If you want to reach the people of the Piedmont section put your ads in THE GRIT.

THE SILER CITY GRIT.

Largest circulation of any paper in the county. Excellent Advertising Medium. Jo

ISAAC S. LONDON, Proprietor

A NON-PARTISAN FAMILY NEWSPAPER

$1.00 A YEAR

VOL. VII. SILER CITY, N. C., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1911. NO. 31.

WHEN A MAN MARRIES

BY MARY ROBERTS RINEHART
AUTHOR of THE CIRCULAR STAIRCASE—THE MAN IN LOWER TEN, ETC.

COPYRIGHT, 1909, BY THE BOBBS-MERRILL COMPANY

SYNOPSIS.

James Wilson or Jimmy as he is called by his friends. Jimmy was rotund and looked shorter than he really was. His ambition in life was to be taken seriously. His people steadily refused to do so, his aid is considered a huge joke, except to himself, if he asked people to dinner everyone expected a frolic. Jimmy marries Bella Knowles; they live together a year and are divorced. Jimmy's friends arrange to celebrate the first anniversary of his divorce. Those who attend the party are Miss Katherine McNair, who rents one calls Kit, Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Reed, the Misses Mercer, Maxwell Reed and a Mr. Thomas Harbison, a South American civil engineer. The party is in full swing when Jimmy receives a telegram from his Aunt Selina, who will arrive in four hours to visit him and his wife. Jimmy gets his funds from Aunt Selina and after he marries she doubles his allowance. He neglects to tell her of his divorce, as she is opposed to it. Jimmy takes Kit into his confidence, he tries to devise some way so that his aunt will not learn that he has no longer a wife. He suggests that Kit play the hostess for one night, he Mrs. Wilson pro tem. Kit refuses, but is finely prevailed upon to act the part. Aunt Selina arrives and the deception works out as planned, as she had never seen Jim's wife. Jim's Jap servant is taken ill, his face is covered with spots. Bella, Jimmy's divorced wife, enters the house and asks Kit who is being taken away in the ambulance? Bella insists it is Jim. Kit tells her Jim is well and is in the house. Bella tells Kit it wasn't Jim she wanted to see, but Takahiro, the Jap servant, as she wished to secure his services.

CHAPTER IV. (Continued.)

"It's immoral," I protested. "It's immoral to steal your—"

"My own butler!" she broke in impatiently. "You're not usually so scrupulous, Kit. Hurry! I hear that hateful Anne Brown."

So we slid back along the hall, and I rang for Takahiro. But no one came.

"I think I ought to tell you, Bella," I said as we waited, and Bella was staring around the room—"I think you ought to know that Miss Caruthers is here." Bella shrugged her shoulders.

"Well, thank goodness," she said. "I don't have to see her. The only pleasant thing I remember about my year of married life is that I did not meet Aunt Selina."

I rang again, but still there was no answer. And then it occurred to me that the stillness below stairs was almost oppressive. Bella was noticing things, too, for she began to fasten her veil again with a malicious little smile.

"One of the things I remember my late husband saying," she observed, "was that he could manage this house, and had done it for years, with flawless service. Stand on the bell, Kit."

I did. We stood there, with the table, just as it had been left, between us and waited for a response. Bella was growing impatient. She raised her eyebrows (she is very handsome, Bella is) and flung out her skin as if she had begun to enjoy the horrible situation.

I thought I heard a rattle of silver from the pantry just then, and I hurried to the door in a rage. But the pantry was empty of servants and full of dishes, and all the lights were out but one, which was burning dimly. I could have sworn that I saw one of the servants duck into the stairway to the basement, but when I got there the stairs were empty, and something was burning in the kitchen below.

Bella had followed me and was peering over my shoulder curiously.

"There isn't a servant in the house," she said triumphantly. And when we went down to the kitchen, she seemed to be right. It was in disgraceful order, and one of the bottles of wine that had been banished from the dining room sat half empty on the floor.

"Drunk!" Bella said with conviction. But I didn't think so. There had not been time enough, for one thing. Suddenly I remembered the ambulance that had been the cause of Bella's appearance—for no one could believe her silly story about Takahiro. I simply left her there, staring helplessly at the confusion, and ran upstairs again; through the dining room, past Jimmy and Aunt Selina, past Lela Mercer and Max, who were flirting on the stairs, up, up to the servants' bedrooms, and there my suspicions were verified. There was every evidence of a hasty flight; in three bedrooms five trunks stood locked and ominous, and the closets yawned with open door, empty. Bella had been right; there was not a servant in the house.

As I emerged from the untidy emptiness of the servants' wing, I met Mr. Harbison coming out of the studio.

"I wish you would let me do some of this running about for you, Mrs. Wilson," he said gravely. "You are not well, and I can't think of anything worse for a headache. Has the butler's illness clogged the household machinery?"

"Worse," I replied, trying not to breathe in gasps. "I wouldn't be running around—like this—but there is not a servant in the house! They have gone, the entire lot."

"That's odd," he said slowly. "Gone! Are you sure?"

In reply I pointed to the servants' wing. "Trunks packed," I said tragically, "rooms empty, kitchen and pantries full of dishes. Did you ever hear of anything like it?"

"Never," he asserted. "It makes me suspect—" What he suspected he did not say; instead he turned on his heel, without a word of explanation, and ran down the stairs. I stood staring after him, wondering if every one in the place had gone crazy. Then I heard Betty Mercer scream and the rest talking loud and laughing, and Mr. Harbison came up the stairs again two at a time.

"How long has that Jap been ailing, Mrs. Wilson?" he asked.

"I—I don't know," I replied helplessly. "What is the trouble, anyhow?"

"I think he probably has something contagious," he said, "and it has scared the servants away. As Mr. Brown said, he looked spotty. I suggested to your husband that it might be as well to get the house emptied—in case we are correct."

"Oh, yes, by all means," I said eagerly. "I couldn't get away too soon. I'll go and get my—" Then I stopped. Why, the man wouldn't expect me to leave; I would have to play out the wretched farce to the end!

"I'll go down and see them off," I finished lamely, and we went together down the stairs.

Just for the moment I forgot Bella altogether. I found Aunt Selina bonneted and cloaked, taking a stirrup cup of Pomona for her nerves, and the rest throwing on their wraps in a hurry. Downstairs Max was telephoning for his car, which wasn't due for an hour, and Jim was walking up and down, swearing under his breath. With the prospect of getting rid of them all, and of going home comfortably to try to forget the whole wretched affair, I cheered up quite a lot. I even played up my part of hostess, and Dallas told me, aside, that I was a brick.

Just then Jim threw open the front door.

There was a man on the top step, with his mouth full of tacks, and he was nailing something to the door, just below Jim's Florentine bronze knocker, and standing back with his head on one side to see if it was straight.

"What are you doing?" Jim demanded fiercely, but the man only drove another tack. It was Mr. Harbison who stepped outside and read the card.

It said "Smallpox."

"Smallpox," Mr. Harbison read, as if he couldn't believe it. Then he turned to us, huddled in the hall.

"It seems it wasn't measles, after all," he said cheerfully. "I move we get into Mr. Reed's automobile out there, and have a vaccination party. I suppose even you blase society folk have not exhausted that kind of diversion."

But the man on the step spat his tacks in his hand and spoke for the first time.

He Was Nailing Something to the Door.

"No, you don't," he said. "Not on your life. Just step back, please, and close the door. This house is quarantined."

CHAPTER V.

From the Tree of Love.

There is hardly any use trying to describe what followed. Anne Brown began to cry, and talk about the children. (She went to Europe once and stayed until they all got over the whooping cough.) And Dallas said he had a pull, because his mill controlled I forgot how many votes, and the thing to do was to be quiet and comfortable and we would get out in the morning. Max took it as a huge joke, and somebody found him at the telephone, calling up his club. The Mercer girls were hysterically giggling, and Aunt Selina sat on a stiff-backed chair and took aromatic spirits of ammonia. As for Jim, he had collapsed on the lowest step of the stairs, and sat there with his head in his hands. When he did look up, he didn't dare to look at me.

The Harbison man was arguing with the impassive individual on the top step outside, and I saw him get out his pocketbook and offer a crisp bundle of bills. But the man from the board of health only smiled and tacked at his offensive sign. After a while Mr. Harbison came in and closed the door, and we stared at one another.

"I know what I'm going to do," I said, swallowing a lump in my throat. "I'm going to get out through a basement window at the back. I'm going home."

"Home!" Aunt Selina gasped, jumping up and almost dropping her ammonia bottle. "My dear Bella! Home?"

Jimmy groaned at the foot of the stairs, but Anne Brown was getting over her tears and now she turned on me in a temper.

"It's all your fault," she said. "I was going to stay at home and get a little sleep—"

"Well, you can sleep now," Dallas broke in. "There'll be nothing to do but sleep."

"I think you haven't grasped the situation, Dal," I said icily. "There will be plenty to do. There isn't a servant in the house!"

"No servants!" everybody cried at once. The Mercer girls stopped giggling.

"Holy cats!" Max stopped in the act of hanging up his overcoat. "Do you mean—why, I can't shave myself! I'll cut my head off."

"You'll do more than that," I retorted grimly. "You will carry coal and tend fires and empty ash pans, and when you are not doing any of those things there will be pots and pans to wash and beds to make."

Then there was a row. We had worked back to the den now, and I stood in front of the fireplace and let the storm beat around me, and tried to look perfectly cold and indifferent, and not to see Mr. Harbison's shocked face. No wonder he thought them a lot of savages, browbeating their hostess the way they did.

"It's a fool thing anyhow," Max Reed wound up, "to celebrate the anniversary of a divorce—especially—" Here he caught Jim's eye and stopped. But I had suddenly remembered. Bella down in the basement!

Could anything have been worse? And of course she would have hysteria and then turn on me and blame me for it all. It all came over me at once and overwhelmed me, while Anne was crying and saying she wouldn't cook if she starved for it, and Aunt Selina was taking off her wraps. I felt queer all over, and I sat down suddenly. Mr. Harbison was looking at me, and he brought me a glass of wine.

"It won't be so bad as you fear," he said comfortingly. "There will be no danger once we are vaccinated, and many hands make light work. They are pretty raw now, because the thing is new to them, but by morning they will be reconciled."

"It isn't the work: It is something entirely different," I said. And it was. Bella and work could hardly be spoken in the same breath.

If I had only turned her out as she deserved to be, when she first came, instead of allowing her to carry through the wretched farce about seeing Takahiro! Or if I had only run to the basement the moment the house was quarantined, and got her out the areaway or coal hole! And now time was flying, and Aunt Selina had me by the arm, and any moment I expected Bella to pounce on us through the doorway and the whole situation to explode with a bang.

It was after eleven before they were rational enough to discuss ways and means, and, of course, the first thing suggested was that we all adjourn below stairs and clean up after dinner. I could have slain Max Reed for the notion, and the Mercer girls for taking him up.

"Of course we will," they said in a duet. "What a lark!" And they actually began to pin up their dinner gowns. It was Jim who stopped that.

"Oh, look here, you people," he objected, "I'm not going to let you do that. We'll get some servants in tomorrow. I'll go down and put out the lights. There will be enough clean dishes for breakfast."

It was lucky for me that this started a new discussion then and there about who would get the breakfast. In the midst of the excitement I slipped away to carry the news to Bella. She was where I had left her, and she had made herself a cup of tea, and was very much at home, which was natural.

"Do you know," she said ominously, "that you have been away for two hours? And that I have gone through agonies of nervousness for fear Jim Wilson would come down and think I came here to see him."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Another Kind.

"Ha!" said the Russian count, with a fierce scowl on his Muscovite features. "This worm of an American writer has insulted me with his pen!"

"Has he written a biting satire about you?" inquired the fair charmer to whom he spoke.

"Nothing so gentlemanly!" yelled the count. "He has named his pig after me!"

Not Boseley's Style.

Lush—That man Boseley is a regular sponge.

Nipton—You're unjust to the sponge, old man.

Lush—How's that?

Nipton—When a sponge gets soaked it loosens up.

FARMER WILSON TELLS SOUTH HOW TO FARM

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE GIVES SOUND ADVICE TO COMMERCIAL CONGRESS.

COMPLIMENTS CORN CLUBS

Boys of South Are Showing Their Elders That Corn Can Be Profitably Grown.

Atlanta.—The methods and progress of the work of cattle tick eradication consumed much of the discussion by Secretary Wilson, when he delivered his address on "The Agricultural Obligation of the South." He said:

"The government has recognized the importance of this work, and this year the department of agriculture was given $250,000 for the work and counties and states have given $175,000, which will go a long way and do much good.

"Your lands are becoming more valuable each year," he continued, "and if you keep up your courage your lands will bring $100 per acre. I say if you keep up your courage; to tell the truth, I never knew the time when you were not courageous."

In speaking of the dairy industry, Secretary Wilson said that less than two per cent. of the cheese consumed in the South was manufactured here. He said that much of the butter and other dairy products was shipped into the South.

"I want to see the time when the South can feed itself," said he. "I have taken a great interest in the South's dairying and want to see the business a success. But you can't operate successfully until you have ridden your cattle of the tick."

The subject of peaches and the diseases which cost the crop large amounts occupied its share of the secretary's time. He told of the department's efforts to give instruction to the peach growers so that they would know how to check the ravages of a fruit disease and save many dollars.

When the subject of cotton was reached Secretary Wilson lingered for some time, going into the subject of the boll weevil, black root and other setbacks to the crop.

Mr. Wilson told of how money had been made from peanuts where the boll weevil held sway and prevented the planters from making much on the cotton crop. He said that the peanut oil could be made a profitable product.

Pasturage was a theme which he gave a most interesting discourse on. He told of the various crops of grass for pasturage and for hay, and cited the benefits to be derived from such crops, and the enormous profits to the grower.

Cereals were given his attention for a while, after which he took up the discussion of Florida fruits and told of the new varieties being made and how experiments were panning out. Tobacco was touched on lightly; a brief review of the work already done in this industry being given.

"The South must raise all of her food supply," said he, "and I want to say a few things here about our farm demonstration work. The stumps in the fields must go. You must get rid of them and use that land.

"There is a practice to send the women to work in the fields of the South; this is too expensive — the women can make more around the house. Let them raise poultry; that industry can be carried on successfully by them and there is much good money in it. Then they can engage in gardening and dairying also, which are likewise great money industries."

A compliment of worth was paid to the boys' corn clubs of the South as the secretary reached the subject of corn raising. He said that it took the boys of the South to show their elders that corn could be grown to a great profit in the South. He told of one lad whose father wouldn't allow him to have a horse or mule to cultivate his acre of corn to enter a contest, so the little fellow took his goat and harnessed it to a plow and actually cultivated an acre of corn. An other, he said, cultivated his acre with a calf as his motive power to pull the plow.

No Leadership for Bailey.

Columbia, S. C.—Senator Tillman says the Democratic leadership in the senate ought to be conferred on Bailey, for whose ability he has considerable admiration, but there is a coterie in the upper house which is jealous of the Texan, and it is not likely that the honor will go to him. It may be that Culberson will again be the Democratic leader. Senator Tillman says there is nothing new in a tarifi fight, and as his health requires attention, he may not return to Washington for the extra session.

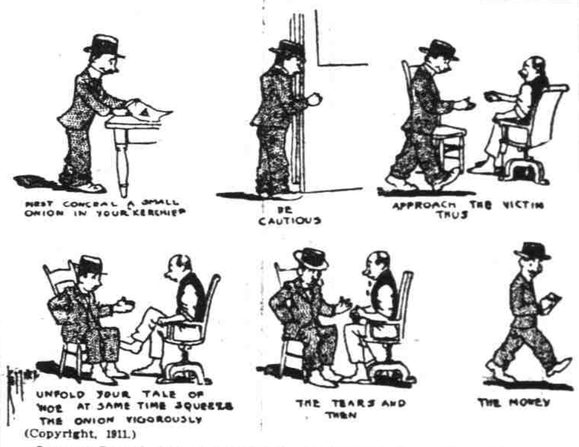
International War Suggested.

Mexico City, Mexico.—El Tiempo suggests that international war might follow the intervention of the United States in Mexico, and sarcastically ventures the opinion that the Americans would find this bad for "business," the English word being used. The paper thinks annexation is almost sure. The paper sums up the progress being made in the suppression of the revolution, finds it satisfactory and concludes with the statement that the fate of the country now rests with the government.

Big Still Destroyed.

Atlanta.—A new copy still of 250 gallons capacity was destroyed, and 5,000 gallons of beer were poured in a stream running by when Deputy Collector Williams found one of the largest seen in recent years in the foothills of Cherokee county. Chief Surber was notified a few days ago that a big plant might be found in the Cherokee hills, and detailed Williams to undertake the task. Before daylight the officer appeared upon the scene and surprised the moonshiners at work.

WANT TO MAKE A TOUCH?



(Copyright, 1911.)

Carry a Raw Onion, One Will Be Sufficient to Bring Enough Sympathy. Producing Tears to Easily Effect a Loan of Five Dollars.

DISEASE STATISTICS GIVEN

INFANTILE PARALYSIS IS GENERALLY PREVALENT OVER THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.

Census Bureau's Bulletin on Mortality Statistics for 1909 Issued.

Washington. — There were 569 deaths from acute anterior poliomyelitis, or infantile paralysis, 116 from pellagra, 55 from rabies or hydrophobia, and nine from leprosy in 1909 in the death registration area of continental United States, which comprises over 55 per cent. of the total population, according to the census bureau's bulletin on mortality statistics for 1909.

Of the 569 deaths from infantile paralysis, 562 were white and only 17 colored. There was a somewhat greater number of cases among males and an increased mortality in August, September and October.

The bulletin states that no statistical segregation of infantile paralysis as a cause of death has been made heretofore, but the increasing importance of the disease and its wide prevalence throughout the country in the form of local epidemics render a statement of the mortality important. It chiefly affects children in the first five years of life, and while not infrequently fatal, is of even more serious consequence as the cause of more or less permanent paralysis and atrophy of muscles.

The deaths from infantile paralysis in the registration states numbered as follows: California 12 (1 in San Francisco); Colorado 6 (1 in Denver); Connecticut 6 (1 in New Haven); District of Columbia (city of Washington),1; Indiana 14; Maine 6; Maryland 4 (1 in Baltimore); Massachusetts 62 (21 in Boston and 1 in Worcester); Michigan 16 (2 in Detroit); New Hampshire 11; New Jersey 24 (2 in Jersey City, 6 in Newark); New York 115 (2 in Buffalo, 64 in Greater New York, 2 in Rochester, 1 in Syracuse); Ohio 16 ((1 in Cincinnati, 2 in Cleveland); Pennsylvania 76 (8 in Philadelphia, 8 in Pittsburg, 1 in Scranton); Rhode Island 4 (3 in Providence); South Dakota 6; Vermont 2; Washington 5, and Wisconsin 51 (1 in Milwaukee).

The disease does not seem particularly to affect the large cities of 100,000 population and over. For the none-registration states there were, in the registration cities only, deaths as follows:

Alabama 2; Illiniois 19 (17 in Chicago); Kentucky 2 (1 in Louisville), Louisiana 1 (New Orleans); Minnesota 82 (21 in Minnepaolis, 53 in St. Paul); Missouri 5 (1 in Kansas City, 4 in St. Louis); Nebraska 8 (Omaha), North Carolina 1; Oregon 2 (Portland); South Carolina 1 (Charleston); Tennessee 1, Texas 2, Utah 3 and Virginia 3.

Pellagra is a new disease in the mortality statistics. Only 23 deaths were returned from this cause for 1908 and no deaths for any previous year except one for 1904.

Race Riot in Pennsylvania.

Pittsburg, Pa.—In a riot between white men and negroes on a street car at Braddock, a suburb, eleven men, five women and a baby, sustained injuries, a number of them serious. Several shots were fired, but none of them took effect. The trouble started when two negroes were asked to step into the car from a rear platform in order that a woman carrying a baby might board the car. An insulting remark from one of the negroes angered the whites and a free-for-all fight started.

90 Persons Die in Fire.

St. Petersburg, Russia.—Ninety persons, many of whom were children were burned to death and forty others injured in a fire that destroyed a moving picture theater at Bologole. The flames quickly enveloped the building, cutting off every avenue of escape. Futile attempts at rescue were made by those who happened to be close to the exits, when the fire started, and by those from the outside, but the fury of the flames drove them back before they could reach the shrieking victims.

Canada Favors Reciprocity.

Ottawa, Ont.—That the reciprocity agreement with the United States will be confirmed by parliament as soon as it is possible to reach a vote was the decision reached by the liberal supporters of the government in a caucus behind closed doors. Sir Wilfred Laurier and the other members of the government were present, and were commended for the agreement. The Liberal reciprocity bolters stated that while they were against the agreement, they were loyal on all other issues.

BALLINGER HAS RESIGNED

Walter L. Fisher of Chicago Appointed Secretary of Interior by Taft.

Washington.—The resignation of Richard A. Ballinger of Seattle as secretary of the interior was accepted by President Taft, and Walter L. Fisher of Chicago was appointed as his successor.

It appears in the correspondence between Mr. Ballinger and the president, which was given out in full by the white house, that the secretary's resignation has been in the president's hands since January 19 last; that it was held in suspense at the urgent request of the president, and that the latter at last accepted it only at the urgent request of Mr. Ballinger. In his letter of resignation Mr. Ballinger gives the condition of his health as the reason for retiring.

In giving his consent to the secretary's retirement Mr. Taft takes occasion to declare with marked emphasis his unchanging faith in the integrity, the motives and the official standards of Mr. Ballinger.

Walter Lowie Fisher, Mr. Ballinger's successor, is a Republican, and has been notably active in the movement for the conservation of national resources.

MUST PAY STATE DEBT.

Supreme Court Decides West Virginia Owes Virginia $7,182,507.

Washington.—Sitting in the unusual capacity of a board of auditors, the Supreme court of the United States computed that the state of West Virginia was under obligations to pay over $7,000,000 of the $33,000,000 debt of Virginia, which existed when the new state was formed. It was the biggest problem in arithmetic the Supreme court has had to handle in many years. The exact figure held by the court to be the proper proportion of the old debt which West Virginia is under obligation to bear was $7,182,507.

GOLD COINAGE STOPPED.

No More Gold Coins Will Be Made for Three Years.

Washington.—The mints stopped clicking off gold coins when President Taft signed the bill which congress passed permitting the secretary of the treasury to issue gold certificates against gold bullion and foreign gold coin.

Although no more gold will be coined for about three years, there will be plenty on hand in the treasury vaults for all who want it, and in the meantime treasury officials estimate the government will save about $300,000 a year.

Cotton Acreage Reduced.

Atlanta.—"Fifty per cent. comes off the sea island cotton acreage for the coming season, according to the pledges of the growers," said President C. S. Barrett of the Farmers' union, upon his return from Waycross, where he attended a conference of the sea island cotton growers for the states of Georgia, South Carolina and Florida. Mr. Barrett said there would be a final conference of the sea island cotton growers set for some time in the middle spring season.

"Lucky" Baldwin's Will Unbroken.

Los Angeels, Cal.—The jury in the case of Beatrice Anita Baldwin Turnbull, the 17-year-old Boston girl seeking a one-sixth share of the $11,000,000 estate of "Lucky" Baldwin under instructions from the court, reached a verdict adverse to the claimant. The attorneys for the contestant noted an exception to the instructed verdict and answered that they would take an appeal direct to the supreme court. The Baldwin estate was appraised at $11,000,000, but is said to be worth twice that sum.

Steamship Company on Trial.

Savannah, Ga.—The Merchants and Miners' Transportation company was placed on trial in the United States circuit court, in a case alleging violation of the interstate commerce laws regulating rates on traffic between states in which the Atlantic Coast Line and the Seaboard Air Line railways and Harvey C. and Morris F. Fuller of Philadelphia are involved. The transportation companies are charged with allowing rebates on shipments of grain to the south by the Philadelphia firm.

Explosion Wrecks Town.

Kenosha, Wis.—With a roar that was heard for fifty miles, a glare that was seen fully as far, and with a concussion that broke windows more than a hundred miles away, three carloads of dynamite at the plant of the Du Pont-Nemours company exploded at the village of Pleasant Prairie, six miles west of this city. Nearly every house in the village, which contains 700 residents, has been badly damaged and some of them utterly demolished. Only one man was killed by the explosion.

THE CLOSING SCENES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 1911 WORKED FOUR DAYS OVERTIME WITHOUT PAY.

ANTI TRUST LAW MUTILATED

Bills Passed and Enrolled and Acts Ratified—Pet Measures Knocked in the Head—A Great Change in State Taxing System.

Raleigh.—On the sixty-fourth day the gavels of the president of the senate and speaker of the house of representatives fell simultaneously for final adjournment of the 1911 session of the North Carolina general assembly, four days more than the constitution of the state would allow the members pay for. This adjournment followed the ratification of the final batch of acts and resolutions passed by the assembly, there having been passed and duly ratified during the session 1,460 acts and 53 resolutions. Compared with this work for the session just adjourned, it is interesting to note that the 1909 session passed and ratified 1,318 bills and 56 resolutions.

The final roll-calls in the two branches of the assembly just before adjournment showed the following honor roll of those who remained at their posts to the end:

Senators—Armstrong, Baggett, Barber, Barham, Barnes, Bassett, Bellamy, Brown, Carpenter, Cobb, Cotten, Coxe, Davis, Graham, Green, Hartsell, Hawkins, Hicks, Hobgood, Holden, Johnson, Kitchin, London, Long, Martin of Buncombe, Martin of Washington, Pharr, Rascoe, Sigmon, Sikes, Starbuck, Williams.

Representatives. — Speaker Dowd Battle, Brown, Buck, Caviness, Clement, Connor, Dillard of Cherokee, Herbert, Johnson of Orange, Kellum, Kirkman, Koonce, Latham, Long, Majette, Markham, McNeill, McPhaul, Pace, Pethel, Rawles, Ray, Roberts, Rodwell, Ross, Rose, Smith of Caswell, Stroupe, Stubbs, Turlington, Williams of Buncombe, Wooten.

The 1911 Closing Scenes.

While the legislators were waiting for the enrollment of bills or ratification during the morning hours, the senate and house indulged in a number of notable ceremonies. The famous drum corps of the L. O'B. Branch camp, Confederate veterans, composed of J. J. Lewis, W. T. Johnson and W. B. Royster, known throughout the South, visited both houses and was given a great ovation. In the house Speaker Dowd surrendered the chair to Representativ McGill of Cumberland, whose likeness to "Uncle Joe" Cannon is so striking that a cigar was given the proper angle in his mouth while he presided and the drum corps stirred enthusiasm with drum and fife. There were stirring speeches and a goodly collection was taken for the three veterans of the corps. At one stage of the demonstration Representative Williams of Buncombe presided and made a speech that stirred special enthusiasm and gave evidence of decided oratorical powers.

In an occasional grind of legislative work, an attempt was made to pass the bill to allow the penitentiary wardens $300 extra for electrocution duties, but threats to raise the question of a quorum necessitated surrender of the friends of the bill, which passed second reading the night before but came over on objection to final reading.

Toothless Anti-Trust Bill.

The substitute for the Turlington house anti-trust bill as it came from the senate committee on judiciary, and passed the senate was concurred in by the house, and is now ratified in materially different form from the Turlington bill as it passed the house. So much so that Mr. Turlington says he could scarcely recognize it in that its teeth are, he claims, completely extracted. He was in the chair in the house when the bill came up for concurrence in the senate substitute. Ross of Harnett commented that the bill seemed to be all that could be gotten from the senate and he moved concurrence. Rose of Cumberland asked him if there were any semblance of teeth or even gums in the revised bill. The reply came, endorsed by Turlington in the speaker's chair, that there might be some part of the gums left but that they were bleeding terribly.

Jaw Teeth Extracted.

As passed, the bill has the features eliminated that required officers of corporations to take oath that their corporations are not violating the state anti-trust law; the feature prohibiting use of coupons, prizes, and such in aiding sale of merchandise; the feature that would enable solicitors or attorney general to require books, and papers for examination without order of court; the requirement to be for a judge to make such order and for examination to be made in the presence of the judge; it cuts out that feature that would award triple damages against trusts in civil cases, and reduces the fund that the governor is to have at his command for working up the case for the prosecution in impending cases from $10,000 to $5,000.

It was after a two hours' debate that the senate adopted the judiciary committee substitute for the Turlington house anti-trust bill by a vote of 22 to 20. Advocates of the substitute, notably Senators Bassett, Hartsell and Graham, contended especially that a corporation desiring to do business in this state should not be required to make oath that it will not violate the law, this being the principle charge discussed. They argued that corporations should be treated with the same fairness accorded to individuals. Senator Hobgood led the fight for the Turlington bill, and others who spoke for it were Senators Green, Holden, Rascoe, Long and Baggett. The substitute then passed second and third readings by unanimous vote, and was sent to the house where there was concurrence, and an order for enrollment.

Bills Passed in the Senate.

Bills were passed and ordered enrolled in the senate to allow the state treasurer to give notes not exceeding $250,000 if the new revenue act does not provide sufficient money to meet the expenses of the ensuing two years; establish a school for youthful colored criminals at Asheville; amend charter of the Grand Lodge, Knights of Pythias; authorize the corporation commission to prescribe rules regarding checking baggage under the act requiring railroads to provide better facilities at stations for persons riding on mileage; regulate the public printing by limiting the amount each department shall provide, thereby saving the state $16,000 annually through eliminating duplication.

The senate bill to allow $25 a month for an additional assistant in the state library came from the senate to the house and objection was made to its passage on final reading. It was favored by a number, but the point was raised that it was new legislation contrary to a resolution adopted that assured members departing for their homes that there would be no further new legislation. The bill was tabled.

Change in Taxing System.

It is a notable fact that the new machinery act for the application of the revenue act of the legislature just adjourned adds $500 a year each to the salaries of the members of the Corporation commission on account of increased duties that the machinery bill requires of them as a state tax commission. These duties include the appointment in April of each year of a county tax assessor in each county, personal visits on the part of members of the commission to each of the counties to instruct the assessor and the assistant assessors in the townships and town wards and the general supervision of the assessment work the state over, including equalization of the standards of property valuations in the respective counties. This is the most decided change that the legislature made in the taxing system and was a compromise between the leaders who insisted on a separate state tax commission for immediate radical steps to equalize tax values in the counties or rather between the counties and those who believed that the advance to equitable basis should be gradual and through the present commission. This is the year for general reassessment of real estate in North Carolina, which recurs every fourth year, and very considerd advances are expected to be made in real estate values and the purpose is to force a number of counties now considered to have especially low standards of valuation for taxes to raise them materially.

Invitation to Military Officers.

The staff and line officers of the North Carolina state militia along with the militia officers of other states are to be asked to witness the "maneuvers" of the regular army of the United States to take place in Texas and on the Mexican frontier. General Wood, chief of staff of the army, said that he could not say how many North Carolinians would be invited, but that the representation from each state interested would be the same. This will be a good schooling for senior officers.

Method of Assessing Property.

Only three counties in the state have an average land value higher than Cleveland. The method of assessing property is all wrong. In every county but eight the assessed value of land per acre is less than $10. Cleveland pays its just share of the taxes and is always willing to bear its part of the burden of running the government. Cleveland land is vlued at $11.39 an acre. The three counties that are higher are Gaston, $26.11, Buncombe $17.03 and New Hanover, $15.58.

Committee Places Are Scarce.

Washington papers are already figuring on what committee places will come to the members of the North Carolina delegation in Congress when the announcements are made just prior to the assembling of the extra session on April 4. So far as they have it now, North Carolina has only one chairmanship in sight—that on reform in the civil service—which they say will go to Representative Godwin. It is considered ridiculous for North Carolina to get only one chairmanship of a committee.

Mail Clerk in Wreck.

Mail Clerk J. R. Tally, on the Norfolk Southern railroad, was painfully injured in an accident that befell the incoming Norfolk Southern train due here from Norfolk, in which the passenger train ran into an open switch at Middlesex and collided with a freight train standing on the siding. The right shoulder of the mail clerk was badly wrenched. He is in Rex hospital here. The engine of the passenger train lost its pilot in the collision. In some way the switch had been left open.

Wake County's Advancement.

Wake county leads off with right considerable innovation in the way of agricultural advancement in that her representatives procured from the general assembly a special act for empowering the county commissioners and the county board of ducation to provide an agricultural instructor for the county at a salary of $1,800. He is to carry on demonstration work in the various sections of the county and devote considerable time to the agricultural instruction in the rural schools.

Changes in Greensboro Daily News.

Application came to the secretary of state for a charter for the Greensboro Daily News company of Greensboro, the stockholders being the purchasers of the good will and plant from the former management that sold out to W. A. Hildebrand. George B. Crater and others January 25th. The new corporation has $10,000 capital paid in and $100,000 authorized. The incorporators are W. A. Hildebrand, George B. Crater and Charles H. McKnight. A general newspaper publishing business is authorized.