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THE WAR IN THE FAR EAST

Such News As Is Available Not Definite

ACTIVE HOSTILITIES HAVE BEGUN

Sharp Fighting Reported Between the Forces of Russia and Japan—News Indefinite.

St. Petersburg, By Cable.—The Emperor received a message from Viceroy Alexieff which says:

Admiral Marakoff, commanding the fleet, reports from Port Arthur under date of March 16 as follows:

"Six torpedo boats which went out to sea on the night of March 16 of them being under the command of Capt. Matousschitch, encountered the enemy's torpedo boats followed by cruisers. A hot action ensued in which the torpedo boat destroyer Vlasinski discharged a Whitehead torpedo and sunk the enemy's torpedo boats. On the way back the torpedo boat destroyer Stereguschitch, commanded by Lieutenant Sergeeff, sustained damage; her engine was disabled and she began to founder. By 8 o'clock in the morning five of our torpedo boats were sent to sea. When the critical position of the Stereguschitch became evident I hoisted my flag on the cruiser Novik and went with the Novik and the cruiser Boyarin to the rescue. But as five of the enemy's cruisers surrounded our destroyer and as their battery squadron was approaching, I did not succeed in saving the Stereguschitch, which foundered. Part of the crew was made prisoners and part was drowned.

"On the ships which participated in the night attack, one officer was seriously and three other were slightly wounded. Two soldiers were killed and eighteen were wounded.

"At 9 o'clock fourteen of the enemy's ships assembled before Port Arthur and a bombardment was begun with the heavy guns of their battleship squadron at long range.

"The latest report from the afternoon is estimated that the enemy fired 154 twelve-inch shells. The damage to our vessels was insignificant, and they are again ready for battle. Our losses were one officer slightly wounded and one soldier killed and four soldiers wounded.

"The illumination of the sea at night by the searchlights mounted on our batteries was most satisfactory, and several times isolated shots from our batteries forced the enemy's torpedo boats to retire.

"The commencement of the bombardment at dawn the guns of the fortress replied to the enemy's fire.

"The crews of all the ships engaged gave proof of remarkable coolness in action.

"A bombardment at such a distance must be considered ineffective, but the Japanese cruiser Takasago is reported to have been seen to suffer serious damage, the extent of which, however, it was impossible to ascertain at a distance of five miles. Many shells were fired at a range of 7 1/2 miles.

"I have the honor to report the foregoing to your Majesty.

(Signed) ALEXIEFF.

Tokio, By Cable.—Official and private reports both indicate that Admiral Togo's fourth attack on Port Arthur on the 16th instant was the most effective since the first assault of a month ago. One Russian torpedo boat destroyer was sunk and several Russian torpedo boats seriously damaged. The fortifications and city were submitted to a heavy bombardment lasting nearly four hours. The naval bombardments of the land works have generally been ineffective, yet the peculiar topographical conditions of Port Arthur make immunity from serious loss from bombardment almost impossible. Admiral Togo's torpedo flotilla opened the action by boldly steaming in under the batteries of mechanical mines in the harbor.

The closing action was the bombardment of the inner harbor by the Japanese battleships. The latter took a position southwest of Port Arthur and used only their twelve-inch guns. There were twenty-four twelve-inch

guns in the squadron of six battleships, and each gun fired five rounds, making a total of 120 huge projectiles that were fired at the city. The bombardment was deliberate and carefully planned. In order to aid in perfecting the firing of the guns, Admiral Togo stationed the cruisers in a position due east of the entrance to the harbor, and at right angles to the battleships. The cruisers observed the range and effect of the firing and signaled the results and suggestions by wireless telegraphy. Admirals Togo was unable to learn definitely the results of the bombardment, but later private reports indicate that much destruction was caused in the city where serious fires broke out. There also was damage to batteries.

Capt. Shokiro Asai, commanding the flotilla of torpedo boat destroyers, had only three destroyers, but attacked the six Russian destroyers, ordered his craft to close in with the enemy. He steamed so close to the enemy's destroyers that they almost touched, and a most desperate conflict ensued, from which the Russians retired badly disabled.

The Japanese flotilla which sunk the mines at the mouth of the harbor later engaged two Russian destroyers. This flotilla was commanded by Commander Teuchiya. Admiral Togo's object in sending destroyers to Takuwa Wan, Japan, was to encompass the destruction of a signal station mine depot at Sam Shanto. This object was achieved and the buildings were demolished.

Rear Admiral Dewa and Uru participated in the operations under Admiral Togo, the details of whose operations became known in Japan only Sunday. The news created intense enthusiasm. Admiral Togo's report came last night, and but it was withheld until shown to the Emperor. Admiral Togo is permanently numbered among the heroes of the empire.

The latest report places the Japanese loss at nine killed, five seriously wounded and seventeen slightly hurt. The Japanese fleet was not damaged in the fighting.

Odds Against Russia.

St. Petersburg, By Cable.—The cable story of the fierce fight off Port Arthur between the torpedo flotillas, which occurred Wednesday and the bombardment which followed on Thursday morning, was not given out here until after midnight.

Two official messages from Viceroy Alexieff had been received during the day and presented to the Emperor, but the public remained in suspense. The impression was that Admiral Makaroff had directed the attack upon the enemy's fleet. When the texts appeared it became evident that the collision between the torpedo flotillas has occurred accidentally during the night, while the Russians were scouting in search of the enemy.

As far as is known here, this is the first time torpedo boats have engaged each other at sea. At the outset the Japanese cruiser was supported by the cruiser squadron. The Russians made a heroic dash for the foe and apparently had the better of the combat, sinking a Japanese torpedo boat, until the cruisers got within range and one of the latter's shells crippled the Stereguschitch.

The gallant action of Vice Admiral Makaroff in transferring his flag to the fast cruiser Novik and sailing out in the face of the enemy in an attempt to rescue receives unstinted praise, stored him at the outset of his command as a man of force and action who insists on being in the van of the fighting. The removal of the battleship Retvizan from the mouth of the inner harbor, which marked the assumption of command by Admiral Makaroff, will permit the free exit of the heavy armored ships. With the channel open it is believed that Admiral Makaroff will make the squadron an aggressive force.

Appreciating the misfortune of the fleet it is believed that Admiral Makaroff will attempt to unite his forces by bringing the Vladivostok squadron to Port Arthur.

Repairs on the battleship Retvizan will be completed in a few weeks, but the battleship Czarsvitch is so badly damaged that it is not thought that she can participate in any of the operations for a long time.

Two Army Corps to East.

St. Petersburg, By Cable.—The fifth army corps at Moscow and the tenth army corps at Kharokoff will start for the far East in a few days. After the war has ended the two corps will return to their stations, but the other troops that are already in the Orient will remain permanently in the Asiatic provision.

Investigation Committee.

Washington, Special.—When the House met Saturday Speaker Cannon announced the special committee provided for in the McCall resolution adopted by the House yesterday to investigate "the indictment" report from the Postoffice Department as follows: Representative McCall, of Massachusetts, chairman; Representatives Hitt, Republican, of Illinois; Burton, Republican, of Ohio; Metcalf, Republican, of California; McDermott, Democrat, of New Jersey; Bartlett, Democrat, of Georgia; and Richardson, Democrat, of Alabama.

Heavy Fire Loss.

Chester, S. C., Special.—The most disastrous fire in years broke out in the basement of the Bewley Hardware Company's store Sunday night at 11 o'clock, and, despite the heroic work of the fire department, rapidly spread to the adjoining building occupied by Klutz's New York Racket. For a time it was feared the entire block would go. The fire was gotten under control about 3 o'clock Monday morning, after destroying more than \$60,000 worth of property.

Emperor William on Board.

Dover, England, By Cable.—The German Lloyd steamer Koenig Albert, on its way to the Mediterranean with Emperor William on board, arrived here Sunday afternoon. Sir William Henry Crundall, former mayor of Dover, went on board the Koenig and delivered the dispatches, after which the vessel proceeded.

Report Denied.

Paris, By Cable.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of The Echo de Paris has sent in an interview with M. Witte, the former Russian Minister of Finance, who denounces as infamous inventions the rumors that Count Lansdorff is to be replaced as Minister of Foreign Affairs. He declares that the Minister enjoyed the full confidence of the Sovereign. M. Witte said that he himself would never return to office. The correspondent of The Journal in St. Petersburg says that the reported resignation of Foreign Minister Lansdorff has been denied officially.

Telegraphic Briefs.

Wesley M. Oler, of Baltimore, was elected president of the American Ice Company.
Dr. Von Koerber, the Austrian Premier, made a pessimistic speech at the opening of the Reichsrath.
Fire at Bocas del Toro, Colombia, destroyed 100 buildings, including the American consulate.
Governor Odell's Shipbuilding Trust securities were sold at an apparent loss of \$129,790.

A PROCLAMATION ISSUED

Our Army and Navy Ordered to Observe Strict Neutrality.

Washington Special.—President Roosevelt, after a conference with Secretary of State Hay, issued the following executive order:

"All officials of the government, civil, military or naval, are hereby directed not only to observe the President's proclamation of neutrality in the pending war between Russia and Japan, but also to abstain from either action or speech which can legitimately cause irritation to either of the combatants. The government of the United States represents the people of the United States, not only in the sincerity with which it is endeavoring to keep the scales of neutrality exact and even, but in the sincerity with which it deplores the breaking out of the present war, and hopes that it may end with the earliest possible moment and with the smallest possible loss to those engaged. Such a war inevitably increases and inflames the susceptibilities of the combatants to anything in the nature of an injury or slight by outsiders. Too often combatants make conflicting claims as to the duties and obligations of neutrals, so that even when discharging these duties and obligations with scrupulous care, it is difficult to avoid giving offense to one or the other party. To such unavoidable causes of offense, due to the performance of national duty, there must not be added any avoidable causes. It is always unfortunate to bring Old World antipathies and jealousies into our life or by speech or conduct to excite anger and resentment toward our nation in friendly foreign lands; but in a government employ whose official position makes him in some sense the representative of the people, the mischief of such action is greatly increased. A strong and self-confident nation should be particularly careful not only of the rights, but of the susceptibilities of its neighbors, and now, as always, all the nations of the world are neighbors, one to the other.

"All officials of the government, civil, military or naval, are expected to carry themselves, both in act and in deed, as to give no cause of just offense to the people of any foreign land and friendly power—and with all mankind we are no win friendship."

A Heavy Gale.

San Francisco, Special.—The worst rain and wind storm in 13 years swept over this city and along the Pacific coast Thursday doing much damage to shipping, railroads and frame buildings through the State. The storm extended from San Diego to Vancouver Island, and it is feared that many marine disasters have occurred along the coast. Telegraph and telephone wires were prostrated in every direction and for several hours this city was entirely cut off from the outside world. A passenger train at the Alameda mole, across the bay from this city, was blown from the track, so fierce was the gale there. The steeple of St. Paul's church, one of the handsomest in this city, was snapped off and many buildings under construction were badly damaged. A seven-story brick building, almost completed at the corner of Bush and Polk streets, was hopelessly wrecked.

Four Men Burned.

Harrisburg, Pa., Special.—Four unidentified men were burned to death in a box car containing gasoline, which caught fire at Branch inter-section, ten miles east of this city. Two others, George Klinger, of Harrisburg, and W. C. Lyter, of Lewistown, barely escaped with their lives, their bodies and clothes being badly burned. The men were employed on the Pennsylvania Railroad improvement at Enola and were being sent to Baltimore to clear the ice from the tracks. One of the cars contained five barrels of gasoline. One of the men struck a match to light his pipe while near one of the gasoline barrels. A spark must have landed on the barrel for in an instant the interior of the car was a fiery furnace. There was a great deal of smoke, but four men were trampled upon by the others and their bodies were afterward found burned to a crisp.

Poisoned by Rough on Rats.

Dothan, Ala., Special.—Mr. J. A. Peterman, his wife and three children, and Mrs. Angus Kirkland and her baby, were poisoned Thursday morning by eating biscuits which were made from flour in which Rough-on-Rats had been put by a small child of Mr. Peterman. Prompt medical attention was procured and they are now out of danger.

Sharpley Sentenced.

Washington, Special.—First Lieutenant Sharpley, of the Twelfth Cavalry, having been tried by a general court-martial at Manila and found guilty of serious charges affecting his moral character, has been sentenced to dismissal from the army. The papers have been prepared in the War Department for transmission to the President.

Found Dead.

Alexandria, Special.—Frank Summers, a blacksmith, was found dead beside his mother's grave at Union Cemetery. His face and a portion of his neck had been badly mutilated by large dogs, which were attacking the body when it was discovered. Suicide is suspected. A wife and five children survive him.

Senator Tillman Better.

Washington, Special.—Senator Tillman's condition continues favorable and he is resting easy. The operation on the tonsil which resulted in removing the pus from the abscess has relieved him a great deal and he now takes nourishment more freely. The temperature is also satisfactory. Those attending him say they now see no cause for apprehension. If the improvement continues as at present the family expect the Senator may take his projected trip South in a few days.

MERGER IS ILLEGAL

Decision of Security Case Handed Down By Supreme Court.

CLOSE SHAVE FOR GOVERNMENT

Monopoly in Restraint of Trade and in Violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act.

Washington Special.—In the United States Supreme Court an opinion was delivered in the merger case of the Northern Securities Company vs. the United States in favor of the government's contention that the merger was illegal. The opinion of the court was handed down by Justice Harlan and it upheld the decree of the Circuit Court for the district of Minnesota in every particular. Four of the justices dissented from the five constituting the majority.

The division in the Court was due to a difference of opinion as to the right of Federal control of State corporations. The majority opinion proceeded on the theory that Congress read his opinion from a printed copy, control inter-State commerce, no matter by whom conducted, while the minority or dissenting opinion was based on the theory that in the present case the effort is to regulate the ownership of railroad stocks by the State corporations, and that such ownership is not inter-State traffic.

An effort was made by the court to prevent knowledge of the fact that the opinion was to be rendered today from getting to the public, but nevertheless it was quite generally understood among newspaper men, attorneys and others for an hour or so before the convening of court today that the decision would be announced. When, therefore, the members of the court filed into the chamber at noon they were met by an expectant crowd which filled every seat, both inside and outside. Seated among the attorneys were Attorney General Knox and Secretary Taft and an unusual number of Senators and members of the House of Representatives. There was no surprise manifested when, promptly on the assembling of the court, Justice Harlan began the delivery of the opinion. The fact that he had been selected for once led most people to conclude that the decision would uphold the Sherman anti-trust law and sustain the contentions of the government. The justice had a right under the constitution to which covered thirty pages and consumed about an hour and a quarter in its delivery.

Charged With Burning T. w. a.

Macon, Ga., Special.—An American little to the Telegraph says Judge Littlejohn has ordered the American Light Infantry to proceed immediately to Preston, Webster county, to protect two white men, Henry Morgan and Sidney Harrell, from lynching at the hands of infuriated citizens. Morgan was arrested Sunday, charged with burning the town of Preston Sunday. It is said he has confessed the crime, and has implicated Harrell, his cousin, who, he says, employed him to set fire to the stores, the loss amounting to \$30,000. At 9 o'clock the infantry was on its way. The military company made the run from Americus to Preston, 25 miles, in 20 minutes, found the town calm, secured the prisoners and brought them to Americus for safekeeping.

Cannot Attend.

Washington, Special.—Hugh Gordon Miller, United States district attorney for Virginia, presented to the President the resolutions adopted by the recent State convention of the Republicans of Virginia, inviting him to attend, on May 13, the celebration of the two hundred and ninety-seventh anniversary of the first permanent settlement of English-speaking people on American soil, which occurred on the James river in 1607. The President expressed regret that he probably would be unable to attend the ceremonies.

Situation Unchanged.

St. Petersburg, By Cable.—There is no truth in the rumors that the Russians have abandoned Port Arthur. Admiral Abaza, secretary of the Commission on Far Eastern Affairs, authorizes the Associated Press to deny the story. He says the situation at Port Arthur is unchanged and that nothing of importance has occurred there in the last twenty-four hours.

Report Untrue.

Tokio, By Cable.—Viceroy Alexieff's report stating a Japanese torpedo destroyer was sunk and the cruiser Takasago heavily damaged by the shell fire of the Russians during the fourth attack on Port Arthur, is officially pronounced untrue. The damaged Japanese torpedo boat destroyer can be repaired in one week, and it will not be necessary to dock them.

LIVE ITEMS OF NEWS.

Many Matters of General Interest in Short Paragraphs.

Down in Dixie.

North Carolina has decided to establish another Salt-test farm.

Mark Dunn, murderer of Alfred Fenton, of Rushville, Mo., was hanged at St. Joseph, Mo.

It is stated Senator B. R. Tillman is not recovering as rapidly as was expected from an operation on his throat.

Mrs. Eva Abernathy, formerly of Petersburg, Va., is insane in New York, as a result, it is stated, of the birth of 13 children before she was 26 years old.

Governor Montague appointed Maj. Robert W. Hunter, as Secretary of the Virginia Military Records.

At The National Capital.

Secretary of War Taft, who went to New York to interest financiers in Philippine projects, says the financiers did not "bite very well."

Attorney Critchlow told the Senate committee that Reed Smoot announced his candidacy for the Senate against the wishes of the Mormon Church authorities.

A number of women representing different organizations adopted resolutions requesting a general petitioning of Senators to vote against the retention of Senator Smoot in the Senate.

The House committee on railroads and canals heard argument in favor of the projected Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, but no action was taken.

The House passed a resolution to appoint a committee before whom members of the House might testify and for an investigation of the Bristow report.

In executive session the Senate discussed the nomination of H. Sault Woodley to be Assayer at Boise, Idaho, and of Gen. Leonard Wood to be a major-general.

A special Senate committee began the investigation asked by Senator C. H. Dietrich into charges upon which he recently was tried and acquitted.

Admiral Walker told the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce that unless drinking saloons be provided it will be impossible to obtain laborers on the Panama canal.

Almost the entire day in the Senate was devoted to the consideration of the army appropriation bill.

The House passed 32 claim bills and granted American register to the ship Beaumont after considerable debate.

Before a subcommittee of the House Judge Charles Swaine, who is under impeachment proceedings, declared he was a resident of the Florida judicial district over which he presided.

The Senate committee on appropriations has added \$500,000 to the fortifications bill, making the total \$7,637,192.

At The North.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company appropriated \$20,500,000 for improvements.

A mob attempted to complete the negro section of Springfield, Ill., which was almost destroyed by a mob.

Heavy storms have caused a great deal of damage in California and Utah.

Mr. William M. Canby, president of the Wilmington (Del.) Savings Fund and a noted botanist, died at Augusta, Ga.

The headless body of a woman and the body of a man were found in the Delaware bay. Neither has been identified.

From Across The Sea.

Bishop Hartzell, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who arrived from South Africa, says the great need of that country is laborers.

Russian torpedo boats attacked the Japanese ships at Port Arthur, and one Japanese and one Russian torpedo boat were sunk.

Twenty persons were sent to prison for the massacre of the Jews at Kishineff.

Czechs attempted to have an entire copy of Hamann's read in the Austrian Reichsrath.

Late cable dispatches indicate that the Russians have successfully blocked the harbor of Port Arthur.

A STARTLING MOVE

Arrest of Finch and McBee for Conspiracy.

Raleigh, Special.—Matters regarding the Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad took a surprising turn at 5:30 o'clock Monday afternoon when, upon affidavit of Attorney General Gilmer, Chief Justice Walter Clark issued a bench warrant for K. S. Finch, formerly of Charlotte, now of New York, and V. E. McBee, on the charge of conspiracy. Here is the affidavit as made and signed:

"State of North Carolina, Wake County; State vs. K. S. Finch and V. E. McBee.

"Robert D. Gilmer, Attorney General for the State of North Carolina, for and in behalf of the people of the said State, being duly sworn, deposes and says: That he is advised that heretofore, to-wit, on the 27th day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand, eight hundred and fifty-two the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina passed an act ratified on the said day entitled, 'An act to incorporate the Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad Company and the North Carolina & Western' passed an act ratified on the said day amending the said act incorporating the Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad Company.

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North State Notes.

The town of Pineville was badly damaged by fire on Monday morning. Estimated loss \$1,500.

The plan for the new dormitory at the State Normal and Industrial College at Greensboro is on view at the office of the State Superintendent, and is entirely unique, so far as this State is concerned. It is a two-story high with a noble central portico with great pillars, and with porticoes on the wings. There is a very stately dome.

TAR HEEL TOPICS

IN PARAGRAPHS

Fooled By Emigrant Agent.

Between Charlotte and Salisbury are strewn about seventy-five negro emigrants, all about. The negroes left Charlotte on No. 40 on the Southern Monday night, bound for Baltimore, Md., and Culpepper, Va. They had been gotten together by a white and a colored emigrant agent working in conjunction. According to the story of a few of the negroes who happened to have some money and who returned to the city yesterday, the white man told them to get on the train and that he would get on at the junction, northeast of the city, with their transportation.

Capt. W. M. Giles was the conductor in charge of No. 40, and when he went into the car to collect fares not a single man could ante up. They said that the agent who told them to get on the train was in the train somewhere with their transportation, and Capt. Giles passed Concord. When near Salisbury the gentleman had not yet turned up, and Capt. Giles ordered the train cleared of dusky emigrants, and the seventy-five piled out.

The disappointed emigrants headed some of the south-bound trains to return to the city, but they had no money, and they were forced out of the cars, and the greater number of them started out to walk back to Charlotte. A few arrived Tuesday night, swearing that they had had enough of emigrant agents, and others are still en route and will get in this morning. The whereabouts of the agent remains a mystery.—Charlotte Observer.

Big Water Power Plant.

Asheville Special.—At the mouth of Jonathan's creek, on Pigeon river, a big water power development is to be made, to furnish electric power for use in Waynesville. The plant will be built by a company headed by B. J. Sloan, of Waynesville. It is planned to build a thirty-foot dam of masonry and 1,500-horse power is to be developed. The survey work is in the hands of J. J. Dalton, the well-known civil engineer of Asheville.

The preliminary surveys and estimates have been completed. Mr. Dalton went out to look after this work immediately after completing the survey for the road which the United States Leather Company will build from Swannanoa station to Craggy Mountain for the purpose of handling the \$300,000 worth of chestnut wood that has been purchased for making tanning extract. It is not known in what way the company which is developing the plant will dispose of its product, but there are many ways in which it can be utilized in Waynesville. Mr. Dalton is confident that 1,500-horse power can be developed and a fine power property created.

North State Notes.

Mr. Walter Horner, a young white man from Gold Hill, who has been working in a cotton mill at Concord, was seriously injured last week by a fast-moving train, and his right leg and foot were seriously crushed. He lay by the track all night, exposed to the heavy rains, until about four o'clock this morning, when he was found. Dr. Rogers attended the injured man, and states that he is seriously injured. Just how the accident occurred to one so young is a mystery. The injured man is under the care of the railroad, and lies in a very critical condition.

The negroes of Wadesboro, as is usual, are making a martyr of Will Boggan, the murderer, who was recently hanged in Wadesboro. The better class of negroes are at the bottom of this farce. Another proof that society here is more ignorant one. The people know who these malcontents are, and they will be closely watched.

Jim Johnson, colored, of Charlotte, is preparing to bring suit against the Carolina Central railroad for \$1,000, alleged damages sustained on February 19, last, when Johnson claims that a door on him, inflicting personal injuries to the extent of \$1,000. The negro has filed application to be allowed to plead as a pauper. The case will probably come at the next civil term of Superior Court in Charlotte this month.

Hon. R. B. Glenn, of Winston, who is one of the candidates for the office of governor on the Democratic ticket, has written a letter to Recorder F. M. Shannonhouse, of Charlotte, regarding a young boy who has run away from Winston, from his mother, who lives near Mr. Glenn, in which he calls upon the Recorder to use his best efforts to have the boy found, as it is thought he was coming to Charlotte when he ran away from home. The police have taken the matter up and are searching for the boy.

Work will shortly be begun on a new bagging factory at Charlotte. The plant will be much larger and better equipped than the one recently destroyed by fire.

Wadesboro has now a golden opportunity to add at least 300 inhabitants to her already large population. Mr. George Singleton, proprietor of the Wadesboro Silk Mills, and also proprietor of one of the Patterson, N. C. plants, has decided to move the Patterson plant South. The only question now is the additional help that will be required to operate the already large business of Mr. Singleton. Parties desiring to work in silk mills can obtain information from Mr. Geo. Singleton, Wadesboro, N. C.