

Scraps and Facts.

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The Yorkville Enquirer.



YORKVILLE, S. C. WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, 1901.

Judging from his Atlanta speech which, in that respect is like all his previous speeches, Senator McLaurin's principal concern is not the formation of a new party; but the progress and prosperity of South Carolina and the South.

If some of our would-be statesmen would only give some really intelligent study to the lien system, and make an earnest effort to reform it, they would eventually earn political preferment of a kind that seldom comes to the mere political trickster.

Tom Miller was in Washington last Friday, and according to a correspondent, in speaking of Senator McLaurin, he declared: "If he is a Democrat I am opposed to him; but if he is a Republican and so declares, then I am his supporter."

If the whole woof and warp of a political party be based on distribution of the public offices, as practically all of the partisan organs seem to think, we are unable to see the benefits that accrue to the rank and file that does the voting. The principal concern of the rank and file is not who holds the offices; but how the offices are administered. The public is benefitted not by what a public officer does for himself; but by what he does for it. These things should all be carefully considered by electors before they commence their shouting.

The Charleston Post has abandoned its half-hearted support of Senator McLaurin on the ground that it has all along been in favor of the organization of a decent Republican party in this state, and the appointment of Koester shows that to be impossible. If the Post has been deceived it has no right to blame Senator McLaurin, for he has told it plainly from the first that his affiliation was only with the more progressive Democratic element. He is not seeking to build himself up by the distribution of pap; but by pointing out what he thinks is for the best for South Carolina.

The Southern Express, on the Northern Central railway, was blown up by dynamite a short distance north of York, Pa., on last Saturday. The passengers were severely shocked, but none were seriously injured. The train was crossing the bridge when the dynamite exploded. It is believed to be the work of robbers. A piece of rail three feet long, was blown out of the track. Three coaches were derailed. Detectives from several points are on the trail of the robbers. A panic followed the explosion. It is supposed that the plans of the robbers were set for the Buffalo express. The spot where the wreck occurred is surrounded by high hills and is the most lonely locality between Baltimore and Harrisburg. The explosion occurred under the second coach and the force blew the headlight off the engine and broke all the glass. The robbers did not appear after the explosion.

Says a Sofia, Bulgaria, dispatch of November 16: The brigands who captured Miss Ellen Stone and Madame Talika have reduced the amount of ransom they demand to \$20,000 Turkish. Coincident with this intelligence is the information that the leaders of the band, if convinced that this is more than Mr. Dickinson will give, would accept \$15,000. Even this sum is greatly beyond the cash at Mr. Dickinson's disposal. Therefore unless the captors of the missionary further abate their demands there is no hope of an immediate settlement. An agent who is in touch with the brigands reports that they recognize they made a mistake in kidnapping Miss Stone. They would, however, consider it worse than a blunder to release her without an adequate ransom. There is no longer any fear regarding the brigands' intentions toward the captives. They declare themselves to be not robbers, but patriots, performing an obnoxious task in the interests of a holy cause. The majority of the kidnapers are peasants and farmers, directed by a secret committee to execute its decisions.

Washington dispatch of November 14: The second general memorandum on the cotton crop of the season of 1901-02, issued by the government of India, under date of October 16, states that the reports from the cotton growing districts, though not on the whole unfavorable, are not so good as for the same period last year. In the Punjab the area sown is now estimated at 1,074,100 acres, or about 12 per cent. below the exceptionally large area of last year. The late arrival of the monsoon and scarcity of rain account of the decrease. In the northwestern provinces and Oudh the area sown was estimated in the first forecast to be about 5 per cent. below the normal. The condition of the crop at the end of September varied from 75 to 85 per cent. of the average. In the central provinces the area is estimated at 1,007,857 acres,

or slightly below last year's actual area. The crop is generally backward, but the outlook for the whole province is expected to equal the estimate for last year. In Berar and Bombay the acreage is larger than last year. In other sections it is less and the crop is generally backward.

There was a prize fight between Gus Ruhlin, known as the "Akron Giant," and James Jeffries, the champion of the world, in San Francisco, last Friday night. The arrangements provided for a 20 round struggle; but at the end of the fifth round Ruhlin's seconds threw up the sponge, and admitted that their man was whipped. The sports were very much disgusted at the outcome and are inclined to look upon the affair as a farce. The gate receipts amounted to \$32,000. Zapata county, Texas, is reported to be in a distressing condition on account of crop failures and drought. Representative F. W. Seabury, in whose legislative district the county is situated, has written a letter to Governor Sayers in which he says that unless help is received from the outside, many people of the county will starve to death. Governor Sayers forwarded a check for \$500, and then issued a call for charitable subscriptions for the relief of the famine stricken section.

At the eighth annual convention of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, which was in session at Wilmington, N. C., last week, it developed that the sum of \$13,000 had been collected during the past year for the Jeff Davis monument. Including this amount, the monument committee now has \$38,000 in bank, and it looks like only a short way to the \$50,000 required. It has been definitely decided that the monument shall be in the form of an arch spanning Twelfth and Broad streets, Richmond, and the date of the unveiling was fixed at June 3, 1905.

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It appears that there is no foundation for the recently published statement to the effect that soldiers who are entitled to an additional bounty from the government.

The story was first published in the leading daily papers of the north about September 23, and in the South Carolina papers last week. It was to the effect that a Brooklyn lawyer had discovered an old law under which New York state was bound to pay each volunteer the sum of \$34, and that the United States was found to pay the sum of \$13.

Although rather vague in its original terms, it appears that as the information became more widely disseminated, it became more clarified until it had a shape something like this: Under the laws passed during the civil war, and which have never been repealed, all volunteers for active service are entitled to bounties of \$100, and that Attorney General Knox has about been convinced that such bounties must be paid.

As the result of the publication in South Carolina, Senator John L. McLaurin has received quite a number of inquiries for further information, and is sending out in reply a circular that has been prepared on the subject by F. E. Rittman, auditor of the treasury for the war department. A Yorkville soldier who has received one of these circulars from the senator has handed it to THE ENQUIRER for publication. After reviewing the whole matter, the circular winds up as follows: "Furthermore, no law has ever been passed by congress, granting any bounties whatever to any soldier for service in the late Spanish-American war of 1898 and 1899. Certain laws were passed, giving extra pay to such soldiers in certain cases, in lieu of a furlough or leave of absence. But in nearly all such cases the soldiers who were entitled to such pay have been paid it. It is only necessary to say, in conclusion, that there is no foundation whatever for any such statements as are set forth in said dispatch, as far as the United States is concerned, and it is hoped that those interested in this matter will not be induced to make useless inquiries or to file worthless claims on account of such misrepresentations."

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Fifteen grand jurors answered to their names upon the call of the panel, and a sixteenth came in before the jury retired to its room.

All of the petit jurors drawn for the first week, save one, were present, and no time was lost in proceeding with the business at hand. The grand jury general already been charged as to its general duties, his honor did not deem it worth while to give further instruction, and the work of passing upon bills of indictment was commenced forthwith.

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