

# The Polk County News.

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VOL XV.

COLUMBUS, POLK COUNTY, N. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 1910.

NO. 49.

### \$754,114 COLLECTED; ONLY \$191,637 LEFT

#### Robert B. Armstrong Accused in Insurance Report.

#### DENIES CHARGES AT CHICAGO

Private Secretary to Leslie M. Shaw and Former Assistant Secretary of Treasury Was Head of Consolidated Casualty Company.

Charleston, W. Va.—That the active managers of the Consolidated Casualty Company before its reorganization here collected \$757,114 in one year and nine months, of which only \$191,637 remains, that they made false returns to the Insurance Department of this State, are some of the charges contained in the report made to the State Insurance Department by John F. Roche, of New York City, consulting actuary.

The actuary found that the entire management of the company was in the hands of Robert B. Armstrong, president; C. H. Burras, vice-president; and A. S. Mitchell, secretary and treasurer, as officers, and Armstrong, Burras, Mitchell and D. Folsom as the executive committee. The company was chartered in West Virginia about two years ago. The administrative offices have been in Chicago.

Armstrong was private secretary to Secretary Leslie M. Shaw, and afterward became an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Three weeks ago, upon complaint of State Auditor John S. Darst, the directors turned the company over to Darst for adjustment. The stockholders reorganized by electing C. C. McChord, of Louisville, Ky., president, and J. Walter Scherr, Deputy Insurance Commissioner of West Virginia, general manager.

The actuary's report says that the condition of the company's books was such that a correct audit is almost impossible. Among the irregularities charged is the cancellation of stock issued, collection of partial payments for which nothing was issued, issuing of stock which was not paid for, listing as a \$50,000 asset Chicago real estate that cost the company \$11,500. The actuary says that President Armstrong drew a salary of \$1000 a month. "On June 30, 1909," the report says, "it was discovered that he (Armstrong) had overdrawn his salary \$2312." Subsequently this "overdraft of salary was charged to miscellaneous expenses."

The report charges that in December, 1909, H. W. Huttig, of Muscatine, Iowa, loaned the company a note for \$38,000, and this note the company showed as an asset in its statement to the Insurance Department and the officers took oath to that effect.

Chicago, Ill.—Replying to charges of mismanagement and falsification of accounts made against Robert S. Armstrong, former president of the Consolidated Casualty Company, by John F. Roche, a New York City actuary, at Charleston, W. Va., Armstrong issued a statement, saying in part:

"The report of Mr. Roche reflects the hostility which the company has encountered from its inception. For practically two years there had been apparently an organized effort to assassinate the company. These guerrilla methods of the competitors of the company were encountered on every side, and enormously increased the expense of organization.

"That the management made false entries in the books of the company is also untrue and likewise is the statement that false returns were made to the Insurance Department of West Virginia."

#### DEMAND BILBO SHALL QUIT.

#### Mississippi Senators Want Colleague to Resign—Others Leave Chamber.

Jackson, Miss.—In open session the State Senate by an overwhelming vote demanded the resignation of Senator Theodore G. Bilbo. President Pro Tem. Hebron then resigned, and was followed from the Chamber by several other Senators, also supporters of ex-Governor Vardaman.

By a vote of twenty-eight to fifteen the Senate had failed to adopt a resolution to expel Senator Bilbo, who recently charged that he accepted from L. C. Dulaney a bribe of \$645 in exchange for his promise to change his vote from former Governor James K. Vardaman to Leroy Percy for United States Senator. The acceptance of the money, Bilbo explained, was to obtain evidences of irregularities in connection with the Senatorial election.

#### BARNS AMERICAN FARM ADS.

#### Quebec Governmental Journal Will No Longer Accept Them.

Quebec, Can.—In the Legislature Minister of Agriculture Caron announced that advertisements of farms in the United States would not in the future be printed in The Agriculture Journal, which is published by the Quebec Government.

The Minister's announcement was occasioned by the criticism of Mr. Platte, a member of the Opposition, who drew attention to an advertisement of farms in Vermont in an issue of the journal and declared that these advertisements had been largely the cause of the great exodus of French-Canadians to the United States in the past year.

### BIG FLEET TO CIRCLE GLOBE

#### Taft and Secretary Meyer Ambitious to Excel Roosevelt.

#### Admiral or Vice-Admiral in Command—Congress Must Provide Additional Personnel—25 Ships.

Washington, D. C.—To close his administration by sending around the world the greatest battleship fleet ever assembled under any flag is the ambition of President Taft and his naval secretary, Secretary Meyer.

The program becomes operative July 1, this year. By 1912 the plans will have culminated and the fleet will begin a trip around the world which will overshadow that which the sixteen battleships made at the close of Roosevelt's administration.

Protection of the Pacific coast and of our Far East possessions is provided for in the program. If Congress allows the Administration a free hand and acts upon the recommendations of the President and Secretary of War by 1913 there will be a fleet on the Pacific larger than the entire American fleet at the time of the Spanish-American War.

On July 1, 1912, the fleet will be made up for the closing year of the Taft Administration, with twenty-one battleships, including the Wyoming and Arkansas, the 20,000-ton dreadnaughts just laid down.

The fleet which will assemble in Hampton Roads for its special trip will consist of the battleships Wyoming, Arkansas, Florida, Utah, Delaware, North Dakota, Michigan, Connecticut, Louisiana, South Carolina, Kansas, Vermont, New Hampshire, Georgia, Nebraska, New Jersey, Virginia, Ohio, Minnesota, Mississippi and Idaho, and the armored cruisers Tennessee, Washington, North Carolina and Montana—twenty-one battleships and four armored cruisers. The commander-in-chief, it is hoped by Mr. Taft and Mr. Meyer, will be a vice-admiral or a full admiral.

This, the most stupendous fleet scheme ever adopted, will depend, in a measure for its successful operation upon the passage of the bill now before Congress for a gradual increase in the naval personnel.

If Congress fails to allow the personnel increase, the Secretary of the Navy plans to shelve all of the older gunboats and cruisers in order to provide a sufficient number of men for the new fleet. This, naval officers point out, would be crippling the Pacific fleet.

If the present program goes through there will not be a single battleship, cruiser or gunboat in service which took part in the Spanish-American war. It is planned, however, to hold the older ships in reserve, so that with a fleet of twenty-five powerful vessels plying the Atlantic seas there will be a second fleet of eleven battleships—a fleet which will be as powerful as the entire navy was twelve years ago.

#### TAFT'S VIEWS HISSED.

#### Senators in Washington, D. C., Voice Disapproval of His Speech.

Washington, D. C.—Because several members of the National Woman Suffrage Association hissed while President Taft was telling them why he was opposed to woman suffrage, he administered a sharp rebuke to them.

The President had just told his hearers that if the ballot were granted to woman there was danger of it being exercised by the least desirable class when a hiss was heard in the back part of the auditorium. It spread to other parts of the room and brought this comment from the distinguished speaker:

"My dear ladies, you must show yourselves equal to self-government by exercising, in listening to opposing arguments, that degree of restraint without which successful self-government is impossible."

#### GUILTY OF KILLING HUSBAND.

#### Maine Woman Had Been the Man's Sole Support For Fifteen Years.

Rockland, Me.—Guilty of the murder of her invalid husband, Fremont Newbert, who died November 15 from the effects of strychnine poisoning, was the verdict found by the jury in the Supreme Court against Mrs. Sadie F. Newbert, a middle-aged Thomaston woman, who for fifteen years had been her husband's sole support.

The penalty in this state for murder is life imprisonment. The State prison is located in Thomaston, within eight miles of the prisoner's home. The defense contended that the poison was self-administered, while the State held that the alleged friendship of the woman with another man furnished a motive for the killing.

#### \$5000 FOR SAYING "YES."

#### It Decided Miss Peterson to Marry Rich Man on His Deathbed.

Chicago, Ill.—Lawyer Seth F. Crews was allowed \$5000 by Judge Pinckney for saying "yes" when Sarah Peterson asked him if it would be legal for her to marry rich John R. Smith on his deathbed.

Smith died almost immediately afterward, leaving her \$330,000. Crews sued for \$35,000. Mrs. Smith's defense was that she didn't marry Smith for his money, but Judge Pinckney intimated strongly that he held a contrary view.

### SIX FIREMEN LOSE LIVES IN NEW HAVEN JAIL BLAZE

#### Three Others Are Saved by Daring Work of Their Comrades.

#### TROOPS GUARD THE PRISONERS

All Are Returned to Their Cells at Night in Undamaged Part of the Building—Many Firemen Were Fearfully Burned.

New Haven, Conn.—Trapped by metal doors and barred windows, six firemen who were fighting flames in a workshop were caught by a back draft and burned to death during the partial destruction of the New Haven County Jail. Three of their comrades were saved through the heroism of other firemen outside. The bodies of the six men were found late after the ruins cooled. Many other firemen were fearfully burned, but remained at work.

The dead are: Captain C. L. Chapman, of Truck No. 1; Lieutenant William J. Doherty, of Truck No. 1; Ladderman John Buckley, of Truck No. 1; Hoseman James T. Cullen, James Mortell and Thomas J. McGrath, of Engine Company No. 4. The seriously hurt: Laddermen A. E. Wilcox and Thomas J. Vaughn, of Truck No. 1, and Hoseman John E. Hussey, Captain Charles H. O'Neill, of Engine Company No. 4, and Cornelius Shugrue, ladderman of Truck No. 1.

Six men from Truck No. 1 were fighting their way through the cellar of the jail into the workshop when an explosion of a gasoline tank caused a back draft and slammed behind them the iron doors separating the two buildings. Three of the men were hemmed in a corner and burned to death, while the other three made their way to a barred window, to which they clung, with streams of water playing on them from the outside. Soon after reaching the window the roof fell in, and ladders were put up from the outside and down the inside and the men taken out. The other dead firemen were caught by the same back draft as they were working at the other end of the building and carried down by the roof when it fell in.

Shugrue, who was found lying at the foot of the wall of the workshop, told how Doherty, Cullen and Mortell met their death. When they found themselves hemmed in by the closing of the door they made for the cellar in search of air. The flames already licking their clothing, they reached the cellar, and searched for a place to get out, but there was none. "It's up to the roof, boys," said one of the men, and the four crawled up the stairs again. By this time the building was a mass of flames. Shugrue was the first to reach the roof, and holding his head in his coat, reached down to Lieutenant Doherty to pull him up to the roof. He got hold of the Lieutenant's wrist, but the others, exhausted by their efforts to reach the upper stories, were unable to help, and Shugrue held on as long as he could and then let go, Doherty dropping into the flames. The two others he could not see. Shugrue crawled to the edge of the roof and jumped, landing at the foot of the building, where he was found two hours later.

Vaugh, who was caught in the building, was rescued by James Cronogue, who crawled into the building, put his helmet over Vaughn's face and pulled him out.

The fire was discovered by a prisoner, and the 175 men in the workshop were sent to their cells. When it was seen that there was danger of the fire spreading to the main building the 248 male and forty-two female inmates were taken to the police stations and the Foot Guard Armory. Under authority of Governor Weeks, three companies of the Second Regiment, Connecticut National Guard, took charge of the jail grounds and patrolled the surrounding streets.

The prisoners, under military escort, were returned to the jail. The buildings destroyed were two three-story brick workshops and several adjoining sheds and two dwelling houses in Hudson street.

#### FREES COLONEL COOPER.

#### Governor Patterson Asserts Belief He is Not Guilty.

Nashville, Tenn.—While the Supreme Court of Tennessee was confirming the conviction of Colonel Duncan B. Cooper for the slaying on November 9, 1908, in a Nashville street of former United States Senator E. W. Carmack, Governor Patterson wrote a full pardon for the defendant, declaring that in his belief Colonel Cooper was not guilty. The Supreme Court remained for retrial the case of Robin Cooper, convicted of the same crime as his father.

The situation was tense, because of allegations by friends of Carmack that politics entered into the case. It is probable that Robin Cooper will never be retried. Both Coopers had been sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment.

#### New York Central Yields.

The New York Central Railroad surprised its trainmen and conductors, who had talked of striking, by offering to submit the differences to arbitration and naming two ex-chiefs of the men's own organization as arbitrators.

### EDITOR KILLS THE MAYOR

#### Result of Three Years' Feud in Morehouse, Mo.

#### Four Bullets Fired in Rapid Succession at Dr. Hart in Front of a Store.

Morehouse, Mo.—Claude B. Hay, editor of the Hustler, a local newspaper, shot and killed in the main highway Dr. L. W. Hart, the Mayor of Morehouse. The tragedy marks an epoch in a feud that has lasted three years and has involved all of the public men in this part of Missouri in one phase or another of the bitter controversy.

Hay and Hart both come from old and prominent families of this State, and each has been influential in town and county politics. The trouble began in 1907, when Hay made an editorial attack on Dr. Hart at the time the latter was a candidate for a local office. The physician met the editor the next day in the street and quarreled and fought. A pistol was drawn, it was said, but friends rushed in, and the antagonists were separated before harm resulted to either. From that time the two men did not speak to each other, no matter what occasion brought them together.

After the town election recently, at which the Aldermen were chosen, and after Dr. Hart's friends in the Citizens' party were elected, a Socialist, a member of the opposing faction, wrote an article severely condemning Hart's activity in the campaign. The article was printed in Hay's paper. This caused a renewal of open expression of hatred between the Mayor and the editor, and threats were made.

Hay was in the main street when Mayor Hart came out of a store. Without a word the editor drew his pistol and opened fire. He shot four times as fast as he could pull the trigger of his weapon. Three of the bullets entered Dr. Hart's body. The Mayor staggered into the store adjoining that from which he had come, and an instant later fell dead.

Hay walked unmolested, pistol in hand, to his newspaper office and there awaited the arrival of the police. The town marshal was the first to get there and to him Hay surrendered. He was taken to the county jail in New Madrid.

Hart's friends took possession of the body, to be buried at Charleston, Mo., his former home.

#### KIDNAP'S HIS OWN CHILD.

#### New Yorker Seizes Daughter From Former Wife in South Carolina.

Mayesville, S. C.—Israel Benjamin, of New York, having failed in his efforts to get possession of his small daughter from his former wife, who is married again and living here, kidnaped the child and left for New York City.

Benjamin's wife, after obtaining a divorce from him, married Joseph Denmark, who has a business at this town. During the absence of Denmark in Sumter, Benjamin hired a buggy and seized the child from the nurse.

Benjamin once held a position of some sort with the New York City Government.

#### BOY "BANKERS" IN PRISON.

#### Little Mountain Town in Kentucky Develops Real Genius.

Covington, Ky.—Three youths, each less than twenty years of age, were taken to the Federal prison at Atlanta, to serve one year each for a fraudulent banking scheme which they conducted in the little mountain town of Orr, Ky. A fourth boy was sentenced to four months in jail.

The boys realized about \$2300 by their scheme, which included the establishment of a mythical "bank," to establish their credit with wholesale dealers and enable them to obtain large shipments of merchandise. David Prince, Marion and Richmond Sparks and George White are the youngsters.

#### WHITE PAID BACK \$40,000.

#### Settlement of People's Mutual Life Case is Explained.

Syracuse, N. Y.—A former officer of the People's Mutual Life Insurance Association and League, discussing the payment of \$150,000 to the society and the settlement of all litigation, said:

"The trustees of the society with one exception paid back the money received for its transfer. Lieutenant Governor Horace White, who received \$20,000 as a debt due from John Tevis, contributed about \$40,000 and the directors of the First National Bank as individuals gave a like sum."

#### BARONESS DE ROQUES DEAD.

#### Mrs. Maybrick's Mother Expires in Paris in Great Poverty.

Paris, France.—Baroness De Roques, mother of Mrs. Maybrick, who spent many years in a British prison under a life sentence, died in Paris in the utmost poverty and was buried at the expense of non-relatives.

Consul General Mason endeavored to communicate with Mrs. Maybrick, supposing her to be in America, but did not receive any response.

A certain degree of secrecy has been maintained regarding the death of the Baroness. Few Americans in Paris knew of her presence here.

### TAR HEEL CHRONICLES

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

#### Election Royal Arcanum Officers.

The annual convention of Royal Arcanum at Rockingham elected the following officers:

Grand Regent—F. W. Hancock, Oxford; Grand Vive Regent—C. O. Johnson, Raleigh; Grand Orator—Dr. S. Mendelshon, Wilmington; Grand Treasurer—E. L. Harris, Raleigh; Grand Guide—Noah Burfoot, Elizabeth City; Grand Chaplain—Thos. J. Johnson, Salisbury; Grand Warden—S. M. Hampton, Leaksville; Grand Sentry—John Machin, Asheville; Grand Trustees—A. J. Evans, Statesville; J. M. Norwood, Raleigh; L. W. Slocomb, Goldsboro; Committee on Laws—H. E. Bonitz; C. A. Johnson, Thos. P. Johnson; Committee on Propaganda—F. W. Hancock, H. E. Bonitz, J. Howell Way; Committee on Finance—J. Fred Tesh, E. J. Stewart, H. B. Craven.

The stupendous sum of \$131,614.350.37 has been paid out in benefits. The Membership is now 245,784. More than \$1,900,000 has been paid to families of deceased members in this State.

#### Drainage Suit in Perpetual Motion.

A jury in superior court at Wilmington returned a verdict awarding B. F. Penny, a well-known merchant, \$5,000 damages and interest for twelve years as the result of the plaintiff's having been shot in 1898 while alighting from a train of the defendant company at Leland, Brunswick county. The shot was intended for the conductor of the train who had trouble with a negro man who had been ejected from the train and the allegation was that the company's employees had not exercised due diligence toward the protection of passengers. The case has been twice to the Supreme Court, and has been tried in the lower courts a number of times. An appeal is taken by the railroad company to the Supreme court.

#### Cotton Seed for Planting.

Up to Saturday 125,000 bushels of cotton seed have been sent from Raleigh southward, for planting, to get an early crop, the business being nearly closed for this season, only a few thousand bushels remaining.

#### "Sanitary Sunday," April 24.

The Secretary of the State Board of Health, Dr. Rankin, is now sending out 40,000 copies of what is known as the "Preacher's Bulletin," for sanitary Sunday, which is April 24. This goes to every minister in the State whose address had been obtained.

#### Mr. Pell Appointed Judge.

Mr. George P. Bell, who will become judge of the eleventh district May 7, is a lawyer of recognized ability. He has recently issued "Pell's Annotated Code of North Carolina" that is pronounced by judges and practitioners at the bar an exceptionally valuable work, abundantly meriting highest recognition. Lawyers are free to say that this appointment by Governor Kitchin comes as a merited manifestation of the obligation both the legal fraternity and the State are under to Mr. Pell for his work.

#### Ex-Governor Linney Passes.

Ex-Congressman R. Z. Linney dropped dead at Taylorsville Friday. Mr. Linney had just driven into town from his farm and was apparently quite well and in good spirits. Just as he reached the top of the stairway, ascending to his office, he complained of sudden illness and sank to the floor unconscious, dying within ten minutes without regaining consciousness.

#### They Will Come Back.

The special rates for immigrants to the West went off of sale at midnight Saturday night and it is estimated that the Southern railway has moved from its lines from Salisbury to Knoxville and Spartanburg to Asheville and the Murphy division at least 300 men, women and children who have gone to chase the golden illusions of the West.

#### Banks Get Charters.

Charters were granted the Carolina Savings bank, at the place of that name, capital stock \$10,000, to do a commercial and savings business; the Provident Land Company, Moyock, \$175,000, John Seip, of Ohio being the principal stockholder.

#### Cotton Mill Changes Hands.

A party of Roanokers, together with W. C. Ruffin and F. B. Kemp, of Mayodon, have purchased the \$50,000 of bonds against the Roanoke cotton mill company and secured control of the property. W. C. Ruffin may be the new manager.



## Washington

"And the first man that sees a cucumber vine or a lettuce plant sticking its head up through the soil quickly pulls a calling card out of his pocket and fastens Cucumber Claims it securely on the Staked in Alaska. spot. When a claim has been staked out in this fashion everybody respects it, and the fortunate man saves the head of lettuce or the cucumber after it gets ripe to eat at Christmas or on his birthday." The members of the House Committee on Territories sat up and took notice when this interesting statement was made to them in the course of a hearing on the Alaska government bill by Henry M. Hoyt, Attorney-General for Puerto Rico, who used to be District Attorney at Nome, Alaska. He wandered off a little from the subject and discussed the agricultural possibilities of the Seward Peninsula, on which Nome is located. Mr. Hoyt admitted that Alaska would never become a great agricultural community, but he said lettuce and cucumbers would grow around the steam exhaust pipes of power plants. He said that as green vegetables were pretty scarce in that section of the world, these tiny garden spots had become quite popular and the products of the artificially warmed and moistened soil were sought after nearly as much as the yellow nuggets.

#### The Interstate Commerce Commission

ordered the lake and rail rates on flour from Minneapolis, Minn., to New York City and the Atlantic seaboard reduced from 23 board cents a hundred pounds Board Cuts to 21 1/2 cents, beginning Flour Rate, May 10. This decides the famous case of the Northwestern millers against the 29 rail and lake lines in favor of the millers. The new schedule of rates is ordered to be effective for two years from the date it goes into effect. The complainants were some 40 men, operating more than 100 flour mills, with a daily capacity of 125,000 barrels, in the States of Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

The defendant carriers were all the railroads and water lines which carry flour from Minneapolis and Duluth to the Atlantic seaboard territory. The millers complained that the rate of 23 cents was unreasonable and was a discrimination against Minneapolis and the Northwest in favor of the millers at Buffalo, as compared with the all-rail rate east from Buffalo, as applied by the same carriers to the same points of destination. In its decision, which was written by Commissioner Clark, the commission reviews the gradual absorption of the great lakes transportation lines by the railroads and compares the differences in rates on flour and wheat.

When Representative Stafford made an earnest and successful fight for the passage of a bill granting transmission through the mails to a periodical printed in raised letters for the benefit of the blind, the blind recently there were few, even of his colleagues, who realized the sentimental interest which the Wisconsin Representative has in this subject. Mr. Stafford's biography is one of the shortest in the Congressional Directory, and in it he says nothing of the fact that his father lost his eyesight in an explosion, and that for twenty years he devoted his time to "seeing" for his blind father. Only Mr. Stafford's intimate friends have known of this fact, but now that it is told, many will recall that whenever an opportunity has been offered to further the interests of the blind and to ameliorate their misfortune, Mr. Stafford has taken a leading part and has worked hard to that end.

It has become the fashion to refer with something approaching derision to Senators and Representatives as "only objectors." Those who speak in this manner are either ignorant of the subject or objectors, else seek to impose on the intelligence of their readers. One of the most exacting and thankless tasks which ever falls to a member of the national legislature is that of an objector. The greatest objector in recent times was the late Orville Hitchcock Platt, of Connecticut, and his place in the Senate has never been adequately filled. Senator Keane, of New Jersey, performs the thankless task on many occasions, and Representatives Mann and Stafford serve in this capacity in the House. The duty of an objector is to prevent undesirable legislation, and the number of improper or ill advised measures which Senator Platt, of Connecticut, prevented from enactment, is legion. To do the work intelligently and well requires the most careful study of bills on the calendar, constant attendance on the floor of the Senate, and a willingness to devote many weary hours to a task which gains no glory and often incurs the enmity of one's colleagues. When a mistake is made of a legislator, objector to a meritorious measure because he has not had sufficient opportunity to make himself familiar with its provisions, he generally incurs the condemnation of the press. But he rarely receives the slightest credit for the countless objectionable bills which he is responsible for killing.