

Scraps and Facts.

During Thursday Senator McLaurin, of South Carolina, introduced a bill providing that after the passage of the act, there should not be collected any duty upon pork, veal, mutton or beef imported into the United States from foreign countries.

but recently, this plan was changed and it was hoped to get the last away from Manila by the 1st of June.



YORKVILLE, S. C. SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 1902.

It is estimated that about 40,000 people attended the Dallas reunion this week. They went from all parts of the south with a few scattering representatives from northern and western states.

It seems to be pretty well settled that the house will not take up at this session the ship subsidy bill recently passed by the senate.

Quite an ugly scandal has grown out of the Cuban postal fraud cases in which Estes G. Rathbone and W. H. Reeves were sentenced to pay heavy fines and suffer long terms of imprisonment.

THE war department has given out the correspondence it has had with General Chaffee with respect to the outbreak on the island of Mindanao, and it looks as if the government has on its hands another war that will call for additional troops.

Judging from the press reports, after making due allowance for the bias of unreasonable partisanship, it is growing clear that the Republican majority at Washington is in a pretty thoroughly demoralized condition at the present time.

trust is a very wicked creature, we are inclined to think The Herald may be charging crimes against it of which it is not guilty.

MANNING WOOL PULLING.

By Telegraph to The Enquirer. MANNING, April 25.—There were about 2,000 people here today on account of the joint debate between Senators Tillman and Appelt.

Senator Appelt produced a half dozen affidavits from former employees of the penitentiary, all concerning coal crop and supplies furnished Senator Tillman from the penitentiary.

The main feature of Senator Tillman's speech was an argument that the whole primary system will become a failure and its objects defeated.

BIG YARN MILL TRUST.

Proposition to Combine 700,000 Southern Spindles. Over 100 men from six states, representing over 700,000 yarn spindles, met in Charlotte last Wednesday to hear the details of the proposition of F. L. Underwood, of No. 31 Nassau street, New York, who wishes to combine 60 per cent. or more of the southern yarn mills in a \$60,000,000 trust.

At a meeting in the forenoon, Mr. Underwood repeated his proposition, which is, in effect, that he will agree to pay to all of the yarn mill owners a price to be agreed upon by a committee to be selected by the mill owners.

Despite their vote, a number of mill men questioned the success of Mr. Underwood's plan. They maintain that it is a new thing and too big to be digested or sanctioned within a twelve-month.

McAdeen, president of the Southern Cotton Spinners' association, "but a trust or merger is necessary for their economic salvation."

MERE-MENTION.

Judge W. A. Hoke, of the North Carolina supreme court bench, has announced himself as a candidate to succeed U. S. Senator Pritchard.

SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS.

Just a Little Curious. Columbia special to News and Courier: The state dispensary has just issued a circular by which the prices on certain grades of "case goods" are reduced.

Will Cause Contention.

Spartanburg Journal: The State says of this newspaper's suggestion that Spartanburg should be made the seat of the court for the proposed new federal district for the northern part of the state.

Another McLaurin Story.

Spartanburg Journal, Thursday: A close friend of Senator McLaurin in this city says that if the proposed new federal court district is created for the state, the seat of the court should be in the Piedmont county.

South Carolina Tea and Silk.

Washington correspondence Columbia State: Among the items carried in the agricultural appropriation bill for next year, soon to be launched in the senate, are two of great importance to South Carolina, providing for investigations relative to tea culture and silk culture in the United States.

LOCAL AFFAIRS.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

H. C. Straus & Co.—Call the attention of their gentlemen friends to their lines of hats in fur, wool and straw, and claim to have the best assortment of hats that has ever been exhibited on this market.

ABOUT PEOPLE.

Mr. W. W. Boyce came over from Rock Hill, Thursday night, and returned yesterday. Mr. J. J. Hull, of Rock Hill, came over Tuesday afternoon to hear a portion of the testimony in the case of Mitchell vs. The Woodmen of the World.

WITHIN THE TOWN.

The K. M. M. A. boys are making their appearance in their summer uniform of khaki. The local harvester dealers are working hard to place their machines for the coming crop.

CIRCUIT COURT.

When THE ENQUIRER went to press last Tuesday afternoon, the court was engaged in the trial of the suit of Holiday & Cave, laundrymen, vs. T. T. Morrison, of Rock Hill. The issue was a disputed account. The jury found for plaintiff.

The published statement of the issues in the case of the Universal Publishing company against J. C. Wilborn, was summarized from the answer and complaint as filed by the contending parties. They seemed an account that the defendant had guaranteed.

The case of S. W. Mitchell vs. the Woodmen of the World was taken up next, and a full report of the contention, with a statement of the result, is published elsewhere in this issue. After the Mitchell case had been given to the jury on Thursday afternoon, shortly before 1 o'clock, the court took up the case of R. M. Allison vs. R. M. Whitesides.

North-Western railroad. This was a suit for \$1,500, the value of a kiln of brick, spoiled on account of the alleged failure of the railroad company to fulfill a contract. The plaintiff set up that he had made a contract with the defendant for an engine and ten cars to be used for hauling wood for 10 hours for \$55 and \$1.25 per car per hour for each hour over 10 hours.

The court, on yesterday morning, took up the case of W. C. Lattimer vs. the York Cotton Mills. Mr. Lattimer claimed that he had a contract to serve the York Cotton Mills as manager for its contemplated dry goods department for one year from March 14, 1901.

MITCHELL VS. THE WOODMEN.

Not for a long time, if ever, has the circuit court of York county been called upon to adjudicate a more novel contention than that taken up last Tuesday afternoon in the suit of Samuel W. Mitchell against the Woodmen of the World. The contention is novel in that it is believed to be the only one on record in which a secret society has been sued for injuries alleged to have been inflicted on a candidate for membership during initiation, and the lawyers are unable to find in published reports any rulings that are calculated to serve as a precedent for the guidance of the court.

The suit was brought by the plaintiff to recover \$25,000 for damages alleged to have been sustained by the plaintiff while being initiated into the order of the defendant, on the night of March 22, 1901. The plaintiff claimed that he had applied for admission as a sound, healthy man, and that as a result of his treatment during initiation, he sustained physical injuries to his person that could not be counterbalanced by any amount of money.

Dr. J. D. McDowell was put up by the plaintiff to testify as to the operation that had been performed. He said that he had been called in to see Mr. Mitchell after the initiation, and that he found the condition of the patient was such as to require an operation, which was performed with the assistance of Drs. M. J. Walker and C. C. Leech. He stated that the operation confirmed previous diagnosis, said that there were no visible bruises. He stated that the injuries were of a nature that may have been caused from the goat riding incident; but did not state that such was necessarily the case for the reason that the inception of the trouble may have antedated that event. Dr. Leech testified to having made a superficial examination of Mr. Mitchell after the initiation ceremonies, and to finding an abnormal condition that could have been produced in the manner alleged as well as in other ways.

ties were sworn to establish the fact that Mr. Mitchell had been initiated, and to describe the manner of initiation along with his treatment in connection with the goat riding and how he acted at the time and immediately afterward. They both told of the goat riding, described Mr. Mitchell as being good natured at first, and afterward angry, and stating that he would not be hurt for all the Woodmen in the world. Neither was positive that Mr. Mitchell had said at the time he was hurt. Both stated that he remained in the room during the balance of the exercises, lasting from a half to three-quarters of an hour, after the goat riding experience. They did not notice that Mr. Mitchell was in any special pain. They were quite positive, however, that Mr. Mitchell was in a high humor while the riding was in progress, and that he had urged the goat to "get up and go on."

Mr. S. W. Mitchell, the plaintiff, was the next witness. He stated that he was induced to make application to join the order on the invitation of Mr. W. T. Slaughter, and presented himself for initiation on the night of March 22, 1901, about 7.30 or 8 o'clock. The lodge room was on the upper floor of what is known as the "Wilkinson Building." After he had waited in an ante-room for a while, Sam Leech brought a handkerchief and told him that he must be blindfolded. He submitted, after the declaration that he was willing for whatever was right. He was led into the room with a man hold of each arm, and was brought to a sudden halt by another man pushing him in the breast. After being pushed about the room for an interval, to the very great amusement of the members, Dr. Ward said: "I have examined you as to your physical condition and general health, now I want to test your strength." With that the witness was placed at some kind of a contrivance and told to pull. He pulled with all his might, with the result that there was an explosion and a sharp blow behind from a paddle. After that he was told that he must ride the goat, and, as before, he said he was willing for whatever was right. Then the witness told of his experience on the goat. Still blindfolded, he was placed on the animal with his feet in the stirrups, and his hands on the reins. Then the animal began to rear and buck. He bounced up and down and fell backward and forward, while the Woodmen laughed and hollered. "They told me to 'sit up,' I said 'the devil; I can't set up.' [Laughter in the court room.] The animal kept bucking and pitching, and I said 'You hurt me.' They kept on, and I told them 'I didn't come here to join no fools; I came to join the Woodmen of the World.' If this is what it takes to join the 'Woodmen of the World, I have as much of it as I want. I would not be hurt this way for all the Woodmen of the World are worth." Witness did not know whether he got off the goat himself, fell off or was taken off; said he was in too much pain. After the goat experience, a lot of stuff was read to him; but he said he did not know what it was, because he could not give attention. He went on to say that after the lodge meeting was over, he went to his home, applied poultices and went to bed. He stated that he was confined to his room for three weeks before he was able to go out again or do any work. He described the pain as constantly growing more severe until a surgical operation became necessary.

The goat used in conferring the degree referred to was introduced in evidence. It was a wooden dummy, with a thick covering of black wool, made in pretty good imitation of the real animal, with genuine horns. The dummy was mounted on wheels and raised some four feet off the floor. There was a bride and stirrups, and extending from the rear was an iron bar terminating in cross handles for manipulation of the contrivance. The goat was identified as the same one that was ridden by Mr. Mitchell; but the witnesses all testified that there was a man on either side of Mr. Mitchell to hold him on. This, Mr. Mitchell denied. Major Hart bantered Mr. John W. Linley to ride the goat with the major as manipulator; but Mr. Linley declined the banter with an offer to ride under the manipulation of other gentlemen whom he named. His testimony showed that the goat was purchased by private subscriptions and figured only in a side degree not authorized in the ritual of the order.

Dr. J. D. McDowell was put up by the plaintiff to testify as to the operation that had been performed. He said that he had been called in to see Mr. Mitchell after the initiation, and that he found the condition of the patient was such as to require an operation, which was performed with the assistance of Drs. M. J. Walker and C. C. Leech. He stated that the operation confirmed previous diagnosis, said that there were no visible bruises. He stated that the injuries were of a nature that may have been caused from the goat riding incident; but did not state that such was necessarily the case for the reason that the inception of the trouble may have antedated that event. Dr. Leech testified to having made a superficial examination of Mr. Mitchell after the initiation ceremonies, and to finding an abnormal condition that could have been produced in the manner alleged as well as in other ways.

In reply, the defense put up Messrs. Sam Leech, Joe Leech, Dennis Whisonant, J. C. Root, Robert Westmoreland, J. K. Allison, J. W. Linley, W. B. Castles, Drs. T. S. R. Ward, W. G. White, W. M. Love, R. A. Bratton, Rev. J. L. Oates and others. Several witnesses were examined as to the manner of Mr. Mitchell's initiation, and while they testified that he had said something about being hurt, they did not remember that he had said he "had been hurt"; but that he "would not be hurt" for large considerations—"all the Woodmen in the world." With Professor Linley acting as rider, Messrs. Leech and Whisonant gave a practical demonstration of their manipulation of the goat, to the great amusement of the audience. The principal witness for the defense was Dr. T. S. R. Ward. He testified