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TAR HEEL TOPICS
Items Gathered From All Sections of the State

Capitalists and Contractors Becoming Interested in Statesville Air Line.

Statesville, Special. — Capitalists and railroad contractors are becoming interested in the Statesville Air Line Company's proposed road. Mr. J. D. Clairborn, of Baltimore, a representative of the Johnston & Berin Construction Company, of Baltimore and Mr. W. H. George, Jr., a railroad contractor of Richmond, Va., were in town two or three days ago negotiating with the officers of the Statesville Air Line Railroad Company with a view to building and equipping the proposed road from Statesville to Mount Airy. They examined the surveys, maps and estimates of the road, which were prepared by Civil Engineer Greenlee, and were given all the information they desired. The contractors expressed themselves as being highly pleased with the surveys, etc., the bonds and the prospects of the road. They have the matter of building the road under advisement and will probably submit a proposition to the officers of the company in a few days.

Advantage Taken of Decision.

Asheville, Special. — George W. Vanderbilt, the largest taxpayer in Buncombe county, has taken advantage of Judge Fred Moore's recent decision in the injunction hearing of the Southern Railway against the commissioners and tax collectors of this county, holding that one-third on the tax levy in Buncombe county was unconstitutional, and has refused to pay that portion of his tax representing the 15 cent road and bridges and 18 1/2 cent interest on bonds, which amounts to about \$3,000. Heretofore Vanderbilt has paid his tax in two installments. This year his tax was almost \$24,000, half of this amount having been paid in December. This week Vanderbilt through his agent paid the remainder of his tax with the exception of that portion represented by the one-third declared by Judge Moore to be unconstitutional. It is understood that other large taxpayers in paying their taxes are holding back the 33 1/3 per cent.

Salem Commencement.

Winston-Salem, Special.—The order of the exercises for Salem Academy and College has just been announced and is as follows: Friday, May 22—First concert of the music festival. Saturday, May 23—Senior class exercises, literary and musical, in the afternoon, and second concert at night. Sunday, May 24—Baccalaureate sermon by the Rt. Rev. J. Taylor Hamilton, D. D., of Saxony. Monday, May 25—Alumnae society meeting in the afternoon and the third musical concert at night. Tuesday, May 26—Commencement, the literary address by President William Louis Poteat, Ph. D., of Wake Forest College, and presentation of diplomas by Rt. Rev. Edward Rondthaler, D. D., of the board of trustees.

Hardin Germany Gets Eight Years.

Greensboro, Special.—In the Superior Court here, Hardin Germany, charged with sending an infernal machine to Mr. Caesar Cone, was convicted of an assault with intent to kill. Judge Webb announced that he would pronounce sentence later. Under cross-examination, Germany admitted that he made the box containing the explosive, saying he did the work for a man whose name he did not know and whom he could not describe. Germany faced Judge Webb, who sentenced him to eight years in the penitentiary.

Two Pardons Granted.

Raleigh, Special.—Governor Glenn Friday granted two pardons and refused seven applications. He also ordered the sheriff of Buncombe county to place Adolphus Boon on the roads to serve out his unexpired sentence for larceny. Boon was given conditional pardon, but got drunk and is now in Asheville jail.

Franchise Rejected.

Salisbury, Special.—The board of aldermen granted a franchise to the Southern Power Company, but Attorney Coche for the company rejected it on account of certain stipulations. The aldermen gave the company until May 2 to accept, and if it still holds out the franchise will be revoked.

Safe-Blowers at Shelby Depot.

Shelby, Special.—The safe at the Seaboard depot was blown to pieces Thursday night by burglars and the contents taken which amounted to about fifty dollars. There is no clue to the perpetrators.

State Farmers Union.

Charlotte, Special.—The farmers union delegates met here last week and perfected an organization with the following officers: President, Dr. H. Q. Alexander, of Mecklenburg; vice president, A. C. Shuford, Catawba county; secretary and treasurer, E. C. Faires, Cleveland county; doorkeeper, J. Ernest Cansler, Lincoln; sergeant-at-arms, U. S. G. Phillips, of Cherokee; conductor, A. C. Stroup, Gaston county; State organizer, J. E. C. Ford, Gaston county. The executive committee is composed of the following named: Messrs. Orson Morrow, Rutherfordton; P. W. Plyer, Union; J. J. Logan, Cleveland; T. F. Cornwell, Lincoln; D. A. Randolph, Bryson City. Mr. R. B. Hunter, of the county, was made State lecturer.

New Chair Factory Running.

Thomasville, Special.—Mr. C. C. Lantz, general manager of the Bard Lumber Company, the new chair factory, says that his plant is now complete and running on full time. A large supply of material is now on the yard and the company is making chairs at the rate of 200 a day and as soon as the trade will brighten up the output will be 400 a day. The company manufactures high-grade chairs ranging in price from \$18 to \$60 a dozen. It is working now about 50 men. This factory has been built during the past six months and is one of the largest and best equipped in Thomasville.

A Cottage Destroyed in Statesville.

Statesville, Special. — Just before noon Thursday a six-room cottage located in southwest Statesville, the property of J. M. Adams and occupied by J. Lee Steele and family, was destroyed by fire with practically all its contents. The fire originated from a defective flue and the roof was in flames before discovered. The fire department responded to the alarm at once, but the flames had done their work before the firemen reached the scene. The house was valued at \$1,000 with \$600 insurance. Mr. Steele had no insurance and his loss of \$100 to \$200 falls heavily on him.

A Bowdy at Last Gets His Deserts.

Statesville, Special. — About 18 months ago, in the edge of Olin township, Ab Lambert, white, assaulted and stabbed Doc Daniels, white, in the latter's store, dangerously injuring him. Lambert ran away immediately after the trouble and went to the mining regions in West Virginia. He was noted for his rowdiness and had a very bad reputation. Recently his father, who lives in Sharpesburg township, received a letter from a boarding house keeper in a mining town in West Virginia, stating that he (the boarding house man) had shot and killed Lambert and had been exonerated for the shooting on the ground of self-defense. Lambert was drunk and was advancing on his host, shooting as he advanced, when the latter drew his revolver and killed Lambert with the first shot. Lambert's father has further investigated the killing and it is understood that he realizes that his son got only what was due him.

Bank Burglary at Kernersville.

Winston-Salem, Special.—It is learned here that the Forsyth Bank, of Kernersville, was burglarized Sunday night, but the robbers failed to gain entrance to the vault where the cash is kept. They were either frightened away or were amateurs. They entered the building through a rear window by prying off the iron bars.

Fuss Over Wife.

Spencer, Special.—Willis Franklin, aged twenty-five years, a colored fireman on the Southern Railroad, was stabbed to death near the passenger depot here Thursday morning by Andrew Linden, a colored laborer at the Spencer shops. The tragedy is said to have resulted from a quarrel over the wife of Linden with whom it is alleged Franklin was intimate.

Farmer Kills Ex-Convict.

Durham, Special.—Effa Wimbish, a wealthy merchant and farmer, of Halifax county, Virginia, shot and instantly killed Gregord McCrow, who made a murderous assault upon him. McCrow was an escaped convict, having served three months of an 18-year sentence for murder of another negro. When Wimbish met him the convict fired, wounding Wimbish in the arm. At the merchant's first shot the negro fell dead. Wimbish was taken to South Boston and placed in the hospital.

MESSENGER SUSPENDS

Well Known and Popular Daily Goes Out of Commission For Lack of Support.

Wilmington, Special.—The Wilmington Messenger, established as a morning paper here by a stock company 19 years ago, has suspended publication. The suspension of The Messenger came as a great surprise to the Wilmington public, as not even the employees of the paper knew the step was contemplated by the proprietors until the announcement was passed in as copy from the editorial room for this morning's issue. There is no disposition of the plant, a part of which, it is thought, will be consolidated with the extensive job office of the Jackson & Bell Co. There is likewise no announcement as to the good will and accounts of the publication. The statement in the paper is to the effect that the enterprise so far as the newspaper was concerned had been conducted at a loss for some time and that the company in the future would devote its entire energies to the work of the job printing, ruling and binding departments. The Messenger was brought here from Goldsboro 19 years ago and was first conducted by the late Julius A. Bonitz until its prebise by Messrs. Jackson and Bell upon the death of the founder.

Found After Four Months.

Wilmington, Special.—The body of an unknown white man found floating in the water four miles from the city at the confluence of the Brunswick and Cape Fear rivers proved upon investigation to be that of W. A. Vollers, the grocer who so mysteriously disappeared from his home in this city four months ago. The body was badly decomposed, but was identified fully by papers and clothing. Vollers had been weak mentally for some time, and it is supposed that he wandered off from home, was lost just before the sleet and snow storm of December 4th and was frozen to death in the river marshes. The recent freshets are supposed to have floated the body out in the main stream, making its discovery possible. Deceased was in the 35th year of his age and leaves a wife and two children. His family connections are prominent. He carried \$2,000 life insurance, which was in the Woodmen of the World. The remains were buried after funeral services by Rev. W. A. Snyder, of the Lutheran church.

Woman Burned to Death.

Beaufort, Special.—Sunday morning about 2 o'clock fire was discovered at the residence of Miss Henrietta Roberson. Before the fire company could get a stream the building was enveloped in flames, cutting off the escape of Miss Roberson, who was burned to death in a most horrible manner. Miss Roberson was one of two sisters who made the Confederate flag captured from the Tenth North Carolina Regiment by the Fourth Rhode Island Regiment. The return of the flag to the Tenth North Carolina Regiment by Rhode Island was the occasion of a noted celebration at Raleigh in June, 1906.

Explosion Fatal to Two Men.

Asheville, Special.—The explosion of the boiler of engine No. 628 about midnight Sunday night at Hillgirt, six miles from Hendersonville, resulting in the death of Engineer George Lauderback and Fireman Kemp, has been the chief topic of conversation in railroad circles. The remains of the unfortunate men were brought here and prepared for burial at a local undertaking establishment. The body of the dead engineer will be shipped to Augusta, Ga., for interment, while the remains of Fireman Kemp will be taken to Candler, near here, for interment.

State News in Brief.

The Raleigh aldermen have increased the tax rate from \$1 to \$1.25. The French Broad Hustler, incorporated, at Hendersonville, is chartered with a capital stock of \$10,000. Judge Pritchard on Saturday appointed C. W. Smith, of Granite Quarry, as co-receiver with Colonel Henderson, to take charge of the affairs of the Whitney Company. Governor Glenn's new appointments cover Huntersville, April 24th; Charlotte, May 3d; Statesville, May 4th (two speeches); Morganton, 5th; Waynesville and Dillsboro, 6th; Canton and Asheville, 7th. The State Agricultural Department issues a bulletin which says that the cotton boll weevil is not yet in North Carolina. Every specimen sent in on suspicion was found to be some other insect. The positive declaration that the weevil was in Cleveland and Lincoln counties is inaccurate and North Carolina cotton growers can feel safe but should still keep their eyes open. The weevil probably will not reach here in seven years.

CONGRESSMAN DIES

Representative Brick Added to Long List of Present Session

HAD JUST BEEN RENOMINATED

Abraham Lincoln Brick, Representative From the Thirteenth Indiana District, Dies in a Sanatorium at Indianapolis — While Attending State Convention He Became Sick and Did Not Return to His Home

Indianapolis, Ind., Special.—Congressman Abraham Lincoln Brick, of the thirteenth Indiana district, died suddenly here Tuesday in a sanatorium.

Acute Bright's disease is given as the cause of death. He came here from his home in South Bend last week to attend the Republican State convention.

Representative Brick was nominated recently by the Republicans of the thirteenth district for his sixth term. A question has arisen as to whether another nominating convention will be necessary or whether the district and county chairman are empowered to fill the vacancy.

Resolutions of Regret.

Washington, Special.—Official announcement of the death of Abraham L. Brick, of Indiana, was made in the House of Representatives by Mr. Overstreet, one of his colleagues, who offered resolutions of regret, which were unanimously adopted.

Speaker Cannon announced the usual committee to attend the funeral and as a further mark of respect the House at 4:06 o'clock in the afternoon took a recess.

The Senate was notified of the death of Representative Brick and upon motion of Senator Beveridge resolutions of regret were adopted and as a further mark of respect the Senate adjourned.

Fort Macon to Be Repaired.

Washington, Special.—The fortifications appropriation bill was passed by the Senate with appropriations of \$12,116,187. As passed by the House of Representatives the bill carried an aggregate of \$8,210,611. The Senate adding \$3,905,576. Amendments to the bill were made in the Senate appropriating \$300,000 on motion of Senator Flint, of California, for land and fortifications at Point Firmin, Los Angeles, Cal., and \$100,000 additional on motion of Senator Simmons, of North Carolina, for the repair of fortifications at Fort Macon of his State.

Bank Property Sold.

Atlanta, Ga., Special.—According to an announcement made here the Buena Vista and other suburban property in Havana, Cuba, which were one of the assets of the Neal Bank, now in a receiver's hands in this city, has been sold to J. E. Barlow, of Havana, for \$75,000. A local firm had an interest in the property and received half of the sale price, the other half going to the Neal bank.

Incipient Riot Quelled.

Augusta, Ga., Special.—The police reserves were called out here to quell a riot among negroes Monday at Twigg and Charles streets. Mack Freyer, a negro, was fatally shot by the police. The trouble originated in the negro settlement when a policeman attempted to quell a disturbance.

The L. & N. Re-Employs Shop Force.

Decatur, Ala., Special.—The Louisville & Nashville Railroad re-employed 150 men at the shops in New Decatur and it is stated that others will be taken on in a few days. It is understood that the company will re-employ the building of new freight cars in the near future.

Seven Injured in Explosion.

Huntington, W. Va., Special.—Seven workmen were severely injured in a dynamite explosion at Meadow Creek, where a force of men was removing the landslide that covered the Chesapeake & Ohio tracks last week. A blast threw a rock into a box of dynamite, overturning the explosive into the fire.

Leak in the Department.

Washington, Special.—The Navy Department, and not the Electric Boat Company, was virtually under investigation by the special House committee inquiring into charges preferred against that company by Representatives Lilley. The question as to whether the company had used illegitimate means to promote legislation in its favor was forgotten in the admission made by the witness to the effect that he had secured extracts of reports made to the Navy Department supposed to be confidential.

MANY LIVES LOST

Thirty-Six Men Lose Their Lives When the Torpedo Boat Destroyer Tiger and the Cruiser Berwick Collide Off the British Coast.

Portsmouth, Eng., By Cable.—

Thirty-six men, including Lieutenant Middleton, the commander of the torpedo boat destroyer Tiger, lost their lives in the collision off the Isle of Wight Friday night between that vessel and the British cruiser Berwick. The vessels belong to the Portsmouth division of the British home fleet and were engaged in night manoeuvres in the channel while on their way to Portland. The night was very dark and the Berwick was steaming slowly. When the destroyer attempted to cross the big cruiser's bow she was caught amidships and cut in half with knife-like precision, sinking almost immediately.

The deck crew, who were dressed in heavy oil skins and boots, went down with the vessel, not having time to free themselves from these heavy encumbrances. Of the 22 men who were rescued most of them were engineers and stokers, who, having light clothing, were able to keep themselves afloat until boats from other ships, which were immediately launched, picked them up. The collision occurred at 8:10 o'clock at night. The ships were manoeuvring without lights. It is believed that several of the men were killed by the impact. Tugs were dispatched to the scene of the disaster at daylight.

The smaller naval vessels were in the midst of an attack on their bigger consorts when the disaster occurred. The entire fleet was under masked lights, and in the absolute darkness the Tiger was suddenly struck square amidships by the Berwick. The stem of this vessel, to use the words of an eye witness, cut the destroyer in two as if she had been made of paper. The forward half sank instantaneously and the sea became dotted with struggling men.

Most of them, however, sank before help could reach them. The warships in the immediate vicinity quickly had their boats overboard and the scene of the tragedy was brilliantly illuminated by a concentration of searchlights. After the accident the Tiger floated for a minute or two, just long enough to enable those on board to seize life belts. They threw themselves into the water and were able to keep afloat until picked up. William E. Middleton was on the bridge at the time of the disaster and went down with the forepart of the ship. The Tiger had a complement of 59 men and was of 400 tons.

A stoker rescued from the Tiger gave a vivid account of the accident. "The Berwick flew up out of the blackness and seemed to fall on us," said this man. "The noise of the impact was not great, but in a few seconds we were ripped in halves. The forward half of the Tiger appeared up like a frightened horse and then sank beneath the waves. The engineer- lieutenant, who was in the engine room in the after part, shouted: 'All hands on deck,' but owing to the hissing of the steam and the noise of the engines many of the stokers could not hear him. When we did realize what had happened we made frantic efforts to get on deck. The water was pouring down into the hold in great torrents and it was all we could do to make our way against it. Everything happened with startling suddenness. A minute or two after the collision we were drifting past the Berwick in the full glare of the searchlights. The next thing I remember is being dragged into one of the rescuing boats in a semi-conscious condition."

Girl Adopts Man of 46.

Boston, Special.—By the action of the Superior Court at Lowell, James Butler, aged 46, legally becomes the adopted son of Miss Wilhelmina Crawford, a young woman of 28. Butler was raised by Miss Crawford's parents and the girl declares that she entertains a most motherly feeling toward him, despite the disparity in their years.

Negro's Educational Needs.

Chicago, Special. — Educational needs of the negro in the South were described by Booker T. Washington, principal of the Tuskegee Institute. The meeting was arranged by a committee of prominent citizens with a view of forming a permanent organization to encourage interest in the schooling that is given at Tuskegee. Mr. Washington declared that education as a force for the uplift of the negro had not been given a sufficient test to warrant judgment as to its efficiency.

THE HEPBURN BILL

Features of the Proposed Law Under Discussion

HON. SETH LOW GIVES OPINION

Samuel Gompers Declares That Organized Labor Would Rather Endure the Sherman Anti-Trust Law as Applied by the United States Supreme Court Than Submit to Having Its Contracts With Employers Passed on by a Commissioner.

Washington, Special.—The statement by Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, that organized labor would rather endure the Sherman anti-trust law as applied by the United States Supreme Court than submit to registration, as proposed by the amendatory bill drafted by the National Civic Federation and introduced in the House by Mr. Hepburn, of Iowa, was one of the features of a hearing on that bill before a subcommittee of the House Judiciary committee.

The speakers in addition to Mr. Gompers were President Seth Low, of the National Civic Federation; Prof. J. W. Jenks, of Cornell University, as counsel for the Federation; Daniel Davenport, of Bridgeport, Conn. for the National Anti-Boycott Association, and George F. Monahan, of Detroit, counsel for the National Founders' Association, an organization of manufacturers employing 250,000 men.

No Inter-State Boycott.

The chief speaker was Professor Jenks, who discussed the bill in its various phases and answered a running fire of questions from members of the committee and interested persons. He made it plain that so far as he and the National Civic Federation are concerned they desire to change to be made in the Sherman law that would authorize an inter-State boycott, as defined by the anthracite coal commission.

Mr. Gompers declared that organized labor does not want its contracts with employers to be passed on as to their reasonableness or unreasonableness by a commissioner; that rather would labor submit to the law as it now stands. Further hearing on the bill was postponed to Thursday, April 16th.

President Seth Low of the National Civic Federation made a statement when the committee met as to the purposes of the bill under consideration.

Suspension of Hostilities.

Asheville, N. C., Special.—It is rumored here that a "suspension of hostilities" is probable in the South Carolina dispensary matter. Recently Judge Pritchard granted the motion of counsel for the dispensary winding-up commission for a supersedeas bond fixing the amount at \$250,000, the sum represented by the claims of the complainants. It was not thought that this bond would be made. In fact counsel at first declared plainly that they would not or could not make such a bond. Subsequently, however, they have expressed, it is understood, a willingness to make the bond. At the time nothing was said about a deposit of the securities, but Judge Pritchard incorporated this provision in his order. The dispensary commission didn't like this phase of the matter but it is now believed that it will make the bond and also deposit the securities. In fact Asheville gentlemen interested in the case have this information semi-officially. In the event that this is done the receivers recently appointed by Judge Pritchard will not make demand for the trust fund of \$800,000.

Street Cars Tied Up in Pensacola.

Pensacola, Fla., Special.—Street car traffic in Pensacola is at a standstill owing to the fact that the conductors and motormen are on a strike. They quit work because the company wanted men whom they had suspended to report at the offices three times a day. The men refused and their comrades struck out of sympathy.

Child Labor and Education.

Atlanta, Ga., Special.—A discussion of child labor in its relation to education, in which many prominent delegates participated, was the feature of Friday's session of the National Child Labor Conference. Friday evening Dr. Felix Adler, of New York spoke on "The Basis of the Anti-Child-Labor Movement in the Idea of American Civilization." Don Marquis, editor of Uncle Remus Magazine, discussed "The Child and the Mill," and addresses were made by several others.