

SOBER AS A JUDGE

Officers of the Charleston Get an Official Certificate

THE OLD CHARGE REVIVED

Allegation of Drunkenness at the Time the Cruiser Was Lost Made by an Electrical Engineer—The Story Investigated by a Naval Board and Found to Be Baseless

Washington, Nov. 13.—In a communication received at the Navy Department today the charge is revived that officers of the United States cruiser Charleston were drunk when that vessel struck on an uncharted reef off the north coast of Luzon. It was just a year ago yesterday that the Charleston was lost.

The Navy Department has heretofore declined to give the name of the person who brought the charge to its attention. It was shown by the official papers seen today that he is Rev. J. F. Clark, a missionary of the American board, who has been stationed in Bulgaria. Mr. Clark returned to Boston recently, and the New Voice, a prohibition newspaper, cited him as authority for the statement that drunkenness among the Charleston's officers did exist when the vessel was wrecked.

The papers show that an electrical engineer on one of the American ships in the Philippines wrote to Rev. Mr. Clark, who in turn wrote to the Navy Department, that several officers of the Charleston, particularly the navigator, were drunk when the vessel struck. The Navy Department asked Mr. Clark to furnish the names of the officers, and he did so with a copy of the electrical engineer's letter containing the charges.

Rear Admiral Watson, then in command of the Asiatic station, was instructed to investigate the charges, and the investigation was in progress when he was relieved by Rear Admiral Rodney. The investigation was completed by Captain Dorman of the Charleston, who was asked to furnish a statement. He denied the charges and exonerated the navigator and other officers.

The navigator also indignantly denied the charge and said that he never drank while the vessel was under way, and that he had not touched any beverage for two weeks before the disaster. He claimed that the accusation was the result of a plot on the part of the men on the Charleston to bring about an inquiry before the court of inquiry was held.

The department accepts your suggestion that for the reasons stated a further investigation of these matters be now unnecessary. With the revived charge there is coupled a new one, that a number of sailors who testified at the court of inquiry that the loss was caused by the drunkenness of officers, were punished for such testimony by sentence to imprisonment from two to four years, and Rev. Mr. Clark is given as authority for the statement that the men were released on telegraphic orders from Washington.

The records of the Navy Department show that several enlisted men of the Charleston testified at the court of inquiry that an officer had been brought ashore and his personal effects after the man had been forbidden to take them from the wreck. These men were accused of false swearing and were convicted, receiving sentences of from one to four years imprisonment. Owing to legal irregularities in their trials, the proceedings against them were discontinued and they were released. Although every member of the Charleston's crew was asked at the court of inquiry if he had any complaint to make, none came forward to accuse any officer of drunkenness.

MARCUS DALY'S FORTUNE

His Forty Millions to Be Held by the Widow in Trust for the Children

New York, Nov. 13.—Marcus Daly's great fortune, amassed in the mines of Montana, is to go to his widow, to be held by her in trust for the four children—Margaret, Mary C., Harriet and Marcus, Jr., the seven-year old son.

Those who knew the copper king believed he would leave the bulk of his fortune to his children, especially favoring the eldest daughter, Margaret, of whom he was extremely fond. Mr. Daly was a far-seeing business man, and was accomplished in his purchase of the Anaconda mine for \$35,000. In the disposal of his fortune he exercised the same wisdom that has secured the preservation of his vast accumulations.

THE NEXT APPOINTMENT

Speculation as to How the House Will Be Constituted Under the New Census

WASHINGTON, NOV. 13.—EX-GOVERNOR

Merrim, director of the census, returned from Minnesota Sunday and called on the President today to congratulate him on the result of the election. Mr. Merrim called the President's attention to the fact that the figures on the total population of the United States will be immediately at the disposal of Congress when it meets for any action it may desire to take in the direction of a re-apportionment bill. The re-apportionment following the count of the twelfth census must, under the terms of existing law, become operative in 1903, the first election under the apportionment being in November, 1902. Congress must notify the respective states, and they must rearrange their congressional districts in time for the November election in 1902. There is much difference of opinion as to the re-apportionment. Congress began with a ratio of one representative to every 30,000 inhabitants, giving a total of sixty-five members. This has increased under each census, until the tenth census caused the representation to be fixed at one member for every 33,131 inhabitants, and giving 325 members in the House. The eleventh census ran the number up to 13,901, and gave 356 members. That the ratio will be increased this time this is certain, but there are many ideas on the subject. Should Congress place the ratio at 200,000 the House would stand in numbers as now, but some of the States would lose representation. At 100,000 it is estimated that the States would lose one representative, and the membership of the House would be considerably increased. With 200,000 as the basis, however, there would be a gain of about eighteen seats, but Maine, Virginia, Nebraska and Kansas would lose representation.

HAIR BREADTH ESCAPES

Two Children Taken Unconscious from a Burning Tenement House

New York, Nov. 13.—There were several narrow escapes and two rescues at a fire of apparently incendiary origin which broke out in the tenement apartment house at 206 St. Nicholas avenue, before dawn today. Smoke was rolling from the windows of the court floor and flames were spreading to the hallways before the fire was arrested. All ran pell-mell to the street, some falling from the stairs and others being slightly burned as they ran past the burning rooms. Several of the women fainted when they reached the sidewalk. As the fire engine dashed up, George Hicks, who lived on the fourth floor, where the fire started, remembered that his two children—Walker, aged seven, and Albert, aged four—had been left alone in the room. He dashed into the room, but was held back by the police, while firemen raised a ladder. Two firemen went up for the children and found them half unconscious in bed. The room in which they were was on fire. The boys were revived when brought to the street.

FIRE AT CORNELL

Chemical Explosion in Veterinary College Building Results in Heavy Loss

Ithaca, N. Y., Nov. 13.—The New York State Veterinary College building, which is a part of Cornell University, was partially destroyed by fire this morning. The fire broke out in the third story which is used as a laboratory for the veterinary and medical students, and the third story, together with valuable apparatus, was destroyed. The fire originated from an explosion in the laboratory at 4 a. m. The woman promptly turned in an alarm. A few days ago a fire broke out in the building, which was destroyed. The structure contained valuable laboratory apparatus and the ex-Governor Flower library of veterinary and medical standards, and was one of the handsomest buildings on the campus. The loss is estimated at \$30,000 which will be covered by insurance. The library was saved, but was badly damaged by water.

WORK FOR CONGRESS

Republican Senators Will Meet in a Few Days and Map Out Plans

New York, Nov. 13.—Senator Fairbanks, of Indiana, is in the city today and is having a talk with Senator Platt. He is going to Washington tonight and will remain here until Congress meets on the first Monday in December. Mr. Fairbanks said today that many Republican senators and representatives would assemble in Washington tonight for a conference and to map out the work of the short session. There is much work to do, and the party leaders want to arrange a programme in advance.

Boers Annoy the British

London, Nov. 13.—In a dispatch to the War Office, dated at Johannesburg yesterday, General Roberts gave details of five skirmishes with the Boers. He says the commandos appear to act independently, with no particular object except to cause as much annoyance to the British as possible.

Jan. H. Lassiter, Jr., Dies in Baltimore

Henderson, N. C., Nov. 13.—Special.—A telegram has been received from Baltimore stating that Mr. Jan. H. Lassiter, Jr., died at 12 o'clock, noon today. His wife was with him at his departure.

LISTING FOR TAXES

Twelve Witnesses Testify in the Railroad Case

CUSTOM IN FAYETTEVILLE

Assessors Examine Property and Property Listed at Three-fourths Value—Mill Property Taxed on a Basis of One-half Its Cost and in One Instance at One-fourth Real Value—Similar Story Told by Witnesses

Wilmington, N. C., Nov. 13.—Special.—Twelve witnesses were examined at the hearing of the railroad taxation case today. They were A. B. Williams, J. B. Smith and William Alderman, Cumberland county; S. T. Nicholson and Baron Frederick Von Evinstein, Beaufort county; Isaac Thompson, Jones county; J. D. Mautsby, Columbus county; M. F. H. Gouverneur, New Hanover county; George H. Hall, Robeson county; O. F. Herring and J. M. Marshall, Sampson county; and K. J. Powers, Pender county.

Captain Williams, of Fayetteville, said that as assessor he and two other assessors of Cross Creek township, in which Fayetteville is situated, had gone around and examined property, assessing it intentionally at three-fourths value. He also said that to induce factories to come to Fayetteville factory property was assessed at about 25 per cent. of what assessors understood was paid for it. On cross examination Captain Williams testified that up to the fall of 1889 there had been very little enhancement in value of farming land, but that since cotton had risen in price there had been some enhancement in value of the better class of agricultural land. He said that in making the value he did not speak of public sales of land. He could not swear to the rule of valuation except in his own township.

The witnesses testified to pretty much the same thing, all of them saying that in their opinions, and as far as they knew or had ascertained, real estate was assessed at 75 to 75 per cent. of what it would bring at private sale, and that at public or forced sale the land would bring considerably less than on the usual terms when the owner seeks the purchaser, and sells part cash and part on time, or all on credit. The railroad attorneys avowed reinforced today by the arrival of Captain Charles Price, of Salisbury, counsel for the Southern; R. O. Burton, of Raleigh, counsel for the Atlantic Coast Line; and A. D. Ward, of New Bern, of the Railroad Commission's counsel, left tonight for Richmond to argue a case before the Circuit Court of Appeals. The hearing will be resumed tomorrow.

MARGIN TOO SMALL

War Revenue Taxes Will Bear but Little Pruning at Present

Washington, Nov. 13.—The President has called the cabinet to work on the preparation of his annual message to Congress, and accordingly the cabinet meeting this morning was largely spent in discussing the character of the document. Most of the cabinet members have practically completed their individual reports, and in consequence they were able to discuss the general situation.

The question of cutting down the most enormous features of the internal revenue measure received serious consideration. The president was somewhat disappointed with the prospects. He had hoped that the income tax would provide government reductions in the war taxes. The information furnished by Secretary Gage, however, gave little hope that a surplus during four months and a half in the present fiscal year has been less than \$7,000,000, and that the receipts have been \$215,000,000. The war ratio would provide a surplus of only about \$20,000,000 for the entire fiscal year. It is believed that the president in his message to Congress will not advise a reduction of war taxes to an extent of more than \$12,000,000 or \$15,000,000 a year, to reduce the revenue in a greater degree than that would give too narrow a margin of receipts above imperative expenditures.

Although the outlook is not so promising as had been hoped, the cabinet officers were of the opinion that some cuts could be made in various items of the war revenue measure. The stamp tax on small articles of domestic use will probably be reduced. Secretary Long reported progress on his negotiations for armor plate. He is well pleased with the terms he has practically secured from the contractors. Mr. Long announced after the meeting that negotiations had not been quite completed for the purchase of armor plate, but that he hoped to have all arrangements concluded during this week.

The Chinese question received an usual share of attention, but nothing decisive was done. Secretary Hay announced that this government had not received any confirmation of the report that the envoys in Peking had agreed upon a preliminary demand to be made upon the Chinese government. According to a dispatch from Dr. Morrison, published in the London Times this morning, the terms included the execution of eleven high Chinese officials and maintenance of legation guards at Peking.

BROKERAGE FIRM FAILS

Grant Brothers Swamped in the Current of Advancing Prices

New York, Nov. 13.—Frederick Grant, Charles F. Grant and John K. Van Sickle, who compose the firm of Grant Bros., stock brokers, at 45 Broadway, today assigned for the benefit of their creditors to Ernest G. Steadman. The failure is the first to be announced from the New York Stock Exchange since the tremendous post-election boom, and did not come as a surprise, as the concern was known to be on the bear side of the market.—It was organized May

CONFERENCE AT HANDLEMAN

The Annual Meeting of the Christian Church for Western North Carolina

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The seventh annual session of the Western North Carolina Conference of the Christian Church met here this morning. Rev. P. H. Fleming of Burlington was elected president; Rev. H. A. Albright of Moffitt, secretary, and J. M. Turner of Graham, assistant secretary. The visiting brethren were: Dr. J. G. Bishop, secretary of the American General Christian Conference, Dayton, O.; Rev. J. W. Holt of the North Carolina Conference; Revs. A. P. Bartlett and J. D. Wickes of the Eastern North Carolina Conference.

The work of the day consisted chiefly in reports from churches, ministerial reports, a report of the executive committee, and the report on foreign missions. The report on foreign missions was especially interesting. Dr. Bishop, who addressed the conference on this important subject, made a great impression upon all who heard him. The foreign missionary work of the Christian Church is chiefly in Japan. The church has established missions at Tokio and two other places in the empire. There are fourteen missionaries and native preachers, besides other workers. The church membership is about 850.

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THE RACES

Yesterday's Events at Aqueduct and Starters for Today

New York, Nov. 13.—Results at Aqueduct. First race, 3/4 mile—Belle of Orleans 5 to 2, Bettie Gray 2 to 1, Lady Conary 3 to 1, Time 1:10. Second race, 3/4 mile—Stark 9 to 2, Girl 7 to 5, Glade Run 3 to 1, Time 1:15. Third race, mile and 70 yards—Tartar 7 to 1, Excelsis 7 to 1, Dolando 1 to 3, Time 1:47. Fourth race, 1-1/4 miles—Kinnikinnie 7 to 5, Greyfield 6 to 5, Rochester 6 to 1, Time 1:48-3/5. Fifth race, about 3/4 mile—Marshal Neil 7 to 5, Frank Hill 15 to 1, American 11, Kinnikinnie 110, Prestidigit 102, Carbone 106, Elfin Conig 98, Pincher 97, Bastille 95, Maribert 95, Hawk 90, Dame 84, Mary 92, The Rhymer 87, Buizlochite 92, Ben Blue 90, Gold Leaf 90. Second race, 1/2 mile, fillies, 2 year old—Masbat 109, Ashes 109, Ann Tompson 109, About 109, Orietta 109, Reina 109, Gallinor 109, KId 109, Ondulus 109, Allis Well 109, Edna Brown 109, Education 109.

NEW OIL FIELD

Discovery Near Buffalo Starts Speculators to Leasing All Land in Sight

Buffalo, Nov. 13.—Erie county is experiencing the sensation that follows the discovery of oil, and excitement runs through the county of Buffalo. Yesterday the Standard Oil Company, it is reported, struck an oil well near that place, and the indications are that it is a gusher. Considerable secrecy is manifested in regard to the find. For some time it has been claimed that there is oil in this county because of the great number of gas wells that have been discovered, but it remained for the Standard Oil Company to prove it. Already speculators are securing leases on land and vast tracts have been contracted for. The speculators calculate that, even if they do not find oil and secure only gas, it will be worth the investment because the gas supply for Buffalo is diminishing and a ready market is insured.

ALEXANDER SOON SUFFETED

Three Months After Marriage the King of Serbia Talks of Divorce

Paris, Nov. 13.—The reports in regard to the fitness of Queen Draga and mistress of a sensational character are denied at the Serbian legation. King Alexander of Serbia and Madame Maschin, a widow and a former lady-in-waiting to Queen Natalie, were married on August 5th last. The marriage caused a sensation in Serbia, and there was considerable opposition when it was first announced that the king contemplated such an alliance. On November 1st it was stated in a dispatch from Vienna that King Alexander had announced his intention of divorcing his wife and that Queen Draga was pregnant. The news given was that the king was tired of his wife and desired to return to the freedom of his bachelor days.

POSSIBLY THE OLDEST

Mrs. Nancy Hollifield Is Reported to Be Desperately Ill

Charlotte, N. C., Nov. 13.—Special.—News reaches here of the desperate illness of Mrs. Nancy Hollifield, said to be the oldest living person in the United States. Mrs. Hollifield lives near Ellenboro, N. C. Last fall she contracted cold and since then has been gradually growing weaker. Mrs. Hollifield does not know her exact age, but relates incidents in her life which took place over a century ago. A number of people who live in the same section say Mrs. Hollifield must be about 117 years old. A lady herself states that she is over 110, but does not say how much.

Southern Pacific Buys Pacific

New York, Nov. 13.—The board of directors of the Southern Pacific Rail-

FISH AND OYSTER FAIR

New Bern's Annual Event Began Yesterday

SHOW A VERY GOOD ONE

Senator-elect Simmons Official at the Opening—Weather Fine and Conditions Good for Large Crowds—Side Shows Numerous and Fakirs in Evidence—Racing Track Not as Fast as It Will Be Today

New Bern, N. C., Nov. 13.—Special.—The East Carolina Fish and Oyster Fair was formally opened today by Hon. F. M. Simmons upon the arrival of the street parade at the grounds shortly after 11 o'clock.

The fair as a whole makes an unusually fine appearance, and the promise of splendid weather makes probable some record-breaking crowds. The side shows are very numerous and flocks of fakirs make it lively if not profitable for all visitors.

The track today was somewhat slow, but by tomorrow it will be in perfect condition. The trotting race, three minute class, purse \$200, was won by Elva Ingram, owner W. C. Chatham, of Graham; second money was won by Clark of New Bern. Running race, two-thirds mile heats, purse \$100, won by Royal Lover, owner T. L. Emery, of Weidon; second by Vic, owner E. V. Denton, Raleigh; Grandma ruled out on foul.

The balloon ascension of Mile. Danzele was a great success. The aeronaut dropped into the Neuse river a quarter of a mile from shore. Fortunately, wearing a life preserver, and was rescued by a boat after being in the water about fifteen minutes, and seemed none the worse for the cold bath.

IN HANDS OF THE COURT

One Way to Avoid Prosecution for Violating Anti-trust Law

Dallas, Tex., Nov. 13.—The Dallas Electric Company, perhaps the biggest institution of its kind in Texas, has gone into the hands of a receiver by order of United States District Judge E. L. Meek, on application of the American Loan and Trust Company of Boston, alleging non-payment of interest on \$300,000 worth of bonds. E. M. Beardon, vice president of the National Exchange Bank of Dallas, has been appointed receiver.

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DEMANDS IN CHINA

Ministers Waiting for Instructions from Their Home Governments

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Peking, Nov. 11.—(Via Taku, Nov. 11 and Shanghai, Nov. 12.—10:40 p. m.)—The foreign ministers will hold another meeting tomorrow to consider the demands which are to be presented to the Chinese peace plenipotentiaries.

The question of whether a decision will be reached at this meeting will depend altogether upon the receipt of services by all the ministers from their home governments. The ministers themselves have agreed upon the main outlines of the draft, but there may be some changes in its wording. Up to the present time it is not known whether the declaration of the emperor, that General Tung-Fuh Siam will not object to the receipt of the draft, will be included in the demands in regard to the punishment of high Chinese officials and princes who were responsible for the boxer outrage.

A high Chinese official said today that if the powers insist on the condemnation and punishment of all those named in the original list—about eleven princes and generals—it will be impossible for China to agree to it, even if she were willing to do so. China will no doubt agree that the foreigners shall hold the Taku forts and military posts. She will also not object to the maintenance of legation guards, the payment of indemnities and the prohibition of further importation of arms, but it will be impossible to carry out the death punishment except in a few cases, though China may agree to do so in the others. It is thought here that China will follow the same tactics which she pursued during the negotiations with Japan at the close of the war with that country. After the receipt of the Japanese proposals at that time, China made counter-propositions which Japan declined to entertain, and gave the Chinese a few days to agree to the original suggestions.

China's position in this respect, however, is better at the present time, because of the diversity of interests represented, at least one of which is playing as her friend. There is every indication at present that Russia is inclined to make things as easy as possible for China in the settlement of the trouble.

A German military expedition will start for the north tomorrow. The Japanese will send two companies and a small English detachment will also accompany the Germans. Conditions in Peking are unchanged. There is still much killing going on in the northern section of the city, while the other districts are quiet for the purpose of hearing evidence in regard to outrages on missionaries and other Christians, perpetrated by Chinese officials who were afterwards executed, it still in session.

It was given out at Field Marshal Von Waldersee's office today that more executions of Chinese at Peking will certainly follow as a result of the investigation by the commission.

DEATH OF MR. J. H. LASSITER, JR.

A Well Known Citizen of Henderson Passes Away in Baltimore

We regret to chronicle the sad intelligence of the death in Baltimore yesterday of Mr. J. H. Lassiter, Jr., of Henderson. Mr. Lassiter, who had been much impaired recently was under going treatment at the hands of northern physicians and his friends were encouraged to hope that his speedy recovery would soon enable him to return home restored to strength and health. A change for the worse, however, took place within the past week and relatives were summoned from Henderson. His condition grew rapidly weaker and yesterday he breathed his last at 12:20 o'clock.

Mr. Lassiter was prominent in the business circles of Henderson and possessed many noble traits that were known to him warm and lasting friendships. He was associated with his grandfather and brother in the conduct of a large and successful mercantile establishment in Henderson. His first name being J. H. Lassiter & Co. He frequently visited Raleigh where he was well known and very popular.

Mr. Lassiter married Miss Ellen Daniel Faucett, daughter of the late James Faucett and grand-daughter of Mrs. John L. Long, formerly of Halifax county. This lovely lady—to whom the sympathy of a wide circle will go out in her affliction survives him, together with his mother, grandfather, and a brother, Mr. Robert Lassiter.

THREE KENTUCKY CONTESTS

A Republican Elected in the Ninth District by a Compulsory Count

Louisville, Nov. 13.—The reelection of Representative Samuel Pugh, of the Ninth district, was made certain today by a gain of 188 votes in Lewis county by the official count. In a precinct in the county the Goebel election officers had refused to count 188 ballots that were cast for Pugh. The ballots were soiled and a trifle damp and were thrown out. By process of court the ballots were counted today.

Charge Against Devery Dismissed

New York, Nov. 13.—The indictment against William S. Devery, chief of police, for interfering with Superintendent McCullagh in the discharge of his duties, was dismissed by Recorder Goff, in general sessions this morning.

Schooner Lost and Crew Battered

Norfolk, Va., Nov. 13.—The Baltimore schooner James J. Reese, bound from Norfolk to Baltimore, lumber laden, was lost near Hollins' Island, Chesapeake Bay, yesterday, and the crew of four drowned. Captain Woolford, her master, happened not to be on the vessel and is now in Baltimore.

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