

NORTH STATE HAPPENINGS

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

Building and Loan Associations.

Raleigh, Special.—The report of Commissioner Young on building and loan associations was made public last week. It is for the year up to the first of last April. He says that these associations have increased very rapidly and that the rapid increase in number, as well as in the volume of business, speaks well for the industrial progress of North Carolina.

Mrs. Taft at Spray.

Spray, Special.—There was a meeting here of the woman's section of the welfare department of the National Civic Federation. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. William T. Harris, of Danville, Va. Mrs. William H. Taft is honorary president of this department of the federation and she was the guest of honor of the occasion.

"The country has grown so rapidly in population and developed so enormously in a short time that its public institutions often have helplessly fallen behind the best ideals. In the State and municipal institutions, such as asylums and hospitals, and in the police and fire departments of our cities, much remains to be done before the employes of the public can be said to be respectable."

Shenwell Fails to Answer.

Greensboro, Special.—The case against Mr. Baxter Shenwell, of Lexington, charged with carrying concealed weapons and with an assault on Conductor Smithers, of Southern Railway train No. 37, at Lexington a few months ago, will not be tried during the present term of court, on account of the absence of the defendant, who is said to be in Hot Springs, Ark., receiving treatment for rheumatism. Mr. Shenwell was "called out" in court and his appearance bond of \$1,000 declared forfeited. The bond was signed by the defendant and his son, Mr. Dermott Shenwell.

Sixty Additions to Durham Chain-gangs.

Durham, Special.—The recruits to the county chain-gang by reason of the recent court were 60, 58 men and 2 women. The sentences range in length from 40 days for retailing to 5 years for horse theft, and from 12 months for selling whiskey to 6 months for double shooting and attempt at murder, with a woman as one of those shot; from a sentence of 60 days on the road for retailing, to a fine of \$300 on the man who created the colossal blind tiger through ignorant negroes and worse white men. Judge Jones gave general satisfaction in his court here. These sentences are far nearer justice than we generally get.

North State Briefs.

Elkin Times says new quarters are being built for the convict force at work on the Elkin and Alleghany Railroad. The new camp is near the Roaring Gap road and about eight miles from Elkin. From this point the road will be completed to the foot of the Blue Ridge, leaving only three miles on the Elkin end of the road to be graded. At the rate of progress that has been made up to this time the entire line to the foot of the mountains should be completed by the spring of 1910.

Many farmers in the Piedmont section do not think peanuts can be successfully grown anywhere except in the eastern part of the State, but Mr. Sidney Weaver, of Arcadia township Davidson county, has demonstrated to the neighbors that raising peanuts beats cotton. This year he had in two and one-half acres of peanuts and made 165 bushels for which he received \$105. He had two acres in cotton and it brought him \$40.

Mrs. A. L. Smoot of Salisbury, did the heroic deed, on the 14th, of snatching her umbrella from a negro thief and, after failing to affect his arrest, fired at him twice with a pistol with which she armed herself when she discovered the culprit.

Farmers in the northern part of Davidson county are very much alarmed over a peculiar disease which has killed several horses. An animal which eats well and appears to be healthy will suddenly die, there being not the slightest symptom of disease up to the very short time before the death of the horse.

The work on the rail road from Spring Hope to Louisburg is being pushed to completion. It is being built by the Montgomery Lumber Company, but is of permanent construction and will make a good link in a railroad system.

John S. Fullam, formerly chief of police of Asheville, on Saturday, the 12th, fell from a flat car and was severely if not fatally injured. Fortunately he landed between the wheels and saved himself from a horrible death.

COL. TAYLOR ON STAND

Companion of the Victim of the Night-Rider Band Relates the Details of the Lynching of Captain Rankin.

Union City, Tenn., Special.—Following his caution to the press not to print the testimony in the night-rider cases, Judge Jones Saturday cautioned the ministers of local churches not to refer to the cases in their sermons Sunday, since the jurors might be present.

He took no further action regarding the press, although he conferred personally with the correspondents of several of the State papers, impressing upon them the necessity of following on the court's orders.

The first witness was Col. H. Z. Taylor, who was companion of Captain Rankin.

Mr. Taylor is a veteran of the Confederate army and a wealthy man. Colonel Taylor and Captain Rankin went to Reel Foot lake to lease some land to a carpenter. They drove over the proposed property on the night of October 19th and left orders for horses for another trip the day following, then they retired.

Colonel Taylor related the story of his experience the night Rankin was murdered. He said he and Rankin were taken from the hotel. Rankin was led under a tree when a rope was adjusted and thrown over the fork of the tree.

"Give him time to pray," said a night rider.

"I have attended to that," was Rankin's quiet reply. Rankin then was raised from the ground until his toes scarcely touched the ground.

"You are choking me, gentlemen. I pray you let me down," said Rankin. Some one fired a shot, the witness said, which was instantly followed by a fusillade, most of the night-riders firing into the air, however. Taylor told his captors he was tired and wanted to sit down. He crouched to his knees ready to spring and when the firing stopped he jumped into the waters of the slough. The firing was immediately renewed.

Taylor dived but heard the bullets strike the water. He swam to a log and clung to it while the bullets struck it like a hail storm. When all sounds ceased he swam to the opposite side of the lake and took to the woods.

After telling of the hardships he endured during his wanderings, Colonel Taylor said he hid in a cane-brake until thrust drove him out and into the arms of friends.

Colonel Taylor suffered from delusions during his wanderings, seeing bands of masked men.

Just before the night-riders killed Rankin, Colonel Taylor said, "Gentlemen, I am an old man. I cannot expect to live many years more. By killing me you will not be cheating me of much. But Captain Rankin is a younger man with many years before him. Do not kill him." The leader curtly replied: "Shut up."

The President's Hunt.

President Roosevelt has entered into an agreement (his own proposition) with the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, by which all the rare and valuable specimens of game he may slay in his African hunt will be taken charge of by an expert taxidermist and sent back for mounting in the Institute.

The program the President has in mind is to start about April 1st, arriving on the hunting ground of British and Dutch East Africa about May 1st. His course will be toward Uganda, striking the Nile about January 1st, 1910, and working his way to tide water about March 1st.

The President says he is no game butcher and will hunt chiefly for game of special scientific interest. His son will accompany him and is expected to share with him in the distinction of adding specimens to the national exhibit.

Georgian Hanged For Wife Murder.

Swinesboro, Ga., Special.—For the murder of his wife, six months ago, George Joyner was hanged here Friday. Although Joyner confessed several months ago that he killed his wife during the last weeks of his life he protested innocence and on the gallows reiterated his denial of the commission of the crime.

Laymen's Movement.

Salisbury, Special.—The laymen's movement in the Methodist Episcopal church, South, was given quite a help forward by the late meetings held in connection with the meetings of the stewards of the Salisbury district. Nearly all the charges were represented by one or more laymen. Prof. Walter Thompson, of Concord, was elected district leader of the movement for the coming year and a leader was chosen for each church in the district. There was general discussion of the aims and scope of the movement. A feature of the meeting was a banquet.

Robbers Hold up Oregon Train

Portland, Ore., Special.—Robbers successfully held up an Oregon Railroad train near here. The amount of money obtained is not known definitely but it is feared that it is large. The train had many Chicago passengers who lost money and valuables. The handbags flagged the train about six miles from the city, cleaned up the express car and went through the passengers.

KNOX SEC. OF STATE

Pennsylvania Senator Accepts Highest Place in Cabinet

MR. TAFT IS MUCH GRATIFIED

After Receiving a Telegram From Philander C. Knox, Signifying His Willingness to Accept, Mr. Taft Announces His Appointment as Secretary of State.

Augusta, Ga., Special.—William H. Taft, President-elect of the United States Friday night announced the appointment of United States Senator Philander C. Knox, of Pennsylvania, as Secretary of State in his Cabinet.

The announcement followed the receipt by Mr. Taft of a telegram, which came late in the afternoon, conveying the information from Mr. Knox that he would accept the premiership of the Taft Cabinet. Mr. Taft without delay made an announcement that the matter was settled. In giving the details of the negotiations he said that the offer was made to Mr. Knox last Sunday morning in New York. That since the offer he had not heard from Mr. Knox until the telegram he received Friday. After a consultation with Secretary Root in Washington last Sunday afternoon, Mr. Taft said he made an effort to see the Pennsylvania Senator there but was informed he was in New York to attend the dinner of the Pennsylvania society. He wired Mr. Knox to see him at the Henry W. Taft residence Sunday morning. The appointment was kept Mr. Knox concluding his visit in time for Judge Taft to attend morning church services, but remaining at the Taft residence until after Judge Taft had gone to church.

"I feel that I am to be congratulated in securing the services of Senator Knox in my Cabinet," Judge Taft said in making the statement with the understanding that he was to be quoted. "In selecting a Secretary of State I wanted first a great lawyer, and second, a man who would fill the public eye, not only here but abroad, as man who stands out prominently as a great American."

"Mr. Knox was a great Attorney General; he was a prominent candidate for the presidency, and he is recognized in the Senate and elsewhere as one of the great lawyers of that body."

Judge Taft also feels that from a political viewpoint the selection of Mr. Knox is most happy. He explained that there was often a feeling that the State of Pennsylvania, with its assured Republican majorities, often was slightly in the matter of recognition in the high councils of the party. That this will not be the case in the next administration was indicated by the announcement by Mr. Taft that he should invite Senator Knox to come to Augusta, Ga., that he might consult him freely with reference to filling other places in his Cabinet. In fact, he said that he felt the need of such advice as he should be able to obtain from Mr. Knox regarding not only the Cabinet, but many matters preliminary to the beginning of his administration. That Mr. Knox's influence will be potent was freely admitted by Mr. Taft.

The hesitation of Senator Knox to make a more speedy decision is interpreted here to his desire to arrange with due regard for the interests of the party and his State for relinquishing his seat in the Senate. Mr. Taft evinced many evidences of gratification at the decision which has been reached.

Five Millions For Canal.

Washington, Special.—A request for an urgent deficiency appropriation of \$5,555,000 to carry on the work on the Isthmian canal at the present rate during the balance of the fiscal year and for new projects was received by the House Friday from the Secretary of War. Last year a deficiency appropriation of \$11,990,000 was made.

Harriman Case Decided.

Washington, Special.—In deciding the cases of Edward H. Harriman and Otto H. Kahn vs. the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Supreme Court of the United States held that the commission is not entitled under the interstate commerce law to press questions relative to private transactions, even though they involve dealings in the securities of interstate railroads, when the investigation of which such questions are a part has been begun on the commission's initiative.

Root Will Not Resign.

Washington, Special.—Reports that Secretary Root contemplates resigning his seat in the Cabinet in the immediate future because of the trouble which he is experiencing with his knee which was injured while he was in the West making a speech in behalf of Mr. Taft, are denied in responsible quarters.

WE MAKE A PROFIT

A Favorable Characteristic of the Foreign Trade of the United States for 1903—Decline in Value of Imports is General and Accounts for Decrease in Total Value Prices of Foodstuffs Remain Stationary—Gains in Prices of Corn, Wheat and Bacon Exported.

Washington, Special.—Falling prices for imports rising prices for exports, are declared by the annual report of the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labor, to be a characteristic of the foreign trade of the United States in the fiscal year 1908. This is especially true, he says, as to the manufacturers' material imported and foodstuffs exported. In manufacturers' materials, whether raw or partly manufactured, the average prices for the year are, says the report, materially lower than those for the preceding year, and were also much lower at the end of the fiscal year than at the beginning of the year. The average price per ton of hemp in June, 1908, was \$141.02, against \$174.78 in June, 1907; of manila, \$137.74, against \$202.01 in June, 1907; of sisal grass, \$106.20, against \$152.57 in June, 1907; of goatskins, per pound, 24.5 cents in the closing month of 1908, against 31 cents in the corresponding month of the preceding year; of hides of cattle, 10.9 cents in June, 1908, against 15.4 cents in June, 1907; of India rubber, 56 cents per pound in June, 1908, against 67.1 cents in June of the preceding year; of raw silk, \$3.23 per pound in June, 1908, against \$4.63 in June, 1907; of pig iron, 27 cents per pound in June, 1908, against 39.1 cents per pound in June, 1907; and of clothing, wool, 17 cents per pound in June, 1908, against 25.7 cents in June, 1907, while other classes of wool also show a similar reduction in price during the year.

The decline in the total value of imports, which occurs in nearly all of the principal articles forming the great groups, foodstuffs, manufacturers' materials and manufactures, is due in a considerable degree to this falling off in prices, though in many cases there is an actual decline in quantity. This is particularly true in manufacturers' raw materials, which show a marked decline in prices per unit of quantity, the decline in value being thus much greater than that in quantity. In fibers, for example, the fall in value is from 42 million dollars in 1907 to 35 millions in 1908, a decrease of 16 per cent, while in quantity the fall is from 312,983 tons to 303,848 tons, a decline of but 3 per cent. In Indian rubber the fall in value of imports is from 59 million dollars in 1907 to 36.12 million in 1908, a decline of 38 per cent; but the fall in quantity is only from 77 million pounds to 62 million pounds, a decline of but 20 per cent. In hides and skins the fall in value of imports is from 83 million dollars to 55 millions, a decline of 34 per cent, while in quantity the fall is from 371 million pounds to 283 million pounds, a decline of but 24 per cent. In pig iron the value of imports fell from 39 million dollars to 24 millions, a decline of 40 per cent, and the quantity from 198 million pounds to 145 million pounds, a decline of 27 per cent. In pig tin the value of the imports fell from 38 million dollars to 25 millions, a decline of 34 per cent, while the quantity fell from 77 million pounds to 77 million pounds, a decline of 20 per cent. In raw wool, the value of the imports fell from 411.2 million dollars in 1907, to 231.2 millions in 1908, a decline of 44 per cent, while the quantity fell from 204 million pounds to 126 million pounds, a decline of 38 per cent. Thus in practically all of the principal articles used in manufacturing the falling off in the value of imports as compared with those of last year is due in a greater or less degree to a reduction in prices per unit of quantity, though in most of these articles there is an actual reduction in quantities, much less, however than would be indicated by a mere consideration of figures of value only.

Food stuffs do not share, as a rule, in the decline in value, either as to imports or exports, which is characteristic of manufacturers' materials. The average import price of coffee in 1908 was 7.6 cents per pound, against 7.9 cents in the preceding year; or raw sugar not above No. 16 Dutch standard in color, 2.38 cents per pound, against 2.11 cents in the preceding year; and of tea, 17.3 cents per pound, against 16.11 cents per pound in 1907; while in manufacturers' materials fibers show an average price in 1908 of \$117 per ton, against \$135 per ton in 1907; hides and skins, 19.3 cents per pound, against 22.5 cents per pound in 1907; India rubber, 58.8 cents per pound, against 76.6 cents per pound in the preceding year; raw silk, \$4.13 per pound, against \$4.20 in 1907; clothing wool, 22.5 cents per pound, against 26 cents per pound in 1907; combing wool 27 cents per pound, against 30 cents per pound in 1907; and carpet wool, an average price of 14.5 cents per pound in 1908, against 15 cents per pound in 1907; all of the above being import prices.

On the export side, corn shows an average export price of 6.7 cents per bushel, against 53 cents in 1907; wheat, 99.3 cents per bushel, against 79 cents in 1907; bacon, 10.5 cents per pound, against 10.6 cents per pound in 1907; and lard, 9.1 cents per pound in 1908, against 9.2 cents per pound in the preceding year.

THE WORK OF CONGRESS

Synopsis of the Proceedings of the National House and Senate.

Saturday's Session.

The House of Representatives Saturday was in its old-time form. No particular programme had been mapped out, but under a call of committees several measures in which the members were especially interested, and in some cases vitally concerned were considered. With few exceptions they engendered the liveliest sort of debate, and it was disclosed that the forces for or against them were fully lined up for the fray. Parliamentary tactics were freely resorted to, with the result that five times the roll was called.

The first rangle occurred on a resolution fixing the boundary line between the States of Colorado, Oklahoma and New Mexico, which was agreed to by a majority but not without two roll calls. The House then by a decisive vote refused to further consider the bill providing for arbitrary settlement of disputes between employers and employees.

Next turning attention to the bill providing for the protection of aliens in the United States the subject was threshed out at length. The measure had rough sailing and it was passed by a slim majority after the roll had been called twice.

The Brownsville Affair.

The Brownsville affair consumed nearly the entire session of the Senate Monday. Senator Foraker obtained the floor early in the day and read letters from a former soldier of the Twenty-fifth Regiment telling of the procedure of government detectives in attempts to get confessions from him. Mr. Foraker introduced an Amendment to his original bill for the re-enlistment of these soldiers providing that a commission of three retired army officers be created to determine whether discharged soldiers are innocent of complicity in the shooting up of Brownsville as a prerequisite for their re-enlistment instead of leaving that duty with the President as provided by the Warner bill.

Following closely upon these remarks the President's message giving the results of the War Department's investigation of the Brownsville affair was read and Mr. Foraker again took the floor to comment upon the message.

Senator Carter announced that he would speak upon the postal savings bank bill and would ask that it be made the unfinished business of the Senate.

In the House.

While considering bills dealing with affairs in the District of Columbia the House passed a measure providing for 85-cent gas in Washington. The bill now goes to the Senate as well as another bill abolishing "buck-et shops" in the District.

A bill providing for free lectures in the public schools was voted down.

An attempt by Representative Henry, of Texas, to obtain a change in the reference to a bill prohibiting the marketing or future contracts on agricultural products brought forth the promise from Chairman Scott, of the agricultural committee, that his committee would soon grant hearings to farmers' unions and others on this subject. The House voted to adjourn Saturday, December 19th, to Monday, January 4th, and adjourned for the day at 5 p. m.

A Special Message.

On Tuesday Congress received a special message from the President bearing upon the Panama Canal matter. The message was directed against the New York World and was very bitter, demanding that the editor of The World be put in prison and otherwise punished.

Repeated peals of laughter greeted the reading in the Senate of the opening paragraph of the President's message on the Panama canal charges. As the secretary read the statement that the charges were "false in every particular," Senator Bailey laughed outright as he was passing along the rear of the chamber to his seat. Other Senators on both sides of the chamber joined with him, and when the reading reached the statement that a statement in a newspaper which he mentioned would not be believed, there was general merriment from both sides of the chamber.

There was only a small number of Senators present when the reading was begun and it was hurried through, the papers accompanying the message not being read at all.

The House Interested.

The message elicited the greatest interest in the House of Representatives. The members gave close attention during the reading of the document and there was a ripple of laughter over the President's characterization of Joseph Pulitzer, publisher of The New York World. The message with its accompanying papers was referred to committee.

Accompanying the President's message was a large bundle of documents bearing upon the transfer of the canal property to the United States. Many of these documents were in French, without English translation. There was nothing which showed directly the persons who received the \$40,000,000 paid by the United States, but there was included a list of about 7,000 stockholders in the old and new Panama canal companies, all of them citizens of France and of the Colombian republic. There was not the name of a citizen of the United States in the entire list.

PHILIPPINE AFFAIRS

The Conditions On the Islands Entirely Satisfactory

REPORT OF BRIG. GEN. EDWARDS

Progress of Peace and Order Announced in the Report of the Bureau of Insular Affairs—General Edwards Commends the Work of the Philippine Scouts.

Washington, Special.—The work of the Philippine scouts is highly commended, the bill to amend the Philippine tariff act now pending in the Senate is endorsed, encouraging progress in the Philippines and the maintenance of peace and order in Cuba throughout the year are announced in the annual report of Brig. General Clarence H. Edwards, chief of the bureau of insular affairs, which was made public last Sunday night. General Edwards says the Philippine scouts are an important factor in the education of the Filipino people and in the creation of a higher standard of living in the islands as well as in the extension of American influence. The report recounts the settlement of Catholic Church claims, and refers to the bill which passed the House at the last session, but was still pending in the Senate before committee when Congress adjourned, to provide free entry into the United States of Philippine products, with certain exceptions, and free entry of United States products into the Philippine islands and free trade between the United States and the Philippines without exceptions after April, 1909. The report says the friends of the measure are entirely agreeable to the inclusion of a clause limiting Philippine sugar to be admitted under its provisions to 400,000 tons annually. This the sugar people admit would be sufficient to restore some of the former prosperity to the sugar interests in the islands. A reduction of the present duties on tobacco, the report suggests would afford the moral encouragement of which producers in the islands now stand so seriously in need. The other principal products in the Philippine islands, hemp, copra and rice, have the advantages over sugar of not requiring such enormous capital for development and of not entering into competition with interests of this country.

The expenditures of the Republic of Cuba on account of American intervention from October 1st, 1906, to June 30th, last, were \$757,343. These expenditures being made from funds allotted by the provisional government from time to time for army expenditures due directly to the army service in Cuba. The statement of extraordinary expenditures on account of the army of pacification in Cuba which under congressional legislation are to be reimbursed from the Cuban treasury, shows a total of \$5,311,822, of which \$3,376,735 was in October 1st, 1906, to June 30th, 1907, and the balance from then until June 30th last.

The settlement of the Dominican debt, the steadily widening activities in the Philippines and the administrative control of Cuba continuing to bring up important questions of law, making the demand upon the law officer of the bureau, constant and serious, legislation for retirement of certain civil employes of the Philippine government on part pay, after ten years of satisfactory service are among other matters discussed.

Adjourned For the Holidays.

Washington, Special.—Both houses of Congress on Saturday took a recess until after the holidays. Up to this time no real work has been done. It is presumed that upon re-assembling the body will get down to work in earnest, as the session closes by limitation on March 4th.

Former Congressman Loud Dead.

San Francisco, Cal., Special.—Former Congressman Eugene F. Loud died Sunday night in this city. For several months past he has been in poor health. His condition was aggravated by the death of his daughter five months ago and the loss of his wife, who died on December 6th. Mr. Loud served 12 years in Congress from the fifth district.

Tax Heel Shoots Broker.

New York, Special.—Following an altercation over an alleged debt of \$650 incurred in connection with the financing of an electric vibration company, of which he was treasurer, Henry B. Suydam, a mining stock broker, member of the curb market, was shot in his office at 39 Broad street Saturday by John C. Lumsden, an inventor. Suydam was probably fatally wounded. Lumsden claimed that the money in question was due him and that an attempt was being made to defraud him of it.

Former Governor Fleming of Florida Dead.

Jacksonville, Fla., Special.—Francis Philip Fleming, Governor of Florida from 1889 to 1893, died at his residence in this city Sunday at 1:30 p. m. Ex-Governor Fleming is a native Floridian and served in the Confederate army through the civil war with distinction. After the war he was admitted to the bar and soon became one of Florida's able lawyers and politicians.