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NO. 1.

TAR HEEL TOPICS

Items Gathered From All Sections of the State

The Marion Tragedy.

Asheville, Special.—Fuller particulars of the tragedy at Marion which resulted in the death of James Patterson and the wounding of Alfred Patterson, by Gudge Finley, because Finley objected to Ed. Williams accompanying Miss Patterson home from church, have been received here. Mrs. Charles Boone, Mrs. James Patterson, Miss Patterson, Alfred Patterson and Ed. Williams attended religious services at Elhanan, which is located in East Marion. After the service they went to Boone's restaurant on Main street for supper. Shortly after they arrived at the restaurant Gudge Finley came in and joined them. When the party were leaving the restaurant Finley made a proposition to escort Miss Patterson, who refused, saying she was going with Ed Williams. This angered Finley. The party started up Main street, leaving Finley behind. As they turned the corner of Main and Cross streets, on their way to the Patterson home, they met Finley on the sidewalk. They claim that he was standing on the sidewalk with a pistol in hand and said to the young woman that her escort, Williams, did not have courage enough to defend her and struck Williams several times. Williams ran. He then struck the young woman, when Mrs. Patterson rushed between them and Finley turned on her with his pistol raised to her face. James Patterson rushed to the rescue of his wife, when Finley shot him, death following a few minutes later. Finley then raised his pistol and leveled it at the head of Alfred Patterson, but the wounded man struck at the pistol and the ball passed through his brother's shoulder and neck. No weapons were found on either of the Pattersons. Finley says he shot in self-defense, and shows some cuts about his clothing which he claims were made by knives of the Pattersons. No testimony has been taken in the case as yet, as at the preliminary examination no defense was made, and the defendant was committed to prison without bail.

Strange Negro Lynched at Hands of Mob.

Charlotte, Special.—A long distance phone from Selma, N. C., reports the lynching at Pine Level, Johnston county, of a strange negro at the hands of a negro mob. The strange negro, purporting to be an advance agent of a "big show," faked the negro residents into attendance when he turned out to be a one-man performance by the strange darkey himself. Covered with guano sacks, the mob entered the negro's boarding house early Tuesday morning and took him forcibly to the woods. His body was found at daylight on the Southern railroad tracks. His identity has not been established.

Corset Stave Saves Life.

Asheville, Special.—To the presence of a steel corset stave Miss Eva Chambers, of this city, owes her life. While in her room with a little eight-year-old cousin, the child picked up a 32-calibre revolver lying there and accidentally pulling the trigger, sent a bullet into Miss Chambers' left side. The bullet struck the corset stave near the heart and was stopped in its progress. The stave was driven slightly into Miss Chambers' side but made no serious hurt. But for the stave the bullet, which was flattened would almost certainly have caused death.

Current Events.

Coal mine operators held a conference in Washington in regard to prevention of disasters in mines.

The cruiser Chicago has been ordered to Annapolis as an addition to the fleet for the Naval Academy cruise.

Peace congresses are to be held in various States this year.

Statement as to Banks.

Raleigh, Special.—The corporation commission Friday issued its statement as to the State, private and savings banks, showing their condition at the close of business December 31, last. The following are the figures: Total assets, \$51,883,687; increase over previous year, \$3,576,199; capital stock, \$7,657,746. The amount of capital stock the year before was \$6,475,785. The number of banks December 31 was 293, against 254 the previous year, showing the very handsome increase of 41 in the twelve months.

Advance in Naval Stores Market.

Wilmington, Special.—What promises to be a steady and continued advance in the naval stores market has given a decided impetus to the trade in this city. The advance the past several days has almost been sensational spirits alone having jumped two cents a gallon in one day in sympathy with the Savannah market. Various reasons are assigned for this advance.

Make Penalties Severe.

Wilmington, Special.—The fall term, being a postponed one, of the United States District Court, convened for the Wilmington District and with docket loaded down with violations of the internal revenue laws, such as retailing liquor without license, illicit distilling, etc. The opening session was marked by Judge Purnell's charge, dealing largely and pointedly with the prohibition question, as he expressed the opinion that prohibition does not prohibit, but added that for violations of prohibition laws, the severest penalty should be given; that while he might not believe in prohibition, though his personal opinion on the subject had no right to be expressed in court, yet both State and government officers should strive to uphold the law. While he had gathered from the newspapers that in many prohibition communities in North Carolina, State officers did not do their duty, yet the government officers were doing theirs, and his court did not intend to impose any more thirty and sixty days jail sentences in such cases but unless there appeared mitigating circumstances, he would impose a heavy penitentiary sentence; that although he would make no rule, his court would be inclined to impose the maximum sentence. Then in substantiation of his idea, a young, well-dressed negro man, Handy Holmes, who submitted to selling liquor in a poolroom in Fayetteville, where he was working, felt the heavy hand of the law. Judge Purnell's only comment was "running a 'blind tiger' in a poolroom in a prohibition county. One year in the penitentiary." And the negro went in the dock, soon to be sent to the government prison in Atlanta.

Physician Asked to Leave.

Durham, Special.—An interesting story reaches here from Chatham county that a petition has been circulated asking a prominent physician to move from the county, it being stated—in the language of President Roosevelt—that he is an "undesirable citizen." This is an aftermath of the clash between the two squads of revenue officers in that county, or the edge of Durham, when several of the officers were more or less severely hurt in a clash at an illicit distillery. One squad was led, so it is stated, by a physician and the other hand had been directed there by the same man. The affair came near being so fatal that the citizens have been up in arms against this doctor since that time. Dr. Wilson, the man asked to leave, has replied to one of the petitions, so it is reported here, that he does not intend leaving the county. Thus the matter rests, but it has caused and is causing a great deal of bad feeling over in that section.

Bank to Become National.

Salisbury, Special.—The People's Bank will shortly be changed from a State to a national institution. At the same time the capital will be increased from \$75,000 to \$100,000. About February 1st the bank expects to occupy its new quarters at the southeast corner of Main and Fisher streets. The new building is owned by the People's Bank and when completed will be one of the handsomest in the State. The interior furnishings and decorations of the banking rooms will be most elaborate and no expense is being spared to have everything finished in first-class style.

Minor Events.

Mr. Fowler, chairman of the House Finance Committee, introduced a radical currency bill providing for a new national banking system.

Mr. Williams and Mr. De Armond exchanged amenities in the House, indicating a friendlier feeling between them.

The senate was not in session Thursday but will meet again Friday.

Child Falls Into Fire.

Asheville, Special.—Arlene Thorpe, the 10-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Thorpe, of this city, was so fearfully burned by falling into an open fireplace that all hope for her recovery has been abandoned. It seems that the little girl was sitting on the edge of a tilted chair in front of the grate when she lost her balance and plunged into the flames. Members of the family quickly removed the little victim and extinguished the blazing clothing, but not until she had been burned so badly that she cannot recover.

Spinners' Associations.

Charlotte, Special.—Believing that the present unsatisfactory condition in the cotton goods situation demands a remedy, a call was issued last week for a joint session of the Southern Soft Yarn Spinners' Association, the Southern Hard Yarn Spinners' Association, and the North Carolina Cotton Manufacturers' Association. The meeting will be held in this city, January 18th.

CONGRESS AT WORK

Dull Day in House.

Little business was transacted by the House Wednesday. After a forty minute debate, a rule was adopted giving the bill to revise, modify and amend the laws the right of way along with other preferred measures. The bill was immediately taken up and upon the conclusion of its reading was laid aside to permit Mr. Craig, of Tennessee, to address the House in favor of an appropriation for "The Hermitage," the home of Andrew Jackson near Nashville, Tenn. Mr. Gaines paid a glowing tribute to the life and deeds of Andrew Jackson.

Bond Issue in the Senate.

The recent issue of bonds by the Secretary of the Treasury for the purpose of relieving the financial stringency was the subject of an animated debate in the Senate. The discussion was precipitated by an inquiry by Senator Culberson and was participated in by Senators Aldrich, Tillman and Bailey. It resulted in an agreement to postpone further controversy until a statement can be received from Secretary Cortelyou. While the subject was under discussion Mr. Tillman's resolution directing the finance committee to inquire into the operations of the Treasury Department was referred with his consent to that committee.

The Senate passed Senator Tillman's resolution calling on the interstate commerce commission for information concerning purchases by railroad companies of the stock of competing roads.

The unfinished business in the form of the bill to codify the criminal laws of the United States was placed before the Senate and the reading of the bill begun.

Stato Rights in the House.

Vigorous defense of States' rights in dealing with violations of civil rights or with special State elections where troops are called into service, served to enliven the debate in the House of Representatives in connection with the consideration of the bill to codify the penal laws of the United States. A number of Democrats, mostly from the Southern States, strenuously sought by amendment to reserve to the States themselves discretion as to the qualifications of voters or of persons to serve on juries, and to limit the powers of Federal judges in certain cases, but every attempt failed. The Republicans presented a solid front and the votes all were on party lines.

The bill was still under consideration when at 5:02 p. m. the House adjourned.

SECOND TRIAL OF THAW.

Considerable Headway Being Made in the Noted Case.

New York, Special.—The Thaw trial moved with a rush Monday. After the State had presented its direct case and Assistant District Attorney Garvan had characterized the killing of Stanford White as "a premeditated, deliberate and cowardly murder," Martin W. Littleton, for the defense, made the opening plea for the prisoner. His promise of new evidence was sensational. Mr. Littleton promised to produce a chain of circumstances and to produce a line of testimony which will prove Harry K. Thaw undeniably insane at the time of the homicide. Evidence of hereditary insanity and of strange, unusual acts of Thaw was told of by Mr. Littleton, who said that physicians and nurses who had attended Thaw were hurrying from Europe; that teachers of the defendant in childhood would be on hand to give their impressions of "the wild eyed, distant boy."

In conclusion, Mr. Littleton challenged the district attorney to produce a single reputable physician who would say that Thaw was not insane at the time he killed the noted architect.

Thaw was called to the bar promptly at 10 a. m.

Within the next few minutes Assistant District Attorney Garvan began the outline of the prosecution's case to the jury.

"The defense in this case," said Mr. Garvan "is insanity. The material facts are admitted. Insanity, let me assure you, is not to be defined by what you or I might think, it is not what physicians or metaphysicians may tell us, or what scientists or pseudo-scientists may describe. Insanity, as we have to deal with it, has been defined by the Legislature of the State of New York. The law is wiser than we are. We are sworn to obey it and to live under it. The law says that the only person excused from criminal responsibility is he who is so deficient of reasoning that he does not know the nature or quality of his act or that the act is wrong. With the definition and this definition of the law alone, I ask you to judge of all the acts of this defendant the night of June 25th, 1906, when he shot and killed Stanford White on the roof of Madison Square Garden."

SCORES DIE IN FIRE

Awful Ending of an Entertainment Given By Children

STAMPEDE IN AN OPERA HOUSE

Exploding Tank Causes Stampede and Panic in Pennsylvania Opera House—Actors in Their Anxiety to Make Themselves Heard Overturn Footlights Setting Fire to Building.

Boyetown, Pa., Special.—Between 50 and 75 persons were burned to death Monday night in a fire which completely destroyed Rhod's Opera House in this place.

The opera house was crowded with members of St. John's Lutheran Sunday school, who were attending a benefit given for that church. While the show was in progress, a tank exploded. The actors endeavored to quiet the audience but in their anxiety to make themselves heard and to avoid the awful stampede of the women and children, the coal oil lamps which were used as the footlights were overturned, setting the place on fire. The flames, fed by the oil, shot almost to the ceiling and there was a wild rush of the seven hundred persons to escape from the burning building. Scores of women and children were trampled upon and several who escaped being burned to death, died after being dragged from the opera house.

In many cases, it is said, entire families have been wiped out. The scene which followed the explosion is indescribable. Scores of persons who were in the balcony at the time the explosion occurred jumped from the windows and sustained fractured limbs and skulls.

To add to the terrible disaster, the fire apparatus became disabled and the structure was left entirely to the mercy of the seething flames. It is almost certain not a vestige of the bodies of the unfortunates who were overcome by the smoke and perished, will ever be found. Assistance was asked from Pottstown but before the fire apparatus from that city reached this place the entire centre of the structure was a roaring furnace.

Had the women and children heeded the warning of the cooler heads in the audience the horrible loss of life might have been avoided, but there was the usual panic and stampede which invariably follows at such a catastrophe. The flames spread rapidly and communicated to the other parts of the theatre. Men, women and children rushed for the many exits, and the weaker sex and the children were trampled and maimed in the mad rush to gain the street.

Assistance was at once asked of both Reading and Pottstown, and special trains carrying nurses and doctors were rushed to the scene of the disaster.

Every home within a radius of a dozen blocks of the opera house was made a temporary hospital, where the wounded were rushed by carriages and other means of conveyance.

Boyetown is a borough with a population of about 2,500 and is located about midway between Pottstown and Reading.

The night was one of wailing and anguish. The shrieks of mothers who had rushed to the scene as soon as they learned of the fire was pitiful. As the night wore on, the crowds surrounding the building grew to such proportions that it was almost impossible for the police force which had been augmented by a score of men from Pottstown and Reading, to keep the people back. One woman who said she had lost her entire family in the theater was with difficulty restrained from throwing herself into the flames.

At 1 o'clock a special train from Reading, bearing physicians and nurses, reached here, but there was little for them to do as the injured who had dashed themselves to the payment, had been cared for. A few minutes after midnight the rear wall of the theater collapsed. The flames broke out anew and those who had hoped to be able to find the remains of some of their loved ones, turned in despair from the scene.

It is estimated that at least 75 persons were injured by being trampled upon either on the stairway or by jumping from the windows.

News of the Day.

Col. James Hamilton Lewis told 200 students of the Northwestern University Law School, that an oath is nothing to a woman, and that in testifying she is always guided by her feelings.

General Hemptzoozian Boyadjan, head of the Hunchakists, has arrived in New York to organize the Armenians for a revolution in Turkey.

FLEET REACHES RIO

American Fleet Joyously Received at Southern Port

BRASILIAN'S WELCOME HEARTY

Warships of the South American Republic, in Gala Attire, Meet the Sixteen American Battleships at the Entrance to the Harbor and Escort Them to Safe Anchorage.

Rio Janeiro, By Cable.—The American fleet of sixteen battleships entered the port of Rio Janeiro at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon, after a passage from Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, more than 3,000 miles, unmarred by serious accident, replete with interesting incidents and ending with a royal welcome from the thousands that had gathered to greet the visitors.

The fleet weighed anchor at 4 o'clock on the afternoon of December 24th at Port-of-Spain and exactly at 4 o'clock Sunday the vessels were swinging at the anchors in this beautiful harbor. All of the battleships are here, but the supply ships, Culgoa and Glacier, are still at sea, not having been able to keep along with the others. The fleet has now covered about 4,600 miles, about one-third the distance of the voyage to San Francisco.

Crowds Welcome Ships.

Early in the morning the crowds began to gather in the streets of Rio Janeiro, and long before the signal flags were hoisted announcing the approach of the American ships of war thousands of curious spectators had taken up the points of vantage on public buildings and the elevated quays. When the fleet steamed into the harbor, under the splendid mountains that frame the bay, beautiful in the tropical sun, it was a spectacle incomparable to the eye.

Word that the fleet had passed Cape Frio, about 45 miles out, was received at 8:30 o'clock and immediately scores of tugs and other small craft crowded with spectators set out to meet the visitors and accompany them to the anchorage. Outlined against the horizon the great battleships, stretched out in one long line, came slowly through the passage into the bay. The Connecticut, Rear Admiral Evans' flagship, was in the lead with the Brazilian cruisers, dressed in gala attire on either side. Passing the fortresses, the Connecticut fired a salute of 21 guns, which was responded to by the Brazilian warships, the German cruiser Bremen and the shore guns. The yard and fighting tops were manned and cheers upon cheers were given for the splendid passage of the flagship and her sister ships.

Pearl Wight Confirms Report.

New Orleans, Special.—Pearl Wight confirmed the report that he had declined the position of commissioner of internal revenue, which was offered to him several months ago by President Roosevelt. Wight announced at that time that he would accept the position if he could arrange his business affairs in this city. He said that the financial stringency which arose made it necessary to give his entire time to his interests in Louisiana.

Wife Murderer Sent to Penitentiary.

Staunton, Va., Special.—John F. Via, charged with the murder of his wife, Cora, at Craigville, October 16, last, was found guilty and sentenced to 8 years in the penitentiary. Via, it is charged, had been drinking when he committed the crime. He claimed his wife killed herself. He is 49 years old and his wife was 23.

Montgomery Retires Certificates.

Montgomery, Ala., Special.—President Baldwin, of the Montgomery clearing house association, issued an order for the complete retirement of the clearing house certificates which have been used in Montgomery and vicinity for the past two months. These certificates will be retired as rapidly as presented at the different banks here Monday morning.

Operations of Subway Suspended.

New York, Special.—Orders were given by Deputy Commissioner of Police Bugher that in view of the great danger of falling walls of the Parker Building that the operation of the subway should be suspended. An order was issued by officials of the company that until further notice no subway trains would be operated between 14th street and Grand Central station. It is feared by the police officials that should these big walls crumble the mass of brick and stone would plunge through the street into the subway below.

The Brownson-Stokes Matter.

Washington, Special.—The House is going to find out all about the Brownson-Rixey-Stokes affair and adopted a resolution calling upon the Secretary of the Navy for all letters reports and orders in connection with the assignment of Surgeon Stokes to the command of hospital ship Relief. The House also asks for correspondence in connection with the resignation of Brownson.

FINANCIAL BAROMETER

READS "NORMAL"

Optimistic Outlook Foreshadowed by The Atlanta Constitution.

The Atlanta Constitution of January 12 says:

For the first time in several weeks the financial barometer of the country reads—"NORMAL."

The weekly statement of the New York banks, issued yesterday, shows \$17,000,000 increase in the reserve fund, not only restoring the latter to its legal basis, but exceeding the reserve requirement by over \$6,000,000, whereas a week ago the reserve deficit was \$10,000,000.

The significance of this is unmistakable.

It means that New York city, the clearing house of the nation, finds that the financial deadlock, which had no rational excuse for existence, has been broken and that henceforth currency vitally needed in everyday business and development will be increasingly available.

Testimony that is absolutely unimpeachable comes from two sources to confirm this reasoning.

The two great commercial agencies—Bradstreet's and Dun's—in their weekly reviews report substantial progress toward normal conditions.

Demands are increasing in every line of business. Money is more easily obtainable. Real estate and other values are appreciating with the passage of every day.

There is no discounting the hopeful effect of these three factors. They bear their own credentials.

They indicate the near presence of the day when we may speak of the financial stringency in the past tense. They bear witness that the fundamental prosperity, upon which the Constitution has always insisted, has come to the permanent relief of the country.

Within a few days this healthful condition will be reflected in every line of business. Credit is already easing; collections are steadily improving; trade is becoming brisker.

The horizon is perceptibly brightening. From the sear that is vanishing these lessons stand out.

GET TO WORK! GUARD AGAINST THE MISTAKES OF THE FUTURE BY THE EXPERIENCE OF THE PAST. ALL'S WELL WITH THE PROSPERITY OF THE NATION.

Bricklayers' Union Meets.

Detroit, Mich., Special.—Bricklayers from all over this country and from Canada are in Detroit Monday for the convention of the international union of the trade. The meeting will probably last three weeks, as a convention of the union has not been held for two years and there are many matters of great importance before the body for settlement. The gathering is expected to mark the inauguration of a renewed and vigorous opposition to the open shop idea. National officers will be elected for the coming two years before the convention adjourns.

Serious Fire in Kansas City.

Kansas City, Special.—Fire broke out at the union annex and raged for several hours, causing a heavy loss before it could be controlled. The government mail transfer station and offices and several express companies were located in the building and it is believed that the contents are comparatively destroyed.

Airship Contest.

Paris, By Cable.—Henry Farman won the Deutsch Archdeacon prize of fifteen thousand francs for an aeroplane which would perform certain required evolutions. In the first trial he completed a circular kilometre at an average flight, the 20-foot aeroplane turning with ease of an automobile and coming back to the exact starting place. He then rose again, took a great swoop and landed in the aeroplane's shed. The time was 88 seconds. M. Voisin, the builder of the airship, faintly when assured that the prize had been won.

First Cabinet Dinner.

Washington, Special.—President and Mrs. Roosevelt will be the guests of honor at a banquet to be given Tuesday night by Secretary of State and Mrs. Elihu Root to which many other cabinet members, diplomats and statesmen have been invited. This will be the first cabinet dinner of the President, and will be followed by similar affairs given by other cabinet members in their order of precedence.

Late News

In Brief

MINOR MATTERS OF INTEREST

Following the burning of the court house and all records at Bryson City, N. C., a curfew ordinance for negroes was passed.

The second day of the Thaw trial closed with three sworn and four provisional jurors in the box.

Five Pullmans of a special train went through a trestle near Hiram, Ga., and many were hurt.

Six sworn jurors were in the box at the conclusion of the day's session of the Thaw trial.

Receivers were appointed for the Chicago Great Western Railroad.

Claus A. Spreckles demanded publicity in American Sugar Refining affairs.

The Gould interests regained control of the Merchants National Bank from F. Augustus Heinze.

Governor Wilson, of Kentucky, sent the General Assembly a message on the "night riders" and two counties asked for Gatling guns.

Green and Gaynor, convicted of frauds on harbor contracts, begins four years' terms in the Atlanta Federal prison.

John Mulholland, a money lender, who claimed to have \$3,000,000 assets, failed in Danville, Ill.

Oklahoma came out for Taft, and New Hampshire labor federation leaders decided to fight him.

Immigration is at the lowest ebb for years.

Secretary Metcalf issued the order assigning Surgeon Stokes to command of the Relief.

Richard A. Ballinger resigned as commissioner of the General Land office, to be succeeded by Frederick Dennett.

Senator Aldrich introduced the Emergency Currency bill that is favored by the Republican leaders.

Representative Gill, of Maryland, introduced a resolution in the House calling for all the documents in the Brownson-Rixey controversy.

A bill was introduced in the House to reorganize the Navy Department. Mr. Willett, of New York, severely criticized President Roosevelt in the House.

The Senate adjourned until Thursday.

The battleship fleet was sighted off Pernambuco, Brazil.

Canada decided all immigrants must come to the Dominion from their former homes, thus shutting off Japs from Hawaii.

The Bant of Yucatan was robbed of \$740,000 and 12 prominent persons are accused.

Augustus B. Stevens, baggage-master on the Norfolk and Southern railway, was assassinated on his train near Suffolk, Va.

The report that the Wise County Bank at Wise, Va., had closed its doors is unfounded.

Sailors and marines from the Norfolk Navy Yard celebrated Christmas liberty in a riotous fashion.

Governor Swanson pardoned John Jackson, a life prisoner who was convicted of murder and sentenced to be hanged in 1897.

John Cowington was lodged in jail at Grafton, W. Va., charged with assaulting Miss Nellie Maddix.

Fred J. Thompson, of Roanoke, has sued Drs. Haneday and Stone for \$10,000 damages, because they adjudged him insane.

A revolt has broken out in Somaliland and Abyssinians have killed a number of Italians.

Republican senators are said to be forcing a combination to defeat Taft for the nomination for President.

President Roosevelt held the "diplomatic reception" at the White House Saturday night.

Philadelphia street car men won demands which threatened a strike.

The Government report shows that 9,955,427 bales of cotton were ginned to January 1, a great decrease from last year's crop.

Senator Hale introduced a bill providing for a reorganization of the Navy Department and limiting the number of Naval Academy graduates appointed officers.

In the House the members held a lottery drawing for rooms in the new office building.

Senator Raynor declared that Democrats will aid in securing conservative currency.

Alexander B. Butt, cashier of the defunct People's Bank of Portsmouth, was arrested on three additional charges, and is now out on bail, aggregating \$25,000.

The schooner wrecked on Diamond Shoals, off Hatteras, with the loss of five men, was the Leonora, bound from Round Point, Maine, to Charleston, S. C.

J. H. Sheppard, of Millville, N. J., committed suicide because his family was too big.