

## ROBBERS GET \$3,000.

A Daring Hold-Up on Train Near Memphis.

## MASKED MEN USE DYNAMITE.

Blow Open the Safe of the Express Car and Rifle It—Messenger and Porter Seriously Hurt.

Little Rock, Ark., Special.—It is stated that over \$3,000 was secured in the hold up of the Choctaw, Oklahoma & Gulf passenger train Tuesday midnight near Iron Mountain Crossing, four and a half miles west of Memphis. The train reached Little Rock half an hour late, at 6 o'clock in the morning, Sidney drew the negro, was taken to St. Vincent's Hospital where his wound was dressed. His condition is serious. C. T. Meader, express messenger, was badly beaten over the head and shoulders with a pistol, but was able to continue his run. The passengers were not molested.

Six masked men boarded the train, which left Memphis at 11:49 at night, when it made the usual stop at Bridge Junction, Ark., after crossing the Mississippi river bridge. They escaped observation. When a portion half a mile west of Iron Mountain Crossing had been reached Messenger Meader started to pass from the first car to the second where the express safes were, as he had arranged 222 safes were, as he had finished arranging the baggage. As he opened the door he was confronted by four men in whose hands were two revolvers and shot guns. One of the gang grappled with Meader and secured the pistol he carried around his waist. About this time the train began to slow up and soon came to full stop. Then the shooting began. The two men who had boarded the rear of the second car captured Sidney Drew, the train porter, and made him uncouple the cars. Under orders from two of the men who had mounted the cab, Engineer Johnson pulled the two baggage and express cars about half a mile away from the balance of the train to a point in the midst of a cane brake and ten or fifteen miles from any habitation.

When the engine stopped, George Ward, a boy who had been riding the blind baggage car, sprang off and started into the woods. A shot from one of the robbers brought him back to the train. "Open the local safe or we will kill you!" shouted the leader of the gang to the messenger. The messenger obeyed and one of the men placed the contents of the local safe in a sack. "Now you and the kid get into the car ahead!" was the next order. Meader did not seem to move fast enough to suit the bandit who had him in charge and he fell upon Meader with the butt of a revolver with which the express messenger was severely beaten over the head and back. The boy, frightened almost out of his senses, cowered in a corner of the car and was not attacked.

Meanwhile, four of the gang were at work on the through safe in the second car. About a pint of nitro-glycerine was poured into the door. When everything was ready a fuse was lighted and all left the car. A terrible explosion followed. The door of the safe was blown off and hurled through the side of the car, striking a tree twenty yards away. The robbers then re-entered the car and it was the work of a few moments to transfer the contents of the safe into a sack. Every twenty yards away. The robbers then jumped off and with a few parting shots disappeared into the cane brake. Engineer Johnson ran back to the rest of the train and as soon as the coupling was made pulled away for Edmondson, the nearest telegraph station, twelve miles distant. Here the affair was reported to Superintendent Harris, who immediately secured a pack of hounds and hurried to the scene.

## Mad Mullah's Army Flaming.

Aden, By Cable.—The mad Mullah is now at Lassidar, four days' march from Aden. He has a singlehanded force of 40,000 followers including 8,000 horsemen and quantities of ammunition obtained from an unknown source. A British force shortly will be concentrated at Burao, preparatory to a general advance in conjunction with the Abyssinians.

## Loomis in Washington.

Washington, D. C., Special.—Francis B. Loomis, United States minister to Venezuela, has arrived in Washington and called upon Secretary Hay at the State Department. Mr. Loomis elaborated the statements contained in his reports as to his relations with the Venezuelan government and the political conditions of the country. The general tenor of his statements was that there has been no appreciable change in Venezuela since his last interview with President Castro, when the wishes of the United States government respecting the issues between the two countries were set out.

## Woman's Christian Association.

Nashville, Tenn., Special.—The Young Women's Christian Association Convention held three sessions Saturday. A number of addresses were delivered and considerable routine work disposed of. The delegates have accepted an invitation from the Hermitage Association to visit the historic home of Andrew Jackson on Monday. The principal address of the day was that of Rev. Charles R. Erdman, of Germantown, Pa., his subject being "A Servant of the Lord."

## GREAT EDUCATIONAL ASSEMBLAGE.

Many Prominent Educators at Winston-Salem Last Week.

Winston-Salem, Special.—More distinguished scholars were entertained here last week than have ever before been gathered in North Carolina. The Southern Conference embraced such men as Lyman Abbott, Bishop Doane, Dr. Parkhurst, Dr. Curry, and wealthy philanthropists who are deeply interested in education in the South. Most of them primarily became interested in negro education, but latterly they have broadened their interest and are interested in the betterment of all education of the South. A special train from New York, bringing fifty-nine educators, leaders and philanthropists, reached here at 2:50 o'clock Thursday and were carried at once to the hospitable homes of leading citizens where they are entertained.

W. A. Blair, chairman, Major Eaton, Rev. R. E. Caldwell, Dr. H. T. Robinson and John W. Fries composed the committee that met the members of the Conference at Greensboro and accompanied them to the city.

At 3 o'clock the first session of the conference held in Salem Female College was called to order by Dr. Curry, who introduced Bishop Doane, of New York, who made a hearty address in sympathy with the Southern problem, paying a high compliment to Salem Female College.

President Ogden presented Governor Aycock, who made a happy and timely address of welcome. He was received with such continued applause that he said: "If this continues I shall think the campaign of 1900 is still in progress."

He emphasized the events that have made North Carolina great in all history, a history that has not been adequately written. He opened the eyes of some by his allusion to great events, winning hearty cheers when he made a happy allusion to the fact that after furnishing more troops for the Conference army than any other State, North Carolina cemented the love between the sections by giving the first blood in the war with Spain.

Bishop Rondthaler also delivered a warm and fitting and able welcome for Salem.

"We have labored with a double burden in the South in education," he said, "because the whites have to pay most for the education of the blacks as well as for their own children."

He then spoke as follows:

"It gives me pleasure in the name of the Winston-Salem community to welcome you, the members of the Educational Conference to our Southern homes. I have the additional satisfaction, in behalf of the trustees and the president of the Salem Academy of asking you to use the facilities of our college for the prosecution of your important educational labors. It seems especially appropriate that the chapel of a Moravian institution, which for a hundred years has been educating the daughters of the South, from the Potomac to the Rio Grande, should become at this time, the official home of a conference, destined under God, to stimulate the cause of education over that same vast area of States.

"For me, an occasion like this has a peculiar charm, in view of my own life experience. My earlier service was given in great cities, where I came into touch with the best Northern sentiment. Then in the Providence of God, I was transplanted into the South, where amid everwidening acquaintance I have learned to love the people as if I had been born among them. Having such intimate esteem for both sections of our great country, I have often said to myself, 'What a pity that the best North and the best South do not know each other better.' This national need is being met by Conferences like the one now assembling, it is not amid the clash of political ambitions on an arena like that which the city of Washington furnishes; it is not amid the speculative strain of a New York bourse, or a New Orleans cotton market; it is on the broader field of a human interest in the fellow man that North and South may learn to know each other well enough to have the esteem which they really deserve from one another. The South has, during these recent years of new experience, been carrying a double educational load. She has been obliged to divide her school money between white and black, although the latter a comparatively small element in the tax list, while they form a very large element of the population. Because of the needs of the other race, the white public schools have had, especially in country districts, a very limited and struggling existence.

"It is right, while at the same time it is generous, that our Northern brethren should in various private and unconstrained ways, assist us in our double task. And it is both wise and fair that they should come to visit us, in order to learn the problem with which we have to deal, face to face, and to hear what we, who live in daily struggle with them have learned about them, in the hard school of actual experience.

"If some educational need were to arise, we will say, in the State of Massachusetts, and we in North Carolina should feel ourselves constrained to help solve the problem of our Eastern brethren, it would be proper for us to go to the scene of that problem and hear what the best people have to say about it; otherwise our help might involve some very costly failures and might tend, in the end, to irritate rather than assist. And such is the exact case of the southern educational problem. It needs to be learned on the spot, by friendly advice and contact with those who live amid these emergencies of a new time. It is in this fair and kindly spirit that you have come to see us and we have gathered to welcome you.

"We are not met on an occasion which calls merely for sweet words and soft speeches. A banquet might make such courteous demands upon us, but not an earnest conference of national import. We do not want the paint pot, or the varnish brush to be here em-

ployed. We need rather to have the great educational problems of the south stand in their native wood aspect, showing all the knots of difficulty just as they are. What we want from one another is the truth. If any one has a vital question to ask, let him freely ask it; if any one has an ascertained fact to give, let him communicate it without constraint. It is one of the most important occasions which can occur in a life-time, or strictly following the scripture injunction, to speak the truth in love."

The entire conference was a pronounced success.

## NORTH CAROLINA CROPS.

The Week's Temperature Below the Normal—General Review.

Much improvement in crops and considerable progress in farm work occurred during the early portion of the week as a result of the dry, somewhat warmer and more favorable weather conditions which prevailed from the 15th to the 18th. During these few days the sky was generally clear to partly cloudy, the temperature slightly above normal, rising to 74 degrees at Raleigh on the 18th, and the soil dried out nicely at least over the eastern part of the State where the rainfall had not been excessive. But the unnecessary rainfall on Friday and Saturday (19th and 20th) and the subsequent very cold weather has almost obliterated the favorable effect of the preceding few days stopped farm work for some time, and prevented much growth of young vegetation. Conditions were better in the eastern half of the State where the cloudy weather on Saturday and Sunday prevented the threatened frost. In the mountain region the rain turned to snow Friday night and on Saturday a fall of from 2 to 6 inches of snow occurred over ten or twelve western counties, with temperatures considerably below freezing. The lowest temperature reported was 28 at Asheville. The heaviest snowfall occurred in Madison county and extended across the Blue Ridge into Stokes county on the north, and Rutherford on the south. Sunday morning peach trees in full bloom in this section were covered with ice, and great damage to the entire fruit crop in the west is anticipated. The week on the whole was about 4 degrees below the daily normal in temperature, and was further rendered unfavorable by the heavy rainfall in the west, which has kept water courses full, and placed lowlands in very bad condition.

In the south and east considerable progress was made in planting corn and cotton, and in gardening. Corn is coming up poorly, does not look thrifty and a bad stand is feared. Not more than 10 per cent. of the cotton crop has yet been put in the ground, and the bulk of the crop will be seeded late. Tobacco plants in beds grew fast during the few days of warm weather, and appear to be abundant. Gardens are gradually getting into better condition; cabbage and tomatoes have been transplanted, and other vegetables are doing fairly well. Many Irish potatoes are up nicely, but the Colorado beetle has appeared. The recent damp, cold weather has caused the rotting of potatoes and many seeds which cannot germinate in the chilled soil, so that considerable replanting will have to be done. Fruit is safe in the eastern and central portions, strawberry shipments began on a small scale Friday, 15th. Wheat, rye and oats are doing well.

Rainfall for the week at selected stations: Goldsboro, 0.20 inch; Greensboro, 1.12; Lumberton, 0.14; Newbern, 0.58; Weldon, 0.36; Raleigh, 0.60; Charlotte, 2.80; Marion, 4.08.

## Tar Heel Notes.

A Morganton special says: Plans for two railroads that will pass through Morganton are about complete. The right of way for the Trans-Appalachian railroad, which will run from Lincolnton to Morganton, within four miles of Blowing Rock, to Butler, Tenn., has been secured. Chief Engineer W. E. Walton says that a far better grade through the mountains has been secured than was expected if the building of the road depends upon this, its completion is a certainty. Also the right of way for a narrow-gauge railroad from Morganton to Linville Mountain has been obtained. This road will be built by Pennsylvania people, who have purchased what is known as the Cheeser property a tract of land comprising about 30,000 acres. They will put up a lumber plant at Morganton that will employ some two hundred hands.

A little 7-year-old girl was drowned in a creek about ten miles from Albemarle Monday. She and her brother, aged nine years, were going to where their father was at work and when crossing a footlog fell in. The girl was drowned and the boy was rescued after he had sunk the first time.

Mr. W. C. Newland has been nominated for mayor of Lenoir.

Thomasville is soon to vote on the question of issuing bonds for establishing a graded school.

The following North Carolina postmasters were commissioned last week: Benj. J. Vincent, Jr., Vulture; George C. Cox, Guilford, Columbus county. The office at Sounsine, Columbus county, has been discontinued.

From all parts of the State there comes the news of the heaviest sales of fertilizers this season ever known.

Says the Wilmington Star: The effect of the continued cool weather is to still further delay the strawberry crop to such an extent that it is said to be provoking serious comment upon the part of the truckers. Conservative growers say that the season now can't possibly open before the first of May and it is likely that no shipments of consequence can be made even so early as that date.

## THE MILL TRUST.

Fall River People Declare It a Fake Story.

## THEY ARE GREATLY STIRRED UP.

Reports of Pooling of New England and Southern Interests Said to be Without Foundation in Fact.

Fall River, Mass., Special.—No little stir was made here by published statements that a further attempt to consolidate the print cloth mills of New England and the Southern States was on foot and that J. P. Morgan & Company, of New York, were behind the movement. An inquiry made quite generally among the men who are in control of many of the local mills, or who represent the big manufacturing properties, brought out an almost unanimous statement that the reports have no foundation in fact. The cotton mills here are ready for consolidation, but not more so now than at any time during the past two years, in which time the subject has received much attention. It was directly stated in one publication that an option had been given for the American Printing Company and the Fall River Iron Works Mills, in pursuance of the plan, but representatives of those interests deny any knowledge of such a transaction and ridicule its probability under the present prosperous condition of the cloth market.

Inquiry among the largest stockholders and the prominent bankers who were interested in the previous consolidation movement, shows that no one here having authority to act for the controlling interests, has been interviewed on the matter. The men who were prominent in trying to effect a consolidation two years ago, and those who were trying to prevent it, agree that the rumor at this time started in the South, because of a plan to bring the mills under a general control. The mills spoken prominently of as being in the combine included the Goddards, of Rhode Island, and M. C. Borden.

## On the Way to Washington.

Jacksonville, Fla., Special.—The Cuban assembly commission, en route to Washington to confer with President McKinley on the relations of the United States and Cuba, arrived here at 7 o'clock Monday night over the Florida East Coast Railway, from Miami. They proceeded to Washington at 10:20 Tuesday in a special car on the Seaboard Air Line's metropolitan limited train, which will arrive in Washington at 8:45 Wednesday morning. In the party were General Domingo Mendez Capote, president of the commission; General Pedro E. Belandier, General Rafael M. Portuondo, Mr. Diego Tamayo and Dr. Pedro Gonzales Llorente. These are the members of the commission. They were accompanied by Pedro M. Entenza, interpreter, Col. M. M. Conrado, editor of La Discusion; M. Marquez Sterling, representative of the United States press of Cuba, and correspondent of El Mundo. The party will stay at the Shorham, in Washington.

## Wrecked by Natural Gas.

St. Mary's, W. Va., Special.—A terrific natural gas explosion occurred in the Commercial Hotel, early Monday morning. The entire building, a large frame structure, was a mass of flames when the startled citizens rushed from their homes at the report. The building was entirely destroyed, and the ruins are being searched for bodies. Four are dead, as follows: Sam Cunningham, of Rixford, Pa.; John George, of Butler, Pa.; Harry Robinson, of Corning, O.; John Slater, fifteen years old, son of the proprietor of the hotel. Others may be dead. The report that Thos. Smiley and his partner were among the dead is not true, they having turned up uninjured. Several others are badly injured.

## Not in It.

Washington, D. C., Special.—The War Department has made public the translation of an order issued the latter part of January by Count Von Walderssee announcing the distribution of the war material captured in the forts Shan Hai Kwan. The United States do not appear in the distribution, due to the fact that the American troops did not participate in the capture of the forts.

## Three Men Drowned.

Martetta, O., Special.—Three persons were drowned in the river here Monday afternoon. A boat containing nine men was carried under a wharf by the swift current, and Jos. Everett, a glass worker, was drowned. The others were rescued. Later two boys named Hanley, aged 7 and 14 were drowned at the same place.

## Newsy Notes.

A dispatch to the Standard from Shanghai says trouble is reported in the province of Chekiang in connection with the suspension of literary examinations. Threats have been made to burn the official yamen and to expel the mandarin. The movement will probably spread. The students deny that they are responsible for the trouble.

The report of Egyptian finances for the year 1900, adopted by Viscount Cromer, British agent and consul general in Egypt, shows that the revenue was 11,663,000 pounds and the expenditures 11,104,000 pounds. The estimated surplus for 1901 is 64,000 pounds.

## THE SCHOOL LAW.

County Boards of Education Chosen by Legislature.

The new school law may be summarized as follows:

The State Board of Education, on the first Monday in August of each year shall apportion among the several counties of the State all the school funds which may be in the treasury of the said board, said apportionment to be made on the basis of the school population; but no part of the permanent school fund shall be apportioned, only the interest therefrom.

The proceeds of all lands granted by the United States to this State, also all moneys and any other property now belonging to any State fund for the purpose of education, also net proceeds of swamp lands and all other grants made to this State, shall be paid in to the State Treasury, and together with as much of the ordinary revenue as may be set apart for that purpose, shall be appropriated for establishing and maintaining a system of free public schools.

All moneys belonging to a county school fund, also net proceeds from sales of estrays, also proceeds of penalties and fines, also proceeds of tax imposed on liquor licenses and auctioneers, shall remain in the several counties and be appropriated for establishing and maintaining free public schools in these counties, amount collected in each county shall be reported annually to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

If the tax levied by the State shall be insufficient to maintain one or more schools in each school district for the period of four months, then the Board of Commissioners of each county shall levy, annually a special tax to supply the deficiency. The said tax to be levied on all property, credits and polls of the county.

The General Assembly shall appoint three men in each county, who shall constitute a county board of education. In case of vacancy, it shall be filled by the other members of the board. The members shall hold office until the first Monday in July, 1903, when the Board of County Commissioners in each county shall elect the board and every two years thereafter. The County Board of Education shall be a body corporate, capable of purchasing and holding real and personal estate; of building school houses, and of selling and transferring the same for school purposes. They shall control all matters relating to the public schools of the county, with power to execute the school laws, pass upon the moral character of any teacher or applicant for a teacher's certificate, with power to subpoena witnesses for all investigations they may deem necessary.

The county board, on the second Monday in July, 1901, and bi-annually thereafter, shall elect a county superintendent of schools, who shall be at the time of his election, a practical teacher, or who shall have had at least two years experience in teaching school, and who shall be a man of liberal education and shall otherwise be qualified to discharge the duties of his office as required by law, due regard being given to experience in teaching. Said superintendent must be of good moral character, and shall hold his office for a term of two years. Provided, that any person who has filled the office of county superintendent for four years next preceding the passage of this act shall be eligible to such office in Bertie and Bladen counties, if the election of such person meets the approval of the State Board of Education.

The County Board of Education of each county shall on the second Monday in July, 1901, and bi-annually thereafter, appoint in each township of the county three men as school commissioners, who shall serve for two years, to be paid by the county board out of the reserve school fund one dollar per day for not more than four days per annum. The county board may, if deemed best, instead of electing township committees, elect for each school of the several townships three school commissioners, who shall serve for two years, without compensation.

The school committee, not later than twenty days after their qualification, shall elect a chairman and secretary, shall record of their proceedings and report name and address of chairman and secretary to the county superintendent. All appeals from the committee shall be first made to the county superintendent, whose decisions shall be final, unless reversed by the county board of education.

The school committee shall be entrusted with the care and custody of all school houses, school house sites, grounds, books apparatus, or other public school property in the township. They are required to furnish to the county superintendent a census report of all the pupils of school age in their township or district, also the number of public school houses and the value of all public school property for each race separately, and to the teacher a register of the names and ages of each pupil of school age in that district. They shall also by race and sex the number of all persons between the ages of twelve and twenty-one who cannot read and write.

No teacher shall be employed by any committee except at a regular called meeting of such committee, of which due notice shall be given. The committee shall have power to purchase supplies necessary for conducting schools and for repairs, not to exceed \$25 in any one year for each school; shall have authority to employ and discharge teachers. No person shall be employed as teacher who does not produce a certificate from the county superintendent or other parties authorized by law, and no certificate shall be issued by any person under eighteen years of age. Teachers of the second grade shall receive not more than \$25 per month, and teachers of first grade such compensation as shall

be agreed upon. Teachers of third grade not more than \$20 per month, but no third grade certificates shall be renewed and no holder thereof shall be employed except as assistant.

Twenty school days of not less than six hours nor more than seven hours shall be a month. School term shall be continued as far as practicable.

When a monthly report of any school where the district does not contain over one hundred and fifty children shows an average daily attendance of less than one-fifth, the committee shall order school closed, and the money due shall remain to the credit of that school.

## THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

### The South.

Severe storms are reported at many points in the South.

Jockey Cochran, one of the best known riders in Memphis, was accidentally killed at the race track.

Chinese Minister Wu Ting-Fang was the guest of the Manufacturers' Club of Charlotte, N. C., last Thursday. He spoke upon the cotton trade with China.

A very interesting educational convention closed at Winston-Salem, N. C., last Saturday. Many prominent educators from all sections of the country were in attendance and the speeches were notably strong.

At a reception given Minister Wu by manufacturers of Charlotte, N. C., Senator McLaurin made a speech advocating breaking away from old political principles of the South.

The president has appointed Wm. M. Jenkins of Oklahoma territory to be governor of that territory and James W. Reynolds of New Mexico to be secretary of the territory of New Mexico.

### The North.

Mayor Van Wyck vetoed the Charter Revision bill.

The "Greater New York Democracy" was formed at a mass-meeting of Tammany opponents.

The Kansas Wholesale Egg Dealers' Association has taken a contract to ship 100 carloads of eggs to Cuba.

Bull fights will be a feature of a street fair to be held by the Commercial Club at South Omaha, Neb., in July.

Two freight trains collided on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, at Crook's Mills, Md., and a tramp was killed.

In a jealous rage John H. Garman, foreman of a copper mine, shot and killed George McCarthy, at Milton, Cal., and then blew himself to pieces with giant powder.

The strike in the sheet steel works at McKeesport, Pa., was ended by an agreement to restore things as before the trouble.

Attorney George W. Shields, of Omaha, Neb., says H. C. Henderson, the self-confessed kidnaper of Edward Cudahy, Jr., says the man is an impostor.

The calf skin tannery of the A. Platz Company at Racine was destroyed by fire early Sunday morning. The loss was \$100,000.

The dining hall and three of the barracks at the national military home at Dayton, O., were destroyed by fire. Loss not definitely known, but supposed to be about \$50,000. Origin of the fire was from a furnace in the dining hall. There was no loss of life.

### Foreign.

The House of Commons adopted the British War Loan bill.

Boers have ambushed a party of the Ninth Lancers in South Africa.

Count von Walderssee had a narrow escape from the burning palace of the Empress in Pekin.

Archduke Francis was criticised in the Reichsrath at Vienna for accepting the patronage of Catholic schools.

The British budget was presented to the House of Commons and the government asked authority to borrow \$300,000,000.

The Chinese Emperor has ordered his troops to withdraw from Hual-Lu, against which place the allies had started an expedition.

M. Emile Faquet, the dramatic critic, was installed as a member of the French Academy at Paris last week.

It is officially announced in St. Petersburg that there are to be immediate reforms in the Russian educational system.

A cablegram from General MacArthur says reports of alleged complimentary scandals are exaggerated, but admits that three officers and a number of enlisted men and civilians are being tried.

The Mansion House fund for the Victoria memorial now amounts to 71,000 pounds. One day's subscriptions include 1,000 pounds from J. Pierpont Morgan and 1,000 pounds from J. S. Morgan.

The popular observance of Primrose Day shows no signs of waning. The Beaconsfield monument, opposite Parliament House, was elaborately decorated and attracted the usual crowd of sight-seers.

While employed in removing a bank of crushed ore at the Guadalupe hacienda, a cavern occurred burying nine of the workmen. The dead bodies of six of the men have been removed. The other three were seriously, but not fatally injured.

Mr. Henry Burn explained to the Industrial Commission why the wall paper combination had failed.

The jury returned a verdict of not guilty in the case of Capt. Ripley, who has been on trial for conspiracy in the Geibel assassination.