

TAR HEEL TOPICS

Items Gathered From All Sections of the State

Wife of a Wadesboro Man.

Wadesboro, Special.—Thursday at 2 o'clock one of Anson county's best known and most loved men, Mr. W. H. Hadley, killed himself at his home in Ansonville, about ten miles from this place. The awful deed was committed by placing the barrel of a large pistol in his mouth, after which the shot was fired. He had just returned to a customer in the store about five minutes before the deed was committed. Mr. Hadley was about 45 years of age and the father of seven children, and is survived by his second wife. He was in business in Ansonville for about 25 years previous to his death. For many years of his business life he was unusually successful, but more recently ill health has kept him from giving close attention to his business and his despondency was probably due to this fact. Anson county had few citizens who more readily championed all moral causes, or were more concerned about the country's best welfare.

Another Bank in Wilmington.

Wilmington, Special.—Since the merger of the Atlantic and Merchants National Banks here last week there is considerable talk of the organization of another commercial institution with J. W. Norwood, of Greenville, S. C., formerly president of the Atlantic, at its head. Mr. Norwood has been here the past two weeks looking over the savings bank with a view of negotiating for the taking over of the Carolina Savings and Trust Company, which was merged with the Atlantic National Bank and merging it with the Wilmington Savings and Trust Company, of which he is president. Some good business men say there is ample room here for a third National bank and many of them do not hesitate to say they will take stock in the enterprise. Mr. Norwood will accept the active management of the enterprise.

Another Bank Merger.

Wilmington, Special.—At a meeting of the directors of the Carolina Savings and Trust Company, which is allied with the Atlantic National Bank, recently merged with the Merchants National in this city, it was decided to accept the offer of the People's Savings Bank to consolidate with that institution, the terms of the merger being understood to be a payment by the People's Bank of 25 per cent above the book value of the stock. The People's is the savings bank of the Merchants National, and consolidated with the Carolina, it will occupy the handsome banking house now vacated by the Atlantic National at the northwest corner of Hart and Princess streets.

M. M. Ramsey, of Durham Dies Suddenly.

Durham, Special.—Mrs. M. M. Ramsey, who lives on Liberty street, died suddenly. She was able to attend the previous evening and paid a visit to some of the neighbors. Returning to her home she was taken suddenly ill and was dead in a few minutes. She was 63 years of age and had lived in Durham for 35 years, coming from Virginia. She left several children. These now live in different sections of the State and Virginia and the arrangements for the funeral have not been made yet.

Young Man Killed.

Greensboro, Special.—Word was received here of the horrible death of Hugh Fry, a young man of this city, which occurred near Lynchburg at a camp of the bridge construction company, with which he was employed. The bridge foreman, some time before night, the manner of his death is not known, but it is thought he was struck by a train.

Agent an Accomplice.

Wilmington, Special.—Mayor J. H. Weldon surprised a confident citizen this week by sending him to jail under a \$50 bond as an accomplice in a blind tiger. He held the man under a section of a special law which provides that where a messenger goes and gets whiskey for another man, buying it from an illicit and confidential dealer, the messenger is the same as a blind tiger and as such he is held and punished. This is the first time that this law has been applied to the morally stunted.

Into the Reportorial Field.

Salisbury, Special.—Edward Wilson, an attaché of the Whitney office at Whitney-on-the-Yadkin, has decided to devote his time this winter to newspaper correspondence and will be in an office in this city. He has much experience in the reportorial field and his work in Salisbury is held up to the standard from a standpoint.

Business Changes in Lexington.

Lexington, Special.—Among the probable business changes in Lexington business circles that will take place the first of the year is an interesting one at the grocery store of Mr. W. H. Moffitt. Mr. Moffitt, his son, Mr. J. V. Moffitt and Mr. Fred A. Watson, of Winston, have formed the W. H. Moffitt Grocery Company, with \$4,500 capital. Mr. Watson, well known here, has been in the drug business in Winston. He will be manager. The present manager, Mr. Will D. Moffitt, goes to High Point to be with the High Point Grocery Company, wholesale.

Farmers Fight; One Shot At.

Fayetteville, Special.—Thursday in a fight on Hay street, M. A. Smith, a farmer, struck Mr. Bennett, another farmer, over the head and Bennett drew a revolver and fired twice at Smith, one ball crushing through the plate glass window of Gorham's book store, which was crowded with women, and causing a panic. Smith was thought to be seriously wounded, but both the balls went wide of the mark. Bennett raised his revolver for another shot, but he was disarmed before he could fire.

Schoolhouse in Randolph County Burned by Incendiaries.

High Point, Special.—Chief of Police Gray received a message from Solicitor Hammer, from Greensboro, telling him to look out for parties who are supposed to have burned a schoolhouse in Grant township, Randolph county. This makes the third schoolhouse burned in that district in the past year and the people are very much wrought up over the matter. It is the work of fire bugs and Solicitor Hammer is determined, if possible to bring them to justice.

Commissions Issued.

Commissions are issued to the following officers of Company K, Third Regiment of Infantry, at Weldon, which was mustered in services Monday night: O. L. Bagley, captain; H. L. Allen, first lieutenant; B. C. Rodwell, second lieutenant.

Col. J. N. Craig, commander of the Third Regiment of Infantry, has sent an invitation to all the commissioned officers of that regiment to meet at Durham on the 30th inst to consider matters affecting the regiment, which grow out of the putting into effect of the Dick law of January 21. It is the purpose to have the regiment in the most perfect shape possible by that date in an endeavor to meet the requirements of this law, which is by far the most important ever enacted in the interest of the National Guard of the country. Adjutant General Robertson will attend the meeting called by Colonel Craig.

Greensboro Man Killed by a Train.

Greensboro, Special.—Mr. Hugh Fry, a well-known young man of this city, was killed by a train ten miles south of Lynchburg, Va., about 3 o'clock Friday morning and his remains were brought here and taken to the home of his mother, Mrs. H. L. Fry, on Murray street. The funeral will be held some time Friday. It is reported that Mr. Fry had been to Lynchburg and was returning on the train that killed him, and in attempting to alight from it he stepped on some ice and was thrown under the train and crushed to death. Lately Mr. Fry had been employed as a civil engineer at a railroad construction camp, stationed at the point where he met his death.

State News Items.

The Foreman and Miller Company, of Charlotte, with \$110,000 to be authorized and \$15,000 subscribed capital stock, was chartered last week. The object of the concern is to conduct a general merchandise business. The incorporators are: W. R. Foreman, Lynchburg, Va.; E. C. Miller, T. C. Wilson and J. L. Coble, all of Charlotte.

Superintendent Mann, of the penitentiary, says that not all the cotton is yet picked at the State Farm, near Weldon. Speaking about the finances of the penitentiary, he remarked that it had not done so well as last year, because the crops are not as good. As yet none of the cotton has been put on the market, and no sales of peanuts have been made. He is not yet able to estimate the amount of the cotton crop, but of course it falls considerably under that as yet. In spite of everything, however, the penitentiary makes a very good financial showing.

The Selma Livery and Live Stock Company, of Selma, with \$10,000 authorized and \$4,500 subscribed, that with the privilege of increasing the capital to \$20,000, was chartered, the incorporators being: R. W. Hatcher, W. T. Kirby, C. W. Richardson, L. H. Alfred, C. F. Kirby, Nowell and Richardson, Selma Supply Company, Dr. J. B. Person and Dr. George D. Vick, all of Selma.

SECRETARY TAFT IS HOME

Secretary Taft Could Not be Induced to Talk Politics by Reporters Who Flocked Around Him on His Landing Friday Morning.

New York, Special.—"I have been away from the United States for a hundred and twenty days, and have been out of touch with public affairs generally. I don't think that at this time I should talk on any public question, but I may have something more to say later on. I expect to have my nose to the grindstone for some time to come and my long absence from home due to my extended trip has prevented my keeping abreast of current events. Under no circumstances shall I discuss political affairs at present. I have had a splendid trip and found Americans very welcome every place I reached."

In the above statement Secretary Taft, evaded all efforts to get him to discuss his boom for the presidential nomination, when he landed from the Hamburg-American liner President Grant. The Secretary is in splendid health, although he is grieved over the death of his mother. He expected to go to Washington without delay to confer with the President.

He arrived with his party at quarantine at 10 o'clock Friday morning. The government tug Johnstown has gone to take him to Jersey City, where a train awaits to carry him to Washington over the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. He expressed pleasure at the news that Missouri had announced that it would support him for the nomination, but refused to discuss politics.

Acres and Value of Crops.

Washington, Special.—The Department of Agriculture issued a report giving final estimates of acreage, production, and value of farm crops, showing winter wheat acreage to be 28,132,000 production 409,442,000 bushels, value, per bushel, \$8.2 cents. Spring wheat acreage 17,079,000; production 224,645,000; value 86 cents. Corn acreage, 99,931,000; production, 2,592,320,000; value 51.7 cents. Oats acreage, 31,837,000; production 754,443,000; value 44.3 cents. The average weight per bushel is shown by reports received by the Department to be 56.9 pounds for spring wheat, 58.9 pounds for winter wheat and 29.4 pounds for oats.

The Wood Pulp Supply.

London, By Cable.—Unless Lord Northcliffe, of The London Daily Mail, encounters some entirely unforeseen obstacle in his plans for cornering the world's supply of wood pulp, both British and American newspaper men, it seems likely, will be in a position soon where they will have to reckon with the great English publisher for practically their entire supply of print-paper. His lordship conceived the idea a number of years ago of making Newfoundland the world's wood pulp centre and on his advice the Amalgamated Press, which controls The Mail, is investing four millions in the enterprise. European experts agree that the result promises to be the generation's financial coup for the astute newspaper man. Factories are now almost ready to begin production.

Swindling on an Extensive Scale.

Boston, Mass., Special.—Goods valued at \$150,000 obtained by a gang of alleged swindlers from firms all over the country, are believed by postoffice inspectors to be stored in various warehouses throughout this city. If the allegations of the inspectors are correct, they present one of the cleverest swindles ever practiced upon business men in the United States. Six men have been arrested and five of them are now out on bail awaiting the action of the grand jury on the technical charge of using the mails for fraudulent purposes. The names of the men are Henry Barish, Hyland Goldsmith, T. C. Scroton, M. G. Alkon, W. I. Alkon, Samuel Seelofreund. It is alleged that these men induced firms to forward their goods valued at thousands of dollars by furnishing fraudulent ratings and references.

Sufferers From Mine Disasters.

Washington, Special.—As a measure of relief for widows and orphans of the mine explosion victims and those permanently injured in such disasters, Representative Lenahan, of Wilkesbarre, Pa., a great hard-coal mining centre, has introduced a bill in the House calling for a tax of one cent per ton on all coal mines. To each family made dependent by the death of a miner or his injury, a thousand dollars out of the revenue so derived is to be paid.

Magazine Explodes.

Palermo, Italy, By Cable.—At least a dozen of the injured in a powder magazine explosion here, in which 25 persons were killed and more than a hundred hurt, will die. Troops are still aiding the police in removing the debris of houses shaken down by the blast. It is feared that more bodies will be found in the wreckage, as the work of its removal progresses. The cause of the accident is unknown.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.



AT THE YEAR'S END.

By Clinton Scollard.

At the year's end one saw before him
Phantasmal presences. The first uttered,
"I am the love that once you defied!"
"And I," the second said, with mocking
signs,
"Am that ambition which, in splendid
guise,
Both day and night was ever by your
side."
"And I," a third exclaimed, reproachful-
eyed,
"Am that fair faith you cherished, precious
wise."
He met their glances, levelly, aware
That each had uttered naught save truth,
and yet
He felt no smarting of remorse's stings.
'Tis thus with those brave souls who, stair
by stair,
Ascend the years, above all vain regret,
To the triumphant heights of better
things.

ASTRONOMICAL CALCULATIONS FOR 1908

Being until July 4th, the 132d year of the independence of the United States of America, and corresponding nearly to
The year 1326 of the Mohammedan era, beginning Feb. 4th.
The year A. M. 8017 of the Greek Church, beginning Jan. 14 (O. S.).
The year 4605 of the Chinese era, beginning Feb. 2.
The year 5668-9 of the Jewish era, Sept. 26 or at sunset Sept. 25.
The year 2563 of the Japanese era, beginning Feb. 2.
The year 5908 A. L. (Masonic).
The year 2661 A. U. C. (of Rome).
The year 5912 of the World (Usher).
The year 7416 of the World (Septuagint).

1908 IS A BISSEXTILE OR LEAP YEAR.

Moon is the Reigning Planet This Year.

CARDINAL POINTS.

Vernal Equinox, entrance of the Sun into Aries, March 20th, at 7 o'clock in the evening.
Summer Solstice, entrance of the Sun into Cancer, June 21st, at 3 o'clock in the evening.
Autumnal Equinox, entrance of the Sun into Libra, September 23d, at 6 o'clock in the morning.
Winter Solstice, entrance of the Sun into Capricorn, December 22d, at 1 o'clock in the morning.

THE SEASONS.

Washington Mean Time.

	D.	H.	M.		D.	H.	M.
December	22	6	36	p. m.	Winter begins and lasts.	89	0-35
March	20	7	11	p. m.	Spring begins and lasts.	92	19-52
June	21	3	3	p. m.	Summer begins and lasts.	93	14-39
September	23	5	42	a. m.	Autumn begins and lasts.	89	18-35
December	22	0	17	a. m.	Winter begins and lasts.	365	5-41

ECLIPSES FOR THE YEAR 1908.

There will be three eclipses of the Sun this year and one Luna Apule. I. The first will be a total eclipse of the Sun on the 3d of January, invisible in America, visible on the Pacific Ocean. II. The second will be an annular or ring-form eclipse of the Sun on the 23d of June, visible, in part, in the United States. The eclipse will be annular in Tampa, Florida, and on the Bermuda Islands. The beginning will be at 9 o'clock 27 minutes in the forenoon; the end at 12 o'clock 41 minutes at noon. (Washington time.) III. The third is an eclipse of the Sun on the 22d and 23d of December, invisible in North America, visible on the Atlantic Ocean and in the eastern part of South America.

MORNING AND EVENING STARS.

Morning Stars.	Evening Stars.
Venus after July 5.	Venus until July 5.
Mars after August 22.	Mars until August 22.
Jupiter until January 29, after August 17.	Jupiter after January 29, until August 17.
Saturn after February 29, until September 30.	Saturn until February 29, after September 30.
Mercury until January 14; February 28 until May 7; July 4 until August 20; October 28 until December 11.	Mercury, January 14 until February 28; May 7 until July 4; August 20 until October 28; after December 11.

PLANETS' GREATEST BRILLIANCY.

Mercury—February 13, June 7, October 4, sets in the evening after the Sun and rises in the morning before the Sun, March 27, July 25, November 13. Jupiter—January 29. Venus—May 29, August 7. Saturn—September 30.

MOVABLE FEASTS AND CHURCH DAYS.

Septuagesima Sunday, February 16.	Trinity Sunday, June 14.
Sexagesima Sunday, February 23.	Corpus Christi, June 18.
Quinquagesima Sunday, March 1.	Thanksgiving Day, on fourth or last Thursday in November, as President may appoint.
Shrove Tuesday, March 3.	First Sunday in Advent, November 29.
Ash Wednesday, or first day of Lent, March 4.	Sundays after Trinity are 23 this year.
Quadragesima Sunday, March 8.	
Mid Lent, March 25.	
Palm Sunday, April 12.	
Maundy Thursday, April 16.	
Good Friday, April 17.	
Easter Sunday, April 19.	
Low Sunday, April 26.	
Rogation Sunday, May 21.	
Ascension Day, May 28.	
Whit Sunday, June 7.	

Some of the New Records Made During the Year

Automobile record for mile on circular track, by Walter Christie, 52 seconds.
Swimming record for 100 yards, by Charles Daniels, 55 2-5 seconds.
Horse running record, one mile and an eighth, by Charles Edward, at Brighton Beach, 1:50 3-5.
Shooting record, by Captain Hardy, who broke 13,066 flying targets.
Homing pigeon makes average speed of 1612 yards per minute for 600 miles.
Thompson's Colts bowling team (five men) rolled a 2853 score for three games.
Ralph Rose, John Flanagan, Martin Sheridan, George Bonhag and Melvin Sheppard all broke athletic records.
Fastest time on snow shoes, 47m. 20s.
Longest ski jump, 114 feet.

75 Lives Lost in the Alps

and 350 Other Mishaps in 1907.
London.—Official statistics just issued supply the death rate in 1907 due to misadventure in the Italian, Swiss and Austrian Alps. The number of lives lost was seventy-five, the majority being Swiss and Germans. Next came the British and after them the Italians. There were 350 serious accidents.
The chief cause of the fatality was fool-hardiness, which is becoming more prevalent every year. In attempting ascents without a guide.

Seventy-one Hunters Killed

During Season of 1907.
Chicago.—Seventy-one persons were killed—most of them by carelessness—during the hunting season of 1907. This is slightly below the record for 1906.
The number of injured in 1907, however, is in excess of that of the season before, eighty-one hunters having been hurt in 1907, compared with only seventy during 1906.
In Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota a fifty persons lost their lives in 1907.

KILLED IN HIS OFFICE

New York Broker Shot By a Crazy Customer

WHO DEMANDED MORE CREDIT

Charles A. Geiger, of Beaufort, S. C., Fatally Wounds James H. Oliphant, Member of Stock Exchange, and Then Turns Pistol Upon Himself.

New York, Special.—James H. Oliphant, senior member of the stock exchange firm of James H. Oliphant & Co., is dead from a bullet wound inflicted at his office Friday afternoon by Charles A. Geiger, a customer from Beaufort, S. C., who after firing upon Oliphant killed himself. The men were closeted in Oliphant's private office at the time and all that is known of what immediately preceded the shooting was learned from the lips of the dying broker. Oliphant said that his refusal to extend further credit to Geiger caused the tragedy. There is reason to believe, however, that Geiger had become mentally irresponsible. A notebook found upon his person contained computations by which the writer apparently had figured that he would be worth \$3,000,000 by January 1st, 1908. He actually possessed, as far as his personal effects showed, less than \$11.

Geiger owed the Oliphants \$5,000 and had been asked for a settlement. He called at the office and after explaining that he could not meet the obligation asked that the firm advance him sufficient credit to carry 5,000 shares of a certain stock until a rise in the price should yield him a profit. His proposition was refused and the shooting followed.

The offices of James H. Oliphant & Co., are at 20 Broad street, in the center of the financial district, and the shooting caused a sensation in the street and temporarily interrupted the business of the curb traders, the scene of whose activities are overlooked from the big office building.

Clerks who pushed their way into Oliphant's office when they heard shots fired, stumbled over Geiger's dead body. He had shot himself in the mouth and again in the right temple. A revolver was clutched in his hand. Oliphant had slipped from his chair and lay half concealed under his desk. A bullet had entered the stomach. The broker was still conscious. At the hospital, where the operation of laparotomy was performed, it was found that the bullet had grazed the kidneys and lodged in the back. It was not removed.

Oliphant's ante-mortem statement was supplemented by a statement from the broker's partners, who included Oliphant's son, J. Norris Oliphant.

According to young Oliphant, Geiger, who was 39 years old, 6 feet tall, slender and wore a heavy dark, moustache, belonged to the class of speculators known in the street as "cold hot customers," those who always have something on hand, buying or selling in 10 or 20 share lots, never investing a great amount but frequently risking all they possess.

Papers found in a room which Geiger occupied in the Holland House indicate, however, that he had lost no less than \$75,000 in dealings in steel common and that he still owed the Oliphants \$5,000. It was also indicated by the papers, and partially confirmed by acquaintances that Geiger had lost all he possessed and that when he went to the broker's office it was in the hope of securing credit through which he might recuperate his fortune.

Burns and Palmer Fight February 1st.

London, By Cable.—Feb. 1st has been fixed as the date for the fight between Tommy Burns, the champion heavyweight pugilist of the world, and Jack Palmer, of New Castle. The battle will be fought at Wonderland, White Chapel, and beside Burns' title it will be for a purse and side bet of \$2,500.

Cotton Ginned to Dec. 13, 9,281,077.

Washington, Special.—The Census Bureau reported the number of bales of cotton ginned from the growth of 1907 to December 13th, as 9,281,077 bales, as compared with 11,112,789 last year. The number of active ginneries is 27,152. The figures by States are: North Carolina, 522,917; South Carolina, 1,014,711; Georgia, 1,632,495; Alabama, 962,022; Louisiana, 502,091; Mississippi, 1,119,244; Oklahoma, 686,078; Tennessee, 204,267; Texas 1,987,781.

Big Fire at Jacksonville.

Jacksonville, Fla., Special.—Fire early Friday morning destroyed the three-story building on West Forsyth street, owned by E. E. Cleveland, causing a loss of \$20,000. The Vehicle and Harness Company, a branch of the Savannah Buggy Company, and the storage company, operated by the same firm, estimate their loss at about \$50,000, covered by insurance.

Late News In Brief

MINOR MATTERS OF INTEREST

Frank H. Hitchcock denied that he has been using the public patronage to gather delegates for Cortelyou.

Speaker Cannon completed the House committees, and they will be announced later.

Senator Aldrich halted the inquiry proposed by Culberson into the causes of the financial stringency, and by Tillman into the Boston and Maine Railroad deal.

Alexander B. Butt, cashier of the wrecked Peoples Bank of Portsmouth, Va., was arrested on a charge of falsification of the books.

The Legislative mining commission arrived at Monongah, W. Va., to investigate the mine disaster. Three hundred and thirty-seven bodies have thus far been recovered.

The battleship fleet, at last accounts, was off the Florida coast, with fine weather and all well.

"Gus" Ringling, oldest of the brothers who etiol circuses in America died in New Orleans.

Two women and two men and \$30,000 worth of booty were taken from a New York flat, said to be burglar's headquarters.

Frank W. Miller, of Kansas City, committed suicide in a University of Pennsylvania dormitory.

Alfred H. Smith, vice president of the New York Central Railroad, was acquitted of manslaughter charges growing out of the Woodlawn wreck last February.

The receivers for the Westinghouse concerns will probably be discharged soon.

The Peace Conference agreed to establish a court of arbitration for Central America.

The Senate passed a resolution calling on Secretary Cortelyou for complete information concerning Government deposits, bonds, note issues and clearing-house certificates.

Speaker Cannon announced the new house committees on rules and mileage.

There was a debate in the Senate regarding the custom of executive departments sending drafted bills to be introduced in the Senate.

The big battleship fleet is now ready sail for Hampton Roads on its trip to San Francisco.

The Interstate Finance and Trust Company, of Big Stone Gap, Va., closed its doors, going into voluntary liquidation for lack of currency.

William C. Abbott, of Danville, got out of a sick bed, went to his stable and hanged himself.

The trial of Fred Jenkins for the murder of William Smith was continued at Culpeper.

The British-American Tobacco Co., claiming ownership to the \$750,000 cigarettes seized in Norfolk by the Government in October on the ground that they were being shipped in violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust law, filed its answer to the information filed by the Government.

Ex-Governor Black, of New York, made a sensational attack on President Roosevelt before the New Hampshire Bar Association.

Governor Glenn's plan to have the North Carolina rate cases adjudicated failed because the Southern Railway would not consent to a trial of the new law.

The injunction case of Stuyvesant Fish against voting of Union Pacific holdings of Illinois Central stock came up for argument in Chicago.

Bishop Thoburn, of the Methodist Episcopal church, was adjudged responsible in the libel suit of Dr. Samuel Armstrong Hopkins, a woman missionary, who got a \$500 verdict.

Gen. Frederick Funston arrived at Goldfield with troops, but martial law has not yet been declared.

R. P. Easton, cashier of a State bank at Herscher, Ill., committed suicide in the bank.

Miss Annie Burkhardt, of Pensacola, Fla., was made heir to a \$75,000 estate by a peddler supposedly penniless.

The Canadian Pacific Railroad made the offer to take what Boston and Maine stock the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad holds.

The reduction of Territorial votes by the Republican National Committee is taken as a blow to Taft and to Roosevelt as well.

Senator Tillman will begin his Democratic attack on the Panama canal bond issue by a speech mentioning the Walsh failure in Chicago.

Senator Money was made chairman of the Democratic "Steering Committee."

Capt. Van Schaick, of the Philippines Constabulary, brought over a loving cup for President Roosevelt from Manila citizens and may have to pay the duty on it.

Colonel Guthrie will come back in two weeks to have the width of the Panama canal locks decided.

Rescue work has temporarily ceased at the Monongah (W. Va.) mines.