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STATE NEWS.

Interesting North Carolina Items In Condensed Form.

A large gin house and fifteen bales of cotton were destroyed by fire Thursday night at Catesville, on the Louisburg railroad. Origin of the fire is unknown.

The Raleigh & Gaston railroad company has filed a big mortgage at Raleigh the amount involved being \$5,000,000. Revenue stamps on the mortgage amounts to \$2,500. The registration fee was \$27.

Mr. J. A. Crews, well known in this State as the traveling representative of the Wilmington Messenger, has commenced a tour around the world. He will visit every civilized country on the globe before returning home.

At the Populist State executive meeting held at Raleigh Thursday night it was decided to fight the constitutional amendment. Butler controlled the meeting. It was decided to call a State convention to meet at Raleigh April 18th.

At a mass meeting at Winston Friday night Robert E. Lee's birthday was celebrated. Patriotic addresses were made. Resolutions were also adopted thanking Senator Morgan for his able defense of the white people of North Carolina by his recent speech on the amendment question.

The State insurance commissioner has called for information as to any claim pending against insurance companies in this State, and this may lead to some interesting developments. The insurance laws now are very strict. It is said that the new law to prevent incendiary fires has operated admirably.

Before a special commissioner at Raleigh Thursday there was heard a case involving the question of limitation of the liability of a ship-owner. The case is that of the Old Dominion Steamship company against the Thames and Mersey and the Fire and Marine Insurance company of New York. The amount involved is quite large and is for cattle lost at sea.

Senator Butler, speaking of the national park proposed to be established in western North Carolina, said the movement might easily be considered a success; that the first step—securing the appointment of a commission from congress authorized to report on the matter—was assured, and the only question is whether the report of the commission will be favorable.

The Winston aldermen on Thursday night adopted an ordinance making vaccination compulsory. A violation of it means a fine of \$50 or 30 days in jail. The citizens are given ten days to comply with the law. A Mt. Airy man says over 500 citizens of that town were vaccinated on Tuesday. He says small-pox is now scattered throughout the county. Salem offers free vaccination to all her citizens for 30 days.

The committee of the board of agriculture to locate experiment farms decided Friday to begin work with two farms this year, one of 10 acres near Red Springs, and one of 20 acres near Tarboro. On the Red Springs farm experiments will be made with staple farm products, and on the Tarboro farm with staple farm products and with truck. The season is now so late that only a beginning can be made with truck this year. The farms to be used will be selected in a few days and work begun for this year.

Raleigh Post: The Populist committeemen who returned home yesterday were proudly patted and praised by Republicans, who have never been solicitous about their old allies as at present. The Populist party was practically disrupted in 1898, and the efforts of the ex-officers who compose the remnant, to make it appear that the united Populist party is against the suffrage amendment is rather weak. With a few exceptions, the members of the committee present at the meeting Thursday are full fledged Republicans.

MACRUM'S SECRET IS OUT.

Bears a Letter From President Kruger to President McKinley.

Naples, Jan. 18.—Charles Macrum, former United States consul at Pretoria, who left Lourenzo Marques on Dec. 18, bound for New York, landed here today.

It is reported that he bears a letter from President Kruger to President McKinley, asking the latter to mediate between the Transvaal and Great Britain.

White's Black Liniment—full size 25c bottle for 15c. It cures pain.

J. E. Hood.

WAR CLOUD IN THE EAST.

War Between Russia and Japan Pronounced Inevitable.

Chicago, Jan. 18.—"War between Russia and Japan is looked for as inevitable by the naval officers of those countries who have been nearest the probable scene of future operations," said Lieut. Romanoff, of the imperial Russian navy, who arrived in Chicago today.

The lieutenant has just completed a three years' cruise in Asiatic waters on the Russian battleship Sissoi Veliky, and is on his way to St. Petersburg. He continued:

"Just how soon such a war may begin it is difficult to say, but something little short of the miraculous must occur to avert it. The Japanese are building warships as rapidly as possible in anticipation of the outbreak of hostilities and Russia is strengthening her navy as fast as possible. That Russia must have a naval base between Port Arthur and Vladivostok is conceded and that she will try to get one in Korea is certain.

"The movement of Russian troops toward the Afghanistan and British India borders, the mobilization of trans-Caspian troops at Balln and Herat and other military maneuvering on the part of Russia is taken by official Russia to mean the beginning of a movement to eliminate English influence in territory heretofore held by her, beginning at Kabul. It is certain that England will have to fight to retain her territory in the east."

PUERTO RICO'S NEEDS.

The Island Will Soon Be Ruined Unless Congress Affords Relief.

Washington, Jan. 18.—Secretary Root devoted considerable attention today to the question of proposed legislation for Puerto Rico. Gen. Davis accompanied a delegation of Puerto Ricans who visited the war department and participated in a conference with the secretary.

Members of the delegation explained to Secretary Root that it was absolutely necessary that something be done immediately for the island, and declared that unless something was done the island would be ruined within a year. They placed but little importance on the proposition to extend the time for foreclosure of mortgages in the island. The time for foreclosure expires tomorrow, and it is likely the time will be extended.

The delegation said it was not extension that is needed so much as increased circulation of money and restoration of confidence. They declared that the only hope for speedy relief of the situation was in the passage by congress of legislation providing for free trade between the islands.

What it Means.

Asheville Citizen.

No man can be a friend of North Carolina and work or vote against the suffrage amendment.

No friend of North Carolina will do anything to keep the credit of the State from being increased. This passage of the amendment means higher credit for the State, and higher for the counties and cities of the State.

No one who wishes to see desirable immigrants can vote against the amendment.

No one who wishes to see the hills and valleys of western North Carolina filled with busy and prosperous citizens will talk, work or vote against the amendment.

No one who really wishes to see better State and local government in North Carolina will do anything to interfere with the adoption of the amendment by the people.

Count Castellane Loses Millions.

Paris, Jan. 18.—Alleged heavy losses of Count de Castellane on the bourse, caused a sensation here today. The count is the husband of Anna Gould, a member of the chamber of deputies and a prominent society man, now en route to New York to better his resources. The papers speak of him as a collapsed bull speculator. The Matin says his losses are not over 3,000,000 francs. The best information here is that he had speculated privately in anticipation of a raise in stocks on expected easy British victory in the Transvaal and was unable to meet his losses following the depression caused by British reverses.

The marquis, his father, denies his son has speculated and threatens a duel with the editor of The Figaro.

J. E. Hood guarantees every bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and will refund the money to any one who is not satisfied after using two-thirds of the contents. This is the best remedy in the world for la grippe, coughs, colds, and whooping cough and is pleasant and safe to take. It prevents any tendency of a cold to result in pneumonia.

TOO SHARP FOR RYAN.

The Existing Seaboard Syndicates Wiped Out and a New Greater Seaboard Syndicate Will Take Their Place.

Baltimore, Jan. 19.—Mess. Williams and Middelendorf, managers of the Seaboard syndicate, have stolen a march on Thomas F. Ryan, of New York, and are no longer apprehensive that he can cause them trouble. They have wiped out the existing syndicates and have formed one syndicate to be known as the Greater Seaboard syndicate.

Certificates of beneficiary interest in the Florida Central and Peninsula and the Seaboard & Roanoke syndicates will be called in, and in place of them will be substituted certificates in the new syndicate. They have already received the assent practically of all the signers of the Seaboard & Roanoke agreement and a large majority of the signers of the Florida Central and Peninsula agreement.

The effect of this move will be more far-reaching than appears upon the surface. The managers of the syndicate will also be voting trustees of the stock to be issued by the Greater Seaboard system, and even if Ryan succeeds in having transferred to himself any considerable amount of allotments, which entitle holders to certain amounts of stock of the new company, he would be powerless to interfere with the plans of the promoters, because the voting power of the stock would be vested in the trustees.

ACTON HOMES ACTION.

The Boers Lost 20 Killed and Wounded.

London, Jan. 19.—Gen. Buller telegraphs:

"Spearman's Camp, Jan. 18.—Lord Dundonald with a body of mounted troops came into action this afternoon with a force of Boers west of Acton Homes. After a fight he occupied several kopjes which he is still holding. Field cornet Helbium was killed, twenty-three burghers were killed or wounded and fifteen prisoners taken. Two British soldiers killed and two wounded."

Boers Suffered Severely.

London, Jan. 10.—The war office has made public dispatches from Field Marshal Lord Roberts dated today, recording the scouting movements in Cape Colony and adding:

"A Boer deserter states that the enemy suffered severely in attacking French's advanced post January 15th. Seventy Boers are still unaccounted for."

Reconnaissance By Methuen.

Modder River, Jan. 18.—Gen. Methuen, who is in robust health, personally directed another strong reconnaissance yesterday. The Highlanders succeeded in driving the Boers from the Brush River bank by long range volleys. The Boer fire was ineffective.

NEWBERN FAIR.

Change of Date Meets General Approval, Especially of Horsemen.

The change of the Newbern Fair date, from February to April, is an important one both in time, and also in weather conditions.

This somewhat radical change, however, seems to meet the approval of all the patrons and friends of the fair association, judging from the letters received by Secretary Geo. Green, who has a number of letters at hand from various sections, all expressing satisfaction at the change to April.

This latter date is especially favorable to horsemen, and the annoyances which had to be met in February weather, will not be incurred at the next fair, in April, the result being more and better races, with greatly increased number of entries. The fair will be held April 16-21.

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 offices, 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.

Sold by dealers in all civilized countries.

The best job printing, at lowest prices, is the only kind to be had at the Free Press office. Send us your work.

COAHOMA ITEMS.

January 17, 1900.

Slight fall of snow was seen this morning.

Miss Mattie Uzzell, of Seven Springs, later of Woodington, was visiting Miss Lily Sutton Sunday.

Miss Augusta Robinson, of Beaver Dam section, was at home, at the bedside of her sick brother, Mr. Emmet, on the 14th inst. Mr. Robinson, we are glad to learn, is improving.

Miss Sac Smith and others of our young folk attended services at Shady Grove Sunday.

Rev. C. W. Howard filled his usual appointment at Armenia last Sunday. Bro. Howard is much loved by his congregation and the people generally.

The board of school directors for our township met at Mr. Russell's store Monday to apportion funds to the different schools. After canvassing the matter, the board appropriated money sufficient to give each school a four months term. Mess. Smith and Sutton have manifested an interest in our schools, and are looking well to the same.

In answer to a telegram from President McIver, of the N. and I. College, Mrs. Helen Kennedy took cars today for Greensboro. We trust that something good may be the outcome of her visit. Her sudden departure, is at least very significant.

There has been a good deal of moving and changing base, so to speak, in this community lately, and mostly in the direction of town. Farmers beware how you give up the house on the farm for city life. Experience is sometimes a dear teacher.

We failed to note in our last items that the family of Mrs. J. M. Wooten had moved to Kinston. Her home is now occupied by Mr. Cobb, from near La-Grange.

Upon inquiring among our farmers, we find that about the same acreage in tobacco as last year will be put in. Our farmers here can well be classed among the conservative; they seem to hold to the hog and hominy idea. So long will the inner man at least be provided for,

Evidence for Taylor.

Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 18.—The hearing of evidence on behalf of Goebel and Beckham, the Democratic contestants for governor and lieutenant governor before the joint contest board, was completed today and the hearing of evidence for Gov. Taylor and Lieut. Gov. Marshall will begin tomorrow. They have five days set apart to them, after which Goebel and Beckham will have one day in rebuttal. The contests of Gov. Taylor and Lieut. Gov. Marshall were tendered today but went over till tomorrow at the instance of the contestants. Not more than fifty witnesses testified on the side of the contestants. They were mainly from Louisville and the principal evidence was in regard to the alleged military interference there.

A spicy colloquy was on between Col. Breckinridge and some Louisville politicians who testified in behalf of Goebel and finally became so sharp that the chairman called both to order.

Strange Freak of Fate.

Says the Portland Oregonian: "It is the belief of some historians that the name 'Oregon' is Aragon in disguise, that it was given to this country by the early Spanish voyagers and that American explorers so interpreted the word given them by the Indians. The theory is at least plausible and indicates a strange freak of fate. The name Spain proudly brought to this distant coast returned to the West Indies 300 years later to destroy the power of Spain on the seas! Little thought De Fuca when he sighted this coast in 1592 that some day it would build a warship which, under the name of Aragon, or Oregon, would be foremost in the battle that marked the end of Spain's dominion in the new world."

Peculiarity of Snakes.

A snake tamer who had trained a serpent to follow him around the house and even out of doors happened one day to take it with him to a strange place. The snake, unused to the locality, suddenly seemed to forget all his training and, escaping into the bushes, resisted capture with bites and every indication of wildness. When caught, it at once resumed its tame habits. This tendency to become wild immediately upon obtaining their freedom and to again become tame when caught is said to be a peculiarity of snakes.—New York Tribune.

GENERAL NEWS.

Matters of Interest Condensed Into Brief Paragraphs.

It is said 49,000,000 people are affected by the famine in India.

The carpenters of Savannah, Ga., in an attempt to force prosperity, have struck for higher wages.

At Baltimore, Md., Thursday, fire of an unknown origin did \$80,000 damage to property at from 18 to 26 Hanover street.

The legislature of Mississippi has elected ex-Gov. McLaurin senator from Mississippi for the long term and Sullivan for the short term.

Senator McEnery, of Louisiana, has given notice that on next Tuesday he will address the senate on the resolutions relating to the proposed amendment to the constitution of North Carolina.

At Leadville, Col., Thursday, two masked men held up Colob's saloon. Jerry Ryan, the bartender, refused to throw up his hands and was shot twice by one of the robbers, dying instantly. The robbers fled.

News has been received at Indianapolis, Ind., that about 40,000 miners in the anthracite district of Pennsylvania, near Scranton and Shamokin, who have been in a restless state for some time, have decided to strike.

The product of the world's gold mines last year is put at \$313,954,468, of which this country produced \$72,488,055; Australia, \$78,082,171; South Africa, \$73,108,650; Russia, \$24,072,334; the balance being divided among half a dozen or more countries.

Martin Bergen, a catcher of the Boston league baseball team, at North Brookfield, Mass., where he lived, on Friday killed his wife and two children and then committed suicide. An axe was the instrument used in taking the lives of Mrs. Bergen and one of the children, while a razor was employed to cut the throat of the other child, a little girl, and of the man himself. It is thought the action was due to insanity. It has been suspected for some time that Bergen was a victim of mental derangement.

As a result of the recent consolidations and agreements among the owners of the great trunk railways east of Chicago, the entire transportation system between the Mississippi river and the Atlantic seaboard is to be reorganized, involving the following changes: The abandonment of city ticket offices of all the roads in the syndicate in Chicago, New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Buffalo, Baltimore, Washington, Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Detroit, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Peoria and St. Louis, and the substitution of joint offices in each city. The discharge of all city, general, traveling and district freight and passenger agents and solicitors of the eastern roads in all parts of the United States, Canada and Europe. This will affect nearly 50,000 men.

SERVED HIM RIGHT.

John Barrett's Egotism Causes Him Dismay.

Washington Post.

John Barrett, the ex-minister to Siam, who is charging that Senator Hoar's speech upon the Filipino question gave Aguinaldo encouragement when telegraphed from here, is a graduate of Dartmouth College. Thereby hangs a story which was told yesterday in the senate marble room.

Barrett was invited to a Dartmouth dinner, and was, of course, called upon for a speech. As everybody knows, he has a rather exaggerated idea of his own importance. So he began in stilted fashion to relate the prominent part he took in the Orient during and after the war with Spain.

"When I was in the cabin of that magnificent vessel, the Olympia," began Barrett, "where I had been called to consult with that brave man, George Dewey, in order that we might protect together the interests of our common country, the greatest republic the world has ever known, Dewey placed his hand upon my shoulder and solemnly said to me—"

"Who stole Widow Perkins' squash pie?"

The voice was the voice of an old classmate of Barrett. It broke upon the speech with the force of an exploding shell. Instantly all the Dartmouth men answered.

"John Barrett."

The ex-minister to Siam grew red and embarrassed, floundered through a few more sentences, and sat down.

White's Black Liniment. It cures Sciatica, Rheumatism and Neuralgia. A 25c bottle for 15c. J. E. Hood.