

The Polk County News.

Three Cents the Copy.

INDEPENDENCE IN ALL THINGS.

Subscription Price, \$1.00 Per Year in Advance.

VOL. XII.

COLUMBUS, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1907.

NO. 41.

EXPLOSION SUFFOCATES SCORES IN COAL MINE

Powder Shot Ignites Dust in a West Virginia Colliery.

RESCUING PARTIES AT WORK

Two Hundred Were in Shaft at Time of Accident—Sixty Perished Instantly—Victims in Pit 600 Feet Deep.

Charleston, W. Va.—With a detonation heard for miles around, coal dust and gas in the Stuart mine, near Fayetteville, exploded, bringing a terrible death to the eighty men who were at work more than 500 feet below the surface. There is no chance that any of the men will be taken out alive, for it is thought that the terrific force of the explosion snuffed out their lives instantly. It will not be possible for the rescuers to reach the bottom of the shaft for forty-eight hours.

Most of the men were Americans, and many of them were married and had large families. There were a dozen negroes and fifteen or more foreigners.

The rescue work was begun as soon as the wrecked parts of the shaft house could be reached. About two hours after the explosion three men were lowered into the shaft. Before descending sixty feet two of the men were overcome with foul air, and the third was barely able to give the signal to his comrades at the top. All further attempts were abandoned for the time.

Air was supplied to the mine by several large fans, but the mechanism was damaged, and the fans were idle for about two hours. The fans were then started again, and if the men were not all dead by the force of the explosion, it may be that they will have air enough to survive until the rescuers reach them.

The scene about the mine is pathetic, men, women and children crying for their dear ones and imploring those on the ground to go to their rescue.

The Stuart mine is a shaft 562 feet deep. The development is in the West seam, which ranges in thickness from four to five feet. The mine is located on the White Oak Fuel Company's private land, connecting with the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad at Carlisle. The manager is F. F. Dixon. The mine is owned by the Stuart Colliery Company.

The bodies lie 600 feet below the surface of the earth. Fifteen men had just left the mine and were far enough away from the mouth to escape injury when the explosion occurred.

The echo of the explosion had hardly died away before the men on the outside began to arrange rescue parties. It was found that the force of the explosion had put the ventilating fans out of commission and disarranged the cage so that it took two hours to get things in condition for the first venture.

Superintendent Dixon, Tom Davis and James Whitley started down in the cage, but did not go far when they found themselves overcome by the fumes and had to give the hoisting signal. Dixon was the only one who had sufficient strength to let it be known to those above what was wanted, and but for him the three would have perished. They were drawn back and no further attempt has been made to go into the mine.

PRESIDENT CHECKS FRAUDS.

Directs That Examination Be Made Before Patents Issue.

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt has determined to put an end, if possible, to frauds in the acquisition of public lands by individuals and corporations. He has directed that hereafter no patent shall be issued to public land until an examination of the ground shall have been made by an authorized officer of the Government.

The President's order is in the form of a letter to Secretary Hitchcock, and under its provisions orders are being sent out by the officials of the General Land Office.

F. C. STEVENS OLIVER'S BACKER.

Superintendent of Public Works Behind Panama Canal Contract.

Albany, N. Y.—Frederick C. Stevens, the State Superintendent of Public Works, announced that he is the financial backer of William J. Oliver, who is to get the Government contract for building the Panama Canal. Mr. Stevens has made millions of dollars as a man of large affairs and is essentially a business man of this period.

MANY CHINESE DROWNED.

Over a Hundred Lives Lost in Squall at Hong Kong.

Hong Kong.—A heavy squall broke over Hong Kong, and in ten minutes sank more than fifty Chinese craft in the harbor, more than 100 natives being drowned. There were no casualties among the white population. Launches rescued many persons. The harbor was littered with wreckage from the sunken junk.

EPIDEMICS SWEEP ALL OVER CHICAGO

Nearly 15,000 Cases Caused by Impure Raw Milk.

STOPS ALL SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

Appeal Made to Public—Asked to Give Up Balls Parties and Other Amusements Until Scarlet Fever Can Be Checked.

Chicago.—Extraordinary precautions were taken to check the scarlet fever and diphtheria epidemic in Chicago. A proclamation asking aid from the public by the canceling of social functions, an offer of assistance from prominent medical men, the appointment of a commission of physicians to help in an Aldermanic inquiry, and the removal of certain police details to make room for the Health Department, were among the features which developed when it was found that the record breaking figures of the contagion were marked again by high numbers.

Three hundred and fourteen new cases of scarlet fever, fifty-five of diphtheria and twenty-five of measles were reported on the day the proclamation was issued.

It is estimated that the total cases of contagious diseases which have developed in the present epidemic is considerably in excess of 10,000, and may reach 15,000.

Commissioner of Health C. W. Whalen issued a call to the people of Chicago to cancel social gatherings and other public meetings for several weeks in order to aid the department in suppressing epidemic conditions. This followed the official announcement that scarlet fever and diphtheria cases reported indicate that the epidemic has advanced appreciably.

Churches, Sunday-schools and theatres were not included in Dr. Whalen's request.

The Commissioner explained that while he desired the assistance of the public he did not believe it necessary to go further than his request indicates. He declared that, in the opinion of the department, it would not be wise to order the closing of any public schools, as the new medical inspectors were doing competent work toward preventing the spread of any disease through that source.

Records of the Health Department show the present epidemic to be one of the most serious the city has known. The records show that the number of cases of scarlet fever in the last four days vastly exceeds the total for the whole month of January in a normal year.

\$5,000,000 FOR CHARITY.

William Whiteley's Will Provides For Homes For Aged Poor.

London.—The will of William Whiteley, the London merchant who was murdered last week, makes a number of generous charitable bequests, the chief being \$5,000,000 to provide and maintain almshouses to be known as the "Whiteley Homes For the Aged Poor."

Mr. Whiteley leaves \$250,000 to each of his two sons, and his sister and her two daughters receive annuities of \$5000 each. His wife, from whom he had separated, was "provided for during life." In addition to several other family and household bequests, Mr. Whiteley leaves sums varying from \$2500 to \$10,000 to a number of hospitals, while two sums of \$25,000 each are left in trust, one to be applied to the giving annually through a certain clergyman of "Whiteley Christmas gifts," while the income of the second sum is to be devoted to the promotion of cricket, football, rowing and swimming. Any residue is to be divided between Mr. Whiteley's two sons.

The unusual public interest in the Whiteley tragedy was shown by the scenes at the funeral of the merchant. Long before the hour for the ceremony thousands of persons gathered about the home and dense masses lined the streets leading to the church where the service was held.

Most of the shops in the Westbourne Grove district kept their shutters up and more than 100 carriages followed the hearse to the cemetery. Four of these were laden with floral wreaths.

GOV. SWETTENHAM APOLOGIZES.

Withdraws Letter to Admiral Davis and Expresses Regret.

London.—The Associated Press learns that the international phase of the Kingston incident has been finally closed by Governor Swettenham formally withdrawing his letter to Rear-Admiral Davis and expressing his regret for having written it.

Washington, D. C.—Officials at the State Department refuse to discuss the report that Governor Swettenham has withdrawn his letter to Admiral Davis and apologized therefor.

It is pointed out that the President has taken every means to make it evident that he regards the Kingston episode as a closed incident, so officials decline to comment on it in any phase.

Baldwin Works Damaged.

Fire did \$1,000,000 damage to the plant of the Baldwin Locomotive Works, Philadelphia.

WEST'S FUEL FAMINE WORSE

North Dakota Suffering From Cold and Starvation.

President Roosevelt and the Interstate Commerce Commission Urge Roads to Send Relief.

Washington, D. C.—The President, the members of the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Congress delegation from North Dakota are gravely concerned over the fuel famine in that State, which shows no signs of abatement and which is entailing such suffering that the people are growing desperate. Towns where there is absolutely no fuel, the thermometer is from twenty-five to thirty-eight degrees below zero and mail and railway communication with the outside world is completely shut off are besieging the Interstate Commerce Commission, the President, and their representatives in Congress, by telegraph, to afford them assistance at any cost.

In some instances even telegraphic communication is cut off, and messages have to be carried ten or twenty miles across the snow covered and wind swept prairies to the nearest open telegraph office. Such was the case with one telegram received. It comes from the Commercial Club, of Maxbass, and was carried across the open prairies ten miles to Eckman. Maxbass is a small town on the Great Northern Railway, close to the Canadian line and a little west of midway between the eastern and western boundaries of North Dakota. This message reads:

"Situation unchanged. Two coal cars (snowed in) between here and Tower. Conditions grow more desperate every hour. Wire communication cut off."

From New Rockford, on the Northern Pacific Railway, comes the following message:

"Fuel situation desperate. The railway on this branch not making any effort to-day to relieve us. Have had no freight this year, no mail for twelve days. People desperate. Will burn railway property for fuel if relief is not forthcoming within forty-eight hours."

Other information which reaches the Interstate Commerce Commission indicates that President Hill, of the Great Northern Railway, has about "thrown up his hands," has grown discouraged and abandoned the effort to relieve the freezing people of North Dakota.

An early appeal for relief by the Federal Government was answered by a dispatch to the Governor of North Dakota, asking if it was not possible for the State to afford relief. To this the Governor replied that the railways were doing everything possible, meaning, apparently, to imply that he knew of no way in which he could render assistance.

The Interstate Commerce Commission, by direction of the President, has twice telegraphed to the presidents of the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific Railways, urging that everything possible be done to relieve the situation, and assurances have been given that the requests will be heeded; but the situation remains unchanged, thousands of people are menaced by the constant danger of freezing to death, and the railways seem powerless to relieve the conditions.

WENDEL MUST STAND TRIAL.

Governor Hughes Rescinds Orders Dissolving the Court.

Albany, N. Y.—Captain Louis Wendel, of the First Battery, New York City, cannot resign from the National Guard to escape having to appear before a court of inquiry to answer to charges of conduct not becoming an officer. Governor Hughes rescinded the orders issued by Adjutant-General Henry, granting Wendel a discharge pursuant to his request to be permitted to resign. Nothing like this has happened within recent years in the National Guard, and the effect of the Governor's action will cause not a little dismay in some circles. It has always been the custom to permit an officer to resign when he wanted to.

FIVE DIE IN TRAIN CRASH.

Freight Runs Into Passenger on Boston and Maine.

Deerfield, Mass.—Five men were killed and one seriously injured as the result of a freight train running into the rear of a passenger train on the Fitchburg division of the Boston and Maine Railroad about a mile west of West Deerfield.

The dead are George B. Busseno, of the express train, lived at Troy, N. Y.; forty-seven years old, married; G. W. Harrington, baggage master of the express, lived at Troy, N. Y.; M. A. Fitzpatrick, engine driver, Rotterdam Junction, N. Y.; and R. N. Dennison, fireman, Mechanicsville, N. Y.

Tariff War Averted.

A long term arrangement to avoid a trade war between America and Germany has been made by the commissions in conference at Berlin, subject to approval by Congress and the Reichstag.

Witnesses Against Harriman.

Witnesses in the investigation of the Harriman merger, at Portland, Ore., testified that there had seemingly been a cessation of competition between the different roads since the combination.

THE MARKETS

Wholesale Prices Quoted in New York

MILK. The Milk Exchange price for standard quality is 3% per quart.

BUTTER. Creamery—Western, extra. 32 @ 32 1/2
First. 27 @ 27
State dairy, firsts. 27 @ 27
Seconds. 24 @ 26
Factory, thirds to firsts. 17 1/2 @ 21

CHEESE. State, full cream, fancy. 13 1/2 @ 14 1/2
Small. 13 1/2 @ 14 1/2
Part skims, good to prime. 7 1/2 @ 8 1/2
Full skims. 2 @ 3

EGGS. Jersey—Fancy. 31 @ 32
State—Good to choice. 28 @ 30
Western—Firsts. 25 1/2 @ 25 1/2

BEANS AND PEAS. Beans—Marrow, choice. 2 25 @ 2 27 1/2
Medium, choice. 1 @ 1 50
Red kidney, choice. 2 32 1/2 @ 2 35
Peas, per lb. 1 @ 1 45
Yellow eye, choice. 1 05 @ 2 00
Black turtle soup. 2 05 @ 2 10
Lima, Cal. 2 85 @ 2 90

FRUITS AND BERRIES—FRESH. Apples—Greening, per bbl. 1 50 @ 3 00
King, per bbl. 2 00 @ 3 25
Ben Davis, per bbl. 1 50 @ 2 75
Cranberries, per bbl. 3 00 @ 7 50
Jersey, per bbl. 5 00 @ 6 00

LIVE POULTRY. Poultry, per lb. 1 @ 13 1/2
Roosters, per lb. 7 @ 10
Turkeys, per lb. 8 @ 13
Ducks, per lb. 8 @ 14 1/2
Geese, per lb. 11 @ 13
Pigeons, per pair. 1 @ 25

DRESSED POULTRY. Turkeys, per lb. 10 @ 18
Chickens, Phila., per lb. 20 @ 14 1/2
Parsis, per lb. 8 @ 12
Geese, spring, per lb. 8 @ 14
Ducks, spring, per lb. 8 @ 14
Squabs, per dozen. 1 50 @ 5 50

NOIS. State, 1000, choice. 21 @ 23
Medium, 1905, choice. 9 @ 11
Pacific Coast, 1906, choice. 26 @ 17
Prime to choice, 1905. 12 @ 14

HAY AND STRAW. Hay, prime, per 100 lb. 10 @ 1 15
No. 1, per 100 lb. 1 00 @ 1 05
No. 2, per 100 lb. 95 @ 1 00
Clover mixed, per 100 lb. 75 @ 1 00
Straw, long rye. 65 @ 67 1/2

VEGETABLES. Potatoes, State, per bbl. 1 50 @ 1 75
Jersey, per sack. 1 37 @ 1 50
Sweets, per bbl. 50 @ 3 50
Tomatoes, per carrier. 2 00 @ 3 00
Egg plants, per box. 6 00 @ 12 00
Squash, per bbl. 1 25 @ 1 75
Peas, per basket. 2 00 @ 7 00
Peppers, per carrier. 4 00 @ 7 50
Lettuce, per basket. 1 00 @ 4 50
Cabbages, per ton. 14 00 @ 15 00
String beans, per basket. 2 00 @ 7 50
Onions, Cal. white, per bbl 3 00 @ 6 00
Orange Co., per bag. 1 00 @ 2 00
Carrots, per bbl. 1 50 @ 2 00
Beets, per bbl. 1 75 @ 2 00
Turnips, per bbl. 1 75 @ 1 00
Celery, per doz. bunches. 15 @ 50
Okra, per carrier. 2 00 @ 5 00
Cauliflower, per basket. 1 50 @ 3 25
Brussels sprouts, per qt. 5 @ 1 50
Parsley, per 100 bunches. 1 50 @ 2 00
Spinach, per bbl. 1 00 @ 2 00
Watercress, per 100 bunches. 2 00 @ 2 50
Kale, per bbl. 1 @ 1 25
Shallots, per 100 bunches. 1 00 @ 2 00
Radishes, per basket. 1 50 @ 2 00
Parsnips, per bbl. 1 50 @ 1 75
Horseshoe, per bbl. 5 00 @ 5 50

GRAIN, ETC. Flour—Winter patents. 3 60 @ 3 85
Spring patents. 4 15 @ 4 90
Wheat, No. 1 N. Duluth. 1 00 @ 81 1/2
No. 2 red. 81 1/2 @ 82 1/2
Corn, No. 2 white. 1 @ 51 1/2
No. 2 yellow. 1 @ 51 1/2
Oats, mixed. 43 @ 42
Clipped white. 43 @ 45 1/2
Lard, city. 1 @ 34

LIVE STOCK. Beoves, city dressed. 7 @ 14
Galves, city dressed. 8 @ 14
Country dressed. 8 @ 14
Sheep, per 100 lb. 3 50 @ 4 50
Lamb, per 100 lb. 6 75 @ 7 70
Hogs, live, per 100 lb. 7 25 @ 7 50
Country dressed, per lb. 8 1/2 @ 10

COST OF GOVERNMENT HIGH.

National, State and Local Government Receipts \$1,778,352,930.

Washington, D. C.—In a preliminary statement on the wealth, debt and taxation of the United States for 1902, issued by the Census Bureau, an interesting summary is given of the receipts and expenditures of National, State and local Governments. The aggregate receipts were \$1,778,352,930 and expenditures \$1,775,959,369. These totals, it is stated, include the amounts paid by one division to another, which results in a duplication of approximately \$69,222,019.

The character and the total receipts from general revenues are shown as follows: The general property tax, \$706,660,043; special property and business taxes, \$62,327,400; poll taxes, \$16,579,786; liquor taxes, \$5,241,306; other licenses and permits, \$19,841,343; fines and forfeits, \$7,962,322; subventions and grants, \$60,984,892; donations and gifts, \$2,901,919; and from all other sources, \$2,127,150.

The officials of the Census Bureau explain that the figures for States, counties and cities are in all cases compiled from reports of actual receipts and payments. Those for cities containing less than 8000 inhabitants and for other minor civil divisions are in part estimated.

Increased Value of Horses.

Receipts of horses at the New York City Union Stock Yards last year fell short of the record breaking figures reached in 1905, yet the market value of horses handled in 1906 was greater by nearly \$1,000,000. Here are the market records for the two years: 1905—127,250 horses, worth \$18,046,125; average, \$142. 1906—126,961 horses, worth \$19,046,535; average, \$150.

REVIEW OF WORK OF CONGRESS

What Our National Lawmakers Are Doing From Day to Day

Mr. Lever Warm Up.

Representative Lever, of South Carolina, stirred up a hornet's nest in the house when he offered to the agricultural appropriation bill an amendment appropriating \$3,000,000 for the purchase of the Appalachian and White Mountain forest reserves. He said twelve States were interested in the movement, and many Governors had personally solicited the Speaker of the house to permit the bill to come before the body on its merits, but through mysterious influences, he said, the Speaker was contending to hold the bill up and he wanted the country to know the facts about the measure.

Mr. Tawney objected to the personal attack on the Speaker, and said he would object to further consideration.

Wants People to Know It.

"Oh, it's not a personal attack on the Speaker," replied Mr. Lever. "It's an outspoken statement as to where the objection to the bill is. Personally I have profound regard for the Speaker, but he and some of his henchmen are blocking consideration of this bill and by the gods I propose that the people shall know it."

Mr. Tawney replied that he was not questioning the motives of the gentleman from South Carolina, but he was questioning the language used.

Mr. Lever tried to make it appear that the agricultural committee was unanimously in favor of the bill, but Mr. Haugen, of Iowa, with considerable warmth, replied that he had not voted in favor of the measure and he gave notice that he would vote against it if the bill should ever get before the House.

"You vote against four-fifths of the good propositions that come before this House," hotly replied Mr. Lever.

Mr. Wadsworth made a point of order against the amendment, which was sustained, but not until Mr. Lever had been heard.

To Abolish Pension Agencies.

The House voted to abolish all pension agencies throughout the country, 18 in number, and centralize the payment of pensions in the city of Washington. This action was taken on the pension appropriation bill after spirited opposition on the part of those having pension agencies in their States.

By a vote of 58 to 114 an amendment offered by Mr. Dalzell, of Pennsylvania, restoring the number of agencies to 18 as at present, was defeated, and then an amendment offered by Mr. Gardner, of Michigan, consolidating all the agencies in one was adopted without division.

The pension appropriation bill carrying \$138,000,000 in round numbers was passed.

A message from the President was read relative to insurance, and at 2:30, out of respect to the memory of the late Senator Alger, of Michigan, the house adjourned.

A Brief Session.

The Senate was in session Saturday only for a little more than an hour, the early adjournment being taken to permit attendance on the funeral of the late Senator Alger. A few bills of minor importance were passed, but most of the time of the sitting was devoted to the further discussion of Senator Hale's resolution providing for an inquiry into the personal interest manifested by naval officers in the navy personnel bill. The resolution was ultimately referred to the committee on naval affairs.

The Chald Labor Law.

Senator Beveridge occupied the attention of the Senate throughout the day with a continuation of his argument in behalf of his child labor bill. He had but reached the legal and constitutional phases of the question after speaking for more than four hours and arrangement was made whereby he will continue. In taking the position that as to power, Congress could exercise any power it saw fit on inter-State commerce, Mr. Beveridge met a fusillade of questions by his colleagues and his progress in argument was slow. While he said the power to regulate was absolute, he maintained that the question of policy would always restrain any harmful regulations.

Mr. Beveridge stated that three-fourth of the cotton factories of the South were opposing the bill, that the railroads of the South were opposing it and that the coal mine operators of the South were opposing it. He presented an illustrative map showing the location of the opposing industries, and said that in anticipation of this weighty opposition he should devote the major portion of his speech to setting forth evidence of the deplorable conditions he had pictured. This evidence, he said, was all sworn to and in the form of affidavits.

NORTH CAROLINA AFFAIRS

Items of Interest From Many Parts of the State

MINOR MATTERS OF STATE NEWS

Happenings of More or Less Importance Told in Paragraphs—The Cotton Markets.

Case Falls Through.

Charlotte, Special.—The case against Della Dellingham, Henry Gillespie and George Irvin, the first named a woman, charged with the brutal murder of the Lysterly family at Barber Junction last July, was called in Iredell superior court at Statesville. The State found itself at a standstill before the trial had more than started. When the mob of whites lynched the other three negroes implicated in this crime at Salisbury last summer all the evidence in the case for prosecution perished. There was on evidence against the survivors of the mob's vengeance other than that the Dellingham woman was the wife of one of the mob's victims and Gillespie the brother of another. Judge Moore ordered the witnesses discharged and ordered the jury to bring in a verdict of not guilty.

Epidemic of Barn Burning.

Charlotte, Special.—Another barn burning, believed to be of incendiary origin, this time in Clear Creek township and the fourth fire of this kind reported during the present month, occurred Wednesday between 8 and 9 o'clock. Mrs. Green, wife of the tenant who rents lands from Mr. John Glossen, was so badly prostrated by the fire that she has been unable to utter a word since, and a physician who was called in to make an examination of the woman's condition: The excitement in the neighborhood is said to be very great as the fire was, it is thought, started by a criminal of the worst sort, and happening so close after three other incendiary fires in the county, it appears certain that there is reason for the people of the county to be on the lookout on account of the danger which threatens them.

Threatened to Storm Jail.

Wilmington, Special.—John Gudger, a negro fifty years of age, was brought to Wilmington from Whiteville and lodged in the New Hanover county jail. Gudger is charged with rape. It is alleged that the negro committed the crime several months since. Tuesday he was arrested on a warrant sworn out by a Mrs. Williamson, of Cerro Gorda, Columbus county. It was owing to rumors that the Whiteville jail was to be stormed and the negro lynched that Sheriff Richardson hastily left with his prisoner.

Paper Pulp Plant.

New Bern, Special.—It is learned that the plant of the Gray Manufacturing Company, opposite this city, is to be converted into a paper pulp factory. The Carolina Pulp Company, which controls the plant, owns a process for making high grade paper from cotton stalks, a material that is a waste product, and an embarrassment to the ground after the staple is gathered. It is estimated that the company will be able to produce twenty tons of pulp daily.

Horseford Shoals Water Power.

Newton, Special.—Messrs. J. M. and W. R. Odell, of Concord, have deeded to Mr. G. H. Geitner, of Hickory, the Horseford Shoals water power. The deed was given some time ago, but only recently recorded. Rumors are rife as to Mr. Geitner's plans in this regard.

Negroes Beat Engineer.

Asheville, Special.—Two negroes jumped on Engineer Guy Ralph and beat him up in a frightful manner. Both negroes are in jail. They will be held without bond pending the result of the Engineer's injuries. The negroes attacked Ralph with a heavy iron pin. It is said that the trouble grew out of a headlight. The engineer is badly hurt, though his injuries are not, however, fatal.

New Monroe Cotton Mill Soon to Begin Operations.

Monroe, Special.—The new cotton mill company, which has taken over the Crow Knitting Mill property, has been organized and expects to have the new cotton mill started within 2 months. The plant will be known as the Everett Mills, and the company has an authorized capital of \$100,000. The officers are: Charles Leaman, president and general manager; W. S. Lee, vice president, and J. Locke Everett, secretary and treasurer.