

NORTH STATE HAPPENINGS

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

WORKED SLICK GAME

Two Strangers Fleec Colored People of Wilmington. Wilmington, Special.—Two well-dressed strangers claiming to represent a Chicago mail-order house and taking many orders upon which they received part payment have just made a successful getaway with between \$400 and \$500 of the hard-earned money of the thrifty colored people and a few whites living in the vicinity of Scott's Hill, this county.

More New Charters.

Charters of incorporation were filed in the office of the Secretary of State last week by the following concerns: The Eagles Club, of Charlotte, for social intercourse, the incorporators being Adam Fisher, C. B. Frazier, D. B. Paul and others.

Husband and Wife Dead.

The news comes that Mr. and Mrs. G. Frank Burbank are corpses with no one to claim and care for the remains. Mr. Burbank was an optician located in Greensboro for many years but had gone West. Recently he returned to take up his profession in Greensboro. Mrs. Burbank stopped in a Durham hospital for treatment. She was getting on nicely till suddenly she died of heart failure Wednesday morning.

ell and Froze to Death.

Thomasville, Special.—Thursday morning word was received here that a woman had been found dead about five miles west of this place. The coroner's jury found that the deceased was Mrs. Sarah Freddie. She was last seen about dark Tuesday evening one mile from her son-in-law, Phillip Edginger's home and going toward his house.

The Sentiment Growing.

A Greensboro special says: Before adjourning the Superior Court grand jury recommended that Guilford's Representatives in the Legislature introduce and work for the passage of a law requiring that all criminals sentenced to death in North Carolina be executed in the State prison.

Very Bold Hold Up.

Charlotte, Special.—Charlotte had a very bold hold up Saturday night, the 19th, on North Graham street. In the store of Banks & Smith, near midnight the proprietors and two clerks were about to close up for the night when suddenly a negro with a .38 calibre pistol, confronted them with and order to hold up hands, which they did under the sudden shock. The villain kept them covered while they took out the money drawer and backed off with it. It contained between \$100 and \$200. The robber soon emptied the drawer of its valuables and rebbed it.

Work to Begin Soon on Wadesboro's Depot.

Wadesboro, Special.—Mayor Walter Brock received Wednesday a letter from the Seaboard officials which advises him that work will begin at an early date on the new union depot. The people are anxious for this improvement for the old shack now in the town as well as the railway company.

Asheville Bar Temperate.

Asheville, Special.—As a result of a heated controversy, which almost threatened to disrupt the organization, the Asheville Bar Association, at a called meeting Wednesday, reconsidered the action taken at its regular meeting last Monday, which directed that wines and other beverages should be provided for the annual banquet of the association, and not only passed a resolution providing that no wines or liquors should be provided, but prohibit the members from providing their own wines or beverages for the occasion.

Suicide With Shot Gun.

Burlington, Special.—Mrs. John Tom McAdams committed suicide at her home ten miles east of Burlington Sunday, the news of which has just reached here. She used a shotgun. Trying a string to the trigger and placing the gun against her body, she pulled the string, the charge entering her abdomen and death resulting immediately. Bad health and consequently an unbalanced mind are given as the cause for the deed.

Mill Destroyed by Fire.

Asheville, Special.—The plant of the Tryon Hosiery Mill at Lynn, N. C., was almost totally destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of \$30,000. The company carried \$50,000 insurance on the destroyed property. About three hundred operatives were employed by the mill around which the little town of Lynn, two miles from Tryon, has grown up. The property was owned by the Wilcox family, who own Hogback Mountain. It is not known whether or not the mill will be re-built.

Veneering Plant for Maxton.

Maxton, Special.—Mr. J. J. Kincaid, who arrived here with his family from Salisbury last week, will the first of the year, begin the erection of a veneering plant with a view to working popular timber mainly, and he hopes to have the factory in operation within a few weeks. He has purchased the lot near the crossing of the Seaboard and Coast Line Railroads for his plant, and the A. C. Covington house and lot nearby for a residence.

Rowdy Negro Shoots.

Statesville, Special.—Lon Summers was fatally shot in the abdomen Thursday night at Elmwood by Richard Potts, another negro. Potts was drunk and was flourishing his pistol threatening to shoot somebody at the railroad station. After shooting Summers he escaped but was nabbed by an officer at Statesville, while telephoning to a friend at Elmwood.

Fire at Proximity Mill.

Greensboro, Special.—Fire in a warehouse of the Proximity Manufacturing Company Wednesday destroyed and damaged a quantity of cotton, warps and starch, the loss amounting to about \$50,000. It is covered by insurance.

State News Items.

The corner stone of the new graded school building at Lincolnton was laid on last Wednesday, with appropriate ceremonies. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Harris, of Iredell county, celebrated the 64th anniversary of their wedding on Dec. 12th.

The Mills Campbell Lumber Company.

at Newbern, went into the hands of a receiver last Wednesday.

Bleachery Will be Rebuilt.

It is authoritatively announced that the Kerr Bleachery and finishing mills at Concord will be rebuilt at an early date, the contract having been let to R. A. Brown's Sons. This magnificent building was set on fire by lightning last July while the valley surrounding it was overflowed, rendering the fire fighters helpless to save it.

\$40,000 Fire in Norfolk.

Norfolk, Special.—The estimated loss by the fire in Barnard & Co.'s establishment, which occurred Thursday morning at 3.10 o'clock on Main street, will total \$40,000, and two-thirds of this amount is believed to be fully covered by insurance. The fire started in the rear of the building, and quickly swept the entire structure, unroofing it. Its peculiar situation made it hard to fight, and it could only be successfully done from adjoining buildings and from streams thrown in from the top of an aerial truck.

Niagara Falls in the Throes of Reform Wave.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., Special.—This city, where the enforcement of excise and anti-gambling laws has been lax, is experiencing a reform wave. Acting under orders issued by Mayor Douglass, the police rigidly enforced the Sunday closing law against saloons, theatres and other places of amusement, and this was probably the driest and dullest day in the history of the falls.

TO KEEP OUT OF MISSOURI

Court Decision Enjoins Two Oil Companies—One May Meet Certain Conditions—Fined \$50,000 Each.

Jefferson City, Mo., Special.—The Supreme Court of Missouri delivered a decision Wednesday ousting the Standard Oil Company of Indiana and the Republic Oil Company from the State, forbidding them ever again to do business in Missouri, and dissolving the Waters-Pierce Oil Company, of St. Louis. In addition each of the companies is fined \$50,000.

The court declared that the three oil companies had conspired and combined to monopolize the oil business in Missouri.

The decree against Waters-Pierce Company is tempered by the proviso that it may continue in business if, by January 15th, 1909, it can show to the court that it has taken steps to operate as an independent concern and has satisfied the judgment against it. The other companies are given until March 1st, 1909, to wind up their affairs in the State.

Honduras Loses Suit.

San Salvador, Republic of Salvador, By Cable.—The Secretary of the American Court of Justice at Cartago, Costa Rica, has forwarded to the Salvadorean Government the verdict of the Court in the suit brought by Honduras against Salvador and Guatemala, charging them with promoting the recent revolution in Honduras. The verdict is favorable to Guatemala and Salvador on all points, and constitutes a vindication of the Government of Salvador. Its announcement has caused great satisfaction throughout the Republic.

The Pittsburg Grafters.

Pittsburg, Special.—Six common councilmen, one select council man, and two bankers have been arrested here on charge of conspiracy, corrupt solicitation and bribery. The arrests were the result of the investigation by a bank examiner who ascertained that President W. W. Ramsay and Cashier A. A. Vilsack of the German National Bank had arranged to pay a large sum of money in return for the bank being made the city depository. They were at once discharged and their successors elected. One councilman is charged with receiving \$17,500. The prosecution will be pushed.

Narrowly Escape Flames.

Newbern, Special.—Fire destroyed the two story frame building occupied by F. Raiff on Middle street, in the business section of the city. The origin of the fire is unknown. The Raiff family barely escaped from the rooms above, losing all their clothing except a few garments which they seized as they left the burning house. The stock of dry goods and clothing was completely destroyed. The loss is about six or seven thousand dollars, with insurance, covering \$3,500.

Assault Identified.

Spartanburg, Special.—George Mintz, the white man arrested on the charge of murdering and robbing Mrs. Sallie Green at her home near Campobello, has been taken before his victim and by her identified as the man who committed the crime. Mintz was brought here and placed in jail.

Gen. Carville's Successor.

Brig. Gen. Zimmerman Davis has been appointed commander of the South Carolina U. C. V. to succeed the late Gen. Y. W. Carville.

Over Seven Millions Disappears in Lisbon.

Lisbon, Special.—The newly elected council has unearthed a big scandal in the city's accounts. Over \$7,000,000 has disappeared. The former monarchial councillors admit the irregularities, but lay the blame upon the government, which they say illegally took the city's money.

Whiskey and Crime Restrained.

Gaffney, Special.—The results of the recent crusade against the "blind tigers" by the local police are being felt in this city. Although the holidays are on, there has not been a session of mayor's court in more than a week, which goes to show that "blind tiger" whiskey and violations of law are closely connected.

Acquitted, No Evidence.

Reuben Barbee has been acquitted of the charge of assassinating engineer Holt in Durham. There was no evidence.

Gudger For Judge.

Washington, Special.—H. A. Gudger, of North Carolina, will be appointed by President Roosevelt to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Panama Canal zone for a term of six years to succeed Dr. F. Mutis Duran, whose term expires on January 1st. It is understood that Secretary Wright has recommended to the President this appointment. Mr. Gudger is an associate justice of the canal zone Supreme Court.

SENTENCED TO JAIL.

Gompers Mitchell and Morrison Convicted of Contempt.

THE JUDGE SCORES UNION MEN.

Declares They Have Openly Defied The Courts.—Gompers Says He Has Only Been Fighting the Battles of the Working Man.—Union Men in Several Cities Protest.

Washington, Special.—Twelve months in jail for Samuel Gompers, President, nine months for John Mitchell, one of the vice presidents, and six months for Frank Morrison, secretary, all of the American Federation of Labor, was the sentence imposed by Justice Wright, of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, for contempt of Court in violating an order previously issued enjoining them from placing on the "unfair" or "we don't patronize" list the Bucks Stove and Range Co., of St. Louis, Mo.

All three of the defendants were in court. Notice of an appeal to the Court of Appeals, of the District of Columbia, at once was filed, Gompers being released on \$5,000 bond, Mitchell on \$4,000, and Morrison on \$3,000.

With tears coursing down his own cheeks, President Gompers heard the order of the Court which condemned him to prison for a year. Both Mitchell and Morrison seemed stunned by appeared to be least concerned. Asked if he had anything to say why sentence should not be pronounced, President Gompers declared that he had not consciously violated any law. There was much he would like to say, he said, but he could not do it at that time. He added, however, that "this is a struggle of the working people of our country, and it is a struggle of the men of labor to throw off some of the burdens which have been heaped upon them; to abolish some of the wrongs and to secure some of the rights too long denied."

A Scathing Arraignment.

The decision of Justice Wright, which consumed two hours and twenty minutes in reading was one of the most scathing arraignment that ever came from the bench in this city. He recited the conditions antedating the injunction and referred to the fact that for twenty-five years the Bucks plant had been operated as a ten-hour shop and always had maintained an "open shop." The Court read extracts from numbers of resolutions of labor organizations bearing on the Bucks case as tending to show the methods of influencing members of unions, "and these methods," the Court remarked, "seemed to be known as persuasion."

History of the Case.

The Bucks Company prosecution of the officials of the Federation began in August, 1907. The original action was a test case wherein it was sought to enjoin the labor unions from using the "unfair" and "we don't patronize" lists in their fight against firms and individuals. Justice Gould of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, issued an injunction which was later made permanent forbidding the publication of the company's name in these lists. President Gompers in an editorial in "The Federionist" of last January, made known his intention not to obey the Court's order, contending that the injunction issued was in derogation of the rights of labor and an abuse of the injunctive power of the Courts.

Roosevelt Asked to Interfere.

Whether President Roosevelt will take any action, as he has been urged to do in telegrams received from different labor organizations throughout the country, in connection with Judge Wright's decision, has not been decided.

Blacksburg Votes Bonds.

Blacksburg, Special.—The election authorizing the issuance of \$15,000 in 6-per cent 20-year bonds for the purpose of paying off some indebtedness of the town, and probably furnishing electric lights, was held Monday and resulted in 80 votes being cast for and 14 against bonds. Messrs. P. H. Freeman, M. H. Morrow and O. A. Osborne were elected commissioners of public works.

President Elliot's getting how well Cambridge, Mass., is doing along without any saloons finds in Harper's Weekly a not wholly convinced listener.

"When he speaks of Cambridge as a no-license city of 90,000 inhabitants 'with no alcoholic substitutes' he seems to forget Boston," it says, "for surely Boston is Cambridge's alcoholic substitute and probably one important reason for the exceptional success of its experiment as a no-license city."

CANNOT AID GOMPERS

Appeals of the Labor Leaders Continue Their Case Before the Courts and the President Has No Power to Assist Them.

Washington, Special.—In an official statement issued at the White House Saturday in regard to presidential interference in the cases of President Gompers, Vice President Mitchell and Secretary Morrison, of the American Federation of Labor, now under sentence for contempt of court, attention is called to the fact that the cases are still before the courts and that no matter what the President's opinion may be as to the justness of the sentence imposed he cannot take any action looking to pardon or express any opinion as to the merits of the cases.

Vital Questions Involved.

Continuing as to all three of the defendants the Court said: "In defence of the charges now at Bar neither apology nor extenuation is deemed fit to be embraced; no claim of unmeant contumacy is heard; persisting in contemptuous violation of the order, no defence is offered save these: 'That the injunction (1) infringed the constitutional guaranty of freedom of the press and (2) infringed the constitutional guaranty of freedom of speech.'"

The Law Rendered Null.

"Before the injunction was granted these men announced that neither they nor the American Federation of Labor would obey it; since issued they have refused to obey it; and through the American Federation of Labor disobedience has been successfully achieved, and the law has been made to fail; not only has the law failed in its efforts to arrest a widespread wrong, but the injury has grown more destructive since the injunction than it was before. There is a studied, determined defiant conflict precipitated in the light of open day between the decrees of a tribunal ordained by the Government of the Federal Union and the tribunals of another Federation grown up in the law, one or the other must succumb, for those who would nullify the law are public enemies."

The Evacuation of Cuba.

Havana, By Cable.—New Year's day will witness the beginning of the evacuation of Cuba by the army of pacification, which has been in possession of the island since the beginning of the provisional government. October, 1906. The first provisional regiment of marines, numbering about 900, will be among the first troops to leave. About half this regiment will sail from Havana on January 1st on the cruiser Prairie, which will return about the middle of the month and embark the remainder.

Headquarters and Companies A, B, C and D, twenty-eighth Infantry will embark on the United States transport Sumner at Matanzas, on December 31st.

From there the transport will proceed to Havana and embark Companies F, G and H, stationed at Guanajay, and Company E, stationed at Guines.

From that time on, the transports Sumner and McClellan will be employed in the embarkation at intervals of the remainder of the year.

Battery B, Third Artillery, and the Fifteenth Cavalry, will sail on February 2d.

The headquarters and Eleventh Cavalry, the mountain artillery and Fifth Infantry; the Eleventh Infantry, and the Seventeenth Infantry will leave Havana about February 27th for Newport News. It is the intention to have all of these appear in the inaugural parade at Washington.

This leaves only two companies of engineers and two battalions of the Seventeenth Infantry. These troops will embark April 1st, which will complete the evacuation.

The embarkation of the troops will be effected with as little ceremony as possible. The purpose in deferring the departure of a portion of the Seventeenth Infantry until April 1st has been the subject of considerable speculation, but it is believed that this will be agreed upon at a conference between Governor Magoon and president-elect Gomez. It probably is for the purpose of keeping the barracks and quarters in good order until it is possible to turn over to the Cuban authorities a model camp.

Cubans, with the exception of a few who profess to fear that disorder will follow the evacuation of the island, are greatly pleased at the departure of the American forces as marking the complete establishment of independence. All show the kindest feelings toward the troops.

Montana Experiences an Earthquake.

Butte, Mont., Special.—A dispatch from Virginia City, Mont., says that at 4.30 o'clock Sunday afternoon that region was shaken by the severest of a series of many seismic disturbances that have been going on for more than a week. The electric plant was put out of commission. This plant is ten miles from Virginia City, and as telephone communication is interrupted the extent of the damage is not known.

THE DECREE REVOKED

Document That Made Most of the Trouble Between Venezuela and Holland is Suspended.—The Announcement Made to Parliament by the Dutch Foreign Minister.

The Hague, By Cable.—The revocation of the trans-shipment decree of May 14th by the Venezuelan government was announced in the lower House of Parliament Wednesday by Foreign Minister VanSwinderen. It was this decree that made most of the trouble between Venezuela and the Netherlands. Under its terms the trans-shipment of goods at Willemstad, destined for Venezuela was prohibited, and its operations worked much injury to the commerce of the Dutch island. The Foreign Minister said also that the Dutch naval operations along the Venezuelan coast had been suspended at the request of Acting President Gomez.

The Foreign Minister's words were as follows:

"Following the discovery of a plot against the life of Vice President of Venezuela, Juan Vicente Gomez, a new ministry was formed and some of the supporters of President Gomez were cast into prison.

"On December 21st acting President Gomez, as an evidence of friendliness and pending later negotiations, by duly appointed delegates, ordered a stay of execution of the decree of May 14th and expressed the hope that the Netherlands similarly would suspend the naval demonstration in Venezuelan waters.

"Pending the re-establishment of a Venezuelan consulate at Curacao the German consul there has been authorized to grant shipping clearances."

Night-Rider Tells Story.

Union City, Tenn., Special.—The State practically completed its case against the eight alleged night-riders on trial for the murder of Captain Ranken, when it drew from Frank Fehring, a member of the band who turned State's evidence, a detailed statement of the Ranken affair and a score or more of other outrages. It also called to the stand Mrs. Emma Thurman Johnson, one of the two women said to have been whipped by the band and had her tell her story. The startling testimony of Frank Fehring, who confessed, accusing the men on trial of being actual participants in the murder of Captain Ranken, given with an exactness of detail, amazed the people who thronged the court room.

Outlook is Bright.

The Baltimore Sun makes the following summary:

While business in the year ending has been unsatisfactory in many respects the closing months have brought such a revival that the outlook is regarded as bright. Confidence has returned in all directions, wholesale movements are in greater volume, factories are resuming and railroads are putting their extra rolling stock in motion. One element which suffered no depression was the farming community, crops being abundant and prices higher. The security markets have recovered and Baltimore financial institutions close the year in good shape.

War Claim Allowed.

Washington, Special.—Among a large number of war claims bills passed by the House on the 18th was one for the relief of the Citizens' Bank of Louisville for \$215,820. That sum was found due by the Court of Claims and the bill has passed the Senate many times. The claim arose over the seizure of the funds of the bank by Gen. Benj. Butler in 1862.

Carrie Nation to Entertain London.

Lodon, By Cable.—Carrie Nation is to be the principal attraction in London music halls for a season if negotiations begun by the managers of these halls are successful. A proposition has been made to the famous hatchet-wielding temperance advocate to give a series of lectures the managers guaranteeing her not only protection but a respectful hearing.

Many Witnesses Testify Against O. F. King.

Boston, Special.—Numerous customers who testified that they had ordered the purchase of stock and failed to receive certificates after sending their money, were the principal witnesses in the trial of Cardenio F. King, a "financial agent," charged with larceny from thirty-one persons of \$25,000 by false pretenses. A number of the witnesses admitted that recently they had consented to a settlement of their claims.

The Innocent Barly Escape.

Montgomery, Ala., Special.—Though they were once almost mobbed in Russell County, it developed that Will and Jeff Latimore, charged with the killing of Walter Williams, a farmer not far from Eufaula, had no part in it. The courts have held them guiltless, and the Sheriff of Montgomery county, to whom they were sent to prevent mobs getting them, has sent both home free.