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SENATOR BUTLER'S SPEECH ON

Manhood Suffrage in North Carolina and the Proposed Constitutional Amendment.

THE GRANDFATHER CLAUSE OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT CLEARLY UNCONSTITUTIONAL

He Quotes Abundant and Conclusive Legal Authority to Show That Section 5 is Not Only Unconstitutional, But That it Will Fall, Leaving The Remainder of the Amendment to Stand. He Discusses Judge Brown's Proposed Amendment and Shows That the Court Would Unquestionably Ignore any Attempt of the Legislature to In truct It How to Decide This or any Other Question. He Brands the Charge of Negro Domination as a Slander on the State.--Other Features of the Amendment Discussed.--He Says That the Proposed Amendment is Not Only Unconstitutional and Dangerous to the Liberties of Fifty Thousand White Men in North Carolina, But That it is Dishonest in Its Method and Puts the South In a False Position.

(Continued from last week.)

THE REMAINDER OF THE AMENDMENT WILL STAND.

Mr. President, I come now to consider the second question, which is: Section 5 being unconstitutional, will the court in declaring it so hold that all the amendment must fall, or that only section 5 (the unconstitutional part) must fall, leaving the remainder of the amendment, which is clearly constitutional, to stand? In my opinion the court would follow the many precedents already laid down in similar cases, and hold that, inasmuch as section 5 has one object and the remainder of the amendment has a very different object and are therefore severable, and inasmuch as the amendment with section 5 (the unconstitutional part) left out would still be operative and intelligible and would make a complete and constitutional scheme for limiting suffrage, it would stand, while section 5 would be eliminated. I make the statement as my opinion because the decisions of the Supreme Court sustain that opinion, which I will presently show. But before proceeding to quote these authorities and make an argument upon them, I wish to note briefly the two cases cited by the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. Money) which he claims establish a different doctrine. He read first from Sprague vs. Thompson (118 U. S., page 90), as follows:

The insuperable difficulty with the application of a principle of construction to the present instance is that by rejection the exception intended by the legislature of Georgia the statute is made to enact what confessedly the legislature never meant. It confers upon the statute a positive operation beyond the legislative intent, and beyond what anyone could say it would have enacted, in view of the illegality of the exception.

Next he cites Warren vs. Mayor and Aldermen of Charleston (68 Mass.) and quotes the following from that decision:

"... parts of a statute are so mutually connected and dependent as conditions, considerations, or compensations for each other as to warrant a belief that the legislature intended them as a whole, and that if all could not be carried into effect the legislature would not pass the residue independently—if such parts are unconstitutional and void, all the provisions which are thus dependent, conditional, or connected must fall with them.

The Senator from Mississippi, after reading these two decisions, one a decision of the Supreme Court and the other a decision of the State court of Massachusetts, proceeded to say that these cases were not only exactly in point but that they settled the question. The Senate will remember that at that point in his speech. I asked permission to interrupt the Senator; that I had on my desk nine or ten volumes of the Supreme Court Reports, and held in my hand a statement of the cases in those reports which I stated showed that the Senator was wrong as to the weight of authority on his side. I asked permission of the Senator to read from these cases, which he declined. I then asked permission for a simple statement of the names of the cases to go into the Record with his speech, so that those who read his speech might also, if they desired, read these cases and know what the court had held. The Senator declined to permit even the title of these cases to go into the Record along with his speech. He declared that he did not mean to be discourteous, but he said that he would rather not have those cases cited in his speech.

Now, let us for a moment examine the two cases cited by the Senator. I have just read from the Record the two extracts which he read from these cases and upon which he relied. They are both to the effect that the court must consider, among other things, the legislative intene in deciding whether an unconstitutional part of a statute shall fall alone or drag the remainder of the statute with it. This is true, I adm , to a certain extent and in a certain sense; but it is not the only consideration with the court, and is not by any means, as a rule, the controlling consideration, even where the intent of the legislature is clear. To say that the Supreme Court will never declare any one section of a statute void and leave the remainder to stand, where it is clear that the legislature would not have passed one part without passing the others, is practically to say that the court will never declare one section of any statute void without declaring the whole statute void, though constitutional.

It is to be presumed that every legislature and every Congress when it passes an act intends it all to stand, or it would not have passed it. I make that statement to show that the quotation of the Senator, without qualification or explanation, is an absurdity in the sense in which he used it. In short, his quotations standing alone clearly misrepresent the position of the court. Was the Supreme Court of the United States governed by the intent of Congress in the income-tax cases? Was it not perfectly clear and unquestioned that Congress never would have passed the Wilson-Gorman tariff act with the rates of tariff duties that it contained had not Congress at the same time and in the same act put in a provision for an income tax to raise thirty or forty millions of revenue? Probably every schedule in that act would have been changed if those income-tax provisions had not been in it. Not only did attorneys call the attention of the court to this fact, but also did Justice Harlan and other justices, in their dissenting opinions. Justice Harlan said:

The judgment just rendered defeats the purpose of Congress by taking out of the revenue not less than thirty millions and possibly fifty millions of dollars, expected to be raised by the duty on incomes. We know from the official Journals of both Houses of Congress that taxation on imports would not have been reduced to the extent it was by the Wilson Act except for the belief that that could be safely done if the country had the benefit of revenue derived from a tax on income. We know from official sources that each House of Congress distinctly refused to strike out the provisions imposing a tax on incomes. The two Houses indicated in every possible way that it must be a part of any scheme for the reduction of taxation and for raising revenue for the support of the government; that (with certain specified exceptions) incomes arising from every kind of property and from every trade and calling should bear some of the burdens of the taxation imposed.

Yet the court, regardless of the clear intent of Congress, knocked out as unconstitutional the income-tax provision, while leaving the other sections.

THE LEGISLATIVE INTENT.

But, Mr. President, the two decisions cited by the Senator, even if they represented the weight of authority and fixed an unvarying rule of the court (which they do not), would not apply to the present case in the least unless the court should be convinced that the legislature would not have attempted to restrict suffrage at all unless it could do so by placing the restriction upon former slaves and their descendants while leaving all other citizens free to vote without any restrictions. To say that such was the intention of the legislature would be to make the legislature ridiculous. Would not the court rather conclude that the intention of the legislature was to restrict suffrage by an educational test, and that after having done this it made an attempt through section 5 to exempt, if possible, a certain class from its operations, which every lawyer in the legislature must have known, to say the least, was of very doubtful constitutionality?

There are many reasons to believe that the legislature did not expect section 5 to stand the test of the court, while they did expect the remainder to stand. When the Louisiana amendment was being discussed in that State convention, such admissions were made on the floor by delegates who were good lawyers. I read from the Harvard Law Review of December, 1899, from an article entitled "Suffrage clause of the Louisiana constitution." Mr. Eaton, the author of this article, reviews the proceedings of that convention. Judge Simms, a member of that convention, while advocating the insertion of section 5 in opposition to the advice of the two Senators from that State and of many other distinguished lawyers, called attention to the fact that if section 5 should be declared unconstitutional there would still remain a good constitutional working scheme.

He expressed the opinion in the convention that if section 5 should fall the remainder would stand; and that same opinion was expressed by others supporting the amendment, and in the face of that the convention adopted the constitutional amendment. The only difference, he declared, would be that the special class of illiterate upon whom they tried to confer the right to vote under section 5 would be prevented from voting and would have to stand the same educational test with the negro. Gen. T. F. Bell, who was chairman of the suffrage committee of that convention, when reporting the amendment with section 5 to the convention, in answer to objections to section 5, said:

If it fails in the courts, you will still have a fairly good system with section 5 out.

Would not the court look at that declaration, provided it looked at anything outside of the act itself?

Mr. President, it was after explanations like this that the amendment was adopted by the convention. All of this and more, too, was known to the legislature in North Carolina when it adopted a similar provision. Indeed, a delegation came to Washington City, in behalf of the legislature to confer with Louisiana Senators and other Senators about the suffrage provisions in their respective States.

The leading daily at Raleigh published full reports of interviews which showed that the general consensus of opinions in Washington was that section 5 would not stand the test of the court, and the editor of that paper recommended that the legislature adopt the Mississippi suffrage provision instead of the Louisiana provision, on account of the danger of the court knocking out section 5.

Mr. President, I have here a copy of the paper, the Raleigh News and Observer, containing that editorial. This is the same paper to which I have referred, one of the leading Democratic dailies of Raleigh. The editor editorially advises the legislature to put both the Mississippi plan and the Louisiana plan in the same amendment, and then proceeds to say:

If, however, the court should declare the "son and grandson" clause unconstitutional, there would then remain the "understanding" clause, which in Mississippi has operated to secure the uninterrupted exercises of the elective franchise to those white voters who are not learned in the books.

It was the information to be gathered by that delegation in Washington that was to guide the legislature in adopting a suffrage amendment. The information they got showed that the probabilities, to say the least, were that section 5 would fall. Then the editor of this Democratic daily advises that both the Mississippi plan and section 5 of the Louisiana plan be put into the same amendment, so that if section 5 should fail in the courts the Mississippi plan would still remain. Yet, after all this, and in the face of it, the legislature adopted this Louisiana plan. So if he court should look for intent outside of the substance of the act itself it could find abundant reasons for believing that the legislature adopted this provision knowing or at least seriously doubting the constitutionality of section 5, and knowing or having reasonable grounds to believe that the court would eliminate that section, leaving the remainder to stand.

SECTIONS 4 AND 5 ARE DISTINCT AND SEVERABLE.

But the tendency of the decisions of our court has been to look to the effect of a statute rather than to the intention of the legislature when the question is, Shall all of the statute fall or only a part? And this is always true where the unconstitutional section has one object and the constitutional section has another object. The leading test applied by the court in all such cases has been, Will the remainder of the statute be intelligible and operative after the unconstitutional parts are stricken out? As I have already said, this is exactly what the court did in the income-tax case.

In Penniman's case (103 U. S. Reports, page 113), Judge Wood, delivering the opinion of the court, says:

Statutes that are constitutional in part only will be upheld so far as they are not in conflict with the Constitution, provided the allowed and prohibited parts are severable. So that if so much of the section under consideration as relieves the debtor from imprisonment for debt in constitutional and can be severed from the other parts parts of the enactment, the judgment of the supreme court of Rhode Island should be affirmtd. That part of the section which relates to the imprisonment of the debtor and that which relates to the seizure of his property are entirely distinct and independent, and either one can stand and be operative, though the other should be declared void.

Now, it is not clear that the other sections of the proposed amendment can "stand and be operative, though the other (section 5) is declared void?" Clearly so, because when section 5 is declared void and eliminated, the remainder of the amendment makes a complete and constitutional scheme for limiting suffrage by an educational qualification applying to all classes alike.

The decisions of the court to the same effect as in Penniman's case are numerous and overwhelming. I will, however, cite only a few more.

The Supreme Court, in the case of Presser vs. Illinois (116 U. S.), lays down the same doctrine. Mr. Justice Wood, delivering the opinion of the court, in which one section of an act was declared invalid, while the remainder of the act was sustained, in closing the argument of the court and giving the reasons for the decision of the court, says:

But it is a settled rule that statutes that are constitutional in part only will be upheld so far as they are not in conflict with the Constitution, provided the allowed and prohibited parts are severable.

As an authority for this position the court cites Penniman's case, from which I have just quoted, and many other cases. This has always been the rule of the Supreme Court. Many early decisions could be cited.

I call attention to Bank vs. Dudley (2 Peters, 492), decision rendered in 1829. Chief Justice Marshall rendered the decision of the court in that case, in which he said:

If any parts of an act be unconstitutional, the provisions of that part may be disregarded, while full effect will be given to such as are not repugnant to the Constitution of the United States or to the ordinance of 1787.

In Packet Company vs. Keokuk (95 U. S., page 80), Mr. Justice Strong, delivering the opinion of the court, says:

Admitting that parts of the ordinance under consideration may be in conflict with the Constitution and laws of the United States, it does not follow that its objectionable provisions, when capable of being separated and enforced, will be set aside and its legislative purposes defeated.

Continuing, the court says:

Statutes that are constitutional in part only will be upheld so far as they are not in conflict with the constitution, provided the allowed and prohibited parts are severable. We think a severance is possible in this case.

The facts in this care are: The legislature of Iowa had given the city of Koekuk, in its charter, the power to establish and regulate wharfs and to fix the rates of landing and wharfage of all boats, rafts, and water craft moored at or landing at the wharf. Acting under this power, the city passed an ordinance providing such regulation. The ordiance referred to but one thing and had but one purpose, and that was regulating the rates, etc., as I have stated. Yet the court declared that the fourth section of this ordinance was unconstitutional and void, while leaving the other five or six sections to stand, for the reason given by the court in the opinion I have just read.

In the case of Supervison vs. Stanley (105 U. S., page 303), Mr. Chief Justice Waite, delivering the opinion of the court, said:

The general proposition must be conceded that in a statute which contains invalid or unconstitutional provisions that which is unaffected by these provisions or which can stand without them must remain. If the valid and invalid are capable of separation, only the latter are to be disregarded.

The cases from which I have read cite many other cases to the same effect. In fact, the case which I have read state that they set forth the law as uniformly held by the court.

Mr. President, I could go to State decisions and cite numerous authorities to the same effect. I will, however, take a recent one which is in harmony with all the former decisions. This is the case of Russell vs. Ayer (120 N. C. Reports), decided a year or two ago, in which the court says:

While the parts of sections 2 and 3 of the act above referred to which concern the amounts of the capitation tax are void, because they disturb the equation betwene property and poll taxes, yet the remainder of the act is valid; and that although the revenue act of 1897 contains a clause which re-

(Continued on 4th page.)

FRANCE IS PLEASED.

McKinley Commended for Offering Our Services

BETWEEN THE BOERS AND BRITISH

To Aid in the Settlement of Their Differences and Stop the Further Continuance of the War.

Paris, By Cable. — "The United States has shown selfish Europe an example," said a responsible official to a representative of The Associated Press, when asked what was the feeling of the French government regarding President McKinley's offer of his good offices to England. "We felt," continued the official in question, that our own position with respect to England, in view of the present state of public feeling there, was too delicate to admit of our acceding to Mr. Kruger's appeal; and as this reluctance appeared to be shared by every other power, the action of the American government in taking the initiative came as an agreeable surprise. That it did not succeed does not detract from its merit."

The Associated Press representative here called the interlocutor's attention to the complaints of a portion of the French press that President McKinley refrained from backing up his offer, which was necessary to its success, some papers having openly stated that his action was a mere election manoeuver and not intended to be successful.

"In our view," replied the official, "these criticisms are utterly unjustified. President McKinley did even more than up to the last moment was expected over here. Only the members of chanelleries who realized the delicate nature of such a step, can appreciate America's effort at its proper value. The French government, while not prepared to take the initiative, would, in conjunction with Russia, readily have supported America; but the promptitude of England's refusal cut the ground from under them."

The official informant added that, although there appeared to be little likelihood of intervention in the immediate future, yet hopes are still entertained that an offer of good offices from the powers may eventually prove acceptable.

"At any rate," said he, "it is not unlikely that it will be made if foreign interests are in danger by the threatened destruction of the rand mines."

This question of the destruction of the gold mines, as predicted by Mr. Montagu White, is regarded as a serious matter, and as being not merely possible but probable.

It is learned that the French government has received information to the same effect from another source, and it considers the descendents of the Dutchmen who flooded their own country in order to repel an invader quite capable of following this historic precedent in the case of foreign owned gold mines. The French press has taken up the matter and points out the enormous amount of French savings sunk in the rand gold fields. It is stated that if the Boers carry out their threat it will take at east three years to reconstruct the surface machinery and other plants, while immense destruction could be wrought by dynamite to the underground workings. France owns a third of the shares in the Transvaal mines; and these alarmist predictions have already had their effect on the quotations. Thus, since Tuesday, Robinson has dropped from 2.10 to 2.00; Ferreia from 4.93 to 4.65 and Geldenhuis from 1.48 to 1.40.

The tension of feeling between France and England certainly has undergone abatement this week, for which the conciliatory article of the London Times is largely responsible.

The government's bill proposing amnesty in all criminal prosecution which have arisen out of the Dreyfus affair meets with vigorous opposition from the Dreyfusards to whom amnesty means the deprivation of means of redress. Dreyfus himself wrote protesting against the bill. The senate committee this week heard Col. Picquart and M. Zola, all of whom warmly condemned this measure.

Telegraphic Briefs

It is said that William S. Taylor, of Kentucky, may again ask President McKinley for aid in retaining the governorship.

Persia will soon send us a minister, after leaving the post vacant for ten years.

It is proposed to make April 19, the Lexington battle anniversary, a legal holiday.

To Blow Up a Church.

Cedar Rapids, Ia., March 17.—Seven young men were arrested here to-night charged with placing dynamite with intent to destroy a church building. Last Sunday night following a canvass for a new petition of consent to operate under the saloon law here, an empty beer keg and a stick of dynamite with fuse and cap attached were found on the steps of St. Paul's Methodist church. The young men arrested tonight confess that they were the guilty parties. They claim they meant it for a joke, though it is believed they meant to intimidate th ministers who have been active in opposition.

Frankfort Quiet.

Frankfort, Ky., Special.—The departure of the legislature from the State capitol has given the city a more quiet appearance than it has had at any time in the last two months. No new warrants in connection with the Goebel assassination were issued. Gabriel Taul, Breskinridge county suspect, was arraigned before Judge Moore, but was dismissed, there not being sufficient evidence against him to even hold him as a witness.

Col. Bryan at Home.

Lincoln, Neb., Special.—Col. Bryan returned to Lincoln Saturday after an absence of two months and will remain until Tuesday, when he will start for a month's tour of the Northwest and Pacific States. Mr. Bryan was in conference during the day with the leading local Democrats, discussing plans for the delegate State convention next Monday night which he will attend and probably address at some length. Mr. Bryan attended a dinner at night given by the Students Bimetallic club of the University of Nebraska He delivered a short address.

THE OLD NORTH STATE.

Items of Interest For Tar Heel Readers.

Secretary Brown, of the corporation commission, is making good progress in his new railroad map of the State. He has had the old map corrected, county by county. One not informed as to map making has no idea of the difficulty of preparing a map. As to Transylvania county the report is made that work is in progress on the railroad southwestward from Brevard and that it has reached Estatoe, nine and a half miles distant. From that point to the lovely Sapphire country the Toxaway company will build a turnpike, or rather is building it, and on this when macadamized automobiles will be operated. It will thus be a novelty in North Carolina. But it is not expected that the automobiles will be put in use this year. A queer ting will be noticed in te last map issued—tat of 1897. There are two Virginias, both on the Atlantic and Danville rialroad. Now there can't be two, and which is the ight one? Fom the latter a railroad has been built to the rch copper ore beds n Person county.

Just before Christmas Eugene Penny a young farmer of Wake county, left his wife and four children and went away with Miss Chamblee, a young lady school teacher of the neighborhood. Before going away Penny sold a part of his land and took the money. Last week the couple returned and each went to their home—Penny to his wife and children, and Miss Chamblee to her parents. The young woman says that she and Penny took a trip through Mexico and California, and she was very much distressed to learn that the gossops had talked about her going away with a married man. She said Mr. Penny treated her like a lady; that she wanted to see the world and he showed it to her. Penny has given out no statement.

A. J. Hamilton, of Delhi, Deleware county, N. Y., has sold the Dudley Shoals property, which is situated near Perie, in Caldwell county, about ten miles from Hickory, to the Dudley Lumber Company, of Granite Falls, Mr. Hamilton has owned this property for a number of years. The tract contains 425 acres of heavy timbered land besides the water power. The lumber company will develop the property and erect a saw mill and a roller flour mill at once.

The Junior Order of United American Mechanics gained 1,200 in North Carolina during the past twelve months.

The Hendersonville Lumber company shipped a car load of lumber to Balfour the past week where Captain Troy is building several cottages for the employes of the Balfour Quarry company.

Joseph Beck, of High Point, has obtained a verdict for $80,000 damages in his suit against John G. Kraft, of Baltimore, for alleged breach of contract for the purchase of a two-thirds interest in the Aldred gold mine in this State.

In response to numerous inquiries coming to his office State superintendent of public instruction Mebane is sending out to all county superintendents announcemets to the effect that the next annual examination for life certificates will be held at each court house on the second Thursday in July.

Mr. A. Savery, of this city has just sold to H. Abrams, of Knoxville, Tenn., for $90, an old flint and steel double barrel gun, which was made many years ago for General Wade Hampton. The gun is of very fine workmanship and weighs only about six pounds. After it came into his possession, Mr. Savery offered General Hampton the opportunity to secure it, but the general said he did not need it as he was out of the shooting business. —Winston Republican.

There will be a mass meeting of the tobacco growers of Forsyth county at the court house in Winston on Saturday, March 24, at 12 o'clock m. The object of the meeting is to discuss the plans set forth at the State tobacco growers' association, held in Raleigh on January 17. Also to perfect an organization in this county, if deemed proper to do so. J. F. Jordan, of Greensboro, will be present to explain and outline the plans of the organization.

The Secretary of State has chartered the following new corporations:

"Vivian Cotton Mills," of Cherryville, Gaston county, capital stock $20,000, with privilege of increasing to $2,000,000. The incorporators are: S. S. Mauney, D. W. Aderholdt and M. E. Rudisill. The business proposed is the manufacture and sale of cotton goods. Annual meetings of the company shall be held at Cherryville on the first Tuesday in May of each year.

The "Southern Machinery Company," of Charlotte. Its capital stock is $25,000, and the incorporators ar Frank H. Reid, B. D. Springs and S. S. McNinch. The business proposed is that of manufacturing, buying and selling all kinds of machinery.

The "Reid Brick Company," of Charlotte. The incorporators are the same as in "Southern Machinery Company;" and the capital stock in this case likewise is $25,000. The business proposed is a general manufacturing business, particularly the manufacture and sale of all kinds of brick, tile and the like, and to do the business of contractor and dealer in builders' supplies.

The Judicial convention to nominate a judge to succeed Judge Bowman will be held at Hickory next Thursday.

Goldsboro is still pressing forward in the industrial world. In addition to the large cotton mill now in operation they will have in the near future two more large cotton manufacturing plants. One will be known as the Borden Manufacturing Company, with F. K. Borden as president and E. B. Borden, Jr., secretary and treasurer. Mr. W. K. Parker, an experienced cotton mill man, is at the head of the other mill, making active preparations for a speedy completion of the arrangements for the factory.

J. Van Lindley, perhaps the best authority in the State on such things, says that up to the present time the prospects for an abundant fruit crop this year are better than for many years past. Ordinarily peach, pear and plum trees are in full bloom by the middle of this month. Now there is barely a sign of swelling bud anywhere. The capital stock of the Harriet Cotton Mill has been increased from $150,000 to $200,000 before a spade full of dirt has been thrown. And there is demand for the stock at home and abrod, more than can be supplied.—Henderson Gold Leaf.

TO PRETORIA NEXT.

Objective Point of the Next British Advance.

GENERAL ROBERTS TO THE GUARDS.

Three Columns to Unite and Replace His Force, While He Pushes on to the Front.

London, By Cable.—Lord Hoberts' success in handling the civil problems at Bloemfontein and the manifest equanimity with which the residents of the capital of the Orange Free State accept the British occupation, momentarily eclipse in interest the military situation. It is believed here that the commander-in-chief of the British forces in South Africa will soon push on to Pretoria, but Great Britain is quite content to listen for a few days to the acclamations of the people of Bloemfontein and permit the troops to enjoy a few days of rest before expecting further success. Lord Roberts made a quaint speech to the Guards at Bloemfontein when in his first congratulatory words he expressed pride in their splendid march of 38 miles in 28 hours, and gave ample assurance of his ultimate design. "Through a small mistake," said Lord Roberts, "I have not been able to march into Bloemfontein at the head of the brigade, as I intended. I promise you, however, that I will lead you into Pretoria."

General Gatacre is holding Bethulie and the whole line of the railroad south of Bloemfontein is now in the hands of the British, and General Brabant's column having crossed the Orange river after an enforced march at Aliwal North on Sunday, and General Clement's column being across at Vanzyl, the three columns will form an army of 12,000 to 15,000 men, which is expected to replace the forces of Lord Roberts at Bloemfontein as he pushes northward. Just where the Boers will attempt to oppose that march is an important question, but it cannot be easily answered until General Joubert is more definitely located.

Further news has reached the outside world from Mafeking, dated Friday, March 9th, showing that though the garrison was in hard straits, they were buoyed up by the knowledge that their plucky fight was appreciated at home.

General Roberts reports that he found seven British officers and 43 men wounded in the hospital at Bloemfontein, and they were well cared for. He adds: "I rejoiced the wounded Boers by telling them, they will be allowed to proceed to their homes, instead of being made prisoners, as soon as they can leave the hospital."

Appeals to President.

Frankfort, Ky., Special.—Governor Taylor spent the entire day at the executive mansion Friday in conference with Republican leaders, chief among whom were John W. Yerkes, of Danville, and D. W. Lindsey, of this city. It is understood that a memorial to President McKinley, asking him to intervene, and take a hand in the political contests, was the subject of this conference. Governor Taylor refused to talk about the appeal to the President, but it is said that the governor has expressed a desire for the assistance of a small body of troops and also for support in the way of recognition of him as governor.

Telegraphic Briefs.

Cronje's army imprisoned in Cape Town dug a tunnel 25 yards long with tin drinking cups and were within a few feet of liberty, when a non-Boer prisoner in their corral told on them.

A Turkish poet by the name of Nieldjar, who is the Constantnople Kipling, has eloped to Paris with Miss Nadesha, favorite daughter of the Sultan's favorite wife. The runaways were helped by Osman Pasha, the hero of Plevna, They're after them.

Chester A. Melate, a Western Union operator, arrested at Kingston, N. Y., on charge of operating a green goods game, has gone to jail in default of $2,500 bail.

Fears About Fruit Crop.

Americus, Ga., Special.—Much apprehension is felt here for the safety of the fruit crop and truck. Orchards are in full bloom and Friday morning the temperature fell to the freezing point and thin ice formed in exposed localities.

Griffin, Ga., Special.—Fruit men here say little damage has been done to Elberta peaches and other hardy varieties, but they seriously fear the cold weather. The thermometer Thursday night was 30. A temperature of 2[illegible] will destroy the peaches.

Visible Cotton Supply.

New Orleans, Special.—Secretary Hester's statement of the total supply of cotton shows a decrease for the week just closed of 154,260 bales, against a decrease of 163,855 last year. The total visible is 3,719,829, against 3,874,089 last week and 5,292,648 last year. Of this the total of American cotton is 3,059,629, against 3,143,089 last week and 4,046,648 last year; of all others kinds, including Egypt, Brazil, etc., 710,000, against 731,000 last week and 1,156,000 last year.

Leaves New York.

New York, Special.—The American Tobacco Company discharged its entire list of 500 employes, men and women, Friday from the cigar factory at Fifty-second street and East river, and it will move its plant to its factories in Richmond, Va.; Baltimore, Cincinnati and Lancaster, Pa. This is the only factory the company has here. Manager Gordon in the factory said the shutting down was on account of the expenses. "Labor is too expensive here," said he, "and we can get it cheaper in other places."

A SUCCESSFUL FARMER.

Ex-Senator M. W. Ransom Buys Another Large Farm.

The well known "Polenta" farm, situated on the Roanoke river, six miles from Rich Square, and comprising about 2,200 acres, was sold last Monday by Samuel R. Buxton, esq., executor of the late John W. Buxton, and was bought by General Matt W. Ransom for $6,000. This is one of the most valuable stock farms in the state. The net profits for last year amounted to more than $2,500. General Ransom now owns about 20,000 acres of arable land in Northampton, besides his holdings in Halifax. Much of this land is worth from $25 to $50 per acre for farming purposes. He is the largest cotton farmer in the state. His cotton crop amounts to from 1,200 to 2,000 bales annually, and he owns and works over 200 horses and mules.

Mr. C. R. Hoey to Wed.

Announcement is made of the engagement of Miss Bessie Gardner, of Shelby, N. C., to Mr. Clyde R. Hoey, the talented editor of the Shelby Star. The invitations read as follows: "The honor of your presence is requested at the marriage of Miss Bessie Gardner to Mr. Clyde R. Hoey, on Thursday evening, March 22, 1900."

News Notes.

A letter from Guilford county says that three employees of the Deep River shoe factory bottomed 247 pairs of shoes in five days last week. The work of lasting, pegging and trimming was done by hand. One of the men drove pegs at the gala week in Greensboro last summer.

Turner McDowell, a small white boy who lives in the suburbs of Greensboro, got hold of a piece of iron piping Monday afternoon and rigged up a gun. He loaded it with scrap iron, and after supper went out into the back yard to fire a salute, with the result that he lost an eye and had several pieces of iron imbedded in his head and body. The improvised gun was picked up several yards from where the boy fell. The wounds are serious, and will probably prove fatal.

Mrs. J. W. Wilkinson, of West Statesville, has more than an ordinary amount of patience, and this is proof of the fact. She has three quilts bound with red white and blue that contain 36,120 pieces. One quilt has 7,010 pieces, one 12,096 and the third 17,014. What lady can beat that?

The Southern Railway is building a bridge over Silver creek, two miles west of Morganton.

The Auditor's report as regards taxable property came from the printer this week. It shows 27,110,351 acres of land, valuation $110,563,70; 84,182 town lots, $45,648,416; 171,827 horses, $6,153,146; 125,858 mules, $49,991,743; sheep, 309,403, $311,174; goats, 48,835, $22,236; cattle 586,206, $4,845,010; hogs 1,232,653, $1,604,185. The value of libraries is given as $358,596; money on hand or deposit, $17,249,764; stock in incorporated companies in the State, $4,825,148; tobacco, $1,288,568; cotton, $1,217,049; gross income on property not taxed, $6,291; incomes from salaries and fees, $788,000.

Mr. J. D. Church, general manager of the New York Life Insurance Company in the Carolinas, has resigned his position and will leave for New York, where he will be associated with his brother in the largest co-operative business in the world. Mr. Martin A. Lyon, of Charlotte, succeeds him.

The State charters the W. T. Weaver Power Company, of Asheville. It will develop electric power at some point on the French Broad river. The capital is $30,000, and the stockholders are W. T. Weaver, T. F. Davidson, W. W. Raoul, J. L. Wagner, W. B. Williamson and John H. Lange.

It is learned at the Auditor's office that New Hanover is the only county which pays less taxes this year than it did last year, the amount of falling off being about $500.

Secretary Root's Army Reorganization bill has aroused the greatest opposition among the staff officers.

Secretary Root has arrived at Havana.

A bomb was thrown Friday through a window of the Paris residence of Alfred Picard, Commissioner General of the Paris Exposition. It did not explode. A lady who saw two men light the fuse and who have the alarm was attacked and severely handled by them.

Terry McGovern, of Brooklyn, knocked out Oscar Gardiner, the Omaha Kid," in the third round of what was to have been a 25-round bout before the Broadway Athletic Club.

The Dolphin left the Washington navy yard Friday with the members of the House Committee on Naval Affairs for a short visit to Newport News to inspect the battleships Kearsarge and Kentucky.

Governor Longino, of Mississippi has appointed Hon. S. S. Calhoun, of Jackson, chief of teh Mississippi supreme court to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge Thomas H. Woods. The appointment was confirmed by the Senate.

Capt. H. S. Bishop, of the Fifth Cavalry, stationed in Puerto Rico, reported on the frightful condition to which many islanders are reduced.

Orders will be issued by Secretary Long organizing a board which will take preliminary steps in the establishment of a naval station at Pearl harbor, Hawaii

At the United Brethren Church conference at Boiling Springs, Pa., Bishop Hott announced the appointments of ministers for the coming year.

A story has been made public in Frankfort, Ky., to the effect that 27 men conspired to murder Goebel and drew lots to see who should be the actual assassin.

Secretary Long told the House Naval Committee that his chief reason for opposing the building of warship at the naval yards were that it would cost more than at the yards of private firms and that the danger from politics entering into the plan was great.

CAPITOL CAPTURED.

The British Are Closing Up On The Boers.

GEN. ROBERTS' TRIUMPHAL MARCH.

Occomplishments of a Month—Kimberly Relieved — Notable Success.

London, By Cable.—The first half of the campaign is over. Lord Roberts arrived at Modder River on February 9. He entered Bloemfontein on March 13. Thus, in a little over a month he has effected the relief of Kimberley and Ladysmith, the capture of General Cronje's forces and the hoisting of the British flag in the capital of the Free State. All this has been accomplished with comparatively trifling losses. It is small wonder that he is the hero of the hour ... England. All the newspapers eulogize him and congratulate the country. They talk of the Free State as having passed out of existence and as being now one of the shadows of history. It is not doubted there may yet be heavy fighting, but the genius of Lord Hoberts is looked to for victory over all difficulties. His grim reference to the "late" President Steyn is understood to show that there shall be no ambiguity as to the position assumed toward the republics. The fact that Mr. Frazer, late chairman of the Free State Raad and leader of the opposition to Mr. Steyn, came with the deputation to surrender the keys is regarded as extremely significant of considerable differences of opinion among the Free States regarding the war. It is said that President Kruger hates Mr. Frazer on account of his sympathy with the Outlanders. The demonstrations of the Bloemfontein inhabitants are also regarded as a good augury for the future of British supremacy.

It is interesting, in connection with the rapid advance of Lord Roberts to learn that the Russian military attache with the Boers, who was captured by the British, sent the following telegram to the Czar: "I am perfectly amazed at the energy in action and the endurance of the British infantry. I need say no more." There is still no news as to whether Lord Roberts has captured any rolling stock. If he has not then he will be obliged to wait until the repairing of the bridges over the Orange river enables him to bring rolling stock up. The British continue pressing their advance on the Orange river. The Boers still hold Bethulie bridge, on the north side of the stream, but their trenches are dominated by the British artillery. Heavy firing is in progress and there has been some skirmishing. Lord Kitchener seems to be very successful in reducing the extent of the Dutch rising.

Otis' Government.

Washington, D. C., Special.—Without awaiting the arrival of the new Philippine commission, Gen. Otis is pressing forward with the installation of civil governments in the various districts of the Philippines. Last August he established municipal governments in towns within the limits of the United States occupation. Now he has taken steps to provide a more systematic and orthodox system of government. He has appointed a board headed by the brightest and most acute lawyer in the Philippines, Cayentano Arilano, and including some experienced army officers to carry out his project.

Wadesboro The Lucky Point.

Princeton, N. J., Special.—Prof. Charles Young, of the University astronomical department, announced Wednesday that preparations are now being made by him to observe the total eclipse of the sun, which will take place on May 28. The instruments necessary for the work are in course of construction. Wadesboro, N. C., has been selected as the place where the best observations can be made.

Committed Suicide.

Kansas City, Special.—J. Sherman Peffer, son of W. A. Peffer, former United States Senator from Kansas, was found dead in bed in a room in a house on East Eighth street Wednesday afternoon. On the bureau was found a box that had contained morphine and a note reading: "Father, I don't like to do what I am doing, but I am tired." In the dead man's pockets were found several Typoraphical Union working cards. He was about 30 years of age and was a linotype operator. He was not known to be despondent.

Chicago Strike.

Chicago, Special.—With prospects of a peaceful settlement of the labor strike as remote as at any time since its inception, the opening day of the sixth week of the struggle here found both sides grimly determined. The original building trades dispute is now merely one of the many features of the imbroglio. Additional strikes and evidence of discontent are developing constantly.

Gold in Georgia.

Atlanta, Ga., Special.—The Nacoochee Mining and Manufacturing Company, with headquarters and main offices in Atlanta, and a capitalization of $5,000,000, applied for a charter for a gold mine in White county. It is claimed by the owners that the richest veins of gold ore east of the Rocky Mountains are located on the property. Among the incorporators are Gov. Allen Candler, ex-Governor Northen, F. B. Neal, F. E. Black, and H. H. Cabaniss.