

The News—A paper for all the people and for the people all the time.—Read it and keep posted.

Daily News.

WEATHER.
Generally fair and warmer today and Thursday; variable winds.

VOL. IV. NO. 67 STATE EDITION. GREENSBORO, N. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1908 STATE EDITION. PRICE FIVE CENTS

GOVERNMENT BY COMMISSION PLAN IS RECOMMENDED

Aldermen Adopt Proposed Amendments Placing Enforcement With Four Commissions.

COMMITTEE WILL ASK FOR A POLICE JUDGE

Each of Six Aldermen to Select Member of Commissions of Finance, School, Public Improvement and Police—Economy of Police Judge.

There is a movement on foot for a revolution in the method of administering the affairs of the city. Several weeks ago C. C. McLean, John L. King and City Attorney Thomas J. Shaw were appointed by the board of aldermen as a committee to draft and submit proposed changes to the present charter of the city. This committee made its report at an executive session of the board of aldermen, when the amendments to be submitted to the legislature were agreed upon. The amendments will be redrafted and made public in a few days.

According to plans outlined, Greensboro will have four commissions to handle the affairs of the city. These commissions are to be known as finance commission, police commission, public improvement commission and school commission. Each of the six aldermen are to select one man for each of the four departments. The commissioners are to be paid a salary, and upon them will be the duty of carrying out the ordinances of the city.

Another contemplated change is the establishment of a city court with a judge to try police cases similar to the

(Continued on Page Two.)

HEADS CABINET



SENATOR PHILANDER C. KNOX, Selected for Secretaryship of State and Taft's Chief Adviser.

New Pastor Pounded.
The members of Centenary Methodist church yesterday afternoon gave a pounding to their pastor, the Rev. M. A. Smith.

COUNCILMEN SELL IN PITTSBURG AT \$5 TO \$100 EACH

More Than Three Score of Them "Easy to Reach." According to Testimony.

\$45,000 SPLIT UP BY THEM ON ONE ORDINANCE

Smoky City Quickly Takes First Place in the Ranks of Grafters' Homes. Scandal Threatens to Startle Nation Before It Is Completely Threshed Out.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 23.—With a suddenness that startled Pittsburg from end to end, this city today moved into first place in the role of corruption and municipal graft.

Late tonight, many hours after thunderbolts in the shape of sensational testimony were exploded, the people of Pittsburg are dumbfounded.

It is stated that the shocking developments here today are mere preliminaries, and subsequent steps against additional councilmen and business men will not only startle Pittsburg, but the whole country.

It was intimated strongly in the testimony in court today that over three score councilmen are "easy to reach," and the "reaching" necessitated only small sums ranging from \$100 to \$5. In the past page of one ordinance alone it was testified that sixty councilmen had divided \$45,000.

Sensations followed one another in rapid succession during the hearing of the seven councilmen and two former bank officers, arrested on charges of bribery, corrupt solicitation and conspiracy last Monday night.

W. W. Ramsey and A. A. Vilsack.

(Continued on Page Two.)

T. F. RYAN QUITS THE DIRECTORATE OF 34 COMPANIES

Yields to Advice of Physicians and Withdraws From Active Operations.

RETAINS HAND IN BUT THREE CONCERNS

Action of the Financier Taken in Pursuance of Policy Begun by Him Three Years Ago at Urgent Recommendation of Doctor.

New York, Dec. 23.—Thomas F. Ryan, admittedly one of the greatest powers in the financial world, announced today that, yielding to the advice of his physicians, he had resigned from the directorate of thirty-four corporations. The only enterprises in the management of which Mr. Ryan retains a hand are the Morton Trust Company, the National Bank of Commerce and the American Tobacco Company.

Mr. Ryan's action was taken in pursuance of a policy of retirement first adopted two years ago, when he was told by his physicians that the multiplicity of cares devolving upon him as the chief steersman of so many financial organizations, were more than sufficient in themselves to tax the endurance of any one individual and were rapidly undermining his health. After a busy career of forty years, most of which had been spent in mapping out and carrying to a successful issue numerous street railway and lighting interests of gigantic magnitude, Mr. Ryan felt that he could unsharpen himself from his many business responsibilities and devote the remaining years of his life to comparative leisure.

Mr. Ryan today said: "This step has been taken after long and mature deliberation. There is no significance to it other than that my doctors told me I ought to let up. They first advised me to unload some of my responsibilities two years ago, and since then I have gradually withdrawn from the directorate of thirty-four corporations. My recent resignations are but the continuance of the policy adopted two years ago of unloading business responsibilities as rapidly as I can in justice to the interests involved."

Among the corporations from the directorate of which Mr. Ryan has resigned are the Commercial Trust Company of Philadelphia, the Continental Rubber Company of America, the Mercantile Trust Company of New York, and the Seaboard Air Line railway.

GOMPERS, MITCHELL AND MORRISON GET JAIL TERM

New and Old District Engineers

ALL TO SUFFER FOR FAILURE TO OBEY INJUNCTION

Labor Leaders Severely Scored by Judge in Delivering the Sentence.

GOMPERS WEEPS AS HE HEARS THE ORDER

Dramatic Scene in Courtroom Where Are Gathered Members of Family of Men. Sentenced—Case Will Be Appealed to the Court of Appeals.



MAJOR SPENCER COSBY, The New Commissioner.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 23.—Twelve months in jail for Samuel Gompers, president; nine months for John Mitchell, one of the vice-presidents, and six months for Frank Morrison, secretary, all of the American Federation of Labor, was the sentence imposed by Justice Wright, of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, today for contempt of court in violating an order previously issued enjoining them from placing on the "unfair" or "we don't patronize" list the Buck's Stove and Range Company, of St. Louis, Mo.

All three of the defendants were in court. Notice of an appeal to the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia, at once was filed, Gompers being released on \$5,000 bond, Mitchell on \$4,000, and Morrison on \$3,000.

In addition to the wife and daughter of Gompers, there were present a number of local labor leaders and others, who were attracted by the notice that a decision in the famous case would be announced today. Mr. Gompers' family were visibly affected.

With tears coursing down his own cheeks, President Gompers heard the order of the court, which condemned him to prison for a year. Both Mitchell and Morrison seemed stunned by the sentence, although Mitchell appeared to be the least concerned. Asked if he had anything to say why sentence should not be pronounced, President Gompers declared that he had not consciously violated any law. There was much he would like to say, he said, but he could not do it at that time. He added, however, that "this is a struggle of the working people of our country and it is a struggle of the working people for the right. It is a struggle of the ages—a struggle of the labor to throw off some of the burdens which have been heaped upon them; to abolish some of the wrongs and to secure some of the rights too long denied."

Mitchell and Morrison confined themselves to an indorsement of what Mr. Gompers had said.



MAJOR J. J. MORROW, The Retiring Commissioner.

UNDIPLOMATIC LETTER TO PRESIDENT CAUSE OF MORROW'S DOWNFALL

District Engineer Commissioner Opposed Chief Executive's Plan of Supply Purchase.

NOT THE FIRST DIFFERENCE

Washington, D. C., Dec. 23.—It has been semi-officially confirmed that the summary dismissal of Engineer Commissioner Jay J. Morrow, who turned over his office without a moment's warning to Maj. Spencer Cosby, late Monday afternoon, was the result of an undiplomatic letter sent by Major Morrow to the President of the United States on a "trivial" district matter.

This "trivial" matter is said to have been Major Morrow's pointed objection to the President's plan to have District Government supplies purchased in conjunction with federal government supplies, and by federal government disbursing officers, rather than through the District engineer's clerk as heretofore.

It is understood that this difference of opinion consisted in a minority report on the part of Commissioner Morrow to one of the President's suggestions, a suggestion which Commissioner MacFarland and West accepted in it. It is regarded as the culminating act connected with the administration of the office of engineer commissioner about which there has been more or less controversy, particularly affecting school repairs and the building inspector's office, during the past several weeks.

"Relieve Maj. Jay J. Morrow at once," This is in substance a telegram received by the secretary of war shortly after three o'clock Monday afternoon. It was signed by the President of the United States.

Secretary Wright communicated with the chief of engineers. It was found that Major Spencer Cosby was the only engineer on duty in Washington. He was recommended to succeed Major Morrow, and with in two hours after the receipt of the first telegram Major Cosby received a telegraphic order from the President to report at the Municipal building and take charge of the engineer's office.

The orders came as a surprise to both officers, and the war department itself knows no more today about the reason for the transfer than does the general public.

It is said that the President's action in removing Major Morrow came within thirty-six hours after the receipt of the objectionable letter from the commissioner.

IRISH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HEAD CALLS ON JUDGE TAFT

Makes Trip From Washington to Discuss Conservation of Resources.

LAUDS FORESTER PINCHOT

Augusta, Ga., Dec. 23.—Sir Horace Plunkett, head of the Irish department of agriculture, and knighted for his interest and service in educational and agricultural matters, kept an appointment with President-elect Taft today, which was made for him by President Roosevelt. Sir Horace came on a late afternoon train from Washington and began his return to that city two hours later. The object of his visit to Mr. Taft, as explained by the latter, was to ascertain

(Continued on Page Two.)

MISSOURI SUPREME COURT OUSTS STANDARD OIL AND SUBSIDIARIES FROM STATE

Forbids Them From Ever Doing Business There Again and Dissolves the Water-Pierce Oil Company, of St. Louis—End of Illegal Combinations. Says Hadley.

Jefferson City, Mo., Dec. 23.—The Supreme Court of Missouri delivered a decision today ousting the Standard Oil Company of Indiana and the Republic Oil Company from the state, forbidding them ever again to do business in Missouri, and dissolving the Waters-Pierce Oil Company, of St. Louis. In addition, each of the companies is fined \$30,000.

The court declared that the three oil companies had conspired and combined to monopolize the oil business in Missouri.

The decree against the Waters-Pierce Oil Company is tempered by the proviso that it may continue in business if, by January 15, 1909, it can show to the court that it has taken steps to operate as an independent concern, and has satisfied the judgment against it. The other companies are given until March 1, 1909, to wind up their affairs in the state.

The decision is so sweeping that Attorney-General Hadley and Governor Folk hail it as the end of illegal commercial combinations in Missouri.

Attorney-General Hadley, who has prosecuted the Missouri case since its inception in March, 1903, will become governor in less than a month, and then will be charged with the enforcement of the decree issued today.

The attorney-general, in a statement, asserted that attempts had been made to compromise the suit, but he said he refused the offers of the attorneys for the oil companies.

In its decision the court says: "If such abuses as those complained of are permitted to continue untrammelled, it would only be a question of time until they would sap the strength and patriotism from the very foundations of our government, overrun the republic, destroy our free institutions and substitute in lieu thereof some other form of government."

The principal indictments against the companies are: That they have created and become members of a pool, trust, agreement, confederation, combination, arrangement and understanding among themselves for the following purposes:

"First, to regulate, fix and control the prices to be paid by retail dealers and other in the State of Missouri for the refined products of petroleum sold and offered for sale in this state.

"Second, to control and limit the trade in refined products of petroleum in this state.

"Third, to control, limit and prevent competition in the business of buying and selling refined products of petroleum in this state between themselves and others engaged in like business; and

"Fourth, to mislead the public into the belief that they were separate and distinct corporations and pursuing an independent business as legitimate competitors."

(Continued on Page Two.)

CHRISTMAS EXERCISES HELD IN ASHBORO STREET SCHOOL

Yesterday morning at the Ashboro street grammar school, from nine to 11:30 o'clock, entertainments were held in the different classrooms of the first, third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades. The classrooms had been decorated with holly, cedar and mistletoe, and was in keeping with the programs rendered. The several teachers gave presents to their pupils and in return were recipients of gifts from the pupils. All the city schools closed yesterday for the holidays. The first school day in the coming new year will be January 4.

McFarland-Ernie Bout Called Off.

New Orleans, La., Dec. 23.—It was officially announced today by the Westside Athletic Club that the proposed bout in New Orleans between Packey McFarland and Young Ernie, had been called off, and it is not expected that further negotiations will be made to have the men meet here at any early date.

Custodian of Crosses of Honor.

Mrs. J. G. Brodnax, Sr., has been appointed custodian of the crosses of honor of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. All veterans desiring crosses should apply to Mrs. Brodnax at her residence in West Market street.

"SWINDLE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING," SAYS COMMISSIONER YOUNG

The Seminole Securities Company Agents May Be Indicted in North Carolina.

SOUTHERN LIFE NOT HURT

Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 23.—"After going into the matter thoroughly there is no doubt in my mind, in the mind of Commissioner McMillan, of South Carolina, and others with whom I talked in Columbia, that the whole Seminole Securities Company was a swindle from inception," was the official statement of the Hon. J. R. Young, North Carolina commissioner of insurance, on his return from Columbia tonight.

The commissioner wants all in North Carolina who bought stock in the corporation to furnish him names of agents and he will undertake to prosecute them through Superior Court grand juries in counties where stock was sold. Concerning the middle the Southern Life Company, of Fayetteville, has gotten into with the Seminole company, the commissioner says he believes the Southern company is solvent and policyholders are fully protected by the more than one hundred thousand dollars reserve deposit in his hands. He is gratified at the course the officers of the Southern company are taking to clear up the Seminole deal, and show that they have done nothing to be criticized for in selling their stock at rather high figures.

DR. BURBANK AND WIFE DIE NEARLY AT SAME HOUR

Husband Found Dead at Benbow Hotel While Wife Dies in Durham Hospital.

Two tragic deaths occurred yesterday which marked the passing of husband and wife at about the same hour.

Dr. G. F. Burbank, a former resident of Greensboro, who was said to be a first cousin of Luther Burbank, the noted plant wizard, of California, was found dead in his bed at a room of the Benbow hotel. His wife died in a hospital at Durham about the same time. When it was discovered that he was dead a bell boy went to his room to deliver a telegram announcing the death of his wife. Mrs. Burbank died of stomach trouble, while it is thought that Dr. Burbank died from an overdose of morphine.

About nine o'clock a telegram came to the hotel office addressed to Dr. Burbank. A bell boy was sent to take it to his room. In short order the boy returned and said that something was wrong with Burbank. The clerk went to the room and found him cold in death. How long he had been dead was not ascertained. The coroner was notified and he examined the body but an inquest was deemed unnecessary. The body was removed to the undertaking establishment of E. Poole to be prepared for burial.

Several years ago Dr. Burbank lived in Greensboro and practiced his profession as an optician. He left Greensboro in 1902, his wife died and he married again in Ohio. He arrived at the Benbow last Saturday and talked of going into business here. It was not known that Dr. Burbank was ill.

NORTH CAROLINA CAN CROSS CHARLESTON BAR

PILOTS' ASSOCIATION GUARANTEES THIS, AND TAFT WILL SAIL FROM THAT PORT.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 23.—The armored cruiser North Carolina, with President-elect Taft aboard, and her sister ship, the Montana, accompanying, can be taken across the bar at the entrance to Charleston harbor, with perfect safety, at eight o'clock on the morning of January 25, according to a guarantee to this effect given by the Pilots' Association of Charleston, S. C., through Commandant Dyer, of the Charleston navy yard, to the navy department today.

At this hour there is high tide, the water at the bar then being twenty-nine feet deep, while the North Carolina draws twenty-seven feet nine inches. The only provision made by the Pilots' Association is that the weather be clear enough for the marks to be seen and the tide not exceptionally low for high tide.

FOUR-YEAR-OLD BOY SCALDED TO DEATH

SON OF T. C. DEBNAM DIES AT HOSPITAL FROM SCALDING RECEIVED TUESDAY.

Thomas E. Debnam, the four-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Debnam, of Reid street, died at St. Leo's hospital yesterday afternoon from the effects of a severe scalding on the day previous. The funeral services will be conducted by the Rev. Sanders R. Guignard, rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal church, at the residence, 601 Reid street, this morning at 8:30 o'clock. The body will be taken to Durham for interment.

The child was playing around the range, when in some way, a pot of boiling water was overturned, the contents falling upon it, scalding it fearfully. The child was taken to St. Leo's for treatment.

County Offices Close For Christmas.

All the county offices will be closed Friday and Saturday of this week on account of the holidays.

ALIBI WILL BE THE DEFENSE OF NIGHT RIDERS

State Will Close Its Case Today and Adjourment Will Be Taken Till Monday—Witness Wears a Gun.

Union City, Tenn., Dec. 23.—When the state asked for an adjournment of the night rider trial late today, it announced that it would close its case on Thursday. The judge declared that instead of adjourning tomorrow until Saturday, it might be better to adjourn until Monday in order to give the defense a chance to prepare its case. This question will be decided tomorrow.

The defense will be an alibi for each of the eight defendants. Members of their families will swear that the men were at home and in bed during the night of October 19, the night that Captain Rankin was murdered. No attempt will be made to show their whereabouts the night that other outrages were perpetrated, as the defendants are indicted only for the murder of Rankin.

When William Russell, the self-confessed "night rider," was called for cross-examination today, a huge revolver projected from his pocket. The state's attorney sent the witness out of the courtroom to dispose of the weapon.

The defense elicited from the witness that after he was arrested by the soldiers, he was told by some men that he knew about the murder. They added that they would not be under guard

(Continued on Page Two.)