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TAR HEEL CHRONICLES

Happenings And Doings Gleaned From All Parts Of The Old North State.

N. C. PRESS CONVENTION.

Rev. J. O. Atkinson Elected President and J. B. Sherrill, Secretary-Treasurer.

Hendersonville, Special.—The editors of North Carolina were literally presented with the key to the city Wednesday morning, when, at their opening session, held in the court house, Col. S. V. Pickens gave them an ancient, rusty, two-foot-long jail key, recently uncovered here by workmen in excavating for a new building.

At 9:30 the convention was called to order by Dr. J. O. Atkinson, third vice president, who invoked a divine blessing upon the town of Hendersonville and the members of the association. Mayor Staton then presented Col. S. V. Pickens, who cordially welcomed the editors to town. M. L. Shipman, on behalf of the local press, spoke a few words of appreciation and Archibald Johnson, editor of Charity and Children, responded gracefully on behalf of the association. Dr. Atkinson then read the annual address of the president, who, on account of sickness, was unable to be present in person. The association voted to wire President Thomas its appreciation and its regrets that he was unable to be with them. The big audience in the court house listened to short talks on timely topics by J. W. Atkins, J. J. Farris, H. B. Varner and Archibald Johnson. At 2:30 p. m., J. F. Hurley read the historical paper. Full of interest and listened to attentively was Thad R. Manning's talk on the subscription price of the weekly newspaper. This was followed by the transaction of miscellaneous business. At night, before an audience which completely filled the big court room, Mr. John M. Julian, of The Salisbury Post, delivered the annual oration. He commanded the closest attention of his audience to the end of his extremely able address.

Thursday morning was pleasantly spent in a drive to Lake Okechoa and to Mount Hebron, the pleasure of which was not marred by a slight shower, which, Mr. J. P. Caldwell remarked, was but a pleasant diversion. The editors and their families went in a body and the string of carriages was a long one.

The ball at the Gates at night was largely attended and thoroughly enjoyed by both visitors and home people and was distinctly a success.

At the afternoon session the following officers were elected: President, Rev. J. O. Atkinson; first vice president, M. L. Shipman; second vice president, J. R. Swann; third vice president, W. K. Jacobson; secretary and treasurer, J. B. Sherrill; historian, Archibald Johnson; orators, W. C. Hammer and Josephus Daniels; poet, D. F. St. Clair; executive committee, H. A. London, W. C. Dowd, H. B. Varner, Josephus Daniels, D. T. Edwards.

A resolution was adopted condemning the United States government for maintaining a job printing office to compete with the country's job printers, and a copy of the resolution was ordered sent to every Representative and Senator of North Carolina.

Interesting articles were read by Rev. J. O. Atkinson, Clarence H. Poe and R. R. Clark.

The important address of the day was that of M. V. Richards, land and industrial agent of the Southern Railway.

Resolution of Thanks.

The following resolutions, offered by Mr. Josephus Daniels for the committee, were unanimously adopted by a rising vote:

"Resolved, That the thanks of the

The Wheat Crop is Fine.

Mount Airy, Special.—Never in the history of farming in Surry county have the farmers been in a deeper hole with their plowing and harvesting. The wheat crop is fine and ripe, but up to Friday heavy rains have fallen daily, rendering it impossible to cut grain and plow corn, etc.

In the Hands of Receiver.

Fayetteville, Special.—The Consolidated Street Railway and Power Company of this city was placed in the hands of a receiver by Judge C. C. Lyon, resident judge of this district, at Elizabethtown last week. Mr. W. D. McNeill, president of the company, being appointed receiver. This action will not affect the operating value of the property nor the progress of Fayetteville. Cars are now running and will be able to handle the great crowds that are expected here Monday.

association be and are hereby tendered the Western Union Telegraph Company and the railroad companies for courtesies in the matter of railroad transportation and particularly to the Southern Railway Company, for the courtesy of an excursion to Lake Toxaway; to W. A. Smith, for a car ride to Laurel Park and an enjoyable afternoon at that beautiful resort; to Capt. M. C. Toms and John L. Orr and their associates for extending the courtesies of Mount Hebron; to the management of the Gates Hotel for excellent service and for the courtesy of a ball tendered the association; to Mayor R. H. Staton and the reception committee and all the public spirited citizens who tendered many delightful courtesies, including the mountain drives and to Lake Oseola, and for more pleasures than can be enumerated; to Mr. M. L. Shipman, editor of The Hendersonville Hustler, and to Mr. T. R. Barrows, associate editor, for their brotherly welcome which made all the editors feel at home.

The association left on a special car Saturday for Lake Toxaway, returning to their homes from there.

The following accessions to the association were enrolled at the session: 18 new members were admitted as follows: J. V. Sims, Raleigh Times; W. I. Underwood, Greensboro Patriot; J. A. Parham, Fayetteville Index; Owen G. Dann, Newbern Sun; R. A. Deal, Wilkesboro Chronicle; W. E. Pharr, North Wilkesboro Hustler; M. L. Yeager, Southern Publisher; R. E. Ranson, Spring Hope Leader; Andrew Joyner, Greensboro News Bureau; C. A. Eury, King's Mountain Herald; Clint N. Brown, Salisbury Post; T. H. Gosorn, Bakersville Chronicle; H. H. Hamlin, Beaufort Lookout; D. L. St. Clair, Sanford Express; E. P. Pepper, Danbury Reporter; T. R. Barrows, Hendersonville Hustler; J. R. Roundtree, Kinston Free Press; Chas. H. Williams, Polk County News.

Ashe County Fair.

Jefferson, Special.—Ashe county is to have an agricultural fair on September 15-17th. The following officers were elected: President, W. H. Worth; secretary and treasurer, P. E. Fogle; executive committee, John Dent, T. E. Reeves, E. J. Johnson, R. A. Hamilton, W. E. Johnson; premium committee, Jas. P. Perkins, Geo. J. Hamilton, W. T. Colvard; music committee, P. E. Fogle, Joe Worth, W. E. Gentry; committee to arrange premiums for the Ladies' Department, Miss Jennie Worth, Mrs. W. P. Hamilton, Mrs. B. W. Tugman; Mrs. A. E. Graybell, Miss Eula Todd; advertisement committee, W. E. Johnson, G. L. Park, Chas. S. Neal.

Ministers Wife Skips.

Newbern, Special.—The congregation of Centenary Methodist Episcopal church was greatly startled Sunday morning when the pastor, Rev. R. C. Beaman, D. D., announced to them that his wife had disappeared and could not be located. The pastor's words were pronounced in as fine oratory as has ever been heard in that pulpit and no word of censure or bitter feeling escaped his lips. It was a very pathetic scene. Notes found in different places indicate that she has left with a man named Grant. The Methodist church is the largest and most influential in the city and one of the largest in the State and Dr. Beaman's charge over it has been marked with a period of prosperity.

Killed by Live Wire.

Greensboro, Special.—Bryan Benton, the 12-year-old brother of James M. Benton, city editor of the Morning Telegram, was instantly killed by a live wire late Tuesday afternoon. The boy was at a lawn party at the Christian church, and with a playmate climbed a tree. His fingers touched an uninsulated electric wire, his leg another, the short-circuit causing him to drop.

Death of Miss Sallie Underwood.

Charlotte, Special.—Miss Sallie Underwood, the young lady struck by lightning near her home in Gaston county last Thursday afternoon, died Sunday morning at 3:30 o'clock without regaining consciousness. The funeral took place at the home Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock, the service being in charge of Rev. J. B. Tabor, of Mount Holly. The interment was made at Castania church. The funeral procession is said to have been one of the longest that ever followed a funeral in Gaston county.

BIGGERS SET FREE

Jury Holds That He Was Insane at the Time of Killing Hood.

Charlotte, Special.—The jury of twelve freemen, the select body chosen to pass upon the merits of the case of State against W. S. Biggers, charged with the murder on the morning of Tuesday, February 9, of J. Green Hood, reached a verdict Saturday afternoon at 4:45 o'clock, their decision being that the defendant was "not guilty" of the crime as charged.

As noted by every one who followed the trend of this great legal battle whose results held within it the freedom if not the life of Biggers, the plea of insanity was the entire issue. It was not that insanity for which the asylums are built and maintained, but that termed variously emotional insanity, brain storm, and the like, but in this case termed "confusional" insanity.

The case was fought before the bar with the utmost tact and unlimited talent and legal force. No stone, as it were, was left unturned. It was pleaded that the man had suffered a wrong and that his financial straits had preyed upon his mind till mental confusion had brought him to the stage of not being conscious of the enormity of the deed which he contemplated and actually committed.

At the first vote of the jury 10 stood for acquittal, one for murder in the first and one for murder in the second degree.

The jury had the case just four hours when it became unanimous. The case had taken 11 days in its course.

Shepard the Slayer of Holt.

Durham, N. C., Special.—Solomon Shepard, the negro of mysterious action, has confessed that he killed Engineer Holt near Durham last December and that he had no assistant.

This startling turn in the dreadful affair came Saturday night when Dr. N. M. Johnson went into the jail to attend a sick prisoner. Shepard had spent the day reading the Bible and getting religion. Why he took a notion to unburden himself to the doctor, is not known, but he did and said that he slew the engineer that night without the aid of anyone.

The negro tells a reasonable story. There never has been any large number of people who did not believe that Engineer Holt met death meant for another man. The wanton use of a shotgun was commonly called a Reuben Barbee characteristic, but nobody ever found the motive whereby Reuben Barbee became the assassin of Fred Holt. The brothers of the dead man believed that their kinsman had been murdered by mistake and the negro says so.

Suspicion for this crime has been resting on Reuben Barbee who is now in jail awaiting trial.

It seems that Shepard had been put off the train. In his rage he secured a shot gun and went to kill the brakeman who put him off. Not finding his man he fired a random shot, as he says, to scare somebody. This shot put out the life of a popular and most valuable engineer.

Joe Brown is Governor.

Atlanta, Ga., Special.—Joseph M. Brown, son of "Joe" Brown, one of Georgia's war-time Governors, took office Saturday amid ceremonies of Jeffersonian simplicity.

Governor Brown's address was brief. At its conclusion Governor Smith handed Governor Brown the seal of the State of Georgia and the ceremony was complete.

Governor Smith's last official act Saturday was the signing of 15 pardons. Those yet free included six murderers and three persons convicted of violating the prohibition laws.

Firemen Loss Case.

Atlanta, Ga., Special.—The Georgia Railroad strike arbitration board Saturday night decided against the seniority of white firemen over negroes. The arbitrators, however, placed a premium on intelligence among firemen, which it is believed will ultimately result in the gradual elimination of all except the most expert negro firemen.

From Chicago to Charleston.

Winston-Salem, Special.—The official announcement Saturday by the Atlantic Coast Line and Norfolk and Western that the Winston-Salem Southbound Railroad would be pushed to completion within the next 18 months is received with great satisfaction here. The movement for this through line from Chicago to Charleston, with the Twin City as a prominent junction point, was begun about three years ago. Col. E. H. Fries and Mr. Henry E. Fries, of this city, being among the leaders in the enterprise. Henry E. Fries is now president.

WASHINGTON NOTES

Much voting and little talking characterized the work in the Senate Wednesday. The lumber schedule was disposed of and the duty on pineapples was increased, the finance committee suffering a defeat in the latter case. An attempt to reduce the finance committee's rate of \$1.50 per thousand on sawed lumber to \$1, the House rate, was lost. The entire wood schedule making reductions of about 25 per cent from the present rates was agreed to. A new amendment to the coal schedule, offered by Mr. Aldrich, reducing the duty on bituminous coal from 67 to 60 cents a ton and eliminating the reciprocity clause from the House bill, was adopted. The two Senators from Florida, a pineapple-producing State upholding the amendment to increase the duty on pineapples from \$7 to \$8 per thousand, were opposed by the two Senators from Maryland, in which State there are a number of large pineapple canning factories.

The Wright brothers, whose time in which to complete their official tests with their aeroplane would have expired next Monday, were granted in extension of thirty days.

The question of the eight hour law was submitted to President Taft in the form of a request by Thomas Dolan, president of the Steam Shoemakers' Union, that the President obtain from the Attorney General an opinion as to whether the law prohibiting payment for overtime is not being violated on the Panama canal.

Just before the Senate adjourned about 7 o'clock Friday night, Senator Aldrich, chairman of the finance committee, introduced the corporation tax amendment to the tariff bill, recommended by President Taft.

To encourage American shipping, Senator Elkins introduced an amendment which would allow to American vessels a reduction of five per cent in tariff duties.

Petroleum, linoleum and scrap iron tariff schedules were the principal ones discussed in the Senate. Senator Penrose's amendment fixing a duty of half cent a gallon on crude oil was lost. Increases over the House rates were made as follows: On harness from 35 per cent ad valorem to 40 per cent; on scrap iron from 50 cents to \$2.50 per ton; and on wire nails from 1-4 to 1-2 cent, and from 1-2 to 3-4 cent per pound, the former for those less, the latter for those an inch or more in length.

Although it devoted almost eight hours to strenuous effort in that direction, the Senate Saturday failed to conclude its consideration of the schedules of the tariff bill, and at 5:12 o'clock, an adjournment was reached, there were still a number of important rates to be determined. The day, however, was full of achievement and a number of provisions were disposed of.

Probably the most exciting incident of the day was the vote on Senator Beveridge's amendment reducing from 30 per cent ad valorem to 15 per cent ad valorem, the duty on cash registers. The Indiana Senator began his fight for this reduction some days ago and was enabled to force a vote on it Saturday after comparatively little discussion. The vote resulted 31 ayes and 33 noes. Stating that after the vote was announced several Senators had informed him that they had voted against his motion under misrepresentation, Mr. Beveridge said he would renew the motion at a later date.

The wood pulp provision also again received attention, and it was supposed that it had been finally acted upon until Senator Clapp, taking exception to the retaliatory provision of the schedule as amended, stated that he would make an effort to have the provision entirely eliminated before final action should be taken upon the bill.

The Senate concluded its discussion of the schedules of the tariff bill Monday and is now ready for the corporation and income tax questions. Senator Aldrich introduced a resolution proposing an amendment to collect the taxes on incomes from whatever source derived and without apportionment among the several States.

An increase in the duty on structural iron and steel valued at more than 9-10 of a cent per pound was made by the Senate, the increase being from 3-10 to 4-10 of a cent per pound. Cotton bagging was placed on the free list.

Ineffectual efforts were made to place cotton ties, school books, binding twine and salt on the free list and Egyptian cotton on the dutiable list.

Both houses adopted the conference report on the census bill.

"What is whiskey?" was discussed in the Cabinet room of the White House, President Taft listening to attorneys for rectifying distilleries

and blenders, who oppose the recent decision of Solicitor General Bowers as to what should be labeled 'imitation whiskey.' The hearing will be continued.

Late Tuesday the Senate reached the voting stage on the hide schedule, and after several amendments had been defeated, the amendment of the finance committee fixing a duty of 15 per cent ad valorem on hides was agreed to, 46 to 30. This is the rate of the present law, but under the rulings of the Treasury Department is applicable only to hides weighing more than 25 pounds. The House placed all hides on the free list, but the committee restored the Dingley policy.

Senator McLaurin undertook to have the provision amended so as to make the duty applicable to hides weighing less than 25 pounds, but failed, his amendment being voted down 31 to 48. An amendment by Mr. Stone, placing no only hides but many of their products on the free list, was also lost.

Alleged Members Black Hand Band Bound Over.

Toledo, O., Special.—At the conclusion of the preliminary hearing here Monday Salvatore and Sebastiano Lima and Salvatore Rizzo, three members of the alleged Black Hand band, recently arrested, were bound over to the Federal grand jury. The bond of Salvatore Lima was increased to \$8,000 and that of the others to \$5,000 each. They will probably have to remain in the county jail.

Fight on Bucketshops.

Cincinnati, O., Special.—County Prosecutor Hunt's spectacular campaign against bucketshops was continued Monday when he and ten deputies over-powered two armed watchmen and raided the offices of the Consolidated Stock and Grain Company. C. A. Aton and C. B. Fox were arrested, all the books of the concern were taken and the wires cut. The men were held to the grand jury. Ten days ago this same company was raided by Hunt and his deputies.

Exonerates Man Convicted of Murder.

Palatka, Fla., Special.—When James Kelly and D. M. Davidson were sentenced to life imprisonment for murder, Kelly said: "I accept the verdict of the jury, but as for D. M. Davidson, he is as innocent of this crime as any man in the hearing of my voice." The men were convicted of the murder of W. C. Sellars, a night watchman of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad three years ago at High Springs, Fla.

Perished in Pack Ice.

Tromsø, Norway, Special.—The steamer Arctic, of Walter Wellman's North Pole expedition, returned here Sunday from Spitzbergen with her flags at half mast, bringing the news that Knud Johnson, one of the two men who remained at the Wellman camp this winter, had perished in the pack ice when his airship had been destroyed by a heavy storm.

On May 19 Johnson went with his fellow watchman, Paul Bjorvig, on a hunting expedition over the pack ice.

NEWSY GLEANINGS.

Frederick De Martens, a famous Russian statesman, died suddenly in a railway station.

A bomb wrecked the house of Father James Zuccarelli, in Newark, but harmed no one.

A Wall Street rumor that E. H. Harriman was dead in Vienna caused a big slump in stocks.

George Kraus, of Pittsburg, eighty-three and despondent, committed suicide by taking poison.

Columbia has decided to present the tripartite treaty to the National Assembly, which will be elected on July 20.

A committee of the trustees of Brown University formally recommended that the institution become non-denominational.

The Rev. Dr. Leon Harrison said in his sermon in the Free Synagogue, New York City, that Christians shouldn't marry Jews.

Philip Lamb dived into the East River, New York City, to show his uncle how well he could swim and never came to the surface.

General George B. Loud protested to the War Department against the "desecration" of Memorial Day at West Point by a baseball game.

Edwin Hawley's railroad system obtained an outlet on the Pacific by a traffic agreement with the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway.

The State Department is satisfied that American capitalists will be allowed to share in the profits of the loan to enable China to build a railway.

Frederick Cudmore, a young clerk, illustrated in a boat on a pier, in New York City, "how a fool rocks a boat." He fell off the pier and had a narrow escape.

The Oregon legislature has prohibited the use of a hatpin more than ten inches long. There is a point, explains the Washington Star, at which a hatpin becomes a rapier.

COTTON CONDITIONS

An Acreage Abandonment of Seven Per Cent.

THE NATIONAL GINNERS' REPORT

The Average Condition Up to June 24 Was 75.8, the Condition in North Carolina Being 77—The Acreage Abandoned in North Carolina Is 4 Per Cent.

Memphis, Tenn., Special.—The report of the National Ginner's Association gives the average condition of cotton up to June 24, as 75.6. There has been an abandonment of acreage of 7 per cent according to the report, making the total acreage 9.8 less than last year.

Detailed report by States: Alabama, condition 70; acreage abandoned 14 per cent; crop very grassy in nearly all sections; plant small and from two to four weeks late.

Arkansas, condition 76; acreage abandoned 4 per cent; crop very good in west and north; very grassy and small elsewhere; boll weevil in 24 counties worse than last season, some of the fields being abandoned on account of them.

Florida, condition 90; very little loss in acreage; most sections good.

Georgia, condition 79; acreage abandoned 5 per cent; crop grassy; most sections not all chopped yet; plant generally small and from one to three weeks late; some complaints of lice and black rot.

Louisiana, condition 56; acreage abandoned 13 per cent; some sections in very good shape but so many weevils they are destroying all the squares as fast as they form; much cotton being abandoned or planted in sage only on this account; many reports nothing will be made in their sections.

Mississippi, conditions 61; acreage abandoned 14 per cent; plant generally small; poor stands and grassy.

Missouri, condition 56; very little loss in acreage; crops late but good.

North Carolina, condition 77; acreage abandoned 4 per cent; crops grassy in most sections and from 2 to 3 weeks late.

Oklahoma, condition 90; acreage abandoned 1 per cent; reports from nearly all sections very good.

South Carolina, condition 78; acreage abandoned 4 per cent; some few sections report good conditions but most of them report fields grassy and not all chopped yet, plant small and from two to three weeks late.

Tennessee, condition 77; acreage abandoned 7 per cent; plant small and grassy.

Texas, condition 80; acreage abandoned 5 per cent; principally in the dry section where rains came too late; condition north and east Texas best in years but weevils are reported more numerous than usual and this fine prospect may be changed in a very short time.

South Texas had plenty of rain, plant generally small and from four to six weeks late. Weevils reported in large numbers doing damage already. West Texas still very dry except four counties, some places have had no rain in six months. With plenty of rain this section will produce from 50 to 60 per cent of a crop.

Mr. R. L. Royster Drowned. Columbia, S. C., Special.—Mr. Arthur L. Royster, chief clerk for Superintendent H. A. Williams of the Southern, and one of the most capable and promising young railroad men in this section, met a tragic and extremely sad death while out swimming and boating in the Columbia canal about 10 o'clock Monday morning by drowning. His body has not yet been recovered.

Mr. Royster was a popular clubman and was very popular throughout the city generally, being of quiet and retiring disposition and of many many characteristics. His fellow-workmen at the union station, from heads of departments on down to the youngest clerks, are grieved and shocked over his death, as if they had lost a brother, for Mr. Royster was most popular with those closest to him.

Dies Under His Auto.

Columbia, S. C., Special.—William G. Rudd, a traveling salesman for the Durr-Andrews Company, was killed Monday in an automobile which was struck by the Seaboard restricted train at Salak, four miles west of Greenwood. One of the eyewitnesses, Mrs. Malone, saw Mr. Rudd stop the automobile on the crossing. He jumped out, but on the wrong side and in front of the moving train, which struck the automobile and threw it on him. He was picked up and carried to Abbeville, but died of the way. Mr. Rudd leaves a widow. No children survive him.