

WEATHER TO-DAY:
For Raleigh and vicinity:
Fair; cold.

THE MORNING POST.

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NO. 99.

GOING STRAIGHT TO GOTHAM CITY

Long Cables Orders to the Cruiser Raleigh.

WILL GO TO NORFOLK LATER

Extensive Repairs to Be Made—The Cruiser May Be Cut in Two and Lengthened Thirty Feet, Making Her a Much More Serviceable Vessel.

Washington, March 24.—Special.—The people of North Carolina are destined to disappointment in their expectation of greeting the cruiser Raleigh at Norfolk on her return from Manila. Secretary Long today cabled instructions to the Azores, where the Raleigh will touch, ordering her to proceed from there direct to New York. Subsequently she will come to Norfolk, where reception ceremonies will be held.

It is uncertain when the Raleigh will be repaired, or the extent of her repairs. The Norfolk yard is very busy, and Chief Hitchborn, of the construction bureau of the Navy Department, is sending her to Portsmouth, New Hampshire. She may be overhauled extensively.

The probabilities are that the Raleigh will be cut in two and lengthened by about thirty feet. This was done in the case of the gunboats Machias and Cassin, with great benefit, the vessels being transformed from top-heavy craft into good cruisers. Although the Raleigh is not top-heavy, the addition of this length to her hull will add considerably to the good qualities of the ship. It will nearly double her steaming radius, and add to her stability without materially reducing her speed. The cost of this work will be about \$100,000 to begin with, and it may be that other changes involving further expenditure will be made in the batteries and equipment of the ship.

Isaac D. Hargett, colored, at one time postmaster at Rocky Mount, charged with embezzling funds in connection with his administration of the office, was taken to North Carolina this evening by Deputy Marshal S. M. Farmer. Hargett was held by United States Commissioner Mills yesterday after a hearing, for the North Carolina authorities.

The Raleigh at the Azores.

Washington, March 24.—The Navy Department was advised this morning of the arrival yesterday of the Raleigh at Ponta Del Gada, Azores. When the vessel reached the port Captain Coghlan found a dispatch from Secretary Long there, changing the destination of the vessel from Norfolk, Va., to Tompkinsville, Staten Island, in deference to the wishes of the people of New York.

Norfolk Committee Heard.

Washington, March 24.—A committee of citizens of Norfolk called on Secretary Long today and urged that repairs to the Raleigh be made at the Norfolk navy yard. They explained that great preparations had been made to give the cruiser a fitting reception and that railroad companies were advertising excursions to Norfolk to give everybody in the surrounding country a chance to see the first of Dewey's ships to return. Secretary Long promised to take the matter under consideration, but will make no decision until the Raleigh's arrival at Tompkinsville, when the condition of her hull and engines will be ascertained.

UNIQUE VERDICT.

Victim of a Lynching Said to Have Frozen to Death.

Little Rock, Ark., March 24.—Late reports from Little River county say the lynching situation is greatly improved. The report that three negroes were lynched today appears to be unfounded. At the coroner's inquest over the body of Goodwin the jury decided that "he was frozen to death." His head, however, had a hole in it and his neck was broken. Two wagon loads of fleeing blacks reached Texarkana during the day.

CRUSHED UNDER A TRAIN.

Young Man of Wilmington Killed at Florence—Secretary Long Seen in Regard to the Cruiser Raleigh.

Wilmington, N. C., March 24.—Special. Information was received here at noon of a fatal accident which occurred at Florence, S. C., about 9 o'clock this morning, resulting in the death of George G. King, a highly esteemed young man of this city. The details, so far as obtainable, are to the effect that King attempted to board a freight

train on the Atlantic Coast Line which was going at high speed, and missing his footing, fell, the heavy train passing over his body and crushing out his life. King was about 22 years old, a young man of exemplary character and had only been in the employ of the railroad a few weeks. His father is a car inspector for the Coast Line. The body will be brought here for interment tomorrow.

Commander George L. Morton and Captain T. D. Mearns left last night for Washington to endeavor to prevail upon the Secretary of the Navy to order the cruiser Raleigh to this port. They reached Washington today at noon, and after a conference with the secretary a telegram was received from them this afternoon requesting the mayor to wire the secretary a formal request for the Raleigh to visit Wilmington, that the matter might be arranged. The mayor acted upon the suggestion at once and wise heads say there is little doubt that the cruiser will come here. The citizens sent the right man, as few men have the pull with the powers that be as Commander Morton.

SMALLPOX IN WARREN.

Another Case Results From Exposure to Contagion in Norfolk.

Warrenton, N. C., March 24.—Special. Mr. John Pegrum, living on the road between Macon and Churchhill, this county, broke out with smallpox Wednesday. Dr. T. B. Williams, county superintendent of health, was notified and went at once to the house, quarantined the premises and took all precautions against spread of the disease. Mr. Pegrum, with a number of young men, went down to Norfolk about fifteen days ago to join the army, but returned about a week ago. He no doubt contracted the disease in Norfolk. The county commissioners are furnishing vaccine points to the public, requesting everybody in the county to be vaccinated as speedily as possible.

There are no new cases of smallpox in Warrenton. Mr. Tarwater, the one patient here, is about well, and no danger is apprehended from the spread of the disease from the Tarwater premises.

STAFF OF GENERAL MILES.

Recent Legislation Retires Four of Its Members From the Army.

Washington, March 24.—By a decision today of Acting Attorney General Richards, the four principal assistants of the quartermaster general and the quartermaster on the staff of General Miles are mustered out of service by the legislation of March 2, 1899. The men affected are Majors William S. Patten and Crosby P. Miller, now serving as colonels, and Captains M. C. Martin and E. G. Hodgson, now serving as lieutenant colonels in the Quartermaster's Department here. At present there is no quartermaster on the staff of General Miles. At the beginning of the war Lieutenant Colonel Charles F. Humphreys was made colonel, under the law. He did not serve long on General Miles' staff, but was sent to Santiago with Shafter's army. He remained there until the army was sent home. For the conspicuous service performed during the war, Colonel Humphreys was made a brigadier general of volunteers, and again sent to Havana as chief quartermaster of Cuba, where he is at present. He was on the list marked for muster-out, which was issued a few days ago, but the order, so far as it affects him, has been revoked, and he will continue to hold the rank for the present.

RYAN WITHDRAWS SUITS.

Long Drawn Out Litigation Against the Seaboard Air Line Ended.

Norfolk, Va., March 24.—The several suits against the Seaboard Air Line by Thomas F. Ryan, of New York, will be withdrawn shortly. This statement was made upon the authority of B. L. Croner, of counsel for Ryan. Mr. Croner said that Ryan had advised him to withdraw all suits pending, and that he would do this immediately. He says that Ryan, who holds a large block of securities of the system, is convinced that under the new management the abuses complained of will be rectified. Norfolk is in a ferment over the ordering of the cruiser Raleigh to New York. Preparations had been made here to receive her, and great indignation is expressed that the ship, which was built here, should be ordered to proceed elsewhere.

POSTMASTER'S ACCOUNTS SHORT.

He Used Funds for Campaign Purposes and Failed to Get It Back.

Savannah, Ga., March 24.—W. F. Carter, until recently chairman of the Populist State committee, is short in his accounts as postmaster at Milledgeville, about \$650. He is still in charge of the office. His bondsmen today decided to pay up the shortage and permit the government to proceed against Carter if it desires. Carter says he used the funds in the last campaign, party leaders promising to reimburse him after the election. This, he says, they did not do, while they deny Carter's story.

TWO MEN CAUGHT IN A DEATH TRAP

Steam Pipe Bursts With Terrible Results.

ONE DEAD AND ONE MAIMED

W. H. Branson Dies of Injuries After Seven Hours of Suffering—J. C. Mathes May Live, But Will Be Sightless.

Durham, N. C., March 24.—Special. W. H. Branson, secretary and treasurer of the East Durham Cotton Mill, is dead, and J. C. Mathes, general superintendent of the mill, is so seriously injured that his recovery is doubtful, in consequence of the bursting of a steam-pipe in the pump-house of the mill. The accident occurred at 10 o'clock this morning, and Mr. Branson lingered between life and death until 5:15 this afternoon, when he died. He was scalded in the most shocking manner, and in the interval between the accident and his death he suffered untold agony.

The two men were in the pump-house, a small brick structure detached from the main building, when a large steam pipe used to carry steam from the boilers to the pump, burst. This pipe was five inches in diameter, and the steam almost cooked the men from head to foot before they could get out of the room. The little room was really converted into a steam box, and so great was the pressure that one wall of the house gave way and a hole about five by six feet was torn through it. This explosion relieved the pressure of steam and saved the men from scalding to death in the hot steam.

As soon as the pipe burst Mr. Branson rushed to the door and tried to open it, but could not on account of the pressure. He then ran to a window and knocked it out with his fist, and in doing so cut his hand and arm in a very painful manner. Mr. Mathes then ran to the door and the release of steam through the hole and window made it possible for him to open the door, and he ran out. Mr. Branson had his head and shoulders in the hole he had made in the window, calling for help.

The terrible pressure in the room is shown in the wrecked building. When the pipe burst the wall in direct line of the force was the first to give way. The steam then rebounded across the room and the wall on the opposite side from where it first struck, was cracked almost from top to bottom. The building is of brick, and the walls are 15 or 18 inches thick.

As soon as help could reach the men Mr. Branson was taken to the office of the company and Mr. Mathes was carried to his home next door to the mill, to await the arrival of physicians. Four were summoned and were on the scene as quickly as possible. Young lady nurses from Watts hospital were in attendance upon the scalded men almost as soon as the physicians.

Late this evening Mr. Mathes was still living, and hopes of his recovery were entertained. He is burned terribly and is suffering the greatest agony. While it is possible that he may recover, it is feared that he will lose his sight. The skin has slipped from his body in many places.

William H. Branson had lived in Durham thirteen years, being actively identified with the manufacturing and business interests of the city. His connection with the East Durham mill dated from his arrival here. Later he became secretary and treasurer of the Pearl mill. He was thirty-eight years old.

In early life Mr. Branson resided in Greensboro with Mr. J. A. Odell, a near relative, under whom he received a most excellent business training, fitting him for the responsible position he occupied.

Mr. Branson was an active worker and leader in the Methodist church since early life. He was treasurer of the North Carolina Conference and a trustee of Trinity College.

Some years ago Mr. Branson was happily married to Ella, daughter of Mr. B. E. Sergeant, a leading manufacturer of Greensboro. Several children have blessed this marriage.

Arrangements for the funeral of Mr. Branson have not been made, but will be announced after the arrival of relatives from Greensboro and Concord.

LIGGETT & MYERS FACTORY.

Option Is Held in Interest of the American Tobacco Company.

New York, March 24.—Wall street heard today that the option held by Union Tobacco Company interests upon the stock of Liggett & Myers Company, of St. Louis, whose plant is the biggest plug tobacco plant in the

world, is exercised in the interest of the American Tobacco Company, which lately arranged to absorb the Union Company by an issue of new stock. The option is understood to have been made out to Thomas F. Ryan, William C. Whitney and P. A. B. Widener. The American Tobacco Company will turn over the plant to its auxiliary plug tobacco company, the Continental.

Murdered Man in a Freight Car.

Chicago, March 24.—The body of a man with his skull fractured was found today in a refrigerator car at Swift & Co.'s yards. The car came yesterday from Newberry, S. C., and the police believe the man was murdered between here and that city, the motive being robbery. The man apparently has been dead a week.

Twenty Rounds and McCoy Wins.

San Francisco, March 24.—Kid McCoy and Joe Choynski fought twenty rounds here tonight. The decision went to McCoy.

BIG BATTLE REPORTED.

New York, March 25.—A dispatch to the World from Manila says that a big battle has taken place in which the Americans lost 100 killed and wounded and the Filipinos 400.

BUSINESS GOES RIGHT AHEAD

Clearing House Transactions Greatly Increased.

Demand for Cotton Goods Strong, but Price of Raw Material Remains Low—Advance in Railroad and Industrial Stocks

New York, March 24.—Dun's Weekly Review of Trade tomorrow will say: "Business is not frightened, either by the great capitalization of new companies or by wild fluctuations in Wall street. It goes ahead with calm disregard of speculative performances, and payments through the principal clearing houses have been for the week 78.2 per cent. larger than last year, but for cities outside of New York 39.2 per cent. larger than last year. In no considerable branch has production diminished, but in practically all has been increasing.

In iron and steel a little lower price for Bessemer pig appears at Pittsburgh, but with grey forge 75 cents higher there, and Southern iron at Chicago 50 cents to \$1 higher. Minor metals are all weaker.

Wool is at the doubting point, with large sales ordered from the interior by tired holders, and some concessions made to secure transactions at Philadelphia and Boston.

Demand for cotton goods is still strong, but this week not as materially advanced prices. Cotton is decidedly weaker, though many believe short supplies will in time insure higher prices, but mill and commercial stocks are about 600,000 bales larger than last year abroad, and mill stocks here must be heavier because mills are buying very little, although crowded with work, while commercial stocks here are quite large.

The wheat market just now is somewhat stronger. Exports have been for the week from Atlantic ports, 2,920,476 bushels against 1,824,569 last year, and from Pacific ports 824,182, against 1,311,828 last year. Prices are 3% cents higher than last week, while corn is 2 1/2 higher.

The market for cotton has been decidedly weak, owing to somewhat better receipts at the South, and also to the conviction that stocks on hand are large enough to meet all demands.

Stocks have been slow, but for good railroad securities fairly strong, the average for sixty having risen 98 cents per share, while industrials average 24 cents higher.

Failures for the week have been 200 against 251 last year.

Cuban Assembly Sends a Committee.

Havana, March 24.—Another meeting of Cuban generals who are supporting Gomez will be held tomorrow to decide on a definite plan for the disbandment of the Cuban army. Gomez says that many of the troops will be employed as Cuban guards, and the three millions from the United States will be distributed only among those not entering the guards.

The assembly met in secret today, and after a lengthy debate decided not to dissolve, but to send a committee to President McKinley. The committee will start tomorrow, traveling incognito. They will insist that the money grant be increased and that a loan be issued by the assembly be guaranteed.

MASSING FOR A BIG BATTLE

Otis Preparing for a Forward Movement.

ENEMY SEEN IN LARGE FORCE

Insurgents Strengthening Their Positions—War Department Expecting to Hear of an Important and Decisive Engagement With Filipinos.

Manila, March 24.—The Second Oregon and Twenty-second Infantry and the troops of Wheaton's brigade are concentrating near Caloccan in the rear of Brigadier General Otis' front. The Third Infantry joined Wheaton's command this afternoon. Army tugs command Malabon. Every preparation is making for a forward movement, but no such action was taken today. The battalion of the Seventeenth Infantry which arrived on board the transport Sherman debarked today. John Murr and Sergeant Cohen, of the Twentieth Kansas, were killed last night.

Insurgents are actively strengthening their positions. Large bodies of the enemy are visible from our lines. The cruiser Baltimore is going to Iloilo to strengthen the forces there. Reassuring reports have been received from Negros, where all is quiet.

Churches are making elaborate preparations for the celebration of Holy week.

Washington, March 24.—The War Department has received no official information of the massing of troops at Caloccan for a decisive engagement with insurgents, but such a movement is not unexpected. General Otis informed the War Department several days ago that he expected to be able soon to report important action, and this was construed to mean that he hoped to have an important and probably decisive battle. The gathering of American forces in the vicinity of Caloccan is believed to be a part of the plan for an aggressive movement against Aguinaldo.

DICKERSON TESTIFIES.

Judge Moore Takes Offense and Throws up His Connection With the Case.

Asheville, N. C., March 24.—Special. J. E. Dickerson, defendant in the bank case, was on the stand all day today. He was asked about the discount committee, the object being to show that the committee, composed of Breesee and Penland, had sole discretion in that matter of discounts and overdrafts, and that if Dickerson was allowed to overdraw his account and get money on accommodation notes the responsibility was entirely with the discount committee. Judge Purnell ruled out all questions as to the discount committee on the ground that Dickerson was a director, and no set of men could authorize one of their number to violate the law. Dickerson then went over the books of the bank, his testimony showing that while he was charged with the interest and discounts of a great many accommodation notes, the proceeds went to Breesee or Penland. He also said that so many amounts were improperly charged against him that it was impossible for him to make his books balance.

Judge C. A. Moore, of counsel for the defense, became offended because Judge Purnell would not allow him to state his reasons for wishing to introduce certain testimony, and withdrew from the court room and from any further participation in the case.

GENERAL BROOKE'S AUTHORITY.

By a Recent Executive Order It Is Almost Unlimited.

Washington, March 24.—General Brooke has been given authority to issue exequaturs to consuls of foreign governments in Cuba for the period of American authority. This action, aside from its international importance, emphasizes the absolute powers with which General Brooke has been invested. Since Spain's sovereignty ended the consuls have been in an anomalous position, and they finally demanded recognition. Now General Brooke will assume responsibility, issuing exequaturs in his own name instead of the President.

New Department Commander.

Anniston, Ala., March 24.—Orders came from the War Department today directing Brigadier General Frank, who has been in command here the past seven months, to assume command of the Department of the Gulf, with headquarters at Atlanta.

SPANISH WAR PENSIONS.

Soldiers in Service in Field or Camp Need Not Apply.

Washington, March 24.—A decision just rendered by the Department of the Interior that no application for a pension is valid unless a person who has already acquired a pensionable status, sounds like a dry technical proposition, but its bearings will be more fully understood by reference to the crop of cases which called it forth. It appears that a large number of applications have come in since the war with Spain passed its crisis, from soldiers still in the field or in camp, who claimed to have suffered disabilities from wounds or disease contracted in the service. The Commissioner of Pensions believed that it was his duty to set these applications aside as invalid, because the law does not recognize any soldier as having a pensionable status till he has been mustered out, and a muster-out in the late war has always been immediately preceded by a physical examination as to the soldier's condition at that time.

To establish a precedent for letting in such applications, now that we are keeping or preparing to keep anywhere from sixty to one hundred thousand men in the field, would be a constant drain upon the Treasury, for it would often be possible for a soldier to get a bad report from the surgeons while he was still suffering from some trouble quite capable of cure. This, and the ease with which comrades could be induced to swear to the conditions apparently leading up to the trouble, tend to swell the pension list unduly. The question raised by the Commissioner was referred by him to the department, and drew forth the decision mentioned at the beginning of this dispatch.

NOW A SILVER TRUST

It Is Designed to Raise the Price of the White Metal.

Topeka, Kas., March 24.—Mr. John T. Graham, of Denver, who owns extensive gold and silver mines in Colorado and New Mexico, and copper mines in Utah, passed through Topeka today on his way to his home. Mr. Graham operates smelting plants at his various mines, and he has been in New York in attendance at the meeting of smelters and operators, which resulted in the perfection of a gigantic trust, with a capital of \$55,000,000.

While in this city Mr. Graham made the statement that the first step made by the new trust would be the advance of the price of silver 10 per cent.

"This is a trust that will prove beneficial, instead of oppressive," said Mr. Graham. "All the smelter operators who entered into the combine signed a contract agreeing not to raise the price on the treatment of ore for ten years.

"The advance in silver will be made within a very short time," continued Mr. Graham, "just as soon as the combine can be perfected."

MORE THAN EVER BEFORE.

The Last Congress Broke All Records for Introduction of Bills.

Washington, March 24.—Mr. B. S. Platt, enrolling clerk of the Senate, has prepared a statement giving in figures the results of the work of the last Congress. "The statement shows that 1,457 bills and joint resolutions became laws out of a total of 18,463 introduced in both houses. Of the measures introduced, 12,608 were presented in the House and 5,855 in the Senate. Of those which became laws, 942 originated in the House and 515 in the Senate. There were only two direct vetoes during the Congress, one of these applying to a Senate bill and the other to a House measure. There were in addition to these, four pocket vetoes—bills which failed to become laws because they were not approved by the President. The record shows that the Senate passed 1,173 of its own bills, and that the House acted favorably upon only 517, or fewer than half of them, while of the 1,681 bills passed by the House, the Senate acted favorably upon 946. A larger number of bills was introduced than in any previous Congress.

Regulars Ordered to Havana.

Washington, March 24.—Eight companies of the Second Infantry now at Savannah have been ordered to Havana, and the remaining four companies from Augusta to Savannah, preparatory to joining the rest of the command.

Sherman on the Chicago.

Santiago, March 24.—Ex-Secretary Sherman was transferred from the Paris to the cruiser Chicago this morning. He slept well last night, but his condition was not perceptibly changed from yesterday.

Agoncillo Will Negotiate With Spain.

Madrid, March 24.—It is learned that Agoncillo is about to send an agent here to negotiate with the government for the liberation of Spanish prisoners in the Philippines.