

The Polk County News.

Three Cents the Copy.

INDEPENDENCE IN ALL THINGS.

Subscription Price, \$1.00 Per Year in Advance.

VOL. XI.

COLUMBUS, N. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 1905.

NO. 19.

FEVER IS SPREADING

Conditions Have Not Improved as Expected

MANY NEW CASES DEVELOPED

Chief Mississippi's Board of Health Announces the Presence of the Yellow Fever and From Six to Ten Cases—New Cases in New Orleans Drops to 31 and Deaths Reach Record Number Thus Far of 13.

New Orleans, Special.—Official report to 6 p. m.:
New cases, 31. Total to date, 1,743.
Deaths, 13. Total, 402.
New foci, 12. Total, 402.
Remaining under treatment, 199.
Board of health at Natchez, Miss., pronounces six to ten cases yellow fever there.

The record shows the smallest number of new cases since August 6, and the largest number of deaths on any day since the fever made its appearance. The unusual number of deaths is attributed, in a measure, to the change in the weather, Sunday being cool and pleasant, in great contrast to the weather of the preceding week. Three well-known merchants are among the new cases. Only two names that can be traced to Italian origin are among the 31. Of the deaths, eight are Italians. Two died in the Charity Hospital and two in the Emergency. All but two of the deaths were down town.

The principal news from outside the city was the announcement from Natchez of the discovery of six cases there.

Other reports from the country are as follows:

Amelia—two cases.
Bayou Boeuf, one case.
Pean Grove, three cases and one death.
Elizabeth plantation, one death.
Hanson City, four cases and one death.
St. Rose, two cases.
Port Barrow, two cases.
Ninth ward of Jefferson parish, one case.
Lake Providence, three cases.
Gulfport, three cases.
Mississippi City, no new cases.

The Southern Pacific Railroad, at the request of the State board of health, has put on a special coach for the accommodation of people traveling between infected points on that road. It will be run every other day.

Quite a controversy has developed between City Health Officer Kohnke and Dr. Joseph H. Holt, at one time president of the State Board of health. Dr. Holt, in the course of an address before a meeting, passed some severe strictures on the city health officer, who, when he heard the report of the address in the morning papers, wrote him, asking if he had been correctly quoted. Dr. Holt has made a rather warm reply.

Fever Until Cold Weather.

Pensacola, Fla., Special.—Dr. Porter, State health officer and assistant surgeon of the Marine Hospital Service, who is here expressed the opinion that yellow fever is not likely to spread in New Orleans as it has in the past, but he does not believe the disease will be entirely stamped out before cold weather. Dr. Porter said: "The time to commence work to eradicate the mosquito and to clean up is winter. This was shown by the manner in which Havana was cleaned. Most of the work was done during the winter season and when summer appeared it found the city in good condition. You cannot expect any city if any size to be cleaned in a month or two months, as it requires time and hard work to place it in condition."

Kills Two and is Killed.

Selma, Ala., Special.—Oliver Lott, a negro laborer at the lumber mill of G. Talley in Tunnel Springs, during a quarrel with John and Henry Helton over a debt, opened fire on them, killing John Helton and seriously wounding Henry Helton. The negro then fled and barricaded himself in a house. A posse of citizens under the leadership of G. Talley attempted to arrest him. They surrounded the house, and Lott refused to surrender, and fired on the crowd. Talley was mortally wounded and died a few hours later. The posse then fired on the negro and his body was afterwards found riddled with bullets.

Strike in Factory.

Warsaw, By Cable.—The strikes in the factories at Warsaw and Lodz have ended. Trains are running from Warsaw on time. They are guarded and driven by soldiers. The wholesale arrests which have been made here include leading members of the Polish Socialist party. Several persons have been conveyed to the Fortress of Modlin, because jails set apart for political offenders are full.

WILL EXUM'S NECK SAVED

But He Promises Never Hereafter to Appeal to Any Governor For the Reduction of His Sentence—Governor Believes the Man is Worthy of Death.

News and Observer.

Governor Glenn has commuted the death sentence of Will Exum, of Lenoir county, to life imprisonment at hard labor in the State penitentiary at Raleigh. Exum was tried at the September term, 1904, of Lenoir criminal court and convicted of murder in the first degree. He was sentenced to be hanged. Appeal after appeal was made to the governor after the Supreme Court refused to find error in the ruling of the lower court. Large representations of lawyers and prominent citizens appeared again and again before the governor, some urging a commutation, while others as strongly opposed it. Once compelled by pressure to give a written statement as to what he would do in the case, Governor Glenn wrote that commutation was denied as Exum was guilty of murder in the first degree.

At last the murderer's attorneys headed by ex-Governor Chas. B. Aycock, petitioned for a commutation on the ground that there was no premeditation in the commission of the atrocious crime. This and the earnest heart-rending appeals of the ex-Governor have saved Will Exum's life.

Governor Glenn's reasons for granting the commutation are as follows:

"On appeal to Supreme Court, no error was found in the ruling of the lower court, and the judgment of the court was affirmed. The prisoner under the rules of law, having applied to me for commutation from the death penalty to life imprisonment at hard labor in the penitentiary, I have read and re-read the evidence and considered carefully everything urged, both by counsel for the State and counsel in favor of commutation of the prisoner's sentence.

"The prisoner, himself, acknowledges the great atrocity of his crime by filing a written statement, signed in the presence of witnesses to the effect that if the extreme penalty of the law is not enforced against him, that he will never hereafter appeal to any Governor for the reduction of his sentence.

"In my own opinion, there was ample evidence of murder in the first degree, and the prisoner would receive but a just sentence to pay the penalty if his crime by the forfeiture of his life. However, nine of the jurors, the trial judge, the judge delivering the opinion of the Supreme Court, and another of the Supreme Court judges who had carefully examined the case strongly recommended commutation of the prisoner's sentence. This is also urged by thousands of the best citizens of Lenoir, Greene and Pitt counties, and while a great many good men oppose the commutation, public sentiment seems to favor it on the ground that there was lack of premeditation on the part of the prisoner.

"Therefore, while I still believe he is guilty of an awful crime, acting in favor of life, and on account of the strong recommendation of those who heard and tried the case, I commute the sentence from death to life imprisonment, believing that if I err it is better to do so on the side of humanity than run the risk of doing a wrong that could never be recalled.

"The sheriff of Lenoir county is therefore directed to immediately take Will Exum and convey him to the proper authorities at the State's prison in Raleigh, there to be confined at hard labor for the remainder of his life.

"This, 21st day of August, 1905.

"R. B. GLENN,
Governor."

Frank Gilliam Drowned.

Winston-Salem, Special.—Frank Gilliam, aged 17, was drowned in a pond a few miles from this city. Gilliam, with several companions, were in the pond bathing. He was a good swimmer, but it is believed that he remained in the water too long and was attacked with cramp. He came near drowning another boy while the latter was trying to rescue him.

Fire at Goldsboro.

Goldsboro, Special.—A small tenant house belonging to Messrs. H. Well & Bros., and occupied by a colored man by the name of "Dee" Cole, situated on John street just opposite the cotton yard, was completely destroyed by fire Monday night about 12 o'clock. The fire was occasioned by the overturning of a lamp. The oil quickly ignited and in a few seconds the building was in flames. Cole lost everything he possessed in the way of household effects, except one chair.

NORTH STATE NEWS

Occurrences of Interest in Various Parts of the State.

Charlotte Cotton Market.

These figures represent prices paid to wagons:
Good middling 10 1/2
Strict middling 10 1/2
Middling 10 1/2
Tinges 9 to 10
Stains 7 to 9

General Cotton Market.

Galveston, firm 10 11-16
New Orleans, firm 10 10 1/2
Mobile, nominal 10 10 1/2
Savannah, steady 10 10 1/2
Charleston, steady 10 10 1/2
Norfolk, firm 10 10 1/2
Baltimore, nominal 11 1/4
New York, quiet 11 20
Boston, quiet 12 25
Philadelphia, quiet 11 45
Houston, steady 10 11-16
Augusta, steady 10 10 1/2
Memphis, steady 10 10 1/2
St. Louis, firm 10 10 1/2
Louisville, firm 10 10 1/2

Building and Loan Progress.

Insurance Commissioner Young says there is an unusual activity in the State in the formation of Building & Loan Associations. The last Legislature placed these associations in the Insurance Department under the charge of the commissioner. At the time there were forty-four Building & Loan Associations in the State. The remarkable success that has attended their work in the State, especially in the building up of the cities and towns where they are located, has prompted other business men of other places to take up the organization of associations in their cities and towns. Seven associations have already been organized since the adjournment of the Legislature and many more are now being promoted. Nothing does more to build up a city or town than a good, well managed Building & Loan Association, said Mr. Young, and there is no safer investment than the stock in one of them. They can run at the smallest expense of any business institution in the State, and many of them in the State, that have done a very large amount of business have a record of never having lost one cent in any business transaction.

Suit For Damages Instituted.

Salisbury, Special.—Announcement was made here that Wright & Carlton, attorneys for the heirs of Watt V. Burleyson late of this city, have instituted a suit for damages in the amount of \$25,000 against the Southern Railway Company for the death of Young Burleyson. The latter was a private in the Rowan Rifles and while attending the annual encampment at Charlotte about ten days ago fell into a cinder pit, near the yards of the Southern railway, sustaining internal injuries, which resulted in his death. Through her attorneys the administratrix claims that the defendant company is liable for damages on account of permitting dangerous holes to remain open on its premises. It is also stated by the Salisbury Evening Post that the city of Charlotte may likewise be made a party to the action.

Owens Its Water Works.

Fayetteville now owns its water works, the transfer having been made in the directors' room of the Bank of Fayetteville. This was done in obedience to a decision of Judge Purnell, of the Federal Court, sustaining the city in its suit against the company, under the franchise giving the city the right to take over the property after a term of years by offering its value, set by a board of appraisers. The purchase price is \$79,000, the city assuming \$55,000 of the company's bonds and paying the company \$24,000. The city pays its lawyers, the company paying the court cost.

North State News.

Penitentiary Superintendent Mann says the crops in Hyde county are better than he ever saw them, and that they simply astounded people from up the country who have been there this season. It has been quite dry through all that section of the State and no damage has occurred on account of rains which have caused such losses in a number of sections.

The Secretary of State is preparing abstracts of all the wills in his office, 4,000 in number, these running from 1700 to 1773, though there are very few after 1750. All names given in the wills and the locations of the lands are covered by these abstracts, which will be printed. The wills have been placed in packets.

Ceburn L. Harris, expert of the Agricultural Department, has completed the inspection of foods for man and beast in this State in search of adulterations, and finds a very remarkable improvement over last year. The results will be given in The Bulletin for November.

NEWSY GLEANINGS.

Tokio is to have a four-track elevated railroad.

New York now consumes each year 75,000 to 100,000 pounds of bullfrogs.

It is said that we shall send abroad 200,000,000 bushels of wheat this year.

A London newspaper the other day printed our Declaration of Independence.

New York society women have begun a crusade to "reform Coney Island."

In the upper part of Kaffirland in South Africa a postal service of motor cycles has been established.

A mouse on the stage of a New York theatre stopped the performance the other night, the chorus girls fleeing in terror.

Persia has asked Russia to send sugar experts to examine the possibility of the cultivation of beet root in Persia.

Boston, it is stated, has a club in which boy babies of the first families are proposed as soon as they are christened.

Recently a third survey of the historic Mason and Dixon's line between Pennsylvania and Maryland has been completed.

Automobile street-sweeping machines are to be added to New Orleans' municipal outfit for the fight against yellow fever.

Two educational institutions in Tennessee are to be consolidated, the Lincoln Memorial University and the Medical College of Nashville.

The area of land in the United Kingdom under cultivation steadily decreases, according to the reports of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The trustees of the British Museum have expressed their willingness to receive carefully selected phonographic records of the voices of distinguished living men.

PERSONAL GOSSIP.

Lord Leicester, of England, is said to own 50,000 acres of land.

The youngest professional organist in the world is Kathleen Mills.

Mayor Woodward, of Atlanta, Ga., is a foe to the swallow-tail coat.

Justice Giegerich, of the New York Supreme Court, is fond of sailing.

The youngest master of foxhounds in the world is Lord De Clifford.

Ting Chian Chen and Ying Hsing We are the names of two Chinese who have entered West Point.

Probably the most popular person on the lecture platform in Germany today is Professor Haeckel.

The richest baby in the world is said to be the little son of the late Harold Brown, of Providence, R. I.

W. L. La Follette, a son of Governor La Follette, of Wisconsin, is said to be making a fortune in fruit growing.

The Rev. David H. Buell, the new president of Georgetown University, is a son of Colonel David H. Buell, U. S. A.

Harry Lander, a Scottish comedian, is so popular in Great Britain that he is booked at the music halls till Christmas, 1912.

Thomas Shevlin, of Minneapolis, has given \$60,000 for the erection of a woman's building at the University of Minnesota.

Waldo Story, the Boston-London sculptor, is to execute a statue of the late Sir William Vernon Harcourt for the House of Commons.

Colonel James R. Randall, the well-known Southern author and veteran journalist, has accepted the editorship of the Morning Star, of New Orleans, La.

The late Sir D. M. Petiti, a parsee of Bombay, who founded numerous cotton mills in India, gave \$2,500,000 to benevolent projects and was created a baron.

Bad Freight Wreck.

Charleston, S. C., Special.—A local freight on the Greenville & Laurens Railroad was wrecked near Barksdale four miles from Laurens. It is thought that the accident occurred on account of an iron bolt on the track. The colored fireman was killed and Engineer J. L. Bearden badly injured. The engine and seven cars were demolished. There have been three wrecks near this point within the past six months and foul play is suspected.

To Retain Collector's Office.

Washington, Special.—Representative Rixey and a number of prominent citizens of Alexandria, Va., called on Commissioner Yerkes, of the Internal Revenue Bureau, and were given a hearing in opposition to the proposed change in the location of the principal office of the collector of internal revenue of the sixth Virginia district from Alexandria to Abington, the home of Mr. Summers, the present collector. Ten days were given the delegation in which to file a written argument against the change.

Mutineers Court-martialed.

Libau, Russia, Aug. 26.—The court-martial of 137 mutineers of the battleship Kniaz Potemkine has just been completed. Eight of the prisoners were sentenced to be shot, but it was recommended that their sentence be commuted to life imprisonment. Others were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment at hard labor.

NORTH CAROLINA CROP BULLETIN

Conditions For Past Week as Given Out by the Department.

The North Carolina section of the climate and crop service of the department of agriculture, issues the following official bulletin for the past week:

In general the weather has been too wet for the best growth of crops; the week has been cloudy and in many places rain has fallen every day. Cotton has been injured to a considerable extent by the rains, bottom land corn has been drowned and the land badly washed. On the other hand the rain and sunshine in many places proved very beneficial to most crops especially corn, but as many farmers still had their hay and fodder to cut and cure, the week was in that respect unfavorable. The average temperature of the week for the State was only about one degree below the average.

In many places the farmers are ready to plow for wheat, and while a great deal of land has been broken, it has been too wet for plowing to become general.

It has been too wet for cotton. In many sections it is making too much weed, and not fruiting well. It is opening generally throughout the State, and picking is in progress in many sections but more common in the east and central districts. In some cases opening has been caused by rust and thus it is somewhat premature. A few report bolls rotting near the ground and also of the cotton yellowing.

While tobacco cutting and curing have been in progress for some time, there is some that is just about ripe in the western districts. The crop will not be quite an average in most places, while some report only a one-half crop. Firing and specking has been reported in some portions of the central and western districts. In all districts cutting and curing are in progress. The cures are reported as fair, color good but leaf somewhat lacking in body.

A great deal of lowland corn damaged by rains; while many report an improvement in the corn during the past week, others report too much weed and not earing well. Corn, both early and late, on uplands will do fairly well, although the crop is not as good as was anticipated.

Most of the minor crops are doing well. Turnip planting is still in progress, some have come up, and a good yield is expected. White and sweet potatoes, buckwheat, cow peas, water melons are all doing well. In general the fruit crop is a failure, the fruit rotting and falling to the ground but a few report apples and peaches plentiful. Fodder and hay have been greatly injured by the rains in all parts of the State. Fodder stripping is under way in all sections, and in places there is lots of hay uncut, the weather being unfavorable.

Rains reported: Raleigh 0.81; Goldsboro 0.34; Greensboro 0.92; Lumberton 0.26; New Bern 0.68; Weldon 1.94.—A. H. Thiessen, Section Director.

A Fruit Fair.

Asheville, Special.—Representatives from the fruit-growing sections of western North Carolina met here last week to discuss the advisability and desirability of holding an apple fair in Asheville this fall. At the conclusion of an interesting meeting it was decided to hold the fair from September 20 to October 1, under the auspices of the Asheville board of trade.

North State News.

The Loray Mill has brought to Gastonia about 100 people this week to work in the mill. There were two car loads of them. They came from Asheville.

Mr. Walter O. Cox, ay oung lawyer of Winston-Salem, died at 4 o'clock Thursday afternoon at his home in East Winston, after three weeks' illness with fever. The deceased was educated at the University of North Carolina and for four years was county superintendent of public instruction. He leaves a wife, and one child, besides a number of relatives and many friends to mourn his death.

Mr. W. C. Hardison, a banker and wealthy and influential citizen of Wadesboro, committed suicide at his home there Wednesday evening. Mr. Hardison had been in poor health for some time, and this coupled with the fact that he had recently lost a great deal of money preyed upon his mind, causing him to commit the terrible act.

Goldsboro, Special.—Mr. James Handley, a young merchant of this city, who was tried by two courts before the present term for retailing whiskey without license, has been found guilty by a jury which was out two days and nights. As yet the judge has not imposed the sentence.

NOW UP TO RUSSIA

Japan Materially Modifies Terms of Peace Proposition

FOREGOES QUESTION OF INDEMNITY

Envoy Komura Will Offer Envoy Witte a Waiver of the Claim to "Reimburse for the Cost of the War" and Will Propose to Refer to Arbitration the Amount to be Paid Japan for Evacuating the Northern Half of Sakhalin.

Portsmouth, N. H., Special.—Tuesday morning Baron Komura, acting upon instructions received from Tokio as a result of Monday's meeting of the cabinet and "elder statesmen" under the direct presidency of the Emperor of Japan, submitted to Mr. Witte a new basis of compromise, and that compromise, it is firmly believed, will insure peace.

The revelation contained in the announcement that President Roosevelt had already informed Emperor Nicholas, through Ambassador Meyer, that Japan was ready to waive the question of indemnity and submit the price to be paid for the northern half of Sakhalin to the judgment of a mixed commission but prepared the way for Japan's back down upon the main issue. It had met with denials high and low. It was declared to be impossible and incredible. The Japanese declined to admit it and the Russians said they had no confirmation. Mr. Witte intimated strongly that St. Petersburg has not apprised him to any such action by the President. There was even a disposition to ridicule the idea of arbitrating the price of half of the islands. Nevertheless, on all hands it was admitted if Japan took this position, the ground was cut out from under Czar Nicholas.

RESPONSIBILITY NOW RUSSIA'S

Mr. Witte, by consummate skill in conceding all the demands of Japan involving the real issues of the war, had maneuvered his adversaries into a position where, unless they abandoned the claim for indemnity, they could be held responsible for continuing the war for money.

The Japanese, by now forgoing the demand for indemnity, practically turn the tables upon Russia and shift the burden back to her shoulders if she does not consent to submit a minor issue to the impartial judgment of a tribunal. Mr. Witte publicly dissents vigorously from the proposition, and their will still be a struggle with Peterhof, but if Japan agrees to formally renounce all claims for direct or indirect compensation for the expenses of the war the big stumbling block to peace is out of the way.

RUSSIAN WAR PARTLY ACTIVE.

Everything will depend upon the form in which the proposed is submitted. Should the renunciation be so coupled with the other proposition that Russia could claim it was still only a disguised demand for tribute, the gulf might only be narrowed, not bridged. All the private advices that reach the Russian mission from St. Petersburg indicate that military party is bellicose, insistent that Linevitch be given a chance, and active in its insistence that negotiations be broken off.

Mr. Witte feels the pressure of this sentiment and as a man of ambition he may not feel that he can afford to lay himself open to the charge that he is temporizing with the situation. He has power under his instructions to reject out of hand any proposition involving the payment of a kopec of tribute. He is not a man of inspiration and he is quite capable, if the Japanese proposition savors still of "blood money," to refuse even to accept it for transmission to St. Petersburg.

But such a strike is not expected. Mr. Witte knows that public opinion, both in America and Europe, as well as in Russia, would condemn him if he broke off the negotiations just as the way was opened for a possible accord.

Turfman Gets Jail Sentence.

New York, Special.—John E. Madden, the Kentucky turfman, owner of several fast horses, two of which were entered in the futurity, was convicted of criminal contempt of court, fined \$250 and sentenced to serve thirty days in the Raymond street jail in Brooklyn to-day for ignoring a subpoena of the Supreme Court of this State. Madden was summoned to appear before a commissioner in Saratoga during the racing season there to be questioned in his wife's suit for divorce, but failed to respond.

Lynching at Newbern, N. C.

Newbern, Special.—John Moore, the negro who brutally assaulted the wife of Postmaster George T. Eubanks, at Clarks, with a meat axe, was taken from the Craven county jail at 1:30 o'clock Sunday morning and lynched. The mob was composed mostly of countrymen, neighbors of Eubanks, but there were Newbern citizens in the crowd. The farmers arrived in town about midnight.