

MYSTERY SURROUNDS DEATH OF BURGAW MAN

Body of Mr. Thos. L. Moore Found in Smith's Creek

Investigation Being Made by Coroner's Jury—Autopsy of Body Made by Dr. Thames—Deceased Last Seen on Tuesday.

Mystery surrounds the death of Mr. Thomas L. Moore, a well known farmer of Burgaw, whose body was found in a badly decomposed state near the creek, between the Castle Haynes road and the railroad bridge, north of the city by Mr. C. D. Gilbert, a colored employe at the station, early yesterday morning.

It is far as could be learned last night that Moore, who left Burgaw Monday morning, was last seen in this city in the night when he was going up the Cape Fear river with another man, whose identity is not positively known, last Tuesday. No explanation was given by his family until last night, which was the time that he was expected to return.

Young Moore just arrived at the station about 9 o'clock yesterday when he sent a "phone message" stating that he had found the body of a man floating near the edge of the creek. Young Moore accompanied Police W. F. Craig to the crime scene, where his arrival quickly identified the body as being that of his father.

Coroner John J. Fowler was notified by the police department and in company with Sheriff Cowan, County Solicitor George Peschau, Constable Davis and Deputy Sheriff Kelly yesterday afternoon at 2:30 went out to the pumping station to view the body. After their return to the city after going through the attending circumstances an affidavit was made by young Moore and a jury summoned to hold an inquest. The body was brought to the city by Mr. M. H. Brimmer and those composing the jury are Messrs. C. D. Myers, foreman; W. H. Hancock, secretary; F. W. Ortman, W. H. Brock, C. S. Robinson and J. A. Gilliland.

The jury decided that in view of the circumstances it would be well to have an autopsy of the body made. Dr. John Thames, assistant county health officer, who had already been summoned to make an autopsy. In view of the condition of the body Dr. Thames at once proceeded and had the autopsy completed by 7 o'clock last night. He declined to make a statement as to his findings until he had made his official statement to the jury, which will probably be today, but his understanding that he found evidence tending to show violence and a strong possibility that the deceased was killed and thrown overboard into the water.

The only witnesses examined by the jury last night were young Andrew Moore, who merely identified the body as being that of his father. He said that he knew this by the clothes and by several articles which were found on his person. He stated that the last time he had seen his father was on Saturday, September 19th.

The jury then took a recess to meet this morning at 10 o'clock in the grand jury room at the court house.

Mr. E. B. Moore, brother and Mr. J. J. Moore, a son of the deceased arrived in Wilmington on last evening's train from Burgaw and made arrangements last night to have the body taken to Burgaw this morning on the 8:30 train.

They stated that the deceased left home Monday night to go on a fishing trip with E. L. Larkins, Esq., and Mr. E. McN. Moore, Jr., a nephew, both of Burgaw, and Mr. Fitzhugh Lee, of Watha. They knew nothing more as to his whereabouts until they learned of his death in Wilmington yesterday.

SPEAKS ON PRISON REFORM

Rev. Geo. W. Crabtree Makes Earnest Plea for Humanitarian Methods in Treating Prisoners.

One of the essential methods for improving the condition of prisoners on the county convict camps and in the State penitentiary is by allowing the inmates to shorten their sentences by good behavior, according to Rev. Geo. W. Crabtree, prison evangelist of the Southern Presbyterian Church, who made an earnest plea for more humane treatment of prisoners in an address at Immanuel Presbyterian church yesterday morning. Mr. Crabtree preached at Bethany Presbyterian church at Wrightsboro last night.

Mr. Crabtree has been in his present work for the last seven or eight years. For the last two years he has been working under the auspices of the Southern Presbyterian Church. He is a native of Washington, N. C., but has traveled extensively throughout the country, and is thoroughly acquainted with prison conditions. "My hobby is prisons," he stated simply, in beginning his address, "and the hope of my life is to bring about regenerative influences in our prisons not only in North Carolina but throughout America."

He then pictured in vivid words his life as an infidel when he had lost hope in God and man, and his transformation into a man of Christian character whose chief aim is to serve the Saviour of mankind. Even when he had gotten down into the depths of sin, he said, the love for humanity still remained with him, and it was that that brought him to his present position.

After his conversion in a prison in Jacksonville, Fla., where he was placed for safe keeping on account of his physical condition, he said that he went to Washington, D. C., where he served for a time as the janitor of a Presbyterian church whose chief aim is to serve the Saviour of mankind. Even when he had gotten down into the depths of sin, he said, the love for humanity still remained with him, and it was that that brought him to his present position.

He gave many instances of prisoners who have been converted by his preaching and have since that time lived consistent Christian lives. One of these he named was a poor man who had been sent to the New Hanover county farm for drunkenness. He became a Christian about a year ago, he said, and since that time has done all in his power to make the world better and to bring men under the influence of the Christian religion. It was such instances as these, he said, that will facilitate their work for the winter months.

He urged his hearers that they would not waste their lives, but that they would devote them to uplifting humanity in whatever station they might be placed. There is no class that needs help more than the prisoners, he declared, and he hoped that each one present would do everything possible to help their condition.

Rev. J. S. Crowley, pastor of the church, announced that the Sunday school will hereafter meet on Sunday afternoons at 3:30 o'clock instead of 10 A. M., as during the summer. He also stated that, beginning next Sunday, the services will begin at 7:30 o'clock instead of 8 o'clock.

WILL BUY COTTON FROM TOBACCO DEALERS. American Tobacco Company's "Buy-a-Bale" Offer to Customers.

As already announced in The Star the American Tobacco Company is to lend its support to making the "buy-a-bale of cotton" idea a success. The plan evolved by the Tobacco Company will, it is believed, greatly help the cotton situation in the South while at the same time stimulating trade in the South. The plan is to establish confidence in the South's continued prosperity.

RESUME CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Ministerial Association Resumes Weekly Meetings Next Monday—Planning Fall Campaigns.

Practically all the pastors of Wilmington, who left the city to spend their vacations, have returned and are now busy planning with officers of their churches campaigns for the fall and winter. Owing to the fact that many persons have been out of the city for the last few weeks on their annual vacations most of the churches have not been pushing their work but with the return of the members activity is being resumed with renewed vigor.

The Wilmington Ministerial Association, which during the summer only held its meetings once a month, will begin next Monday morning, having several thousand members. There are a number of matters that have been laid over during the summer that will receive attention at this meeting.

One of the matters to which the association expects to devote considerable attention is that of giving greater publicity to the work of the church. The ministers feel that they should reach more people than they are doing and to this end believe that an effective way is through the public press.

Next Sunday prayers in practically all the churches of the city will be for a speedy termination of the European war. This is the day designated by President Wilson in a recent proclamation. Special programmes will be rendered including sermons on peace.

Several of the churches of the city during the summer have had extensive repairs made, among these being St. Andrew's Presbyterian, the First Presbyterian and St. Paul's Lutheran. The main auditorium of St. Andrew's has been overhauled and re-painted, improving the appearance to a marked degree. The repairs at the First Presbyterian church are still in progress but will be completed in a few days. The entire interior has been re-painted and re-papered. The exterior of the church is now being painted. The windows have been thoroughly cleaned also.

The improvements at St. Paul's Lutheran church include the addition of a Sunday school room erected at a cost of several hundred dollars. The new added room there will be ample facilities to take care of the growing Sunday school without crowding. The addition is built according to the most modern ideas for the construction of such buildings.

Several of the other churches of the city have made improvements of a similar nature that will facilitate their work for the winter months.

SUFFICIENT TIME NOT GIVEN. Corporation Commission Will Not Enforce Rule Regarding Freight.

That the recently adopted rule by the railroads for the standard bill of lading requiring claims for lost merchandise, shipped by freight, to be filed within four months after failure to receive them is not approved by the State Corporation Commission, because sufficient publicity was not given by the railroads as to their intention to enforce this rule and because four months does not appear to be a sufficient time in the substance of a letter received here by Paul D. Satchwell, Esq., from the rate clerk of the Commission.

OCTOBER 1st and 2nd Our Next Regular Interest Quarter Begins on these dates, and all deposits made with us on or before October 2nd will receive a Full Quarter's Interest on January 1st. MAKE UP YOUR MIND That you will open a Savings Account with this bank today, and that you will Save a Part of Your Earnings Each Week or Month. \$1.00 will start you on the road to success. Try it. 4% Interest compounded Quarterly, paid on account. THE PEOPLES SAVINGS BANK Corner Front and Princess Streets.

SCHEDULE OF "GYM" CLASSES Y. M. C. A. Physical Training Department Will Begin Work for the Season Next Week. Beginning next Monday the gymnasium classes of the Young Men's Christian Assn. will begin their fall and winter work. Mr. J. P. Settlers, physical director, and Mr. Odie B. Hinnant, director of the boys' department, have spent considerable time in arranging the schedule for the classes and in order that the work may be conducted more efficiently it has been deemed advisable to make a number of changes.

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