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CONVICT CRUELTY CASE CONSIDERED

North Carolina Sensation Receives a Public Airing

BEFORE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Some Startling Evidence Developed At the Investigation— Evidence in Rebuttal.

The investigation of the matter of cruelty to convicts from the North Carolina Penitentiary in their removal to Marion was begun Tuesday. The staff correspondent of the Charlotte Observer gives a full account of the proceedings, the most salient features being given here:

Marion, N. C., Special.—Mr. J. L. C. Bird and others of Marion submitted evidence to the legislative committee which tended to establish his charges of cruelty to convicts on the recent removal from Spruce Pine to Hillsboro and Raleigh, via Marion. In rebuttal Superintendent Mann made an excellent showing so far as his own responsibility is concerned. He doubtless impressed the committee by his fairness and by reading his orders to supervisors. Superintendent Lashley also endeavored to shift any blame from his shoulders, he was alongside the men on a portion of the march, but could not observe all that was going on, but thought everything was done right.

The committee consisted of Senators H. N. Pharr, of Mecklenburg, and Thos. D. Warren, of Jones county, and Representatives George L. Mortin, of New Hanover; T. W. Blount, of Washington, and W. C. Newland, of Caldwell, and after a hard day's work all the witnesses to be examined here were heard. A further hearing will be held on the return to Raleigh. Attorney Hudgins, of Marion, appeared for Superintendent Mann, while Mr. Bird acted as prosecutor. The latter stated that he brought charges at the almost unanimous demand of the community and he was not here when the convicts passed through. As a result of Tuesday's hearing, it may be said that the opinion will probably prevail that the convicts did suffer hardship, but the responsibility of such suffering has not yet been fixed.

MR. SPARKS HEARD "RUMORS" OF ILL TREATMENT.

Whitfield Sparks, of Grassy Creek township, Mitchell county, who lives near the Spruce Pine convict camp, 24 miles from Marion, was the first witness. When asked by Mr. Bird if he knew that the weaker men were selected for removal the witness said it was so rumored, and on objection by counsel for Superintendent Mann, a controversy arose as to what limitations should be put upon the evidence. It was stated that such was the general talk, but the witness could not substantiate it. The convicts were started to Marion on the day after a sleet. The witness saw one sick man helped into a wagon. The convicts crossed Tow river on the ice. The latter was covered with water about five inches deep for some 20 feet. The men were shackled together, two by two, and had on ordinary convict clothes. The witness saw no unkind treatment of convicts and some of them were not shackled.

W. D. Wiseman, of Spruce Pine, in January, 1902, passed about 100 convicts en route over the mountains in severe weather. Some of them waded Armstrong creek while there was ice in the still water. One convict lost his shoes. One man was carried over by trusties, but the witness did not know whether or not he was a guard. The witness advised the guards to camp on the east side of the mountain, as the weather was colder on the other side. They camped at Mica (which is on the other side of the mountain). The camp equipage for the return trip to Marion was loaded on a sleety day. The men crossed the river on the ice, over which water was running. At dinner on the march the witness saw coffee and bread distributed and heard convicts ask for meat. For 13 miles from Marion the road was muddy and sloppy. One sick man while lying down in a wagon asked for water as the creek was being crossed, and was groaning. A guard told him to "shut his d—n mouth;" that it would do him no good to groan. A convict started to get a bucket of water and the guard cursed and told him to take a can. The witness saw a few old shoes dropped on the road. In crossing a small creek some of the men had to wade in water over shoe-mouth deep. The roads were bad and the convicts marched in the middle of the road, while the guards generally walked on the bank. Some gave out and were put in wagons. He saw the sick convits taken off the wagon, but none were dead. Five or six were ill, two apparently "bad off." On cross-examination by Superintendent Mann's counsel the witness stated that Armstrong creek was about knee-deep and there was no foot-log where the convicts crossed. The witness was not positive that any guard was taken over on convicts' backs. Once and a while the convicts could avoid mud holes. "There is no other way to Marion," said the witness, "so far as I know, or I would have traveled it." Asked about the convicts' shoes by Chairman Warren, the witness said some of them were in bad shape and in two instances he noticed they were open and "dripping mud." The convict who was groaning seemed to be in serious condition. The witness saw one man with one foot bare. This side of the mountain the mud was the worst of the winter on the day the convicts were moved. The mud came up to the top of the shoes and sometimes higher, and it was shoe-mouth deep nearly all the way.

GUARDS CURSED THE CONVICTS.

A. D. Wiseman, of Spruce Pine, testified that he drove a team along with the convicts on the march to Marion. Three miles or more an hour were made. Some places the mud was 6 to 8 inches deep and the average was about shoe-mouth deep. Two convicts seemed to be very sick and showed pain all the way. One asked for "just anything" and the guard replied that he had nothing for him. While groaning a guard named Sandlin said to a convict to "shut up his d—n mouth." Exhausted convicts were put on mules two at a time because they were shackled together and could not be separated. When convicts would give out the guards would curse them. A guard named Busbee told a convict who fell on his face in the mud: "D—n you, get up. I am not going to carry you." When near Marion all who were able to get off the mules were lined up to be counted. The witness saw four or five couples of shackled men fall by the wayside. One man apparantly had a fit and was put in a wagon. Near town several fell and were urged on by the guards and in some cases unshackled men helped them. The mud came above the convicts' knees. Each man carried his blanket. One convict dropped a Bible and Guard Busbee cursed him for "carrying plunder." The witness had never seen a worse day to move convicts than the one on which the trip to Marion was made. Ten miles from town the men waded a stream over shoe-mouth deep. The sick men were given water twice on the way, but no milk or medicine. When begging for water a guard said: "D—n you shut up; that won't do you any good." A negro fell and while on his all-fours tipped his cap and said, pitifully, "Boss, I can't go any further." Guard Busbee replied: "G—d d—n you, get up. I am not going to carry you. We are in smelling distance of the town." A convict went to cross a fence and fell and brushed against a guard, who said: "G—d d—n you; stay off me. I'll shoot h—l out of you," and made a demonstration with his gun. One man was laid in a car at the Marion depot and the witness heard it said: "Our little negro is dead." Some of the convicts after reaching the car cut their muddy pants legs off and threw them out of the window. It takes a day of hard driving to come from Spruce Pine to Marion. A pedestrian can almost keep up with a loaded wagon. The convicts were given coffee, some corn bread and a little meat. There was complaint that the bread had been frozen and the meat was cold. The stream waded was about six feet wide, while Toe river is 100 yards wide.

A good deal of other testimony was given in the same line. The testimony in rebuttal follows in part:

W. E. Crossland, of Richmond, a director of the penitentiary, said the board decided that the convicts should be taken from the cold climate as a human act. The State board, guarded and had absolute control of the convicts.

J. G. Hackett, of Wilkesboro, another prison director, stated that the convicts were removed as a protection to their health. They were allowed to stay until January 20th on condition that they be worked only in good weather. The matter of removal was left entirely to Superintendent Mann. The witness thought the convicts could not have been taken through Tennessee for the reason that North Carolina would have lost jurisdiction over them. Mr. Mann said the Governor told him not to carry the convicts through Tennessee.

The board made an order that no convict can be whipped by a guard, and the supervisors must make reports on each case, giving the charge, etc.

Mann read letters to Geo. L. Carter, a railroad contractor showing the unwillingness of the penitentiary board to allow the convicts to remain on the north side of the mountains during the winter, 17 having died at Lashley's camp, 11 of pneumonia, the previous year, and informing him that unless the men were moved to the south side of the ridge they would be withdrawn from the work. After a conference between the board and Carter's representative it was agreed that the contract terminate on January 20th. Mann came here and arranged for the removal of the convicts, for transportation and comfortable cars. At Spruce Pine he found the contractor and finally agreed to have 100 of the hardiest convicts on the work. Mann instructed him to see that the sick men were taken care of, and also that plenty of coffee was provided. He provided $200 in cash to meet any emergency, and authorized the purchase of whiskey for the convicts on their arrival here. If it had been practicable to have carried the men wholly by rail it would not have cost the State a cent. The Governor advised against letting the convicts go beyond the borders of the State, and he took this as an order. No sick men died en route to Raleigh. One man has died since making the trip, from a recently developed illness; two sick men are still living, although they may not recover. He had no contract to pay $50 a day for cars as has been reported. He did not examine the clothes of the convicts at Spruce Pine, but was confident the men were well provided for. The convicts left Marion on the morning of the 22nd, and arrived at Raleigh at 11 o'clock that night. The delay of the train was caused by a wreck. A record of every whipping and death is immediately reported to the superintendent.

THE KILLING OF DAVIS.

He knew nothing of a killing at Lashley's camp, but there was a man killed at McIver's camp, a white man named C. M. Davis, who refused to work. Two men were ordered to take him in a building. He stabbed one of them and dashed out, throwing a rock at another. He paid no attention to orders to stop, and was shot dead by order of Supervisor McIver. Davis had told a company that he intended to kill his supervisor with his pick.

Superintendent Mann also read a number of letters to Supervisors Lashley and McIver, urging the proper conduct of the camps, and the protection of the men. He is sure the convicts are fed better than nine-tenths of the laboring people who work for themselves. With reference to the sick men brought over last fall, letters showed that they be transported without hardship or suffering. He ordered that the convicts from Mitchell be allowed to rest as long as necessary to put them in good condition. He could not say that no convicts were made sick by the movement, but he was advised that those who have been indisposed are recovering.

CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. BIRD.

Examined by Mr. Bird, Superintendent Mann said the road from Marion to Spruce Pine was very bad. He submitted to lengthy cross-examination, tending to show that he himself was not responsible for any mistreatment of convicts and was informed that the men received proper attention under the disagreeable circumstances.

Supervisor McIver, who has been in the service over 25 years, corroborated the story of the killing of Davis. He advised that some of the convicts be shackled, as they were dangerous. It would not be safe to shackle them by the arms. Some of those moved were able-bodied men. The march from Spruce Pine was not of an unusual length, or cruel. He ordered two negroes to take hold of Davis, the white man killed.

J. C. Lashley, supervisor in charge of the convicts from Spruce Pine to Marion, said the convicts had plenty of coffee, biscuits and meat, and he was told all were fed. Wagons had been provided to cross the river, but it was found better to cross on the ice. He himself walked across and did not get his feet wet. The sick men were well cared for and none of them walked. The guards are not allowed to curse convicts. Fires were built in the train after arrival. No convicts died en route. He knew nothing of the story of a man dying after a whipping. The convicts were comfortably clad.

CROWDS VISIT THE SENATE

To Hear the Opening Prayer By Gen. Booth.

Washington, Special.—An immense crowd was attracted to the Senate Friday to hear the invocation of General Wm. Booth, founder and commander-in-chief of the Salvation Army. Among the occupants of the galleries were Booth Tucker, the general's chief assistant and son-in-law and a large number of Salvationists. When the statehood bill came up, Mr. Depew resumed his remarks, and attacked the Mormon Church because he said he believed its members still cling to the practice of polygamy. Referring to the anti-polygamy provision in the Statehood bill, Mr. Depew said that it would seem that "the fine Italian hand of the Mormon apostle had been at work in the preparation of the measure and that the concentrated influence of the Mormon hierarchy could be seen in the determined effort to prevent any amendment which would completely exclude polygamy." It is not disputed, he said, that the vote of the Mormon Church is absolutely controlled by the central hierarcdy of that organization. He declared that the migration of Mormons to the different States and Territories was not for the purpose of securing homes and farms, but in the rough a compact to control legislation.

Any legislation, Mr. Rawlins declared, in any State directed at Mormonism is futile, unless there is a public sentiment which will sustain the same, while the question was not as to the inadequacy of the provisions against polygamy, but as to the exercise of political power. Persecution is the seed of the Mormon Church, he declared, and it did not do any good to arraign the entire people and brand every Mormon as a slave, a most unjust accusation. "To do that," he said, "you solidify those who would aid you in bringing about the very conditions you see here." The best possible school, he said, for the correction of these evils, is to emancipate the Mormons and leave them free to work out their own destinies.

Mr. Dubois said he did not think the reference of the opponents of statehood to polygamy were serious. He declared that if the statehood bill is allowed to be put on the postoffice appropriation bill he would consent to it, and advocate the placing of the Idaho constitution relating to elections, as an amendment and require Arizona and New Mexico to subscribe to it before being admitted. Under the test oath of that constitution, he said, Idaho disfranchised every member of the Mormon Church, and for years they were without a vote.

After an executive session the Senate adjourned until 1 o'clock tomorrow, to allow Senators to attend the noon wedding of Senator Cockrell's daughter.

Three Men Drowned.

Washington, N. C., Special.—During the heavy gale of Thursday night the skipper Maco was capsized in Swan Quarter bay, and Captain Robert Wescom, master, and two white men were drowned. The reports are conflicting, but one rumor is that five negroes, also of the boat's crew, were drowned. The same evening in Palmetto river, off Fork Point, two miles from this city, the schooner "Father and Son" was sunk. The crew, two in number, were saved. In the cabin is the purse of the captain containing $158. The service of John M. Edwards, submarine diver, has been secured and an effort is being made to raise the "Father and Son" from her watery grave.

Eight Fires at One Time.

Tampa, Fla., Special.—Eight fires broke out here and were raging at the same time in different sections of the city. A block of wholesale warehouses on Whitney street, including the Cudahy Packing Company, Tampa Fertilizer Company, Curruthers Produce Company, S. A. Edwards, W. H. Osborne J. K. Parrish and Walter Willis Company was burned. The entire loss was about $20,000. Labor Hall was gutted by fire and the Tampa Furniture Company's mattress factory was destroyed with several smaller fires.

Statue to Mercer.

Washington, Special—Secretary Root has issued an order to carry out the purpose of Congress, directing the submission by Edward V. Valentine, of Richmond, Va., of designs for a bronze statue of General Hugh Mercer and has inivted the mayor of Fredericksburg, Va., to secure and convey to the United States a suitable site for the statue, which is to cost $21,500.

NORTH STATE LAWMAKERS

Proceedings Devoted Largely to the Local Measures.

Third Reading Bills.

At Monday's session of the House the following new bills passed third reading:

An act to amend the charter of the Piedmont Savings Bank.

An act to provide for the sale of property in which there is a contingent remainder.

A joint resolution to appoint a committee to investigate the cost of converting the State prison building into a hospital for insane or other useful purposes.

A resolution concerning the distribution of the George Peabody fund.

These passed third reading in the Senate:

House bill: To levy a special tax in Sampson to pay expenses of smallpox epidemic.

Senate bill: To authorize Guilford county to vote on bonds for road improvements.

House bill: To provide for working the roads in Smithfield township, in Johnston county.

House bill: To authorize Jackson county to levy a special tax.

House bill: To amend the charter of Red Springs.

House bill: To incorporate Stokes in Pitt county.

Senate bill: Authorizing Cleveland to levy special tax for roads and bridges.

Senate bill: Authorizing Tyrrell to levy special tax.

Senate bill: To incorporate Lawndale in Cleveland.

Senate bill: Allowing Lenoir to levy a special tax.

Senate bill: To change the corporate limits of Marion.

Senate bill: To establish graded school in Freemont.

In both House and Senate quite a number of local private bills were introduced, together with many petitions and resolutions on the temperance question.

Senate bill: Authorizing Madison county to issue bonds to pay the outstanding indebtedness of the county. Ayes 28, noes 2—Crisp and Wellborn.

Senate bill: Allowing Whiteville to issue improvement bonds.

Senate Bill: To authorize Montgomery to issue bonds to build court house.

Senate bill: To authorize Edenton to issue bonds.

House bill: To incorporate Rhodhiss in Caldwell.

Senate bill: Authorizing Pitt to levy a special tax.

House bill: To amend chapter 88, Private Laws of 1897, and chapter 215, Private Acts 1899—after diligent inquiry one Senator finally explained that this bill amended the charter of Lumberton.

Senate bill: Regulating contested elections was deferred until Monday.

House bill: To correct State grant No. 479.

Senate bill: To amend the law, regulating notaries' fees.

Senate bill: To confirm certain charter privileges and rights of the Suffolk & Carolina Railway Company.

Senate bill: For better drainage of land in Lincoln.

Senate bill: To amend pension law was tabled.

Senate bill: To abolish the board of examiners of State institutions. Mr. Glenn said that he did not know that there was such a board until he saw their report in the papers and that report was thoroughly unjust and unfair to at least one State institution. He thought taking the authority for visiting the institutions from the Legislature was a great mistake. He could not endorse the work of the examiners that cost $12,000 and accomplished nothing. Mr. Spence objected to third reading.

Senate bill: To abolish standard keeper in Vance failed to pass.

House bill: To prevent public drunkenness in Macon county.

House bill: To shorten time of notice of publication.

Senator Reinhardt sent up and had read a memorial from the agricultural students in the Agricultural and Mechanical College asking for an agricultural building.

House bill: To amend chapter 524, Laws of 1901, so as to eliminate the oath primary elections except in case of challenge, applying only to Mecklenburg county. This bill amends the law so as to require the managers of primary elections to administer an oath "when any voter is challenged in good faith, the challenger stating grounds for such challenge."

Senate bill: Allowing M. N. Ames to practice law and be a justice of the peace.

Senate bill: To regulate contested elections, was tabled.

Senate bill: To amend The Code, section 380, with reference to measures.

Senate bill: To amend chapter 750, Laws of 1901.

House bill: To incorporate the Bank of Martin County, was amended and passed.

House bill: To incorporate the Raleigh & Eastern Railroad was amended regarding the rate clause and then passed second reading.

PASSED THIRD READING.

House bill: To ratify and affirm the incorporation of the Carolina & Tennessee Southern Railway Company.

House bill: To amend chapter 15, Laws 188.

Senate bill: To form a school district from Cumberland and Robeson.

House bill: To relieve Annie B. Whitted, of Person.

House bill. For relief of Miss Julia B. Howard, of Person.

House bill: For relief of Miss Ella Chandler, of Person.

House bill: For relief of Mrs. Stanford potter.

Senate bill: Regulating hunting in Halifax and Warren.

House bill: To repeal acts of 1887 regarding collecting taxes in Caswell.

House bill: To allow Caswell to levy a special tax passed second reading.

Senate bill: Regulating local option election in Brevard and placing safeguards about the liquor traffic in Transylvania.

House bill: For paying school claims in Davie.

House bill: To relieve Miss Mary Jane Watkins.

Senate bill: To relieve Miss Mattinette Pecto, of Halifax.

Senate bill: To relieve Miss Nannie Tanner.

Senate bill: To regulate the sale of liquor in township No. 1, Edgecombe.

Senate bill: To regulate sale of malt in McDowell.

House bill: Amending an act regulating hunting and fishing in Currituck.

House bill: To prohibit the manufacture, sale and shipping of liquor in Cumberland.

House bill: Resolution regarding the distribution of the Peabody fund.

The Senate adjourned at 1:40 o'clock until 12 o'clock Monday.

The child labor bill was postponed until Wednesday.

CONTINUED ON THIRD PAGE.

TILLMAN ON HABEAS CORPUS

Vigorous Effort Made to Get Him Out of Jail on Bond.

Newberry, S. C., Special.—Applications for bail for former Lieutenant Governor James H. Tillman, charged with the murder of N. G. Gonzales, editor of The State, in Columbia, S. C., January 15th, was argued here last week.

The hearing was presided over by Chief Justice Y. J. Pope, who on last Saturday granted the hearing to the defending attorneys of James H. Tillman.

The commonwealth of South Carolina was represented by State Attorney General Gunter and Solicitor Thurmond. Tillman was defended by Congressman-elect George W. Croft, his law partner and P. H. Nelson, of Columbia.

Justice Pope signed an order requiring Tillman's counsel to serve copies of affidavits upon the solicitor general, who would reply if desired, and the answers of the state will be served upon the appellants who are also given the right to reply.

Monday at noon both sides will be present before Justice Pope in Columbia, and final action will be taken.

Tillman and his lawyers are sure of winning the decision on the ground of self defense. The solicitor and his assistant counsel declare they will resist bail to the very last.

The hearing of the application for bail began shortly after 2 o'clock. The court room was packed almost to suffocation. There was no demonstration when Tillman entered as the judge had warned everybody to be absolutely quiet. Tillman appeared calm, then nervous, impatient and angry at the varying stages of the hearing.

Col. Nelson, for Mr. Tillman, conducted his case. Affidavits were read alleging Gonzales had sent a message threatening Tillman's life. One affidavit declared it was expected and believed Tillman would be shot by Gonzales whenever the two men met.

A lengthy affidavit from Tillman was read in which he swore he had been warned by many that his life was in danger, and that he fired in self defense. His affidavit declared that as Gonzales approached on the fatal day, Gonzales slipped his hand into his overcoat pocket, which Tillman says he thought was a motion to draw a pistol. Not until the shot was fired, Tillman says, he realized Gonzales had not also shot him.

When the appellants announced closed the solicitor objected to any further continuance of the hearing on the ground that affidavits had been sprung on them at the very latest moment, when they had no opportunity to make investigation.

Justice Pope ruled after argument from both sides had been made that his order would be to continue the hearing until all affidavits on both sides could be answered. Both sides declined an expression of opinion after the decision had been announced.

The details of the tragedy in which Editor Gonzales lost his life are well remembered. Since the day of the shooting, Thursday, January 15, quiet and persistent efforts have been made by Tillman's legal advisers in outlining their plans of defense.

TILLMAN REACHES NEWBERRY.

Former Lieutenant Governor Jas. H. Tillman arrived at 2 o'clock, accompanied by his brother-in-law, Judge Buchanan, who is his leading counsel. Other members of counsel who accompanied the prisoner were R. H. Nelson, Geo. Rembert and Geo. W. Croft, former congressman, who is Mr. Tillman's law partner.

There was no demonstration at the depot, when the party arrived, as it was supposed they would come via the Southern. Instead, Tillman, an officer, and counsel came over the other route.

Tillman was driven immediately to the office of Col. Cole Blease, a member of counsel, where many of his friends called on him during the short time before the party went to the Crowell hotel to dinner.

The officer from Columbia had very little to do, and no one who did not know would have thought Tillman was under arrest.

Mr. Tillman said: "All I ask for is a fair trial and I am ready for it."

While he was talking to me, one of his lawyers called him to the window and said: "Jim, there's one of the best friends you have got in the world. He has been praying for your acquittal."

"That's a good friend to have," said Tillman, "and his prayer will be answered."

Aftr a brief conference with friends in the lawyer's office, Mr. Tillman was taken to the hotel and dinner was served.

Termination of the Blockade.

Washington, Special.—Official notice of the termination of the blockade of the Venezuelan ports, as conveyed in the original proclamations, has reached the State Department, in the shape of a dispatch received from the United States embassy at London, stating that the British Foreign Office has given it out that a cablegram has been sent this morning to the British naval commander in Venezuelan waters to raise the blockade.

WINDING UP OF CASE.

Mr. Bowen Taking The Last Steps In Venezuelan Controversy.

Washington, Special.—Minister Bowen expects to begin immediately the preparations of the protocols with the representtatives of the unallied powers for the settlement of the claims of the citizens of those nations who have suffered as a result of the trouble in Venezuela. There are eight of those claimant nations. The drawing up of the protocol with this government will be the first undertaken. Solicitor Penfield, of the State Department, will represent the United States in these negotiations with Mr. Bowen. Work on this protocol, it is expected, will begin tomorrow and Mr. Bowen's belief is that matters will move forward with greater rapidity than they did with the representatives of the allied governments who were enforcing the blockade against Venezuela. The negotiations with France will follow those with the United States, and so on until the protocols with all the unallied creditor nations are completed. The statement has been made that the allied powers were opposed to preferential treatment to Great Britain, Germany anl Italy, and that in all probability Venezuela, the United States and France will be lined up as representing the eight unallied nations at The Hague, as opposed to the three allies.

Mr. Bowen continues to receive congratulatory dispatches from Venezuela on the outcome of his work here. One of those which he prizes most highly is from the citizens of La Guiara, through the prefect which read as follows:

"La Guiara—The citizens of La Guiara through me felicitate you as the great and good friend of Venezuela."

Various efforts have been made by representatives of big financial houses in this country to sound Mr. Bowen as to his views on the question of financing the debts of Venezuela, which will arise out of the expected adjudication of the claims by the several mixed commissions. Mr. Bowen, however, has informed all those who have spoken to him on the subject that his mission here is entirely a diplomatic one, and that he could not consider the financial features of the matter.

POSTMASTER MULLEN IS OUT.

Mr. Smith Appointed to Succeed to the Office.

Charlotte, N. C., Special.—Mr. W. N. Mullen was last week removed from the office of postmaster of this city on the third charge. It will be remembered that the first charge against him was for intoxication. This was settled in a way satisfactory to the department, and Mullen was retained. The second charge was that a shortage of several hundred dollars appeared in his books. This was some weeks ago, but Mullen showed that the shotage was fully covered, and again was retained. Last week, however, the charge was urged that he had failed to weigh second-class matter, and that as a result the government had lost a large sum of postage. Mr. Mullen was then relieved and the question of a successor came up. Mr. Geo. B. Hiss was tendered the position, but declined. Mr. R. W. Smith was then appointed. Several telegrams were sent to the department and to Senator Pritchard urging the withdrawal of Mr. Smith's name, but this action was not taken, and it is likely that his appointment will be confirmed.

Ex-Governor Fishback Dead.

Little Rock, Ark., Special.—Former Governor Wm. Fishback died Monday at his home in Fort Smith, of paralysis. He was 72 year sof age. He was widely known as the author of the Fishback amendment, by which the Legislature is forbidden ever to pay certain bonds issued during the reconstruction period.

New Relief Committee.

Mexico City, Special.—A relief committee under the name of "Comite Nacional," has been organized here, to take the place of the charity commission which has been collecting funds for Mazatlan. President Diaz is honorary president of the committee. The actual president is Minister of Interior Corralli. In view of the controversy that people leaving the city of Mazatlan dodge the sanitary stations, and because of the reported appearance of the plague at a small town near that city, the authorities have decided to make more strict regulations governing emigration from the stricken fort.

The Oregon Deadlock.

Salem, Ore., Special.—The last week of the legislative assembly will begin and from present indications there will be no election until the last day and perhaps the last hour of the session. No joint resolution for adjournment has yet been passed, but the Legislature will probably dissolve on Friday or Saturday. Throughout the entire session State Senator C. W. Fulton has been the leading candidate with 34 votes, 45 being necessary for a choice.

A Special Wrecked.

Washington, Special.—It is reported that the Florida Special on the Southern Railway, which leaves here at 9:50 p. m., was wrecked 10 miles south of Alexandria, Va., Saturday night. One man is said to have been killed. Physicians have been sent out from Alexandria. An arrest has been made on a charge of train-wrecking.

SOUTHERN INDUSTRIAL

Unique Business Club.

Manufacturer's Record.

The Manufacturers' Club of Charlotte, N. C., is an unusual organization. Its location in a central position among the manufacturing interest of the Piedmont region of the South Atlantic States contributes, perhaps, to its opportunities.

If one visits Charlotte and is given a card to the club, this card introduces him to what seems to be a well-organized and well-attended social organization. While this is true, he is, as a matter of fact, inside an organization where there is much more going on than social intercourse.

If the visitor wants to build a cotton mill he can find three or four men either of whom can tell him all about it and who stand ready to furnish plans, machinery and build the plant. If it is a knitting mill, an expert in this line can be found also. If it is machinery to wind hosiery yarn onto cones, he can get full information and buy the machines in the building. If it is 1,000 bales of cotton that is wanted, he will have several gentlemen pointed out any one of whom will contract to furnish it at close market prices. If it is a cotton seed oil mill or a refinery or a sulphuric acid chamber, it's all the same; some member of the club can furnish full information and contract to accomplish the desired result. The club numbers among its members yarn commission men from Philadelphia, New York, Providence and Boston, and others who live in Charlotte; also cloth commission men from the same cities. The club has in the list of its members numerous cotton mill presidents, treasurers and managers. Yarn and cloth are both abundantly bought and sold in a very quiet way. A cotton mill president and a cloth commission man sit down together for a quiet talk, and when they part $10,000 worth of cloth has been bought and sold. A mill treasurer and a cotton buyer happen to meet, and in a few minutes several hundred bales of cotton have changed ownership.

The club is really an exchange in a quiet way, as well as a social organization. It resembles the Royal Exchange in Manchester more than any other place in this country does, yet it is not strictly a business organization, as the Manchester exchange is. The organization is wholly social in form, but its members aim to make it facilitate business and contribute to the industrial development of the entire territory surrounding Charlotte.

Charlotte's $450,000 Mill.

In the Manufacturers' Record of January 15 it was announced that the Highland Park Manufacturing Co. of Charlotte, N. C., had decided to build an additional mill to contain 1,000 looms, but location had not been selected, both Charlotte and Rock Hill, S. C., being under consideration. During the present week it was definitely determined that the plant be located at Charlotte, certain concessions made by the city ensuring its immediate construction. Work on the buildings will begin in a few weeks, and the equipment is expected to be ready for operation by next January Besides the 1,000 looms mentioned, there will be 30,000 spindles, and the plant will cost about $450,000, as previously stated. Stuart W. Cramer of Charlotte has been engaged as architect-engineer in charge, and he also has contract to supply the textile machinery. Ginghams will be the product. This will be the third Highland Park plant, the company having now 13,500 spindles and 1,200 looms at Charlotte, and 7,500 ring spindles with 786 looms at Rock Hill, S. C. In connection with this latter plant a cotton seed oil mill is also operated, and members of the Highland Park company have formed another company, capitalized at $100,000, to build a cotton seed oil mill at Charlotte.

Adding 10,500 Spindles, 290 Looms.

Brief reference was made recently to improvements contemplated by the E. L. Shuford Manufacturing Co. of Hickory, N. C. A definite decision has been made, and the new equipment has been ordered. The company will erect a three-story addition to its present main building for the accommodation of 10,500 spindles and 290 looms, which machinery will be installed as soon as the new structure is ready to receive it. Stuart W. Cramer of Charlotte, N. C., is mill engineer in charge of the blueprints for these betterments. The present Shuford plant operates 7500 spindles and 200 looms on the production of twills and sateens.

Textile Notes.

P. H. Hanes of Winston, N. C., is installing dyeing plant at his knitting mill.

It is reported that J. Abernathy of Lincolnton, N. C., will organize company to build a large cotton mill.

It is reported that Indian Head Mills of Alabama, Cordova, Ala., will build an addition for the installation of more looms. Company now has 27,472 spindles and 840 looms.

It is reported that Watts of Laurens, S. C., will install 30,000 spindles and 1,000 looms, instead of the 15,000 spindles and 500 looms announced previously.

It is reported that T. L. Johnson of Gadsden, Ala., has sold land at Glencoe, Ala., to a cotton manufacturing company that proposes utilizing the land as site for erection of a mill.

Extract Wool Merino Co. of Chattanooga, Tenn., will increase capital stock from $20,000 to $40,000. This additional capital is proposed for the purpose of enlarging the plant.

Granite Falls Manufacturing Co., Granite Falls, N. C., recently reported as to add spinning machinery, is not increasing its spindleage, but merely replacing worn-out equipment. Plant now has 5,000 spindles.

Messrs. B. Frank Mebane, W. R. Walker and J. S. Patterson have incorporated Union Supply &Cotton Co. of Spray, N. C., with an authorized capital of $500,000. The company's purpose is stated to be the manufacture of cotton yarn and other products.

Rome (Ga.) Hosiery Mills, recently reported incorporated, etc., with $25,000 capital, has arranged for immediate installation of equipment. There will be sixty knitting machines, producing 300 dozen pairs of men's and women's hose daily. H. W. Thurston will be manager.