

MR. D. A. TOMPKINS HERE. Delivers Able Address to a Large Audience on the Subject of Building and Loan Associations.

Saturday night in the court house Mr. D. A. Tompkins, of Charlotte, addressed the citizens of Lexington on the subject of Building and Loan Associations and was heard by a good sized audience. The meeting was presided over by Wade H. Phillips, Esq. The address of Mr. Tompkins was that of a man thoroughly familiar with his subject and was spoken in such a way that the closest attention was given to what he said. Lexington was pleased to entertain so distinguished a gentleman, a leader in North Carolina's industrial progress, and the gentlemen interested in extending the usefulness of the Building and Loan Association are very much indebted to Mr. Tompkins for making so plain the great value of such an institution to a town. Mr. Tompkins, in part, said:

"The building and loan association is a mutual organization for saving money and building homes. It may be said to be an institution in which members may 'buy a home with rent money.' If the conditions are right the building and loan association is one of the smoothest working and safest institutions in the world. If the conditions are wrong, the organization is unsafe and worse than useless. The result of a different plan of organization other than the right one is as marked as regards success or failure as the climatic difference between Greensboro and Lexington makes on cotton production or difference in the laws of Mexico and the United States makes in two towns on opposite sides of the Rio Grande. There is but one real and safe building and loan association. That is the local one. By local is meant one whose loans are made at home and in a limited area and where the bulk of the members live. It should be a purely mutual institution. Each and every member must share in profits alike and all profits must be distributed equally to the members according to their payments.

"The local or home building and loan association has been so uniformly successful that many self-seeking people have organized companies which they have called building and loan associations but which have been institutions to make money for individuals. The exploitation of these and the money lost in them has made wrong impressions in the minds of many people who have had experience with these or who have heard about their doings. These spurious institutions have sometimes such slight differences in plan of operation as to be unnoticeable until experience shows the fault. Another form of organization which has done injury to the real building and loan is the so-called inter-State or national associations. It transpires that if every feature of the real institution is preserved except the confinement of all loans to one locality and the practical confinement of the subscribers to the same locality, the organization becomes at once unsafe. All attempts to spread the business of one over a large area have been failures. In a few isolated cases some of these inter-State associations have survived, but even these are subject to the vicissitudes that have destroyed so many of them.

"The real, purely mutual, home or local building and loan association is a beneficent institution. The spurious institutions, however, much like it, are, as compared with it, as a sudden loss is to the light lost. Besides a better understanding of the real and the spurious among the people, the law-makers are coming more and more to a knowledge of what is necessary to foster the real and root out the spurious. The two main points that the law should cover are: (1) To forbid the name building and loan being used except by purely mutual and home institutions. (2) Forbid the so-called inter-State institutions from doing business in the State except by contracts of prescribed form and under heavy bond or deposit to secure the people in their contract rights.

"There should by all means be a State building and loan commission with headquarters at Raleigh, whose duties should be to examine the affairs of the building and loan associations of the State, the same as the bank examiner examines the State banks and protect the people in dealing with corporations, domestic or foreign, attempting to do a business in the name of building and loan, but for profit and not on the purely mutual plan. Just as an individual cannot perceive the difference in climate conditions between Lexington and Greensboro, which makes one a cotton growing country and the other not so, to the general run of busy people, the difference between the beneficent and the spurious building and loan is often not perceptible, and there should be a commission of experts to inspect and regulate all building and loan associations—fostering and encouraging the right ones and driving out the spurious. "Beside the two main features of desirable building and loan laws stat-

ed, there are some minor items that the law ought to cover. The allowances for expenses of conducting an association should be limited just as the interest rate in banks is limited, and for the same reason. In the case of bank extortion, the purpose is to prevent extortion, so in the case of building and loan the cost of conducting the business should be limited to 2 per cent. to prevent the officers from taking more of the people's money than they are entitled to. The limit might well be made 1 per cent., because there can always be found men who would be willing to act as secretary and treasurer of a building and loan for 1 per cent. and less. The position throws insurance into the hands of the secretary and treasurer and naturally gives him a good many real estate transactions from those who are buying lots or building houses through the building and loan association. The building and loan association is the best town builder in the world. It puts the opportunity to build a house within the reach of every wage earner. It gives the merchant a resource of credit that has been in many cases found exceedingly valuable. It is the best teacher of regular and systematic savings in the world. It is not competitive within banks of issue, nor with banks of discount and deposit, nor with savings banks. It is the one institution which gathers money that would otherwise be spent and aggregates it into capital and invests the capital into houses, or taxable property. It locates the peripatetic mechanic and makes him a better citizen. It conduces to the education of children and to the support of the churches. It improves architecture and improves the general character of people, contributes to the commerce of a town, and has many other influences for good. "There has been formed in North Carolina a State league of building and loan associations. The purpose of the league is to co-operate in asking for the repeal of laws which are onerous upon the building and loan association, and also for the enactment of laws which are necessary for the protection of the association. If you organize a building and loan association here in Lexington, I urgently recommend that your association join the State League. "I hope to see the time when there is a building and loan association in every town in the State. I hope that here in Lexington this movement to organize a building and loan association will be entirely successful and if the people could be brought to an appreciation of the benefits and advantages of such an institution both for the advancement of the city and the advancement of the people, there is no doubt but that upon that basis you would make a splendid success."

Lumber Concern at Denton.

Two Salisbury men, Arthur E. Davis and Jake Haynes, are engaged in making preparations for establishing a big lumber mill at Denton, this county. Mr. Haynes is a Philadelphian, recently come to Salisbury. They will purchase a saw mill outfit and set it up at Denton, on the new railroad, where they have been promised ten million feet without moving their mill. This is an exceedingly heavy-timbered section. The lumber of this concern will be dried and finished at Denton. Mr. Davis is a lumberman of experience and at Salisbury has been doing a fine business for the past two years.

Rev. Miller Goes to Palmerville.

It is a positive grief to us to hear that our neighbor, Rev. Jno. R. Miller, the auditor of the Orphanage, has resigned his field in this association and accepted a call to Palmerville and other churches in the Stanly Association. Bro. Miller and family will be greatly mourned and missed by their friends in Thomsville, where they are highly esteemed, and the Liberty Association loses one of its very ablest pastors.—Charity and Children.

Violating Postal Laws.

It seems that some people do not know that they violate the postal laws when they send packages through the mail marked merchandise and also include written letters in the packages. First class matter must be sent separate from merchandise and there is a penalty of \$10 for sending letters with merchandise. The post office inspectors are after such people in different towns and one will visit Salisbury for the purpose of collecting \$10 from some folks who have been guilty. Postmaster Ramsay has caught up with several such persons lately and they had to fork over the money. The worst violators are those who send tobacco tags for premiums and write letters also, sending the whole at four ounces for one cent.

A FLUTTER AMONG THE BIRDS. English Sparrows Create Much Interest and Save a Day From Dullness.

You can never tell what a day will bring forth. Saturday morning in Lexington opened up dull and promised nothing better than a cold drizzle. The mad dog scare was over because all the dogs were dead. There was nothing doing at all, at all. But before dinner time—an important hour in this town—a handful of sleeping citizens sat bolt up right and began rubbing their eyes. The chief of police discovered it. There came a hurry call for some stunt artist or other and one went, hatless, thinking he might get to see a sudden marriage, peradventure a house a-burning, or mayhap, meet some irate citizen at the street door and get a sound threshing for something he had "put in the paper."

Happily this fear was routed when he reached the seat of activity. Behind the temple of justice, vulgarly called the court house, there were some of Lexington's leading lawyers, merchants, capitalists, white folks, cullud folks and a half a hundred of everybody, with their chins elevated to an angle of 'steen degrees and their eyes snapping with excitement while they rubbed at a cornice or an entablature or a something at the top of a column under the eave of the temple, where they saw an English sparrow dangling in the air. It had become entangled in a thread of its nest and one leg was fast. And—mirabile dictu—the mates of the bird were trying to free it from the string. They fluttered about it, chattering, pulled it at with beak and claw, and sometimes, catching the little prisoner, they would hang very still thinking to break the string with their dead weight. Indeed it was a remarkable thing. Lawyer Raymond McCrary, who was there taking more interest than any one, said, "Talk about birds! They've got more folks than sense!" his exact words. The spirit of comradeship, the intelligence and the grit of the sparrows quickly generated sympathy for them in the human and efforts were made to liberate the bird. A pole was tried from the upper story, but it was too short. Chief Heitman, who has been around the world and knows what it means to be nung and also to have the legs tied up, hustled a crew after a ladder and went up to the bird with a pole. Mr. English Sparrow was punched loose, but we do believe it lost its whole entire leg in the punching, for a something red remained behind when it flew limply away, mid the cheers of the spectators.

The sight of the birds rendering what assistance they could to a fellow citizen more samer than people do, was a very pretty one. It stirred those who saw it until grown up men, whose heads are filled with business and much dignity, forgot themselves and went to work to save the bird. Had it been hanging there "and nothing more," no one would have thought of going to the top of the court house to set it free. One touch of nature makes the whole world akin. And that was all, but it saved the day. The spectators left with something fresh in their hearts and there must have been a general desire to whistle some cheery tune.

Shot His Brother.

Charles Conklin, in a quarrel with his brother John Conklin, on the outskirts of Burlington last Thursday, shot him with a shotgun, and perhaps fatally wounded him. The wounded man was unarmed. Charles was sent to jail without bond to await the result of his brother's injuries. He manifested no concern about the wounded man.

Mrs. Sallie Black, of Warren.

Mrs. Sallie Black, of Warren, aged 107 years, died Sunday. Until the day of her death she was able to go about and to help herself, and was perhaps the oldest person in the state.

ROBERT RUARK, ESQ., TO LEAVE. A Leading Lexington Attorney Will Move to Wilmington to Practice Law.

Mr. Robert Ruark, one of Lexington's leading attorneys and a member of the well known law firm of McCrary and Ruark, has announced his intention of leaving Lexington, much to the regret of his many friends here. Mr. Ruark will locate in Wilmington and will be associated in the practice of law with Iredell Meares Esq. Mrs. Ruark is now at her home in Wallace, N. C., and will not return to Lexington, but about February 1st will go with Mr. Ruark from Wallace to Wilmington. Mr. Ruark has been a citizen of the town for the past two years and has won for himself a high place in the esteem of our people. He is a thoroughly likable gentleman and a lawyer of much ability. The Dispatch desires to express its best wishes for his continued success.

Mr. and Mrs. Radcliffe "At Home."

Saturday evening from 8:30 to 11:30 Mr. and Mrs. Henry S. Radcliffe were "at home" to near one hundred of their friends, the occasion being the celebration of their crystal wedding. The event was thoroughly enjoyed and was one of the most delightful social functions Lexington society remembers. A "word making" contest was engaged in, cards with the word "matrimony" written upon them, being passed around, and to the person making the most words from this word was awarded the prize. Miss Meta Fletcher won the first prize, having made 121 words. After the entertainment afforded by this unique contest the guests were served with delicious refreshments in the dining room. The wedding cake, on being cut, yielded the ring to Miss Kathleen Smith and Mr. W. F. Welborn carried away the money. The decorations were very pretty indeed. Mr. and Mrs. Radcliffe were the recipients of a large number of beautiful presents.

Shot By Burglars?

Winston Salem, Jan. 21.—Henry Kobre, a Russian Jew, was found lying on the floor of his room, in a pool of blood, probably mortally wounded, tonight by his brother. A bullet hole over the left eye told a part of the story and the burglar theory, the police believe, explains the rest.

Kobre was in his night clothing and his bed had not been occupied. He is said to carry usually considerable money on his person, and when found he had been stripped of his valuables. An effort had been made to enter his room, which is over M. Kobre & Co.'s saloon, by a door, but a portion of the lock held fast, if he was robbed the method of entrance is a mystery. Kobre was shot from outside, the bullet having entered a window near the bed. The theory of the police is that preparatory to retiring, he heard a noise outside the window, raised the curtain to investigate and was shot by burglar. The wounded man was removed to the Twin City Hospital, where he died a few hours later without having regained consciousness.

Salisbury Distillery Seized.

The distillery of A. Evans, near the city limits at Salisbury, was seized last Friday by deputy collector Davis, of Statesville. It is stated that the local revenue officers have had their eyes on this establishment for sometime and the result of reports made by them was orders from Collector Harkins to seize the distillery. Irregularities explain the seizure. The property is worth \$2000 and there were 53 barrels of corn whiskey on the premises.

A mob of 800 men early Sunday morning took Earnest Baker, a negro, from the jail in Hopkinsville, Ky., and hanged him to a beam of the city scales—for rape.

MOVEMENTS OF PEOPLE. A Few of the Many Persons who Are Moving Around in the World.

Mr. Joel Leonard has a position as clerk for Mr. Will G. Hinkle. Mr. Mose Holmes and wife, of Mt. Airy, are here on a visit to relatives. Sheriff T. S. F. Dorsett has returned from a business trip to Kentucky. Mrs. Richard Springs returned Monday from Charlotte where she has been visiting her parents for the past month. Mr. H. D. Scarborough left yesterday for Asheboro and Mt. Gilead, where he will visit relatives for several days. Misses Nell and Arlie Trice left Monday afternoon for Concord, where they will spend two weeks visiting relatives. Messrs. R. L. McCrary and Z. I. Waiser left yesterday for Georgia, where they will spend a week or ten days on business. Mrs. Z. I. Waiser, who has been in Norfolk, Va., for some time visiting relatives, returned home last Wednesday night. Mr. and Mrs. Ferd Watson returned to their home at Winston last Friday, after spending several days in town with relatives. Mrs. J. N. Garrett, of Yadkin College, passed through here Friday en route to Graham, where she will visit her daughter. Mrs. Emma Dearmin and daughter, Miss Mabel, of High Point, spent Saturday and Sunday here visiting the family of Mr. L. J. Peacock. Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Cates, of Thomasville, were out of town guests Saturday evening at the reception given by Mr. and Mrs. Harry S. Radcliffe. Miss Edith Moore, of High Point, arrived Saturday and is spending several days here as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Moore. Messrs. Brantley H. Finch and O. E. Mendenhall left Saturday night for New York and Boston, where they will spend a week or ten days on a business trip. C. S. Green, of Lake, was here yesterday en route to Charlotte to see an eye specialist, and to have him to remove a piece of a gun cap from his eye, that has been in the eye for 18 years. Mrs. Will Dickerson, of High Point, after spending several days here with relatives, returned home Sunday. She was accompanied home by her father, Mr. C. K. Holmes, who will spend several weeks in High Point. Mrs. Harriet Moffitt, of Canada, who has been here on a visit to the family of her brother-in-law, Mr. W. H. Moffitt, left Friday for Thomasville, where she will visit relatives. Mrs. Moffitt is a native of Davidson county but has been residing in Canada for the past twelve years.

Tar Heels Lost.

Cincinnati, Jan. 22.—Ten thousand dollars changed hands in a 36-bird cocking main held near Covington, Ky., this afternoon between Georgia and North Carolina birds. There were 18 fights, the Georgia chickens being cared for by Henry Flock, while H. C. Jackson worked the North Carolina birds. About 20 prominent men from both states were at the main, about which the greatest secrecy was observed. The fights started shortly after 1 o'clock this afternoon, and the witnesses returned to Cincinnati late this evening. The Georgia birds won the main on the seventeenth fight. Mr. Chas. Arey has announced his intention of quitting the whiskey business in Salisbury and will close out his saloon at once. It is said that he has accumulated handsome property and will invest his capital in other fields, perhaps in the West. He has been in business four years.

ALL OVER THE STATE. Items of Interest of Passing Events Occurring in the State of North Carolina.

The Southern railway will replace old wooden bridges everywhere on its lines with new steel structures of modern design. The Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company has purchased a site in Durham and will build a \$250,000 branch house there. Work will begin at once. Victoria Reed, a colored woman of Asheville, died Friday at the age of 100 years. She was a slave and a native of Buncombe county, perhaps the oldest negro in the state. John Mowery, Salisbury's wealthiest negro, died Saturday night. He was a tailor by trade and leaves an estate worth from \$20,000 to \$30,000. Rev. J. A. Dorritee and Dr. J. Rumble, both commanding figures in the Presbyterian church in North Carolina, died last week. Rev. Dorritee at Charlotte and Dr. Rumble at Red Springs. March 30 and 31 the Methodists will hold a missionary institute at Trinity, Randolph county. Among the speakers selected for the time are Drs. Kilgo, Detwiler and Marr. Jack Fuller, driver for the Ham Grocery Company of Greensboro, was found dead at the stables on Smith street Saturday morning. Heart trouble is supposed to have been the cause of his death. It is reported from Salisbury that Mr. R. N. Hackett, of Wilkesboro, will again be in the race for the congressional nomination in the eighth district, and will give Mr. Blackburn a lively fight for his place. Clarke and Lilleston, the two fakirs who were tried last week for the killing of Chas. G. Smith, of Petersburg, at Raleigh during the state fair, were sentenced last Thursday, and Clarke gets 18 months while Lilleston is sent to the state prison for 14 years. The Casper whiskey company will move its plant from Winston to Roanoke in about two months. Associated with the Casper company now are Messrs. Hartman and Smithdeal of Advance, and W. A. Renigar, of Shore, whose business was shut up by the action of the Ward law January 1st. An explosion of gas in a building at the A. & M. College last Saturday caused good deal of consternation and \$100 damage. The gas had carelessly been left on by some one and when a match was struck by an unwitting person, the explosion took place. All the window glass were smashed. Will Harris, the noted Mecklenburg county desperado, who was sent to the penitentiary in April, 1903, and in August following escaped, terrorizing portions of Mecklenburg for some time thereafter, was recaptured at the Pcahontas Mines, in Virginia, last week, and will be again placed in the state prison. Harris is a negro and has committed several crimes since his escape. A piece of steel three inches in length was removed from the brain of John Nail, of Winston, at a hospital in Philadelphia last week. The physicians at first attempted to draw the metal from the brain by means of a powerful magnet but it was too firmly imbedded, and the surgeons were compelled to resort to the knife. The operation was a successful one and the patient is reported as doing well. Lon Thacker, colored, is in jail in Winston for assaulting "Cheap John" Watlington, an aged negro, with intent to rob. Thacker had borrowed a lantern from Watlington Monday night to find a lost quarter, and while the old man was lighting the lantern for him, he struck several vicious blows. His victim gave the alarm and the murderous knave skipped out but in an hour was caught.