

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS.

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## INAUGURAL ADDRESS DELIVERED TODAY BY VARDAMAN

The Mississippi Governor Promulgates His Views as to the Failure of Negro Education as Heretofore Conducted.

Believes we Should Educate Negro's Hand and His Heart --- Claims That the Education of His Head has Made Him More Criminal.

(By Associated Press.)

Jackson, Miss., Jan. 19.—In his inaugural address, delivered this afternoon before the joint session of the two houses of the Mississippi Legislature, Governor James K. Vardaman, who was sworn in today, declared that the growing tendency of the negro to commit criminal assault on white women is nothing more nor less than the manifestation of racial desire for social equality. In strong terms he declared that education is a curse of the negro race and urged an amendment to the State constitution that will place the distribution of the common school fund solely within the power of the Legislature. Continuing his discussion of the negro question, Governor Vardaman said:

"As a race he is deteriorating morally every day. Time has demonstrated that he is more criminal as a free man than as a slave, that he is increasing in criminality with frightful rapidity, being one-third more criminal in 1890 than he was in 1880. Startling facts revealed by the census show that those who can read and write are more criminal than the illiterates, which is true of no other element of our population. I am advised that the minimum of literacy among the negroes is found in New England, where it is 21.7 per cent. The maximum is found in the Black Belt of Louisiana, Mississippi and South Carolina, where it is 65.7 per cent. And yet the negro in New England is four and a half times more criminal, hundred for hundred, than he is in the Black Belt. In south Mississippi particularly I know he is growing worse every year. You can scarcely pick up a newspaper whose pages are not blackened with the account of the unmentionable crime committed by a negro brute and this crime I want to impress upon you is but a manifestation of the negro's aspiration for social equality, encouraged largely by the character of free education in vogue in the State in levying tribute upon the white people to maintain it. I am not censuring anybody nor am I inspired by ill will for the negro, but I am simply calling attention to a most unfortunate and unendurable condition of affairs. What shall be done about it? Surely something must be done. By own idea is that the character of the education of the negro should be changed.

"If after years of earnest effort and the expenditure of fabulous sums of money to educate his head he has only succeeded in making a criminal out of him and imperiling his usefulness and efficiency as a laborer, wisdom would suggest that we make another experiment and see if we cannot improve him by the education of his hand and his heart. There must be a moral suzerainty upon which to build or cannot make a desirable citizen."

The Governor also declared the people of the nation should rise up and demand the repeal of the fifteenth amendment.

## RESERVOIR BURSTS SIXTY DROWNED

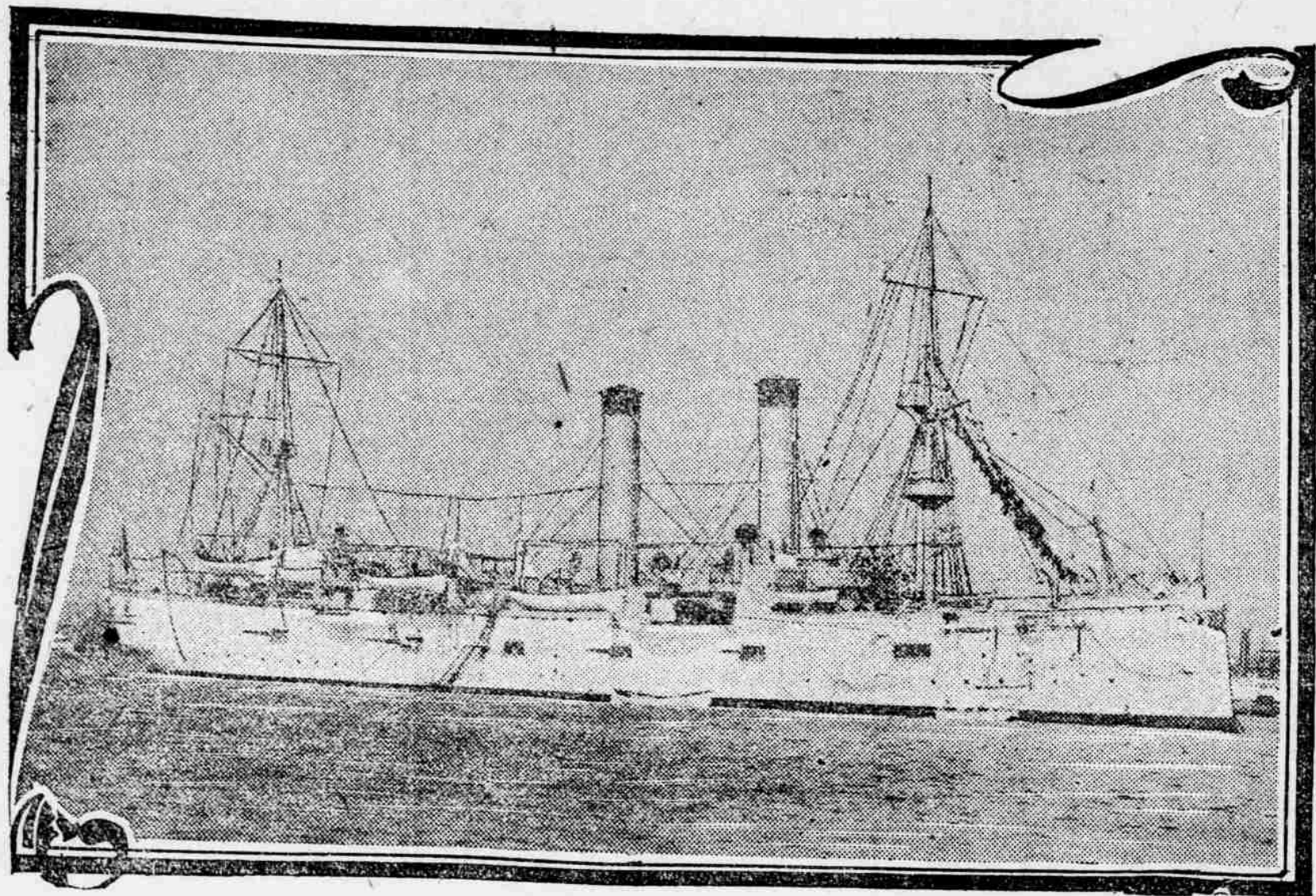
Reservoir Bursts at Bloomfontein and Sixty People Lose Their Lives--The Town in Mourning --- A Public Funeral Over the Dead.

(By Associated Press.)

Bloomfontein, Jan. 19.—It is estimated that sixty persons were drowned as the result of the bursting of a reservoir here Sunday, which also destroyed 176 houses and three hotels. There was a public funeral, and the interment today of 23 bodies already recovered. All shops are closed and the town is in mourning.

Report is Denied.

(By Associated Press.)  
St. Petersburg, Jan. 19.—The report that the czar had arranged a personal interview with Japanese Minister Kuroki, is authoritatively denied here.



THE CRUISER CHICAGO. The United States Navy Department is hurrying repair work upon the United States Cruiser Chicago, which has just been selected as the new flagship of the Pacific Squadron. The probability of war between Russia and Japan makes it imperative that Uncle Sam shall have an efficient fighting force in Pacific waters, and every effort will be made to get the Chicago in readiness for duty at her new station at once.

## SPECIAL MEETING PEABODY TRUSTEES

The Question as to the Division of the Fund an Important one--A New Agent of the Fund to be Selected--Will it be McIver?

(By Associated Press.)

New York, Jan. 19.—A special meeting of the trustees of the Peabody Fund was called for January 28th to consider several proposed changes of the work now being done. One of these is to concentrate the entire work of the fund in establishing a Normal College, either at Nashville, Tenn., where at present the Peabody College is, or at some other point in the South. Strong pressure is being exerted in favor of Georgia. The reason for the proposal to move the college, is that it has outgrown its present quarters. Another proposition which is being urged is to divert a large part of the fund to the aid of the country schools of the South, while other members of the board of trustees favor maintaining the present college at Nashville as an institution for the education of teachers for schools of the South. The position made vacant by the death of General Agent J. L. M. Curry will be filled.

TO RENOUNCE THRONE.

King Peter of Serbia, it is Said, Will Retire.

(By Associated Press.)

Vienna, Jan. 19.—King Peter of Serbia, according to a report from Cotinje Montenegro is prepared, voluntarily, to renounce the throne and allow the Peers to name the successor. The Prince of Montenegro is said to have received a mandate from Russia to clear up the precarious situation in Serbia and King Peter is alleged to have recognized the untenability of his position and is said to be willing to abdicate. His successor, it is added will only be permitted to ascend the throne conditionally, upon agreeing to punish the leaders of the conspiracy which resulted in the assassination of King Alexander and Queen Draga. The statement is not confirmed but it is known that conditions in Serbia are daily growing worse and are causing the greatest anxiety in Russia and Austria. The internal situation is becoming alarming and the roads are infested with brigands.

Wreck on Lookout Mountain.

Charleston, S. C., Jan. 19.—A special from Beaufort, N. C., to the News and Courier says: The three masted schooner Joseph W. Brooks, lumber laden, from Savannah, bound for Baltimore, struck on the outer Diamond Lookout Shoals at 3 o'clock Sunday morning. Heavy seas boarded her, carrying away the only yawl boat which contained the captain's and crew's personal effects and deck load, leaving them at the mercy of the waves. She settled down and filled with water and the crew took to the jibboom. At daylight the Cape Lookout life saving station crew rescued Captain Davidson and seven sailors. The vessel and cargo are a total loss.

Miners Attacked.

(By Associated Press.)  
Bricewille, Tenn., Jan. 19.—While a number of non-union miners were returning from Coal Creek last night they were attacked by a party of men and four were badly hurt. Worst injured man's name is unknown.

## MAJ. STEDMAN HERE PATRIOTIC MISSION

He Will Deliver the Address on the Occasion of the Birthdays of Generals' Lee and Jackson-- He Speaks of His Candidacy for Gov.

Charlotte feels itself honored in having within its gates today Maj. Chas. M. Stedman, ex-Lieut.-Gov. of North Carolina, and one of the most distinguished of all her sons, living or dead.

Maj. Stedman is a gentleman of the old school—a type so peculiarly Southern. The beauty of his person and the charm of his manner belong to the grace of a day that is dead. He comes upon a supreme mission—to pay one more eloquent tribute to the great commander, knightliest of all the knightly dead, and to that other overmastering genius of war, the "right arm" of Lee, "whose strength was as the strength of ten because his heart was pure."

He comes to relume the altar fires of our patriotism and to renew in our hearts the love of the most exemplary of our countrymen.

Maj. Stedman is not unlike the late James G. Blaine in appearance, and he has many characteristics in common with the great "Plumed Knight." He has his magnetism in a marked degree, his ease and self-possession, his fluency of speech, and his mastery of men. He also has the marvelous memory of Blaine, and can recall names and faces without effort. Maj. Stedman's visit to Charlotte is entirely without political significance. To such an extent is this true that he was averse to being interviewed at all about his candidacy for Governor, regarding his mission here as ill-befitting the discussion of his personal interests. It was only with the greatest reluctance that he consented to talk for publication about his candidacy, and that very briefly.

Being asked as to his chances for the nomination he said: "My friends are very confident of the result of the Convention. Of course I cannot tell how it may be, and shall be satisfied, in any event, as I value the success of the Democratic party far above my private aspirations. I am grateful for the strong and cordial support that is being given me in almost every section of the State. The boys say they will win the fight, and they evidently think so."

"I am especially grateful for the unanimity with which my personal friends throughout the State are supporting my candidacy. Many of the younger men of the party, those who have come upon the political arena within the last few years, are also my enthusiastic friends in this contest." He further said: "Yes, I should like to be Governor of North Carolina if it was deemed consistent with the best interests of the State. If nominated and elected I shall endeavor so to act that my administration will reflect credit upon our party, and all classes receive every right to which they are entitled."

General Lee's Birthday.

(By Associated Press.)  
Atlanta, Jan. 19.—The anniversary of the birth of Gen. Robert E. Lee, of the Southern Confederacy, was observed throughout the South today. The banks and schools were closed in his honor. In this city memorial exercises were held. Tonight the Virginia Society will hold their annual banquet.

## WIDOW OF MR. PLANT WEDS MR. GRAVES

The Marriage Ceremony was Performed at the Residence on Fifth Avenue--An Air of Secrecy was Maintained--Now on Bridal Tour.

(By Associated Press.)

New York, Jan. 19.—Robert Graves and Mrs. Marguerite J. Plant, widow of Henry B. Plant, the millionaire and Southern railroad, steamship and land-owner, have been married at the Plant residence in Fifth avenue. There were only half a dozen witnesses, all relatives of the bride and groom.

A small luncheon was served and then Mr. and Mrs. Graves departed in a special car for a short trip. Every effort was made to prevent any publicity and some of the nearest relatives of both were kept in complete ignorance of the affair until they were informed by telephone and telegraph.

The groom is well known in society and club life here. He is immensely rich, having inherited a fortune from his father, who was the pioneer wall paper manufacturer of this country.

The story of Mrs. Plant's fight in the courts for her dower rights in the will that she contested and won, is well known. It will be remembered that Mr. Plant, desiring that his fortune, which was estimated at more than \$20,000,000, should become the greatest estate in the world, provided that the entire estate should remain undivided until the youngest unborn son of his grandson (the latter then four years old), should reach his majority.

An annuity of \$30,000 each was set aside for the widow and only son, Morton F. Plant. Mr. Plant drew up this provision of his will under the direction of shrewd lawyers but a legal flaw was found and the instrument was broken.

The ground upon which the will was set aside was that Mr. Plant's seven years' residence in Connecticut did not establish a bona fide citizenship in that State, the laws of which permit the entailing of property. He was declared to have been a resident of New York where the laws forbid the entailing, and the property was divided under the statutes of this State.

RATE MEN MEET.

Southeastern Tariff Association Folks Have Their Annual Meeting.

(By Associated Press.)  
St. Augustine, Fla., Jan. 19.—The Southeastern Tariff Association representing all the railroads south of Washington and east of the Mississippi River began its annual meeting here yesterday, in the rotunda of the Ponce de Leon. About one hundred railroad men are attending. They will remain until the latter part of the week.

"The greatness and the grandeur, the magnanimity and the modesty, the consecration and the courage, the example and the incentive, which were personified in the field of war and in the still air of delightful studies in collegiate shades, will be not only forever a benediction, but forever a transforming influence, not only within Virginia, not only within the South, not only throughout the Republic, but across the seas and around the world, wherever is said or read the name of Robert E. Lee."  
ST. CLAIR MCKELWAY.

## COFFIN PLANT BURNED

A Big Blaze Visits the Town of Burlington. (Special to The News.)  
Burlington, Jan. 19.—The Burlington Coffin Co.'s plant was burned this morning about 9 o'clock. The engine and boiler rooms, dry kiln and all the workshops, including all the machinery, were destroyed. All this is a total loss. The loss is estimated to be about \$20,000. The insurance will be about \$10,000. Fifty or seventy-five men are thrown out of work. The office and finishing rooms were saved by the fire fighters. The origin of the fire is not yet known.

NEGROES ON JURIES.

The Supreme Court Renders Important Decision on This Question. (By Associated Press.)

Washington, Jan. 19.—The U. S. Supreme court re-affirmed the ruling made in the case of Carter vs. the State of Texas to the effect that the exclusion of negroes from grand juries in cases involving criminal charges against members of their race is a violation of the Constitution and therefore not permissible. The decision was delivered by Justice Holmes in the case of Rogers vs. the State of Alabama. Rogers is a resident of Alabama and he was indicted for murder by a grand jury composed entirely of white men and from which he was excluded because of his color. The Supreme court of the State upheld the regularity of the proceeding, but Rogers brought it to the Federal Court on a writ of error with the result that the decision of the State court was reversed and the case remained to the State courts for further proceedings not inconsistent with today's opinion. The decision was based on the Carter case in which it was held that the exclusion of all persons of the African race from a grand jury which is charged with indictment against a negro in a State court, when they are excluded solely because of their race or color, denies him equal protection of the laws in violation of the fourteenth amendment of the Constitution of the United States, whether such exclusion is through the action of the Legislature, through the courts or through the executive or administrative officers of the State.

DEMOCRATS CONFER.

It is Admitted That the Canal Bill Will Pass Senate. (By Associated Press.)

Washington, Jan. 19.—A conference of Democratic Senators was held today in Senator Gorman's committee rooms to discuss the Panama situation.

More than two hours were consumed in considering the various plans suggested for getting full information concerning the alleged participation of the United States officials in the revolution on the isthmus.

Nearly every Senator spoke, and it was the unanimous opinion that the Republican Senators are in possession of information which has been withheld from the Democrats.

Despite this feeling it was agreed that there was no way that the canal bill can be defeated in the Senate. It was admitted that a number of Democrats must vote for the ratification of the convention, as the geographical position, and subsequent commercial relations, demand it.

The action of the Republican Senators of the foreign relations committee in adopting the Lodge resolution to report the treaty without delay was commented upon by several Democrats, notably Senators Morgan, Daniel, Bailey and Pettus.

THOMAS VS. McMANAWAY.

Occupies Entire Day in Court--A Merry Go Round Involved.

The Superior Court has been engaged today upon the case of W. M. Thomas against Dr. C. G. McManaway, an action growing out of an alleged breach of contract.

From the evidence produced it seems that Mr. Thomas went to Atlanta sometime ago to take charge of a merry-go-round owned by Dr. McManaway. It appears further that a second man went to Atlanta as Dr. McManaway's representative, and he and Mr. Thomas had a disagreement, and Mr. Thomas' connection with the business was severed. The plaintiff alleges that he was employed for a stated time, but was not allowed to serve out his time. The defendant denies that there was any failure on his part to keep his contract.

The plaintiff is represented by Clarkson & Duns, and the defendant by Jones & Tillett.

The case was given to the jury this afternoon, and up to the hour of going to press no decision had been reached.

In the case of J. A. McCall against Lizzie McCall, for divorce, the divorce was granted.

It was expected that the next case would be that of W. S. Long against Walter Abernethy.

Below Zero in New York.

(By Associated Press.)  
New York, Jan. 19.—The temperature here today reached one degree below zero. In some portions of the State the mercury has fallen to forty below. There is much suffering among the poor people.

## THE CORPORATION COMMISSION HEARS EVIDENCE

The Hearing in the Criminal Court Room-- Many Witnesses Testify Before the Commission of the Present Intolerable Conditions.

The Personnel of the Commission--The Attorneys for the Railroads and for the People of Charlotte and Mecklenburg.

Promptly at 11 o'clock today the members of the Corporation Commission, Messrs. Franklin McNeill, E. C. Beddingfield and Rogers, took their seats in the judge's stand in the court room, to hear the evidence in favor of the union depot for Charlotte. A large number of interested spectators were present, and quite a number have volunteered as witnesses to the present inconvenience and the feasibility and convenience, to the city, the county and the traveling public, of a union depot.

The commission is a fine looking body of men, and the good work they have done has brought them into most favorable prominence before the people of the State. Franklin McNeill was solicitor of his district before going to Wilmington for the practice of law in that district. S. L. Rogers, from the West, has done good service and is a popular and competent official. E. C. Beddingfield received the votes of the Charlotte delegation to the last Democratic Convention as a most worthy, as he was the successful, candidate.

Seated to the right of the Commission were Judge A. Burwell, John L. Shaw, of Laurinburg; Capt. George Bason, with several prominent Southern officials, including Mr. Thompson, of "heart-to-heart talks" fame, Messrs. Clarkson and Duns represented the interests of the city.

The first witness was Mr. D. P. Hutchison, who is perhaps better qualified to speak on the whole situation, from the viewpoint of the city, the county and the traveling public, than any man in Charlotte. Mr. Hutchison made a very disagreeable witness, from the railroad point of view, when he described riding under that subway at the Seaboard station and having to dodge the stream of hot water that was running down from the trestle, he seemed to be getting the railroads themselves into hot water. Mr. Hutchison frankly declared that the present Southern depot was a nuisance, at its present location, on account of the blocking of the traffic across Trade street. There was no separate room now for the white and colored people, and the ladies had to go through the main waiting room, crowded with negroes, to get their tickets. The location of the baggage room was equally an inconvenience. He spoke of the exposure to the weather, through want of a proper shed, of the difficulty of reaching the trains, at the Southern station from the depot, of the great distance of the depots apart, of the dangerous and disagreeable subway crossing at the Seaboard, there being often trains on the trestle above, of the grease and the hot water, and the mud-

(Continued on Eighth Page.)

## THOSE STOLEN BONDS AGAIN IN COURT

Attorney J. C. L. Harris was Today Summoned to Appear Before the Grand Jury to Answer Questions Regarding Them.

(Special The News.)

Raleigh, Jan. 19.—Col. J. C. L. Harris was summoned before the grand jury of Wake Superior Court this afternoon in connection with his part in the deal for restoring the North Carolina bonds that were taken by burglars when they blew open the safe at Jonesboro, more than a year ago.

The bonds were the property of Mrs. Godwin, and she was required to pay a large amount for their recovery on the ground that the bonds had been bought by the innocent party.

It will be remembered that Harris would not give the name of his client after being summoned before the grand jury. The foreman demanded the name of the client and Harris appealed to Judge Brown, who ruled that he must tell the name and enough as to his relation to show his connection was wholly within the duties as an attorney. Nothing is further known as to the investigation.