

The Volk County News.

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INDEPENDENCE IN ALL THINGS.

Subscription Price, \$1.00 Per Year in Advance.

VOL XIII.

COLUMBUS, N. C., THURSDAY APRIL 2, 1908.

NO. 48.

NORTH CAROLINA AFFAIRS

The News of Old North State Gathered and Put in Condensed Form.

Moore Fruit Escapes.

Southern Pines, Special.—The fruit men of Moore county have been witnessing a strenuous period. Friday night one of the most tempestuous storms in a long time wound up with a blizzard of snow and ice, and on Saturday morning the thermometer registered 24, with the fruit blossoms encased in globes of ice. The fright was big enough to cut with a knife, as everybody threw up both hands and conceded the complete destruction of all fruit. Orchards had been out in the fullest blossom for several days and everywhere hopes had been entertained of a bumper crop. Following the snow and ice of Friday night came another freeze Saturday night, to finish what the first night had done, the victims asserted. Many of the orchard men say the frost has done no more than to thin out the blossoms, leaving prospects of a reasonably fair, if not a good crop.

Tax Levy Is Unconstitutional.

Asheville, Special.—Judge Fred Moore, of the State Superior Court bench, rendered his decision in the matter of the Southern Railway Company against the commissioners and tax collector of Buncombe county, holding that the special tax of 10 cents on the \$100 worth of property for roads and bridges, and 18 1/2 cents for interest on bonds and sinking fund was unconstitutional and invalid, and continued the injunction restraining the tax collector from collecting from the Southern this tax, amounting to \$4,800. Practically the same point was raised by complainant's counsel relative to Mecklenburg county on account of the county levying a 10 cent road tax, 15 cent bond tax, and 25 cent convict tax and no poll tax to correspond.

A Davidson Home Burned.

Lexington, Special.—News reached town of the destruction by fire of the residence of Dr. J. E. Cathell, of Tyro, this county, in which about \$4,000 worth of property was consumed and not a thing saved except a canary bird. The insurance carried amounts to \$2,250. The origin of the fire is unknown. The popular physician was out on a professional call and his family and servants were away, it being about midnight when the fire occurred. Together with the 8-room house, all the doctor's instruments, accounts, medicines, his diploma, license, etc., were destroyed, as were 1,100 pounds of pork and lard from six hogs. The loss is exceedingly heavy on the doctor. At present he is making his home with a neighbor, Mr. Baxter Leonard.

Coffin On the Doorstep.

Charlotte, Special.—Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Russell, residents of Hickory Grove township, this county, found a crude miniature coffin on their front porch when they awoke, and in it a letter demanding money. The letter was adorned with a skull, crossbones and a blackhand. The county authorities have two neighboring youths under suspicion, and will arrest them. They refuse to divulge the names of the suspects, but they believe the affair to have been the prank of irresponsible youths, and that is the view held by the community.

Mills May Shut Down.

Dallas, Special.—The stockholders of the Monarch held a meeting on Tuesday at which the capital stock of the mill was increased \$13,000. It is rumored that the three cotton mills now in operation in this town will soon shut down for two months.

New Charters.

Raleigh, Special.—New charters as follows were issued Friday:
Wadesboro Pepsi-Cola Company, with capital of \$5,000; W. B. Blalock, George Britts and George Stanback, incorporators.
Scott Library Company, Asheville, capital \$25,000; C. H. Bobbs, J. F. Young and Henry B. Stevens, incorporators.

Salisbury Gets a Good Price For Its \$100,000 Bond Issue.

Salisbury, Special.—At a special meeting of the board of aldermen bids were opened for the \$100,000 bond issue passed at a public election last fall. Several bids were tendered and after due consideration that of N. W. Harris & Co., of New York, was accepted. The agreement under which the sale is made provides that the purchaser shall pay all legal expenses, printing, lithographing, transfer charges and delivers to the City of Salisbury without any exchange charges the sum of \$101,600.

Benton's Slayer to Hang.

Fayetteville, Special.—Sam Murchison, alias Melvin, will pay with his life for the murder of James H. Benton, which crime he committed on Sunday afternoon, February 23d, last. In Superior Court he was found guilty of murder in the first degree after a trial extending over two days. The jury rendered its verdict in thirty-five minutes after retiring to the jury room. The accused showed considerable nervousness when brought back into the court room to receive the verdict, but after it was rendered he sank back into his seat without evidence of emotion.

Saloon Keeper Makes Assignment.

Wilmington, Special.—J. B. J. Sandlin, the saloon keeper whose license was recently revoked by the board of aldermen effective April 1st because of irregularities in the manner of his conducting his place, made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors, Joseph J. Littig, Jr., local agent for the Home Brewing Company, being the assignee. The assets and liabilities are not large and the failure is of no commercial importance.

Charters Granted.

Raleigh, Special.—A charter is granted the Johnson-McCubbin Company at Salisbury, which will deal in real estate, build houses and factories, etc., capital stock \$130,000, the stockholders being Thomas P. Johnson, J. S. McCubbin and T. H. Vanderford. Another charter goes to the Carolina Paper Box Company, of Winston-Salem, \$25,000, the stockholders being W. B. Hemingsway and others, all from Norfolk.

A commission is issued to Willey C. Rodman, of Washington, D. C. as major of the Second Regiment, vice Sellers, resigned.

Truck in the East Not Injured by Cold Weather.

Wilmington, Special.—The Truckers' Journal of this city says that it has received telegraphic reports from all the leading trucking centres around Wilmington and eastern North Carolina and finds that little if any damage was done by the recent snowfall and consequent cold weather in this vicinity. On account of reduced acreage most growers have been able to straw their berry plants and they are well protected until gathering time comes.

State News in Brief.

The United States Department of Justice offers \$100 reward for the capture of Jim Staley, the negro moonshiner who shot Deputy Marshal Henry Reese. It ought to be easy to identify and capture Staley as he was shot twice. Several people saw him at Sanford the evening of the day on which the shooting occurred. United States Marshal Dockery says that moonshining is certainly increasing in this district and that the moonshiners are becoming bolder and more separate. Not so much is going on now as in the winter, but more than at this time last year. Durham and Johnson are the worst counties in the district for moonshining, while Robeson leads in retailing.

At the office of the State Labor Commissioner it is learned that there is some increase of work in the State. It is said that the sawmill people make more complaints about the panic than perhaps any other class, saying it is the real thing, and has hit them hard and caused a big drop in prices.

A charter is granted the Leaksville Light, Power and Milling Company, to furnish electric power, etc., the amount of the capital stock being \$40,000 and E. B. King the chief stockholder.

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction has issued a very well prepared and illustrated pamphlet with designs for public school houses this taking the place of one which was issued some years ago.

There is talk of a fine new hotel at Lakeview, with Western capital at the back of the scheme. The plans are not worked out yet, but a representative of the investors has been looking over the ground and appears impressed with Lakeview as a place for a good summer and winter resort.

The number of volumes in the Supreme Court library is now 17,136 this being a gain of almost 600 a year on an average for the past four years. The number of volumes in the State library is 41,000, and counting books which the United States sends the gain is something like 1,000 a year.

MANY DIE IN COAL MINE

Fire Follows Explosion Deep in Coal Shaft

RESCUERS LOSE THEIR LIVES

In a Desperate Effort to Reach the Bodies of 18 Victims and Possible Survivors of Explosion, Probably 50 Rescuers Met a Similar Fate by a Second Explosion in the Hanna Mines of the Union Pacific Coal Company.

Cheyenne, Wyo., Special.—Between 55 and 70 men, it developed Sunday, lost their lives in two explosions in coal mine No. 1 of the Union Pacific Coal Company at Hanna. The explosions were caused by gases and coal dust, and each was followed by fire.

The first explosion occurred at 3 o'clock, killing 13 miners, including a superintendent and three bosses. The second explosion occurred at 10:30 o'clock at night, snuffing out the lives of from 40 to 50 rescuers, including State Mine Inspector D. M. Elie.

The wildest excitement prevailed in Hanna and at the mine, where hundreds of persons are congregated, including widows, children and other relatives of the victims. Men and women are running about wringing their hands and crying, while many little children, separated from their mothers, are sobbing with fear.

When the second explosion occurred, additional appeals were telegraphed to all surrounding towns for assistance. One train is rushing west from Omaha, carrying officers of the Union Pacific Railroad and of the Union Pacific Coal company.

The regular force of men employed at mines Nos. 2 and 3 were pressed into rescue work, which is extremely difficult.

The bodies of four of the 18 men who lost their lives in the first explosion, were found Sunday night, but owing to the increasing volumes of gas, which threatened to explode at any moment, no effort was made to remove them to the surface.

At 3 o'clock the fire reached the gas, and a terrific explosion followed. In a few minutes many men volunteered to enter the mine to rescue any possible survivor. Fumes and fire hindered the rescuers but they made some progress. After a long struggle, the volunteers got well into the mine. Those on the surface had begun to expect results from the intrepid daring of the rescuers, but at 10:30 o'clock the camp was startled by a second explosion that partly shut off the shaft of the mine and most likely killed the volunteers.

The victims are all below the tenth level and it is probable that flames have consumed the corpses.

Bomb Thrown in New York.

New York, Special.—Saturday as the police were dispersing a crowd of 10,000 idle people who were holding a socialistic meeting without a permit, a bomb was thrown with telling effect. The bomb was intended for the police, who with rough firmness had broke up a meeting of 10,000 unemployed. It exploded prematurely in the hands of the assassin, horribly wounding him, killing his companion, injuring slightly four policemen and throwing to the ground a score of those who were massed in the vicinity.

To Try Banker Montgomery.

New York, Special.—William R. Montgomery, former president of the Hamilton National Bank, who was indicted on two counts charging the over-certification of checks, will be placed on trial before Justice Dowling in the Supreme Court. Montgomery has entered a plea of not guilty to the indictment.

Germany Accepts Hill.

Berlin, By Cable.—Emperor William, having been fully advised as to the attitude of President Roosevelt to the attitude of the American public in regard to the alleged refusal of His Majesty to receive Dr. David Jayne Hill as American ambassador to Germany, in succession to Charlemagne Tower, has withdrawn all the expressions of disapproval he recently sent to President Roosevelt and would be pleased to receive Dr. Hill as American ambassador.

Guilty of Embezzlement.

Macon, Ga., Special.—The jury in the case of former Cashier C. M. Orr, of the failed Exchange Bank, charged with embezzling funds of the bank, after being out about three and one-half hours, returned a verdict of guilty. Judge U. V. Whipple sentenced the defendant to seven years in the penitentiary. A motion for a new trial was made.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT SENDS SPECIAL MESSAGE

Urges Congress to Enact Legislation Deemed Essential.

PROHIBITION OF CHILD LABOR

The Country's Interest Demands Tariff and Currency Changes, an Anti-Trust Act and an Employers' Liability Bill.

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt transmitted to Congress his promised special message urging certain legislation which he deems essential to the country's best interests at this time.

The message is marked by a savagery of expression which may be termed unique in communications of his sort from Mr. Roosevelt.

After the vigorous exhortation of some weeks ago, members could hardly believe it possible that all trace of the big stick could be so carefully concealed.

A large part of the message is given to the Civic Federation's bill, introduced in the House by Mr. Hepburn, to modify the Sherman anti-trust act, and the President points out what changes he deems desirable and necessary.

Give railroads the right, under certain limitations, to make traffic agreements, he urges, and change the law as to receiverships.

Alter the provisions that render illegal combinations of labor men and farmers and recognize strikes as legal.

But nothing should be done, declares the President, to legalize either a blacklist or a boycott that would be illegal at common law.

The message then says: "The question of financial legislation is now receiving such attention in both Houses that we have a right to expect action before the close of the session. It is urgently necessary that there should be such action. Moreover, action should be taken to establish postal savings banks. These postal savings banks are imperatively needed for the benefit of the wage-workers and men of small means and will be a valuable adjunct to our whole financial system."

"The time has come when we should prepare for a revision of the tariff. This should be and indeed must be, preceded by careful investigation."

President Roosevelt then suggests that a proper committee be delegated to gather the facts necessary for tariff revision at the next session of Congress. He then continues:

"I am of the opinion, however, that one change in the tariff could with advantage be made forthwith. Our forests need every protection and our method of protecting them would be to put upon the free list wood pulp, with a corresponding reduction upon paper made from wood pulp, when they come from any country that does not put an export duty upon them."

Other recommendations by the President are:

Re-enactment of an employers' liability bill, drawn to conform to the recent decision of the Supreme Court.

Modification of the law affecting injunctions in labor disputes.

Creation of a permanent waterways commission.

How Message Was Received.

Washington, D. C.—The special message from the President was closely followed in both branches of Congress. In the House the declaration that the time had come for a revision of the tariff elicited hand-clapping on the part of Democratic members. Democratic approval also was given by way of pounding desks to the suggestion that Congress could with advantage forthwith remove the tariff on wood pulp, with a corresponding reduction upon paper made from wood pulp. The Republicans waited and confined the applause to the message as a whole.

In the Senate the message was received without comment of any kind.

Discussion of the message turns chiefly on the question whether Congress will carry out any considerable part of its recommendations. The general impression is that an employers' liability law will be passed, that an investigation of tariff schedules will be ordered, and that the Aldrich currency bill will be put through; but that it is very doubtful if Congress will go any further at this session. It is pretty generally conceded that the bill to modify the Sherman law cannot get through, and that no anti-injunction legislation is likely.

AMBASSADOR HILL REFUSED.

Minister to the Netherlands Simply Unwelcome to German Emperor.

Washington, D. C.—Emperor William, at Berlin, announced that he would not permit the present American Minister to the Netherlands, Dr. David Jayne Hill, to come to his court as Ambassador from the United States. He gave no reason, but several were advanced for him, one being that the action was due to something Dr. Hill did or left undone when Prince Henry of Prussia visited Washington six years ago, another that the Kaiser had unfavorable reports of the diplomat's official achievements at The Hague.

CONGRESSMAN SHOT NEGRO IN STREET CAR

Heflin, of Alabama, Asked Him to Stop Drinking.

WHITE MAN HIT IN FOOT

Representative Arrested and Released on Bail—Had Advocated "Jim Crow" Cars For Washington—Had Permit to Carry Arms.

Washington, D. C.—Representative James T. Heflin, of Alabama, who recently advocated a "Jim Crow" law for street car service in the District of Columbia, shot a negro on a Pennsylvania avenue car. The negro had insulted him.

The bullet hit the man, Lewis Lumby, just above the right ear. It did not penetrate his skull. The negro is now in the hospital, and Congressman Heflin was arrested and charged with assault to kill. Later he was released on \$5000 bail.

Heflin fired two shots. The first failed to reach the negro and struck Thomas McCreary, another passenger, in the foot. McCreary is a trainer in the employ of August Belmont, and is in Washington in charge of the Belmont string at the Benning track.

The shooting occurred shortly after 7 p. m., as the car reached the corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Sixth street, bound for Capitol Hill.

Congressman Heflin, accompanied by Congressman Edwin J. Ellerbe, of South Carolina, had boarded the car at Twelfth street and Pennsylvania avenue, Mr. Heflin being on his way to deliver a temperance lecture at the Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal Church.

He observed two negro passengers, one of whom was Lewis Lumby, who was in the act of taking a drink from a bottle of whisky. There were a number of other passengers, including several women. Mr. Heflin remonstrated with Lumby and asked him to stop drinking, saying:

"Don't take that drink, there are ladies here, and it is not right. It is against the law for you to do this thing in a street car, and I hope you will put that bottle away."

The other negro, who was sober, attempted to take the bottle away from his friend, but failed. Lumby became offended at Mr. Heflin's remonstrances and applied vile epithets to him.

As the car reached Sixth street and Pennsylvania avenue Heflin and Lumby were engaged in a struggle. Mr. Heflin, who is a large, powerful man, succeeded in throwing Lumby off the car as it came to a stop. Most of the occupants of the car hastily alighted, including Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McCreary.

The negro fell to the ground on being pushed off the car. He rose and, it is said, began cursing Mr. Heflin again, and made a motion for his hip pocket as if to draw a weapon, whereupon Mr. Heflin fired at him through the car window, missing the negro and hitting Thomas McCreary, who was about twenty feet from the car. Mr. Heflin fired again, one of the shots striking Lumby in the head above the ear. Lumby ran a short distance and fell.

Mr. McCreary's wound is not serious, and after treatment at a hospital he returned to his apartments.

Mr. Heflin says that since he introduced the "Jim Crow" measure he has received many letters of a threatening character, and obtained permission from the police authorities to go armed.

Mr. Heflin represents the Fifth Alabama District, in which the Tuskegee Institute, of which Booker T. Washington is at the head, is located.

ALDRICH BILL PASSED.

Senate at Washington, D. C., Gives It a Majority of 42 to 16.

Washington, D. C.—By a vote of 42 to 16 the Aldrich Currency bill passed the Senate. Five Republicans voted against it—Borah, Bourne, Brown, Heyburn and La Follette. Three Democrats—Johnston, Owen and Teller—voted for the bill. As passed, the bill bears small resemblance to its original shape when it first was subjected to the fire of amendments.

The most important amendments adopted were those increasing the cash reserves of banks, the joint work of Nelson and Johnston, and providing penalties for false reports made by officers of banks as to circulation of emergency currency. This last was offered by La Follette, and was adopted only after a sharp fight.

SENATOR FRANCHOT DIES.

New Yorker Had Gone to Montreal to Undergo an Operation.

Montreal.—State Senator S. P. Franchot, of New York, who was operated upon here for paralysis, after showing encouraging symptoms, suffered a relapse during the night and died.

He was conscious just before the end and recognized his relatives.

Albany, N. Y.—The Senate adjourned out of respect for the memory of Senator Franchot, after adopting a resolution that the Senate shall attend the funeral in a body. The Assembly also adjourned.

Stanislaus P. Franchot represented the Forty-seventh Senatorial District, composed of Niagara and Orleans counties. He was born in Morris, Otsego County, on January 30, 1851.

PURCHASE OF TWO CROPS MAY END TOBACCO WAR

Trust Said to Have Agreed With Society of Equity.

\$14,000,000 PAID FOR PRODUCT

Take 1906 Crop at Sixteen and 1907 Crop at Eighteen Cents, on Agreement That No Tobacco Will Be Grown in 1908.

Cincinnati, Ohio.—The American Tobacco Company has surrendered to the Kentucky white burley tobacco planters, associated as the American Society of Equity, which has been waging a strenuous war upon the trust for more than a year. It is said in an unofficial report of the settlement of the controversy between the planters and the trust that the trust has bought the pooled crops of 1906 and 1907 at prices far above those dictated by the buying corporation at the time of the split between them and the planters. The total amount to be paid for the tobacco that the association has in warehouses and which it was holding, refusing to sell at the prices offered, is \$14,000,000. The prices to be paid for the 1906 crop is sixteen cents a pound, and for the next year's output eighteen cents. In the settlement the planters decided not to raise a crop this year.

The report, which comes from members of the Planters' Society and has not yet been fully verified by the other side, is discredited by many conversant with the situation because of the fact that the White Burley Board of Control has heretofore asked only fifteen cents a pound for both the crop of 1906 and 1907. The higher prices are explained by the agreement to carry out the "no crop for 1908" idea as part of the consideration to the American Tobacco Company. The agreement as reported only affects the White Burley districts, and has no relation to the dark tobacco districts in which most of the night riding outrages have taken place.

The light or burley tobacco district covers fifty-five counties in Kentucky, several in Ohio and two or three in West Virginia. The region in Kentucky is in the northern and central part of the State. This district is the only place in the world where this class of tobacco is grown. The weed is used in the manufacture of the finer grades of both chewing and smoking tobacco. The dark tobacco district embraces fourteen counties in Western Kentucky and several in Tennessee. The product of this district is nearly all taken for export.

Night Riding Continues. Hopkinsville, Ky.—Night riders, to the number of twenty-five or thirty, invaded Golden Pond, Trigg County, dragged Thomas Weaver, a negro in the employ of the tobacco association, from his bed, and carrying him to the road, commanded him to run. When he failed to obey the night riders began firing at him. Two balls penetrated the body, and he was found later in a dying condition. No cause for the crime is known.

Judge Will Not Offer Reward. Carlisle, Ky.—Judge McNeal, county judge of this county, refused to offer a reward for the arrest and conviction of any of the night riders who shot and killed Harlan Hedges, an independent tobacco farmer living near Carlisle. He said that he will not do so unless sanctioned by a meeting of the fiscal court now in session.

Ask Federal Aid Against "Riders." Lexington, Ky.—The failure on the part of the State authorities to run down perpetrators of outrages committed by "night riders" culminated in a direct appeal to President Roosevelt for Federal interference in Kentucky, in the form of a petition prepared by leading men of Lexington and Central Kentucky. The petitioners are aware that the President can take no action unless the Governor so requests, but they say it is their purpose by this means to bring the two Executives together in the matter.

LABOR INJUNCTION PERMANENT.

Appeal Decided Against Buck Stove and Range Company Boycott.

Washington, D. C.—The temporary injunction recently issued against the American Federation of Labor by Justice Gould, of the District Supreme Court in favor of the Buck Stove and Range Company was made perpetual by Chief Justice Clegg.

The injunction effectually restrains the American Federation of Labor from in any manner interfering with the business of the Buck Stove and Range Company.

The costs of the proceeding were taxed to the Federation of Labor.

REFUGEES AT HAITI.

German Cruiser Bremen Takes Foreigners Away.

Port-Au Prince, Haiti.—The city is tranquil. The German cruiser Bremen will sail to take on board the refugees in the consulates at Port de Paix and Saint Marc and convey them to Kingston. Septimus Marius, Judge of the Supreme Court, is still in refuge at the French Legation here.