

The Weather

Fair and warmer Friday; Saturday probably fair. Stage of water at Fayetteville yesterday at 8 a. m., 14.4 feet, falling.

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WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY MORNING, JANUARY 21, 1921.

OLDEST DAILY IN THE STATE.

EDMUND BIGHAM TAKEN ON CHARGE OF KILLING THREE OF HIS FAMILY

Lawyer Makes Affidavit His Sister Said He Had Threatened Her Life

IN FLORENCE JAIL

Developments Throw Doubt On Guilt of Bingham's Dead Brother

(Special to The Star) FLORENCE, S. C., Jan. 20.—The tragedy near Pamlico last Saturday afternoon which cost the lives of three members of the Bigham family and two adopted children, took a sensational turn this afternoon when Edmund Bigham, one of the two surviving members of the family, "the other being fugitive," and the first to appear on the scene of the tragedy, according to his statement, was arrested at the plantation home and brought to the county jail here. His wife accompanied him to the jail.

Edmund Bigham was arrested by Deputy Sheriff M. B. Burch on a warrant sworn out by John W. McCracken, the father of the two children killed. Corporal Smith and C. M. Rose, an officer of Pamlico, accompanied him.

When seen at the jail tonight, Bigham said: "I have no statement to make." He is charged with murder. He submitted to the arrest quietly and manifested little or no concern. Corporal Smith stated this afternoon that several negroes would be arrested and held as material witnesses. It is his opinion that, now that Bigham is under arrest, other testimony bearing on the case may be forthcoming.

Lawyer Makes Affidavit In making the arrest of Bigham on the warrant of McCracken, the affidavit of Phillip Arrowsmith, an attorney in Florence, S. C., declared that he had been the attorney for Mrs. Black and for L. S. Bigham since the spring of 1920, and that therefore he had become intimately acquainted with their affairs.

At the outset of the affidavit, which was sworn to before the coroner, Mr. Arrowsmith declares that Edmund Bigham has no interest in the estate of the late Senator L. S. Bigham, and conveyed his share to his mother and brother. He also declares that the payment of the bond escheated by Dr. Bigham, which was convicted of the murder of his wife and sentenced to three years in the state penitentiary, had been provided for by a deposit of an amount sufficient to cover the bond in full. The money was the proceeds of a mortgage on the estate lands, and that Solicitor L. M. Gasque, of this judicial circuit, is in his possession the certificate of deposit.

Fearing for Her Life Mr. Arrowsmith also avers that he has in his possession all of the original documents relating to the Bigham lands, and says that he has been told by Ed. L. S. Bigham and Mrs. Margie Black came to his home and at their request he accompanied them to his office in Florence, S. C., where he greatly agitated, made the following statement:

"I signed three blank deeds in the presence of witnesses and left them with Smiley (L. S. Bigham) so that anything happened to me, my father's estate could be handled as my mother and Smiley desired. All these papers were returned to Smiley. I found them in Ed. Bigham's office when I attempted to secure possession of them. Edmund flew into a passion and threatened to take my life as well as that of my mother. I gave up all hope of getting the deeds back, and his conduct is such that I am afraid he will kill me at any moment and I am now preparing my will, giving all of my property to my brother, Smiley, and charging him with the care of my mother and my two little adopted boys."

Her Feels in the Will Mr. Arrowsmith further declares that he drew the will in question, which was witnessed by himself, G. T. Bryce, Marshall W. Bridges, and that he incorporated in the will the statement of Mrs. Black to him regarding the threats against her life.

At the Bigham home this afternoon relatives made a search for papers referred to in the estate lands and for the will mentioned in the affidavit. Bigham, but did not find them. Bigham stated that he had a will but after that he could not find it now.

It was at first thought that L. S. Bigham, while supposedly insane, had been killed by himself. It was then thought that the Bighams, and had then some doubt in the minds of the coroner's jury that L. S. Bigham was the perpetrator of the crime. It was decided to delay rendering until additional evidence could be taken and the arrest of his brother, Edmund Bigham, has given the case a most interesting aspect.

Property Motive Removed With reference to the estate lands, it appeared that a few days before her death, Mrs. J. Hogan Cane, a sister, had been asked to sign deeds transferring certain of the lands to Mrs. Bigham. This is said to have been arranged for in the Arrowsmith affidavit. L. S. Bigham had not made the beneficiary of Mrs. Cane's will, but he also had in his possession deeds signed in blank which could have been used as he desired. It is now, therefore, that the question of L. S. Bigham, as far as property considerations were concerned, has been removed.

Millionaire's Wife Has Disappeared

Mrs. Ella E. Berentzen, wife of Richard Berentzen, millionaire manufacturer of Mount Vernon, N. Y., who mysteriously disappeared from her home, Mrs. Berentzen was suffering from a nervous breakdown and returned to her home from a sanitarium in Connecticut. Berentzen said his wife retired at 9 o'clock. Before retiring he went to his wife's room and found she had disappeared. Her clothing and handbag were missing.

CHARLOTTE WELCOMES THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Fellow Citizens Give Him Cordial Reception On His Return Home

(Special to The Star) CHARLOTTE, Jan. 20.—With hundreds of people present, including representatives from civic and other organizations of the city, Governor Cameron Morrison was welcomed back to Charlotte today at the Seaboard Air Line passenger station.

Long before the train came in bearing the governor, a large group assembled at the station prepared to demonstrate how cordial is the feeling of the Queen City for its former resident, now the state's chief executive. In the crowd were the mayor and city commissioners, and other city officials, representatives of the chamber of commerce, of the Merchants' association, of the Kiwanis and Good Fellows clubs, the Mecklenburg Medical society, the Charlotte Dental society, the Charlotte Automobile Trade association, and other bodies.

When the governor stepped from the train he was greeted with a shout of applause and handclappings. He was escorted to one of the many waiting automobiles and driven to the medical college, where a long procession up town to the Selwyn hotel. A huge American flag was borne on the tonneau, of the car bearing his excellency. On the way up town along North Tryon street the governor halted many acquaintances in democratic fashion, calling them by name and being greeted in return with "Hello, Cam."

At the Selwyn the governor held an impromptu and informal reception for nearly half an hour, or until he was welcomed by members of the reception committee inside the Selwyn, where a group of doctors attending the medical college were waiting to see him and confer with him about addressing them tonight.

The first clinical session of the North Carolina section of the American College of Surgeons convened in the assembly rooms of the Selwyn hotel this morning at 9 o'clock. It brought to Charlotte some of the most noted and best equipped physicians in the medical world. Governor Morrison presided and made the first address.

NEGROES HELD FOR ROBBERY AND BURGLARY AT DURHAM (Special to The Star) DURHAM, Jan. 20.—Will Bailey and Cleveland Glascoe, negroes, are being held in jail here charged with highway robbery and carrying concealed weapons. The specific charge against the negroes is that of holding up Willie Fletcher, a young Patterson township farmer and with relieving him of \$211 in cash.

Robert Roosevelt, negro, was arrested early this morning coming out of the shoe shop operated in this city by I. Messenger, with a bundle of shoes under his arm. He is being held in connection with the robbery Tuesday morning of the Jones and Frasier jewelry store, when an unknown party smashed a plate glass window and obtained five handsome gold watches.

GREENVILLE GAS DISCOUNT IS PUT BACK BY COMPANY (Special to The Star) GREENVILLE, S. C., Jan. 20.—The granting of the old discount rate of 10 cents on each thousand cubic feet to all who pay their gas bills by the 15th of the month was announced today by the local office of the Southern Public Utilities company, following a meeting of the city affairs committee and other organizations with utilities company officials. This amounts to a virtual reduction in the gas rate here of from \$2.10 to \$2 a thousand feet. The utilities company has promised further reductions if the price on gas coal is cut by mine operators.

APPROPRIATIONS MUST BE LIMITED BY STATE OR FLORIDA AFTER A DAY OF LEAVE-TAKING

Finance Chairman Declares Will Follow the Budget Commission Before He Finally Goes to Capital

ANTI-LYNCHING ACT GOOD-BYE TO FOLKS

Senator Taylor's Bill for Moving Cases Is Given Favorable Report Remaining Hours in Marion Spent in Bidding Neighbors Farewell

Morning Star Bureau, Yanborough Hotel, Raleigh, Jan. 20.—The state of North Carolina will stay within its income in dealing with the charitable and educational institutions, Senator R. S. McCoin, chairman of the state finance committee, said today. The statement of the senator was prompted by suggestions that have been made to members of the appropriations committee over-ride the recommendations of the budget commission and become necessary to issue bonds for maintenance funds.

If more revenue can be found, said the senator, the committee will deal generally with those institutions which have been protesting. The Vance senator says positively the maintenance recommendations of the budget commission will be respected in the gross but that it is possible that some changes may be made in separate items.

Some Are Satisfied A number of the institutions, including the state hospital at Raleigh and Goldsboro, the Caswell Training school, the school for the blind, the negro normal schools at Winston-Salem and Fayetteville and the library commission, have indicated their satisfaction with the recommendations of the commission. Hearings are being urged by the joint appropriations committees of both legislatures. The Youngs, notably the Orthopaedic hospital at Gastonia.

While this arrangement is going ahead the finance committee members are casting about to see how they can raise more revenue than the budget commission anticipated. The committee, of which Governor Doughton will be governor, necessarily awaits the bill of Governor Morrison, who attempts to go far in the matter of taxation. These views they have been promised early next week, the Charlotte trip of the governor is interfering with his plan to appear before the senate the latter part of this week.

Workmen's Compensation Chief interest in a session of the house today was the passage of the workmen's compensation act by Representative Young of Buncombe. He offered the draft of the commission which prepared a bill here just before the legislature adjourned. The bill differs materially from that offered in the senate by Senator Deane. Compensation for loss of life is raised to \$4,500 and 20 percent of the wage is the basis of determining compensation for disability. It follows the text of laws of Virginia and is opposed by organized labor.

The party accompanying Mr. Harding south is the smallest with which he has traveled since his nomination for the presidency. It consists only of the president-elect, his secretary, George B. Christian, Jr., Harry M. Daugherty, of Columbus, two stenographers and a dozen secret service men and newspaper correspondents. The physician, Dr. E. Sawyer, is not making the trip, because of business interests here, and Mrs. Harding is to go to Florida only after a shopping trip in the east. She expects to leave tomorrow or Saturday for Washington.

A story of Mr. Harding's devotion to one of his fellow townsmen came to light by chance tonight after it was known that the president-elect had been in the city for several weeks from some of those most directly concerned. It involved a financial guarantee by the President-elect to enable his church to continue during the winter months when he has been incapacitated since last July.

Helps Stricken Minister The minister is Dr. Thomas E. McAfee, of the Trinity Baptist church of New Hope, N. C. McAfee was stricken with paralysis more than six months ago, and the strain of paying his salary in addition to that of an acting pastor weighed heavily on the church treasury. The question came to a painful issue at a meeting of the trustees at the beginning of the new year, and Mr. Harding volunteered to pay the salary of the new pastor. The request was served that few members of the congregation have learned of it.

DURHAM SHRINERS FORM A CLUB AND CELEBRATE IT (Special to The Star) DURHAM, Jan. 20.—Durham shriners tonight celebrated the organization of the Durham Shrine club with a banquet. Potentate W. R. Smith, of Raleigh, attended the banquet and was the principal speaker. Secretary Joe F. Rhen, of New Hope, presided. The banquet was held at the Hotel Raleigh and a number of other out-of-town shriners of prominence were in attendance.

Aside from the regular program carried out by the shriners, a special feature of the evening was the singing of several stars of the stage being included in the cast.

NEGROES AT HARNETT FAIR (Special to The Star) DUNN, Jan. 20.—Negro farmers, teachers and school children of the Dunn district are planning to play an important part in the 1921 session of the Harnett fair to be held here next October. Directors of the association have decided to devote a section of each exhibit hall and stock barn to negro exhibitors and already the school people are planning to make their department creditable to the race and helpful to the enterprising spirit apparent in most of the negroes of the community.

ROCKY MT. DOKIES BANQUET (Special to The Star) ROCKY MOUNT, Jan. 20.—Concluding a most successful year, the Rocky Mount Dokie club held its annual meeting in grand banquet at the M. C. A. auditorium last evening. 83 members of the organization being present and thoroughly enjoying the elaborate banquet and program of festivities.

AMERICAN SHIP SEARCHED FOR DE VALERA

When the American steamship Portia recently arrived at Dublin from New York, a party of armed British soldiers boarded the vessel and searched it from bow to stern in the hopes of finding Eamonn De Valera, "president of the Irish republic," whom they thought was hidden aboard. No one was allowed to leave the vessel while the search was in progress. No signs of the elusive Irish leader were found. The photo shows a British sentry standing guard at the gangway, keeping the American crew aboard the vessel.

PRESIDENT-ELECT LEAVES BEHIND A SULLEN SENATE

Some of the Senators Are Even Threatening, Boasting They Have "Broken Back of One President and Can Break the Back of Another—All-Humor Over Cabinet Appointments—Against Hughes

(Copyright, 1921, by N. Y. Post, Inc.) WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—It is quite true that Harding, starting south, leaves a sullen senate behind him. Some of them are more than sullen; they are threatening. Among themselves they are already bragging that they have "broken the back of one president and can break the back of another."

But viewed in calm judgment, they aren't really as belligerent as that. If there is a fight between Harding and the senate, Harding can win if he wants to. In fact, the very position the senators take just now marks the measure of the subjection to which they are already submitting themselves. The senators say they don't want Hughes for secretary of state; they say they want Root. But when they say they want Root, they have already progressed a long distance in Harding's direction.

Lodge as Secretary Two months ago, the senators flouted the name of Root as the chosen one for rebellion if Harding should consider him. The senate's first choice for secretary of state was Lodge. Whether Lodge wanted it himself or whether he wanted it for the president-elect, he is within that said contained senator's skull. Some of the other senators say Lodge did want it, and many of them say Lodge wanted at least the honor of being invited to accept the post. Just finished a hard two years of fighting within the field of foreign relations, and that the office of secretary of state should have been offered to him, the senators are now in a bitter disappointment to the senators.

Next to Lodge, practically all of the strongly irascible senators, and some of the others as well, wanted Knox. Next to Knox they wanted a third man from their own membership, Albert Fall of New Mexico. That may seem absurd to ears outside the senate. It is true, nevertheless. That Fall was no public reputation that would commend him for this office and no experience that would equip him for it makes no difference. He was one of Hughes' friends in foreign relations, and that was enough for his fellow senators. The very senators who are now complaining bitterly against the appointment of Hughes, because they say he has had no experience with European affairs, fall to see the humor of their suggestion in the next breath that it would be perfectly acceptable to take Senator Fall, from the wilds of New Mexico, and put him in charge of our European relations.

Hughes Won't Take Orders If the senate could not have one of these three, their next choice was and is David Jayne Hill. Hill has an adequate equipment of experience and knowledge, but the thing that most commends him to the senators is the fact that he is, as they express it, "a man who will take orders." That is the whole burden of their sullenness about Hughes. They know what Hughes will do on their committee. That is a shock to the senate theory of our foreign relations. They think our foreign relations should be managed by the senate and that the secretary of state should merely carry out effect the policies that the senate lays down. The chairman of the senate committee on foreign affairs has been quoted as saying that of course he would "expect the next secretary of state to work with him as comfortably as he would expect the secretary of his own committee to work with him."

But the senators are not so comfortable as they would like to be. They are not so comfortable as they would like to be. They are not so comfortable as they would like to be. They are not so comfortable as they would like to be.

Admiral Benson, chairman of the shipping board, another speaker on the convention program, who heard Senator Jones' speech, said that he would place a copy of the document referred to before the board with recommendation that such action be taken as warranted by Congress. He said that it was a "Mr. Andrews," Mr. Franklin said that his concern had never employed a man of that name.

Can Prove Case More questions by Franklin brought from Senator Jones the statement that he was compelled to return to the senate, but that Mr. Franklin would be given every opportunity to present his case. Admiral Benson, chairman of the shipping board, another speaker on the convention program, who heard Senator Jones' speech, said that he would place a copy of the document referred to before the board with recommendation that such action be taken as warranted by Congress. He said that it was a "Mr. Andrews," Mr. Franklin said that his concern had never employed a man of that name.

British and Southern Ports He declared these organizations sought with eastern trunk railway officials to cancel the present equalization of export freight charges from central freight association territory to gulf and south Atlantic ports. Accomplishment of this, he added, would turn exporting and importing business from the gulf and south Atlantic ports to New York, where, he asserted, the British shipping interests are centered. Chairman Benson in addressing the convention declared as the shipping board was organized under a permanent merchant marine, it must move slowly and with assurance in its sale of ships.

President Franklin of the International Mercantile Marine, addressing delegates to the convention at a dinner tonight, however, declared that the sale of government owned tonnage as proposed by Congress could not be accomplished until the government "puts its shipping house in order."

MERCHANTS' MUTUAL DOING FINE INSURANCE BUSINESS (Special to The Star) STATESVILLE, Jan. 20.—Gratifying reports of the past year's business were heard by the board of directors of the Merchants' Mutual Fire Insurance company of North Carolina, in session at the home office of the company here today. The annual statement of condition submitted by Secretary Paul Leonard and Treasurer R. L. Poston showed that the company has had a remarkable history since it began business 18 months ago, having suffered only two very small fire losses during the entire time. The business of the company is growing steadily and today's reports showed a substantial gain in the cash surplus over a year ago. Re-insurance contracts recently made with large mutual companies by the president and secretary were approved by the directors. Out-of-town directors present were J. Frank Morris of Winston-Salem, president of the company, and C. E. Knight of Greensboro, and C. H. McCausland and B. T. Roark of Charlotte.

CRITICISE ATTITUDE OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS TOWARD U. S. SHIPPING

National Merchant Marine Association Hears Sensational Allegations

AID BRITISH TRADE

International Marine Charged With Leaguering With the British Admiralty

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Direct and implied criticism of the attitude of British and other foreign shipping interests toward the newly created American merchant marine permeated today's sessions of the second annual convention of the National Merchant Marine association.

Homer L. Ferguson, Newport News ship builder, concluded the day's program with the declaration that the United States if necessary should adopt discriminatory legislation to hold its place on the seas.

The "bombshell" of the day, however, was set off by Senator Jones of Washington, chairman of the senate commerce committee and author of the merchant marine act, who told the convention that the International Mercantile Marine company, not the largest American ship operating concern, was bound by an agreement with the British admiralty to conduct its business "in the interest of the British government and British trade." To support his statement, the Washington Senator read to the convention the text of an agreement which he said the International Mercantile Marine company had entered into in 1903 for a period of 20 years, and followed this with sweeping charges of attempts by British interests, aided, he said, by certain American agents, to destroy the American merchant marine. The senator also declared that despite this agreement the shipping board had leased out of its ships to the International Mercantile Marine.

Franklin States Denial Senator Jones' declaration brought an immediate reply from P. A. S. Franklin, president of the International Mercantile Marine company, who accused the Washington senator of being "unfair," and added:

"All of these agreements to which he refers have been before the shipping board and have been approved. Judge Payne, when he was chairman of the board, passed upon them and said they were quite satisfactory."

Dear Senator Jones, I am sure that an agent of the shipping board in New York, who was a former employe of the International Mercantile Marine company had opposed an establishment of a British shipping line between Newark, N. J., and England because "it would injure the business an inquiry as to the name of the former employe of the shipping board that it was a Mr. Andrews," Mr. Franklin said that his concern had never employed a man of that name.

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Little School Girl Run Down and Killed by Engine (Special to The Star) DURHAM, Jan. 20.—The remains of Violet Buchanan, 10-year-old daughter of Louis Buchanan, of Oxford, who was fatally injured yesterday afternoon when a Southern railway shifting engine ran her down in this city, were taken to her home this morning. The fatal accident occurred when the little girl was attempting to cross the tracks at Corcoran street en route to the home of her aunt from school. She has been living with her aunt in this city several months in order to attend school here. She was knocked down by the engine and the wheels crushed her legs off. She was also internally injured and died at a local hospital two hours afterwards.