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FRESH GOSSIP OF THE OLD NORTH STATE.

Odd and Interesting Happenings From Every Section.

Congressmen Will Protest Against the State's Small Share in River and Harbor Appropriations--Cotton Mill Insurance Movement--Variety of Short State Stories.

The majority of the North Carolina delegation in congress are outspoken against the report of the house committee on river harbors and are ready now to begin warfare on the measure.

Cotton Mill Men Organize.

Charlotte Observer: Mill men from the Carolinas representing property valued, in the aggregate, at between \$10,000,000 and \$20,000,000, met in this city and organized their own insurance company.

Speaking of the reason for the organization of the Southern Manufacturing Mutual Fire Insurance company, Mr. James R. Young, of Raleigh, said:

"The cotton mills of the State have been heretofore largely insured by New England Mutual companies, which are owned and operated largely by cotton mill proprietors of the north."

SHORT STATE STORIES.

Greensboro is enthusiastic in favor of improved roads. Several miles of roadway have been macadamized as the result of voluntary contributions on the part of citizens.

About 9 o'clock Tuesday night an attempt was made to enter the home of R. Hibbard, near Trinity college, Durham.

While playing with matches Monday afternoon, little Bonnie, the four-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. B. T. Bailey, at Greenville, accidentally set his clothing on fire and was so terribly burned that he died at 4 o'clock Tuesday morning.

was killed near Landis, about sixteen miles below Salisbury. He had spent the day in Salisbury and was returning to Landis, when he jumped from the platform while the train was moving at a high rate of speed. Death was instantaneous.

Monroe Covington, colored, of Greensboro, aged twenty years, was shot and killed in the room occupied by a negro girl named Hattie Eckles, at Fayetteville.

Walter Ewart, a young farmer near Charlotte, lost his right arm and will probably die from a peculiar accident. He was holding a gun talking to a negro when the gun fell, the trigger striking the door sill, causing the gun to explode.

John and Emily Hubbard, the negroes charged with the murder of Seymour Shoffner, a young white man, of Greene township, ten days ago, were given a preliminary hearing at Greensboro and were remanded to jail to await trial at the next term of Superior court.

Mr. Wm. A. Blount, Jr., said that his firm lost between thirty and fifty thousand feet of lumber in the log caused by the rise of water at Seven Springs on Neuse river. The logs were taken by the current down the river and out to the ocean; very few were saved.

Railway communication with all the points west of Asheville was re-established Thursday. The first through train from the west in over a week arrived in the afternoon and traffic on all roads entering the city has been resumed.

The board of county commissioners in session at Washington, offered a reward of \$200 for the arrest and conviction of the murderer of John Caton, at Edwards' Mill last month. They also requested the governor to offer the usual State reward.

Lovely Smith, of Fayetteville, a well known colored woman, was fatally burned Thursday. A spark from a passing locomotive set fire to the grass in her yard and in attempting to extinguish it, her dress caught fire.

Miss Maggie Baker has brought suit against the Raleigh cotton mills for \$10,000. She was employed there and sustained an injury by which one of her hands was permanently disabled.

Col. W. E. Rodman has designated the Washington light infantry as one company to make up the composite State regiment that will go to the Charleston exposition.

The two Statesville boys who were bitten by a mad dog have been discharged cured from the Pasteur Institute at Baltimore and are at home well and happy.

The jury in the case of Miss Mattie Baker against the Raleigh Cotton Mill returned a verdict in favor of the plaintiff, and fixed the damages at \$2,500.

The store of Mr. G. W. Kirsey, in which the postoffice was kept at Thermal City, has been robbed and afterwards burned. There is no clue.

A state baseball league seems now to be assured, with six clubs representing Raleigh, Greensboro, Newbern, Wilmington, Durham and Charlotte.

No trace or clue has yet been found to the robbers who snatched Ticket Agent Lee at Durham Sunday night.

To Protect the President.

Washington, March 7.—Before consideration of the shipping bill was resumed an extended debate occurred on the measure providing for the protection of the president of the United States.

Something Like One. "Did you notice how she jabbered away when she sat there between those two men?" "Goodness, yes! It made me think of a tongue sandwich—Philadelphia Bulletin.

It is human nature to desire to be equal to your superiors and superior to your equals.—Chicago News.

THE CABLE CO'S PIANO SALE will close next week. We have a few left that will be sold at Bargain or Easy terms. We also have some Second-Hand Pianos and Organs that you can buy at your own price. Remember the sale will close next week. THE CABLE CO., in the House Store, near A. & N. C. depot, Kinston, N. C.

SHIP SUBSIDY BILL FROM A BUSINESS VIEW-POINT.

ABLY DISCUSSED BY SENATOR HANNA.

Subsidized Ships as an Auxiliary to the Navy.

Ninety-five Per Cent. of the Cost Will Go to American Labor--Prince Henry's Visit to Boston, Made Doctor of Laws--Speeches Against Contract Rural Free Delivery.

Washington, March, 7.—A notable speech was made in the senate by Mr. Hanna, of Ohio, on the pending shipping bill, which he discussed from the standpoint of an American business man.

Early in the session, Mr. Frye, in charge of the pending shipping bill, obtained an agreement that the senate should vote on the measure and all pending amendments at 3 p. m. Monday, March 17, that time being entirely satisfactory to those opposed to the bill.

Mr. Clay, of Georgia, resumed his speech. He predicted the complete failure of the pending measure. Natural conditions alone, he argued, could increase the foreign carrying trade of the United States.

Mr. Hanna then addressed the senate, his remarks being principally in answer to the statements made by Mr. Clay in his speech. He said that when Mr. Clay quoted from Mr. Frye's remarks that all that there was in this question which required legislation was embraced in the one question of labor, he was correct.

The whole argument of Senator Clay, he said, was based on the fact that it is costing us more than it ought to, while at the same time and in the same breath he gloried in the fact that the United States has but recently leaped to the front and is now a world power.

"Will anybody deny," said he, "the importance, the absolute necessity of having an auxiliary for our navy in the shape of the merchant marine shaped under the direction of the Navy Department, and in time of war, absolutely in the hands and under the control of the president of the United States to use it in the most effective manner?"

Mr. Tillman interrupted and a colloquy ensued during which Mr. Tillman asked why, if J. P. Morgan found it a good investment to buy English ships, the Kaiser did not have his yacht built there.

"Perhaps the senator has not heard of the success and prestige of America in the yachting line," suggested Mr. Hanna amid laughter. The German Emperor,

he said, wanted the best yacht and therefore he came here.

Mr. Hanna declared that not an American ship yard had a contract for another merchant vessel after the nine or ten vessels now under contract were finished.

The Philippine Archipelago was the key to the Orient, said he, and when it had become a naval station surrounded by all the protection that a maritime fleet would need, it would become a factor in our commercial conditions in the Orient.

PRINCE HENRY IN BOSTON. Had a Lively Time and Received an Honorable Degree.

Boston, March 7.—Prince Henry was the guest of Boston yesterday. He was in the city 24 hours and was kept exceedingly busy 17 hours.

Governor Winthrop, Murray Crane and Mayor Collins, acting for the state and the city extended the official courtesies to him, and when the Prince had ceremoniously returned their calls he went to Cambridge to deliver the gifts of his brother, the Kaiser, to the Germanic museum and to receive from Harvard the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

Prince Henry's first act at the Harvard University shortly after he received the degree was to propose and lead three cheers for President Roosevelt, who is a Harvard alumnus. The Prince received a cablegram from the Emperor congratulating him on his newest honor.

At night the Prince was given a dinner by the city of Boston and sat at a table with more than 200 of the representative citizens of the commonwealth.

The prince's special train left Boston early this morning for Albany, N. Y., where he spent about two hours, then proceeded to West Point to inspect America's great soldier factory and will reach New York city this evening.

Klutz Speaks Against the Bill.

Washington, D. C., March 7.—The house devoted another day to debate upon the bill to classify the rural free delivery service and to place the carriers under contract. Little interest was manifested in the discussion. Among the speakers today were Klutz, (N. C.), Livingston, (Ga.), and Latimer, (S. C.), against the bill.

Reached a Verdict by Prayer.

Chicago, March 6.—A verdict sentencing Robert Randolph to the penitentiary for eighteen years for killing John Ford was reached by the jury after fervent prayer, says the Chronicle's Hopkinsville, Ky., special:

When the jurors retired to their room the foreman said:

"Gentlemen, this is a serious case we have to decide. A man's life may be forfeited by our decision. How many Christians are among us?"

Nine men raised their hands.

"Will one of you lead in prayer?"

asked the foreman. One of the oldest jurors said he would do his best. All knelt and a most earnest and impressive prayer was offered. Balloting was then begun. Several jurors were in favor of a life sentence and others for terms as short as eight years. The jury finally agreed on eighteen years.

PREVENT INCREASED INSURANCE

Why Should North Carolinians Stand an Imposition?

The Raleigh News-Observor prints a vigorous protest in black face type against the action of the northern insurance companies in advancing the rate for certain lines of insurance in this State 25 per cent. The subject is one of the greatest importance to Kinston, Lenoir county and in fact the entire State, and THE FREE PRESS joins the insurance war against the north and reproduces the article with emphatic approval:

During the past three years the amount paid in premiums on fire insurance policies has been nearly two million dollars more than the amount of losses in North Carolina.

To be exact, it has been \$1,965,798.78. In the face of this profitable business for the insurance companies—the most profitable known in the history of North Carolina—comes the news that the insurance companies have arbitrarily made an increase of 25 per cent. in the rate for a large class of insurance risks.

Is North Carolina to be taxed for the heavy losses in New Jersey? It has been widely advertised that North Carolina's new insurance law is excellent, and its administration has been markedly efficient. The towns and cities have spent money to provide good fire departments. Insurance Commissioner Young has been vigilant to secure the prosecution of parties suspected of burning insured property. The State has enacted wise laws. The profit on North Carolina insurance business in three years (from which expenses are to be deducted) is nearly two million dollars. What returns do we have for these things? An arbitrary increase in the insurance rate because certain insurance companies have suffered heavy losses in other states.

The losses by fire in North Carolina have been less during 1901 than for any year since the insurance department has been established. The ratio of loss went as low as 40, whereas three years ago it was 60. This is taken with the dollar paid in as the basis; that is, last year for every dollar received by the companies, 40c was paid out in losses, whereas three years ago in this State, for every dollar paid in, 60c was paid out in losses. There has been a gradual decrease in this ratio during these three years, until the 40c ratio has been reached.

It is impossible yet to arrive at the amount of fire losses during 1901, as the reports have not yet been aggregated and figured up, but the above ratio is substantially correct. The expense generally figured on by the companies is 38c out of the dollar. Accordingly, this shows a profit to the companies in this State last year of 23c on the dollar. This is considered an excellent condition of affairs in insurance circles.

During the year ending December 31st, 1900, the total of premiums received by North Carolina companies was \$208,021.03, and the total amount of losses paid \$52,817.98. For companies of other States doing business in North Carolina, the premiums received were \$765,082.49, and the losses paid out were \$950,836.65. Premiums received by foreign companies doing business in the State amounted to \$369,162.16, and the losses paid were \$176,187.95. This makes a grand total for the State of \$1,342,265.68 in premiums received, and \$759,292.58 in losses paid during the year 1900. This gives a ratio of a little more than 45.

For the year ending December 31st, 1899, the premiums by North Carolina companies amounted to \$174,871.12, and the losses paid aggregated \$64,160.98. Companies of other states doing business in North Carolina received in premiums \$649,280.77, and paid out in losses \$286,688.62. The premiums received by companies of foreign countries amounted to \$384,518.00, and the losses paid were \$141,677.64. This shows a grand total for 1899 of \$1,158,669.98 in premiums received, and \$492,522.19 in losses paid, a ratio of about 42 1/2.

The grand total of premium receipts in North Carolina for the year ending December 31st, 1898, was \$1,006,774.53, and the grand total of losses paid was \$470,096.55, a ratio of more than 46 1/2. These figures speak trumpet-tongued against the arbitrary increase of the rate in North Carolina, and they ought to secure a reversal of the order imposing the increase. If in three years the profits on fire insurance has been \$2,000,000, why should not North Carolina have more home companies? By encouraging home companies the people are building up agencies that will save them from large increases which follow large losses in great northern cities.

NEWS NUGGETS.

A landslide on the Illinois Central Railroad near Rosine Tunnel caused the death of three men.

It is expected that the Norfolk street car strike will be settled today by arbitration. The few cars run yesterday were heavily guarded, but in spite of that one car was wrecked. The city was in darkness again.

An explosion in the Catsburg mine of the Monongahela River Consolidated Coal and Coke company at Monongahela, Pa., resulted in the death of five men and serious injury of several others, two fatally.

HIS DEATH SHROUDED IN MYSTERY

Body of William Morgan Disinterred for Autopsy.

Doctors Conclude He Died From Natural Causes and Was Robbed Before Being Discovered by His Friends—Head Wounds Not Serious—There Should Have Been an Inquest.

THE FREE PRESS contained an account Tuesday of the finding of the dead body of Wm. Morgan, colored, in a ditch on Mr. Speight Sutton's farm, in Neuse township. From bruises on the body foul play was suspected.

Yesterday inquiry was made as to the finding of the coroner's jury. With much surprise it was learned that no inquest was held.

Thursday the coroner of the county, Mr. R. W. Pope, accompanied by Mr. Seth Davis, went to the place where the death had occurred.

They found the body laid out in the house of the brother of the deceased, where the latter had lived before his death. It is learned that the coroner said he saw no evidence of foul play (the coroner is not a doctor) and that if there was foul play he could find no evidence as to the perpetrators of the crime. (He didn't stay at the place of the killing an hour.)

The coroner and Mr. Davis returned to Kinston. Shortly after their arrival here, two relatives of the deceased arrived from the place where the death occurred, looking for the coroner. They said after the coroner left they found a bruise back of the head and bloody water oozing from it. It is not learned whether they found the coroner or not, but they said the people in the vicinity were not satisfied as to the manner of death and were willing to pay a physician to make an examination. Drs. H. O. Hyatt and R. H. Temple were secured to go, and they made the following report of their trip and experiences:

Story of Doctors.

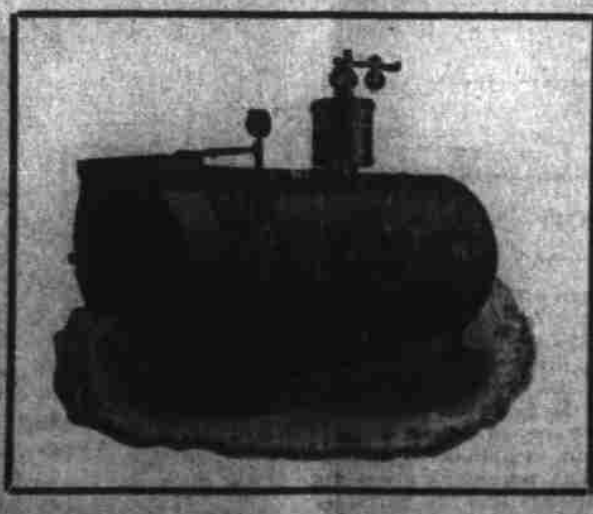
"Drs. Hyatt and Temple, after a very troublesome jaunt, made a post mortem examination on Wm. Morgan, the man who was found dead in Speight Sutton's ditch on Wednesday. There were circumstances connected with the death of Morgan that made it appear to be a case of murder for money. Upon arrival at the home of Morgan's brother the doctors were informed that the family had concluded that the water was too high for any doctor to come from Kinston to make the examination, so they had sent the body on to Kenyan Baker's farm for burial. The family seemed positive a murder had been committed. For this reason the doctors drove through pines wood paths, getting lost and bumping over roots, reaching the place of burial just as the grave was being smoothed over. Morgan's brother's wife gave the information that Wm. Morgan just before he started for work wrapped a \$20 bill in brown paper and put it in his inside coat pocket. The brother showed the position in which the body was laying when found.

"Morgan's coat was about 20 feet off one side of the ditch. Morgan always pulled his coat off when he worked. The parties at the grave stated that there were bruises on the forehead and left cheek. They were anxious to know whether the death was from natural causes or murder. The body was examined and examined. The bruises on the forehead and side of face were well marked. The skull was found unbroken. After removing the upper part of the skull the brain was taken out and found in a normal condition. No further examination was made. The doctors were satisfied that the man came to his death from natural causes and that some unknown party had stolen the money out of his coat pocket. There was \$9 in his pocketbook in his pants pocket."

[It is very evident that there has been measureless official laxness in this case. It is due to the fair fame of Lenoir county that apparent cases of murder should be thoroughly investigated, whether the victim be white or black. It is clearly the duty of the coroner, under the State law, to hold an inquest in such cases, and there is no excuse or justification for neglecting to do so for the purpose of saving a few dollars to the county. A fair reputation is worth more than dollars. This is not the first incident of this kind and if continued not only will the reputation of the county suffer, but the local authorities will run the risk of being called to book by the State authorities.]

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