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NO. 40.

STATE NEWS.

Items of Interest Gathered From the North Carolina Papers.

A meeting of the Tobacco Growers' Association of the State will be held at Rocky Mount December 19th.

A white man named Collins fell into the creek at Gaston Saturday night and was drowned. The creek was much swollen and the man had been drinking and could not swim.

The State has chartered the North Carolina Wheel Company, of High Point, with a capital of \$100,000 to make vehicles. Persons from Amesbury, Mass., are principal stockholders.

The penitentiary officials are said to be in high glee at its financial success this year. They say they never had any doubt of its paying well this year. It has really been ahead all the year.

At Shelby early Saturday morning the Williams Knitting Mill was burned and along with it \$1,500 worth of finished goods. The mill cost \$12,000. There was \$7,000 insurance on the property.

At Winston Saturday night John Right, colored, shot and killed Bob Mitchell, also colored. The men quarreled about a woman and Right suddenly drew his pistol and killed Mitchell. The slayer escaped.

Vance county has the lowest tax rate of all the counties in the State—60 cents on the \$100. Wayne is the only other county the tax rate of which is below the constitutional limitation of 66¢—and that is only 66¢.

The State has chartered the Pythian Castle Company of Charlotte. It will build and occupy a hall and library. A charter has also been granted to the Carolina Steel Bridge and Construction Company of Burlington, capital \$250,000.

Some of the second crop of strawberries grown near Burgaw, Pender county, and shipped in December to the North, were sold for 75 cents per quart, or \$24 per crate. There were other shipments from the same section, but none brought such a high price.

Mr. J. J. Jackson died at his home at Pittsboro Sunday, aged 86. He was a member of the Legislature from Chatham in 1842. He married a daughter of the late Gov. Worth and his wife, two sons and three daughters survive. One daughter is the wife of Mr. H. A. London, of Pittsboro.

At Raleigh Saturday Miss Mary Crabtree, aged 22, pointed a supposed unloaded gun at Hubert Blake, aged 14, and pulled the trigger, "just for fun." The boy was shot in both arms and his injuries are severe. The young woman is of course distressed but her distress doesn't ease the boy's suffering.

At High Point Saturday night Jo. Mitchell, a furniture worker, while crazy drunk, destroyed the furniture in his house with an axe and the wreck caught fire. The fire was extinguished but a trunk in which was \$500 in cash, Mitchell's savings of years, was burned with the cash before the flames were checked.

Rev. Dr. Pearson, the evangelist, who makes his home in Asheville, has been elected to the professorship of the English bible and evangelistic method in the Theological Seminary of the Cumberland University, at Lebanon, Tenn., and has accepted. Dr. Pearson will enter upon this work the coming spring.

At its meeting last week the State board of agriculture authorized President Winston to hold a summer school at the A. & M. College during vacation for the benefit of the public school teachers. It will be a school of agriculture and nature study. The law requires the elements of agriculture to be taught in the public schools and this summer school is designed to fit teachers to teach this branch.

Governor Aycock has ordered a special term of Perquimans county superior court January 12th, to try criminal cases, Judge Council presides. It will try the case of James Wilcox, charged with murdering Nellie Cropsey.

Rev. W. C. Norman, a prominent Methodist minister and pastor of Trinity church, Durham, died suddenly in Wilmington, where he was attending the North Carolina Conference, at 12:50 o'clock Sunday morning. The evening before he complained of indigestion. Shortly after midnight he became worse and a physician was summoned but he died before the physician arrived. No children survive.

At Washington early Sunday morning fire destroyed the large oyster canning factory of J. S. Torrence, Brabble's oyster house, Gainer's fish house and several other small buildings; loss, \$15,000. The fire originated in Gainer's fish house, caused by William Bailey overturning an oil stove, which exploded. Bailey, it is said, was intoxicated and could not make his escape and was burned to death. His body was almost unrecognizable.

Mr. Ghant, the Southern Express Company's agent at Madison, this State, has met with an unusual good streak of luck. Some time ago the Cincinnati Inquirer offered a large sum of money as a premium for the closest estimate on the number of votes cast in the Ohio election. Mr. Ghant, by taking advantage of guesses to the amount of \$200, gathered in the returns to the amount of \$34,000. Attorney C. O. McMichael is now in Ohio looking after Mr. Ghant's interest.

LOOKING AT THE BOOKS.

The General Assembly Committee Begun Its Work at Raleigh Monday.

Yesterday the members of the Examining Committee, appointed by the last General Assembly to examine the books of the State officers, reached the city and began their work.

The committee is composed of Congressman E. Y. Webb, of Shelby, who was a member of the State Senate when appointed; Senator Allen K. Smith, of Smithfield; Representatives A. D. Watts, of Statesville; Harry Stubbs, of Wilmington, and Edward O. Masten, of Wilksboro.

The committee yesterday began its work on the books of the State Treasurer. When this is completed the books of the Auditor will be examined, and then the committee, by Legislative instruction, will examine into the cost of the sessions of Legislature and report on the amount appropriated by that body. The examination is to be full and complete and it is likely that the committee will be at work the entire week.—Raleigh News and Observer 8th.

Facts About The Venezuela Crisis.

The most serious foreign complication for an American power since the war with Spain, in 1898, is precipitated by ultimatums just sent by Great Britain and Germany to Venezuela.

The ultimatums fix a time limit within which Venezuela must satisfy the claims of the two governments. If she fails to do so, the custom houses will be seized. Formidable fleets for this purpose are already on the scene and other warships are hastening there.

The claims of Great Britain and Germany against Venezuela amount to about \$20,000,000. France, to which about \$5,000,000 was owed by the same power, recently obtained a settlement by a separate protocol.

Admiral Dewey's great fleet of 42 warships, now in Porto Rican waters maneuvering, will be ready to act if United States interests are threatened, which is not expected.—Baltimore Sun.

A \$500,000 fire occurred in the heart of Atlanta, Ga., Monday.

METHODIST CONFERENCE.

Rev. W. H. Moore, Presiding Elder of Raleigh District.

DR. GIBBS SENT TO DURHAM.

Rev. K. D. Holmes to Roxboro and Rev. N. E. Coltrane to Smithfield.—Church Extension Work.

The North Carolina Conference of the Methodist church, which met in Wilmington last week, adjourned Monday after the Bishop read out the appointments for the ensuing year.

The Conference was presided over by Bishop A. Coke Smith, of Charlotte.

Dr. T. N. Ivey was re-elected editor of the Raleigh Christian Advocate.

The report of the statistical secretary shows a membership of 66,874.

On motion of Rev. W. S. Rone, resolutions of appreciation of Bishop Smith's presence and expressing the hope that he be sent again to preside over the Conference were adopted by a rising vote. A resolution of thanks to the people of Wilmington for the generous hospitality dispensed was then passed unanimously.

BOARD OF CHURCH EXTENSION.

The report of the Board of Church Extension showed that the following amounts had been received from districts:

District	Assessed.	Paid
Raleigh	\$ 570.00	\$ 878.00
Durham	755.00	526.00
Rockingham	470.00	363.00
Washington	595.00	391.02
Elizabeth City	590.00	521.00
Warrenton	580.00	449.23
Wilmington	515.00	297.23
New Bern	565.00	433.30
Fayetteville	440.00	272.86
Total	\$4,900.00	\$3,732.27

Paid out as follows: General Board, \$1,561.50; Fifth Street, Wilmington, \$609.27; Minutes of Conference and printing blanks, \$86.00; amount left over in hands of Conference Board, \$1,475.50.

The distributions is as follows:

Churches.	County.	Amount.
Rosemary	Halifax	\$125.70
Newton Grove	Sampson	75.00
Benson	Johnston	75.00
Racford	Cumberland	150.00
Rowland	Robeson	100.00
Farmville	Pitt	250.00
Fuquay Springs	Wake	200.00
Smithfield	Johnston	75.00
Andrew's Chapel	Wake	50.00
Mayesville	Jones	100.00
Corn Branch	New Hanover	75.00
Town Creek	Brunswick	75.00
Epworth	Pasquotank	75.00
Bethel	Caswell	75.00
Bynum	Chatham	100.00
Total amount distributed to the churches		1,665.00
Balance in treasury from last year		23.75
Conditional appropriations, 1901 in treasurer's hands		175.00
Expenses of treasurer		4.00
Total amount left in treasurer's hands, 1902		5.25
Assessment for the year 1903 is as follows:		
General and Conference Boards		\$5,012.00
Fifth Street Church, Wilmington		800.00
Total		\$5,812.00

This is apportioned as follows:

Raleigh District	\$676.00
Durham District	682.00
Rockingham District	558.00
Washington District	705.00
Elizabeth City District	700.00
Warrenton District	688.00
Wilmington District	611.00
New Bern District	670.00
Fayetteville District	522.00

We publish the following appointments:

Raleigh District—W. H. Moore, Presiding Elder.
Edenton Street—G. F. Smith, Central Church—G. T. Adams, Brooklyn and Macedonia—M. M. McFarland.

Epworth—J. M. Culbreth, Cary—G. B. Starling, Clayton—G. W. Fisher, Smithfield—N. E. Coltrane, Kenly—Supply, R. H. Whitaker.

Millbrook—N. L. Seabolt, Youngsville—G. R. Rood, Franklinton—J. H. Shore, Louisburg—M. T. Plyler, Tar River—A. L. Ormond, Granville—W. H. Puckett, Oxford Station—A. McCullen, Oxford Circuit—J. D. Pegram, Editor: Raleigh Christian Advocate—T. N. Ivey.

Superintendent Methodist Orphanage—J. W. Jenkins, Agent Methodist Orphanage—J. B. Hurler.

We publish the following that may be of interest to some of our readers:

J. T. Gibbs, presiding elder, Durham District.
City Mission, Durham, B. B. Calbreth.

Roxboro, K. D. Holmes, Dunn, E. M. Snipes, Newton Grove, R. A. Bruton, Jonesboro, B. C. Allred, Lillington, A. D. Betts, Aberdeen, G. A. Oglesby, Hamlet, C. O. Durant, Red Springs, Z. T. Harrison, Robeson, J. M. Ashby, Snow Hill, E. Pope, Onslow, W. A. Jenkins, Shalotte, N. H. Guyton, Swan Quarter, W. Y. Everton, Bethel, J. J. Barker, South Rocky Mount and Marin, P. D. Woodall, Enfield and Halifax, S. A. Cotton.

North Gates, H. M. Jackson, Sampson, B. B. Holder, Kenansville, W. D. Sasser, Burgaw, C. C. Brothers, Clinton, J. T. Draper.

EX-SPEAKER REED DEAD.

The End Came in Washington Saturday Night After a Brief Illness.

Thomas Brackett Reed, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, and for many years prominent in public life, died in Washington Saturday night at 12:10 o'clock, in his apartment in the Arlington Hotel. The immediate cause of death was uraemia. His wife and daughter, who had been called from New York by his illness, were with him when the end came.

Mr. Reed reached Washington Sunday, having gone there to attend to some matters in the United States Supreme Court. He was at the capitol Monday, visiting his friends and former associates in Congress, and witnessed the convening of the Fifty-seventh Congress. Apparently he was enjoying good health, but later in the day he called on Dr. F. A. Gardner and complained of gastric distress. The following day his physician compelled him to remain in bed while a diagnosis was made of his condition. Mr. Reed was strongly averse to staying in bed, but a rise in temperature kept him in. Symptoms of appendicitis appeared, though his condition was not considered at that time as alarming. His complaint was pronounced catarrhal appendicitis when he was first attacked, but no operation was performed. On Thursday the symptoms of appendicitis abated but kidney trouble developed. Mr. Reed had long suffered from Bright's disease. This reached an acute stage Saturday and was the direct cause of his death.

Fight Will Be Bitter.

Those who will persist in closing their ears against the continual recommendation of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, will have a long and bitter fight with their troubles, if not ended early by fatal termination. Read what T. R. Beall, of Beall, Miss., has to say: "Last fall my wife had every symptom of consumption. She took Dr. King's New Discovery after everything else had failed. Improvement came at once and four bottles entirely cured her." Guaranteed by Hood Bros., Druggists, Price 50c. and \$1.00. Trial bottles free.

CASTRO DOESN'T BUDGE.

"We will Enforce our Rights," Says Venezuela's President.

DENIES GETTING ULTIMATUM.

"Cannot Decide on Foreign Claims Before the Revolution is Entirely Crushed"—Says He Is Astonished.

Caracas, Venezuela, Dec. 9.—President Castro received your correspondent at Miraflores Palace to-day. In reply to questions he said:

"The Venezuelan Government has not received any ultimatum, properly speaking, but rather simultaneous requests from Great Britain and Germany. The claims Great Britain asks this Government to settle are small, and up to the present time we have not been aware of them. Never having been presented, Venezuela has consequently never refused to settle them. Great Britain's action, therefore, is without justification.

"The Venezuelan Government cannot decide on foreign claims before the revolution has been entirely crushed. At present the only aim of the Government is the re-establishment of public order, and other questions must necessarily be subservient to this object.

"Nevertheless, to prove Venezuela's desire to settle all pending claims in a conformable manner, the Government issued a decree in the course of the last session of Congress, dated November 28, creating a committee to which all pending claims should be referred. No claims have been presented to this committee and none has been rejected. There has been no denial of justice; why, then, should foreign chancelleries intervene, thereby ignoring our laws and endeavoring to violate our national sovereignty? We cannot understand this action."

"What do you intend to do in view of the present attitude of the powers?" was asked?

"We will enforce our rights," replied President Castro, "and explain to the world that Venezuela has laws. We will prove that we have never denied our engagements."

The President was asked what reply the Venezuelan Government would make to the communications handed it by the German and British envoys. To this he replied, after reflection:

"The Venezuelan Government is astonished that, after the notes which were transmitted to it by the diplomatic representatives of Germany and Great Britain, these envoys should leave Caracas without awaiting the reply of the Venezuelan Government."

Questioned as to what course he intended to pursue should the powers declare a blockade, the President excused himself from answering.

No ultimatum, it is declared, had been delivered to the Venezuelan Government up to 2 o'clock this afternoon. Should Venezuela refuse or fail to reply to the notes of Great Britain and Germany, it is said an ultimatum will then be delivered. This would probably be transmitted by Admiral Douglas, commanding the combined British and German fleets, or by the captain of the British cruiser Retribution. The Italian cruiser Giovanni Bausan has arrived at Laguayra.—Baltimore Sun.

This Will Interest Many.

Botanic Blood Balm (B. B. B.), the famous Southern blood purifier, quickly cures cancer, blood poison, pimples, boils, carbuncles, ulcers, eating sores, scrofula, eczema, aching bones, joints or back, rheumatism, catarrh, and all blood and skin troubles. B. B. B. heals every sore and makes the blood pure and rich. B. B. B. the finest blood purifier made. Druggists, \$1. Trial treatment free by writing Blood Balm Co., Atlanta Ga. For Sale in Smithfield, Free Sample at Hood Bros. In Selma by Hare & Son.

GENERAL NEWS.

Some of the Happenings of the Past Week Briefly Told.

A. C. Hutchinson, the late New Orleans millionaire, left the bulk of his estate to Tulane University.

Finley Peter Dunne, author of "Mr. Dooley," was married to Miss Margaret Abbot in New York Tuesday.

Four men were killed and 10 badly injured by an explosion of dynamite in a Lehigh mine, near Wilkesbarre, Pa., Tuesday.

Friends of President Roosevelt are canvassing certain States to learn whether there is formidable opposition to his nomination in 1904.

A cold wave which bore down upon Chicago Sunday reached its climax Monday with a temperature at zero mark. About three inches of snow fell.

The House of Congress Saturday passed the pension appropriation bill carrying about \$140,000,000. It was passed without objection.

Mr. and Mrs. John Williams were committed to jail in Philadelphia Monday charged with poisoning their two children to get insurance money.

Secretary Wilson has asked the House Agricultural Committee for between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 to stamp out the foot-and-mouth disease in New England.

Rev. Jo. Jones, a brother of Rev. Sam Jones, who had attained some reputation as an evangelist by imitating his brother's methods, died suddenly Friday at his home at Cartersville, Ga.

Three persons are dead and six injured as a result of a fire Sunday night at Colgate, Wis., in which the general store and dwelling of Max Manthey were destroyed. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

The mayor and eleven aldermen of Denver, Col., were last week sentenced to jail for disregarding an injunction of the court by granting a street railway franchise. They appealed and gave bond.

Before the Strike Arbitration Commission at Scranton, Pa., a miner testified that eviction in the rain caused the death of his wife. A widow testified that it took the work of herself and sons for 13 years to pay back rent.

Senator Foraker his introduced a bill directing the Secretary of War to mark with marble slabs the graves of Confederate soldiers who died in Northern prisons or hospitals during the civil war. The bill appropriates \$100,000.

Severe storms, with snow and sleet, prevailed along the coasts Friday and Friday night. Much damage was done to the shipping interests. Several vessels were wrecked, some on the North Carolina coasts, and some lives were lost.

A young man named Davis shot and killed Mrs. Wynne, a bride of three days, near Tyler, Texas. Mr. Wynne rushed to the assistance of his wife, whereupon Davis blew his own brains out. Davis was a rejected suitor of his victim.

Alfred E. Buck, United States Minister to Japan, died suddenly Thursday while on a hunting expedition with the Japanese emperor. Hon. John Barrett, who was minister to Siam under Mr. Cleveland, will be Mr. Buck's successor.

The Eagle tannery, at Ridge-way, Penn., was destroyed by fire Sunday, caused by explosion of natural gas in the engine room. The loss on the building is estimated at \$75,000, and that on the stock of leather and hides at \$250,000 to \$300,000.

At a meeting of the Stuart Monument Association in Richmond, Va., \$1,700 was raised for an equestrian statue of General J. E. B. Stuart, the Confederate cavalry leader to be erected there. This sum is in addition to about \$500 already in hand for the purpose.