

UP TO COMMISSION.

SHIPMERS ASK FREIGHT RATES INVESTIGATION.

Petition Alleges North Carolina Distributors Enjoy Advantages Over South Carolina Competitors.

Columbia, March 12.—Fight for a revision of freight rates in South Carolina was carried before the railroad commission yesterday, when a petition for hearing was filed by the State Freight Rate Association. Members of the commission said that a hearing on the petition would be held early in April.

The petition is filed against the following railroads: Acolu Railway company, Atlantic Coast Line railroad company, Augusta Northern Railway company, Bennettsville & Cheraw railroad, Blue Ridge Railway company, Branchville & Bowman railroad, Carolina, Clinchfield & Ohio Railway of South Carolina, Carolina & Western Railway company, Carolina & Northwestern Railway company, Central Railroad of South Carolina, Charleston & Western Carolina Railway company, Charlotte, Monroe & Columbia railroad, Chesterfield & Lancaster railroad, Columbia, Newberry & Laurens Railroad company, Due West Railway company, Georgetown & Western Railroad company, Greenville & Knoxville Railroad company, Hampton & Branchville railroad, Lancaster & Chester Railroad company, Marion & Southern railroad, Northwestern Railroad of South Carolina, North & South Carolina Railway company, Orangeburg railway, Pickens railway, Raleigh & Charleston railway, Seaboard Air Line railway, Seivern & Knoxville railroad, Southern Railway company, South Carolina Western railway, Union & Glenn Springs Railroad company, Ware Shoals railroad.

In the petition it is stated that the State Freight Rate association is a voluntary organization of shipping interests of South Carolina, having for its purpose "the matter of obtaining just, reasonable and non-discriminatory freight rates within the State of South Carolina."

"The rates applicable on intrastate traffic in the State of North Carolina are materially less than those operated by the same carriers on intrastate business in South Carolina," says the petition, "and such traffic in South Carolina is handled under conditions and circumstances more favorable to the transportation companies."

The railroad commission of South Carolina is petitioned to initiate an investigation upon its own motion to determine whether the interests of the citizens of South Carolina are not being encroached upon by the general reductions of freight rates in North Carolina, while increases are being made, it is alleged, in South Carolina.

Transportation conditions and other ratemaking factors, the petition says, would justify lower freight rates in South Carolina than in North Carolina.

It is contended by the petitioners that the freight produced in South Carolina for line haul movement, both interstate and intrastate, furnishes at present a greater revenue and a greater density of traffic than is furnished by North Carolina per mile of road.

It is claimed that the interstate rates from the West to points in South Carolina are materially greater than the rates from the same points to points in North Carolina.

The petition says that the interstate rates from points within this State to points in North Carolina are materially in excess of the rates applicable within the latter State on intrastate traffic, which therefore, by reason of the fact that the interstate rates from points in North Carolina to points in South Carolina being in a great many cases materially less than the intrastate schedule applicable between points in South Carolina, gives the distributing centres of North Carolina a material advantage, first as operating within that State as against the distributing centres in South Carolina and second, as operating in South Carolina as against the distributors in this State. The advantage, therefore, it is said, is in every way in favor of the North Carolina distributors.

In the event that the railroad commission does not see fit to make an investigation upon its own motion, the petitioners ask that the commission proceed in due form by fixing an early date for a hearing and in that manner enter into an investigation.

The petitioners lay particular stress upon the special investigation now being made by a separate commission of North Carolina into its intrastate rates, with a view of materially reducing them and say that if the South Carolina railroad commission does not, in view of the alleged advances in rates in South Carolina, take upon itself to initiate this complaint upon its own motion, the commercial interests of this State will be seriously handicapped.

The petition was filed with the railroad commission by B. E. McLeod.

WHO BURNED COLUMBIA.

LEVER PRESENTS BILL TO PAY \$150,000 CLAIM.

South Carolina Congressman Says United States Should Make Good Ursuline Nuns' Losses.

Washington, March 11.—Representative Lever introduced today a bill to direct the secretary of the treasury to pay to the Ursuline convent of Columbia \$150,000 for the destruction by fire of the convent by United States troops under Gen. Sherman on February 17, 1865. Mr. Lever also fled with the committee on war claims voluminous evidence, affidavits, documents, etc., in support of this bill.

Just now Mr. Lever is engaged in putting through the house of representatives the annual agricultural appropriation bill but as soon as this legislation is completed he will make a strong effort to have this claim receive favorable consideration.

Mr. Lever said that he was not particularly sanguine of success for it will mean the complete overruling of the prevalent excuse that Southern troops burned Columbia. He is making this fight not only because he feels the justice of this claim but also because he desires to vindicate the Southern troops and establish in this substantial manner the fact that Columbia was destroyed by the hands of Federal troops.

DARLINGTON ELEPHANT HUNT.

Huge Beast Roaming Through the Country Near Hartsville is Attacked and Killed by Large Party of Citizens—One Hundred Shots Fired.

Hartsville, March 11.—South Carolina's well established record for big game shooting was broken tonight when the biggest animal to be dispatched in this county in its history fell before the onslaught of a large party of well armed men. An exceedingly robust female elephant was the victim of the attack by citizens of the community armed with guns and other weapons.

The hunt and execution occurred about eight miles from Hartsville near the residence of C. C. Winburn. The mammal was killed about 9 o'clock after more than 100 shots had been fired into her body. The most violent excitement followed the announcement that a member of jungle's royalty was at large in the neighborhood. Wild rumors spread telling of damage done by the big beast and as they traveled they grew like Topsy and the snowball. Investigation indicates that no damage resulted for any but the unfortunate animal.

News of the chase and death of the elephant was brought to Hartsville late tonight by residents of the town who had viewed the remains.

The elephant is supposed to have escaped from a circus during a train wreck. The animal was first seen near the tracks of the Seaboard Air Line railway. The pursuers and defenders of the county's safety have not learned the name of the beast nor is information of her history available at this time.

GRADING COTTON AND GRAIN.

Lever Introduces Two Important Bills in House.

Washington, March 11.—The important bills for government inspection and grading of cotton and grain were introduced today by Congressman Lever and referred to the house committee on agriculture, of which he is chairman.

The measures authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to establish standard grades of grain and cotton and prohibit the interstate shipment of grain or cotton unless the grades by which they are sold conform to these standards. Shipment of grain or cotton under misleading designations is forbidden. Penalties are provided for violation of the laws and they carry an appropriation of \$300,000 for their enforcement the first year.

Mr. Lever said that both bills, while approved by the department of agriculture, are tentative in their nature and are proposed to provoke discussion and concentrate thought on the subject.

TIME LIMIT EXPIRES.

Reiha Forfeits Gas Franchise in Orangeburg.

Orangeburg, March 10.—The time limit for E. L. Reiha of Baltimore to put up his guarantee to construct a gas plant in Orangeburg has expired and he has thereby lost his franchise. It is rumored here that local capitalists are contemplating forming a company to erect a gas plant in Orangeburg. It is certain that Orangeburg needs a gas plant and it is hoped that this want will soon be filled.

Sumter is to have a busy spring. The horse show, the Chataqua, School Day, the Civic League Dog and Pony Show and other events will follow each other in rapid succession.

OPPOSE TOBACCO COUPONS.

PREMIUM SLIP MORE IMPORTANT THAN IT SEEMS.

Underwood's Proposed Prohibition of Practice Stirs Interest in Various Circles—Hearing Held in Washington.

Washington, March 11.—Representative Underwood's proposal to impose a prohibitive tax on premium coupons given away with tobacco and cigarettes today was the subject of a hearing to tobacco men from all over the country before the house ways and means committee. Representatives of the United Cigar Stores company, independent tobacco manufacturers and union labor were heard.

The independents urged the legislation on the ground that the coupons were destroying their business without benefiting the consumer, while coupon advocates declared they stimulated business and increased the government's revenues. William A. Coakley, representing photolithographers engaged in producing coupons and colored pictures, testified that 40,000 employes in that industry would be thrown out of employment.

John W. Yerkes of Washington, representing the Independent Tobacco Manufacturers' association; Chas. Dushkind of New York city, representing the Independent Retail Tobacco association of America; E. C. Berriman and Isaac Lipson of Chicago, representing numerous retail cigar dealers' associations, protested that the so-called Tobacco trust manufacturers were monopolizing the business under the stimulus of the coupon scheme and that it was dealing a death blow to their industry. They said it was impossible for the independents to compete with the United Cigar Stores company and its allies with their string of 900 or more stores throughout the country.

TOMATO WORKERS TO MEET.

Girls' Club Agents From Twenty-four Counties Are Called Into Conference.

Plans for the girls' tomato club work in South Carolina in 1914 will be discussed at a conference of the county agents to be held at Winthrop college March 24 to 27, according to a letter received in Columbia from Miss Edith L. Parrott, State agent.

Miss Parrott states that the work has been organized in 24 counties and that agents from every county will be present.

Several speakers have been invited to deliver addresses at the meeting, among them being Commissioner Watson of the State department of agriculture, who will speak on the future of the tomato club work in South Carolina.

It is expected that more than 3,000 young girls will be enrolled in the work in South Carolina this year.

CONFERENCE ON CONTRACTS.

Cotton Interests to Discuss Objections to Forms.

Augusta, Ga., March 11.—At a meeting of the Augusta cotton exchange today at noon plans were put into effect which it is intended shall lead to a world conference of cotton interests, to be held here in May, to definitely settle the question of objection to the present form of New York cotton exchange contracts. In addition to representatives of all the cotton exchanges in the South, and the large cotton interests, a delegation is to participate in the conference representing the New York cotton exchange and the importing interests in Liverpool, Bremen and Havre will be requested to send representatives from each of these points.

This action was decided on at noon today by the local exchange, in lieu of adopting resolutions, such as a number of exchanges have adopted, condemning the New York contracts, and passing the resolutions on to the congressmen and senators from the several States in which they were expected to be adopted.

The matter was taken up with the New Orleans exchange this afternoon and another meeting is to be held here tomorrow to fix the date in May for the gathering and close up the preliminary arrangements.

SIX MONTHS FOR SUFFRAGETTE

Woman Who Destroyed Velasquez Painting Sentenced.

London, March 12.—For slashing the famous painting "Venus" by Velasquez, Mary Richardson, the militant suffragette was today sentenced to six months imprisonment. The prisoner is defiant and declares she will begin a "hunger strike."

It has been suggested that certain kinds of timber on the national forests be reserved for the needs of the navy. This recalls the fact that the first forest reservations in this country were made for naval material.

ON TO MEXICO.

GEN. VILLA SENDS 5,000 MORE MEN TO TORREON.

Attack Will be Made With Ten Thousand Men, A Hundred Cannon and Machine Guns—City Expected to Fall Within a Week—Opening Road to Capital—Federals Deserting to Rebels.

Chihuahua, March 12.—Gen. Villa has started five thousand more troops to Torreon, which he expects to capture within a week, and from there he will march to Mexico City.

Constitutionalists will attack Torreon with ten thousand men, a hundred cannon and machine guns and will use an armored motor truck carrying six machine guns.

The rebels claim that the federals are deserting to the rebels by hundreds.

"SPRING MAID REVUE."

(By the Ad Man)

"Where are you going my pretty maid?"

"To the Ladies' Outfitting Company, Sir," she said.

And she went—they all did, and lots of men folks too, to see the big fashion event. Everybody was happy and in a good humor, probably Manager John D. Lemmon and his capable co-worker, Mrs. L. Atkinson, being just a little bit happier than anyone else, owing to success of their undertaking. And it was a big success, there's no doubt of that. One had only to listen to the countless expressions, such as "Oh, how precious," "too cute for anything" (but me) "darling" "dear" and a few more like numbers to realize that the fair sex were simply "dickled to death" over the things they saw at the big fashion show last night. Well, who wouldn't be tickled with the new spring headgear. And the idea of Manager Lemmon in having living models—it was great, sure. Didn't they look pretty, though, kind of made the "Fisher's" on the magazine backs look pale in comparison, eh? Well, they certainly were beautiful costumes and—pardon the levity, "nitty lids." The spring apparel in the dress line is "all new" this year. Of course the bodices have the usual "frilly frilly" appearance with very low "V," but the skirts are mostly flounced, most of them with two or three circles of frills. And the hats well you saw them, so of course you know how they look, low crowns, mostly, with the proper decorations around the brim, and some of them have extremely long wavy plumes to give the "piquant touch." Yes, even to the folks who weren't educated into the mysteries of feminine styles the fashion display last night, enhanced by the appearance of the beautiful living models, presented a spectacles well worth viewing, and Manager Lemmon should feel well pleased with the big hit his opening made.

During the evening delightful music on the "Victrola" was furnished by the Sumter Victrola Company, and this was a part of the program much enjoyed.

Then, of course the refreshments must not be forgotten. Those folks who doubt just how good coffee and tea can be, had those doubts all dispelled when they had a "helpin" of "Chase and Sanbourn's" from the charming little Japanese maiden in attendance at the refreshment booth.

Pesides the refreshments, Messrs. Levy and Moses, the pure food grocers, gave away dainty souvenirs, fans and Jap dolls. Their exhibit was in charge of Messrs. Julian and Waverly Levy and F. O. Lawson, of the company, and Miss Bowen.

The entire store of the Ladies' Outfitting Company was appropriately decorated for the occasion, and especially attractive was the "Apple Blossom" window, which betokened the annual arrival of the "Spring Maid."

RECOVERING THE DEAD.

Firemen Still Searching Ruins of St. Louis Club House.

St. Louis, March 12.—Two more bodies were recovered from the ruins of the Missouri Athletic Club today, bringing up the number of known dead to twelve. Fire Chief Swingley believes that twenty more dead are in the ruins.

Two more bodies badly decomposed were found later today, making a total of fourteen bodies. The bodies were unrecognizable.

Attractive Show Windows.

Joseph M. Chandler, the South Main street clothier has greatly added to the attractiveness of his show windows by having a handsome lettered border in gold and black engraved on the glass. The display in the windows is well worth noticing also, and the decorator shows a decided knowledge of how to attract the eye of mankind.

NEARING THE CRISIS.

MOVEMENT OF TROOPS TO MEXICAN BORDER SIGNIFICANT OF INTERVENTION.

Belief in Washington is That Situation is Approaching a Crisis—United States Will Have Eighteen Thousand Regulars on Rio Grande—Machine Guns Being Sent to Mexico City to Protect American Legation.

Washington, March 12.—Official reports to the war department today showed that the orders to rush the Ninth and Seventeenth regiments to the Mexican border were being rapidly complied with. The United States will then have 18,000 troops within striking distance of Mexico. The belief is current here that the Mexican situation is approaching a crisis.

Confidential dispatches state that machine guns are being sent to Mexico City to protect the American legation.

The hope that Gen. Carranza and the constitutionalist army would be able to restore peace in Mexico is gradually fading.

The new regiments sent to the border will be assigned to patrol duty at Laredo and Eagle Pass. The cavalry will be shifted further west.

"These are all the troops the department contemplates moving at present," said Secretary of War Garrison today.

STUCKEY BILL NOT NECESSARY.

Board of Control Applying Rigorous Tests for Inferior Materials.

Clemson College, March 11.—That the "Stuckey Bill," which sought to prevent the use of inferior materials in the manufacture of fertilizers, was unnecessary is the statement of H. M. Stackhouse, secretary of the State Board of Fertilizer Control. Mr. Stackhouse said, speaking of the bill, that the board two years ago anticipated the need of such protection to buyers and required an availability of new ammoniate materials about equal to cotton seed meal, blood, fish, etc. Mr. Stackhouse said that the board was already doing what the "Stuckey Bill" would have required and was doing it in a more economical and practical way.

"As the use and sale of commercial fertilizers grew," continued Mr. Stackhouse, "the supply of these ammoniates would not meet the demand, except at prohibitive prices, and manufacturers began to introduce and to use some that were considered inferior and objectionable. Under the general name of 'tankage,' a slaughter-house by-product of triad and well recognized agricultural value, they began to use any tank-rendered nitrogenous material.

"The chemists of this and other stations tells us that some of these products can be treated with sulphuric acid and made soluble ammoniates just as ground prosphate rock so treated becomes soluble acid phosphate; and some experiments in the field at the South Carolina Experiment Station here gave satisfactory results. But the Board of Control served notice on manufacturers who offered for sale in this State such materials that they must explicitly register such use, accompanied by a certificate of analysis by some reputable chemist that they had the required availability as plant-food. The laboratory at Clemson College then tests all mixed fertilizers for the standard required and 'blacklists' and publishes for the information of buyers any fertilizers found below standard.

"These new ammoniates cost less to the manufacturers, who should be willing to share this difference with the consumers, and this fact is leading to much of the agitation in favor of home-mixing. To meet this demand, the department has issued two bulletins giving instructions and all sorts of formulas for mixing at home, which may be had on application to Clemson College."

Mr. Stackhouse also stated that the inspectors are required to weigh packages of fertilizers which they inspect, especially all that have the appearance or are suspected of weight below that branded on the packages. Only one such shipment so far, of twelve tons, has been reported this season, which when weighed out by the inspector was found short 2,344 pounds. Upon request the manufacturer promptly adjusted and made restitution to the buyer, as provided by law. Farmers, said Mr. Stackhouse, may rest securely in the knowledge that the board is protecting them from fraud of every sort in the purchase of fertilizers.

Engagement Announced.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Shelby have announced the engagement of their daughter, Katherine Etta, to Mr. Ernest Harrison Rhame, Jr., the wedding to take place at the home of the bride's parents at 14 East Calhoun Street, Wednesday evening March 18th at 8:30 o'clock.

STATE HOSPITAL BOARD MEETS

HOLD EXECUTIVE SESSION DURING MORNING.

Will Meet Again Tonight—Reported Gov. Blease Appeared Before Board and Made Statement, Nature of Which is Kept Secret.

Columbia, March 12.—The board of regents of the State Hospital for the Insane were in session all morning and are scheduled to meet again this afternoon at 4 o'clock. The board met in executive session so far as the public was concerned.

It is understood that Gov. Blease appeared early today before the board and made a statement, the exact nature of which could not be obtained this afternoon. It is stated that unless some understanding is reached, Gov. Blease will take action with regard to appointments, and this was known to mean that there is a possibility that Dr. Jas. W. Babcock will leave the institution. In the event that Dr. Babcock leaves the State hospital, it is expected that the resignation of Dr. Eleanor B. Saunders will also be accepted.

No statement was made early this afternoon by any member of the board with regard to the meeting.

TEXAS READY FOR SERVICE.

The Most Formidable Battleship in the World in Commission.

Newport News, March 12.—The giant super-dreadnaught Texas, the most powerful battleship afloat in the world, left the yards of her builders today and sailed for Norfolk to be turned over to Rear Admiral Fisher.

The officers and crew have already been assembled and the vessel is ready to be placed in commission.

The Texas is five hundred and seventy-three feet long and has a beam of ninety-five feet. The 10 12-inch monster guns, arranged in five turrets, all on the central line from stern to stern are so placed that they can be fired over each other.

INSTITUTE MASONIC LODGE.

Claremont Lodge Officers Install Officers at Mayesville.

Utopia Lodge, No. 203, Ancient Free Masons, was instituted at Mayesville last night by lodge officers of Claremont Lodge No. 64, of Sumter, with Geo. C. Warren as Worshipful Master. The event was one of much interest to Masons locally and at Mayesville and throughout this section.

There were seven Masons in the party which went over from Sumter, including the chair officers of Claremont Lodge. They first instituted the new lodge at Mayesville, after which the officers were installed. These were Messrs. Geo. C. Warren, Worshipful Master; R. L. Grier, Senior Warden; L. C. Tisdale, Junior Warden; J. W. Montgomery, treasurer; J. E. Goddard, secretary; T. L. Kahn, Senior Deacon; W. T. LaCoste, Junior Deacon; Charles Richardson, Tiler; J. W. Thames and E. S. McCoy, Stewards.

The lodge was instituted under most auspicious circumstances and amid much enthusiasm. After degree work had been conferred by the members of Claremont Lodge, an oyster supper was served by the lady friends on the members of Claremont Lodge.

An interesting circumstance connected with the institution of the lodge is the fact that the grandfather of Mr. Geo. C. Warren, the worshipful master, Mr. Louis Warren, was the first worshipful master of a lodge instituted at Mayesville before the War of Secession. The charter of the former lodge was relinquished several years after the war.

INCREASE RANGER FORCE.

Texas Governor Says Step is Taken Without Consulting Federal Authorities.

Austin, Texas, March 12.—"The Texas ranger force will be increased and the president or any government authorities at Washington are not to be consulted," declared Gov. Colquitt today. "I shall take whatever steps I deem necessary to afford protection to lives and property along the border," said the governor.

DEPOSED OFFICIAL TESTIFIES.

Man Charged with Embezzlement Tells Story to Jury.

Montgomery, March 12.—James Oakley, the deposed president of the State convict board, charged with complicity in the embezzlement of hundred thousand dollars of State funds, told his story to the jury today. He admitted receiving money from persons, but said that they had previously given him money to deposit and thought this was from that fund.