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TAR HEEL TOPICS

Items Gathered From All Sections of the State

Wife Murderer Suicides.

Selma, Special.—After two previous attempts at self-destruction, Ransom Godwin, who on the night of August 7th, last, shot his wife in a most brutal and cold-blooded manner, shot himself Tuesday morning through the heart with a gun, death following instantly, the scene of the deed being the woods about a half mile from his home. The coroner held an inquest over the dead body, after which it was interred by relatives. Godwin had been hunted by officers since the night of his diabolical deed in August, but had effectually eluded capture, staying in the dense woods in the vicinity of his home all the time, it is believed, and being in communication with his son. Once when officers were hot on his trail he tried to end his existence with his gun, but the attempt was a failure. A second time, when he learned that the governor had offered a reward of \$100 for his capture, he made an effort at suicide by cutting his throat, but this attempt also did not result in death.

The cold weather coming on and the old man being unable longer to lead a sylvan existence, he deliberately set about planning a third effort to put himself out of this world. Some weeks ago a lawyer visited him and papers disposing of what property he had—not a very great amount—were drawn up. This having been done in good shape, he told his son where to look later for his dead body, and at the place designated it was found.

Godwin was in his 76th year and was in good health and sound mind. The stern hand of the law was too much for him to go up against, and he chose rather to die by his own hand than face the bar of justice—as he would have had to do in a short time had he not used his gun with fatal results.

Straightening Out the Kinks.

Winston-Salem, Special.—There is a novel enterprise in this city located on Church street. It is conducted by the "Twin-City Shampooing and Hair Straightening Company." A small stock of feminine furnishings are kept for sale among the colored women of the city, and also a stock of second hand clothing. The firm does a thriving business in this line, but derives the bulk of its income from the "hair-straightening" department. The object of this company is to straighten the hair of the negroes in the city, and to eliminate all the kinky inclinations of the same forever and eternally. It seems that there is a great demand among the sable sons and daughters of Ham to have straight lines made out of that part of their anatomy which is as the sands of the sea and cannot be counted, and a great many negroes in the city stand as living illustrations of the skill of the local "hair-straighteners." The process used in the operation could not be learned. The woman in charge of the building refused to give out the formula, the secret being as jealously guarded by the originators as the secrets of the initiated members of Appolo's Temple at Delphi.

Million Increase in Tax Values.

Charlotte, Special.—The value of property in Mecklenburg county real and personal, for the past 12 months has increased approximately one million dollars, although the exact figures will probably be considerably more than this amount.

Proposal to Increase Stock.

Winston-Salem, Special.—A meeting of the stockholders of the Wachovia Loan & Trust Company of this city has been called, the purpose of which is to take action upon the question of increasing the capital stock from \$600,000 to \$1,000,000.

Forsyth Teachers Meet.

Winston-Salem, Special.—There was a fine array of county school teachers in the Twin City Saturday afternoon, the occasion being the first fall meeting of the Forsyth County Teachers' Association, which was held in the court house, beginning at 1 o'clock. The feature of the meeting was an address by Col. W. A. Blair, who spoke to the teachers about educational matters in general. He made a splendid address and was listened to with interest.

The Synod Closes.

Hendersonville, Special.—Synod met at 9 o'clock, Moderator Richard in the chair. Rev. W. M. Sikes of Madison, conducted the devotional exercises. Several reports of standing committees were read and approved. The statistical report shows that the Synod has given to all purposes this year \$123,364. Of this amount \$30,061 was for foreign missions, and \$4,000 for the assemblies, Synodical and Presbyterian home missions. A resolution was adopted requesting that Synod at its session in Newbern next year convene at 8 o'clock p. m. on the fourth Tuesday in October. The report of the special committee on women's societies, commending highly the work of the Women's Missionary Union and other societies, was adopted. The report of the committee on the Orphanage was taken from the docket and after striking out the recommendation to accept the resignation of Superintendent Boyd, the report was adopted and Mr. Boyd's work was commended. Synod listened to an address by Rev. J. E. Sneider, the assembly's secretary of colored evangelization, and also to remarks by J. S. Morrow, one of the ten colored ministers in the Synod, both speaking in the interest of work among the colored people. The report of Synod's committee on Colored Evangelization was read and adopted. At 10:30 o'clock by special order, the report of the committee of the Sabbath and family religion was read and considered. A sermon was preached by Rev. J. G. Gath in the interest of family religion. Rev. R. F. Campbell spoke of the work of the American Sabbath Union, and Rev. H. G. Hill delivered an address on Sabbath observance.

Railroads Are the Winners.

Louisburg, Special.—The railroads were the winners last week in the numerous damage suits tried in Franklin Superior Court. In the case of Fuller vs. the Atlantic Coast Line for \$150 for alleged mistreatment and neglect of a fine mare while in transit resulting in her death from pneumonia, the jury decided in favor of the railroad and taxed Fuller with the costs. Another suit tried was Macon vs. Seaboard Air Line for the killing of Tom Macon, a negro, when a locomotive jumped the little bluff at the depot, overlooking Main street, some time ago and buried the darky under it. The railroad offered the plaintiff in this suit some time ago \$2,200, but it was declined and the jury awarded \$1,427.

Nearly Killed by Bull Dog.

Spencer, Special.—Mrs. Pheobe Lineback, wife of Conductor Grover Lineback, of the Southern Railway, is in a precarious condition at her home in Spencer as a result of a desperate encounter with a large bull dog here Saturday. The dog, which was a most vicious animal, attacked a cow on a lot near Mrs. Lineback's home and was about to kill her, and Mrs. Lineback attempted to beat the dog off the cow. All kinds of weapons were used, but without effect. In the fight with the dog she was dangerously injured and was carried to her home in a helpless condition and is still unable to be moved.

U. S. Court in Greenville.

Greenville, Special.—The civil docket will be sounded in the federal circuit court on Saturday morning at 10 o'clock and parties interested should be present on that date. Good progress was made in the district court and many cases were disposed of. There were a number of convictions and few acquittals.

Transfer of Valuable Real Estate.

Winston-Salem, Special.—By a deed filed Friday in the office of the register of deeds the Hunter block, in Salem, is transferred from the executors of the estate of C. V. Winfree, and the administrators of William H. Loyd to Messrs. G. F. and R. I. Jenkins, the consideration being \$7,500. The building is now occupied by the Salem Dry Goods Company. It has a frontage on Main street of 91 feet and runs westwardly for 192 feet.

MEETING OF TEACHERS

Primary Instructors in Public Schools Meet in Asheville.

Asheville, Special.—The delegates to the North Carolina Primary Teachers' association spent a busy and pleasant day Friday, combining business with pleasure. Three sessions of the association were held, and in the afternoon the visitors were taken to Overlook park in special trolley cars. The morning session was devoted to the reading of papers and discussions, the meeting being called to order at the Y. M. C. A. auditorium by Mrs. C. L. Stevens of Newbern, president of the association. Miss Mary C. Graham of Charlotte read the minutes of the last meeting. A paper on "Deficient Children," prepared by Miss Fannie Anderson of Charlotte, was read by Miss Mary Erwin. Miss Nettie Allen of Greensboro read a paper on "Drill Work." "Humor in the School Room," was handled in a pleasing manner by Superintendent J. A. Bevins of Monroe, and Miss Michaux of Greensboro discussed "Home Study; First, Second and Third Grades."

The evening session was devoted to "The Evils of Crowded School Rooms," a paper prepared by Miss Josephine Coit of Salisbury.

The following officers of the association were elected at the evening session: President, Miss Mary Graham of Charlotte; vice president, Miss Annie Mead Michaux of Greensboro; corresponding secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Edgar Johnson of Salisbury; recording secretary, Miss Eva Stuart of Gastonia; programme committee, Miss Elizabeth Bernard, chairman; Miss Mary Ward and Mrs. Pickens.

FRATRICIDE AT HAPPY HILL.

Negro Shoots His Brother Dead Near Winston-Salem — Murderer Makes His Escape.

Winston-Salem, Special.—Chester Butler, colored, who shot and killed his older brother, Dave Butler, Saturday night, has not been captured although officers have been hunting for him since the tragedy occurred. The brothers fell out over a lamp which Chester had taken from his mother to an unoccupied building, where a crowd of negroes were engaged in gambling. After a bitter controversy, Chester went home, got his double-barrel shotgun and as he left the house remarked to his mother that he had decided to kill Dave. He went direct to the room where Dave and other negroes were playing cards and without a moment's warning fired. Dave ran out of the room and escaped the first shot, but practically the entire contents of the second entered his body. The wounded man dropped to the ground and died before a physician arrived. The dead man was 24 years old, while the brother, who committed the crime is only 19. The killing was at "Happy Hill," a negro settlement just across Salem creek, southeast of town.

Mashed Between Bumpers.

Winston-Salem, Special.—Carl B. Green, a brakeman on a freight train between this city and Greensboro, was seriously injured at Kernersville Monday night by getting caught between the bumpers of two box cars. No bones were broken, but it is thought that he suffered internal injuries. He was brought into this city on the passenger train, arriving here at 7:35 o'clock. Mr. Green is about 25 years old and has a wife and one child. He resides on North Liberty street. He is a young man of excellent qualities and well liked by his associates and others who know him.

Store and Stock Burned.

Pineville, Special.—Mr. Henry Ferguson, of this vicinity, had the misfortune of losing his store and conical, while the brother, who committed the crime, was shot and killed by fire last Tuesday night. The origin of the fire is unknown. This is the second time that Mr. Ferguson has experienced the same "bad luck," there was no insurance in either case. He has the sympathy of his neighbors in his misfortune.

THE BLAME IS FIXED

Brakeman Charged With the Recent Wreck At Rudd

HIS ARREST QUICKLY FOLLOWED

The Brakeman of the Freight Train Who Admits That He Left the Switch Open, Is Arrested on a Warrant Charging Criminal Negligence

Greensboro, N. C., Special.—The wreck of Southern Railway train No. 34, which collided head-on with southbound freight train No. 83, by running into an open switch at Rudd on the night of October 17th, was investigated by Coroner J. P. Turner and a jury of six. The inquest was behind closed doors and four witnesses were examined. They were Engineer Sanders and Conductor Davidson, of the freight, and Brakeman H. C. Leonard, also of the freight, who disappeared when the trains came together and walked from Rudd to his home at Spencer. The other witness was Mr. C. D. Benbow, who was a passenger on No. 34.

Verdict of the Jury.

After deliberating two or three hours the coroner's jury reached a verdict, placing the responsibility for the wreck upon Brakeman Leonard, who admitted in his testimony that he left the switch unlocked. The verdict also called the solicitor's attention to the fact that the freight crew had been on duty over 23 hours. Upon the affidavit of Coroner Turner a warrant was issued by Squire D. H. Collins, charging Leonard with criminal negligence, resulting in the death of Mrs. Jane Thomas, D. Allen Bryant and others. Leonard was arrested and will be held in the custody of a guard until his mother arrives from Spencer and gives his \$1,000 bond.

Liquor Men Arrested.

Danville, Special.—Charged with defrauding the Government by removing and concealing quantities of unstamped spirits, J. D. Booker, a large distiller of Pittsylvania county, his brother, G. N. Booker, and J. D. Reynolds, a United States storekeeper and ganger, were sent on to the Federal Grand Jury, at a hearing before United States Commissioner Martin. A squad of revenue officers concealed themselves in the bushes near the distillery and, it is alleged, caught the trio in the act of removing whiskey to Booker's retail saloon. If a conviction results, Reynolds, being a government employe, will probably face more serious charges. Each furnished \$2,000 bond.

A Billion Dollars Tied Up.

New York, Special.—More than a billion dollars are tied up in the dozen savings banks in New York, which have suspended payment so far as the owners of the money, the depositors, are concerned. But it is all available for use in general banking business, and the bankers say depositors who need the sums of money for pressing purposes will be paid or given certified checks for reasonable amounts. At some of the banks which are still paying checks a portion of the crowd which presented checks had been waiting in line all night Sunday night and since early Sunday afternoon.

Will Proclaim Oklahoma a State.

Washington, Special.—After receiving in person from Governor Franz, of Oklahoma, a certified copy of the new constitution and certificate of election returns, the President announced that he would proclaim the Territory a State on November 16th.

Runs on Banks Have Ceased.

New York, Special.—The crowds at the banks and trust companies on which heavy runs were made last week have dwindled to mere handfuis. Most of the trust companies and banks have resorted to payment of the depositors with certified checks on clearing house banks, in preference to releasing currency. The leading banks and financiers say they expect no trouble this week. In both London and New York stock market prices have advanced over Saturday's close. The Pittsburg exchange is still closed.

WHISKEY CAUSED DEATHS

Brother of Saloon Keeper, a Blockader, Under the Influence of Liquor, Kills His Mother and Then Guts His Own Throat.

Wadesboro, N. C., Special.—As a result of a protracted spree and a drunken debauch Mr. Elie Hightower, a middle-aged man who lives in the southern part of this county, right near the South Carolina line, shot and instantly killed his mother with a pistol Friday night. It seems that Mr. Hightower was at his home on his front porch in a semi-conscious condition from the influence of whiskey when his mother approached him to get him to go in the house, and he suddenly drew his pistol and shot her through the heart. When the pistol fired Mrs. Hightower said, "Son you have killed me," and expired immediately.

Saturday morning, after realizing what he had done, Mr. Hightower cut his own throat and died about 10 o'clock. Mr. Hightower had a reputation of being a noted blockader and dealer in illicit liquor.

He was a brother to Mr. F. M. Hightower, who is in the saloon business in Wadesboro, and who has made arrangements to go to Wilmington and run a saloon after the first of next January.

RATE CASE COMPROMISED?

Governor Glenn Returns to Raleigh, and It Is Positively Announced on the Authority of Person Completely Informed in the Matter That the Dispute Between the State of North Carolina and the Southern Railway Is To Be Settled By the Legislature, Governor Glenn Having No Authority to Change the Rate of 2-1-4 Cents.

A special from Raleigh, N. C., to the Charlotte Observer of Monday, says:

It can be safely said on the authority of a completely informed person that the passenger rate question in dispute between the State of North Carolina and the Southern Railway since last spring will be settled. The final arrangement may be made by the Legislature, which fixed the rate at 2-1-4 cents. Governor Glenn has no power to change that rate himself. The reports made by the Southern show the average a mile paid by passengers to be 2.41 cents.

It has been known for some days by those on the inside that a settlement was in sight. It is now known positively, though details are as yet incomplete.

Governor Glenn may make recommendations to the Legislature. This is most probable.

Gas Tank Explodes, 4 Injured and 3 Missing.

Chattanooga, Special.—Four working men were injured by burns and two or three are reported missing as a result of an explosion followed by fire in the plant of the Chattanooga Gas company, shortly before 3 o'clock. The explosion is said to have been caused by the dropping of a lighted match over an open jet of a tank in the purifying department. The injured are: B. A. Broder, Dan Hemmill and Henry Hemmill and an unknown negro.

Birmingham Telegraphers Return to Work.

Birmingham, Ala., Special.—It was announced that a majority of the telegraphers who have been on strike since August 11th will resume work Monday. They will go back on both the Western Union and Postal, under practically the same conditions they were working under when called out.

Texas Banks Consolidate.

Houston, Tex., Special.—The Planters & Mechanics' National Bank, capitalized at \$500,000, and, according to the last statement, issued in Augusta, carried deposits of \$1,000,000, has been absorbed by the Union Bank & Trust Company. The consolidated bank will continue as a State bank. The cause of the liquidation of the Planters & Mechanics' Bank, it was said, was the extended illness of its president, F. A. Richard.

DAY OF THANKS SET

President Names Last Thursday in November

CHARACTER THE GOAL SOUGHT

Democracy Must Use the Ten Talents Entrusted It and Pray for the Spirit of Righteousness and Justice in which Lies Hope of Nation's Perpetuity.

Washington, D. C., Special.—President Roosevelt Saturday issued his Thanksgiving proclamation, through the Secretary of State, naming the last Thursday in November, the twenty-eighth.

The proclamation follows: "Once again the season of the year has come when, in accordance with the custom of our forefathers for generations past, the President appoints a day as the especial occasion for all our people to give praise and thanksgiving to God.

"During the past year we have been free from famine, from pestilence, from war. We are at peace with all the rest of mankind. Our natural resources are at least as great as those of any other nation. We believe that in ability to develop and take advantage of these resources the average man of this nation stands at least as high as the average man of any other. Nowhere else in the world is there such an opportunity for a free people to develop to the fullest extent all its powers of body, of mind, and of that which stands above both body and mind—character.

"Much has been given us from on high and much will rightly be expected of us in return. Into our care the ten talents have been entrusted; and we are to be pardoned neither if we squander and waste, nor if we hide them in a napkin; for they must be fruitful in our hands. Ever throughout the ages, at all times and among all peoples, prosperity has been fraught with danger, and it behooves us to beseech the Giver of all things that we may not fall into love of ease and luxury; that we may not forget our duty to God and to our neighbor.

"A great Democracy like ours, a Democracy based upon the principles of orderly liberty, can be perpetuated only if in the heart of the ordinary citizen there dwells a keen sense of righteousness and justice. We should earnestly pray that this spirit of righteousness and justice may grow ever greater in the hearts of all of us, and that our souls may be inclined evermore both toward the virtues that tell for gentleness and tenderness, for loving kindness and forbearance one with another, and toward those no less necessary virtues that make our manliness and rugged hardihood—for without these qualities neither nation nor individual can rise to the level of greatness.

"Now, therefore, I, Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States, do set apart Thursday, the 28th day of November, as a day of general Thanksgiving and Prayer, and on that day I recommend that the people shall cease from their daily work, and, in their home or in their churches meet devoutly to thank Almighty for the many and great blessings they have received in the past, and to pray that they may be given strength so to order their lives as to deserve a continuation of these blessings in the future.

"In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. (Seal.)

"Done at the city of Washington the twenty-fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seven and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and thirty-second. (Signed)

"Theodore Roosevelt." "By the President: "Elihu Root, Secretary of State.

To Inquire Into Seizure of Tobacco.

Washington, Special.—The British embassy has been charged by its government to inquire into the action of the Federal authorities in seizing 7,500 cases of cigarettes at Norfolk intended for shipment to the British American Tobacco Company. The British embassy reopened for business in Washington after being located at Intervale, N. H., all summer. Mr. Watson, one of the secretaries, is in charge, pending the arrival of Ambassador Bryce, who is coming from Intervale in an automobile.