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FRESH GOSSIP OF THE OLD NORTH STATE.

Odd and Interesting Happenings From Every Section.

One Negro Lured to His Death by Another—A Night of Crime in Durham—Black Brute Shot Dead—Industrial Information—Accidental Deaths—Variety of Gossip

As yet nothing more has been heard at Raleigh from J. J. Wolfenden, of Newbern, who expressed a desire to become buyer of all the State's swamp lands. The engineer of the State board of education has been awaiting the pleasure of Mr. Wolfenden, who is making a tour of these lands. It is the opinion here that the board will make Col. W. B. Rodman, of Washington, its agent for all these lands. It is said by the engineer that there ought to be a forester or caretaker for these lands, as in no other way can depredations on the timber be discovered and prevented. The saw mill "pirates" have for years played havoc with the State's timber.

John Morgan and Ed Hicks, colored, were neighbors on the same plantation in Wake county near the Durham county line. Sunday Hicks sent for Morgan to come and spend the evening and the invitation was accepted. When Morgan was seated by the fire Hicks went out for an armful of wood and brought an ax in with him. He laid down the wood and without a word struck Morgan with the ax and killed him. Hicks escaped.

Before the corporation commission Monday there were several hearings. The furniture manufacturers asked for a reclassification of freight rates. The people of Charlotte asked for action in regard to warehouse charges on through freight. Persons at Hickory in the milling business asked that the commission allow grain in transit to be ground there and then as flour or meal to be shipped to its destination.

Charlotte News: The gold mining plant of Williamson & Wakeling eight miles from Asheville, has been burned. Loss about \$5,000; insurance \$1,770. The plant will be rebuilt at once and new machinery ordered. The owners are Canadians and are enthusiastic over their prospects in the gold mining line, and will rebuild on an extensive scale.

The governor respite until April 3, Henry Shaw, colored, under sentence to be hanged at Lumberton for murder. It appears that the judge sentenced him to be hanged in fifteen or twenty days after his conviction. The people thought he ought to have more time. His attorneys also want more time in order to look into the question of Shaw's sanity.

Governor Aycock and his staff will go to Charleston over the Seaboard Air Line, leaving Raleigh April 7. It is not as yet decided over which route the composite regiment of infantry, 550 strong, will go. The battery of light artillery and four perhaps five, divisions of naval reserves will go on the auxiliary cruiser "Hornet."

Active preparations are being made for the opening of the tobacco market at Raleigh. Three leaf warehouses will be opened. From all accounts there is to be a remarkable increase in the tobacco acreage in this section, particularly in the southern and eastern parts of this county, where the soil is light and sandy.

King's Greenville Weekly: Mr. Wheeler Martin, of Williamston, was here one day last week. He says Williamston is making big preparations for a big tobacco business. He said that almost every farmer was going into tobacco and new barns were dotting the county all over.

Mr. James E. Lee, ticket agent of the Southern Railway at Durham, was sandwiched Sunday evening by thieves who took his keys, a gold watch and \$25 from his pocket. With the keys they entered the office and stole \$400 from the safe.

One night's crime record in Durham: A man sandwiched and robbed; another man held up on the street at the point of a revolver; another man murderously assaulted; a passenger on a passing train narrowly escaped a flying bullet.

The son of Mr. Lafayette Isenhour, of Wintonsburg township, Alexander county, while out hunting fell off a log and his gun was discharged. The lead took him in the neck and death resulted almost instantly.

John Will McNeil brutally beat a

colored woman and she sought refuge in Charles Taylor's home. McNeil tried to force an entrance and was shot dead by Taylor, who was arrested and acquitted.

The two-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Z. T. Fulcher, of Newbern, picked up a button Sunday, placed it in his mouth and it slipped into his windpipe. He struggled to death before a physician arrived.

State Auditor Dixon was stricken with astonishment Monday by the return of a pension warrant, a letter accompanying it saying that the pensioner did not need the money.

On the 11th of this month there will be a good roads congress at Hillsboro, for the county of Orange. The people there are to vote on the issue of \$100,000 of road bonds.

Ella Abbott, aged 66, of Meadows, Stokes county, attended an old-fashioned wood cutting, got in the way of a falling tree and was crushed to death.

Judge Timberlake, who was mentioned as likely to be appointed assistant district attorney for the eastern district, says he would not accept the position.

Durham has a new city directory, which shows the present population to be 12,935, a gain of 5,760 since the taking of the 1900 census.

The State charters the Hencke Live Stock company, of Statesville; capital, \$60,000. The stockholders are from a score of places.

The outlook for a State baseball league is now very promising. It is probable that Goldsboro will be a member.

The Blanche Hosiery Mills Co. has been organized in Orange county, capital stock to be \$15,000.

The State board of pharmacy is called to meet at Raleigh April 8, to examine applicants for license.

They are picking strawberries near Wilmington.

A Thing to Remember.
A donkey who had been carefully raised by his master gained so much knowledge that he could not help considering himself a superior being.

"I am too modest to throw high priced bouquets at myself," he soliloquized. "But the fact remains that I have distanced them all. I can lie down at command and roll over. With the assistance of sundry winks and nods from All Hassan, my master, I can pick the different pasteboards from a card pack. There is no other donkey in the world that can shake hands like me. People crowd over one another to see me walk on my hind legs. As for dancing, queens of the ballroom say that I waltz like an angel."

"True, true," said a wise old owl, who was listening to the donkey. "You are a paragon and are not to be blamed for realizing the fact. But you must not forget one thing."

"What is that?" asked the educated donkey.

"That you are only an ass," quietly remarked the owl.

Moral.—When a person thinks he is better than others, he should carefully avoid the looking glass.

An Odd Betrothal.

It is said that a certain servant in a moment of weariness with domestic duties said, "Rather than go on like this month after month forever I'll ask the first man who passes if he wants a wife."

Her fellow servant challenged her to put the question to a man just then passing by. The young woman was not prepared to be taken at her word so suddenly, but in desperation, she thought herself for a way of escape. She was Welsh and hurriedly exclaimed as the unknown was passing, "A oes cisiau gwraig arnoch chwif?" ("Do you want a wife?")

"Oes" ("Yes") was the unexpected reply from the young man, who also hailed from the principality, and, with Celtic sprightliness, followed into the hall the blushing girl, who had fed upon hearing the familiar word. The maid, a farmer's daughter, was buxom and neat, the swain was an industrious and ambitious young dealer with promising prospects, and soon "merrily rang the wedding bells."

Industrious Old Clock.

At quaint old Castletown, the "metropolis" of the Isle of Man, there exists a very interesting clock, which has now performed its functions of time telling in five centuries. It was presented by Queen Elizabeth in the year 1507 to Castle Rushen, the fortress which stands in the middle of Castletown, from which the town takes its name. The works are crude, being driven by ropes and pulleys, but nevertheless they keep fair time. The clock, in fact, has run ever since it was built, except for rare stoppages for repairs. To this day the single hand which travels slowly round the dial outside the tower of Castle Rushen is the principal source of information as to the hour to the inhabitants of Castletown. A timepiece which has worked continuously for more than 300 years is something of a real curiosity.—*Jewelry Circular.*

RECIPROCITY WITH CUBA WILL SOON BE ESTABLISHED.

REPUBLICANS WANT ALL THE CREDIT.

Democrats are All in Favor of Complete Reciprocity.

Special Message From The President May be Required—Argument Begun on Proposed Change in Manner of Paying Rural Delivery Carriers—Mrs. Jeff. Davis Ill.

Washington, D. C., March 3.—Congress will pass at this session a bill providing reciprocity with Cuba in a manner satisfactory to the administration. This means that it will provide for a reduction in the duty on sugar, which is the principal thing to be considered, of over 27 per cent, the minimum amount necessary to meet the requirements of the Cuban situation.

The bill will originate in the ways and means committee, and will be first passed by the house of representatives, although it will probably not be satisfactory to the administration until after it has been amended by the senate, and, like most bills of that character, it will doubtless take its final form in the conference committee of the two houses.

It may require a special message from President Roosevelt emphasizing what he said in his annual message about the needs of Cuba to bring this about. If so, as the president has repeatedly assured the leaders of the house, the message will be forthcoming.

The president, however, will await an intimation from the leaders that the message is needed before sending it in, and if he has to send it in it will be a vigorous document. It may be asked for by the house leaders in order to bring enough of the Republicans into line to carry through a Cuban reciprocity measure without the assistance of the Democrats, which could be had. It is designed in this, as in the case of the Philippine tariff bill, and in the case of the Babcock tariff revision proposition, to keep the settlement of the matter entirely within the Republican party in the house.

If President Roosevelt sends in a special message, insisting upon this relief for Cuba, the leaders will find it comparatively easy to bring enough of the unwilling Republicans into support of the measure to carry it through by telling them that they can put the responsibility in dealing with objecting constituents upon the chief leader of the party.

The house leaders have served notice that they will insist upon treating the Cuban reciprocity question and the Babcock tariff revision proposition as totally distinct, and as they are under no pressure from the administration for the passage of the Babcock proposition they believe they can keep it safely locked up in the ways and means committee.

The house leaders realize that the party is as much divided by the Babcock proposition as by that for Cuban reciprocity, and also that the tariff revision sentiment is growing. They know that President Roosevelt himself does not look un-

favorably upon it and that he would be ready to approve a bill embodying that proposition if it should come to him. But they think that the safer way is to prevent action upon it, notwithstanding the warnings of its advocates that this policy will cost the Republicans a considerable number of seats in the next house at the polls next fall.

Mrs. Jeff Davis Very Ill.
New Orleans, La., March 4.—Mrs. Jefferson Davis, widow of the last president of the Confederacy, lies seriously ill in her apartments at the St. Charles Hotel. She reached New Orleans Saturday and, though indisposed, no alarm was felt over her condition until yesterday, when she became much worse, and no one was permitted to see her except her physician and nurse.

She is suffering acute rheumatism, complicated with heart trouble, and her extreme old age militates against the efforts of the physician to combat the disease. The near relatives have been summoned, and her daughter, Mrs. Hayes, is expected to arrive tomorrow.

THE CONTRACT SYSTEM.

The Bill to Classify the Free Rural Delivery Service.

The house began the consideration of the bill to classify the rural free delivery service and place the carriers under the contract system. Mr. Loud (Cal.) Chairman of the committee on postoffices and post roads, made the opening argument in favor of the bill, speaking for two and a half hours. Mr. Swanson (Va.) led the opposition.

Mr. Loud declared that upon the solution of this question would depend whether the rural free delivery service would cost ultimately sixty or twenty million dollars per annum. The rural free delivery service up to this time, he said, had been a political one and it had given many members of congress their first taste of the sweets of public patronage. He traced the history and rapid growth of the service and its cost, declaring that it was the most extravagant in the public service. At the inception the carriers received \$300 per annum. They now receive \$600. If the salary system was continued they would receive \$800 or \$900. At the present time \$850,000 was being spent for the supervisory force.

Mr. Loud charged that a promise had gone forth that if the present system was continued the members of congress would control the appointment of the carriers in the future as they had in the past.

Mr. Swanson (Va.) argued that the present system would be more advantageous to the rural communities than the contract system. He contended that if the service were made effective it would eventually become self-supporting.

CHARLESTON TRIP STANDS.

President Roosevelt Decides to Visit the Exposition.

Washington, D. C., March 4.—The president will go to Charleston to attend the exposition, Tillman or no Tillman. This assurance he gave to a com-

mittee of representative citizens from the South Carolina metropolis, when they called upon him at the white house to urge him not to abandon his idea of visiting their fair and their city. Incidentally the committee told the president that the letter of Lieut. Governor Tillman regarding the sword presentation was simply the view of an individual, and did not represent the sentiment of the people.

The committee arrived at the white house promptly at 1 o'clock, and was immediately given an audience with the president. It informed him that plans for entertainment while in Charleston had been completed, and March 17 was fixed as the date of the visit.

Bryan Advises Democrats.

Pittsburg, March 4.—"The Democrats of this nation must watch the tide of events and then select a candidate for president to fit a new policy." This was the statement made here by William Jennings Bryan, the last standard-bearer of the Democrats in a presidential campaign. Mr. Bryan did not come here to take any active part in politics, but to lecture for the benefit of the Kingsley House association, in Allegheny.

"What in your opinion will be the next national issue," he was asked.

"It is too early to determine that. Conditions which may arise between now and then likely will determine that. A man meets with new temptations every day, but there is one determining principle that guides him in his actions."

Charles Broadway Rouse Dead.

Charles Broadway Rouse, the blind multi-millionaire who offered \$1,000,000 for the restoration of his sight, and who was the father of all the "racket stores" throughout the country, died of heart disease at New York Monday. He first engaged in business in Winchester, Va., served in the Confederate army and then went to New York in 1865. He had been in business there continually from that time. He erected at his own expense a monument to dead Confederate soldiers in Mount Hope Cemetery, that city founded a physical laboratory at the University of Virginia, and gave \$100,000 for a Confederate monument to be located at Richmond, Va.

Democrats in Fighting Trim.

Washington, D. C., March 4.—The Democratic congressional committee is to be thoroughly reorganized. Representative Richardson, of Tennessee, who for four years has been chairman of the committee, has declined the place and will be succeeded by Representative Griggs, of Georgia, despite protests of eastern and northern Democrats, who argue that he is distinctly a southern man, and as that section is safely Democratic it would be better politics to put in a man who would work for success where Republicans have made the greatest gains.

Senate Seeks a Little Calm.

Washington, D. C., March 4.—An investigation of the charges preferred against Senator McLaurin by Senator Tillman that he had been influenced by corrupt methods to vote for the Paris Peace Treaty will not be hurried at present. The reason for this delay is that it is considered advisable to permit the recent bad feeling incited by the Tillman-McLaurin personal encounter entirely to subside before the matter is again brought up before the senate.

Against the Panama Canal.

Washington, D. C., March 4.—The subcommittee of the senate committee on inter-oceanic canals, charged with ascertaining the title of the Panama Canal company to its property, prepared its report, and, contrary to expectation, decided against the route. It was agreed to recommend to the full committee that the legal complications surrounding the Panama offer are such that the United States should not accept it.

Man Hiccoughed to Death.

Pittsburg, Pa., March 4.—Attacked by hiccoughs last Tuesday, Jerome Rome, of Etna, died today, killed by the malady, from which he could get no relief. For days before his death he was unable to open his mouth or talk, because of the contraction of his facial and throat muscles. A pathetic incident of his death was his futile efforts to speak a last word to his wife as the end came.

How They Do It in Hungary.

Budapest, March 4.—Count Stefan Tisza and M. Radovsky, members of the house of representatives, fought a duel with swords. Radovsky was severely wounded in the arm, after an unusually fierce encounter. The duel was the outcome of an exchange of vituperations in the diet.

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THERE'S BEEN A CARNIVAL OF PETTY CRIME.

Unusually Large Criminal Docket for Coming Term of Court.

All the Little Crimes of the Calendar Are Represented and There Are Plenty of White and Black Offenders—Ordinary Civil Calendar—Court Convenes Monday.

Kinston has a fair reputation for law and order, but an evil spirit seems to have been rampant during the past few months, and there is an unusually long criminal docket for the March term of court. But there is another cause for the many petty cases and that is that Kinston and Lenoir county officers of the law are vigilant and attentive to their duty, and when an offender offends he is promptly brought to book. Other places might have a longer list of crimes with half the number of cases, because they would be passed over.

There are, up to date, 129 cases on the criminal docket, but there are no atrocious crimes, and even those which are catalogued under harsh sounding names are mostly of a petty nature.

The list includes assault and battery, carrying concealed weapons, contempt of court, cruelty to animals, assault with a deadly weapon, false swearing, forgery, arson, trespass, gambling and house breaking. The 129 cases so far docketed are the product of the town justices and the mayor's court, and the grist from the county is still to be added, so that it is already evident that only a part of them can be disposed of in the first week of court, which will be devoted to them, nor is it likely they can all be cleared up in the April term, which is for jail cases only. There are 29 presentments for the grand jury and all in which true bills are found will go to the April term.

The summons docket contains 29 cases, many of them being suits brought by the assignees of S. H. Loftin. These will not be tried at this term.

There are 88 cases on the civil docket, none of which are of interest to anybody but the litigants.

Court will convene at 10 a. m. Monday next, Judge E. W. Timberlake presiding, and this is the week of preparation, when lawyers are preparing their cases and litigants and witnesses are getting in line.

It is altogether probable that so much business will go over that a special term will be necessary before the regular November term.

HORSE NOTES.

Lady Massey, who was purchased in this country two years ago by "Tod" Sloan for Frank Gardner, has become one of the best hurdle performers in England.

George Ketcham has extended an invitation to Prince Henry to take a spin behind Creeseus while at Toledo. If the Prince accepts, Ketcham will do the driving.

Willie Caywood is being flooded with offers to ride abroad this season. His latest offer is from a Russian nobleman, who offers him a retainer of \$6,000.

Imp, the great race mare, who during her career on the turf earned more than \$67,000, is now in the stud. She will be mated with Imp, Topgallant. That the running qualities of the "Coal Black Lady" were appreciated by many horsemen is evidenced by the offer of Captain S. S. Brown, the Pittsburg millionaire, for her first foal. He says he will pay \$10,000 for it if it is a colt and \$5,000 if it is a filly.

Perhaps the most noted brood mare in America, Imp, Ben My Cree, by Galopin-Uster Queen, foaled a bay filly by Kingston at the Castleton stud of James R. Keene. The filly is a half-sister to Cap and Bells, the only American-bred winner of the classic English Oaks. A bay filly by Imp, Woolsthorpe, dam Beccas, was dropped at Oakwood stud, the first of his get to be foaled in America.

The era of high prices for trotting stallions closed in 1893, when Arion, Stamboul, Director, Conductor, Ralph Wilkes, Constantine, Athol and Belvoir were sold for \$25,000 or more each. In the following year Sidney Leitch \$27,000 at auction, and the price paid for him stood as the record from that day until \$50,000 was paid for the black son of Mambrino King.

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