

The Polk County News.

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INDEPENDENCE IN ALL THINGS.

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VOL XI.

MILLION DOLLAR FIRE

Over a Million Bushels Wheat Destroyed

BURNING OF A GRAIN ELEVATOR

Mighty Pillar of Fire by Night at East St. Louis, Entailing a Loss of Over \$1,000,000, Besides Destruction of Near-By Stables.

East St. Louis, Ill., Special.—The Union Elevator, containing a million bushels of wheat, was destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of more than \$1,000,000. The fire spread to the stables of the St. Louis Transfer Co., and 200 horses and 200 wagons were burned, as well as the stables. The fire started in a brick engine house 30 feet from the elevator. Before the arrival of the fire department the flames had spread to the elevator. Assistance was sent from St. Louis and the efforts of the firemen were principally directed toward preventing the fire spreading to adjoining elevators and warehouses, the Union Elevator having been converted into furnace within a few minutes after it caught fire.

Seven dwelling houses were destroyed, being covered with burning oil by the explosion of four tanks. The occupants of the houses escaped unharmed.

The oil tanks which exploded were standing nearly 400 yards north of the elevator. They belched to the Waters-Pierce Oil Company.

\$140,000 Fire at Valdosta, Ga.

Valdosta, Ga., Special—A fire starting in the paint shop of the Hender-

son-Crawford Buggy Company caused a loss of \$140,000. The property destroyed being the paint shop of the buggy company, including the Georgia Southern Railway freight depot, eight loaded cars, 16 cottages, the Valdosta Laundry, and Armour Company's warehouse. The heaviest losers are the Henderson-Crawford Buggy Company, which carried a stock valued at \$60,000 and occupied a building worth \$30,000. The company carried insurance for about two-thirds of this loss. The railroad losses were from \$15,000 to \$20,000. Much of the merchandise in the depot was carried out, though considerable damaged.

Factory Burns in New York.

New York, Special.—The six-story factory building at 107-113 Grand street as the corner of Mercer street, in the heart of the silk and linen district was burned with a loss exceeding \$250,000. Charles' Schoolhouse & Sons, manufacturers of ribbons, lost \$100,000, fully insured, and Bernhard, Uilm & Company, dealers in yarns, embroideries and braids, \$150,000, partially covered by insurance. The fire was spectacular, bursting from all the windows within a few minutes after the first alarm was sounded. So many thousands of people were attracted to the scene that police reserves from eight downtown precincts had to be summoned. A fireman and a policeman were slightly hurt.

Not Half Over at Savannah.

Savannah, Ga., Special—The Greene and Gaynor trial will enter upon its fifth week and the introduction of documentary evidence will be continued. It is expected that the week may see the close of evidence along this particular subject of contracts, which has been followed for the last few days, and that witnesses may be examined touching the character of the work done in the river and harbor improvements. The progress of the trial continues slow and it is not believed to be half over.

Fierce Rioting in Paris Church.

Paris, By Cable.—As a net result of rioting though the inventory was taken in but one church, that of St. Pierre-Groscaillou, over 50 persons were severely injured and a further considerable number slightly injured. The latter included a number of police and firemen, who were almost blinded with cayenne pepper. Fifty arrests were made.

Storms in North Atlantic.

St. Johns', N. F., Special.—The steamer Ulunda, Captain Chambers, of the Furness-Allen Line, which sailed from Liverpool January 23, for St. Johns' and Halifax, arrived here after a stormy passage. Last Sunday during a hurricane a member of the crew was washed overboard and drowned. The steamer sustained sundry damages from being swept by seas. The schooner Canadian, Captain Miesner, which sailed from Cadiz December 30, for this port, also arrived bringing reports of terrible weather experienced in the North Atlantic.

CONGRESS AT WORK

What Our National Law Makers Are Doing Day by Day.

The Rate Bill.

Discussion of the railroad bill continued in the House. Incidental to it, two speeches, the efforts of Mr. Campbell (Kan.) and Martin (S. D.) took a wider range and swept the horizon of "trust evils" generally.

Mr. Bartlett (Ga.) a minority member of the committee reporting the bill, made a two hours' speech in which he discussed the legal and constitutional questions involved and advocated the passage of the bill as a proper remedy for an intolerable condition. The first speech, in opposition to the discussion, was made by Mr. Perkins (N. Y.). He based his opposition to government control of rates on an inherent aversion to government control of private enterprises. Red tape and fixed condition, he said were an inseparable part of government action on any matter.

A bill was passed granting a Federal charter to the Carnegie Foundation, for the advancement of teaching. The fund consists of \$10,000,000, the income of which is to furnish a pension to retired educators.

Shipping Bill in Senate.

The Senate passed thirty or forty miscellaneous bills and devoted several hours to the consideration of the shipping bills. Bills were passed authorizing the election of a Delegate in Congress from Alaska; authorizing the construction of a revenue cutter vessel for duty at Savannah, Ga.; authorizing the construction of a bridge across St. Andrew's Bay, Fla., by the Birmingham, Columbus & St. Andrews Railroad Company, and providing for lighthouses, fish cultural stations, etc.

Most of the time devoted to the shipping bill was consumed by Mr. Penrose in a set speech in support of the measure.

Mr. Tillman's resolution calling on the President to send the senate all the letters from the United States minister to Santo Domingo to the State Department in 1904, was referred to the committee on foreign relations. Mr. Tillman made no objection, but said that he only wanted light as to whether Santo Domingo had been coerced into the present arrangement. He said the newspapers had said that this was the case, while Mr. Patterson had said that the arrangement was made at the solicitation of the Dominican government.

After Mr. Tillman had made a brief statement concerning the bills holding railroads responsible for injuries to employees, Mr. Elkins withdrew his motion for their reference to the committee on the judiciary, thus leaving them with the committee on international commerce.

Mr. Tillman said he had not been aware of the frequent change of reference for the bills. He said that he had been instrumental in the effort to secure the change of reference because the inter-State commerce committee was so much engaged on the railroad rate question.

At 2 o'clock the shop subsidy bill was taken up. Mr. Bacon said that he would be inclined to support the shipping bill if its operations were confined to granting aid in the way of liberal mail subsidies to steamship lines between ports of the United States and other ports with which there is now no direct communication, such, for instance, as the ports of South America. He believed that such lines should be encouraged. Mr. Spooner suggested that the bill would afford encouragement only to large concerns, as vessels would receive subsidy for 10 years. Such vessels would then come into competition with subsidized ships, with the inevitable result, as he thought, of forcing their scales to the larger companies operating subsidized vessels.

Mr. Gallinger intimated a willingness to amend the bill to meet the objection.

Mr. Penrose declared that for 20 years after 1873 no trans-Atlantic vessels had been launched on the Delaware and that the record for thirty years was only ten while the Clyde had launched hundreds. He contended that American labor should be protected in the ship yards as well as in the factories.

Mr. Carter expressed the opinion that the bill would be endorsed by the entire Rocky Mountain region. Mr. Penrose declared the report that there was a ship building trust to be "a figment of the imagination."

Col. Mosby at White House.

Washington, Special.—Col. John S. Mosby, who commanded an independent Confederate cavalry force during the Civil War, presented to the President a letter written by General Jos. Wheeler, a week before his death, recommending the appointment of an Alabama man to a Federal office. The President promised to give the matter consideration.

DEADLY EXPLOSION

Fire On Transport Threatened

Great Destruction

SUSPICION OF DANGEROUS PLOT

At Pier in San Francisco, Transport Meade's Forward Hold Was Suffocating Furnace for Three Hours and Firemen Worked in Danger of Flames Reaching Tons of Explosives.

San Francisco, Special.—Three men were killed and 55 injured, mostly by suffocation, in a fire that damaged the United States transport Meade \$2,000 as she lay at the Folsom street pier Thursday morning.

For three hours after midnight, the forward hold of the big troop ship was a suffocating furnace from which firemen were borne in an almost continuous stream. Relays of men promptly stepped forward to take the places of those who were carried out unconscious.

Tons of high explosives were loaded in the after part of the vessel and the firemen worked with the possibility ever before them that the flames would reach this compartment.

Owing probably to the fact that an infernal machine was found in the bunkers of the transport Thomas on her last voyage, the rumor was circulated that a plot had been laid to fire the Meade at sea, as she was to have departed for Manila Friday. Major C. A. Devol, chief of the transport service, is investigating this theory with great care. He is having the cargo taken from compartment No. 2, where the fire started to ascertain the real cause of the disaster. The flames did not spread from compartment No. 2. Dock Captain Devol believes that some of the officers had packed matches in their trunks and that some of these were ignited in loading.

A thousand pieces of baggage were ruined. Trunks, boxes, and barrels were water-soaked or burned. Wearing apparel and household furnishings were ruined. One officer places the damage to personal effects at \$50,000. The vessel is not seriously injured and will be ready to sail for Manila on Saturday.

For N. & W. Stock Fraud.

Knoxville, Tenn., Special.—C. S. Northrop, accused of using the United States mails to defraud was bound over by the United States Court at Omaha, Neb. He gave bond in the sum of \$2,000. Northrop is charged with having written letters while under the jurisdiction of the Omaha court by means of which he disposed of worthless Norfolk & Western stock. Northrop, it is charged, secured in excess of \$20,000 by his operations in Knoxville and Jefferson City. Some of the land which he secured on money raised on alleged worthless stock was deeded back to parties involved, but in spite of this, Northrop is said to have gained several thousands.

Order Big Advance in Lumber.

Norfolk, Special.—The most sensational advances ever recorded in the price of lumber in the South Atlantic States was ordered at a meeting of the North Carolina Pine Association here Thursday.

The price on all grades of lumber was advanced \$2 a thousand feet for some of the better grades and \$5 on some other grades, principally the lower.

West Virginia Mine Disaster.

Roanoke, Special.—A report reached here of the terrible explosion which occurred about 5 o'clock Thursday afternoon in what is called the "Ball Knob" Mine, No. 2, one of the operations of the Red Jacket Coal and Coke Company, near Delorme Mingo county, W. Va.

Up to 7:30 o'clock one miner already dead, and three others seriously injured, have been taken out of the shaft. The names of the victims are not yet known. The victims are believed to number many more.

Kills Man Found With Wife.

Moultrie, Ga., Special.—Dr. R. C. Lindsey, a prominent physician of this city, returned to his home and found P. J. Williams with Mrs. Lindsey. Dr. Lindsey drew a revolver and opened fire upon Williams killing him instantly. At a late hour Dr. Lindsey was still at his office and no effort to arrest him had been made. The coroner has ordered an inquest.

SUPERINTENDENTS MEET

Gather in Greensboro and Arrange a Programme.

City Superintendent Walter Thompson, of Concord, President of the North Carolina Association of City Superintendents, through Superintendent I. C. Griffin, of Salisbury, Secretary, has announced the program for the convention of the Association to be held in Greensboro, February 8 to 10.

Former Superintendent Preston W. Search, whose reputation is national, will take part in the deliberations. He is regarded as one of the foremost educators in America.

A meeting of more than usual interest is expected, and there will be a large attendance.

The program is as follows:

Thursday, 8 p. m.—Opening address—Supt. J. T. Alderman.

Address—Supt. Bruce Craven. Subject: The Effect of Moral Training in the Public School on the Community Life.

Discussion of Report of National Committee on History—Led by Supt. E. C. Brooks.

Friday—Report of Committee on High School Course of Study.

Report of Nature Study Committee.

Address—Differences in Children—Former Supt. Preston W. Search.

Discussion, Supts. D. Matt. Thompson, W. S. Snipes.

Saturday—Unfinished business.

Wilson's Industrial News.

Wilson, Special.—From Mr. R. P. Watson, president of the Wilson Tobacco Board of Trade, we learn that during the month of January 1,200,952 pounds of leaf tobacco were sold on the local warehouse floors. During January last year 1,539,978 pounds were sold. The total sales this season to date amount to 14,676,555 pounds against 13,006,864 pounds for the corresponding period last year. The cotton receipts this season to date amount to 9,500 bales, which is some smaller than the receipts last year for same time. The total receipts this season will be in the neighborhood of 15,000 bales, against 17,000 last season.

Husband Wins Odd Suit.

Durham, Special.—A most unusual case was settled by the court. This was to the title of a lot of land worth about \$1,000. In 1894 Mr. McD. Tilley and Miss Athalia Mangum were united in marriage. The husband thought she owned certain property, but after the marriage he found that she had sold it to her brothers and sisters for \$5 and love and affection. He then brought suit to recover the property and the court held that he has a right to the property, and has so ordered. In holding this it was decided that to dispose of the property without letting her future husband know of the deal was a fraud on the marriage contract.

Homicide in Kinston.

Kinston, Special.—A homicide occurred at the home of Bryant Dixon, colored, near Kinston. A church festival was in progress at Dixon's home and Will Gilbert, colored, went there drunk and became disorderly. Gilbert was ordered away by Dixon's wife. This enraged Gilbert, who was in the act of cutting the woman when Dixon shot at Gilbert, but struck his wife in the arm. Dixon again, striking Gilbert in the stomach, which caused death in a few minutes. Dixon is in jail.

Fire at Georgia Normal.

Athens, Ga., Special.—Science Hall, at the State Normal School, was completely destroyed by fire. The building was the contribution of James M. Smith, Geo. Foster Peabody and the State, and was to cost about \$30,000. It was just about completed and caught from a stove in the second story being used to dry the plastering. The State Normal School fire brigade and citizens attempted to check the flames, the building being beyond the city limits.

The Discussion Was Spicy.

Winston-Salem, Special.—At a meeting of the Winston aldermen application was made in the name of the Winston Distilling Company for license to operate a large whiskey manufacturing plant in this city. After a lively and spicy discussion the application was withdrawn.

NORTH STATE NEWS

Items of Interest Gleaned From Various Sections

FROM MOUNTAIN TO SEASIDE

Minor Occurrences of the Week of Interest to Tar Heels Told in Paragraphs.

Charlotte Cotton Market.

These figures represent prices paid to wagons:

Good middling	11½
Strict middling	11½
Middling	11½
Strict low middling	11½
Good middling tinged	11-1½
Stains	9½ and 10

General Cotton Market.

Houston steady

Augusta quiet

Memphis quiet

St. Louis dull

Louisville firm

Galveston quiet and steady

New Orleans steady

Mobile steady

Savannah quiet

Norfolk quiet

Baltimore nominal

New York quiet

Boston quiet

Philadelphia quiet

For Executive of the Laws.

Raleigh, Special.—Governor Glenn sends the following letter to every Sheriff in the State:</