

Today fair and warmer.

# THE MORNING POST.

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## Trouble About Three of Pritchard's Postmasters

### Wilson People Seriously Object to Dr. Person. Items for North Carolina in the Sundry Civil Appropriation Bill

Washington, Feb. 2.—Special.—The post office department has requested approval of T. E. Davis, postmaster at Merchants City, N. C., and if the department is not able to make good a reasonable doubt the charges against that official should have been cause for a heavy damage suit in the formal notice served on Pritchard, giving notification that Davis would be removed, the postmaster general general gave the following reasons for his removal:

1. Carelessness of postmaster and his office in forwarding with mails; unwill to report in violation of section 273 postal laws.

2. Careless call of Wilkes, who has a long record against the confirmation of M. Jones, recently appointed postmaster at North Wilkesboro, was here and discussed the case with Senator Simmons, to whom he sent all the papers in which charges were preferred against Jones. The activity of Jones in this matter may lead to the removal of Bull Call, his brother-in-law, who is postmaster at Wilkesboro, and here are hammering Charles Call, and it is said that Representative Blackburn, who is displeased with the fight on Jones, may shove Call out in the cold.

3. Senator Simmons is not backing up charges against Jones. He will not be the decision of the special agent who went to North Wilkesboro and conducted an investigation.

4. A gentleman from Wilson, who is in Washington, says the people of that town are very much opposed to the appointment of Dr. B. T. Person as postmaster. There is said to be a deal of indignation over this latest recommendation by Senator Pritchard. The postmaster general against Dr. Person, Person is the fact that he introduced and backed the charter in the fusion legislature which would have placed them under negro rule. There was information today that ex-Senator Person is responsible for Person's recommendation.

The sundry civil bill was completed today, making appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1904. It includes a number of appropriations for North Carolina, including \$1,000,000 for the new public buildings program at the last session of Congress. The allowance for the Durham building is \$1,500,000. Already \$15,000 has been appropriated. Goldsboro is given \$200,000 in addition to the \$100,000 appropriated last year. The limit of cost for the Goldsboro building is \$35,000, but Representative Thomas is endeavoring to have it increased to at least \$50,000. The civil bill appropriates \$11,650 for the new public building, making the balance of the appropriation immediately available, so that work can

begin on the improvements to the present structure with as little delay as possible.

Other appropriations contained in the sundry civil bill are as follows: Edenton fish station \$3,485. Biological station, Beaufort, N. C., \$1,800. Both of these appropriations are for maintenance.

### \$40,000 for Good-roads Education

This morning, before the Senate committee on agriculture, the \$30,000 appropriation for good-roads education and development was increased to \$40,000 at the instance of Senator Simmons, who is a member of the committee. Having attended the good roads convention at Raleigh last year and observed the practical good that resulted Senator Simmons took a special interest in this matter. The agricultural bill was under consideration, and when the good roads appropriation was reached he addressed the committee in behalf of the increase, which was unanimously agreed to. Senator Simmons told of the meeting at Raleigh held in the three big road conventions held in the state. He referred to Governor Aycock's interest in this work and the fact that he selected many delegates from all sections of the state to attend the meetings he stated that the effect of these meetings had been to stimulate the work of good roads development in North Carolina. The practical but brief talk had a decided effect on the members of the committee. The department of agriculture will no doubt hold other good roads conventions in North Carolina.

When the forestry division was under consideration an increased appropriation of \$50,000 was allowed for that department by the committee, largely through the instrumentality of Senator Simmons. Professor Pinchot, the head of the department has done a great deal of work in North Carolina in connection with the Appalachian Park, and he expects to do even more. He has made a recent discovery, that of bleeding pine trees, which, it is said, will bring three millions to the south. By this process the life of a pine tree is maintained after securing the products for the market and the value of the tree for timber is not depreciated.

Senator Simmons decided today to place no further obstruction in the way of the confirmation of D. H. Patrick as collector at New Bern. He held up the appointment and prevented confirmation at the request of Mayer Hahn, who wished to have the president reconsider the case. Hahn's letter to the president, in which he made a number of charges, had never been acted upon. Senator Simmons thinks he has given the president sufficient time to consider the case and take action, so this morning he sent word to the committee that he would not oppose Patrick's confirmation.

Thus another advocate of the president's strenuous negro policy is turned down to make way for a lily white. In North Carolina lily whites are the real thing, while in Alabama, the state where Booker Washington resides, they are not only bounced out of office but are chastised and harassed in every way possible. This is only another instance of the president's inconsistency. Mayer Hahn is the only genuine follower of the president's southern

policy in North Carolina. Hahn went to the Greensboro state convention, and the penalty imposed on him for siding with then negro was expulsion.

### THE SIXTH TRIAL FOR FAMOUS CASE

#### Hillmon - Insurance Fraud Case Pending for Years in Court Again

Washington, Feb. 2.—The celebrated Kansas insurance case, which grew out of the alleged death of John W. Hillmon in that state in 1879, was today sent back to the trial court for a sixth trial.

Hillmon's life was insured in the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company for \$35,000, and when his death was reported on the ground that he entered into a conspiracy with others to disappear, have the report circulated that he was dead, then substitute the corpse of another man and claim payment on the policy.

Hillmon disappeared while traveling on the plains with a man named Dr. Abner Alexander, member of the General Assembly from Tyrrell, and the only Republican elected to the Legislature from eastern Carolina, was here today for the purpose of securing additional clerk hire for the post office at Columbia. He also entered a plea in behalf of Postmaster Craddock of Cherry, who was indicted in the federal court for opening letters.

department of agriculture at a cost of \$1,500,000 was passed.

At 5:10 o'clock the House adjourned until tomorrow.

### Entire Crew Drowned

Lemvig, Denmark, Feb. 2.—The Norwegian steamer Avona, Captain Dreyer, from New Orleans on January 4 for Aarhus has stranded near here. It became known today that all the members of the crew, numbering twenty-four men, were drowned.

### Captain Gannon Fined

New York, Feb. 2.—Police Captain James Gannon, who was found guilty by a jury last week of neglect of duty, in failing to suppress an alleged disorderly house, was today fined \$250 by Recorder Goff. He will not be sent to prison.

### Four Safe Crackers Put Behind Bars at Monroe

#### Chased by Blood Hounds and Armed Men—Many Shots Fired—A Dog's Leg Shattered—Men Unharmed

Monroe, N. C., Feb. 2.—Special.—Safe crackers caught. There was quite a lively time at the passenger depot here this morning for a few moments when the north bound train arrived at 6 o'clock. Two of the safe crackers who have been operating at Charlotte, Matthews and other points stepped from the train into the ticket office to purchase tickets to Raleigh. The two night policemen were on the lookout for these men and spotted them at once. They resisted arrest and began firing on the policemen. There were fifteen or twenty shots exchanged, and strange to say, no one was hurt. After these skirmish the crackers ran up Main street and were lost in an alley. Blood hounds were secured and ten or twelve mounted officers at once pursued them. The dogs had no trouble in striking the track and did excellent work. The men were tracked to Unionville, eight miles distant, where they were captured without further resistance and placed safely in the county jail. They were well dressed and bore nothing of a suspicious nature with the exception of an old mask.

There are two more members in this gang that are being pursued by the Matthews, and chances for their capture are good. The Post correspondent has just visited the jail. The men refuse to talk. They give their names as Walter Wood and H. B. Willson.

### Two More Robbers Captured

Monroe, N. C., Feb. 2.—Special.—A posse has just returned with the other two safe crackers. They were caught five miles west of here after being chased eight or ten miles with blood hounds. The robbers shot one of the dogs, but the faithful creature, with one leg shattered, continued the chase and caught the rascals. When the posse arrived another skirmish ensued, fifty or one hundred shots were exchanged, but miraculously, no one was hurt. The robbers were driven from ambush into an open field, and the volley of shots from the Winchester rifles and shot guns with buck shot in the hands of the posse was so warm they could do nothing but surrender.

### Allies Are Waiting to Hear from Venezuela

#### Negotiations Looking to a Compromise Not Expected to Come to a Head in Two Days—The Question of Preference

London, Feb. 2.—The answer of Venezuela to the rejection by the allied powers of her proposal to treat on an equality the claims of all nations without giving the allies preference, has not yet been received, nor has any definite counter proposal been made. It is not expected here that the negotiations looking to a compromise, which are now going on in Washington, will reach a head for at least two days.

Berlin, Feb. 2.—It is learned officially that the government has up to this time received no representations from France on the subject of preferential treatment of the allies by Venezuela.

## Will Investigate Charges Against Prison Officials

### Legislature Will Take a Hand and See What is in the Stories of Cruelty. Yesterday in the House

The charges recently made in the public prints against the state prison authorities are to be investigated by a legislative committee.

That action was decided upon yesterday when a joint resolution looking to that end was adopted. The resolution was introduced in the House by Mr. Blount. In presenting the resolution Mr. Blount said that charges of a very serious nature had been made and that if true the state prison authorities should be brought to task, and if not true they are entitled to exoneration by a committee of this body, after a careful investigation.

The resolution refers to the letter of Mr. J. L. C. Bird of Marion, which specifies charges of cruelty in the removal of a large number of convicts from the railroad camp at Spruce Pine in Mitchell county to Marion, McDowell county.

The superintendent of the state prison, Mr. J. S. Mann, courts the proposed investigation, as was shown by his interview with a Post man, published Sunday morning. He believes that the acts of the supervisors and guards were all that could be expected under the circumstances from a standpoint of humanity, and that an unbiased and honest investigation will prove as such.

There was no discussion of the resolution yesterday that caused some discussion. He wanted a special committee appointed composed of members of the House and Senate to meet representatives of different boards of trade who will be here today, to investigate charges against railroads of discrimination in freight rates.

Mr. Murphy opposed the special committee idea and said the ends sought were entirely within the scope of the power and authority of the Corporation Commission and he thought they should be allowed to settle it. He favored referring the matter to the Corporation Commission.

Mr. Morton suggested that the matter be referred to the committee on railroads and railroad commission with instructions to that committee to consider the question and confer with the representatives of boards of trade.

Mr. Blount insisted on the adoption of his resolution, and argued that the gentlemen opposing it well knew it would take two or three days to get the question settled by their method and intimated they were doing it in order to kill the effect of his resolution and defeat its object.

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## RAILROAD SUES

### Site of Certain Buildings in High Point Claimed

High Point, N. C., Feb. 2.—Special.—Today your correspondent learned that the Southern Railway had entered suit for possession of some property lying along the railroad here which comes within the 100-foot limit usually claimed by railroads. The property is now owned by Mr. W. H. Ragan and is occupied by the High Point Provision Company. Western Union telegraph office and J. L. Sechrist, groceryman. This is a proposed site for High Point's new depot. Mr. Ragan I learn, has agreed to sell to the railroad for \$5,000, but the railroad claim it is their property. Mr. Ragan claims not. The buildings on the disputed ground were erected by the late Dr. Worth, who, it is claimed, secured a ninety-nine years' lease. The property was afterwards sold to Mr. Ragan, the present owner. If this be the case, the lease still holds good for sixty years or more.

One hour and twenty minutes was

## Combine of Attorneys to Extort Excessive Fees

### The Senate Will Find a Way to Stop That—Debate on Brownell Taken Up. Statehood Bill a Stayer

Washington, Feb. 2.—When the Senate met today Mr. Hale called attention to an alleged combination among lawyers to maintain excessive fees in cases filed with the Senate treaty commission. There, he said, have been placed at 25 to 30 per cent, as shown by a representative of the commission. He did not suppose that the commission would report the full amount of the claims—\$1,000,000—but that even if a reasonable amount was reported the attorneys would still receive in fees over \$2,000,000. Mr. Cullum, chairman of the foreign relations committee, assured Mr. Hale that the commission was now considering a bill fixing the rate of compensation for lawyers in regard to these claims.

A joint resolution was passed referring state authorities to co-operate with the census office in securing a uniform system of birth and death registration.

Captain Brownell, mentioned as having been connected with the death of Father Augustin. Captain Brownell, he said, had admitted giving the water cure to Father Augustin, and yet the autopsy he said to have shown that he died of fatty degeneration of the heart. Father Augustin, he declared, had been murdered, and yet Captain Brownell was to be held up as the highest specimen of the American soldier or American officer.

Replying, Mr. Proctor, with some emphasis said: "The senator from Vermont defended Captain Brownell and continues to do so, and resents the implication of the senator from Arkansas that he was guilty of murder." Captain Brownell, he said, was in a situation where he had to defend his men against treachery in which Father Augustin was the prime mover.

Mr. Berry, answering Mr. Proctor, said if Mr. Proctor approved of Captain Brownell's conduct that was a question for him to decide. "As to his saying he resents," he said, "I do not know in what way he purposes to resent it."

Mr. Proctor made no reply. Mr. Quay asked for unanimous consent for a vote on the statehood bill. February 18. Mr. Nelson objected. The army appropriation bill was read and an agreement was reached to vote on it at 1 o'clock tomorrow.

Mr. Bart of California resumed his speech against the statehood bill. His speech was followed by Mr. Quarles of Wisconsin, who spoke for half an hour, without concluding. At 4:15 the Sen-

### A "Real" Healed Off

Washington, Feb. 2.—In the House this afternoon Mr. Bates asked that the rules be suspended and a bill passed to provide for the "better separation and utilization of public and private lands within the limits of railroad grants in the arid regions."

Mr. Bates explained that the bill was recommended by the Interior department. It permitted the secretary of the Interior, he said, to exchange arid and semi-arid lands within the limits of railroad and wagon grants for public lands of equal value, in order to assemble public and private lands in more compact bodies, so as to permit them to be advantageously used.

Mr. Jones protested vigorously against the consideration of such an important matter under suspension of the rules. He called it a steal and declared that the amount of land involved was from 50,000,000 to 70,000,000 acres. No man could tell exactly how much land was involved. This was a proposition, he said, to pass with twenty minutes' debate on a side a bill affecting one-fifth of the public domain of the United States. People who had purchased lands from the railroads now desired the government, at its expense, to segregate them from the railroad lands in order that they could be used to advantage. If they received the privilege of exchange they would select the best land available.