

TAR HEEL TOPICS

Items Gathered From All Sections of the State

Her Purse Snatched.

Charlotte, Special. — The purse-snatchers in Charlotte are continuing their operations without a let up, and another bold attempt was reported by the police, this making perhaps the twentieth or thirtieth to take place recently. The victim was Miss Josephine Worrel, stenographer in a local insurance office. She was seized and thrown to the ground and her purse torn loose from her hand, to which it was fastened, by a ribbon. The continuous repetition of these offenses all of which are the work of black men has stirred the city to a considerable degree. The police are exhausting every means to capture the supposed gang of purse-snatchers. Miss Worrel came to the city last Sunday from Atlanta, Ga., and had just taken up her residence at No. 704 East Fourth street. She has a position in the office of the New York Life Insurance Company. She carried in her purse about \$30. The police officers suspect that two of the leading purse-snatchers who have been operating in this city, had been captured in the person of Roper Wallace and J. A. Roper, colored, one of whom was arrested Tuesday and the other Wednesday. The occurrence, however, is blamed for all of this fiendish work that has been going on. There are evidences of the fact that the snatchers are organized and jingling from the success of their efforts lately, they must be well organized. They are about as shrewd a set of law-breakers as the local officers ever met with. A reward of \$100 has been offered by the mayor for the capture of the party or parties guilty, and public feeling is very high.

Young Lady Attempts Suicide.

Gastonia, Special.—Miss Bell Nichols, a well known young lady of Gastonia, attempted to commit suicide Tuesday. The effort at self-destruction was due to a fit of mental depression to which she has been subject for several months. Miss Nichols had been under the treatment of physicians for the past three or four weeks, but recently returned to her father's home near Grover, apparently very much improved. Tuesday morning she borrowed her father's pocket knife on the plea that she wanted to trim her finger nails. A short time afterward she mysteriously disappeared from the premises. The alarm was sent out and a searching party consisting of about thirty-five people was organized and a search began. After several hours the young woman was found late Tuesday afternoon, wandering alone in a patch of woods near the town. She had cut her breast open, stabbed herself near the heart and slashed herself a number of times on the neck. She had removed her shoes and had wandered around, apparently crazed, but thinly clad. She was taken at once to her home and physicians dressed her wounds. There are no considerations of sufficient seriousness to cause death, but the doctor fears that she has contracted pneumonia from spending the day in the woods, thinly clad and with portions of her body exposed to the cold.

Six Deaths.

Tarboro, Special.—County Health Officer, Dr. W. J. Thigpen, reports six deaths in Tarboro during the month of January. Three of these were under two years of age.

Killed His Wife.

Asheville, Special.—A special from Marshall tells of another murder committed in Madison county Thursday night when Mrs. John W. Rondon was shot to death. The husband is accused of the crime which was committed near Barnard and the message stated that officers had gone from Marshall to place Rondon under arrest.

School Term Shortened.

High Point, Special.—At a meeting of the school board this week it was decided to have only eight months of school this year instead of nine as has been the case the past several years. This was made necessary on account of the money in hand. For sometime an eight month school term was held but the board thought best to give the pupils as many months in the year as possible and would not now be changed if the money sufficient was available.

Now a Certainty.

Kinston, Special.—The Caswell Cotton Mills is a certainty. Plans are now rapidly developing for the construction of the plant. A site of 15 acres has been purchased, this being located on Neuse river, just east of the electric plant. Mr. E. C. Eberstein, architect, of Charlotte, has been engaged to draw plans for the new mill.

Has Two Husbands.

Winston-Salem, Special.—During the recent session of the legislature a bill passed validating the marriage of Joseph Ridenhour to Mrs. John Davis, both of Davidson county. Mrs. Davis, who was a Miss Reid, married John Davis. Davis left the country and was gone a number of years. Hearing that he was dead, his wife, many years after his disappearance, was married to Joseph Ridenhour. Some time ago Davis came back to Davidson county and found his wife married again. Her position was embarrassing, because she thus had two husbands living although all parties were innocent of any wrong in connection with the marriage. Accordingly the legislature was asked to validate the second marriage. Senator Redwine opposed the bill contending that if it passed the woman would thus have two husbands living. Senator Blair favored the bill and spoke highly of the woman. The bill passed its reading in the Senate by practically a unanimous vote.

Statesville's New Bank.

Statesville, Special.—The Merchants & Farmers Bank, the new banking institution, has secured temporary quarters with the Statesville Realty & Investment Company on Center street, and Messrs. F. B. Bunch and J. A. Knox, officials of the bank, are busy completing arrangements to open for business. All of the capital stock has been paid in and the corporation has filed its report with the corporation commission. The certificate from commission is expected Thursday or Friday and the bank expects to open for business next Wednesday, the 12th. The business will be conducted from the offices of the Realty & Investment Company until the bank's permanent quarters in the Patterson & Anderson block are ready for occupancy.

Look Out For Fake Dollars.

Salisbury, Special.—Spurious silver dollars of the date of 1899 are being freely circulated in Salisbury and officers are at work on the case, with a fair clue to the original dispenser of the curios. The coin is a splendid imitation and one was recovered by Grover H. E. Ruffy last Saturday evening without question. Another was presented him by a lad whom Mr. Ruffy detained and questioned. The boy said his father had given him the money to make some purchases and inquiry of the father proved the truth of the lad's statement. The man said he had been given the money by a Spencer merchant and it is this clue upon which the officers are working.

Another \$10,000 Suit.

Hickory, Special.—Reports has it that this city is to have another suit for \$10,000 for false arrest and imprisonment. Some time ago, in the night time, a gang of masked men tore up the C. & N. W. railroad track on the north side of the Hickory freight depot. Next morning the section boss, with his crew of men, started to put the track back. Mayor Cillee forbid it. But the section boss would not listen to the track back, and proceeded to put the track back. The policemen arrested him and placed him in the lockup. He was not locked up but a little while. Now it is stated that he has sued Mayor Cillee (who since then has resigned as mayor) and the city for \$10,000 damages for false imprisonment.

Buys Interest in Winston-Salem Co.

Winston-Salem, Special.—W. J. Brothers, of Eastern North Carolina has acquired by purchase a considerable interest in the A. F. Messick Grocery Company and will make this city his home after March 1st. He will have an official position with the above well known wholesale grocers with whom it is understood he has made a considerable investment.

Farmers Holding Cotton.

Charlotte, Special.—There is no doubt of the fact that farmers in Mecklenburg are holding to their cotton this month with more than usual tenacity. The recent meeting of the State Division of the Southern Cotton Association, and the near approach of the annual meeting of the Southern Cotton Association in Dallas, Texas, have undoubtedly served to stimulate the farmers to more stringent efforts in holding their cotton.

Two National Banks.

Kinston, Special.—The biggest article most interesting news in business circles about the busy town of Kinston is the announcement that she is to have two national banks. The Citizens bank will increase its capital and enter the field as a national bank and the Bank of Kinston will become a national bank. The charter has already been applied for and the change will soon be made.

CONGRESS GETS BUSY

Doings of Our National Law-Makers Day by Day.

Tariff in the Senate.

Senator Beveridge, of Indiana, addressed the Senate in advocacy of his bill to create a permanent tariff commission. The Senator was accorded a careful hearing by both the Republican and Democratic sides of the chamber, and also by the crowded galleries.

Senator Beveridge spoke for an hour and a half, and when he concluded his remarks, Senator Culberson, of Texas, remarked that the Senator from Indiana was to be congratulated because in some degree at least, he had joined the army of tariff revisionists. He said that it had been announced in the newspapers that a decree had been issued on the Republican side that the tariff could not even be inquired into at this time.

Senator Newlands then discussed the general subject of the tariff, declaring that the law should provide for a gradual reduction of the tariff so that no duty should be over 45 per cent.

Mr. McLaurin declared that the tariff would always be a political question. "The fact," he said, "that we are told the tariff must not be revised before an election is an admission that it is political."

Senator Scott pronounced himself to be a "stand-patter." He believed the present Dingley tariff had done more for this country in the past ten years than any law ever enacted.

Mr. Stone, of Missouri, declared that when William Jennings Bryan is elected President and when Congress is in control of the Democratic party, then and then only, would a conservative and genuine revision of the tariff be begun.

Appropriation Bill Up.

The sections of the urgent deficiency appropriation bill relating to executive departments were reached in the Senate Mr. Bacon, of Georgia, inquired concerning the operation of the law prohibiting executive departments from incurring liabilities for which appropriation is not made.

Mr. Hale explained that the law of 1906 had made such a prohibition but he added, there is an exception in favor of the War Department and Navy Department. This exception he hoped would be done away with.

Senator Clay, of Georgia, condemned the appropriation of between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000 for the Navy Department in this bill for purposes not provided for by law.

Mr. Hale declared that there always had been deficiencies and that there always will be. He regarded them as inevitable.

Mr. Clay persisted in his opposition and said that he would not be surprised to see the appropriations for the navy reach \$175,000,000 annually, according to the rate of increase, going on now. He also predicted that within 10 years the expenses of the Postoffice Department would be increased to \$225,000,000 a year. All of the deficiency appropriations complained of in connection with unauthorized expenditures were retained in the bill.

Pension Bill Reported.

The House committee on appropriations reported favorably the pension bill for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1909. The bill as reported abolishes the pension agencies at Augusta, Me., Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Columbus, O.; Concord, N. H.; Des Moines, Detroit, Indianapolis, Knoxville, Tenn.; Louisville, Ky.; Milwaukee, New York City, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, San Francisco and Toledo and consolidates them in one central distributing agency at Washington.

The bill as reported carries a total pension appropriation of \$150,369,000, which is \$174,000 less than the aggregate estimate—the exact sum saved by the consolidation of the agencies.

There was paid to 967,371 pensioners in the last fiscal year the total sum of \$138,030,894; and the total of pensions that has been paid for all wars and for the regular establishment since the foundation of the republic is \$3,598,015,732.

"There is no living," says the report, "no soldier or soldier's widow of the revolutionary war and there is no pension soldier living of the war of 1812 but at the end of the last fiscal year there were on the roll 553 widows of soldiers of that war."

ENDING OF FEUDIST

Judge Hargis, of Kentucky, is Slain By His Own Son

CAREER OF BLOOD AND MURDER

The Most Infamous Figure in the Feuds Which Have Disrupted Breathitt County, Kentucky, For Many Years, is Shot and Killed by His Own Son, Following a Quarrel.

Jackson, Ky., Special.—Former County Judge James Hargis, for many years member of the State Democratic executive committee, accused of complicity in many killings and a prominent figure in the feuds which have disrupted Breathitt county for several years was shot and instantly killed in his general store here about 3:30 p. m. Thursday by his son, Beach Hargis. The son fired five shots in rapid succession at his father, who fell dead while his clerks were waiting on customers. The exact cause of the murder has not been learned, but it is supposed to have been the result of differences which have existed between father and son for some time. The two men are reported to have had a severe quarrel several nights ago, when the father, it is alleged, was compelled to resort to violence to restrain his son.

Young Hargis, it is said, had been drinking heavily of late. He came into the store in the afternoon and was apparently under the influence of liquor. Judge Hargis, it is said, spoke to his son about drinking and a quarrel resulted.

Father and son stepped behind a counter, when the son, after a few minutes' conversation, drew a revolver and fired five shots. Four took effect, Judge Hargis falling dead. The young lady stenographer and the customers in the store fled in fright.

Young Hargis was arrested and placed in jail. He was raving like a maniac and the officers were compelled to drag him to jail.

Judge Hargis has been for years a prominent figure in Kentucky in political and criminal circles. He has figured in the courts in the mountains for years on account of the murders of Dr. Cox, Attorney Marcum and "Jim" Cockrill. Judge Hargis was the political leader of the Democrats of the tenth district and was regarded as the "boss" of Breathitt county. For years his sway was not opposed but young Hargis and Marcum had the temerity to oppose Hargis in a law case. From that date he was a marked man.

Judge Hargis had been on trial at various times for complicity in the murder of Marcum, "Jim" Cockrill and Dr. Cox, but had been acquitted on all the charges. He was recently forced to pay a judgment of \$8,000 to Mrs. Marcum in connection with the death of her husband.

Judge Hargis disposed of this, the last of the cases in which he had been involved, when he paid the judgment of the court. Mrs. Marcum had sued Judge Hargis and others for \$100,000 alleging that they caused the death of her husband.

The Hargis-Cockrill feud had its inception in a political contest. The Hargis' had long been dominant in Breathitt county, where they conducted a general store and a lumber business and were generally active. The brothers, James, Alexander and Albert were good business men and accumulated a fortune.

Second Primary in Louisiana.

Baton Rouge, La., Special.—The official count of Louisiana's recent Democratic primary elections issued Friday night, shows that a second election will be necessary for four offices. These are Lieutenant Governor, State Auditor, Attorney General and Registrar of Land Offices. Paul Lambremont and J. J. Bailey will be the contestants for Lieutenant Governor. J. Y. Sanders was the contest for Governor by a plurality of 13,447.

Leaves Fortune to Hampton Normal.

Pittsfield, Mass., Special.—By the will of Miss Alice Byington of Stockbridge, which was filed for probate here Saturday, the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, of Hampton, Va., is given \$210,000. The Normal and Industrial Institute, of Tuskegee, Ala., is given \$50,000, and the Mount Herman school for boys at East Northfield, Mass., \$25,000.

REPLIES TO CRITICS

President Roosevelt Answers Charge of Playing Politics

GIVES REASONS FOR HIS ACTS

Chief Executive Characterizes the Charges as "False and Malicious," and in an Exceedingly Lengthy Epistle to William Dudley Foulke, of Richmond, Indiana, He Enters Into a Detailed Defense.

Washington, Special.—President Roosevelt has made answer to the recent statements that he has made use of Federal patronage to further the presidential interests of Secretary Taft. The answer is in the form of a letter addressed to William Dudley Foulke, of Richmond, Indiana, and includes a letter from Mr. Foulke to the President suggesting the need of such a statement.

The President begins by characterizing the charges as "false and malicious." He follows this with an analysis of all appointments sent by him to the senate for its action to show that in no case has the proximity of a presidential contest influenced his action. The President's letter to Mr. Foulke in part follows:

The statement that I have used the offices in the effort to nominate any presidential candidate is both false and malicious. It is the usual imaginative invention which flows from a desire to say something injurious. Remember that those now making this accusation were busily engaged two months ago in asserting that I was using the offices to secure my own re-nomination. It is the kind of accusation which for the next few months will be life. This particular slander will be used until exploded, and when exploded those who have used it will promptly invent another. Such being the case, I almost question whether it is worth while answering; but as it is you who ask why, the answer you shall have.

Since the present Congress assembled two months ago I have sent to the Senate the names of all the officials I have appointed for the entire period since Congress adjourned on the 4th of March last, that is for 11 months. Excluding army and navy officers, scientific experts, health officers, and those of the revenue cutter service, I have made during this period about 1,352 appointments subject to the confirmation by the Senate, 1,164 being postmasters. Of these, appointments in the diplomatic and consular services and in the Indian service have been made without regard to politics; in the diplomatic and consular services more Democrats than Republicans having been appointed, as we are trying to even up the quotas of the Southern States. In nominating judges I have treated politics as a wholly secondary consideration, and instead of relying solely upon the recommendations of either Senators or Congressmen, have always conducted independent inquiries myself personally through members of the bench or the bar whom I happen to know, or through Attorney General Bonaparte, Secretary Taft, who was himself a judge, Secretary Root, because of his great experience at the bar, or Senator Knox, who was formerly my Attorney General.

In a number of the other offices, chiefly assistant secretaries or heads of bureaus here at Washington, but also Governors of Territories or men holding peculiar positions—such for instance, as that of commissioner of education in Porto Rico—and also in a few other cases, notably those of marshals in certain of the Western States, but including various officers also here and there throughout the Union, I have either felt that the position was of such a character that the initiative in the choice could only with propriety come from me or from one of the Cabinet, officers, or else I have happened to know of a man of such peculiar qualifications that I desired to appoint him on my own initiative.

The President goes at length into all his appointments, and shows that he has in no instance shown a purpose to further the interests of any candidate, but has had only the good of the public service in view.

Pacific Decrees Are Promulgated.

London, By Cable.—Decrees restoring constitutional government, re-extending immunity from prosecution to members of the Cortes, releasing deputies arrested by former Dictator Franco and restoring the freedom of the press were gazetted in Lisbon, according to dispatches. Correspondents all agree that Lisbon is quiet and now believe that danger of further disorders is over.

MRS. YARMOUTH IS FREE

After a Hearing in Chambers Lasting Only Thirty Minutes London Divorce Court Grants the Decree Asked for by the Countess of Yarmouth, Who Was Formerly Miss Alice Thaw of Pittsburg, Sister of Harry Thaw.

London, By Cable.—Sir Birrell Barnes, president of the Divorce Court, granted the Countess of Yarmouth, who was Miss Alice Thaw, of Pittsburg, a decree nullifying her marriage to the Earl of Yarmouth. The case was heard in private. At the time fixed for the commencement of the proceedings every one not actually engaged on the case was excluded from the courtroom. The case was practically undefended and the hearing lasted for only half an hour. The Countess, attired in a fashionable black gown, was present but the Earl of Yarmouth was not in court.

Only four witnesses were examined. They were the Countess of Yarmouth, her maid, a doctor appointed by the court, and an American lawyer who proved the marriage. The Countess gave evidence in support of her allegation that the marriage had never been consummated and the maid testified that the Earl and the Countess had been living as man and wife. According to the evidence of the doctor the Earl of Yarmouth was capable of consummating the marriage but that this did not affect the allegation that the marriage had not been consummated and he pointed out to the judge that it was within the discretion of the court to annul the marriage if it was proved that it had not been consummated.

The Earl's lawyer satisfied himself with pointing out that the evidence of the doctor removed the stigma placed upon the Earl by the evidence of the plaintiff and that there were no grounds upon which the Countess could have sued for divorce.

The judge pronounced his decree annulling the marriage without comment. In the ordinary course of events it will be made absolute in six months.

PUBLIC PRINTER SUSPENDED.

Stillings Deposed Temporarily While Congress Is Investigating the Government Printing Office.

Washington, Special.—President Roosevelt temporarily suspended as public printer Charles A. Stillings and appointed William S. Rossiter temporarily to fill the duties of that office. The action as explained officially, is to facilitate the investigation now being made of the government printing office by Congress.

Mr. Rossiter is now chief clerk of the census office. Just as the President's action in suspending Mr. Stillings was being announced, a committee of labor leaders of this city called at the White House and presented to the President resolutions adopted by the Central Union here on January 20th, last, charging Mr. Stillings with violations of the 8-hour law in the government printing office.

Resolutions by numerous labor organizations in various cities charging violation of the 8-hour law, discrimination against veteran soldiers and the widows of soldiers, and violations of the civil service law had been submitted to Congress and the President.

Mr. Stillings is from Boston, Mass., and was appointed public printer in 1905. He had been general manager of his father's printing firm in New York and at various times manager of the printers board of trade of this city and of New York. Mr. Rossiter and had connections in New York and Washington before assuming office in the Census Bureau in 1890.

Judson Harmon a Candidate.

Cincinnati, O., Special.—Judson Harmon declared that he was as much in the race for the Democratic nomination for President as he ever was. He arrived home from a trip through the South with William J. Bryan. Mr. Harmon said the chances for the election of a Democratic President were good.

Fourth Pan-American Conference.

Washington, Special.—At a meeting of the governing board of the Bureau of American Republics presided over by Secretary Root and attended by nearly all of the members in this city, it was decided that the fourth Pan-American Conference should be held in the City of Buenos Ayres, Argentine Republic, May 25th, 1910. The date was selected to commemorate the achievement of independence by the South American republics.

EVILS OF GAMBLING

Colonel Bryan Condemns Our Speculative Tendencies

WORSE THAN LOTTERY, HE SAYS

The Nebraskan Speaks in New York and Declares That Gambling on Stocks and Farm Products Nothing More Than Larceny—Millions of People Affected by This.

New York, Special.—Unjust taxation, the manner in which some private monopolies are conducted and gambling in stocks and farm products were declared to be nothing more than a form of larceny by William J. Bryan in an address before the Civic Forum Tuesday night. The stock and produce markets came in for most bitter denunciation. He said the New York stock exchange has graduated more embezzlers than Fagin's school did thieves, that measured by the number of suicides Monte Carlo is an innocent pleasure resort as compared with the New York institution and that the men who once had charge of the Louisiana lottery never did a tithe of the harm that the grain gamblers and the stock gamblers of New York do every day.

"When a group of men gamble at a wheel of fortune or at a game of cards," said Mr. Bryan, "the injury done is confined to them and to those immediately dependent upon them, but those who gamble in the grain pit or on the floor of the stock exchange deal in commodities or securities in which eighty millions of people are directly or indirectly interested. Farm products are juggled up or juggled down, stocks are boosted by the bulls or depressed by the bears, and the whole country feels the effect. The natural laws of supply and demand ought to regulate prices, but these laws are entirely suspended when a few men can by their bets add millions of dollars to the market value of one product or take millions of dollars from the value of another product. After a crusade which convulsed a State and at least impressed the thought of the nation, we got rid of the Louisiana lottery and then we congratulated ourselves upon our virtue. The men in charge of the lottery never did a tithe of the harm that the grain gamblers and the stock gamblers of New York do every day, nor did they ever exercise anything like the corrupting influences over politics. It has been asserted without denial that 99 per cent. of the New York purchases and sales of stock and of produce are merely bets upon the market value, with no intention on the part of the vender to deliver, or on the part of the purchaser to receive.

"This is not business; it is not commerce; it is not speculation; it is common, vulgar gambling, and when to the ordinary chances that the gambler takes are added the extraordinary chances due to the secret manipulation of the market by those who are on the inside, the stock market becomes worse than an honestly conducted gambling resort. If a man takes a chance upon a wheel of fortune, he knows just what his chance is, and he knows that the owner of the wheel has a percentage of chances in his favor, but when a stranger gambles upon the stock or grain market he is at the mercy of those who, by obtaining control of the visible supply, can destroy every natural law or business rule which the outsider knows. While the laws of each State and the laws of the nation should prevent, as far as laws can, the use of these commercial activities for gambling purposes, there must be back of the law an educated public opinion and I beg the spiritual advisers of our great cities to consider whether they cannot advance religion as well as morality by pointing out that the commandment "Thou shalt not steal" is openly and notoriously violated in the stock market and in the grain pit by those who profess to believe in the Bible and to have respect for its teachings."

Steamer Burned at Sea.

South Well Fleet, Mass., Special.—A wireless dispatch to The Associated Press, from Captain Finch, of the White Star line steamer Cymric, told a thrilling story of the burning of the Phoenix line steamer St. Cathbert with the loss of 15 souls and the rescue of the survivors by a life boat from the Cymric. According to Captain Finch's dispatch 11 men were drowned by the capsizing of a boat in which they had put off from the burning steamer, three others in another boat were drowned.

Attorney Told to Leave.

Clarksville, Tenn., Special.—J. B. Tyler, a prominent attorney received a letter warning him to leave the county. The letter stated that if he and his family did not leave within two weeks his property would be burned and he would be murdered. The letter was signed "Night Riders."