

The Polk County News.

Three Cents the Copy.

INDEPENDENCE IN ALL THINGS.

Subscription Price, \$1.00 Per Year in Advance.

VOL XIV.

COLUMBUS, POLK COUNTY, N. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1909.

NO. 46.

BRIEF CULLINGS OF NORTH STATE NEWS

News of Interest Gleaned From All Sections of the State and Arranged For Busy Readers

Taylorville Train Wrecked.

Statesville, Special.—The mixed passenger and freight train from Taylorville, which is due in Statesville at 10:10 o'clock was wrecked Thursday morning at a point about one and a half miles south of Hidenite. Two loaded box cars, the baggage and mail car and the second-class passenger coach left the track and were badly damaged, but no one was hurt. The locomotive broke loose from the derailed cars and remained on the track uninjured, and the first-class passenger coach, which was at the rear of the train, did not leave the rails. As soon as the extent of the damage was learned the locomotive proceeded to Stony Point station, where an empty box car was secured. Chairs were placed in the car and it was taken to the scene of the wreck. Captain Rowland quickly transferred the passengers to the box car—"a side door Pullman"—and the engine and car came on to Statesville, arriving here on schedule time. The train which arrived here from Charlotte at 10 o'clock was sent back to Charlotte and the morning train to Taylorville was annulled. What caused the wreck is not known and neither Engineer Patton or Captain Rowland offer any theories as to the cause.

New Industrial News Deal.

Greensboro, Special.—Another turn was taken in the affairs of The Industrial News Thursday, when Judge Boyd signed an order transferring the bankruptcy proceedings against the corporation to Mr. G. S. Ferguson, Jr., referee in bankruptcy. Referee Ferguson will advertise a meeting of creditors for the purpose of electing a trustee for the purpose of winding up the affairs of the bankrupt. The Daily Industrial News, which was established here as the Republican organ in North Carolina early in October, 1905, was placed in the hands of a receiver November 14, 1909, and the paper suspended publication January 29. The receiver made three attempts to sell the property, not a single bid being offered at the last sale, on February 15th. The failure to resurrect The Industrial News means that, for a while, at least, Greensboro will be without an Associated Press morning paper.

Mr. Walter H. Savoy, the representative of the Mergenthaler Company, is here and has arranged to have the linotype machines used by The Industrial News boxed and shipped to the company's factory in Brooklyn, N. Y. Mr. Charles G. Harrison, of the Harrison Printing Company, has been engaged to take down and prepare the machines for shipment and went to work on the job Thursday.

Hearing in Whitney Case.

Salisbury, Special.—For the purpose of conducting a special hearing in the litigation against the Whitney Power Company, of Pittsburg, owners of the big electric and water-power plant being developed at the Narrows, on the Yadkin River, near Salisbury, A. H. Price, of this city, went to New York Thursday. Hon. John S. Henderson, receiver of the \$10,000,000 concern, and Burton Craige, also of this city, are also in New York for the hearing, which, it is said, will last ten days. The principal issue in the cases arises over a claim of the contracting firm of the T. A. Gillespie Company for a balance of about \$253,000 alleged to be due from the Whitney Company. It is believed here that all the differences will be adjusted and work resumed on the big plant.

In Trouble Again.

Raleigh, Special.—Fred Miller, the young man of good family who came into the limelight some months ago through being arrested and held in jail some time on suspicion of being connected with the murder of Dr. W. E. Smith, of Richmond, last November, is in trouble again, having been jailed on the charge of robbery. He is accused by Gordon N. Morgan.

Fate Uncertain.

Raleigh, Special.—Governor Kitchin will make his order very soon as to whether former Sheriff Amon, of Sampson county, shall serve his six years' sentence for embezzlement of county funds in the penitentiary or on the roads of Sampson county. Friends of the prisoner are urging that he be allowed to remain in Sampson and serve on the roads. The carrying out of the sentence to the State's prison has been suspended several weeks, in order that the Governor might have opportunity to look into the merits of the appeal for change of sentence.

Cloers' Victims Increase.

Statesville, Special.—Additional charges against the Cloer brothers Robert and Joe Cloer, the noted check flashers who are in jail here awaiting trial, continue to pile up and it is probable that the number of their victims will never be known. There are probably many victims who know that the Cloers are now in jail, but they don't care to let it be known that they cashed bogus checks because the telling will not bring back their money, and few of us are anxious to let it be known that we have been taken in or worked by a sharper. This is preliminary to saying that Mr. R. F. Burton, cashier of a bank at Marion, was shown a photograph of Robert Cloer—the one who operated most extensively—the other day and recognized him as the man who passed a forged check on the Marion bank. This is the first case to turn up from the Marion section.

Pitt County Teachers.

Greenville, Special.—Pitt county has a teachers' association that ranks with the best in the State. It has a membership considerably above one hundred, holds meetings once a month and is attended by practically all the public school teachers in the county. Through the efforts of the association, led by the county superintendent of schools, Prof. W. H. Regsdale, educational interest has reached a high pitch over the entire county. In addition to the splendid programme participated in by various teachers of the county, a prominent educator from different colleges in the State is secured to address each meeting of the association. The address at the meeting last Saturday was by Prof. J. Henry Highsmith, of Wake Forest College, and is pronounced one of the best the association has ever heard.

State Officers' Club.

Raleigh, Special.—The North Carolina State officers are organizing themselves into a social club with a limited number of outside members, the indications being that the organization will come to be quite a feature of interest in Raleigh. The entire Woman's Club building, west of Capitol Square, has been leased, except the assembly room, which the women will retain for meeting purposes. It has been a matter of dissatisfaction for some time among the State officers that they had no place where they could come together in a social way and exchange views without the formalities of some official session or conference. To Hon. B. F. Dixon State auditor, is due the credit for having hit upon a solution of the difficulty in conceiving the formation of the club.

Many Want Jobs.

Raleigh, Special.—Governor Kitchin says he is receiving many letters from people in various parts of the State asking to be appointed as inspectors of illuminating oils under the operation of the act passed by the recent Legislature providing an inspection system for North Carolina, provision being made for ten inspectors, one for each congressional district, the pay for each not to exceed \$1,000 per year. The Governor says, however, that he finds that the appointments are not to be made by him, but by the State Department of Agriculture. The act becomes operative July 1, and will necessitate the testing of all illuminating oils offered for sale in the State, the inspector's tag of approval being necessary on every package of oil before it can be offered for sale at retail.

Pasteur Treatment Successful.

Statesville, Special.—Mr. Fred Abernathy, who was bitten by a rabid dog two or three weeks ago and went to Raleigh to take the Pasteur treatment for hydrophobia, passed through Statesville Monday evening en route to his home at Oak Forest. He can now rest assured of no further ill effects as a result of his experience with the mad dog.

Special Tax For Schools.

Raleigh, Special.—The election for special tax of 15 cents on the \$1,000 of valuation and 45 cents on the poll to maintain the schools of Raleigh township for nine months, in place of six, was Tuesday won by the schools, which polled 1,154 votes out of 1,849 registered. The opposition voted only 345. The deficiency in funds was caused by the voting out of the liquor dispensary and for two years the schools have had only a six months' term. The increase applies to next year's terms, as the schools are now closed.

CONVENTION OF LAUNDRYMEN

Third Annual Meeting of the Association Meets in Goldsboro.

Goldsboro, Special.—The third annual convention of the Launderers' Association of the Carolinas convened in this city Monday morning and is largely attended by representative citizens from the more progressive towns of the sister Carolinas. At 10 o'clock Monday the convention was formally called to order in the public chamber of commerce by its president, Mr. C. M. Brown, of Asheville. After address of welcome by Col. J. E. Robinson, editor of the Argus and response by Mr. H. A. Smith, of Florence, S. C., the convention got speedily down to business. The afternoon's business session was opened at 2 o'clock, but adjourned at 3 o'clock to the Country Club, the members leaving on the train at 3:10 for that delightful location, where the deliberations were resumed at 3:45, and a barbecue was tendered by Mr. B. H. Griffin, of the Kennon.

Desire Better Corn Crop.

Gastonia, Special.—To stimulate the growing of corn in Gaston county, Mr. A. C. Stroup, who is in charge of the government's co-operative demonstration work for this county, will offer prizes aggregating nearly \$200 for the best yields of corn to the acre during the coming season. The number of prizes and the rules and regulations governing the contest will be made known in a few days. It is open to all farmers in the county. Gaston farmers have heretofore raised cotton almost to the exclusion of all other farm products and it is desired to stimulate them in the raising of corn and other grains.

Working on Big Bridge Across Albemarle Sound.

Newbern, Special.—The N. & S. Railroad is now running a train daily which is getting up material for building the great bridge across Albemarle sound. About two years ago when work was first begun on the bridge hundreds of piles, some 70 feet long, were cut and placed on the railroad right of way between Washington and Beaufort. The company now has an engine and a crew with a steam loader at work loading these piles and taking them to Mackeys Ferry. So far as can be learned the actual construction work on the bridge itself has not yet begun, but large quantities of material are now being placed in readiness to begin the work.

Much Activity at Spencer.

Spencer, Special.—Not for more than a year has there been as much activity at Spencer as at the present time, the Southern Railway pay roll having been greatly increased this month by reason of larger appropriations for work in the big shops here. More men are said to be in the service in Spencer now than for two years and many are moving their families to Spencer to live. The repair work on engines and cars accumulated during the past business depression will keep the employes busy for many months and this in addition to the regular work at the shops.

Ancient Relic Unearthed.

Fayetteville, Special.—Harry Wakeland, the young son of Prof. C. R. Wakeland, of this place, some days ago unearthed in plowing, an ancient spear head, evidently of the pattern used by the soldiers of the sixteenth century, particularly the Spanish, French and Italian, having the small hook in use at that period. The whole head is 12 inches long. It is probable that the spear and its bearer were lost by Verrazzani, the Italian explorer (employed by the French), or De Ayllen, the Spanish slave trader in their expeditions in 1524 and 1520.

State Banks Good Showing.

Raleigh, Special.—A summary of the condition of State, private and savings banks at the close of business February 5th by the Corporation Commission shows that there are 311 banks and they have aggregate resources of \$48,954,015, a gain of \$1,206,000 over the report of a year ago. The deposits aggregate \$35,262,679.

Lumber Flume 17 Miles Long.

Winston-Salem, Special.—Wilkes county is to have the longest lumber flume in North Carolina. It will be 17 miles in length and it is being installed by the Giant Lumber Co. The men at the head of the flume will begin work at 6 a. m., putting in the lumber while the employes in North Wilkesboro begin receiving three hours later, it requiring this time for the plank to float down the river. The flume, already constructed for several miles, is a fine and expensive piece of work and is frequently used by other lumber dealers.

CONGRESS IN EXTRA SESSION

President Taft's Message Read—Speaker Cannon Announces Important Committees.

The second day's session of the House of Representatives found the members in a much calmer mood than on Monday. The tension was noticeably relaxed, and a feeling of general good fellowship was apparent. The drawing for seats was the first business. A number of the older members were allowed their choice of seats.

Speaker Cannon announced the following committees:

Rules—The Speaker; Dalzell, of Pennsylvania; Smith of Iowa; Clark of Missouri; Fitzgerald, New York. Committee on Ways and Means—Payne, of New York; Dalzell, of Pennsylvania; McCall, Massachusetts; Hill of Connecticut; Boutell, of Illinois; Needham, of California; Calderhead, of Kansas; Fordney, of Michigan; Gaines, of West Virginia; Cushman, of Washington; Longworth of Ohio; Crumpacker, of Indiana; Clark, of Missouri; Harrison, of New York; Broussard, of Louisiana; Underwood, of Alabama; Griggs, of Georgia; Pou, of North Carolina; Randall, of Texas.

Speaker Cannon did not consult the minority leader, Hon. Champ Clark, in the appointment of committee from the minority party and Mr. Clark and he had some controversy.

The President's message was received and read in both houses after which the Senate adjourned until Friday.

PRESIDENT TAFT'S MESSAGE.

The following is the very brief, but clear cut message from the President:

"To the Senate and House of Representatives:

"I have convened congress in extra session in order to enable it to give immediate consideration to the revision of the Dingley tariff act. Conditions affecting production, manufacture and business generally have so changed in the last 12 years as to require a re-adjustment and revision of the import duties imposed by that act. More than this the present tariff act, with other sources of government revenue, does not furnish income enough to pay authorized expenditures. By July 1, next, the excess of expenses over receipts for the current fiscal year will equal \$100,000,000.

Party Pledged to Revision.

"The successful party in the late election is pledged to a revision of the tariff. The country and business community especially, expect it. The prospect of a change in the rates of import duties always causes a suspension or halt in business because of the uncertainty as to changes to be made and their effect. It is therefore of the highest importance that the new bill should be agreed upon and passed with as much speed as possible consistent with its due and thorough consideration.

Urges Speedy Action.

"For these reasons I have deemed the present to be an extraordinary occasion, within the meaning of the constitution and requiring the calling of an extra session.

"In my inaugural address, I stated in a summary way, the principles upon which, in my judgment, the revision of the tariff should proceed, and indicated at least one new source of revenue that might be properly stored in order to avoid future deficit. It is not necessary for me to repeat what I then said.

"I venture to suggest that the vital business interests of the country require that the attention of congress in this session be chiefly devoted to consideration of the new tariff bill, and that less time be given to other subjects of legislation in this session, is better for the country."

"WILLIAM H. TAFT."

For four hours the House of Representatives Friday listened to the reading of the tariff bill which was the only business transacted. It was perhaps the dreariest legislative session of any held by the body in recent years.

The census bill was received by the Senate from the House and referred to the committee on the census. After being in session eight minutes the Senate adjourned until Monday. There is a general disposition in the House to eliminate as far as possible any academic discussion of the tariff. Members on both sides are desirous of having as little general debate as possible and as much time as is practicable for the consideration of the bill under the five minute rule for amendment.

WRECKED IDEALS.

"So he has ceased to be her ideal?"
"He has."
"What disagreeable thing did he do?"
"Married another girl."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

JURY RETURNS VERDICT OF GUILTY

Decision Against the Two Coopers for Killing of Sen. Carmack—20 Years in the Penitentiary the Penalty.

Nashville, Tenn., Special.—Guilty of murder in the second degree—punishment 20 years' imprisonment—this was the unexpected verdict rendered by the jury against Col. Duncan B. Cooper and Robin J. Cooper when the court opened Saturday. The jury Friday acquitted John D. Sharp, indicted with the Coopers for the slaying of former U. S. Senator Edward W. Carmack.

Rush to Sign Bond. Although Judge Hart fixed the bond at \$25,000 there was a rush to sign it on the part of wealthy citizens of Nashville which fairly swamped the clerk of the criminal court.

The first to arrive was John J. Greener, who signed for \$10,000 on each bond. Several others had been sent for and telephoned that they would come as quickly as automobiles would bring them. In a few moments Walter O. Farmer arrived and signed for the balance. "I will sign for a million for these men," he remarked. In vain the clerk protested over and over again that more than enough sureties had signed but the invariable answer was "We want to put our name on that bond too." It seemed as though every friend of the Coopers considered it incumbent upon him to sign the bond. When there was no more room for names at the foot of the document the new bondsman endorsed across the face until it was difficult to decipher the signatures. When filed the bond totaled nearly a million and a half.

The Jury's Verdict. At 9:25 the 12 men entered the room and took the same seats they had occupied for nearly 9 weeks.

"Have you agreed upon a verdict, gentlemen?" said Judge Hart.

"We have," replied Foreman E. M. Burke hoarsely.

"Advance, Mr. Foreman, and read the verdict."

"We, the jury, find the defendants Duncan B. Cooper and Robin J. Cooper guilty of murder in the second degree and assess their punishment at confinement in the State penitentiary for a period of twenty years."

"So say you all, gentlemen?"
"So say we all," in chorus.

"I thank you, gentlemen," said the court, "for your patience and devotion to the State, and dismiss you to your homes and to your personal vocations."

The jurors were tired-looking and disheveled, but with the conclusion of this remark the entire 12 sprang from their seats as one man and hurriedly left the court room.

Verdict a Surprise.

The verdict, coming as it did upon the heels of Foreman Burke's declaration Friday that "we are hopelessly tied up as to the Coopers," was a decided surprise. The defendants took it coolly—almost without emotion. In a second after Judge Hart ceased dismissing the jurors, Judge Anderson, of the defense, was on his feet exclaiming: "Your honor, we move that the case be declared a mistrial because of the verdict Friday we contend that Friday's verdict was the only one, and that it acquitted John Sharp but declared a disagreement on the other defendants. We also ask that the defendants be admitted to bond at once."

A Bailable Case.

"The verdict of the jury makes it a bailable case," was the court's remark. "Hence I will fix the bond of each defendant at \$25,000 unless there be some objection. In that event I will hear arguments." "It is satisfactory to us," said Attorney General McCann. "And to us," retorted Judge Anderson. "There seems nothing left but for the court to pass sentence," added Judge Hart.

"I do not think that necessary," said Judge Anderson. We move that judgment be suspended and that we be given a new trial. We will be prepared to argue the motion later—probably next week." "All right, judge," remarked the court. "I know you will not delay unnecessarily and I will take it up at your own convenience."

How the Jury Voted.

The jurors were not inclined to talk but one of them said:

"On the first ballot we acquitted John Sharp and disregarded the conspiracy theory. On this same ballot we stood six for guilty of murder in the first degree with mitigating circumstances, five for murder in the second degree with 20 years, the maximum penalty and one for acquittal. The ballots all day Wednesday and Thursday showed the same result. Friday the man who voted for acquittal came over to murder in the second degree but demanded that only 10 years be assessed. The rest of us did not deem ten years as anything like adequate, so we disagreed again. Of course, all this refers to the Coopers, not Sharp, whom we had acquitted. Early Saturday morning the man who was holding out for 10 years agreed to 20 years and the six who were voting for a first degree verdict agreed to this verdict."

UNITED STATES CENSUS REPORT ON THE COTTON CROP

Washington, Special.—Running bales of cotton numbering 13,408,841, of average gross weight of 505 pounds, all equivalent to 13,563,042 500-pound bales, with 27,587 ginneries operating, was the final report of the census bureau Saturday on the cotton crop grown in 1908.

The report included 344,970 linters and counts round as half bales. The final 1907 crop report was 11,325,882 bales, equivalent to 11,375,461 500-pound bales with 27,587 ginneries operating.

Included in the 1908 figures are 93,085 bales, which the ginneries estimated they would turn out after the time of the March canvass.

Round bales in the report are 340,

450 bales. Sea island bales included are 93,848 for 1908 and 86,895 for 1907.

The crop by States, in running bales, including linters, follows:

Alabama, 1,358,339 bales; Arkansas, 1,018,708 bales; Florida, 71,411 bales; Georgia, 2,022,828 bales; Kansas, Kentucky and New Mexico (including linters, of establishments in Illinois and Virginia) 5,054; Louisiana, 481,694 bales; Mississippi, 1,665,695 bales; Missouri, 60,609 bales; North Carolina, 699,507 bales; Oklahoma, 703,862 bales; South Carolina, 1,239,280 bales; Tennessee, 348,583 bales; Texas, 3,719,189 bales; Virginia, 13,013 bales.

DECLARE ALCOHOL IS BEING ELIMINATED.

Washington, Special.—Alcohol practically has no therapeutic uses, judging from the discussion at the semi-annual meeting here Thursday of the American Society for the Study of Alcohol and Other Drug Narcotics. Some of the medical scientists contended that alcohol has no therapeutic uses; others that on the whole it has few such uses, while another declared that alcohol gradually is being eliminated as a drug. Papers were read by Drs. Henry O. Marcy, of Boston, honorary president of the society, entitled, "A

Medical Study of the Temperance Movement in the South;" Howard A. Kelly, of Baltimore, on "The Alcoholic Problem in Every-Day Life;" T. D. Crothers, of Hartford, Conn., on "The Future of the Alcoholic Problem;" and W. B. Parks, of Atlanta, Ga., on "The Effects of Alcohol on Temperament as it Relates to Race and Nationality." The night's session developed much interest among the scientists as indicating the necessity for laws relating to the care and protection of inebriates.

THE HOUSE PASSES AMENDED CENSUS AND HEALTH BILLS

Washington, Special.—In its amended form the House took Thursday for consideration the bill providing for the taking of the next census. The bill was passed at the last session, but was vetoed by the President because of his objections to the provisions which took away from the government clerks, an amendment by Mr. Bennett (N. Y.) was agreed to, requiring that each census applicant furnish with his or her application a certificate of good health.

was agreed to providing that the appointments shall be made in conformity with the law of apportionment among the States, under the civil service act. In order to prevent the spread of tuberculosis among government clerks, an amendment by Mr. Bennett (N. Y.) was agreed to, requiring that each census applicant furnish with his or her application a certificate of good health.