Recorder, a position that he has filled for many years with much credit to himself and usefulness to the state.

It is reported that Mr. Bailey will become a lawyer, and, if he does, we confidently predict that he will soon become one of the most distinguished of that profession in this state.

HARRISON was convicted last week of kidnapping the Beasley boy and was sentenced to the penitentiary for twenty years. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court.

The Sanford Express of last week issued an extra edition that was highly creditable to its enterprising management, and will be of great benefit to the progressive town and community in whose interests it was published.

THE Legislature at its recent session passed a bill to establish a sanatorium for the treatment of consumptives. The bill appropriates \$15,000 for its establishment and \$5,000 annually for its maintenance.

REGISTRARS and judges of election will hereafter be paid \$2 a day instead of \$1 for holding elections. This amendment to the old law was made by the late Legislature.

EXPRESS companies, as well as railroads, can now be made to pay promptly claims for loss or damages to property while in their possession. An act for this purpose was passed by the late Legislature, making the existing law apply to express companies as well as to railroads, which was eminently right and proper.

THE late Legislature granted charters to incorporate seventeen new railroad companies in different parts of this state. This does not look like the Legislature was an enemy to railroad companies or wished to wage war on them, as was alleged by some persons and papers.

WE have received a copy of the State Fair advance premium list of field and garden products for the next fair, which will be held during the week beginning October 14th. A premium of \$75 is offered the individual making the largest and best display of agricultural products, garden vegetables, fruits and home industries.

Gambler Attacks Party of Raiders.

Fort Worth, Texas, March 22.—Following an attack on an alleged gambling house today, County Attorney Jeff S. McLean was shot and killed and Hamil P. Scott, a member of the attacking party, was fatally wounded by William Thompson, proprietor of the resort. Half an hour later Thompson was surrounded in a lumber yard and captured after a desperate fight.

County Attorney McLean, heading a party of deputies, forced an entrance to the place and loaded a furniture van with paraphernalia from the den. The furniture was confiscated. It was after the removal of this furniture that the shooting occurred, being brought on by the gang not liking the manner in which their furniture was taken from them.

Thompson shot Scott three times in the body. Scott fell and Thompson discarded his empty pistol for that carried by Scott and fled. By this time a score of policemen and deputies, followed by hundreds of excited men and boys were in pursuit of Thompson, who found temporary refuge in a lumber shed just across the street from the Tourain hotel, the most fashionable hostelry in the city.

Accidentally Broke His Neck.

Wilmington, March 24.—The coroner today completed an investigation of the circumstances of the most unusual death of Ed. Davis, a young grocery clerk, whose body was found shortly after last midnight at Front and Castle street, his neck being broken and his face bearing an ugly superficial wound. There was no evidence of foul play and the body was turned over to the family for burial.

Davis left the store where he was employed down town a few minutes before 12 o'clock last night, shaved at barber-shop on the way home, and was found 30 minutes later by a marine engineer, also on his way home, close up to a fence on the sidewalk, breast downward and face slightly upturned. His watch, \$19 in money and some bundles of merchandise he was carrying home and other articles of value were found untouched.

After a full investigation of the facts the coroner is of the opinion that with the bundles under his arm, the man fell against the side of the fence, breaking his neck and that in falling the wound on his cheek was inflicted.

Estimate of National Wealth.

Washington, March 23.—The total estimate of the valuation of national wealth in 1904 was \$107,104,192, 410, according to a special report issued today by the census bureau on wealth, debt and taxation, which represents an increase in the four-year period from 1900 to 1904 of \$18,586,385,635. This advance in national wealth has no parallel in the history of the United States, except the decade from 1850 to 1860. In 1850, when the first estimates of the national wealth were made, the figures were only \$7,135,780,228.

Washington Letter.

[From Our Regular Correspondent.]

Washington, March 21, 1907.

While the Waterways Commission appointed by the President last week is not yet even organized, Chairman Burton of Ohio is expected back in Washington within a few days, and then the commission will meet to see what it can do. People in many parts of the country may not realize what an enormous task the commission has before it and how much good it will be able to do if it plans wisely, and if its wise plans are carried out.

Of course what the Waterways Commission can do is only to make a start and prepare a comprehensive plan for the approval of Congress. But one of the things it is to do in a general way is to map out an efficient auxiliary system of water transportation for slow freight that will take off the shoulders of the railroads the burden of moving the immense crops which they now frankly confess they are unable to handle. The people of the middle west realize the need of water transportation perhaps more keenly than any other part of the country.

But this is not all that the Waterways Commission is expected to do. To make effective and navigable the larger streams will be a large and important work, but it is planned also to control so far as possible all the streams of the country, and thus save the millions of dollars lost annually by floods and the incalculably greater loss by washing and erosion of the farm lands of the country.

The people of the South realize this loss also, and have constant object lesson before them in the destruction of the greatest rice belt in the world through the two Carolinas where the fields were washed out after the forests had been cut on the headwaters of the streams. The same was true of the "dead fields" of the cotton belt where washing by rains destroyed tens of thousands of acres of land before a partial stop was put to it by "contour cultivation."

The problem of erosion presents itself to the commission in a different form in the arid west where the North Platte, the Missouri, and a dozen other streams all carry down annually millions of tons of the richest soil to choke the channel of the Mississippi and put the sediment where it will do the most harm. The reclaiming service, whose director, F. H. Newell, is a member of the commission will undertake to handle that end of the problem with immense settling reservoirs that will send the waters of the western streams down clear and free of sediment to join the Mississippi and free also of the disastrous floods that ruin the farm lands along their course.

The problem of light and power from water flow will also be considered by the commission. It is estimated by the members that from this source, the coal consumption of the country can be reduced a third, lengthening by just that much the producing life of the coal mines. It is a great vision, and one in which a scientific imagination can revel.

Killed in Collision.

Los Angeles, Cal., March 24.—special train on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway, carrying scores of students home from an inter-collegiate field meeting at Claremont, collided head-on with the eastbound limited train while both trains were moving at a rapid rate, within the city limits tonight. Four persons were killed and 17 injured, some of them probably fatally.

Both locomotives, one of the baggage cars on the limited and the smoking car on the special train were demolished. The crash was terrific and was heard many blocks away from the scene.

Brunswick county has called an election for May 25th on the question of voting to subscribe \$80,000 to the capital stock of the Wilmington, Brunswick & Southport Railway Company.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS—Having qualified as administrator of the estate of Martha A. Evans, this is to notify all creditors of her estate to present their claims to the undersigned on or before the 27th day of February, 1907, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please settle with the undersigned. This Feb 23, 1907.

T. O. EVANS, Adm'r Martha Evans

Womack, Hayes & Bynum, Attorneys.

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