

NORTH STATE HAPPENINGS

Occurrences of Interest Gleaned From All Sections of the Busy Tar Heel State

NORTH CAROLINA COTTON CROP.

Reports from Various Points as Published in The New York Journal of Commerce.

Unusually fair weather has enabled farmers to proceed rapidly with picking and save most of their crop from injury. It is rushed to the gin and sold, but there is a strong tendency to hold a portion of their yield for higher prices. Correspondents estimate the amounts picked as about 70 per cent., against 62 per cent. last year and 57 per cent. in 1906. Rains set in on the 21st, but this can do little else than lower the grade. Condition shows a few points deterioration, but quality of the staple is generally excellent. Frost can do but very little harm now.

Scotland Neck.—No top crop; weather conditions perfect for picking and marketing; staple white and fleecy; frost can do no harm except on bottom lands or river territory; yield in county about same as last year; in this community a little better.

Four Oaks.—Our cotton crop is about all picked and 75 per cent. ginned; weather conditions ideal; marketing slowly; no damage can come from frost; will not make over 50 per cent. of full crop.

Tarboro.—The splendid fall weather has enabled farmers to save most of their crop in good condition, and while the ginning has been heavy there is a good deal that is picked and not ginned; rains set in Wednesday and put a stop to picking; don't think it will damage crops any, except lower the grade somewhat which up to this time has been very good.

Morrisville.—Cotton seems to yield a little more than was expected a month ago; the fine weather has caused it to open up better and is of better grade than was expected a month ago; not much being sold yet.

Dunn.—Weather has been favorable for maturing; crop is made and mostly gathered; no top crop; hence frost will do no damage; quality of staple is good; production about 25 per cent. below last year; last year was a record-breaker here.

Elizabeth City.—Weather has been good and crop picked more rapidly than usual; no unusual holding; crop in this county probably larger than last year, but not as large as was expected; severely any top crop and frost would do little damage.

Wilson.—Marketing slowly; staple good; chance for frost damage very small.

Red Springs.—Drouth principal cause of decline; crop two weeks early; picking made very good progress; ginners row up and will run only certain days in week to gin; yield will be about as last year; not much change, possibly slight increase in favor of this season; rush now over; crop closely marketed this season.

Weke Forest.—Unprecedentedly good weather for picking has continued all this fall, without any interruption; frost would not at this late date at all reduce the crop.

Havelock.—Top crop half picked; marketing fast as picked; staple good; weather conditions good up to 21st; rain 21st and 22nd; crop nearly all picked; frost can do no damage; no insects.

Medora.—The unusually fine weather has caused the closest picking I ever saw at this time; but little late cotton to be damaged by frost; marketing has been liberal; I think the county will fall 3,000 bales short of last year; quality good.

Raleigh.—We do not consider the increased receipt an indication of a very large crop, it being rather the result of an early crop, under the most favorable season for picking, ideal weather and abundant labor.

North State News.
Mr. W. A. Brame, of North Wilkesboro, came very near having a serious accident a few days ago. While returning to his home from Statesville he attempted to ford Hunting creek, which was swollen. He was swept down the stream but managed to cut the horses loose from the buggy and escaped, but with the loss of the buggy and baggage, which have never been found.

R. W. Bishop, patent attorney, Washington, D. C., reports the issue of the following patents on the 27th instance to residents of North Carolina: Wheel, R. K. Gregory, Greensboro; fertilizer distributor, R. G. Wilson, Madison.

The nineteenth district convention of Odd Fellows is in session at Black Mountain and is well attended. Mr. J. A. Forsyth is presiding. There are eight lodges represented. Blue Ridge Lodge, No. 205, furnished the team to give the first degree. The next meeting of the convention will be held at Biltmore.

No Felling off in Tobacco Sales at Durham.
Durham, Special.—The tobacco breaks here have never been such as they are now. Since Monday there have been sold 400,000 pounds, which is round figures will total \$50,000. Durham has sold more tobacco to date than she has done in many years before. Last month her sales ran to 1,155,442 and this month they will greatly exceed that figure.

GOOD WORK SPREADING

Efforts Being Made to Secure Demonstration Work By Many Counties.

Greensboro, Special.—Mr. C. R. Hudson, State Agent for County demonstration work, who has his headquarters at the Iredell county State Experiment farm near Statesville, is busy just now establishing new county demonstration work. Monday he was in Greenville, Pitt county, consulting with leading farmers there about the introduction of the demonstration work there, and the selection of a man to superintend it. The department does this work only upon application, and only then when 100 farmers agree to engage in any one county to aid and follow the directions of the county demonstrator in the particular crops selected for the special demonstration of soil, seed, and cultivation.

There are now about twenty counties of the State having these demonstration farms. Mr. Hudson is getting now every day reports from these counties as to results of this year's work. Of course the actual results cannot yet be given since cotton and corn are not yet capable of accurate reports, but in every instance where reports have been made, the results have been wonderful. The grain crops planted and cultivated under the demonstrator's guidance, in every instance have showed at least double the yield of wheat and oats, as under the old system. Every report so far from corn and cotton crops in every county, indicates an increase of nearly seventy-five per cent in the corn crop and fifty per cent in cotton.

This demonstration farm work has so far been confined almost exclusively to the Piedmont counties. The progressive county of Guilford has not yet organized to get the benefit of this excellent and practical method of getting by actual test the benefit of modern scientific methods of farming without cost. Guilford county has a large number of splendid farmers and there is undoubtedly rapid improvement in farming methods here by reason of fine market and good roads conditions, and yet the county needs this demonstration work for the benefit of all farmers, as well as for those who are feeling their way along up the slope of improvement.

Guilford county farmers are today making fifty and a hundred bushels of corn per acre on lands that made fifteen and twenty bushels five years ago, and for this very reason demonstration work would do of great benefit, because it would at once appeal to the encouragement and active support of this class of intelligent progressive farmers along other lines.

The Rocky Mount Tobacco Market.
Rocky Mount, Special.—The receipts of leaf tobacco were full last week. The total being nearly 700,000 pounds for the week. The quality of the offerings have been about equally divided between good and medium. Much inferior stock has shown up, of an undesirable nature, and has not been attractive to buyers, on the other hand a great many fine bright wrappers have appeared and have sold at fancy prices, one load averaging about \$40 around, some lots selling as high as \$70 and \$80 per hundred.

Fatal Shooting of Negro in Rockingham.
Hamlet, Special.—Will McNeal shot and instantly killed Mose Leak here last week. Both are negroes. The shooting was over a woman that McNeal claims is his wife. McNeal says that he did not intend to shoot Mose Leak but thought he was another negro by the name of Tom McCall. Leak was a young negro about 21 years old and was generally liked by the white people, as well as negroes. McNeal was immediately placed under arrest and will be taken to Rockingham jail to await trial.

Alleged Accessories in Murder Arrested.
Durham, Special.—The police arrested the brother of Van Ray, the alleged murderer of Reva Harris last week. Lizzie Mangum is also held as accessory. The Mangum girl is charged with furnishing the razor and the Ray boy with stabbing the dead woman. The murderers is still at large.

An 'Unloaded' Gun Fatality.
Newbern, Special.—Kinly Cox, a colored boy 13 years old, living near the city water and light plant, was playing with an "unloaded" 22-caliber rifle Thursday and in some manner the gun was fired, the ball striking him in the abdomen. He was taken to the Stewart Sanatorium but died from internal hemorrhage before anything could be done for him.

North State Items.
The Postal Telegraph Company will shortly open an office in Statesville. Manager W. C. Gaffney, of the Charlotte office, having made the arrangements there last week.

Charters are granted the Lewis Lumber Company of Wilmington. Capital stock \$50,000. L. Lewis and others stockholders, and the Ideal Candy Store, incorporated, at Greensboro.

A movement is on foot to build a new tobacco warehouse at Dunn. This season a good deal of the time one warehouse could not accommodate the sales.

RAMPANT RUSSIANS

Object to Abiding By Decision of the Powers

OFFICIAL POSITION DIFFERENT

Parliamentary Leaders Say that the Idea of an International Congress Will Be Abandoned—Foreign Office Says Negotiations Are in Progress.

St. Petersburg, By Cable.—Interest in the Balkan situation is centered in the positive statement of several parliamentary leaders that Russia has determined to drop the idea of the proposed international congress and will refuse to recognize the annexation by Austro-Hungary of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This information, although purporting to be from official sources is not entirely exact. Russia has finally committed herself to the principle that the question of the annexation of the provinces may be discussed in a conference of the powers, and Austria will permit the status of Herzegovina to be included in the programme, but only on condition that the delegates will refrain from questioning her action, and content themselves with registering the abrogation of the article referring to this matter in the Berlin treaty.

The Foreign Office states that the negotiations between Russia, Austria-Hungary and other powers on this question are still in progress and considers that an acceptable formula for submission to the congress may ultimately be found. It is difficult, however, to foresee how a satisfactory agreement may be reached without one side or the other withdrawing its contention.

Great Religious Parade.

Boston, Special.—What was probably the greatest parade of a religious character in the history of New England brought to a close Sunday the centenary celebration of the founding of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Boston which was begun on Wednesday last. It is estimated that fully 40,000 men representing the Holy Name Societies of the Roman Catholic churches in the five counties which constitute the Diocese, with over 150 priests, participated, marching to the music of 100 bands. Thousands of spectators filled every point of vantage along the line of march. Passing before the arch-episcopal residence on Bay State road, the parade was reviewed by Cardinal Gibbons and Archbishop William H. O'Connell, together with a number of visiting prelates, from a reviewing stand. The day was begun with a solemn pontifical mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, with Archbishop O'Connell as celebrant, and Cardinal Gibbons occupying the pontifical throne within the sanctuary. At night in the same edifice a deam service was held.

Fire Destroys a Florida Phosphate Plant.

Mulberry, Fla., Special.—Fire destroyed a large portion of the Mulberry plant of the Prairie Pebble Phosphate Company. The fire was discovered at 8:30 a. m. and the employees of the company battled with the fire for several hours before the flames could be extinguished. The entire drying plant, dry bin and general offices of the company, together with a boarding house, hotel and two private residences were burned to the ground. The loss is estimated at \$100,000.

Tragedy in Birmingham.

Birmingham, Ala., Special.—W. B. Sullivan, whose home is in Dallas, Tex., was shot and perhaps fatally injured on the south side, and A. J. Cooley is under arrest charged with the crime. Sullivan is not in condition to talk and Cooley refuses to discuss the affair, so that it is not known how the shooting occurred.

Virginia Farmer Shot to Death.

Roanoke, Va., Special.—Edward Gorman, a young farmer, was shot to death in his yard in this county Saturday night. Sydney Britts, another young farmer who lives near the Gorman place, is missing and it is alleged that he killed Gorman. It is said that a brother of Britts brought the latter to Roanoke after the shooting and that Sydney Britts boarded a train here for unknown parts. The two men had been enemies.

Japanese Troops Withdrawn From Korea.

Seoul, Special.—The thirteenth division of the Japanese army after having been on duty here since the outbreak of hostilities with the Koreans is embarking for Japan. This action is taken as significant of the termination of the trouble, although a number of irreconcilables continue to create disturbances in various parts of the country.

LEPER MAY GO TO N. C.

North Carolina May Yet Have to Receive and Care for Him.

Washington, Special.—John Early, the leper, may yet be sent back to North Carolina. Attorney General Bonaparte holds that the District of Columbia cannot expel him on the ground of being a public charge, but that it can do so if it is shown that he might spread infection. The Marine Hospital authorities may take no action for several days, but in similar cases have held that leprosy is a contagious disease. It is held that if Early were born in North Carolina that Commonwealth will have to receive and provide for him in the event that the District expels him.

Bermuda to Celebrate Ter-Centenary.

Hamilton, Bermuda, By Cable.—An influential committee of leading citizens has been elected for the purpose of celebrating the ter-centenary of Bermuda. The proposed program, which will occupy six days, commences April 12th next. Among the distinguished guests it is proposed to invite are the Prince of Wales, President Roosevelt, Earl Grey, the Governor General of Canada; Admiral Sir John Fisher, Sir Archibald Allison, at one time Colonial Secretary of Bermuda; Lieut. Gen. Sir Henry Geary, of the British army; Claude A. Swanson, the Governor of Virginia, who is a descendant of Sir George Somers, the Governor of Jamaica; the Commissioner of Turks Island, Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain), James Gordon Bennett, H. H. Rogers and St. George Tucker. Cashier Butt Short a Half-Million.

Norfolk, Va., Special.—The report of Receiver Siffin, of the Peoples Bank at Portsmouth, shows a shortage in the accounts of Cashier Alex B. Butt of 549,884. Butt is now serving a sentence of three years in the penitentiary under a plea of guilty of misapplying the bank's funds.

Body of Little Jackson Boy is Found in Ashes of His Father's Barn.

Jackson, Tenn., Special.—Robert Edgar Cobb, the little 5-year-old son of R. E. Cobb, met a horrible death here last week. He was burned to death in his father's barn. The building and contents were burned and the child was missed. His body was found in the ashes. It is supposed the child was playing in the barn and in some way set it on fire, and was unable to escape.

West Tennessee Town has Big Blaze.

Dresden, Tenn., Special.—A disastrous fire at Greenfield, twelve miles south of Dresden, consumed the M. E. church, South, the Methodist parsonage and two other residences. The fire originated from a defective flue in the house of Sam D. Baker, and rapidly spread to others. Loss, \$12,000, insurance, \$5,000.

Pennsylvania Led Kills His Brother Accidentally.

Harrisburg, Pa., Special.—Albert Bell, a 12-year-old schoolboy, was shot and instantly killed by his 18-year-old brother, Raymond, while hunting in Wildwood Park late Saturday afternoon. With the brothers on a hunting expedition were three other boys, one of whom without saying anything to any one, slipped a cartridge into the rifle, which was the only weapon they had. Later on Raymond playfully pointed the rifle at his brother and pulled the trigger. The youth sank to the ground with a bullet in his brain.

Prohibition in Ohio.

Columbus, O., Special.—The wave of prohibition sweeping over Ohio has already rendered 7 out of 88 counties dry, according to a statement by the Anti-Saloon League. A total of 3,843 saloons have been put out of business. Trumbull, Greene and Williams counties voted "dry" last week.

Forest Fires Do Great Damage in West Virginia.

Charleston, W. Va., Special.—Forest fire around Turkey Knob near here threatened death to miners employed in the mine of the Turkey Knob Coal Company. The fire reached the fan house of the coal company, destroying it, then burned the drift wood and set the mine afire. Fortunately there was no explosion and the men in the mine escaped. Two men were overcome by smoke but will recover. The fire was brought under control.

Pass Rulings Announced.

Washington, Special.—Free passes may be issued to bona fide employees of a railroad who are traveling to re-enter the railroad's service. Passes cannot be extended to the families of employees who died a natural death while in the service of common carriers, though that privilege is accorded to the families of employees killed in the service.

THE OUTLOOK BRIGHTENS

Charlotte Cotton Mills Resume Operations.

Charlotte, N. C., Special.—The Continental Mills, after several months' shut-down, have just started up; the Fidelity Mills are again in operation; the Atherton are also on full time. Not a cotton mill in the city will be idle.

There is a general tendency towards the manufacture of the higher grades of yarns and the higher numbers according to a well posted mill man who was discussing the question. Years ago there was little market for any but the coarse yarn, say 20's, but now the average of the demand has risen fifteen to twenty numbers, so that the present average may be said to be close to number 40's. This means that the average grade of goods being manufactured is finer than it was when the cotton mill industry was just beginning to be a leading industry in the South. The entire trend of the textile trade now is towards the higher numbers and the finer grades of cloth.

China Ready With a Welcome For Second Squadron Battleship Fleet.

Amoy, By Cable.—When the Chinese government selected Amoy as the port to receive the second squadron of the American battleship fleet, it made a wise choice. The broad well-protected harbor, the climate (from October to April) unsurpassed and the scenic beauty of the surrounding country all unite in justifying the selection.

The second squadron consists of the battleships Louisiana, Virginia, Ohio, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Kentucky and Kearsage, under command of Rear Admiral William H. Emory.

The Chinese government has set aside the sum of 400,000 Taels (U. S. gold \$280,000) to meet the expenses of entertaining the battleship squadron during its visit. The committee in charge of the arrangements has stated that the Peking government has signified its willingness to make additional appropriation should the original appropriation prove inadequate.

Cotton Crop Short.

New Orleans, La., Special.—The Picayune says in its report: Material progress was made during the last week in gathering the last remnants of an apparently short crop of cotton throughout Louisiana and the Southern half of Mississippi. Most of the reports from these sections concede that first estimates were too high, and that sudden deterioration resulted from the ravages of the boll weevil. In the weevil-ridden sections of Louisiana there is a well-defined movement to either reduce the cotton acreage next year or abandon the growth of the staple altogether because of the uncertain conditions. Planters naturally turn to sugar cane.

Frost prevailed in many sections of Louisiana, and the cooler weather is entirely favorable for the matured cane crop. The cane is being rapidly harvested and transported to the sugar houses. Grinding has already begun in some of the houses, but the great majority will not begin before the next six or seven days.

Major Graham of Raleigh, N. C., State commissioner of agriculture, estimates the cotton crop in North Carolina to be sixteen per cent short of last year's crop. No State, reported a crop equal to last year's except Texas.

Prosperity Note.

New York, Special.—As a sign of returning prosperity, the Union Bank of Brooklyn, formerly the Mechanics' and Traders' has just paid its second referred disbursement of 15 per cent to depositors, this dividend being anticipated six weeks ago. The bank has been able to realize from its resources more than was expected. Since the resumption of business, hundreds of new accounts have been opened and deposits have increased \$500,000.

Boy Kills Stepfather in Duel.

Covington, La., Special.—Following a quarrel here between John Blakey, about 40 years old, and his stepson, James Erwin, a mere youth, both secured weapons and fought a pitched battle. The boy used a shot gun with such deadly effect that his stepfather fell mortally wounded and died shortly afterwards. Young Erwin was acquitted by a coroner's jury.

Cotton Mills Start Up.

Augusta, Ga., Special.—Nine of the eleven cotton mills located here started operations for the first time since the freshet of August 26. The canal repairs are practically complete and there is a full head of water. The weekly pay roll of these manufacturing concerns is \$25,000.

THE NEWS IN BRIEF

Items of Interest Gathered By Wire and Cable

CLEANINGS FROM DAY TO DAY

Live Items Covering Events of More or Less Interest at Home and Abroad.

National Affairs.

Col. George W. Goethals was completely exonerated after an investigation of charges of favoritism in Panama canal contracts.

Fourteen-inch guns, it is said, will be used on future battleships as a result of the Newport conference.

The Congressional committee investigating the pulp wood supply examined several large lumber operators in Minnesota.

Foreign Affairs.

Bulgaria has agreed to the principle of compensation for Turkey and Austria has adopted a conciliatory policy.

All records for target practice were broken by the cruiser and gunboat squadron at Manila.

Cardinal Salvador Cassanas y Pages, of Spain, is dead.

Prince Henry of Prussia took a trip in the Zeppelin airship with the Count.

The Emperor of Japan replied to the President's thanks for the reception of the battleship fleet.

Miscellaneous.

William Montgomery, former cashier of the Allegheny National Bank, was again convicted in Pittsburgh.

At Russellville Ala., James Thorn, a farmer, while attempting to run a mule cut of a yard picked up a small stone and threw it at the animal. He missed the mule and hit his two-year-old son, killing him instantly.

At Montgomery, Ala., Dr. Shirley Bragg, State jail inspector, and a nephew of Gen. Bragg, shot and killed himself. It is not known if the shooting was accidental. He was 55 years old.

W. W. Hunter, a well known civil engineer, is in Augusta, running flood and water levels, having been employed by the city council flood commission, appointed to devise ways and means of protecting the city in future from a recurrence of the recent disaster.

Temporary insanity will be the defense of Captain Peter C. Hains, Jr., U. S. A., who killed William E. Annis at the Bayside Yacht Club landing in August.

The baseball season just closed broke the record for death and serious injuries. There were fully 250 persons seriously injured while playing the game, besides seventeen deaths that are known to have been directly caused by accidents on the field. Pittsburg had the largest amount of deaths of the big cities. Its records show six persons to have been killed.

While sitting in a rear room of her home at Pooler, ten miles from Savannah, Mrs. W. E. Torrence, wife of an engineer, was fired upon and instantly killed by Solomon Riley, a negro boy. The boy was arrested.

The special grand jury to investigate the Reel Foot Lake Night Rider outrage was chosen in Tennessee.

A receiver has been appointed for the Battle Creek Breakfast Food Company, manufacturers of Egg-O-Sec.

Testimony in the suit of Hugh Crabbe, former manager of the Leiter estate, showed that Lady Curzon was pursued to the grave by poverty and that Joe Leiter lost \$9,000,000 in his famous attempt to corner wheat.

Edward English, a wealthy resident of Mount Vernon, Wash., was kidnapped and held for \$5,000 ransom, but managed to get away.

"Tid" Burton in court confessed his share in the Reel Foot Lake Night Rider crime and implicated 49 other men.

The first man convicted of "white slave" traffic at Chicago was sentenced to two years in the penitentiary and a fine of \$2,500.

One hundred summer cottages at Salisbury Beach, Mass., were burned, and arson is suspected.

Daniel J. Hennessy, an enlisted man in the navy, killed his wife and himself in Norfolk.

A Western syndicate has laid claim to the heart of the business section of Aurora, Ill., valued at \$2,500,000.

T. G. Jones was mysteriously shot down at his gate at Holland, and dying, declared he was killed "for the truth."

Judge C. J. Campbell was acquitted of the contempt charge by Judge McDowell in the United States Court at Lynchburg.

Georgia State Fair.

Macon, Ga., Special.—A State Fair was opened here under the auspices of the Georgia State Agricultural Society, and \$15,000 in prizes will be distributed among the exhibitors. A special prize of \$1,000 has been offered for the best and most complete county agricultural display, and has provoked much rivalry among the different county organizations.