

THE COMMONWEALTH.

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BY
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Thanksgiving day is the next stop and then comes Christmas.

President Taft says his annual message to Congress this year will be short.

The official date for the opening of the Panama Canal has been set for January 1st, 1915.

Congress will meet in regular session the first Monday in December. The democrats propose to get to work on the tariff the first thing.

The South has expended nearly \$44,000,000 in the past ten years on road improvement. Of this amount North Carolina has spent \$4,505,000. Good roads are surely coming.

Judge B. F. Long, of Statesville, will be in the race for a place on the Supreme Court bench next year. He will run against Justice George H. Brown, who now holds a position on the Supreme Court bench.

Listen to the Durham Herald when it says:

"The average man expects nothing from the national government and would be more than satisfied if it would quit taking money out of his pocket and putting it into the pockets of those who are better able to do without it."

It took Raleigh a long time to wake up and catch the spirit of progress that is abroad in our State, but when she did realize her condition the city has made rapid progress. The latest effort is one put forth by leading citizens to build a modern theatre. We are not going out of the way in saying that the News and Observer has been a great factor in setting in motion the progress of our capital city.

The people of Gaston county voted down the farm-life school at an election held in that county one day last week. This school is not meeting with popular favor throughout the State, since only one county, out of several elections held, has voted the tax. The plan of the farm-life school has some good features and we cannot see why it is not looked upon with more favor by the very people it is intended to benefit.

The Wadesboro Ansonian expresses itself in a way that is well worth considering, just at this time, when it says:

"While you are holding your cotton for a higher price, which you are likely to get, take care that you do not neglect the merchant or other person who helped you to make this crop. It might be well for most of us to try to see the matter from his standpoint sometimes. Would we want our credit to suffer because those who owe us are waiting for better prices? Would we want to lie awake at night, worrying about debts we couldn't pay because the folks who are holding back what they are already due us? Well, that condition of affairs exist in many instances throughout the South today. In other towns, there have been failures because the people who furnished the supplies and fertilizers for making the crop of 1911, had failed to receive their money in time to protect themselves. Hold your cotton, if you can, but manage somehow to borrow a little money on it rather than allow somebody to suffer. This for the good of your country."

Beattie's Confession.

Richmond, Va., Nov. 24.—The anti-mortem statement of Beattie was a confession of his crime. In leaving the world the young wife murderer declared that the theory of the prosecution that was so relentlessly fought and tenaciously hung through the weeks of the trial was correct. This is his confession: "I, Henry Clay Beattie, Jr., desirous of standing right before God and man, do on this 23rd day of November, 1811, confess my guilt of the crime charged against me. Much that was published concerning the details was not true, but the awful fact, without the harrowing circumstances remain. For this action I am truly sorry, and believing that I am at peace with God and soon to pass into his presence, this statement is made."

ANOTHER SHELL GAME.

It is declared in Washington political circles that the Republicans are going to try to sidetrack the "tariff and increased cost of living" issue in the next campaign, and make the party's "big appeal" for support on the currency question. Republican leaders in both branches of Congress are at work on speeches the import of which will be that "the business interests will suffer as long as the currency system remains as it now is." The modified Aldrich plan on which the Republicans intend to go before the country provides for a national reserve association, which practically amounts to a central government bank.

The reserve association would have power to issue emergency currency, and could practically dictate the banking policy of the country and control the credit of the business world, a vast power.

Democrats in Congress have frequently pointed out the danger of allowing the money power to become any more centered than it already is, and many students of finance contend that the proposed "reserve association" would be little more than a money trust, whose controlling factors would very likely be the same group of men who now dominate Wall street and the Republican party.—C. H. Tavenner.

The Majesty of The Law.

Editor Johnson, of Charity and Children, asks the question if Beattie could have been convicted in North Carolina? He doubts it, and argues that "Beattie's father is said to be worth \$300,000 and if a rich man's son has ever paid any very severe penalty for crime in this State we do not just now recall his name. We are quick to punish poor folks and niggers. The law works beautifully when the defendant has no money, but it is mighty hard to reach men of influence who have sidestepped and gone wrong. We are aware of the danger of bringing our courts into contempt, but it is hard to get around the plain facts and the plain fact is that Virginia is ahead of us in the trial and conviction of prominent criminals. Would Richeson be in as much danger in North Carolina as he is in Massachusetts? We doubt it. He is backed by both money and influence. He stood high in social circles in Boston, and is still enjoying the confidence of wealthy families and friends. We do not know, of course, but we have no doubt that this sporty parson will get what he deserves. On the other hand, how many can be recalled without a moment's reflection, walking around in North Carolina enjoying social favor and business patronage whose hands are red with innocent blood?"

This is a very severe arraignment of the administration of justice in North Carolina but is it not true? The trouble is mainly to be found, if one wants to look for it, in our jury system. Had the North Carolina system of selecting a jury prevailed in Virginia, the odds are ten to one that Beattie would have been acquitted. The press of this State has cried unavailingly for reform in the jury system for years past, but the lawyers seem to be "agin" it, just as they are in the matter of the Torrens system. It is a desire to get their man off, in the first case, and to pocket fees in the second.—Charlotte Chronicle.

Society of Automobile Engineers Entertained in Paris.

Paris, Nov. 22.—The visiting members of the society of Automobile Engineers were given a banquet last night at the Automobile Club of France by the Messrs. Edwards and Andre Michelin, the well known tire manufacturers.

During the evening the American guests received many warm felicitations. Mr. Andre Michelin proposed a toast to President Taft, and Mr. Wolf, of the Michelin Company proposed the American automobile industry and remarked on its wonderful development and rapid growth. Mr. Howard Coffin, of the Hudson Company, and President of the Society of Automobile Engineers, responded in behalf of the visitors and congratulated the Michelins for their success as tire makers, stating that nearly all the American contests were won on tires of their manufacture. Mr. J. Hauvette-Michelin, head of the Michelin interests in America, was present and also spoke a few words to the visiting Engineers, many of whom are his personal friends.

The unique private theatre of the A. C. de F. was the scene of a vaudeville and musical entertainment, furnished by some of the leading Parisian artists, which concluded the evening's enjoyment.

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THE METHODIST CONFERENCE.

The Session Closed Monday Morning With the Reading of the Appointments.

Kinston, Nov. 27.—The 76th annual session of the North Carolina conference of the Methodist Episcopal church south, came to a close here at 10 o'clock this morning with the reading of the appointments by Bishop E. E. Hoss. The closing hours of the conference were marked by the spirit of good feeling that had characterized the entire session, beginning with last Wednesday morning. There was not a single contest over any question on the floor of the conference.

The final reports showed substantial gains during the year just closed. There was a net gain in church membership of approximately 2,000, the number of church members now standing at 80,019. The number of adults baptized during the year was 2,777; infants, 774. There are 72 Epworth Leagues, with a total membership of 3,125. The number of Sunday schools is 695, with 5,723 officers and teachers, and 61,460 members. The number of pastoral charges increased by two, making the total number now 190.

Bishop Hoss made a fine impression as a presiding officer, a wise and discreet counsellor and a good preacher. He left here this morning for Florence, Ala., to open conference there Wednesday morning. Nearly all the preachers and laymen left on the morning trains today. There were fewer changes than usual in the appointments. There were no new presiding elders, and only two changes, the Rev. R. F. Bumpass being transferred to the Warrenton district, and the Rev. J. E. Underwood from the Warrenton to the New Bern district.

The list of appointments for the Warrenton district is as follows: R. F. Bumpass, presiding elder. Battleboro and Whitakers—J. W. Frank. Bertie—J. G. Johnson. Conway—B. H. Black. Enfield and Halifax—L. T. Singleton.

Garysburg—E. N. Harrison. Harrellsville—C. H. Caviness. Henderson—W. R. Royall. Hobgood—F. F. Eure. Littleton—R. H. Willis. Murfreesboro and Winton—H. M. Jackson.

Northampton—W. B. North. North and South Henderson—S. J. Kilpatrick. Rich Square—D. L. Earnhardt. Ridgewood—J. E. Holden. Roanoke—J. T. Draper. Roanoke Rapids—W. M. Towe. Scotland Neck—N. C. Yearby. Warren—B. C. Thompson. Warrenton—D. N. Caviness. Weldon—J. A. Hornaday. Williamston and Hamilton—Rufus Bradley.

Littleton Female College—J. M. Rhodes, president. Other appointments that our readers might be interested in are as follows:

Belhaven—C. A. Jones. Franklinton—W. W. Rose. Louisbourg—R. W. Bailey. Hamlet—J. A. Dailey. Lumberton circuit—R. L. Carroway. Rocky Mount—T. P. Howard. Tarboro L. B. Jones. Washington—R. W. Broom. Wilson—M. Bradshaw. Aberdeen and Bisco—C. L. Reed.

J. P. CALDWELL PASSES AWAY.

End Comes Peacefully to Great Editor at Morganton Wednesday Morning. Buried at Statesville.

Morganton, N. C., Nov. 22.—Mr. J. P. Caldwell died at 5:15 this morning. The end came peacefully. He fell asleep shortly before this hour and never awoke.

The funeral will be held tomorrow afternoon in Statesville at 4 o'clock. Mr. Caldwell suffered a stroke of paralysis while editor of the Charlotte Daily Observer on March 8, 1909. After several weeks illness he resumed his duties only to suffer a second stroke of paralysis with motor aphasia, from which he never fully recovered. He was taken to Morganton where he remained until the time of his death.

From early boyhood Mr. Caldwell's life was devoted to a newspaper career. He was born June 16, 1853, at Statesville, N. C., and at the age of 14 entered the newspaper business as an apprentice in the office of the Iredell County Enterprise. In 1872 he became local editor of the Charlotte Observer, where he remained until 1876 when he entered into the same duties on the Raleigh News. After a year he returned to the Observer as editorial writer. In 1880 he purchased the Statesville Landmark, and while editor of that paper was elected mayor of Statesville, 1886-90. In 1880 he also became director of the state hospital for the insane and served as chairman of the board from 1884 to 1909.

In 1892 Mr. Caldwell was chairman of the North Carolina state delegation to the democratic national convention and in the same year became editor of the Charlotte Morning Chronicle, now the Charlotte Daily Observer.

Straight Roads.

Before making good roads why not make the Tarboro road straight from the Joyner farm to Greenwood fork, beginning at the first bend of the sand road, which would save one half mile, three bad hills and several crooks.

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