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STATE NEWS.

Interesting North Carolina Items in Condensed Form.

A \$100,000 cotton mill company has been chartered for Lexington.

Several business men are moving to establish a \$75,000 cotton mill.

G. H. Hale, general merchant at Glen, Halifax county, has filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy.

Joseph Ramsey, of Tennessee, a well known lecturer, will make a month's tour of this State, lecturing before Epworth Societies.

A charter has been granted the S. B. Alexander, Jr., company, of Charlotte, which will make and sell electrical machinery and appliances. The capital stock is \$25,000.

Eugene L. Parker, of Raleigh, a graduate last year at the Agricultural and Mechanical College, has been appointed assistant chemist of the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Co., at Richmond.

One hundred natural history specimens have been sent from the State museum to Paris. These represent 21 species of birds and five of fishes, besides a carefully selected lot of game birds, including a notably fine bevy of quail feeding.

A little boy of Mrs. Mattie Brown, residing at Hope Mills, while playing with other children around a fire in the yard, yesterday, had his clothing ignited by the flames, receiving such injuries that death came to his relief only after great suffering.

The trial of Thomas Smith for killing Charles Cawthorne, in Johnston county, was concluded in Goldsboro Saturday night. The jury, after being out nearly 24 hours, returned a verdict of murder in the first degree. Judge Hoke sentenced the prisoner to be hanged Friday, March 10.

A Lexington Dispatch: On account of the case heaped upon Hon. F. M. Simmons, men who are not fit to clean his boots, the people of North Carolina love him. His great efforts for decent government in this State have made for him a warm place in the hearts of all true North Carolinians.

The State auditor was asked for some figures showing property values in this State at the beginning of the civil war, at its end and at present. He says that in 1861 real estate was valued at \$125,000,000; in 1863 at \$131,000,000, and at \$162,000,000; in 1867 real estate at \$97,000,000; in 1899 \$269,000,000. In 1862 the State debt was \$14,120,000; in 1866 it was \$18,262,000; it is now \$6,570,000.

Greensboro Record: The town of Hamlet has a novel smallpox pest house, in the shape of a railway car, on a track two miles from the town. The railway built a track so the car could be placed where it is now. In it are 15 negroes who have the disease. A railway man says that despite the guard, a negro escapes nearly every night. There is a shot gun quarantine at Rockingham, near by, and every road is patrolled.

Raleigh cor. Messenger: A Populist member of the legislature, who has always been a Republican annex man, says this year the Populists will name the men on the fusion State ticket, and let the Republicans vote for them. This is a very shallow pretense. The Republicans are really dominating the whole matter and direct all the Populist movements. The so-called Populist leaders are such only in name. They are merely Republican puppets.

Rocky Mount Argonaut: Mr. J. M. Sherrod, of the law firm of Bunn & Sherrod, was bitten Friday by a dog, supposed to have been rabid. Mr. Sherrod left for Baltimore the same night and entered the Pasteur department of the city hospital for treatment. He carried the dog's head with him for examination. Mr. Sherrod is one of our most prominent young business men, the vice-president of the Planters' bank, and a large landed proprietor and capitalist. We sincerely trust that he will experience no bad effects from this unfortunate occurrence.

Wilson News: Details of the explosion of a boiler at the Bynum place of Mr. F. W. Barnes, on the plank road five miles from Wilson, were just obtained yesterday. The explosion took place Monday afternoon. The engineer had stepped away some distance, and all the hands were engaged in other work. Suddenly there came an explosion, and the boiler and engine were wrecked, pieces being thrown a great distance, but no one being hurt. It is supposed there was too much water in the boiler and that the team got too high, as the machinery was in good order. Loss estimated at \$1,000, with no insurance.

CRITICAL POSITION.

Indications of a Big Victory for The Boers. Reports of Buller's Army Being in Full Retreat. Buller Cables Situation Unchanged.

London, Jan. 28, (4:30 a. m.)—The only news issued by the war office during the night is a dispatch from Lord Roberts dated yesterday (Saturday) stating that the situation is unchanged and that Gen. French reports a reconnaissance of the enemy's position on Thursday, when he found the Boers strongly posted at Pietfontein. The maps do not show any such place in the region of Gen. French's operations and it is probable that Reitfontein, ten miles north of Colesburg, is the place alluded to.

A special dispatch from Colenso, dated Wednesday, Jan. 24th, says that Commandant Lucas Meyers' commando surprised and surrounded a strong body of Methuen's infantry, killing and wounding twenty-three and capturing fifteen.

London, Jan. 27.—The defense committee of the cabinet met at the war office this afternoon, Lord Salisbury presiding. There are reiterated rumors that the gravest kind of news from Natal is being concealed by the war office. It is even said that Gen. Buller's forces are in full retreat.

It is impossible to confirm or to deny the reports of disaster to Buller's forces, as the officials maintain silence. They say they have nothing for publication. It is evident, however, from the office's announcements that the casualties reported by Gen. Buller occurred in Gen. Lyttleton's brigade, which apparently was not engaged at Spion Kop, that there has been severe fighting not yet reported.

There is no mention here of the reports circulated in the United States that Gen. Clery has been defeated by the Boers. The last heard of Gen. Clery was that he was participating in Gen. Warren's movements.

Again Caught in a Trap.

Berlin, Jan. 27.—Some of the papers here claim to have a telegram from Pretoria saying that Gen. Warren was enticed into Spion Kop, where the Boers fell upon him; that seventeen of his cannon were captured and that Buller's hasty retreat over the Tugela river alone can save him.

The alleged Pretoria telegram adds that the British losses were 800 men killed and 1,500 wounded. The dispatch came through Brussels and does not receive much credit in this city.

Nothing From British War Office.

London, Jan. 27.—The war office has no news of the catastrophe to Gen. Buller's forces reported from Berlin, and discounts the story. Neither has the war office any explanation, at least for publication, of the abandonment of Spion Kop and there are no advices in this connection from independent sources. The disposition today is to regard the evacuation as not so serious as at first thought, and commentators are abusing the military authorities both at the front and at home, for publishing hasty accounts of an incomplete, half understood operation, thus alternately thrilling and depressing the nation.

The war office has decided to embody two additional militia battalions and another battery of artillery.

Mafeking Relieved.

Lourenzo Marques, Delagoa Bay, Jan. 23.—It is reported on good authority that Mafeking was relieved Tuesday, Jan. 23d.

An Unspoken Hint.

"Most insulting man I ever knew," exclaimed the man with the breezy personality. "I'm never going to have anything to do with him."

"What has he been saying to you?"

"Nothing."

"What has he been saying behind your back?"

"Nothing. Every time I start to tell him a funny story he looks up at the clock."—Washington Star.

On the Rialto.

First Actor (much elated)—Did you see what the critic of The Planet said—that such acting as mine has seldom been seen?

GENERAL NEWS.

Matters of Interest Condensed into Brief Paragraphs.

Smallpox is reported to be prevalent in Mississippi.

Philip D. Armour, Jr., died suddenly on Friday night at his winter home at Barro, Cal. The cause of his death was congestion of the lungs.

At Macon, Ga., Saturday, Judge Spear, in the case of Lady against the Georgia & Alabama railroad, refused the injunction sought to prevent the consolidation of the Seaboard Air Line system.

The senate committee on Puerto Rico has decided, so far as it can decide, that the island whose affairs it has under its particular care shall be known as "Puerto Rico" and not "Puerto Rico," as fixed by a recent executive order.

At Princeton, Ky., Thursday, on account of an old grudge, R. B. Pickering, ex-sheriff, and Edward N. Daniel, a merchant, emptied their weapons at each other. Daniel's wounds are not considered dangerous. Pickering is dying.

At Russell, W. Va., Friday, Isaac J. Crump shot and mortally wounded Geo. Hyden. Both were railway engineers, and it is said were intoxicated. Crump drew a revolver from his pocket and told Hyden jokingly to "dance or die." Hyden refused to dance, and Crump fired, the bullet penetrating Hyden's right breast. The men had been life-long friends. Crump is under arrest.

At Norfolk, Va., Friday, Edward Powell met a horrible death. He was attending to some machinery, when his clothing caught on a projection, and he was whirled through the air at a frightful speed. His horror-stricken companions rushed to stop the machinery, but before it could be done the crushed and mangled body was hurled to the floor with almost every bone fractured.

At Philadelphia, Friday, the Angora Manufacturing company's plant was destroyed by fire and one employe, Lizzie Blackburn, 17 years old, is missing. Her body is believed to be in the ruins. The factory employed 130 hands in the manufacture of cotton yarns. The fire originated from an overheated machine bearing in the "mule room." Many panic-stricken persons were injured by jumping and others severely burned. The loss is \$150,000, partly covered by insurance.

AMERICANS REPORTED SHOT.

Mexican General Alleged to Have Executed Prospectors Friendly to Yaquis.

El Paso, Tex., Jan. 26.—The mail tonight from Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico, brings the news that a report is current there that six Americans, David Cusick, John Eldridge, George Lunt, Charles Burns, Lon Webster and Henry Williams, were shot during last week near the foot of the Bacatete Mountains, east of Guaymas, by order of Gen. Torres, who is in command of the Mexican troops now operating against the Yaqui Indians in the Bacatete range.

It is further reported that the matter was brought to the attention of the American consul at Guaymas, but that the latter declined to act. It is said the Mexican troops found the Americans in friendly intercourse with the Yaquis, whom the troops have surrounded in the range. Some of the names are known here as those of prospectors.

There is great variance in tax rates in the various counties, as the corporation commission shows. In Carteret and Transylvania the rate is \$1.20 on the \$100 valuation; while in Richmond it is 60¢. In Wake it is 66¢. New Hanover 92¢. Mecklenburg \$1.16. As to cities and towns it is \$1.75 in Wilmington, Raleigh \$1.23, Charlotte \$1.

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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Ministerial Conference.

The session opened with religious services conducted by P. E. Rev. W. S. Bone. Dr. Kilgo opened the discussion with a thirty minutes' address on "Methodism in its Relation to the Civil Government of America." It was wonderfully interesting, showing how the church had been a providential instrument in God's hand for the civil, social, intellectual and spiritual development of our country.

The special subject for the morning was "How Best to Promote Good Revivals in All Our Churches." On this subject the discussion was interesting, being engaged in by several ministers. Rev. D. H. Tuttle, by request of the presiding elder, spoke on this subject. He said the preacher must himself be revived in his own religious life in order to begin such a work in his church. Two methods by which he may stir up his own experience. 1. Special prayer, with Bible study. 2. The reading of some good book on experimental religion, such as the life of Wm. Carvossa or Wm. Bramwell. He had found visiting from house to house, and making inquiry as to number of Christians in each home, number of unconverted, as to family worship, and praying in the family a good starter for a revival. He also urged the importance of fasting and prayer, settlement of difficulties in families and between church members a very great if not the greatest help to a revival.

The conference adjourned sine die, Rev. R. B. John pronouncing the benediction.

A Victory for Goebel.

Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 27.—The first actual test of strength between the Republican and Democratic forces in the Goebel-Taylor contest came today, and by the admission of the Republican leaders proved a victory for Goebel. The Democrats claim it decisive, while the Republicans still have strong hopes of retaining Gov. Taylor. The vote was in the contest of Van Meter, of Fayette county, against Berry, Van Meter winning 51 to 45. Every effort was made to get out the largest possible vote.

One of Harrison's Jokes.

"Benjamin Harrison once played a mean trick on me at Miami university," said William P. Fishback. "We boarded with a widow in Oxford, and there came to be a discontent among the boys about the food not being sufficiently generous in supply. A meeting was held in Harrison's room to arrange a formal protest. Lots were cast as to who should present the case at the breakfast table. The ballot box was stuffed, and I was elected. I spoke at the breakfast table and stated that the boys objected to paying so much for so scant a menu. I expected to be supported by the others.

"Benjamin Harrison spoke and to my dismay, said: 'We don't know how Mr. Fishback has been living at home—he may have been a pampered son of luxury—but, as for the rest of us, we have no complaint to make.'"

"And that disposition of fun and humor never left Benjamin Harrison."

Warmth of Birds' Blood.

The blood of birds offers some data for thought not found in the blood of any other class of animals. The blood corpuscles are shaped differently, being oval instead of round. But this is not the difference to which I refer. Birds' blood is several degrees warmer than that of other animals. To man such a temperature of the blood as birds possess would be a fever. This high temperature causes molecular changes in the tissues and brain to take place more rapidly, which would cause the consumption of more food, and brain activity would be more intense, so that for the same amount of work a smaller brain would meet all the requirements, which at a lower temperature would require one of greater size.

—Phrenological Journal.

Where Genius Comes In.

Grimes—Do you think it indicates a high degree of intellectuality to be able to write poetry?

Rawson—Not at all. Almost anybody can write poetry. It requires brains to get it published.—Boston Transcript.

The Disappointed One.

A severe and elderly woman passed by with one of her kind. We caught only this fragment: "It seems to me some persons are born just to get the first reading of new books at the Athenaeum."—Boston Journal.