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GENERAL NEWS ITEMS.

Matters of Interest Condensed into Brief Paragraphs.

A LITTLE ABOUT MANY THINGS

The Pith of the World's News That Might Interest Our Readers. Some is Fresh, Some May Be "Salty," But Not Spoilt.

Mississippi Democrats not only reaffirm the Chicago platform of 1896, but they are for Bryan against the world.

President Loubet, of France, in a speech delivered at Rambouillet Thursday, said he was convinced that the troubles of France were nearing the end, that the whole country should bow to the decision of the Rennes court martial, and that he was sure in any event the republic would be preserved.

A syndicate has been formed in New York for the purpose of buying up the iron and coal properties of the Cherokee Iron company and the Western Mining company, near Cedartown, Ga., including a furnace at that place. The new company will be capitalized at \$1,300,000, and known as the Georgia and Alabama Iron company.

The silver Democrats of Maryland express much dissatisfaction over the make-up of the Democratic state ticket, nominated at the recent Baltimore convention, alleging that every candidate upon it is a gold Democrat, that the silver men have no representation, and that one of the candidates put in nomination stumped the State for the Palmer and Buckner ticket in 1896.

Booker Washington is serene as to the assaults made upon him in the negro meeting in Chicago. He says: "Some of my race think I ought to participate in political activity and discussion. Personally I have not entertained this view, and I shall not do so. There are plenty of others to do it. I shall continue in the future, as in the past, to devote myself to the moral, educational and industrial development of the race."

At Darien, Ga., Thursday night, a negro killed Joseph Townsend, a deputy sheriff, who had arrested him. The negroes outnumber whites there five to one. They became unruly because of the arrest of Henry Delegal for assault a few days previously. It was a son of Delegal that killed the deputy sheriff. The negroes gathered in a swamp near town. Troops were ordered from a neighboring town and at last accounts there had been no further clash, though the situation was regarded as critical.

Landseer and the Dog Tax.

On one of Landseer's early visits to Scotland the great painter stopped at a village and took a great deal of notice of the dogs, jotting down rapid sketches of them on a piece of paper. Next day, on resuming his journey, he was horrified to find dogs suspended from trees in all directions, or drowning in the rivers, with stones around their necks. He stopped a weeping urchin, who was hurrying off with a pet pup in his arms, and learned to his dismay that he was supposed to be an excise officer who was taking notes of all the dogs he saw in order to prosecute the owners for unpaid taxes.

Then He Didn't Eat.

An English merchant was invited by a Chinaman to dine with him. Neither could speak the other's language, and a conversation was carried on by means of gesticulations and signs. Among the dishes was one which seemed very savory. The Englishman had an idea it was duck, but to make certain he pointed to the dish and pleasantly insinuated, "Quack, quack!" The Chinaman wagged his head and said: "No-ey, no-ey! How-wow-wow!"

THE SQUIRE'S DILEMMA.

He Adjourned the Case to Find Out Where He Was At.

A justice of the peace in one of the west end boroughs issued a warrant for the arrest of a west end woman for slander. Squire S. J. White happened to be present at the hearing. The prosecutor testified that the defendant had called her an "old virago" and that she had added, "I don't know what that means, but whatever it is that's what you are." The witness admitted that she did not know what the meaning of the word was, either, but she knew it had no good meaning or the other wouldn't have made use of it.

"No matter what it means," said the squire, who is an intensely patriotic American, "it's a foreign name, and she had no business calling you it. I'll fine her for it."

"Squire," whispered Squire White to his ear, "you have no jurisdiction in slander suits. They must be entered in court."

"Well, I'll hold her for court, then," the squire declared.

"But there's no law under which you can do that," he was told.

"Well, I'll hold her anyhow," he replied, "and test the constitutionality of the act."

"But there is no act," persisted Squire White.

"Get out of this office!" commanded the squire, turning on him. "Do you think I'm going to allow you to come in here and learn me the law?"

"You uns go, too," he said, turning to the women. "You're both released on your own recognizance until this court finds out what the damnation to do with this case."—Pittsburg News.

Uncle Sam's Only "Tip."

Tips given to Pullman car porters by government employees while performing official duties are considered legitimate charges against Uncle Sam. They are the only tips which are accorded this distinction. This interesting fact has just been gleaned through the display by a government official of a bill of expenses which he intended to present for a recent trip which he made in the service of the government. He exhibited the statement as an evidence of the close manner in which the government did business. He had to present a receipt for every expenditure made, even a receipt from the Pullman car conductor for his berth.

The only item for which there was no receipt was "Tips, 50 cents." When asked what the tips were for, the officer said: "They were tips which I gave to Pullman car porters. The government allows those, but they are the only tips which are allowed. If I tip the waiter at my hotel or the man who carries my bag, the tip comes out of my pocket, but the tipping of Pullman car porters, a quarter for each journey made on a sleeper, is such a recognized custom that the item for such tips is always allowed by the government to officers when traveling on government business."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

How Emery Is Quarried.

Emery comes from the island of Naxos, in the eastern Mediterranean, whence it has been exported for the last two centuries or more. The beds are in the northeast of the island, the deposits descending into some of the neighboring islands, the emery being found in lenticular masses, resting on layers of schist in limestone almost identical with Parian marble, the finest marble known, which comes from the island of Paros, close by.

There are about 300 men engaged in the trade, all of whom have to be married before they are admitted to the fraternity. The material is much too hard to be dug out or even blasted. Great fires are lighted around the blocks till the natural cracks expand with the heat, and levers are then inserted to pry them apart. This system is continued until the blocks are reduced in size to masses of a cubic foot or less, and they are then shipped as if they were coal. There are said to be 20,000,000 tons yet available at Naxos, and the last reported year's export was 3,959 tons. It is one of the hardest substances known.—Ironmongery.

CRUELTY TO CONVICTS.

One Convict Beaten to Death. Others Beaten, Starved and Disabled for Days.

The penitentiary committee investigated the Caledonias farms Friday. They found Louis Summerell, supervisor of Northampton farm, sick Wednesday, but at Caledonia they found witnesses to tell of his cruelty to convicts.

D. S. Russell, who was Summerell's steward for eight months in 1898, a man of intelligence and without prejudice, told of Summerell's cruelty.

From Russell's sworn statement it appears that

1. One man beaten to death on Summerell's farm, named Jim Lowe.

2. One man was beaten so he could not get out of bed for two weeks, was left without food for two days and was denied medical attention.

3. Numerous others were beaten in the most brutal manner and were, some of them, disabled for days.

4. Summerell was accustomed to do more whipping than any of the other supervisors, and more than was necessary to good discipline.

Apart from the evidence as to Summerell, the examination showed that under the fusion regime the supervisors of farms did not know what the produce they shipped brought, what went with it in many cases, or whether the farms were making or losing money. This system of keeping books is still in vogue.

AT THE CHURCHES.

The public is cordially invited by the pastors to attend any and all these services Sunday.

Presbyterian Church.

Preaching both morning and evening. Sunday school, 9:30 a. m.

Episcopal Church.

Services both morning and evening. Sunday school, 9:30 a. m.

Methodist Church.

Preaching both morning and evening. At the morning service the pastor will preach a sermon on "The Religion for Young Men." All the young men in the community are cordially invited to be present. Sunday school, 9:30 a. m.

Baptist Church.

Morning service: Subject—"The Encouraged Fishermen."—Luke 5:4. Evening service: Subject—"Transferred Riches."—II Cor. 8:9.

Sunday school, 9:30 a. m. B. Y. P. U. every Monday evening.

Christian Church.

No preaching tomorrow. Sunday school, 9:30 a. m. The Young People's Prayer meeting every Wednesday evening.

Christian Science.

Services every Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, at the opera house.

Ink Blots on Paper.

To remove ink from paper pour enough water over a teaspoonful of chlorinated lime to cover the stained portion. Moisten a clean piece of linen and rub it lightly with the mixture. If the stain is not of too long standing, it will disappear. If more than one application is required, let the paper dry before wetting the second or third time. If the spot is rubbed, the texture of the paper will be spoiled. Dry it gently with a piece of dry linen.

A Hen Hunt.

An English paper says that the hat of a certain shortsighted master at Eton blew off one day, and as he started in pursuit a black hen dashed out of the gateway. The schoolmaster saw the hen and thought it was his hat, and all Eton was electrified by the spectacle of a hatless and breathless reverend man hunting a black hen from one end of the street to the other.

Twice a year the Caspian overflows and strands millions of fish—sufficient to feed the whole of central Asia if advantage could be taken of these immense resources given by nature.

THE RED SHIRTS.

Convicts Who Wear Them in the Penitentiaries of California.

There are men in the penitentiaries of California who are favored with red shirts, but they are not made particularly happy thereby.

When a convict has once worn the crimson shirt, he hopes as ardently as a convict can hope for anything that the warden will never make him wear it again. It means that he has tried to escape and failed.

But that is not all. Henceforth he is a degraded man in prison circles. His time credits are gone. Solitary confinement, dungeons and bread and water may be his portion. He is watched, suspected by the officers, pointed out and "explained" to visitors and newcomers. Among the 700 convicts in the jute mill his red back may be distinguished at a glance. If he be away from there a moment, the guards know it. Then the prison bell rings, the officers assemble, bloodhounds are unchained, and the hunt begins.

Some of the red shirters at San Quentin are among the most daring fellows that ever scaled a prison wall, and every man of them has run the gantlet of guard and Gatling gun. Anybody in stripes who breaks for liberty is liable to be riddled with lead within 60 seconds. The convicts know this, but they also know that beyond the gray stone walls there are green hills and deep ravines and—possibly—freedom. The man who is sentenced to die on a prison cot is willing to stake his life for liberty. His days and nights are spent preparing for the game. If he wins, the "cons" he leaves behind are jubilant, and many are the tales of pluck and luck they will tell in memoriam. As a rule, no class of people stand by each other like veteran "cons."—San Francisco Call.

The Curious Cassowary.

Every explorer who visits the Australasian islands discovers a new kind of cassowary. None of these birds possesses any wings to speak of, and their bodies are clothed with dense masses of curious, hairlike feathers. According to a recent traveler, these feathers are put to a very remarkable use.

When a cassowary feels hungry—so the legend runs—it wades out into a stream until only its head and neck are above water and spreads out its long plumes on either side. Numbers of unsophisticated little fishes immediately mistake these for a new kind of water weed and nestle confidently up to the motionless cassowary for shelter.

Then that artful bird suddenly presses his feathers close against his body, walks ashore and shakes out his prisoners on the bank; so that he not only enjoys a delightful bath, but obtains an excellent meal into the bargain.

Bolled Rice.

Thomas Murray, the noted chef, says many cooks do not know how to do so simple a thing as to boll rice properly. Each grain of rice, he says, should be distinct, whole, but at the same time tender. To accomplish this, a small quantity of rice should be bolled in a large pot nearly filled with water. Put it into cold water and a little salt and boll rapidly for 20 or 30 minutes. Test the grains occasionally, and when a slight pressure between the thumb and forefinger will crush them they are done. If allowed to boll till the grains burst or boiled in a small quantity of water, the grains will stick together. When done, drain off the water and set the rice on the range, where it will keep warm.—Exchange.

Hay Crops on Ice.

Farmers who live in the vicinity of Muskego lake, in southeastern Wisconsin, derive a profitable income from the lake each winter by harvesting hay on the ice. The shallowness of the water in the lake bed causes the grass growing on the bottom to project considerably above the surface, and when the ice forms the hay can be cut with great ease, though it cannot be got at the rest of the year on account of the boggy nature of the lake bottom.

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."

A great crowd gathered at Clinton Thursday and heard able arguments by Jarvis and Pon in favor of the franchise amendment.

At Charlotte a colored woman tried to commit suicide Thursday night by taking morphine, because nobody cared for her, she said.

Wilson Gray, a white farmer, was killed Tuesday night by a train of the Asheville & Spartanburg Railroad, two miles from Flat Rock.

Mrs. S. L. McPherson, of Wilmington, was run over and killed on the Seacoast railroad which left Ocean View for the city Thursday evening.

The Waynesville military company was ordered under arms Friday to prevent the lynching of Bert Smith, confined in Waynesville jail on a charge of rape.

Mrs. John Hayes, of Durham county, died last Thursday from burns received two days before from an explosion of a kerosene oil can, used in starting a fire.

The Asheville Citizen says that on last Tuesday, near Robbinsville, Graham county, a 13-year-old boy named Eller killed a bear that weighed over 800 pounds.

Ex-Congressman John Nichols ventures the prediction and says it is well founded, that ex-Judge Spencer B. Adams will be the next Republican candidate for governor.

It is estimated that 100 deaths were caused by the storm on the North Carolina coast. The storm also destroyed 60 or 70 horses and mules and a number of churches.

State Immigration Agent Thompson is informed that a large colony of Dunkards (German Baptists) have decided to come to North Carolina this fall to settle. They will locate in the Piedmont section of the State. They are good farmers and make prosperous, desirable settlers.

"Rob Horton" of the Valley, tells the Wasaga Democrat of a petrified hog that was unearthed by high waters on the Yadkin recently. The hog died some years ago and was buried on the bank of the river, and when washed out recently it was found to be thoroughly petrified.

Durham Herald: Isaac Smith, of Newbern, is attempting to draw the color line between the dark-skin descendants of Ham, one of whom he is which, and the mulattos. If the professor is successful it may not be long before our railroads will be compelled to divide their Jim Crow cars into three compartments.

News and Observer: Mr. W. G. Poo^m of Pasquotank county, was here yesterday. He said the storm last week practically destroyed several cottages at Nag's Head and that the water driven out by the winds cut a big ravine through the sand from the ocean across to the sound. All those living in cottages were compelled to leave them and go to the hotel.

The soothing and healing properties of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, its pleasant taste and prompt and permanent cures, have made it a great favorite with the people everywhere. For sale by J. E. Hood.

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