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GENERAL NEWS ITEMS

Matters of Interest Condensed into Brief Paragraphs.

A LITTLE ABOUT NUMEROUS THINGS

The Pith of the World's News That Might Interest Our Readers. An Item Here and There.

Constantinople, Aug. 14.—The imperial troops have occupied Krushevo, twenty-three miles north of Monastir, which was recently seized by the insurgents. A force of four thousand troops besieged the place and bombarded it with artillery.

The race between the American yacht *Reliance* and the English yacht *Shamrock III*, for the American cup, will begin Thursday, August 20th, the second race will be on Saturday, the 22nd, the other race on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, unless changes are made.

New York, Aug. 13.—A human head, supposed to be that of William Guiderup, who was murdered in 1898, was found today by some boys near the former boundary line between Dutch Hills and Ravenswood, now in Long Island City. The head was wrapped in an old German newspaper and it was found within three blocks of the store where Mrs. Neack bought the oil-cloth, the identification of which led to the arrest of the woman, and of Martin Thorne.

Cynthiana, Ky., Aug. 14.—The jury in the case of Curtis Jett and Thomas White, charged with the assassination of James B. Maxwell at Jackson, Ky., returned a verdict of guilty today, fixing the punishment of each at life imprisonment. The verdict was returned at a time when there were but few persons in the court room. The only attorney present was County Attorney Webster. Jett received the verdict with comparative indifference and calmness. White, who has been apparently under a severe strain during the trial, flushed up and his eyes filled with tears. The verdict occasioned little surprise. The only question which caused the delay, it is said, was whether to make the punishment death or life imprisonment.

San Francisco, Aug. 14.—James J. Jeffries, champion heavy-weight of the world, played with Jim Corbett for nine rounds and a half tonight, and then Corbett's seconds motioned to Referee Graney to stop the fight in order to save their man from needless punishment. The end came shortly after the beginning of the tenth round when Jeffries planted one of his terrific left swings on Corbett's stomach. The man who conquered John L. Sullivan dropped to the floor in agony and the memorable scene at Carson City when Bob Fitzsimmons landed his solar plexus blow was almost duplicated. This time, however, Corbett struggled to his feet and again faced his gigantic adversary. With hardly a moment's hesitation Jeffries swung his right and again landed on Corbett's stomach. Jim dropped to the floor, and then it was that Tommy Ryan seeing that it was all over, motioned to Referee Graney to stop the punishment.

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AT ALL SODA FOUNTAINS

THE "ROUND ROBIN."

No One Knows Origin of the Strange Term.

A "round robin" is one of those documents of which the name is familiar to most people, but which uncommonly few have ever seen or signed. Every one knows that the thing which bears so singular a name is a communication—letter, remonstrance, warning or the like—the signatures to which are written around the circumference of the circle which incloses the body of the epistle, or radiating therefrom like the spokes of a wheel from a hub, so that the responsibility of signing is equally shared. No one signatory can be accused of being either the first or the last to sign, of being the leader or the whipper-in.

The most famous example on record probably is the remonstrance which was sent to Dr. Johnson in connection with his epitaph on Oliver Goldsmith. The doctor had prepared an epitaph in Latin, but some of his friends, who had also been friends of Goldsmith, took exception to it on two grounds, the first being that it did not quite do justice to the author of the "Traveler" as a writer, and particularly as a poet, and the second that it should be written in English. The party of friends were gathered around Sir Joshua Reynolds' hospitable if somewhat ill served table, and though they found themselves in general agreement on these two points, no one had the courage to be willing to "bell the cat," or, in other words, to take the lead in tackling the formidable Johnson on these two rather delicate matters. "At last," says Sir William Forbes, "it was hinted that there could be no way so good as that of a round robin, as the sailors call it, which they make use of when they enter a conspiracy so as not to let it be known who puts his name first or last to the paper."

The idea was at once accepted, the address to Dr. Johnson was prepared and all signed it in the form proposed. This very interesting paper is still extant and is preserved among other valuable manuscripts in the library of Hugh Hall, near Wigan, the seat of the Earl of Crawford. It begins, "We, the undersigned," and the signatures, written around the circle which incloses the address, include those of Gibbon, Burke, Joseph Warton, Sheridan, Sir Joshua Reynolds, George Colman and half a dozen others which are nowadays but little known. Johnson took the remonstrance in good part, but as to not writing the epitaph in Latin, declared that he would never consent to disgrace the walls of Westminster abbey with an English inscription! The whole story is eminently characteristic of Johnson and his times.

No one has yet been able to give a satisfactory explanation of the strange term "round robin."—London Globe.

Breaking It Gently.
This is a true account of one person's idea of "breaking the news gently." The cook, whose home was off in the country, appeared before the "powers above" with a letter in her hand.

"I'll have to go home for a couple of days, mum," she said. "My cousin's just written to me." And she handed over the crumpled bit of paper with an audible sniff.

"Dear Mary," it ran, "you had better come home at once. Your father is very sick." And it continued with many particulars of the illness.

At the end was a postscript which, like the old joke of a woman's P. S., had the pith of the matter.

"So long as you'll be driving up from the village you may as well bring the undertaker along with you in the wagon."—New York Times.

What Is Known About Fish.

Pliny, the great naturalist, who lived at about the time of Christ, reckoned the whole number of known species of fish at ninety-four. Linnaeus, the great Swedish investigator of the eighteenth century, could classify 473, and he is known to have been the greatest ichthyologist of the age in which he lived. The progress made in that particular branch since the time of Linnaeus seems all the more wonderful, for now 13,000 species show up in the catalogues of the fish specialists.

An Expert's Opinion.

Frisella—Do you approve of long engagements?
Mayne—Well, that depends. If the fellow has plenty of money and takes you to everything a long engagement is endurable; otherwise it is better to rush it through and start a fresh one.—Detroit Free Press.

RINGING RESOLUTIONS ARE ADOPTED BY THE MASS MEETING HERE TODAY

Denouncing Arbitrary Methods of American Tobacco Co. in Fixing Price of Tobacco Below Cost of Production

NORMAN JOHNSON'S AND OTHER'S SPEECHES ISSUE NO UNCERTAIN SOUND

The Court House Packed With People Enthusiastic in their Determination to File a Mighty Protest Against the Arbitrary Methods of the American Tobacco Trust.

Thousands of farmers from this and several adjoining counties have been pouring into Kinston all day to attend the mass meeting, and the determined expression on their countenances was but an earnest of their action in taking steps against the dictatorship of the American Tobacco company in arbitrarily fixing the price of the tobacco below the cost of production.

The rumblings of dissatisfaction for the past few weeks have taken definite shape in the hearty endorsement of the recent act of the Retail Grocers and General Merchants' association of Kinston in their denunciation of the trust, and their co-operation is assured the merchants in their efforts to gain some recognition and concession from the trust in the way of a living wage for their work.

For some reason Col. John S. Cunningham could not be here as advertised, but Mr. Norman H. Johnson, attorney general of the Retail Grocers and General Merchants' association and several local speakers addressed the large crowd and their speeches were highly pleasing and very instructive to the audience.

While the exigency of the situation

effected, the chair on motion prevailing to that effect, appointed a committee on resolution as follows: J. P. Nunn, Lot Taylor, Geo. F. Parrott, Robert Hodges and B. F. Daughety.

The committee retired to formulate resolutions and in the interim speeches were made by Mr. G. V. Cowper, State Organizer Norman H. Johnson, Mr. Willis Williams, of Pitt county, and Clerk of the Court Plato Collins.

Mr. Cowper's speech was more of an introduction of Mr. Johnson, the principal speaker of the occasion, but it was delivered in his usual happy style.

Mr. Johnson is a young man of unquestioned ability and his duties as State organizer of the Retail Grocers and General Merchants' association has familiarized him with the objects and aims of the organization, which are corrective and therefore aimed directly at the trusts, and the line of thought by him was as viewed from the commercial and legal standpoint.

The speaker was governed by conservatism and urged a compact organization of the producers to co-operate with the merchants in their



NORMAN H. JOHNSON, Attorney General and State Organizer of the Retail Grocers and General Merchants' Association of North Carolina.

demanding action and that right away to avert widespread disaster, not one thing smacking of agrarianism or anarchistic in tone was said or done, but the spirit of conservatism controlled the participants in to-day's meeting, and the action of the people in taking such steps as taken today was but natural in a community that sees one of its chief industries being destroyed by the arbitrary methods of a power that can be checked in its disaster-making policy only by meeting it with a united protest from the all powerful people.

At the appointed hour, two o'clock, the court house began to fill up and in five minutes was filled with a mass of humanity that wore a set, determined expression on their faces that augured well for the success of any undertaking in which they chose to embark.

The "horny-handed sons of toil" predominated at the meeting but there was also a liberal sprinkling of business men, who were there to show by their presence and their acts that the interests of all in the community are the same and that in a meeting of their interests only could appreciable results follow, especially in a day that is remarkable for its organizations.

Mr. W. D. LaRoque, Jr., president of the local association of merchants, called the meeting to order and in a few well chosen words stated the object of the meeting. On motion of Mr. Geo. F. Parrott, the temporary chairman, was made permanent chairman and Rev. C. W. Howard was elected secretary.

efforts to defeat the arbitrary methods of the trust and also reminded them of the necessity of continued striving, as no great thing was ever accomplished in a day.

Mr. Johnson's speech was a strong and instructive argument for organization among the farmers as well as merchants and urged united effort to obtain from the law-makers a law to reach trusts. His speech along this line was erudite and full of food for thought, defining the limits of congress in constructing laws that would interfere with state's rights and showing that it was up to the State to set in the matter.

The importance of meeting organization with organization was duly impressed on the audience by the speaker.

Following the speech of Mr. Johnson son Mr. Collins and Mr. Willis Williams, of Pitt county, who both made rousing speeches and full of wisdom.

THE FREE PRESS regrets that owing to the lateness of the hour that a fuller account cannot be given.

At the conclusion of the speeches the committee on resolutions reported the following, which were adopted by the meeting.

Whereas, we, the farmers of Lenoir and adjoining counties in convention assembled at Kinston, August 15th, 1903, do believe that ruin and disaster are impending for the tobacco farmers of this county and the State on account of the low price of leaf tobacco which is now selling below the cost of production;

And whereas, we charge that the tobacco trust is responsible for the

low prices by their arbitrary and tyrannical oppression and monopoly of the leaf tobacco market, therefore be it resolved:

1st. That this convention declares its indignation for the unjust and tyrannical control of prices by the tobacco trust.

2nd. That it deplores the inadequacy of the laws of the State and nation to prevent such illegal combinations of wealth and capital, which through their power and monopoly oppress and grind the bread-earners beneath their feet and bring starvation and calamity to them.

3rd. That we endorse the action of the Retail Grocers and General Merchants' association, of Kinston, N. C., in their untiring efforts to produce results which would inure to the good of the farmers of Lenoir county and vicinity and that we tender them our loyal support and invite all citizens of this county to co-operate with them in their efforts to bring about these results and that we do hereby endorse the aims, objects and principles of the Kinston association and extend to them our highest appreciation for their vigorous and active interests in our behalf.

4th. That this convention appoint delegates to attend the meeting of the tobacco farmers at Rocky Mount, N. C., on the 21st of August, 1903, and join with them in any action which they may take to better the condition of the tobacco farmers.

5th. That we urge all tobacco farmers of the State and other states to join together in a firm and determined effort and fight against the tobacco trust which is oppressing the weak.

6th. That a copy of these resolutions be sent to THE KINSTON FREE PRESS and request all State papers to copy.

Wreck Near Maxton.

Maxton, Aug. 14.—About 11:15 o'clock last night, an excursion train of ten cars returning from Wilmington, ran head on into the caboose of a watermelon train. The engine of the watermelon train had gone up the road for water and left the train standing on the main line.

The engineer had notified the flagman to look out for the excursion train and flag it down. The flagman went into his caboose and suppose it went to sleep. The excursion train then came along and crashed into the watermelon train. The engine of the excursion train went through the caboose, killing the flagman and horribly mauling him, the body being severed about the waist. The tender on the excursion train was driven into the first passenger coach of the same, completely wrecking it and killing a negro named Gardner and seriously wounding three others.

The engineer of the excursion train jumped and was unharmed. The fireman remained on the engine and by a miracle was not killed. A portion of the track was torn up and the wrecked caboose burned.

A wrecking train and crew came from Hamlet and are just getting the track clear this morning. Coroner E. E. McRae held an inquest this morning and found that two killed came to their deaths as above stated. There is a rumor that the flagman was drunk.

The collision last night made a great crash and awoke half the people in town, who went out to see the wreck.

Care of Books.

A lover of books will always take good care of them. He never holds the book by the corner of the cover, never turns down leaves, never lays the book down open, either with the face downward or on its back, and never breaks the binding by opening the book too forcibly. He turns the leaves one by one, taking great care not to soil or tear them, and uses the volume gently. It makes no difference if the book be cheap or worn; he always handles it gently.

Quite Impartial.

Mrs. Hiram Offen—I understand you to say you're a good, all round cook, but of course you must have some favorite dishes?

Applicant—No, ma'am. They're all wan to me. O'm not the kind to be considerin' whether a dish is cheap or expensive with O'm breakin' it.—Washington Post.

Informing.

"Who lives in that big house on the corner, Dennis?"

"The Widdy O'Malley, sor, who is dead."

"Indeed! When did she die?"

"If she had lived till next Sunday she would have been dead a year."—Kansas City Journal.

A Failure.

"See here, young man!" said the minister. "You never paid me that fee for marrying you."

"You're mighty lucky I haven't sued you for damages."—London Tit-Bits.

Still More Autocratic.

Knicker—Didn't he find it hard to return to civil life after commanding in the army?

Bocker—No, indeed. He got a position as janitor.—Smart Set.

When a beautiful woman smiles some pocketbook is woe.—Schubert.

Cut this out and take it to J. E. Hood & Co's drug store and get a free sample of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets, the best physic. They clean and invigorate the stomach, improve the appetite and regulate the bowels. Regular size, 25c. per box.

NORTH STATE NEWS

Clipped and Culled From Our North Carolina Exchanges.

ODD AND INTERESTING HAPPENINGS

Gossip Gathered from Murphy To Manteo of Importance to Our Tar Heel Readers.

Henderson, Aug. 14.—Justice Jones today committed to jail a negro boy, Junius Eaton, charged with an assault with attempt to rape upon a negro child under four years old.

Washington, Aug. 14.—Superintendent Bland, of the light and water company, was nearly entombed in an excavation today. He was down in a nine-foot trench inspecting it, and it caved in, filling it up to his neck. The laborers dug him out with shovels. He was badly bruised.

At Statesville Judge Allen sentenced Will Roseboro to be hanged Thursday, September 10th, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. While the sentence was being pronounced Roseboro showed the first signs of fright. He was exceedingly nervous and could hardly stand during the trying ordeal.

Lou Simpson, a negro woman, was Thursday committed to jail by Squire J. H. Newell, in Mecklenburg county. The woman is charged with arson and was convicted on her own testimony. She admitted the charge of burning a barn several nights ago on the premises of John Wallace, near Newell.

The increased assessment of railroad rates of \$28,000,000 will bring in an increased revenue to the State, public schools, counties and towns of something like \$350,000. The total tax derived from railroads going to State, public schools, counties and towns this year will be something like \$800,000.

An unknown negro man was killed on the Southern road four miles west of Durham Thursday afternoon. It is said that the man was a tramp and was beating his way on the bumpers when, by some means, he lost his foothold and fell to the track, his head being crushed and other bruises about the body.

Esquire D. Lance was Thursday night found on the side of the road, just a short distance from Blinnore. Squire Lance, is 70 years old and had started to his home in Arden, when his horse ran away with him. His foot caught in the stirrup and he was dragged some distance. When found he was unconscious and suffering from numerous injuries.

A wholesale jail delivery occurred at Washington Thursday night, 15 prisoners making their escape. All of the prisoners were colored, two were under the charge of murder, one was a federal prisoner and the others were in for petty offences. The sheriff has offered a reward for the capture of the murderers. One of the county prisoners has returned and given himself up. The prisoners had outside assistance in making their escape. A hole was cut through the brick wall and they crawled out. One prisoner remained in jail, he being so large in size that he could not get through the hole.

Through freight train No. 62, third section, from Asheville to Spartanburg, ran away on Saluda mountain Thursday. The engine and 13 coal cars were wrecked near Melrose. The engine and 11 of the cars are a total wreck, piled up and demolished in the cut. Engineer J. H. Averill, Jr., of Asheville, and Fireman Hair, of Asheville, were killed and are under the wreckage and cannot be found until the wreck is cleared. Brakeman W. B. Sherill, of Swanannoa, had both legs cut off. Engineer Averill was a bright young man, 23 years of age, a son of Colonel J. H. Averill, of Charleston. His father, mother, wife and two children are spending the summer at Saluda, within three miles of where he met his untimely death. He stayed on his engine with his fireman, doing all he could to check the speed of the train until the engine buried him in its ruins. As the runaway train passed Melrose, the operator, J. W. Heatherly, ran out and Fireman Hair threw up his hand and smiled. The operator fainted. Conductor Howie and his flagmen, Bishop and Ward, were unharmed.

The Teachers' Interstate Examination Course.

Teachers wishing to prepare for examinations should write, at once, to PROF. J. L. GRAHAM, LL. D., Randolph Building, Memphis, Tenn., for particulars concerning his special Teachers' Examination Course. This course is taught by mail, and prepares Teachers for examination in every state in the Union. Leading educators pronounce it the best course ever offered to the Teaching profession, and all Teachers wishing to advance in their profession should immediately avail themselves of it. Enclose stamp for reply.

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