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POLITICAL REFORM AND THE GENERAL UPBUILDING OF MADISON COUNTY.

VOL. VII.

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NO. 26.

## WAS SHARP RASCAL

### Forger Got His Hand in Cleverly For Near a Million

### MANY BANKS WERE EASILY DUPED

An investigation into the affairs of Benj. H. Gaskill, a Philadelphia Broker, who Died Four Weeks Ago, Discloses a Sensational Case of Forgery.

Philadelphia, Special.—One of the most sensational cases of forgery that has ever been brought to light in financial circles of this city was disclosed when it was announced that certificates calling for a small number of shares of stock had been fraudulently raised to hundreds of shares, causing a loss to certain banks and trust companies of this city of from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000. The forgery involves the name of Benjamin H. Gaskill, who went to his grave four weeks ago. Gaskill was the sole member of the banking and brokerage concern known as Benj. H. Gaskill & Co. He had offices in the financial district and his credit was considered gilt edged.

Gaskill died about four weeks ago, and at the time of his death he was believed to be worth about half-million dollars. He left no will and administrators began to close up his business. A patron of the firm, whose name is not given, bought from the estate 100 shares of Philadelphia Traction Company stock. This was sent to the Philadelphia Traction Company's office to have the transfers recorded. The stock exchange, of which Gaskill was a member, then sent out notices to its members not to receive stock certificates from the Gaskill estate.

A further investigation brought to light a surprising state of affairs. It was found that Gaskill had credited himself on his own books with 6,000 shares of Philadelphia Traction stock, valued approximately at \$600,000, while the Traction Company's books showed that he only had 400 shares. It was also discovered that he had raised stock certificates of the United States Railways of New Jersey from two to 200 and the certificates of the Frankford & Southwark Street Railway Company, in this city, from two to twenty. The latter stock is worth \$450 a share.

Gaskill kept two accounts, one recording the transactions of his customers, which was correct, and another giving his own transactions. His books showed that he was losing from \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year in his business. His method of operation was to obtain certificates of gilt-edged securities calling for one, two, three or some other small number of shares, raise the figures and give them as securities for large loans. At least six banks and trust companies of this city admit holding fraudulent securities for large loans.

A financier who has been making an investigation said that the amount of money loaned on the raised certificates will aggregate between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000. It is believed that very little will be recovered from the estate.

### Texas Railroad Sold.

Beaumont, Tex., Special.—The Beaumont, Sour Lake & Western Railroad, a twenty-mile line from this city to Sour Lake, tapping a rich lumber and oil region, has been sold to B. F. Yoakum, of New York, representing the St. Louis & San Francisco. The sale was ratified at a meeting of the stockholders here. It is expected that the purchasers will make the road the nucleus of a line reaching from Houston to New Orleans, with various branches. The terms of the sale were not given out.

### Ex-Governor Lubbock Ill.

Austin, Tex., Special.—Ex-Governor Frank Lubbock, one of the most prominent men in Texas, at the advanced age of 86 years, was stricken with paralysis. It may be possible, it is said, that he will linger for a day or two, but the attending physician asserts that his advanced age gives no hope of recovery.

### Bowen Dismissed.

Washington, Special.—The dismissal of Herbert W. Bowen, for some years United States Minister to Venezuela, and the exoneration of Assistant Secretary of State Loomis, of the allegations brought against him by Mr. Bowen, are the outcome of the Loomis-Bowen controversy, which has attracted wide attention for many months past. This disposition of the case is made by President Roosevelt in a letter addressed to Secretary Taft, made public, approving Mr. Taft's report on his findings and conclusions in the case.

### Reddock Goes to Prison.

St. Louis, Special.—M. M. Reddock, ex-postmaster of Yazoo, Mississippi when arraigned in the United States district court pleaded guilty to having trumped up charges against Congressman Claude Kitchin of the first North Carolina district, and was sentenced to serve one year in the Missouri penitentiary at Jefferson City and pay a fine of \$100.

## WEEKLY CROP BULLETIN

Weather Conditions Given Out by the Department Observer.

Another week of excellent weather has been experienced, favorable in its main feature both for the rapid growth of crops and for farm work. The mean temperature was about 75 degrees, or moderately above normal, and although no very maximum temperatures occurred, the nights were warmer than during the preceding week, so that no check to growth occurred. The rainfall was irregularly distributed, too much rain fell in several central-eastern counties, chiefly in portions of Wayne, Craven, Halifax, Washington, Bladen, Vance and Franklin; at many places in these counties rain fell on every day of the week, but it was mostly gentle in character; heavy washing rains were reported from only a few widely separated places this week. On the other hand, drought prevails over a number of counties along the immediate coast line (Currituck, Tyrrell, Hyde and Onslow) and also in a larger number of western counties, where the soil is getting dry and hard, and rain is much needed. Generally over most of the State farm work is now well up, land is in excellent condition, crops have been well cultivated, are mostly clean and have continued to improve. In a few counties grass and weeds have not been subdued.

Cotton has been nearly all chopped and cultivated, and where it has been kept clear it has improved considerably but the crop is still grassy in many counties; squares are beginning to form on early cotton; lice continue to prevail in some places. Corn has improved, but is not doing well, and it is doubtful whether the effect of poor stands will be entirely overcome; much of the crop has been laid by in silk and tassel, planting is practically over, and late planted in lowlands is coming up rapidly. Tobacco continues to do well, though some correspondents report that the plants are running to seed (buttoning) too early. The wheat harvest is nearly over, except in the extreme west; the straw is abundant, but the grains are not well filled; in some counties cutting was interfered with by frequent rains, the grains being over ripe but too wet to handle. Gardens have improved and vegetables of all kinds are abundant. Irish potatoes are yielding very well in many places, though some are rotting in the ground in wet localities; sweet potatoes are growing nicely. Field peas are growing rapidly. In most western counties where mowing is under way, the conditions were quite favorable for curing hay. Early apples and peaches are ripening and coming into market; apples are poor, peaches of better quality and more plentiful; the huckleberry crop is good; blackberries are ripening; there are some reports that grapes are rotting considerably.

Rains reported:—Nashville, 1.30; Goldsboro, 1.48; Lumberton, 1.56; Newbern, 1.48; Weldon, 1.62; Wilmington, 0.10; Hatteras, 0.80; Rameur, 1.55; Lexington, 0.73; Selma, 1.21; Moncure, 1.16; Greensboro, 0.64; Raleigh, 0.26; Marion, 2.02; Hendersonville, 3.00; Asheville, 2.50.

### Asheville to Issue Bonds.

Asheville, Special.—During the executive session of the board of aldermen Friday night Mayor Barnard, chairman of the water and light commission, announced that he would call a meeting of the commission at an early date for the purpose of considering the issue of bonds as authorized by the last general assembly, the proceeds to be used in building an immense reservoir and also equipping an electric light plant. Mayor Barnard said this afternoon that he would call a meeting of the commission for next Monday evening, when, in all probability, some definite action would be taken. The legislative act gives the board authority to sell \$40,000 worth of bonds for the establishment of an electric light plant on the Swannona river and \$60,000 for the building of a reservoir, or less, if it be found that these amounts are not required.

### Burglar Robs Concord Man.

Concord, Special.—Saturday night, Mr. T. C. Peeler, a merchant of this city, had \$200 stolen from him at his home here. He had the money in his trouser pockets and the pants placed near his bed and some burglar entered the room and took the money, hung the pants on the window screen and left. There is no clue to the identity of the burglar.

### Jailed for Contempt.

At Raleigh Saturday, ex-Sheriff Rogers and J. P. Sorell were adjudged guilty of contempt of court in trying to influence jurymen in the Gattis-Kilgo case, and were ordered to jail 30 days each.

### Gambling Law Not Enforced.

St. Louis, Special.—Despite Governor Folk's order to the sheriff of St. Louis county directing him to arrest all principals and accessories found violating the anti-betting law which went into effect last Saturday, no arrests were made at Delmar race track, although six so-called book-makers did a fair business. A deputy sheriff was present until after the last race.

## THE CZAR WILL ACT IN NORTH CAROLINA

### Sees the Evil Conditions That Stalk Through His Unfortunate Land

### HAS LONG TALK WITH ZEMSTVOS

President of Moscow Delegation Describes the Serious Situation in Russia and Greatly Impresses the Czar, Who Declares That His Wish and Will for a National Assembly Are Unshakable.

St. Petersburg, By Cable.—Emperor Nicholas received the Zemstvo deputation Monday, The reception took place at noon in the Alexander Palace at Peterhoff. Prince Trobetsky, president of the Zemstvo congress of the Moscow government, in behalf of the Moscow delegation, addressed the Emperor in a long speech, in which he described the serious conditions existing in Russia which have caused the Zemstvos to approach his majesty directly. The Emperor was evidently much impressed. M. Fedoroff, representing the St. Petersburg delegation, also spoke. His majesty replied, expressing deep regret at the great sacrifices consequent of the war, and above everything, at the disaster to the Russian navy. In concluding, the Emperor said:

"I thank you gentlemen, for the sentiments expressed, and join in your desire to bring about a new order of things. My personal wish and my will as Emperor to summon a national assembly is unshakable. I await with anxiety the carrying out of this my will. You can announce this to the inhabitants of the towns and villages throughout Russia, and from today you will assist me in this new work. The national assembly will establish, as formerly, a united Russia, and the Emperor will be the supreme support of the conditions based on the principle of Russian nationalism."

### MAY FLEE WASHINGTON HEAT.

Peace Conference Will Have Authority to Adjourn to Some Other Place—Claims of Various Cities Are Being Urged Upon the President, Who Ignores the Subject.

Washington, Special.—Practically no new developments were observable in the negotiations between Russia and Japan. President Roosevelt, for a day or two has been deeply engrossed in other matters, and while he has not for a moment lost sight of the arrangements for bringing together the Far Eastern belligerents, he has realized fully that the next move in the game of diplomacy now being played is with the contending nations themselves. That move is the selection of envoys to represent them at the Washington conference.

Both Minister Takahira, of Japan, and Ambassador Cassini, of Russia, called on the President Monday afternoon. Neither would discuss his interview with the President. It is known, however, that they were not of great importance. Each of the diplomatists presented to the President the advice from his government expressive of the satisfaction felt at both St. Petersburg and Tokio at the selection of Washington as the seat of the peace conference.

Whether the conference will actually sit in Washington, or not, has not been determined, of course, as that is a detail which will be left to the envoys themselves by their respective governments. It is said that no decision will be reached on that point until the conferences meet here and organize. If the weather in Washington at that time should be unfavorable to the continued sittings in this city, it will be within the authority of the plenipotentiaries to adjourn to some other city.

During the past few days the President has received as many as a hundred letters suggesting various cities in the country as desirable places for holding the conference. It can be said that the President will not permit himself to be drawn into the discussion of this subject and the government will not attempt to influence in any way the choice of the conferees in holding their conference.

### Town Re-taken.

Headquarters of the Russian Army, Godoyadani, Manchuria, By Cable.—The Russian cavalry have retaken the town of Liouyangwopeng. The Japanese occupied the village of Sumencheng, on the main road to Changtufu and Mankai, in the morning of June 15, but they did not succeed in crossing the river. At 3 in the afternoon the Russians re-captured Sumencheng, three squadrons of Japanese retiring in a southwesterly direction.

### Church Takes Ban off State.

Rome, By Cable.—The Pope has issued an encyclical encouraging Catholics to participate in public affairs. While seeking the advice of the ecclesiastical authorities, the encyclical says Catholics should retain complete liberty of action regarding the temporal interests. Members of the clergy are recommended to refrain from participating in party strife. The encyclical has created a sensation. Its object is to induce Catholics to enter public life, so that the navy be a force against the threat of socialism.

### Occurrences of Interest in Various Parts of the State.

#### Charlotte Cotton Market.

These figures represent prices paid to wagons:

Good middling	9.00
Strict middling	9.00
Middling	8.87 1/2
Tinges	7 to 7 1/2
Stains	6 1/2 to 7 1/4

#### General Cotton Market.

Galveston, firm	9
New Orleans, steady	9 1/2
Mobile, steady	8 13-16
Savannah, quiet	8 1/2
Charleston, firm	8 1/2
Wilmington, firm	8 1/2
Norfolk, firm	8 1/2
Baltimore, normal	9
New York, quiet	9.15
Boston, quiet	9.15
Philadelphia, steady	9.40
Houston, steady	8 15-16
Augusta, steady	9
Memphis, firm	9 1/2
St. Louis, firm	9
Louisville, firm	9 1/2

#### Fight May be Fatal.

Asheville, Special.—Dr. W. P. Whittington has returned from Banardsville, in the Big Ivy section of Buncombe, and twenty miles from this city, where he was called to attend a man named Tom Rice, who was struck in the head by a rock thrown by Jim Adams. Dr. Whittington said that the man was badly hurt, but that he was still alive and might recover. The rock crushed the skull and a difficult operation was necessary. The cause of the trouble between Rice and Adams resulting in the assault was over some trivial matter. It is said that Adams made his escape.

#### Serious Fight at Newbern.

Newbern, Special.—Charles Bryan and George Cutler, colored men, became engaged in a fight on the docks, and Bryan assaulted Cutler with a boat oar in such a manner as to burst the eye ball. The wounded man also received a serious injury to the head. An operation was necessary to relieve the eye. Bryan is in jail pending the result of the other's injuries.

#### Gattis Loses Suit.

The famous Gattis-Kilgo case, on trial at Raleigh last week, resulted in a verdict in favor of defendant Kilgo. Two jurors were charged with contempt of court at the close of the case. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court.

#### North State News.

There was a serious wreck on the Southern Railway near Kings Mountain Thursday, resulting in the death of Engineer Cault and his fireman. None of the passengers were seriously hurt.

The State charters the Johnson City Southern Railway, A. B. Andrews, Henry W. Miller, F. H. Miller, of Raleigh; Alfred P. Thomas, Fairfax Harrison, of Washington, D. C., and H. C. Ansley, of Alexandria, Va., incorporators and directors; capital stock \$350,000. The road will extend 71 miles from Marion, up the north fork of the Catawba river and down the valley of the Toe river to the Tennessee line, there to connect with a railway to Johnson City.

#### Monitor Puritan Aground.

Washington, Special.—The monitor Puritan is reported hard aground off Point Lookout, in the Potomac. She has on board the naval reserves of the District of Columbia and was to have participated in the manoeuvres of Wednesday night against Forts Washington and Hunt. All efforts for two days to float the ship have proven so far unsuccessful.

#### Telegraphic Briefs.

A submarine torpedo boat that can be carried on the deck of a battleship was successfully tested in England.

Oyama is reported to be ready to assume the offensive and strike a crushing blow before an armistice can be arranged.

It is intimated that Germany's supposed intention to fortify Kiaochow Bay may decide Great Britain to hold on to Wei Hai Wei.

King Oscar's letter was laid before the Storting and referred to a special committee without comment, but it is understood Norway will stand by her decision.

Members of two lodges of the Royal Arcanum in Petersburg are preparing to adopt resolutions of protest against the action of the Supreme Lodge in raising assessments.

James W. Cooke, charged with the larceny of \$95 from an iron safe in the drug store of W. E. Brown, in Petersburg, in May last, was before the Mayor yesterday, and was sent on to the grand jury. Cooke is highly connected and married. He was in the drug business in Petersburg.

## CLOSE OF THE REUNION

### Without Much Pretense of Formation So Far as the Veterans Were Concerned, the Parade was None the Less a Stirring Spectacle, Battle Flags Recently Restored by the Government Playing a Part.

Louisville, Ky., Special.—Beneath the shot-riddled battle flags that floated over many a sodden field, and to the thrilling strains of "Dixie" that oft had cheered them on to victory or defeat, the Confederate veterans who wore the gray marched Friday in proud review before thousands of people gathered in Kentucky's chief city to do them honor.

There was not much in the way of formation and order in the line as far as the old boys were concerned, but they marched with sparkling eye to the old tunes, and heard the same cheers that have stirred their blood annually since the reunions became a part of life in the South. Many of the captured battle flags, recently returned by the government, were carried in Friday's parade and were the objects of interest and veneration.

#### Three Overcome by Heat.

The temperature was near the 86 mark, and John Coke, of Lawrenceburg, Ky., J. B. Allen, of Virginia and William Potter, aged 62 of Nashville, Tenn., were overcome and taken to hospitals.

The parade which formed at First Main streets, was in three grand divisions, comprising the trans-Mississippi department, the department of the Army of Northern Virginia and the department of the Army of Tennessee. Col. Bennett H. Young, commander of the Kentucky division, was chief marshal, and the following were in command of the three divisions: Gen. W. L. Cabell, Texas, the trans-Mississippi department; Gen. C. Irving Walker, South Carolina, the department of Northern Virginia; Gen. Clement A. Evans, the Army of Tennessee.

#### Head of the Column.

At the head of the column, as special guests of the reunion, rode Gen. Joe Wheeler, in citizen's dress, and Jefferson Hayes Davis, grandson of President Davis of the Confederacy. They were escorted by Wheeler's cavalry. Next came the commander-in-chief, General Stephen D. Lee, and staff. The distinguished leader was cheered at every turn. The commander's immediate escort was the Columbus Rifles, from the General's home city, Columbus, Miss., and then followed carriage containing Miss Carrie Peyton Wheeler, sponsor for the Carrie and her maids of honor.

General C. Irving Walker of South Carolina occupied his familiar place as head of the department of the Army of Northern Virginia. The West Virginia division, headed by the department with General S. S. Green in command. The R. E. Lee camp of Richmond had the place of honor in the Virginia division. The marching of this camp was splendid and the men were cheered heartily. Then came the Tom Smith Camp, of Suffolk, Va., and Stonewall Jackson's old brigade with several tattered flags. These old men and their flags aroused the crowds to much enthusiasm. The William Watts Camp, of Roanoke, brought up the rear of the Virginians.

The next reunion will be held at New Orleans.

#### Text of Japan's Reply.

Washington, Special.—The following is the text of the Japanese reply to President Roosevelt's identical note to Japan and Russia on the subject of "The Imperial government has given to the suggestions of the President of the United States, embodied in the note handed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs by the United States minister on the 9th inst., very serious consideration, to which, because of its source and import, it is justly entitled. Desiring, in the interest of the world, as well as in the interest of Japan, the re-establishment of peace with Russia on terms and conditions that will fully guarantee its stability, the Imperial government will, in response to the suggestions of the President, appoint plenipotentiaries of Japan to meet plenipotentiaries of Russia at such time and place as may be found to be mutually agreeable and convenient, for the purpose of negotiating and concluding terms of peace directly and exclusively between the two belligerent powers."

Booker Washington Sees President. Washington, Special.—Booker T. Washington, president of Tuskegee Institute at Tuskegee, Ala., called on the president to talk with him about his visit to Tuskegee next October. The president expects to pass the greater part of October 23 at Tuskegee, and arrangements already are making for a demonstration by the students of the institute in his honor. The president will review a procession and pay a visit to the institute and deliver an address. Prof. Washington tonight delivered an address at the graduating exercises of the colored high school, the colored normal school and the Armstrong Training school.

#### May be Another Great Advance.

London, By Cable.—The practical certainty now that peace negotiations cannot begin for another month leads to the conviction that another great battle will be fought in the interval. According to the Daily Telegraph's Tien Tsin correspondent a Japanese forward movement has already commenced in spite of the rainy season.

## WASHINGTON CHOSEN

### Agreeable to All Parties As Place of Holding Peace Meeting

### CZAR WITHDRAWS ALL OBJECTION

Envy and Jealousy of the United States Are so Unconcealed in Some Quarters That There Was Almost Open Exultation at the "Rebuff to Roosevelt" by the Foreign Office Prior to the Czar's Intervention.

St. Petersburg, By Cable.—Russia has finally and definitely accepted Washington as the meeting place of the Russian and Japanese plenipotentiaries, the foreign office having waived its request for reconsideration at the personal direction of the Emperor, whose desire to give the fullest and fairest opportunity to President Roosevelt's proposal for a peace conference is hereby manifested.

After his conference with Ambassador Meyer, Count Lamsdorff, the foreign minister went to Peterhoff and laid the matter before the Emperor, who, on learning that insistence on The Hague might endanger the negotiations, directed Count Lamsdorff to inform Ambassador Meyer that Russia would accept Washington.

It was after midnight when the foreign minister returned from Peterhoff, but Ambassador Meyer was forthwith notified and a cipher dispatch was prepared and sent to the state department at an early hour Monday morning.

Count Lamsdorff Sunday afternoon issued a public announcement of the selection of Washington.

The result is looked upon as a decided triumph for American diplomacy.

#### 150 Natives Massacred.

San Francisco, Special.—Details of a terrible massacre by pirates of 150 natives on the Siberian coast has been received in a letter from Petropavlovsk, on the coast of Kamohatka. A Morogrievonof, has written to his brother, a resident of San Francisco, that in the early part of the year the natives, in one of the small settlements down the coast, observed a yacht, or schooner, drop anchor in the harbor, and its coming was hailed with cries of rejoicing. Off the vessel came a number of small boats. The natives could see the crew piling what they thought were supplies into the smaller craft. Then the men pulled for the shore. During that and the next day, there was heard firing of arms, and later, smoke and fire were observed. This led to an investigation from Petropavlovsk and other towns on the coast, and a horrible tale of pillage and massacre was brought to light.

About the streets of the settlement, writes Morogrievonof, were strewn the bodies of 150 of the inhabitants, shot and cut to pieces by the pirates, who, under the pretense of friendship, had gained a landing on the coast. Robbery was their motive, for every hut had been ransacked, and anything of marketable value had been taken. Who the marauders were, those who managed to make their escape could not say, beyond giving the information that some Japanese were in the party. When Morogrievonof sent his letter the people of Petropavlovsk feared an attack on that town.

#### Maximo Gomez Dead.

Havana, Special.—Gen. Maximo Gomez died at 6 o'clock Saturday evening.

General Maximo Gomez, who commanded the Cuban forces during the insurrection, which broke out in 1895, and ended with the complete independence of the island when on May 20, 1902, the control of Cuba was formally transferred to the new Cuban government, was born at Baní, Santo Domingo, in 1836, and came of a Spanish family. He began life as a cavalry officer in the Spanish army in Santo Domingo and served in the last occupation of Santo Domingo by Spain.

#### Collision Sinks Vessel

Sault Ste Marie, Mich., Special.—During a thick fog which has prevailed on the upper lakes for a week, the steel freight steamer Etruria and Amaza collided ten miles off Presque Isle light, in Lake Huron. The Etruria was so damaged that she sank within a few minutes, the crew narrowly escaping with their lives. The Etruria was struck on the starboard side, abreast of the No. 9 hatch. Many of the crew were asleep in their berths, but were awakened by the crash and reached the deck in time to escape. The Etruria had a cargo of soft coal. She was valued at \$240,000. The Amaza escaped any serious damage.

#### Going for Paul Jones' Body.

New York, Special.—Rear Admiral Sigbee's squadron, which was detailed from the North Atlantic fleet to bring the body of John Paul Jones, the first admiral of the American navy, to this country, started on its voyage to France Sunday. The squadron is made up of the flagship Brooklyn and the cruisers Chattanooga, Tacoma and Galveston.