

# Another Chapter Is Opened In Celebrated Walton Case

### C. E. Scherer Arrested Yesterday Afternoon Charged With the Murder Last April

### TO BE ARRAIGNED TODAY

### Evidence Leading to Arrest Secured by Efforts of Officers. Protests Innocence.

Charles E. Scherer, a well-known grocer of this city, was arrested shortly before 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon charged with the murder of Neal Walton, the young white man who was mysteriously shot to death near Bellevue cemetery on the night of Wednesday, April 11, 1917.

The warrant for Scherer's arrest was sworn out by Mr. Levi Merritt before Solicitor E. T. Burton, and charges that Scherer did "willfully and with malice aforethought kill and murder one Neal Walton."

Scherer was taken in custody at his residence, 108 South 15th street, by Deputy Sheriffs Charles Keen and J. E. Taylor, and has been committed to jail without bond. He will be arraigned before Recorder George Harris at 10 o'clock this morning, but it is understood that the preliminary hearing will be postponed. Scherer disclaims any knowledge of the killing, and according to officers, came near a collapse when placed under arrest yesterday afternoon.

### Under Surveillance for Some Time.

The evidence leading up to Scherer's arrest was secured through the constant efforts of both county and city officials to apprehend the slayer of Walton. Although no move has been made publicly prior to the arrest, Scherer, it is understood, has been under surveillance for some time, and his movements have been closely watched by officers.

### One of Blackest Crimes in History.

The arrest of Scherer marks the beginning of another chapter in one of the darkest crimes ever perpetrated in the city of Wilmington. On the night of Wednesday, April 11, Neal Walton, a 22-year-old white youth, was seated at the roots of a tree on a small near Bellevue cemetery with a woman companion, was killed by a gunshot fired at close range, the entire side of his head being blown away and his brains scattered on the ground.

The woman, Miss Florence Davidson, was subsequently attacked by the slayer of Walton, and dragged through the bushes for nearly one hundred yards, finally making her escape by leaping in the tonneau of a passing automobile, her assailant firing a shot into the rear of the car as it passed.

At the inquest, which lasted for 14 days, Miss Davidson stated positively that her assailant was a negro, and identified Oscar Johnson as the convict trustee, as being the guilty man. After examining many other witnesses, however, the coroner's jury, in view of the fact that the crime was committed in the woods on one of the darkest nights of the year, and that Miss Davidson at the time of her examination was in a condition bordering on hysteria, returned a verdict that failed to accuse the negro.

Later on the same day Johnson was arrested on a warrant sworn out by a brother of the slain man, charging him with the murder of Neal Walton. The grand jury, however, failed to find a true bill, and the matter, so far as the public was concerned, was dropped to be revived yesterday afternoon by the arrest of Scherer.

### Scherer Under Peace Bond.

Scherer when arrested yesterday afternoon was under a peace bond of \$500 before Justice W. A. McGowan on account of some domestic trouble. He is a man of some 45 years, and has a wife and several children. Until a few months ago he conducted a grocery store at 1026 North Eighth street.

He was the owner of considerable property in the city, but it is reported that during the past few months he has disposed of practically the entire lot. A striking coincidence connected with his arrest, it was noted, was the night, it is the strange similarity between the eyes of the negro Johnson, and his own. In the darkness it would have been easy to have mistaken the one for the other, it is pointed out, when it would have been practically impossible to have distinguished a white man from a negro. It was the deeper impression on Miss Davidson, and it was of these eyes that she raved about while in her delirious moments following the tragedy.

### Many Hints During Inquest.

During the inquest there was a persistent rumor that someone or some parties were seeking to shield the identity of the real assassin, and at one time Coroner Holden stopped the entire investigation for several days, giving his reasons, that some invisible power was at work seeking to defeat the ends of justice.

Practically every man who was in the vicinity of the crime during the time of April 11, was held in more or less suspicion, and scores of witnesses were examined without avail. Scherer, however, was never mentioned during the entire course of the proceedings.

### Town Buzzes at News.

When it became known late yesterday afternoon that the alleged slayer of Walton had been arrested, the whole city buzzed with excitement. The interest in this crime has never entirely died down, and it required

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## SCOTTS HILL SCHOOL BEFORE BOARD AGAIN

### D. L. Gore Gives \$500 to Williston School for Shop

### Attorney J. C. King Presents Disturbed State of Mind in Rural School District and Urges Action for Good of School.

In an effort to bring harmony among the patrons of the Scotts Hill school, where dissatisfaction now is said to reign supreme, and in the interest of blotting out the prejudices alleged to exist between certain individuals patrons and school committeemen which, it is alleged, will work to the great detriment of the proper conduct of the school, Attorney J. C. King, saying he represented no one in particular but the school children in general, appeared before the Board of Education yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock and made a strong appeal, suggesting a solution of the disturbed state of affairs in the rural school.

The cause of the trouble is laid to the action of the committeemen in electing as teacher Mrs. W. H. Alexander, daughter-in-law of Committeeman C. H. Alexander, over the wishes of a majority of patrons of the school, this being brought out in a hearing before the Board of Education on the 24th of August, at which the patrons of the school in an unsuccessful attempt, tried to prove that Committeemen Alexander and G. R. Parker were "unfit and incompetent" to serve as committeemen of the Scotts Hill school.

### Attorney King Speaks.

Precisely the same board about the disturbed state of mind of the school patrons, Mr. King announced that he had been asked to come before the board in the capacity of an attorney, but that he regarded the school too sacred an institution to have injected into it any commercial oratory or paid-for argument, so he was before the board solely as a mediator and peacemaker without reward or hope of reward.

Mr. King called on the board not to consider any set of individuals on either side but the children of the community which the school exists to serve; that whatever is done, let it be done with the sole idea in mind of the greatest good to the school, as a school for the child. He reviewed the cause of the existing trouble, and pointed out why he thought there could be no harmony under the present condition of affairs. He said that it were far better to dismiss one dozen teachers and as many committeemen, if it would work for the better conduct of the school, and that since the community was under no special obligation to elect Mrs. Alexander, admitting that she probably is a good teacher, and that there were other schools that she might teach and many other teachers that might take her place in the Scotts Hill school, he candidly could not see why she should be retained as a teacher when she was so strenuously opposed by the majority of those whom she was elected to serve.

The attorney, in concluding, asked that in view of the fact that Professor Catlett had advised against her election at the time of her election, the board recommend to the superintendent that he should not approve her election, so that another teacher might be chosen which would satisfy all sections of the community. At this juncture in the proceedings it was learned that Professor Catlett had already approved the election of Mrs. Alexander, and so the board took no action in regard to the matter.

### Future Action Uncertain.

Whether or not any further action will be taken in the matter is not definitely known at this time, though it is strongly intimated by those in close touch with the affair that other means in behalf of the dissatisfied patrons will be resorted to, if the dissatisfaction continues to exist. Mr. Louis Covil, the one member of the committee on the side of the opposition has already sent in his resignation, but was not acted on yesterday, however.

### Mr. Gore's Donation of \$500.

Prof. D. C. Virgo, principal of the Williston Industrial School for the colored, appeared before the board and announced that Mr. D. L. Gore had donated to the school \$500 with which to build and fit up a school carpenter shop. Professor Virgo asked for additional funds from the board with which he might purchase desks and other furniture and supplies for the school, and hire other teachers which were badly needed. He was instructed by the board to make out the specific requests in writing in order that the board might consider them deliberately and fully.

A consideration of the school budget was postponed until all the available funds from the state could be received and added to the appropriation, and it was ordered that Mr. J. J. Blair, city also in order that he might have the opportunity at the next meeting to present certain recommendations regarding the expenditure of the school funds.

### LAW SCHOOL OPENS.

Seven Students Enrolled Last Evening By Dean Rodgers.

The Wilmington Law School opened last evening with seven students enrolled and one or two more to come in later. Dean H. Edmund Rodgers addressed the new students briefly outlining the work of the two year course. The first work will deal with the subject of contracts.

Later on the code and the North Carolina laws will be taken up and preparations indicated for admission to the bar. Mr. Rodgers stated last night that he was greatly encouraged by the opening and intended to build up an institution here that would be a credit to Wilmington. He hopes for the support of the city.

## SLACKERS ARE SCATHED BY JUDGE W. A. DEVIN

### Draft Opposers Denounced in Charge to Grand Jury

### Oxford Jurist Delivers Able Talk To Members of Jury At Opening Of Superior Court—Praises Wilmington.

Arraigning the slacker before the bar of humanity in no uncertain terms; picturing the glory of marching with the American cohorts in the ultimate triumph of the present war; giving a comprehensive explanation of the duties of a jurymen; touching on a number of the cardinal points of American law, and paying a tribute to the patriotic record of Wilmington in furnishing her sons for duty on the battlefield, Judge W. A. Devin, of Oxford, delivered an able charge to the grand jury at the opening session of New Hanover county Superior court for the trial of criminal cases at 10 o'clock yesterday morning.

### Slacker Very Undesirable Citizen.

The man who cringes when the finger of his nation points at him in this trying hour, and seeks to glibly behind the skirts of the claim of the draft law being unconstitutional, was made the subject of a scathing denunciation by Judge Devin.

The slacker, he declared, was a bar to the progress of humanity and of civilization. He deserved no consideration from anyone, continued the jurist, and was unworthy of the notice of any honest person.

Judge Devin also spoke of the opportunities that were offered the young drafted man from the rural districts whose travels have been limited to see the world, and the final march of the American troops over the plains of France toward Germany and victory.

Then going back and reviewing the preamble of the national constitution, Judge Devin pointed out how the present object of this immortal document was to create strength, and showed how no individual state has any right to raise an army. He also took issue with the select knackers who oppose the selective draft as being unconstitutional.

The court mentioned the fact that he has a boy 12 years old whom he would gladly give to the service of the country if he were old enough, regardless of the heart pangs that such a parting might mean to him.

### Jury System Discussed.

Of the present jury system, its origin and development, and the duties of the jurors, Judge Devin spoke ably, and at some length, sketching the many improvements that have been made in the system since its origination by the forefathers.

He impressed upon the jurymen that they should never let their personal feelings actuate them while filling their oath-bound duty as members of the grand jury, and expressed the great need for controlling these personal sentiments.

Speaking of the different phases of the law that were to be considered, Judge Devin touched on the statutes protecting the virtue and purity of womanhood. He was glad, he said, to see that in certain instances, the last legislature changed the statutes so that a man to the same standards as a woman in regard to grounds for divorce.

The following gentlemen were drawn for service on the grand jury, holding the business reasons were insufficient grounds, as the jury duty was paramount to any other business affiliation:

George R. Piner, Robert Barefoot, J. H. Teashey, George Sloan, H. P. Smith, G. C. Simmons, E. B. White, E. W. Whitehead, J. N. Westerman, C. L. Skipper, Harry Webb, Wood B. W. Harrington, R. M. Kermon, Clayton Horns, Louis Slossberg, W. P. Woodcock.

### WANTED BY SIGNAL CORPS—\$2,000

Fine Salary Paid to Men Who Can Serve in This Branch.

Capt. W. R. Taylor, Signal Corps, U. S. A., with headquarters at Camp Leiston, Southeastern department, issues the following announcement of men wanted in the signal corps, salary \$2,000:

First Lieutenants, Officers' Reserve Corps, age 19 to 40; Qualifications: high school education and a theoretical and practical knowledge of electricity.

First Lieutenants, Signal Officers' Reserve Corps, Aviation Section, but non-flying.

Two classes of men wanted under this heading:

First class—first lieutenant and adjutant, age 31 to 40, inclusive, (must be 31 and cannot be 42). Qualifications: high school education and valuable military experience gained by service in the regular army or in the national guard, while it was on the Mexican border or in volunteers while in active campaign.

Second class—first lieutenant, and supply officer, age 31 to 40. Qualifications: high school educator and must have made conspicuous success in business.

Applicants should state that they graduated from such high school or college and should give such information as will clearly show that they belong to one or more of the above named classes.

Each man must be physically fit for field service and must expect to serve in the field with troops.

## GORN SHOW PLANS ARE BEING SHAPED NICELY

### Presence of County Agents Yesterday Augurs Much Interest

### More Committeemen Appointed at Committee Meeting to Look After Various Sub-Divisions of Work.

Decided encouragement was added to the fund of optimism being stored up by the management of the combined corn show and livestock and poultry exhibits to be held here November 6-9 by the presence yesterday of county agents from Brunswick, Bladen, Columbus and Sampson counties, at a meeting of the executive committee held in the Chamber of Commerce at 1:30 o'clock and lasting until 4 o'clock.

The ladies and gentlemen representing the counties named declared their interest in the coming agricultural demonstration and volunteered their valuable services in enlisting their respective counties in the show, promising to advertise it well and urge their people to take part by sending exhibits of animals, farm and household products, and other things that will go to prove Southeastern Carolina the Garden Spot.

### Fine Attendance of Committeemen.

The attendance of executive committeemen, in spite of the fact that it was a busy hour for them and that they are all busy men, was highly gratifying, and their interest together with the very evident enthusiasm of the county agents, augured well for the complete success of the fair next November. Chairman Jos. W. Little and all those associated with him firmly believe that the fair which ten southeastern counties will hold here, will equal the best in the state, and perhaps will lead them all in strictly educational value, because the object is educational.

Chairman Little explained the plans and aims of the fair management, and expressed his pleasure at the attendance of the visiting agents. Mr. J. P. Herring, chairman of the county, invited the agents to absorb the spirit of the corn show and the livestock demonstration—a spirit that means business and is out for success. He told them it would be an event worthy of their cooperation and that the experienced boosting influence of the management, they could go home and talk it up in proper style. Never was there a finer chance for farmers and farm women to show what they could do and have done than this one, and particularly the home demonstration workers, who have canned everything "cannable."

### District Agent Freeman Here.

W. R. Freeman, district agent of Wilmington, having been invited to participate in this section of the state, was present at the invitation of Mr. Herring, and he spoke briefly. He declared the fair unique in that it was strictly educational and not commercial. Most other fairs were more or less commercial and were attended by all manner of shows, etc. This fair is attended by nothing except agricultural and educational exhibits and influences a cent of a man in the district, he said, should participate to the utmost of their ability. He promised the full co-operation of the farm extension service, which he and the county agents represent. The fair district, he said, could not be said, would be able this year to make such a showing of food products as never before, and he thought that all the exhibits would establish a standard of excellence second to none anywhere.

Mr. Freeman declared, are ten of the best counties in North Carolina, which means anywhere, he said; and they ought to put up a noble exhibition of products and of animals and so on.

### Fair Belongs to All Counties.

Chairman Little told him and the others that the fair belonged to all these ten counties; it wasn't a New Hanover or Wilmington show, it was a Wilmington merely financed it, having unwritten \$6,000, in four days' canvass, for the expenses, offering over \$3,000 in cash premiums to farmers and their wives for the best products, and asking a cent of a man in the county. All the other counties were asked to do, he said, was to send in their products.

The management has divided the work into five departments, he said—Agricultural, Livestock and Poultry, Educational and Art, Woman's Work and Food Conservation, and Manufacturing and Industrial. He wanted two things—a fine, large array of exhibits and, second, a large number of people to see them.

### Agents Who Attended.

Brief talks were made by invitation of the chairman by all the agents present, these being Mr. R. K. Craven, of Abbottsburg, agent for Bladen; Mr. W. B. Pace of Shallotte and Miss Nancy McLawhorn, home agent of Southport, both representing the very fine old county of Brunswick; Mr. W. R. Tingle, agent, and Lucile Clark, home agent, of Whiteville, representing Columbus, when Mr. Tingle came mighty near saying was the best county in the whole ten, but smilingly hedged a little bit; Mr. H. L. Boyd, agent, of Clinton, and W. B. Lamb, home agent of Garland, representing the "state of Sampson." Mrs. Lamb made a hit in her talk, discussing her work briefly and telling of her iceless refrigerators and her fireless cooker. She said that the men in Sampson were a little slow to move, and Mrs. Lamb took her fireless cooker to the court house and from it extracted dinner for the county officials. "Everybody has a soft spot in his heart," she said, "nearly." (Continued on Page Seven.)

### ASK YOUR FRIEND.

There is hardly a neighborhood in any city, town or hamlet in the United States where women cannot be found who have derived benefit from Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. For more than forty years this potent remedy has been overcoming some of the worst cases of female ills. As one woman has found help she has told another, who has used it with the same result; so the use of this great medicine has spread from shore to shore by the recommendation of those who have found it good. Therefore, ask your neighbor, let her tell you from experience the benefit which alluring women derive from the use of this famous medicine.—Adv.

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J. G. THORNTON, Assistant Cash.

### WILL STAND UPON STATUTE

District Attorney Carr Delivers Opinion in Regard to Keating-Owens Labor Law.

After being besieged with numerous letters asking what course he intended to pursue as to the Keating-Owens child labor law, District Attorney J. O. Carr yesterday issued the following statement concerning the law, which was recently held as unconstitutional by Judge Boyd, of the Western district, sitting at Greensboro:

"I fully recognize the importance of a uniform ruling, but the most uniform that I can suggest is to stand upon the statute until final determination of the matter by the Supreme Court of the United States. If Judge Boyd should be over-ruled any one violating the law in the mean time would be indictable and would be prosecuted."

### All Traces of Scrofula Eradicated from the System

By the greatest of all purifiers, Scrofula. Being made of the roots and herbs of the forest, it is guaranteed purely vegetable, and absolutely free from all mineral ingredients. You can obtain S. S. S. from any drugstore. Our chief medical adviser is an expert on all blood disorders, and will cheerfully give you full advice as to the treatment of your own case. Address Swift Specific Co., Dept. F Atlanta, Ga.

## Early Arrivals In New Fall SUITS AND COATS

What a Great Interest New Things Carry With Them? These New Arrivals in Fall Coats and Suits are Exhaling Newness in Every Fold. Come in and See Them



**THE SUITS**  
Feature particularly the long jackets, and these give the classic long-line effects that are the fashion. A vest, furthermore, is a decorative feature of many jackets. The collars are high and in muffler styles. Sport styles are in evidence and bring with them rather startling effects. Fuller details can be seen to advantage in our present displays.

**THE COATS**  
Meet the smart Parisian ideas in their rough pile fabrics draped to full length. They are cut full, yet a slenderness comes from their straight lines. The collars are an exaggerated width and the pockets are voluminous. The cuffs turn back flaringly. The linings are lively and vivid in hue. Fur is used on many.

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