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STATE NEWS.

Interesting North Carolina Items In Condensed Form.

The quarantine officer reports that cattle are dying of splenic fever in the western part of Cherokee county.

At Lumberton last week Reuben Ross, colored, was convicted of rape and sentenced to be hung December 7th.

In the divorce case of Mrs. Julia Buffalo against Dr. A. J. Buffalo last week at Raleigh the jury decided every issue in her favor. Neither party can marry again. The case was highly sensational.

State Treasurer Worth rules that the person operating a cigar wheel, a music box or any other slot machines in which there is any sort of element of uncertainty as to return, must pay license tax of \$100.

The Commonwealth says Scotland Neck is the largest Spanish peanut market in the world. Few people outside of that section know of the extent of the peanut raising industry in North Carolina.

The Lexington Dispatch has reliable information that the postmasters of Davidson county, who make a salary of from \$10 to \$25, have been called upon to contribute to the Ohio Republican campaign fund.

Charges have been preferred against Prof. Chas. L. Coon, superintendent of Salisbury graded schools. The principal charge is that Prof. Coon ridiculed such books of the Old Testament as Daniel and Jonah before the pupils of his school.

The steamer Catherine Whiting, bound for New York, laden with lumber, went ashore near Frying Pan Shoals Monday afternoon of last week. She is a total loss and was valued at \$20,000. The crew of 19 men drifted ashore on the pilot house and were all saved.

Raleigh cor Charlotte Observer: The state treasurer was sent a few days ago a bottle of "Plantation Bitters," with a request that it be analyzed to see whether it was not really a strong intoxicant. The state chemist finds that 28 per cent. of it is alcohol; whiskey containing only 50 per cent. The bitters will therefore be barred from sale in North Carolina. Arrests of sellers are likely to result.

Durham Herald: The colored fair held in Raleigh last week is spoken of in very complimentary terms by the press of that city. The displays in all departments are said to have been highly creditable and showed the progress that is being made by the race in this State. In their fair, as in all other worthy projects, the colored people have received all the assistance asked for or desired from the whites.

Tarboro Southerner: The mill at Shiloh was stopped by cels. They were making their way from the mill pond to the river and were caught in the turbine wheel. The small ones passed through without difficulty. Some of the larger ones were cut in pieces in the attempt and finally so many large ones found their way into the wheel at the same time that it stopped turning. Some were as large as a man's wrist.

Caught by a Clever Doctor.

A certain Dr. Stephen Peabody of Cambridge Center had a fine melon yard, so the story goes, and one morning he found that his melons had all been stolen and the vines piled up near the middle of the yard. But near the heap of vines he picked up a gold watch key and a seal. These he laid away, and at the hotel, some three miles distant, he posted a little paper, which read:

NOTICE.
Found, on Thursday last, a little above Cambridge Center, a gold watch key and seal. The owner can have it by proving property and paying charges.

STEPHEN PEABODY.
In a few weeks a stout young man applied for the watch key, reporting himself the unlucky loser. The key and seal were brought forward, and the doctor said: "Is this your property? Will you take your oath that these are your key and seal?"

"Yes, yes; I will do that."
"Well," said the doctor, "that is all right, and now I want my pay for my melons."

Five dollars were handed over, and the young man begged for secrecy, but the doctor, with the money in his hand, declared that the incident was too good to keep to himself.—Vermont Historical Magazine.

When Lincoln Died.

And so the hours passed without perceptible change in the president's condition and with only slight shifting of the scene around him. The testimony of those who had witnessed the murder began to be taken in an adjoining room. Occasionally the figures at the bedside changed. Mrs. Lincoln came in at intervals, sobbing out her grief, and then was led away. This man went, another took his place. It was not until daylight that there came a perceptible change. Then the breathing grew quieter, the face became more calm.

The doctors at Lincoln's side knew that dissolution was near. Their bulletin of 6 o'clock read, "Pulse falling;" that of half past 6, "Still falling;" that of 7, "Symptoms of immediate dissolution," and then at 22 minutes past 7, in the presence of his son, Secretaries Stanton, Welles and Usher, Attorney General Speed, Senator Sumner, Private Secretary Hay, Dr. Gurley, his pastor, and several physicians and friends, Abraham Lincoln died.

There was a prayer, and then the solemn voice of Stanton broke the stillness, "Now he belongs to the ages."—McClure's Magazine.

King of Ethiopia and the Toys.

Formerly very little sufficed to entertain Menelek, and it is even related that the first sugar loaf which was presented to him caused him ecstasies of pleasure and that he and his consort were discovered with that blessed product of civilization between them, licking it vigorously. But those good times are past. Europeans have brought him so many toys that he has become critical. When a new traveler is announced, he awaits with impatience the customary present, trying to find out beforehand whether it is something new, in which case the audience is speedily granted. He is much interested in all machinery, which, including watches, he invariably takes to pieces. Sometimes he deigns to be present at the unpacking of the traveler's boxes and to appropriate any little object that pleases him. Such informal examinations amuse him vastly. "If I had not been a king," he remarks at times, "I should like to have been a custom house officer."—Vicomte de Poncins in Nineteenth Century.

Only Jar of Its Kind.

Horace Walpole tells a lively story of an old porcelain vender, who had an exceedingly rare and valuable jar on which he set an almost fabulous price. One hot summer a slight volcanic shock, such as the British Isles occasionally experience, jogged his house about his ears and split his porcelain vase. To an ordinary mind the accident would have been calamitous, but the china seller rose superior to fortune. He doubled the price of the article immediately and advertised it as "the only jar in the world which had been cracked by an earthquake." Nothing very slow about that. Whether he got his money is not added, but he certainly deserved it.

Had Left For Parts Unknown.

In a murder trial in Dallas the counsel for the defense was examining a venieman regarding his qualifications to serve. The candidate admitted that he had once been a member of a jury which tried a negro for murder. It is not permissible in such cases to ask the result of the trial, so the counsel said:

"Where is that negro now?"
"I don't know," was the reply. "The sheriff hanged him at the appointed time."—Law Notes.

Moment Appeal.

The attention of English speaking visitors to the Milan cathedral is readily attracted by the following notice which appears over an alms box:

"Appeal to Charitables. The Brothers, so called, of Mercy ask slender arms for the Hospital. They harbor all kinds of diseases and have no respect to religion."

If the Prussian conscription were applied in India. England would have 2,500,000 regular soldiers actually in barracks, with 800,000 recruits coming up every year.

BRITISH IN A BOX.

The Boers Completely Invest Ladysmith, and it is Difficult to Afford The British Any Relief. The Artillery Duel at Ladysmith Still in Progress.

London, Nov. 4.—The evacuation of Colenso is undoubtedly a most serious matter for the British in Natal, as it not only testifies to the complete investment of Ladysmith by the Boers, but makes the relief of Gen. Sir George Stewart White an extremely difficult operation.

Colenso is the point where the railway from Ladysmith crosses the Tugela river, which is now in flood. The town itself is of small importance. It is dominated by the hills on the north side of the river, and so was untenable if the Boers have advanced, as they seem to have done; moreover, only a small naval and colonial force was stationed at Colenso. The seriousness of the evacuation, however, lies in the fact that Commandant Gen. Joubert, while completely investing Sir George White at Ladysmith can seize this Tugela bridge and, if he has sufficient troops, can detach a force and send it southward on Pietermaritzburg, and, in any case, by destroying the bridge and railway, can prevent any relief expedition reaching Sir George White for some time.

Military men optimistically predict that Gen. Joubert will withdraw from Natal immediately on the entrance of Sir Redvers Buller's force into the Orange Free State, but the latter cannot be far on his way for at least three or four weeks, and even then Gen. Joubert may not decide to intercept the British on the Free State's open veldt, which would suit the British admirably, but he may wait until the last moment and then to proceed by train back to Pretoria and take up strong defensive positions on the range of hills lying in front of Johannesburg and Pretoria.

Thus Gen. Joubert might remain in Natal several weeks longer, endeavoring to force Sir George White into capitulation, the destruction of the Tugela river bridge helping him by cutting off British relief.

Moreover, another Boer force is reported to have marched through Zululand in the direction of Durban, and already to have reached the Natal frontier. Thus it will be seen the position in Natal, taking into consideration a possible uprising of the disaffected Dutch is most disquieting, and, in fact, may be described as critical. British reinforcements in any number cannot reach Durban before the end of next week.

A special from Ladysmith, dated November 2d, morning, says:

"During the night the Boers moved closer to the British positions, and mounted guns in fresh places. Meanwhile the naval guns have been moved to more favorable positions near the town and commanding some of the Boer batteries.

"At 6 o'clock this morning Gen. White ordered the bombardment of the enemy and the blue jackets opened the ball. The Boers replied vigorously. They fired straight and some of the British were hit.

"A terrible artillery duel has been proceeding for over three hours. So far the naval guns are the only ones that have engaged the enemy."

London, Nov. 4.—Another special dispatch from Ladysmith, bearing date of November 2d says:

"The artillery duel is proceeding splendidly. The British guns are firing three shots to the Boers' one."

A special dispatch from Cape Town, dated November 2d, says the Boers occupied Colesburg, Cape Colony, on Wednesday, meeting with no resistance from the local police, who yielded to superior force.

The sailing of transports for South Africa, loaded with troops, is now an event of daily occurrence, but the departure of the steamer Kildonan Castle from Southampton last evening merits notice. She is the largest troopship in the world and has more than 3,000 souls on board, with their kits and weapons, balloons, bridge pontoons, machine guns, ammunition, wagons and hundreds of thousands of other artillery necessities.

Murder in Greene County.

Saturday night Charlie Bond shot and instantly killed Hymbrick Suggs near Mr. Henry Frizzell's home, about six miles from Snow Hill.

The men are negroes, and were gambling. They had a dispute when Bond shot Suggs in the left temple with a pistol, killing him instantly. Bond has escaped.

TAXING TOBACCO BUYERS.

Mr. C. D. Ray Writes a Communication In Which He Says the Town Authorities are Ungrateful and the Tax Unjust. The Tobacco Section Should Have Fire Protection.

The writer makes it his business to try to attend to his own affairs and let others do the same, but when disturbed in this peaceful privilege which he has ever before enjoyed, he feels that it is his privilege to protest. He is not opposed to taxation when the burdens are justly distributed. He is not opposed to being taxed to carry on his business, if by so being taxed, commensurate advantage to his business is promulgated. He is not so much opposed to being unjustly taxed as he is to the principle of such taxation.

He happens to be a tobacco buyer, the thing which in time past, was so severely hated by a number of the citizens of this town, which hatred still seems to linger, judging from the action of the city aldermen who are supposed to voice the sentiments of their constituency, but who, we are warranted in saying, have not done so, lacking the endorsement of the majority of the good citizens of this town, not all of them outside of this board in the matter particularly referred to in this article. The writer can see the advantage of privilege taxation to the man who runs a public dray or who holds the position of public crier excluding all others, or who in any business is protected against competitors in the same business. Were I in such a business I would, from a personal standpoint, favor such taxation; but as a tobacco buyer, I can not see wherein advantage comes to me as return for this tax of \$10 I am expected to pay in addition to the government tax of \$24 per annum imposed upon leaf tobacco dealers, and the dues I have to pay to maintain our Board of Trade.

No, "City Dads," your loyalty to us in this matter is not solicited. We are satisfied if you will only let us, who are residents of your town, pay our proportion of the taxes as you and others do. The writer has been loyal to you, and you should be even so to him. Though he was not living in your town, on one occasion, in anticipation of casting his lot with you, he sent an abstract list of the bit of property of which he was possessed for taxation to the authorities in your town by mail. He has had the interest of the town at heart, and while he is not personally benefited, he was in favor of the graded schools which have been established in part by his vote. He also has the interest of the tobacco market at heart, which is now conceded to be a mighty impetus to the progress of the town, as since its advent the hammer, whose voice had been forgotten, is heard in every direction, and new buildings are springing up here and there all over the town as evidence of benefits for which you seem ungrateful, and which you do not seem to recognize. Invite other tobacco buyers to this market, who would really be additional strength to the present corps of buyers, and he will raise no objections, but will rather join you in the invitation, and he feels that this is an expression of the feelings of his fellow buyers. So your action in this matter is no protection to us we will inform you, if this be your primary object in taxing us. We have only to be convinced that this is just, and we will pay the tax with a good grace, though some of us do not make this amount above our living. At the same time it is a fact that you are also doing business in this town, and you should measure to yourselves the cup you hand to us. But some of you who are engaged in the liquor traffic will say, "We are taxed." You are clever men personally, but your business is a menace to the town, and if the authorities would see to it that your business were taxed out of existence, and you permitted to engage in other pursuits whereby you would not be the instruments of wrecking the good homes of our community, they would do better than to pounce upon us who are engaged in a more respectable business.

In this connection, I cannot forbear to refer to the absence of protection to the tobacco section in case of fire for which we have so long been pleading, and to the fact that the electric light service does not extend to this section; besides the writer himself has had occasion more than once to complain to the authorities for neglect about his own premises. Things that are legal are not always just or right.

C. D. RAY.

Take Roberts' Tasteless 25c Chill Tonic. Every bottle guaranteed. No cure, no pay. For sale wholesale and retail by J. E. Hood, Temple-Manson Drug Co., and Henry Dunn.

GENERAL NEWS.

Matters of Interest Condensed into Brief Paragraphs.

Sharkey had two ribs broken in his fight with Jeffries Friday night.

Kansas City, Mo., had a \$200,000 fire in a dry goods house early Sunday morning.

A twenty-four pound meteor which recently fell in Indiana, is said by experts to be composed of 90 per cent. of nickel and iron with a trace of silver.

It is asserted in Washington that the United States has demanded of France, Germany and Russia written assurances of the maintenance of an "open door" in China.

There have been killing frosts throughout Louisiana and Texas during the past few days. Yellow fever is said to be practically extinct and all quarantines have been raised.

The landing stage of a ferry boat at Antwerp, Belgium, broke in two Friday. The stage was crowded and many people fell into the water, 35 of whom were drowned, and 50 injured.

Judge Reagan, of Texas, the only surviving member of the Confederate cabinet, has accepted the invitation to unveil the monument to Jefferson Davis in Richmond Thursday, Nov. 9.

Nearly \$400,000 and possibly several lives represent the cost of a fire that nearly consumed the American Steel and Wire Co.'s plant at Waukegan, Ill., Saturday. Unconfirmed reports place the number of men who perished at from two to eleven.

A. A. Powell, an oil merchant of Macon, Ga., was found Friday dead in his bed with his head crushed to a jelly. Mr. Powell lived by himself in a room over his store and had been murdered apparently while he slept. The cause of the killing is shrouded in mystery. The fact that a considerable amount of money was found in his pockets tends to discredit the theory of robbery. The police up to this time appear to be completely baffled. Powell went to Georgia several years ago from North Carolina.

RAILROADS WIN.

Judge Simonton Says the Corporation Commission Has No Right to Tax Them.

Raleigh, Nov. 4.—United States Judge Simonton today filed his decision in the office of Circuit Clerk N. J. Riddick, here in the petition of the various railroad companies in the State for an injunction against Mess. McNeil, Rogers and Beddingfield, constituting the North Carolina corporation commission, and the State officials. Nine railroads in the State filed petitions with Judge Simonton asking for an injunction to prevent the corporation from certifying the 1899 assessment of railroad property to the State auditor and State treasurer and prevent the auditor and treasurer from collecting taxes on the 1899 assessment and commanding that the railroad assessment of 1897 stand, and that the companies petitioning pay taxes on the 1897 assessment.

Judge Simonton, it will be seen, decided the nine cases in favor of the railroads. It will be remembered that the 1899 assessment of railroad property exceeded the assessment of 1897 by over \$10,000,000. This was one of the most important cases ever heard in North Carolina. It was argued in Asheville last September.

The following were the railroads which prayed for this injunction, granted today, making the assessment of 1897 stand: Southern railway, Carolina Central, Raleigh & Augusta Air Line, Raleigh & Gaston, Seaboard & Roanoke, Roanoke & Tar River, Wilmington & Weldon, Norfolk & Carolina, Atlantic & North Carolina.

Judge Simonton decided one point only. He held that the legislature failed to confer the taxing power on the corporation commission. He did not pass upon the merits of the controversy—whether railroad property is relatively assessed too high—at all.

Roberts' is the Chill Tonic you want because it cures. 25c a bottle. No cure, no pay. Pleasant Tea Florida orange. Wholesale and retail by Temple-Manson Drug Co., J. E. Hood and Henry Dunn.

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