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WASHINGTON LETTER.

FIFTY-FOURTH CONGRESS OPENS FINAL SESSION.

The Grand Old Man of the North, Speaker Reed, has today, after a session of two days, closed the Fifty-fourth Congress with a final session. The session was held in the Senate Chamber, and was attended by a large number of Senators and Representatives.

The President's message, which was read by the Speaker, was a long and important one. It dealt with the financial condition of the country, the tariff, and the general state of the Union. The President expressed his confidence in the future of the country, and his belief that the Fifty-fourth Congress would do its duty to the people.

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Highest of all in Leavening Strength.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report.

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

A Synopsis of its Contents as Given to Congress.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 7.—The President in his message, defends the present tariff law, but says our financial system is badly in need of reform. He alludes to the dangers to which the country is liable from the existence of trusts and monopolies, but says it is doubtful if any of these can be treated by Federal action, and concludes by appealing to Congress for a most rigid economy in its expenditures.

He says no American citizens were killed or wounded in Armenia, our country leaving nothing undone for their protection. The insurrection still continues in Cuba, Spain holding Havana and the principal seaports, while the insurgents roam at will over two thirds of the Island. He directs the attention of Congress to the Cuban question, saying the few shuns general engagements, and the conflict may be indefinitely prolonged, entailing immense destruction upon property, and that the United States interests in the situation are second only to Spain's.

He thinks the proposition of many in the United States, namely, to buy the Island, worthy of consideration. The character of the United States forbids an intervention which may involve a war with Spain, yet the United States must recognize the grievances of the Cubans. He thinks that a guarantee of autonomy by Spain, if a satisfactory measure of home rule is tendered the Cubans would be accepted by the latter, and the United States would find a suitable way to have Spain's guarantee for keeping same. Something should be done to protect our interests and Spain must act in the matter.

The Treasury reports show a deficit of \$35,303,343. The diminution in the pension expenditures so confidently foretold still fail to materialize. Tariff reform has opened the way to a freer and greater exchange of commodities between the United States and other countries, and has thus furnished a wider market for our products and manufactures. During its first year, imports have increased six and one half millions, exports increased seventy millions.

W. W. Vass, Dead. WASHINGTON, N. C., December 7.—W. W. Vass the oldest railway treasurer in the United States, died at his home here, today, aged 76. For over fifty years he had been connected with the Raleigh and Gaston Railway.

Makes Good Showing. RALEIGH, N. C., December 7.—Reports of Stewart Crawford, of the Insane Asylum, which will be made to the finance committee, tomorrow, will show that out of the annual appropriation for this year, he has saved them a thousand dollars.

Russell Not a Candidate. RALEIGH, N. C., December 7.—Governor-elect Russell positively denies that he is a candidate for the U. S. Senate, and says he is warmly for Pritchard and believes the latter will be re-elected.

Washington News Items. WASHINGTON, D. C., December 7.—As the U. S. Senate was about to adjourn, Senator Cull introduced a resolution to recognize Cuba, but withdrew it until tomorrow. A statement from Secretary Olney was presented to Congress, reviewing the situation in Cuba, and he thought that the business interests of the country would soon demand some action on the part of the United States in order to protect her shipping and commerce interests. Estimates of expenditures for the fiscal year, ending June 30th, 1897, foot up \$421,700,000, against \$418,000,000 last year. Venezuela has accepted the arbitration agreed upon by Secretary Olney and Sir Julian Pauncefote.

KILLED BY MOONSHINERS.

DEPUTY REVENUE COLLECTOR OF RANDOLPH COUNTY.

Post Office Trials. Political Strength of Parties. Twenty-Five Years For Murder. Weather Notes. Ohio For Pritchard.

JOURNAL BUREAU. RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 7. A telegram received here this morning stated that deputy revenue collector, Elijah A. Moffitt of Randolph county, had been killed near his home Green-boro, presumably by moonshiners. He was for a number of years sheriff of Randolph and was widely known.

At the term of Federal court which begins here next week David Lane of Durham, will be tried for stealing money from letters in the possession of the Post Office. You have to be careful, presumably by this charming retreat was made specially for the newly wedded pairs who are just starting out on the journey of life together, and to whom there is but one world with two in it. Well, there is truly everything here to make the honeymoon a honeymoon indeed. As a rule the blissful couples avoid the gay throng and seek the many sheltered nooks around the grim ramparts of Fortress Monroe where they can squeeze hands and look into each other's eyes. You have to be careful when walking about Old Point Comfort, for the corners are full of them, and you are liable to start them up as a dog does a covey of partridges.

It's easy to tell 'em. The genial hotel clerks can "spot" them every time. The favorite bridal route is by way of the Old Bay Line from Baltimore, because the trip down the Chesapeake is so quietly delightful and pleasant—no noise or bustle of the railroad. So when the Alabama or Georgia reaches the dock here in the morning the porters and "boys" are on the lookout for the newly married. The clerk knows just where to give them rooms—and if you can find any more luxurious or comfortable quarters than at the hotels here you will have to look outside this country for them. They want a good breakfast too, and quick for these wedding trips somehow give the travelers a wonderful appetite so the waiters say. It's not all sentiment by a long shot, and some of the little ladies in their dainty gray gowns will astonish you with their capacity for the fried chicken, waffles, omelets, quail on toast and other delicacies cooked and served so deliciously at the famous hostesses of Old Point.

Speaking of gray, that reminds me that most of the brides travel in gray. Occasionally you see another color but not often. And the trucks they take! Some times there are four or five just for one little woman, but she uses their contents, for if there is a time when a girl wishes to look attractive, isn't it on her wedding trip? Of course it is, and they know it. The prettiest ones must all come to Old Point, for you seldom see any one isn't what Chimie Fadden calls "Chauncey Dewey, a peach." It is generally supposed that every couple goes to one of three places on their wedding trip—Old Point, Washington or Niagara Falls, but the other places cannot come up to Old Point as a resort for the newly married. Old Point is an infrequent occurrence for nearly a hundred couples to be registered at the Chamberlain and the Hygeia at one time. They do so late to leave, too. In fact many who have planned a trip to include other resorts find it is so truly Old Point Comfort that they change their minds and stay right here until the last minute, and before they go away you often hear "little wifey" say "Now John or Charlie or Henry whatever the name may be, I want you to promise that you will take me here a year from now when we celebrate our first anniversary."

And John doesn't, too. You see there are the dances and the delightful music of the hotel orchestras, the drills and the social evenings at the fort, the many places which the Newport News shipyard, Hampton Institute, Norfolk, Portsmouth and the Navy Yard, the fine hunting near by, and the many pleasant acquaintances one forms among the elite southern people who frequent Old Point. All these make the variety necessary. Old Point is never monotonous. Then the enjoyable trip up and down the Chesapeake by the Baltimore Steam Packet Co's. Old Bay Line route is one of the features long to be remembered with pleasure. These steamers have elegantly appointed staterooms, and have for a half century carried married pairs on their journey in life together.

Migrating to the South. SEPEOR, Wis.—The exodus of families from this section of the country to what is termed "the fruit belt" of Georgia is beginning to attract considerable attention. It is estimated that already 120 families have disposed of their belongings in superior and Diluth and taken tracts of land in the South, mostly in the vicinity of Sibley, Ga., where there is quite a colony of Northern people. Many of these people go down without a dollar in the world after paying the freight on their household effects, and there are many others who have a comfortable surplus left to help with an immigration company, backed by the Southern Railway, have been doing money since they have been in the South for a year, and claim to now have their immigration matters fairly started.

One of these companies has 130,000 acres of land near Sibley, and is selling it at the rate of \$5 per acre. It is guaranteed to raise whatever a farm in the United States will produce, and independent incomes are guaranteed as well after a few years.

Since some companies have been successful others have been formed. Agents are being established at points in Eastern Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin. They are meeting with unexpected success.

Afraid to Call. CINCINNATI, O., December 5.—Governor Bradley of Kentucky says he will call an extra session of the State Legislature when he is sure it will act on the Senatorship matter.

INCAPABLE OF ADMINISTERING.

Warren County Wants Additional Commissioners Appointed.

RALEIGH, N. C., December 4.—Warren county November elected 3 Commissioners, who at Monday will take office. Two are Republicans, one a Populist, one a Democrat.

Five citizens of the county swear they believe the board is incapable of administering county affairs and petition Judge Bryan to appoint two additional commissioners. Marantz, Hawkins and P. H. Allen Democrats.

The attorney was here today on his way to Bayton City, Swain county where Judge Bryan is holding Court, to secure an order for the appointment of Hawkins and Allen.

It is said application of like character will be made in many Eastern counties, in order to give Democrats some recognition on Republican and Populist boards.

Bradstreet's Trade Review. NEW YORK, December 4.—Bradstreet in its weekly trade review will say, tomorrow: General trade continues moderate in volume, 50 per cent and wholesale dealers being agreed that there will be no business revival this year. There seems to be some activity among numbers of goods. The retail clothing weather in the South, the cold severe weather in the West and Northwest have checked traffic on the interior country roads, and 100 per cent of the distribution of merchandise, except in some of the Northern centers where the more reasonable weather has stimulated a demand for winter goods. Bank clearings show an increase for November, Outside of New York, for the month, all the two cities show a decrease. Stocks of wheat show a decrease on both coasts.

Case of Louisa Parry. RALEIGH, N. C., December 4.—Two years ago in Park county, Louisa Parry, a pretty girl of eighteen, strangled and killed her sweetheart William Johnson, at the gate of her home. She was sentenced to the penitentiary for five years and was brought by the sheriff to this city. She is now in the penitentiary. The King's Daughters took up the girl's case and in the morning of the 10th of the month she was taken to the penitentiary. News comes today that she has come again and that the officers of the penitentiary give her up for dead.

Her low resistance to her when she started here, was charged with having defamed her character. Her case attracted a great deal of attention.

WANTED A HOLIDAY. Naval Apprentices Mutiny Because They Cannot Get Christmas Holiday. NEWPORT, R. I., December 5.—A hundred naval apprentice boys made a dash for liberty this afternoon, twenty escaping from their quarters. The Harbor and police were asked to help the United States officials to capture the boys. The mutiny was due to the fact of the boys being refused the usual Christmas holiday.

Will Not Accept Testimonial. LOSANOS, December 5.—It is learned tonight that Ambassador Bayard will probably not accept the Daily Telegraph's Testimonial, in the absence of prominent names connected with it, the usefulness of the contributions, and the adverse comments from America upon it are responsible for this decision.

Will Appeal to Supreme Court. RALEIGH, N. C., December 8.—There will be an appeal to Supreme Court of the United States if the attempt is made to Annul lease of the North Carolina R. R. to the Southern Railway.

Will Not Indict Beef Trust.

Chicago. The Federal grand jury after a few minutes' session, decided to abandon the all-aged beef trust investigation and was formally discharged by Judge Grosscup.

Some of the members of the jury expressed themselves satisfied that a combination existed among the more prominent packers. It had been impossible, however, to reach by subpoena the witnesses most desired and as no sufficient evidence was available upon which to base an indictment the attempt at the investigation was given up.

Fire Loss for the Year. NEW YORK.—The Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin says: The fire loss of the United States and Canada for the month of November, as compiled from our daily records, amounts to \$5,211,500. The November record is remarkably light and makes certain a great reduction for the whole year of 1896, as compared with 1895, unless some enormous conflagration takes place this month. The total for 1896 will be about \$115,000,000.

To Abolish Criminal Court. RALEIGH, N. C., December 8.—It is stated that Gov. elect Russell will in his message to the Legislature, which it seems to be the plan of an inaugural address, recommend that the Eastern and Western Criminal Courts be abolished, and two Superior court circuits be established instead.

Ayer Strangely Silent. RALEIGH, N. C., December 8.—Populist State Chairman Hal Ayer declined to advise the Populists how to vote in the election in Jackson county, today, for a member of the lower house of the Legislature. He refused to answer questions as to whether the Populists should vote for the Republican nominee, who is for Pritchard for Senator, or for the Democratic nominee who is a free silverite.

THE COTTON MARKETS. DECEMBER 8. JANUARY cotton opened in New York at 3.30 and had a declining tendency all day, finally closing at 3.14 the lowest point touched for several months, and a net loss of 20 points since yesterday. There is a great feeling of depression and of general disappointment at such a continued decline. It is a pleasure to note that Southern markets are reported steady from day to day, with a fair demand, and the Liverpool market appears to be in a perfectly healthy state. After the decline runs its course there should be a sharp reaction, and unless there is much in the situation which is not on the surface we are not very far from turning point.

New Bank market, very firm at 61 to 62. Yours truly, J. L. LATHAM.

Several storms which their appearance in the Southwest early in the week and cold weather with rain or snow has been prevalent since Monday all over the South. This led to an expectation of very light receipts for the week and the market was held very steady in consequence, until Thursday. One noticeable feature had been the absence of speculative activity. Buyers had either exhausted their purchasing power or were sceptical regarding the movement of cotton. The receipts were of moderate volume, but the total for the week equals those for the corresponding period last year. The fear that the movement would expand again with the return of favorable weather caused some holders to sell and this pressure which extended full upon a market poorly supported resulting in material weakness during the past few days. In a nutshell, the weight of cotton constantly marketed has proved a burden too heavy for holders to bear. Some have sold because dis-armed and some have sold because of a desire to realize. The decline for the week is 33 to 45 points.

Yours truly, ROBERT MOORE & CO. THE MARKETS. CHICAGO, December 8. OPENING. WHEAT, 4.00. CORN, 1.00. RICE, 4.00. OATS, 1.00. HAY, 1.00. CATTLE, 1.00. PORK, 1.00. BUTTER, 1.00. EGGS, 1.00. LARD, 1.00. SUGAR, 1.00. COFFEE, 1.00. TEA, 1.00. SPICES, 1.00. FURS, 1.00. GEMS, 1.00. ARTICLES, 1.00. TOBACCO, 1.00. SOAP, 1.00. CIGARS, 1.00. PIPES, 1.00. TOBACCO, 1.00. SOAP, 1.00. CIGARS, 1.00. PIPES, 1.00.

NO THINKING PERSON CAN AFFORD TO MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY.

We Invite You To Inspect Our unique and exquisite creations in

XMAS Novelties!

Our Oriental and Domestic Rugs are unrivaled in texture, design and coloring. Our prices place them within the reach of all.

NOTICE! I will, for the next 80 days, sell out my stock of goods, consisting of Hardware, Groceries, Crockery, Glassware, Dry Goods, Notions and Medicines, at cost for Cash. Come and secure a bargain. If you are owing me please settle up. L. F. TAYLOR.

Take Notice! To our Country Friends and Patrons: We have opened our place of business next door to Post Office. We guarantee to sell you first-class goods as cheap as any home in the city. We are receiving an extra quality for our Christmas Trade. Plain and Fancy Candles, Nuts, Raisins, Apples, Oranges, Bananas, Lemons, etc. Tobacco, Cigars, Pipes, etc. Please call and see what we have. Respectfully, N. NUNN & CO.

Administrators Notice. For a designed, B. F. Dinkins, public administrator, having duly qualified as such, do hereby give notice that persons having claims against the estate of the late B. F. Dinkins, deceased, to present them to the said administrator, duly substantiated for payment on or before the 15th day of October, 1897, or they will not be paid in full of the estate without delay. B. F. DINKINS, Administrator. N. O. Township Craven Co., N. C. This 12th Day of October, 1896.

A Good Place to Stop. R. J. LUTFON, has just opened a neat and comfortable Boarding House in Bayboro, where he will be glad to see his friends and all travelers who may be passing through that section, and see to it that they will be comfortably entertained and their wants attended to. Mr. Lutfon's house will be found a good place for all travelers to stop at while in Bayboro.

HACKBURN'S

And the QUALITY—well it is a well known fact, that when any thing comes from

Gentlemen's TABLE!

DRESS GOODS At Greatly Reduced Prices.

We have just received some new patterns of Fancy Dress Goods in CANVAS WEAVES, Silk and Wool Novelty, etc., at greatly reduced prices, owing to the advanced season.

Goods that were 75c, now 50c. Goods that were 85c, now 65c. Goods that were \$1.00 now 75c.

Taffeta Glace Silk, 70c

C. Marks & Co. December 6.

Better :: Times

Then put your shoulder to the wheel and push with all your might

If you owe us call and pay us, that will help us and you will be doing the right thing.

If you need anything in the Hardware Line, Such as a "Hagup" King Heater, or a "Victor Bicycle, or a Boy Dixie Plow for instance. Call on us, we will treat you right. Respect, Yours, J. C. Whitty & Co.

W. P. Burrus.....Ralph Gray. Burrus & Gray, Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Grain, HAY, and all kinds of Feed. Cotton and Corn Brokers 24 CRAVEN ST.

FOLK'S CHEAP CASH STORE. Groceries, Crockery, Tinware, Glassware, Notions. Headquarters for LAMPS. 73 Middle St., under Hotel Albert. W. H. FOLK.

Graham Academy MARSHALLBERG, N. C. Rev. W. Q. A. Graham, A.B., D.D., PRESIDENT.