

# WASHINGTON HAPPENINGS.

News From the National Capitol Briefly Noted in Passing for the Reader.

## TAFT OVERTURNS RECENT RULING AS TO WHISKEY.

Washington, Special.—The definition of the word "whiskey" by the highest American legal authority was given when President Taft tendered the final decision on the subject in connection with the construction of the pure food law with reference to labeling last week. The President held that whiskey made of neutral spirits is whiskey when reduced to potable strength.

The President covered other details in his decision and gave directions for the proper branding of various varieties of liquor, holding among other things that "Canadian Club" whiskey and whiskey made from a mixture of "straight" whiskey and "neutral spirits" may be called a blend.

According to the instructions under this decision "straight whiskeys" will hereafter be branded as such, but the brand may be accompanied by the legend "aged in wood" and whiskey made from rectified, distilled or neutral spirits will be branded so as to make known the principal ingredients. In addition if they so desire manufacturers of straight whiskey may also use the word "bourbon" or "rye" as the fact may warrant.

The President thinks Dr. Wiley and other chemists to task for a "fundamental error" as to what the name "whiskey" has included during the past 100 years, and he also expresses the opinion that Mr. Bowers makes "too much a distinction" in his deductions. "If," he says, speaking of the opinion of Mr. Bowers, "high wines at from 140 degrees to 160 degrees when reduced to potable strength and containing a very small quantity of fusel oil and flavored by burnt sugar and whiskey, as he has found, then the mere improvement in the process by continuous distillation so as to give a product of from 160 degrees to 185 degrees proof and

still further to reduce its fusel oil, is not to change its whole nature or to make what was genuine "whiskey" "imitation whiskey" because of a slightly reduced trace of one ingredient. The distinction is too impracticable, in my judgment, for the execution of the law."

The President thinks that an order as his decision contemplates cannot be unjust. "Those," he says, "who made whiskey of rectified, redistilled, or neutral spirits cannot complain if, in order to prevent further frauds, they are required to use a brand which shall show exactly the kind of whiskey they are selling."

Speaking further in the same line he says: "The public will be made to know exactly the kind of whiskey they buy and drink. If they desire straight whiskey, then they can secure it by purchasing what is branded 'straight whiskey.' If they are willing to drink whiskey made of neutral spirits, then they can buy it under a brand showing it. \* \* \* The act injures no man's lawful business, because it only insists upon the statement of the truth in the label."

Elaborating his conclusions the President says:

"After an examination of all the evidence it seems to me overwhelmingly established that for a hundred years the term 'whiskey' in the trade and among the customers has included all portable liquor distilled from grain; that the straight whiskey, as compared with the whiskey made by rectification or redistillation and flavoring and coloring matter, a subsequent improvement and that therefore it is a perversion of the pure food act to attempt now to limit the meaning of the term 'whiskey' to that which modern manufacture and taste have made the most desirable variety."

### Japanese and U. S. Ties.

Washington, Special.—That the friendly relations between the United States and Japan are growing stronger every day, was the declaration of Baron Yasuya Uchida, the newly appointed ambassador of the Japanese government to the United States, who arrived here last week from San Francisco where he landed on December 17. "There is no pressing diplomatic question for me to deal with in the United States just now," he said, "and I know of nothing of importance that will come up in the immediate future."

"What about the question of immigration between the two countries," the baron was asked.

"That is satisfactorily adjusted," he replied. "We are keeping at home the laborers and poorer emigrant classes of our country and only students and members of the mercantile and other privileged classes are coming here. As a consequence, the number of Japanese in this country is decreasing. Our laborers are returning regularly to Japan and none are coming to take their places here. There will be no problem to deal with in that connection in this country."

### Patents Granted Tar Heels.

Washington, Special.—Messrs. Davis & Davis, Washington patent attorneys, report the grant, to citizens of this State, of the following patents: A. A. Bullock, Dabney, fertilizer distributor; A. D. Davis and W. A. Thompson, Cleveland, wrench; S. Henry, Lilesville, mail-delivery apparatus; W. A. Wynne, Raleigh, telephone exchange system; W. A. Wynne, Raleigh, telephone system.

### Will Stand by Lee.

Washington, Special.—Virginia will stand by the statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee as it stood by the man. If the marble figure recently placed in Statuary Hall in the Capitol is required to be withdrawn the State will, according to those in authority, withdraw the Washington statue. Opposition by former Union soldiers has caused Congress to postpone the vote on the acceptance of the statue.

### Program of Democrats in House.

Washington, Special.—"The program of the Democrats in the House at this session is to keep down the amount of appropriations bills, and to vote against ship subsidy," said Minority Leader Champ Clark. "The House leaders are rushing everything to get the appropriation measures through and that subject and the ship subsidy proposition seem to be about the only two things that are to be taken up. We are opposed to the ship subsidy bill. I look for adjournment of Congress in April, certainly by May 1."

### A Unique Present.

Washington, Special.—Congressman Nelson P. Wheeler, of Endeavor, Pa., got from his constituents probably the most unique Christmas present that was ever received in Washington. A carefully wrapped and tied bundle he opened and inside of it was found letters, petitions, resolutions, by the farmers on Endeavor, Pa., against the manufacture of oleomargarine. And the Congressman had to pay 65 cents express charges to boot.

### South Needs Immigrants.

Washington, Special.—Hugh McRae, of Wilmington, N. C., who has studied the immigration question as it affects the South for many years, takes the view that the Southern States will never solve the labor problem or become truly prosperous until, through immigration, it receives large accession to its population, says the Herald. He declares that the immigrant is profitable to the region where he makes his home and performs his labor. He holds that the great advancement of the North and the West has been in large measure due to the influx of industrious farmers from Europe during the last fifty years.

### Peary's Future Plans.

Washington, Special.—Commander Robert E. Peary, who holds, exclusively, the title of "North Pole Discoverer," will devote much of the remainder of his life to telling the people how he did it. He had been waiting for the verdict from Copenhagen before making his plans known. The grizzled veteran of the icy north evidently expects to reap a harvest of dollars, for he says that from now on he will write north pole stories for the magazines and give lectures on the subject.

### Needs in War Time.

Washington, Special.—To man the entire American fleet in time of war would require 3,890 officers and 72,281 men and in time of peace 3,625 officers and 60,802 men, according to Capt. N. R. Usher, assistant to the bureau of navigation. These figures do not include officers and men at shore stations.

### Lands May Be Sold.

Washington, Special.—Attorney General Wickersham has rendered an opinion for the war department, to the effect that the Philippine government has the power to sell the "friar lands" in the Philippines in any number of acres desirable, notwithstanding the organic act of the Philippine government, which limited the sale of the unpartitioned public lands obtained by treaty with Spain to 40 acres.

### Wants Law More Explicit.

Washington, Special.—The President has decided to send a special message to Congress dealing with the subject of amendments to the anti-trust law, without waiting for the Supreme Court to hand down its decision in the Standard Oil case.

### More Playing Cards Used.

Washington, Special.—People of the United States paid \$61,381 taxes on playing cards during November last, an increase of \$11,461 over the corresponding period of 1908.

### Poll Tax Payment Fatal.

Washington, Special.—Zach McGee, in Columbia (S. C.) State, says: "The payment of his poll tax in South Carolina has cost ex-representative John J. Hemphill a \$5,000 position in the service of the government as a commissioner of the District of Columbia. It is stated on good authority that the President has definitely decided not to send Mr. Hemphill's name to the senate because of the fact that his eligibility

## NORTH STATE NEWS

Items of State Interest Gathered and Told in Brief.

### GETS \$17,000 DAMAGES.

#### Big Verdict in Superior Court Affirmed by Supreme Court.

Asheville, Special.—The Supreme Court has affirmed the judgment of the Superior Court awarding \$17,000 damages in the case of T. E. Curtis, administrator, who, as representative of Mrs. B. Allen Bryant, sued the Southern Railway on account of the killing of her husband in a train wreck at Budd, near Greensboro, nearly three years ago. It is the largest ever rendered in this State in a suit for damages on account of the death of interstate, but in that it establishes a new and more liberal measure of damages in death claims. Mr. Bryant, a traveling man of Richmond, was killed thirty days after his marriage to Miss Marie Curtis, of this city, and because he was a young man, earning a large salary, \$20,000 damages were asked.

#### Preparing For \$50,000 Yield of Turpentine Per Year.

Wilmington, Special.—A giant cut of round timber is now in progress on the tract of land owned by the Rourke Brothers, about 18 miles from Wilmington. Already 80,000 boxes have been cut and it is intended to cut 70,000 more, which is expected to yield about \$50,000 a year of virgin turpentine for the next ten years. This is possibly the largest round cut for turpentine in North Carolina.

#### Raised \$1,500 Worth of Cotton and Peanuts With One Mule.

Tarboro, Special.—The Battleboro correspondent of the Daily Southerner of this place says: "While our good friend, W. B. Bulluck, has reported an excellent crop on the Cool Spring farm, H. B. Moore, at Old Town, says Mr. Bulluck is not in it; that he has a cropper, that has sold \$1,500 worth of cotton and peanuts from one mule."

#### Must License Near-Beer.

Raleigh, Special.—The Supreme Court which meets again January 8, has filed several opinions in near-beer cases, and in one, from Union county, reverses the court below and holds that a sheriff cannot refuse to issue a license to sell near-beer. In another decision the court has held that a city or town can put any tax desired on near-beer. Some places made this tax \$1,000 and others have since the decision increased it to that figure.

#### Interesting Career Ends.

Concord, Special.—W. A. Smith, better known as "Sandy" Smith, is dead. Aged 81 years. He was a prominent citizen of Cabarrus county. From 1848 to 1854 he operated freight lines from Concord to Camden, S. C., and Fayetteville, this State, amassing quite a fortune. He was among the first men to ship cotton North after the war. He was also a prominent metallurgist and civil engineer.

#### Asheville Save Auditorium.

Asheville, Special.—The Asheville Auditorium, built several years ago at a cost of about \$20,000, has been formally transferred to the city at an appraised value of \$22,500. Recently and at a meeting of the stockholders it was decided to sell the big convention hall and playhouse to the city; the value of the property was appraised at \$22,500 and the city authorities formally voted to take over the property.

#### Jailed on Charge of Murder.

Jefferson, Special.—Cal. Enoch, Wesley and Robert Parsons, brothers, and Granville Brooks, have been jailed here, charged with the murder of John Testerman.

#### Military Institute Chartered.

Raleigh, Special.—A charter has been granted the Tinsley Military Institute, Winston-Salem, capital stock \$50,000, by J. W. Tinsley.

#### Penitentiary Farm Great Success.

Raleigh, Special.—The penitentiary officials announce that their farm products this year will bring the great sum of \$125,000, and possibly \$5,000 more.

#### Bullets Embedded in Wood.

Goldboro, Special.—The large lumber companies of Wayne, of which Nathan O'Berry is president, have this year been cutting timber from the old Bentonville battle ground, in Johnston. Numerous bullets and musket balls were found in the wood.

#### Looses Life Under Train.

Lexington, Special.—Lindsay Surratt, of Healing Springs township, a young school teacher, lost his life by falling and being run over on the double track. His head was cut off.

#### New Railroad Chartered.

Raleigh, Special.—The Lumberton and Elizabethtown Railroad Company, with its principal office at Lumberton has been chartered to build and operate a road through Robeson and Bladen counties to Elizabethtown, a distance of twenty-five miles. The capital is \$250,000, and the incorporators are George B. McLeod, A. H. McLeod, F. A. Bond, J. A. McDougald, W. P. McAllister and others.

## NORTH CAROLINA MILL STATISTICS

### Labor Commissioner Shipman on Textile Industry in State.

Raleigh, Special.—According to returns to the State Labor Commissioner, North Carolina has 312 cotton, woolen and silk mills with 3,143,511 spindles, 55,692 looms, 130,355 horse-power, 55,128 employees, of whom 23,358 are females. Sixty-six per cent of the mills report improvement in general proficiency, financial condition and education of employees; 89 per cent report the labor laws complied with; 84 per cent of operatives read and write. The average number of hours in a work day is 10. Eighty-one mills use electric power. Sixty-three knitting mills report 74,440 spindles, 6,954 machines, 6,867 employees. Gaston county leads with 48 cotton mills, Mecklenburg having 22, Alamance 21.

The cotton, woolen and silk mills return capital stock totaling \$51,083,559, and knitting mills, \$2,853,004.

The textile industry represents by far the largest investment in any one line in North Carolina also in number of employees and amount of wages paid. Gaston reports \$7,000,000 capital stock in mills, 452,000 spindles, 5,550 looms and 17,858 horse-power; Mecklenburg, \$4,247,300 capital stock, 223,116 spindles, 4,957 looms, 8,955 horse-power; Alamance \$2,852,715 capital, 138,448 spindles, 5,005 looms, 7,103 horse-power; Cabarrus, 15 mills, \$2,415,530 capital, 243,114 spindles, 5,090 looms, 7,670 horse-power; Guilford, 12 mills, \$2,117,520 capital, 204,580 spindles, 5,263 looms.

### ORDER BONDS PRINTED.

Transcontinental Officers Authorize \$50,000,000 First Mortgage Bonds Printed.

Asheville, Special.—The stockholders and directors of the South Atlantic Transcontinental Railroad held a meeting here at which important business matters were transacted which tend to show that construction work will soon be begun. A resolution was passed authorizing the printing in French and English of \$50,000,000 first mortgage bonds of the Transcontinental, which, it is said, bankers in France have arranged to float. Another important matter was the election of H. R. Neikerson of New York as vice-president of the railroad and A. H. Berry of New York as assistant secretary. These two men are said to be representatives of McArthur Bros., contractors, who, it is said, have the contract for building the road. The election of C. J. Harris of Dillsboro and Dr. E. B. Glenn of Asheville as members of the board of directors was confirmed.

Colonel Jones is of the opinion that early in the spring actual construction work will be begun.

### 61 Candidates Installed.

Charlotte, Special.—The Mystic Shriners met here last week in annual session and after initiating 61 candidates, elected the following officers: Illustrious Potentate, H. A. Murrill, of Charlotte; Chief Rabban, A. J. Crampton, of Charlotte; Assistant Rabban, J. F. Rhem, of New Bern; R. H. Bradley, Raleigh, was elected Outer Grand.

### Tar Drppings.

The Anson Building and Loan Association, during its 20 years of life have not changed officers. Dec. 31st 26 shares matured amounting to \$200,000.

The Charlotte postoffice did over \$135,000 business in 1909.

Mecklenburg issued 610 marriage license last year, white 292; colored 318.

The Talcum Puff Co., of Asheville, the second largest tale concern in the world, shipped 3,000,000 cans last year. An issue of \$25,000 7 per cent preferred stock is authorized.

Wadesboro has a new building and loan association.

Judge Sykes at Durham, recommended for the Jackson Training School at Concord, one little Bud Davis, a small white boy of seventeen, who has been peddling whiskey in Orange and Durham counties.

Statesville's handsome new Methodist church was dedicated last Sunday. Cost \$40,000.

A mammoth mass meeting of citizens, at Elizabeth City, condemned the city water.

The Quarantine against small-pox at Rocky Mount has been raised.

At New Bern the Hawk timber lands and saw mill have been sold. Price, \$7,900. Land, 2,500 acres.

Figures submitted by the internal revenue officers to Secretary J. S. Kuykendall, of the board of trade show that the sales of manufactured tobacco by the manufacturers of Winston-Salem during the past year were 4,357,361 pounds more than during 1908.

Col. Ashley Horne, of Clayton, is rapidly recovering from his recent attack of pneumonia.

Wade & Morison, contractors for railway grading and general construction, have renewed their contract for another year with the penitentiary for 150 convicts. For several years they have employed this number, paying \$1.50 a day for the labor. They are building two railways in Lumberton section.

The American Institute of Electrical Engineers, embracing more than 6,000 members in all parts of the world, will hold its annual convention of 1910, Charlotte March 23-25. Baxter Ellis Wooten, committed suicide by strangulation at Thomasville.

## NORTH STATE CULLINGS.

### THREE BROTHERS JAILED.

Charged With Obtaining Money on Bogus Bill of Lading for Cotton. Wilmington, Special.—Sheriff E. W. Summerside and Deputy S. W. Kellum, of Onslow county, passed through the city on December 28th, conveying to jail at Jacksonville, Carter Fisher, B. B. Fisher and G. H. Fisher, charged with defrauding the banks at Richlands and Jacksonville, Onslow county, of about \$460 on bogus bills of lading for cotton alleged to have been shipped from Verona in the same county.

They were captured at Cerro Jordo, Columbus county, by Mr. C. S. Hicks, formerly cashier of the Bank of Whiteville, who is said to have been defrauded by a fourth of the Fisher brothers, and Deputy Sheriff Ammons, of Whiteville. The Fisher brothers are said to be natives of Onslow, but have been living in Georgia for some time and are said to be wanted in several States for swindling banks in much the same manner as they operated in Onslow.

As result of the trial of the Fisher brothers, charged with conspiracy, two of the brothers are in jail in default of bond, also the stepfather, John D. Fisher, was placed in jail, according to developments of the trial.

### Rockingham Power Company.

Wilmington, Special.—It is announced here that at a recent meeting of the bondholders of the Rockingham Power Company, in New York, at which 97 per cent of the bonds were represented, the independent bondholder plan proposed by North Carolina interest was substituted for the plan of the reorganization committee and a meeting composed of J. P. Council, Hugh MacRae, of North Carolina, and Robert E. McCormick, of Chicago, was appointed to put the plan in effect.

It is believed now that the obstacles to the successful financing of the development are out of the way and that the property will be speedily completed along the lines contemplated by the original promoters.

### Rifle Found in Hollow Tree.

Greenville, Special.—Don Carson, a young man of Bethel, this county, while setting mink traps in a creek near his home a few days ago found an old rifle in a hollow tree. Inquiry as to the gun brought out the fact that it was hid there in 1865 by a Confederate soldier who was being pursued by a posse with dogs. The rifle also bore marks of having been used in the Mexican war, and notwithstanding the long time it had been in this hollow tree, with a little rubbing-up it was ready for use again.

### Our Industrial Conditions.

Raleigh, Special.—A showing of industrial conditions in North Carolina that is highly gratifying is reflected in the Department of State, the Corporation Commission and the Department of Labor and Printing. The records in the office of the Secretary of State show that during the past 12 months there have been issued 978 charters to new industrial corporations, 542 of this number having been granted within the past six months. There were charters for 26 new cotton mill corporations.

### Of Interest and Profit.

Winston-Salem, Special.—Officials, division managers and North Carolina salesmen of the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company held a meeting here and discussed various matters relating to the affairs of the company, such as business conditions, prospects for the coming year, etc.

### Judge Bynum is Dead.

Charlotte, Special.—Judge Preston Bynum, one of North Carolina's strongest men, died last Thursday. He had served his state as soldier, lawyer and judge. He was a native of Stokes county.

### Murders Kinswoman.

Wadesboro, Special.—Jas. Smith shot and killed his cousin, Cora Allen. She was ill in bed at the time, Smith after committing the deed, mounted his horse and rode away.

### Car Line By Feb. 1st.

High Point, Special.—That High Point will have street cars running by February 1 is now a sure thing.

### Murdered Across Line.

Asheville, Special.—Sheriff Cole, of Madison, says the Chinaman who was murdered across the line in Tennessee, 16 years ago, supposedly by a confession of Pardee Morris, is up to the Tennessee authorities.

### Gigging Fish in Mountains.

Canton, Special.—Mountain streams were frozen over last week and several parties engaged in the sport of gigging fish. One party killed 55, and another 40.

The new phone line has been completed to Elkin.

### Sheriff Rides into Clothes Wire.

Statesville, Special.—While chasing a desperate negro, whom he thought at the time had committed murder, Sheriff J. M. Deaton ran into a patent clothes wire and was seriously injured.

The Scottish Rites Masons closed their session at Charlotte last Wednesday. The event was one of the busiest in the history of the order in this State.

## NEWS BREVITIES

Condensed from Wide Fields, Domestic and Foreign.

### AS THEY ARE HAPPENING DAILY

Suited to the Wants of Busy Readers Seeking a Knowledge of What is Going on.

Wade Higginbotham, a deputy sheriff of Opelousa parish, La., and Ozene Roy, a farmer, killed each other in a pistol at Arnaudville.

Benj. Dillon, chief of the Louisville fire department, died of injuries sustained while making a fast run to a fire.

Frederick Remington, noted writer, painter and illustrator is dead at his home at Ridgefield, Conn.

After one week's illness, Maj. John H. Cannon, of Manassas, Va., died Christmas morning at the home of his nephew, John A. Cannon, mayor of Kensington, Md.

Gen. Booth is making a determined effort to cope with the vexed question of the homeless when in London. He has gained possession of a five-story building situated in Great Peter street, Westminster, which will be used forthwith for housing homeless men from 12 midnight to 6 o'clock in the morning.

Horace H. Chittenden, son of the late Lucius E. Chittenden, secretary of the treasury under Lincoln, is dead at his home near Burlington, Vt.

Edward A. Springs, a driver in the Augusta, Ga., fire department, was thrown from his seat on the engine and both the wheels passed over his body, causing instant death.

At Birmingham, Ala., during Christmas there were three homicides and one accidental electrocution.

Fire at Ocala, Fla., completely destroyed the Dixon Cedar Pencil factory, entailing a loss of half a million.

The scarcity of elephants in Cuba has caused a Cuban planter to refuse to accept a shipment of machinery delivered to his order by a New York manufacturer. The contract called for light machinery that could be packed inland on mules, but the plaintiff's complaint recites that when the crates arrived, they could only be carried by elephants.

A London special says it is unofficially declared that the international exhibition which was proposed to be held at Cape Town on the occasion of the opening of the union parliament next year has been postponed for the reason that the exhibition would not prove successful.

Cotton spinners of Saxony are contemplating removing their plants bodily to Texas. To that end, Gustav L. Hergett, of Boston, is in San Antonio interviewing business men and seeking promises of support.

Because his wife had expressed a desire to go to her parents' home to spend Christmas, James J. Blakeley, 35 years old, a railroad foreman, shot her several times with a revolver and then killed himself at their home in Algiers, La.

The Nashville (Tenn.) Railway and Light company, following a custom in vogue for several years past, distributed \$2,946.65 among its employes as Christmas presents, the amounts to each employe being based on time of service and past record.

At Anniston, Ala., Leon Jordan was killed by Dorsey Mannings, a reporter and son of Judge Mannings, during a scuffle at the Talladega Mountain Home office.

A spreading rail caused a Canadian Pacific passenger train of twelve coaches, four of them sleeping cars, to jump into a ditch near Chapleau, Man., east of Fort William, Ont., and fifty persons were injured, none seriously.

At Chicago a four-year-old boy received a Christmas present of \$25,000 from a jury in the Superior Court.

At Shawnee, Okla., five workmen it is believed, were killed and seventeen others were seriously injured by the explosion of a locomotive boiler that wrecked the repair shop of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad. Americans who explored Tiboron Island, in the Gulf of California, say it has no rich mines or man-eating natives.

"Citizen" Ampt, of Cincinnati, left his estate of \$150,000 for free city convicts.

At least eight persons are dead and two others were seriously injured at Hillsville, Pa., as the result of the explosion of an oil lamp in the home of Santano Cirbo.

W. W. Cummer, one of the most prominent citizens of Jacksonville, Fla., is dead. He was at the head of the big Cummer Lumber Company, and was vice-president of the Cook-Cummer Steamship Company, which runs a line of schooner barges between Jacksonville and Philadelphia and Providence in the lumber and coal trade.

"Little Tim" Sullivan, politician, died in New York.

A Fresno (Cal.) man killed his wife, fatally wounded his two children with a hatchet, ran under a train and was killed.

A Pittsburg (Ky.) miner killed his wife, her mother, a storekeeper and himself because he was jealous. — Charles L. Warriner, treasurer of the Big Four Railroad, was sentenced to six years for taking \$643,000.

An 8-year-old girl of St. Louis has been arrested three times and accused of shop-lifting and is again locked up.