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GENERAL NEWS ITEMS.

Matters of Interest Condensed into Brief Paragraphs.

A LITTLE ABOUT MANY THINGS

A Plith of the World's News That Might Interest Our Readers. Some of It Fresh. Some May Be "Salty," But Not Spill.

Gen. Miles admits that the organization of the Confederate army was "the most serious."

The West Virginia radicals are resolved to control the legislature and will have 300 militia on hand to carry out their plan.

The Philippines wish to pay this country back, and would assume the indemnity of the Philippine Islands. This might be a good way out of the difficulty.

The Russian ambassador informs Uncle Sam that instead of his government objecting to our squatting in the Philippines, it will be delighted to have us for a neighbor over there.

The Havana press divides in opinion as to the president's message. Some regard it as favorable to annexation. Others believe that McKinley favors giving the island independent government.

Chas. W. Miller, of Chicago, last year's six-day champion, won the great race at Madison Square Garden, New York, this year, beating the world's record, his own, by 24 miles, and leading the best man to him, Frank Walker, of Boston, 22 miles.

It is reported that Col. William J. Bryan, commanding the third Nebraska volunteer regiment, has resigned. The report comes from the lieutenant-colonel of the regiment. Col. Bryan was seen regarding the rumor, but declined to say anything.

Representative Bailey, of Texas, was once again leader of the Democratic forces in the house, at the Democratic caucus Saturday. No division in the party was apparent. A resolution was adopted making caucus action binding on all participants.

A newspaper correspondent at Madrid says: "Everybody in Spain is pleased that the negotiations are ended, because all had been apprehensive that fresh pretensions on the part of the United States would be sprung upon the Spanish peace commissioners at every sitting."

Soon after leaving the New York navy yard for Hampton Roads, the battleship Massachusetts struck an obstruction near Governor's Island and three of her compartments were torn open. She was taken back to the navy yard at once and has been placed in dock to ascertain the extent of her injuries.

John Barrett, formerly United States minister to Siam, says the situation in China is of the most critical nature, and that Manchuria is no longer Chinese, but Russian territory. He asserts that New China, the chief northern port of the movement of American products, is practically Russian and is likely to be closed any day. The only permanent safeguard to the paramount American and British interests, Mr. Barrett says, is immediate and united action by the interested governments to defend the integrity of the Chinese empire.

The statement that Japan had offered \$300,000,000 for the Philippines proved to have been erroneous. Publication of the story, however, has brought out additional evidence of Japan's friendliness. Some time ago Japan let it be known that she wished America would retain the Philippines, and later the minister told Secretary Day that Japan would endorse any plan the United States had for the disposition of the islands. She hoped the United States would take full control, but if it was not found advisable she would join in a protectorate.

The Christian Scientists are coming in for a good deal of attention from the public of this country and in England through the death of persons subjected to their quackery. The indictment of the party responsible for the death of Harold Frederick, the novelist, has been dismissed from an English court, on the ground that they did what they thought best under the circumstances, which in that particular case consisted of reading a book, while Mr. Frederick was dying. If the same course is pursued by American courts, the Christian Scientists method of exit may become quite popular in this humbug-loving country.—News Observer.

An Outrage.

There is no question about the truth of the report that a white man was marched through the streets of Winston yesterday chained to a negro. Supr. Spach and two white guards are responsible for the outrage on the white men and the community. The board of county commissioners meets on the first Monday in January. We respectfully call their attention to this matter and will let it rest with them for investigation and action before making any further comment except to say we do not believe men of their standing will permit such a disgraceful act of needless outrage to go unpunished.

GOV. RUSSELL IN WASHINGTON.

Wants Half the First Regiment Relieved From Service. Russell Has a Political Scheme to Unfold to McKinley by Which To Capture Populists in 1900.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 10.—Gov. Russell reached here last night. He was being held all day with Senator Butler. He did not register at the hotel and tried to keep his presence a secret.

He tried to secure an audience with President McKinley, who was busy and sent him word he would see him at 11 o'clock Monday.

It is said the object of the governor's visit was to secure the release of about 600 men from the first N. C. regiment, now enroute to Cuba, of whom he says many are married and want to return home and others desired to resume their business positions. He told Secretary Alger that the place of men released could be filled by many who wanted to enter the service.

He is also trying to secure the payment of the money paid out by the State for the troops, which is withheld on account of an amount due by the State to the United States on account of Indian trust land bonds.

Gov. Russell will talk over both these propositions with the president on Monday. He will also sound the president on a plan in contemplation to reorganize the Republican party in the State. This plan seeks to secure much of the Populist strength by judicious use of patronage with the view of causing the North Carolina vote for McKinley both in the national Republican convention and the election in 1900.

The fact that Gov. Russell has been hobnobbing with Senator Butler nearly all day, while he has been talking his reorganization plan to others, suggests that Butler, too, may be in the scheme, and that 1900 may see a great shake up in the personnel of parties as now constituted in the Old North State.

Great Storm in the Southwest.

New Orleans, Dec. 10.—From all parts of the southwest comes news that the storm last night and today was the worst in twenty-nine years. It raged throughout Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas and there was a snowfall of from 6 to 12 inches. No loss of life is reported, but heavy losses in crops and cattle and great suffering among the poor. The loss will be especially great in cotton.

Cotton Market.

The New York cotton market at 1:30 today—January 5.80; May 5.35. Spot cotton at Kinston, 5.00 to 5.35.

NORTH CAROLINA NEWS.

Interesting North Carolina Items in Condensed Form.

CLIPPINGS FROM EXCHANGES

Of Items That Will Interest North Carolinians. Some News, Some Politics—All of Some Interest to True "Tar Heels."

The Baptist convention at Greenville Saturday chose Asheville as the place for the next convention.

The 4-year old daughter of Mr. Robert Spach was burned to death in Forsyth county Friday night.

Bishop-elect J. M. Hornor, of Oxford, will be consecrated in Asheville on Dec. 28th instead of the 18th, as was at first stated.

It is asserted that there are fully a dozen aspirants for appointments on the railroad commission, as it is well understood the legislature will make changes.

Mr. John Laws has been register of Dech for Orange county for forty-five years continuously and thinks he is entitled to the prize as being the oldest office holder in the State.

It is said that the first North Carolina regiment now on the way to Cuba will land at Havana and will be the first private guard in that city. It has been half a century since a North Carolina regiment was out of the country.

Cloro Holder, a white man, met with a shocking death near Climonville, Davidson county, Tuesday week. While in a well cleaning it out, the rope broke, causing a bucket full of dirt to fall on him. He was dead when taken out. He leaves a wife and five children.

Dr. A. B. Cates, a prominent druggist of Burlington, committed suicide Friday by taking strychnine. He had been drinking for some time and this, together with financial and domestic troubles, is believed to have caused him to take his life. He was about 45 years old and was highly respected.

The distinguishing event of the Baptist convention at Greenville Friday was the formal reception of the ten associations formerly composing the Western North Carolina Baptist convention. Occurring after forty-three years of division at the birth place of the convention, this union was effected under peculiarly appropriate circumstances.

After being out 22 hours the jury in the federal court at Raleigh Saturday returned a verdict of "guilty" in the case against J. B. Boddie, late postmaster at Nashville, charged with defaulding letters passing through his office. A strong effort will be made to get Boddie off by paying the costs in the case, which will amount to \$400 or \$500.

A special to the Raleigh News Observer says that D. T. McKinney, postmaster at Yanceyville, Caswell county, who has rendered himself very obnoxious by his inflammatory talk and his attempts to stir up ill feeling between the whites and blacks, received a letter Tuesday signed by the White Men's Union of Caswell county, requesting him to resign as postmaster and leave the county within twenty days. It is not yet known what he will do about it.

Raleigh Post: Real estate and business men of Newbern and Wilmington report that not for three years have so many calls been made for dwellings and property, or inquiries looking to the establishment of enterprises, by white men, specially of northern men, as have been made since negro domination of those fair cities ended and good and intelligent government was restored. This is but a logical result which only can follow a return to good government, which protects alike life and property.

"Did I see you comin' out o' my white folks' back yard late last night?" inquired Miss Miami Brown. "I dunno," answered Mr. Erastus Pinkley. "Mebbe you might have." "Is you got any possums on dar?" "No, I ain't got no regular possums; only jes' a couln' station."—Washington Star.

THE GREAT LEONZA BROS.

Will Commence Their Engagement Here Tonight.

The people of Kinston have a rare treat in store for the first three nights of this week.

The attraction is Leonza Bros. Big New York company. The opening bill will be that great success, "The Dog Spy," introducing a number of high classed specialties, and the great dramatic acting dogs, Tiger and Lion. These brutes possess almost human intelligence, and their equal is not to be found in this country. Judging from how the tickets are going the house will no doubt be packed tonight.

The management desire to introduce the merits of this attraction, and ladies will be admitted free tonight, if accompanied by a person holding a paid 20 cent ticket, which positively must be purchased before 7 p.m. This is done to prevent the usual crush and confusion at the box office. The prices are 10, 20 and 30 cents, no higher. Reserved seats now on sale at Loftin's store.

Monitors and Torpedo Boats.

A monitor is a peculiar battleship, having a low freeboard, light draft and flush deck and guns mounted in heavily armored revolving turrets placed on the deck. A monitor is a floating battery more than a ship and derives its name from the first of the class ever constructed, which battled with the Confederate ironclad Merrimac in Hampton Roads. The original Monitor was described as resembling a great cheesebox on a plank, but it did valuable service and revolutionized naval warfare.

Torpedo boats are the racers among the war vessels. They are swift, small craft, designed to launch torpedoes near large vessels. In order to do its work properly the torpedo boat must go close to the object of its destructive designs, and having placed the instrument of destruction in position its next object is to get away and out of the reach of the enemy. A torpedo boat must be small, and the men who form its small crew must be absolutely fearless.

A torpedo boat catcher is designed expressly to catch or to destroy torpedo boats. In order to be fitted for the work the boats are larger than the torpedo boats. They can make better time and carry heavier armament.—New York Tribune.

Vicious Bluefish.

The greatest enemy to the best species of fish is found in the vicious, voracious and dangerous bluefish. In size ordinarily as long as your arm, with teeth like barbs, he can snap in halves a fish of his own size, and nearly all fish stand in mortal dread of him. Generally traveling in schools—sometimes as much as five miles in length—they will in short order decimate a school of shad, spot, menhaden or such like. In his stomach can be found numbers of smaller fish, according to size.

We have opened one which contained a trout of almost his own size, while another contained a shad nearly as large. Still others are found having within themselves one or more of their own species of smaller size. But their destructiveness does not end here. We have seen them behind a school of shad, spot or menhaden, and sometimes schools of mackerel and ood, snapping and slashing their prey until the water was all a foam. They eat until they can hold no more, but their viciousness is not abated. With a snap a shad is sundered and spit out, and the next shares the same fate. They never tire, and the fish destroyed, but unheaten, cover the surface of the water.—Exchange.

The Free Press has taken the agency for one of the largest rubber stamp and seal factories in the country, and is prepared to show cuts of and quote low prices on rubber stamps of all kinds, check perforators, corporation and library public seals, steel stamps, stencils.

THE TREATY SIGNED.

This Important Act Characterized by Great Simplicity.

DONE IN FIFTEEN MINUTES.

Duplicates Signed in English and Spanish. Administration at Washington Inclined to Hold That Peace Will Not Formally Exist Until Ratification of the Treaty Has Been Exchanged.

Paris, Dec. 10.—The story of the great event in the history of nations enacted here today is simple, even commonplace in all its details. A group of gentlemen gathered about a table in a room overlooking the Seine and signed their names to duplicate copies of a document which transfers the colonial empire of one of the oldest countries in Europe to the youngest adult member of the family of nations. There was no ceremony, nothing expressive of the momentous significance of the occasion which marked the beginning of a new epoch in the history, not of two nations, but of the human race itself.

It was the twenty-second session of the peace commission whose labors covered just a few weeks. The members gathered at 4 o'clock, were photographed, revised the records of the previous meetings, and then adjourned till the treaty was ready. It was nearly 8 o'clock before the imposing parchment was placed on a large table, around which the Americans and Spaniards sat. Each copy of the document consisted of seven or eight articles, in both English and Spanish, in parallel columns. Interpreter Ferguson read the document aloud. The only difference between the two copies was that the Spaniards' copy in the usual preamble, set forth the first names of the Spanish commissioners with a long list of titles and offices, then the names of the Americans, while the American copy set forth simply the plain names, Day, Davis, etc. "Citizens of the United States," followed by the Spanish names with titles.

The reading was interrupted only once to correct a small inaccuracy. An American attaché produced a red, white and blue cord, and the Spaniards a red and yellow ribbon to seal the copies. Then the American copy was handed to Mr. Day and the Spanish copy to Rios, and the two presidents signed simultaneously. The copies were quickly passed down the line, then exchanged and the signing duplicated, the Americans signing beneath the English and the Spaniards beneath the Spanish version in each case. Then the documents were sealed, the whole operation lasting fifteen minutes.

It was 8:45 when the secretaries began attaching the ribbons and cord and sealed the ends. Rios said a few words of personal thanks and esteem. Mr. Day responded. The commissioners solemnly shook hands and the Spanish-American peace convention was ended.

The only remaining incident was the keen competition of attaches to secure pens. The Americans will remain in Paris until Friday.

What the Administration is Inclined To Hold.

Washington, D. C., December 10.—No steps have been taken yet to meet the condition presented by the actual establishment of peace. The administration is inclined to hold that peace will not formally exist until ratification of the treaty has been exchanged. No volunteers will be discharged as the result of signing the treaty, and it was announced that until congress votes to increase the regular force as many volunteers as is needed in the colonies would be retained. Diplomatic relations will probably not be resumed with Spain until the treaty shall have been ratified.