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EDITORIAL BRIEFS

Have you heard that Katy did? Anyway, you will think that wool is free when the Democrats get into their next fight.

The Wilmington Star says we seem to be living in the Golden Age. Well, don't tell Mr. Bryan.

The Democrats are ready to investigate nearly everything except the cause for high taxes.

Since they have stopped the sale of near-beer some may feel constrained to drink the real article.

Now, who is in control of Democracy? Bryan has shown his teeth and Kern has shown his whiskers.

The Raleigh Evening Times is trying to boost the Harmon boom in this State. But the boom won't boost.

It might prove interesting reading if the Democratic politicians would explain why all the Democratic counties are in debt.

An exchange is advertising for a Democrat who has never been known to kick. Our contemporary is wasting some valuable advertising space.

An exchange says the people are using less of the luxuries now. Instead they are being furnished with the bitter fruits of a Democratic Congress.

Bryan's paper refers to the editors of The Houston Post and the Richmond Times-Dispatch as "hired men." The Democratic editors should reform.

The Durham Herald says that if protection is what the industries of the South need, then it is and has been giving its support to the wrong political party.

The Raleigh correspondent of the Charlotte Observer says the Senatorial race is slowing up. Probably for the purpose of catching breath and to get a better hold.

One of the editors of the Catawba County News claims to have eaten eighteen slices of pie at one sitting. But it will be remembered that the aforesaid editor is a Democrat.

The Statesville Landmark says there is something rotten in the State Department at Washington. That may be so, but there are some conditions closer home that smell a great deal worse.

William J. Bryan says the Democratic House is giving the people only a half a loaf. If the Democrats should get control of the Senate also, many of the people would not get any bread at all.

"Friends" of ex-Governor Aycock have opened up Senatorial headquarters in Goldsboro and are boosting the ex-Governor's candidacy. And they had told us this was to be an off year in politics.

The Southport News says that after waiting one hundred and fifty years Southport and Brunswick County are soon to have a railroad. Which will be further evidence that everything comes to him who waits.

The Democratic politicians are trying to hit the farmer "going and coming." They would pass laws that would reduce the price he would receive for his products, and at the same time are raising his taxes to take from him still more of his money.

The Baltimore Evening Sun says: "Politics in itself is a nasty game." It may not be generally known, but one of the writers on the Sun was formerly mixed up in Democratic politics in North Carolina, and can, therefore, speak feelingly on the subject.

Webster's Weekly says that the seventeen-year locusts have a "W" on their wings this year, which, being interpreted, means "Woodrow Wilson." Well, one good feature about the pest is, that it will leave us again this fall and will be dormant for another seventeen years.

WIRE TRUST IS INDICTED.

Nine Indictments for Violation of Sherman Anti-Trust Law—Several Companies Involved.

New York, June 29.—Nine indictments charging restraint of trade in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law were returned by a Federal grand jury here this afternoon against as many associations and a long list of individuals comprising the so-called "Wire Trust," affiliated with the steel industry.

Prominent among the defendants are Herbert L. Satterlee, president of the Habrshaw Wire Company, Yonkers, N. Y., and a son-in-law of J. Pierpont Morgan; William P. Palmer, president of the American Steel & Wire Company, a subsidiary of the United States Steel Corporation, and Frank J. Gould, of New York, president of the Old Dominion Iron & Nail Works Co., Belle Isle, Richmond, Va.

"What this suit charges," said District Attorney Wise, "is a trade agreement in restraint of trade."

The Government does not seek to establish a physical or fiscal merger of the properties or interests indicted, but a series of pools to maintain prices and apportion territory, in elimination of competition, and so in violation of the Sherman act.

Thus the suit appears as a further earnest effort of the Government's determination to deal rigorously with restrictive trade agreements.

There is no indication, however, that evidence gathered by the Bureau of corporations in its investigation of the steel corporation played any part indicted associations.

Only two of the subsidiary companies of the United States Steel Corporation are mentioned, namely, the American Steel & Wire Co. and the Trenton Iron Company. The American Steel & Wire Co., however, is mentioned in the indictments against seven of the associations. In the indictment against the Telephone Cable Association and the Fine Magnet Wire Association it is not mentioned.

CALIFORNIA HAS EARTHQUAKE.

Shock Was the Heaviest Since the Disastrous Earthquake in 1906—People All Rushed From Their Homes to the Streets—One Died of Fright.

San Francisco, Cal., July 1.—Heavy earthquake shocks lasted for thirty minutes and the heaviest since the big quake of five years ago, were felt here this afternoon. In the downtown business district the shocks were especially severe.

The cornice stone of the Merchants Bank was moved out of place and there were cracks in many of the buildings. A remarkable feature of the quake in the city was the groaning and cracking of the steel skyscrapers, and this noise did more to frighten the people than anything else.

At the first quake people rushed from their houses and Market Street, in the business district, was quickly filled with employes from the buildings between Third and Fourth Streets.

The shock was the heaviest since the big earthquake of 1906, and especially severe in the southern part of the State. At the observatory at Santa Clara College the seismographs were badly damaged by the quake, both reels being thrown off the recorder. They were immediately replaced, but not in time to observe the extent of the wave. The seismographs at the university of California were also damaged.

There was but one fatality incident to the shock. Herbert Hatley dropped dead from fright at the first shock, just as he stepped from the door of his boarding-house to the street.

Custom Receipts at Wilmington Show Great Gain.

Wilmington, N. C., July 1.—The report for the fiscal year ending Friday of the Wilmington Customs House was given out Saturday by Collector of Customs B. F. Keith, and shows that remarkable gains have been made by this port. The exports during the past year were something over \$28,000,000 against something over \$20,000,000 last year, a gain of 37 per cent. Imports exceeded \$3,000,000, against a little over \$2,000,000 last year. For five year period imports increased over 700 per cent; exports over 55 per cent, and aggregate receipts 355 per cent.

Vein of Iron Ore Discovered at Fayetteville.

Fayetteville, N. C., July 3.—In the process of drilling an artesian well at the plant of the Fayetteville Ice and Manufacturing Company workmen have discovered iron ore at a depth of 334 feet in what the engineer in charge of the drilling declares is a five-foot vein.

THE LEGAL BATTLE ON

Arguments All in in the Ware-Kramer Case Against the American Tobacco Co.

A NON-SUIT REFUSED

Prosecution Agreed to a Non-Suit in the Case Against Carter—Lawyers Now Arguing Case Before the Jury Eight Speeches to Be Made, With No Time Limit—Case Will Hardly Go to the Jury Before First of Next Week.

Judge Connor yesterday denied the motion of the American Tobacco Company for a non-suit in the million-dollar case of the Ware-Kramer Company against the American Tobacco Company. All the evidence is in and the case is now being argued by the lawyers. Mr. Junius Parker, of New York, led off yesterday in defense of the American Tobacco Company. Eight speeches will be made to the jury. The defendants will have the closing as well as the opening speech.

A motion to non-suit as to W. M. Carter, alleged in the complaint to have conspired with the American Tobacco Company, was allowed. The plaintiff offered no testimony to show that Mr. Carter entered into a conspiracy.

Judge Connor said he hoped counsel would confine themselves to facts brought out in the testimony and not endeavor to confuse the minds of jurors. The court did not want to interrupt counsel and he desired that counsel would not put into their arguments things that were apart from the facts.

No time limit was fixed by the court and the attorneys may speak as long as they like. It is not expected that the arguments will be concluded before the end of the week and the case will hardly be decided before the first of next week.

Spied on Shipments.

A few days ago Judge Connor announced that he would allow the motion of plaintiff's counsel that plaintiff be allowed to show that there was spying upon the shipping operations of the Ware-Kramer Company by the Wells-Whitehead Company at Wilson. J. R. Hardy, agent of the Southern Express Company, and J. E. Morton and Giles Winstead, agents of the Atlantic Coast Line, were witnesses.

The deposition of C. C. Dula, vice-president of the American Tobacco Company, showing a gradual absorption of tobacco concerns by the A. T. Company. Many letters were quoted in this, concerning the procurement of the J. G. Dill Company of Richmond. There was a letter reading: "If we can pinch him a little, we will be able to secure his business." "Get him between the bumpers and give him a squeeze and he will come over to us," was the view as to getting another independent.

There was a deposition from A. D. Bernheim to the effect that through an agreement with J. B. Duke he formed the Metropolitan Tobacco Company through a combination of the New York jobbers and was given control of American Tobacco Company products in their territory. The condition for this exclusive control was that the combination of jobbers must represent 75 per cent of the jobbing business of Greater New York.

Reserve of National Banks Has Increased.

Washington, D. C., June 30.—The total reserve held by 7,277 National banks at the close of business on June 7, the last call by the Comptroller of the Currency, was \$1,478,140,791, an average of 22.10 per cent, and \$121,870,815 above the amount required to be held by law.

The percentage in the central reserve cities has increased to 27.37 per cent.

Traveling Salesman Dying as Result of Fight Over Politics.

Clarksburg, W. Va., July 1.—Lawrence Maekins, of Baltimore, and F. E. Harless, of Lynchburg, Va., both traveling salesmen, quarreled over politics yesterday, and as a result, Harless is dying in a hospital with a fractured skull and a broken jaw, while Maekins is in jail awaiting the outcome of Harless' injuries.

Carried One Hundred and Forty People on a Single Wagon to Shelby.

Shelby, N. C., July 4.—Hauling one hundred and forty people to Shelby on a single wagon drawn by six horses was the most unique feature of today's Fourth of July celebration. The crowd was conservatively estimated at 12,000, the largest ever gathered here in the history of the town.

ANOTHER "JACK THE RIPPER."

Killing Women in Atlanta at Regular Intervals and Carves All Alike—Atlanta Cooks Terrorized.

Atlanta, Ga., July 3.—The eighth consecutive victim of Atlanta's negro "Jack the Ripper" came to her death Saturday night at practically the same hour and in almost identically the same manner in which the other seven mulatto women were killed.

Lena Sharpe, about forty years old, was found dead with her head almost severed. Her body was horribly mutilated.

Shortly after this tragedy the daughter of the dead woman, who had gone in search of her, was also attacked by a negro whom she had never seen before. She was badly cut, but escaped, and it is thought she will recover.

The entire negro population has become terrorized. The series of murders is spoke of with bated breath, and at night there are few negro women on the streets. Negro preachers have taken the murders for a text, and their congregations, ever emotional, have been worked up into a state of religious frenzy.

Negro cooks and housemaids are refusing to work after dark in cases where they have any distance to go, and the problem of help is becoming serious.

Negro Killings Frequent There.

Murders of negroes by negroes are frequent on Saturday nights, when blind-tiger whiskey has been flowing freely, and if the homicides had been of the ordinary kind where there is a heated quarrel, a blow, the crack of a pistol or the glitter of a knife in any of the many dives and dance halls, little would be thought of it.

But this new variety of crime is as heartless and unerring as Jack the Ripper, whose gruesome murders in the White Chapel district of London over twenty years ago startled the whole world.

Man Wanted in Raleigh is Arrested in Durham.

Durham, July 3.—The Sheriff has had under arrest several days Murphy Shambly, charged with blockading, robbery and horse-theft, and wanted in Raleigh for some of these offenses. Shambly was caught Friday in Wentworth and brought back here. Although he belongs to a family that can get up money generally, he has been unable to raise the money that he needs for this purpose. He is said to be one of the most successful of all blockaders. He always managed to dodge the officers and has had the greatest luck. The several heavy charges against him now makes his fight for freedom really interesting.

Atlanta Jail Has a Full House.

Augusta, Ga., July 4.—Augusta's record for to-day is one of the darkest, numerically, on the police blotter it has been in any year's celebration. One murder, two stabbings, two rendered unconscious from brickbats, one chopped in the head with an axe and thirty-four cases of drunk and disorderly. The jail to-night is full.

William A. Lauder, aged twenty-four years, was dismembered with a pocketknife late this afternoon by W. S. Hall, Jr., a lad about the same age, in the western section of the city. It is said that the two were in love with the same young lady and quarreled over her. Lauder died immediately after being placed in the ambulance.

Customs Officials Seize \$150,000 Worth of Furs in New York.

New York, June 30.—More than \$150,000 worth of furs were seized in a raid of the Customs House officers on the store-rooms of Charles Woinsehmaker & Company, at 45 West 27th Street, this afternoon. It was charged that furs had been smuggled into this country through false invoices.

Eight Distilleries Destroyed.

Asheville, N. C., July 4.—Revenue Agent Sams' office here has received information that since Saturday eight illicit distilleries have been destroyed in the district over which Mr. Sams has control. Three of the distilleries were located and destroyed in Wilkes County, one in Rutherford and four in Patrick County, Virginia.

One Convicted of Bribery in Ohio.

Columbus, Ohio, July 3.—Pending the motion for a new trial, Rodney J. Diegle, sergeant-at-arms of the State Senate, convicted by a jury to-day for having abetted in the alleged bribery of State Senator L. R. Andrews, was admitted to bail of \$10,000 this afternoon.

Now, "Honest"?

Atlanta Journal wonders if there is a "human being on earth who honestly believes Lorimer innocent." Yes, there is Senator Simmons.—Greensboro Telegram.

TALKS ON RECIPROCITY

President Taft Greeted by Large Crowd at Indianapolis Tuesday

DEFENDS HIS POSITION

President Insists That the Proposed Measure is Republican Doctrine—Says His Position Differs Only Slightly From Ideas Held by Former Presidents Blaine and McKinley Denies That the Measure Would Operate Against the Farmer.

Indianapolis, Ind., July 4.—President Taft put the parting touch on his part in the celebration of this city's "safe and sane" Fourth in a speech on Canadian reciprocity at the Marion Club banquet to-night. The President made his answer to the argument of some Republicans that reciprocity, as he has proposed it, is not good Republican doctrine, but Democratic doctrine.

He showed that reciprocity as presented to Congress by him differed if at all only slightly from reciprocity as advocated by James G. Blaine and former President McKinley. He said the contention of the opponents of his reciprocity plan that the doctrine is un-Republican because it affects articles that are competitive, and not merely non-competitive articles, is not sound.

"The sound Republican doctrine," the President said, "has become the imposition of duties only where the conditions are naturally unequal, and where duties are necessary in order to enable our manufacturers and other producers to meet on a level the competition of foreign producers. The Canadian reciprocity agreement which has been made squares exactly with this doctrine."

Replying to the contention that reciprocity would be made wholly at the expense of the farmer and in the interest of the wage-earner of the large cities, Mr. Taft said that in his judgment "the reciprocity agreement will not greatly reduce the cost of living, if at all."

"It will," the President continued, "steady prices by enlarging the reserves of supplies for these things that are raised in both countries and it will make more remote the possibility of cornering commodities and exporting excessive prices for them from the public."

Although the sun hovered up around 110 on the streets most of the day the President enjoyed his part in the celebration of the Fourth in spite of the crowded program and the fact that his collars would not stand for more than ten minutes at a time.

The President was the guest of former Vice-President Fairbanks. He had breakfast at the Fairbanks home and later in the morning reviewed a parade of floats from a stand at the base of the Indianapolis Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument.

Will Erect Large Fertilizer Plant in Wadesboro.

Wadesboro, N. C., July 3.—One of the largest business deals ever made here was made known to-day, when it was learned that the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company had decided to build an immense plant here. Mr. T. C. Coxe, president of the Anson Real Estate and Investment Company, purchased a ten-acre tract of land a mile from town, adjoining the Winston-Salem Southbound Railway, the purchase price being \$3,000. He immediately transferred the land to the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company. This company, it is believed, will erect there one of the largest, if not the largest, plant which they now operate.

Postal Savings Banks Growing More in Favor.

Washington, D. C., July 3.—In announcing to-day the addition of fifty more postal savings depositories, situated in thirty-two States, Postmaster-General Hitchcock noted with satisfaction that the opposition of banking institutions to the establishment of these depositories had almost completely disappeared. Application for authority to receive postal funds are being received from banks at the rate of about forty a day.

Two Prominent Men Leave Church to Fight.

Demopolis, Ala., July 3.—Congressman George W. Taylor of the first Alabama district had a fight on the streets Sunday morning with Mr. L. A. George. He was struck on the head and Mr. George knocked down. It is alleged that they had just left a meeting of the vestry of Trinity Episcopal Church and a remark made by one of them was misconstrued and precipitated the fight. Both were arrested and their cases continued in the mayor's court this morning.

TO INVEST STATE EXPRESS COMPANIES.

Interstate Commerce Commission Decides to Act on Its Own Motion—A Demand for Such Investigation.

Washington, D. C., July 1.—A sweeping investigation of all of the express companies in the United States affected by the inter-state commerce laws to-day was ordered by the Interstate Commerce Commission on its own motion.

Evidently in anticipation of this action by the Commission, practically all of the express companies with the exception of the Long Island, late yesterday filed new tariffs, effective August 1st, which are believed to be material reductions in rates. It was said to-day that it would require several months to compare these rates with those now in existence.

It also was announced that the filing of the new rates would not affect the proposed investigation in any way. This investigation will be one of the widest in scope ever undertaken by the commission, and not only will be conducted as to rates, but will include the practices, accounts and revenues of the various companies.

More than a year ago a number of the leading commercial organizations of the country petitioned the commission for a general investigation into the rates and methods of the express companies. The commission has been considering this in connection with various cases brought against individual companies.

The inquiry is ordered "to determine whether such rates, classifications, regulations or practices, or any of them, are unjust or unreasonable, or unjustly discriminatory, or unduly preferential or prejudicial, or otherwise in violation of any of the provisions of said act, and to determine the manner and method in which the business of said express companies, and each of them, is conducted."

Boy Killed Father to Defend His Mother.

Columbia, S. C., July 3.—McRay Kirkland, aged 65, was shot and killed to-day by Willie Kirkland, his son, aged 25. The killing occurred at the house of a farmer in Kerawah County, twenty miles from here. The young Kirkland, it is said, killed his father to save his mother.

The elder Kirkland, it is said, drove his wife from home last night. She took refuge at the house of a neighbor. This morning Kirkland drove to the neighbor's house and seizing his wife, threw her into the buggy, menacing the by-standers with a knife. Willie Kirkland demanded that his father release his mother. The elder man paid no attention to his son and the latter then fired once, the bullet taking effect in the father's head.

Want More Investigations.

Washington, D. C., July 1.—Still another investigation has been proposed to the long list already undertaken by the House of Representatives. Representative Sisson, of Mississippi, to-day, by resolution, proposed an inquiry into the purchase of land lying between the capitol and the new union station, the acquisition of which was authorized by Congress for avenue and parking purposes.

It is said the price of the land has increased from about \$3,500,000 to \$5,000,000. Mr. Sisson particularly asks that the inquiry shall develop whether or not any member of Congress is now, or recently has been, interested in any of the property.

Hickory's Baggage-Master Disappears Mysteriously.

Hickory, N. C., July 3.—Lee Sigman disappeared from this city last night and no trace of him can be found. He is baggage-master for the Southern and C. & N. W. Railways at this place and is an estimable citizen. He carried the mail to the post-office from train which reached this city at 11:23 and at 12:10 was in the lobby of the Hotel Central. Since that time no trace of him has been found.

Foul play is suspected by many people of the town. Chief-of-Police Shell has searched all day for some trace, but all in vain. No cause other than foul play can be assigned, as he was devoted to his family, which consists of a wife and a cripple son.

China to Send Cruiser to Mexico to Demand Indemnity.

Mexico City, July 1.—Notice was served on the Mexican Government yesterday that China will press claims for \$16,500,000 indemnity for the Torreón massacre of the Chinese citizens. Chang Yin Tang, Minister to the United States and Mexico, who arrived Wednesday night, yesterday opened formal negotiations with the Government. He declared that he would remain in Mexico until assured of the success of his mission and that a Chinese cruiser was coming to remain in Mexican waters until the negotiations were concluded.