

State News.

WHAT TAR BEELS ARE DOING

Down of the State Press—Drops of Turpentine and Strains of Rice from the East—Clusters of Straps and Tobacco Stems from the North—Stalks of Corn and Grains of Wheat from the West—Peanuts and Cotton Seed from the South

Capt. Thos. W. Mason, of Northampton county, is a candidate for Congress in the Second district.

The seventeenth annual convention of the North Carolina Sunday School Association will be held in the First Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, March 15 and 16 and 17.

The Senate Committee on Military Affairs has reported adversely Senator Pritchard's bill for the construction of a driveway and approaches to the National Cemetery at Salisbury.

By agreement of counsel, the Wilkes county bond case will not be submitted on briefs, as the Supreme Court allowed counsel, but oral argument in the case will be heard by the court next October.

Gen J. S. Carr is a millionaire but he isn't rearing his sons in idleness. One of them J. S. Carr, Jr., who recently graduated at the University, has been elected secretary and treasurer of the Durham Hosiery Mills.

The News and Observer says that if North Carolina keeps up to the end of the year the pace it has set for the first two months it will during the year put the master of \$12,420,000 into cotton mills alone during the last year of the century.

An exchange says: The present year is destined to go down in history as the year of the great oat crop failure. All ready reports are coming in from far and near that the oats are of so small account that the only thing to do is to plow them under and plant cotton.

The Pembroke Manufacturing Company was organized in Newbern Friday night, to put up a cotton mill. It was divided to increase the stock to \$100,000 Saturday night the directors elected W. B. Blades, president; John C. Whitney, secretary; John Dunn, treasurer.

A Welder special, to News and Observer, 9th, says: Judge Walter Clark's fine brick hotel at Halifax was burned this morning at about half past two o'clock and the building and most of the contents are total losses. The hotel was a splendid three-story brick structure and cost \$14,000 to build. I learn that Judge Clark did not have a dollar of insurance on it.

Winston-Salem: Winston shipped 1,794,444 pounds of manufactured tobacco during last month. The stamp sales were as follows: On tobacco, \$215,333.28; on cigars and cigarettes, \$1,657,781.96; on spirits, \$8,667,341.00; on war, \$794,311.00. The shipments of manufactured tobacco in February, 1899 aggregated 1,604,658 pounds, while the revenue on tobacco amounted to \$192,486.96.

Pittsboro Citizen: Since October the 8th, when Ruffin Haden came from Greensboro and broke out with smallpox, there have been in Chatham county 82 cases of smallpox. All are now well (some having died) and with exception of one or two families have been released from quarantine. Dr. Chapin, as Superintendent of Health has done all in his power to suppress the disease and deserves credit for managing it as well as he has.

Wilmington Messenger: The Protestant ministers in many places are denouncing the Mormons in burning language from the pulpit, and in some instances have denounced the elders. Recently a young woman of Raleigh came home for a visit, where she goes to marry a Mormon elder, with whom she fell in love while he was in North Carolina. The girl was converted to the Mormon faith. She is about 20 years old. Two other women and five men of Raleigh have also been won over to Mormonism.

Insurance Commissioner Young yesterday paid over to the State Treasurer \$24,377.96 collected from the insurance companies of the State for license taxes etc. This makes between \$85,000 and \$90,000 that has been collected by the insurance commissioner and paid into the State treasury since the office was established by the last Legislature, one year ago. Commissioner Young will shortly issue his report showing the amount of business done during the year by all the insurance companies of the State.—Ex.

On Saturday, 3d, near Clyde, Haywood county, Geo. Ratliff, a young negro man, criminally assaulted an afflicted 8-year-old granddaughter of Nathias Holland, a white farmer who lives near Clyde. The negro was in the employ of the family. He was run down and caught about 5 o'clock, placed under a heavy guard, and carried to Waynesville Sunday morning, where he was placed in jail. He confessed his guilt. Early Monday morning, 5 o'clock, while in jail he was shot to death by a mob of infuriated whites.

General News.

SPARKS FROM THE WIRES.

The Latest Reliable News From the Earth's Four Corners Selected and Condensed for Progressive Farmer Readers.

From February 14th to the 27th Butler's losses were 802.

Several bales of long staple cotton were sold in Norfolk recently at 12 1/2 per pound.

Two men were killed and seventy-five wounded by a collision of trains in Indiana last week.

The Lawton fund amounting to \$98,432.07 has been turned over to the widow of General Lawton.

President Kruger, of the Boers, is ready to make peace on the basis of independence of the two republics, or fight to the bitter end.

The London Daily News says the government has decided to send the Boer General Cronje and his followers to the island of St. Helena forthwith.

A delegation of women protested to Congress last week against granting the ballot to their sex, causing great indignation among the equal suffragists.

The National Convention of Social Democrats at Indianapolis Friday nominated Eugene V. Debs for President and Job Harriman of California for Vice President.

The Mississippi Senate passed an anti mob bill last week. It provides an immediate trial for cases of rape and makes a sheriff who gives up a prisoner liable to indictment.

In France hostility to England has reached an intensity which is gravely perilous. Prophecies of a war with England by September are common in Paris. We think it by no means probable, however.

Labor troubles culminated in a riot on Thirty-sixth and Wallace street, Chicago, Thursday evening. One man was shot and probably fatally wounded and six others were injured, one of them severely.

It was rumored last week that the Western Union Telegraph Company was about to absorb the Postal Telegraph Company, and the report received ready credence from persons who claimed to have cognizance of the matter.

Prof. William P. Trent, of Swannee University, has been chosen Professor of English Literature in Barnard College, a department of Columbia. Prof. Trent's speech at Wake Forest Commencement last year attracted much attention.

It has been ascertained that Lieutenant Pierce of the Lexington company tore down the drapery from the Kentucky State capitol placed there by resolution of the assembly out of respect to the memory of William Goebel. Pierce will be tried by court-martial.

On Friday of last week Pope Leo XIII, of the Catholic Church celebrated his ninetieth birthday in good health. Regarding the Boer conflict he says: "I daily pray that President McKinley will offer the friendly mediation of America. He would then deserve the thanks of the Christian world."

Ex Senator Gorman last week said he was now convinced "that nothing can prevent Bryan's election as the head of the Democratic ticket. He certainly," added Mr. Gorman, "has the people behind him to a remarkable degree." Mr. Gorman also stated that he would support Mr. Bryan's candidacy.

A special from Lincoln, Neb., says as soon as Mr. Bryan's friends in that city received the news that the National Democratic Convention would be held at Kansas City, they began a movement to organize a Bryan Club of 10,000 men, who will go to the Convention, dressed in long dusters and white hats, to root for the Nebraska orator.

A graduated income tax law went into effect in South Carolina January 1, 1898. The first year the tax yielded between \$7,000 and \$8,000. More than half this sum was paid in Charleston; 19 of the counties didn't respond a penny of income tax, and in several of the others the yield of revenue was under \$50. The general assembly has now repealed the law.

Sensational charges are contained in an anonymous letter which has been received at the Navy Department from Manila. The communication relates to the wrecking of the Charleston and makes the serious statement that a number of officers of the vessel at the time of the disaster were under the influence of liquor. The correspondent who furnishes the information claims to have verified the allegations by diligent inquiry among the officers of the Charleston. The charges will be investigated.

Reports reach the Manila headquarters of the Associated Press from various sources including army officers and the heads of commercial houses with agents throughout the islands, of continued activity among the insurgents, who are endeavoring to keep alive the armed opposition to the United States and are planning to continue the insurrection with guerrilla warfare on a larger scale when the rainy season begins.

The War Department last week received a cable dispatch from General O'Connell showing that the insurrection in the Philippines is far from ended and that the insurgents are still fighting in southern Luzon, where it was thought they had been subdued. In a recent engagement the American loss was Adjutant Galleher, died of wounds; three enlisted men severely and five slightly wounded. The enemy left sixty-four dead on the field.

A recent press dispatch says: Officers in the field now unite in saying that the pacification of the Philippines is impossible between the present time and the beginning of the rainy season. They set the time for this result from two to six years. No one who has been at the front and studied the situation with honest eyes believes that the insurgents can be subdued under two years. A majority of judges are more inclined to six years.

For the first time in the history of the country the amount of money in actual circulation has reached and passed \$2,000,000,000. This makes \$25.98 per capita, on an average, estimating the population at 77,000,000. Nearly half of this two billions is gold or based on gold; not counting \$218,613,617 in gold coin and bullion held by the treasury as part of its assets. The present large circulation is owing to the policy of the treasury department in making large loans to the banks in the shape of revenue in come.

Three State Republican Conventions were held last week. Of the Texas convention, after a turbulent contest of four hours' duration, William McDonald, a negro of Kaufman county, was elected temporary chairman by a majority of 75 votes in a total of more than 1,100. The Georgia Republican State Convention elected three negroes and one white man as delegates to the National Convention. The Wimberly Republicans of Louisiana elected as delegates at large from Louisiana to the National Republican Convention A. T. Wimberly and ex Governor W. P. Kellogg (white) and Addison Vance and Richard Sims (colored).

In Hinds county, Mississippi, there is a terrible epidemic of smallpox. Nearly 100 deaths have occurred in one section in the last six weeks. On some days the death rate has been so large that it was impossible to see coffins, and rude caskets were made from rails. Whole families have been wiped out of existence and of several large families only one or two children are left. Many of the patients are now in a critical condition, are without medical attention and dying at the rate of from three to five per day. The death rate exceeds 75 per cent, and the entire lower portion of the county is demoralized.

The Republican joint caucus of the Kentucky legislature met last week and after a long discussion concerning election laws in the South and particularly the Goebel election law in Kentucky, decided to take the initiative in a movement to bring the matter before Congress. The purpose is to call a convention of States, in which Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Missouri, Virginia, North and South Carolina shall take part, Congress to amend the national election law so as to take out of the hands of the State governments the details of at least congressional and Presidential elections. Several prominent Republican leaders in addition to the Republican members of both houses, were present. National Committeeman John Yerkes made a speech. He declared that the election laws in the States mentioned practically amount to disfranchisement of the Republican voters.

We get this from the American Agriculturist: The railroads are doing their utmost to defeat the bill which aims to restore to the Interstate Commerce Commission the powers originally intended for it, but the shippers of the country, representing, they say, a combined capital exceeding that of the railroads, are pitted against the latter, and are working like beavers for the measure, the so-called Cullom bill. The railroads threaten, so it is said by careful correspondents at Washington, to cut down their appropriations to the Republican campaign fund this year unless the bill is dropped. The helplessness of the Interstate Commission has led members of the Chicago Board of trade to appeal to J. Pierpont Morgan of New York, as "the foremost representative of the railroad financial interests," to put an end to discrimination in rates on grain.

MORE THAN FIFTY KILLED.

Terrible Coal Mine Explosion—Few Escape Alive—Forty Bodies Taken Out and Rescuers Still at Work.

LONG ACRES, W. VA., March 6—More than fifty men were killed by an explosion in the Red Ashe coal mine on the New River to-day. The explosion occurred this morning soon after the men went into the mines.

From eighty to one hundred went in. Thus far only about thirty have been accounted for. Fifty coffins have been ordered from Charleston.

The Red Ashe mine consists also of drifts instead of shafts. Drifts are the simplest form of mines, as the tunnel runs like a railroad tunnel into the side of a mountain instead of being sunk from the top as shafts.

The drifts are the more dangerous of the two classes, however, as they are more liable to cave in than are shafts.

LONG ACRES, W. VA., March 7—Up to 11 o'clock last night thirty-four bodies—28 dead, six alive—had been taken from the Red Ashe mine and thirty nine were still in it. Rescuing parties worked all day and night.

CHARLESTON, W. VA., March 8—Three more dead bodies were taken from the Red Ashe mine near Fire Creek today, making 41 dead bodies removed. The mine is very hot and this makes progress slow. Twenty eight is the number known to be still in the mine.

BOERS NOT DISCOURAGED.

Believe That God is on Their Side and That Their Determination Will Bring Success.

LONDON, March 10—A special dispatch from Bloemfontein says that President Kruger addressing a crowd of people, said:

"Although God is testing our people, my personal opinion is that the limit of the test is nearly reached. If the people are sustained by faith in the time of adversity God will soon again turn the tide in our favor. If we have strong faith in God he will surely deliver us. The God of deliverance of the olden time is the same God now."

The Boer Secretary of State, Reitz, has issued war bulletins in which, after saying the Government has no official tidings of the surrender of General Cronje, but must accept it as a fact, however painful, he adds:

"The Government remains assured that the surrender will not discourage the burghers in their defence of their independence and standing as a nation. The struggle thus far has shown the republicans have vindicated themselves as an independent people. This reverse will not stagger us."

EXCEPT OVER ITS RUINS.

"The British Flag Shall Never Wave Over Johannesburg"

LONDON, March 10—A correspondent of the Daily Mail at Lourenco Marques, telegraphing Thursday, says:

"I am reliably informed that high Boer officials openly vow that the British flag shall never fly at Johannesburg. The place will be razed to the ground and the mines put in readiness to be electrically exploded from the fort as occasion requires."

MORE MEN WANTED

Filipinos Giving More Trouble

MANILA, March 10.—General Yurg and Hood are asking for reinforcements and a battalion of the Forty eighth has been sent to Aparri. Other troops will follow. The rebels recently persistently attacked Aparri for several hours but were finally driven away. Details of the affair are lacking.

The rebels are holding re-unions in the province of North Ilocos, and the red Kaupunan cross, symbolic of resistance, is again appearing among the natives.

STRINGENT RATE BILL.

No Appeal From Decision of Railroad Commissioners Under McChord Act.

FRANKFORD, March 7.—The House of Representatives, after a six hours' debate, this afternoon passed the McChord railroad bill, giving the R. R. Commission the arbitrary right to fix freight rates on complaint being made. The bill fixes a fine of from \$500 to \$1,000 for the first violation and from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for each subsequent violation of the rate so established, and allow no appeal from the decision of the commission. The measure was passed by a vote of 56 to 42. Representatives Armstrong and Blair, Democrats, voting against the bill, and Representative Orr, Democrat, refusing to vote. The Republicans voted solidly against the measure. The bill was passed by both houses in 1898, but was vetoed by Governor Braley and failed to pass the Senate over the veto.

The measure was one of the chief issues in the last campaign and was the real reason for the opposition of G. O. P. to the election of G. O. P. The bill has passed the Senate and will be presented to Governor Beckham for his signature to-morrow.

Congressional News.

BRIEFLY TOLD.

The Senate last Tuesday agreed to the conference report on the Financial bill by a vote of 44 to 26.

A bill has passed Congress appropriating \$6,000 to make needed repairs of the road between Newbern, N. C., and the National Cemetery near that city.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations has authorized the reporting of an amendment to the Diplomatic Appropriation bill, appropriating \$20,000 to be paid to ex Queen Liliuokalani of Hawaii, and providing for an annual donation of \$10,000 to her as long as she may live. Later.—This amendment was killed in the Senate Saturday.

BUTLER SPEAKS.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—In the Senate today the pension appropriation bill, carrying \$145,245,230 was called up and after some technical amendments had been made was passed.

Mr. Furaker, in charge of the Porto Rico tariff and government bill, gave notice of amendments to the measure imposing a duty of 5 cents a pound upon coffee, chicory roots and chicory imported into Porto Rico and to prevent the importation from Porto Rico to the United States of goods or produce not actually of Porto Rican origin. Mr. Butler, of North Carolina, followed with a brief general discussion of the financial question. He particularly attacked the power which he said was conferred upon the National Banks by the pending bill. He declared that under the provisions of the bill the banks could fix the currency of the country \$840,000,000. This was a dangerous power to put in the hands of a few men. He maintained that the currency should be issued by the government and not by the banks and every dollar should be government paper.

PACIFIC CABLE.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—The Senate Committee on Naval Affairs today ordered a favorable report upon the bill to construct a cable to Manila by way of Honolulu, Midway Islands, and Guam. It is to be under the direction of the Navy Department and to be a government cable.

The bill calls for immediate construction from San Francisco to Honolulu, which will cost between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000 and contemplate ultimate extension to Hong Kong.

THE FATHER OF THE HOUSE DEAD.

PHILADELPHIA, March 7.—Congressman Alford C. Harmer, "Father of the House," the Representative from the Fifth Pennsylvania district, died at his home here tonight aged 75 years.

Mr. Harmer was elected to Congress in 1870 and re-elected to every subsequent Congress with the exception of the Forty fourth.

DEMOCRAT OUSTED BECAUSE OF ELECTION FRAUDS.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—The House today unseated Gaston A. Robbins, a Democrat from the Fourth Alabama district, and seated in his stead William F. Aldrich, a Republican, who has been three times a contestant from the same district on the ground of fraud and who is now given his seat for the third time by a Republican House. The vote was a strict party one.

SECRET DISCUSSION OF THE BOER STRUGGLE.

WASHINGTON, March 9.—Discussion of Mr. Mason's resolution expressing sympathy for the Boers was conducted in the Senate today behind closed doors.

The House committee has submitted a report in favor of a joint resolution for a Constitutional amendment prohibiting polygamy and disqualifying polygamists for election as Senators or Congressmen.

The Ewart subcommittee report to the full committee next Monday. They still adhere to their adverse report on Ewart, and it will be for the full committee to act. There is no change in the general opinion entertained about the capitol that the report of the committee will be adverse to Ewart, and some well informed people believe it will be unanimous against him.

AMERICA WILL DEFEND THE CANAL.

WASHINGTON, March 10.—The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations today reported the Hay Pauncefote treaty to the Senate with an amendment reserving to this country the right to defend the Nicaragua Canal in case of war. The laws of Hawaii have forbidden the importation and sale of intoxicating liquors and opium. A touching petition has been sent to Washington City signed by influential citizens begging that these regulations will be continued.