

The Mount Airy News.

ESTABLISHED 1880

MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER, 21st, 1922.

\$ 1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

INSURANCE ON STOLEN GEMS IS FINALLY PAID

Mrs. Charlotte Palmer Gets \$53,100 After Long, Hard Legal Fight

New York, Dec. 16.—The World this week carried the following story of a mysterious gem robbery settlement:

When the Federal Insurance company, No. 5 South William street, the other day paid \$53,100 to John M. Stoddard, attorney for Mrs. Charlotte King Palmer, the full amount called for by Mrs. Palmer's insurance policy against theft, another chapter was written in one of New York's most sensational robberies.

It was not the final chapter, for the thieves who attacked Mrs. Palmer and looted her residence No. 59 East 90th street, of \$310,000 worth of jewels on Nov. 15, 1920, are still at large. Neither has any of the plunder been recovered. But Mrs. Palmer has won her long fight to obtain the full amount of her insurance claim and the company was forced to add a substantial sum in counsel fees.

The New York police, answering a telephone call early in the morning of the robbery, doubted the story of the \$310,000 robbery, told by Mrs. Palmer. She said that returning in the early hours of the morning from a theater and supper party she found herself facing three masked burglars, who had bound and gagged the butler and maid and hidden them in closets. In trying to escape, Mrs. Palmer leaped down the first landing of the stairs, tore the heels from her shoes, broke both ankles and lay helpless at the intruder's mercy.

While she still writhed in agony the robbers carried her to her bathroom, bound, gagged and held her prisoner while they looted her house of about \$310,000 worth of jewels.

The Federal Insurance company, which on Feb. 5, 1920, had issued to Mrs. Palmer a policy for \$53,100 insurance against theft, either refused or neglected to pass upon her claim. On Feb. 2, 1921, Mrs. Palmer filed suit in the county clerk's office for the amount of her policy.

Having been vindicated, Mrs. Palmer, who is living at the Hotel La Salle, No. 30 East 60th street, says she will sail next week for Nice. Her return to permanent residence in this country is said to be very doubtful, although it is denied she is to marry soon after her arrival in Europe.

Mrs. Palmer's health suffered severely as a result of the sensational robbery. For weeks she lay in bed under the constant care of a physician and a trained nurse, while her broken ankles slowly mended. After this episode she sold the 90th street house and a villa in Long Beach, which also was robbed some time before the jewel theft, and went to live with her mother in No. 1 East 48th street.

Since then she has been to Cuba and has made other trips in an effort to regain her health. She is now convalescing from a minor ailment but eagerly anticipating her stay at Nice.

Before her marriage in 1910 to James C. Parrish, Jr., former Harvard athlete, Mrs. Palmer was an actress. She appeared as Charlotte Catherine Palmer with Lew Fields and with De Wolfe Hopper and in several productions in London and Mr. Parrish obtained a divorce in 1916.

The robbery remains as much a mystery today as it was when the first appeared on the scene. The offer of rewards aggregating \$30,000 by Mr. Palmer and the insurance company. The Federal Insurance company in an amended offer to Mrs. Palmer's suit, filed Feb. 25, 1921, alleged that the theft, committed, was by one of the assured's family. This charge was characterized at the time as "most preposterous" by Mr. Stoddard.

The insurance company also set forth on "information and belief," that the items on which Mrs. Palmer sought the insurance totalled less than one-half the value of the policy, and less than one-twelfth of the \$310,000 at which she valued them.

There were eleven items enumerated in the description of the stolen jewelry. They were a 12 or 13 carat diamond solitaire ring, set in platinum; a 12 or 14 carat cushion-shaped sapphire ring, surrounded by diamonds set in platinum; a diamond bracelet (two rows) set in platinum; one sapphire bracelet, square "box shape"; two large and three graduating sapphires, connecting with diamonds to the clasp; two platinum halfpins, each containing five five-

white diamonds surrounded by 100 brilliants.

There were also one diamond and platinum wrist watch with ribbon band, with clasp of onyx and platinum; one green gold mesh bag with a sapphire clasp; a necklace, consisting of 210 pearls with a pearl-shaped pear for clasp; one horse-shoe pin containing twenty-six diamonds; a diamond studded gold plated clock containing about sixteen diamonds and a traveling clock.

Letter From Japan

Having already given the readers some of my pleasant recollections of Mount Airy, I will now give you at least two instances in my experience connected with Mount Airy, one of which was not entirely lacking in the humorous, while both were pathetic. In 1905 while on a visit to Mount Airy a pair of my pants was stolen from a pressing club, as well as other people's clothing. Shortly afterward the two thieves, who were brothers, were apprehended in Virginia and brought before the mayor, Mr. Hadley, I believe, for trial one Sunday afternoon. I was a witness, and had no trouble identifying my pants among the stolen things recovered. Another witness was asked to point out and identify his pants. He did so by pointing to one of the prisoners who had them on. Said prisoner had just escaped from the chain-gang in another county, and had donned these pants instead of his stripped ones. My pants were entirely too large for him.

During my recent vacation spent in Mount Airy I accompanied the editor of The News to the town lock-up to see a young man who was a deserter from the army. In his talk he justified his desertion on the ground that a Primitive Baptist preacher had taught that it was wrong to kill. Yet in the same conversation he said that he wished he had killed the officers who arrested him. And I have it in mind, whether mistaken or not, that this same man was afterward killed in resisting or trying to evade arrest. As I recall, the young man whom we interviewed had learned the art of blockading, but had not been taught to read and study the Bible. The devil sows tares while the government slept over the duty and need of compulsory education, and while the church slept over the privilege of establishing Sunday schools in the neglected sections. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." How the children of the hills as well as the children of the towns need this light, "the holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus." Among my boyhood associates a number became lawbreakers. With one exception they were brought up without being sent to Sunday school. The debts my father failed to collect during his life of ever seventy years were owed by those who were taught to tolerate blockading and to look with contempt upon the Sunday school. Going into all the world and preaching the Gospel to every creature, as Jesus commanded, means going into the uttermost parts of Surry county just as it means going into Asia or Africa. Christ wept over the city right under His own eyes because her children would not allow themselves to be gathered under His wings. These should naturally have been the first fruits of His call to repentance when the kingdom was proclaimed as present. How can we weep over the lost condition of the heathen and care nothing for those whom our eyes have seen?

Just as Jesus and the Jewish rabbis habitually taught in the synagogues on the Sabbath day, so should devout teachers explain the Holy Scriptures in every community of Surry county and watch the results. God's word shall not return unto him void. It is the sword of the Spirit. It will beat the revenue officer's pick in hacking up blockade distilleries and heading down beer stands. It can take those copper stills out of the mountains and turn them into copper wires for better telephone communication, making a big, harmonious family of each neighborhood. The Gospel must be taught as well as preached.

In my next letter I shall carry my reminiscences further by referring to one of Surry county's tragedies which took place nearly a quarter of a century ago for the purpose of causing some halt in their indifference to the value of the Bible and the majesty of the law. J. W. Frank, Uwajima, Ehime Ken, Japan, Oct. 22,

PERSONALITY AND FAITH OVERWHELMS CONVENTION

Dr. Potat, President of Wake Forest College, Captivates Baptist Gathering By Statement of Faith

Winston-Salem, N. C., Dec. 14.—Charges that Dr. W. L. Potat, president of Wake Forest College was untrue to Baptist faith, which charges were expected to be taken up at the state convention at Winston-Salem, were blown away when he addressed the convention on Wednesday.

The victory for Wake Forest was negative, but was as certain as if it had been affected by formal resolution. Dr. Potat captivated his audience and held them spell bound.

Disregarding the moot question of evolution except by implication, he dumfounded his critics by a statement of his Christianity, couched in simple terms, but eloquent to an unusual degree. At the conclusion of his address, none dared to rise to criticize him and it is universally concluded that none will.

Ends High Tensions

Dr. Potat's address ended a feeling of high tension that has prevailed throughout the convention. His friends and admirers have been in the majority all the while, but now it is felt that next when he is criticized it will be by some one who did not hear him. Yielding nothing of his scientific beliefs, he gave an exposition of his belief in Christianity so convincing that there will hardly be any suggestion here from any source that any danger could lurk in the teachings of such a man.

The only formal vote taken was a request that the address be reproduced for publication and that action will probably stand as the only one taken by the convention.

Dr. Potat was introduced with a high tribute as an orator and Christian by Dr. R. T. Vann, Secretary of the Board of Education.

"I want to read you a passage out of a little book," he began. "I have this little book. I commend it to you. It is our final authority for faith and practice.

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but you cannot hear them now; howbeit when the spirit of truth is come, He shall guide you into the truth;" he read from the eighteenth chapter of John continuing the account of Jesus' last talk with his disciples.

The young thundering in upon the old is the hope of the world and the primary fact of life, declared Dr. Potat, singing into his theme. The function of education is to take the place of the old, he said. Declaring that we had abused the freedom of war times until it had become license. Dr. Potat cited Socialism, Prussianism and education as proper methods that are inadequate. Dr. Potat declared that we must have anarchy or have Christ.

"Christ never spoke one word which has ever been discounted by all the knowledge of progress since his day," he said. Relating some of his own personal Christian experiences, Dr. Potat declared that the need of the world is not for "new schemes of government, but new men, and new men can be made only by Christ.

"But the yearning for the truth is second only to the yearning for God," he continued with his plea for the combination of the two in Christian education.

"Science cannot discredit faith; its apparatus is not adequate," said Dr. Potat. "And Christianity also demands a mating with science," he added.

"Eighty-eight years ago Wake Forest set up her banner and in the name of Christ laid claim to all the realms of culture and she has made her claim good," he concluded.

The convention overwhelmingly endorsed the action of the Meredith trustees in the selection of the Tucker farm of 130 acres just west of Raleigh as the site for Greater Meredith. This action followed rejection of a proposal of Dr. N. Paul Bagby, pastor of the Wake Forest Baptist church, that the trustees of Meredith and Wake Forest be instructed to investigate some plan for a co-ordination of the two institutions and report back at the next convention.

Support for Potat

Unmistakable evidence of the attitude of Wake Forest alumni toward President William Louis Potat, whose teaching has been bitterly at-

MAYOR IS NOT GUILTY OF STEALING WHISKEY

Judge Turner Throws Out Of Court Case Against F. P. Burton, Stuart, Va.

Danville, Va., Dec. 17.—Advice received here Saturday morning from the town of Stuart brought word of a sensational development there following the mysterious theft of 50 gallons of liquor, which several weeks ago was placed in the office of Mayor F. P. Burton and which, on the following day was found to have been stolen.

Judge Turner Clement in convening the Patrick county Circuit court charged the grand jury with a full investigation of the liquor theft, asserting that he had read of the occurrence in the papers and that in justice to the mayor and other officers who have access to the mayor's office the matter should be probed.

The grand jury returned an indictment against Mayor Burton and constable B. P. Phillips charging them with aiding and abetting the theft of the spirits, Hunter Eanes being charged with the actual theft. Reports are that the grand jury session was a lively one and that there was a division of sentiment on the indictments.

Upon presentation the two officials appeared in court and demanded trial. They elected to place their case before the court and not a jury. Two witnesses were being sworn against Burton and Phillips, but could offer nothing more than hearsay evidence. Judge Clement, after hearing them, declined to listen to any defense evidence and threw the case out of court. Eanes' case was set for January. The belief prevails among certain people of Stuart that the indictments were the result of shameful propaganda. Mayor Burton has been active in recent months in curbing bootlegging, performing the dual task of taking part in, or leading raids and then hearing the cases in the capacity of mayor. The liquor in question was seized from Ben Hall, in whose home a secret closet was found and 60 gallons of brandy said to have been there for many years. The officers poured out 10 gallons and took the rest of it to Stuart, placing it in the mayor's office. During the night it was stolen.

EXPECTS TO FLY OVER NORTH POLE

Famous Explorer Reaches Nome To Communicate With America And Europe Again

Nome, Alaska, Dec. 17.—Capt. Roald Amundsen, head of an Arctic exploring expedition which left the states in June and who arrived here Thursday by dog team from Wainwright, said today he expected to start in May in an attempt to fly over the North pole. He explained that he had come here to visit civilization and to communicate with persons in the United States and Europe.

Amundsen expressed cheerfulness over a message received at the wireless station or Noorvik stating that the schooner Maud, in which he started on the expedition, was about 300 miles northwest of Wangel island. This, he declared, was an ideal place from which to begin a drift over the pole and he predicted that the Maud would make the drift in four years instead of the five planned.

His plans, Captain Amundsen reported, was almost entirely assembled under cover at Wainwright. His aviator Lieut. Oskar Omdahl, inspects it daily for rust. The machine is to be equipped with hickory ski-like skids. The plans is to take off from the ice in Wainwright inlet, or from the snow.

Captain Amundsen is greatly reduced in weight, but is in perfect health. He left Wainwright November 19, going with a mail team to Deering. At Deering he purchased five dogs, with which he mushed to Nome. He expects to remain here throughout the cold, dark period of the winter.

tacked in some quarters, was given at a luncheon at the Robert E. Lee hotel today. Dr. E. W. Sikes, president of Coker College, at Hartsville, S. C., was applauded to the echo when he declared that the function of the president head of the college had been to give a Christian interpretation to the new discoveries of science and that Dr. Potat had anchored the new truths to the rock of Christ.

RANGER WILL LET ITS DEAD SLEEP IN PEACE

With Oil Wells All Around Cemetery Offer of Gold Refused By Baptists.

Ranger, Texas, Dec. 16.—Nestling among oil derricks amid the noise of gasoline pumps on the Staff Road, about four miles south of here, is a unique little brick church house, now nearing completion, the property of the Merriman Baptist church. There are few people in Texas who have not heard the story of the Merriman church and its financial strength, due to its two producing oil wells. Four years ago this church, like thousands of others over the south, was struggling in poverty with only occasional preaching services, and finding it difficult to pay a clergyman for the very uncertain time in which he might serve as shepherd.

But about this time oil was discovered nearby, and although the church conference went on record as unalterably opposed to the leasing of the church lot for oil, persistent clamor on the part of those desiring the lease finally overcame the opposition, and the lot was leased and drilling begun. Practically all lease contracts made in the oil fields provide that a royalty of one-eighth of the sale price of oil shall go to the owner of the land on which the wells are situated. During the early boom days in the Ranger fields, thousands of dollars an acre were paid to owners of land as a bonus to secure the lease. The first well on the church lot came in for 1,800 barrels a day, November, 1918.

Soon afterwards a second well came in for 700 barrels. These wells flowed for more than eighteen months, and although the flush production decreased gradually, hundreds of thousands of barrels came forth to enrich the owners of the lease and the Merriman church.

Efforts were then put forth to induce the church to lease its adjoining cemetery lot, but the congregation in solemn conference steadfastly refused to disturb the "resting place of their dead. On every side of the little graveyard wells went down as if by magic, and practically all became good producers.

On the school lot adjoining the cemetery to the west, two wells made for the school district more than \$8,000 in eighteen months, and yet the church remained firm in its determination not to lease the little cemetery. On a board nailed to the fence near the gate are these warning words: "Respect the dead." It is significant that in a period of excitement and money madness here was a church whose membership was not swerved.

The church thus enriched was a mark for all persons wishing to raise money for any worthy cause, and it gave away 85 per cent, keeping only 15 per cent. of its income. Especially the Baptist \$75,000,000 campaign was it liberal. While giving away thousands it continued to worship in a little shack on the rear of the school lot, as the old church house had been wrecked to make room for the drilling of the wells. Last year, however, the church conference decided to build a little meeting house and it is now nearing completion.

The two wells are still producing, although they have been "on the pump" for more than two years. Every day has added from \$30 to \$250 to the church's wealth.

Hundreds of men in the oil fields grew rich within six months after the discovery of oil, but most of these, through unwise speculation, lost all in the crash which followed. This has not been the case with the Merriman church. What it made it saved by investing in charity, in missions and in schools. In spite of the wealth that his poured into this community for four years, the people are still the simple, home-loving neighbors they used to be. They are free from the affectations and restraints of artificial conventionalities, and yet there is a certain barrier of reserve which the outsider cannot break down.

Recently I drove out to Merriman with several oil scouts to see a Mr. Brewer, a farmer who owned the cemetery. Numerous producing wells were on his farm, and his income was estimated as several thousand dollars a day. Near the Merriman school was a man dressed in overalls, a dilapidated straw hat and worn shoes, filling a water tank from an old water well.

Hitched to his wagon were two raw-boned horses. I stepped to inquire where Mr. Brewer lived. After

painful deliberation the man replied that he was Mr. Brewer. I was astonished and incredulous, and asked him why he continued to haul water when he owned so many oil wells. He climbed slowly up to his wagon seat and replied in a slow drawl, "Well, I can't drink oil."

I went with him to his farm house and sat on the low front porch and listened to the story of the coming of oil to the little community, a story told in words which were beautiful in their simplicity. From where I sat I could see the tall black derricks the little church, cemetery and school against a sky of purple and gray.

As I took my departure, the moon began to climb, and stars twinkled through the derricks like thousands of little electric lights.

Wilson Turns To Politics

New York, Dec. 15.—Bainbridge Colby, secretary of state in President Wilson's cabinet, announced that his law partnership with the former President would terminate December 31, at the expiration of their co-partnership agreement. The announcement was made from the local offices of Wilson and Colby.

Beyond saying that the former President "is turning his energies once more to subjects which have long invited him," Mr. Colby made no statement as to Mr. Wilson's plans for the future.

It was announced that Mr. Colby would continue the practice of law in this city.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Bainbridge Colby's announcement of the termination of his law partnership with Woodrow Wilson is not a surprise to Washington and is regarded as an added evidence that the former President is again turning his attention to politics, particularly the fortunes of the Democratic party in 1924.

What degree of leadership Mr. Wilson may expect to assume in his party is probably known only to himself at this time and it is doubtful if even the few who are numbered among his confidants can venture to speak with any authority on the subject.

Since the whole question of the former President's political activities depends largely upon the condition of his health it may be said that his physical condition is virtually the same as it was a year ago and that recent callers report his mind as active as it ever was.

When he left the White House, in far worse physical condition than he is today, it was Mr. Wilson's intention to remain apart from politics. But as the recent campaign drew near he yielded to the suggestion of those close about him and took some part by way of writing letters which were introduced into the campaign in various states. At the same time Mr. Wilson renewed his activity in international affairs and began keeping himself closely advised on developments in Europe.

Various conjectures are advanced in political circles as to how prominent a part Mr. Wilson may take in the campaign of 1924. His intentions are undoubtedly known only to himself, although it is known that he is being urged to take a prominent part and that his more favorable physical condition is being urged upon him as one reason why he should. The fact that Mr. Wilson has been doing a little better than holding his own physically, however, has led to exaggerated reports that he has been walking about the streets of Washington unassisted and that his disability has almost entirely disappeared.

Although it can be stated that the former President's physical condition is better now than it was the day he left the White House, he still finds it necessary to place a limitation upon the time he devotes to callers and letter writing and devotes the greater part of his time to rest and recreation.

Man Hoboes To Macon Beneath Freight Car

H. F. Musselwhite, lieutenant of police with the Southern Railway, made an unusual arrest yesterday. Before daylight, while looking for hoboes on the local Southern freight from Cochran to Macon, he heard a noise near the bumper between two cars. Mr. Musselwhite got his gun ready and advanced to the opening between the cars. His flashlight revealed the hobo—a fat man who had ridden all the way from Cochran to the bumper.—Macon Telegraph.