

NORTH STATE NEWS NOTES

Items of State Interest Gathered from Here and There and Told Briefly for Busy Readers.

THE WEATHER BUREAU AND ITS LATEST CRITIC.

Raleigh, Special.—The work that is being done by the U. S. Weather Bureau is perhaps better known to the majority of citizens than that of any other Bureau of the Government, and it hardly seems necessary to defend it from such attacks as for instance that which appeared in Everybody's Magazine for May. This attack was written by Mr. Emerson Hough, who makes specific charges, and these charges will be reviewed and answered in order.

First, he charges that the Weather Bureau is unduly expensive, but does not explain that the appropriation for this service is examined critically, item by item by a committee of Congress, and that this committee voluntarily increased the appropriation asked for by \$153,200.00, and that last year more than \$500,000.00 was returned to the U. S. Treasury. The Honorable Jas. B. Mann said that this service is the most economically administered service, with the work that has been done, in the Government service anywhere.

Second, that it does not progress. It would seem that progress is being made from the fact that representatives of weather organizations of Europe have visited this country for the express purpose of studying methods and forecasting under the Chief of the U. S. Weather Bureau. Researches of great value to the science of meteorology are being carried on by this Bureau, and the world's record for the greatest height reached by a kite carrying a meteorological instrument was attained by this Bureau at Mt. Weather, Va., the research observatory.

Third, that it is excessively explanatory. This is rather a virtue than a fault. The Weather Bureau has nothing that it wishes to keep secret. Its methods and results, however, must be made known, or the public would not have that sympathetic relation with this Bureau that it now holds.

Fourth, that the service is general and not specific. A knowledge of the problems involved in giving a specific forecast in regard to exact time and locality would at once dispel the charge that the service is too general. Forecasts are made as specific as the knowledge of the conditions will warrant.

Fifth, that it is evasive and intentionally ambiguous. The forecasts are formulated with great care, and cannot have not in any sense a Delphic interpretation. They are made to cover a definite period and all forecasts are carefully examined to ascertain the percentage of accuracy which varies from 80 to 85 per cent.

Sixth, that it affords no well-founded hope of improvement in local forecasting. On the contrary every inducement is made to officials in the Weather Bureau to excel in local forecasting, and the practical test of merit of all experiments and all theoretical work is the measure of how much it will improve the forecasting of the weather.

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WILL ERECT MONUMENT TO SAILORS WHO WENT DOWN WITH HER

Admiral Who Was in Command of the Ill-Fated Battleship at the Time of Its Destruction Delivers Illustrated Lecture for the Benefit of the Maine Memorial Association.

Washington, Special.—For the benefit of the recently organized Maine Memorial Association, whose purpose is to erect in the national capital a suitable monument to the American sailors who met their death in the sinking of the battleship Maine in Havana harbor on February 15, 1898, Rear Admiral Charles D. Sigbee, who was in command of the fated vessel at the time of her destruction, Saturday gave by request an illustrated lecture here before a large audience, describing the disaster.

"In many ways it is made obvious that public sentiment regarding the Maine has continued beyond ordinary bounds," said Admiral Sigbee. "Many disasters have occurred before and since, yet none in recent times has held public interest like that of the Maine. Her destruction was a turning point in our own history and in the history of the Spain—a turning point for the better in both cases, let us hope.

The mission of the Maine was entirely friendly," he explained. "It had no further import than to reassure our citizens in Cuba and to protect them and give them assistance in case of necessity."

Admiral Sigbee narrated in detail the events succeeding the Maine's departure from Key West for Havana on January 25, 1898. Arriving at Havana, the Maine was taken by the pilot to one of the bays commonly reserved for war vessels. "It was widely supposed in the United States that the Maine was afterward shifted by the Spanish authorities to another bay, but this was an error," he said. He also denied that the Maine entered Havana harbor militantly.

Continuing, Admiral Sigbee said it was important that he should know that state of popular feeling in Havana regarding the Maine and apparently the best way to learn this was to attend a bull fight. "I have been made anxious for this by certain pious people. Bull fights were given only on Sunday but my object was not pleasure. It has been decided that my ship's company was doomed because of attendance at the bull fight on Sunday, yet none who went to the bull fight were injured in the loss of the Maine."

Admiral Sigbee graphically described the scene on the Maine on the night of the explosion. To bear out the contention of the court of inquiry that the Maine was sunk by a submarine mine, he called attention to the parallel in the destruction by the torpedo in the destruction by the Russo-Japanese war.

Regarding the policy of raising the Maine I have nothing to say," he said. "It might be better to ask 'why is not the Maine removed?'" He predicted that she probably would be blown up in detail as the only practical solution of the problem.

THE NEWS IN BRIEF

Items of Interest Gathered by Wire and Cable

GLEANINGS FROM DAY TO DAY

Live Items Covering Events of More or Less Interest at Home and Abroad.

President Taft will receive a salute of 21 guns when he arrives at Petersburg on the 19th.

Marie Fron, 20 years old, danced herself to death Tuesday night at Chicago.

Fourteen Night Riders were convicted Tuesday at Waverly, Tenn., of whipping J. M. Reese last October and were fined \$500 each and jailed for ten days.

President Taft continues to follow his avowed policy of selecting those he considers to be the best men to fill important Federal offices, irrespective of their political faith, in sending to the Senate the nomination of Henry Groves Connor, a Democrat, to be United States Judge for the eastern district of North Carolina.

After several hours spent in the Senate Wednesday in discussing the window glass schedule of the tariff bill, Senator Aldrich asked that that paragraph be passed over. Some other sections relating to glass manufactured articles, that previously had been passed over, were agreed to. The Senate proceeded to the consideration of passed over sections until the iron ore paragraph was reached, when Senator Crawford spoke at length upon the lack of wisdom of any tariff that encouraged the exhaustion of natural resources, which could not readily be reproduced. He insisted that there should be no tariff on iron ore, oil, lumber and coal.

Early in the session, Senator Paynter spoke at length in favor of the removal of the duty of six cents a pound upon leaf tobacco as a means for freeing the tobacco growers from the control of the tobacco trust.

Senator Simmons offered an amendment to the window glass schedule of the tariff bill, reducing the rates below those suggested by Senator Cummins in his amendment to the same paragraph Tuesday.

"The rates proposed by you are the rates of the Wilson bill, are they not?" inquired Mr. Aldrich, addressing the Senator from North Carolina.

"Well," replied Mr. Simmons, smiling and hesitating, "that should not be an argument against them. I think if that is the case it would rather be a commendation."

Substantial progress was made in the consideration of the tariff Tuesday, the amendments of the committee on finance being upheld by the Senate by substantial majorities.

A feature of the day's session was a general discussion concerning the great disparity between wholesale and retail prices of commodities. Republican Senators declared that this difference was so great as to demonstrate that the duty levied by a protective tariff had small effect on the price paid by the consumer.

This feature of the discussion was precipitated by Senator Scott, himself a glass manufacturer.

The schedule covering the products of lead was passed over on the suggestion of Senator Aldrich because, he said, the finance committee desires to make some changes in the duties as previously recommended.

On motion of Mr. Aldrich the section relating to soap was amended so as to place a duty of 50 per cent ad valorem on perfumed soap.

The House provision on sulphur was further amended so as to place crude sulphur on the free list and to provide for a duty of 44 cent on refined sulphur.

Speaking in favor of a reduction of the duties on stone and earthenware as a means of giving the people generally cheaper goods of that kind, Mr. Bacon offered an amendment reducing the rate from 60 to 35 per cent ad valorem.

Mr. Bacon's amendment was defeated by a vote of 25 to 54. Senator LaFollette being the only Republican who voted in the affirmative with the Democrats.

Almost the entire session of the Senate Friday was given up to a debate on the profits of the United States Steel Corporation and toward the end of the day, personalities were freely indulged in by Senators. This occurred after Senator Root had spoken in defense of the finance committee and in criticism of Senators who had complained of the failure of that committee to provide more ample information concerning various schedules. Mr. Money resented what he characterized as a lecture to the Senate, by Senator Root, and said if he desired less speaking in the body "he should do less of it himself."

Mr. Simmons Wednesday, discussing the tariff addressed the Senate at some length upon the window glass industry to determine that the glass manufacturers would prosper with duties much below those provided in the pending measure.

Mr. Simmons contended that the rates of the glass schedule are too high and afford much more protection than the American manufacturers need.

WASHINGTON NOTES

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2 JAIL SENTENCES IMPOSED

Motion of the Five Men Convicted of Violating the Sherman Anti-Trust Law, for an Arrest of Judgment Refused—Shotton and Myers Sentenced to Jail.

Savannah, Ga., Special.—The hotly contested suit against what is known as the Terpetine Trust ended last Saturday night by finding certain heads of the combined interests guilty of violating the Sherman anti-trust law.

A Savannah dispatch of Friday says:

Overruling the motion in arrest of judgment, offered by the defense, Judge William Sheppard Friday afternoon, sentenced the five men found guilty of violating the Sherman anti-trust law, and for the first time, so far as is known, jail sentences, in two cases, were imposed.

The sentences follow:

Spencer P. Shotton, chairman of the directors of the American Naval Stores Company, three months in jail and a fine of \$5,000.

Edmund S. Nash, president of the company, \$3,000 fine.

J. F. Cooper Myers, vice president of the American company and president of the National Transportation and Terminal Company, three months in jail and a fine of \$2,500.

George Mead Boardman, of New York, treasurer of the American Naval Stores Company, \$2,000 fine.

Carl Moller, of Jacksonville, Fla., agent of the American and general manager of the National Transportation and Terminal Company in Jacksonville, \$5,000 fine.

Mr. Shotton and Mr. Myers were sentenced to terms in the Chatham county jail, Judge Sheppard imposing the punishment upon them, because they had been before the court two years ago, entering pleas of guilty. At that time Judge Emory Speer, who was presiding, stated that a term in prison would be imposed, if they should come before the court again. Mr. Nash was excused on the former occasion, when the grand jury returned a "no bill" against him, as he was a witness before the grand jury.

Mr. Moller's sentence was made heavy because of his connection with the terminal yards in Jacksonville, where re-grading and re-gauging were alleged to have taken place.

The case will be appealed to the United States Court of Appeals, just as soon as the bill of exceptions can be prepared, and certified to by the court. In the meantime, a motion for a new trial will not be made before Judge Sheppard. A writ of error citing fifty-three grounds were filed by the defense immediately after sentence was passed. Counsel attacked nearly everything the court permitted to come before the jury, to which the defense entered protest. It begins with the court's failure to sustain the demurrer to the indictment and ends with an exception to the jury's verdict.

Bond in the sum of \$20,000 was given for all the defendants jointly and they were discharged, pending the determination of their appeal. The costs they must pay, if the conviction and sentences stand, will, it is said, reach \$17,000, which will, in the event the sentences stand, be apportioned among the five convicted men. The defendants were sentenced separately. Judge Sheppard made no long address, but merely gave them an opportunity to say why sentence should not be pronounced, a privilege of which they took but small advantage, and then passed the sentences. Mr. Shotton was the last to be sentenced. Judge Sheppard made his longest speech then, probably a hundred words.

THE DAVIS BROTHERS CHARGED WITH MUCH WRONG

Washington, Special.—John C. Davis and his brother, Martin T. Davis, whose alleged questionable dealings in high finance came to an abrupt close last week with a deluge of complaints from residents of this city, Alexandria, Va., and other cities were indicted by the grand jury here Thursday. The indictments charge embezzlement and misappropriation of vast sums of money, forgery and the uttering of the forged papers and false pretenses.

Five true bills, charging embezzlement and two charging forgery and utterance, were returned against John C. Davis. Embezzlement from the Potomac Building and Loan Association, of which he was secretary and treasurer, and forgery are alleged against Martin T. Davis. In addition to these, joint indictments charge the brothers with forgery and false pretenses.

The embezzlement charges so far acted on by the grand jury against John C. Davis aggregate \$52,000. Assistant United States Attorney Proctor says the total claims brought to his attention aggregate \$150,000. In addition he knows of a case where \$25,000 was secured from a person, who has not made complaint up to this time. Other claimants, it is expected, desiring to avoid publicity, have not made complaint.

Including these claims, United States Attorney Baker estimated at \$150,000, the total amount secured by John Davis from investors.

Mr. Baker Thursday made a statement exonerating Thomas A. Owen, who was arrested on a charge of conspiracy with the Davis brothers, and released on \$1,000 bond last Saturday.

SERIES OF TORNADOES SWEEP THE SOUTH

Kansas City, Mo., Special.—A series of tornadoes in Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma late Friday killed a dozen persons, injured about 100, devastated Hollis, Kan., wrecked a train and did great damage to property. Twenty-five were injured in suburbs of Kansas City.

At Hollis three men were killed and ten seriously injured. The Ekstrom family of five persons is missing and may be dead in the ruins of the home.

Near Great Bend, a tornado killed two and injured 20. All wires are down in that vicinity and it is feared that the death list may be greater.

William Ackerly, a Sante Fe engineer, was killed while working with a bridge gang between Great Bend and Kinsley. Frank Nicholson, a conductor, was also killed.

The storm spread over a wide farming area and laid waste many farm houses and barns. An estimate of the rural casualties could not be obtained.

At Holsington, Kas., a tornado injured a number of persons and greatly damaged farm property.

At Pond Creek, Okla., a severe wind storm injured four persons and unroofed several houses.

Many washouts interrupted traffic. Electrical disturbances crippled telegraphically and telephone wires.

KILLED WHILE TRYING TO SHOOT ANOTHER

Roanoke, Va., Special.—William Bailey and R. M. Young, two young men of prominent families of Lee county, this State, shot and killed each other while trying to kill another man Thursday night at a school entertainment at Dryden. Young was slightly wounded. Pandemonium reigned in the hall where the entertainment was held.

STRICT PARTY LINES ARE BROKEN ON THE TARIFF

Washington, Special.—After a day devoted to discussing the duty on iron ore, the Senate, just before adjournment Thursday adopted by a vote of 61 to 24, the recommendation of the committee on finance for a duty of 25 cents per ton on iron ore. The House had placed that article on the free list while the present law levies a duty on it of 40 cents per ton. In this vote party lines were annihilated, as seventeen Democrats voted "aye" with the Republicans and twelve Republicans voted "no" with the Democrats. During the day Senator Bailey, in announcing that he proposed to vote for the duty on iron ore as a revenue measure, declared that such action did not affect the prosperity of the United States Steel Corporation, and added that even if it did there was a better way to deal with that organization, which was an enforcement of the anti-trust law against it. He declared that he expected to see this law enforced and he expressed confidence that eventually the officers of the steel corporation would either be in the penitentiary or fugitives from justice.

NATIONAL MOVEMENT FOR BETTER ROADS

Richmond, Va., Special.—The International League for Highway Improvement began its convention here Friday. Mayor Richardson made the welcoming address and Governor Swanson, Secretary of Agriculture Wilson and a number of other prominent men made addresses.

Delegates from all over the country were present. President John A. Stewart, of New York, stated that the object of the organization was to arouse the country to press upon Congress the necessity for establishing a national plan of good roads and carrying it out with liberal appropriations. A letter from President Taft was read expressing hearty approval of the object of the convention.

Final draft of a bill to be presented to Congress for approval, providing for an appropriation of \$1,000,000 for a survey of a system of national roadways.