

The Charlotte News

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Announcement: The attention of the public is respectfully invited to the following: In future, Obituary Notices, in Memoriam Sketches, Caricatures, etc., communications espousing the cause of a private enterprise of a political candidate and like matter, will be charged for at the rate of five cents a line.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1911.

MURDER UNAVENGED.

On yesterday in an extra The News gave the city its first news of the complete failure of the coroner's investigation to effect any results in the work of avenging the murder of Myrtle Hawkins.

It is with great reluctance that we even a word of criticism of the acts of officers charged with the execution of the law, but in this instance it seems impossible to avoid the conclusion that the state has so far fallen down miserably.

We do not doubt for the moment the sincerity of the coroner's jury, but in failing to bring any indictments, after being confronted with voluminous evidence, we believe they have erred grievously.

It must be remembered that in order to cause arrests a coroner's jury is not required to be in possession of evidence sufficient to convict. It is merely its duty to hold any suspect to bring indictments on "probable cause." It then remains for the courts to "prove whether or not those held for the crime are guilty or innocent.

If we may judge by the evidence offered, the coroner's jury would have been justified in holding several parties, and in doing so at the very outset, before those suspected could get together and "talk the matter over."

Take the Beattie case, on the strength of mere suspicion Paul and Henry Beattie and Beulah Binford were immediately locked up shortly following the commission of the crime. That was how a crime was handled in Virginia. Contrast this record made in the Old Dominion with the pitiful fiasco enacted at Hendersonville.

The Lexington Dispatch, as many others, is disappointed at the failure of the coroner's jury to take any steps whatsoever, and comments as follows:

"When the body of the unfortunate girl was found Sunday, September 10th, floating in Lake Osceola, it was announced that it was a case of suicide. The coroner's jury later announced that the girl was murdered by unknown parties and it was announced that the officers were hot on the trail of the suspected parties. Development followed development. The coroner decided to re-open the case and the inquest developed that the girl died as the result of a criminal operation. Still no arrests. Plenty of folks were suspected, but the authorities took no action whatever, promising sensational arrests later. Up to yesterday a single arrest had been made and on tomorrow it will have been two weeks since the unfortunate girl disappeared from home.

"In the Beattie case, the suspects were given no time to get together and formulate plans for outwitting the officers. Before Paul Beattie, Beulah Binford and Henry Beattie were fairly awake to the fact that they were suspected, an officer had nabbed them and was on the way to jail with them. In Hendersonville, every person that could have been connected with the case, with the exception of one, has been known almost from the beginning. Yet, they have been allowed to go at will and have at no time been restrained. They have conspired together, mapped out their defense, and it looks now like they have but little to fear. The waters have been so muddied that conviction will be almost impossible.

"What is the matter? We confess that we do not see how the officers of Henderson county will be able to explain their strange inaction. Never have we seen a case bungled so badly in all our experience.

Solicitor Johnson, lately arrived on the scene, has been doing some effective work, but there is little that he can do. In North Carolina we do not provide funds for running down the perpetrators of crime and if the solicitor takes it upon himself to ferret them out, he bears the expense himself. Scores of crimes in recent years have demonstrated the need of a fund of this kind which could be placed at the instant disposal of the prosecuting officer, but experience seems to teach us nothing. In Virginia the commonwealth's attorney has at his command just as much money as he needs to bring criminals large and small to justice. Such a fund would have enabled the solicitor to take charge of the search for the

criminal or criminals who brought Myrtle Hawkins to her death and to have saved the State the disgraceful record of the past week.

A SULENDID RECORD.

A negro brute assaulted a white woman near Warrenton this week and in two days he had been caught, tried and convicted and sentenced to die in the electric chair.

In less than one month after the commission of his crime he will have paid its price with his life. To the fasting credit of the good negro citizens of that section it may be noted that they joined with the officers in the search for the guilty party. In addition, several negro preachers denounced the crime from their pulpits.

Far betted this than violence at the hands of an infuriated mob. Let those papers which have revelled in picturing the mad rampage of unbridled mob rule in the South copy this splendid achievement of the justice.

Forty minutes before any other paper was out, News extra on the Hawkins verdict was selling all over the city. Not bad, we think.

MR. STEWART REPLIES TO LEE STATEMENT

Editor of The News:

I notice in yesterday's paper, under the head of The Paving Tug-of-War, that Mr. Lee, of the Southern Power Company, is reported as saying: "I am satisfied that the compromise reached is that to which no man can lodge an objection." He is further reported as saying: "In order to remove all differences and to settle the matter for all time in a fair and equitable manner. It was then suggested that the special license taxes, which are admittedly heavy and burdensome, and which were imposed on the former company as a penalty in large measure for its refusal to supply gas at Elizabeth and Piedmont, be reduced to \$1,000 annually for a period of ten years. It was understood and so stated before the board prior to the vote that the reduction of special license taxes would not be legally binding after the present administration. This the street car company also knew."

I have refrained from replying to any of the many articles that have appeared in the press recently advocating the cause of the Southern Power Company and insinuating things against those who opposed the surrendering of the city to the Southern Power Company, but since in this article Mr. Lee so far reflects on the character and integrity of the last board of aldermen in declaring that the board had heaped the penalty in the way of license taxes on Mr. Lee, that I can no longer allow such charges to go unopposed. To say that the last board of aldermen would levy unjust taxes on the street car company as a penalty, at the same time knowing that the tax was unjust, is such a reflection on the last board, that when Mr. Lee reflects upon it, we will certainly withdraw.

Does he mean to say that men whom people have elected on the board of aldermen, honorable men, always regarded as such, would so far forget themselves that in legislating for the good of the city, they would be governed by spite? Does he mean to say that they would put a license tax on any one, knowing that the license tax was unjust and wrong, for the purpose of punishment? If the board did do such a thing, then it ought to be indicted for corruption in office. I cannot conceive of representatives of the people, elected by the people to this trusted position, so debasing themselves as to be guilty of the charge made by Mr. Lee.

I, for one, can inform Mr. Lee that I was a member of that board, and I voted to make the license tax of the street car company \$2,500, honestly believing that it was not too much; and the question of gas at Elizabeth had nothing to do with my vote whatever; in fact that question was hardly being agitated at that time; and I feel sure that every member of that board, who so voted, voted honestly and intelligently. I can further tell Mr. Lee that we made a very careful and thorough investigation of the matter at the time and were convinced that the tax was neither heavy nor burdensome. I can further state that after my investigation and comparison with many other cities, I am satisfied that \$5,000 would be a very reasonable license tax for the company to pay this year; and I think it ought to be increased from year to year after this. If they will pay two or three per cent on their gross receipts, we will get a great deal more revenue from the street car company in the way of taxes, than we are now getting, and nobody can say that that is an unjust or unreasonable charge for the use of the streets.

The license tax paid by the Southern Power Company for doing business in this city is extremely small in comparison with license taxes paid by our merchants and other business men notwithstanding the merchants and other business men, has to pay rent for his store and lot, while the street car company gets its ground, namely the streets, free of charge.

When the Southern Power Company was wanting to get into Charlotte, it did not raise the question about taxes. It cried for competition. We permitted it to enter into competition with

A Great Advantage to Working Men. J. A. Maple, 125 S. 7th St., Steubenville, O., says: "For years I suffered from weak kidneys and a severe bladder trouble. I learned of Foley Kidney Pills and their wonderful cures so I began taking them and sure enough I had good results as any I heard about. My backache left me and to one of my business associates, that alone is a great advantage. My kidneys acted free and normal and that saved me a lot of misery. It is now a pleasure to work where it used to be misery. Foley Kidney Pills have cured me and have my highest praise." me and have my highest praise."

HAROLD MACGRATH'S LATEST AND GREATEST NOVEL THE CARPET FROM BAGDAD

A splendid romance. The scene opens in Cairo, continues in the desert and ends in New York. The plot, starting with the theft of a rare and holy rug by an American adventurer from its Moslem owner and sold to an American collector, is MacGrath's most notable stroke of originality.

All is told in the author's most captivating manner—that sparkling rapid-fire style which has made him the pre-eminently popular romancer.

Illustrated in Color by André Castaigne. \$1.25 net. THE BOBBS-MERRILL COMPANY, INDIANAPOLIS

the old Electric Light Company, and then each of the two competing companies paid the same license tax; but now, since competition is gone, although paying the same tax as it did when there was competition, the Southern Power Company is complaining that it is being taxed unjustly. In other words, when there was competition, the tax was fair and equitable, but when there is monopoly, the tax is unjust and burdensome.

The board of aldermen in fixing this license tax acted upon the report of the revenue committee, which was composed of Mr. P. C. Whitlock and others. The finance committee was composed of W. A. Watson, P. C. Whitlock, J. A. Fore, A. M. Gillett and L. E. Anderson.

I notice also that there is an intimation in the article in the press that everybody thought the compromise suggested by the Southern Power Co. to be fair and equitable. I must protest, and say that out of a number of people, with whom I have talked, business men as well as working men and professional men, every one except those who are directly interested in the Southern Power Company or some of its subsidiary organizations, has been free to express himself that it was a very unjust contract. Many suggested that it would be a calamity to the city should the mayor ever sign it. I have never heard a mayor in a city complimented more highly by the great masses of the people for a stand, than the compliments I have heard paid Mayor Bland in this matter. It is true that some few people are criticizing, some few who honestly believe that he ought to sign the contract, and others who are honestly in sympathy with the Southern Power Company because either by trade relationship or interested in the company. While this is the case, the great mass of people who are not interested either directly or indirectly in the Southern Power Company, are standing by and commending the mayor for saving the city and protecting the rights of the people.

PLUMMER STEWART. This Sept. 21st, 1911. TAFT AS A TRAVELER His Record in Miles Every Year Since 1900. The president's itinerary serves to call attention anew to the fact that he has been a great traveler, ever since March 1900, when he resigned his Federal judgeship in Ohio to accept appointment by President McKinley as a member of the Philippine Commission and first governor-general of the then new possession. In fact, if Mr. Taft is not the greatest American traveler of the present day, who is? No other man in public life can show such a score. The statisticians at Washington have figured out the Taft mileage since he first went to the Far East and find it to be as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Year, Miles. 1900-1901... 24,750, 1902... 23,145, 1903... 8,000, 1904... 11,724, 1905... 33,650, 1906... 14,075

FOLEY'S KIDNEY REMEDY (Liquid) is a great medicine of proven value for both acute and chronic kidney and bladder ailments and for annoying urinary irregularities. It is especially recommended to elderly people for its wonderful tonic and reconstructive qualities, and the permanent relief and comfort it gives them. L. McConnell, 117 Catherine St., Elmira, N. Y., says: "Five bottles did the work for me most effectively and beyond doubt Foley's Kidney Remedy is the most reliable kidney medicine ever made. Bowen Drug Store."

Mosquitos? "Get it at Hawley's." "It certainly keeps them away," said a delighted customer of HAWLEY'S MOSQUITO LOTION. It's an Indian essence absolutely noxious to mosquitos, fleas, flies and insects. The bottle 10c by our springing bicycle messengers. Hawley's Pharmacy, 'Phones 18 and 14, Tryon and Fifth Streets, Academy Advance Sale.

Table with 2 columns: Year, Amount. 1907... \$8,050, 1908... 47,270, March 3, 1909, to Sept. 4, 1911... 61,774, Coming trip... 292,488, Total... 275,438

Blotbs—"Poor old Guzzler is beginning to have pipe dreams." Slobs—"He ought to see a doctor." Blotbs—"Yes, or a plumber."

FOR BONE FELON There is quick and certain relief and a permanent cure in THIES' SALVE. At All Drug Stores, 25c.

"What's in a Name?" When you refer to pianos, there's a great deal in the name. The Steiff Piano has become a synonym for merit, and the name is a sufficient guarantee on which to purchase. If you will get acquainted with the manufacturer of the Artistic Steiff, note its quality, tone, workmanship and durability, when you buy, yours will be a Chas. M. Steiff Piano.

Chas. M. Steiff C. H. WILMOTH, Manager. SOUTHERN WAREROOM 5 West Trade Street CHARLOTTE, N. C.

BLAKE'S DRUG SHOP On the Square. Prescriptions Filled Day and Night. Try one and you will come 'ain. Tryon Drug Co. 'Phones 21 and 1042. No. 11 N. Tryon.

Try Blake's Mosquito Drops and have a good night's rest by keeping the little pests away. Prices 10 and 25 Cents. John S. Blake Drug Co. PHONE 41. 'Phones 41 and 300. Registered Nurses' Directory.

WALL PAPER Wholesale and Retail. INTERIOR DECORATORS. Torrence Paint Company 10 N. Tryon 'Phone 178. Some Special Bargains in Short Lots.

Today We Present Our Entire AUTUMN Collection of Tailored and Man Tailored HATS For Women A Sale of Willow Plumes Thursday. A remarkably opportune affair. Beautiful Plumes at almost half price, right at a time when most wanted. These are in Black and White only. None charged at sale prices: \$5.00 and \$6.50 Willow Plumes, sale price Thursday... \$3.95, \$7.50 to \$8.50 Willow Plumes, sale price... \$5.95, \$15.00 Willow Plumes, sale price... \$9.95. Never before have we shown such an assemblage of Women's Outer Apparel. A FEW SUIT SPECIALS. Man's wear Serge Suits in Navy and Black, Skinner satin-lined coats with inlaid satin collars. The newest panel back and front skirt with two side pleats, making the garment a trifle wider. This suit would be cheap at \$20.00. Our special... \$15.00. \$12.50 all-wool Serge Suits, newest styles, lined with warranted satin; Navy, Black and Browns. Special... \$8.95. MANY SPECIAL VALUES AT \$17.50 TO \$22.50. It's truly wonderful, the excellent values you will find in the stylish Mixtures, Serges and popular Rough Weave Chevots. Priced... \$17.50, \$20.00 and \$25.00. BEAUTIFUL SUITS AT \$24.50 AND \$25.00. At these prices we specialize and show many exclusive models of every new popular material... \$24.50 and \$25.00. Simply fine Parisian models, each one exclusive, at... \$30.00, \$35.00 to \$60.00.

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Boys' Shoes We have added a complete line of BOYS' SHOES. Our Boy's School Shoes are a specialty. No old stock, but the very newest shapes. REMEMBER MELLON'S SHOES, AS WELL AS CLOTHES. FIT. SEE WINDOW DISPLAY. EdMellon Co.