

The Polk County News.

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VOL XV.

COLUMBUS, POLK COUNTY, N. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1910.

NO. 44.

ANNOUNCES SUICIDE

Thomas K. Laughlin Ends Life in Pittsburg.

PRESIDENT TAFT AT FUNERAL.

Coroner Says That Laughlin Came to Death by His Own Hands.

Pittsburg, Pa., Special.—Thomas K. Laughlin, brother-in-law of President Taft, assistant treasurer of the great Jones and Laughlin steel interest and worth \$20,000,000, is a suicide. He sent a bullet into his brain some time during Thursday night in his mansion on Woodlawn road. Efforts by wealthy relatives to suppress the facts were successful until Saturday, when Coroner Samuel Jamison, after forcing an investigation, made the public announcement. "The Laughlin case is one of suicide. He blew out his brains."

Persistent calls for information from the coroner caused him to investigate the case, and after a visit to the Laughlin home he said that the physician's return was technically correct, although the cerebral hemorrhage had been caused by a bullet. The physician's certificate of death stated the cause as cerebral apoplexy and was signed by Dr. T. M. McKenna.

President Taft left for Pittsburg where at 3 o'clock Sunday, he will attend the funeral of Mr. Laughlin. The President left Pittsburg Sunday night and reached Washington Monday. On account of the death of Mr. Laughlin the President has canceled his trip to New York, which he had planned to attend the opera, and instead will begin his weeks trip by going direct to Chicago, where he has an engagement on March 17.

To Issue \$200,000,000 Stock.

New York, Special.—A recommendation that the capital stock of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, the so-called telephone trust, be increased to \$500,000,000 is contained in the company's annual report, but other than to say that the company desired to be "forehanded" no reason is given for the requested increase of \$200,000,000.

Wall street believes the company purposes still greater expansion, though the report states "that none of the current year for ordinary capital expenditures."

The report shows that the number of telephone stations in the Bell system was increased to more than 5,000,000, including 1,500,000 operated by connecting companies. The wire mileage is shown to be in excess of 10,000,000 miles, and the traffic has increased to nearly 20,000,000 connections a day, or about 6,500,000,000 connections a year.

The company had a net revenue for 1909 of more than \$30,000,000, and the system earned gross \$149,914,700, an increase of \$11,770,400 over last year. Net earnings were \$48,367,500, out of which \$23,910,600 was paid in dividends, \$10,221,400 paid in interest and \$14,235,500 placed in the surplus. Out of the gross earnings nearly \$45,000,000 was charged to depreciation and maintenance.

Aged Distiller Gives Himself Up.

Baltimore, Special.—George T. Cambrell, the aged president of the Roxbury Distillery company, wanted by the police on charges of fraudulently issuing whiskey certificates upon which he was alleged to have obtained loans amounting from \$200,000 to \$300,000 surrendered himself to the authorities here. He was later released in \$20,000 bail. Gambrell, who had been missing since February 24, returned from Ensley, Ala. His distilling company is in the hands of receivers.

Sympathetic Strikes Unlawful.

Richmond, Va., Special.—Sympathetic strikes are unlawful, according to a decision handed down by the United States circuit court of appeals in which it sustained a recent judgment of Judge Dayton, of West Virginia. The case was that of the Wheelman Coal and Coke Company vs. the United Mine workers of America.

Charged With Shanghaiing.

Buffalo, N. Y., Special.—The Lake Carriers Association, which controls a large percentage of shipping on the Great Lakes, was indicted by the Federal grand jury here on a charge of shanghaiing. The indictments are against the corporation, the officials of which must appear before Judge Hazel next week to plead.

NORTH STATE NEWS

Items of State Interest Gathered and Told in Brief.

Spivey Pays Penalty.

At 12:09 Friday Sheriff J. M. Clark at Elizabethtown pulled the fatal lever and Henry E. Spivey passed into another world. Spivey was convicted at the March term, 1909, superior court of Bladen county of the murder of his father-in-law, Frank Shaw. The evidence against him was overwhelming and the jury reached a unanimous verdict after a short deliberation. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court and the lower court was affirmed. The Governor issued to the sheriff of Bladen a warrant directing the hanging of Spivey January 11. The lawyer representing the prisoner became active in seeking a commutation of sentence, and in order to give a hearing Spivey was reprieved until March 4, and later until March 11th. The judge and Solicitor refusing to recommend a commutation to life imprisonment.

Prisoners Burned the Jail.

The Camden county jail was fired by negro prisoners and badly damaged before the flames were extinguished. The four prisoners therein were removed to the court house for the night. One of the guards laid down his gun and Fred Johnson, a negro prisoner, seized it, fired at close range at Deputy Sheriff Cartwright. The load tore his hat to pieces. Cartwright returned the fire shattering the negro's arm.

Negro Slashes White Man.

Ill-feeling, engendered some months ago in an attempt of white residents of Seney street, Asheville, to obtain the removal of negro residents, coupled with alleged imprudence, and vile language by a negro, Pat Morgan, to Mrs. S. I. Bean, led to an affray between Pat Morgan and S. I. Bean, in which the negro seriously cut Mr. Bean back of his neck. The wounds were gashes, five separate cuts being made, besides frightful laceration of his right ear.

Blood Poison Contracted From Corpse.

As a result of blood poison contracted in the preparation of a corpse for burial, Undertaker R. M. Davis, of Salisbury, lies dangerously ill at the Whitehead-Stokes Sanitarium where he was taken several days ago for treatment. So serious is his condition that it became necessary to amputate one arm with a hope of saving his life. His condition is still critical and grave fears are entertained.

Scotchmen Locate in North Carolina.

Four young Scotchmen, John Toome and James Mitchell of Edinburg, James Campbell of Walkertown, Peebleshire, and John Robertson of South Queen's Ferry went to Fayetteville with the purpose of locating in Cumberland county. The young men are of a class of immigrants greatly desired in North Carolina.

Lightning Kills Stock.

During a severe electrical storm, lightning killed two mules, two hogs and one cow belonging to Mr. Robert Newman, who resides two miles east of Madison. Mr. Newman and family who were in the house, knew nothing about the deplorable happening until Mr. Newman went down to the stable Sunday morning to feed his stock.

Ten Negroes Burn to Death.

Seven miles northwest of Roxboro, on the farm of W. E. Earley, ten negroes met horrible death early Friday. John Wagstaff, his wife and eight children being burned to ashes in their home. Not one was left to tell the gruesome tale and the only evidence of their death was the charred bones from which all flesh was burned.

To Resume Work on Car Line.

Work will be resumed this week on the car lines in Concord. It is hoped to have cars running in four months.

Fire in Durham.

A fire without the firemen's realm destroyed four buildings near Lakewood park in Durham.

Seawell Enters Office.

The official transfer of the United States district attorney of the eastern district in Raleigh, has been made from Col. Harry Skinner, retiring district attorney, to H. F. Seawell, recently appointed by President Taft and confirmed by the United States senate.

Demands Return of License.

Before Judge Biggs, Charles L. Thomas, druggist of Thomasville, appeared asking mandamus proceedings against the North Carolina board of pharmacy to force that organization to give him license.

RY. MEN ARE OUT

Railroad Managers Are Asked to State Their Position on Union's Demands.

Chicago, Special.—Admissions have been made on both sides that the controversy between 30,000 firemen operating on 150,000 miles of railroads west, northwest and southwest of Chicago and the managers had become critical and that the question of a strike, tying up practically all systems between here and the Pacific coast, would be settled in a few days.

President W. S. Carter, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, on behalf of the firemen, has sent to the general manager of the committee of the railroads a request for a clear statement of the employers' position. The brotherhood asked for information on three points in their demands.

In previous negotiations the brotherhood said they were willing to submit the wage question to arbitration under the Erdman act provided the other two points were settled without the aid of a third party.

It was announced by the general managers' committee that an answer was directed sent to President Carter denying this request and leaving it to the union, despite their "strike vote" to take what future course they think best.

Negotiations have been on for six weeks. About forty-nine Western railroads are involved. If a strike were called, it is said 25,000 other employees would be thrown out. At the last meeting ten general managers were present.

Begins Burglary Sentence at 76.

New York, Special.—Although he is 76 years of age, and very feeble, Philip Render, of Long Island City, will be taken to Sing Sing prison next week to serve a term of four years and nine months for burglary. He will be the oldest convict in the prison. He finished a seven-year sentence for bigamy only a few months ago. He was arrested a few days later, on a charge, but was saved from prosecution by a Long Island farmer, who took him to his farm and agreed to care for him. Render repaid this kindness by stealing everything he could, and disappeared. He was arrested in a neighboring town some time afterwards.

Disclose Whereabouts of \$173,000.

Chicago, Special.—The mystery surrounding the disappearance of the \$173,000 from the United States sub-treasury three years ago is solved, according to a declaration in Judge Bretano's court by Attorney James J. Barbour. He is representing one of the defendants in the suit for \$50,000 for malicious prosecution brought by George W. Fitzgerald, former teller in the United States sub-treasury, against William Boldenweek, sub-treasurer; Herbert Young, and others, which was dismissed on motion of Fitzgerald last week.

"Your honor we have the evidence as to how the \$173,000 was stolen and we wish to make use of this information even if we have to proclaim it at a town meeting," said Attorney Barbour.

Nurse Gets \$58,000.

New York, Special.—The judgment of the lower court giving to Miss Addie M. Hunt, a trained nurse, \$58,000 for the loss of her legs in a railway accident at Great Neck, L. I., in June, 1905, has been affirmed by the appellate division. When her suit against the Long Island railway was first tried she got a verdict for \$25,000, which was set aside as insufficient. In the second trial the award was \$58,000 and the railroad company appealed.

Confederate Coin Brings Good Price.

New York, Special.—One of the original Confederate half-dollars struck off at the United States mint in New Orleans in 1861, after it fell into the hands of the Confederate government, was sold by a local coin dealer for \$3,750. The buyer was a wealthy New York collector, whose name is withheld.

Status of Newspaper Man.

Washington, Special.—A newspaper man may have a statue erected in his honor at the national Capitol, a bill having been introduced by Representative Douglas of Ohio, appropriating \$20,000 for that purpose. The man was Januarius Aloysius Maegahan, whose descriptions of the atrocities practiced upon the Bulgarians by the Turks attracted the attention of William Gladstone, resulted in English recognition of Bulgaria's freedom, and won for their author the title of "the liberator of the Bulgarians."

TAR HEEL CHRONICLES

News Notes Gathered From All Parts of the Old North State.

Many Educators Will be Present.

A number of teachers and other educational workers of national reputation are being secured by Secretary R. D. W. Connor, of the North Carolina Teachers' Assembly for the twenty-seventh annual session at Asheville July 14-17, 1910. Among those already assured are Dr. L. D. Harvey, president of Stout Institute, Wisconsin, and former president of the National Educational Association; Miss Jessie Field, Rural School Supervisor of national reputation, who is prominently mentioned at this time for superintendent of public instruction of Iowa; Hon. W. J. Spillman, United States Department of Agriculture, specialist in the problem of bringing rural schools into closer touch with farm life; Hon. O. B. Martin, for a long while superintendent of public instruction for South Carolina, and now associated with Dr. S. A. Knapp, of the United States Department of Agriculture in farm demonstration work. Quite a number of prominent North Carolina educators have already been assigned to important parts in the program of the Assembly.

Burns Still Recovered.

There was great rejoicing at the State museum over the finding of the historic old "Robert Burns" whiskey still stolen under remarkable circumstances from the hall Friday. It was found in a remote part of a big stable yard six squares from the museum building, uninjured, except for a dent from being dropped out of a third story window of the museum building. However, the worm that was attached to the still is missing yet. This still was once seized and cut up by Robert Burns when a revenue officer in Scotland. It was restored and brought to Cumberland county and used in making brandy for Confederate hospitals. It then drifted into blockade service, many times cut up by raiders, captured last by Sheriff Watson of Cumberland and sent by him to the Hall of History.

Hogs are Condemned.

Full of ulcers and running sores were the two hogs that were condemned in the city market, Raleigh, by Inspector J. N. McRary Saturday. The goods were put out by Swift & Co., whose agent in Raleigh is Mr. W. D. Vaughan, and they bore the label of the United States Inspector at Forth Worth, Tex., being stamped "No. 3F." To verify the condition of the meat in question Mr. McRary called State Veterinarian W. C. Chrisman and Dr. G. A. Roberts, both of whom said that he had acted right in condemning the hogs, as they were entirely unfit for food and dangerous to health.

Congressman E. Yates Webb has introduced in Congress a bill providing for a government appropriation of \$800,000 to be applied to the erection of a handsome Federal building in Charlotte for use as a post-office and a court house. This action on the part of Representative Webb comes as a result of an agitation of years looking to a decided improvement and enlargement.

Three Brothers Given Seventy Years in Prison.

At Smithfield, Johnson County, three Pearce brothers were sentenced to seventy years in the State penitentiary for the murder of Frank Stancil last month at Princeton, N. C. After killing the victim, the men hauled the corpse several miles and placed it on a railroad track to conceal their crime. The State accepted a plea of second degree murder. Two were sentenced to thirty years each, and the other to ten years. They operated an illicit liquor distillery.

Illicit Distiller Caught.

Wanted for the operating of an illicit distillery and being one of three persons, who made threats against the life and safety of Mr. J. B. Vick and family, Mr. Berry Carpenter, a farmer of the Cooper township section, of Nash county, was taken by Sheriff C. L. Johnson and Deputy Barnes after a lively chase.

Will be Electrocuted.

Walter Morrison will be the first man to die in the electric chair, which has already been installed at the State's prison. It is said that when Morrison saw his attorneys he fell upon his knees and begged them to save his life. Already the prisoner has been reprieved several times, but it now looks like he will go to the chair next Friday, March 18, as Governor Kitchin does not find the facts in his case sufficient to justify further executive clemency.

NEWSY GLEANINGS.

The Filipinos are invited to make common cause with Japan against the United States.

King George decided to read the decree calling for a revisionary Assembly at Athens.

John Jacob Astor readjusted the title to \$10,000,000 of the choicest of his real estate holdings in New York City.

Indictments against Dr. B. C. Hyde for attempting to poison members of the Swone family were returned in Kansas City.

Elections for the Colombian Constituent Assembly have been set for April 3; there is great political excitement in Bogota.

Jewelers were told by the United States Secret Service men that coins must not be defaced in making bangles for ornaments.

An attempt was made to poison the Rev. A. J. Voeglin, of Trenton, N. J., by means of arsenic sprinkled on biscuits left at his door.

"Night letters" were sent for the first time, and this new scheme of the telegraph companies promises to prove extremely popular.

The Consul-General at Canton, China, has demanded protection for American tourists on the steamship Cleveland, visiting that city.

Mayor Gavnor invited 100 men to serve on the citizens' committee which is to greet Colonel Roosevelt on his arrival from Africa in June.

Another general election is expected in London in a few months; the Conservatives are raising strong campaign issues, while the Liberals seem to be losing ground.

Several of the large tobacco houses of New York City, Chicago and Florida are in a merger, the new company to be known as the American Sumatra Tobacco Company and to have a capitalization of \$8,000,000.

Laughs When Told He is Dead.

Rome, by Cable.—J. Pierpont Morgan enjoyed a hearty laugh when he heard for the first time of the rumor that he was dead. "I am accustomed to such tricks. I have never felt as well as I do now."

Couple Form Suicide Pact.

Philadelphia, Pa., Special.—Seated opposite each other at the beautiful table in their apartments here Dr. Charles C. Benson, 73 years of age, and his wife, Isabelle, 67, drained two glasses containing poison.

Pushes Money Aside.

San Francisco, Special.—Andrew Carnegie arrived here from Delmonte. In the course of an interview he said: "During the panic in New York I could have made \$50,000,000 without difficulty. I had the cash, and the opportunity was ripe, but I felt that it was better to let conditions readjust themselves naturally. I have made up my mind not to make any more if I can help it."

Pleaded to be Taxed.

Washington, Special.—The novel spectacle of a corporation pleading with the Supreme Court of the United States to be allowed to be taxed was presented when counsel for the Coney Island and Brooklyn Railroad Company asked the court to uphold the constitutionality of the corporation tax. A brief on behalf of the company was filed by William N. Dikeman and Arthur E. Goddard.

NUBS OF NEWS.

The combined forces of Generals Estrada and Chamorro were reduced to 300.

The trial of Nicholas Tschalkovsky in St. Petersburg was expected to convict him.

The old age workman's pension bill will add \$100,000,000 to France's annual expenditure.

It was announced that 500 chestnut trees in Van Cortlandt Park, N. Y., must be cut down.

The gift of \$350,000 for a building for the department of philosophy at Columbia was announced.

Half of the subjects of the Prince of Monaco marched to the palace and demanded a constitution.

The steamer Manhattan, of the Maine Steamship Company, was destroyed by fire at Portland, Me.

A Canadian Pacific train won a race against a snowslide by a few feet on the western slope of the Rockies.

Two Clericals were killed and seven were wounded by the explosion of two bombs in a dining hall at Lisbon.

The Aero Club governors selected St. Louis as the starting point for the international balloon race of 1910, to be held October 17.

King Edward, on his arrival at Biarritz, was expected to announce the engagement of Princess Patricia of Connaught to King Manuel of Portugal.

The Supreme Court of the United States in two decisions rebuked the Interstate Commerce Commission for issuing orders in excess of its authority.

Commander Peary, in a statement to the sub-committee on naval affairs of the House of Representatives, at Washington, D. C., said he could not furnish proofs that he had reached the North Pole, as he had contracted to give them to his publisher alone.

OLD HABITS.

"Do you like to have bouquets thrown at you?"

"I prefer to have 'em handed over the footlights," answered Yorick Hamm.

"I involuntarily side-step when I see anything coming through the air."—Trenton American.

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We will allow a cash discount of 5 per cent (thereby making the price \$4.56 per pair) if you send FULL CASH WITH ORDER and enclose this advertisement. We will also send one nickel plated brass hand pump and two Sampson metal puncture closers on full paid orders (these nickel puncture closers to be used in case of intentional knife cuts or heavy gashes). Tires to be returned at O.E.B. expense if for any reason they are not satisfactory on examination.

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