

THE NATION'S NEWS

Items Taken From a Great Many Sources.

Condensed News Items Concerning Matters of Interest Occurring Since Our Last Issue.—News of the World at Large.

For the first time since 1883 the annual statement of the Postoffice Department shows a surplus instead of a deficit.

Congressman Stedman on Saturday introduced a bill appropriating \$100,000 for a postoffice building at Chapel Hill; \$125,000 for Burlington, and \$125,000 for Mount Airy.

The North Carolina State board of agriculture has adopted a resolution to put all State convicts on public roads to further the good roads movement.

Sentence of 15 and 12 months were imposed in Greensboro in the United States court against Dock Bass and Ernest King, white boys of Burlington, who were convicted of stealing a mail pouch at Burlington.

Advocates of increased pensions for veterans of the Civil war Friday and Saturday. The deciding vote will be taken today. If it passes the veterans will get a dollar a day.

Only fifteen of the fifty-nine applicants for licenses to practice pharmacy in this State, who undertook the examination before the State board at Raleigh last week, passed. Thirteen of the applicants were negroes and five of them passed, one a negro woman.

Baltimore was the host Friday to nearly a score of Governors from Western and Southern States. Governors of Southern commonwealths met for a conference with Western Governors as to the best means of inducing desirable immigration into the South.

A \$750,000 appropriation for relief of sufferers at Austin and Costello, Pa., from losses incurred by the bursting of the Austin dam last September, was asked in a joint resolution introduced in the House Friday by Representative Wilson, of Pennsylvania.

Three workmen in the producer gas plant of the Charlotte Power Company were overcome with an accidental discharge of superheated hydrogen Friday afternoon, one man meeting instant death, and two others receiving injuries which will perhaps cause their deaths.

United States marshals at Los Angeles have been searching for 128 witnesses subpoenaed to appear before the Federal grand jury in the investigation into the sources of the alleged nation-wide dynamite conspiracy. It is said no indictments will be returned for probably several days.

Oscar W. Underwood, of Alabama, majority leader of the House, was endorsed a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination by the Alabama delegation in Congress at a meeting held in Washington one day last week. A resolution was adopted declaring that Mr. Underwood had "demonstrated to the country that he is a wise and progressive leader and that he is eminently qualified for the Presidency." When he learned of the action taken by his colleagues Mr. Underwood said that he appreciated the honor greatly but that he was not a candidate.

The census bureau reported 12,814,832 bales of cotton ginned in the United States prior to December 1, including 87,567 round bales and 87,457 bales of Sea Island. Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina have ginned thus far this year more cotton than ever before was grown in their borders.

The per capita circulation of money in the United States is \$34.54, according to a statement issued by the Treasury department. To arrive at this figure the fiscal experts estimate that the population of the country is fast approaching the 100,000,000 mark. Beside their calculation on the census of 1910, they estimate that there were 94,679,000 souls in the United States on Dec. 1.

Nearly 26,000,000 pounds of leaf tobacco were sold on the various leaf markets in the State during November this year against 12,839,978 sold during November last year. Winston, as usual, led the other markets, and Henderson came second, with Wilson, Greenville, Oxford, Kinston, Roxboro, Reidsville and Rocky Mount, in the order named, selling more than 1,000,000 pounds.

Code Lane, Wetborne Nance and Zeonia Nance were sentenced by the Federal court at Greensboro for a murderous attack upon a party of revenue officers in the Brushy Mountains last August, when Deputy Henry Lane was dangerously wounded. Code Lane was sentenced to ten years in the Federal prison at Atlanta; Wetborne Nance to five years and Zeonia Nance to three years.

At a lecture in Durham the other night by the Rev. Dr. Robt. Start McArthur, pastor emeritus of Calvary Baptist church, New York city, the name of Theodore Roosevelt was wildly cheered as he was mentioned as the greatest, brainiest and most sensible man in all the world today. Dr. McArthur was speaking of the part Roosevelt played in bringing about peace between Japan and Russia.

The United States battleship Maine, which sank beneath the waters of Havana harbor in February, 1898, as the result of an explosion, was blown up from the outside, according to announcement by the Naval Board which has been examining the wreck. The finding confirms the report of the original investigators who made a superficial investigation of the wreck shortly after the disaster.

At Washington Saturday the Appalachian national park commission accepted twenty thousand acres of land in North Carolina to be converted into the Appalachian reserve. About ten thousand acres of the land lies in McDowell county and the other ten thousand is in the vicinity of Mount Mitchell. It is understood that \$6.90 an acre is to be paid for the entire tract. This is the first installment of some forty thousand acres which the government will buy in North Carolina.

It is announced the American Tobacco Company has purchased from the Burley Tobacco Society at sixteen and a half cents a pound all the tobacco remaining in the 1909 pool, about eight million pounds. This closes out all the pool holdings and marks the end of one of the most novel industrial wars ever waged. The Burley Tobacco Society was organized five years ago and pooled its tobacco four times. During its fight for higher prices night riders' outrages occurred. The price of tobacco rose from three and five cents a pound to as high as twenty-five cents and many tobacco growers became comparatively wealthy. A pooling arrangement to last ten years is being made.

Hundred Men Entombed In Mine, Families Watch at Mouth of The Tomb

Briceville, Tenn., Dec. 10.—Somewhere in the depths of the Cross Mountain coal mine probably one hundred men lie dead tonight, while their sorrow-stricken families keep vigil at the mouth of their tomb, hoping against hope that their loved ones may be alive when rescuers reach them.

Eight torn and mangled bodies had been brought forth at nightfall, when search was abandoned for the day. Outside of the immediate families of the entombed men, no one in this little mountain village believes that any living thing in the mine yesterday morning survived the terrific explosion of coal dust that wrecked the workings.

For more than thirty-six hours every surviving miner in this region has toiled with no thought of food, sleep or pay to remove the debris and force fresh air into the innermost recesses of the mine. They practically have penetrated to the main entry head nearly three miles in. Tomorrow they expect to be ready to work the cross entries in which the other bodies have undoubtedly been cast by the force of the blast.

Black damp developed late today and retarded progress, but the silent force pushed dauntlessly on, some of

them till they were carried out overcome by the noxious gases.

Thousands of the morbidly curious flocked into the village today and crowded about the main entry of the mine. They saw nothing because there was nothing to see but the pitiable grief of the stricken families.

There is hardly a family in the entire Coal Creek valley that has not felt the icy touch of death. The problem of caring for the widows and orphans will be a grave one requiring immediate solution. Certainly Briceville will be unable to care for her living with most of her wage-earners numbered among the dead.

Demands upon the little Briceville graveyard, occasioned by the terrible holocaust, have necessitated the creation of a new cemetery. Land was staked out today and preparations made for excavating graves in which to bury the explosion victims as fast as they are brought out, identified and prepared for burial.

The advent this morning of 175 coffins was the signal for a renewal of the grief suffered by the loved ones in the many fatherless and husbandless homes. This was intensified as the gruesome pine boxes containing the coffins were piled high in front of the improvised morgue.

"A TRIP OVER THE SEA."

Reception Given By the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.

On Friday afternoon from three to five o'clock, at the parsonage, the members of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of Main Street Methodist church held a thank-offering reception. At three, or little past, the guests began coming in and were met at the door by Misses Temple Harris and Sarah Watt, who received their offerings, and conducted them to Mrs. Trotter, president of the society, to register their names in a book prepared for the purpose and to be used for future reference. They were then taken charge of by Miss Janie Rawley, who carried them into the parlor, which was beautifully and tastefully decorated with palms and ferns and other tropical plants, representing the country of India. Mrs. Ellington, Mrs. Huffines and Mrs. Heggie presided in this room. There were several ladies in widow costumes in different parts of the room, and Mrs. Ellington gave in a short talk a description of the lives of women in India, their general degradation, and bearing especially on the three evils of the country. Dates were served in this room by young girls in India costumes.

The guests were then carried to the sitting room, where Rev. W. F. Womble entertained them by showing by magic lantern pictures of the Eastern countries that were very interesting and instructive.

From this room they went to China. Mrs. L. T. Smith presided at the tea table and served tea and wafers, while Miss McGeehe, in Chinese costume, seated on a mat in one corner of the room, told the tale of suffering and ignorance among the women and girls of China. Beautiful souvenirs were arranged on the walls and around the room, and added much to the enjoyment of this trip.

From China they were carried over the hall to the dining-room, to take a peep at Iceland. Mrs. Arch Wilkinson presided in here, and young girls, dressed in white, served the guests with ice cream and cake. The decorations were to represent snow and ice, and with the soft white light of the candles, made a picture pleasing to the eye. This completed the trip over the sea.

The entertainment was delightful in its nature, instructive and thoroughly enjoyed by all present. The regret of the ladies of the society is that more of our women were not there to partake of the good things, and to get the inspiration that these things bring with them.

RUFFIN PEOPLE IN RUNAWAY.

Little Girl Frightens Horse and Mule Drawing Load of Tobacco.

Danville, Dec. 9.—A mule, a horse, and the hill on Main street combined yesterday afternoon about 3 o'clock in causing an accident that was all but fatal to Preston and Aymard Harrelson, brothers and farmers of Ruffin, N. C., who came to the city with a load of tobacco.

When both of the men had been examined by doctors they were placed in automobiles and rushed to the General Hospital, where they were immediately treated.

According to Mr. Preston Harrelson, the accident occurred in the following manner: When the wagon and team had reached the opera house a little girl ran out into the street right in front of him, fright-

ening his horse and mule badly, both of which became unmanageable immediately. Mr. Harrelson, who was perched upon his load of tobacco, which weighed about 1,500 pounds, was not able to rein in his team effectively and they ran away. Seeing that he had no control over them, he turned the reins loose and tried to jump, but before he could manage this the mule and horse for some reason best known to themselves swerved round down Union street. The turn was sudden and the heavy load with the body of the wagon slipped off the running gear. Both of the young men were thrown off violently into the street, both being shocked considerably. Mr. Aymard Harrelson sustained a split lip, had several teeth knocked out and was badly bruised all over. Mr. Preston Harrelson suffered no cuts, but was considerably shaken up and is very sore this morning.

Both men are progressing favorably and will be out of the hospital in a few days.

NORTH-TO-SOUTH HIGHWAY.

Maps Now Being Prepared With Reidsville On The Line.

The Danville Register says: The following letter from Manager Robert Bruce, of the Touring Information Bureau of the American Automobile Association, has been received by the Virginia Motor Company, of this city, and will doubtless be read with interest by all motorists and others interested in securing the North-to-South automobile highway through this city.

"Yours of November 30 received and noted. We have been delayed on our map of Virginia, but shall complete it within the next two weeks, meanwhile drawing a city map of Danville from the data you have already sent. On account of the lack of government sheets and other good reference material, this will not be as good as the other Virginia maps; but it will be much better than anything done heretofore.

"You may be interested to know that since the return of the pathfinder from Jacksonville by way of Savannah, Augusta, Columbia and Charlotte, we have been seriously considering making another book of strip maps from Greensboro through Danville, Lynchburg and Charlottesville to Washington. This, if put through according to present plans, will mean a great deal to automobile travel through your city. Whether this is done during the present winter or not, we are sure you will be pleased with the city map, of which proof shortly will be sent."

If the motor car owners of this city and vicinity were more effectively organized they might contribute not only to the consummation of this plan and co-operate effectively with the American Automobile Association in the early attainment of this desirable result.

In the United States court at Greensboro Saturday Judge Boyd signed an order confirming the report of Commissioner James F. Jordan in the matter of the sale of the German-American Mills, machinery and personal property, at Draper, last Thursday. The property was bid in by the Thread Mill Company, of Monticello, Ind., at \$435,000 for the mills and machinery, and \$78,000 for the stock on hand and personal property.

FLEECE OUT OF \$50.

John Powell, Colored, Will Not Be So Accommodating Again.

The slick negro who flim-flammed John Powell, colored, out of \$40 the other day has not been apprehended. Sheriff Pinnix and Chief of Police Joyce set out to overtake the sharper after he left the city, going in the direction of Danville; but two miles North of town the negro sighted the officers coming down the road and he suddenly became fleet of foot, taking down the bottom near Wolf Island, and thus made good his escape. The officers are positive they were within 200 yards of the fleeing man, and say they would have caught him had it not been for the fact that he had left the road and had quite an advantage over them in the fact that he had to lose no time in fastening a horse, but could skiddoo the moment he looked back and saw them approaching.

The negro is thought to be a professional crook from our neighboring city of Danville. John Powell, who is a thrifty colored farmer, had just marketed a load of tobacco and had more money on his person than he usually carries about. He was engaged in conversation with a strange negro when still another stranger of color came up and asked for the change of a \$50 bill. The stranger who was talking to Powell produced \$10 of the money and Powell furnished the remaining \$40, the understanding being that the negro needed the change, while Powell and his friend could get the bill changed and each get his part. When the third negro got the money in his hand he said that he would have to step into a store a second to see something about getting the bill changed.

In the meanwhile the first stranger kept Powell's attention. But as soon as the negro was out of sight Powell became suspicious and decided to go after him. When he went into the store the party could not be found, and when he returned to the street the other negro had disappeared, and Powell was thus relieved of his \$40 in cash that should have been deposited in the bank as soon as he settled with the warehouse.

Death of Mrs. Martha J. Chance.

After a long and tedious illness, complicated by infirmities of old age, Mrs. Martha J. Chance entered the spirit land Sunday night. Having passed her 71st birthday in October, Mrs. Chance had rounded out a long and useful life, one devoted to the stern duties of life. During nearly all of these years she had been a consistent member of the M. E. church, her membership being moved from Lowe's to Reidsville.

During the past several years Mrs. Chance had lived with her daughter, Mrs. Molly Johnston, near the West End public schools. Mrs. Johnston and Mr. R. B. Chance are the only surviving children. Her husband, the gallant A. J. Chance, lost his life in defense of the Southland at Chancellorsville.

The funeral will be conducted from Main Street Methodist church this afternoon at 3 o'clock. The pastor, Rev. W. F. Womble, will conduct the services.

The pall-bearers will be Messrs. P. H. Williamson, Dr. J. H. Thacker, E. D. Watt, J. D. Huffines, J. W. Walker, R. P. Blackwell.

The flower-bearers will be Messrs. Scott Blackwell, D. R. Barber, T. L. Gardner, Cosmo Benson, D. S. Barber, L. M. Sharp.

There will be an entertainment and box party at Bethany High School on Saturday night, Dec. 16, at 6:30. Public is cordially invited.

NEW TOBACCO BUYER

Liggett & Myers Will Have One in Reidsville.

Big Company's Headquarters Will Be at Durham and Stemmy and Wrapping Departments Will Be Moved to That City.

The great Liggett & Meyers Tobacco Company, one of the big companies created by the recent dissolution of the American Tobacco Company under the United States Supreme Court's mandate, will about January 1 place a regular buyer on the Reidsville market.

Vice-President C. W. Toms, of the Liggett & Meyers Company, recently gave out an interview in Durham from which it is learned that this company will maintain its principal office in that city and will conduct the large plant formerly operated by W. Duke Sons & Co. Mr. Toms says the Richmond stemmy and the Danville wrapper departments will be transferred to Powell produced \$10 of the money and Powell furnished the remaining \$40, the understanding being that the negro needed the change, while Powell and his friend could get the bill changed and each get his part. When the third negro got the money in his hand he said that he would have to step into a store a second to see something about getting the bill changed.

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Mr. C. C. Dula, a native Tar Heel, is president of this company. The following men will have charge of the Durham office: J. S. Cobb, W. C. Bradsher, N. E. Green, A. J. Burlington, J. P. Taylor, W. L. Warren, C. C. White and others. None of these gentlemen will be connected in any way with any other tobacco company.

Mr. Toms says the disintegration of the American Tobacco Company has been carried out in good faith and means the end of whatever monopoly that company possessed in the tobacco trade.

Who Did the Shooting?

Franklin, Dec. 8.—A serious shooting affair occurred at West's Mill, near Franklin, last night. The parties involved were W. J. West, former State Senator from this district, West's daughter and Perry Morrison, a merchant at West's Mill. It appears that West objected to Morrison's attention to his daughter and a quarrel arose over the affair.

West's version of the affair is that Morrison shot the girl and that he shot Morrison in defense of his daughter. Morrison says that West shot him and that West also shot the girl. Morrison and the girl each received two bullet wounds. Both the injured persons are seriously, if not fatally hurt, but both are still alive this morning.

It is impossible to get a satisfactory account of the matter at this time, owing to the conflicting statements of the parties.

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