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TAR HEEL TOPICS

Items Gathered From All Sections of the State

Her Purse Snatched.

Charlotte, Special.—The purse snatchers in Charlotte are continuing their operations without a let up, and another bold attempt was reported by the police, this making perhaps the twentieth or thirtieth to take place recently. The victim was Miss Josephine Worrel, stenographer in a local insurance office. She was seized and thrown to the ground and her purse torn loose from her hand, to which it was fastened, by a ribbon. The continuous repetition of these offenses all which are the work of black men has stirred the city to a considerable degree. The police are exhausting every means to capture the supposed gang of purse-snatchers. Miss Worrel came to the city last Sunday from Atlanta, Ga., and had just taken up her residence at No. 704 East Fourth street. She has a position in the office of the New York Life Insurance Company. She carried in her purse about \$30. The police officers thought that two of the leading purse-snatchers who have been operating in this city, had been captured in the person of Roper Wallace and J. A. Swope, colored, one of whom was arrested Tuesday and the other Wednesday. The occurrence, however, indicates that these two are not entitled to blame for all of this fiendish work that has been going on. There are evidences of the fact that the snatchers are organized and judging from the success of their efforts lately, they must be well organized. They are about as shrewd a set of law-breakers as the local officers ever met with. A reward of \$100 has been offered by the mayor for the capture of the party or parties guilty, and public feeling is very high.

Young Lady Attempts Suicide.

Gastonia, Special.—Miss Bell Nichols, a well known young lady of Grover, attempted to commit suicide Tuesday. The effort at self-destruction was due to a fit of mental derangement to which she has been subjected for several months. Miss Nichols had been under the treatment of physicians for the past three or four months, but recently returned to her father's home near Grover, apparently very much improved. Tuesday morning she borrowed her father's pocket knife on the plea that she wanted to trim her finger nails. A short time afterward she mysteriously disappeared from the premises. The alarm was sent out and a searching party consisting of about thirty-five people was organized and a search begun. After several hours the young woman was found late Tuesday afternoon, wandering around in a patch of woods near the town. She had cut her breast open, stabbed herself a number of times on the neck. She had removed her shoes and had wandered around, apparently crazed, but thinly clad. She was taken at once to her home and physicians dressed her wounds. These are not considered of sufficient seriousness to cause death, but the doctor fears that she has contracted pneumonia from spending the day in the woods, thinly clad and with portions of her body exposed to the cold.

Six Deaths.

Tarboro, Special.—County Health Officer, Dr. W. J. Thigpen, reports six deaths in Tarboro during the month of January. Three of these were under two years of age.

Killed His Wife.

Asheville, Special.—A special from Marshall tells of another murder committed in Madison county Thursday night when Mrs. John W. Rondon was done to death. The husband is accused of the crime which was committed near Barnard and the message stated that officers had gone from Marshall to place Rondon under arrest.

School Term Shortened.

High Point, Special.—At a meeting of the school board this week it was decided to have only eight months of school this year instead of nine as has been the case the past several years. This was made necessary on account of the money in hand. For sometime an eight month school term was held but the board thought best to give the pupils as many months in the year as possible and would not now be changed if the money sufficient was available.

Now a Certainty.

Kinston, Special.—The Caswell Cotton Mills is a certainty. Plans are now rapidly developing for the construction of the plant. A site of 15 acres has been purchased, this being located on Neuse river, just east of the electric plant. Mr. E. C. Biber, architect, of Charlotte, has been engaged to draw plans for the new

Has Two Husbands.

Winston-Salem, Special.—During the recent session of the legislature a bill passed validating the marriage of Joseph Ridenhour to Mrs. John Davis, both of Davidson county. Mrs. Davis, who was a Miss Reid, married John Davis. Davis left the country and was gone a number of years. Hearing that he was dead, his wife, many years after his disappearance, was married to Joseph Ridenhour. Some time ago Davis came back to Davidson county and found his wife married again. Her position was embarrassing, because she thus had two husbands living although all parties were innocent of any wrong in connection with the marriage. Accordingly the legislature was asked to validate the second marriage. Senator Redwine opposed the bill, contending that if it passed the woman would thus have two husbands living. Senator Blair favored the bill and spoke highly of the woman. The bill passed its reading in the Senate by practically a unanimous vote.

Statesville's New Bank.

Statesville, Special.—The Merchants & Farmers Bank, the new banking institution, has secured temporary quarters with the Statesville Realty & Investment Company on Center street, and Messrs. F. B. Bunch and J. A. Knox, officials of the bank, are busy completing arrangements to open for business. All of the capital stock has been paid in and the company has filed its report with the corporation commission. The certificate from commission is expected Thursday or Friday and the bank expects to open for business next Wednesday, the 12th. The business will be conducted from the offices of the Realty & Investment Company until the bank's permanent quarters in the Patterson & Anderson block are ready for occupancy.

Look Out For Fake Dollars.

Salisbury, Special.—Spurious silver dollars of the date of 1899 are being freely circulated in Salisbury and officers are at work on the case, with a fair clue to the original dispenser of the curios. The coin is a splendid imitation and one was recovered by Grocer H. E. Ruffly last Saturday evening without question. Another was presented him by a lad whom Mr. Ruffly detained and questioned. The boy said his father had given him the money to make some purchases and inquiry of the father proved the truth of the lad's statement. The man said he had been given the money by a Spencer merchant and it is this clue upon which the officers are working.

Another \$10,000 Suit.

Hickory, Special.—Reports has it that this city is to have another suit for \$10,000 for false arrest and imprisonment. Some time ago, in the night time, a gang of masked men tore up the C. & N. W. railroad track on the north side of the Hickory freight depot. Next morning the station boss, with his crew of men, started to put the track back. Mayor Gilley forbid it. But the section boss would not listen to the city officers, and proceeded to put the track back. The policemen arrested him and placed him in the lockup. He was not locked up but a little while. Now it is stated that he has sued Mayor Gilley (who since then has resigned as mayor) and the city for \$10,000 damages for false imprisonment.

Buys Interest in Winston-Salem Co

Winston-Salem, Special.—W. J. Brothers, of Eastern North Carolina, has acquired by purchase a considerable interest in the A. F. Messick Grocery Company and will make this city his home after March 1st. He will have an official position with the above well known wholesale grocers with whom it is understood he has made a considerable investment.

Farmers Holding Cotton.

Charlotte, Special.—There is no doubt of the fact that farmers in Mecklenburg are holding to their cotton this month with more than usual tenacity. The recent meeting of the State Division of the Southern Cotton Association, and the near approach of the annual meeting of the Southern Cotton Association in Dallas, Texas, have undoubtedly served to stimulate the farmers to more stringent efforts in holding their cotton.

Two National Banks.

Kinston, Special.—The biggest and most interesting news in business circles about the busy town of Kinston is the announcement that she is to have two national banks. The Citizens bank will increase its capital and enter the field as a national bank and the Bank of Kinston will become a national bank. The charter has already been applied for and the change will soon be made.

CONGRESS GETS BUSY

Doings of Our National Law-Makers Day by Day.

Tariff in the Senate.

Senator Beveridge, of Indiana, addressed the Senate in advocacy of his bill to create a permanent tariff commission. The Senator was accorded a careful hearing by both the Republican and Democratic sides of the chamber, and also by the crowded galleries.

Senator Beveridge spoke for an hour and a half, and when he concluded his remarks, Senator Culberson, of Texas, remarked that the Senator from Indiana was to be congratulated because in some degree at least, he had joined the army of tariff revisionists. He said that it had been announced in the newspapers that a decree had been issued on the Republican side that the tariff could not even be inquired into at this time.

Senator Newlands then discussed the general subject of the tariff, declaring that the law should provide for a gradual reduction of the tariff so that no duty should be over 45 per cent.

Mr. McLaurin declared that the tariff would always be a political question. "The fact," he said, "that we are told the tariff must not be revised before an election is an admission that it is political."

Senator Scott pronounced himself to be a "stand-patter." He believed the present Dingley tariff had done more for this country in the past ten years than any law ever enacted.

Mr. Stone, of Missouri, declared that when William Jennings Bryan is elected President and when Congress is in control of the Democratic party, then and then only, would a conservative and genuine revision of the tariff be begun.

Appropriation Bill Up.

The sections of the urgent deficiency appropriation bill relating to executive departments were reached in the Senate Mr. Bacon, of Georgia, inquired concerning the operation of the law prohibiting executive departments from incurring liabilities for which appropriation is not made.

Mr. Hale explained that the law of 1906 had made such a prohibition but he added, there is an exception in favor of the War Department and Navy Department. This exception he hoped would be done away with.

Senator Clay, of Georgia, condemned the appropriation of between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000 for the Navy Department in this bill for purposes not provided for by law.

Mr. Hale declared that there always had been deficiencies and that there always will be. He regarded them as inevitable.

Mr. Clay persisted in his opposition and said that he would not be surprised to see the appropriations for the navy reach \$175,000,000 annually, according to the rate of increase, going on now. He also predicted that within 10 years the expenses of the Postoffice Department would be increased to \$225,000,000 a year. All of the deficiency appropriations complained of in connection with unauthorized expenditures were retained in the bill.

Pension Bill Reported.

The House committee on appropriations reported favorably the pension bill for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1909. The bill as reported abolishes the pension agencies at Augusta, Me., Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Columbus, O.; Concord, N. H.; Des Moines, Detroit, Indianapolis, Knoxville, Tenn.; Louisville, Ky.; Milwaukee, New York City, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, San Francisco and Topeka and consolidates them in one central distributing agency at Washington.

The bill as reported carries a total pension appropriation of \$150,869,000, which is \$174,000 less than the aggregate estimate—the exact sum saved by the consolidation of the agencies.

There was paid to 967,371 pensioners in the last fiscal year the total sum of \$138,030,894; and the total of pensions that has been paid for all wars and for the regular establishment since the foundation of the republic is \$3,595,015,732.

"There is now living," says the report, "no soldier or soldier's widow of the revolutionary war and there is no pension soldier living of the war of 1812 but at the end of the last fiscal year there were on the roll 559 widows of soldiers of that war."

Deficiency Bill Passes.

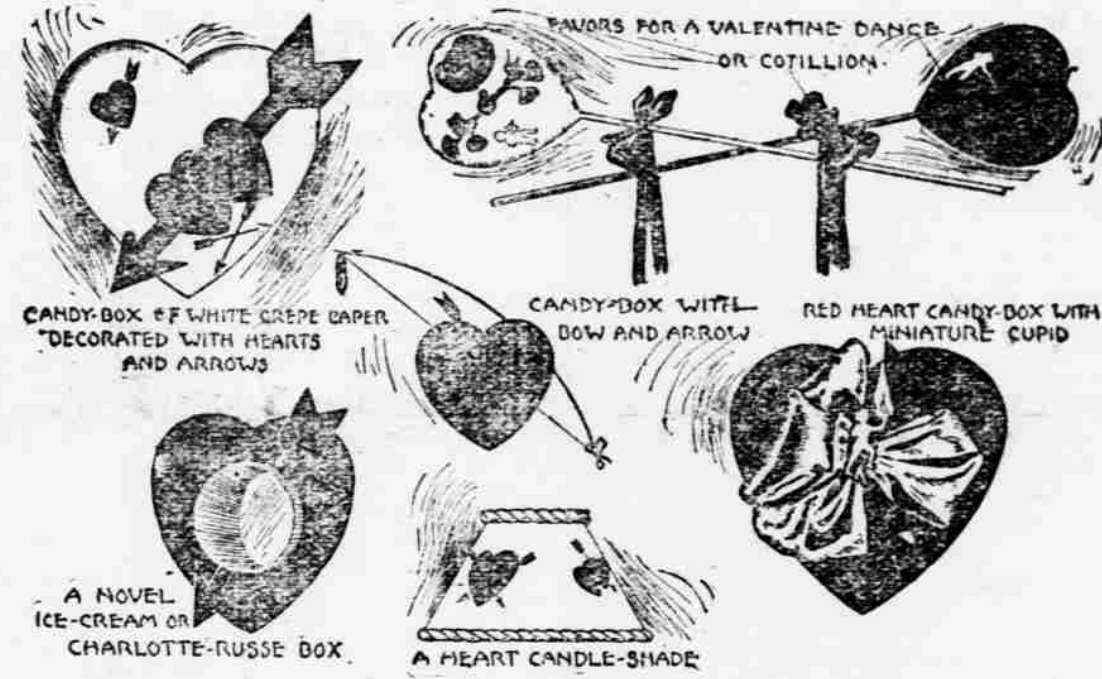
The senate passed the urgent deficiency bill, carrying an appropriation of over \$24,000,000. The large deficiency appropriation for the navy brought out considerable discussion of the subject of executive departments making expenditures not provided for in appropriating.

The deficiency appropriations for the Panama canal gave rise to Democratic criticism of the publication of a paper by the canal commission at Panama and incidentally Senator Teller declared that he believed the log canal at Panama would some day be declared a failure and that a sea level canal would take its place. The senate devoted two hours to consideration of the criminal code bill and at 4:20 p. m. adjourned.



For February festivities that take place on or near the fourteenth of the month, there are this year a host of charming novelties. The old-fashioned valentines are, of course, out of date for everybody but children, yet the sentiment of the day still lingers in the hearts and darts and pasted board Cupids used on the new candy-boxes. What, for instance, could be a prettier remembrance for any young man to give his "best girl," or even a young woman for whom he had no particular regard but to whose family he was indebted for invitations to dinner or tea, dances or other functions of the season, than one of these candy-boxes? Two different styles are shown on this page—one covered with bright-red paper and decorated with a big bow of red ribbon, having in the centre Cupid himself, with his bow and arrows; the other simpler, but just as effective, covered with white crepe paper and decorated with a gilt arrow pierced through two hearts. If these boxes are wanted for souvenirs at luncheons or parties they can easily be made at home by a clever girl, for the crepe paper is very simple to manipulate. The heart-shaped pasteboard boxes can be bought ready-made at most stationery stores, and the hearts and arrows cut out of red and gold paper, respectively, declares McCall's Magazine.

Even easier to make is the little round box shown at the top of the left-hand corner of this group. Any



round pasteboard box can be used as a foundation for this. It is covered with white crepe paper and a big red heart pasted in the centre. It adds to the appearance if the edges of the box are touched up with a line of gold paint, as shown in our illustration.

For serving refreshments at a valentine party there is nothing more effective than heart and arrow ice cream or charlotte russe boxes, and the best thing about them is that they can be so easily and quickly made. Buy some rather than bright-red pasteboard at a stationery store, and also a sheet of white pasteboard. Then get some of the ordinary plated paper cases that are used for charlotte russe, biscuit glass, etc. An arrow is cut out of the white pasteboard, painted gold or covered with gilt paper and pasted across the large heart that has just been cut from the red pasteboard. A circle is then cut out of the heart, through arrow and all, the ice cream box inserted in the opening and held in place with a little paste.

The paper baskets can be even more quickly made, the foundation being the same sort of plated paper cases. In making the red paper basket, this is given a handle formed of wire, with red crepe paper twisted around it and a heart and arrow pasted at the top. The paper itself is simply covered with a frill of red paper, held in place by just a touch

of observations of the day; for it would be very hard to say which of the three early Christian bishops so named the 14th of February is intended to commemorate.

Some St. Valentine "Don'ts."

Remember that you want to enjoy the St. Valentine party as well as your guests; therefore observe these rules:

Don't fret and worry every hour of the preceding day until you are nervous and sensitive to everything that goes wrong.

Don't rush your games too close on each other's heels. Young people like to talk.

Don't seem to be making an effort to entertain them at every moment. Suggest the games when the talking grows a little less spirited.



A Bucket Drowned Cow.

In Linn County a cow was drowned in a gallon bucket. The cow put her nose into the bucket, which contained salt, and got the bucket firmly wedged on her muzzle. Being unable to free herself she went to a pond and plunged her nose in over the bucket, which filled with water and drowned her. She is dead, although it can hardly be said that she kicked the bucket.—Kansas City Journal.

His Apt Retort.

When there was considerable grumbling about the delay in forwarding to the troops the money due, a Western paymaster was introduced at a public reception.

"Being here, Mr. Lincoln," said he, "I thought I would call and pay my respects."

"From the complaints of the soldiers," responded the President, "I guess that is about all any of you do pay."

ENDING OF FEUDIST

Judge Hargis, of Kentucky, is Slain By His Own Son

CAREER OF BLOOD AND MURDER

The Most Infamous Figure in the Feuds Which Have Disrupted Breathitt County, Kentucky, For Many Years, is Shot and Killed by His Own Son, Following a Quarrel.

Jackson, Ky., Special.—Former County Judge James Hargis, for many years member of the State Democratic executive committee, accused of complicity in many killings, and a prominent figure in the feuds which have disrupted Breathitt county for several years was shot and instantly killed in his general store here about 3:30 p. m. Thursday by his son, Beach Hargis. The son fired five shots in rapid succession at his father, who fell dead while his clerks were waiting on customers. The exact cause of the murder has not been learned, but it is supposed to have been the result of differences which have existed between father and son for some time. The two men are reported to have had a severe quarrel several nights ago, when the father, it is alleged, was compelled to resort to violence to restrain his son.

Young Hargis, it is said, had been drinking heavily of late. He came into the store in the afternoon and was apparently under the influence of liquor. Judge Hargis, it is said, spoke to his son about drinking and a quarrel resulted.

Father and son stepped behind a counter, when the son, after a few minutes' conversation, drew a revolver and fired five shots. Four took effect, Judge Hargis falling dead. The young lady stenographer and the customers in the store fled in fright.

Young Hargis was arrested and placed in jail. He was raving like a maniac and the officers were compelled to drug him to jail.

Judge Hargis has been for years a prominent figure in Kentucky in political and criminal circles. He has figured in the courts in the mountains for years on account of the murders of Dr. Cox, Attorney Marcum and "Jim" Cockrill. Judge Hargis was the political leader of the Democrats of the tenth district and was regarded as the "boss" of Breathitt county. For years his sway was not opposed but young Hargis and Marcum had the temerity to oppose Hargis in a law case. From that date he was a marked man.

Judge Hargis had been on trial at various times for complicity in the murder of Marcum, "Jim" Cockrill and Dr. Cox, but had been acquitted on all the charges. He was recently forced to pay a judgment of \$8,000 to Mrs. Marcum in connection with the death of her husband.

Judge Hargis disposed of this, the last of the cases in which he had been involved, when he paid the judgment of the court. Mrs. Marcum had sued Judge Hargis and others for \$100,000 alleging that they caused the death of her husband.

The Hargis-Cockrill feud had its inception in a political contest. The Hargis' had long been dominant in Breathitt county, where they conducted a general store and a lumber business and were generally active. The brothers, James, Alexander and Albert were good business men and accumulated a fortune.

Ten Killed in Mine.

Port Hood, N. S., Special.—Six coal miners and four loaders were crushed to death as the result of an explosion in the Port Hood mine of the Port Hood-Richmond Railway Coal Company. Whether the explosion was due to gas, fire damp or gunpowder remains to be determined by a coroner's jury.

Second Primary in Louisiana.

Baton Rouge, La., Special.—The official count of Louisiana's recent Democratic primary elections issued Friday night, shows that a second election will be necessary for four of these. These are Lieutenant Governor, State Auditor, Attorney General and Registrar of Land Offices. Paul Lambremont and J. J. Bailey will be the contestants for Lieutenant Governor. J. Y. Sanders was the contestant for Governor by a plurality of 13,447.

Leaves Fortune to Hampton Normal.

Pittsfield, Mass., Special.—By the will of Miss Alice Byington of Stockbridge, which was filed for probate here Saturday, the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, of Hampton, Va., is given \$210,000. The Normal and Industrial Institute, of Tuskegee, Ala., is given \$50,000, and the Mount Herman school for boys at East Northfield, Mass., \$25,000.

REPLIES TO CRITICS

President Roosevelt Answers Charge of Playing Politics

GIVES REASONS FOR HIS ACTS

Chief Executive Characterizes the Charges as "False and Malicious" and in an Exceedingly Lengthy Epistle to William Dudley Foulke, of Richmond, Indiana, He Enters Into a Detailed Defense.

Washington, Special.—President Roosevelt has made answer to the recent statements that he has made use of Federal patronage to further the presidential interests of Secretary Taft. The answer is in the form of a letter addressed to William Dudley Foulke, of Richmond, Indiana, and includes a letter from Mr. Foulke to the President suggesting the need of such a statement.

The President begins by characterizing the charges as "false and malicious." He follows this with an analysis of all appointments sent by him to the senate for its action to show that in no case has the proximity of a presidential contest influenced his action. The President's letter to Mr. Foulke in part follows:

The President's Letter.

The statement that I have used the offices in the effort to nominate any presidential candidate is both false and malicious. It is the usual imaginative invention which flows from a desire to say something injurious. Remember that those now making this accusation were busily engaged two months ago in asserting that I was using the offices to secure my own re-nomination. It is the kind of accusation which for the next few months will be rife. This particular slander will be used until exploded, and when exploded those who have used it will promptly invent another. Such being the case, I almost question whether it is worth while answering; but as it is you who ask why, the answer you shall have.

Since the present Congress assembled two months ago I have sent to the Senate the names of all the officials I have appointed for the entire period since Congress adjourned on the 4th of March last, that is for 11 months. Excluding army and navy officers, scientific experts, health officers, and those of the revenue cutter service, I have made during this period about 1,352 appointments subject to the confirmation by the Senate, 1,164 being postmasters. Of these, appointments in the diplomatic and consular services and in the Indian service have been made without regard to politics; in the diplomatic and consular services more Democrats than Republicans having been appointed, as we are trying to even up the quotas of the Southern States. In nominating judges I have treated politics as a wholly secondary consideration, and instead of relying solely upon the recommendations of either Senators or Congressmen, have always conducted independent inquiries myself personally through members of the bench or the bar whom I happen to know, or through Attorney General Bonaparte, Secretary Taft, who was himself a judge, Secretary Root, because of his great experience at the bar, or Senator Knox, who was formerly my Attorney General. In a number of the other offices, chiefly assistant secretaries or heads of bureaus here at Washington, but also Governors of Territories or men holding peculiar positions—such for instance, as that of commissioner of education in Porto Rico—and also in a few other cases, notably those of marshals in certain of the Western States, but including various officers also here and there throughout the Union, I have either felt that the position was of such a character that the initiative in the choice could only with propriety come from me or from one of the Cabinet officers, or else I have happened to know of a man of such peculiar qualifications that I desired to appoint him on my own initiative.

The President goes at length into all his appointments, and shows that he has in no instance shown a purpose to further the interests of any candidate, but has had only the good of the public service in view.

Pacific Decrees Are Promulgated.

London, By Cable.—Decrees restoring constitutional government, extending immunity from prosecution to members of the Cortes, releasing deputies arrested by former Dictator Franco and restoring the freedom of the press were gazetted in Lisbon according to dispatches. Correspondents all agree that Lisbon is quiet and now believe that danger of further disorders is over.