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STATE NEWS.

Interesting North Carolina Items
In Condensed Form.

Henderson is to have another cotton mill, to cost \$125,000.

Congressman Kitchin has been elected to the North Carolina Democratic delegation to represent them on the congressional committee.

The Cranberry iron furnace started up Wednesday, giving employment to 100 workers. Work at this plant had been shut down since 1896.

A North Carolina negro has returned from Liberia and says it is an "accursed country," that nearly all the American negroes long to return.

Ground was broken Wednesday inutherford county for a cotton mill to operate 40,000 or 50,000 spindles. The mill is being erected by R. R. Haner, Dr. B. Lovelace and Col. Frank Coxe.

Vice President St. John, of the Seaboard Air Line, announces that the railroad shops burned in Raleigh, several years ago, will be rebuilt at an early date and a large number of men employed there.

In the Smoky Hollow section of Durham, on Wednesday night Willard Sherman was killed and George Waring wounded by a negro, with whom they paraded in front of a house where a dance was in progress.

The Golden Belt Manufacturing Co., Durham, has brought suit for damages against the Millhiser Manufacturing Co., of Richmond, Va., for infringement upon the rights of patents for making bags. The amount involved is between \$100,000 and \$200,000.

Asheville Citizen: Frank Rogers, a member of State Corporation Commission Samuel L. Rogers, committed suicide in Montana Sunday. He was formerly a deputy collector in the internal revenue office and had numerous friends in the State. He went to Montana last spring.

Winston Journal: At a dance at the home of Charles Watkins, in Rockingham county, near the Virginia line, last Saturday night, a row arose in which John Ziglar was shot by Matt Price, in the mouth, the ball lodging in the back of the neck. All the parties are colored. At last accounts, Ziglar was not expected to live. Price made his escape and has not been captured.

Raleigh Post: Chemist Abernathy, of the State experimental station, returned yesterday from Wilson's Mills, where he went to inspect the strata of iron ore recently developed here. Mr. Abernathy reports that the ore is present in large quantities, and he is of the opinion that it will be very profitable to the owners. There is a thirty-foot strata of ore, he says, running 1,500 feet on the brow of hill. It has been traced over a mile by lifting the earth. The ore averages about 50 per cent.

Gastonia News: One day last week a Gastonia man went to Yorkville to swap horses. He had a pretty good horse and swapped it off for a mule. The man either got sick of the mule or the mule got sick of the man. Anyway the man tried to sell the mule to a negro man, but it seems the negro didn't want to buy. After trying in vain to sell the mule he asked the negro if he would have the mule if he would give it to him. The negro agreed to trade that way and took the animal off his hands and bought the mule for 25 cents. The man walked back home, a distance of 26 miles carrying a borrowed saddle on his back.

AUGUST FLOWER.

"It is a surprising fact," says Prof. Houton, "that in my travels in all parts of the world, for the last ten years, I have met more people having used Green's August Flower than any other remedy, for dyspepsia, deranged liver and stomach, and for constipation. I find for tourists and salesmen, or for persons filling office positions, whether headaches and general bad feelings from irregular habits exist, that Green's August Flower is a grand remedy. It does not injure the system by frequent use, and is excellent for sour stomachs and indigestion." Sample bottles free at Temple Marston Drug Co.

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SEABOARD CONSOLIDATION.

Good Progress Made. Affirmative Action by the Raleigh & Gaston Road.

Raleigh, Jan. 17.—Great progress was made here today towards the consummation of the plans of the Greater Seaboard Air Line system.

Meetings were held by the directors and stockholders of the Raleigh & Gaston railroad and resolutions were adopted providing for the immediate merger of the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad company, of the Raleigh & Augusta Air Line, of the Durham & Northern railroad, the Carolina Central railroad, the Georgia, Carolina & Northern railway, the Palmetto railroad and the Chesterfield & Kershaw railroad.

Under the plan adopted all the physical properties of the above mentioned railroad companies will be forthwith acquired by the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad company, thus increasing the mileage owned by the Raleigh & Gaston to 800 miles.

Arrangements were also made for the issuance of \$5,000,000 first mortgage bonds upon the Raleigh & Gaston railroad properties, including its ownership in other lines. Of the \$5,000,000 there is to be \$1,200,000 reserved in the treasury for the purpose of retiring the present outstanding bonds of the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad company.

The total indebtedness of all roads to be thus immediately merged with the Raleigh & Gaston railroad, including new bonds to be issued, will be about \$14,000,000, or less than \$18,000 per mile on the 800 miles of road which will be directly owned by the Raleigh & Gaston company. The earnings of the system show a large surplus over and above the interest on all bonds now outstanding, or those proposed to be issued.

The vote upon questions submitted to the meeting stood 14,967 in favor of and 18 shares against. These eighteen shares were voted by the attorneys of Thomas F. Ryan.

A meeting was also held of the stockholders of the Durham & Northern railway, in which every share of stock of the company was represented and voted unanimously in favor of the merger with the Raleigh & Gaston railroad.

At the next meeting of the stockholders of the Raleigh & Gaston railroad, which will take place on Jan. 31st, the acquisition of additional railroads will probably be reported.

Consolidation Again Blocked.

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 18.—Thos. F. Ryan, of New York, is giving John Skelton Williams and other promoters of the Seaboard Air Line consolidation scheme more trouble. He returned to the attack in the United States court today, the time set for entering formal order, denying application for injunction, and filed a supplemental and amended bill for injunction to prohibit consolidation. His grounds are that the defendants, in resisting the previous application, took the position that no authority for consolidation existed, and none was contemplated, and the legislature has since passed a bill authorizing it. Judge Waddill entered an order adjourning further hearing until next Tuesday at Richmond, and that in the meantime the status of the Seaboard & Roanoke railroad, under the said legislative act, shall remain as at present. This blocks further consolidation temporarily.

The Ugliest Beast.

Probably the ugliest beast in the world is a monkey, a grewsome looking animal called the bearded saki. This is so utterly grotesque a beast that it would scarcely be safe to let a child or nervous person see it. The ugliness is not of an amusing kind, but of an evil, sinister nature. The beast has a sort of beard and a countenance unlike anything else in shape and lines. The monkey itself is not particularly savage, but is so hideous that the natives of its country, South America, say that no beast of prey, however hungry, will tackle it. Even a hungry jaguar will starve in a cageful of sakis.

A Candle Trick.

Let a candle burn until it has a good long snuff; then blow it out with a sudden puff. A bright wreath of white smoke will curl up from the hot wick. Now, if a flame be applied to this smoke, even at a distance of two or three inches from the candle, the flame will run down the smoke and rekindle the wick in a very fantastic manner. To perform this ceremony nicely there must be no draft or "banging" doors while the mystic spell is rising.

TO FIGHT THE TRUST.

Tobacco Planters Adopt Jordan's Plan. The Executive Committee. A Meeting of North Carolina and Virginia Tobacco Growers a Probable Outcome.

Raleigh, Jan. 19.—The State Association of Tobacco Growers after an hour's debate yesterday morning adopted by a practically unanimous vote the rough draft of a contract to form a basis of an agreement between the organization and capitalists who agree to furnish money to handle the tobacco crop when 90 per cent. of the growers of bright tobacco have signed the contract. The agreement is the same as that formulated by the committee on plans at the Wednesday night session and, in full, is as follows:

"We agree to enter into a contract with J. F. Jordan and his associates to sell to them our tobacco raised during the next five years at an advance of not less than 15 per cent. over the prices of the same grade of tobacco during the last five years, the said price to be fixed by a commission, a majority of whom shall represent the seller.

"We further agree to take stock with said Jordan and his associates, a corporation which shall be formed for the purpose of manipulating and disposing of said tobacco sold to J. F. Jordan and his associates to the extent of not less than 15 per cent. of the value of our said tobacco. The details of this agreement shall be hereafter arranged so as to carry out the true intent and meaning of this agreement. If we make default in this agreement in any particular we agree to forfeit to said corporation the said stock so taken. And we further recommend for our mutual benefit that the farmers of North Carolina reduce their crop at least 25 per cent. below the past year's production. We invite the co-operation of Virginia, South Carolina and other sections which grow bright tobacco."

This is not intended as the specific contract that the individual farmer will be asked to sign. It is merely the embodiment of what the association deems necessary to offer as an inducement to the capitalists whom Mr. Jordan declares to be willing to back the enterprise and is intended only to set before the farmers, in general terms, the essentials of the contract afterward to be signed by the individual farmer.

On this plan it is the purpose of the association to "appeal to the country." Organizations will be perfected in every township and county of the tobacco section in accordance with the plan of organization adopted. The contract will be discussed and the tobacco grower familiarized with its main features. When the requisite 90 per cent. have agreed to sign the contract, then a State convention will be called, delegates will be sent up from the county bodies in the regular way, and the State convention will name a committee to confer with representatives of the capitalists, and with them a definite contract will be formulated and agreed upon, submitted to the convention and ratified. This contract will then be submitted to the individual tobacco growers, and when 90 per cent. have signed it, the organization will be perfected, and the capitalists on their part will put up the money necessary to handle the tobacco crop.

It was the sentiment of the association yesterday that the work of organizing in the counties and townships should begin at once and should be vigorously pushed. It is expected that at some time during the year a joint meeting of the tobacco growers of North Carolina and Virginia will be arranged, so that all growers of bright tobacco may be brought into harmony and may unite on a plan of opposition to the American Tobacco company. President Bryan Grimes named the following as members of the State executive committee of the organization from the several judicial districts of the State:

- 1—Col. R. W. Wharton.
- 2—Dr. R. H. Speight.
- 3—R. H. Ricks.
- 4—H. H. Knight.
- 5—W. J. Groome.
- 6—Col. W. L. Kennedy.
- 7—Col. T. F. Toon.
- 8—W. L. Bouldin.
- 9—Dr. Elias Fulp.

The members from the 10th, 11th and 12th districts will be named later. The association adjourned at 10:30 subject to call of the president.

The Rocky Mount Argonaut after a suspension of nearly seven months, is out looking bright and vigorous. It announces that it greets you under the ownership of the Argonaut Publishing Co., Chas. H. Nowell, business manager, but still under the editorial management of its old editor, W. A. Campbell. It is a good weekly and chiefly devoted to material progress.

COOKERY IN BOLIVIA.

The National Dish, Chupe, and How It is Prepared.

The stoves of the Bolivian Indians are curious things. A hole is dug in the ground about 18 inches deep and a foot square, and over this is built a roof of clay with holes of different sizes to receive the various cooking pots. Roasting is done on spits passed through the holes, so that the meat comes out very much smoked unless great care is taken to have only live coals at the bottom of the oven.

The national dish and the common food of the masses is "chupe," a sort of first cousin to the Irish stew. It is a conglomerate, composed of irregular constituents from the animal and vegetable kingdoms, a mess of mutton and such other meats as are available; chicken, fish, fruits, potatoes, carrots, barley, corn, rice, onions, yams, etc., chopped up, highly seasoned with peppers and herbs and stewed to a consistency of porridge. What happens to be left from one meal simmers in the pot until the next. If the fire goes out, the "chupe" is allowed to cool, but it is warmed up again and a new supply of the ingredients added to the water logged and greasy stuff for the next meal.

In the cities, at the hotels and restaurants where there are French or Swiss cooks, the "chupe" is savory and palatable, but the farther you go from the centers of civilization the worse it gets. One eats it at first under protest, then from necessity and only to escape starvation, but finally the stomach rebels, and you limit your diet to boiled eggs and fruit, which are usually to be obtained, but the experienced traveler always takes canned meat and bread with him.—Sucre (Bolivia) Letter to Chicago Record.

STREET PARADE FLOATS.

Many Difficult Problems to Be Met in Their Construction.

"The making of decorative street floats is a difficult trade," said a New Orleans scenic artist who has had plenty of experience in the line he mentioned. "There are so many things to be considered. For instance, a float must look well both near and far. It must be able to stand a dash of rain. It must be light enough to go over any kind of street and solid enough to resist a gust of wind, and, most important of all, it must be so constructed that it will appear all right to folks in upper windows.

"Some years ago a young designer from the north made several small models for tableau cars that charmed everybody who looked at them. They were certainly very beautiful and novel, but when I was called in as an expert I said at once that they wouldn't do. They were designed to be viewed from the banquettes only, and from a second story window every particle of effect would have been lost. Moreover, a lot of hidden mechanism was certain to be discovered at any elevation above 15 feet.

"The young artist frankly admitted I was right and abandoned the job. He said it involved entirely too many optical problems to suit him. When I make my drawings for a float, I calculate on a visual sweep of 30 degrees. That goes from the level of children on the pavement to people looking almost straight down from the upper floors of tall buildings. Unless such a precaution is taken the car is certain to be a failure."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

A Mountain of Alum.

In China, 12½ miles from the village of Liou-Chek, there is a mountain of alum which, in addition to being a natural curiosity, is a source of wealth for the inhabitants of the country, who dig from it yearly tons of alum. The mountain is not less than ten miles in circumference at its base and has a height of 1,940 feet. The alum is obtained by quarrying large blocks of stone, which are first heated in great furnaces and then in vats filled with boiling water. The alum crystallizes out and forms a layer about six inches in thickness. This layer is subsequently broken up into blocks weighing about ten pounds each.

GENERAL NEWS.

Matters of Interest Condensed into Brief Paragraphs.

The sugar trust has reduced the price of certain grades of sugar five points.

The dynamite explosion near Turin, Italy, Tuesday, killed 13 and wounded 10 other persons.

Two men were killed and three perhaps fatally wounded by the falling of an elevator in New York Thursday.

The president is in favor of legislation allowing him to place Lee and Wheeler on the retired list of the regular army.

The Georgia prohibitionists have decided to work for their principles in politics inside the Democratic party, and to make no separate nominations.

The Virginia house of delegates passed the "Jim Crow" car bill, or bill requiring separate cars for whites and blacks on the railways, without a dissenting vote.

In the legal fight for the removal of the indicted members of the Atlantic Contracting Co., from New York to Savannah, it is understood that Mr. Rose, counsel for the accused, will as a last resort attack the legality of the grand jury which found the indictments against the contractors and Capt. Oberlin Carter.

The special committee of the house of representatives to investigate the case of B. H. Roberts, of Utah, on Wednesday reached a final conclusion. On the polygamous status of Roberts the committee was unanimously agreed. The majority favored exclusion at the outset. Messrs. Littlefield and DeArmond will make a minority report to seat Roberts and then expel him.

Southern senators express themselves as hopeful over the prospects of securing legislation during the present session of congress looking to the refunding of money paid into the treasury of the United States soon after the civil war as the result of the sale of cotton captured by the federal forces. There was originally about \$30,000,000 of this money but a portion of it was paid to the owners of the cotton soon after the close of the war. The remainder was left in the treasury and has remained there ever since. Senator Money, who is giving especial attention looking to the reopening of the subject, says that the sum left amounts to about \$11,000,000. A bill introduced by Senator Davis gives one year additional time for proof of such claims before the court of claims. It has been favorably reported by the senate committee on claims, and Senator Money thinks the outlook very good for favorable action. Most of the claims are held in the southern states.

THE SITUATION SUMMARIZED.

Confidence Is Restored in Buller's Tactics. A General Storming of the Boers by the British.

London, Jan. 18.—Gen. Buller's complete surprise of the Boers on Potgieter's drift hills tends greatly to restore confidence in his tactics. It is shown that his forces are concentrated.

In Cape Colony Methuen has made a determined effort in force, shelling the Boer works. Gatacre is now skirmishing around Molteno. French is shelling the Boers at Rensburg. Plummer is moving to the relief of Mafeking from Bechuanaland, with less than 2,000 men. Mafeking is in a bad way; the siege is being pressed with determination, and the Kaffirs are deserting. Plummer, on Jan. 11, was 100 miles north of Mafeking.

Buller's Army Crosses the Tugela.

London, Jan. 18.—Gen. Roberts cables the war office, under today's date, confirming the crossing of the Tugela river at Potgieter's Drift by one brigade and a howitzer battery. He also says that Warren has thrown a pontoon bridge across the river five miles west, at Frichard's Drift. The whole force was expected to be on the north bank of the Tugela this morning.

Warren hopes to turn the Boer position, which is five miles away and is being strongly entrenched.

Party of Lancers Overpowered.

Rensburg, Jan. 18.—A patrol of 19 men of the New South Wales lancers were scouting near Norval's farm today when a party of sixty Boers attempted to cut them off. The lancers hastened to an adjacent kopje. After a hard race with the Boers they reached the kopje, but found it occupied. The New South Wales men made a gallant fight, but were overpowered. Two were killed and eight taken prisoners. It is believed that a Dutch farmer betrayed the whereabouts of the patrol.