

NORTH STATE HAPPENINGS

Occurrences of Interest Gleaned From All Sections of the Busy Tar Heel State

Trying a Puzzling Case.

Raleigh, Special.—A great many people were in the Superior Court room watching a trial for murder, which is certainly unique here—that of "Boots" Brown, the negro who seven years ago shot his paramour at the door of her home on Carroll alley, in the southern part of this city. She walked into the house after she was shot and there fell dead and Brown disappeared. The supreme question is whether the man on trial is or is not Brown. He is very fat and smiles nearly all the time. It is said that Brown was by no means a large negro and that this man has really no resemblance to him. On the one hand it has been said that Brown's brothers had not been near him while in jail, on the ground that they felt certain he was their brother; but on the other hand it is said they did not go to see him because they were convinced he was not Brown at all. The jurors were asked whether they had formed an opinion that the man was or was not "Boots" Brown. Around the streets there was no end of argument as to whether the man was or was not Brown and a number of business men who knew Brown said the man on trial was not the criminal. The most interesting feature of the day was the testimony of the prisoner himself. He swore that his name was Willis Wright, and that he left his home at Ivor, not far from Suffolk, Va., when he was 21 years old and that he had not been there since except to pass through on a train. The woman who claims to be his mother swore the same thing. Everybody admits that the case is not only novel and sensational in the extreme but also very puzzling and never were witnesses more at cross-purposes than in this matter of identification of the man.

Serious Shooting Affray.

Washington, N. C., Special.—A shooting affray on the dairy farm of S. Fleming, about one mile from this city, early Friday morning came very nearly resulting in a murder for one of the parties. Two white men employed on the farm, by name of William Haddock and John Williams, became involved in an altercation over a hog, and Haddock went to his residence nearby, returned with a shotgun and fired two loads of No. 8 shot into Williams' breast. It seems that there was bad blood existing between the two for some time and this was the final outcome. Williams fell in his tracks and other parties notified Sheriff Ricks of the shooting. The Sheriff met Haddock on the road to town and arrested him, bringing him to this city, where he was given a preliminary hearing before Justice of the Peace A. Mayo, where he waived all the evidence and pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon. He was bound over to next term of court and remanded to jail.

For Supplemental Libraries.

Raleigh, Special.—The State Superintendent of Public Instruction is sending cards of notification to the various counties, showing how many original and supplementary rural school libraries each is entitled to. In addition to what they have received out of the appropriation for 1907-08. They must apply before November 30th. There are now 1,425 libraries. Each county is entitled to six original and six supplementary libraries each two years. Every county has now some of these libraries, though some counties have very few.

State News in Brief.

Federal Court convenes at Newbern Monday, October 26th. There is a large number of cases on the docket, many of which are blind tiger cases. The oyster supply at Newbern just now is practically nothing. Very few oysters have been brought in to that market and they have brought a high price. The retail price at present is from 40 to 50 cents a quart.

Yet Another Victim Dies.

Salisbury, Special.—W. Fletcher Stafford, who was fatally hurt in the powder magazine explosion at Spencer last week, died at a hospital here Friday from the effects of his injuries, which resulted in blood poisoning, this being the fourth death among the victims of the accident. He was frightfully torn by the flying debris from the magazine, his body being pierced in several hundred places. Mr. Stafford was 33 years old and is survived by a wife, two children, three brothers and two sisters. The interment will be at Graham, Alamance county.

Killed Negro Who Waylaid and Assaulted Him.

Rockingham, Special.—John McInnis shot and killed Sam Harrington Friday morning. McInnis had been out after wood and was returning when he was waylaid and first assaulted by Harrington, who drew a pistol on him. McInnis reached for a gun, which he had with him in the wagon, and fired. Harrington died in a little while. Both parties are colored.

Spontaneous Combustion.

Spencer, Special.—Upon an official investigation by the management of the Southern Railway, spontaneous combustion is assigned as the cause of the great powder magazine explosion in Spencer last week, when three lives were lost and twenty or more employes injured. It is certain that there was nothing but metal in the construction of the building which contained the explosives, and the exact cause of the explosion will probably never be known. It is the opinion of some that a supply of the explosives tumbled down inside the building, causing the powder to ignite.

New Corporations.

Raleigh, Special.—The Bank of Huntersville, Mecklenburg county, was chartered with \$10,000 capital. Charles F. Cline, of Greensboro; B. L. Chast, C. F. Alexander and others of Huntersville, are the incorporators. The bank will do a savings and commercial business.

The Southern Stock and Farming Company of North Carolina, Inc., has received a charter. The principal office is at Brevard, Transylvania county. The capital is \$125,000 authorized and \$30,000 subscribed by B. G. Estes, Charles M. Doyle and others, for farming, gardening, fruit growing, stock raising and general agricultural business, including the sale of farm supplies.

Gins Not Protected.

Raleigh, Special.—It was learned from a very widely known insurance man that insurance companies are not liable for the burning of gins by night-riders or that sort of gentry, who are classed as rioters, a special clause in all policies referring to this matter. The insurance man went on to say that gin owners who are counting on protection of their property by insurance companies had better look after their gins. This is a very fair warning to the people to protect their gins and to meet any night-riders with their own weapons in effect; that is, to use bullets and shot against fire-brands. This is very plain advice.

Waterworks for Lenoir.

Lenoir, Special.—At a special meeting of the town council last week the contracts were awarded for installing a water and sewer system in Lenoir. The successful bidder was Gault & Co., of Chattanooga, Tenn. The two systems will cost approximately \$60,000. The contract for a 500,000-gallon reservoir was awarded the Piedmont Construction Company, Atlanta; for the valves and hydrants to the Fairbanks Company, Baltimore, and for the piping to the Dimmick Pipe Company, Birmingham. J. J. McCreary & Co., of Atlanta, were selected for the city engineers.

W. C. T. U. in Session at Reidsville.

Reidsville, Special.—The North Carolina Woman's Christian Temperance Union opened its twenty-sixth annual convention in the Main Street Methodist church Wednesday night, and the convention will hold three daily sessions, until Sunday night. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. Mary E. Carland, of Greensboro, the vice president of the State organization. Mayor Robert S. Montgomery in gracious terms welcomed the convention to Reidsville.

Reprisals by Serbia.

Vienna, By Cable.—Serbia is retaliating for Austria's occupation of the Austro-Serbia frontier by seizing roads and bridges on the Bosnian border where Austria is yet unprepared to offer resistance. Lieutenant Field Marshal Oskar Potiorek has been appointed commander of the Austrian army.

Items of State Interest.

Mr. G. W. Garrow, of Valdese, Burke county, has succeeded Mr. R. L. Poplin, resigned, as superintendent of the Statesville Knitting Mill. Mr. Garrow has been employed by the Mayo Machine and Needle Company, of Franklin Falls, N. H., and is an experienced mill man.

Mr. H. L. Bush, of Newport News, Va., has become manager of the Postal Telegraph Company at Newbern, succeeding Mr. H. L. Kellogg, who has returned to his home in Washington, D. C., where he will be connected with the Postal.

The trustees of Rex Hospital, Raleigh, has arranged to build a new hospital, largely of concrete, to cost \$36,000. Dr. Hubert Royster will make a gift to it of \$1,000 when the first brick is laid and he pledges \$1,000 for the other physicians of Raleigh.

Senator F. M. Simmons has purchased from Mrs. W. P. Burrus the Burns home on East Front street, Newbern, the consideration being \$9,000.

Japanese Acrobat Slain.

Newton, Special.—F. Kikuchi, a Japanese acrobat, was murdered in the woods two miles from Newton Sunday by another Japanese, Henry Yamagata. The two belonged to a show. The scene of the tragedy was three hundred yards from the house of Mr. George Sigman. Mr. Sigman heard six shots and went into the woods to investigate. As he came to a deep gully, Yamagata was coming up the bank. He pointed down the gully and seemed to say, "A dead man down there."

As Mr. Sigman started in the direction indicated, the man ran off through the woods. Mr. Sigman found a pile of boards in the gully and protruding through them a man's coat, and came to town and informed the sheriff.

A large crowd soon gathered and when the sheriff removed the boards a dead body was found. The murderer hurried to the show tent, changed clothes and made his escape before Mr. Sigman reached town to inform the sheriff. He was arrested in Hickory at 8 o'clock Sunday night and brought here to jail.

The man killed has a special feature with the show in connection with two little Japanese girls and the man who killed him was manager of the troupe. All were working under a Japanese booking agent in Buffalo, N. Y. The show people know nothing as to the motive of the murder. There were found five bullet holes in the man's back.

The State Fair.

Raleigh, Special.—With everything in complete readiness the great State Fair—the most complete and comprehensive in the history of the fair association—opened on Monday with a record attendance, all parts of the State being represented. The number and completeness of the exhibits surpassed all previous fairs. The grounds are in perfect condition and with almost ideal weather conditions the opening was one splendid triumph. The racing, always an attractive feature, was far above the average, many of the fleetest horses of the country being entered. Altogether the State Fair was one to make every loyal North Carolinian feel proud of his State and her matchless resources and achievements.

General Cotton Market.

These figures represent prices paid for spot middling at different points: Charlotte... \$1-2 Columbia... \$1-2 Wilmington... \$3-4 Charleston... \$1-2 Norfolk... \$7-8 Savannah... \$8-60 Galveston... \$9 New Orleans... \$3-4 Mobile... \$8-60 Baltimore... \$9 New York... \$9-10 Boston... \$8-10

Charlotte Produce.

Corn... \$5 Bacon... \$11-12 Lard... \$12 Chickens... \$25 to 50 Eggs... \$28 Butter... \$15 to 30

Briefs of State Interest.

There is being made a strong effort to have a reformatory established in the State for colored youthful criminals.

High Point will have her chrysanthemum show the 1st of November. An attractive list of prizes will be offered and there will be many competitors.

The mayor of Charlotte, together with a large number of influential citizens, made an effort to have Judge Taft speak in that city, but were informed that he could not do so.

A camp of the Woodmen of the World has been organized at Canton by E. E. Clement, district deputy, with a membership of twenty. Officers have been elected, and the camp bids fair to enjoy an era of much prosperity.

The first month of Cooleemee High School closed Friday. The attendance has been about 190. The high school department as well as the other grades is doing good work.

Mr. C. M. Hauser, who with Mr. T. J. Gold was appointed receiver for the People's Building and Loan Association of High Point, has resigned, saying he has not the time to devote to it. Judge Jones has been called upon to name some one else.

Fire Destroys the Southern Pacific Round House.

Beaumont, Tex., Special.—Fire late Wednesday destroyed the Southern Pacific round house and master mechanic's office with a loss to the company of about \$200,000. Nine engines which were in the round house were consumed together with three freight cars. "Judge" Crofts, a colored hostler, was so badly burned that he will die. Several other railroad employes were burned in trying to save property, but none fatally. The fire was caused by the explosion of a tank of oil.

The Whereabouts of the Fleet.

Honolulu, By Cable.—Fragments of a wireless message from Rear Admiral Swinbourne, of the Pacific fleet at 11 o'clock Sunday night contained the information that the fleet was 161.38 west longitude and expected to cast off two torpedo boats which they are towing from Pago Pago, Samoa. The message said that the fleet would reach Honolulu on Tuesday at noon.

CENTENNIAL WEEK OPENS

Hundredth Anniversary of Founding of City of Greensboro Being Celebrated.

Greensboro, Special.—The celebration of Greensboro's one hundredth anniversary was opened Sunday with special services in the city churches. The pulpits were occupied by distinguished sons of North Carolina. All the choirs had prepared special music for the occasion and the congregations were unusually large. In fact, it is doubtful if so many people ever before attended divine services in Greensboro in one day.

The congregation at West Market Street Methodist church was addressed by Rev. Wilbur F. Tillett, D. D., dean of the theological department of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., and a brother of Mr. C. W. Tillett, of Charlotte, who chose for his theme, "The Place of Religion in the Making and the Mission of a Christian Nation." He discussed the connection between a nation's prosperity and its recognition of God and laid down the proposition that perfect prosperity is possible only when all the people praise God. The speaker discussed in a most learned and interesting manner the influence of the Christian religion in the civilization of the world, saying that in no country has the relation between Church and State been adjusted so happily as in the United States.

Great Sermon by Dr. Smith.

The sermon at the First Presbyterian church was delivered by Rev. Samuel M. Smith, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Columbia, S. C., who spoke with great eloquence and power from the passage of Scripture reading: "Except the Lord build a house, they labor in vain that keep it; except the Lord keep a city, the watchman waketh in vain." Dr. Smith spoke of the wonderful progress of Greensboro, with special reference to the esprit de corps exhibited by the citizenship in religion, business and society.

In addition to these great sermons there was a splendid sacred concert at the auditorium in the afternoon and special religious exercises again at night in all the city churches. At least twenty thousand people attended the opening exercises.

The War Department sent the Twelfth Cavalry, a detachment of artillery, several hundred flags and several companies of infantry to participate in the exercises. Tuesday the battle of Guilford Court House will be reproduced. United States troops State militia with two gattling guns and a detachment of artillery will participate.

Will Speak at Salisbury.

Salisbury, Special.—The coming of the Republican presidential candidate Judge William Howard Taft, to Salisbury next Saturday morning, the 17th inst., is being looked upon as a great occasion by this entire section. That this distinguished visitor will be accorded a grand reception by both Democrats and Republicans is assured, and already plans have been inaugurated to give Judge Taft and his party a royal welcome to the Old North State. A reception committee composed of the leading men of the city, two bands of music, and a line of automobiles will meet the distinguished party upon their arrival on a special train over the Western North Carolina Railroad at 9:30 o'clock Saturday morning. They will then be driven to the public square at the intersection of Main and Innis streets, where a grandstand will be erected to accommodate one hundred and fifty people, and here Mr. Taft will make a speech, dealing at length upon the issues of the campaign. The party will spend three and a half hours in Salisbury, and at the close of the speech-making a reception will be tendered Judge Taft and party by Mr. A. H. Price, at the magnificent Price home on North Fulton street. Already the committee in charge of the arrangements are hard at work. One hundred thousand lithographed posters announcing the coming of Mr. Taft are being printed and it is expected that fifteen thousand visitors will be in Salisbury next Saturday, and with these and the home contingent who will turn out it is believed the Republican presidential candidate will have an audience of at least twenty thousand.

Drowned While Drunk.

Durham, Special.—Four miles north of Durham, near Braggtown, the body of W. T. Garrett was found dead in a small pool less than two feet in depth and near him his blind horse, whose stumbling into the pool caused his drowning. The unfortunate fellow, who has but one arm and one leg, left here drunk and was last seen about 6 o'clock almost to "fight" to make the trip. When crossing a deep fill made by the county roads the horse, unable to see its way, tumbled off into the hole and the two were helpless.

Train Kills Drunken Man.

Lumberton, Special.—Will Sanderson a white man living near Lumberton Cotton Mills, was found dead about two miles east of Lumberton. He had been drinking heavily for several days and it was apparent at the inquest held by Coroner Raneke that he was killed by a passing Seaboard train. He was probably sitting on the side of the railroad track and was knocked off by the eastbound train at 10 o'clock Friday night.

GREAT BRITAIN RECEDES

The Change of Front Comes as a Surprise—Now Practically Certain That the Conference Will Be Held, But Its Scope Has Not Been Determined.

London, By Cable.—Prince Ferdinand, as the "Czar of Bulgaria," has made his triumphal entry into the capital amid scenes of patriotic enthusiasm. Great Britain has receded from her original position and is now willing that the proposed conference of the powers to settle the crisis in the near East shall take under advisement other questions in addition to those involved in the annexation of Bosnia and Bulgarian independence. It is now practically certain that the conference will be held but its scope has not yet been determined.

Austria still adheres strictly to the principle of non-intervention. A Turkish cruiser and three torpedo boats have arrived at Salonika on the way to the Island of Samos, a Grecian possession. This is Turkey's answer to the proclamation by the Cretans of union with Greece.

For the moment there is little talk of war and even Serbia seems to be taking a calmer view of the situation. The Serbian National Assembly has endorsed the government's policy and the government, at the instance of the powers, has been striving to maintain peace.

Husband and Wife Indicted.

Manassas, Va., Special.—The grand jury Monday indicted Tucker Posey and his wife, Minnie Posey, for complicity in the murder of Edward Fair, on Thursday night last near Canovia, this county. Bail was fixed at \$500 each for appearance at the December term of court. The tragedy occurred Thursday last and on Saturday the coroner's jury rendered a verdict declaring that Allen Fair, who was shot in his left side just above the heart, was killed by Edward Fair; that Edward Fair was killed by Tucker Posey with an axe; that Edward Fair was lit over the head with a musket by Mrs. Minnie Posey, a sister of the dead Fair brothers, and that Tucker Posey is supposed to have been shot by Edward Fair, inflicting a flesh wound. The tragedy, which grew out of Edward Fair's jealousy of his wife, who is said to have once left him, has aroused unusual interest in this section.

Thaw Must Remain in Asylum.

White Plains, N. Y., Special.—Harry K. Thaw will have to remain in the State hospital for the criminal insane at Matteawan, N. Y., until the Court of Appeals shall decide whether he is entitled to a hearing before a jury to determine the question of his sanity. Justice Mills, of the Supreme Court, refused a week or two ago to grant the application of Thaw's counsel for a jury trial on the sanity question and decided to hear the case himself. The hearing was fixed for Monday. When Thaw was brought into court his mother and several relatives were present. The prisoner's counsel again moved for a jury trial and when this was denied asked that Thaw be discharged from custody on the ground that the jury in the last trial for murder did not find him insane. This also was denied.

Damage Suit in Favor of August Belmont.

New York, Special.—It took the jury half an hour Monday afternoon to decide in favor of August Belmont, in the suit for \$100,000 damages brought against him by John H. Freit, the jockey. Freit claimed he was libeled by Mr. Belmont when he posted him in the Racing Calendar as having left his employ without authority, saying Freit had been discharged because he failed on one occasion to take off his hat in saluting Mr. Belmont.

Will Call Mass Meeting.

Atlanta, Ga., Special.—Harvie Jordan, president of the Southern Cotton Association announced Monday that in response to requests from all parts of the South, he would call a convention of cotton growers and allied interests, similar to that held in New Orleans in 1905.

Indicted For Violation of "White Slave" Law.

Washington, Special.—Charged with violating the "white slave" law by harboring in their homes alien women for immoral purposes, Grace Sinclair and Ida Drury were indicted by the grand jury here. The indictments are the result of a raid by Inspector Baldwin, of the Department of Commerce and Labor, in following up an investigation of violations of the law prohibiting the importation of women into the country for immoral purposes.

Postmaster Arrested For Embezzlement.

Hagan, Ga., Special.—J. M. Elders, postmaster at this place and Republican congressional candidate for Congress from the first district of Georgia, was arrested charged with embezzling funds from the money order department of this postoffice. His case was sent to the Federal grand jury. Postoffice Inspector Hill recently made an examination of Elders' records and his arrest followed.

LAKES TO GULF PLAN

A Great Inland Transportation Scheme Projected

JUDGE TAFT SPEAKS ON PLAN

Officers of the Lakes to the Gulf Deep Waterway Association, Which Met in Third Annual Session Wednesday in Chicago, Believe That Some Day There Will Be a Deep Channel From Lake Michigan to the Gulf of Mexico.

Chicago, Special.—A picture of days when stately ships shall carry the rich products of the central States from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico through a deep waterway, returning with products of no less value, was conjured up before the delegates and visitors to the third annual convention of the Lakes to the Gulf Deep Waterway Association by able speakers headed by William H. Taft. The day's utterances were authoritative for they came from Secretary Saunders, of the association; President Kavanaugh, head of the organization; Governor Charles S. Deenest, of Illinois, who spoke of the first link of the great waterway, the Chicago drainage canal and William H. Taft, who had the general supervision in Washington of the building of the Panama canal until he resigned to become the presidential nominee of the Republican party.

The need of such a waterway was insisted upon by every speaker. The question of transportation, it was declared, is one of the most serious questions with which this country has to deal. Mr. Taft's insistence that the deep waterway and the conservation of the national resources were related subjects, which called for immediate action, elicited great applause. His statement that the waterway was not a project, but a policy, found a ready response in cheers of his auditors.

"We find," said Mr. Taft, "that during the ten years ending with 1905 the internal commerce of our country increased 118 per cent, while railroad transportation facilities during the same time increased only 20 per cent. It has been pointed out that to supply this deficiency by the construction of additional railroads and necessary terminals would require a capital investment of \$5,500,000,000 and this construction when completed would make no provision for the further increase of our commerce. The only solution of this problem, the speaker found in deep waterways."

The convention opened at 10 o'clock with a prayer by Bishop Samuel Fallows, of Chicago. William K. Kavanaugh, president of the association, then delivered his annual address and William F. Saunders, secretary, read his report.

CROP CONDITIONS

Report of the Agricultural Department Showing the Condition of Crops October 1st.

Washington, Special.—The corn crop condition on October 1st was 77.8 per cent, spring wheat quality 88.1 per cent, total production of spring wheat was indicated as 233,090,000 bushels, the yield per acre averaging 13.2 bushels, combined production spring and winter wheat indicated as about 659,030,000 bushels of 89.4 per cent quality and the oat crop quality was 81.3 per cent, the production being 789,161,000 bushels with yield per acre averaging 24.9 bushels according to the Department of Agriculture crop report issued Wednesday.

The corn condition is against a ten-year average on October 1st of 79.7. The average yield of spring wheat is against a six-year average of 83.9. The final estimate of average yield of oats per acre is against a ten-year average of 29.8 and quality 86.1 for ten years.

The decline in condition of corn during September was about two per cent, as compared with an average decline the past ten years of 1.6 per cent. In Southern corn States the condition on October 1st and ten-year average, respectively, of corn follows:

Texas 83 and 73; Georgia 84 and 82; Kentucky 75 and 83; Tennessee 82 and 80; Alabama 83 and 80; North Carolina 82 and 82; Arkansas 79 and 77; Mississippi 81 and 76.

Fire Destroys the Southern Pacific Round House.

Beaumont, Tex., Special.—Fire late Wednesday destroyed the Southern Pacific round house and master mechanic's office with a loss to the company of about \$200,000. Nine engines which were in the round house were consumed together with three freight cars. "Judge" Crofts, a colored hostler, was so badly burned that he will die. Several other railroad employes were burned in trying to save property, but none fatally. The fire was caused by the explosion of a tank of oil.

Hampton Roads Selected.

Washington, Special.—Unless the present plans of the Navy Department are changed the Atlantic battleship fleet will come home direct to Hampton Roads. The fleet, according to the present plans, will remain two or three days in Hampton Roads for a grand review by President Roosevelt, then go to New York, to remain five or six days in order to give the men shore leave. The fleet will then go to Guantanamo for target practice.