

# Chatham Record

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## FOREIGN RELATIONS IS TAFT'S SUBJECT

### Congress Is Told of Improvements in Consular and Diplomatic Corps and Good Results of Uncle Sam's Efforts in Latin America.

Washington, Dec. 3.—President Taft submitted to congress today the first of several messages. It was devoted to our foreign relations and in part was as follows:

The Senate and House of Representatives: The foreign relations of the United States actually and potentially are the most important of our national life. No widely realized and hardly surpassed by any other factor in the welfare of the whole nation. The position of the United States in the moral, intellectual, and material relations of the family of nations should be a matter of vital interest to every patriotic citizen. The nation's growth and prosperity are inseparable from its foreign relations. It is upon our duties which we cannot shrink if we are to be true to our ideals. The tremendous growth of the export trade of the United States has almost everywhere a very real factor in the industrial and commercial prosperity of the country. With the development of the United States must rapidly become a still more essential factor in its economic welfare. Whether we have made any progress in diplomacy and are not recklessly plunged into unnecessary wars, and whether our foreign policies are based upon an intelligent grasp of the international conditions and a clear view of the possibilities of the future, or are governed by a temporary and timid expediency or by a narrow view of our own interests, are questions in the alternative consideration of which must convince any thoughtful citizen that no department of national policy offers greater opportunity for promoting the interests of the whole people on the one hand, or greater chance on the other of permanent national injury, than that which deals with the foreign relations of the United States.

The fundamental foreign policies of the United States should be raised high above the conflict of partisanship and wholly dissociated from differences as to domestic policy. In its foreign affairs the United States should present to the world a united front. The intellectual, financial and industrial interests of the country and the publicist, the wage earner, the farmer, and citizen of whatever occupation must cooperate in a spirit of high patriotism to promote that national solidarity which is indispensable to national efficiency and to the attainment of national ideals.

The relations of the United States with all foreign powers remain upon a sound basis of peace and friendship. A greater insistence upon justice to American citizens or interests wherever it may have been denied and a stronger emphasis of the need of maintaining similar commercial and other relations have only served to strengthen our friendships with foreign countries by placing those friendships upon a firmer foundation of realities as well as aspirations.

Before briefly reviewing the more important events of the last year in our foreign relations, it is my duty to do as charged with their conduct and because diplomatic affairs are not of a nature to make it appropriate to the ordinary of state make up an annual report. I desire to touch upon some of the essentials to the safe management of the foreign relations of the United States and to endeavor, also, to define clearly certain concrete policies which are the logical and corollaries of the undisputed and traditional foreign policy of the foreign policy of the United States.

Reorganization of the State Department. At the beginning of the present administration the United States, having entered upon a new era of peace and power, with the responsibilities thrust upon it by the results of the Spanish-American war, and already engaged in laying the ground work of a vast foreign trade upon which it should one day become more and more dependent, found itself without the machinery for giving thorough attention to the many and diverse action upon a mass of intricate business vital to American interests in every country of the world.

The department of state was an archaic and inadequate machine lacking most of the attributes of the foreign office of any modern power. With a reorganization made upon my recommendation by the congress on August 5, 1908, the department of state was completely reorganized.

They were created divisions of Latin-American affairs and of far eastern, eastern, and western European affairs. To these divisions were added from the foreign service diplomatic and consular officers possessing experience and knowledge gained by actual service in different parts of the world and thus familiar with political and commercial conditions in the regions concerned. The work was highly specialized. The result is that where previously this government from time to time would emphasize in its foreign relations one or another of its American interests in every quarter of the globe are being cultivated with equal assiduity.

#### Reorganization in Consular and Diplomatic Corps.

Expert knowledge and professional training must evidently be the essence of this reorganization. Without a trained foreign service there would not be men available for the work in the reorganized department of state. President Cleveland has taken the first step toward introducing a merit system in the foreign service. That had been followed by the application of the merit principle with excellent results to the entire consular branch. Almost nothing, however, had been done in this direction with regard to the diplomatic service. In this age of commercial diplomacy it was evidently of the first importance to train adequate personnel in that branch of our service. Therefore, on November 26, 1909, by an executive order I placed the diplomatic service upon the same basis of merit as the consular service. The grade of secretary of embassy, including upon exactly the same non-partisan basis of the merit system, rigid examination for appointment and promotion only for efficiency, as had been maintained without exception in the consular service.

#### Successful Efforts in Promotion of Peace.

In the field of work toward the ideal of peace this government, notwithstanding, but to my regret was unable to consummate, two arbitration treaties which set the highest mark of the aspirations of nations toward the substitution of arbitration and reason for war in the settlement of international disputes. Through the efforts of American diplomacy several wars have been prevented or ended. I refer to the successful tripartite mediation of the Argentine Republic, Brazil and the United States between Peru and Ecuador; the bringing of the boundary dispute between Panama and Costa Rica to peaceful arbitration; the staying of warlike preparations when Hayti and the Dominican Republic were on the verge of hostilities; the stopping

ing for their secure administration and to establish reliable banks. Agricultural Credits. A most important work, accomplished in the past year by the American diplomatic officers in Europe, is the investigation of the agricultural credit system in the European countries. Both as a means to afford relief to the consumers of this country through a more thorough development of agricultural resources and as a means of more efficiently maintaining the agricultural population, the project to establish credit facilities for the farmers is a concern of vital importance to this country. No evidence of prosperity among the well-established farmers should be attributed to the fact that lack of capital is preventing a development of the nation's agricultural resources and an adequate increase of the land under cultivation; that agricultural production is fast falling behind the increase in population; and that, in fact, although the number of cultivated farmers are maintained in increasing prosperity because of the natural increase in population, we are not developing the industry of agriculture. The need of capital which American farmers feel today had been experienced by the farmers of Europe, with their centuries-old farms and their methods. The problem had been successfully solved in the old world and it was evident that the farmers of this country might profit by a study of their systems. I have had the study, through the department of state, an investigation to be made by the diplomatic officers in Europe, and I have had the results of the investigation sent to the governors of the various states with the hope that they will be used to advantage in their forthcoming meetings.

Increase in Trade. In my last annual message I said that the fiscal year ended June 30, 1911, was noteworthy as marking the highest record in the history of our trade with foreign countries. The fiscal year 1912 shows that this rate of advance has been maintained, the total domestic exports having a value of approximately \$2,500,000,000 compared with a total of \$2,000,000,000 the previous year. It is also significant that manufactured and partly manufactured articles, including such commodities forming the volume of our augmented exports, the demands of our own people for consumption requiring that an increasing proportion of our abundant agricultural products be kept at home. In the fiscal year 1911 the exports of articles in the various stages of manufacture, not including foodstuffs, and wholly manufactured, amounted approximately to \$97,500,000. In the fiscal year 1912 the total was nearly \$1,025,000,000, a gain of \$14,000,000.

#### Advantage of Maximum and Minimum Tariff Provision.

The importance which our manufacturers have assumed in the commerce of the world in competition with the manufacturers of other countries has led to attention to the duty of this government to use its utmost endeavors to secure impartial treatment for American products in the markets of the world. In international intercourse is best assured by the possession of proper means for protecting and promoting our foreign commerce. It is naturally the policy of all countries should view with some concern this steady expansion of our commerce. If in some instance the measure taken by them is not so strongly recommended, a remedy should be found. In former messages I have described the negotiations of the department of state with the various countries for the adjustment of the maximum and minimum tariff as provided in section 2 of the tariff law of 1909. The advantages secured by the adjustment of our foreign relations under this law have continued during the last year, and some additional cases of discriminatory treatment of the products of the United States have been removed. The department of state has for the first time in the history of this country obtained substantial most favored nation status from all the countries of the world. There are, however, other instances which, while apparently not constituting undue discrimination in the treatment of our products, nevertheless constitute a complete equity of tariff treatment for American products that the department of state consistently has endeavored to obtain for American commerce abroad.

These developments confirm the opinion conveyed to you in my annual message of 1911, that the maximum and minimum provision of the tariff law of 1909 has been fully justified by the success achieved in removing the various existing undue discriminations against American products, yet experience has shown that this feature of the law should be strongly recommended to provide a fully effective means of meeting the varying degrees of discriminatory treatment of American commerce in foreign markets. The tariff encountered, as well as to protect against injurious treatment on the part of foreign governments, through either legislative or administrative measures, the financial interests abroad of American citizens whose enterprises enlarge the market for American commodities.

#### Central America Needs Our Help in Debt Adjustment.

In Central America the aim has been to help the countries of Nicaragua and Honduras to help themselves. They are the immediate beneficiaries. The nations benefit to the United States is two-fold. First, it is obvious that the Monroe doctrine is more vital in the neighborhood of the Panama canal and the zone of the isthmus than in any other part of the world, the maintenance of that doctrine falls most heavily upon the United States. It is therefore essential that the countries within that sphere should be removed from the jeopardy involved by heavy foreign debt and chaotic national finances and from the ever-present danger of international complications due to disorder at home. Hence the United States has been glad to encourage and support American bankers who were willing to lend a helping hand to the financial rehabilitation of such countries because this financial rehabilitation and the protection of their custom houses from being the prey of would-be dictators would remove one stroke the menace of revolutionary disorder.

The second advantage to the United States is that the nations of the southern and gulf ports and the business and industry of the south. The republics of Central America and the Caribbean possess great natural wealth. They need only a measure of stability and the means of financial regeneration to enter upon an era of peace and prosperity, bringing profit and happiness to themselves and at the same time creating conditions sure to lead to a flourishing interchange of trade with this country.

I wish to call your especial attention to the recent occurrences in Nicaragua, for I believe the terrible events recorded there during the revolution of the past summer—the useless loss of life, the devastation of property, the bombardment of defenseless cities, the killing and wounding of women and children, the torturing and happiness to themselves and at the same time creating conditions sure to lead to a flourishing interchange of trade with this country.

W. M. H. TAFT

## NEWS OF THE WEEK IN EPITOMIZED FORM

### THE LATEST HAPPENINGS OF IMPORTANCE TERSELY TOLD.

#### EVENTS THROUGHOUT WORLD

News of Greatest Interest From All Parts of the World Related in Paragraphs.

#### Southern.

Governor Goldsborough of Maryland has announced the appointment of William P. Jackson, Republican national committeeman from Maryland, to succeed the late United States Senator Isidor Rayner from that state.

Bonds having a face value of \$140,000, together with cheques and a small amount of coupons, that disappeared in Kansas City, Mo., June 5, when two registered mail sacks were stolen while en route from the postoffice to the railway station here, have been found on the city dump by three laborers.

Savannah's (Ga.) corn club exhibition opened in the first regiment armory with in the neighborhood of 250 exhibits from eighteen counties in that section of Georgia. Despite the very bad season the boys' corn clubs of that section of Georgia did very well and the show is a great success.

Mrs. Susie Harris Boynton, widow of James J. Boynton, who succeeded Alexander Stephens as governor of Georgia, died of pneumonia at her old home at High Shoals, 10 miles from Athens, Ga.

Seven negro convicts, armed with three shot guns and a pistol, escaped from a negro convict camp at Ladson, about 15 miles from Charleston, S. C. The guard at the camp, was roughly handled, and a negro who carried the news of the escape to the telegraph operator at Ladson's narrowly escaped being killed.

The North Georgia Conference of Methodists adjourned at Carrollton, Ga., after having made all pastoral and presiding elder appointments.

W. T. Harris, sheriff of Desota county, Mississippi, was killed and G. W. Treadway, a farmer, was probably fatally wounded in a revolver battle between Treadway and his two sons and Harris and a posse who were attempting to arrest the older man on a charge of resisting officers.

Earl Treadway, one of the sons, was arrested and a special guard of citizens has been thrown about Olive Branch, Miss., jail, to prevent mob violence while several posses are pursuing his brother, Murel. The shooting occurred at the Treadway home. When the elder man fell, his arms and his shoulders riddled with bullets, Earl submitted to arrest and Murel made his escape through a rear door.

W. B. Blakey, an American, Ga., linotype operator, charged with murder in the first degree, has been jailed for shooting a Georgia merchant connected with the carnival which has been exhibiting in America.

Posses totaling nearly eight hundred men, with two packs of blood hounds, are searching the swamps 15 miles south of Collins, Miss., for a lone burglar who shot and dangerously wounded two men and burglarized half a dozen residences and stores.

#### General.

Parts of a giant bird, which winged its way over North America 3,000,000 years ago, have just been brought to the American museum of natural history in New York City by Professor Granger, who has been making fossil investigations in Wyoming. The bird, according to Professor Granger, was the largest feathered creature that ever existed in North America. The fragments brought here consist of the bones of the feet, found in the Big Horn basin east of Yellowstone Park.

Andrew Carnegie, in a statement announces that all but \$25,000,000 of his fortune, which will be disposed of under his will, will be left to the Carnegie corporation of New York.

Carl Riedelbach, alias Carl Warr, called by the police the "Human bomb," was bound over to the grand jury by Police Judge Williams, and a few moments later the grand jury was investigating the case. Riedelbach's bond was fixed at \$20,000. Riedelbach is a natural to a people to whom the fair is the sole concern. In the past our diplomacy has often consisted, in normal times, in a mere assertion of the right to international existence. We are now in a larger relation with broader rights of our own and obligations to others than ourselves, a number of great guiding principles were laid down early in the history of this government. The recent task of our diplomacy has been to adjust those principles to the conditions of today, to develop their corollaries, to find practical applications of the old principles expanded to meet new situations. There are being evolved by a diplomacy modern, resourceful, magnanimous, and fittingly expressive of the high ideals of a great nation.

W. M. H. TAFT

The White House, December 3, 1912.

The accidental killing of a man in Lowell, Mass., twenty years ago was given by John Frank Hickey, in a signed confession at Buffalo, N. Y., as the starting point of a career of debauchery and crime during which he murdered two boys and assaulted many others. Hickey's victims, according to his confession, were Ed Morey of Lowell, Mass., poisoned with laudanum over twenty years ago; Michael Kruch, 12 years old, a New York newsboy, strangled in Central Park in 1902, and Joseph Joseph, the 17-year-old son of Joseph Joseph, a merchant of Lackawanna, killed in a similar manner, October 12, 1911.

Three superdreadnaughts and nine first class armored cruisers will very shortly be presented to the British government by the independent rulers, princes and nobles of India if they can carry out successfully a plan recently drawn up by them to collect funds for the purpose among themselves.

The president-elect, accompanied by Mrs. Wilson and the members of his family, attended the oldest Presbyterian church in Hamilton, Bermuda, of quaint setting. The pastor prayed for the success of the close of the Taft administration and then prayed for the success of Mr. Wilson's administration.

Women from the West, South, North and East delegates to the convention of the National American Woman's Suffrage association, realized their principal ambition in Philadelphia when they exercised their right of franchise in choosing officers of that association for the ensuing year. They will preserve a non-partisan attitude to all political parties.

The possibility and danger of a greater war than that between the Balkan states and Turkey absorbs public interest far more than the first out of diplomacy between the belligerents outside of Constantinople. The steps toward mobilization which Austria and Russia are taking, although preliminary precautions, have made possible a vision of the vast consequences, which, as far as Great Britain is concerned, are considered nothing less than appalling.

Pigeons are becoming so thick in Brooklyn, N. Y., that merchants are complaining to the police that they are carrying vegetable away from display shelves of stores.

The new trial on appeal of the 106 Koreans who were convicted in Seoul, Korea, on September 28, of participation in a conspiracy against the life of Count Terauchi, the Japanese governor general of Korea, has begun.

The plan of having Americans administer the customs affairs of Nicaragua as provided for in a recent loan contract made by that government with New York bankers, has resulted in a vigorous protest against F. W. Wilson, chief of customs at Bluefields, Nicaragua, by the entire commercial contingent of that city.

Sentence of death in the electric chair has been pronounced upon the four New York City German convicted of the murder of Herman Rosenthal at the instigation of Charles Becker, the former police lieutenant. "Gyp the Blood," "Lefty Louie," "Whitey Lewis" and "Dago Frank" appeared before Justice Goff in the supreme court for sentence.

Andrew Grochitz, of Newburgh, N. Y., after being a prisoner for thirteen days in a car of apples, into which he had crawled at Newburgh, was released when the car was opened at Sioux City, Iowa. His feet were frozen and may have to be amputated. He had eaten nearly a barrel of the apples. He has a wife and five children in Hungary.

An explosion which wrecked the dry starch house of the Corn Products company's plant at Waukegan, Ill., killed twelve workmen, injured 27 others, several of whom will die, and caused about one hundred thousand dollars' worth of damage. The explosion tore the two-story frame top house from the five-story building, and scattered bits of it for fifty yards in all directions. The body of one of the men killed was blown across the Chicago and Northwestern railroad right of way onto the hillside in Oakwood cemetery. All of the injured were coated with starch, which had to be washed off before their injuries could be attended to.

#### Washington.

Appropriations of nearly two hundred million dollars for pensions to veterans of American wars will be necessary at this session of congress. The unusual sum exceeding all appropriations of former years, will be necessary to make up a deficit of nearly twenty million dollars, resulting from the increase of pensions by the Sherwood bill last winter and the proportionate increase of the general pension authorities authorized by this act.

The United States is still the "bread basket" of the world, according to the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce. Exports of corn and meat fell off sharply, but more than a hundred millions of bushels of wheat were sent abroad during the past ten months.

Senator Isidor Rayner of Maryland died in Washington, D. C., of neuritis after a prolonged illness. Official Washington was largely represented at the funeral. President Taft and members of his cabinet attended the funeral, and committees from both the houses of congress, as well as many Marylanders prominent in official, social and civic life, were present. Senator Rayner was one of the striking figures of the senate. He had been a member of that body for eight years, and was one of its very strongest debaters and a recognized authority on constitutional law.

## EXPIRING SESSION HAS ASSEMBLED

### IN BRIEF PERIOD FIFTEEN APPROPRIATION BILLS MUST BE PASSED.

#### THE TRIAL OF ARCHIBALD

The Democratic Policies to Be Shaped and Plans Made For the Entrance of the Wilson Administration on March 4.

Washington.—The expiring Sixty-second Congress assembled at noon Monday for its final work of legislation. In the brief period remaining before constitutional limitation brings it to an end and turns many of its members back into private life, 15 appropriation bills, carrying over \$1,000,000,000 for the support of the Government, must be passed; the impeachment of Judge Archibald of the Commerce Court must be tried in the Senate; many investigating committees must conclude inquiries and make their reports; and scores of legislative matters must be disposed of.

Throughout the session attracting as much attention as the actual work of legislation, will run the preparatory work for the extra session to be called soon after President-elect Wilson takes office March 4. Committees, pursuant to this, will thresh out questions of tariff, currency, and anti-trust legislation, aiming to have Democratic policies shaped, and Democratic plans made, before the new Administration comes into power.

It is assured, say the legislative leaders, that there will be no tariff legislation this winter. Neither is it expected that the currency or anti-trust problems will receive much attention in the House or Senate, the principal work of the session being confined to preparation for the Democratic Administration and the enactment of some of the more important bills pending on the calendars of the two houses.

Cabinet Crisis Arises. Tokio.—A Cabinet crisis has arisen over the refusal of Minister of War, Lieutenant General Ueyehara, to accept a Cabinet decision rejecting the scheme for increasing the military forces in Korea. After a number of extraordinary sittings, Premier Saionji informed the War Minister that the Cabinet adhered to its position. General Ueyehara then indicated his intention to resign. It is doubtful whether the Emperor will accept his resignation. The press and general public support the Cabinet. Lieutenant General Uehara was appointed Minister of War April 3, 1912, to succeed General Isomoto, who died the previous day.

Hyde To Ask For New Trial. New York.—Counsel for Charles H. Hyde will make their first move to get a new trial for the former city chamberlain, found guilty of bribery as soon as she is sentenced. Meanwhile the convicted man will have to stay in the Toms, although up to the present time he had not been lodged in a cell. He is occupying quarters in a part of the building formerly used by the warden. Hyde is too big a man to be accommodated comfortably in one of the cells. These are only six feet long, while Hyde is 200 feet 3 inches tall and weighs over 200 pounds.

Wilson Advocates Later Inaugural. Hamilton, Bermuda.—Woodrow Wilson is willing to take the oath of office as president of the United States without ostentation March 4 and that the formal ceremonies be postponed until the last Thursday in April. To that extent he has endorsed the propaganda in favor of a later inauguration which has been advocated in and out of congress in order that the event might be conducted at a time when the weather is usually good.

To Celebrate Battle of Gettysburg. Washington.—The war department is making plans for the feeding and sheltering of army veterans, Confederate as well as Federal, who are to attend the encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic on the battlefield of Gettysburg next July when the fiftieth anniversary of the great battle will be celebrated. Orders assigning Capt. Harry F. Dalton as assistant to Major Normoyle here who is charged with the military arrangements. Both officers have been authorized to proceed to the battlefield.

Mexican Border Situation Worse. Washington.—The situation on the Mexican border has been rapidly growing worse. General Steever has protested to the war department against any reduction of the border patrol such as was about to be ordered. Many of the insurgent leaders have developed great activity, adding their quotas to the considerable force which under General Salazar has been operating in the country between Columbus, N. M., and El Paso. They have thrown the whole border into a state of disturbance and unrest.

## FROM ALL OVER THE STATE

Short Paragraphs of State News That Has Been Collected For the People of the State.

Thomasville.—Wheat crop in this section has never looked finer at this season of the year than at present and everything points to a big crop to harvest next year. The factories are all running full time and a number are running at night on extra time in order to supply the many orders now coming in.

Lillington.—Responding to invitations previously sent out, about seventy-five ladies and gentlemen gathered at the Caviness hotel to betake of the feast of good things prepared by the Daughters of the Confederacy and map out the work of raising funds for the erection of a monument to the Confederacy.

Kinston.—W. L. Turnage, of Greene county, sold several loads of tobacco here recently, the product of five acres, at the remarkable price of \$1.65.58. There were 7,008 pounds of the weed, which was cured in seven barns. The sum paid Mr. Turnage was exclusive of the warehouse and other charges.

Stantonsburg.—The first meeting of the Stantonsburg township teachers was held here recently in the high school building, Prof. W. J. Sloan presiding. These meetings will be held each month and all the teachers in this vicinity will be asked to participate. The patrons and friends of the school are also invited.

Kinston.—In a review of the past fiscal year's work, Rev. F. Swindell Love, pastor of the Queen Street Methodist church here, told his congregation that they had raised over nine thousand dollars in cash and that the membership had been increased by seventy-five during the past twelve months.

Charlotte.—Fire in the furniture store of W. T. McCoy & Co., on the third floor of the W. F. Dowd building, South Tryon Street, caused a loss of some four or five thousand dollars, and but for prompt closing of fire doors and the efficient work of the fire department would have spread and torn a big hole in the map of Charlotte.

Raleigh.—Beginning several days ago the Wake county branch of the Aycock association took up the raising of the \$2,000 promised by this county to the memorial to Governor Aycock and the hope is to have the amount ready in the next fifteen days. Of the \$2,000 that Wake is to raise, pledges for \$1,500 have been secured. These range in subscriptions from \$200 down.

Asheville.—From 15 to 20 members of the United States Secret Service are in the vicinity of Asheville, investigating the recent forest fires, which have devastated so many acres of timber land in this section in the past few days, besides endangering the Y. M. C. A. Assembly grounds, near Black Mountain. Private detectives for the Vanderbilt estate at Biltmore are also in the field, making private investigations.

Asheville.—Worn and disheveled, and apparently dazed from an overdose of some sort of drug, Walter Trexler, the young man, whose disappearance from home several days ago caused his parents so much anxiety, was found wandering around in the Haw Creek section of the county by a deputy sheriff. An examination of the young man showed him to be suffering from an overdose of cocaine, and he is being detained in the city jail, pending his improvement.

Raleigh.—In convening a two-weeks' term of federal court here Judge Henry G. Connor expressed the wish that the state of North Carolina might have entire charge of the enforcement of the prohibition law and that the federal court was entirely free from having to deal with distilling and blind tiger cases that now come up in great numbers. However, he charged the jury that due attention be given to these classes of offenses, and that they be dealt with in a spirit of fairness and good judgment.

Kinston.—The committee in charge of the campaign for the sale of Red Cross seals here decided to order 15,000 from the state headquarters in Charlotte. This is the largest amount ordered by any town of Kinston's class in North Carolina.

Butler and J. A. Michael, were shot, Butler and J. A. Michael, were shot, and it is reported that two or more negroes were hurt in the shooting battle, which took place at a construction camp on the Carolina and Yadkin Valley railroad in a remote section and very few particulars are obtainable.

Raleigh.—An exchange of courts is ordered by Gov. Kitchin between Judge H. P. Lane and Judge Bragaw whereby Judge Bragaw will hold the Washington court two weeks beginning Dec. 2 and Judge Lane will hold the Robeson county court two weeks beginning Dec. 2.

Statesville.—The home of Harvey Troutman, a farmer living some miles west of Statesville, was totally destroyed by fire recently, with a portion of its contents. The fire started from a defective fuse, while all the members of the household were at church except Mrs. Troutman.