

THE NEWS BY WIRE

To-Day's Happenings All Over the Country.

A RIVER EXPLOSION

CREW OF NINE AND CAPTAIN AND DECK HANDS KILLED.

China has Refused The Russian Guarantee of Loan--A Decision Against Granting Arid Lands.

By Telegraph to The Times. Pittsburg, Pa., Jan. 8.--The towboat Pearey Kelsy was completely wrecked by an explosion on the Ohio river near Glenfield, Pa., this morning.

TO TRY WEYLER.

By Telegraph to The Times. Madrid, Jan. 8.--Captain General Madrid named General of Division Pacheco, military justice, to institute proceedings against Weyler.

WHAT PART DOES ENGLAND WANT?

By Telegraph to The Times. London, Jan. 8.--The cabinet will hold a meeting to-day to consider the situation in China.

BOXING TO BE LICENSED.

By Telegraph to The Times. New York, Jan. 8.--It is announced to-day that the police court board will issue licenses to all responsible clubs that wish to give boxing contests.

JACKSON DAY.

By Telegraph to The Times. New York, Jan. 8.--To-day, Jackson Day anniversary of the battle of New Orleans, flags are flying on the city hall in honor of the day.

TO HELP CHINA?

By Telegraph to The Times. Peking, Jan. 8.--The Russian military adviser, Col. Narinoff, engaged by China, arrived here with two subalterns.

SPAIN WANTS A SLICE.

By Telegraph to The Times. Madrid, Jan. 8.--The Spanish cabinet has decided to increase the number of consulates of Spain in China and certain islands in the Pacific.

NO MORE BOXING IS FRISCO.

By Telegraph to The Times. San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 8.--The health police committee of the board of supervisors decided to allow no more boxing permits.

\$200,000 FIRE IN TEXAS.

By Telegraph to The Times. Denison, Tex., Jan. 8.--The hardware store of Pollard, Hoare & Co., the large dry goods house of Madden, Graham & Co., were burned last night.

CAUSE A SENSATION.

By Telegraph to The Times. Havana, Jan. 8.--It has been rumored since yesterday that Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, the United States Consul General, will accompany Captain General Blanco when the latter takes the field.

THE REPORT DENIED.

The President's Secretary Explains the Whiskey and Wine Charges.

By Telegraph to The Times. Washington, Jan. 8.--Mr. Porter, Secretary to the President, replying to charges made by Reverend McNichol that President McKinley utilized his conscience and injured the temperance reform movement by serving alcoholic liquors at his dinners.

FIFTEEN LOST AT SEA

STEAMER WRECKED NEAR COAST OF MARSEILLES.

Four Bodies Have Been Recovered From The Wreck--Total Loss of Vessel and Crew;

By Telegraph to The Times. Marseilles, Jan. 8.--The steamer reported foundered with all hands Thursday off Baudouet, about twenty-five miles west of this port.

AMERICAN HEIRS LUCKY.

By Telegraph to The Times. Paris, Jan. 8.--The will of the late Dr. Evans, American dentist, who recently died in this city, leaves almost his entire fortune of twenty million francs to heirs in Philadelphia.

PERJURY AND BIGAMY, TOO.

By Telegraph to The Times. London, Jan. 8.--Mrs. E. J. Ratcliffe, wife of the actor recently convicted of cruelly beating his second wife, sailed today for New York, to testify against him on the charge of perjury and bigamy which he brought.

LIVING TORTOISE JEWELS.

By Telegraph to The Times. London, Jan. 8.--Living tortoises, with backs covered with jewels attached by gold chains, are all the rage in Paris. They cost about eighty dollars.

McKANE HOPELESS.

By Telegraph to The Times. Albany, Jan. 8.--Friends of John Y. McKane, political leader of Gravesend have about abandoned hope of obtaining pardon.

THE CANARD DENIED.

By Telegraph to The Times. Washington, Jan. 8.--Assistant Secretary Day says that the report General Fitzhugh Lee is to accompany General Blanco to the front is denied.

RUSSIAN LOAN REJECTED.

London, Jan. 8.--A cable from Peking, says: China has rejected proposals for a Russian guarantee loan.

SUGAR CARGO FROM CUBA.

By Telegraph to The Times. New York, Jan. 8.--The Ward Line Niagara arrived this morning from ports on the south side of Cuba. She brings the first consignment of sugar since the shipments were prohibited by Weyler.

LANNA MEN JUBILANT.

By Telegraph to The Times. Columbia, Jan. 8.--Hanna is gaining strength in the contest for United States Senator. Reliable reports to-day indicate that Hanna has the necessary seventy-three votes on joint ballot.

FOR USING BAD MONEY.

By Telegraph to The Times. Huntington, W. Va., Jan. 8.--Carter Shifflette was arrested last night for passing old city orders, which mysteriously disappeared from the vaults at the city hall.

JAPAN'S THREATENING FLEET.

By Telegraph to The Times. Shanghai, Jan. 8.--A Japanese fleet of three battleships, ten first class cruisers and numerous smaller vessels received orders practically placing it at the disposal of Sir Alexander Buller, commander-in-chief of the China station.

DEATH OF MR. WM. B. GATTIS.

Mr. William B. Gattis died this morning about 6 o'clock at the residence of his grandson, Mr. E. S. Cheek. He was 84 years of age--a consistent member of the Methodist church and a good man.

COL. ANDREWS HELD IN CONTEMPT

The Railroad Commissioners This Morning Held a Sensational Meeting.

H. W. MILLER AND J. B. MUNSON ALSO HELD

R. L. POTTS, THE ONLY WITNESS SUMMONED WHO ANSWERED THE VARIOUS QUESTIONS OF THE COMMISSIONERS WAS NOT HELD.

The Summons Was Served on Col. Andrews Yesterday Morning--Sensational Hearing in Today's Session--Court Took Recess From 12 to 2 O'clock--Railroad Officials in Custody of Counsel--The Morning and Evening Session--Potts Failed to Produce the Books Required by the Commission.

The town was thrown into excitement this morning by the announcement that the Railroad Commission had placed Colonel A. B. Andrews, Mr. Henry W. Miller and Mr. J. B. Munson in contempt for failure to answer questions before the court this morning.

The summons as served on Col. Andrews yesterday read as follows: North Carolina, Wake County--Before the Board of Railroad Commissioners of North Carolina--In the matter of the Southern Railway--to the Sheriff of Wake county.

Greeting: You are commanded to summon A. B. Andrews to be and appear before the Board of Railroad Commissioners of North Carolina at their office in the city of Raleigh on the 8th day of January, 1898, at 10 o'clock a. m., to give evidence upon an examination and investigation touching the issuing of deadhead or free passes by the Southern Railway Company for the years 1895, 1896 and 1897; and you A. B. Andrews are commanded to bring with you and produce before the said Board of Railroad Commissioners of North Carolina for examination and inspection by said Commissioners at said time and place all records, memoranda, entries and other written evidences, or copies thereof of the issuing of deadhead or free passes by the Southern Railway Company or any of the officers thereof, for the years 1895, 1896 and 1897, in your possession or under your control as an official or employe of said Southern Railway Company, or any officer thereof.

Herein fail not at your peril. L. C. CALDWELL, Chairman Board R. R. Commissioners. (Seal) H. C. BROWN, Secretary Board R. R. Commissioners.

The Commission met this morning at 10 o'clock, Chairman Caldwell, Commissioner Pearson and Commissioner Abbott present. There were in the room Col. A. B. Andrews, vice-president of the Southern Railway; Mr. Henry W. Miller, Private Secretary to Col. Andrews; Mr. J. B. Munson, general freight agent, and Mr. R. L. Potts, freight agent here, who had been summoned to appear before the Commission. Among the others in the court room were Messrs. F. H. Busbee, A. B. Andrews, Jr., and members of the press.

Chairman Caldwell called the Commission to order and stated to those present what was the order of business. Mr. J. B. Munson took the witness stand, and in reply to the various questions of the commissioners, refused to give answer.

He was questioned as to his knowledge of any rate being given S. Otho Wilson for freight to his hotel at Round Knob and invariably did he refuse to answer. Mr. R. L. Potts took the stand and in almost every instance answered the questions of Chairman Caldwell, but none of the questions threw light upon the main subject. Mr. Potts said he would try and find his books and would try and present them before the court at 2 o'clock.

Col. A. B. Andrews was the next witness who took the stand and Colonel Andrews refused to answer the questions asked by the Commission. He stated that his reasons for failure to answer were that by giving such evidence as was asked for, he might be incriminating himself.

Col. Andrews denied any knowledge of any discrimination and refused to produce records of passes issued at any time by the Southern Railway Company. Mr. Henry W. Miller also refused to

answer any questions and denied any knowledge of any discrimination in freight rates favoring S. Otho Wilson. For such refusal all the witnesses were adjudged in contempt of court. They were left in the custody of the counsel to be present before the court at 2 o'clock.

During the recess the news spread all over town and much comment was made about the action of the Commissioners. Members of the Commission are quoted as saying that should the officials hold out against them the contempt would be enforced and the men ordered to jail. AFTERNOON SESSION. Col. Andrews took the stand and in answer to Chairman Caldwell's question if he would answer the question read the following: A. B. Andrews being duly sworn doth say that he has examined the list of annual passes issued by the Southern Railway Company for the year 1898 through himself and according to his information and belief and advice of counsel no pass has been issued in North Carolina that is in violation of the order of the Commission or the law of North Carolina.

But affiant further states that he may be misinformed as to the true meaning and effect of the statute and his counsel may likewise be in error, and by furnishing such statement of passes issued through himself he may be furnishing evidence which might tend to show in the opinion of the Commission or of some court that affiant was guilty of some offense, or might furnish the source from which such evidence might be obtained. So far as affiant knows no other common carrier has been called upon to furnish such list. For the reasons stated, and disclaiming so far as affiant knows any violation of law, yet being unwilling to rely absolutely upon such information and advice, which might be decided to be erroneous by a court, and thereby subject affiant to a prosecution, he declines to furnish such list.

A POLL OF THE HOUSE

110 REPUBLICANS SO FAR AGAINST CIVIL SERVICE LAW

Hanna has the Necessary Seventy-Three Votes on Joint Ballot--Opposition Seem Less Confident.

Washington, Jan. 8.--A careful poll of Republican members of the House of Representatives is being made with a view to learning exactly the number to be depended upon to vote for the repeal or material modification of the civil service law. The steering committee recently appointed at the Republican conference is doing the work. It is already shown that about one hundred and ten Republican members are ready to vote for a change in the law in one form or another.

TOMORROW AT THE CHURCHES.

Services in All of the City Churches Tomorrow Morning, excepting the Christian--Holy Communion at the Presbyterian Church.

The second Sabbath of the New Year will find the Raleigh churches well attended. There are no visiting divines in the churches, but Raleigh congregations love their pastors and doubtless will give evidence to the fact tomorrow morning. AT CHRIST CHURCH. Regular Sunday morning service at 11 o'clock a. m., and Vespers at 5 o'clock conducted by the Rector, Rev. M. M. Marshall, D. D. Sunday school at the usual hour.

CHURCH OF GOOD SHEPHERD. The pastor Rev. I. McK. Pitinger will preach as usual, at both morning service at 11 a. m., and evening service at 7:30 o'clock. Sunday school at 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Dr. Eugene Daniel will preach to his congregation at both morning and evening services at the usual hour. At the morning service the rites of the Holy Communion will be administered. Sunday school at 9:30 o'clock a. m., H. W. Jackson, Superintendent.

EDENTON STREET METHODIST. Pastor Norman is in the city, and will preach before the brethren of his church at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning, and at 7:30 o'clock in the evening. Sunday school will be held at the usual hour. A special musical programme has been arranged by Professor Bryant, who is in charge of the choir.

CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH. Rev. Mr. Glenn, the pastor, will preach before his congregation at 11 o'clock in the morning, and also in the evening at 7:30. The Sunday school will for the second time be directed by its new but capable superintendent.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH. Rev. J. W. Carter, the pastor of this church will preach from his pulpit twice tomorrow. The morning service at 11 o'clock and evening service at 7:30 o'clock. Sunday school at the usual hour, conducted by Assistant Superintendent Ray.

BAPTIST TABERNACLE. Rev. A. M. Simms will preach to his congregation tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock, and evening at 7:30. The Sunday school will meet at the usual hour, and the officers elected last Sunday will preside.

THE BROOKLYN CHURCH. Rev. A. L. Betts will hold the usual services at the Brooklyn church tomorrow. The membership of the church are requested to attend the Sunday school exercises.

FAYETTEVILLE ST. BAPTIST. Rev. Mr. Barrett, who is the new pastor of the Fayetteville Street Baptist church, relieving Mr. John T. Pullen, will preach at morning and evening services tomorrow.

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH. There will be no morning service at 11 o'clock, as pastor Foster will fill a neighboring pulpit. At 10 o'clock the Sunday school exercises will be conducted by the Superintendent, John A. Mills.

The usual service will be held at night, and will be conducted by the pastor, Rev. J. L. Foster. PILOT COTTON MILLS. Services will be conducted at the usual hours tomorrow by friends from the Baptist churches of the city. Rev. Mr. Betts will preach in the afternoon at 3:30 o'clock.

OTHER SERVICES TOMORROW. At the State prison, Soldier's Home, State Central Hospital for the Insane, the County Home and Work House, and at the jail services will be conducted tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 o'clock by various good men and women, assigned to the respective places.

TEACHERS MEET. The white school teachers have been in session all this morning in the hall of the House of Representatives. The meeting has been an interesting one and a larger attendance was present than was generally expected.

LOCAL NEWS ITEMS

Important Happenings in and About the City

FOR BUSY READERS

INTERESTING EVENTS OF TO-DAY AND TO-MORROW.

What is Heard on the Street--Dotted Down in Our Note-Book--Personal and Otherwise.

The Commercial Travellers' Banquet occurs to-night at the Piney Woods Inn, Southern Pines. Mr. H. S. Leard, the Seaboard's genial representative here, with a party from this city, will be present.

Mr. M. B. Clark, of Southern Pines, resigns as United States Commissioner of this district. Mr. Clark will go to Philadelphia.

Mr. F. D. Bush, of Atlanta, division passenger agent of the Louisville and Nashville Railway, spent yesterday in the city with Mr. H. S. Leard, of the Seaboard.

A suit has been instituted in Illinois by the heirs of the late Mary Smith. Many of the heirs reside in this county and it is said should the full amount sued for be obtained (\$2,000,000) about \$100,000 would be brought to Wake county.

IN THE JAIL.

There are now 39 jail birds--32 of them black birds--in Sheriff Jones' hotel. Of the 39, only three are women. The seven white prisoners are all men. One of them is Gilbert Ward, who will be sent to Goldsboro when Wayne court convenes to be tried for killing his mistress, Mag. Dinkins.

Jas. Booker, the murderer of Mahaley White, is also confined here. He will be tried next week. Fourteen of these prisoners are in for larceny and assault.

EMERSON-WHITE.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac E. Emerson announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Lillie, to Mr. Walter Woodard White, of England, the wedding to take place in February. Mr. White is the junior member of the firm of Roessler and Hasselbacher, of New York city, and Miss Emerson will be remembered as the grand-daughter of the late Wm. F. Askew, of this city. The ceremony will be solemnized in Saint Peter's church, Baltimore. Miss Emerson has been a frequent visitor to Raleigh, and have quite a large circle of friends here.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER.

The Last Meeting of the Week Held This Afternoon.

This afternoon at 3:30 o'clock the Women's Prayer Meeting held in the Sunday school room of the Baptist Tabernacle was well attended.

Many ladies from the other denominations were present and enjoyed the songs and talks. Miss Bird, the Tabernacle missionary, delivered a talk on Personal Consecration, which was filled with words of strength and wisdom.

Miss Bird is a good talker and knows how to present her subject clearly before her audience. This was the last meeting of the week and was the best of the entire series.

AN ARID LAND DECISION.

By Telegraph to The Times. Washington, D. C., Jan. 8.--Commissioner Hermann, of the General Land Office, has prepared an adverse report on the house bill providing for granting to respective States of all arid lands within their areas upon condition that these lands be reclaimed for agricultural purposes by States.

MR. MASSEY EXPECTED HERE.

Mr. A. P. Massey, who for some time past has been in South America for a rubber company, has returned to New York. Mr. Massey was at Para and left with the other foreign residents who fled from the yellow fever. Mr. Massey may come to Raleigh in a few weeks on a short visit to his family.

THE GREAT MARTYR--POLYCARP

Among all the martyrs of the early church, perhaps the most illustrious was the great Polycarp. The thrilling and tragic story of his life and martyrdom will be the subject of the sermon at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Sunday night. The speaker will be the Rev. J. A. Weston, recently of this city, now rector of St. Paul's church, Wilkesboro. Mr. Weston has many friends in Raleigh, and all are cordially invited to hear him on this occasion.