

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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CRONJE HOLDS OUT

Lastest Dispatches Report the Fiercest Battle of the War Raging.

DAYS OF THANKSGIVING.

Appointed by Oom Paul—Foreigners Rush to the Transvaal. Attempt to Reinforce Cronje Fails—Boers Held in a Circle of Artillery and Troops.

By Telegraph to the News. LONDON, Feb. 26.—The War Office gives out no further official news from Roberts up to noon to-day. Special dispatches, however, showed that fierce fighting was proceeding around Cronje's laager.

Reinforcements for Cronje made a fresh attempt to sweep the beleaguered army but like Botha, failed. This news was contained in an undated dispatch. It may have reference to the affair of Friday or Saturday. It said: "Paardeberg, undated, via Modder River, Sunday evening. The Borderers and Yorkshires have repulsed the Boer attack, inflicting heavy loss. French to date has captured over five hundred prisoners from Cronje's camp, and two hundred other Boer prisoners have already arrived at Cape Town."

BUILDING TRENCHES. PAARDEBERG, Sunday.—The British cavalry division went twelve miles east yesterday and scattered and destroyed several parties of Boers who were trying to escape.

There was intermittent firing of the British guns throughout the night while engineers were building trenches toward the Boer position around the laager.

The Boer trenches are constructed in a peculiar manner. They are narrow at the top and slope to the bottom, affording a man shelter from artillery fire on either side of the river. There was some "sniping" on the river bank this morning.

SET FIRE TO TRANSPORT. CAPE TOWN, Feb. 26.—A second attempt to set fire to the Australian transport, "Maori King," was made while the vessel was off Madagascar. A lamp trimmer was arrested on suspicion.

DAYS OF THANKSGIVING. LONDON, Feb. 26.—A Lorenzo Marquez dispatch says the Pretoria government has proclaimed February 25th and 27th as days of thanksgiving and prayer.

Robinson's bank has reopened and the cash and securities seized by the Transvaal government have been restored. There is a great rush of foreigners towards the Transvaal.

CRONJE ENTIRELY SURROUNDED. PAARDEBERG, Sunday (Delayed in Transmission).—The situation is unchanged. Cronje is completely encircled now by the British troops. The engineers are constantly extending the trenches nearer the laager. The artillery and rifle fire are incessant and become deadlier every hour.

DESPERATE FIGHTING WITH HEAVY LOSS.

PAARDEBERG, Saturday (Delayed in Transmission).—The war balloon located a group of Boer ammunition wagons today in the bed of the Modder river. The position was described to the artillery and a storm of shells was showered by several batteries that concentrated their fire upon it. Several wagons were blown up and a number of Boers were killed. A determined attack was made yesterday upon the Yorkshires, but they hugged the trenches and poured out such a hot fire that the Boers retired with heavy loss.

MARRIED LAST NIGHT. At Trinity church last night, immediately after the evening service, Mr. W. R. Clark, a well known conductor on the street railway, and Miss Bessie Fulbright were married by Rev. Mr. Siler. A large portion of the congregation and numerous friends witnessed the ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Clark received many congratulations.

MR. MONTGOMERY'S ADDRESS. Rev. J. Knox Montgomery, pastor of the Second A. R. P. Church, delivered a very interesting discourse at the Y. M. C. A. yesterday at 5 p. m. The audience was large and very attentive and composed, mostly of young men. Mr. Montgomery not only preached well but sings well. He has a magnificent voice and rendered a solo after the sermon with good effect.

MR. VAN LANDINGHAM HERE. Mr. Ralph Van Landingham, assistant ticket agent of the Southern in Atlanta, spent yesterday with his family. Mr. Van Landingham likes Atlanta very much, but likes Charlotte the best. His position is an important one and, of course, he is filling it with credit to himself and satisfactorily to the company.

MORNING REVELLERS

Hotel Guests Awakened by Report of Pistol in the Central.

A bullet hole in one of the hallways of the Central's annex is a mute witness against a crowd of men who made the early morning hours yesterday hideous with their drunken revelry. Forty-five dollars in clean crisp greenbacks in the hands of Chief of Police Orr this morning tells the exact amount the disturbance netted the city.

As early as 3 o'clock yesterday morning Mr. Foreman, night clerk at the Central, was informed that four of the hotel's guests were not only loud, but were acting in such a manner as to frighten the ladies in that portion of the hotel. Mr. R. L. Lucas, the proprietor, was notified and his orders were that the men be at once ejected. In compliance with this, Mr. Foreman sent for officers, who were promptly on the scene. Sergeant Baker accompanied by three of his men, went to the annex and for the life of them they could not hear a sound.

The bell-boys were sleeping soundly. A lady who was one of the frightened ones gave the officers a detailed account of the wrong doings of these men. As soon as the sergeant was informed of the extent of their misbehavior, he promptly went to the different rooms and knocked loudly. Finally the four came out. They were told that the police station was just about a block and a half out, and it was there they were wanted.

One man from Chester, who was so handy with his pistol, came out first. His tactics were to bluff the officers. Seeing this did not work he tried the bribe game. Finding that nothing satisfied the police, they all consented, not only to go, but to fight the disturbers of their rest in the courts.

Arriving at the police station, the four changed their tactics from defiance to submission. The large iron doors to the tombs seemed yawning for them, but they did not like the exchange of a hair mattress for a bed of iron, therefore, one of the number "planked" down the necessary cost and the four made a silent retreat to another hotel.

In the police court this morning the cash was up, but the Sunday morning revelers were not in sight. They had decamped, leaving behind them an unpleasant memory of their idea of what is real fun.

AN INTERESTING CASE.

A Question of Law Regarding the Sale of Meats.

An interesting case was before Mayor McCall this morning. The question at issue was: How long does it take fresh meat to become salt meat after the same has been salted?

A warrant was sworn out Saturday against Messrs. Forbis and Freeman, by Mr. Moffitt, charging them with selling fresh meat without the proper license. Mr. Moffitt says he learned Saturday that Messrs. Forbis and Freeman were selling fresh meat and knowing they did not have the regular butcher's license, he sent a negro man to their store to buy some of it. The man returned with the fresh meat, thereupon he had the warrant issued.

In court this morning Messrs. Forbis and Freeman were represented by Mr. Heriot Clarkson. Their contention was that they bought the meat from the Armour Packing Company last Thursday; that immediately they had the hog cut up and salted down; that they offered the same for sale Friday and Saturday at their store in the eastern section of the city, not as fresh meat, but as fresh salted pork. This being their first offence, the mayor dismissed the case, but warned the dealers that they were treading on dangerous ground and that a repetition would result disastrously to them.

The question still remains: When is meat salt meat, and when is it fresh meat?

TWENTY-NINE NEW MEMBERS.

There were twenty-nine accessions to the Second Presbyterian church yesterday. The services yesterday morning were very impressive. Dr. Stagg preached a helpful sermon for the benefit of the new members. There are now over one thousand members in this church. Dr. Stagg having had to preach the funeral sermon of Prof. J. W. McLaury, Dr. Howerton being sick. His Sunday school class was taught by Rev. Dr. Bissell in a very acceptable manner. Dr. Bissell preached for Dr. Howerton at the First church on yesterday.

TO LIVE HERE.

Mr. Rainey, of Buena Vista, Va., has come to Charlotte to live and is stenographer for the Southern Express Co. He took the place of Mr. Flemming, who is now connected with Lee's Business College.

MR. BALDWIN GOES TO MORVEN.

Rev. Mr. Baldwin leaves tonight for Morven, N. C., where he goes to conduct a meeting. He taught there two years just before coming to Charlotte.

BARN & HORSES BURN

Serious Conflagration at Dr. Brevard's This Afternoon at 1 o'clock.

TWO HORSES BURNED ALIVE.

Dr. Brevard's Fast Horse "Ham" and Mrs. Brevard's Mare Perish in the Flames—The Origin of the Fire Unknown—Sable Doors Were Locked.

At 1 o'clock this afternoon Dr. Robert J. Brevard lost his barn and two horses by fire.

Some one passing saw some smoke coming from the roof of the barn. Mrs. Brevard and the children were the only persons on the lot. Mrs. Brevard went to the barn, but found that the butler had locked the building and was nowhere to be found. She phoned to Dr. Brevard, who was at Jordan's, but before he could get home, the building and contents were wrapped in flames. The barn was filled with inflammable stuff and it was only a matter of a very few minutes before the flames had laid it low.

The most lamentable aspect was the burning of the two horses. One was Mrs. Brevard's black mare, which she and the children had grown very much attached to; the other was Dr. Brevard's handsome bay horse, "Ham." Neither was heard to utter a groan, and the flames must have gotten in their work of death early.

In addition to the horses, Mrs. Brevard lost her handsome trap, which was comparatively new. Dr. Brevard also lost a buggy and all of his harness.

There was absolutely no insurance on either the horses or the building. It is a total loss.

As to the origin of the fire, Dr. Brevard is unable to ascertain how the building caught. The butler fed the horses at the noon hour and locked the doors to the barn. He was at his dinner when the alarm was turned in. Had the barn doors been unlocked there is a probability that both horses could have been saved. Mr. Herman Dowd was one of the first to arrive on the scene. He tried several times to break the door down, but was unable to do so. He says if he could have gotten in he could have saved both horses.

The firemen worked manfully, and their good work was appreciated by Dr. and Mrs. Brevard. They were, however, somewhat handicapped, on account of the inadequate water supply, which was not only a long time coming, but was devoid of the proper amount of pressure when it did arrive. This, it is said, was explained on account of the long distance the hose had to cover and the many crooks and turns that were necessary on account of the position of the burning building.

FIRE AT DIXIE PANTS CO.

Looks as if Someone Attempted to Rob the Building.

There came near being a very serious fire at the Dixie Pants Company, on West Fifth street, yesterday morning.

Mr. Jay Hirshinger went to the building about 9:30 o'clock yesterday morning and on entering found the house filled with smoke. He went to the basement, thinking that something was amiss there and found that several boxes were ablaze. In a short time the fire was subdued, but not until considerable damage was sustained. Mr. Hirshinger thinks the loss will amount to about \$2,000. It seems from the condition in which Mr. Hirshinger found the office that some one had attempted to rob the building.

Several drawers in the office were pulled out, but strange to say, the one that contained money was not disturbed. Mr. Hirshinger thinks that some one must have been in the building when work stopped Saturday evening. The door that the party left the building by unlocked from the inside. This was standing open when he reached the building. The loss was fully covered by insurance.

FUNERAL OF PROF. McLAURY.

The funeral of Prof. J. W. McLaury was held from the First Presbyterian church yesterday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. A large crowd was present to pay their last respect to one who in life they loved and admired. After the service at the church, the body was taken to Elmwood where the interment took place.

MURDERER ELECTROCUTED.

By Telegraph to the News. SING SING, Feb. 26.—Antonio Ferraro was electrocuted this morning at 8:23 o'clock. Five shocks were given. The current was turned on for eight minutes.

HERE MARCH 14TH.

The National Industrial Commission is Coming to Charlotte.

LABOR AND INDUSTRY.

Its Investigations Cover Labor, Manufactures, Agriculture, Etc.—One of the Commissioners From North Carolina—To Look Into Conditions in the South.

The United States Industrial Commission will be represented in Charlotte the 14th of March by a sub-commission, which comes to inquire into the general industrial conditions in the South at this time.

A number of prominent citizens of the city and county have received a circular letter from the commission notifying them to appear before the sub-commission in Charlotte the 14th of March, at 10:30 o'clock. It is more than probable that the commission will meet in the hall of the Chamber of Commerce, as it has been suggested that this would not only be a central meeting place, but that it is the proper place for the holding of such a meeting.

The chairman of the commission is Hon. James H. Kyle, of South Dakota, and the following compose the membership: Senator Boies Penrose, of Philadelphia; Senator Stephen R. Mallory, Pensacola, Fla.; Senator John W. Daniel, Lynchburg, Va.; Representative John J. Gardner, Atlantic City, N. J.; Representative William Lorimer, Chicago, Ill.; Representative L. F. Livingston, Kings, Ga.; Representative John C. Bell, Montrose, Colo.; Representative Theobald Otjen, Milwaukee, Wis.; Mr. Lee Mantle, Butte, Mont.; Mr. Andrew L. Harris, Eaton, Ohio; Mr. Ellison A. Smyth, Pelzer, S. C.; Mr. John M. Farquhar, Buffalo, N. Y.; Mr. Eugene D. Conger, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Mr. Thomas W. Phillips, New Castle, Pa.; Mr. Charles J. Harris, Dillsboro, N. C.; Mr. M. D. Ratchford, Indianapolis, Ind.; Mr. John L. Kennedy, Washington, D. C.; Mr. Albert Clarke, Boston, Mass.

The topical plan of inquiry is set forth in the following questions, which may be answered either orally or in writing: LABOR EMPLOYED. Condition of labor; increase or decrease in number employed in agricultural labor in the several States during the past fifty years. Comparative condition of those so engaged. Effect of improved machinery on labor. Causes of irregularity of employment. Transient labor in busy seasons. Hours of labor in different agricultural pursuits. Average number of days employed in the year. Tendency of agricultural labor to seek other employment; causes and remedies. Wages and methods of payment, daily, weekly, monthly or yearly payment. Maximum wages; minimum; average, in different branches; in different States and sections. Cash payment, store orders, payment in kind. Tenant houses and tenant house allowances. Crop sharing, partnership, tenancy; practicability and present status of these methods. Loans to tenants, liens on growing or prospective crops; extent of; effect of. Immigration and education; nationality and character of foreign immigrants. Percentage of literacy compared with American agriculturists. Tendency to colonize—to preserve foreign customs and languages. Effect of such immigration upon American agriculture. Suggestions as to regulation of immigration. Colored labor, extent of. School age of children in the different States. Sufficiency of public school facilities; per cent. enrolled. Adaptation of public school curriculum to the needs of the agricultural people. CAPITAL EMPLOYED. Comparative earnings of capital invested in agriculture; total capital employed in agricultural pursuits. Earnings of capital compared with forty years ago. Earnings of capital compared with other lines of business—banking, manufacturing, railroading, mercantile, etc. Taxation of agricultural property. (a) Character, extent, and effects in the different States; (b) Suggestions for modification and unification of tax methods; State and local. Migration of agriculturists from lo-

calities; causes and extent of. The present condition of agriculturists. Decline in prices of agricultural products. Decline in money value of agricultural lands in the older States; causes and extent of. Decline in productive condition of soil in said States; causes and remedies. Increase in acreage under cultivation. Its effect on production, on prices, on profits, on wages, on employment. "Bonanza farming." Its effect on production, wages, prices. Organizations of agriculturists; causes inducing; objects sought; results secured; rules governing. Annual production; present production in relation to consumption and existing markets. Overproduction in certain lines; underproduction in other lines; causes and remedies. Diversification of agricultural industries. Effect of improved agricultural machinery on production and prices. Extension of foreign markets; possibilities and methods. Cost of production, including interest; cost of production, including interest on capital, cost of labor, and other charges. Increase or decrease in local transportation rates during the past fifty years. Good roads; effect on cost of local transportation. Local markets as to prices; combinations to control prices. Effect of so-called "grain and cotton gambling."

REMEDIAL LEGISLATION. As to existing Federal and State laws touching agricultural industries; legal regulation of trusts, combinations, and other forms of monopoly. Operation of existing anti-trust laws; interstate commerce laws; oleomargarine laws; suggestions for their modification or extension. Operation of existing pure food laws; objects sought; results secured; advisability of Federal legislation thereon. Operation of existing Federal and State laws to prevent the spread of diseases among domestic animals; among plants; suggestions for the modification or extension of said laws.

CHARGED WITH AN ASSAULT.

Little 10 Year Old Girl Brings This Charge Against Prince Wood.

Prince Wood, a well known negro about town, was arraigned in the mayors' court this morning charged with an assault on Marie Irwin, a little colored girl, scarcely over 10 years old. Wood was represented by Mr. F. M. Shonnnonhouse. While the evidence adduced did not justify the more serious charge, rape, still there was enough evidence to go to show that an assault was attempted. A large number of witnesses were before Mayor McCall, but none were near the house when the crime was said to have been committed. Most of the witnesses only knew what the little girl told them. Her story, while disconnected, was in the main a plausible one, and in consequence Wood was bound over to the next term of the Criminal Court to answer to the charge of an assault. The bond was fixed at \$50. Failing to give this, he went to jail.

PORTO RICAN BILL HANGS IN THE BALANCE.

By Telegraph to the News. WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—The House has entered upon the last day of general debate on the Porto Rico bill. The result of the vote which will be taken tomorrow is still doubtful. The prospects are that the bill will not receive the support of enough Republicans to insure its passage. The Senate committee on commerce voted, 10 to 6, to report the ship subsidy bill.

FUNERAL OF MR. ANDREWS.

The funeral of Mr. R. A. Andrews took place at the home of the deceased, North Brevard street, yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock. The services were conducted by Rev. J. E. Gay. The interment was in Elmwood.

UPROAR IN THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

By Telegraph to the News. NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—The fierce attack on Third Avenue stock continued with large offerings had a demoralizing effect on the stock market. Third Avenue dropped several points at one time and there were heavy sales. The uproar in the room was tremendous. Rumors of all kinds were afloat.

MARRIED BY 'SQUIRE BAILES.

Just across the line at 'Squire Bailes' sanctum yesterday, Mr. W. F. Fincaon and Miss Winsie Garuthers, of this city, were married by the genial 'squire. They returned to the city last night and received the congratulations of their friends.

MR. J. W. HUNT SELLS

Hunt Block and South Tryon Street Residence Changed Hands Today.

J. G. HOOD THE PURCHASER.

Valuable Charlotte Real Estate Which Has Been on the Market Some Time Sold—The Purchase Price is Said to be Almost \$55,000.

An important real estate deal was consummated to-day at 1 o'clock. Mr. J. W. Hunt sold the Hunt block in North Tryon street and his beautiful residence on South Tryon street to Mr. J. G. Hood. The consideration was in the neighborhood of \$55,000.

For several months past it has been known that Messrs Hunt and Hood were on a trade. It has been reported on the streets a number of times that the papers had passed but when the matter was brought to the attention of these gentlemen they both answered in the negative.

To-day at 1 o'clock the deed for this property was signed in the office of Burwell, Walker and Cansler and Mr. J. G. Hood is now the owner of both the Hunt block and the Hunt residence. To a News reporter this afternoon Mr. Hood stated that he had purchased the property because he had great faith in Charlotte real estate; that he had been close to a trade with Mr. Hunt for some time but they never reached the point until this morning.

As to the residence on South Tryon Mr. Hood states that he will not occupy it. Mr. N. M. Lawrence, who now rents the property, will remain. At least Mr. Hood knows nothing to the contrary.

The Hunt block on North Tryon is one of the most valuable pieces of real estate in the city. It is now all rented and has been since the building was completed. Being in such a desirable location, it is not at all difficult to find tenants.

When asked his reason for disposing of the property Mr. Hunt stated positively that it was not because his faith in Charlotte as a good investment point had been shaken, but because he could make more money by investing elsewhere. Just a few minutes after he consummated the deal with Mr. Hood, he received a telegram from Los Angeles, California, stating that his offer for a piece of property in that city had been accepted. The amount of this deal, Mr. Hunt states, is \$40,000.

WEDNESDAY AT NOON.

Corner Stone of New Graded School Building to be Laid.

The corner stone of the new graded school building in Ward 1 will be laid Wednesday at noon. The stone, which is a beautiful one, was seen by a News reporter today at Durham's marble yard. Mayor McCall will be master of ceremonies. Appropriate to the occasion, the following programme has been arranged: Prayer, by Rev. Dr. Chrietberg. Address, by ex-Mayor F. S. DeWolfe, of Seattle, Washington. Address, by Dr. George W. Graham. History of the Graded Schools of Charlotte, by Prof. Alex. Graham. Address on "Religious Sides of Education," by Rev. John W. Stagg. "America," sung by the children. Benediction, by Rev. A. C. Barron, of Tryon Street Baptist church. All the addresses will be brief. The committee in charge of the new building extend a cordial invitation to all to be present and witness the ceremony.

CHARLOTTE'S FAVORITES.

Charlotte people are always glad to hear from the Misses Jones, who are both in the West at present with two popular attractions. Miss Lila Converse is still with Sol. Smith Russell's Company, which is now playing large houses in Utah. She writes home that she will be unable to return to Charlotte until the middle of June, as her contract has been extended until the first of June. She had hoped to get home by the first of May, but she finds this out of the question.

Miss Connie is playing the part of maid in Frohman's excellent attraction, "The Little Minister." Her company has been through most of the States on the Pacific coast and is now playing to large houses in Boise City. Before returning East, the company will make most of the cities in the western and central States.

MONTREAL THEATRE BURNED.

By Telegraph to the News. MONTREAL, Feb. 26.—The theatre Francaise was burned this morning and other buildings were damaged. The loss is \$150,000.