

NORTH STATE HAPPENINGS

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

THE MORGANTON HOSPITAL.

Report of Sub-Committee Visiting Hospital Find Conditions Favorable.

The following report of the sub-committee of the joint committee on insane asylums which visited the State Hospital at Morganton last month, was presented to the House Wednesday:

Gentlemen: Your committee, composed of fourteen members, arrived in Morganton at midnight of January 21st, and spent the entire day following inspecting the buildings, premises and colony and making inquiries of those in authority, re-visiting on the following morning some points to which the closest attention had not been paid, for lack of time. As the result of this visit, made with advance information of but a few hours to the superintendent, we feel that we are in a position to represent conditions as they normally exist at this institution.

We cannot forego the pleasure of referring to the gratifying results shown during the past year's incumbency of Dr. John McCampbell. For the two years ending November 30th, 1908, during the whole of which time Dr. McCampbell was practically in authority, there were admitted 425 patients, 353 were removed, 1,142 remaining. The annual death rate, we find from the records, shows the remarkably low percentage of 3.4, while the percentage of recoveries, quoting from the same records, reached 34, a showing that will compare favorably with the records of the first institutions for the care of the insane in the country. The physical condition of the patients was excellent, only one of the whole number being confined in a room, and all have the appearance of considerable care. In the ward reserved for those whose mental condition permits appreciation, there is a piano, games and innocent amusements of various kinds calculated to occupy and improve the minds of the inmates. A striking feature of the interior arrangement is the well-kept perfect system of sanitation. Cleanliness, whether relating to the personal appearance of the inmates or the institution, is a distinguishing characteristic of the hospital. Large bay windows, affording abundant and cheering light; screened porches stretching around the buildings, from which the inmates have a pleasing point of observation of the surrounding country and receive the benefit of the fresh, open air; freedom on the premises permitted those not confined in the hospital by necessity—all these appear to us to call for approval and commendation.

A ward for the female tuberculars, separate and apart from the main institution, is now occupied and the inmates are receiving the best attention.

The dining hall was scrupulously clean and the food ample and substantial.

The laundry is excellently equipped, having among other things, such modern appliances as electric irons. The manual labor is performed in the main by inmates.

Lights, electric power, steam heat and heated water are all supplied from the institution's own plants and no fault can be found with the service of any of them.

Abundant and healthful water supply is procured by a pipe line from a stream at the summit of a nearby mountain.

We found all the fresh meats and other perishables kept in a cold storage plant and in excellent condition. The grounds are kept with much

care and those immediately surrounding the building are exceedingly attractive. The institution is abundantly supplied at all seasons with fresh vegetables from the garden and colony, products almost exclusively of the labor of inmates, who appear to take a delight in their work and its results.

The dairy is model in every particular, comparing favorably with the best in the country. A herd of sixty Holstein cows supplies the 1,052 inmates with fresh rich milk twice a day. None of the milk, we were advised, is churned, owing to the desire of the authorities to provide the inmates with the richest milk to be had for its nutritive properties.

Your committee's impression of the colony, both with reference to the healthy appearance of the patients and the material results, cannot be adequately described. The farm itself is the equal of the best in the State and is being constantly improved and extended. We cannot too heartily endorse the colony plan, after witnessing the success of its operations at Morganton, and recommend that it be extended sufficiently to accommodate all patients whom the superintendent thinks would be benefited by removal to the colony. The superintendent advises your committee that at least 40 per cent of the 460 male patients could be removed with benefit both to their mental and physical condition and that they would contribute at least 25 per cent of the cost of their maintenance through services rendered.

We cannot conclude this imperfect report of our observations without commending without stint Dr. John McCampbell, the superintendent, and his valuable corps of assistants. It should be to all the State a cause for gratification that the institution is maintaining such a high standard.

We consider the request of the directors for an appropriation of \$175,000 annually for the year 1909 and 1910 altogether reasonable and recommend that it be allowed.

Trouble, Man Takes His Own Life.

Statesville, Special.—The dead body of Will Brown, a farmer, about forty years old, was found Thursday morning hanging at the end of a rope which had been fastened to a limb of a tree in the woods near his home in Davidson township, and as there was no evidence of foul play, the case goes on record as a deliberate suicide. Brown is a native of South Ireland, being a son of the late Colonel Brown, of that section. Years ago he went to Texas and married there, a year or so ago he and his wife separated and Brown returned to his old home in Davidson township, accompanied by his two children who are not yet grown. Some months ago his wife began suit in Texas for divorce and took some action through the courts in an effort to obtain control of the children. The papers in the proceedings were served on Brown several months ago and since that time it is thought that he had brooded over the trouble considerably.

Invents Locomotive Attachment.

Spencer, Special.—J. H. Keeter, of Spencer, has just been granted a patent on a safety locomotive throttle box, which promises to be of great value to the railroad world. The device will effectually eliminate any possible delay to locomotives from defective packings in throttles and can be attached to any locomotive, at a trifling expense.

Increase in Blockade Distilling.

Revenue officials say that the "blockade" stills are rapidly increasing. And they say that the difficulty of seizing the outfits for the making of "moonshine" or "mountain dew" has been greatly increased because the blockadeurs have learned a new trick which makes detection difficult.—Asheville Citizen.

Hancock Found Guilty.

Winston-Salem, Special.—After considering the case of L. G. Hancock for embezzlement for twenty-seven hours, the jury Thursday returned a verdict of guilty with a plea for mercy for the reason that some of the jurors had doubts as to the sanity of the defendant. Hancock was charged with embezzling nearly three thousand dollars while manager for the Lambfish Lumber Company. Defendant was sentenced to the State prison for five years. His counsel gave notice of appeal to the Supreme Court and he was released on \$1,500 appearance bond.

Schools Will Close.

Raleigh, Special.—The Raleigh public schools close March 5, after a six months' term, instead of the usual nine months term, this curtailment being due to the loss of the portion of the Raleigh dispensary revenue that went to the schools. An election has been called for March 16 on the subject of local taxation.

WITH N. C. LAWMAKERS

Doings of the State Legislature Condensed—Interesting Items from Day to Day.

In the Senate Monday the following new bills were introduced:

Barringer: Provide for the punishment of safe-crackers.

Wray: Require the board of education to furnish text-books for indigent public school children.

Barringer: Relating to the compensation of solicitors.

Doekery: Resolution revising the payment of the expenses of the joint committee on the deaf and dumb in visiting the State School at Morganton.

Authorize three millions State bonds for refunding the State bonds falling due in 1910.

Senate resolution to pay the expenses of the sub-committee in visiting the State School for the Deaf and Dumb.

The following passed final reading: The substitute bill for amending Sec. 3057, Revisal, imposing a tax of \$64 on mineral water companies doing business in this State with a graduated scale of taxes.

Scott (by request): Regulate military affairs.

In the House on Monday new bills were as follows:

Morton: Relative to the sale of non-intoxicating beverages, allowing the sale of those having not more than 2 per cent alcohol.

Barnes, of Hertford: Enlarge and remodel the State house and issue bonds in the sum of \$500,000 to pay the same.

Hegeman: Provi's for the maintenance and enlargement of Appalachian Training School.

Linney: Require the State board of education to furnish necessary books to indigent children.

Graham: Establish State drug commission and prevent the sale of adulterated drugs.

Koonce: Increase the annual appropriation for Confederate pensions from \$400,000 to \$500,000.

A number passed final reading, being of local or private interest.

One of the most interesting features of the Senate Tuesday was a preamble and resolution by Senator Barringer looking to the removal of the State capital from Raleigh to Greensboro.

Senators, as a rule, seemed to take the proposition anything but seriously, and there were amendments from Senators from various quarters of the State to have their respective towns designated as the seat of the State government. Senator Doekery wanted Rockingham; Means, Concord; Fry, Asheville; Klutz, Salisbury; Bassett, Rocky Mount, and there were others.

The following new bills were offered:

Doughton: Amend the Revisal relating to weights and measures.

Blow: Provide special tax for maintenance of four months' school in every school district in the State.

On motion of Senator Ormond the vote by which the bill for the betterment of rural free delivery service had passed earlier in the day was reconsidered.

The bill by Senator Klutz to provide fire escapes and protect human life came up as special order, and passed its final reading after a number of minor amendments.

The following bills were introduced out of order:

Means: Prohibit the sale of liquors in Cabarrus county except in medical dispensary.

Long, of Person: Amend 4759, Revisal, in regard to securities deposited with the Insurance Commissioner.

In the House Mr. Morton of New Hanover raised a sensation under the personal privilege rule. A number of bills consumed the day.

The House was in session three hours Tuesday night, and after passing a great number of roll-call bills on second reading and on final reading, many important local and private bills, adjourned to 10:30 Wednesday morning.

Representative Taylor's joint resolution is one of far-reaching import, calling on Congress to make suitable appropriation for deepening the Wilmington and Southport channels, and constructing the necessary canals across Florida for a short route to the Gulf of Mexico and the Panama canal in carrying out the scheme of the transatlantic railway for a port of entry south of Hatteras, and especially with the idea of meeting the great commercial opportunities of the South to be afforded by the opening of the Panama canal.

A goodly number of bills passed final reading being of private or local nature in the Senate Wednesday. The following are of more general interest:

House resolution calling upon Congress to provide pensions for persons discharged from life-saving service by reason of injuries sustained in such service.

Amend Sec. 1708, Revisal, so as to allow publication in a newspaper in any adjoining county instead of in the nearest newspaper.

Authorize the commissioners to employ an auditor to audit and examine the books of the county officers whenever it may be deemed necessary.

Authorize registers of deeds in the several counties to appoint deputies whose acts as such shall be valid and

the register responsible.

The following are among the new bills introduced:

Elliott: Joint resolution that the Assembly adjourn sine die between 10 and 3 o'clock March 3d. Placed upon the calendar.

Clark: Provide for two bank examiners instead of one.

Doekery: Appropriate \$1,000 for household furniture at the Governor's mansion.

It was a busy day running into a night session with the House, but nothing of wide or general interest seemed to have been acted upon.

In the Senate Thursday the following are among the bills introduced:

Starbuck: Incorporate Yadkin River Railway Company.

Elliott: Placing all ex-Confederate soldiers on the pension list.

Pharr: Amend 3,890, Revisal, relative to building and loan associations.

Klutz: Authorize directors of the Soldiers' Home to furnish uniforms or suits of gray for the inmates.

The following bills passed final reading:

H. B. to amend Revisal relative to licensing physicians.

Authorize boards of education to purchase Ashe's "History of North Carolina."

In the House the following new bills were introduced:

Cox, of Wake: Equalize tax assessment in the State.

Cox, of Wake: Erect suitable public buildings in Raleigh for the State. Carries \$750,000 bonds for an office building to take the place of the present Agricultural and Supreme Court Building.

Julian (by request): Appropriate \$500 toward suitably marking the birthplace of Andrew Jackson.

Morgan (by request): Adopt as a State song "Carolina," by Miss Bettie Freshwater Poole.

Hagemon: Aid Watauga Railway Company to construct a road from some point on the Caldwell & North Carolina Railroad to Boone, in Watauga county.

Thursday in the legislative realm was given interest by action upon two important measures. Senator Barringer's bill forbidding the mileage ticket practice failed in the Senate by Lieutenant Governor Newland's vote, and the Senate judiciary committee voted 9 to 8 for a favorable report on an anti-trust measure which follows the lines of the Manning substitute. It is termed a filing down of the original bill.

The following are among the bills that passed final reading in the Senate Friday:

Relative to the sale of merchandise in bulk.

Relative to salaries of bank examiners, making the salaries of each of the two \$2,400.

H. B. to facilitate the release of mortgages and deeds of trust.

Amend Revisal as to escapes.

Prevent fraud upon merchants and traders.

Amend the charter of the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Association of North Carolina.

New bills of general interest were as follows:

Pharr: Providing for the maintenance of the North Carolina room in the Confederate Mansion, Richmond.

In the House the following passed third reading:

The following are among the new bills offered:

McDonald, of Moore: Allow counties, cities and townships to purchase first mortgage bonds of railroad companies organized under the laws of North Carolina.

Cox, of Wake: Establish a State conservation commission to protect forests and water-powers.

Connor: Relieve holders of mileage books and promote convenience of the traveling public.

Campbell: Pension all old soldiers in North Carolina.

Green: For the relief of Confederate soldiers.

Graham: Increase the pensions of old soldiers who lost both eyes, both arms, both legs or one arm, one leg or one eye.

New bills introduced in the Senate Saturday were in part as follows:

Doughton: Amend the Revisal as to the duties and power of notaries.

Peele: Amend the charter of the Salisbury-Fayetteville Coast Line Railroad Company.

Klutz: Forbid the sale of certain narcotic drinks to habitues and repeal a clause of Chapter 77, Acts of 1907.

Elliott: Provide the Australian ballot for elections in North Carolina.

A bill of general interest that passed final reading was to compel express companies to make prompt settlements of C. O. D. shipments. (A Merchants' Association bill).

There was a large number of bills being ratified by President Pro Tem. Klutz when Senator Nimocks rose to a question of parliamentary inquiry as to the power of the President Pro Tem to ratify bills. He was informed that this matter had been carefully investigated and that it was found that there was ample law for the President Pro Tem to perform all the functions of the President in the absence of that official, including the ratification of bills.

The Solicitor's salary bill by Senators Ormond and Blow, reported favorably during the morning hour with a salary of \$2,500 specified, was made a special order for next Thursday on motion of Senator Ormond.

In the House Saturday as in the

Senate much business was done but largely of local interest. The following are part of the new bills introduced:

Gordon: Issue bonds to carry out act of 1907 relative to the care of the insane, the amount carried being \$500,000.

Gordon: Prevent advertising for sale and the sale of articles to prevent conception.

Koonce: Authorize commissioners of any county where an experiment farm or other station has been established or is about to be established to aid the Department of Agriculture by donating land or otherwise.

Daily: Amend Chapter 349, Laws of 1903, relating to giving and filling prescriptions.

Braswell: Prevent the indiscriminate manufacture and sale of duplicate switchlock keys.

Weaver: Allow foreign executors in certain cases to convey land devised to them without first giving bond in this State.

Barnes, of Johnston: Amend 1506, Revisal, relative to the trial of criminal cases.

Doughton: Amend Chapter 839, Laws of 1907, relative to the salary of the corporation clerk.

Bolton: Regulate the distribution of samples of patent and proprietary medicines from house to house.

Turlington: Allow the Attorney General a law clerk.

Turlington (by request): Charter the Statesville Air Line Company.

Mr. Underwood called up the committee substitute for his bill to provide for the electrocution at the State prison of all felons sentenced to the death penalty, abolishing hanging in the State.

Mr. Perry, of Bladen, sent forward an amendment to substitute life imprisonment at hard labor for electrocution. Mr. Doughton was sustained on a point of order that the amendment was not germane.

A committee amendment was tacked to the bill prohibiting newspapers from printing anything concerning an electrocution save the bare fact of the execution, but this was withdrawn on the suggestion of Messrs. Doughton, Stubbs and Hayes that it would be impossible to attach any penalty to its violation and therefore the provision could not be enforced, as the constitution freedom of the press could not be interfered with.

The bill was passed on its readings with neither discussion nor division. Mr. Haymore wanted to protest, but he got to his feet too late. The act goes into effect from its ratification, but will not apply to any case pending at date of ratification.

Many private roll-call bills were passed on second reading.

Earthquake Shocks in Porto Rico.

San Juan, Porto Rico, By Cable.—Heavy earthquake shocks were felt throughout the island of Porto Rico at 3 o'clock Wednesday morning. The inhabitants were awakened by the oscillations and their alarm was great. No damage, however, was done. The vibrations lasted for at least 20 seconds and the movement was from east to west. The weather is very stormy.

Well-Known Confederate Nurse Dead.

Washington, Special.—Miss Emily Virginia Mascen, of a famous Virginia family, who won fame during the civil war as a nurse of Confederate soldiers, and who ministered to Union soldiers at Libby prison, died Wednesday night in this city, aged 94. Miss Mascen was commissioned by President Davis of the Confederacy, to organize hospital camps during the war. After the conflict she wrote the first life of Gen. Robert E. Lee, who was her intimate friend. Later she went to Paris, where she conducted a school.

Negro Appointed Judge in District of Columbia.

Washington, Special.—Robert H. Terrell, a colored graduate of Harvard College, '84, has been appointed a judge of the municipal court of the District of Columbia, which has just been created by an act of Congress. He is the only colored man in the country holding a judicial position of the dignity of the one to which he has just been elevated.

Negro Shoots White Boy.

Memphis, Tenn., Special.—James Holman Taylor, aged 10 years, a nephew of Chief of Police Davis, of this city, was shot and killed near his father's home in South Memphis late Wednesday by Eddie Prode, a negro. Following the killing which was the outcome of a minor quarrel, a crowd of several hundred persons formed and began a search for Prode intent on inflicting quick punishment.

200 Miners Entombed in British Mine.

Newcastle, England, By Cable.—A terrible disaster has occurred at West Stanley, a small mining town 12 miles distant, in which, it is feared, 180 lives have been lost. There were two explosions at 4 o'clock Tuesday afternoon in the West Stanley colliery, which employs 400 men. Nearly 200 of them were in the pit at the time, and up to a late hour Tuesday night none of them had come to the surface. Rappings have been heard, and it is supposed that these are from some of the miners who escaped death from the explosion and the fire which followed it.

FLEET ENCIRCLES THE WORLD

16 of Uncle Sams's Largest Sea-Fighters Return From a Successful World-Cruise

On the last long reach of their spectacular cruise around the world, the sixteen battleships of the "United States Atlantic Fleet" are steaming in leisurely fashion towards the anchorage grounds of Hampton Roads, whence they sailed just fourteen months ago. During these months of record steaming the heavily armored fighting vessels have traveled approximately 45,000 miles and are returning in condition still fit for "freie or a fight." The cruise has been a veritable expedition of the seven seas and tasks heretofore deemed impossible for the modern ironclad have been accomplished with an ease bordering on the commonplace.

The stories of the cruise have been succeeding chapters of receptions, banquets, balls and merry making, but back of all this relaxation and entertaining in the hospitable ports of the two hemispheres has been a test of men and material which has placed the American navy in an enviable position before all the world. The facility in following the motions of the fleet in the fleet, squadron and divisional manuevers which came with constant experience at sea, and above all the marvelous records made at the targets in Magdalena and Manila bays tell of the real work and the subsequent accomplishments that have marked this most notable of peace demonstrations among the navies of the world.

Secretary Metcalf says: "When the purpose of giving this assemblage of battleships the privileges and advantages of a practical cruise was announced, criticisms from high technical quarters were heard. It was suggested that the undertaking was too monumental; that a battleship is too vast and complicated a piece of mechanism to send around the globe on an ordinary occasion; that dangers more than multiplied with numbers in such a case; that disaster lurked

on every submerged ledge and was borne on every unknown tidal current; that the skeleton of some of the ships would doubtless be left in the Straits of Magellan; that, if the fleet should succeed in rounding South America it was reasonably certain that the individual ships would, one by one, arrive with machineries loose and almost unserviceable, with crews reflecting the demoralized condition of the material, and that a woeful spectacle of failure would thus be presented.

"As to the material, the cold facts are that the ships have practically taken care of their own repairs on this cruise. The repair lists turned in at the Cavite naval station were negligible."

That the experience gained on the cruise will be of unending benefit to the navy is indicated from the fact that probably one-half of the entire personnel of the naval establishment participated in the epoch-making trip. Three of the sixteen captains who sailed in command of vessels are returning home as rear admirals. Eight other captains are returning in command of the same ship on which they began the journey of the world. From rear admiral down to midshipman the training has been such as to other naval cruises ever afforded. Among the enlisted men the training has been even more valuable. Landsmen shipped just before that start and utterly green in the ways of the deep, are coming home an integral part of a wonderful fleet efficiency and loyal believers in all that the American navy stands for. Desertions on the ships have been few. The men have taken a pride in the cruise and it will be a constant boast with them that they started to the west from Hampton Roads and came home with prows still turned in that direction. They know the world is round, and they know what it is to work and play over 45,000 miles of the watered surface of the globe.

EXPERTS SAY CANAL PLANS ARE ALL RIGHT

Washington, Special.—Any attack made hereafter on the lock type of Panama canal, according to the opinion expressed by President Roosevelt in a message transmitted to Congress last week "is in reality merely an attack upon the policy of building any canal at all." The report of the engineers "shows in clearest fashion that the Congress was wise in the position it took, and that it would be inexcusable folly to change from the proposed lock canal to a sea level canal."

The engineers show that the only criticism that can be made of the work on the isthmus is that there has sometimes been almost an excess of caution in providing against possible trouble.

The engineers report that, as the Gatun earth dam was the central point of discussion, they gave it, under instructions from Mr. Taft, "first consideration in the light of all new evidence," and they add that "the type of dam now under construction is approved." They say they are "satisfied that there will be no dangerous or objectionable seepage through the materials under the base of the dam; nor are they so soft as to be liable to be pushed aside by the weight of the proposed dam so as to cause dangerous settlement. We are also satisfied that the materials available and which it is proposed to use are suitable and can be readily placed to

form a tight, stable and permanent dam."

Dams and locks, lock gates and all other engineering structures involved in the lock canal project are "feasible and safe," according to the engineers, "and they can be depended upon to perform with certainty their respective functions."

Having considered the proper height for the crest of the Gatun dam, they concluded that "it could be safely reduced 20 feet from that originally proposed; namely to an elevation of 115 feet above sea level, or 30 feet above the normal level of the water against the dam." This change has been ordered.

Their estimate of the complete cost of the canal is \$360,000,000. They say it is incorrect to state that the original estimate of cost was \$140,000,000, as they did not include "sanitation and zone government." They estimate the expense of sanitation and zone government at \$27,000,000, while payments to the Republic of Panama and to the new Panama Canal Company amounts to \$50,000,000, which would make the difference between the present estimate and the previous estimate, with cost of sanitation and zone government and payments, added, only \$143,000,000. "Of this amount," they say, "nearly one-half can be accounted for by the changes in the canal and appurtenant works already referred to and the remainder is to be attributed mainly to the higher unit cost of the different items of the work."

TOPOGRAPHY CHANGED BY AN EARTHQUAKE

Teheran, By Cable.—Reliable reports from the province of Nuristan say that the earthquake of January 23d was of unprecedented violence. A courier arriving from the scene says that the prolonged quake changed the entire appearance of the country, split mountains, shifted streams and engulfed many villages so that no trace of them remains. The Shah has sent out inadequate relief parties. The inaccessibility of Nuristan, which is 300 miles from here in the mountain fastnesses, makes the work of relieving the stricken territory slow and arduous.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY AND ITS EMPLOYEES

Spencer, N. S., Special.—Announcement made here that an agreement has been reached between the officials of the Southern Railway Company at Washington for several weeks, concerning a wage scale throughout the entire Southern system.

Under the new arrangement which has been under consideration at Washington for several weeks, the employees of the company are to have a nine-hour day instead of a ten-hour day at the same scale heretofore

in effect. The employees stood for a nine-hour schedule while the Southern officials wanted a ten-hour rule.

The employees feel that they have been treated very generously by the management in that all they have asked for has been granted. The machinists are to receive 32 cents per hour. The other crafts affected by the new scale includes the boiler-makers, blacksmiths, carmen and pipemen. General satisfaction is expressed that the matter has been amicably settled for another year over the whole system.

PRES. ROOSEVELT ON THE PANAMA CANAL

Washington, Special.—A magazine writer called on the President the other day to get from him some material for a review of the Roosevelt administration. The writer asked the President what he considered his greatest accomplishment during his seven years in the White House. The President said he regarded as his greatest work the construction of the Panama canal. He placed second in

importance the dispatch of the American battleships around the world. The third place he gave to his settlement of the Japanese-Russian war. The President named as his superlative achievement the Panama Canal because he believes that this will live for centuries and centuries. He thinks his name will be linked with this engineering enterprise long after the other accomplishments of his administration have been forgotten.