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THE GASTONIAN

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MR. A. J. SMITH WILL NOT STAND FOR REELECTION.

On Account of Health Feels Like He Would Not be Able to Make the Race.

Politics are beginning to warm up in the county since the Republican convention and since the two gentlemen have announced their candidacy for the State Senate.

The latest development is the fact that Register of Deeds A. J. Smith will not stand for re-nomination in the coming primaries. Mr. Smith's health has not been good for some time and he recently went to Philadelphia where he consulted a specialist and in view of what he learned has decided that it would be unwise for him to make the race. Mr. Smith has held the office of Register of Deeds for twelve years and there is very little doubt but that he could have secured the nomination if he had so desired. He has made a faithful officer and is very popular and the man who ran against "Andrew Jackson" (as his close acquaintances affectionately designate him) always knew he had been in a race and had come out second best. Always affable and courteous he made friends with everyone with whom he came in contact, and he will be missed when he turns his office over to his successor, whoever it may be.

This leaves the field open for a new man and already there is talk of those who will likely make the race.

Mr. Smith has issued the following card to the voters of the county: To the Democratic Voters of Gaston County:

I hereby announce that I will not be a candidate for re-nomination to the office of Register of Deeds at the coming Democratic primaries. I wish to express to the voters of the Democratic Party of the county my appreciation for their loyal support in the past and assure them that I will give my best efforts to the party.

... signed a ... try-out ... the Baltimore ... team when it comes south for training within the next month. The International league is but a shade lower than the American and National baseball leagues.—Yorkville Enquirer.

Today's program failed to come at the Broadway but Mr. Beard made special arrangements to have a special program here this afternoon and will start the show at 3 o'clock. Tuesday Mr. Beard will show the "Smugglers of Santa Cruz," a 3 reel special on a "Sanatorium Scramble." Wednesday will be a feature day in the Gastonia movie history, showing Wm. Clifford in a Five Reel Mutual called "The Bait." This is an animal picture enacted by the Bostock Animal Co.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Gastonia Insurance and Realty Company was held last Thursday afternoon in the company's office in the Realty building. The reports of the officers showed that the past year had been a good one. The following were elected as directors: W. T. Rankin, R. G. Rankin, O. F. Mason, A. E. Moore, J. K. Dixon, T. W. Wilson, S. M. Robinson, R. R. Ray, E. B. Brittain. The directors elected the following officers: President and treasurer, W. T. Rankin; vice-presidents, A. E. Moore and R. G. Rankin; secretary, E. B. Brittain. A semi-annual dividend of six per cent was ordered paid.

Friday night inside the town of Cherryville Deputy Sheriff G. Lee Beam captured two negroes, two mules, a buggy and six gallons of blockade whiskey. A mail carrier had noticed these two negroes going out a certain way quite often and he put the officer onto it. So Friday night they lay for them to come back and when they did they arrested them and it proved to be Jim Crawford and John Burris. They had the whiskey in jugs an dalso had a jug of "backings." They were brought here and given a hearing before Squire S. S. Morris and by 12 o'clock were safe in jail under a \$100 bond for their appearance at the next term of court. As usual in such cases the outfit was mortgaged.

Spartanburg, Feb. 25.—Mr. C. C. Wyche, of the local bar has announced candidacy for the office of lieutenant governor of South Carolina. Mr. Wyche has always been a supporter of former Governor Bleas.

GASTON COUNTY NEGROES ELECTROCUTED FRIDAY.

George Poston and Ernest Lowry Pay Penalty for Murder of Grant Davis—Go to Death After Making Full Confession.

Raleigh, Feb. 25.—George Poston and Ernest Lowry, Gaston county negroes, were executed in the electric chair this morning at the state prison, Warden S. J. Busbee officiating for the second time and in the second double electrocution that the state has ordered.

Poston was the 24th and Lowry the 25th victim, 22 of these having been put to death by Warden T. P. Sale, who died four weeks ago as he finished the first double function as warden. Both men confessed without effort to assign blame to anybody else the crime of murder for robbery, their victim being Grant Davis, an old negro of Gaston.

Poston elected to die first. "I want to go to heaven and prepare a place for Ernest," he said to Warden Busbee. The crudeness of the poor blade that enabled him, much the worse of the two to believe that his five minute priority gave him ample opportunity to set the celestial house in order appealed to the tenderness of the Warden and Poston was first shocked.

He was the younger of the two, just 22 and married. A few minutes before going to the chair he dictated a message to his wife. He came to the chair with one guard attending him and two negro Episcopal ministers comforting him. The frequency of the executions recently must have worn on the nerves of the attendants. They have not before experienced such difficulty in arranging the harness that holds a helpless victim to the chair while the dynamo feeds life into their bodies. Poston

... Mich ... entered he ... at the crowd ... little octagonal room and with a broad smile waved his hand in salute and said: "Well, gentlemen, I'll tell the world I'm going to God. I'm going home to die no more." Lowry was luckier in the wait for the current. The attendants strapped him to the chair and in a moment the heavy leathers were creaking to hold him in place. One application ended his life.

Lowry was a powerful man, about six feet three inches tall and a bony man of weight, about 200. The electrical apparatus which was apparently not performing its best in the light of the huge blisters raised, however, found him with less resistance than Poston. Both men were considerably seared.

One of the witnesses found himself too overcome to witness it after entering the death chamber. Wilcox put in the switch and the humming of the giant dynamo sang a song too doleful for him. Many of the strangers to the function thinking the horse laugh in order, administered it. The fellows who have been seeing them all die applauded the spectator's show of heart.

Poston and Lowry were young men, Lowry being 23 and a year older than Poston. They explained their murder of Grant Davis as growing out of his selling liquor and "bragging about his money." After Poston had heard the old man several times he and Lowry arranged to get some of it. They caught him one Sunday in March and asked him for some liquor. While Lowry stood in front of Davis, Lowry winked and Poston struck him with a big stick. It felled Davis but he arose and Poston struck him harder this time. Lowry took his money, about \$280 and Poston said: "You are just as much in this as I am; you must hit him." Lowry then used the club. They dragged Davis off, hid him and it was three days before he was found. In the meantime they became rightened and fled to Atlanta. They were suspected and brought back. Their confessions, coupled with their suspicious conduct, convicted them.

A short while before going to the chair Lowry wrote a letter to R. G. Cherry of Gastonia, a faithful attorney. The letter is in such indecipherable scrawl as to make its reading impossible. Neither man had any education. Both left wives, Poston having one child and Lowry two.

Lowry's wife, with a baby barely able to walk and another younger, managed to gather money enough to come here to see him. She presented

SITES SELECTED FOR NEW SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

Dilling Property in East Gastonia and Wesley Bradley Land in West Gastonia for \$4,000 and \$3,000 Respectively.

The committees appointed by the board of Aldermen to select sites for new school buildings to be erected in the east and west ends of the city reported to the Board at a call meeting Thursday night, and as a result the T. Wesley Bradley property was purchased for the west end school and the Dilling Property for the building in the east end of the city.

The Bradley property is on Second avenue, west of the Loray mill, 400x300 feet and the price paid was \$3,000. The East Gastonia site was purchased from the Gastonia Insurance & Realty Co., and lies on the north side of Ozark street, between Modena and Ozark Mills, also a lot offered by the Modena Mills, adjoining it which makes the tract 251x346 feet, and the price was \$4,000.

Another site in East Gastonia offered was the Modena Ball Park by H. B. Parker. He offered it in three different sizes and price. This site was favored by two school committees on the committee, Messrs. A. E. E. Woltz and H. B. Moore, but the school committee have no voice in the matter when it comes down to a decision, the City Council having that privilege.

The Loray Mill offered what is known as Loray Park free of charge to the city, to remain the property of the city as long as it was used for school or municipal purposes.

The Bradley property was offered by Mr. C. W. Boyd, located west of Linwood street, for \$2,000.

A lot on the corner of Second avenue and Linwood street was offered by Messrs. Will Bradley and C. W. Boyd, for \$1,600.

... account ... fire originated ... second floor of the Tulloch store in a rear room, which was unoccupied and was discovered by Dr. T. E. Baisley at about 5 o'clock. Dr. Baisley gave the alarm. The flames had already gained strong headway and when the firefighters reached the scene the department saw that they had a tough job before them.

Tulloch's stock of goods was practically destroyed and the interior of the beautiful Princess theatre ruined. The Piedmont Cigar company's factory, which was located on the front of the second story over Tulloch's store was also burned out and its stock of tobaccos and cigars was completely ruined. By splendid work the buildings were saved, although very badly damaged.

Mr. Tulloch was only partially insured. He estimates his insurance will only cover about 50 per cent of his actual loss.

N. C. Jones had \$4,000 insurance on his theatre. He estimates the damage at about \$6,000. His plans are to begin work as early as possible to rebuild this popular playhouse.

Entire Family Wiped Out When Fire Destroys Home.

Roanoke, Va., Feb. 25.—James L. Taylor, a farmer near Newport, Giles county, Va., losing his life together with his wife, two daughters and an aunt, when their home was destroyed by fire yesterday morning between 4 and 5 o'clock. Cause of the blaze is not known. The fire was discovered by a neighbor a quarter of a mile away, but when persons reached the scene the building which was built of logs and weatherboarding, had been reduced to ashes. Two skulls were found in the ruins which are thought to be all that is left of the family of five. This information was received here over long distance telephone late today. E. E. Eppling, a farmer living a quarter of a mile from the scene, was the first to discover the fire, said he saw a "light" between 4 and 5 o'clock while he was getting up.

The aunt was 80 years old.

herself and babies personally to Governor Craig and the governor has not set eyes upon pity better incarnated. A purse will be made up to send her home. She counts upon Lowry's uncle to defray the expenses of a burial among his own people. Poston sent a letter to his wife and signed it: "Your devoted husband." He also left photographs very recently taken.

PASSENGER LINER RAMMED OFF DIAMOND SHOALS.

Liner Cretan, After Being Rammged Plugged the Hole and Made Newport News Under Own Steam.

Newport Nws, Feb. 25.—The Merchants' and Miners' liner Cretan, damaged in a collision off Diamond Shoals about 2 o'clock this morning when rammged by the steamer Dorothy, arrived here this evening with a gaping hole in her port bow, and went to the shipyard for repairs. The steamer came in under her own power and was in no danger of sinking, the cargo having been shifted to the starboard and the hole plugged up with boards, cement, packing and all other available material.

Captain Wood said that the Dorothy now is somewhere in Hampton Roads and her master contemplates landing the passengers at Old Point tonight. Capt. J. B. Wood, master of the Cretan declined to discuss the accident.

"It is against the rules of the company and I don't dare to for it may mean a great deal later on."

Captain Wood, according to a member of the Cretan's crew was on the bridge when the ships collided. Which of the steamers was at fault cannot be ascertained. Members of the Cretan's crew assert that the Dorothy loomed up through the fog and struck the Cretan on the port bow in less time than it takes to tell it. "Had the Dorothy not been light she would have sent us to the bottom," said a member of the Cretan's crew tonight. As it was she rammged a gaping hole above the Cretan's water line. The passengers were asleep and the shock brought them from their beds. Consternation reigned for a short time and the life boats were made ready.

"The officers succeeded in calming the passengers and when it was found that the Cretan was not as seriously damaged as first supposed the passenger ship Dorothy was towed in by a revenue cutter (the Onondaga.)

"I heard the master of the Dorothy request that a tug meet him at Old Point in order that the passengers might be landed."

Sued for \$264 and Lost—The Cost Was \$40.

Newton, Feb. 24.—Advices from Rev. V. L. Fulmer, pastor of the Newton Lutheran church, received today state that his youngest sister died and was buried yesterday, following fearful burns sustained at her home at Chapin, S. C., early Monday morning. The child was passing before an open fire, and was alone. Her clothing caught and she ran into an adjoining room where her sisters were, and the flames put out, but not before they had burned her fatally. She lingered until Tuesday morning. Mr. and Mrs. Fulmer were called to Chapin by wire Monday.

The campaign for 25 cents on the poll and 75 cents on the poll, to supplement the school tax in the county is progressing favorably and the outlook is that it will carry.

In casting up bills of costs following the recent term of Superior court the clerk finds that a case in which \$2.64 was the bone of contention, the costs amount to \$40. D. J. Fry sued J. C. Matthews for the small sum, alleging it to be an account owed. He lost the case and must pay the expenses. Besides, there are the fees of the attorneys.

Bought Race Horse Cheap

Smithfield, Feb. 24.—Some time ago there came a horse trader to Smithfield and sold several horses at public auction. One of these was bought by John A. Narron for \$125. The new owner soon discovered that he had a rare find in his horse and had him trained. The other day he refused an enormous sum for the animal. He has won a number of races and the horse keeps improving. Smithfield horse lovers are on the lookout for this Kentucky trader again.

C. & N.-W. Engine Derailed.

Hickory, Feb. 25.—A broken flange caused the derailment of the engine of southbound C. & N.-W. train No. 9, a short distance this side of Mortimer this morning and Engineer Bob Smyre, and his negro fireman John Henderson, were slightly injured. None of the passengers were injured. Northbound passenger train No. 10 turned around at Lenoir and proceeded back to Chester on No. 9's schedule.

NEWS OF CURRENT EVENTS.

N. C. Jones, for eight years treasurer of McDowell county, is dead.

Senators Cummins of Iowa and Burton of Ohio, have filed notices in Iowa and Ohio, respectively, of their candidacies for the Republican presidential nomination.

The Newton Enterprise is 37 years old and Editor Williams has been on the job for 35 years. The Enterprise is a good paper. Long life and prosperity to parper and editor. The Enterprise is soon to install a linotype.

Editor Wade H. Harris, of the Charlotte Observer has been selected to address the State Medical Society, at its annual meeting in Durham in April on the subject "The Newspaper and Public Health."

Frank Parker of Raleigh has been appointed government crop reporter for North Carolina, succeeding Col. John S. Cunningham. Col. Cunningham, it is said, will be assigned to a more important post.

A report comes from Dahlonga, Ga., that three men were drowned in an old well into which Federal revenue officers, after destroying an illicit still, had dumped a quantity of sour mash from which whiskey is made. The men fell into the well, it is said, while trying to get some of the mash.

Approximately 10,000 persons mostly negroes, in the flooded district of northern Louisiana, are in need of assistance, according to official reports. The negroes who conduct their own farms are reported to be suffering most, while comparatively few white planters are able to care for their tenants.

The total resources of all the national banks in the United States which reported to the Comptroller of the Currency at the end of 1915, aggregated thirteen and a half billion dollars, an increase for the year of more than two billions. The number of banks increased by 25. The deposits were \$1,750,000,000.

Under the charge, Wilson, Corrie potatoes on Sunday. Their potato was that necessary to gather the potatoes that day, as weather threatened to ruin the crop, and the Supreme Court held the excuse valid.

The Supreme Court has affirmed the judgment of the lower court in the case of Ward, administrator, vs. Morehead Seafood Company. A man died after eating mulllets put up by the company and it was alleged that he was poisoned by the food. Suit was brought for damages by his administrator and the jury gave \$5,000 damages. This the Supreme court affirms.

Forsyth Girl Champion Pig Raiser.

The honor of champion pig raiser for North Carolina for the year 1915 goes to Miss Rachel Speas of Forsyth county, who lives on Route 5, Winston-Salem. Miss Speas took the sweepstakes prize at the State fair last fall, but the honor was not awarded until the cost of production could be ascertained and all points both of judging and cost of raising considered. The hog which copped the honors was raised at a cost of \$26.92. The animal cost \$10 when taken from the litter. For feed \$10.85 was spent, labor \$4.64, pasturage 43 cents. The assessors have placed on the animal now a value of \$50. As a prize the winner receives a cream separator of standard make, which is worth \$50.

Explosion of Gasoline Kills Two Men and Injures Ten Others.

Boston, Feb. 24.—The fishing schooner Mary C. Santos, with 23 men on board, was blown up in the harbor by an explosion of gasoline today. Harry Fisher and Prescott Bent were killed and 10 others of the crew were injured. The schooner sank soon after a rescue fleet of tugs and dories had taken off those of the crew who had escaped injury.

Outward bound for her home port, Provincetown, the schooner had stopped off a fish pier in South Boston to take on gasoline. Several cans had been taken aboard when the explosion occurred.

Three Guards to Be Put On Trial.

Salisbury, Feb. 25.—The three guards who were in charge of the 31 convicts, seven of whom escaped while passing through this vicinity last week, are to be tried in Rowan county court tomorrow. The charge is that the men allowed the prisoners to escape. District Solicitor Hayden Clement will prosecute the case. Supt. J. S. Mann, of the State Prison will attend the trial.

SAYS WHISKEY IS EASY TO GET IN CHARLOTTE.

Correspondent of Baltimore Sun Says It is Sold in Leading Drug Stores and Bellboys Get it Easily in the Hotels—Would Make Good Witness for Grand Jury.

There is a state wide prohibition bill before the Maryland legislature and the Baltimore Sun has sent Mr. J. H. Adams, as a representative to the different prohibition states in order to see how the law worked. He visited Charlotte in this State and reported it as dry as Sahara. He said in his article that he tried to buy a drink at several places. His report was very favorable to the prohibitionists and spoke very well of our sister city.

In Saturday's Sun the following communication appeared in the letters, the writer evidently being an anti, and onto the ropes. The gentleman would likely be as dumb as an oyster if he was brought before a grand jury, which is likely to be done, because the prohibitionists of Charlotte are a pretty live bunch, and are backed by an aggressive solicitor. The communication is as follows:

To the Editor of The Sun:—I have read with a great deal of interest your article written by one of your staff, with reference to prohibition and its success in North Carolina, and especially in the city of Charlotte. I am at a loss to know just how your representative could have written such an article in the face of existing conditions at Charlotte, in the light I have been able to see them.

While I am a native Baltimorean, I have been a resident of Charlotte for two years past, and am frank to admit that I have never seen the time in Charlotte or any other city in North Carolina where a drink of whiskey or beer could not be obtained if one wanted it. I have seen the beer in

NORTH BOUND

I had a ... request a ... on the leading hotels of Charlotte for a quart of whiskey and it only took the said bellboy about five minutes to produce the spirits. I don't know where the bellboy got it. I only know that he did.

Charlotte, as you say in your article is a well governed city, but did you know that in Mecklenburg county, in which county Charlotte is located, there were more homicides committed this last year than in any other county in the whole South?

BALTIMORE.
Wilmington, N. C., Feb. 23.

MURDERER CAPTURED HERE

Negro Who Killed Mr. Brittain Price Caught Here Saturday.

John Blanton, the negro who killed Mr. Brittain Price in Charlotte Friday night was arrested here Saturday morning by Policeman Tom Rankin, near the P. & N. freight depot, as he was climbing up on a wagon. He made no resistance. Friday night Blanton was caught by the watchman at Phillips wood yard in Charlotte stealing wood. He was putting the wood in a hand cart when the watchman approached and while they were talking the wood out of the cart he picked up a piece and struck the white man across the temple with it. The watchman was carried to the hospital where he died Saturday morning at 4 o'clock. The negro ran and was chased for several blocks but got away. He formerly lived here and the officers were notified to keep an eye open for him and Policeman Rankin picked him up early Saturday morning.

Blanton was taken to the City Hall and locked up where he talked freely of the crime. He said that the man told him he had to go to the office and drew a stick of wood as if to hit him and that he hit first. Chief Moore came over and took him back to Charlotte in the afternoon. Blanton was never a fighting negro when he lived here, according to those who know him. It is said that his wife has been known to beat him up, and he is also known as an outrageous liar, always telling a lie when the truth would fit better. He is evidently headed for the electric chair.

The seed is the cheapest part of the garden and while you are getting, get the best, which is Buist's, and you get them quick from the Adams Drug Co., Telephone No. 25.