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Latest Edition

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS.

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Senator Simmons Ready For the Fray --Forces on Hand

Corps of Office Workers Busy--Thirty Thousand Copies of His Reciprocity Speech Mailed to State—The Fight is On

Report Has It The Fight Will Be a Three Cornered Affair--Simmons — Kitchin Contest to Be Lively.

(BY H. E. C. BRYANT.)

The News Bureau, Congress Hall, Washington, March 3.

The arrival of Senator Simmons' force of clerks and the busy days in his office indicate something interesting for the near future. The campaign for the seat now occupied by Mr. Simmons in the senate is under way. Governor Kitchin and others have their eyes and hopes on the toga of the junior clerk of the North Carolina congressional delegation. The vote that Mr. Simmons cast for Senator Lorimer and the reciprocity speech he made here just before the last session adjourned added fuel to the flames and precipitated the fight that might not have come for some months. Senator Simmons, who was never known to run, is standing pat on his record. He will defend his course before the people. Thirty odd thousand of the reciprocity speeches are being hurried to the state.

Three Camps in Field.

Three camps are in the field in the fray. They harbor the "regulars"—the Simmons forces; the Kitchin men, and the "progressives"—these are led by National Committeemen Daniels and Hackett, a brilliant, and darling son of Greensboro. Rumor has it that Justice will move to Raleigh in the interests of Simmons and throw down the glove to Simmons and Kitchin supporters. If he does there will be a spirited fight in the old state. In the meantime, however, it is declared, Senator Simmons and Governor Kitchin are sharpening their blades to start the ball. Claude Kitchin and Charles Brantley Aycock are classed as "suitable men in the case of a hopeless deadlock."

This is the talk that one hears in Washington. This comes first and the extra session of congress and the national issues next. As patronage dispenser and "committees of committees man for the North Carolina" Representative Kitchin is playing an interesting role. Will he gain or lose by the course he is the question?

"This is to be the biggest moonshine year with our office," said Roy S. Cabell, commissioner of internal revenue, to me today. "We are breaking up more illicit distills in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama than in any year previous."

"What is the explanation of this?" was asked.

"There are several explanations," said Mr. Cabell. "Public sentiment, which has undergone a decided change for the better, is helping us more than anything else. It is easier for our agents to catch and convict lawbreakers. If we have evidence against a man it is not a difficult thing to get a verdict against him. The people are realizing what a menace these fellows are to society. In some states moonshiners seem to be multiplying. Eastern North Carolina is making more liquor than at any previous time. The price of corn whiskey is higher than ever, I am told, and this encourages the manufacturers to take risks that they would not take ordinarily. Revenue agents broke up twenty-odd stills in Franklin county, Va., recently. We call this the banner county of the Old Dominion.

"So you may say this, that we are doing after the offenders with a determination to win," declared Mr. Cabell. "I am massing our men in that region, and I believe we will destroy 2,000 distilleries this year."

"How many registered distilleries in the country?"

"Less than 500, scattered throughout the country.

"We will put three times as many officers in the field as we have had heretofore."

Will Russia and China Fight?

By Associated Press.

London, March 24.—Pirvate cables received by London business houses from representatives in the far East today are disquieting. They assert that it is expected Russia will soon declare war against China. The rate at Lloyds to cover risks on the outbreak of hostilities within four weeks jumped this afternoon from five to ten guineas per cent.

SIX FIREMEN DEAD; FOUR ARE DYING

By Associated Press.

Milwaukee, March 24.—Six firemen are dead, four others are dying and several suffering from injuries, the result of the collapse of the roof Middleton Manufacturing Company building here today.

Fayette, Ala. Swept by Fire

By Associated Press.

Birmingham, Ala., March 24.—The entire business section of Fayette, Ala., eighty miles west of Birmingham, in the natural gas fields, was destroyed by fire which started at 3 o'clock this morning in Peters and Youngs drug store. Twenty stores, the court house, jail, bank and other buildings are gone. The loss is estimated at more than $200,000.

A Later Report.

The loss of the fire at Fayette is now estimated at $200,000 on which insurance is carried to the sum of only $75,000.

Just Like Taking Money From Blind

By Associated Press.

New Orleans, La., March 24.—Harry Dickson, of Columbus, Ga., passed over $100 so promptly to a newly made "friend" here yesterday that the latter decided it was not wise to let the Goober state burden himself with a big bank roll and accordingly increased the "touch" to $200. Dickson was so elated at the prospect of having an agreeable companion on his trip to El Paso that, notwithstanding the acquaintance of less than an hour, he proffered the necessary cash when his "friend" discovered that he would have to run over to the union station where he said he had left his baggage to get money to pay a freight bill of $86.

The stranger "reluctantly" accepted the five $20 bills which Dickson peeled from a big roll and profusely thanked the Georgian for saving him a 10-block walk to the station. He went in the freight office to settle the bill but in an instant returned to the sidewalk and handed the $100 back to Dickson. He would have to go to the station after all, for the freight bill was $186 instead of $86. "Tut, tut," said Dickson, who promptly peeled off an additional quintet of twenties and insisted on his friend accepting them. With the same show of reluctance the stranger took the $200 and went to settle his little freight bill. After waiting half an hour Dickson went out to look for his friend, and to his consternation discovered that it was not a freight office after all.

The Georgian continued to El Paso minus his amiable companion.

M & M Company Fined $20,000

By Associated Press.

Savannah, Ga., March 24.—The Mtrchant & Miners Transportation Company was fined $20,000 by Judge Emory Speer in the United States circuit court today pursuant to its conviction last Friday for violating the act of the interstate commerce act. The court indicated that when the formal sentence was drawn this afternoon it would be specified on what counts the fine should be placed. He stated also that sentence would be deferred on the other counts pending the good behavior of the company. He characterized the finding of the jury as absolutely fair and said the company had been guilty of a flagrant violation of the law. It is generally believed the fine $20,000 will apply to one of the twenty four counts of the indictment and the sentence on the rest will be suspended. The amount of bond for an appeal will be agreed upon this afternoon by the government attorneys and counsel. The Merchants & Miners attorneys state with emphasis they will appeal the case.

The new ship of the Merchants & Miners, the Suwanee, arrived in port today although the president did not appear in court to plead for his company as was expected. He left all in the hands of counsel. Judge Samuel B. Adams, ex-justice of the Georgia supreme court, appeared to plead for the convicted corporation.

Fandom Pleased at Charleston.

By Associated Press.

Charleston, S. C., March 24.—Although the local team was "beaten to a frazzel" by the Philadelphia Americans yesterday afternoon, fandom is pleased at the gameness displayed by the Sea Gulls in sticking in the face of disheartening odds. This afternoon the second of the series will attract a large crowd despite the chill weather.

WATHCHING THE FIGHT BY DAILY ROUNDS!

Two Young Ladies Dead As Result Of Lamp Exploding --Historic Mansion Burns

Special to The News.

Wadesboro, N. C., March 24.—News reached here this morning of a terrible accident last night in Union county that resulted in the loss of the lives of two young women by the explosion of a lamp.

It was at the home of Mr. H. L. Baucom, on Olive branch, and the two young ladies who lost their lives were Miss Grace, aged 17, his daughter, and Miss Wilma Davis, aged 21, who was a visitor in the house at the time. Miss Davis is the daughter of Rev. Cul Davis and he was immediately notified of the accident. Details are meagre, but it seems that the lamp exploded and the young women were standing near enough for the flaming oil to ignite their clothing. They ran screaming from the room and the family made every effort to put out the flames. Before this could be done, however, the fire had done its work, and the two once beautiful girls died from their horrible burns.

Old Mansion Burns.

"Selma Hill" the home of Col. R. T. Bennett was demolished by flames this morning about nine o'clock. The fire caught from the room while Mrs. Bennett was burning out a chimney.

Friends rushed to help, but as they could not get water, the water main only going within about 200 yards of the house they could not save the building, although all the furniture and valuables were saved. Even the doors and window-sashes and window-panes were taken out.

It was a pitiful sight to see such a grand old home succumb to the flames, when if they had just had a little water when the people first arrived they could easily have saved it. The house was covered with $2,500 insurance and the loss is estimated at $10,000.

TRAIN GUARD SHOT TO-DAY BY STRIKERS

By Associated Press.

Somerset, Ky., March 24.—A guard who was on the tender of a Cincinnati, New Orleans and Texas Pacific railroad freight train was shot and wounded in the leg, near Elmwood, Tenn., last night, according to a dispatch received here today.

The conductor of a north bound passenger train reported that between Danville and Erlanger fully 100 shots were fired at his train but that they did no particular damage.

The body of Carl Street, the strike-breaking fireman who was shot from ambush at Robbins, Tenn., yesterday, is being held here until word is received from relatives as to its disposition. Street gave his home address as New York city.

Mrs. Harrison Dead.

Special to The News.

Greensboro, N. C., March 24.—Mrs. Daisy Carraway Harrison, the beloved wife of Dr. Edmund Harrison, died at his residence here yesterday after a desperate illness of two weeks, aged 28. Funeral services were held at West Market Steet Methodist church today, the burial being in Green Hill cemetery. Mrs. Harrison is survived by her husband, a sister, Mrs. John S. Michaux, of Greensboro, and two small children.

Capt. C. C. Martin, for many years a conductor on the Page road, died last night at his home near Carthage after a lingering illness of several months with spinal trouble. The burial will be at Carthage today.

Mrs. W. W. Bowman died at her home, near Oak Ridge Wednesday night. The funeral services were held at the First Baptist church at Kernersville this morning, the burial being in the Kernersville cemetery.

Royal Family Entertained

By Associated Press.

Vienna, March 24.—Emperor William, Empress Auguste Victoria and the others of the royal family who are en route for Corfu were the guests today of Emperor Francis Joseph at Schoenbrunn castle.

There is a disposition in some quarters to attach political significance to the visit but it is the emperor's practice to call upon his paternal friend on his annual trip to Corfu.

PRESIDENT OF MEXICO IS IN GOOD HEALTH

Galveston, Tex., March 24.—President Diaz of Mexico continues to enjoy good health according to Dr. George H. Lee, a member of the faculty of the University of Texas who returned home today from a trip to Mexico where he had a long talk with Diaz a few days ago. Dr. Lee says the venerable president is in possession of all his faculties and outside of a slight impairment in his hearing due to advancing age, he is just as hale and hearty as he was ten years ago.

Dr. Lee expressed the personal opinion that Diaz requested the United States to send troops to the border, fearing that the revolution would reach such proportions that the government would be unable to guarantee protection to Americans and extensive American interests in Mexico. He also thought that the Mexicans would bitterly resent any interference on the part of the United States.

Dr. Lee said the Mexicans resented the attitude of the sensational American press in the present crisis and felt aggrived because some of the papers in this country had suggested an invasion of Mexico.

Diaz Troops Plan Their Defense

By Associated Press.

El Paso, Texas, March 24.—Minister Limantour's modified statement, published here today, created much satisfaction among the insurrecto leaders. It was regarded as substantiating the hope, which had not entirely been abandoned, that some form of a peace proposition would soon emanate from Mexico City.

The revolutionists junta officials think it likely that Senor Limantour and President Diaz will grant all reforms demanded.

"Whatever reforms are offered must be based on the agreement that Diaz be removed and that the insurrectos shall maintain arms during negotiations," said Gonzales Garza, the insurrecto secretary of state.

The insurrectos fear, it was stated, that President Diaz will grant partial reforms pertaining chiefly to the state of Chihuahua which might have the effect of appeasing a large element without enabling Madero to achieve a complete success.

Get Ready for Inspection.

Ccharleston, S. C., March 24.—The Charleston batallion of the third regiment, national guards of South Carolina, is making ready for the inspections to begin Monday, the German Fusiliers being first on the list.

PROCEEDINGS OF DAY IN TRIAL OF CAMORRISTS

By Associated Press.

Viterbo, Italy, March 24.—This was the day set for the interrogation of Gennaro Abbatemaggio, the Camorrist informer about whose confession the state has built up the evidence upon which it is hoped to rid the country of the criminal organization that for years has exacted tribute from rich and poor, robbing and murdering with practical immunity. The expectation of witnessing what may cost him his life, great crowds gathered early in the vicinity of the court of Assizes and when the session opened the room was packed to its capacity.

The defense, so far as the Abbatemaggio is concerned, will be that the man is insane, a theory strengthened by his desperate boldness. Professor Ottolenghi, an alienist from the University of Rome, has been retained to examine the informer. As the professor was not in court during the morning hours Abbatemaggio's interrogation was deferred until the afternoon session and President Bianchi opened the proceedings with the examination of Gennaro Ibelli, following this with the questioning of Luigi Arena.

Ibelli is asserted to be the head of that branch of the Camorra which operates in the Vesuvian villages. He was one of the party that dined with Enrichо Alfano on the night that Gennaro Cuoccolo and his wife were murdered.

He was arrested soon afterwards, but released upon the false representations of the priest Ciro Vitozzi.

Luigi Arena was then called. Arena is the man who is charged with having called upon his brother Camorrists to kill Cuoccolo in revenge for his own betrayal. Abbatemaggio says that Cuoccolo wished a portion of the spoils of a robbery committed by Arena and a few companions. This was refused, whereupon Cuoccolo denounced the robbers to the police and they were imprisoned. From his cell Arena sent a postal card to one of the leaders asking for Cuoccolo's death as a traitor to the Camorra.

Abbatemaggio is fast becoming the most conspicuous figure in the trial. He has been openly threatened with death so many times that he appears to have nothing to lose now whether he holds to his confession or repudiates it. His very indifference however, is being used to bolster up the claim that he is mentally irresponsible and has imagined the story which he tells.

Should this defense be established it would be of great importance to the prisoners and its effect ultimately on the case can not safely be predicted. However, the state claims to have gathered sufficient evidence to prove the truth of the man's assertion even should his testimony be declared incompetent.

COURT ROOM DOORS WERE LOCKED.

By Associated Press.

Independence, Kas., March 24.—Such a large crowd was present today at the trial of A. A. Truskett, charged with killing J. D. S. Neeley, of Limo, O., that Judge J. R. Flannelly ordered the doors of the court room locked.

The county attorney announced his witnesses today would continue to testify along the line of the states theory that Truskett deliberately planned the killing to "get even with" Neeley. The Wichita pipe line company, of which Neeley was president, had shortly before the shooting instituted legal proceedings to declare illegal a valuable oil lease owned by Truskett.

"Three-Cent-Mayor" Better.

By Associated Press.

Cleveland, O., March 24.—Former Mayor Tom L. Johnson who is suffering from a relapse after an illness of several months' duration, passed another restful night and was reported to be "feeling fine" this morning.

Masked Men Held Train At Standstill For Two Hours

Bold Bad Holdup Artists Blow Safe in Express Car And Escape With $20,000 in Money And Valuables.

Scene of Hold Up Was on Prairie Near Coffeyville, Kas. Robbers Escaped in Automobiles — A Daring Affair.

By Associated Press.

Coffeyville, Kan., March 24.—For two hours last night masked men held St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern passenger train No. 104 at a standstill on the prairie about 6 miles south of this city, while they blew open a safe in the express car. They escaped in two automobiles, carrying with them money and valuables which, it is believed, will amount to $20,000.

The train left Little Rock at 8:30 a. m. yesterday, bound for Kansas City. It reached Lenapah, Okla., south of this city, at 10:30 last night, half an hour late.

Just after the train left Lenapah Engineer Lynch heard a sharp cry: "Hands up."

Turning, he saw a masked man sitting on the tender, pointing a revolver at him.

"I'm going to ride a little way with you," said the man. "Drive on."

The engineer obeyed. About four miles out of Lenapah the robber compelled the engineer to stop the train near a clump of trees. Five more masked men came out of the wood, and, taking positions on either side of the train, began shooting in the air and along the sides of the train.

Then while two of the bandits stood guard to prevent any passengers from leaving, the four marched the engineer and firemen to the day coach and locked them in.

One man then took position to guard the rear of the train and three went into the express car, forced the two express messengers to jump out and stand where one of the side guards could keep them covered.

After nearly an hour's work the men had succeeded in inserting a charge of nitro-glycerine into the "through" safe in the express car. They blew the safe to pieces and scattered its contents over the floor of the car. They made no haste. hTey had chosen a strategic position in which to stop the train. They were at least three miles from any human habitation.

After the three men had spent nearly an hour over the packages taken from the safe, the lights of two automobiles were seen drawing near from the direciton of the Oklahoma line. As they came within about 200 yards of the train on the country road the automobiles disapepared.

Passengers who had remained huddled in the coaches afraid to look out of the windows relaxed and the disorganized train crew got to their places. When the train reached this city the sheriff was notified and with two deputies tarted on horseback southward in pursuit of the six bandits.

Coffeyville, Kas., March 24.—Five men held up St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railway train No. 104 between Coffeyville and Lenapah, Okla., shortly after midnight and after looting the mail and express car escaped. The amount of the robbery is said to be $20,000.

Official Denies Report.

Little Rock, Ark, March 24.—Superintendent George F. Johnston, of the Pacific Express Company, with headquarters here, states that the men who held up and robbed Iron Mountain train No. 104 in Oklahoma last night, got no money from the express car and that all the booty secured consisted of a few "sealed packages," the value of which is not great.

"We no longer use this route for through money shipments and there was not anything like $20,000 in the car as is reported."

BENJAMIN GREEN WANTS QUIET LIFE.

By Associated Press.

Atlanta, Ga., March 24.—"I am an old man—too old, in fact, to begin the battle of life over again—and I expect to spend the rest of my days quietly with my books and my family," said Benjamin D. Greene yesterday afternoon as he boarded a train for New York after having completed a four-year term in the federal prison here for complicity in the Savannah harbor frauds case and taking the paupers oath to escape his big fine. Greene said he would make no effort to rebuild his shattered fortune but would seek out a quiet place somewhere and end his days there with his books and his family.

John F. Gaynor, who was convicted with Greene for the same offense and is still in prison here although he has completed his sentence, hopes to gain his liberty tomorrow when a hearing of his application for leave to take the paupers oath probably will be given.

Glenside Won Steeplechase.

Liverpool, March 24.—The grand national steeple chase of three thousand sovereigns, for 5-year-olds and upward was won today by Glenside, an outsider, against whom the betting was 20 to 1. Rathually was second and Shady Girl third. Twenty-six horses started.

REPORT ON SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF COTTON

By Associated Press.

Washington, D. C., The census bureau's report on the supply and distribution of cotton for the six months' period ending February [illegible]h, 1911, showed the total supply to be 12,764,173 running bales, made up of stocks at beginning of period of 1,040,040; ginnings, 11,589,552; net imports 135,581.

The distribution was:

Exports, 6,338,468.

Consumption, 2,400,776.

Stocks at close of period, 4,024,937.

General Peace Movement Planned

By Associated Press.

New York, March 24.—A public mass meeting to support the general peace movement and particularly to urge the ratification of the proposed arbitration treaty between this country and England is being arranged by Bishop Greer of the Episcopal diocese of New York to take place in the new cathedral of St. John the Divine, soon after the consecration of that edifice on April 19.

The meeting will be national in scope and Bishop Greer has written to the archbishop of Canterbury acquainting him with the plan and inviting him to be present both at the consecration exercises and the peace meeting. Other men of international note in the peace movement, including Andrew Carnegie, have expressed themselves heartily in favor of the proposed meeting.

The date of the meeting will be arranged after correspondence with England, where a similar meeting is to be held in Albert Hall through the efforts of the archbishop of Canterbury in co-operation with the free churches.

Two Killed In Boiler Explosion

By Associated Press.

Augusta, Ga., March 24.—A boiler explosion at 4 o'clock this morning caused the death of two negroes and seriously injured two white men. The Southern Railway is placing a draw in its trestle over the Savannah river here, and while the night force was working the boiler exploded because of the water being too low in it. Harry Trapp, colored, was blown into fragments; Press Somers was also killed but his body has not yet been recovered and D. C. Wyke, a white man, and W. A. Vowell of Columbia, S. C., superintendent of construction, also white, were injured. The boiler was blown two hundred feet from the trestle and landed in the middle of the river.

Statesville's News Department

Special to The News.

Statesville, March 24.—A 14-months-old child of Jas. and Laura Johnson, colored, who live on Park street, was so badly burned that it died after about four hours of intense suffering. The mother left the child in the room alone while she went to the back yard to speak to another colored woman who had called her. She heard the child scream and on rushing back into the house found its body enveloped in flames.

Will Stockton, colored, has been committed to jail by Justice King to await trial in superior court for an assault with a deadly weapon on Tom McLelland, also colored.

The will of Mrs. I. R. Alexander, of Mooresville, who died a few days ago, was filed with the clerk of court yesterday for probate. The document is dated April 15, 1908, and Mr. T. J. Williams, of Mooresville, is named as executor. The estate is valued at from $5,000 to $7,000.

Mr. Rufus Alexander, husband of Mrs. I. R. Alexander, who died years ago, willed 200 acres of land to the foreign mission board of the Southern Presbyterian church, the same to be used by Mrs. Alexander during her life. This land will now be sold and the proceeds turned over to the mission board.

The Statesville district Methodist parsonage on West Front street, has been sold to Prof. D. Matt Thompson for $3,100 and this amount, with an additional sum to be raised in the district, will be used in erecting a handsome new parsonage on the lot on Walnut street.

All three officers, 44 of the 52 privates and two buglars who compose the local military company, the Iredell Blues, underwent the annual inspection of the state and national officers Wednesday night.