

NORTH STATE MATTERS

Newsy Items Cleared From Murphy to Planteo.

Two Women Killed

Gastonia Special.—Sarah and Cora Brewer, two colored women, aged about forty and seventeen, were killed by southbound passenger train No. 11 at Hendrick's crossing, four miles west of Gastonia, at 1.30 o'clock Thursday afternoon. The negroes were riding in a buggy behind a mule, both of which belonged to Mr. Eph Holland, on whose farm they lived. The mule was killed and the buggy completely demolished. Coroner Meek Adams drove to the scene of the accident, but decided that an inquest was unnecessary. The body of one of the women was thrown 75 yards and was badly mangled; the body of the other was merely thrown from the track. The accident was witnessed by the section crew, which was working on the track nearby. The crossing is on a curve and it seems that the engineer did not know and the victims were not looking. The women were on the Hendrick's farm Saturday and were strangers in the community. The bodies were turned over to a nephew of the older woman and taken to Bessemer City for burial.

Frozen to Death.

Winston-Salem, Special.—Parties here from Yadkin reported that a man, with his two children, were held on the boat at Conrad's ferry several hours yesterday afternoon, and that the children came near freezing to death. The mush-ice floating down the river prevented the ferryman from operating the boat after it reached the middle of the stream. The man in charge of the ferry found it necessary to get out and wade to the bank. There he secured a rope. Attaching one end of this to a windlass and the other to the boat, the man and his children were pulled to the shore. The Yadkin river is unusually low. In some places it is not over two feet deep. This is accounted for by all of the smaller tributary streams being frozen up.

Cylinder Head Blew Out.

Lexington Special.—On account of one of the cylinder heads blowing out of the engine of the south-bound passenger train No. 23, near Conrads, a fireman came near losing his life, and five passenger trains were held here until about midnight. When the engine became disabled, the stockholders, who were near, being scalded to death by escaping steam. Though severely injured he recovered. Another engine was sent for to replace the disabled one, which was placed on the siding here, and at a late hour the track was cleared.

Tar Heel Topics.

Charters were granted Thursday to the Powell Supply Company, of Fair Bluff, Columbus county, with a capital stock of \$50,000; stockholders Mary D. Powell, G. A. Powell and others; to operate tobacco warehouses, make turpentine and stockholders, etc. of the Stateville Female College (incorporated) under the control of the Central Presbytery of Concord, Rev. Dr. Shearer, and others; incorporators; the Johnson & Watson Company, of Greensboro, capital stock \$100,000, A. A. Johnson, C. S. Watson and others being the stockholders; the purpose being to acquire lands for factories for the manufacture of boots and shoes, and to operate such factories.

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction says applications for what is known as the second \$100,000 of the State's annual appropriation for keeping the public schools open four months in the year are coming in quite rapidly and the division of the sum will be made before long. Warrants were issued today for about 20 new rural public school libraries. One or two districts attempted to secure an extra library, whereas the law only allows one to a district.

The hero of the Merrimac, Richmond Pearson Hobbs, will appear in Charlotte on next Monday week, January 18 and will deliver a lecture on the Star Course of the Y. M. C. A.

The chairman of the Raleigh dispensary board announced that the dispensary will make not less than \$40,000 this year. The city's receipts from the bar-rooms under the old system were about \$13,000.

By far the finest specimens of nickel ore ever secured for the State Museum were received by Curator Brimley from the W. S. Adams nickel mine, in Jackson county. There are 20 pounds of it, which shows metallic nickel imbedded in the ore. The quality is very high. The specimen will go to the World's Fair, at St. Louis.

Governor Aycock has refused to commute the sentence of George Morgan, of Wilson, who was convicted of gambling and who was sentenced to the roads for four months and fined \$1,000. Morgan is willing to pay the fine, but wanted to escape the road service.

There does not appear to be the least possibility of any lease of the Atlantic & North Carolina Railway.

North Carolina had only one lynching in 1903. The year previous there were eight lynchings in that State.

Governor Aycock has set the day for two hangings. The day set for the execution of two men is Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of February. On that day Jabel Register, white, will be hanged in Whiteville, Columbus county, and Will Boggan, colored, in Wadesboro. Both for murder.

The attorney general of North Carolina has decided that all non-residents who hunt in the State must take out license at \$10, no matter what sort of game is hunted.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE

Resident of Henrietta Is Completely Burned Out.

Henrietta Special.—Mr. June Hicks' residence, on Henrietta street, between Dr. R. Hicks' and Dr. C. B. Wiseman's residences, occupied by Mr. O. B. Biggers, a merchant of Henrietta, was, with all of its contents, destroyed by fire at 9 o'clock Monday night. Mr. Biggers and wife had gone across the street to Mr. John Lee's to spend an hour with the family, when the fire was discovered and the alarm given. When parties reached the house the fire had gained such headway that it was unsafe to enter the building. However, a few things were saved. The fire started in a closet in the center of the building, near a chimney, and it is thought to have been caused by rats and matches or a defective chimney. Other buildings nearby caught, but were promptly put out by the large crowd that had gathered.

Robbery Near Statesville.

Statesville, Special.—Mr. Ham Smith, a merchant of the Troutman neighborhood, was in town Tuesday, and told of the robbery of his store on last Friday night. An entrance was made through a front window. About \$50 worth of goods were stolen and \$250 worth of negotiable notes. The latter were taken from the pocket of a coat which Mr. Smith had worn while collecting and which he had left hanging up in the store. While there is no conclusive evidence to the perpetrators of the robbery, two white men of another county are suspected. They were in the store the evening before the robbery and their conduct while there caused them to be suspected.

North State Notes.

Mr. George Windle of Hamlet, committed suicide at the home of his father-in-law, Mr. E. A. Alley, at 1315 S. Tryon street in Charlotte on Saturday afternoon by shooting himself through the temple with a 38 calibre Smith & Wesson revolver. He shot himself about 2 o'clock and lived for about an hour, dying at 3 o'clock. Mr. Windle went to Charlotte from Hamlet Friday night to visit his wife and three children, who were there for the holidays. He appeared in his usual health and spirits, and no one dreamed that anything was wrong with him.

Mention has been made of the fact that there has been only one lynching in North Carolina during this year. During the year 1901 and 1902 there were no less than eight lynchings, of which three were murder, three for rape, one for assault with intent to murder and one for poisoning. These lynchings occurred in the counties of Martin, Northampton, Wayne, Moore, Anson, Buncombe and Rowan, two being in the latter county.

The survey for the Raleigh & Pamlico Sound Railway is progressing in a very satisfactory manner. The surveyors are now within ten miles of Raleigh, going that way from Wilson, which is the starting point, and going from Wilson eastward to the Cape Fear river. It is said that the money is ready for the prompt building of the road.

A house on North Caldwell street, in Charlotte, occupied by Christian Crusaders, was broken open Thursday night while the inmates were attending services in their hall on North Col. Green street. The robbers effected an entrance by prizing open a window. Although they broke open several trunks, valises, etc., nothing was taken out except two dollars in cash. The police officers have discovered no clue.

News was received in Winston Friday of a homicide in Stokes county Monday afternoon. Sam Lawson was shot twice by Lefie Sisk, from the effects of which he died Tuesday morning. The shooting occurred at the warehouse of Kelly Sisk's disrepair, near the postoffice. Sisk has not been arrested. The sheriff of Stokes county offers a reward of \$100 for his capture.

Thursday was the last day of the bar rooms in Raleigh, the dispensary going in Friday. The bar keepers of that city say in two years bar rooms will be voted back, but the anti-saloon people say that the dispensary will be continued, or there will be prohibition. The law limits the profits of the dispensary to 80 per cent, but manager W. P. Bachelor says the average profit will be about 66 2-3 per cent.

W. W. Alverson is still confined in the Caswell county jail at Vanceville, charged with abducting pretty Annie Yeaman, fifteen years old, from her home at Pelham. Many of Alverson's friends believe him to be innocent of the charge, and if the girl's story is to be believed he is a very persecuted man.

At the annual meeting in Salisbury of the stewards of the Salisbury district of the North Carolina Methodist Conference Friday morning, the salary of Rev. Dr. G. H. Dewiler, presiding elder, was fixed at approximately \$1,400, an increase of \$100. This represents 11 per cent of the aggregate salaries of the pastors of the district.

In a serious runaway accident in West Raleigh, Friday, Mrs. Tate Butler, Mrs. J. R. Jeffreys, and Miss Fort of the Greensboro Normal and Industrial College, were thrown from the carriage. Mrs. Jeffreys was seriously injured, and Miss Fort was hurt in the face, losing several teeth.

News in Notes.

Secretary of War Root has taken charge of the negotiations with Colombia owing to the illness of Secretary of State Hay.

GEN. GORDON DEAD

Confederate Hero of Many Battles is Now at Rest

HE EXPIRED ON SATURDAY NIGHT

Much of His Life Since the Surrender Has Been Spent Trying to Heal the Old Breach.

Atlanta, Ga., Special.—Lieutenant General John B. Gordon died at his winter home near Miami, Fla., at 10:05 o'clock Saturday night. His fatal illness, which overtook him last Wednesday, was congestion of the stomach and liver, following an acute attack of indigestion, to which he was subjected.

General Gordon was born in Upson county, Georgia, July 6, 1832, of Scotch ancestry, which had a prominent part in the Revolutionary war.

Young Gordon graduated from the Georgia State University in 1852 and a few months later was admitted to the practice of law. Early in 1861 he enlisted in the volunteer Confederate service and was elected captain of his company. He rose rapidly by promotion to lieutenant colonel of the Sixth Alabama Infantry in December, 1861.

He participated in the struggle on the peninsula and took part in the battle at Malvern Hill, and was commissioned brigadier general, November, 1862. He was in command at Chancellorsville and in the Pennsylvania campaign. In an official report to General D. H. Hill, General Gordon was characterized as "the Chevalier Bayard of the Confederacy."

When hostilities were ended, he called his men about him and advised them to bear the trial of defeat, to go home in peace, obey the laws and rebuild the wasted country. He has taken a prominent part in the councils of his party since 1866. He was a defeated candidate for Governor of Georgia in 1868, and in 1873 and 1875 was elected to the United States Senate, resigning that position in 1880, he participated actively in building the Georgia Pacific Railroad. In 1886 and 1888 he was elected Governor of Georgia and in 1890 entered again into the United States Senate for the full term, since his retirement from political activity he has devoted much of his time in lecturing presenting the North as well as the South in his lecture upon "The Last Days of the Confederacy."

Since the organization of the United Confederate veterans he has held the position of its chief commander, and his frequent re-election to that position have testified to the warmth of affection in which he has been held in the South.

General Gordon had been unconscious nearly all day. The beginning of the end occurred this afternoon, severe complications setting in, and by night his physicians had abandoned all hope, as his kidneys were secret and uraemic poison was very decided. His death was quite. He fell peacefully to sleep and all was over.

General Gordon became ill Wednesday afternoon with acute indigestion. He had suffered from the same trouble in Mississippi many months ago. At 11 o'clock Thursday morning consultation of physicians was held and it was found that he was seriously and critically ill. His son, Major Hugh Gordon, who resides at Discone, was with him. A telegram was sent to his daughter, Mrs. Burton Smith, of Atlanta, calling her to his bedside.

She was with him when he died. General Gordon grew steadily worse all day today when he was unconscious most of the time.

General and Mrs. Gordon had been in Florida this winter only three weeks before his death. His health had been unusually good prior to his fatal attack. He had bought a winter home at Discone, two years ago, and had since been spending a portion of his winters there.

General Gordon's body will be shipped to his home at Kirkwood, near Atlanta, tomorrow night, leaving here at 8 o'clock. It will reach Atlanta Monday afternoon.

The remains of Gen. Gordon will be laid in State in Atlanta and will be viewed by his numerous friends and admirers.

Assembly Meeting.

San Juan, Porto Rico, By Cable.—The last session of the second biennial Legislature of Porto Rico will be opened Monday. Governor Hunt's message will be read on Tuesday and it is anxiously awaited as it is expected to indicate President Roosevelt's policy in the island. The better class has assured the House of Representatives that it will support the measure of a loan of \$5,000,000 to the farmers. The Americans in the council are opposing the measure on the ground of economy and the House threatens retaliation by killing all the American measures, including the general appropriations.

Dynamic Explosion.

Huntington, W. Va., Special.—A dynamite explosion occurred near Cassville, in Wayne county, Saturday, while a number of employees on the Norfolk & Western extension were at luncheon. Six men were killed and fourteen were injured. The dead are: Thomas G. Frazier, Frederick Marcum, Howard Biaggi, Frank Regor. The names of the injured have not yet been learned.

Far Eastern Situation.

London, By Cable.—At the Japanese legation it was said that the far Eastern situation remained unchanged. No news had been received by the legation and it was believed some days might elapse before any developments occurred, as Japan was still considering her reply and that no news had been received at the legation concerning the reported dispatch of troops to Korea.

RUTH CLEVELAND DEAD

Oldest Daughter of Ex-President Fell By Diphtheria.

Princeton, N. J., Special.—Ruth, the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Grover Cleveland, died in this city Thursday very unexpectedly, the immediate cause of death being a weakening of the heart action during a mild attack of diphtheria. Dr. Wyckoff, the attending physician, said that Miss Cleveland had been ill with a mild form of diphtheria for four days, and that the heart affection was not anticipated.

The Cleveland household is grief-stricken over the death of the oldest daughter and many messages of condolence are being received. The private school which Ruth attended has been closed for the rest of the week out of respect.

President John N. Ninley, of the College of the City of New York, Mr. Cleveland's personal friend, has come here to make all arrangements for the funeral.

In response to many inquiries, former President Cleveland gave out the following statement: "After a few days' illness, which began with an attack of tonsillitis and developed yesterday suddenly into diphtheria, our oldest daughter, Ruth, died today, suddenly."

Ruth Cleveland was born on October 3, 1891, in her father's residence, at 681 Madison avenue, New York, after Mr. Cleveland had served his first term as President. She was named after Mr. Cleveland's grandmother, and as "Baby Ruth" was a great favorite in Washington society during her father's second term in the White House. Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland have four remaining children.

It is now understood that it was the child's illness that prevented Mr. Cleveland's attendance at the dinner to Mayor McClellan, in New York, on January 4.

The funeral services will be held at the Cleveland home, conducted by Rev. Maitland Bartlett. Mr. Cleveland, with President Kinley, of the College of the City of New York, Dean Andrew West and a few intimate friends will accompany the body to Princeton cemetery, where interment will take place. It is said the other children show no signs of diphtheria.

Right to Tax Bank.

Washington, Special.—The United States Supreme Court, in an opinion by Justice McKenna, yesterday reversed the decision of the Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana, in the case of the Citizens' Bank of Louisiana vs. Col. Parker, tax collector of the first district of the city of New Orleans. The proceedings involved the right of the city to tax the bank, but the bank claimed exemption under its charter granted in 1833. The State court held that legislation subsequent to the charter had the effect of revoking it, but Justice McKenna's decision held otherwise. The Chief Justice and Justices Harlan and Brewer dissented.

After Perry Heath.

Salt Lake City, Special.—The Desert News says the government inspectors, including James H. Bennett, of Cheyenne, have been in the city for two weeks in an endeavor to subpoena former First Assistant Postmaster General Perry S. Heath, but have not yet succeeded in serving the papers. It is said that the papers have been placed in the hands of the United States marshal. Mr. Heath's presence, it is stated, is required in the East in connection with some phases of the postoffice investigation.

To Abolish Office.

Washington, Special.—Secretary Hitchcock, of the Interior Department, has recommended to the President that the office of railroad commissioner, held by the late General James Longstreet, be abolished. It seems probable now that the recommendation will be adopted and that no successor to General Longstreet will be appointed. For two years the Interior Department has made no estimate for the salary of railroad commissioner, the necessary appropriation for General Longstreet's salary of \$5,000 being made by Congress on its own initiative. The duties of the office practically have been absorbed by the Inter-State Commerce Commission.

Paid Big Price.

New York, Special.—Daniel J. Sully, who gained fame in the recent bull campaign in cotton, closed arrangements today with Edward Morrison for the purchase of his seat on the New York stock exchange and the seat was posted for transfer on the exchange. It was said that Sully paid something in the neighborhood of \$25,000 for the seat. The committee on admissions will act on the case within a week or two.

News in Notes.

It was reported in New York that John D. Rockefeller and his allies had wrested the control of the Steel Corporation from J. P. Morgan and his friends.

On account of the great sorrow caused by the loss of life in the big theatre fire in Chicago, the usual amount of fire at the beginning of the new year was dispersed with.

KILLED AND INJURED

Many Suffer In Another Terrible Railroad Wreck

CONDUCTOR AND ENGINEER ERR

A Frightful Mistake That Resulted In the Loss of Many Lives and Produced Much Suffering.

Topeka, Kan., Special.—Seventeen persons were killed and thirty-seven injured in a head-on collision between the Rock Island, California & Mexico express and a freight at Willard Wednesday morning. Most of the injured are in hospitals in Topeka. The doctors announce that all will recover, with the exception of Mrs. M. A. Hill, daughter of Mrs. Harville, aged 33; Mrs. Susan Reed, a sister of Mrs. Harville; James Griffin, Claremont, Mo.; E. E. Mayer, Chillicothe, N. Y.; Raymond A. Martin, Chillicothe, Mo.; W. S. Martin, St. Joseph, Mo.; E. R. Rankins, Dr. Kall, Mo.; William J. Wells, Jacksonville, Ill.; Mrs. Mary Kaiser, Russian; Gale Fuller, aged 7, Brockton, Iowa; Grace Reed, Chillicothe, Mo.; Letoria Reed, Chillicothe, Mo.; unidentified boy, aged eight years.

It is thought that carelessness of the trainmen caused the wreck. Instructed to meet a special freight train at Willard, the engineer and conductor of the ill-fated passenger, noting that a freight train stood in the siding at Willard, rushed through, thinking that the cars that they had seen were the ones which they had been instructed to pass.

Upon seeing at Willard a freight train upon the siding, Engineer Bennett threw open his throttle and under the impetus of full steam the passenger leaped into darkness and crashed along at a rate which the passengers declare to have been 65 miles an hour.

A formal inquest was held at the wreck today by Coroner Dooly, of Wabunsee county. The investigation will be continued tomorrow.

H. G. Parsons, a reporter of the Topeka State Journal, who was on the Rock Island train, arrived in Topeka at eight o'clock this morning, after driving overland from the scene of the collision. Parsons escaped with slight injuries, while two persons on the forward end of the train were killed. Parsons tells the following story of the wreck.

"It was in the third car of the passenger train, the first coach having been preceded by a smoker and a baggage car. The smoker was on the left side of the train, and three men, who were overturned and pushed through the car behind it, which was crowded with passengers, some standing in the aisle. The first warning given the passengers was the forward end of the train setting on its brakes shut off the lights, leaving all in darkness. A moment later a mass of splintered wood and iron was crowded down upon them. None were thrown out of their seats by the blow. Most of those in the forward end of the car were killed instantly. Thirty in the rear end of the coach, however, succeeded in escaping from that end of the car which was still unobstructed. No one in the front half of the car escaped. They were crushed between the seats and the smoker. When rescue was finally possible only three living persons were taken out by the rescuers, who were compelled to chop holes in the side and through the floor and top of the coach to reach the victims. So the three rescued from this portion were a man, a small girl, middle-aged woman, who were begging to be taken out. One man, hurt internally, was removed through the rear door within five minutes after the crash, but died almost as soon as he was removed to a physician's care. A dozen men had worked on the place where she seemed to be before she was extracted.

Bonnie Martin, a girl 11 years old, was pinned down between the two cars, the heavy stove resting on one foot. Her cries attracted the rescuers and men, many of them bleeding from wounds about the face and arms, worked her way to release her. When she was taken out she addressed the doctor who was bending over her as "papa." The physician did not have time to tell her that she was an orphan, her father and mother having been killed. Mr. Martin was killed ten minutes after being taken out of the wreck. The child was suffering with a broken ankle, where the heavy stove fell on her, and severe scalp contusions. She was put to sleep by a hypodermic injection to relieve the pain.

"Some of the bodies were found to be unrecognizable. Through a hole chopped in one side of the car the body of a gray-haired, yellow-set man and a woman with long, yellow hair, were visible. They were built along the track at short intervals and by the light of these the rescuers, in their eagerness to remove the victims, chopped openings in the wrecked coaches until exhausted and then they handed their axes to others. The engine and the car had been chopped tire sides of the car had been chopped. Occasionally the rescuers would descend upon an alarm being raised by watchers, who declared that the chopping away of the coach was letting the smoker down upon the victims. So the smoker fell the truck in its backward rush, leaving the trucks still upon the track. Not a wheel in the entire passenger train seemed to be off the track.

The freight train fared differently. The four cars immediately behind the engine were crushed into kindling. Dead and dying cattle littered the right of way, while many which had escaped from the cars unincurred ran about, adding to the confusion.

WITH THE LAWMAKERS

What The Two Houses of Congress Are Doing.

The response of Senator Reed Smoot, of Utah, to the charges made against him was presented to the Senate committee Saturday. It was agreed that at the regular meeting of the committee to be held next Saturday the attorney for Mr. Smoot and also the petitioner should be heard. They will be expected to show precedents and authorities and after they shall have made their presentation the committee will decide whether to go further into the matter by calling witnesses or dispose of it on the showing which will then have been made.

Mr. Smoot submits in answer to charges against him the following: "This respondent is advised and avers that but two of the charges made against him in said protests, either directly or by implication, are such as, if true, could legally affect his right to hold his seat in the Senate. These charges are:

"1. That the respondent is a polygamist.

"2. That he is bound by some oath or obligation which is inconsistent with the oath required by the constitution, which was administered to him before he took his seat as a Senator."

Both these charges respondent denies. As to the charges that he is a polygamist, the respondent says that he was married September 17, 1884, to Alpha May Eldridge. She is still his wife and is the mother of all his children. He has never had any other wife and has never cohabited with any other woman.

"As to the charge that the respondent is bound by some oath or obligation controlling his duty under his oath as a Senator, the respondent says that he has never taken such oath, or in any way assumed any such obligation or entered into any such obligation, and upholds the constitution and laws of the United States, including the condition in reference to polygamy, upon which the State of Utah was admitted into the Union.

"The respondent denies that he is one of said alleged self-perpetuating bodies of fifteen men, or that there is any such body of men, or that the followers or members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, or any of them, accord the right to said alleged divinely sanctioned authority, either directly or indirectly, to shape the belief or control the conduct of those under them in all or any matters, civil or temporal, or that said church or such alleged body or any person or body exercises any authority or power to calculate or encourage a belief in or practice of polygamy or belief in or practice of polygamous cohabitation, or that either countenances or connives at any violation of the laws of the State of Utah or of the United States, and this respondent for himself in particular denies that he is one of said alleged self-perpetuating body of fifteen men, or that there is any such body, or that said church or any part thereof or person therein inculcates or encourages a belief in or practice of polygamy or belief in or practice of polygamous cohabitation, and this respondent denies that he is guilty of polygamous cohabitation, or that he is a polygamist, or that he ever has practiced polygamy or cohabitation."

Mr. Smoot denied that he has ever connived at any violation of any law of Utah or of the United States, and declares that "since the manifesto of President Willford Woodruff was issued in 1890, a belief in the practice of polygamy or polygamous cohabitation has either been taught or encouraged."

The House was in session but 12 minutes Thursday. Mr. Hemenway, chairman of the committee on appropriations, obtained unanimous consent that that one hour be devoted to the opening of Friday's session to the consideration of a bill amending the act appropriating \$500,000 for the eradication of foot and mouth disease among cattle, so as to make \$250,000 of that amount available to meet the emergency caused by the Mexican foot weevil. The bill was favorably reported today. The House adjourned.

A training school for philanthropic and social work will open January 12, in Chicago, under the auspices of the University Extension Division of the University of Chicago, with Prof. Graham Taylor as director. The lecture course will include personal, institutional and public work for dependents, precocious, preventive, public and agency methods. There will be discussions on legislation, improved dwellings and open spaces, public school extension, co-operative and benefit agencies, the city's social utilities, social settlements and ethical and religious resources.

Big Suit.

Washington, Special.—Robert Burton Rodney, paymaster, with rank of lieutenant commander on the retired list of the navy, brought suit for \$50,000 damages against Capt. Samuel C. Lemley, judge advocate general of the navy, for alleged long-continued pecuniary and naval grade losses and indignities. The complainant alleges agency method, preventive, public and agency methods. There will be discussions on legislation, improved dwellings and open spaces, public school extension, co-operative and benefit agencies, the city's social utilities, social settlements and ethical and religious resources.

New Orleans, Special.—Former Pres. William King, of the Merchants' Association, has planned to start February 1st for an extended tour throughout the South and West, with the view to the ultimate formation of a National Merchants' Association. Although no definite plan of union has been formulated, it is the purpose to discuss the feasibility of such a combination with existing local organizations.

The Chinese Treaty.

Pekin, By Cable.—The Chinese government has promised United States Minister Conger to soon forward the Chinese copy of the treaty to Washington for the exchange of ratifications. It is necessary first to obtain the Emperor's seal. Under the treaty is ratified the opening of Mukden and Antung to the commerce of the world can be pressed.

THE COTTON REPORT

Census Bureau Gives Out Figures on 1903 Crop

THE REPORT SHOWS FALLING OFF

Statistics Compiled From Reports of Ginners Indicate a Heavy Shortage in the Crop.

Washington, Special.—The Census Bureau has issued a report showing that there had been a gain up to and including Saturday, December 12, 8,848,747 commercial bales, compared with 9,311,835 bales up to and including December 13 of last year. The Census Bureau found that 29,971 ginneries had been operated this season, against 30,194 up to December 13 of last year. Counting round bales as half bales, the number of bales ginned is 8,526,234 this season, against 8,905,503 last season.

This report was followed by two others, showing the quantity of cotton ginned from the growth of 1903 up to and including January 16, 1904, and a final report at the end of the ginning season, about March 15, which will distribute the crop by counties, aggregate upland and Sea Island cotton and give weights of bales. Of the total of 8,848,747 commercial bales for the United States, 8,144,493 were square bales, 645,966 round bales and 59,248 Sea Island crop bales. The report by States follows:

Alabama, 946,656 commercial bales, against 896,994 last season; 3,850 active ginneries, against 3,859 last season.

Arkansas, 544,680 bales, against 768,861 last season; 2,609 active ginneries, against 2,519 last season.

Florida, 50,049 bales, against 54,443 last season; 269 active ginneries, against 284 last season.

Georgia, 1,202,815 bales, against 1,276,850 last season; 4,978 active ginneries, against 5,046 last season.

Indian Territory, 230,873 bales, against 372,942 last season; 485 active ginneries, against 428 last season.

Kansas, no crop reported.

Kentucky, 428 bales, against 1,027 last season; two active ginneries, against three last season.

Louisiana, 686,690 bales, against 670,485 last season; 2,167 active ginneries, against 2,143 last season.

Mississippi, 1,211,744 bales, against 1,155,557 last season; 4,192 active ginneries, against 2,143 last season.

Missouri, 28,881 bales, against 39,185 last season; 74 active ginneries, against 59 last season.

North Carolina, 502,591 bales, against 517,068 last season; 2,715 active ginneries, against 2,863 last season.

Oklahoma, 155,242 bales, against 163,190 last season; 232 active ginneries, against 218 last season.

Texas, 2,310,725 bales, against 1,674,722 last season; 4,431 active ginneries, against 4,542 last season.