

# Chatham Observer.

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50 CENTS A Year.

## SUNK IN COLLISION

### Steamship Wrecked By a Sailing Vessel.

#### TWENTY PEOPLE ARE KILLED

##### Accident Occurred in the Waters of the Pacific Ocean—Must Have Resulted From Carelessness.

San Francisco, Special.—A collision at sea, early Tuesday morning, between the steamship Walla Walla and an unknown sailing vessel, resulted in the sinking of the steamship and the probable loss of at least 20 lives. The Walla Walla, owned by the Pacific Coast Steamship Company, sailed from San Francisco, January 1, for Peget Sound ports. She carried 36 first-class passengers, 28 second-class and a crew of 89 men. When off Cape Mendocino, on the California coast, at 4:10 o'clock, Tuesday morning, an iron bark, believed to be French, loomed up in the haze and crashed into the Walla Walla's bow. Then the sailing vessel slid off into the darkness and was seen no more. All the passengers and crew of the Walla Walla, except the few on watch, were asleep, but were aroused by the crash. The steering quarters were in the bow and it is believed that some of the steering passengers and crew were crushed to death. A big hole was made in the steamer's bow and she sank in 35 minutes. The officers and crew maintained strict discipline and boats and life rafts were lowered.

All who were not killed in the collision got on the boat except Captain Hall. He was picked up later uninjured. A choppy sea was running and the small boats could not make a landing on the shore, a few miles distant. They drifted about all day, and finally 63 people were picked up by the steamer Dispatch, which took them to Eureka. Another boat under command of Engineer Brown, and containing 13 persons, attempted to land at Trinidad and was swamped. John Wilkinson, quartermaster; Wm. Martini, fireman; L. Drube, passenger, and three unknown men, were drowned. Those in the boat who were saved were Engineer Brown, Fireman McMillan, Coal-Passer Wm. Shinn, Sailor O'Leary, Chief Cook Marshall and Passengers Wm. B. Smith and Wm. Moorehouse. When the Dispatch reached Eureka this morning with the survivors, they were immediately sent out for missing boats. The tug Ranker picked up one containing 11 passengers and three of the crew.

The Walla Walla was valued at about \$250,000. She was formerly used as a collier and about ten years ago was converted into a passenger vessel at a cost of \$175,000. The vessel was insured for about \$200,000. George R. Bore of San Francisco, a member of the crew, gave the following account of the disaster:

"It was 4:10 when the French vessel hit the Walla Walla in the bow. All were asleep. The weather was clear, the sea was rolling high. All were pale-stricken. The passengers rushed out of their state rooms and the deck was crowded. Captain Hall went down into the stateroom and found a family of seven fastened in a room by the force of the shock jamming the door. Two boys were pinned beneath fallen timbers. The girls were released and the family assisted out of their berths. The captain said the vessel would sink and all hurriedly prepared to leave. Life boats and rafts were lowered; life preservers were put on and passengers lowered to the boats. The collision happened at 4:10 and the vessel did not sink until 4:45, giving the crew and passengers 35 minutes to leave the steamer. Sixty-three were lowered into the life-saving boats then being filled. Panic reigned among the remaining passengers; women screamed and men and boys hurriedly jumped overboard. Several did not leave until the vessel began to sink. The officers were cool and collected, doing everything possible to save the passengers. A no one knows exactly how and when the collision occurred, excepting the second officer and he is missing. Immediately after the collision, the French vessel withdrew and apparently made no effort to render assistance."

## AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

### A Report of Great Value to the People of the State.

Agricultural statistics will form one of the most interesting features of the forthcoming annual report of the Commissioner of Labor and Printing, Mr. H. B. Varner. Advance sheets, prepared by Chief Clerk W. E. Paison, give a great deal of interesting information relating to the farming classes.

The following average tables are compiled from blanks filled out by representative farmers from every county in the State. The farmers always respond promptly, in this regard, and is also published letters showing the needs and condition of farm labor.

The returns were received during the period from June 15 to October 1, 1901, which explains the difference in the selling price of cotton and other products shown in table No. 5.

Table No. 1 shows an increase of 12 1/2 per cent. in value of land in twenty-one counties. Seventy-six counties report no change. Eighty-two counties report fertility of land maintained, and fifteen report fertility not maintained. Forty-seven counties report tendency to have smaller farms, nine larger and twenty-two no change.

Table No. 2 shows that the mode of living in ninety counties is improved. Sixty-three counties report the cost of living increased. Ninety-six counties report negro labor unreliable, and nine report no negro labor. Thirty-nine counties report employment regular.

Table No. 3 shows the highest wages of men \$15.62, and the lowest \$4.75. The highest wages of women in \$9.75, and the lowest \$3.38. The wages of children is \$3.29. Forty-six counties report an increase in wages and fifty-one report no change. These figures show an average increase of nearly 20 per cent. over 1900.

Table No. 4 shows that sixty-seven counties produce cotton at a cost of \$26.50 per 500-pound bale. Eighty-six counties produce wheat at a cost of 61 cents per bushel. Ninety-six counties produce corn at a cost of 43 cents per bushel. Ninety-four counties produce oats at a cost of 31 cents per bushel. Fifty-four counties produce tobacco at a cost of \$3.49 per 100 pounds.

Table No. 5 shows the market price of cotton 8 cents per pound, wheat 59 cents per bushel, corn 71 cents per bushel, oats 43 cents per bushel, and tobacco \$3.30 per hundred. These prices make the profit on products \$3.20 per bale for cotton, 13c per bushel for wheat, 29 cents per bushel for corn, 11 cents per bushel for oats, and \$1.81 per hundred for tobacco.

Table No. 6 indicates that the educational condition is good in three counties, fair in forty-one, poor in fifty-three. The moral condition is good in twenty-one counties, fair in seventy-three and poor in three. The financial condition is good in one, fair in forty-three, and poor in fifty-three.

The question, "Do you favor a compulsory school law?" was answered by 82 per cent, "Yes," and by 18 per cent, "No."

### Increased Valuations.

The Corporation Commission has prepared a statement showing the increased valuation to be \$30,322,344.

The increase in real and personal property is placed at \$21,522,438, which is in accordance with the official figures from the State Auditor's office published in the News and Observer Christmas day.

The figures of the Corporation Commission are based on complete returns from 91 counties; and estimated figures based on partial returns from five counties. Only one county is not included. The News and Observer's figures from 90 counties showed that the increase in real and personal property over last year is \$20,181,078. The Corporation Commission's figures from 96 counties show an increase of \$21,522,438.

The total valuations from all sources are \$329,425,533 as compared with \$309,097,259 last year and \$287,339,233 in 1899. This gives an increase of \$30,322,344. One of the largest sources of the increase, aside from the real and personal property is the corporate excess tax, which is \$5,867,000. This is the tax the corporations pay on capital stock.

The Department of Insurance makes a good showing, the increase in the amount of revenue paid into the treasury last year by that department, being \$24,471.45.

The increase in tax returns in detail are as follows:

Real estate ... \$173,738,989 \$166,444,383  
Personal prop. 107,831,449 92,506,612  
Corp. excesses ... 5,867,000  
Prof. Cor. Com 45,118,786 44,510,667  
B. and L. As ... 604,131 387,245

Totals ... \$329,425,533 \$309,097,259

The gross income for 1901 are \$1,829,631, yielding a revenue of \$18,796 which is an increase of \$13,129.70 over the amount of revenue received in 1900. The gross income for 1900 were \$912,013, yielding a revenue of \$5,265.61. The increase in revenue equals a valuation of \$3,282,425.

The above statement is compiled from reports of Register of Deeds of the various counties of the "rise" and "personal property, and that part relating to banks and corporations is from the certificates of the auditor of the State.

## BRYAN ON BOERS.

### Makes a Vigorous Speech Favoring Their Independence.

#### GLAD OF WHAT WAR COST ENGLAND

##### Four Thousand People Present and Heartily applaud the Sentiments of the Speaker.

Cleveland, Special.—Four thousand people attended a pro-Boer meeting in Gray's Armory Sunday afternoon. There was enthusiastic applause for every expression of sympathy and encouragement for the struggling Boers. An unexpected event in the meeting was the appearance of Hon. Wm. J. Bryan, who is in this city as the guest of Mayor Johnson. When the committee in charge of the meeting learned that the Democratic leader was in the city an invitation was sent to him and the mayor to attend and address the gathering. Both gentlemen accepted, and when, towards the close of other speeches, Mr. Bryan and Mr. Johnson entered the hall, the whole audience rose en masse and repeatedly shouted "Bryan and Johnson."

They were greeted with hurrah and hand-clapping. The audience was composed mostly of men, although a number of women were present. The tri-color of the Boer republic was a prominent feature of the armory's decorations, and little streamers were tied in the button holes of many of the men. Upon the stage were several native Boers who had been in some of the early conflicts of their countrymen against the British soldiers. They were dressed in their country and are now residents of this city. The meeting continued for four hours, the principal address being by Hon. John J. Lentz, Rev. August Franz, a local Reformed Lutheran clergyman, also spoke. When the formal speeches of the afternoon were concluded, Bryan and Johnson were called upon to address the vast audience. Mr. Bryan spoke for about five minutes, during which time he said:

"I had will be that day, fallen will be the star of our destiny. If the time ever comes when struggling freedom feel that they cannot look upon the people of these States for sympathy."

Mr. Bryan said that he was in entire sympathy with the intent of the meeting, and urged them to continue the struggle. He said that he was glad the war had cost England so dearly, and that the disastrous cost in money and life would be a much-needed lesson for the English government; because it would teach, and has already taught a lesson that will not be soon forgotten.

Mr. Bryan said that he considered it a compliment that the Boers looked to the United States for aid and sympathy in their struggle, and that he considered it a disgrace that no official expression of sympathy had yet been made by this government. Mr. Bryan believed that English people are opposed to the continuance of the war because they, too, are suffering because of the unhappy conflict and are the ones that must bear the burden of the cost.

Mayor Johnson spoke briefly and said that he was in full sympathy with the intent of the meeting. A resolution of great length was proposed and will be sent to the President of the United States. It calls the President's attention to the continuance of the war for the past two years and states that it has been characterized on the part of the British as a conflict of savagery by the confiscation or destruction of property of inhabitants and non-combatants lying within the zone of war.

Attention is called to the denunciation by President McKinley of the system of concentration camps.

A question from the Macheater, (England) Guardian, of September 4, 1901, is made, which states that a degree of suffering and death exists in these camps without a parallel in history. In conclusion, the President is asked to enforce the treaty of Washington, May 8, 1871, denying to vessels operating under British authority opportunity for the augmentation of supplies of war from the United States. President Roosevelt is asked to continue the efforts of his predecessor to bring to an end the horrors of concentration camps and warfare which by its unexampled ferocity and enormous cost of life and treasure, has astonished the civilized world."

### Texas Anti-Trust Law.

Austin, Tex., Special.—Anti-trust papers today filed against the John H. Kirby Lumber company for \$845,000 worth of penalties charging that said company was operating in violation of the Texas anti-trust law. Some weeks ago the suit was filed but was dismissed upon the statement that the company had not acquired the companies that it was charged with buying up. Now, however, it is claimed that the consolidation has been made and that the suit is re-filed. Suits were also filed against the National Cotton Oil company, the Taylor Oil company and the Southern Oil company for \$475,000 damages for violating the Texas anti-trust law.

## THE YEAR'S RECORD

### Marvelous Achievements Marked the Past Twelve Months.

#### SCIENCE, ART, LITERATURE, WAR,

##### Peace, Commerce, Invention—Noteworthy Progress in All Lines in Chronological Order.

### JANUARY.

Queen Victoria of England died on the 22d; on the 6th Ignatius Donnelly, famous writer and theorist; on the 21st Professor Elisha Gray, one of the inventors of the telephone, and on the 26th Giuseppe Verdi, famous musical composer.

In the realm of science perhaps the most important announcement was that of Professor Pupin's system of inductive coils, which may revolutionize radio telephony.

### FEBRUARY.

The centenary anniversary of the installation of Chief Justice Marshall was celebrated at Washington on the 4th, on which date also occurred the funeral of Queen Victoria in London. The discovery of the new star Perseus, later announced as a nova, likely to result in new worlds was discovered on the 19th, and a photograph was taken.

### MARCH.

On the 2d of March the pope celebrated his 81st birthday. On the 4th President McKinley and Vice President Roosevelt were inaugurated, and the Fifty-sixth congress adjourned. On the 11th there was a million dollar fire in New York and another in Richmond, Va. On the 23rd the Filipino chiefmate Arzobido was captured in his mountain retreat by General Fred Funston. A trench war was produced in Germany which, on its first test, made nearly 100 miles an hour.

The obituaries include Benjamin Harrison, ex-president of the United States, aged 68, and Charlotte M. Yonge, famous authoress, 73.

### APRIL.

Early in April it was given out that there were prospects of Atlantic liners crossing the ocean in about 100 hours, through the installation in fast sailing passenger steamers of in-line engines, after the Parsons or Graydon pattern.

### MAY.

The 4th of May was notable for the great fire in Jacksonville, Fla., with loss of \$15,000,000. The 5th was notorious for the Wall Street panic. The day is now referred to as "Dirty Thursday." On the 20th the great Pan-American exposition at Buffalo was opened.

### JUNE.

The month's neology exhibits such famous names as Hebei Toru, Japanese statesman, assassinated; ex-Governor Hazen S. Pingree of Michigan, 61; Edward Moran, artist, 72; Sir Walter Besant, novelist, 65.

It was announced this month that Thomas A. Edison, America's famous inventor, had at last brought to perfection the electric storage battery upon which he had been at work for many years, and its successful application as a means of rapid and economical transit.

### JULY.

On the 2d of July died Jacob S. Rogers, locomotive manufacturer, aged 67, who left a legacy of \$5,000,000 to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York city; also Professor John Park, lecturer and historian, 69; R. H. Newell (Orpheus C. Kerr), an old time humorist, 65; Charles Nordhoff, journalist, 71; Prince Hohenzollern, ex-ambassador of Germany, 81, and Mrs. Oom Paul Krug, 65.

On the 12th Santos Dumont made a successful aerial voyage over Paris. On the 24th the Schley court of inquiry was ordered by the secretary of the navy; the 26th President McKinley's claimed free trade between the United States and Porto Rico.

### AUGUST.

The Dowager Empress Frederick of Germany, 86, daughter of the late Queen Victoria, died on the 4th, aged 81; on the 11th Signor Cristof, Italian statesman, 82, and on the 23rd General William Ludlow, U. S. N., aged 80.

General Kitchener issued a proclamation of banishment against all Boers found in arms after Sept. 15. One of the most unique of inventions was also announced, consisting of electric painting without ink.

The greatest electrical discoveries up to that time was that of transmitting electric waves through the ground or the water to any desired point by which it is claimed that an automobile torpedo boat can be operated three miles distant.

### SEPTEMBER.

The most noteworthy as well as most terrible event of this month was the shooting of President McKinley by Leon Czolgoz, an anarchist, at a reception at the Pan-American exposition. Mr. McKinley died on the 14th on which date Theodore Roosevelt took the oath of office as president of the United States.

On the 25th occurred the massacre of fifty United States soldiers by Filipino bolomen in the island of Samar.

### OCTOBER.

On the 27th the assassin, Czolgoz, was electrocuted at Auburn, N. Y., for the murder of President McKinley.

Aerial navigation by means of the dirigible balloon received an impetus by the notable trip of Santos Dumont over Paris and around the Eiffel tower, thereby winning the Deutsch prize of \$20,000.

Early in October the Pan-American congress met in the City of Mexico, and another fact of international importance was the negotiation of the Hay-Pauncefote convention, precedent to the treaty for giving to the United States a free hand in the building of the Isthmian canal.

## CANAL OFFERED US

### Formal Offer Made to United States Government.

#### PRICE, FORTY MILLION DOLLARS.

##### The President Will Communicate Offer to Congress, Which Alone Has Power to Act.

Washington, Special.—A formal proposition to sell the Panama canal properties to the United States government for \$40,000,000 was submitted to the authorities here. It was made by M. Bouefve, representing the company, to Admiral Walker as chairman of the Isthmian canal commission. M. Bouefve acted under cable instructions received today, from the Panama canal officials at Paris. Admiral Walker brought the proposition to the knowledge of the secretary of state and the president, going directly to the State department for that purpose.

The submission of this offer carries out a plan which has been under consideration for the last two weeks. The first step was taken when M. Hutin retired from the presidency of the Panama canal company. This brought about an entire change in the management, the main feature of the change being that those in authority desired to make a definite offer of the Panama canal to the United States government for \$40,000,000. There have been numerous meetings at Paris with this end in view but the one which brought about the final proposition was held yesterday. It had been the intention to make the offer through Edward Lampro, secretary general of the company, who is due to arrive at New York on the steamer Aquitaine tomorrow, but the meeting appears to have taken a view that the offer should be made without waiting for the arrival of M. Lampro. Accordingly the cable instructions were forwarded to M. Bouefve. He went at once to the office of the Isthmian canal commission and advised Admiral Walker of what had been the determination of the company. In substance the notification to Admiral Walker was as follows:

"The Panama Canal company declares itself ready to transfer to the government of the United States on payment of \$40,000,000, its properties and concessions, estimated at that amount by the Isthmian canal commission, in conformity with the terms and conditions of the estimates of said commission."

Except to submit the proposition in the foregoing terms, there was no discussion with Admiral Walker as to what further steps were likely to be taken except to bring the proposition to the attention of the secretary of state and the president.

### Belmont the Nominee.

New York, Special.—Justice Scott of the Supreme Court Thursday afternoon handed down a decision, declaring Frank Belmont to be the regular Democratic nominee for Congress in the seventh New York district. Colonel Asa Bird Gardner called on Candidate Belmont this evening, and assured him of the support of Tammany Hall, some of whose leaders had opposed him. The regular committee of the first assembly district has decided to support him as have delegations from the regular organizations in the second and third districts.

### The Cuban Election.

Havana, by Cable.—The indications are that the entire Palma ticket will be elected, and that Thomas Estrada Palma, the Nationalist candidate for the presidency of Cuba, will receive unanimous vote of the electoral college. The adherents of General Bartolome Maso, (the Democratic candidate who recently withdrew from the campaign) not only refused to go to the polls, a remarkably light vote was polled throughout the island.

### Southern Soap Makers.

Atlanta, Special.—It is understood that Southern soap manufacturers, are organizing for a consolidation of all places south of the Ohio river. Edward O'Neil, secretary of the largest soap manufacturing concern in Atlanta, said that his company had been asked to join the combination which Mr. Miles said would affiliate with similar associations in the North and West. The organization will be known as the Southern Soap Manufacturers' Association.

### Street Railway Sold.

New Orleans, Special.—S. H. H. Pearson, of the Pearson Syndicate of Philadelphia, gave out the statement that out of the 75,000 shares of common stock of the New Orleans City Railway Company, the syndicate had secured 50,000 and would enter into the lease by January 15. The dissolution of the Louisville pool, which held 25,053 shares of stock and would not sell, is considered to have brought about the deal.

### News By Wire.

William King, of Paris, Ind., died from drinking lemon-juice as a beverage; four others have recently died in the community from the same cause.

J. Pierpont Morgan has bought for \$500,000 a famous Madonna by Raphael.

Dr. O. Schmidt Leda, German Minister to Venezuela, is expected to reach Caracas January 5 and begin the program for forcing a settlement of German claims.

The United States, it is reported, has decided on a program which may amount to enforcing peace in Central and South America.

Alabama Mills of Sylacum, Ala., previously equipped with capital stock of \$50,000, has completed installation of equipment, and now has fifty knitting machines operating on the production of cotton hosiery. J. E. Pearson is company's president.

Eagle & Phenix Mills of Columbus, Ga., has ordered another 100 looms of modern pattern to replace the same number of old looms in the plant. The remodeling of the company's water-power plant is proceeding steadily, and will soon be completed.

It is well to have your fuel before you buy your kettle.

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### Collision Near Atlanta.

Atlanta, Special.—As a result of head-on collision between two freight trains of the Southern Railway, Sunday morning near Per. 3, three miles from this place, three trains' crews were killed and a number of freight cars destroyed by fire. The dead are: Chris C. C. Wallace, Lanta; Phosman Z. H. Harris and E. M. Prather.

### Killed By Boils' Explosion.

Parkersburg, W. Va., Special.—A boiler in the South Penn. Oil Company's pumping station, at Harry Rhodes, Doberidge county, blew up, scalding death Harry Rhodes, a pump operator, company; Merrick Frick, who was a string of well cleaning tools, and Dan Ash, his assistant. The men were all in the boiler house warming themselves when the explosion occurred. They broke open the door, which had become locked, and escaped to another house a mile away. All were scalded so that flesh fell from them on the way. After reaching the other house they collapsed, and in a few hours were all dead.