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J. J. MINER, Mgr. BREVARD, TRANSYLVANIA CO., N. C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1908. VOL. XIII. NO. 52.

NORTH STATE HAPPENINGS

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

Building and Loan Associations.

Raleigh, Special.—The report of Commissioner Young on building and loan associations was made public last week. It is for the year up to the first of last April. He says that these associations have increased very rapidly and that the rapid increase in number, as well as in the volume of business, speaks well for the industrial progress of North Carolina. Under the act of 1905 the idea seems to have been to put as few burdens and restrictions on these associations as possible, only doing what is necessary for protection of shareholders. He says that for associations to succeed, they must be run in a public-spirited way and not solely for the enrichment of a few individuals. He pays a very high compliment to Mr. S. Wittkowsky, who has built up an association at Charlotte which has almost a million dollars of business. Commissioner Young says there is no reason why the principle upon which these associations are conducted should not be applied to help country people in buying and owning their farms, and he believes this would greatly benefit the farmers of the State, who would do well to organize themselves for this purpose; and he would be glad to give any aid in his power for such a movement. In Europe, land associations or banks of this character are found in great numbers. Here in North Carolina they could be organized and operated on the same principle as building and loan associations, and be known as land and loan associations. The report shows 85 associations with loans amounting to \$1,663,875.

Shenwell Fails to Answer.

Greensboro, Special.—The case against Mr. Baxter Shenwell, of Lexington, charged with carrying concealed weapons and with an assault on Conductor Smithers, of Southern Railway train No. 37, at Lexington a few months ago, will not be tried during the present term of court, on account of the absence of the defendant, who is said to be in Hot Springs, Ark., receiving treatment for rheumatism. Mr. Shenwell was "called out" in court and his appearance bond of \$1,000 declared forfeited. The bond was signed by the defendant and his son, Mr. Dermott Shenwell.

Sixty Additions to Durham Chain-gang.

Durham, Special.—The recruits to the county chain-gang by reason of the recent court were 60, 53 men and 2 women. The sentences range in length from 40 days for retailing to 5 years for horse theft, and from 12 months for selling whiskey to 6 months for double shooting and attempt at murder, with a woman as one of those shot; from a sentence of 60 days on the road for retailing, to a fine of \$300 on the man who operated the colossal blind tiger through ignorant negroes and worse white men. Judge Jones gave general satisfaction in his court here. These sentences are far nearer justice than we generally get.

North State Brevities.

Elkin Times says new quarters are being built for the convict force at work on the Elkin and Alleghany Railroad. The new camp is near the Penning Gap road and about eight miles from Elkin. From this point the roadbed will be completed to the foot of the Blue Ridge, leaving only about three miles on the Elkin end of the road to be graded. At the rate of progress that has been made up to this time the entire line to the foot of the mountains should be completed by the spring of 1910.

Many farmers in the Piedmont section do not think peanuts can be successfully grown anywhere except in the eastern part of the State, but Mr. Sidney Weaver, of Arcadia township, Davidson county, has demonstrated to his neighbors that raising peanuts beats cotton. This year he had in two and one-half acres of peanuts and made 105 bushels for which he received \$105. He had two acres in cotton and it brought him \$40.

Mrs. A. L. Smoot of Salisbury, did the heroic deed, on the 14th, of snatching her umbrella from a negro hall thief and, after failing to affect his arrest, fired at him twice with a pistol with which she armed herself when she discovered the culprit.

Farmers in the northern part of Davidson county are very much alarmed over a peculiar disease which has killed several horses. An animal which eats well and appears to be healthy will suddenly die, there being not the slightest symptom of disease up to the very short time before the death of the horse.

Mrs. Taft at Spray.

Spray, Special.—There was a meeting here of the woman's section of the welfare department of the National Civic Federation. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. William T. Harris, of Danville, Va. Mrs. William H. Taft is honorary president of this department of the federation and she was the guest of honor of the occasion. In the course of her remarks Mrs. Taft said: "The opportunity of women to influence the economic well-being of the world's workers is greater perhaps than they realize. They are stockholders, and too often the silent partners in many large industrial enterprises. In one of the great railroads alone, it is stated that 28,000 stockholders practically one half are women, their holdings amounting to 148 million dollars. Besides those who hold stock in their own names there are many others who through family relationship are financially interested in, or dependent upon, industrial agencies, mills, railroads, stores and mines. Some of them are actively concerned for the well-being of the workers in the enterprises from which their incomes are drawn. Some are members of our department and we feel sure that many others will join in our efforts when they realize the opportunities which they have at hand.

"The country has grown so rapidly in population and developed so enormously in a short time that its public institutions often have helplessly fallen behind the best institutions. In the State and municipal institutions, such as asylums and hospitals, and in the police and fire departments of our cities, much remains to be done before the employes of the public can be said to be respectfully, not to say comfortably, cared for, and when we think what interests are confided to them, it seems superfluous to insist and argue that they should be well-housed, furnished with proper food and given opportunities daily not only for rest, but recreation and exercise.

"That women have a real and legitimate interest in these matters is apparent when we stop to think how much of the world's work is done for women and the home. Women's interests are almost commensurate with the whole field of industry. The employes of railways and of mine, the stationary firemen and engineers who work in ill-ventilated basements and sub-basements, the coal passers who toil in all sorts of narrow and crowded quarters, hotel employes, bakers and the throngs of mill hands in the textile industry, the teamsters of great cities—all these and many others are engaged in work in whose ultimate results woman has a personal interest."

Innocent Man Suffers.

In 1898 Jesse Talar was instantly killed near Red Springs, Robeson county, while peacefully entering the home of Thomas White, whose sick wife, Mrs. Talar, was nursing. Another tenant was at the time present, named A. B. Norton. The circumstances were such that White and Norton each charged that the other man was guilty. With no chance to prove himself innocent, Norton, through his lawyers, submitted to a verdict of second degree murder and both men were sent to the penitentiary for 30 years. White died recently at the Northampton State farm, but before he died made full confession that he had killed Talar and wished Norton to be sent home to his family. Two affidavits, including White's last physician, Dr. H. B. Ferguson, are offered to prove Norton's innocence. He has served ten years.

"To Hell For a Purpose."

Henry Harvey, the murderer of Hugh Price, another negro, was hanged at Rockingham on the 17th. He was immensely cool and indifferent. When spiritual advisors applied to him he declined the service and said he wanted to go to hell for a purpose. He did not state the purpose.

The Killing Accidental.

In the Superior Court the jury returned a verdict of not guilty in the case charging William D. McAdoo with the murder of Ed Alred, a companion on a hunting trip in the eastern part of the county last January. The jury rendered the verdict after deliberating 30 minutes. The public generally accepts the verdict as a righteous one. It establishes the contention of the defendant, who went on the witness stand in his own behalf, that the killing was an accident. The State asked for a verdict of murder in the second degree.

THE BAPTIST CONVENTION

Secondary Schools to be the Salvation of Denominational Education.

The Baptist State Convention which met at Wilson has closed a very busy and vigorous session. One of the most interesting features was the consideration of Christian education. The plan recommended by committee and advocated by Mr. J. W. Bailey was adopted by the convention. It is to co-operate with the State in its system of education but to select in twelve of fifteen counties suitable locations for secondary schools in which the management will be largely of the Baptist denomination.

The secretary of missions, the secretary of Sunday Schools, the secretary of mountain schools and the editor of The Recorder were appointed as an executive committee of this new board, and each school is to name its representative on the board of secondary schools.

President Carlyle announced the following committees to report next year:

Laymen work—J. L. White, F. D. Hale, J. H. Highsmith, T. S. Franklin, R. B. Horne.

Systematic Giving—L. Johnson, G. T. Lumpkin, J. A. Campbell, B. W. Spillman, Walter Durham.

Baptist Young People's Union Assembly—J. T. Watts, C. E. Maddry, M. A. Woods, M. A. Adams, W. C. Barrett.

Pastor's Conference—J. T. Taylor, J. W. Wildman, S. L. Morgan, J. R. Doan, W. H. Reddick.

The president appointed the following to write reports next year:

Foreign missions, A. J. Monerief; home missions, H. W. Battle; orphanage, J. W. Lynch; Sunday schools, J. W. Bailey; obituaries, T. T. Speight; State missions, C. L. Greave; correspondence course, W. C. Tyree, L. Johnson, H. C. Moore, B. W. Spillman, W. R. Cullom; establishment of home for aged ministers, W. C. Barrett, W. C. Tyree, M. L. Kesler, J. J. Hall, C. E. Brewer; aged ministers' relief board, J. F. McDuffie, W. C. Barrett, H. A. Foushee, J. W. Downey, C. W. Triplett, R. H. Riggsbee, A. L. Phipps, W. J. Brogden, J. M. Arnett.

INTERESTING REPORT.

Facts and Figures About the State Hospitals—Death Rate Larger Than Usual.

Raleigh, Special.—Mr. B. C. Beckwith, of the State board of internal improvements, has completed the inspection of all the State-aided institutions and will now prepare his report to the Governor. He says that in general they are in fine shape and that at some there are notable improvements, particularly the Central Hospital for the Insane at Raleigh. He greatly admires the new building for nurses at the hospital at Morganton, and says it is one of the most attractive in the State, well lighted and convenient in every way, and when it is occupied there will be room in the other building for about a hundred patients. The institutions generally are in fine shape as to improvements, conveniences, and comforts, and there have been no hitches during the year and no trouble anywhere.

The report of Superintendent James McKee, of the State Hospital for the Insane here, for the past two years, shows that the per capita cost with the daily average of 569 patients, was \$167.25 on the money appropriated by the State. There are eleven pay patients kept at private expense. During the period there has been no contagious or infectious diseases, but the death rate was higher than ever before.

There have been few escapes and most of these have been returned. There have been no homicides or suicides. The annual expenditures for maintenance were \$95,900; the capacity of the hospital when the appropriation was asked for was 537. The Hospital Commission ordered the erection of an annex to the male department which has been completed at a cost of \$64,000, is admirably built, well heated and well ventilated. Contracts have been awarded for colony buildings, etc., and ground has been broken at two of these, one to accommodate eighty female patients, where the best patients will be quartered, so they can recover more rapidly. There is asked for an appropriation of \$118,150 for each of the years of 1909-10, on a basis of 695 patients, and other appropriations amounting to \$3,000 for water, a like sum for lights annually and \$5,500 for necessary improvements.

It is greatly desired that the main building or old building, should be electrically wired, the old wiring having been condemned as unsafe.

PHILIPPINE AFFAIRS

The Conditions On the Islands Entirely Satisfactory

REPORT OF BRIG. GEN. EDWARDS

Progress of Peace and Order Announced in the Report of the Bureau of Insular Affairs—General Edwards Commends the Work of the Philippine Scouts.

Washington, Special.—The work of the Philippine scouts is highly commended, the bill to amend the Philippine tariff act now pending in the Senate is endorsed, encouraging progress in the Philippines and the maintenance of peace and order in Cuba throughout the year are announced in the annual report of Brig. General Clarence R. Edwards, chief of the bureau of insular affairs, which was made public last Sunday night. General Edwards says the Philippine scouts are an important factor in the education of the Filipino people and in the creation of a higher standard of living in the islands as well as in the extension of American influence. The report recounts the settlement of Catholic Church claims, and refers to the bill which passed the House at the last session, but was still pending in the Senate before committee when Congress adjourned, to provide free entry into the United States of Philippine products, with certain exceptions, and free entry of United States products into the Philippine islands and free trade between the United States and the Philippines without exceptions after April, 1909. The report says the friends of the measure are entirely agreeable to the inclusion of a clause limiting Philippine sugar to be admitted under its provisions to 400,000 tons annually. This the sugar people admit would be sufficient to restore some of the former prosperity to the sugar interests in the islands. A reduction of the present duties on tobacco, the report suggests would afford the moral encouragement of which producers in the islands now stand so seriously in need. The other principal products in the Philippine islands, hemp, copra and rice, have the advantages over sugar of not requiring such enormous capital for development and of not entering into competition with interests of this country.

The expenditures of the Republic of Cuba on account of American intervention from October 1st, 1906, to June 30th, last, were \$757,343, these expenditures being made from funds allotted by the provisional government from time to time for army expenditures due directly to the army service in Cuba. The statement of extraordinary expenditures on account of the army of pacification in Cuba which under congressional legislation are to be reimbursed from the Cuban treasury, shows a total of \$5,311,822, of which \$3,376,735 was from October 1st, 1906, to June 30th, 1907, and the balance from then until June 30th last.

The settlement of the Dominican debt, the steadily widening activities in the Philippines and the administrative control of Cuba continuing to bring up important questions of law, making the demand upon the law officer of the bureau, constant and serious, legislation for retirement of certain civil employes of the Philippine government on part pay, after ten years of satisfactory service are among other matters discussed.

Adjourned For the Holidays. Washington, Special.—Both houses of Congress on Saturday took a recess until after the holidays. Up to this time no real work has been done. It is presumed that upon re-assembling the body will get down to work in earnest, as the session closes by limitation on March 4th.

Former Congressman Loud Dead. San Francisco, Cal., Special.—Former Congressman Eugene F. Loud died Sunday night in this city. For several months past he has been in poor health. His condition was aggravated by the death of his daughter five months ago and the loss of his wife, who died on December 6th. Mr. Loud served 12 years in Congress from the fifth district.

Tar Heel Shoots Broker. New York, Special.—Following an altercation over an alleged debt of \$650 incurred in connection with the financing of an electric vibration company, of which he was treasurer, Henry B. Suydam, a mining stock broker, member of the curb market, was shot in his office at 39 Broad street Saturday by John C. Lumsden, an inventor. Suydam was probably fatally wounded. Lumsden claimed that the money in question was due him and that an attempt was being made to defraud him of it.

COL. TAYLOR ON STAND

Companion of the Victim of the Night-Rider Band Relates the Details of the Lynching of Captain Rankin.

Union City, Tenn., Special.—Following his caution to the press not to print the testimony in the night-rider cases, Judge Jones Saturday cautioned the ministers of local churches not to refer to the cases in their sermons Sunday, since the jurors might be present.

He took no further action regarding the press, although he conferred personally with the correspondents of several of the State papers, impressing upon them the necessity of following out the court's orders.

The first witness was Col. H. Z. Taylor, who was companion of Captain Rankin.

Mr. Taylor is a veteran of the Confederate army and a wealthy man. Colonel Taylor and Captain Rankin went to Reel Foot lake to lease some land to a carpenter. They drove over the proposed property on the night of October 19th and left orders for horses for another trip the day following, then they retired.

Colonel Taylor related the story of his experience the night Rankin was murdered. He said he and Rankin were taken from the hotel. Rankin was led under a tree when a rope was adjusted and thrown over the fork of the tree.

"Give him time to pray," said a night rider.

"I have attended to that," was Rankin's quiet reply. Rankin then was raised from the ground until his toes scarcely touched the ground.

"You are choking me, gentlemen, I pray you let me down," said Rankin. Some one fired a shot, the witness said, which was instantly followed by a fusillade, most of the night-riders firing into the air, however. Taylor told his captors he was tired and wanted to sit down. He crouched with his knees ready to spring and when the firing stopped he jumped into the waters of the slough. The firing was immediately renewed. Taylor dived but heard the bullets strike the water. He swam to a log and clung to it while the bullets struck it like a hail storm. When all sounds ceased he swam to the opposite side of the lake and took to the woods.

After telling of the hardships he endured during his wanderings, Colonel Taylor said he hid in a cane-brake until thirst drove him out and into the arms of friends.

Colonel Taylor suffered from delusions during his wanderings, seeing bands of masked men.

Just before the night-riders killed Rankin, Colonel Taylor said, "Gentlemen, I am an old man. I cannot expect to live many years more. By killing me you will not be cheating me of much. But Captain Rankin is a younger man with many years before him. Do not kill him." The leader curtly replied: "Shut up."

The President's Hunt.

President Roosevelt has entered into an agreement (his own proposition) with the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, by which all the rare and valuable specimens of game he may slay in his African hunt will be taken charge of by an expert taxidermist and sent back for mounting in the Institute.

The program the President has in mind is to start about April 1st, arriving on the hunting ground of British and Dutch East Africa about May 1st. His course will be toward Uganda, striking the Nile about January 1st, 1910, and working his way to tide water about March 1st.

The President says he is no game butcher and will hunt chiefly for game of special scientific interest. His son will accompany him and is expected to share with him in the distinction of adding specimens to the national exhibit.

Georgian Hanged For Wife Murder.

Swinesboro, Ga., Special.—For the murder of his wife, six months ago, George Joyner was hanged here Friday. Although Joyner confessed several months ago that he killed his wife during the last weeks of his life he protested innocent and on the gallows reiterated his denial of the commission of the crime.

Laymen's Movement.

Salisbury, Special.—The laymen's movement in the Methodist Episcopal church, South, was given quite a help forward by the late meetings held in connection with the meetings of the stewards of the Salisbury district. Nearly all the charges were represented by one or more laymen. Prof. Walter Thompson, of Concord, was elected district leader of the movement for the coming year and a leader was chosen for each church in the district. There was general discussion of the aims and scope of the movement. A feature of the meeting was a banquet.

KNOX SEC. OF STATE

Pennsylvania Senator Accepts Highest Place in Cabinet

MR. TAFT IS MUCH GRATIFIED

After Receiving a Telegram From Philander C. Knox, Signifying His Willingness to Accept, Mr. Taft Announces His Appointment as Secretary of State.

Augusta, Ga., Special.—William H. Taft, President-elect of the United States Friday night announced the appointment of United States Senator Philander C. Knox, of Pennsylvania, as Secretary of State in his Cabinet.

The announcement followed the receipt by Mr. Taft of a telegram, which came late in the afternoon, conveying the information from Mr. Knox that he would accept the premiership of the Taft Cabinet. Mr. Taft without delay made the announcement that the matter was settled. In giving the details of the negotiations he said that the offer was made to Mr. Knox last Sunday morning in New York. That since the offer he had not heard from Mr. Knox until the telegram he received Friday. After a consultation with Secretary Root in Washington last Sunday afternoon, Mr. Taft said he made an effort to see the Pennsylvania Senator there but was informed he was in New York to attend the dinner of the Pennsylvania society. He wired Mr. Knox to see him at the Henry W. Taft residence Sunday morning. The appointment was kept Mr. Knox concluding his visit in time for Judge Taft to attend morning church services, but remaining at the Taft residence until after Judge Taft had gone to church.

"I feel that I am to be congratulated in securing the services of Senator Knox in my Cabinet," Judge Taft said in making the statement with the understanding that he was to be quoted. "In selecting a Secretary of State I wanted first a great lawyer, and, second, a man who would fill the public eye, not only here but abroad, as man who stands out prominently as a great American.

"Mr. Knox was a great Attorney General; he was a prominent candidate for the presidency, and he is recognized in the Senate and elsewhere as one of the great lawyers of that body."

Judge Taft also feels that from a political viewpoint the selection of Mr. Knox is most happy. He explained that there was often a feeling that the State of Pennsylvania, with its assured Republican majorities, often was slightly in the matter of recognition in the high councils of the party. That this will not be the case in the next administration was indicated by the announcement by Mr. Taft that he should invite Senator Knox to come to Augusta, Ga., that he might consult him freely with reference to filling other places in his Cabinet. In fact, he said that he felt the need of such advice as he should be able to obtain from Mr. Knox regarding not only the Cabinet, but many matters preliminary to the beginning of his administration. That Mr. Knox's influence will be potent was freely admitted by Mr. Taft.

The hesitation of Senator Knox to make a more speedy decision is interpreted here to his desire to arrange with due regard for the interests of the party and his State for relinquishing his seat in the Senate. Mr. Taft evinced many evidences of gratification at the decision which has been reached.

Root Will Not Resign.

Washington, Special.—Reports that Secretary Root contemplates resigning his seat in the Cabinet in the immediate future because of the trouble which he is experiencing from his knee which was injured while he was in the West making a speech in behalf of Mr. Taft, are denied in responsible quarters.

Harriman Case Decided.

Washington, Special.—In deciding the cases of Edward H. Harriman and Otto H. Kahn vs. the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Supreme Court of the United States held that the commission is not entitled under the interstate commerce law to press questions relative to private transactions, even though they involve dealings in the securities of interstate railroads, when the investigation of which such questions are a part has been begun on the commission's initiative.