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... Governor James K. Varda-
...d Senator-elect John Sharp
...as are mentioned in connection
... the selection of successor to
...plete the unexpired term of the
... Senator McLaurin. Several
...onths ago Mr. Vardaman announc-
...ed his candidacy for the subsequent
term.

Senator McLaurin, who was 61 years old, began his first term in the United States senate in 1894, but was elected governor of Mississippi in 1895, and served in that office four years. He was elected again to the senate in 1900, and served one term. He then returned for the term which began on March 4, 1907. His present term of office would have expired on March 3, 1913.

Senator McLaurin was a lawyer by profession, and began the study of law in 1868, after he had served all through the civil war as a private in the confederate army. He was born on March 26, 1848, at Brandon, Miss., and was raised on a farm. He entered the confederate army when he was 16 years old. Seven children survive him.

When the present session of congress opened, Senator McLaurin did not go to Washington, because of illness. In the senate chamber he was known as one of the strongest defenders of the south, though not as radical as some. He believed in the south, her resources and her future, and he never failed to rise to her defense when she was assailed.

HIGH OFFICIALS ASSASSINATED.

...rderers Use Gun and Knife in Russia, Korea and India.

... Korea —Premier Yi, the head ... cabinet, was stabbed ... Yong, a Kor-

... oung Chris- ... years a res- ident ... es. The premier was ri... ...riksha when the assassin ca... ...p with a long kitchen knife in his ...nd. He drove this twice into the abdomen of the premier and once into the latter's lung. The assassin then turned on the premier's jinriksha man, whom he stabbed and instantly killed.

Yi was always credited with fostering anti-Japanese sentiment in Korea. He bitterly opposed the faction among the Koreans which favored annexation to Japan and refused to present a petition for annexation to the Korean emperor. Notwithstanding Yi's known sentiments in regard to the relations between Japan and Korea, Marquis Ito regarded Yi as an honest and conscientious patriot and refused to listen to the premier's repeated requests that he be allowed to resign his office.

Bombay, British India.—Arthur Mason Tippetts Jackson, chief magistrate of Nasik, in the presidency of Bombay, was assassinated by a native while attending a theatrical performance last night.

The motive for the murder is supposed to have been a wish for revenge upon the magistrate, who had recently sentenced a criminal to life imprisonment.

St. Petersburg, Russia. — Colonel Karpoff, chief of the secret police of St. Petersburg, was assassinated. He had been enticed to a modest apartment in a remote stret of the Viborf district, and there was blown to pieces by a bomb explosion, supposedly by his host, one Michael Vosskressensky.

RUSSIA AND JAPAN MAY FIGHT.

Two Countries Are on the Verge of Serious Trouble.

St. Petersburg, Russia.—Russia and Japan are on the verge of serious trouble, and the rushing of Russian troops to the Manchurian frontier was expedited.

It is reported semi-officially that serious trouble is feared because of the attack on Premier Yi at Seoul.

It is reported semi-officially that Japan is ready to annex Korea and great alarm is felt. The government prepared to dispatch 50,000 troops from Irkutsk to the frontier. The situation is made more critical by the belief that Japan will attempt reprisals for the stabbing of Yi

NIGHT RIDER JURY DISCHARGED.

Could Not Agree on Verdict in Reelfoot Lake Case.

Union City, Tenn.—Standing ten to two in favor of conviction, the jury in the Reelfoot Lake night rider cases was discharged, a verdict being hopeless. Garrett Johnson, alleged leader of the band that killed Captain Quentine and Arthur Cloar, the defendants, were left under their present bonds of $20,000 each.

It is believed that another jury can be secured.

PATTEN BULLING COTTON.

Chicago Operator is Again Buying the Staple.

New York City.—New high records were made in the cotton market, with January selling at 15.20, or 45 points above the lowest figures. It touched above the lowest figures it touched since the publication of the government's crop estimates. The high prices were reached as a resutl of renewed bull support, covering and reports of a better demand from mills. ... sold at 15.25, or 22 to 25

TAFT ORDERS INVESTIGATION.

The Ballinger-Pinchot Row Will Be Probed By Congress.

Washington, D. C.—President Taft yielded to the demands of both Secretary Ballinger and his critics for a public investigation of the whole subject matter underlying the so-called Ballinger-Pinchot controversy.

Mr. Ballinger served upon the president virtualy an ultimatum, to the effect that such an investigation was, indeed, the price of his remaining in the cabinet. He made it clear to the president that he was no longer willing to sit silent in his office in the interior department and "wait for the thing to blow over."

Mr. Taft reluctantly admitted the disappointment of his hope that the country at large would accept as final his own vindication of Mr. Ballinger in his dismissal of the charges brought before him against the secretary of the interior by L. R. Glavis, the former special agent of the land office.

Mr. Ballinger's attitude in this matter has the support of leading republicans in both branches of congress—senators and representatives who feel that, entirely apart from the merits of the controversy itself, a festering sore of this character must poison the whole system of the party in power, and that it is high time to resort to the lancet.

These leaders, determined that a cleansing of this wound is necessary, have not hesitated to go to the White House and impress their views upon Mr. Taft.

A joint congressional committee probably will be appointed to make the investigation.

The investigation, whoever makes it, must be relentless, and everybody seems agreed that it must be absolutely public; it is admitted that anything in the nature of star chamber proceedings would satisfy nobody. The entire department of the interior, so far as it concerns public lands and mineral and water rights, it is agreed, must be bared to the searchlight; from the time when Mr. Ballinger was commissioner general of the land office under the Roosevelt administration, down to the present moment.

The position of Mr. Ballinger and his friends goes beyond any question of personal controversy, and they and those who voice the attitude of the administration disavow any desire to "convict somebody else," as a means to vindicating the secretary of the interior. For instance, it is positively declared that the interests of the department of agriculture and its forest service, of which Gifford Pinchot is chief, will be recognized as having an important stake in this business, since much of this unhappy controversy has concerned matters in which the forest service was more or less directly involved.

TAFT GRANTS CHRISTMAS PARDONS.

Many Federal Prisoners Get Xmas Gift From President.

Washington, D. C.—Eight Christmas gifts in the way of pardons and commutations of sentences granted by President Taft were announced at the department of justice.

As an incident of the land frauds which sprang up against non-resident owners and were carried on by squatters in southern Georgia, Charles Clements, was convicted of conspiracy and murder at Normandale, and sentenced early in 1891 to imprisonment for life. President Taft has commuted the sentence to expire immediately.

Pardons were granted in two North Carolina postoffice cases, those of Jno. T. Leonard, sentenced to five years' imprisonment for breaking into the office at Dunn, and that of Charley Williams, sentenced for a like term for a similar offense.

A pardon restoring civil rights has been granted Albert Smith, sentenced a dozen years ago at Paris, Texas, to a brief term of imprisonment for receiving stolen property.

James and Lincoln Wolfe, full-blooded Cherokees, in prison for life for murder, had their sentences commuted to expire at once.

If his conduct remains good until May 28, 1910, the sentence of five years' imprisonment, which ordinarily would expire November 28, 1910, will then be commuted in the case of Eugene Robinson, alias E. E. Robinson, convicted at Antlers, I. T., for burglary and larceny.

The president has commuted to expire immediately the sentence of eight years' imprisonment imposed in the case of S. B. Hudson, convicted at Salliswa, I. T., for carnal knowledge.

Red Cross Stamps Go to England.

Washington, D. C. — Postmasters throughout the country were notified that Great Britain has temporarily withdrawn its prohibition against the use of Red Cross stamps. Postmasters are requested to ask patrons of their office to fix Christmas stamps to the backs or eitters or parcels mailed to any part of Great Britain.

Supreme Court Takes Recess.

Washington, D. C.—The supreme court of the United States has taken a recess for two weeks. It is expected that when the court reconvenes on the 3rd of January one of the seats now vacant will be occupied by Judge Lurton, who was confirmed by the senate as the successor of Justice Peckham.

8,000,000 Red Cross Stamps.

New York City.—Eight million Red Cross Christmas stamps have been sold in New York thus far this year. The officers in charge of the distribution hope to double this number before the end of the holiday season.

Stole $643 000; Six Years In Jail.

Cincinnati, Ohio.—Charles L. Warriner, deposed local treasurer of the Big Four railroad, pleaded guilty to embezzlement in the common pleas court and was sentenced to serve six years in the Ohio penitentiary.

Warriner confessed to a shortage of $643,000. Of the money he is alleged to have taken from the Big Four less than half has bene recovered.

Warriner appealed to the mercy of the court.

Christmas Gifs for the President.

Washington, D. C.—President Taft and members of his family received Christmas presents from all over the country. Many of these come from close friends and relatives, but a large proportion of gifts come from admirers whom the president has never seen.

Two big packages turned out to be rather crude oil paintings. One was a bust of the president, and the other was a full-length group picture of the president's entire family. The paintings were the work of a young Italian ...

U. S. BRANDED MEDDLER

Zelaya Issues Bitter Manifesto On Nicaruguan Situation.

IMPERIAL DESIGNS ALLEGED

Zeleya Says That United States Wishes to Convert the Latin Nations Into Dependencies.

Managua, Nicaragua.—Ex-President Zelaya issued a manifesto declaring that his surrender of the presidency was caused by a desire to save Nicaragua the humiliation of outrages threatened by a powerful foreign nation, which was now inaugurating decisive influence over the destiny of Nicaragua.

Because of his resistance against the imposition of tutelage, which was the forerunner of the conversion of the Latin nations of this continent into dependencies of the United States, he had incurred the hatred of that government, and when the defeat of the revolutionists appeared certain, the United States government inexplicably severed relations with Nicaragua through Secretary Knox's letter to the charge d'affaires. He protested before the world against the meddling of the United States and the threat to land marines.

Zelaya, in his manifesto, takes up various causes of the Knox letter in an attempt to refute certain charges with copies of letters he had received from John Gardner Coolidge, the former American minister at Managua, thanking him for his courteous treatment in the matter of the claims of Guatemala and Salvador.

The former president declares that the Americans, Cannon and Groce, were executed according to law. This pretext for intervention, he asserts, is similar to that employed when the United States first intervened in Cuba, for there was no proof that the battleship Maine was blown up by Spaniards, yet this was taken as a case for action. Nor, according to Zelaya, is there any proof that Cannon and Groce were put to death unlawfully.

General Gonzales, in command of the government troops at Rama, in an official dispatch received here, claims to have won a victory over the revolutionists. He admits having suffered severe losses.

Bluefields, Nicaragua.—General Estrada has won a complete victory over the government troops at Rama. A total of 600 men of both armies was killed or wounded. Nineteen hundred of Zelaya's men have surrendered, including General Gonazles, who was in command. Two Americans are reported killed.

STATUS OF THE ARMY.

Brigadier General Crozier Says Country is Not Prepared for War.

Washington, Ga.—"There is no first class respectable power with which we are in the slightest degree liable to have any complications or a conflict which cannot put into the field immediately at least 3,000,000 men. They would put them wherever the conflict might be more rapidly than we would manufacture arms, organize troops and deliver them on the grounds to oppose them."

This statement was made by Brigadier General Crozier, chief of ordnance of the army

"The reserve of ammunition which we consider desirable to have," added General Crozier, "considering the facilities for manufacturing, both in private and government establishments, has been fixed tentatively perhaps at 300 rounds per rifle for 600,000 rifles. If we have that upon entering into war or active preparation for war, with the facilities we have for manufacturing, operated at their full capacity day and night, we will be able to keep up the supply that is needed. At the rate at which we would go under the amount that was appropriated in the last appropriation act, it would acquire about six and a half years to accumulate that reserve; at the rate which we will go under the estimate before you, for use after June 30 next, it will require 12 years to accumulate the reserve. Manufacture is under way to run the supply on hand up to 123,000,000 rounds by June 30, next."

KING LEOPOLD BURIED.

Leopold's Body Placed in Vault Wtith His Queen.

Brussels, Belgium.—The body of Leopold II, king of the Belgians, was placed in the royal burial vault, in the Church of St. Mary, at Laeken, the suburban residence of the royal family. Near it rests the remains of his queen, Marie Henrietta; the Princess Josephine and the duke of Brabant. There also repose the bones of Leopold I and Quene Louise.

TRINITY STUDENTS EXPELLED.

Eight Young Men Dismissed for Hazing.

Durham, N. C.—Eight young men were expelled from Trinity College. Seven boys cast lots with a freshman to see which was to plunge into a cold water tank. The freshman lost. The young men pleaded not guilty of hazing, but President Kilgo declared them guilty of gambling. All were expelled.

President Kilgo declared the average college could not be governed without the strictest surveillance of the faculty, and that 25 per cent of the students of the country are unfit to be in college largely on account of the immoral indulgence of parents.

FIRE IN ENGLISH STORE.

Twenty Reported Dead and 50 Patients Are in Hospital.

London, England.—At the height of the Christmas shopping rush, the big store of Ardington & Hobbs was destroyed by fire. Within a short time 30 injured had been taken out and it is reported that many persons were killed. The crush of shoppers, men and women, fled in panic and dozens were hurt in the jam. The police reported that twenty persons were killed.

SOUTHERN IMMIGRATION STATION.

The Government Will Spend $75,000 on the Structure.

Washington, D. C.—An immigration station at Charelston, S. C., to cost $70,000, was approved by the secretary of commerce and labor and the commissioner of immigration will proceed to erect the station on ground which has already been given by the city of Charelston. Officials intend this as a reply to the oft-repeated charge that the government has nothing to turn southward desira...

LATE NEWS NOTES.

General.

Chicago is facing a coal famine. The extreme cold weather and the inability of the railroads to deliver a full supply will empty the yards within two weeks. The failure of the railroads to bring in all the coal needed is attributed by some dealers to the great rush of the holiday business that has tied up traffic, while by others it is said the shortage is due to confiscation by railroads to provide fuel for their locomotives.

A $1,000,000 endowment fund for the support of the Florence Crittenton mission throughout the United States will be raised as a memorial to their founder, the late Charles Nelson Crittenton. The money will be raised largely through gifts of a dolloar each from members and friends of the missions. Life members and friends of the missions will be asked to subscribe one hundred dollars each. The missions were founded by Mr. Crittenton for the rescue of fallen women.

That a decided step has been taken toward success in the crusade against the boll weevil, by certain experiments conducted in recent months under the direction of the Louisiana crop commission, is the opinion of those who have experimented. A large number of experiments with the poison have been made in various sections of Louisiana. In some instances the yield was more than doubled and the average increase of the yield of the plant this year was 70 per cent.

Washington.

In a complaint filed with the interstate commerce commission the freight rates on citrus fruits from Pacific coast points to other parts of the United States are declared to be excessive, extortionate and unduly discriminatory.

Captain Ben W. Hodges, commandant of the naval station at New Orleans has been designated to take command of the battleship Wisconsin. He will relieve Captain Frank E. Beatty, who will be assigned shortly as commandant of the navy yard at Washington, D. C.

Owing to illness Senator Clay has been obliged to return to his home in Georgia for recuperation. The senator has been a sufferer from stomach troubles for several months, and his friends have advised him to undergo treatment. Should he decide to do so he may not return to Washington until the middle or latter part of January. While Senator Clay's illness is not considered serious, it is nevertheless interferring with the performance of his duties in the senate.

For the first time in many years, in fact, as far back as the present generation is able to remember, the Chinese legation has two young daughters, who not only have acquired an English education, but who have permanently adopted American dress. Mme. Chang Yin Tang, wife of the newly appointed minister, has worn American dress for several years, and her daughters, have adopted the same fashion.

The states of North Carolina and Tennessee are at variance as to the manner of determining the boundary line between them, the case concerning which is before the supreme court of the United States. The attorney general of North Carolina would have commissioners appointed to survey the line, and take testimony, whereas the attorney general of Tennessee thinks the appointment of commissioners should follow the taking of testimony. A motion to carry the Carolina idea into effect was presented to the court and was opposed in the interest of Tennessee. The court has the matter under advisement.

Chang Yin Tang, the newly arrived Chinese minister, said that when he left China the relations of that country with the United States were better than they ever had been. He said that while he was not charged specially to enlist the investment of American capital in development of Chineses enterprises, he felt that any overtures of that kind would be welcomed. Minister Wu's recall to China, he said, simply meant that the services of Mr. Wu were desired in another important capacity.

Complaints which for several years have been made by French cotton spinners on account of excessive moisture in cotton imported into France from the South Atlantic states, have caused a movement to determine the degree of moisture and establish both the extent of damage and the depreciation in value occasioned thereby, reports United States Consul James E. Dunning at Harve. The humidity in the cotton exists, for the most part, in or near the center of the bale and is due to the stream or water used in pressing the staple. It not only injures the cotton, but it gives it a fictitious weight which is lost shortly after the bale is opened and evaporation takes place.

Every American who takes his cup of coffee may like to know that in the ten months of 1909 he has helped use up just $64,000,000 worth—846,000,000 pounds, and that eight-ninths of it came from South America. And of all that, Brazil furnished more than 600,000,000 pounds.

In continuance of efforts to reduce the number of fatal accidents in American coal mines, the United States Geological survey has just issued a primer for the benefit of miners and others who have anything to do with explosives. Written in plain, non-technical language, the primer describes how explosives are made, points out the dangers in their use and shows how these may be avoided or reduced to a minimum.

Representative Hardy of Texas in addressing the house in support of his resolution asking for the investigation of printed charges of corruption of members of congress and of the subsidizing of the public press in connection with the ship subsidy, vigorously assailed the papers which he said had printed the charges. He said he had no idea that any member of congress had been bribed in the ship subsidy legislation, but he thought congress ought not to allow itself to be "bespattered" without investigating the subject.

Declaration that constitution of the United States was unsuited in part to the needs of the present generation was made by Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, chief of the bureau of chemistry. He was speaking at a meeting of the secular league here. The defect to which he pointed in particular was a ... which, he said, rendered inoperative the pure food law, and ...ed the government to confine supervision of the food packing industry to articles intended for interstate commerce, leaving the federal government no jurisdiction over food, however impure, manufactured or sold within the borders of a state

PALMETTO STATE NEWS

Columbia, S. C.—"I regret very much to report the conditions of many school buildings in the state far short of what they should be," says B. A. Wharton in his report to insurance Commissioner McMaster after inspecting the school buildings of the state with reference to fire protection and fire escapes.

"I find comparatively few school buildings in the state properly provided with fire extinguishers and fire escapes which in my opinion is very essential to the safety of the property and the lives of the occupants of such buildings.

"I further call your attention to the fact that there are school buildings in South Carolina packed to their fullest capacity with human souls that either have no fire escapes, or the fire escapes are so inadequate that in event of a conflagration during school hours, it would be almost, if not impossible, to empty such buildings of their occupants without serious loss of human life."

Washington, D. C.—Director Durand of the census bureau, informed Representative Patterson that only fifty-four of the applicants in South Carolina who recently stood examination for clerkship in the census bureau here had been successful. This covers the entire state. Mr. Durand seemed to think that this inability to pass the examination successfully was no reflection on those who attempted them, but was more to be accounted for by reason of the fact that the questions asked were largely those dealing with manufacturing and kindred matters, about which many persons have little knowledge. It is not yet shown whether another opportunity will be given South Carolina to try for these places.

Charleston, S. C.—James R. Johnson, Grand Master of Masons of Sotuh Carolina, closed the one hundred and thirty-third annual communication of the Grand lodge in ample form at the Masonic temple, this city, the labors of the body having been completed.

The elections resulted as follows: Grand Master, James R. Johnson of Charleston; deputy grand master, George S. Mower of Newberry; senior grand warden, George T. Bryan of Greenville; junior grand warden, R. A. Cooper of Laurens; grand treasurer, Zimmerman Davis of Charleston; grand secretary, Jacob T. Baron of Columbia; grand chaplain, Rev. W. P. Smith of Spartanburg.

The trusees of the Masonic orphanage fund made a report showing that there was now in hand for this institution the sum of $33,400, an increase of more than $10,000 during the year.

Washington, D. C.—It is announced here that President Taft has practically settled upon John J. Hemphill, former congressman from South Carolina, and a candidate for the United States senate a few years ago, for commissioner of the District of Columbia to succeed Henry L. West.

Washington, D. C.—The chief of engineers of the war department has sent a communication to congress, in which he stated that in his opinion the expenditure of more money at this time for the development of Black river, between Kingstree and Georgetown, would not be justified by the business carried on.

At both Kingstree and Georgetown the people want this river kept open for navigation, as it enables the people of the former place to get in their supplies cheaper than they could be rail, and at the same time it produces considerable business for Georgetown.

The chief engineer of the war department also recommended that no more money be expended in the improvement of the Great Pee-Dee river in the vicinity of Cheraw. He states that past expenditures have not been in keeping with the commercial advantages of the river, hence he thinks it would be unwise to invest further in that direction.

STAT CAPITAL NOTES.

....The first installment of the report of the asylum investigating committee was given out by the committee. In the first section of the report only statements of a preliminary nature are made. There is a rumor going the rounds that a general shake-up is likely, when all of the report has been completed and the final conclusions of the committee reached. This report will be transmitted to the legislature in January.

....The Aububon society of this state in its annual report recommends that some steps should be taken to lessen the loss of life from hunting accidents. In some states it is customary for huntsmen to fire at those who mistake them in the night time for deer, so that great care has to be exercised by those who are hunting deer.

....In the five and a half months, during which the state laboratory has been open, the people of this state have been saved $7,293 which is more than half the entire appropriation for the heatlh department. This is a wonderful showing and should be appreciated by those who have taken the treatment in the Pastuer department especially. Thirty-three patients have been given immunizing treatment for rabies and all save two cases have turned out successfully.

....Comptroller Jones is getting to be known as the "reformer." For the past twenty years he has been fighting for equalization in taxes both with reference to the individual and the corporations. His coming annual report will contain some stinging passages, not of a personal nature, but based on cold facts. It has been a long fight with him and he may in the end win.

....John Charles Brookhouse has been day commissioned by the secretary of state as commissioner of deeds of South Carolina in London. Mr. Brookhouse was recently appointed to the place by Governor Ansel. The address of the new commissioner is Queen House, 8 and 9, Queen street, Cheapside, London, England.

...."The income tax should be between $50,000 and $75,000," said Comptroller General Jones ... ing out his annual stateme... ... amount of income taxes. Th... received during the year is ... against $8,462, for 1908.

....The wheat acreage for ... has shown an increase o... acres over the past year an... ue received for the crop is ... in many years. This state shows also the highest value per bushel for wheat of all the states in the union. "It begins to look like home bread," said Commissioner Watson in suming up the showing made. The production in bushels is 3,810,000 as against 2, 35,000 bushels for 1908. The acreage by years since 1900 and for 1909 were: 1900, 174,245; 1907, 214,000; 1908, 315,000; 1909, 473,000. The value of the wheat in this state per bushel on December 1 was $1.46 which was above that of any other state