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OLD NORTH STATE NEWS AND GOSSIP

ODD AND INTERESTING HAPPENINGS.

Lumber on Robesonian: Mr. J. K. Humphrey, who was in town the first of the week, tells us that the farmers in the upper end of the county are using more grain drills than heretofore. This means that more grain is being planted, which is a good indication of more prosperous farming and the employment of better methods.

The North Carolina Association of Academies will hold its sixth annual meeting in the senate chamber of the capitol at Raleigh, Friday and Saturday, December 26 and 27. Railroads and hotels will grant reduced rates to all who attend. This organization now embraces in its membership the principals and teachers of the leading high schools and academies of North Carolina.

The case of Judge T. A. Jones against George W. Vanderbilt has been dismissed in Buncombe superior court. It was an action for damages brought against Vanderbilt on account of the serious injury sustained by Judge Jones last Christmas when an unmanageable team caused him to be thrown on the road at All Souls church. The parties interested decline to say whether the case has been compromised.

Graham, Dec. 19.—Yesterday afternoon about 4 o'clock, Query Garrett, the 9-year-old son of Alderman W. W. Garrett, and Charles Webster, 8-years-old, took a flobert rifle and went out in the outskirts of the town "to hunt quail." They had only been gone a short time when the news reached town that young Garrett had shot and killed his friend Webster. It is supposed that the shooting was accidental. Young Webster was the son of Alfred Webster, a liveryman.

North Wilkesboro Hauler: Quite a painful accident befell Mr. W. H. Hatchison near Fairplains Friday afternoon. While sitting in the rear of a circular saw sharpening the machinery was started and he was caught on the saw and thrown clear over it. Fortunately there was but very little steam on and he was thrown away from the saw. Otherwise he would no doubt have been killed. As it is a deep gash about 4 inches long was cut in his thigh and he was otherwise bruised.

Rocky Mount Motor: A horrible thing was discovered Tuesday to have taken place in the cemetery here. Mr. Gabriel Catlett, whose wife was buried there a few years since, and whose mind it is supposed has become unbalanced on account of her death, went to the above mentioned place and partly exhumed the body, taking the hair and some of the teeth away with him, and telling a friend what he had done. We learn that efforts will be made to place the unfortunate man in the asylum.

Charlotte Observer: A few days ago there was a white man in Sharon township, calling himself a doctor, who sold patent medicine. During his sojourn here he came across a sick negro named Jim Crow, who lived upon the farm of Mr. E. T. Brown. He told the doctor that for \$10 he would cure him. Crow could raise only \$9 and this he offered to give the man for the cure, which was guaranteed. The white man took the money, gave the medicine, and left, saying that he was going to see another patient. He has not been seen since. Within less than 24 hours after Crow took the medicine, he died.

Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 20.—Interest is considerably quickened today in the fight for the removal of Oscar J. Spears as assistant district attorney by a special from Washington that Judge Fainall's letter of complaint against him is filed in the department of justice. The judge has denied that he has or would request his removal. He charged in the letter that Spears does not attend to his duties and intimates that intemperance is the cause. J. A. Giles is probably the most prominent Republican in the race for appointment as Spears' successor.

Greensboro, N. C., Dec. 19.—Gen. Alfred of Winston, a young white man, employed as a salesman by the American Telephone and Telegraph company, climbed one of the poles of the Greensboro Electric company this morning and beyond the Norman to transfer some wires. He caught hold of a live wire and could not let go until another lineman cut it. The current at the power house had to be shut off for some time. Alfred received a severe shock and his hands were badly burned, though he was not seriously hurt.

CURRENT COMMENT.

Secretary Hitchcock reports that there are now fifty-four forest reserves, embracing 60,000,000 acres. This is a good start, but we need more.—Providence Journal.

The threat made in the German reichstag that the empire will show her teeth to the United States was injudicious. Uncle Sam is a very skillful dentist.—Boston Advertiser.

Chamberlain's words concerning his American wife, "I have found her my best friend and truest comrade," come as a ray of light through clouds in this era of the rapid fire divorce suit.—New York World.

There is one railroad combination which the public will unhesitatingly approve, no matter to what length it may go—the combination of railroad companies to stamp out train robbery.—Omaha Bee.

In time international arbitration may demonstrate the wisdom of the creation of the court of arbitration at The Hague by the gradual establishment of precedents supplementary to and eventually forming a component part of recognized international law.—Minneapolis Times.

CURTAIN CALLS.

Louis Mann is suffering from a serious throat trouble.

Signora Duse has decided to abandon her projected Australian tour.

"Mr. Blue Beard" opens at the Knickerbocker theater, New York, in January.

It is stated that "Alt Heidelberg" may be adapted and produced by the Shubert brothers.

Charles Bradley has written a new comedy for the Bostonians called "The Queen of the Adriatic."

James W. Morrissey has become the business manager for Miss Nancy O'Neil for a space of three years.

"Lovers Lane" will be played in Australia next summer by the same company to be seen there in "Way Down East."

Louis James and Frederick Wardle are said to be making a great success with their new production of Shakespeare's "Tempest."

LAW POINTS.

A bona fide purchaser at sheriff's sale, who had paid the purchase money without notice of an equity is held in Johnson versus Equitable Securities company (Ga.), 56 L. R. A. 933, to be entitled to protection against the same.

A woman's subsequent marriage is held in Kelly versus Stevenson (Minn.), 56 L. A. B. 734, not to revoke a will made by her, the rule of the common law to the contrary having been abrogated by a statute conferring on married women testamentary capacity.

The statute of limitations against an action on a judgment is held in Citizens' National bank versus Lucas (Wash.), 56 L. A. R. 812, to begin to run from the time of its rendition and not from the expiration of the time during which execution can be issued on it.

It looks as if the roar of Cannon would be heard daily in the next congress.—Boston Globe.

Mr. Frick is now expected to give Mr. Carnegie a few lessons in how to avoid dying poor.—Washington Star.

They say Citizen George Franch Train dictated his autobiography, just published, in thirty-five hours. He is a sort of lightning express train, as it were.—Exchange.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., is still preaching on the uselessness of great riches. Pretty soon he will lay himself liable to being suspected of being a humorist.—Boston Herald.

RECENT INVENTIONS.
An Englishman has invented a brick laying machine which lays and mortars the bricks.

Torchon lace of any pattern can now be made by one machine, owing to a recent invention in Vienna.

An Indiana inventor has patented a device by which horses hitched in their stalls will be relieved automatically if the stable catches fire.

A Danish inventor has succeeded in producing chemically a new material for plastic art, "terralit." It can be made to look like copper, marble, bronze, porcelain or organic ware.

PUBLICITY.

In the matter of press versus pigmy there's only one thing left for the latter—advertising in the former.—News-Week.

There are few ads that will bring enough direct returns to pay a profit over and above the cost of the ad. It is in the subsequent and repeat orders that the profit is made.—Western Monthly.

Every man must blow his own horn nowadays, and judicious advertising is the great horn that enables every man to make himself heard in all of our public.—Jewelry-Circular-Weekly.

FATAL CRASH OF TRAINS BRINGS DEATH AND SUFFERING.

Byron, Cal., Dec. 21.—Eighteen persons were killed and 27 injured in the collision last night between the southbound Los Angeles "Owl" train and the Stockton flyer. It was a rear end collision, the engine of the local plowing its way into the rear-coach of the "Owl" which was filled with Fresno people. The passengers who escaped death were hurled to the forward part of the coach and crushed in the mass of debris. Their sufferings and danger were intensified by the clouds of scalding steam that poured out from the shattered boiler of the Stockton engine. After the "Owl" left the Oakland Moth it was noted that there was a leak in the fire of the engine. This increased to such an extent that it was deemed advisable to stop here and take a freight engine for relief. The train officials knew that the Stockton local train was following a half-hour behind and a flagman was sent back along the track to give warning of the presence of the "Owl."

It is said that the Stockton train, in charge of Engineer Maguire and Fireman Joyce, got the warning signal in due time and gave the signal, the usual response with whistle blasts. Why the following train was not checked, however, has not been explained thus far, the men who could give the facts being among the badly injured. So forcibly did the local meet the rear of the "Owl" that the end of the second car, the dining car, was smashed in and the three cooks were seriously hurt. The horror of fire was not added to the disaster and the panned up victims were spared from flame, for the oil burners were extinguished upon the crash came.

Relief quickly came to the injured passengers, axes and saws being brought into play. Messengers were sent to Byron and Hot Springs, a short distance away, and physicians came quickly to the station. Every effort was made to alleviate the suffering and those who were unable to proceed on their journey were taken to the Springs Hotel or the church in Byron, which temporarily was transformed into a hospital.

SIXTEEN DEATHS ALREADY RECORDED.
Marines, Cal., Dec. 21.—Sixteen deaths already have been recorded and there are fears that the total will reach 20. Most of the wounded passengers, who were too severely injured to be taken to their homes, were taken to the Southern Pacific Hospital, at San Francisco, today and on the way to that place five victims died. Twenty-two of the injured reached the hospital, where it was announced tonight that R. W. Post, of Fowler, Cal., and Lee Sou, a Chinese, of San Francisco, will probably succumb. Of the 22 patients, only three were permitted to receive visitors, so seriously were they suffering.

TWO MORE DEATHS.
San Francisco, Dec. 21.—At the Southern Pacific Hospital tonight, two more victims of the Byron wreck died, Richard Post, of Fowler, Cal., a medical student, and Mini Magowa, a Japanese girl. This makes the total number of deaths 18.

A BIG ADVANCE IN OIL.
Standard Oil Company Makes Fifty Millions In a Day.
New York Dispatch to New Orleans Times-Democrat.

The Standard Oil trust, which this year paid its stockholders \$40,000,000—or 40 per cent. of its capitalization—in dividends, has made in the last twenty-four hours a grab of \$50,000,000.

Of this vast sum added to the revenues of the trust the bulk goes to John D. Rockefeller, and nearly all of it to half a dozen "oil magnates."

The price of oil has been steadily climbing for three months. In September the price of baroness for export was 8½ cents a gallon. Since then the advances have been recorded by 5, 10 and 15 points, until the price was 9½ cents a gallon on Wednesday. Today the price is 10½ cents—and advance of 1 cent in a day—the largest single advance that has been made in many a year.

Little information was given out at the office of the Standard Oil company, but it was admitted that the rise in price was caused by the unusual consumption of oil for heating as well as illuminating purposes.

Ordinary rough run dies and sandstones to drive lathes, Anways Group Syrup is made for children and candy and is sold in 25 cent and 50 cent tins. As a medicinal 25 cent tin at J. B. Hood

FRESH FACTS IN A FEW LINES

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO EVERYBODY

A ginseng trust has been formed in Japan.

There are 9,900 boys in the British navy, including 4,200 under training. Millions of muscels have recently been washed ashore near Swansea, Wales.

In Berlin 833 public buildings are owned by the state and 497 by the municipality.

Bicycles are taxed in Vancouver, B. C., the municipal revenue from that source last year being \$557.

Penrith, Cumberland, England, is to be lighted by electricity, power being obtained from the river Eamont.

Wire screens are now placed in the tramway cars at New Orleans to separate negroes from white passengers.

While 3,500 coal cutting machines are used in United States mines, there are less than 400 such machines in British collieries.

Her puppy having died, a fox terrier at Twickenham is now contentedly acting as foster mother to a couple of young kittens.

Under light anesthesia ammonia applied to a cat's nose will cause a cardio inhibition and a rise of blood pressure. In rabbits the effect is the same.

Bullets shot in military target practice nowadays are caught on an inclined surface made of sheet iron back of the target, are remelted and become bullets again.

In Worcestershire, England, 400 women are engaged making anchors, while 703 others make needles and 1,044 nails. Nearly all are married women or widows.

By order of the Japanese express wooden legs have just been distributed to the seven maimed survivors of the Aomori disaster, when 200 Japanese soldiers were frozen to death.

Reports from Manitoba show an immense increase in the production of wheat in that section. This must to a greater or lesser extent affect the production of this grain in the United States.

The decision of the directors of the theater at Halle, in Germany, to distinguish by means of red and white advertising posters between plays that are fit for young persons to witness and those that are not is causing some amusement.

As a model a Munich sculptor has hired a full grown lion from a menagerie. The animal eats twelve pounds of horseflesh daily and drinks ten gallons of milk. The cost of its food and its keeper's pay is \$10 a day. The menagerie is to receive \$1,500 if the lion dies.

The Yeazides.
The Yeazides, a peculiar Turkish sect, cut off the head of any one who inadvertently speaks the word "devil," "Satan" or anything with a similar meaning.

Potted Plants.
When plants are first potted, water them thoroughly to settle the soil closely around the roots. Afterward water according to requirements. A plant growing fast must have plenty of moisture. If the leaves begin to look dull in color, water is needed at once.

Antipodean Pearl Fishing.
The pearl fisheries of West Australia employ 2,500 men, of whom 110 are Englishmen. The average yield per boat per season is placed at \$225 for pearls and \$3,375 for pearl shell.

Costly Wines.
The most expensive wine in the world is some 1778 Madeira recovered from a wreck in the Scheidt in 1814. It was sold at \$114 per bottle.

Arizona.
Arizona exceeds in area the following ten states combined: Rhode Island, Delaware, Connecticut, New Jersey, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maryland, West Virginia and South Carolina.

A Siam Custom.
When a personage of high rank dies in Siam, the king helps bathe the body and prepare it for cremation and finally lights the funeral pyre.

Teak Timber.
The best timber known for ship-building is teak, a forest tree common in India.

Coffee Blends.
A judicious blend of different kinds of coffee always produces a better liquor than any single coffee. But this mixture ought to be made after roasting and not before.

Plant Insects.
One of the best remedies for scale insects on plants, such as oleanders, roses, etc., is a mixture of white heliob powder and dissolved soap, thoroughly rubbed on. Repeat in a week or two.

Unexplored Australia.
Australia now contains more unexplored territory in proportion to its size than any other continent.

Peru's Gold Mines.
The gold mines of Peru were so rich that Atahualpa to buy his ransom filled a room 22 by 17 feet to a height of nine feet with golden vessels. When melted, they produced \$15,480,710 of gold.

Fashions.
Fashion was the old name for a certain disease of the horse. It is alluded to in "The Taming of the Shrew," where Petruchio's horse is said to be "infected with the fashions." The complaint is a common one now, but not among horses.

Paper Slippers.
In many hotels in Europe the guests are provided with slippers. The soles are of pasteboard and the rest brown paper. New ones are furnished to each guest.

Hampton Institute.
In the Hampton institute palm leaf hats and new styles of baskets are made by the students, also rugs, and the girls use pure vegetable dyes of their own manufacture instead of the aniline colors to be found in the market.

A Tough Old Bat.
A bat was found torpid, but alive, in a vault at Yatesbury church, Caine, England, recently which had been closed and sealed 100 years previously.

The Military Salute.
It is 100 years since King Frederick William III. of Prussia issued an order forbidding officers and men to take off their hats in saluting and ordering the salute to be bringing the hand to the level of the eyes.

Luminous Plants.
Several species of moss—a lily, a poppy and a nasturtium—are luminous at night.

Austria Twice Bankrupt.
The Austrian empire has been twice bankrupt—once in 1811, when she paid 5 shillings in the pound, and again in 1814, when she paid 2 shillings in the pound.

The Brain.
The brain of a child at birth weighs under ten ounces, but at the end of a year has increased to two pounds. Full growth is attained by men at about twenty years of age and by women at eighteen years.

Ice Cream.
If half of the cream to be used in making ice cream is first scalded and the sugar melted in it, there will be no danger of burning it into butter, as sometimes occurs when it is used unscalded. After cooling add the remainder of the cream demanded by the recipe.

Morocco Women.
The women of Morocco never celebrate their birthdays, and few of them know their ages.

Lime-water.
To make lime-water soak a piece of unslaked lime about the size of a walnut in two quarts of filtered water contained in an earthen vessel, stir thoroughly, allow it to settle and use only from the top, replacing the water and stirring as consumed.

A Dowry of Water.
Water is so scarce in the Japanese island of Oshima that it is the custom of the bride to take a large tub of drinking water with her to her new home as a kind of dowry.

First Scientific Society.
The first scientific society was established by Dr. Franklin.

The Fairchild Lecture.
Every Whit Tuesday since 1730 there has been delivered at the parish church at Shoreditch, London, a lecture on the creation, entitled the Fairchild lecture, a discourse for which Thomas Fairchild, the pious gardener of Hoxton, left a legacy.

Caged Birds.
Caged birds are frequently much troubled with insects in their eyes. It will be found that hanging a small tin of sulphur in the cage will prevent these insects worrying the birds and will also improve their health in other ways.

Lizards In Siam.
A kind of lizard which grows to 8 or 9 feet in length is found in Siam. It is known as the "be-ah," and is highly prized as medicine.

AN HOOD OF THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN.
The political campaign over and the smoke of battle cleared away, smokers naturally turn to the cigarette campaign, which is always interesting, for it's a battle of good tobacco.

In all the struggling forces there is none that presents such an army of conviction as that under the banner of President Cigarettes. Like the stock from whence they came, these cigarettes are driers have the guarantee of quality, and this alone makes them successful in capturing the love of Southern smokers.

SOME ARRIVE SOME DEPART

PERT PARAGRAPHS PURELY PERSONAL

Miss Mary Kilpatrick returned yesterday from Grifton.

Mr. James Rhodes, of Grifton, came yesterday to visit at Mr. Geo. W. Rhodes'.

Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Copeland returned yesterday from a northern wedding tour.

Mrs. T. H. Lee left this morning for Ahoeki, to spend the holidays.

Mr. R. L. Blow went to Pikeville this morning.

Miss Martha Allen went to Goldsboro this morning.

Mrs. Alice Hunter left this morning for Washington, N. C.

Mrs. J. M. White went to Dover this morning.

Prof. L. C. Brogden went to Goldsboro this morning.

Mrs. P. H. Crawford went to Goldsboro this morning.

Miss Lizale White returned this morning from visiting in Craven county.

Mrs. Sallie Benton and Mr. K. B. Benton went to Boston this morning.

Mrs. T. M. Sutton, of near Kinston, went to LaGrange this morning.

Mr. C. L. Ives, of Newbern, was in Kinston yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Hamlin left this morning for Winston.

Mr. A. L. C. Hill left yesterday evening for Norfolk.

Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Wooten went to LaGrange this morning.

Mrs. W. L. Holland, of Clinton, came yesterday to visit at Mr. G. E. Summerlin's.

Messrs. Elliott Smith, Reid Tull and Eric Bell came home yesterday from attending school at the A. & M. college.

Mr. T. A. Holden, of Grifton, a student of Trinity college, came this morning on his way home to spend the holidays.

Mr. F. Stahly Whitaker came home this morning from Trinity college, to spend the holidays.

Miss Olivia Waters, of near Newbern, came this morning to visit her sister, Mrs. C. T. Randolph.

Miss Katherine Brock, of Maryland, who has been visiting at Mr. S. H. Abbott's, went to Newbern yesterday.

Mr. Charlie Phillips, of near Kinston, left this morning to visit in Johnston county.

Mrs. W. A. Pearce, of Weldon, came yesterday to visit her father, Mr. J. W. Grainger.

Miss Nettie Brogden, of Trenton, who has been visiting at Mrs. Kate Harvey's, left this morning for Raleigh.

Mr. Carr Carraway, of near Kinston, came yesterday from Raleigh, where he has been at the A. & M. college, to spend the holidays at his home.