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A. F. Johnson, Editor and Manager.

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J. T. HOLDEN IS ACQUITTED

OF THE CHARGE OF MURDER OF TOM HARPER.

C. C. Ayescue Case Taken Up Wednesday Afternoon—Several Submission—Two Other Murder Cases.

The February term of Franklin Superior Court being held in Louisburg this week having been changed into a criminal court by special statute that the jail cases might be tried, was largely attended as the docket consisted of several murder cases and the term gave promise of being the most interesting of any held in Franklin county in quite a while.

His honor, Jddge Oliver H. Allen, of Kinston, presided in a most easy, able and dignified manner and kept the business of the court on the move all the while. Hon Herbert E. Norris, Solicitor for this district, was on hand and ably defended the State's interests. As the special act called for the trial of only jail cases the announcement was so made and only bills of that nature were placed before the grand jury.

Sheriff Kearney presented the names of the regular jurors to the court from which were selected the following as grand jurors: R. G. Winn, Foreman, W. H. Fuller, T. L. Moss, C. R. Alford, E. L. Winston, J. N. Wester, W. G. Wiggins, C. M. Gattis, W. S. Holmes, W. H. Tant, R. W. McGhee, P. A. Upchurch, F. W. Pernell, J. E. Pernell, S. M. Parrish, J. S. Edwards, W. A. Massey, W. A. Fuller. J. B. Smith was sworn in as officer to grand jury.

The first case of any importance taken up was that of State vs J. T. Holden, for the murder of Tom Harper. The case evidently hinged upon the evidence of Dr. S. C. Ford, who went with the defendant to his home after the killing and to whom the defendant had given himself up to and made his first statement. The jury taking the view that Holden was justifiable in killing the deceased to save himself bodily harm and returned a verdict in accordance therewith, of not guilty. The jury was composed of: M. L. Ransdell, A. D. Murphy, Ollie Collins, J. W. Poythreess. R. T. Tharrington, Rufus P. Jones, S. W. Flow, S. C. Kearney, N. C. Gupton, J. N. Bartholomew, L. G. Tunnage, R. R. Perry.

The State was assisted by Mr. W. M. Person and the defense was represented by Messrs. Ben. T. Holden and W. H. Yarborough.

The next case called was that of C. C. Ayescue for the murder of Josh Kearney colored. The jury for this case is composed of S. W. Flow, N. C. Gupton, Ollie Collins, W. S. Tharrington, Rufus P. Jones, J. W. Poythress, C. T. Dean, W. W. Bowden, J. M. Bowden, P. T. Sykes, J. W. Burnette, C. W. Winston. As we go to press the trial is in progress. The Solicitor is assisted by Prof. N. Y. Gulley, of Wake Forest, and the defendant is represented by Messrs. W. M. Person, W. H. Yarborough, and Ben T. Holden.

Beulah Tant vs Charles M. Tant, divorce, was tried and the divorce granted.

State vs June Tayborn, cruelty to animals, pleads guilty, judgment suspended upon payment of costs.

State v sArch Burnette, c c w, pleads guilty, judgment suspended upon payment of costs.

State vs O. B. Wilder, cruelty to animals, pleads guilty, judgment suspended upon payment of costs.

State vs Ernest Hayman and Henry Jones, affray, pleads guilty, judgment suspended as to Henry Jones, 12 months in jail as to Ernest Hayman, Commissioners to hire out.

State vs Ernest Hayman, c c w, judgment suspended upon payment of costs.

State vs Herbert Whitley, pleads guilty to forcible trespass, judgment continued upon payment of costs.

State vs J. E. Chaney, c c w, pleads guilty, defendant required to give bond in the sum of $50 for his appearance at October Court 1919 to show good behavior, and to pay costs of the action.

State vs Walter Tyler, l and r, pleads guilty, 2 years in jail, Commissioners to hire out to pay costs in two cases.

State vs Walter Tyler, pleads guilty to forcible trespass, prayer continued.

State vs Wallace or Buddie Davis, l and r, pleads guilty, 2 years in jail, Commissioners to hire out to J. E. Nelms to pay costs.

State vs Richard Smith, l and r, guilty, 12 months on roads.

State vs Clarence Ruffin, l and r, guilty, 12 months on roads.

Special veniries were summoned for three murder cases—the two above mentioned and the Will Dockery case that has been set for today.

Two Stills Destroyed.

Reports were received in Louisburg the past week that two large blockade distilleries were destroyed near Franklinton on Monday of last week. It is stated that a large army aeroplane was seen encircling Franklinton several times on Sunday before and the finding the stills so soon afterwards has led many people of that section to believe that the revenue department has secured the services of airships in finding stills.

FRANKLINTON WILL PUT CURFEW LAW INTO EFFECT

Lieut. Col. C. L. McGhee Returns After Overseas Duty.

Franklinton, Feb. 18.—The town commissioners have enacted a Curfew law for the municipality, which will go into effect in March. The new law will prohibit boys under 15 from being on the streets at night unaccompanied by parent or guardian. This is considered one of the best things that the city fathers have done since their encumbency. It is no uncommon thing to see a dozen or more boys gathered on the streets till a late hour, and it is the determination of the authorities to put a stop to these youngsters being out at night without a cause. The night before the new law takes effect Mayor Ford proposes to have a contest at the Globe Theatre between boys who will memorize and declaim "Curfew Must Not Ring Tonight." Several young boys have signified their intention of competing for the prize.

Lieut., Col. C. L. McGhee, who was with the 30th Division during its struggles in France, has returned to his home here. Col. McGhee resigned from the service about Christmas in order to devote his time to business affairs here. He is the senior member of the firm of McGhee-Joyner Company, one of the largest mercantile establishments of this section. The Colonel saw service on the border and was at Camp Sevier, Greenville, S. C., for several months prior to going over. He passed here with his regiment early in May of last year and went directly to England and from there to Belgium.

Mr. E. J. Cheatham, of this place, is now in Florida with his brother, Capt. Dick Cheatham, traffic manager of the Seaboard, whose health gave away a few weeks ago under the strain that has been upon him since the beginning of the war. Captain Cheatham sucered a nervous breakdown, and his physicians advised several months complete rest, and he is living in his private car on the southern coast of Florida. The last word received from him was that he seemed to be improving. Capt. Cheatham is a Franklinton man that is much loved by all the people here, and it is sincerely hoped that he will soon recover his health.

Superintendent Randolph Benton, of the local graded schools, is just out after a tussle with the influenza. He was the last of the teachers to try conclusions with this disease.

Rev. F. S. Love, president of Louisburg College, occupied the pulpit of the Methodist church here on Sunday at both services, delivering two fine discourses. He was filling in for the pastor who had yielded the second time to "flu."

Book Club Meetings.

The Tuesday Afternoon Book Club met February 11th with Mrs. M. S. Clifton. Owing to the influenza epidemic, the club has had only one meeting prior to this since last summer. These meetings are quite interesting. Mrs. Palmer gave current events in a very attractive manner. Mrs. Mills read a paper on Harriet Beecher Stowe and Mrs. Watson gave some interesting facts in a paper on Mrs. Stowe's works. Mesdames White, Ford and Fleming and Miss Sallie Williams sang "Juanita." Another musical selection, a trio, was beautifully rendered by Mesdames Fleming, White and Miss Williams. Mrs. Clifton served delicious refreshments and the club adjourned to meet next time with Mrs. Fleming.

Mrs. A. H. Fleming very delightfully entertained the members of her Book Club Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 18th. The club has as its subject this year Famous Women of America, Louisa Alcott being under discussion at this meeting. Mrs. W. H. Yarborough read current events, which were full of interest and enligstenment. Mrs. Ford gave a wonderfully entertaining sketch of Louisa Alcott, her life and works, while Mrs. Palmer touched a very sure strain of sympathy in the hearts and minds of all present, in selection from "Little Women". Mrs. Ford and Miss Williams played a beautiful piano duet "Poet and Peasant." Mrs. F. S. Love sang "The Swallows" by Cohen and "Lift Thine Eyes" by Logan. A very attractive and tempting salad course was served. Guests of the club were Mesdames Collins, B. B. Perry, L. L. Joyner and W. T. Joyner.

Old Fiddlers Convention.

There will be an old Fiddlers Convention held at Rock Springs school on Wednesday night, February, 26th, 1919. The proceeds to go towards painting the school building. The public is cordially invited to attend.

A Demonstration.

Mr. J. L. Dunn, representing Dupont Company, will hold a demonstration in tree planting by modern methods on the farm of Mr. A. F. Johnson on Wednesday, March 5. This will be a very interesting piece of work, and one might gain valuable information in regard to the use of explosives for farm work.

Sen. A. G. Mangum, of Gastonia, came over from Raleigh and spent the week-end with his sister, Mrs. B. B. Massenburg.

CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY OF NATIONS

PARIS, Feb. 14.—At the plenary session of the preliminary peace conference this afternoon at 3:30 p. m. at the Quay D'Aorsay, President Wilson, as chairman of the commission on the league of nations, will read and explain the following report:

"Covenant:

"Preamble—In order to promote international co-operation and to secure international peace and security by the acceptance of obligations not to resort to war, by the prescription of open, just and honorable relations between nations, by the firm establishment of the understandings of international law as the actual rule of conduct among govenments, and by the maintenance and justice and a scrupulous respect of all treaty obligations in the dealings of organized people with one another, the powers signatory to this covenant adopt this constitution of the league of nations:

"Article I—The action of the high contracting parties under the terms of this covenant shall be effected through the instrumentality of a meeting of a body of delegates representing the high contracting parties, of meetings at more frequent intervals of an executive council, and of a permanent international secretariat and to be obtained at the seat of the league.

"Article II—Meetings of the body of delegates shall be held at stated intervals and from time to time as occasion may require for the purpose of dealing with matters within the sphere of action of the league.

"Meetings of the body of delegates shall be held at the seat of the league or at such other places as may be found convenient and shall consist of representatives of the high contracting parties.

"Each of the high contracting parties shall have one vote but may have not more than three representatives.

"Article III—The executive council shall consist of representatives of the United States of America, the British Empire, France, Italy and Japan, together with representatives of four other states, members of the league. The selection of these four states shall be made by the body or delegates on such principles and i nsuch manner as they think fit. Pending the appointment of these representatives of the other states, representatives of (blank left for names) shall be members of the executive council.

"Meetings of the council shall be held from time to time as occasion may require and at least once a year, at whatever place may be decided on or failing any such decision, at the seat of the league and any matter within the sphere of action of the league or affecting the peace of the world may be dealt with at such meetings.

"Invitations shall be sent to any power to attend a meeting of the council at which such matters directly affecting its interests are to be discussed and no decision taken at any meeting will be binding on such powers unless so invited.

"Article IV—All matters of procedure at meetings of the body of delegates or the executive council including the appointment of committees to investigate particular matters shall be regulated by the body of delegates or the executive council and may be decided by a majority of the states represented at the meeting.

"The first meeting of the body of delegates and the executive council shall be summoned by the President of the United States of America.

"ArticleV—The permanent secretariat of the league shall be established at (blank) which shall constitute the seat of the league. The secretariat shall comprise such secretaries and staff as may be required, under the general direction and control of a secretary general of the teague, who shall be chosen by the executive council; the secretaralt shall be appointed by the secretary-general subject to confirmation by the executive council.

"The secretary-general shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the body of delegates or the executive council.

"The expenses of the secretariat shall be borne by the states members of the league in accordance with the apportionment of the expenses of the international bureau of the Universal Postal Union.

"Article VI—Representatives of the high contracting parties and officials of the league when engaged in the business of the league shall enjoy diplomatic privileges and immunities and the building occupied bythe league or its officials or by representatives attending its meetings shall enjoy the benefits of extraterritoriality.

"Article VII—Admission to the league states not signatories to the covenant and not named in the protocol hereto as States to be invited to adhere to the covenant, requires the assent of not less than two-thirds of the States represented in the body of delegates, and shall be limited to fully self-governing countries, including dominions and colonies.

"No State shall be admitted to the league of nations unless it is able to give effective guarantees of its sincere intention to observe its international obligations, and unless it shall conform to such principles as may be prescribed by the league in regard to its naval and military forces and armaments.

"Article VIII—The high contracting parties recognize the principle that the maintenance of peace will require the reduction of national armaments to the lowest point consistent with national safety and the enforcement by common action of international obligations, having special regard to the geographical situation and circumstances of each State, and the executive council shall formulate plans for effecting such reduction. The executive council shall also determine for the consideration and action of the several governments what military equipment and armament is fair and reasonable in proportion to the scale of forces laid down in the program of disarmament; and these limits, when adopted, shall not be exceeded without the permission of the executive council.

"The high contracting parties agree that the manufacture by private enterprise of munitions and implements of war lends itself to grave objections, and direct the executive council to advise how the evil effects attendant upon such manufacture can be prevented due regard being had to the necessities of those countries, which are not able to manufacture for themselves the munitions and implements of war necessary for their safety.

"The high contracting parties undertake in no way to conceal from each other the condition of such of their industries as are capable of being adapted to war-like purposes or the scale of their armaments, and agree that there shall be full and frank interchange of information as to their military and naval programs.

"Article IX—A permanent commission shall be constituted to advise the league on the execution of the provisions of Article VIII and on military and naval questions generally.

"Article X—The high contracting parties shall undertake to respect and preserve as against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all States members of the league. In case of any such aggression or in case of any threat or danger of such aggression, the executive council shall advise upon the means by which the obligation shall be fulfilled.

"Article XI—Any war or threat of war, whether immediately affecting any of the high contracting parties or not, is hereby declared a matter of concern to the league and the high contracting parties reserve the right to take any action that may be deemed wise and effectual to safeguard the nations.

"It is hereby also declared and agreed to be the friendly right of each of the high contracting parties to draw the attention of the body of delegates or of the executive council to any circumstances affecting international intercourse which threatens to disturb international peace or the good understanding between nations upon which peace depends.

"Article XII—The high contracting parties agree that should disputes arise between them which cannot be adjusted by the ordinary processes of diplomacy, they will in no case resort to war without previously submitting the questions and matters involved either to arbitration or to inquiry by the executive council and until three months after the award by the arbitrators or a recommendation by the executive council; and that they will not even then resort to war as against a member of the league which complies with the award of the arbitrators or the recommendation of the executive council.

"In any case under the article the award of the arbitrators shall be made within a reasonable time and the recommendation of the executive council shall be made within six months after the submission of the dispute.

Article XIII—The high contracting parties agree that whenever any dispute or difficulty shall arise between them which they recognize to be suitable for submission to arbitration and which cannot be satisfactorily settled by diplomacy, they will submit the whole matter to arbitration. For this purpose the court of arbitration to which the case is referred to shall be the court agreed on by the parties or stipulated in any convention existing between them. The high contracting parties agree that they will carry out in full good faith any award that may be rendered. In the event of any failure to carry out the award, the executive council shall propose what steps can best be taken to give effect thereto.

"Article XIV—The executive council shall formulate plans for the establishment of a permanent court of international justice and this court shall, when established, be competent tohear and determine any matter which the parties recognized as suitable for submission to it for arbitration under the foregoing article.

"Article XV—If there should arise between states members of the league any dispute likely to lead to rupture, which is not submitted to arbitration as above, the high contracting parties agree that they will refer the matter to the executive council; either party to the dispute may give notice of the existence of the dispute to the secretary-general, who will make all necessary arrangements for a full investigation and consideration thereof. For this purpose the parties agree to communicate to the secretary-general, as promptly as possible, statements of their case with all the revelant facts and papers, and the executive council may forthwith direct the publication thereof. Where the efforts of the council lead to the settlement of the dispute, a statement shall be published indicating the nature of the dispute and the terms of settlement, together with such explanations as may be appropriate. If the dispute has not been settled, a report by the council shall be published, setting forth with all necessary facts and explanations the recommendation which the council thinks just and proper for the settlement of the dispute. If the report is unanimously agreed to by the members of the council other than the parties to the dispute, the high contracting parties agree that they will not go to war with any party which complies with the recommendations and that if any party shall refuse so to comply the council shall propose measures necessary to give effect to the recommendations. If no such unanimous report can be made, it shall be the duty of the majority and the privilege of the minority to issue statements indicating what they believe to be the facts and containing the reasons which they consider to be just and proper.

"The executive council may in any case under this article refer the dispute to the body of delegates. The dispute shall be so ratified at the request of either party to the dispute, provided that such request must be made within fourteen days after the submission of the dispute. In a case referred to the body or delegates all the provisions of this article and of Article XII relating to action and powers of the executive council shall apply to the action and powers of the body of delegates.

"Article XVI—Should any of the high contracting parties break or disregard its covenants under Article XII, it shall thereby ipso facto be deemed to have committed an act of war against all the other members of the league, which hereby undertakes immediately to subject it to the severance of all trade or financial relations, the prohibition of all intercourse between their nationals and the nationals of the covenant-breaking state, and the prevention of all financial, commercial or personal intercourse between the nationals of the covenant breaking state and the nationals of any other state, whether a member of the league or not.

"It shall be the duty of the executive council in such case to recommend what effective military or naval force the members of the league shall severally contribute to the armed forces to be used to protect the covenants of the league.

"The high contracting parties agree, further, that they will mutually support one another in the financial and economic measures which may be taken under this article, in order to minimize the loss and inconvenience resulting from the above measure, and that they will mutually support one another in resisting any special measure aimed at one of their number by the covenant-breaking State, and that they will afford passage through their territory to the forces of any of the high contracting parties who are co-operating to protect the covenant of the league.

Article XVI provides that if any partly break or disregard its covenants under Article XII, which provides for arbitration or inquiry by the executive council, it shall be deemed to have committeed an act of war against all the other members who will take economic and financial measures against it. These measures mill refer both to members of the league and those who are not members.

In such a case it will be the duty of the executive council to recommend the amount of naval and military forces which each member of the league shall contribute to the armed forces necessary to protect the covenants of the league.

The members of the league agree to mutually support one another financially and economically in any measure taken and also to afford passage through their territory of any forces necessary to carry out the covenants of the league.

In disputes between a member of the league and a state not a member or between states members of the league, the contracting parties agree that the states not members of the league shall be invited to lay their disputes before the league.

If the states invited to allow the league to adjust their disputes refuse, any action against a state a member of the league would be deemed to be an act of war against all the other members of the league.

The contracting parties agree that the league shall have general supervision of traffic in arms and ammunition with countries inwhich such traffic would be against the common interests.

Colonies and territories removed from the soverignty of the states which formerly governed them and not yet able to stand by themselves shall become the trust of civilization. The tutelage of such countries shall be entrust to the advanced nation which can best undertake this responsibility.

The tutelage should be exercised by the advanced nations as mandatories on behalf of the league. The character of the mandate will differ according to the various circumstances of the peoples.

The contracting parties will endeavor to secure and maintain fair and humane conditions of labor for men and women and children and agree to establish as part of the organization of the league a permanent bureau of labor.

The members of the league agree to secure and maintain freedom of transit and equitable treatment for the commerce of all members of the league.

It is also agreed to place under control of the league of international bureaus general treaties if the parties to the treaties consent.

All treaties or international engagements entered into hereafter by a member of the league shall be registered mith the secretary-general, and shall not be binding unit registered.

The contracting parties agree that the covenant abrogates all obligations among themselves which are inconsistent with the terms of the covenant. They engage that hereafter they will not enter into any engagement inconsistent with the covenant.

If any member shall enter into engagements inconsistent with the covenant, it shall be the duty of such powers, to secure its release from such obligations.

"Article XXVI—Concluding articles provides that amendments to the covenant shall take effect when ratified by the states represented in the executive council and by three-fourths of the states whose representatives compose the body of delegates.

Mr. E. S Ford visited Richmond this week.

* * *

Mr. Will X. Coley, of the News-Observer staff, was in Louisburg this week.

PREMIER CLEMENCEAU IS SHOT

ASSASSIN IS ARRESTED.

Entering His Automobile to Go to Office, Assassin Took Five Shots at Him; Wounds are Regarded Slight.

PARIS, Feb. 19.—Georges Clemenceau, France's aged but vigorous premier, was shot at and slightly wounded this morning as he was entering his automobile for a drive.

Five shots were fired by the would-be assassin and it was at first reported that the premier had been wounded in the head. It developed later, however, that the wounds were in M. Clemenceau's back and shoulder and he apparently is not dangerously hurt.

The shooting took place at 8:55 o'clock this morning as the premier was leaving his house in the Rue-Franklin to go to the war office.

The would-be assassin was anordinary looking man, dressed as a workman. Five shots were fired, of which one took effect in the premier's shoulder. The assailant was arrested.

Policeman Goursat, who was wounded in the right eye, although not seriously, by one of the assassin's shots, told a representative of the Associated Press that Premier Clemenceau rushed up to the assailant and grappled with him.

The Premier's wound is not regarded as dangerous in itself, but it is felt that there might be serious consequences from it, considering the age and infirmities of the victim.

At about 11 o'clock this morning, however, it was officially announced that M. Clemenceau was not seriously wounded.

It was learned at the city hall that the assailant of Premier Clemenceau was a man named Emile Cottin, 25 years old and born at Cren. The man said his home was in the Montrouse quarter of Paris. The police, however, do not believe the papers he possessed belonged to him, and are inclined to think him a Russian.

He is fair with long light hair and is tall of stature.

One of the witnesses of the shooting, Henry Moulin, a barber's assistant, told the Associated Press representative that when he heard the first shot fired he believed it was the Americans firing in the air, "as they are in the habit of doing," he said. Moulin rushed out of his shop when he saw what was happening, however, crying, "They have assassinated Clemenceau!" He closed with the premier's assailant, Moulin added, and the man threw away his revolver and held up his hands.

Waiters from a nearby restaurant joined in holding the man, whom the police had some difficulty in getting from them, and before the police secured the man he was beaten by the crowds. One of the men in the crowd seemed to wish to help the premier's assailant and the crowd beat him badly.

Policeman Goursat gave his description of the shooting to the Associated Press representative in the city hall, where the arrested man was brought.

An enormous crowd which observed a respectful silence, assembled near M. Clemenceau's residence after the occurance. Within a half hour President Poincare arrived. He was quickly followed by various members of the cabinet, high officials of the government and representatives of the army and navy, as well as of the diplomatic corps, including Wm. Graves Sharp, the American ambassador.