

TRIASSIC COAL FIELDS.

Some Interesting Points About the Coal Areas in the South.

The Southern Triassic or Newark coal areas of the United States, the northern area being not worthy of discussion, lie in the Piedmont district midway between the Blue Ridge mountains and the Atlantic ocean, and they are discussed by Mr. Jay Backus Woodworth, in Part III of the Twenty-second Annual Report of the United States Geological Survey now passing through the press under the editorship of Dr. C. W. Hayes, Geologist.

The productive areas occur in two well-marked belts in Virginia and North Carolina, which extend for about 250 miles south-westerly and are about 100 miles wide. The eastern belt includes the Taylorsville and Richmond areas in Virginia, and the Deep river area in North Carolina. The western belt includes the Dan river area. Between them lies the Farmville area in Virginia. The Richmond area is the most important of the Triassic coal fields. It lies in Goochland, Henrico, Powhatan, and Chesterfield counties, beginning about nine miles north of the James river and extending some 31 miles beyond the Appomattox on the south. The area is the form of a broad basin of about 150 square miles in extent. On both the eastern and the western margins of this basin there are usually three workable beds, varying from one to fifty feet in thickness. The coal is normally bituminous, and in some of the beds it has been converted into natural coke or carbonite. This occurrence of coal was known as early as 1700. The coal was used as early as 1775; shipments were made to northern cities in 1789; and a bed 24 feet thick was mentioned by Volney in 1808. During the thirties and forties the mining operations here were the most extensive in the United States. The gaseous nature of the coal has led to a few serious explosions, fires and much loss of life. The estimated production of the Richmond basin was, in 1822, 48,214 tons; in 1882, 117,857 tons; in 1842, 65,750 tons. The production has never since equalled these figures, and now there are but two companies operating in the field. The Farmville area, about sixty square miles, is practically undeveloped and unknown. The Dan river region in North Carolina is regarded as of little promise. The eastern or Deep river area, of between 250 and 300 square miles, extends from near the Virginia line into South Carolina, but the productive beds are in Chatham and Moore counties. The coal makes good coke and illuminating gas and has proved successful as a locomotive and blacksmith coal. Coal was discovered in this area in the latter part of the eighteenth century; but systematic mining may be said to have begun only with the re-opening of the old Egypt shaft at Cumnock in 1889. The Cumnock Company owns 4800 acres, carrying, it is estimated, 11,000 tons to the acre. The total production in 1899 was nearly 27,000 tons, valued at \$84,965. A boring through the coastal plain near Florence, S. C., penetrated Triassic coal, and makes it probable that other Triassic areas lie east of the Richmond and Deep river areas.

WANTED.—A correspondent and agent at every postoffice in the county. We would be glad if our friends at the postoffices would assist us in the matter. Liberal commission paid to agents.

POPULISTS WILL MEET.

They will Make an Effort to Recusitate the Corps of Their Party.

Memphis, Tenn., March 4.—It is now practically assured that the national Populist annual convention will be held in this city. The meeting is scheduled for April 2 and will last three or four days. The attendance will be about 1,000. Chairman Parker, of the national committee, says the meeting will be held for the purpose of re-organizing the party, and adds: "It is the intention of the convention to bring together the factions into which the party has been split during the last few years. There will be no more fusing between the Democrats and the Populists. The Democratic party is getting further and further away from its two platforms, and if we get what we want we must get it as Populists without the aid of any other party."

Hold-up at Durham.

A telephone message to the Times from the Sun in Durham gives the particulars today of a bold robbery which was committed in that city. Mr. James E. Lee, ticket agent of the Southern Railway, locked his office and started down the railroad track to the home of Mr. Y. E. Smith who lives in East Durham. This was about 7 o'clock in the evening. While he was walking on the track he was suddenly assaulted by two men. When he was found later and restored to consciousness his keys were missing although his gold watch and \$25 in money was still in his pocket. An investigation of the ticket office revealed the fact that it had been entered and the safe robbed of \$400. Mr. Lee is not badly injured and is able to be out today.

His assailants are supposed to have used sandbags. Mr. Lee only remembered two men suddenly springing on him and knocking him down. He did not recognize either of them but just as he lost consciousness he heard one of the men tell the other to get the keys. He does not think he could recognize either of them now. Mr. Lee's right eye is injured and he has some bad bruises, but is otherwise all right now.

The robbers after securing the keys went to the ticket office and did their work, although the watchman must have been near the place at the time.—Raleigh Times.

Child Born with Two Heads.

A child with two heads has been born in this city. The secondary head is about two-thirds the size and projects from the back of the normal head. While the second head is well formed, the features are not well developed. The doctor in charge is of the opinion that it is possible to remove the excrescence, though it will be three months before an operation can be undertaken. Possibly it may not be safe then or at any future time. The child is healthy.—Kankakee, Ill., dispatch.

Rich Strike Sure Enough.

Vancouver, B. C., March 5.—A special dispatch from Dawson tells of one of the richest finds reported for some time. Richard Butler, owner of a claim on Bear Creek, was about to abandon his property when he discovered an old bedrock many feet below the first one from which he took out \$15,000 in one day. One pan of earth alone washed \$600 in gold.

BOERS MAKE A RAID.

They Capture a Convoy of Wagons and Deplete the British Forces.

London, March 4.—In a dispatch from Pretoria, dated Monday, Lord Kitchener sends details of the disaster to the escort of the convoy of empty wagons at Tondop, southeast of Klerksdorp, Transvaal Colony. The British casualties in killed, wounded and men made prisoners reach the total of 682. In addition the Boers captured two guns.

Lieutenant Colonel Anderson, who commanded the British force and who has returned to Kraaipan, Cape Colony, with nine officers and 245 men, reports that when his advance guard was within ten miles of Klerksdorp, during the morning of the Feb. 25, the Boers opened a heavy fire on the troops from the scrub. The burghers were driven off and the convoy resumed its march, when a Boer determined attack was made on the convoy's left flank, the Boers getting within a hundred yards and stampeding the mules harnessed to a number of wagons. The attacking forces were again driven off.

At about 6:30 o'clock in the morning the guard was attacked by a strong force of Boers, and simultaneously another body of Boers charged the center of the convoy and stampeded the mules in all directions, throwing the escort into confusion, during which the Boers charged and recharged, riding down the separated British units. The fighting lasted for two hours, during which the British guns and a pom-pom almost ex-

A detachment of 200 mounted infantry from Klerksdorp attempted to reinforce the British but were held in check by the Boers. Lieut. Col. Anderson adds that the strength of the Boers was estimated at from 1,200 to 1,700. Commandants Delarey, Kemp, Celliers, Lemmer, Wolmarans and Potgieter were all present. Commandant Lemmer is said to have been killed.

Changes in the Supreme Court.

President Roosevelt will probably soon have an opportunity to appoint three Associate Justices of the Supreme Court. The justices who are expected to retire are John M. Harlan, of Kentucky, appointed in 1877; Horace Gray, of Massachusetts, appointed in 1881, and George Shiras, Jr., of Pennsylvania, appointed in 1892.

Justice Harlan will probably be succeeded by former Secretary of State Day, of Ohio, or by Judge Taft. Both are from the circuit to which Justice Harlan belongs. Judge Day was slated for the place by President McKinley. Judge Taft, it is said, does not want the place, being anxious to return to the Philippines and complete his work there.

When Justice Shiras retires, as he is expected to do in the next few months, it is believed the vacancy will be filled by the appointment of former Attorney General John W. Griggs of New Jersey, although the Pennsylvania Senators will make a strong effort to secure the selection of a man from that state.—Washington dispatch.

It Saved His Leg.

P. A. Danforth, of La Grange, Ga., suffered for six months with a frightful running sore on his leg; but writes that Bucklen's Arnica Salve wholly cured it in five days. For Ulcers, Wounds, Piles, it's the best salve in the world. Cure guaranteed. Only 25c. Sold by all druggists.

HEAVY DAMAGE TO ROAD.

Southern Railway's Loss on the Western Will Reach a Large Sum.

Chattanooga, Tenn., March 4.—Official reports received at the railroad headquarters here show that the situation in the flooded district is improved. The Southern's loss between Morristown and Asheville will aggregate from \$200,000 to \$250,000 for roadbed and bridges alone. The loss by delayed and annulled trains and cutting off of all passenger and freight traffic since last Thursday, will be very large. About 900 men are repairing the road and bridges on the Asheville branch. There is still a gap of thirty-two miles between Marshall, N. C., and Del Rio, Tenn., without railroad service.

Child Labor in Mills.

Greensboro, N. C., March 5.—The child labor question is becoming an interesting problem in North Carolina, not only in a political sense, but as it may be taken up and handled by the courts. There is a moral responsibility that the law will seek to place somewhere, whether on the employer or parent remains to be seen. Even now cases are coming up in the courts wherein employees are sought to be made responsible for damages solely because they have given employment to children of young and tender years. A case in point was tried in the Superior Court of Davidson county before Judge Thomas J. Shaw.

A machine in a factory in which he was employed at the very lightest form of labor, the injury being due to his carelessness in putting himself in the way of the machine. The judge charged the jury, under the general issue of negligence as alleged in the complaint, that the plaintiff had not made out a case, unless the jury considered it negligence on the part of the defendant to have employed the boy in the factory. The jury decided that it was negligence for the corporation to employ a child as young as the one injured and returned a verdict awarding the plaintiff damages to the amount of \$1,000. Now if it was negligence for the corporation to employ the child, the interesting question arises, What is to be said of the action of that little boy's parents in putting him to work?

At Sea with Propeller Broken.

London, March 4.—The British steamer Ottawa, from Philadelphia for London, has arrived at Fayal, Azores Islands, and reports having sighted the Cunard line steamer Etruria in tow of the British steamer William Cliff, 400 miles west of Fayal. The Etruria had lost her propeller. Another report says the Etruria was picked up when 500 miles from Fayal, west-northwest of that port. All were well on board the Cunarder, which, according to this report, had her propeller shaft broken. She was otherwise uninjured. Previous to the receipt of the news that the Etruria had been sighted in tow of the reinsurance on the Cunard liner at Lloyds to-day was about four guineas per cent. Little business was done at that rate.

Nine Buildings Burned.

Aikeh, S. C., March 5.—Fire here early today destroyed nine buildings, comprising a block in center of the city. A gale was blowing and the flames were fought under great difficulties. There were no fatalities.

THE NORFOLK STRIKE.

Town now Under Control of the Military and Trouble Expected.

Norfolk, Va., March 5.—Mayor Nathaniel Beaman came to the conclusion this morning that there is no necessity of martial law as a result of the strike. He thinks that since the issue of his proclamation the people will remain off the streets in the turbulent district of yesterday and that there will be little further disorder. Four additional companies of the 71st infantry have been ordered out and this will place the entire command in the field, two battalions being already in service.

This morning all was quiet and the cars guarded by troops were moving at long intervals. No passengers are being carried.

All last night the strikers were busy barricading the tracks, but this morning the obstructions were removed by the troops. At midnight the troops were called upon to disperse a mob at Church and Charlotte streets. Bayonets were used, but it is not known that there were any casualties.

This morning before daybreak as a detachment of the Huntington Rifles, Company G., 71st regiment, from Newport News, under command of Lieutenant Moore, were marching down Church street to the armory they caught W. R. Rudolph, Tom Murray, Sam Ayer, (all white) and Tom Jenkins (colored) tearing up the tracks of the street car line at the corner of Church and H. It streets, and placed them under arrest. The four

station and locked up. An officer of the company stated later that an attempt at dynamiting the tracks had been made. The police denied the rumor.

The Suffolk Company has also arrived here. Fifteen strike breakers from Knoxville came on the same train and were guarded by the troops to the barn. The situation grows graver as the day advances. The arrival of the imported men intensifies the situation.

The action of the labor organizations in calling out the electricians who are employed in the central power station of the Norfolk Railway and Light Company is apt to have the gravest consequences. The plant supplies practically all the electric power and light used in the city. It is said that there is some doubt about the electricians obeying the order. Many electrically operated industries are wholly dependent upon the Railway and Light Co. for their power. The police think that the reason there was no trouble during the morning was that the rain fell in torrents. They are apprehensive of later developments.

Once Knocked an Elephant Down.

Rufus Reed, a great giant of a darkey, has been seen lately painfully making his way about our streets. He is a victim of locomotor ataxia, and his condition excites the pity of all who see him. For years he was known as the most powerful negro in this part of the State and won fame and a reputation about twelve years ago by knocking down an elephant in Roberson's circus. It was not a baby elephant but a full grown beast, and witnesses to the fight between Reed and the elephant are living to-day who will testify that they have seen him knock the elephant down. It was a famous lick, delivered with the bare fist on the elephant's jaw. Reed, however, will never knock another elephant down.—Ex.

SEVERE SNOW STORM.

Virginia Struggles with a Thirty-inch Snow Storm. Traffic Impeded.

New York, March 5.—Another snow storm which threatens to do much damage started at 4 o'clock and at 8, two inches had fallen. The snow was wet and heavy and caused much inconvenience and considerable delay to traffic on the elevated and surface lines. On the river the weather is so thick the ferry boats are unable to run at more than half speed. The snow is accompanied by a moderate wind.

Huntington, W. Va., March 5.—A snow storm has been raging in West Virginia for 22 hours. In the Ohio Valley the snow is 14 inches deep. In the mountainous district it is 30 inches. All street car traffic has been suspended in Ohio river towns. Railway traffic is greatly impeded.

Watterson's Advice to Democrats.

The Republican party is a party of force and false pretences. Its agencies are machinery and money. The Democratic party is the party of the Constitution and the people. It is the one breakwater between popular liberty and absolutism. It never yet won a national battle in the character of an extremist. Its strength has ever lain in its enlightened moderation. When it has appealed to the intelligence and patriotism of the whole people it has been heeded. When it has listened to the counsels of the visionary and the radical, it has been divided and beaten, having proven indeed false

which in the beginning was, and which now is, the redemption of the law making power from the hands of men using it for the enrichment of the few at the expense of the many, and seeking by fraud and force and chicanery, to perpetuate themselves in office.

That is the issue of American politics to-day, as it was the issue a century ago, and it remains to be seen whether we shall, figuratively speaking, use ball cartridges, that is, facts and logic, in our assaults upon the intrenchments of power, or bows and arrows, that is, mere sound and fury, signifying impotency and defeat.

There is a single course for Democrats to pursue the coming one, two and three years; to bind up the party's wounds, to heal the breaches, to mend the fences, and, when the time to act in 1904 rolls round, to separate the possible from the impossible, and, instead of striking out blindly in the dark, to move in solid column, keeping time to the drum beats of common sense, whilst flying the flag of the Constitution as the only true symbol of the national safety and glory!—Courier Journal.

Cuba's New Government.

Washington, March 5.—The first step in preparation for the transfer of authority in Cuba to the new Cuban government was taken by the Secretary of the Navy in giving directions to the United States naval and marine officers in Cuba to transfer all property to Governor General Wood, who will in turn, transfer it to the Cuban officials when they assume office. The Navy Department will retain possession of the steel floating dock in Havana, which it purchased from the Spanish government, and all naval coal supplies there. Lieut. Chas. M. McCormick, U. S. N., captain of the port of Havana, and other naval and marine officers stationed in Cuba have been ordered to return home.