

THE LID IS ON TIGHT

Members of the Cabinet Are No Friends of the Ubiquitous Correspondents.

HABIT ACQUIRED AS CORPORATION LAWYERS IS RESPONSIBLE

All Except Two of the Cabinet Officers Follow Wickersham's Example in Turning the Cold Shoulder to Newspaper Men—Secretaries Wilson and MacVeagh Alone Believe the People Have a Right to Know What the People's Servants are Doing—Points for Aspiring Mothers of Boys.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—The lid is on. It is screwed down tight, bolted hard and fast, and nailed and clinched on the other side. If anything escapes it is not because the members of the Taft cabinet, or at any rate most of them, are not seated upon the cover, each with his pockets full of flatirons to prevent any stray news item from leaking out and reaching the public.

In other words, the press censorship established by President Taft's advisers at the beginning of the administration has become so thorough and complete that if it were not for the fact that Congress happens to be in extraordinary session, the outside public would scarcely know that Washington is still on the map. The cabinet officials who are the head of the nine great executive departments of the government arrive and depart from their offices in awe-inspiring state, sign the various documents that are placed before them by their secretaries and assistants—who, by the way, do most of the real work of the various departments—and then depart for their homes. During the five or six hours that they are in juxtaposition with their jobs, the cabinet members see a certain number of callers, shake a certain number of hands, and go through a certain routine of conference without anything that makes a noise like a news item. The silence emanating from the heretofore fruitful source of information is obvious enough to be chopped with an axe and burned in the grate.

The censorship, or "lid," as the newspaper correspondents term it, merely emphasizes another one of the points of contrast between the Taft and Roosevelt administrations. President Roosevelt was ever ready to talk and was a wonderful producer of "copy." The day seldom dawned during the seven and a half years he was in the White House, that did not bring forth its story of public information or human interest. If events did not transpire at the capitol or in the country at large to make news, the President found his theme in the cables from abroad. His restless spirit demanded that things happen—and they did. Taking their cue from their chief, the cabinet members were always on the move. Activity was the watchword of the administration, and when as occasionally happened, a cabinet official did not measure up to Mr. Roosevelt's estimate of a real live department head, there was another head there in short order. If he did not invite the slow-going minister to retire to private life, he made him change places with some other member who was getting into a rut, and the result was that both gentlemen bestirred themselves mightily and the public realized that something was "going."

The Taft cabinet, taken as a whole, doubtless owes its locked lips to the fact that most of the members have spent the best years of their lives practicing corporation law. Secrets have been their stock in trade; publicity has been their bugbear. Everything they learned in the line of evidence or fact has been reduced to writing, and rivited with affidavits, and was then put in the strong safe of the firm. Nothing less gentle than dynamite could extract the documents from the safe before it was time to bring them to the attention of the trial judge. The lawyers, transplanted so suddenly from their accustomed atmosphere of fact suppression and secretion, find it almost impossible to adjust themselves to the open door policy that has governed the department for generations. They shudder at the thought of telling anything—without a retainer paid in advance—and find difficulty in understanding that they bear any different relation to the public now than they did when they were defending the practices of corporations.

The first cabinet official to fasten down the lid was Attorney General Wickersham. He was closely followed by Secretary Ballinger of the Interior Department, Secretary of State Knox, Secretary of War Dickinson, Secretary of the Navy Meyer, and Secretary Nagel of the Department of

THE AGENTS WERE CROOKS

Insurance Men Embezzled \$9,000 of Widow's Premiums.

SUITS OVER NOTES GIVEN BY THREE "EASY MARKS"

Tennesseean Named Carlyle Sold County Rights for Quilting Machine, Accepted Notes, Sold Notes to B. F. Montague and Skipped—Two Juries Differ—Report of Inspector Stringfield is Received—How a Laurinburg Widow Was Taken In.

CHRONICLE BUREAU, RALEIGH, April 27.

Suits involving county rights, or rather notes that had been given by "easy marks" to an alleged sharper for county rights to sell a quilting machine that was to sell like hot cakes and didn't, have just been tried in Wake Superior Court here before Judge Lyon with rather contradictory results. A man giving his name as Carlyle had sold the Durham and Granville county rights to A. N. and J. N. King for \$275, taking their notes. He also sold the Sampson county right to James Holder, taking his note. Carlyle sold the notes here to B. F. Montague. Since then charges of fraud have been made against Carlyle, who had gone to Tennessee and the Governor of Tennessee has refused to honor a requisition for him. Now Mr. Montague sued the signers of the notes and the trials had resulted in a verdict against the Kings for the amount of their two notes. However, a different jury found a verdict in the Holder case relieving him of the necessity of paying the note he gave. Both cases will probably go to the Supreme Court.

Capt. S. B. Alexander, of Charlotte, having signified to Governor Kitchin that he will not be able to attend the first national road congress to be held at Seattle, Wash., July 4 to 8, the Governor issued a commission to Rev. C. M. Pickens, of Charlotte. The report of Inspector General Thomas Stringfield on his inspection of all the companies of the North Carolina National Guard has just been received showing in detail the properties and standing of each company for the recent series of inspections that he made just ahead of the official inspections by Capt. A. H. Hugnet, of the United States army, under orders from the War Department. It will be some days before the summary of results can be ascertained. The report of Captain Hugnet is sure to make a much better showing than that of Inspector General Stringfield as he pointed out defects to local companies to be remedied before the army officer came along for his inspection.

Prosecuting Insurance Men.

Commissioner of Insurance James R. Young has gone to Laurinburg this week to take part in the prosecution of W. J. Mills and A. Bequest on the charge of embezzlement and conspiracy to defraud Mrs. McLochin of \$9,000 through an insurance transaction. Judge Crawford Biggs will preside and the trial is expected to take nearly all the week. The two men, as agent of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, of New York, sold Mrs. McLochin, a widow at the time, two policies, one for \$10,000 and the other for \$5,000, all the premiums on the \$5,000 and half of that on the \$10,000 policy being paid up, these payments aggregating \$9,000. Then Mrs. McLochin gave to Mills \$1,400 in cash to be deposited in a bank in Charlotte to her credit. It developed that this deposit was never made and that the two agents never reported more than the current payments on the policies to the insurance company, retaining all the \$9,000 payment the widow had made to them. Mills was arrested in Philadelphia and Bequest in Georgia.

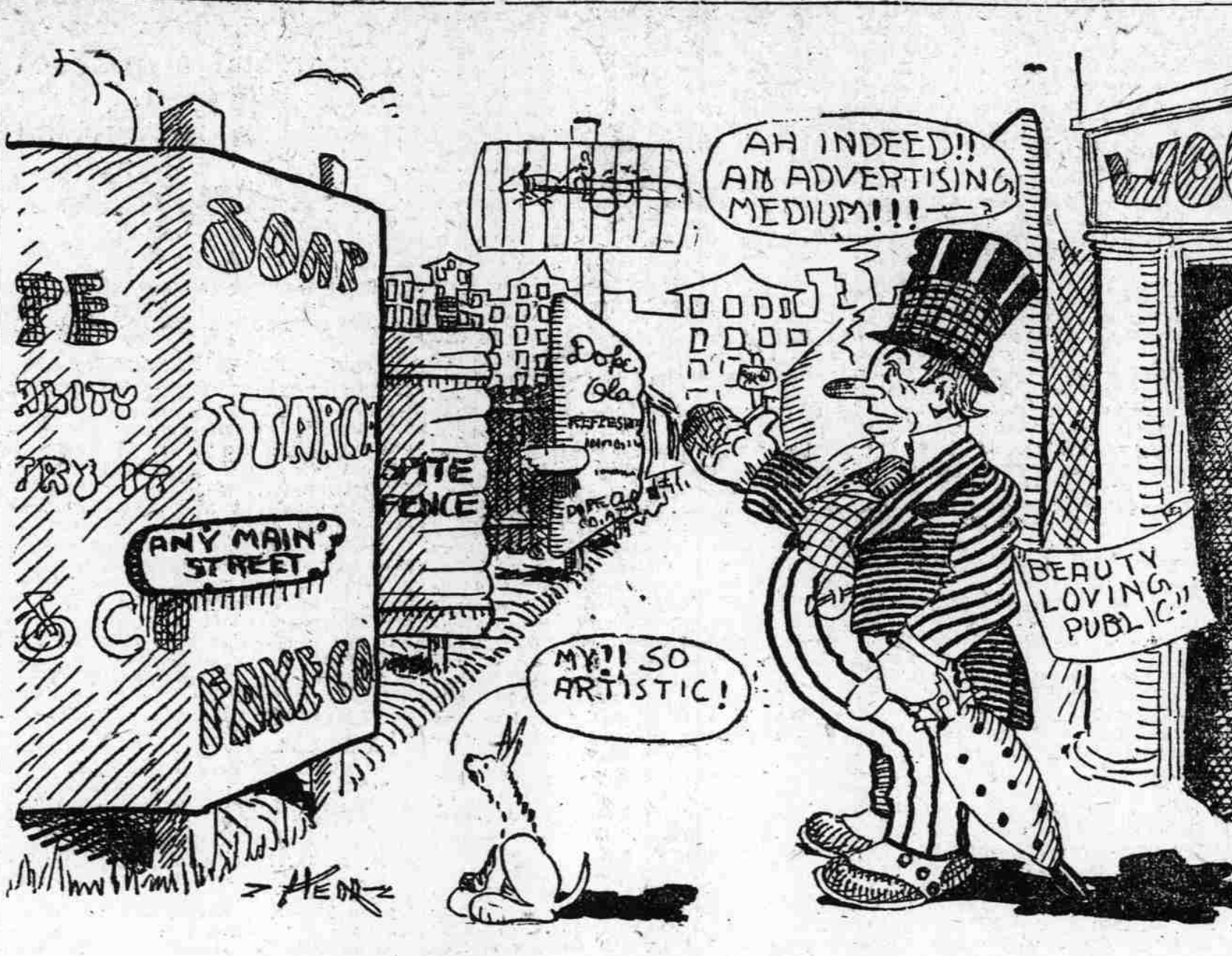
GEN. J. B. BABCOCK DIED YESTERDAY

Retired Officer of United States Army Dies Aboard Ship—A Distinguished Career Ended.

NEW YORK, April 27.—General John B. Babcock, of the United States Army, retired, died suddenly yesterday on the liner Prinz Friedrich Wilhelm, which reached the port to-day from Bremen. He had been suffering from kidney trouble but his illness was not considered dangerous.

General Babcock was 66 years old. He served through the civil war, the Indian wars and the war with Spain.

No Hope For Schooner and Crew of 21 MOBILE, ALA., April 27.—The schooner Addie and Beatrice and her crew of 21 which sailed for Bermuda March 27, has been given up to-day as lost. She carried a cargo of oil



WHILE WE ARE CLEANING UP FOR TAFT WE MIGHT—

'THE KING IS DEAD; LONG LIVE THE KING' ABDUL IS DEPOSED

Mohammed Reschad Effendi is Now the Ruler of Turkey—Deposition of Abdul Hamid Was by Joint Action of National Assembly and Head of Mohammedan Church—Civil War May Follow.

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 27.—Sultan Abdul Hamid was deposed yesterday by the joint action of the National Assembly, which voted secretly and a religious edict issued by the Sheikh Ul Islam, approving and legalizing the deposition. It is announced that the Sultan will be removed from Yıldiz Kiosk to-day.

Mohammed Reschad Effendi, the Sultan's brother, was immediately proclaimed the new Sultan amid the wildest enthusiasm, the people in the streets carrying "The tyrants have fallen, hail to Reschad." The ceremony of Reschad's enthronement was immediately held.

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 27.—Sheikh Ul Islam, the head of the Mohammedan church, based his decree deposing the Sultan on the ground that Abdul Hamid had violated the Moslem religion in many inimical acts, therefore, it was not a sacrilegious act to dethrone him.

The secret session of the Assembly practically amounted to a trial of Abdul on charges corresponding to impeachment as being inimical better for the interests of the Turkish people. Despite the joy in the city it is realized that the country generally will resent the deposition and a civil war is probable. It was reported at noon that Abdul Hamid had been taken prisoner during the night and was now being held in the palace of Cherraghan on the Bosphorus.

He was arrested during the night in Yıldiz Kiosk by a party of young Turks. To-day's action was almost wholly political. The religious ceremony ceremony is expected at sunrise tomorrow. Reschad is 65 years of age, and is

the oldest male descendant of the house of Othman, and is the 29th Sultan since the conquest of Constantinople in 1451. Reschad has had practically no experience in governmental affairs. For the past 25 years he has practically been in prison in the palace. He lacks the craftiness and the initiative of Abdul and is expected to do what the young Turks demand.

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 27.—A salute of 101 guns was fired at noon in honor of the new Sultan. This was the official salute.

Soldiers at Erzerum to-day arrested 50 of their officers and sent them to Trebizond. It is feared here that the soldiers are reactionaries, and plans are being made to hurry a punitive expedition to the scene. Among those of the Sultan's household arrested during the night is Salha Ed Di, the Sultan's nephew. Abdul's harem has been scattered to different places.

MOTION FOR NEW TRIAL IN COOPER CASE OVERRULED.

NASHVILLE, April 27.—Judge Hart this morning overruled the motion for a new trial for the Coopers, convicted of killing Senator Carmack.

The attorneys for the Coopers immediately gave notice of appeal to the Supreme Court.

Castro Still Hopeful.

PARIS, April 27.—Castro said to-day that he intended to return to Venezuela and resume his power. He still blames America as being the cause of all his troubles. He is still ill and claims to be penniless, but is maintaining a kingly suite in one of the most luxurious hotels in Paris.

THOMASVILLE MAN SUICIDES

Mr. L. E. Peace, an Aged Employee of the Baptist Orphanage, in a Fit of Despondency, Hangs Himself—Organizing a Building and Loan Association.

Special to The Chronicle. THOMASVILLE, April 27.—Monday morning between 5 and 6 o'clock Mr. L. E. Peace, who lived in the western part of the town went to his barn, adjusted a rope about one of the joists and then stepping on top of a box tied the end of the rope about his neck and stepped off the box and hung there by the neck till death resulted from strangulation.

Mr. Peace has been in declining health for some time and has acted strangely for a number of months. Once before he made an attempt to take his life but was prevented and it was thought that he had given up such an idea. He was about 70 years old, a Confederate soldier, a good citizen and an honest, upright man.

He was one of the first, if not the first, man to drive a nail or do a stroke of work on the Thomasville Baptist orphanage and he has been an employee of this institution from the very day it began till the present and has been faithful to every undertaking. He leaves a wife and a large family.

Mayor W. O. Burgin has issued a call for a mass meeting to be held in the Opera House Friday night for the purpose of naming a mayor and five commissioners to be voted on at the coming municipal election to be held Monday, May 3. A building and loan association is being organized here and the capital stock is being subscribed to very liberally by all classes of people.

SHERIFF DEATON TO STATESVILLE

Iredell's Sheriff Moves from Mooresville to the Capital—Other Notes.

Special to The Chronicle. STATESVILLE, April 27.—Sheriff Deaton will this week move his family from Mooresville to the Poston house on West-Bell street, which he recently purchased from Mr. Poston. Mr. Poston's new residence on West Front street is not yet ready for occupancy and he and his family will occupy the T. M. Mills house, corner Front and Centre streets, until his new home is completed.

Mrs. Isidore Wallace and L. B. Bristol have bought Mr. N. B. Mills' half interest in what is known as the Joyner farm, located on the Taylorsville macadam road, about a mile and one-half west of town, and they are now sole owners of this very valuable property. The farm contains two hundred acres and the price for the half interest was \$5,000.

Mrs. R. N. Hackett, who recently underwent an operation for appendicitis at the sanatorium to Judge Long's Saturday, she is rapidly regaining her strength and her complete recovery is expected.

Colonel Roosevelt and Kermit SULL Indisposed.

NAIROBI, April 27.—Col Roosevelt and Kermit are both still laid up to-day at the ranch of Sir Alfred Pease. While the illness of the two is not considered serious they have been urged by Sir Alfred to keep to the ranch until wholly recovered.

A FIGHT FOR MONAZITE

Large North Carolina Industry Threatened by Small Duty.

ONLY HIGH PROTECTIVE WILL KEEP IT ALIVE

Germany Trust With Cheap Product Threatens the Life of the American Industry—Output Has Decreased to One-Third in Four Years and Price Drops Below Cost of Production—Appeals to Southern Senators and Representatives.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—The monazite people of the South, most of whom operate in North Carolina, are making an aggressive fight to have a protective duty put on the sand. As is well known by Chronicle readers several hundred thousand dollars are spent in certain sections of the State annually for monazite and that those who profit by the enterprise are persons who need the ready cash.

In talking with me about the industry and the tariff a North Carolina miner said:

"The decline in the monazite sand industry of North Carolina, as shown by the reports of the United States Geological Survey, has attracted much attention recently. The decline is charged to the operations of a German trust which is in control of the monazite deposits of Brazil, and it is stated that unless Congress comes to the relief of the Southern miners, the industry, which is already practically at a standstill will be entirely extinguished.

"The United States and Brazil are the only countries in which the rare mineral is found in workable quantities. Its only use is for the extraction of thorium nitrate, the material for which incandescent gas mantles are composed. The industry of mining the monazite in this country forged ahead until 1905, when the production in the Carolinas amounted to 1,500,000 pounds. But last year the production was less than one-third this quantity. The sand which is an exceedingly hard and heavy substance, is recovered by washing the gravel in and about the streams in the central and western parts of North Carolina, and in the western part of South Carolina. The washing is done in sluice boxes in the same manner that the gravel and soil is washed for the recovery of placer gold. The miners make from \$1 to \$1.75 a day according to the price of monazite, which in turn is determined by the price of thorium. Whole communities in the more remote sections depend on monazite for currency, since their lands are not adapted to the production of things that can be converted into money. Hence for ready money, they depend on the monazite, the mining of which has practically cut out the moonshine business.

"But by reason of the fact that the German trust has, by government concession, control of the only other monazite source in the Brazilian field, where the sand is mined by the cheap Indian labor, it has been enabled to sell thorium in this country at prices far below the cost of production here, which facts accounts for the prostration of the monazite industry in the South. Because the monazite fields here are scattered over several thousand square miles, the mining of it cannot be controlled and therefore the aim of the German trust has been to make the industry so unprofitable as to destroy it.

"In the meantime the German trust refuses to sell the cheap Brazilian monazite, but converts it all into thorium through a manufacturing agreement with a pool of German chemists, or chemical manufacturers. As a result the sale of the cheap foreign thorium here, the price of monazite has declined from 18 cents a pound, two years ago to 10 cents at the present time, but, as the product cannot be mined for less than 15 or 16 cents a pound and yield the miner a dollar a day on the average, the industry is dying out as shown in the reports of the Department of Geology. The miners are sending numerous letters to the Senators and Representatives of the South urging them to take action to relieve the situation, which is peculiar in that it differs from the ordinary protection proposition.

"Monazite is taxed under the proposed Payne act at 4 cents a pound, but the tax is insufficient at the start, avails nothing under any circumstances; first, because the only other supply is controlled by a monopoly that does not sell the sand; and second, because the thorium (the only product of it) is taxed only 6 percent ad valorem. The contention is that the taxing of the thorium an amount sufficient to equalize the difference in the labor cost of the Brazilian monazite and the Carolina monazite, the tax will hit the German trust only five cents a pound, with the result that it produces thorium for \$2 a pound as compared with \$4 a pound in this country. "It is stated that the manifest object of the German trust is freezing out the American thorium manufacturers to get control of the American mantle factories. Once the American supply of thorium is cut off, the

JUDGESHIP TO CONNOR

Interesting Rumors and Possibilities Discussed at Raleigh.

ONE OR TWO APPOINTMENTS WOULD FALL TO KITCHIN

State Officials Have It That President Taft Will Announce Appointment of Supreme Court Judge Connor to Federal Judgeship To-Morrow—J. S. Manning, Judge Biggs or Ex-Judge Winston Would Succeed Connor on Supreme Bench—Interesting Surmise.

CHRONICLE BUREAU, RALEIGH, April 27.

The eastern district United States Judgeship matter came in to-day for very much more discussion than usual among the State officials to-day, the probability of the appointment of Judge H. G. Connor, now on the Supreme Court bench, by President Taft, being the special burden of discussion. It seems that some one has confided to one and another of the State officials that they have it from very close to the President that he has made up his mind to appoint Judge Connor and is just waiting for a formal conference with National Committeeman Duncan and some other Republicans before doing so, his mind being already made up for Connor.

It is a fact that Mr. Duncan left here Sunday afternoon on No. 66 and probably went to Washington, where he is expected to confer with the President to-day. A number of the State officers are still doubtful about Judge Connor finally getting the appointment but they are discussing freely the probable course of Governor Kitchin in filling the vacancy on the Supreme Court bench that would occur if Judge Connor accepted. Most frequently mentioned as the probable successor to Connor is J. S. Manning, Durham, who, besides being a lawyer of high standing, managed the campaign of Governor Kitchin for the governorship. However, he has never been on the Superior Court bench and there seems to be some sort of a precedent that a Supreme Court judge must first serve on the inferior court bench. If this should eliminate Mr. Manning, the impression prevails that the appointment would in all probability go to Judge J. Crawford Biggs, of Durham, as the Governor, it is thought, would choose his appointee from the fifth district. Then if Biggs were appointed, it is believed that the vacancy this would occasion on the Superior Court bench would be filled by the appointment of some member of the Greensboro bar, most probably Major Charles Stedman, who was especially active in the contest of Mr. Kitchin for Governor.

Some think that the Supreme Court appointment might go to ex-Judge R. W. Winston, who recently moved here from Durham to practice law with ex-Governor Charles A. Aycock. It is thought that the Governor would certainly be confined in his appointment to the fifth district section of the State unless he went, for instance, to the Wilmington bar for his appointee, all the other sections being represented on the bench. This report that gives rise to all this surmising has it that the presidential appointment will probably be announced Wednesday. These discussions round up, however, with the regular expression that, after all, a Republican may get the district judge appointment and eliminate all these possibilities.

MR. EDWIN SHAVER, OF SALISBURY, IS DEAD.

Was a Prominent Confederate Veteran and a Well-Known Temperance Worker.

Special to The Chronicle. SALISBURY, April 27.—Mr. Edwin Shaver, aged 67 years, of this city, died at his home here yesterday, after a severe illness of about one week. He was one of the oldest and best-known citizens of Salisbury and was widely known as a temperance worker in the State. He was a prominent Confederate veteran. He is survived by one daughter, now herself seriously ill.

The funeral was held at the First Presbyterian church here this afternoon.

mantle people who temporarily have cheap thorium will have to capitulate to the foreign trust.

"There are 60,000,000 mantles made in this country annually and the trust by adding even one cent extra on the price of mantles could swell its profits by \$60,000 a year. Hence the anomalous situation which calls for protection to preserve competition. This feature has excited interest among the Southern representatives. In line with this peculiar fact, the largest thorium users in this country, the Welshbach Light Company, has asked Congress to put a duty on thorium to equalize the cost here and in Germany. The Welshbach company uses more than half the thorium consumed in this country, but it is willing to pay the higher price in order to keep open an assured source of supply." H. B. C. BRYANT.