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BRIEF CULLINGS OF NORTH STATE NEWS

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

EDITOR VARNER'S EXCURSION.

Takes Train Load of Farmers From Davidson County to see Mecklenburg Roads.

Charlotte, Special.—A solid train of prosperous farmers, some of them accompanied by their wives and children, arrived at the Southern depot Friday morning from various parts of Davidson county, and spent the day taking in the sights of the city and having such a time as many of them have never experienced before.

It is the only time in the history of the town in all probability, when the farmers have taken it by storm. The party traveling on a special train, furnished for their private use, and knowing that they were the guests of honor and the centre of interest wherever they went, could not but feel jubilant and as they began to pour out from the cars upon their arrival here it looked as if they were going to cover the whole face of the earth around the Southern depot. A large number of the people of the city were on hand to see the novel sight of a train load of well-to-do farmers, some of them coming to spend their first holiday in a city, and to take note of the farmers in the lime-light, where they had been placed through the efforts of Mr. H. B. Varner, editor of The Lexington Dispatch, who had each member of his party carefully tagged with a blue ribbon, so that the public might be positive in its identification of the members of the agricultural excursion.

The plan of bringing as many of his fellow-farmers, as he styles his party, to Mecklenburg, was conceived by Mr. Varner several months ago, and the selection of fifty or sixty special guests was accomplished through a newspaper contest. The idea to bring the farmers here at once became very popular with the farmers of Davidson and the trip for many weeks has been held in keenest anticipation by many of them.

The idea, as planned by Mr. Varner, to bring the farmers to the county and give them a first-hand view of the roads of this county, is considered the best method yet by which to increase interest in good roads and to arouse enthusiasm for better road facilities.

The party numbered more than 100. More than half of them were designated by the blue ribbon as Mr. Varner's prize guests, the others taking an equally deep interest took advantage of the time and occasion to see Mecklenburg good roads. After riding over the city in trolley cars and into the county in automobiles, buggies, etc., and viewing the country around from the top of the Realty building, where they could view the Blue Ridge and other interesting scenes, they repaired to the Selwyn hotel where speech making was in order besides a luncheon at 12 and dinner at 6 o'clock. The party left for home at 9 p. m.

Ready to Develop Power.

Hickory, Special.—Col. M. E. Thornton, president of the Water Power Electric Company, of Hickory, N. C., has at last arranged for his company to acquire the shoals above his, and having options on the riparian rights above it can now proceed with the construction of the dam across the Catawba river at Hickory for the development of his proposed hydro-electric plant. The initial installation will be for \$6,500 horse power. Col. Thornton has gone to New York to complete arrangements for construction and equipment to commence at once.

Cotton Gin is Burned.

Spencer, Special.—A cotton gin belonging to Klutz and Linn, near Spencer, was destroyed by fire shortly before daylight Tuesday morning, entailing a loss of \$2,500, with no insurance. The owners believe the fire to have been of incendiary origin as the plant has not been operated for ten days. There is evidence that night riders have gotten in their work in Rowan county.

Durham to Have Paid Firemen.

Durham, Special.—Final preparations were made by the board Wednesday night for the paid and partially paid fire department, when a combination hose and chemical wagon and another 1,000 feet of hose were ordered. The orders were sent off Wednesday. This made a total of 2,500 feet of hose ordered since the beginning of the new year. The new paid fireman will go on duty on Monday. Four at each station and seven runners to a company, who will be partially paid.

SETTLEMENT WITH SEMINOLE.

Southern Life Insurance Company Returns \$109,785 and Complicated Matter is Adjusted.

Fayetteville, Special.—Considerable interest has been felt in a complete transaction by which to the Seminole Securities Company, for South Carolina has contemplated the transfer of a block of stock of the Southern Life Insurance Company of this city. On account of misunderstandings in the details of the trade the transaction was canceled and declared "off." The Southern Life Insurance Company has now settled with the Seminole Company for the amount of money received from that corporation, by returning to the receivers of the securities company \$109,785. This leaves only the remaining details to be closed up in order to complete the final settlement and cancel the entire matter. The members of the agency force of the Southern Life are congratulating themselves on a satisfactory settlement of this somewhat delayed transaction as it enables them to resume the successful execution of the business which was temporarily interrupted by this unfortunate complication.

Two Fatal Accidents.

Selma, Special.—Selma and vicinity was the scene of two horrible accidents Monday. Arthur Hare, the son of Mayor Hare, and a young man of bright promise, accidentally shot himself with No. 22 rifle. The doctors say his bowels were perforated in six places, and very little hope is entertained for his recovery. Abraham Batten, an uncle of the man charged with the murder of Charlie Brown, was found dead Tuesday afternoon, shot through the head. His gun was found on the opposite side of the fence, and it is supposed that in crossing the fence the gun went off it falling on one side and the body on the other.

Cotton Mill Floors Settled.

Concord, Special.—With a creak and a slow downward movement, the three floors of the north end of the big Gibson Mills, located in the northwestern part of this city, sank to a depth of probably six feet Saturday afternoon, caused by the crumbling of a pillar which subsequently caused the giving away of the beams underneath the building, probably affecting the foundation. There were four hundred hands at work in the immense structure and when they realized what was taking place a mild panic ensued, although not one sustained the slightest injury, though two or three young women fainted.

Woman Was Blacklisted.

Wadesboro, Special.—Suit for damages in the sum of \$50,000 has been brought by Mrs. Emma L. Richardson against P. T. Rhyne. Mrs. Richardson claims that she has been blacklisted by the Retail Merchants' Association wrongfully and asks damages from Mr. Rhyne, a meat dealer, because of libel resulting. The suit is a novel one, the first of the kind brought here. The Retail Merchants' Association is a new organization for the protection of local merchants and their rule is to refuse credit to those whose names appear on the blacklist. The standing of the association will largely depend on the result of the suit.

Dunn Lawyer Killed by Train.

Dunn, Special.—On Broad street crossing at 7:30 Saturday freight trains, shifting and backing, ran over Hon. W. A. Stewart, a prominent attorney, crushing him to pieces.

Twenty Pound Baby.

Wadesboro, Special.—Wadesboro has the biggest baby yet reported in the State. This baby is the child of Walter Little and wife, well known colored people living here and weighed 20 pounds when born last Monday. The child is apparently doing well. The parents are the proudest couple in the town.

Pot of Gold Found.

Washington, Special.—A jar of coins, aggregating \$1,225, which is alleged to be part of the money stolen from the Forsyth Bank and Trust company of Kernersville, N. C., was dug up from beneath a dwelling Wednesday where it had been buried in that city by the robber, according to advices received by the detective bureau here. Deputy Sheriff Robert Flint of Kernersville left here for North Carolina Wednesday with Gaither Bodenhamer, a young man who was arrested by the Washington police charged with having stolen more than \$2,000.

DOINGS OF THE LAWMAKERS

Doings of the State Legislature Condensed—Interesting Items from Day to Day.

The following are some of the new bills offered in the Senate Monday:

Ormond: Amend article 8 of the constitution relating to corporations other than municipal.

Ormond: Amend Chapter 100, Revisal, relative to domestic insurance companies.

Starbuck: Permit judgments on appeal bonds where bankrupts are defendant.

Doughton: Amend 4097 Revisal relative to the annual appropriation for education.

Fry: Incorporate Southern Assembly.

President Klutz announced to the Senate that the Attorney General had furnished a ruling that the power and authority of the President Pro Tem. to ratify bills in the absence of the Lieutenant Governor was ample and sufficient.

A resolution was sent forward by Mr. Scott that when the Senate adjourn it do so in honor of George Washington. This was put upon its immediate passage.

The following new bills of general interest were introduced in the House Monday:

Gaston: Amend Revisal 450 relative to the prosecution and defense bonds in cities and counties.

Graham: Regulate the distribution of samples of proprietary and patent medicines from house to house.

Dowd: Amend Revisal 2870 in regard to building and loan associations so as to limit their authority to borrow money to an aggregate equal to one-third of the capital stock.

McNeely: Make all roads now traversed by rural mail delivery routes public roads.

The revenue bill was, on motion of Chairman Dowd, taken up, the House going into committee of the whole for this purpose. Representative Koonce was called to the chair.

When Section 32, real estate agents was reached, there was a discussion over persons not attorneys being taxed for drawing deeds and contracts for pay, but it was decided to adopt the section as it is now in the law, several amendments being voted down.

At 12:30 o'clock the committee of the whole arose and reported progress through Section 32.

Mr. Hayes offered the resolution that when the House adjourn it do so in honor of George Washington.

On motion of Mr. Dowd the revenue and machinery acts were made the special order again for Tuesday.

At 2:30 the House took recess till 3 at night.

The night session of the House was enlivened with spicy debates on local fish and liquor questions, with the result that the bill to regulate the placing of stationery nets in Neuse and Trent rivers, Pamlico county, was sent back to the committee; and the Buncombe bill of Mr. Weaver, tightening the prohibition law in that county with the purpose of preventing the near-beer establishments of Asheville from selling intoxicating liquors under cover of their legitimate business, was tabled amid applause. The Buncombe bill called forth a vigorous protest from Mr. Morton on account of the provision allowing search of premises.

The Burke county bill had passed prohibiting illegal sale of liquor after Mr. Sigmon had removed the section allowing search of premises for possession of more than two and a half gallons. Mr. Weaver offered an amendment to his bill that made a regular search warrant necessary in order to examine premises after complaint made, but still the opponents were not satisfied and after long debate killed the bill.

The Senate discussion of anti-trust legislation, "teeth" and no "teeth," or rather what character of "teeth" shall be given the present anti-trust act, began Tuesday, continued for two hours and then went over until Wednesday, when it was resumed ad infinitum. There were two speeches Senator Lockhart for his original substitution "A" bill and Senator Bassett, of the "Blow-Bassett substitute," which superseded the Lockhart bill in taking favorable report at the hands of the judiciary committee.

Among the bills introduced in the Senate was one by Senator Lockhart, authorizing the Corporation Commission to regulate hydro-electric companies.

The House was in committee of the whole again most of Tuesday on the revenue bill, and the first going-over is not finished yet. The most important results were taxing automobile dealers \$25 privilege tax; including marine railway in the section taxing ship brokers; putting the \$25 tax on liveries who sell more than five horses in six months; increasing the tax on sewing machine manufacturers and dealers from \$350 to \$450 and raising the 50-cent fee for each agent

to \$2 applying the peddlers' tax to all those having free or paid shows to draw business, and exempting blind peddlers from the tax; reducing the tax on lighting-rod agents from \$50 to \$25; reducing the slot machine tax from \$2.50 to \$1.50 and exempting those where drinking water is sold at a cent a glass; including under packing house tax of \$100 all wholesale dealers in meat packing house products who own and operate cold storage plants in the State and exempting all not handling over 25,000 pounds a year; putting on dealers in beerine, near-beer and all drinks containing as much as one-half of one per cent alcohol a tax of \$20.

Mr. Hayes' bill for the division of the acts of the Legislature into public, private and public-local was passed on final reading. It is understood that it will save from \$2,000 to \$4,000 to the State in binding.

The Senate on Wednesday passed many local measures, received a great number of new local bills and spent two hours discussing the anti-trust legislation before recess was taken to 8 p. m., when the anti-trust bills were under discussion again. Senator Ormond, for the Lockhart bill, and Senator Travis, for the Bassett-Blow substitute, were the speakers. Senator Lockhart stole a march on the opponents of his sub-section "A" bill by offering it as an amendment for all but the enacting clause of the Bassett-Blow substitute.

Among the bills largely of local nature was one to incorporate Carolina Railway and Power Company.

The House, after a spirited discussion, voted 52 to 48, to table the Empire bill that had already assented the Senate to prohibit selling quail in the State, etc.

The consideration of the revenue bill in committee of the whole for second reading was completed and the bill put through ready for the final grind of third reading. The graduated tax on cigarette dealers and manufacturers was raised so that it will be \$250 for 250,000,000 cigarettes and range up to \$1,500 for 500,000,000 cigarettes output. This was a most important change.

The House committee on public buildings and grounds decided by unanimous vote to recommend the enlargement of the Capitol building at a cost not to exceed \$500,000 and the erection of a new agricultural building to cost \$150,000, the total bond issue to be \$650,000.

A great number of petitions were introduced in printed form from numerous counties of the State asking for an election on amendment to the constitution as to the homestead exemption.

With the unlucky number of 13 votes cast in its favor to 33 against it, sub-section "A," of the proposed anti-trust legislation, went down in defeat Thursday afternoon in the State Senate after the biggest argumentative contest that has characterized this session of the Assembly and not inferior to that of the famous contest in the 1907 Legislature when, under the leadership of Hon. Reuben Reid, of Rockingham, sub-section "A" was expunged from the anti-trust legislation on the narrow margin of one vote.

The Senate passed on final reading the general educational bill, carrying machinery for special tax in all counties, with increased State appropriation for maintaining four-months school in every school district in the State.

The House on Thursday cleared the calendar of a goodly number of local bills on third reading. The two following are of public interest:

The House Thursday night passed the firemen's relief fund bill on final reading, after discussion.

The bill to issue bonds in the sum of \$500,000 for carrying out the purposes of the Bickett act of 1907 to enlarge and equip the State hospitals for the insane was laid before the House. Several members of the minority began to ask questions about it and Dr. Gordon for the committee explained that it would include \$250,000 obligation already incurred in enlarging the hospitals at Morganton and Raleigh, and leave enough for some appropriations to the other institutions for permanent improvements; then no further sums would be needed for improvements for the next ten years.

There were some questions by way of objections asked that brought out a most forceful defense of the bill by Senator Doughton. The bill passed its second reading.

In both branches of the Legislature Friday was read the report of the select committee appointed to consider the sensational report of the auditing committee of the last Legislature that investigated the offices of State Treasurer, Auditor and Insurance Commissioner. The report is signed by all the members of the joint committee, including the Republicans, and is of great length. It finds that all the Auditor's warrants

criticized by the auditing committee were fully authorized by law, and as to the voucher for the Goldsboro Hospital for money to repair building, it states that no such warrant and no such voucher number can be found on the Treasurer's and Auditor's books, that the hospital owes nothing for furniture or repairs, but does owe for supplies authorized by the Governor and Council of State. In the matter of Fish Commissioner Meekins nothing secret dishonest or disadvantageous to the State was done.

As to the Insurance Commissioner the report finds as a fact the statement of the auditing committee that no evidence of any character of dishonesty is disclosed on the part of any one handling the funds or securities, and that there is no suggestion of any such.

The statement of the expert accountant that he could not make an absolutely correct statement of this account without going back and checking up the entire business since the establishment of the office is erroneous in its belief; that the statement of the expert that no cash book had been kept showing accurate receipts and disbursements of funds is very misleading, as the commissioner does keep a day book in which is a record of all receipts in detail while his bank book as Insurance Commissioner shows all disbursements and a separate ledger account shows disbursements of the fund for the investigation of fires.

The Senate consumed some time on a bill to change the county seat of Mitchell and on the Blow educational bill and passed a number of bills of local interest.

The House, in committee of the whole, on the revenue act, decided to increase the pension ad. valorem tax from 4 to 5 cents, and the poll tax from \$1.29 to \$1.32 so as to be able to increase the appropriation for pensions.

The special order was the bond issue bill for an issue of \$500,000 for carrying out the purposes of the Bickett act of 1907 for enlargement of the State Hospitals for the Insane. With an amendment by Speaker Graham the bill passed its final reading.

Columbus Has a \$500,000 Blase.

Columbus, Ohio, Special.—Fire, which started with two explosions just before 3 o'clock Friday morning, destroyed a four-story building here and spread almost instantly to a five-story brick building adjoining, extending from the point to Front street and destroyed that and its contents, causing a total loss conservatively estimated at \$500,000.

Tillman Astonishes the Senate.

Washington, Special.—Senator Tillman Friday astonished the Senate by the introduction of a resolution instructing the committee on postoffices and post roads to inquire whether messages and reports recently sent to Congress by the President should not be excluded from the mails as obscene literature unfit for circulation. The resolution was on motion of Mr. Tillman, referred to the committee on postoffices and post roads, its reading in the Senate and reference causing no discussion.

PROMINENT PEOPLE.

President-elect Taft was made a Mason "at sight" by the Grand Lodge of Ohio, at Cincinnati.

Sven Hedin, the Swedish explorer, was highly honored by King and people upon his return to Stockholm.

The King of Spain recently became an honorary member of the Royal Automobile Club of Great Britain.

Speaker Joe Cannon's favorite attitude in the chair at Washington, D. C. is to sit with his left foot curled under him.

Professor Charles A. Strong, son-in-law of John D. Rockefeller, was bitten by a madman while a passenger on the Barbarossa.

M. Bunay-Varilla was amused that changes are to be made in the weight of the Gatun Dam as announced in a despatch from Washington, D. C.

George J. Gould denounced as false a published report that he had relinquished control of the Gould railway system to E. H. Harriman.

Charles F. McKim declined to serve on the commission provided for in the McCall bill to report on a site in Washington, D. C., for a Lincoln memorial.

The richest farmer in Congress is Frank Orren Lowden, of the Illinois delegation—Mr. Hitt's successor. Before her marriage Mrs. Lowden was Miss Florence Pullman, of Chicago.

George H. Hall, the artist, one of the oldest members of the National Academy of Design, opposed the plan to erect a fine arts building on the site of the arsenal in Central Park, New York City.

Sir Walter Hillyer has been appointed expert adviser to the Chinese Government. Sir Walter was born in China of English parents and is a learned linguist. Li Hung Chang once said that he spoke and wrote Chinese as well as the most highly educated mandarin.

Last year the United States produced 300,000 tons of beet sugar.

MISQUOTED TAFT'S SPEECH

Makes a Vigorous Protest Against Misrepresentation.

REVISION SHOULD NOT DELAY

Corrects Newspaper Report—Sets Forth His Views on Plan of Making Tariff Schedule.

New York, Special.—President-elect Taft made a vigorous protest Friday night against what he said was an absolute misrepresentation in certain New York afternoon papers as to what he had said during the day in answering questions regarding tariff revision.

He had stated, he said, that the present business depression was undoubtedly due in a large measure to the fact that the tariff is to be revised at an extra session of Congress to meet March 15th; that it was of the highest importance that this work of revision should not be delayed, but executed with all possible diligence.

Mr. Taft also said he favored the idea of a permanent tariff commission, the plan for which should be worked out with deliberation, the duties of such a commission to be to make a careful study of the operation of the proposed new tariff law, to the end that suggestions might be made in the future which would tend to place the whole question of the tariff on a more certain and scientific basis.

THE NEW CABINET.

Unofficial But Reliable Announcement Made.

New York, Special.—All qualifications of uncertainty in the prediction that Franklin MacVeagh of Chicago has been selected by Mr. Taft as his secretary of the treasury, are hereby removed. Mr. MacVeagh accepted the place Wednesday and thereby the Taft cabinet was made complete as heretofore announced by the Associated Press.

The cabinet as complete with the selection of Mr. MacVeagh is as follows:

- Secretary of State—Philander C. Knox of Pennsylvania.
 - Secretary of the Treasury—Franklin MacVeagh of Illinois.
 - Secretary of War—Jacob M. Dickinson of Tennessee.
 - Attorney General—George W. Wickersham of New York.
 - Pastmaster General—Frank H. Hitchcock of Massachusetts.
 - Secretary of the Navy—George Von L Meyer of Massachusetts.
 - Secretary of the Interior—Richard A. Ballinger of Washington.
 - Secretary of Agriculture—James Wilson of Iowa.
 - Secretary of Commerce and Labor—Charles Nagel of Missouri.
- With his postmaster general, Frank H. Hitchcock, Mr. Taft took a five-mile walk through Central park in the biting wind Wednesday. He saw a number of New York city financiers during the day, but said the calls were those to express friendship and had no other significance.
- There was a genuine reunion of the Taft family at the Henry W. Taft residence.

Hutchins in Sad Condition.

Washington, Special.—Capt. Hamilton Hutchins, who was relieved of his command of the battleship Kearsarge by Admiral Sperry just before the fleet left Gibraltar, is to be examined by a special medical board which will look into his mental and physical condition. His mental condition is said to be most pitiable. It was because of the great nervousness under which Captain Hutchins labored that he was, at his own request, relieved of his command.

Contract Let For Statue of Columbus.

Washington, Special.—The Columbus Memorial Commission has awarded the contract for making a statue of Columbus to be erected in the plaza of the Union Station in this city to Lorando Taft, of Chicago, a relative of the President-elect. Congress has appropriated \$100,000 for the Columbus memorial, which, in addition to the statue, will comprise a large architectural fountain.

Alabamian Shoots Down Daughter's Assault.

Birmingham, Ala., Special.—While handcuffed and sitting in the sheriff's office at Bessemer Friday morning, Jim Brown, a negro, was shot and instantly killed by James Robinson, white, father of the girl Brown had attempted to assault on February 15th. The attack occurred without warning, Robinson firing four shots into the negro before deputies standing near could interfere. Robinson surrendered. The negro was being taken to Bessemer for preliminary trial.