

Edgefield Advertiser.

Oldest Newspaper in South Carolina.

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EDGEFIELD, S. C., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1908.

NO. 44.

DUTCH SEIZE VESSEL

Venezuelan Ship Towed Into Port

PRIZE CARRIED DUTCH FLAG

The Gelderland Steamer Into the Harbor of Williamstad Towing the Venezuelan Coastguard Ship Alex Flying the Dutch Flag and Sporting a Dutch Crew.

Williamstad, Island of Curacao, Special.—The Dutch cruiser Gelderland came into this port Sunday morning towing the Venezuela coastguard ship Alex with the Dutch flag flying and a Dutch crew on board. The Gelderland captured the Alex off Puerto Cabello on Saturday. At that time the Alex was lying close in shore and notwithstanding the threat which the Venezuelan government had made to fire upon any of the Dutch warships committing a hostile act, the Gelderland steamed at full speed towards the guard ship and sent an officer and guard in a launch to seize her. No shots came from the forts on land.

The crew of the Alex was put ashore and the Dutch officer and marines remained on board, the Gelderland finally taking the Alex in tow and steaming away with her prize.

The seizure of the Alex was in accordance with the plans of the Holland government when instructions were issued to the three Dutch warships now in these waters to make a demonstration off the coast of Venezuela and to capture any Venezuelan ships of war of guard vessels that they might find.

The people of Curacao are greatly rejoiced. The Governor of Curacao said:

"The capture of our warships of coast guards and war vessels is not to be considered an unfriendly act against the Venezuelans. It is merely a reprisal against Castro's government which refuses to give satisfaction for his unfriendly acts toward Holland."

It is learned from the officers of the Gelderland that the battleship Jacob Van Hemskerk and the cruiser Friesland are now off La Guyra and that further captures may be expected at any time.

Taft's View of McKinley.

New York, Special.—President-elect William H. Taft, speaking Sunday night at the dedication of a McKinley Memorial organ in Metropolitan Temple, told to the audience the story of his official association with the late President, and declared with reference to the Philippine Islands that the policy laid down by Mr. McKinley in 1900 had been the policy of the present as it will be the policy of his own administration in the White House. Mr. Taft will remain here until Thursday, when he leaves for Augusta, Ga., to spend the five weeks preceding his proposed departure to the Panama canal.

American Railway Company Asks For a Charter.

Hawkinsville, Ga., Special.—Charter was applied for by a local attorney on behalf of interested parties for a charter for "The American Railway Company," which proposes building a line from Abbeville, Ga., to Winchester, in Macon county, Ga., via Hawkinsville and Grovania. The proposed road will traverse one of the richest farming sections of the State. It will tap the Seaboard at Abbeville and the Gulf line at Hawkinsville. Work will begin at once, it is stated.

1503 Cotton Crop.

Washington, Special.—The crop reporting board of the bureau of statistics of the Department of Agriculture has estimated from reports of correspondence agents of the bureau that the total production of cotton in the United States for the year 1908-9 would amount to 6,152,970,000 pounds.

England Rushes—More Troops to India.

London, By Cable.—Another heavy draft on English home regiments for service in India was ordered by the war office. The troops will be ready to embark for India as soon as possible as the threatened Indian uprising is believed to be imminent. Friday's draft with the heavy reinforcements that started for India last Wednesday, has reduced many of the home battalions to mere skeletons and an additional call for recruits will soon be made.

Wife of Millionaire is Arrested For Shoplifting.

New York, Special.—Mrs. Louis J. Schloss, wife of the well known New York and Baltimore clothier, was arrested here last week for shoplifting. Different articles she had picked up amounted to about \$16. She pleads nervousness and ill health. The case will be heard soon.

THE WORK OF CONGRESS

Congressional Summary.
The business of both houses of Congress was confined largely to listening to the reading of the President's annual message but in addition a few bills were introduced both in the Senate and the House and in the House a number of bills were sent to conference, among them being one providing for a new immigration station in Boston.

In addition, the speaker announced the appointment of Mr. Higgins, of Connecticut, to a place on the committee on the judiciary, in place of Mr. Littlefield and of Mr. Martin to a place on the committee on Indian affairs in place of Mr. Parker, deceased.

For the first time during the present Congress there was a call of the committees of the House but no measure was reported by any of them.

The miscellaneous work of the Senate consisted in the main of the reference in executive session of about 1,500 recess nominations, which were sent to the Senate by the President, and the adoption of resolutions of regret on account of the death of members of the House who have passed away since the adjournment last May. The Senate adjourned for the day at 2 o'clock and the House at 2:35.

Census Bill Passed.

For nearly five hours the House of Representatives considered the bill providing for the taking of the thirtieth and subsequent decennial censuses, and passed it without material change. From the very outset of the debate it became evident that the progress of the measure toward passage would be impeded.

Pensions in Senate.

The session of the Senate was chiefly devoted to the formal presentation of departmental reports and the introduction of bills. The reports have been made public from time to time and the bills numbering 332 were chiefly for the granting of pensions.

Saturday's Session.

The House of Representatives Saturday was in its old-time form. No particular program had been mapped out, but under a call of committees several measures in which the members were especially interested, and in some cases vitally concerned, were considered. With few exceptions they engendered the liveliest sort of debate, and it was disclosed that the forces for or against them were fully lined up for the fray. Parliamentary tactics were freely resorted to, with the result that five times the roll was called.

The first rangle occurred on a resolution fixing the boundary line between the States of Colorado, Oklahoma and New Mexico, which was agreed to by a majority but not without two roll calls. The House then by a decisive vote refused to further consider the bill providing for arbitrary settlement of disputes between employers and employees.

Next turning attention to the bill providing for the protection of alien in the United States the subject was thrashed out at length. The measure had rough sailing and it was passed by a slim majority after the roll had been called twice.

Mr. and Mrs. Taft Given Reception

Washington, Special.—President-elect and Mrs. William H. Taft were tendered a reception by Miss Mabel Boardman, a Washington society leader, at her home on Dupont circle. The function was one of the most notable of the season, and among the guests were a large number of the representative persons of the Capital's official, diplomatic and social circles.

The Evacuation of Cuba.

Washington, Special.—At the War Department the first details regarding the withdrawal from Cuba of the American army of pacification, which has been on duty there since the fall of 1906, were made known. The movements of the troops will begin on January 1st and will be completed by April 1st.

Killed by Electric Shock.

Yorkville, Special.—Mr. W. F. Downs, a native of Fort Mill, and for the past three or four years head machinist at the Tavora Cotton Mill at this place, was instantly killed by an electrical current. The electrical current which is furnished by the Southern Power Company, had failed and Superintendent Ramsey and Mr. Downs were searching for the trouble. The switch had been opened and Downs placed his hand on a wire he supposed dead but it proved not to be and he fell back lifeless.

Thomas F. Ryan Gives \$1,000 to Uncle Remus Fund.

Atlanta, Ga., Special.—J. G. Lester, secretary of the "Uncle Remus" memorial association, announced the receipt of a contribution of \$1,000 from Thomas F. Ryan, of New York, to the fund for perpetuating the memory of Joel Chandler Harris. Mr. Ryan was tendered and has accepted the vice presidency of the association.

PANAMA EXPLOSION

Results in a Number of People Losing Their Lives

SCENES OF GREAT EXCITEMENT

Premature Explosion of an Enormous Elast of Powder Near Colon Claims Ten Dead and Fifty Injured.

Colon, By Cable.—A giant blast of dynamite, already prepared for firing, was prematurely exploded in the workings at Bas Obispo Saturday. Ten men were killed and fifty injured. It may be that others have been killed, for debris is piled up in all directions.

Bas Obispo is about 30 miles from Colon, and the shock of the explosion was distinctly felt here, as in addition to that in the blast, 22 tons of dynamite was exploded.

Numerous reports are current as to the cause of the accident but the official version from Culebra, which gives an estimate of ten killed and fifty wounded, states that during the loading of the last hole of the blast the dynamite in this cutting was discharged, and the remaining 22 tons were exploded by concussion.

The holes had not been connected electrically as the discharge of the blast was set for 5 o'clock in the afternoon. The last hole was being loaded under the supervision of one of the most efficient powder men in the employ of the commission.

A passenger train had just passed when the explosion occurred, but it was not in any way damaged.

The majority of the victims are Spaniards.

Relief trains were sent to the scene of the disaster and one which returned here several hours later brought back the report that 45 of the injured had been sent to Ancon Hospital.

The officials on the train stated that eleven dead had been found while many others in the gang of 120 who were employed in the cut were missing.

It was also reported by the trainmen that the explosion was due to a passing steam shovel, which hooked the wire leading to the immense charge of dynamite. Whether or not this was the cause of the accident, a steam shovel and crew, which happened to be on the scene were practically buried under the mass of rocks and earth thrown up.

Gangs were soon searching for the dead and assisting the wounded. Electric lights were set up and at night steam shovels were at work removing the tons upon tons of debris. Many of the men have been seriously injured, some of them probably fatally.

Tradition has it that the Panama Railroad cost one human life for every tie, what with accidents, insurrections and disease, and the construction of the canal has not gone along without exacting its toll.

There have been a number of accidents in the last two years, chief among which was the premature explosion of dynamite at Pedro Miguel in June, 1907, which resulted in the death of seven men and the injury of a number of others.

The Dead Total Fourteen.

Colon, By Cable.—The explosion Sunday at Bas Obispo of 21 tons of dynamite blast was the most serious accident in connection with the building of the Panama canal since the United States took control. A thorough investigation with a view to fixing the responsibility has been ordered and already officials are taking evidence.

Crooked Wisconsin Banker Sentenced

Milwaukee, Wis., Special.—John F. Schulte, aged 38, former paying teller of the First National Bank of Racine, was sentenced to five years at Fort Leavenworth by Judge Quarles. Schulte embezzled \$15,000, pleaded guilty and asked for leniency. Five years is the minimum penalty. Schulte was arrested at Cleveland on July 7.

Mail Carrier Badly Hurt.

Spartanburg, Special.—Jesse L. Wood, a well known letter carrier, was thrown from his buggy early Sunday morning and seriously injured. The horse Mr. Wood was driving took fright on east Main street, just in front of the First Presbyterian church. He was thrown violently to the sidewalk and knocked unconscious. When taken to his home it was discovered that three of his ribs had been broken and one of his shoulders terribly injured. He is threatened with pneumonia, which makes his condition trebly worse.

Ohio Congressman Critically Ill.

Wooster, O., Special.—The man found unconscious in the chair car of a Pennsylvania westbound train here Sunday and taken to a local hospital was later identified as Congressman Grant E. Mouser, of the Marion, O. district. Physicians declare he is suffering from uraemic poisoning and acute congestion of the kidneys.

HAS GREAT FUTURE

Famous English Diplomat On South's Progress

THE HON. JAMES BRYCE SPEAKS

British Ambassador Called Upon For an Impromptu Speech Before the Southern Commercial Congress Predicts an Era of Great Prosperity For This Section.

Washington, Special.—Expressing the conviction that a great future is about to dawn upon the South, James Bryce, the British ambassador received a notable reception from the delegates in attendance upon the Southern commercial congress, following a speech in which he declared that he is a well-wisher of the South.

The ambassador was the centre of attraction, although his visit was unexpected. Mr. Bryce came into the audience simply as a spectator, but the audience soon noted his presence, and immediately shouted "speech, speech," filled the air and he was compelled to yield to the desire of the congress.

"Since I came here eighteen months ago," said Mr. Bryce, "I have twice visited the South. I can hardly express to you the contrast between what I personally witnessed twenty-seven years ago and the present conditions. Wherever I have been in the South I have been struck by the signs of activity, progress and development. I see land being brought more and more into cultivation; more and more being done for agricultural methods. I saw the resources of your soil, of coal and iron, being brought to light and I saw a new spirit in the South which desires to make educational progress commensurate with material development."

The ambassador pointed out the enormous difficulties with which the South has had to contend since the civil war. "Now, however," he continued, "there is a great door open before you and as one of the well-wishers of the South, who believes in its greatness as a flourishing and important part of the country, I venture to congratulate you on what is being done and to say that still greater prospects are before you."

The afternoon session was presided over by Judge George Hillier, a member of the Georgia State Railroad Commission, who in a brief address reviewed the work of that body in dealing with transportation companies. The principal speakers were William J. Oliver, of Knoxville, Tenn.; Clarence H. Poe, editor of The Progressive Farmer, Raleigh, N. C.; and Dr. J. A. Bonsteel, of the United States bureau of soils.

Care of Our Resources.

Washington, Special.—President Roosevelt and President-elect Taft publicly put themselves on record in advocacy of the issuance of government bonds for the construction of permanent improvements to conserve the natural resources of the nation. President-elect Taft presided at the joint conservation meeting at the Belasco Theatre in this city at which President Roosevelt made the principal address. Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Taft gave their unqualified approval for the carrying out of expert plans for conservation of the nation's resources. An audience which filled the theatre and which included Andrew Carnegie, John Mitchell, Senators Congressmen and the Governors of several States, applauded every sentiment expressed.

Cruiser North Carolina Docked.

Norfolk, Va., Special.—The United States armored cruiser North Carolina was successfully docked in the new dry dock at the Norfolk navy yard, this being the first vessel to be received since the completion of the dock. The North Carolina's bottom will be scraped and cleaned.

Fanatics Fire on Police.

Kansas City, Mo., Special.—In the shadow of the city hall a riot in which religious fanatics and policemen were participants, and during which a hundred shots were fired resulted in the death of Policeman A. O. Dalbow, probable fatal injuries to four, and slight injuries to two other persons. Those probably fatally injured are John Sharp, known as "Adam God," a street preacher; Michael Mullane, a patrolman; Lola Pratt, 13 years old, and Patrick Clark, a police sergeant.

Sheriff Locks Engine to Track.

Savannah, Ga., Special.—The only two locomotives owned by the Savannah, Augusta and Northern Railway were attached, the attachment for over \$13,000 having been issued for the American Locomotive Company. One engine was locked down at Statesboro by the sheriff of the county and the other lies on its back near Aaron, Ga., where it has been stuck killing Engineer A. A. Reppard on Sunday.

Pope Pius Blesses Mr. Taft and His Family.

Rome, By Cable.—Pope Pius blessed President-elect Taft and his family. The blessing was declared in the presence of Archbishop Glennin of St. Louis, who told the Pope that he had received a letter from Taft in which the President-elect expressed cordial friendship for the Catholic. The Pope received the news with unfailing delight and pronounced the blessing upon Taft and family.

Mr. Kitcher's Resignation Effective Day Before He Becomes Governor.

Washington, Special.—Representative W. W. Kitcher, of North Carolina, Governor-elect of his State, has forwarded to Governor Glenn his resignation as the representative from the fifth North Carolina district, to take effect January 14th. Mr. Kitcher will be inaugurated Governor January 12th.

Death of Moses H. Cone.

Greensboro, N. C., Special.—Moses H. Cone, known throughout the commercial world as a leader in the industrial development of the South, died suddenly Tuesday afternoon at 5 o'clock at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, where he had gone for treatment five weeks ago. He had been in ill health since his return from a trip around the world over a year ago, but few of his most intimate friends suspected that his condition was serious.

Will Welcome Battleships.

Washington, Special.—President Roosevelt will welcome the return of the battleship fleet to Hampton Roads from its cruise around the world about noon February 22d. Details for the occasion are now being worked out. Admiral Arnold, of the third squadron of the Atlantic fleet will meet home-coming ships well out in the Atlantic and escort them to Hampton Roads. After the review the men will go to New York and be given a shore leave.

Will Affect all Catholics.

Manitowick, Wis., Special.—Judge Calloway, in the county court declared the will of Thomas Callaghan void because he bequeathed money for masses for the dead. The court says no court could recognize such a provision. The will was contested on this ground alone. The case will be appealed. The testator was a Roman Catholic in the county.

NOTES FROM THE ORIENT.

Petroleum has been found in the Boonah district of Queensland, Australia.

An American engineer has discovered a deposit of wolframite in British India.

The water power system of the Tokio Electric Light Company has been completed at a cost of \$4,000,000.

Not less than 30,000,000 yen (\$15,000,000) is yearly spent by foreign visitors in Japan. Some estimates put the amount at 40,000,000 yen.

According to Vicroy Tuan Fang there are 1930 opium shops in the Shanghai foreign settlements, and he wants orders from Peking to close them.

Belgium is now importing yearly about 1,500,000 worth of automobiles, motor cycles and bicycles. These imports have quadrupled in four years.

From January 1 to December 28, 1907, Rangoon sent to the Straits Settlements and China 52,233 tons of rice, an increase of 44,000 tons over 1906.

Japan's exports in 1907 amounted to \$215,250,000, and the imports to \$247,100,000, a total foreign trade of \$462,350,000, or \$41,000,000 more than in 1906.

Parsee merchants have a monopoly of the manufacture of camphor oil at Foochow, China, controlling seventeen distilleries, and export most of the product to India.

Bangalore, Mysore State, India, was provided with electric lighting from the hydro-electric plant at Cauvery Falls at a cost of \$8333 a year, against \$4666 previously paid for kerosene oil lighting. The apparatus was made at Schenectady, N. Y., and installed by Americans.

The deficiency in the wheat area this season in India is 34.4 per cent, according to the Government forecast.

Mrs. Cornwallis West, who recently sharply criticized New York society, is about to visit that city.

Talk.

We are told that it is harder to make talk than it used to be. Yet talk was never cheaper than now.

Probably nothing has happened except what is all the time happening in every kind of manufacture—ancient processes have been superseded. A woman who, in this day and age, expects to make talk by hanging out her winter furs to air will most likely be disappointed. But what were she to drink cocktails and smoke cigarettes in the principal restaurants, or, if her womanly delicacy shrinks from that, to overdraw her husband at the bank to pay her losses at bridge?

We are so exacting a generation that almost any sort of worthy achievement is conditioned about as much on the employment of strictly modern methods, as on whole-hearted endeavor.—Puck.

FOREST RESERVES

One of the Most Urgent Needs of the Nation

THE DEMAND FULLY GONE OVER

Governors and Prominent Men From Every Section of the Country Appear Before the House Committee and Urge the Establishment of Forest Reserves.

Washington, Special.—A distinguished assembly of witnesses testified before the House committee on agriculture to the need of the Federal government establishing forest reserves in the White mountains and in the Southern Appalachians. It marked the opening of the fight in this session of Congress for the creation of these reserves to protect the navigability of navigable streams, a purpose which the committee conceded is constitutional.

Besides Governor Guild, of Massachusetts, who was the spokesman until he was compelled to leave the city and turn his duties over to Col. William S. Harvey, of Philadelphia, Governors Chamberlain, of Oregon; Ansel, of South Carolina; Hoke Smith of Georgia, and Johnson, of Minnesota, former Governors George E. Pardee, of California, and Blanchard, of Louisiana, and Dr. Edward Everett Hale, chaplain of the Senate, were among those who appeared. Chairman Scott, of the committee, said the committee appreciated the public sentiment in favor of the project but that the problem of obtaining the desired end was difficult.

Representative Scott explained that the House committee on the judiciary had questioned the constitutionality of action on the part of Congress looking toward the purchase of land for the conservation of forests whatever it might do toward protecting the navigability of the streams of the country.

Governor Guild, in responding, laid emphasis upon the ability of the general government to undertake projects for the general welfare of the country, so that the appeal come from all quarters of the nation.

It is probably the first time in history that the Governor of South Carolina and the Governor of Massachusetts have joined hand in hand to appeal to Congress for the enactment of law for the general welfare of the United States," said Governor Guild, as he bowed to Governor Chamberlain, of Oregon, and Governor Johnson, of Minnesota.

Conservation in the Southern Appalachian mountains necessitated the establishment of a reserve there, for the preservation of the navigability of the streams and the protection of the harbors. He gave it as his opinion that the crucial area to be purchased was the lower slopes of the mountains where the inclines are so steep and erosion so rapid that their use for agriculture is less important than the preservation of the streams.

Nine Injured by Bomb.

New York, Special.—Creeping over the roof to an air shaft in the five-story tenement at 373 Sixty-third street, a Black Hand agent dropped a bomb to the ground. The explosion that resulted was terrific. The walls of the building reeled and tottered, almost falling, and every window within a block or more was shattered. Nine people in the building and in the street were injured by the explosion of the bomb, some of them seriously, although it is not thought that any of them will die. It was a miracle that no one was killed outright. The police are investigating the case and they have come to the conclusion that the bomb dropping was the work of the same Black Hand agent who three years ago kidnapped the small son of an Italian banker, who owns and occupies a part of the building, and that the motive was revenge, the banker having refused to ransom his son. The bomb-thrower made good his escape, but the police believe that they have clues which may lead to his capture, or possibly to the breaking up of a Black Hand gang.

Every Citizen to Become a Soldier.

Washington, Special.—Every male citizen in the United States between the ages of 16 and 45 is to become a part of the military force of the country and to be liable for military duty under the terms of a bill, the passage of which has been recommended by the President in a special message to Congress. The bill provides an elastic organization and, as the President says, under its provisions it will be just as easy to raise an army of 2,500,000 as of 50,000.

Hale Succeeds Allison.

Washington, Special.—A largely attended caucus of Republican Senators unanimously elected Senator Hale, of Maine, as chairman of the Republican caucus to succeed the late Senator Allison, of Iowa. The position carries with it the chairmanship of the Republican steering committee of the Senate. Senator Hale's nomination was the only one before the caucus.

PALMETTO AFFAIRS

State News of Interest From Various Sections

TRIED TO EURN JAIL

Aiken Negro Makes Attempt to Escape.

Aiken, Special.—Will Blackwell, colored, was placed in the county jail Monday afternoon, charged with larceny of live stock. The case is a rather peculiar one. It is charged that last Thursday night Blackwell went to the place of Mrs. Alice Lamar, near Langley, and stole a milk cow. The cow was tracked for several miles the following day, but when the trail was lost, Magistrate David Bush was telephoned to and asked to be on the lookout for the cow and the thief. A few minutes after the telephone message was received, Mr. Bush saw the cow and the negro was leading her. He deputized a constable to arrest him. Blackwell explained that he had come across the cow in the road and that she had followed him off. He was placed in the Ellenton jail, and Saturday night, Magistrate Bush says, he tried to burn the jail and escape, and a large hole was burned in the house, but fortunately the fire did not get any headway.

Mill Children Entertained.

Ware Shoals, Special.—On the evening of Saturday, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin D. Riegel entertained 100 children employees of the Ware Shoals Manufacturing Company to a sumptuous roast turkey supper. The little folks enjoyed the feast of good things provided and their happy faces be-tokened the fact that all had done ample justice to the rich and varied menu provided by their kind host and hostess. Miss Frances Edmonston of Washington helped to make it pleasant for the children, while a company of local ladies and gentlemen acted as waiters upon the various tables. Several speeches were made by Mr. W. C. Cobb, Mr. F. J. Clark and others. Three hearty cheers were given by the children in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Riegel. Every child received a present of oranges, apples, candy and bananas before leaving for their homes. The event proved one of the happiest and most appreciated ever held in our town.

County Fair For Edgefield.

Edgefield, Special.—At a meeting of the citizens of Edgefield held here last week, a plan was adopted for an agricultural fair to be held in Edgefield, S. C., on the 1st of December, 1909. The fair is an assured fact.

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