

THE PARK PROJECT.

National Geological Survey Approves Appalachian Park.

A GREAT MOUNTAIN PLAYGROUND

Many Attractions of Mountain Scenery and Waterfall Add to Beauty of the Reservation.

In the Series of Water Supply and Irrigation Papers, the United States Geological Survey, Mr. F. H. Newell, Hydrographer in Charge, has now in press Nos. 62 and 63, being parts I and II of the "Hydrography of the Southern Appalachian Mountain Region," by Mr. H. A. Pressey. This great mountain system stretches from Maine southwesterly for nearly 1300 miles, terminating in northern Alabama. From the Potomac south the ranges are higher and broader than in Pennsylvania. They spread out into the Blue Ridge, the Shenandoah, the Alleghany, and the Greenbrier mountains, extending, with broad and fertile valleys between, in nearly parallel lines through Virginia and West Virginia into North Carolina and Tennessee, and culminating in the Iron and the Great Smoky ranges, the great mountain region of the southeastern States. In this mountain mass 63 peaks equal or exceed a height of 6,000 feet; 25 peaks are higher than Mount Washington; and 288 peaks are over 5,000 feet. From North Carolina and Tennessee the ranges, leaving spurs in South Carolina, turn more westward through Georgia and Alabama, and sink into the hills of the Gulf Watershed. This great mountain system forms the backbone and watershed of the eastern part of the United States. The greatest masses and the highest peaks are in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee, which region may be considered a high plateau, bounded west by the Smoky Mountains and east by the Blue Ridge. These ranges, almost touching on the north, part company, and then almost come together again in the south, thus enclosing this plateau which has a maximum width of 55 miles and an area of about 6,000 square miles.

The region is well watered. The main divide of the river system is the Blue Ridge. The States of Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and West Virginia are partially watered by rivers rising in mountains near the North Carolina and Tennessee State line. One of the principal tributaries of the Ohio and one of the largest feeders of the Mississippi head in the same mountains, and the region may justly be termed one of the chief watersheds of the United States. Grandfather Mountain, at the junction of Watauga, Mitchell, and Caldwell counties in North Carolina, probably the most massive of the Southern Appalachians, may be taken as the center of this watershed. Thence the waters pour north, east, south and west. From the many springs on the southern slope of Grandfather Mountain flow some of the headwaters of the Catawba, which, rising in the Black Mountains and descending in leaps of from 5 to 100 feet to the Piedmont Plain, crosses into South Carolina and, as the Wateree, passes on to the Atlantic. Flowing from this region, besides the Catawba, into the Atlantic are the Yadkin, Broad, Saluda, Chatanooga, Tugaloo, and Oconee; into the Gulf are the Chattahoochee and the Coosa; into the Mississippi are New River and the Tennessee. From the western slopes of the Blue Ridge flow the headwaters of the great Tennessee River system, as do its larger tributaries, the Holston, the Nolachucky, and the French Broad.

The scenery of the southern Appalachian region is the grandest in the eastern States. The mean annual temperature varies from nearly 60 degrees F. at Sallabury (650 feet), east of the mountains, to 49 degrees F. at Linnville (3,800 feet), the latter being the mean annual temperature of Boston or Chicago. The annual rainfall is copious, especially on the eastern slopes of the mountains. At Highlands, in Macon county, the annual normal precipitation is about 72 inches; at Asheville it is about 42 inches.

Notwithstanding the inroads that have been made on the forest that once covered nearly the whole of these mountains, nowhere in the United

States is there an equal area of land covered with so great a variety of valuable timber. The walnuts, tulips (poplars), and oaks grow to almost incredible sizes. White pine occurs in large tracts. Lumbering on a large scale has been carried on for only a few years, but is very destructive. Some of the companies saw anything that will make a plank. In the case of the bark gatherers, the wastefulness is even more deplorable and ruinous. This section is comparatively free from forest fires. A number of railroads run into this region; but the transportation facilities and the highways are very poor. Splash dams are much used in sending timber downstream. The soil is generally deep and fairly fertile even to the mountain tops; but it washes easily when exposed. The entire region is well adapted to stock raising; some iron ore occurs in large quantities in a number of counties; copper, mica, corundum, gold, and other minerals have been mined to some extent. Many varieties of shrubs and flowering plants abound, and the region should prove a Mecca to botanists.

The drainage basins, discharge measurements, and water powers of the various rivers and their tributaries, are described at length by Mr. Pressey; and much information of great value to millers, sawmill men, lumbermen, miners, cattlemen, farmers, and travelers is to be found in the report.

Mr. Pressey insists upon the importance of the forest to the preservation of the soil of this region, and notes with satisfaction that the heavy forest growth on Grandfather Mountain is not to be destroyed. In order that the springs which give rise to so many streams on Grandfather Mountain may not be disturbed, 1,400 acres have been set aside as a public park, under five commissioners, one of whom is the Commissioner of Agriculture of North Carolina, and another the State Geologist, Prof. J. A. Holmes, with whose active assistance the surveys and examinations described by Mr. Pressey were made.

The study is illustrated by forty-four plates.

Arrival of Prince Henry.

New York, Special.—Prince Henry of Prussia, representative of his brother, the Emperor of Germany, at the launching of the latter's American-built yacht, reached New York Sunday and was cordially welcomed as a guest of the nation. The land batteries that guard the outer harbor fired salutes of 21 guns; the rifles of a special naval squadron assembled in his honor re-echoed the sentiment; there were verbal greetings from the representatives of President Roosevelt, the army, the navy and the city of New York, and a great crowd lined the way in the city to see the German sailors and the Prince of Germany.

Secretary Long to Retire.

Washington, Special.—Now that the Schley matter has been settled officially, it is understood that Secretary Long feels that he is at liberty to carry out the project cherished by him in the last year of President McKinley's administration and retire to private life. However, this is not expected to ensue at once, for there is no certain knowledge of what may follow in Congress, notwithstanding a strong belief by the administration that the case is settled beyond revival. Therefore, it is understood the change in the cabinet circle will not take place before the adjournment of the present session of Congress and perhaps not until next fall.

Montague's Message.

Richmond, Special.—Governor Montague, in his message transmitted to the Virginia Assembly, endorses road improvement, recommends the creation of a highway commission, to have charge of that work; favors an employer's liability bill, and the engrafting of some form of industrial education on the public school system. He would have short term prisoners in the penitentiary work on the public roads.

Sub-Treasury For the South.

Washington, Special.—The need of a sub-treasury in the South was presented to the ways and means committee by Mayor Myers and a delegation of business men of Savannah, who asked for the establishment of such a Treasury branch at that city. It was stated that such a branch would be of material aid in financial dealings in the South, particularly at the time when the cotton crop and other Southern staples are being moved.

The census shows that the number of Indians in Massachusetts increased from 428 in 1892 to 587 in 1900.

HAD A FREE FIGHT

Tillman and McLaurin Come to Blows In the Senate Chamber.

BOTH SUSPENDED FOR CONTEMPT.

Sensational Development in the Old Controversy Between the Senior and Junior Senator From S. C.

Washington, Special.—Washington's birthday was signalized in the United States Senate by a fist fight. "The two Senators from South Carolina were the active participants in the affray. Mr. Tillman, in the course of a speech upon the Philippine tariff, made serious reflections upon the honor of his colleague, Mr. McLaurin. In brief he charged that Mr. McLaurin's vote in support of the ratification of the treaty of Paris had been cast through the air of improper influences.

His statement was developed in a colloquy between him and Mr. Spooner of Wisconsin. Mr. Tillman at first declined to mention names, but when the Wisconsin Senator reminded him that he owed it to himself, to the Senate and to the country "to name the man," Mr. Tillman indicated that he referred to his colleague from South Carolina. Little imagining that his words were likely to be prophetic, Mr. Spooner remarked, sententiously: "I will leave the Senator to fight that out with his colleague."

Mr. McLaurin was not in the chamber at the time, being engaged in committee work; but he was sent for and appeared just as Mr. Tillman concluded his speech.

Pale as ashes, Mr. McLaurin rose to address the Senate, speaking to a question of personal privilege. He reviewed Mr. Tillman's charges briefly and then denounced the statement made by his colleague as "a wilful and deliberate lie."

Scarcely had the words fallen from his lips when Mr. Tillman, sitting a few seats from him, with Mr. Teller of Colorado between them, sprang at him, Mr. McLaurin, who had half turned towards Mr. Tillman, met him half way, and in an instant the two Senators, having swept Mr. Teller aside, were engaged in a rough and tumble fist fight. Mr. McLaurin received a heavy blow on the forehead, while Mr. Tillman got a bad punch on the nose, which brought blood.

Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Layton sprang over desks to reach and separate the combatants, and himself received several blows. He got between them finally and by main strength wrenched them apart.

Senators Warren of Wyoming and Scott of West Virginia, two of the most powerful men in the Senate, leaped to his assistance and, pinning the arms of the belligerent Senators, forced them into their seats.

Intense excitement prevailed in the Senate and in the galleries, which were thronged with people who had been attracted by the spirited debate. Everybody was on his feet. Not a word, however, was spoken. Senators stood about the chamber, for the moment quite helpless and pale to the lips. Finally order was restored partially, and in the midst of intense excitement the Senate went into secret legislative session.

For two hours the Senate discussed the event behind closed doors. When the doors were reopened it was made known that both of the South Carolina Senators by unanimous vote had been declared to be in contempt of the Senate. They were permitted, by a vote of the Senate, to make apologies to the Senate. The statements were listened to by both the Senators and the people in the galleries with breathless interest.

Senator Tillman left the capitol when adjournment was taken for recess and did not return for the night session. Senator McLaurin was in the chamber about 8 o'clock, but left early. Neither Senator, when seen at his home, would make a statement.

The Pope's Anniversary.

Rome, By Cable.—The Pope Thursday entered on the twenty-fifth year of his pontificate. Although the main celebration of the jubilee is postponed until March 3rd, when the combined festivals of the jubilee and coronation will be observed. The day was marked by the singing of a te deum in St. Peter's, and other observances. The Pontiff was the recipient of congratulations from all sides.

SOUTHERN INDUSTRIAL

New Enterprises That Are Enriching Our Favored Section.

Million Dollar Cement Plant.

Negotiations have been pending for some time relative to the utilization of the slate refuse and lime rock formations near Rockmart, Ga., in the manufacture of Portland cement, now so extensively used for dams, building foundations and masonry work in general. During the week it has been announced that the Southern States Portland Cement Company will be organized, with a capital of \$1,000,000, to build a large cement plant in the section referred to. It is said that the Peninsular Portland Cement Company of Cement City, Mich., will be interested to a large extent financially, and that W. F. Cowham (general manager of the Michigan company) will be president, and H. F. Vandeventer, of Knoxville, Tenn., manager of the new Georgia corporation.

Industrial Items.

Mr. Tom Richardson, who has just become the manager of the Progressive Union of New Orleans, has already begun active work for the promotion of the city's welfare. He considers that the constitutional provision exempting from taxation for ten years from January 1, 1900, of new manufacturing plants may be made splendid use of in building up the city, and he suggests that every business letter-head and business envelope sent from New Orleans should bear a statement of that act upon it.

For the banquet last week celebrating the establishment of the New Orleans naval dry-dock, Mr. Fred Muller, secretary of the New Orleans Maritime and Merchants' Exchange, Limited, prepared a statement, into which he condensed a mass of valuable statistical information regarding the commercial importance of that city. This has been published in pamphlet form, and is being circulated for the good of the city.

When the Good Roads Special of the Southern Railway reached Raleigh, N. C., this week it found the ground well prepared for it. The News and Observer of that city, with notable enterprise, had published on Sunday a special good roads edition, containing, in addition to general articles on highway improvement, reports from many parts of the State showing what is already being accomplished in that direction.

Cincinnati is giving an illustration of what a wide-awake city will do for itself in a handsome invitation sent broadcast, on the part of the citizens of Cincinnati, to the formal opening of the Cincinnati building at the South Carolina, Interstate and West Indian Exposition at Charleston on February 15.

The Atlanta Manufacturers' Association, which proposes to hold an exhibit of articles manufactured in Atlanta, has elected Messrs. J. K. Orr, president; R. T. Conley and Samuel D. Jones, vice-presidents; Walter G. Cooper, secretary, and H. T. Inman, treasurer.

Northern and Western parties, it is expected, will undertake the thorough development of the well-known Tallulah Falls at Tallulah Falls, Ga. W. A. Charters, representing capitalists from the sections referred to above, has purchased one-half the falls and 100 acres of land contiguous bordering on the river for about a mile.

It is stated that arrangements have been made to develop the kaolin deposits near Oak Level, near Martinsville, Va., and the work will begin at an early date. The product will be shipped from Alumina, on the Norfolk & Western Railway, to East Liverpool, Ohio, to be manufactured into china.

During the past calendar year 32,521 head of cattle and between 6000 and 7000 sheep were exported through Newport News and Norfolk.

Neil P. Anderson of Fort Worth is shipping through Galveston cattle for the Liverpool market.

Textile Notes.

John Marsh of North Adams, Mass., is reported as having decided to locate a cotton mill at Charlotte, N. C. He has been in the city named during the week investigating with a view of building there.

Humboldt (Tenn.) Cotton Mills is in the market for the machinery noted lately as to be installed to increase equipment. The machinery wanted includes 40-inch finishing lapper, five 40-inch cards, revolving top flat; three drawing frames, six deliveries each; slubber, forty spindles; intermediate, seventy-two spindles; two speeders, 120 spindles each; four spinning frames, 240 spindles each; spooler, eighty spindles, and fifty 36-inch looms.

VALET CONFESSES.

Astonishing Turn In the Now Famous Rice Murder Trial.

Rice Murder Trial.**TELLS PARTICULARS OF MURDER.**

Lawyer Patrick Dosed the Aged Millionaire, and Finally Chloroformed Him to Death.

New York, Special.—A very dramatic point in the trial of Lawyer Albert T. Patrick for the murder of the Texas millionaire, William Marsh Rice, was reached Thursday afternoon. Chas. F. Jones, the valet, had been relating the circumstances leading up to the somewhat sudden death of Mr. Rice, in September. Then plunging at once into the details, he held the attention of his audience to the end of his recital. Freed of minor points his story runs:

"In August Patrick grew impatient. Mr. Rice, though an invalid, was living too long to suit the lawyer's purposes. Patrick said he would come to the house and kill him himself if necessary. He suggested chloroform and Jones said he would get some. The idea of chloroform as a means was suggested by a magazine article. It was determined on after Jones talked with a physician who said a person whose heart was affected, as was Mr. Rice's, could be most easily killed with it; and that little trace of the drug would be left. Jones got a two-ounce vial of it by writing to his brother in Texas.

Jones then branches off into the alleged plan adopted to weaken the alleged plan adopted to weaken the alleged mercury and iron pills. The pills brought on debilitating diarrhoea. Then, unwittingly, a friend brought Mr. Rice a present of bananas. Of these the old man ate nine. The fruit made him exceedingly ill; and yet the weakening doses of mercury were kept up. By Saturday, about the eighth day of the last illness, Mr. Rice became delirious. This testimony brought the events up to Sunday, the day of death, and the witness said that during these days of illness he kept Patrick informed of the details personally and by telephone.

William Marsh Rice's quick death, declared the witness, was decided on at a conference between Patrick and Jones held Saturday night. Jones had told the lawyer of the arrival of a draft for \$25,000. Patrick told him it was time to apply the chloroform, now that the draft had come and that Captain Baker was coming, or they would lose all. Jones agreed.

Jones here told his story of the actual killing. He made a cone of a towel in the small end of which was a chloroform-soaked sponge. Creeping into the room where Mr. Rice lay sleeping, he quickly covered the sleeper's face with the large end of the cone. Jones rushed out of the room. In half an hour he came back. He removed the cone. Mr. Rice was dead. Jones swore he telephoned to Patrick the words: "Mr. Rice is very ill," the agreed signal between the two of death. Jones' story of the end was concluded by the statement that Patrick came to the house and removed all of Mr. Rice's papers.

"Some time in August," Jones said in the course of his narrative, "Patrick asked me if I did not think Mr. Rice was living too long for our welfare. He thought it would be a good thing if we would put him out of the way. He said if I'd tell him some night when Mr. Rice was sleeping soundly, he'd come up and do it, if I would not."

"What was said of chloroform?" asked Attorney Osborne.

"Patrick said that would be an easy way to put Mr. Rice away. An article in a magazine gave him the idea. Something was said about getting chloroform, and Patrick said it was very hard to get; that one had to have all sorts of certificates before the druggist would sell that. I told Patrick he could leave that to me. I sent my brother \$5 and he sent me chloroform in a four-ounce bottle. Patrick said he had often wondered about what would be the effect of chloroform on a person afflicted with heart trouble. I put the question to Dr. Curry, and he said no little chloroform would be needed to kill a person who had heart disease; that it was doubtful if any traces of the poison would remain after death. I told Patrick what Dr. Curry had said."

Carriage Factory Wrecked.

Valdosta, Ga., Special.—During a terrific wind storm here Thursday morning, the carriage factory of the Robert-Cranford-Dasher Company was wrecked. The building fell 15 minutes before the employes were due to begin their day's work. The loss to the company is \$10,000. No further damage than shade trees and fences destroyed has been reported.