

THE LARGEST PAID SUBSCRIPTION OF ANY PAPER PUBLISHED IN EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

GREAT CONVENTION

Enthusiastic Meeting Held at Elizabeth City

CITY A MODEL HOST

Addresses Made by President Chamber of Commerce...

Elizabeth City, N. C., Dec. 29.—The oyster convention met yesterday morning at ten o'clock in the court house in this city.

President Lamb of the Chamber of Commerce called the convention to order and N. F. Aydtlett made the address of welcome.

In his address Mr. Aydtlett took occasion to review the oyster laws of the state of North Carolina and their effect upon the industry.

Mr. Aydtlett extended a cordial welcome to the visiting oystermen to the city on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, the city officials and the people at large.

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The members of the press present were nominated as secretaries. A committee composed of three was appointed to select the various committees of the convention.

Mr. Ives declined and Hon. R. F. Aydtlett put in nomination Hon. T. J. Markham, the present member of the general assembly from Pasquotank county.

He spoke of the crude appliances used when he came to the state and the developments of these instruments.

He told of his struggles to establish a business in Beaufort and New Bern when there were very crude means of catching and boating oysters.

Mr. Ives said that a few years ago the industry began to attract the attention of the Northern oystermen and they came north with the proper appliances for working it.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The annual Christmas celebration at the First Baptist Sunday school, will take place tonight at the church at 7:30 o'clock.

Program for the evening: Opening Hymn, "Christmas," Scripture Reading and Prayer, Rev. R. E. Hoffman, Chorus, "Hail, Hail, Day of Days," "Christmas Story," Miss Ruth White, "Make Room for Christ," Master John Smith, "Shine Bethlehem Star," "If You Don't Believe in Santa Claus," Miss Beulah Rehm, "Little Christmas Candles," Misses Margaret Consens, Ruth White, Mollie Stova, Vera Edwards, Myrtle Draughon, Elizabeth Roberts, Chorus, "Christmas Candles," "The Bethlehem Stocking," Miss Edna Willis, "The Orphan," Misses Gladys Alligood, Ethel White, Mahal Pipkin, Fannie Wilson, and Beulah Rehm, Chorus, "Christmas Farewell," Benediction.

the benefit of the industry if he was not prevented by politics in which his inspectors were appointed by politicians regardless of fitness.

Louis Peuratsch, Sr., of Norfolk, appeared in the auditorium of the court room and was requested by the convention to address it, giving his experience in the business and in his opinion as to the needs of the industry.

The oyster convention adjourned at one o'clock for dinner, after President Lamb of the Chamber of Commerce had announced the Merchants Association will serve a banquet at night in the Masonic hall in Water street to the visiting oystermen.

During the afternoon session Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt will address the convention on the needs of legislation to protect the industry in North Carolina and the oyster commissioner of Virginia will speak on the industry in that state.

Will Await Completion of Residence

The family of Rev. R. H. Broom, the pastor of the First Methodist church will not move to this city until the new parsonage is ready for their occupancy.

The new parsonage here will probably be finished within the next four or five weeks if the weather is propitious.

Lunch Party

Messrs Tom and Beverly Bloom gave a delightful lunch party yesterday afternoon to Miss Ruth Davis of Atlanta, Miss Beulah Fisher of Norfolk, and Mr. A. P. Farmer of Baltimore.

Mrs. Chas. W. Thomas chaperoned the party.

Shad Make Appearance

Shad have made their appearance in this market.

Christmas Entertainment Tonight

The Sunday school of the Episcopal church will have their annual Christmas party at the armory hall this evening. A pleasant evening is looked for by every member of the school.

GUILTY MEN ESCAPE

A Pitched Battle Between Officers and Blacks

THE DEAD AND WOUNDED

Posses Was Hunting Blacks who Killed Yesterday and Ran a Party of Eleven Negroes in the Woods and Were Fired on — Two Negroes Are Dead.

Clarkdale, Miss. Dec. 29.—Two negroes are dead, three fatally wounded and many other seriously hurt today as the result of a pitched battle late last night in the Black Bayou district between bands of negroes and posse officers and citizens who were hunting the blacks who ambushed and killed W. W. Kirk and L. D. Keesee and wounded a Mr. Hodean.

Two of the wounded blacks were members of the band which fired on the posse and the third was "Nuba," a negro trusty who had charge of the bloodhounds used by the posse.

The searching party concluded that the assailants of Kirk and Keesee were headed southeast in the direction of Black Bayou and they began searching the woods for them with bloodhounds.

While so engaged they ran upon a party of eleven negroes on the Perkins & Jones plantation of Black Bayou who immediately opened fire on the searching party.

The general assembly of North Carolina do enact: Section 1. That Section 3224 of the Revised Statutes be amended to read as follows: If any person shall set fire to any grass land, brush land or any woods except it be his own property, or in that case without first giving notice in writing to all persons owning or in charge of lands adjoining to the wood land or other land intended to be fired, at least two days before the time of firing such lands, and also taking care to watch such fire while burning and taking effectual care to extinguish such fire before it shall reach any lands near to or adjoining the lands so fired, he shall for every such offence be guilty of a misdemeanor and be punishable by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, one-half to go to the person who brings the suit and one-half to the state treasurer to be used for forest protection, or by imprisonment for a term of not less than three months nor more than five years, or by both such fine and imprisonment. This shall not prevent action for damages sustained by the owner of any property.

AN EXTRA SESSION

The President May Call One the Talk

TO REVISE THE TARIFF

The Democrats Say It Is For the Purpose to Influence Public Opinion by the Republicans — The Democrats are on Their Guard — Extra Session.

Washington, Dec. 29.—That an extra session of congress to revise the tariff will be called by the president seems to be the general opinion among democratic representatives now in Washington. They believe that stand-pat republican leaders are quietly preparing to "steal their thunder" by a clever coup after March 4.

The democrats point to the fact that the appropriation bills are record-breaking speed and that the ways and means committee is willing to grant hearing on any schedule of the tariff.

They believe there will be four or six weeks at the close of this session in which congress will have practically nothing to do, except prepare for a revision of the tariff in extra session.

It is expected that those schedules against which public criticism has been most violent will be taken up first.

The democrats do not credit their opponents with any sincere desire to lower the present tariff rates, but say the proposed extra session will be merely a stratagem to influence public opinion.

Ever notice what poor carry other people take of their health.

Time to begin tapering off, do not hit the new year with a bump.

FOREST FIRES AND SUGGESTED LEGISLATION FOR PREVENTION

The Following is to be Submitted to the Next General Assembly to Protect the Farmers From Fire

One of the greatest evils that the state has to contend with in relation to forests is forest fires and, although there are certain fire laws in the state, they are not effective enough to prevent great losses each year by forest fires.

Effect of fires on the forests: Eastern Counties.—One of the worst effects of forest fires in eastern North Carolina has been the prevention of the long-leaf pine from reproducing itself. Large areas were once covered with this valuable tree and which should now be reproducing another growth of the same kind are instead covered with sand oak or black jack, which are practically valueless.

The loss to the people of this section from the burnings of these pine lands, taken in the aggregate, is enormous, as, but for the burnings, thousands of acres which are now denuded of all merchantable trees would either be covered with mature forests or with thick groves of young trees.

They have in many instances also destroyed the "bays" or swamps in which the white cedar or "juniper" tree grows, burning not merely all seed-bearing and young trees but the very soil as well, as it is usually peaty and contains a large proportion of woody matter. The hardwood timber in swamps has been less damaged, as the swamps only become dry enough to burn in the summer and fall, while the leaves are still green. Occasional fires, however, in exceptionally dry seasons do great damage.

In order to enable the state to more effectively control forest fires, the following legislation is suggested:

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact: Section 1. That Section 3224 of the Revised Statutes be amended to read as follows: If any person shall set fire to any grass land, brush land or any woods except it be his own property, or in that case without first giving notice in writing to all persons owning or in charge of lands adjoining to the wood land or other land intended to be fired, at least two days before the time of firing such lands, and also taking care to watch such fire while burning and taking effectual care to extinguish such fire before it shall reach any lands near to or adjoining the lands so fired, he shall for every such offence be guilty of a misdemeanor and be punishable by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, one-half to go to the person who brings the suit and one-half to the state treasurer to be used for forest protection, or by imprisonment for a term of not less than three months nor more than five years, or by both such fine and imprisonment. This shall not prevent action for damages sustained by the owner of any property.

Section 2. That Section 3225 of the Revised Statutes be amended to read as follows: Any wagoner, hunter, camper or other person who shall leave a camp fire without fully extinguishing it, or who shall permit any accidental fire from any torch, gun, match, or other origin to burn any grass or wood land without fully extinguishing it, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction, shall be punishable by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars, one-half to go to the person who brings the suit

and one-half to the state treasurer to be used for forest protection, or by imprisonment for a term of not less than three months nor more than five years, or by both such fine and imprisonment. This shall not prevent action for damages sustained by the owner of any property.

Section 3. That Section 3226 of the Revised Statutes be amended to read as follows: Any person who shall set fire to any grass land, brush land or any woods except it be his own property, or in that case without first giving notice in writing to all persons owning or in charge of lands adjoining to the wood land or other land intended to be fired, at least two days before the time of firing such lands, and also taking care to watch such fire while burning and taking effectual care to extinguish such fire before it shall reach any lands near to or adjoining the lands so fired, he shall for every such offence be guilty of a misdemeanor and be punishable by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, one-half to go to the person who brings the suit and one-half to the state treasurer to be used for forest protection, or by imprisonment for a term of not less than three months nor more than five years, or by both such fine and imprisonment. This shall not prevent action for damages sustained by the owner of any property.

Section 4. That Section 3227 of the Revised Statutes be amended to read as follows: Any person who shall set fire to any grass land, brush land or any woods except it be his own property, or in that case without first giving notice in writing to all persons owning or in charge of lands adjoining to the wood land or other land intended to be fired, at least two days before the time of firing such lands, and also taking care to watch such fire while burning and taking effectual care to extinguish such fire before it shall reach any lands near to or adjoining the lands so fired, he shall for every such offence be guilty of a misdemeanor and be punishable by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, one-half to go to the person who brings the suit and one-half to the state treasurer to be used for forest protection, or by imprisonment for a term of not less than three months nor more than five years, or by both such fine and imprisonment. This shall not prevent action for damages sustained by the owner of any property.

Section 5. That Section 3228 of the Revised Statutes be amended to read as follows: Any person who shall set fire to any grass land, brush land or any woods except it be his own property, or in that case without first giving notice in writing to all persons owning or in charge of lands adjoining to the wood land or other land intended to be fired, at least two days before the time of firing such lands, and also taking care to watch such fire while burning and taking effectual care to extinguish such fire before it shall reach any lands near to or adjoining the lands so fired, he shall for every such offence be guilty of a misdemeanor and be punishable by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, one-half to go to the person who brings the suit and one-half to the state treasurer to be used for forest protection, or by imprisonment for a term of not less than three months nor more than five years, or by both such fine and imprisonment. This shall not prevent action for damages sustained by the owner of any property.

Section 6. That Section 3229 of the Revised Statutes be amended to read as follows: Any person who shall set fire to any grass land, brush land or any woods except it be his own property, or in that case without first giving notice in writing to all persons owning or in charge of lands adjoining to the wood land or other land intended to be fired, at least two days before the time of firing such lands, and also taking care to watch such fire while burning and taking effectual care to extinguish such fire before it shall reach any lands near to or adjoining the lands so fired, he shall for every such offence be guilty of a misdemeanor and be punishable by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, one-half to go to the person who brings the suit and one-half to the state treasurer to be used for forest protection, or by imprisonment for a term of not less than three months nor more than five years, or by both such fine and imprisonment. This shall not prevent action for damages sustained by the owner of any property.

Section 7. That Section 3230 of the Revised Statutes be amended to read as follows: Any person who shall set fire to any grass land, brush land or any woods except it be his own property, or in that case without first giving notice in writing to all persons owning or in charge of lands adjoining to the wood land or other land intended to be fired, at least two days before the time of firing such lands, and also taking care to watch such fire while burning and taking effectual care to extinguish such fire before it shall reach any lands near to or adjoining the lands so fired, he shall for every such offence be guilty of a misdemeanor and be punishable by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, one-half to go to the person who brings the suit and one-half to the state treasurer to be used for forest protection, or by imprisonment for a term of not less than three months nor more than five years, or by both such fine and imprisonment. This shall not prevent action for damages sustained by the owner of any property.

Section 8. That Section 3231 of the Revised Statutes be amended to read as follows: Any person who shall set fire to any grass land, brush land or any woods except it be his own property, or in that case without first giving notice in writing to all persons owning or in charge of lands adjoining to the wood land or other land intended to be fired, at least two days before the time of firing such lands, and also taking care to watch such fire while burning and taking effectual care to extinguish such fire before it shall reach any lands near to or adjoining the lands so fired, he shall for every such offence be guilty of a misdemeanor and be punishable by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, one-half to go to the person who brings the suit and one-half to the state treasurer to be used for forest protection, or by imprisonment for a term of not less than three months nor more than five years, or by both such fine and imprisonment. This shall not prevent action for damages sustained by the owner of any property.

Section 9. That Section 3232 of the Revised Statutes be amended to read as follows: Any person who shall set fire to any grass land, brush land or any woods except it be his own property, or in that case without first giving notice in writing to all persons owning or in charge of lands adjoining to the wood land or other land intended to be fired, at least two days before the time of firing such lands, and also taking care to watch such fire while burning and taking effectual care to extinguish such fire before it shall reach any lands near to or adjoining the lands so fired, he shall for every such offence be guilty of a misdemeanor and be punishable by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, one-half to go to the person who brings the suit and one-half to the state treasurer to be used for forest protection, or by imprisonment for a term of not less than three months nor more than five years, or by both such fine and imprisonment. This shall not prevent action for damages sustained by the owner of any property.

Section 10. That Section 3233 of the Revised Statutes be amended to read as follows: Any person who shall set fire to any grass land, brush land or any woods except it be his own property, or in that case without first giving notice in writing to all persons owning or in charge of lands adjoining to the wood land or other land intended to be fired, at least two days before the time of firing such lands, and also taking care to watch such fire while burning and taking effectual care to extinguish such fire before it shall reach any lands near to or adjoining the lands so fired, he shall for every such offence be guilty of a misdemeanor and be punishable by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, one-half to go to the person who brings the suit and one-half to the state treasurer to be used for forest protection, or by imprisonment for a term of not less than three months nor more than five years, or by both such fine and imprisonment. This shall not prevent action for damages sustained by the owner of any property.

Section 11. That Section 3234 of the Revised Statutes be amended to read as follows: Any person who shall set fire to any grass land, brush land or any woods except it be his own property, or in that case without first giving notice in writing to all persons owning or in charge of lands adjoining to the wood land or other land intended to be fired, at least two days before the time of firing such lands, and also taking care to watch such fire while burning and taking effectual care to extinguish such fire before it shall reach any lands near to or adjoining the lands so fired, he shall for every such offence be guilty of a misdemeanor and be punishable by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, one-half to go to the person who brings the suit and one-half to the state treasurer to be used for forest protection, or by imprisonment for a term of not less than three months nor more than five years, or by both such fine and imprisonment. This shall not prevent action for damages sustained by the owner of any property.

Section 12. That Section 3235 of the Revised Statutes be amended to read as follows: Any person who shall set fire to any grass land, brush land or any woods except it be his own property, or in that case without first giving notice in writing to all persons owning or in charge of lands adjoining to the wood land or other land intended to be fired, at least two days before the time of firing such lands, and also taking care to watch such fire while burning and taking effectual care to extinguish such fire before it shall reach any lands near to or adjoining the lands so fired, he shall for every such offence be guilty of a misdemeanor and be punishable by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, one-half to go to the person who brings the suit and one-half to the state treasurer to be used for forest protection, or by imprisonment for a term of not less than three months nor more than five years, or by both such fine and imprisonment. This shall not prevent action for damages sustained by the owner of any property.

Section 13. That Section 3236 of the Revised Statutes be amended to read as follows: Any person who shall set fire to any grass land, brush land or any woods except it be his own property, or in that case without first giving notice in writing to all persons owning or in charge of lands adjoining to the wood land or other land intended to be fired, at least two days before the time of firing such lands, and also taking care to watch such fire while burning and taking effectual care to extinguish such fire before it shall reach any lands near to or adjoining the lands so fired, he shall for every such offence be guilty of a misdemeanor and be punishable by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, one-half to go to the person who brings the suit and one-half to the state treasurer to be used for forest protection, or by imprisonment for a term of not less than three months nor more than five years, or by both such fine and imprisonment. This shall not prevent action for damages sustained by the owner of any property.

Section 14. That Section 3237 of the Revised Statutes be amended to read as follows: Any person who shall set fire to any grass land, brush land or any woods except it be his own property, or in that case without first giving notice in writing to all persons owning or in charge of lands adjoining to the wood land or other land intended to be fired, at least two days before the time of firing such lands, and also taking care to watch such fire while burning and taking effectual care to extinguish such fire before it shall reach any lands near to or adjoining the lands so fired, he shall for every such offence be guilty of a misdemeanor and be punishable by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, one-half to go to the person who brings the suit and one-half to the state treasurer to be used for forest protection, or by imprisonment for a term of not less than three months nor more than five years, or by both such fine and imprisonment. This shall not prevent action for damages sustained by the owner of any property.

Section 15. That Section 3238 of the Revised Statutes be amended to read as follows: Any person who shall set fire to any grass land, brush land or any woods except it be his own property, or in that case without first giving notice in writing to all persons owning or in charge of lands adjoining to the wood land or other land intended to be fired, at least two days before the time of firing such lands, and also taking care to watch such fire while burning and taking effectual care to extinguish such fire before it shall reach any lands near to or adjoining the lands so fired, he shall for every such offence be guilty of a misdemeanor and be punishable by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, one-half to go to the person who brings the suit and one-half to the state treasurer to be used for forest protection, or by imprisonment for a term of not less than three months nor more than five years, or by both such fine and imprisonment. This shall not prevent action for damages sustained by the owner of any property.

DEATH BY STARVATION

Sandusky, C., Dec. 28.—Cloth-

in rags and living in wretched hovels destitute of food and fuel between 40 and 50 families including nearly two hundred young children are reported to be in danger of actual death from starvation in the stone quarry district near here. They are the wives and children of quarry men who have been out of work for months.

The Rev. Wm. Kerzo and the Rev. P. K. Wagner, pastors of the Catholic churches at Marblehead and Kelly's Island arrived here this afternoon with an appeal for aid.

They declared that help was not forthcoming the families of the quarry men must die. The clergymen told terrible stories of women and children tramping barefooted over snow and ice in search of food.

The Salvation Army is arranging to dispatch wagon loads of supplies tomorrow.

Is Improving All the While

The many friends of Captain Geo. G. Howard, who met with the misfortune some weeks back to fall from his vessel, dislocating his hip and now at the home of his son, ex-Chief of Police, George N. Howard, is getting along as well as could be expected for a man of his age.

Where the plant is to be located is not yet been ascertained.

Mr. Samuel Laughinghouse the engineer on the passenger train of the Washington and Yandemore is taking several days vacation.

Cotton Market.

Cotton seed, per ton, \$0.00
Lint Cotton, 14.50.
Seed cotton, 5.60.

Returned Last Night.

The party that left here yesterday afternoon on the Norfolk Southern train to attend the german in Greenville last night returned home on the early morning train.

Accepts Position.

Mr. Howard Bowen has accepted a position with Mr. A. W. Thomas as salesman.

FIRST BLOW STRUCK

Fighting Has Begun in Honduras the Report

HOSTILE TO AMERICANS

Three Republics May Become Involved—Attack Made on Honduran Capital Yesterday — Christmas and Bonilla Leadings the Rebels, Hostile to Americans.

New Orleans, La., Dec. 29.—The first blow of a revolution that may involve three Central American republics has been struck in Honduras, according to private cablegrams received today.

An attack is reported to have been made upon Tegucigalpa, the capital, and many are reported to have been killed in the fighting between President Davilla's soldiers and the revolutionists.

The other two republics which may become involved are Nicaragua and Guatemala, the former because the larger part of the revolutionary army was marshalled upon its territory and the latter because the government is accused by Davilla of allowing overtures for a port of

PLANT SHATTERED

And Thirteen Men Blown Up in Explosion.

EIGHTEEN ARE INJURED

Pittsfield, Mass., Dec. 29.—Fourteen men were killed and a score injured by the explosion of a boiler in the Morewood Lake Ice Company's plant, one and one-half miles outside of this city today.

The known dead are: William Dunn, engineer. Edgar Allen, fireman. John Raymond, employe. Martin Smith, employe. Leo Damants, employe. Eight unidentified bodies at scene of explosion.

One unidentified body in House of Mercy Hospital.

Owing to the fact that the company had just started to harvest ice this morning the names of its employees had not been placed upon the books and the work of identifying the dead could not be completed until friends or relatives had reached the scene.

Practically the entire left wing of the immense ice plant was demolished. It was here that the boiler exploded.

All of the injured were rushed to the House of Mercy Hospital in this city in wagons and automobiles. At the hospital it was stated that probably ten of the injured would die.

The explosion occurred shortly before 10 o'clock.

Two hundred men had gathered to work chopping and storing ice for the company.

Engineer Dunn was getting up steam in the big 40 horse-power boiler and practically all of the men were in the engineroom getting warm, for the weather outside was very chilly.

Many of them were close to the boiler. Dunn had just ceased stoking the fire when, without warning, the boiler burst.

The engineroom—a big barn-like building, 30x40 feet in size, was lifted skyward and with it the boiler.

The soared upward like a rocket and the building fell asunder and dropped with a deafening crash. Those who saw the disaster said the building spread out like a huge fan.

Many of the dead were mangled almost beyond recognition and every one had arms or legs missing.

Probably 30 were injured, although some of them were able to walk to their homes.

The entire police and fire departments and every doctor in Pittsfield hastened to the scene of the disaster.

All the ambulances were driven at (Continued on Fourth Page.)

Specials From Now to Jan. 1st Ladies Suits at Actual Cost All Furs at Actual Cost If you appreciate a bargain, now is your time. Our Fur and Coat Suits must go between now and the above date. BOWERS--LEWIS CO., Watch Tomorrow's Ad Biggest, Best, Biggest Store.

STOP! You'll find this week's bill an exceedingly attractive and pleasing one—the best subjects. Don't figure on a dull evening tonight—drop in and see the show. PALA OF THE RANGES—Emmy. THE FOREMAN—Bill. THROUGH THE CLOUDS—Emmy.

Bath Robes Nothing affords more comfort than one of these Yet they are inexpensive. Price \$3.00 and \$5.00. James E. Clark Co. THE HIGH-ART CLOTHIERS

J. K. HOYT, Washington's Greatest Store Great Big Reductions on all Ready Made Suits Cloaks and Skirts T WILL PAY YOU TO LOOK