

GOVERNORS OF TWO STATES ATTEND FORESTRY MEETING

Prominent People Here to Discuss the Best Methods for the Preservation of the Forests of North Carolina and Other Southern States.

Governor Glenn Presided at the Meeting this Afternoon. Governor Terrell of Georgia Makes an Address. Interviews With Prominent Foresters.

One of the greatest assemblages of prominent foresters and men in political life that has ever gathered in the Queen City, is here today attending the International Convention of those interested in the preservation of the Appalachian forests and those of North Carolina also.

Numbered among the important men here are Governor Glenn of North Carolina, United States Forestry Director of the United States; Mr. Alfred Gaskill, of the United Forestry Department; Jas. C. Miller, of the American Forestry Association; Governor R. B. Glenn, who came direct from Washington this morning; Governor Terrell of Georgia, who arrived about noon on a late train; Prof. J. A. Holmes, State Geologist; Prof. F. H. Newell, Chief of the Bureau of Hydrography of the United States; Dr. C. A. Schenck, in charge of the Baltimore Reserve; Col. A. T. Smythe and Granville Beales of Charleston, and others.

The distinguished guests began assembling in the Manufacturers Club about ten o'clock and by 11:30 all were on hand except Governor Terrell and party, whose train was delayed.

From interviews with the leading men present, The News reporter learned that at the meeting this afternoon definite steps will be taken looking to a resolution to be laid before congress by a committee that will likely be named.

This committee will use every effort to secure the passage of the Appalachian Forest Reserve bill, and also make strenuous endeavor, in every possible manner, to awaken the sentiment of the people in the States that will be affected by the bill and to secure their cooperation.

There are two things that are engaging the time and thought of the meeting, the Appalachian Park bill and also State Legislation. Governor Glenn is especially interested in this feature of the movement.

Before adjournment this afternoon there will be formed an organization of those present, embracing all of the States that are interested in the Park bill, and committees named and the work of securing the passage of the bill will be started.

The first meeting of the foresters and friends of the proposed bill began in the Academy of Music this afternoon at half past two o'clock. A concert by the Richardson Orchestra was given after which the meeting was called to order and business begun.

There were several changes in the program from that formerly announced but this does not mean any lessening of the interest or of the good results that are to follow.

Prominent Men Interviewed.

A fair idea of the work of this meeting and what is to be accomplished, may be gathered from interviews secured from the leading men present.

Mr. Alfred Gaskill, of the forestry bureau, said that it was the purpose of this meeting to show to congress and to the country at large that the South is interested and in no half-hearted way, in the proposed Appalachian Park bill; that this interest must and will be brought before the nation's lawmakers in a forcible and straightforward manner. The South is of all sections the most interested in the proposed bill and it is for her to indicate this interest in the strongest way possible, and this can in no way be better accomplished than by such a meeting.

Mr. Gaskill is also an enthusiast on the subject of good roads and talked interestingly on this topic. He is in favor of the convict system of road building in the South, although he stated that many people in the North did not approve of the system. The trouble is, according to Mr. Gaskill, that the system is abused in some cases, in particular where convicts are hired out to railroads or other corporations. Mr. Gaskill is an authority on forestry and is taking a great interest in the proposed bill now before the country.

Another interesting man is Prof. Holmes, who will lecture at the Academy tonight at eight o'clock and who is well known in Charlotte.

Prof. Holmes said:

"There will probably be appointed this afternoon two committees after a permanent organization has been effected—one on legislation and the other on organization. These committees will get to work as soon as possible and push matters to the best of their ability, keeping the issues before the people and giving impetus to the plan to secure the passage of the Appalachian Park bill."

Dr. Schenck's Position.

Dr. C. A. Schenck, in charge of the Great Baltimore forestry reserves, was one of the most interesting men with whom the reporter talked.

Dr. Schenck understands forestry in every detail and has already become an authority on subjects related to successful forestry work.

"The greatest danger to our forests is fire, is the unique and at the same time plausible opinion taken by this distinguished forester.

"It is all nonsense about the timber-

men being the menace to the Appalachian forests," said Dr. Schenck. "The great destroyer of forests is fire. How could such an evil be remedied," was asked of Dr. Schenck. "Easy enough," said he, "by proper legislation." "The North American Indians understood better than the so-called higher civilization of the white man, the necessity of keeping fire from gaining a headway in the great American forests. I say that by proper laws the starting of fires indiscriminately can be prevented, and the burning of timber from fires started by the clearing of grounds, is the great cause of destruction to the vast areas of forests in the Appalachian mountains."

"We will not allow a man to set fire to his own roof because it endangers the homes of his neighbors, but in the mountains we allow the people to start fires that sweep vast areas and nothing is done to prevent it. The passing of laws to prevent this and the enforcement of them by officers will do more to preserve the forests than anything else."

"Yes, nature will restore the timber that is cut down by producing a new growth, but when a tract is fire swept the ground is left in such a condition that a second growth of timber is very improbable. The timberman can cut away the forests and they will be restored but when fire has once touched a forest, it is gone."

"No, the lumbermen are not the menace to our forests but the forest-fires started by people clearing land or sometimes even starting them through carelessness. The loose material on the soil which keeps the moisture in the ground, but a fire will sap up all of this and then there is your moisture to come from."

Dr. Schenck's view will likely be found quite new and startling to many people, and his disbelief in the danger of forestry destruction by lumbermen, where the timber is cut scientifically, is indeed an idea that should attract attention.

Governor Glenn Talks.

Governor R. B. Glenn, who is attending the forestry meeting, said some very interesting things about the present convention, and also about the special State legislation which he favors and which will be independent of the work of the convention here.

Governor Glenn said that in the first place he most heartily favored the passage of the proposed Appalachian Park bill and gave his earnest support to the meeting here.

"I want to see this bill put through," said the Governor, "and also I want us to get some kind of a law in North Carolina for the protection of the forests in the State outside the Appalachian Reserve."

"This latter," said Governor Glenn, "will of course be a State affair, but if it is needed, and proper steps taken before it is too late will result in the preservation of the forests of the State. Especially am I interested in the State public lands, often referred to as the swamp lands. Already, enough of these lands have been sold to educate every child in North Carolina, and there are yet many hundreds of thousands of acres, mostly in the eastern part of the State, that will be sold perhaps in a few years. I am opposed to giving this land away any longer, and it is now being surveyed and we want to hold it until there is a fair price offered."

Governor Glenn also has some plans, which he may announce later, on the subject of State forest preservation, outside the Appalachian reserve. He is enthusiastic about the meeting today and being on the program for one of the principal speeches, he is fully prepared.

TESTIMONY IN MATTHEWS CASE

Dr. Pretree Testified To-day That it Appeared Impossible to Tell Cause of Death. Other Witnesses Testify. Question of Sanity of Matthews Argued.

Special to The News.

Greensboro North Carolina March 3.—In the Matthews trial this morning the defense introduced Dr. Pretree who testified that according to the statements of the attending physicians it would be impossible to say what caused Mrs. Matthews death, whether strychnine or some other poison.

J. A. Gorman, a dentist of Asheville, testified that he roomed and slept with Matthews, while a medical student in Richmond 12 years ago and that one morning he found him apparently dead.

He had a spell of despondency from the death of a sweetheart and had taken poison. He was saved and the first thing he said for the witness to look in his pocket and get a note out and never let any one read it.

He had carefully prepared his diral clothes. The note gave the directions for his funeral, disposing of his property and named the pall bearers.

There was a long argument over competency of evidence sought to be introduced from defendants father B. F. Matthews, of Durham, as to insanity in his and his wives' family.

HASTY TELLS JURY THAT HE FIRED TO SAVE HIS OWN LIFE

He Denies Insulting Misses Bishop and Sheridan and Says That Both Bennett and Davidson had their Knives Drawn When he Fired Fatal Shots.

Three Witnesses Testify that Davidson had no Knife Directly After the Shooting Took place. Ball that Killed Davidson Ranged Upward, so Physician Says.

Special to The News.

Gaffney, March 3.—George Hasty, the young man who is charged with the death of two men he had only known for a few hours, was on the witness stand today.

He told his side of the story and if the jury believes him, he will come clear of the awful crime of which he is charged.

From the moment Hasty took the stand, his every move was watched with unusual interest. He told his story without showing the slightest emotion and swore positively that he shot in defense of his own life.

At the reconvening of court this morning at 9:30 o'clock, the defense put up Mr. Smith Williams, the present proprietor of the hotel where the tragedy was enacted. It was in evidence that the hotel has changed its name. When the Hasty's were the managers, it was known as the Piedmont Inn, now it is known as the Palmetto House.

Mr. Williams testified as to the kind of door that leads into the dining room. Witnesses for the prosecution testified that it was not, at the time of the tragedy a swinging door. Witness stated that it was and had only been changed quite recently; that there was, however, a slight obstruction and the door would not swing back without slightly scraping the floor.

Dave DeStaffo, a barber, stated that on the morning of the tragedy he was standing talking to Arthur Hasty, a brother of the accused, when he heard two shots fired in the hotel. He and Arthur Hasty went up stairs to see what the trouble was. Witness, however, did not testify to any material points.

Miles Bullington, who boarded at the Piedmont Inn at the time of the tragedy, was the next witness called. He testified that George Hasty occupied the same room as he did, the night previous to the shooting; that Hasty retired at 1 o'clock in the morning and arose at 6 o'clock. He did not hear the scream of a woman; that it might have occurred and he did not hear it.

Walter Baker, testified that he was with Hasty after the performance, the night prior to the shooting; that he took in the same room with Bullington and Hasty. There was a card game in progress. Witness said that Hasty left the room twice during the night and each time he was out about 25 minutes.

George Hasty, the defendant, was the next witness. The young man who is charged with such a revolting crime recited without emotion, the story of his life. Hasty recited the incidents leading up to the time when he asked Miss Bennett to go with him into the hallway. He stated that while he was in the dining room, he was insulted by Bennett, who accused him of offering an insult to two women connected with his company; that he asked Bennett to come with him to the hallway and he would explain. Bennett accompanied him out of the dining room and just as they passed through the door, witness discovered that Davidson was following. Davidson came up from behind and said "You are the man," at the same time striking witness, knocking him to the floor.

According to the statement of the defendant, both Bennett and Davidson pounced on him and he was bloody hurt. One had him by the throat and the other by the face. Davidson then pulled his knife and commenced cutting witness. Then it was that he pulled his pistol and fired, because he thought his life was in danger.

Hasty testified that both Davidson and Bennett had knives and that both had them drawn. Hasty denied that he had insulted Miss Bishop the afternoon before the tragedy. He explained that when he first saw her he was busy engaged in removing some things from his room—the room that Davidson occupied that night. In this connection, witness told why he had the pistol at the time of the fight. He said the gun was one of the things taken from the room; that he slipped it in his overcoat pocket because he did not care to leave it in the room that was to be occupied by a stranger.

In explaining why he hid the knife in his trousers, he said that he did it for protection; that he had been told a mob would try to take him and he decided that he would conceal the knife in order to protect himself.

At the conclusion of the defendant's testimony, the defense rested.

Messrs. Sheridan and Bishop were recalled by the State and asked as to the knives owned by Bennett and Davidson. Both witnesses said that each had a knife but that one had been accounted for. Both young men denied using profane language.

S. F. Parrott, testified to seeing Da-

WILMINGTON NEWS NOTES.

Fire in Lumber Yard Does Considerable Damage—Much Lumber Was Stored.

Special to The News.

Wilmington, N. C., March 3.—A fire occurred in the lumber yard of the Cape Fear Lumber Company of this city Thursday that kept the fire department at work for five hours trying to put it out. The fire in the lumber yard caught from sparks from another building which was on fire on Fourth street. The damage to the lumber will amount to between three and four thousand dollars. There is about ten million feet of lumber stored in the Cape Fear's lumber yard, but the fire department kept the fire confined to one spot and so no damage other than that mentioned was done.

HARVIE JORDAN SPEAKS.

Large Crowd Greet President of Cotton Association—Advocates Establishment of "Warehouse System."

Special to The News.

Raleigh, N. C., March 3.—President Harvie Jordan, of the Southern Cotton Growers' Association, was greeted by a very large audience here this afternoon despite the severe weather conditions.

He made a forcible plea for the establishment of a "warehouse system" for marketing cotton as the only solution of the situation and declares that the spinners are now as ardent advocates of high prices for cotton as the planters for the reason that they have made contracts on the basis of the present prices and if cotton went down these would be cancelled and they would lose money. This is Jordan's last engagement in this State.

VICTIMS OF NEGROES DEAD.

Mark M. Davis, the Brakeman Shot by Negro in Springfield, Died This Morning.

By Associated Press.

Springfield, O., March 3.—Mark M. Davis, the brakeman, who was shot by a colored man Wednesday night, died this morning. It was the shooting of Davis, which led to the riots of Wednesday and Thursday nights.

Edward Dean and Preston Ladd, both colored, are in jail at Dayton charged with shooting Davis.

Davis regained consciousness shortly before death, but made no further statement concerning the shooting.

APPROVES FISHE'S STAND.

Lord Northcliffe Wires Approval of Mr. Fish's Stand in Mutual Life Controversy.

By Associated Press.

New York, March 3.—A cablegram from Lord Northcliffe to Stuyvesant Fish, approving the latter's stand in the Mutual Life Insurance controversy and promising his hearty support, was received here today.

It is understood that Lord Northcliffe will secure the proxies of representative policyholders of the Mutual Company in England, France and Germany and in other ways lead the weight of his influence to the movement.

MILLION ACRES SWEEPED BY FIRE

Great Section of Fine Pasture Land Burned in Prairie Fire. Been Spreading Two Days. Loss Over \$1,000,000. Big Ranches Robbed of Feed.

By Associated Press.

Roswell, N. Mex., March 3.—Over a million acres of fine pasture land has been burned in the prairie fire that has been sweeping east and south for two days and is still beyond control with a head 15 miles wide under a stiff wind.

The loss is already estimated at a million dollars, and a dozen big ranches have been robbed of their feed.

BODY FLOATING HEAD DOWN.

Body of Man Who Last Night Committed Suicide Found Floating—Thought to Be E. M. Y. Bass—Had Cork Leg.

By Associated Press.

Atlantic City, N. J., March 3.—The body of the man who committed suicide last night by leaping from the end of Young's pier, floated ashore at South Atlantic City today. From papers found in his pockets it is believed the man was E. M. Y. Bass, once a veteran.

The man had a cork leg and the body was floating head downward when discovered. The man claimed to represent New York magazines. No money was found.

WITHDRAWS FROM RACE.

Withdrawal of Granger From Race For Chairmanship Makes Grigg's Chances Almost Certain.

By Associated Press.

Washington, March 3.—Representative Granger, of Rhode Island, withdrew today from the race for the chairmanship of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

This practically insures the election of Representative Griggs, of Georgia, who is now the only avowed candidate for the office.

PREPARING FOR KING.

Elaborate Preparations Made For Reception of King Edward.

By Associated Press.

Cherbourg, March 3.—The British royal yacht having on board King Edward, was sighted at noon. The harbor is elaborately decorated in honor of the King. He will be received with military honors and take a royal train for Paris.

PREACHER KILLED BY CAR

Rev. W. H. Strickland Pastor of M. E. Church, Run Over and Killed by Car.

By Associated Press.

Nashville, Tenn., March 3.—Rev. W. H. Strickland, pastor of Spruce Street Northern Methodist Episcopal church of this city, was run over and killed by a street car.

FIERCE TORNADO CARRIES DEATH, FIRE, DESTRUCTION

Terrific Tornado Strikes Meriden, Ploughing Pathway From Southern to Eastern Suburbs of City, Leaving Trail of Fire, Death and Destruction.

Report States Over 25 are Dead and 100 Injured, While the Loss of Property is Over \$1,000,000. List of Known Dead. Story of Disaster.

By Associated Press.

Meriden, Miss., March 3.—A tornado, in the wake of which followed death, fire and a property loss estimated at \$1,000,000, descended shortly after six o'clock last night and ploughed a pathway from the southern to the eastern suburbs of the city.

The known dead:

Patrick McGinnis, freight conductor on the Mobile and Ohio, killed in a restaurant.

Mrs. S. R. Singleton and little granddaughter, by falling roof.

John Smith, of Selma, engineer on Southern, killed in a restaurant.

William R. Nelson, ex-chief of police, killed in Thornton's stables.

Police Officer Tarry, killed in Thornton's stable.

Claude Williams, killed in the Meyer-Neville Hardware store.

Five unknown negroes and whites were killed in Georgetown, a cotton mill suburb.

Six unknown, were killed in a fertilizer factory, in a suburb.

The injured:

Sherrin, clerk in New Orleans and Northwestern freight depot.

W. J. Woods.

Will Yarbough, clerk in restaurant.

Frank Woodruff, Anniston, Ala., bookkeeper for the Meyer-Neville Hardware Company.

William A. Garrett, night clerk at Cameron's restaurant.

Grady Stone, colored.

A Mr. Dean, operator at Mobile and Ohio depot, and Col. Charles Elmire.

The storm lasted four minutes. During this time a reign of terror prevailed. The air was filled with missiles.

Rain fell steadily for half an hour following the tornado, aiding in the suppression of the innumerable fires.

The residence portion of the town is safe. The fire department has recovered the charred bodies of several negroes taken from the ruins of small tenements, which were in the wake of the wind and fire.

The largest single loss will probably fall on the Meyer-Neville Hardware Co. Its building is a brick heap.

The Meridian Fertilizer Company's loss is almost total. This building was the first struck.

In northerly direction the wind wound its way, tearing a path through the negro settlement. Little is known of the loss of life there. The property loss will not be great.

The power station was visited and injured so that it may be 10 days before lighting facilities are re-established.

North of the power house, the storm overturned a few box cars and crossed the tracks of the Atlanta and Vicksburg Railroad. There is a cluster of depots in this vicinity, and the two operators in these were injured. The buildings were damaged, but no lives were lost.

The Tom Lyle Grocery Company was crushed under a heap of splintered lumber and a fire followed its fall.

The Roebuck Lumber Co., one of the largest in East Mississippi, had its yards swept away.

Among the buildings destroyed are the Meridian Cotton Oil Mill, city electric power station, the Queen and Crescent freight depot, the Grand Avenue Hotel, Ogden Hotel, Railroad Y. M. C. A., Elmira's restaurant.

A large number of small buildings were either demolished or damaged.

Number of the Dead.

A special from Meridian, Miss., estimates the loss of life at 100, with about 200 injured. A dispatch received at New Orleans at 11 A. M., says much confusion prevails in Meridian and detailed lists of the casualties are still unavailable.

Later Estimate.

Memphis, Tenn., March 3.—A dispatch from Meridian at noon states that a conservative estimate places the number of people killed in last night's tornado at from 25 to 50, while those injured will probably exceed 100.

Respond to Call For Aid.

Birmingham, Ala., March 3.—A special to the News from Jackson, Miss., says:

A special train left Jackson this morning with Governor Vardaman, one hundred members of the Legislature and many physicians for Meridian.

The disaster grows larger with the additional reports. Word received in Jackson this morning was that 30 are known to be dead and twice that number injured.

An appeal has been issued for assistance and the cities of the State are asked to raise relief funds.

Hundreds of families are homeless. The streets of Meridian are reported piled high with debris. Many pedestrians were en route home when the tornado occurred. Many persons are reported missing and believed dead under the wreckage in the business district.

The Latest Report.

The staff correspondent of the News wired his paper this afternoon from Meriden.

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MONTH' IMPORTS \$60,000,000.

Precious Stones Appraised at \$3,067,036 and 191 Automobiles Brought In.

New York, March 3.—George W. Whitehead, appraiser of the port, said yesterday that the total appraised value of importations during February was \$60,248,973.20, an increase of \$3,000,000 over the same month of last year. One hundred and ninety-one automobiles valued at \$225,000 have been imported at this port since January 1, compared with 123 cars in the same period last year, and 68 cars in the same period of 1904.

Imports of precious stones in February were appraised at \$3,067,036.20, compared with \$2,407,089.03 in February 1905.

—Mrs. R. H. Matthews will sing the offertory at St. Mark's Lutheran church Sunday morning.

MILLION ACRES SWEEPED BY FIRE

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The loss is already estimated at a million dollars, and a dozen big ranches have been robbed of their feed.

HUNDREDS OF CREW MAY HAVE PERISHED

As Result of Terrific Storms 260 Fishing Boats are Missing. Many of Crew of Over 1200 May be Lost. Steamers to the Rescue.

By Associated Press.

Christina, Norway, March 3.—Several steamers have been dispatched to the Gjaesi and Ingerna Islands from Trondhjem to the assistance of the fishing fleet which met with disaster in the recent violent storm.

Only 60 of the 260 boats which went out fishing have returned and the vessels which arrived at Trondhjem report that large numbers of the fleet have been seen floating keel upwards.

Much wreckage has also been sighted. The crews of the boats comprising the fishing fleet number from twelve to fourteen hundred men.

May Not Be So Bad.

Altogether 79 fishing boats with their crews have thus far reached different points of Flatanger and Roerik Islands and large numbers are also arriving at Gjaesingerne Island, so it is hoped the disaster will not turn out to be so great as at first feared. Three steamers are searching for missing fishermen.

THREE MEN DROWNED.

The Fourth Member of Crew in Fishing Skiffs is in Fatal Stupor.

By Associated Press.

Mingo Junction, O., March 3.—Three men were drowned in the Ohio river here last night while fishing. The fourth member of the party, who was rescued, is in a fatal stupor.

The men were in a skiff, which struck the Mingo Railroad bridge and sank in a few minutes.