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VOL. XXVII.

# THE COMMONWEALTH.

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NUMBER 23.

SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 1911.

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## NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

**Mention Made of Many Important News Items About the Capital City.**

Washington, D. C., June 3.—The Supreme Court of the United States handed down a sweeping decision against the Tobacco Trust Monday. It was the last case disposed of before the summer recess. Chief Justice White delivered the opinion. Associate Justice Harlan dissenting on the "light of reason" construction. The trust is adjudged a combination in restraint of trade, an attempt to monopolize, and a monopoly. Combination, as to practically all constituent concerns, is dissolved in a sweeping decision. Six months' time allowed for dissolution. Individual defendants and foreign corporations are included in the court's findings. Way opened for criminal prosecution of tobacco princes. For first time the principle of receivership in enforcement of the Sherman law is recognized, and through which a wide field is opened for effective enforcement of anti-trust laws. Chief Justice White insists Sherman law has been vitalized, not weakened, by "light of reason" construction. Justice Harlan forcibly objects to legislation by judicial construction, and warns court people will not submit. Tobacco combination is composed of sixty-five corporations, the eight largest of which have combined capital of over \$300,000,000.

The decisions of the Supreme Court in the Standard Oil and Tobacco Trust cases will have a wholesome effect on all combinations in restraint of trade, and will undoubtedly cause many small concerns to commence business owing to the fear of large organizations pushing them to the wall by underselling being removed. The chief trouble with all large aggregations of capital is that they become arrogant and become a law to themselves, knowing no law but that which concerns them, and over-riding and evading the law until they imagine they are superior to the law and are not bound to respect its provisions. It is high time a halt was called.

Tuesday was National Memorial Day and a public holiday here. There were only 500 old soldiers in line for the parade that morning. This small remnant of old soldiers serves to show that they are fast passing away, and it will be but a few years more when the last will have departed to that "bourne from whence no traveler ever yet returned." President Taft and Senator Curtis delivered the addresses at Arlington, the former home of Gen. Robert E. Lee, now the National Cemetery, where sleep thousands of soldiers and officers until the last trump shall sound their awakening.

Representative Burns, of Tennessee, on Tuesday asked if the Attorney General of the United States had begun criminal prosecution of the officers of the American Tobacco Company, or if such proceedings are contemplated. The resolution has the support of the House Democrats and undoubtedly will be passed. The American Tobacco Company and sixty-four constituent corporations and twenty-nine individual defendants will be prosecuted. They are James B. Duke, Cabel C. Duke, Percival S. Hill, George Arvents, Paul Brown, Robert B. Duke, George A. Helm, Robert D. Levitt, Thomas J. Mahoney, Oliver H. Payne, Thomas F. Ryan, Robert K. Smith, George W. Watts, George G. Allen, John B. Cobb, William R. Harris, William H. McAllister, Anthony M. Brady, Benjamin H. Duke, H. M. Hannah, Herbert A. Kingsbury, Pierre Lorillard, Rufus L. Patterson, Frank H. Ray, Grant B. Schley, Charles Stratz, Peter A. B. Widener, Wilford C. Reed and Williamson W. Fuller.

To date there have been the following corporations prosecuted under the Sherman law: Paper Trust, New York; Cotton Corner Trust, New York; Beef Packers' Trust, Chicago; Savannah and Boston; Brick Trust, Chicago; Window Glass Trust, Pittsburg; Bath Tub Trust, Detroit; Milk Trust, Boston; The Paper Trust and the Window Glass

Trust suits have been won by the government and they have been heavily fined and the Window Glass Trust broken up. Only one case in which the defendants have been sent to jail and that was where a Southern judge, Shepherd, of the United States Circuit for the Southern district of Georgia, sentenced two defendants to jail, as well as fining them and three others \$17,000. These cases are now before the Supreme Court of the United States and will be heard next winter, as to whether the jail sentence will be served or not. To meet this Senator Kenyon introduced in the Senate, on the 8th of May, a bill to leave the judge no alternative than to jail the convicted defendants. The following is the language: "Every person so convicted, whether acting individually or as a director of a corporation, shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding one year." There is no option for the judges here in this bill, and it should pass and become a law. What do these malefactors of great wealth care for a fine? Absolutely nothing. Put them in jail and it will have a wholesome effect upon them and others who are and have been violating the law. The power of money should not be allowed to keep them out of jail. The poor man goes to jail because he has not the money to stave off a jail sentence by delaying the due process of law, and the rich man should not be allowed to do so. The operation of the law should be the same for all, rich and poor, high and low, influential and non-influential. Nothing tends so much toward socialism and anarchy as the rich man avoiding serving out a jail sentence and the poor man being compelled to serve terms. One law for the rich, another for the poor, is not to be tolerated. All should and must be treated alike.

It is thought here that the vote in Congress (House) to abolish the monetary commission will be unanimous. The way in which the monetary commission tapped the treasury is as follows: Summer trip to Europe, expenses not itemized, \$19,250.18; meeting at Narragansett Pier in July, \$3,493.73; sessions in New York, \$999.35; document on banking, systems of Belgium and Mexico, \$2,400; Paris economist for history of Paris Bourse, \$200; translator of history of Paris Bourse, \$1,666.45; A. Platt Andrew, for clerical force, etc., \$10,121.04; R. B. Nixon, for clerical force, etc., \$1,476.10. Altogether the commission has spent \$207,130.48. The largest expense item is for monographs, \$86,861.92. The second largest expense item is for salaries of members, \$43,750. No wonder the House will abolish this committee. Spending \$207,130.48 of the people's money to date, with returns not at all commensurate, is not to be tolerated by the Democrats. Too much government by commission. Then, too, the law creating this commission gave it absolute freedom from embarrassment caused by auditing its accounts.

James D. Richardson, Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite Masons, broke ground here Wednesday for the new temple which will be erected at Sixteenth and S. streets, at a cost of about \$1,000,000. In a brief address Grand Commander Richardson said the organization of the Supreme Council of Scottish Rite Masons for the Southern jurisdiction took place 110 years ago in Charleston, S. C., and is the mother Council of all the other Scottish Rite Councils in this country. The first Grand Commander was Col. John Mitchell, of Charleston, who served in the Revolutionary War. The Southern jurisdiction embraces 33 States. It includes all of the States south of Mason and Dixon line, west of the Mississippi river, and Hawaii and the Philippines. The cornerstone will be laid next October, when President Taft will preside over the ceremonies.

Attorney General Wickersham was before the House Committee conducting an examination of the Department of Justice on Wednesday. He was once member of a New York firm that advised the United States Steel Corporation. He also said that Henry W. Taft, brother of the President, was a member of the firm and was once attorney for the sugar trust. He said the government accepted \$2,000,000 from the sugar trust for fraudulent weighing because he doubted that the government had a sufficient case to enforce the penalties, and so accepted the compromise. The government still has the option of prosecuting the sugar trust criminally.

Exp-President Roosevelt assails and President Taft defends the arbitra-

tion pact with Great Britain, France and other European countries. International peace while desired, must not be accepted at a loss of dignity. Roosevelt is right!

Sensational testimony was given Wednesday regarding conditions in the Westmoreland, Pa., coal fields, before the House Committee on Rules. President Feehan, of the Mine Workers' Union, testified that twenty miners had been killed during the strike and that eighteen deputies tried for wanton murder had been given from three to six months' jail sentences; that stockades had been built to keep imported workmen from foreign countries and other States at work; that 18,000 workmen were driven from work, and that 7,000 are living in tents after eviction; that they hired several hundred desperate characters, the scum of the earth, to break the

strike, who were sworn in as deputy sheriffs; that in the Westmoreland county mines the pay was 35 cents a ton, and in the Pittsburg district 60 to 70 cents a ton for coal mined; that many strikers were shot down when attempting to escape.

The Great Northern Railroad with headquarters at St. Paul, Minn., has made a \$600,000,000 bond issue. This is one of the largest financial deals ever made in the West. It is thought that the Great Northern will take over the Burlington road and that the merger will be upheld by the courts.

Thursday at midnight the Democratic committee of the House passed the woolen schedule. The bill as passed by the committee cuts the woolen tariff a little over half. Representative Claude Kitchin's resolution declares that the support of a duty on raw wool should not be construed as an abandonment of the Democratic policy of free wool. The need for a duty is due to Republican extravagance, which makes a great revenue essential to pay the expenses

of the government. Speaker of the House Champ Clark made a brief speech in which he endorsed Representative Kitchin's resolution, which was framed at a conference in which he and Representatives Burleson of Texas, James of Kentucky, Fitzgerald of New York, chairman of committee on appropriations, and Kitchin participated. Your Representative made a great speech and one that will long be remembered by those who heard him. Mr. Kitchin is a brilliant man, a great speaker, a fine conversationalist, and we predict for this son of the Old North State a brilliant future. He is forging to the front rapidly. The people of North Carolina are proud of their Representatives in Congress, and especially so of Representative Kitchin of the Second District.

The almost unanimous reporting of the bill out of the Ways and Means Committee on the woolen schedule does not meet with the approval of Mr. William Jennings Bryan, who wants free wool or nothing. Mr. Bryan forgets that the Demo-

cratic slogan calls for a "tariff for revenue only" and it is necessary to have some protection on wool. He also forgets that he formerly advocated this very thing, and he also forgets that a Republican Senate would never pass a bill taking all the tax off wool. It is high time this three-times candidate for the Presidency kept quiet and ceased interfering himself into the plans of the Democratic House.

Judge E. M. Gary, head of the steel trust, who has been before the committee investigating the trusts and combines of the country, testifying, makes the statement that he is in favor of the government fixing steel prices. He believes that cooperation in all lines of big industries is bound to come. He further says that socialism is not such a far off condition as some might believe. He says that it is entirely possible for the government to undertake the close regulation of industrial corporations without it finally resulting in government ownership. OBSERVER.

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## Saturday, June 3rd

to issue one ticket for each fifty cent cash purchase made at our store, and one ticket for each one dollar paid on account. The tickets are printed in duplicate, both bearing the same number; you hold one and the other you put in a ballot box that will be kept in the store. (There will be two ballot boxes, one for the white and one for the colored people.) When the contest closes a little child will draw the lucky numbers from the boxes and the prizes will be awarded to the holders of the duplicates.

## Here is Your Great Opportunity

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Be sure to call for your Tickets and hold them until after the Drawing. You may hold one of the Lucky Tickets.

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