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TAR HEEL TOPICS

Items Gathered From All Sections of the State

More Fruit Escapes.

Southern Pines, Special.—The fruit of More county have been witnessing a strenuous period. Friday night one of the most tempestuous storms in a long time wound up with blizzards of snow and ice, and on Monday morning the thermometer registered 24, with the fruit blossoms used in globs of ice. The night was big enough to cut with a knife, everybody threw up both hands and conceded the complete destruction of all fruit. Orchards had been in the fullest bloom for several days and everywhere hopes had been kindled of a bumper crop. Following the snow and ice of Friday night came another freeze Saturday night, and the victims asserted. Many of the orchard men say the frost has done no more than to thin out the blossoms, leaving prospects of a reasonably fair, if not a good crop.

Benton's Slayer to Hang.

Fayetteville, Special.—Sam Murchison, alias Melvin, will pay with his life for the murder of James H. Benton, which crime he committed on Sunday afternoon, February 23d last. In Superior Court he was found guilty of murder in the first degree after a trial extending over two days. The jury rendered its verdict in thirty-five minutes after retiring to the jury room. The accused showed considerable nervousness when brought back into the court room to receive the verdict, but after it was rendered he sank back into his seat without evidence of emotion.

Saloon Keeper Makes Assignment.

Wilmington, Special.—J. B. J. Sandlin, the saloon keeper whose license was recently revoked by the board of aldermen effective April 1st because of irregularities in the manner of his conducting his place, made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors, Joseph J. Littig, Jr., local agent for the Home Brewing Company, being the assignee. The assets and liabilities are not large and the failure is of no commercial importance.

Charters Granted.

Raleigh, Special.—A charter is granted the Johnson-McCubbin Company at Salisbury, which will deal in real estate, build houses and factories etc., capital stock \$130,000, the stock holders being Thomas P. Johnson, J. S. McCubbins and T. H. Vanderford. Another charter goes to the Carolina Paper Box Company, of Winston-Salem, \$25,000, the stockholders being W. B. Hemingway and others, all from Norfolk.

Truck in the East Not Injured by Cold Weather.

Wilmington, Special.—The Truckers' Journal of this city, says that it has received telegraphic reports from all the leading trucking centres around Wilmington and eastern North Carolina and finds that little if any damage, was done by the recent snow fall and consequent cold weather in this vicinity. An account of reduced acreage most growers have been able to straw their berry plants and they are well protected until gathering time comes.

State News in Brief.

The United States Department of Justice offers \$100 reward for the capture of Jim Staley, the negro moonshiner who shot Deputy Marshal Henry Reese. It ought to be easy to identify and capture Staley as he was shot twice. Several people saw him at Sanford the evening of the day on which the shooting occurred. United States Marshal Dockery says that moonshining is certainly increasing in this district and that the moonshiners are becoming bolder and more desperate. Not so much is going on now as in the winter, but more than at this time last year. Durham and Johnson are the worst counties in the district for moonshining, while Robeson leads in retailing.

Mills May Shut Down.

Dallas, Special.—The stockholders of the Monarch held a meeting on Tuesday at which the capital stock of the mill was increased \$13,000. It is reported that the three cotton mills are in operation in this town will be shut down for two months.

Two Young White Men Killed.

Wilson, Special.—Thursday night two young white men, were killed about eight miles west of here by a Norfolk Southern passenger train. Roberts and Bailey left here during the afternoon, and got off at the first station and started to walk down the railroad track to their homes. They were killed in a dip cut.

TRAINMEN ACQUITTED

Fire Follows Explosion Deep in Coal Shaft

Raleigh, Special.—The jury in Superior Court late Saturday night acquitted Southern Railway Conductor Oakley and Engineer Rippey, charged with manslaughter because of the fatal collision at Auburn. Train Dispatcher Victor Parvin and his assistant are yet to be tried on the same charge.

RESCUERS LOSE THEIR LIVES

In a Desperate Effort to Reach the Bodies of 18 Victims and Possible Survivors of Explosion, Probably 50 Rescuers Met a Similar Fate by a Second Explosion in the Hanna Mines of the Union Pacific Coal Company.

Cheyenne, Wyo., Special.—Between 55 and 70 men, it developed Sunday, lost their lives in two explosions in coal mine No. 1 of the Union Pacific Coal Company at Hanna. The explosions were caused by gases and coal dust, and each was followed by fire. The first explosion occurred at 3 o'clock, killing 18 miners, including a superintendent and three bosses. The second explosion occurred at 10:30 o'clock at night, snuffing out the lives of from 40 to 50 rescuers, including State Mine Inspector D. M. Elie.

Corn Train at Washington.

Washington, N. C., Special.—The corn growers' special train of three cars sent out under the auspices of the State agricultural experiment station and the Norfolk & Southern Railway arrived in the city at 10 o'clock Saturday morning and was welcomed by a large crowd of citizens and farmers from all over the country. The special remained in this city two hours and during this time a number of interesting as well as instructive lectures were made by members of the party on scientific corn culture and how to produce more corn to the acre than heretofore, on seed selection, fertilizer plant diseases, etc. The lectures were carefully followed up by exhibits of corn specimens. In the party were C. B. Williams, director of the North Carolina experiment station; Tait Butler, State veterinarian; F. L. Stevens, biologist; R. L. Smith, entomologist; Dr. George T. Winston, of the A. & M. College; A. D. Samuels, specialist of the United States Department of Agriculture; T. J. Hudson, land and industrial agent of the Norfolk & Southern Railway.

Criminal Assault Attempted.

Belmont, Special.—An unsuccessful attempt at criminal assault was made on Miss Gladys Purnell, daughter of Rev. T. H. Purnell, about 7 o'clock Saturday evening by an unknown negro, who made good his escape. With the exception of Miss Gladys, the family was sitting on the front piazza, when they were aroused by her screams in the rear of the house. Just as she had stepped out of the house a negro grabbed her and bound a rag around her mouth. Her screams frightened the negro and he fled. Bloodhounds were brought at once from the convict camp near here but could not strike the trail, a crowd having gathered and obliterated the tracks.

Bomb Thrown in New York.

New York, Special.—Saturday as the police were dispersing a crowd of 10,000 idle people who were holding a socialist meeting without a permit, a bomb was thrown with telling effect. The bomb was intended for the police, who with rough firmness had probed a meeting of 10,000 unemployed. It exploded prematurely in the hands of the assassin, horribly wounding him, killing his companion, injuring slightly four policemen and throwing to the ground a score of those who were massed in the vicinity.

Chief of Police Shot.

Elizabeth City, Special.—Chief of Police A. G. Bell was shot through the left leg Saturday afternoon by James Burch, a negro, whom he was attempting to arrest. Bell shot twice at the negro, but neither shot took effect. Police Officers Thomas and Weeks and a number of citizens rushed to the rescue of Bell, overpowered and handcuffed the negro. He broke loose from the hand cuffs and struck Bell, but he was overpowered again and hurried to jail. Bell is not seriously hurt. The negro was wanted in Edenton for shooting the engineer of the steamer Plymouth some month ago.

Germany Accepts Hill.

Berlin, By Cable.—Emperor William, having been fully advised as to the attitude of President Roosevelt and the feeling of the American public in regard to the alleged refusal of His Majesty to receive Dr. David Jayne Hill as American ambassador to Germany, in succession to Charlemagne Tower, has withdrawn all the expressions of disapproval he recently sent to President Roosevelt and would be pleased to receive Dr. Hill as American ambassador.

Murdered Woman Found in Bed.

Trenton, N. J., Special.—Mrs. Frances Kabe was found dead in bed at her home at Fallsington, Pa., Sunday morning with two stab wounds in the body and a fractured skull. The woman had been murdered and had been dead at least 24 hours when the body was discovered. A broken chair and other conditions in the room gave evidence of a struggle. There is no clue to the murderer.

SCORES DIE IN MINE

Alabama Representative Promptly Attacks Negro Who Resents His Kind Admonition to Cease Drinking in the Presence of Ladies.

Washington, D. C., Special.—In a desperate affray on Pennsylvania avenue car Friday night a negro and a white man were shot by Congressman Thomas J. Hefflin, of Alabama. Thos. Lumby, the negro, was shot in the head and is in a critical condition and Thomas McCreary, a New York horse trainer, is suffering from a wound in the leg. The shooting of Lumby was accidental. Mr. Hefflin was arrested and taken to the sixth police precinct station, where the charge of assault with intent to kill was placed against him. Later he was released on \$5,000 bail. The shooting occurred shortly after 7 o'clock as the car reached the corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Sixth street, bound for Capitol Hill. Congressman Hefflin, accompanied by Congressman Edwin J. Ellerbe, of South Carolina, had boarded the car at Twelfth street and Pennsylvania avenue. Mr. Hefflin being on his way to deliver a temperance lecture at the Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal church, Four-and-a-half street and John Marshall place. Upon boarding the car he observed two negro passengers, one of whom was Thos. Lumby, and who was in the act of taking a drink from a bottle of whiskey. There was a number of other passengers, including several ladies. Mr. Hefflin says he remonstrated with Lumby, and asked him to stop drinking, saying: "Don't take that drink, there are ladies here and it is not right. It is against the law for you to do this thing in a street car and I hope you will put that bottle away." The other negro, who was sober, attempted to take the bottle away from his friend, but failed. It is said that Lumby became offended at Mr. Hefflin's remonstrances and applied vile epithets. As the car reached Sixth street and Pennsylvania avenue Mr. Hefflin and Lumby were engaged in a desperate struggle. Mr. Hefflin, who is a large, powerful man, succeeded in throwing Lumby off the car as it came to a stop. Most of the occupants of the car hastily alighted, including Mr. and Mrs. McCreary. The negro fell to the ground on being pushed off the car. He arose and it is said began cursing Mr. Hefflin again and made a motion for his hip pocket as if to draw a weapon, whereupon Mr. Hefflin fired at him through the car window, missing the negro and hitting Thomas McCreary, who was about 20 feet from the car. Mr. Hefflin fired once or twice again, one of the shots striking Lumby in the head above the ear. Lumby ran a short distance and fell. An ambulance was called and he was taken to the Emergency Hospital. The conductor of the car disappeared and Officer George N. Scriven took charge of the car and ran it to Third and Pennsylvania avenue. There Representative Hefflin was escorted by Officer Scriven to the Capitol Hotel and later was taken to the police station in a cab. He was not locked up.

SMITH SUCCEEDS WHYTE

Former Governor of Maryland, Already Elected to Senate For Six-Year Term, Is Chosen to Fill Out Unexpired Term of Senator Whyte—Election to Be Questioned.

Annapolis, Md., Special.—In separate sessions the Democratic members of the two houses of the Legislature voted unanimously for former Governor John Walter Smith for United States Senator to fill out the unexpired term of the late William Pinckney Whyte. Ex-Governor Smith already has been chosen for the full six-year term beginning March 4th, 1909. The Republican members decided at a caucus not to participate in the election, taking the ground that any other course would be in violation of the Federal statutes. One member of the House, however, bolted the caucus and voted for Congressman William H. Jackson. It is understood that the legality of the election will be questioned, it being contended that the necessary time between the notice to the Legislature of a vacancy and the election of a successor had not elapsed as required by law.

Former Governor Stewart Appointed to Succeed Late Senator Proctor.

Rutland, Vt., Special.—John Walcott Stewart, of Middleburg, was appointed to the United States Senate by Governor Fletcher D. Proctor to fill the vacancy created by the recent death of Senator Redfield Proctor. Mr. Stewart has accepted. His term will expire this coming fall, when the Legislature meets in regular session. Mr. Stewart is 83 years of age.

Merely Settles Jurisdiction.

Washington, Special.—In the case of the State represented by Sheriff Thomas F. Hunter, of Buncombe county, appealed from the Circuit Court of the western district of North Carolina, the Supreme Court, Mr. Justice Harlan dissenting, sustains Judge Pritchard. The decision, read by Mr. Justice Peckham, was handed down Monday morning, along with the famous Minnesota case, both of which involved the question of jurisdiction. In no sense does this decision invalidate the North Carolina rate law, but settles the habeas corpus jurisdiction.

Ask for Protection Against Black Hand.

Jackson, Miss., Special.—John Womack, his brother and son, prominent planters of Simpson county, Mississippi, appealed to Governor Noel in person for protection against Black Hand threats. The men were ordered to leave Simpson county within 30 days or "stretch hemp," meaning they would be hanged. Governor Noel advised the men to return to their homes and be on active guard.

Church and Depot Blown Down.

West Point, Ga., Special.—A severe wind storm late Monday at River View, Ala., blew down a Methodist church and the Chattahoochee Valley Railroad depot, unroofed one store and slightly damaged several other buildings. A heavy rain followed the wind storm, adding to the damage done by the latter. No loss of life has been reported.

Night Riders Shoot a Negro.

Hopkinsville, Ky., Special.—A band of night riders rode at midnight into Godepound village, and later fired off guns went to the hotel and forced Tom Weaver, a negro tobacco packer to accompany them. They took him a short distance and told him to run. When he failed to obey promptly the riders began shooting at him, two bullets entering his shoulder and hip.

Railroad Wreck; Twelve Killed.

Berlin, Ky., Special.—Twelve persons were injured, several fatally, when a passenger and a freight on the Cincinnati Southern met in a head-on collision three miles north of here Tuesday. Both engines were smashed and rolled down a thirty-five foot embankment with several coaches.

SHOT COLORED MAN

Congressman Hefflin Uses His Pistol on Darkey

Washington, D. C., Special.—In a desperate affray on Pennsylvania avenue car Friday night a negro and a white man were shot by Congressman Thomas J. Hefflin, of Alabama. Thos. Lumby, the negro, was shot in the head and is in a critical condition and Thomas McCreary, a New York horse trainer, is suffering from a wound in the leg. The shooting of Lumby was accidental. Mr. Hefflin was arrested and taken to the sixth police precinct station, where the charge of assault with intent to kill was placed against him. Later he was released on \$5,000 bail. The shooting occurred shortly after 7 o'clock as the car reached the corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Sixth street, bound for Capitol Hill. Congressman Hefflin, accompanied by Congressman Edwin J. Ellerbe, of South Carolina, had boarded the car at Twelfth street and Pennsylvania avenue. Mr. Hefflin being on his way to deliver a temperance lecture at the Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal church, Four-and-a-half street and John Marshall place. Upon boarding the car he observed two negro passengers, one of whom was Thos. Lumby, and who was in the act of taking a drink from a bottle of whiskey. There was a number of other passengers, including several ladies. Mr. Hefflin says he remonstrated with Lumby, and asked him to stop drinking, saying: "Don't take that drink, there are ladies here and it is not right. It is against the law for you to do this thing in a street car and I hope you will put that bottle away." The other negro, who was sober, attempted to take the bottle away from his friend, but failed. It is said that Lumby became offended at Mr. Hefflin's remonstrances and applied vile epithets. As the car reached Sixth street and Pennsylvania avenue Mr. Hefflin and Lumby were engaged in a desperate struggle. Mr. Hefflin, who is a large, powerful man, succeeded in throwing Lumby off the car as it came to a stop. Most of the occupants of the car hastily alighted, including Mr. and Mrs. McCreary. The negro fell to the ground on being pushed off the car. He arose and it is said began cursing Mr. Hefflin again and made a motion for his hip pocket as if to draw a weapon, whereupon Mr. Hefflin fired at him through the car window, missing the negro and hitting Thomas McCreary, who was about 20 feet from the car. Mr. Hefflin fired once or twice again, one of the shots striking Lumby in the head above the ear. Lumby ran a short distance and fell. An ambulance was called and he was taken to the Emergency Hospital. The conductor of the car disappeared and Officer George N. Scriven took charge of the car and ran it to Third and Pennsylvania avenue. There Representative Hefflin was escorted by Officer Scriven to the Capitol Hotel and later was taken to the police station in a cab. He was not locked up.

Chicago Franchise.

Chicago, Special.—After a fight that has extended through the administration of Mayor Dunne, the city council, after a fight lasting until early Tuesday voted an amended franchise to the Commonwealth Edison Company. The new franchise, its enemies declare, gives the company a virtual monopoly in furnishing electricity for light and power, giving it a right to discriminate in rates for service furnished and to charge whatever it may please for emergency service.

One Killed in Tennessee Wreck.

Memphis, Tenn., Special.—One man was instantly killed, another probably fatally injured and five others badly hurt in a rear-end collision between a work train loaded with laborers and a freight train on the Illinois Central Railroad early Tuesday. The accident occurred at New South Memphis and was caused by a dense fog.

Earthquake Destroys Town.

Mexico City, Special.—Chilapa, a town of 15,000 inhabitants in the State of Guerrero, has been shaken by an earthquake. Friday the shocks, two in number, occurred early Friday evening and were followed by fires which, originating in a dozen places among the tumbling buildings, joined in a conflagration that swept the town.

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Late News In Brief

MINOR MATTERS OF INTEREST

Consideration of the agricultural appropriation bill was begun in the House Tuesday. The amount carried by the measure is \$11,431,346.

The House defeated a resolution calling on the President for the information gathered by the Government in regard to violations of the law by corporations.

The Senate passed the bill to increase the pay of men in the life-saving service.

President Roosevelt has determined to send another message to Congress dealing with labor and corporation legislation.

At the invitation of the Mikado, the American fleet will visit Japan.

Otho G. Mears is said to be slated for judge in the Eleventh Virginia district if Judge Blackstone is removed.

John Wade, 75 years old, is charged with assaulting Sadie Jones, an 8-year-old Richmond girl.

"Night Riders" have appeared in the tobacco district of Virginia.

A heavy snow fell in Virginia, from the mountains to the coast.

Government officials have arrested a number of foreigners at Clarksburg, W. Va., for violation of the alien labor laws.

Norfolk and Western employes refused to accept the proposed cut in their wages.

Bishop C. H. Fowler of the Methodist Episcopal church, died in New York.

The Connecticut Democratic Committee failed to endorse William J. Bryan.

A Milwaukee business man chloroformed and killed his wife as she slept and then fatally shot himself because his married life was unhappy and he had become infatuated with another woman.

Warrants have been issued for officers of the defunct Standard Title and Trust Company on the charge of defrauding the stockholders.

Two customs inspectors at El Paso, Texas, killed each other, apparently in mistake for smugglers.

The gross receipts of the United States Steel Corporation were larger by \$60,257,541 in 1907 than the year before.

John Mitchell, retiring president of the United Mine Workers, adjourned the convention at Indianapolis with a benediction.

Judge Holt, in the United States Circuit Court of New York, ruled that the Sugar Trust could monopolize the refining industry without being liable under the Sherman Anti-Trust law.

The Grand Pacific Hotel in Chicago, which belongs to the Levi L. Leiter estate, was damaged \$100,000 by fire.

The Central Pennsylvania Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church continued its sessions at York, Pa.

The people of Canton, China, have denounced the surrender of the Tatsu Maru and have started an intense anti-Japanese agitation.

According to a Paris dispatch, a Dutch scientist will go to the Congo to cross man with an ape with a view to creating a new race.

In its decision in the Cosmopolitan Shipping Company case the Interstate Commerce Commission holds that it has no jurisdiction over ocean rates.

A force of Peruvian soldiers in pursuit of smugglers, has invaded a Chilean town.

Senator William James Bryan of Florida, the youngest member of the Senate, is dead.

The German press has decided not to print the proceedings of the Reichstag until an apology is made for an insult to the reporters in the gallery.

The Prince of Monaco will not go to Rome because he would have to visit the Quirinal, which would be objectionable to the Vatican.

Cars Plow Into Store.

Tragic Results of Dog Bite.

Memphis, Tenn., Special.—Bitten by a dog on Monday and developing rabies despite the Pasteur treatment, Andy Thompson, a machinist, escaped from his nurse and bit three women and two men before he was overpowered. He later choked himself to death in his agonies by tying a collar around his neck. All those bitten have been taken to New Orleans for the Pasteur treatment.