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GENERAL NEWS.

Matters of Interest Condensed Into Brief Paragraphs.

The Paris exposition lost a lot of money, the expenses being greater than expected.

Prospect Hall, in Brooklyn, was burned Tuesday morning, causing a loss of \$300,000.

The Republican caucus of the house has decided to stand by the war tax reduction bill as reported to that body.

Charles A. Towne has taken his seat as United States senator from Minnesota. It is only for a few weeks until the legislature of Minnesota meets.

Holland on Tuesday finally and definitely refused to take the initiative in behalf of arbitration between the Transvaal and Great Britain.

The house on Monday passed the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, carrying \$24,496,308, with less than ten minutes' debate.

The Mail and Express says that hereafter the Seaboard and the Southern railway systems will be operated in perfect harmony, but there is to be no consolidation.

The Neely extradition case was argued in the supreme court Monday, the defense contending that under the treaty of Paris and our federal constitution McKinley's military government in Cuba was an illegal one.

There was a terrible explosion Monday in a tunnel being built on the Union Pacific, between Aspen and Hillyard, Wyoming. Twenty-five men were at work at the time of the explosion. Four men were killed and several injured.

Near Center Hill, Ga., Monday, Dr. J. W. Williams, after being shot through the body by a man named Ben Eddings, took the pistol from him and shot him dead. The doctor was taking the man, who had been drinking, home.

Edward Swanson, of Hammond, Ind., advertised as a snake charmer and eater, while exhibiting at Fort Valley, Ga., Saturday, was bitten by a huge rattler with 17 rattles, and died Sunday. The snake had been recently received from Florida, and it was guaranteed that its fangs were out, but this was a mistake.

In an opinion handed down by Chief Justice Fuller the United States supreme court on Monday affirmed the opinion of the supreme court of Georgia, in the case of R. A. Williams, against Sheriff Fear, of Morgan county. The case involved the constitutionality of the state revenue law and especially that portion of it applying to immigrant agents. Both decisions upheld the law.

In a riot at St. John's Island, S. C., late Saturday night, Edward Rivers, colored, was shot and killed by Constable Frank Gadsden, and the negroes organized for vengeance. Gadsden arrested a brother of Rivers and took him into Seabrook's store. The negroes swarmed around the place and the doors were locked. When a demand was made on Seabrook to turn the constable out to be shot he refused, and the mob threatened to burn the building. While the mob was planning for its destruction a brother of Rivers shoved his gun under a side door and fired twice, wounding Seabrook and his son. The wounded men could not get relief, and all the while the preparations for the burning of the place were going on. Assistance arrived toward morning, however, and the mob, which had begun to hesitate about starting the fire, was dispersed. A posse was sent from Charleston and restored order.

Dewet Again Escapes. May Be Serious for British.

London, Dec. 11.—The Evening Standard says that the battle between Gen. Knox and Gen. Dewet continues, the forces changing ground incessantly. A lack of definite information on the subject is said to be due to the absence of telegraphic communication with the scene of action.

London, Dec. 11.—The Times has advice that Gen. Dewet has escaped from Gen. Knox and that Gen. Botha is near. It states that if the two unite forces the consequences may be serious for the British.

Smash Your Mirror

You feel like it sometimes, don't you? It says, "My, but you are growing old fast." You know why; it's those gray hairs. Don't you know that Ayer's Hair Vigor would restore color to them, all the dark, rich color they used to have? It stops falling of the hair also, and makes the hair grow long and heavy.

If you do not obtain the benefit you desire from the use of the Vigor, write for a free trial. It is sent you free, just the thing you need. Address, Dr. J. C. Ayer, Lowell, Mass.

The Cost of Cutting an Old Atlas.

In the state department at Washington is the most comprehensive and complete set of atlases and maps to be found anywhere in this country. As can be readily appreciated, they are vitally necessary to the carrying on of the department, and therefore neither trouble nor expense is spared in keeping them constantly up to date. It would be supposed that their extreme value and importance would be patent to every one.

Some years ago, however, one of the most valuable atlases was found with two of the maps cut out. The maps had not been abstracted. They had simply been detached from the binding. Investigation proved the mutilation to be the work of a certain clerk, who on being hauled up by his superior explained why he had done it as follows:

"Those books are terribly heavy and hard to handle, and so I cut the maps out in order to get at them easier. The atlases were very old, and I didn't suppose they were of any value or that any one would care."

To the state department an atlas is like a bottle of wine to a judge of fine drinks—its value increases in direct ratio with its age. It was felt in the department that that particular clerk had mistaken his calling in life, and to him was accordingly given an opportunity to pursue another one.—New York Tribune.

Cure For Insomnia.

I suppose all of us are suffering from the invasion of electricity. My old friend Bounce, who was a victim of insomnia for 40 years, thinks he sleeps now better than any other man on earth. He lost his way in the Adirondacks and staid overnight in the cabin of a forester. His sleep was the deep sleep of a just man made perfect, and in the morning he found that he had not moved half an inch all night.

"It's the insulation," the forester insisted. "You city folks are killin' yourselves with contact. If you'll break the contact you'll be able to sleep and get your nerves back."

This matter of "contact" was finally explained to mean that our bedposts are in contact with the floors, the floors with the walls and the walls with mother earth, so that whatever personal magnetism a man has in him goes away in the nighttime, leaving him like a log on his mattress. The forester had obtained four glass insulators from telegraph poles somewhere and screwed them on the posts of his guest bed, so that the electricity could not run away. Bounce the very day he got home insulated his bed, and from that moment to the present his insomnia has been banished.—New York Press.

The Chinese Cook.

Mrs. White determined in the first flush of her newly wed dignity that she was not going to be "squeezed" by the Chinese cook and the storekeeper, as it was quite plain every one else was. Accordingly she purchased scales and weights and announced her intention of personally weighing everything. For some days this method proved very satisfactory, but she was sometimes a little puzzled on finding that the provisions occasionally weighed more than was charged for.

One day the mystery was solved. She was carefully weighing a chicken. In China not only is everything living and dead, sold by weight, but fowls are always supplied alive. The chicken during the weighing operation suddenly entered a vigorous objection and began to flap and struggle with all its might, and during these flappings and strugglings something weighty fell with a thud to the floor, evidently from somewhere about the chicken. This turned out to be a large piece of lead which had been cunningly fastened under one of the wings. Further investigation led to the discovery of a similar piece underneath the other wing. The overweight of the past few days was now accounted for.—Chambers' Journal.

Why, Indeed?

"Say, Burroughs, how about that Ever you've owed me for the last two years?"

"Oh, come, old man, why can't you let bygones be bygones?"—Philadelphia Press.

Not Left in the Dark.

"Did that horse dealer do the fair thing by you?"

"Well, he told me all the horse's mean tricks after he had sold the beast to me."—Chicago Record.

Another Fall.

100—The colonel is a corker.
101—You mean an uncorker, don't you?—Chicago News.

THE DOLLAR'S POWER.

I may go to mah Malindy when de buakin work am done.

Wif a song of honey lub to cheer her heart,
I may tell her of de pumpkins lollin' yaller in de sun.

An de golden ears of corn upon de cyart,
But she neber smile so sweetly,
An she neber dance so neatly,
An her eyes dey never twinkle in dere glee,
Lak dey do when I see her money.

An I tell her she's mah honey,
Den de shadders from de cabin up-an feel!

'Twill be frosty in de mawmin, an de rabbit mak' his track;
'Twill be possum time, an, swingin' down de hill,

I may bring de fattest feller hangin' heavy on mah back.

An call her fer to 'xamine of mah kill,
But she'll tu'n her hade away,
An she won't have much to say,
An she fussy, an she grumpy, an she queer,
But when I rattle money

Den she shorely am mah honey,
An her smile jest all de cabin wif its cheer!

Went an won a turkey gobbie at de raffle down de road.

An I tuk him home in triumf jest to see
How dem eyes of mah Malindy wid dere rapturr would 'xplode.

But she only gals a cur'ous glance at me;
Neber chuckled at de honah
Dat my luck had brought upon huh;

Aln't nothin' fer Malindy I can do
'At will set her eyes to flashin
An her lips in lughin' fashion

Lak de dollah wif de sunlight drifin' through!

It's de sunlight of de dollah dat can turn de cabin walls

Into jasper like de castle of a king
An can wake Malindy's laughter; it's de sperrit, sah, dat calls

Her heart upon her honey lips to sing!
It can scare de gloom completely,
It can set her dancin' neatly,

It can mak' her black eyes twinkle wif dere glee,
An it's when I bring her money
An I tell her she's mah honey

Dat de shadders dey jest rise right up an feel!

—Baltimore News.

The Famous Asphalt Lake.

Asphalt is being dug out of the famous tar lake of Trinidad, the most notable existing source of the material in the world, at the rate of 80,000 tons per annum. There are still 4,500,000 tons in sight, but as this rate the supply could not last long were it not that the lake bitumen referred to is receiving a constant accretion from the bowels of the earth. This accretion is reckoned as amounting to about 20,000 tons yearly and would suffice to restore the lake to its original condition if it were allowed to remain undisturbed for a few years.

This wonderful lake of pitch has an area of 114 acres, and recent soundings made in the middle of it have shown the depth to be 135 feet in that part. Near the center it is semiliquid and bubbling, but elsewhere it has so hard a surface that a man on horseback can ride over it without danger of breaking through the crust. Scattered over its surface are a number of small islands which have no proper roots in the earth, so to speak, but are composed merely of accumulations of soil, though trees of considerable size grow on some of them. These islands are not stationary, but are carried slowly from place to place by the movements of the lake. Now and then one of them is entirely engulfed.—New York Post.

Economical Training of Gunners.

The method used in the United States navy for the economical training of the gunners is very interesting. It is a well known fact that the cost of firing one of the large guns used in the navy is very great, amounting sometimes to \$1,000 or more. To save this expense a very simple method is employed. In the case of the large guns an ordinary Remington rifle is secured in the breech of the gun and directly in the center of the bore, so that when it is fired its bullet takes the same direction as that of the regular projectile. The large gun is sighted in the usual manner. On account of the lesser velocity of the small bullet the target is placed close to the ship and is made correspondingly small.

The method used for the 6 pounder or other small guns is slightly different, as instead of the small rifle a wooden or dummy cartridge is employed. Through the center of this wooden cartridge runs a rifle barrel which is loaded with a .44 caliber cartridge. This latter method has the additional advantage of giving the gun crew practice in loading as well as firing.—Washington Star.

Proof to Her.

"I am quite certain that poor man has seen 'better times,'" said Mrs. Gassam after giving breakfast to a tramp.

"No doubt," added Mr. Gassam dryly. "They all have."

"But this poor fellow didn't ask me for broken victuals. He said it grieved him to be obliged to apply for a collection."—Detroit Free Press.

To Cure a Cold in One Day

Take Laxative Balm. Rub on Throat. All coughs relieved in 10 minutes. It kills the germ. K. W. Sawyer's signature is on each box. 25c.

Knights of Pythias.

At the courthouse tonight the Pythians of the second district will hold their annual convention. The lodges at Tarboro, Washington, Greenville, Newbern, Goldsboro, Wilson, Rocky Mount and Kinston compose the second district. About 200 members of the order are expected to be in attendance, among whom will be Grand Chancellor Montcastle, of Lexington; G. V. C. McLoud, of Asheville; G. K. of R. & S. Hollowell, of Goldsboro; Grand Prelate Brown, of Kinston, and Grand Inner Guard Arrington, of Rocky Mount.

A special train will arrive about 6:30 this evening with Pythians from Goldsboro and points beyond. This train returns to Goldsboro after the banquet. The K. of P. band of Goldsboro will come on this train.

The convention will be held at the court house at 8 o'clock tonight. The convention, of course will be a secret affair, and what the Pythians do with their goat will not be known save only to the "Noble Billy" and themselves.

After the convention adjourns a banquet will be given at the opera house by Kinston Lodge, No. 66, complimentary to the ladies of No. 66 and to the visiting Pythians. Dr. H. D. Harper, Sr., will be toast master.

THE FREE PRESS welcomes the knights to Kinston. The order they represent is one of the best fraternal orders of the times, and we bid them welcome to the best town in Eastern Carolina. We hope they will form a good opinion of Kinston and Kinstonians during their short stay among us.

Harry Lindley Company.

The Newbern Journal of Dec. 11 says: Those who went to the play at the opera house last night and saw Harry Lindley and his company in the "Diamond Queen," enjoyed seeing some good acting.

The "Diamond Queen" is a melodrama and it abounds in pathos in which there is enough humor to relieve it from being too sad, and last night the audience appreciated the characters portrayed, being liberal in its applause.

Mr. Lindley, who was here about ten years ago, was welcomed by many who remembered him.

The specialties between acts were very good, and greatly pleased the audience. Little Mystic in songs, Geo. Secord in character songs, and William Lawrence in former monologue were liberally rewarded with applause.

Superior Court.

In the matter of N. B. Moore vs. T. B. Brown the jury returned a verdict for defendant yesterday. There was a mistrial in this case last August, the jury standing 11 to 1 in favor of plaintiff.

The case of J. W. Perry vs. Copeland & Co. for damages in the trading of horses was tried yesterday afternoon and the jury returned a verdict of \$40 for plaintiff. This was an appeal from a J. P.'s court, where the same damages were awarded.

The case of Alice Moore vs. Ben Sutton and M. H. Quinley was called this morning, but the death of Sheriff Sutton was suggested and the case was continued to make new parties.

There were several cases being heard against the Kinston Lumber company this morning.

Hill's Candidacy Announced.

Chicago, Dec. 10.—The Chronicle will say tomorrow: "David Bennett Hill, ex-governor of New York, and former United States senator, is to be a prominent candidate for the presidency on the Democratic ticket in 1904. A declaration that is equivalent to a personal announcement by the New York man was made here last night, by James K. McGuire, Mr. Hill's political lieutenant, mayor of Syracuse and chairman of the executive committee of the state organization."

It Just Can't Be Stopped.

News-Observer.

One minister at the Methodist conference in Newbern, discussing the report on Sunday observance said: "Courting ought to be stopped on the Lord's day." Maybe it ought, but it will not be as long as the girls look as sweet on that day as on any other. And how can you stop that?

The Best Prescription for Chills

and Fever is a bottle of GERRY'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC. It is simply iron and quinine in a tasteless form. No cure—no pay. Price, 25c.

His Suspensions Would Have Been Announced.

"It's funny about some people, Limby."

"Guess yer right, Weary."

"Now, you kin just bet that if any feller had robbed me of \$700,000 I wouldn't have to wait around till some other feller found it out."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Wanted the Agony Over.

Victim—Say, hurry up and get through shaving me as quick as you can.

Barber—Why, you said you had plenty of time when you got into the chair.

Victim—I know, but that was before you tried that razor on me.—Philadelphia Press.

White's Black Lintment—full size 25c bottle for 15c. It cures pain.
J. E. Hood.

STATE NEWS.

Interesting North Carolina Items in Condensed Form.

The Weldon Oil Mills were destroyed by fire Monday night.

Fayetteville Observer: Deer are plentiful in this vicinity and our market is constantly supplied with venison.

The new census gives Charlotte 18,091 population, an increase of 6,434 from 1890; Raleigh 13,643, an increase of 965; Greensboro 10,035, an increase of 6,718.

Near Statesville Saturday night George Rameur and Jim Grant, both colored, got into a fuss and Grant shot Rameur with a shot-gun, killing him instantly. Grant escaped.

Near Raleigh Tuesday a youth shot and killed his father, Jubal Gooch, because the latter was beating the mother of the boy. The father was drunk and beat the woman unmercifully.

Five hundred bales of cotton belonging to the Florence Mill company were destroyed by fire at Forest City Sunday afternoon. The loss is estimated at about \$30,000. The cause of the fire is not known.

Smithfield Herald: Mr. William Henry Lassiter, of Elevation township, planted six acres in tobacco this year. He sold his entire crop on the floor of the Banner warehouse for \$1,106.18, an average of \$184.36 per acre.

J. L. York, the young man of Fayetteville convicted in the federal court of using the U. S. mails for fraudulent purposes, was sentenced Monday to six months imprisonment and to pay a fine of \$200 and costs.

It is said by cotton mill people from Alamance that the total number of striking operatives there was 4,000; that over half of them are now at work and that only 130 men, women and children operatives have gone to the south.

The penitentiary authorities have established a convict camp on the line of the East Carolina railway, near Tarboro, and put 100 convicts there, these being taken from the Roanoke farm where they had finished the work of harvesting the crops.

Capt. Arthur Lassiter, conductor of the northbound freight train on the Seaboard Air Line, while pulling his train at Henderson Monday, was run over and crushed by the switch engine. He lived about an hour and a half. He was a young man of 23 years.

Tarboro Southerner: The cotton factory which we some months ago reported was being talked in Conetoe is taking shape. Subscriptions for the factory are being taken. No difficulty is expected about obtaining \$50,000 with which to build, etc. It is proposed to start with this amount, but with a view to enlarging later on.

Amos Green, a worthy negro carpenter living two miles from Goldsboro on the lands of Weil Bros., lost a barn, 75 bushels of corn, a mule, a cow, a wagon, a buggy and farming implements by fire Sunday night. Loss about \$450. The fire was of incendiary origin, the party who did the firing being tracked to and from the property destroyed, a distance of about a half mile. The loss falls heavily upon the old colored man.

Salisbury Sun: Another death is reported in the county as a result of the careless handling of a pistol. Two negro men were drinking together and having a good time Saturday evening at Dr. Cowan's place, west of Salisbury. One of them put cartridges in a pistol and handed the weapon to the other. In a few minutes the weapon was accidentally discharged, and the man who loaded it fell with a bullet hole in his head. The wounded man died in about an hour.

Greensboro Record: A very neat job was executed Saturday night at the store of Stack Bros. on South Asia street. They do a general grocery business and on Saturday nights it is late when they close up. Of course under such circumstances, with a large trade, they are generally kept busy. Anyway when they left they thought they had everything all right; however that may be, when some one went to the store yesterday morning the safe door was found open and \$700 in clean, cold cash had taken its flight.

10,109,000 BALES.

Estimate of the Government of the Present Cotton Crop.

Washington, Dec. 10.—The statistician of the agricultural department reports 10,109,000 bales as the probable cotton production of the United States for 1900-1901. In the making of this estimate the same methods and agencies have been used that were employed last year. Many thousands of ginners, however, made reports for the first time. The estimated yield in pounds of lint cotton per acre is as follows: Virginia, 180; North Carolina, 199; South Carolina, 167; Georgia, 172; Florida, 136; Alabama, 151; Mississippi, 159; Louisiana, 234; Texas, 226; Arkansas, 223; Tennessee, 177; Missouri, 275; Oklahoma, 315; Indian territory, 289. The average, after eliminating all land from which no crop whatever will be gathered, is estimated at 25,034,734.