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NORTH STATE NEWS NOTES Items of State Interest Gathered from Here and There and Told Briefly for Busy Readers.

Held Farmers Institute. Hillsboro, Special.—The Farmers' Institute held here Monday will long be remembered by those who attended. Two meetings were held in the forenoon, one for men and one for women. The afternoon meeting was a joint session with an attendance about equal to the attendance at the two morning sessions. There were 156 farmers and 76 ladies who listened with the closest attention to all that was said and to the demonstrations that were given. The farmers of Orange are rapidly becoming aware of the benefits derived from contact with practical experts and were eager to take advantage of the opportunities afforded them by the Farmers' Institute.

Heartrending Accident. Durham, Special.—Miss Frances Sue Watts, a Trinity student the past year, writes to Durham friends a most thrilling and withal deplorable experience in witnessing two of her friends drown recently. The party of thirty-eight had started out on a launching trip and spent two hours skating at Irvington. On their return the engine became unmanageable on account of the gasoline and in their efforts to get it right the gasoline caught and exploded a lantern. This started a fire on the boat which was then in water sixty feet deep and one mile from shore. Perfect panic resulted. The prow was burning fiercely and spreading while every minute had the ghost of death by explosion. They could not move and the men fought fiercely for the extinguishing of the flames. Every moment was threatened with a stampede and finally Miss Jannette Dudley leaped overboard. She was followed by Mr. Clarence Gray, who tried to save her. The young boys swam after them but could not reach them and for an hour the two struggled in the waters of the Rappahannock within call of the boat which was utterly helpless and at a standstill. The boating party answered their cries with cheers and after half an hour, both went down. The ebbing tide carried both bodies far from the boat and it had to anchor to prevent a further drifting. For hours other boats passed and the signals of distress could not be conveyed to them. The men had fought down the flames and the wet clothes used in smothering the blaze left the party without protection. Late in the morning a boat bound for Baltimore was signaled and it took on the party of thirty-six. A search for the lost ones began and they were found two miles below the place. Mr. Gray was from Saluda, the home of Miss Watts, and was said to have been one of that town's most popular young men. But the barest facts without a circumstance of detail, have reached the newspapers of either Virginia or Maryland and the tragedy occurred a week ago.

Private Laws Out. Raleigh, Special.—The Private Laws passed at the 1909 session of the General Assembly have just been completed, the work being done by Messrs. E. M. Uzzell & Co., State Printers and Binders. The volume, which contains 953 pages, is issued in the same handsome and durable style as the Public Laws. The publication of these laws have been very speedy this year, exceeding all past records; and this is a matter which has given great satisfaction to the State officials and the public, as well as reflecting great credit upon the State Printers and Binders.

Picnic at Davidson. Davidson, Special.—Visitors, guests and strangers of all sizes, ages and conditions had and enjoyed "the freedom of the city," Thursday. Davidson has kept open house and big words of "Welcome" written on canvass and uttered with tongue and voice, have bidden all comers to partake freely of air and water and then of food for the inner man. Cold soft drinks, cold, gushing well water, appetizing lunches and refreshing ices all were at hand in easy reach, some of them for the having and others for the gold dust.

Gaston Farmer Loses His House by Fire. Bessemer City, Special.—The home of Mr. Albert Mauney, about five miles west of here on the Kings Mountain and Cherryville road, was burned to the ground Monday. A part of the household goods was saved. No particulars as to how it happened were obtainable Thursday. The house was comparatively new and the loss is considerable.

Boy Mysteriously Attacked. Lenoir, Special.—Tuesday afternoon some excitement was occasioned here when John Clarke a boy about 15 years old, was found in a semi-conscious condition on the ground near Phillips Bostie's lemonade stand right in the business section of the town. It seems that the boy had been asked by "Uncle" Phillips, as he is familiarly known here, to stay at his stand just a few minutes while he went to a store a block or two away to see about some lemons. When Uncle Phillips returned he found John lying on the ground.

AGED LADY MURDERED

Body of Miss Lydia C. Newman, a Well-to-Do Maiden Lady, of Summer Township, Was Found Dead Near Her Residence—Skull Was Crushed With Bludgeon and She Had Been Dead For Several Days. Greensboro, Special.—Miss Lydia C. Newman, a maiden lady, who lived alone in the Burnett's Chapel section of Summer township, was found dead Saturday within three hundred yards of her residence. Her skull had been crushed by a bludgeon and she had evidently been dead for several days. She was last seen Tuesday morning, when a neighbor observed her going in the direction of the cow lot.

Coroner Wood summoned a jury and held an inquest Sunday afternoon, but no evidence was secured to throw light on the tragedy. There appears to be no doubt that the object of the murder was robbery, but it is not known whether or not the murderer procured anything of value. Miss Newman was possessed of considerable property and at times had large sums of money in her home. About two years ago her dwelling was burned and she was robbed of about \$1,000 in cash.

Miss Newman had a number of relatives in the community, but always insisted on living alone. Her dead body was discovered Saturday by a rural mail carrier.

Automobile Highway Selected. Atlanta, Ga., Special.—The officials of the New York to Atlanta automobile highway completed their deliberations here Saturday night and announced the selection of the route which will be followed in the good roads and reliability run between the two cities next October.

The New York Herald's experts decided to adopt the road leading from New York across Staten Island, to Perth Amboy, to Philadelphia, to Gettysburg across the historic battlefield down through the beautiful Shenandoah valley, through Lexington and Natural Bridge to Roanoke.

At Roanoke, Va., the Atlanta Journal's scouts took up the choice of roads and selected from Roanoke to Greensboro or Winston-Salem, to Salisbury, to Charlotte, to Spartanburg, to Greenville and on to Atlanta.

The route was chosen after the scout cars of The Journal and The Herald had covered over 4,000 miles of road and is believed the best one available. The scouts say that both the capital to capital and the Bristol routes will be built, but in their judgment at present there are too many ferries and too few bridges to justify the selection.

Heart Pierced by Bullet. Salisbury, N. C., Special.—A terrible tragedy, whether suicidal or accidental is not positively known, occurred at Organ church, this county, about 12 miles southeast of Salisbury, just before noon Sunday. The particulars as learned here late in the afternoon are as follows: Mr. Henry Klutz and family had gone to Lutheran Organ church to worship, leaving a young son, Clarence, aged about 20 years, at home, he having been complaining of feeling unwell. When the family returned from the services to their home they were horrified to find the young man lying across the bed in his room dead with a rifle ball through his heart and the weapon, a small rifle, lying by his side.

Death List Increases. New Orleans, Special.—With definite reports Saturday of 13 additional deaths as the result of the hurricane in Texas and Louisiana Wednesday, the death list Sunday night totals 41. Also six previously reported missing are still unaccounted for. Dispatches confirm the report that Maurice P. Wolfe, his wife, six children and negro servant had been drowned at Christian Bayou.

Most Successful Flight. Washington, Special.—Orville Wright, at Fort Myer Saturday evening, surpassed all previous performances of the Wright aeroplane in the matter of speed and in the shapeliness of his turns. Wilbur Wright, who closely watched his brother's flight during every inch of his progress, calculated his average speed with and against the wind, at 47 miles an hour. One of his circles at full speed was estimated to be within a diameter of 150 feet—an automobile could hardly do better than that at the high rate of speed.

STATUS OF COTTON CROP

As Viewed By President Harvey Jordan of the Southern Cotton Association.

Atlanta, Ga., Special.—The following official bulletin was issued on Sunday by President Harvey Jordan, of the Southern Cotton Association: "The present outlook for anything like a normal production of cotton for the season of 1909-1910 is worse than any year since 1903. Reports which have come to me from all parts of the cotton belt from reliable sources, and the result of personal observation during the last thirty days, indicate a very serious condition of the cotton crop, especially in the territory of the southwestern states. The long, and as yet unbroken, drought in Texas, accompanied by unprecedented hot weather, covering the largest producing counties of the State, make it impossible for the crop there to recover normal conditions, even under the most favorable weather, hereafter. The same conditions have largely prevailed in Mississippi and Louisiana. In every State, except Texas, there has been a voluntary decrease in the cotton acreage by the farmers this year.

In all the states east of the Mississippi the fields are generally grassy, and many thousands of acres have been abandoned and the fields planted to corn and peas. Crab grass has sapped the vitality of the cotton plant, and absorbed to a great extent the commercial fertilizers. Black root and boll weevil in the eastern states and boll weevil in the southwest are contributing to make the situation all the more critical. There is not a sufficient supply of old cotton in the South today to last the southern mills until October first. I anticipate that the forthcoming August condition report, by the bureau of cotton statistics, to be issued August 2nd, will reflect the deterioration of the crop in July, by several points under the very low June condition report. In most sections of the belt the cotton plant is small and grassy, and in other sections too full of sap and weeds. These conditions forecast a small yield compared to that of one year ago.

The failure of the peach crop always forecasts a shortness in the production of the cotton crop, such as the case this year. With consumptions assuming enormous proportions, and the production of the cotton crop indicating an unusual shortness, it is impossible, at this time, to predict with any degree of accuracy where the maximum price of spot cotton will reach. That we are now entering upon an era of very high prices for the coming season, there is scarcely any question of doubt, and the slower spot cotton is marketed at the opening of the season, the surer it will be to maintain high prices."

Storm Loss Increases. Houston, Tex., Special.—Other than to add several hundred thousand to the monetary loss, Friday night's despatches from the storm-swept coast sections of Louisiana and Texas and into the interior for miles add but little to that already told of the hurricane of Wednesday which raved in intensity the storm of 1900. The number killed is conservatively estimated at 25, twice as many more or less seriously injured, and the property loss is estimated at approximately \$1,000,000. While belated reports may add to the list of casualties and the property damage, other than to isolated points, communication has been restored.

Late despatches add the towns of Rock Island, Wharton and Weimer to those which suffered to an extent from the sweep of the wind. At Rock Island nine of the largest buildings were either razed or partially wrecked, the damage being estimated at \$75,000. Fifty houses were blown down at Weimer and the property loss will approximate \$100,000. Wharton suffered more than from the storm of 1900.

Rattlesnake's Bite Fatal. Hendersonville, N. C., Special.—Pinckney Stepp, the 14-year-old son of Mr. John Stepp, who lives about six miles from this city on the Polk county line, was bitten by a rattlesnake Thursday evening and died Thursday night.

Pinckney and his brother were getting tanbark near the edge of a field. When going near a large stump the boy was suddenly struck on the outer side of the ankle by a monstrous rattlesnake. The brother succeeded in killing the snake and hurried home with Pinckney, who in the meantime became very sick. The neighbors were called and all remedies known to the mountaineers were put in use. It was four miles to the nearest telephone, and required several hours before a doctor could reach the house. When the physician arrived the young fellow was in a sad state, and died two hours later. This is the first person who has been fatally bitten by a snake this season.

A GULF COAST HURRICANE

Details of Terrible Storm Which Swept From One End of The Gulf To The Other—Whole Towns Desolated—Lower Coast Suffers Heavily.

Houston, Texas, Special.—The West Indian hurricane, which swept from one end of the Texas Gulf coast to the other Wednesday, claimed a toll of 12 human lives, fatally injuring four others and seriously wounding 16, according to the details of the storm, which began to arrive here late Thursday night. Whole towns were devastated and the wreck and ruin to property will amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Trains, from 12 to 15 hours late, crept into Houston Thursday and freight trains are lost throughout the stricken district. The territory around Bay City seems to have been the centre of the storm, which moved southwest from Galveston. For four hours there a 70-mile wind swept across the country, carrying everything before it. About 50 per cent. of the business section was damaged, including the opera house, one bank, the court house, the new high school building and the city jail. In the jail, the cages were left standing and the prisoners were exposed to view but were safe.

Velasco, a small town near Bay City, is reported demolished, but with no loss of life and none injured. Every building was unroofed or partly demolished and the town Thursday was in four feet of water. People escaped in boats from Colorado river, a mile away. The loss will total thousands of dollars and in some districts reports state that the storm was worse than the disaster of 1900, which devastated Galveston.

Eagle Lake seems to have suffered on a parity with Bay City, but very few houses escaping the fury of the storm.

Along the Brownsville road from Washington, Special.—In two short flights in the Wright aeroplane Wednesday afternoon at Fort Myer, Va., Orville Wright closely approached the world's aeroplane speed record, attaining an average velocity of 54.1-2 miles an hour as computed by Wilbur Wright, who held the stopwatch on the machine for half a dozen rounds of the course. On the first flight the air craft remained aloft only 1 minute and 39 seconds, the aviator being forced to descend by losing a cog wheel on the magneto after making his second round of the course. On his second flight, after the cog had been replaced

Kingsville, in parts, the desolation was nearly complete. Corn fields were swept to the ground and harvesting will have to be done by a hay rake. The cotton, however, withstood the storm well.

At Elcamo, the electric light plant is wrecked, all elevators are badly damaged and almost every church in town is either demolished or wrecked.

In the oil fields around Markham, derricks were blown down and wells stripped of their machinery. Six prisoners escaped from the jail at Richmond when the windows had been blown in and while the guards were repairing the damage.

At Palacios Mrs. Hogan and children were injured under the falling brick walls of their home and were later extricated by workmen. Their injuries may prove fatal.

At Galveston Bay the situation is not as bad as at first reported. No part of the railroad bridge, which spans the arm of the bay between the island and Virginia Point, was washed away, but some 50 feet of the structure was thrown badly out of alignment by a huge barge and other small craft, which were washed from their moorings and pounded against the piling.

A special from Houston says while the city suffered a property loss estimated at between \$50,000 and \$75,000 this entire section from a crop standpoint has been benefitted in a most marked degree by the storm.

The cotton crop in central, south and north-middle Texas was in a distressing condition on account of the drought. Wednesday night's rain extended from the Gulf to the lower part of the Panhandle right through the cotton belt of central and middle-east Texas, and farmers are elated over the probability of good yields.

A New Orleans special says eighteen persons dead, and sixteen seriously hurt and property damage exceeding \$1,000,000 is the grim record resulting from the destructive sweep of the hurricane along the Louisiana and Texas coasts.

THE WRIGHT BROS. FLY FIFTY-FOUR MILES AN HOUR

Washington, Special.—In two short flights in the Wright aeroplane Wednesday afternoon at Fort Myer, Va., Orville Wright closely approached the world's aeroplane speed record, attaining an average velocity of 54.1-2 miles an hour as computed by Wilbur Wright, who held the stopwatch on the machine for half a dozen rounds of the course.

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the aeroplane swiftly circled a dozen times around the course, which is five-sixths of a mile in circumference. Certain changes had been made in the gearing of the motor and propellers to give the machine a higher speed. The Wright brothers had decided to give this speed change only a 10-minute trial Wednesday, and the aviator brought the aeroplane to the earth after 11 minutes in the air.

The Wrights signified that they would be through with their work at Fort Myer by next Wednesday, the day that the time limit expires. They do not anticipate that any extension of time will be necessary.

FREIGHT TRAIN GOES THROUGH A. C. L. TRESTLE

Goldsboro, N. C., Special.—Considerable excitement was caused when it was learned that the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad bridge over Neuse river between this city and Dudley had given way under the weight of a passing freight train, and in a short while several hundred people had gathered upon the scene and were greatly relieved when it was learned that by a miracle all the crew had escaped and nobody was killed or injured.

The freight, which was composed of some 40 loaded cars, had one of its cars got safe across the river, but was approaching the bridge, the consequence is that one of the worst material wrecks ever seen in this territory is now piled up at the above scene. The engine and some twelve cars got safely across the river, but the derailed car took to the river, off the high iron bridge, and 24 other cars followed it, piling themselves one upon another over the bridge and into the river.

The scene is something appalling to look upon. The steel bridge has given way under the fearful strain and while no lives were lost the damage will be heavy upon the railroad company. A great number of the cars were loaded with lumber, which is now piled up pell-mell in the river and vicinity. It will be weeks before the wreck can be cleared and in the meantime the passengers and other traffic will be transferred on a gasoline launch.

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CLOUDBURST CAUSES DEVASTATION IN MINNESOTA

Duluth, Minn., Special.—Following the terrific rains of Tuesday, Wednesday night's cloudburst caused a scene of devastation in Duluth. The loss it is computed, will reach \$1,500,000. Three lives were lost. Two children were swept from their mother's side in Ninth avenue, one body being lost in a sewer, and another child was lost in Keene's creek at West Duluth.

The entire hillside became practically one great waterfall. The sewers, already overflowing, were inadequate to carry off the rushing water, and the streets and avenues quickly turned into torrents of water three feet deep.

Twenty or more houses were washed away along small creeks in the city suburbs and several narrow escapes from drowning are reported.

PITCHED BATTLE BETWEEN INSPECTORS AND GYPSIES

New York, Special.—A pitched battle was fought in Brooklyn Thursday between immigration inspectors and a band of 24 gypsies who were being deported to South America. The trouble had its origin in the refusal of the gypsies to board the steamer Verdi, which was to take them to Buenos Ayres. In the heat of the melee several children of the band were injured by reason of their parents using them as shields. In several instances the parents pushed the bodies of children against the inspectors who were trying to drive them from a tug to the

steamer. One little girl was unconscious when the vessel sailed with the gypsies. The gypsies believed they were to be returned to Russia, their home and when they realized that they must go back to South America, which country they had just left, their rage knew no bounds.

The women fought with more fury than the men. One ragged dame used an iron camp kettle whenever she got within reach of a hostile head. When the Verdi sailed, her unwilling passengers were huddled astern, ausing their wounds.