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By ISAAC ERWIN AVERY

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DURHAM NEWS ITEMS.

Hamlin-Vinac Wedding—Negro Gambler in the Tolls—County Commissioners in Session—Board of Education Hold Meeting—Rev. Plato Durham Returns to Charlotte—Other Items.

Special to The Observer.

Durham, Jan. 2.—The county board of education met this morning and will be in session three days. The most important work of the session will be the apportionment of the school funds. This will be done on Wednesday. It is expected that the per capita apportionment for every child in the county will be about \$3, probably little over that amount.

The board of county commissioners are also in session, convening this morning and will be in session three days. The most important work of the board will be the election of superintendent of county road work. It is supposed that the present superintendent, Mr. J. M. Pollard, will be re-elected, although he has notified the board that he wants a raise in salary. This will be decided on Wednesday.

Paulie Ford, the negro who was arrested in Greensboro on the charge of gambling, is now in jail. He waived examination and went on to prison. Paulie is an old offender in this section. His arrest caused the arrest of another negro, Earl Carlton, on the charge of gambling. He has been sent up to court.

Cards have been received in this city announcing the approaching marriage of Miss Florence Mabel Vinson, of Wilson's Mill, and Mr. Lennie D. Hamlin, of this city. This marriage will be solemnized at the home of the bride, on January 10th. Miss Vinson is the daughter of Mr. D. Thomas Vinson, of Wilson's Mill, and the groom is a well-known young man, a rural mail carrier in this county. They will make their home here.

Little Miss Tone Markham, daughter of Mr. C. J. Markham, who underwent an operation Saturday for appendicitis, is reported as improving nicely to-day. While not yet out of danger, her condition is all that could be hoped for.

Rev. Piate Durham, of Charlotte, who was with the Duke party at Carolina Lodge when Mr. Angier Duke was wounded, and who has been with him since the accident, left this afternoon for his home in Charlotte.

A delegation from the Second Baptist church and Sunday school went up to Greensboro yesterday for the purpose of visiting the Presbyterian church and Sunday school rooms in that city. The Second Baptist will soon begin the arrangement of the church building and building of Sunday school room. They got there for the purpose of getting ideas as to the Sunday school department. In the party were Rev. W. C. Barrett, the pastor; Mr. A. C. Melvin, Mr. James Weatherston, and the Messrs. Crutchfield. They returned on the late afternoon train. The spirit of the Second church was filled yesterday morning by Rev. Jesse Witherspoon, and at night by Rev. A. A. Butler, of Newport News, Va., who is here on a visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Thomas and two sons have returned from Greensboro, where they went to have an operation performed on their oldest son, Master Norman. The little boy is getting along nicely.

Half the World Wonders

how the other half lives. Those who use Bucklen's Arnica Salve never wonder if it will cure Cuts, Wounds, Burns, Sores and all Skin Eruptions; they know it will. Mrs. Grant Shy, 1130 E. Reynolds St., Springfield, Ill., says: "I regard it one of the absolute necessities of housekeeping." Guaranteed by E. H. Jordan & Co., drugists, etc.

DEATH OF JOHN M. ROSS.

At Forest Hill, Near Concord, Yesterday Morning—Supposed He Accidentally Took Overdose of Laudanum—Watch Service Held at Central Methodist Church—Death of a Young Man.

Special to The Observer.

Concord, Jan. 2.—Mr. John M. Ross of Forest Hill was found unconscious in his bed yesterday morning, when the family attempted to arouse him. A physician was summoned immediately but it was too late to be of any service. Mr. Ross had been complaining for several days and during the night he appeared to be taking some medicine. It is thought that he took an overdose of laudanum. He never regained consciousness and died about 11 o'clock yesterday. A wife and a large family of children are left to mourn their loss. Mr. Ross was a well-known citizen of Concord, and married Miss Watkins of Stanley county. Mrs. Ross was visiting in Sanford, N. C., at the time of her husband's death, but was summoned at once and is expected to arrive here to-day. She has a daughter, a daughter of the deceased, arrived here to-day to attend the funeral.

Mr. Jno. Safelt who has been ill of consumption for sometime, died Saturday night at his home on W. Depot street. He was 25 years of age, and leaves a wife and two small children. The funeral services were conducted at St. Andrews Lutheran church by Rev. Strickler, and the interment was at Rocky Ridge, a few miles below here.

Instead of the usual evening service at seven o'clock Sunday, Rev. E. K. McLary held a watch service from 11 till 12:30 o'clock at Central Methodist church. Mr. McClary made a very appropriate and impressive talk to a large congregation. The music was fitting and most beautiful.

Mr. John S. Roberts of the Cannon Mills has accepted the superintendency of a mill at Elon College. He left this morning, and his family will leave soon.

Mr. Thos. W. Miller has entered into the poultry business with the expectation of raising thoroughbred. Mr. Miller shipped a pair of high grade white Plymouth rocks to Salisbury to enter the poultry contest held there this week.

Mr. Wm. A. Ford, of Charlotte, has accepted a position with the Conservative Mutual Life Insurance Co., of this city.

Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Andrews of Greensboro, are visiting at Mr. W. R. Odell.

Miss Mary Virginia Wadsworth is visiting in Charlotte where she will receive to-night with Misses Charlie and Anna Locke Hutchison.

Miss Mary Boyer left this morning for Manning, S. C. to visit her uncle Mr. H. B. Boyer.

Mayor J. E. Caldwell has gone to Lynchburg, Va., to visit his son, Mr. Edgar Caldwell, leaving Alderman John L. Miller mayor pro-tem.

Mrs. F. C. Odell is receiving with Mrs. Stewart W. Craven in Charlotte. The leading dry goods stores of this city will close every evening at 6 o'clock except Friday and Saturday nights during the winter months.

Supposed Highway Robbers Released.

Special to The Observer.

Salisbury, Jan. 2.—The men arrested yesterday at Spenser on the charge of having robbed Mr. C. M. Smith, the Southern baggage master Friday morning, have been released after being pronounced the wrong parties. There is absolutely no clue to the robbers.

SIGMA NU DANCE.

Holiday Season at Salisbury Closes With Most Brilliant German Ever Given in Town's History.

Special to The Observer.

Salisbury, Jan. 1.—Nothing prettier than the Sigma Nu fraternity dance last night was ever given in Salisbury, charming, graceful, brilliant in every phase of its execution was the work of Mr. John E. Ramsay, inspector of the 12th division of the Sigma Nu fraternity, with 40 couples on the floor, he arranged beautifully the Greek letters S. N. and the visitors cheered heartily when they saw themselves taken into the Sigma Nu realm. This was the second annual German of the Salisbury alumni and ten men here gave the delightful affair to their hundred invited friends. A score of handsome visiting ladies and gentlemen came from afar and helped make this the most beautiful dance ever seen here. The visitors were particularly delighted with the fine leading of Mr. John E. Ramsay, who, with Mr. J. W. Tankersley, made all arrangements preliminary to the dance. Handsome programmes, bearing upon their backs the Sigma Nu colors, a dainty pencil attached, and twenty lines for the dance dates, made beautiful souvenirs. The ball was opened about 10 o'clock with ten engagements of alternate waltzes and two-steps. The German followed a short intermission and the ten sets with complimentary "stays out" prolonged the hours until 1:30 this morning.

This German practically closes the holiday season. It was a fine climax to a holiday period whose very day has been filled with delight.

The following is a list of those who attended:

W. H. White and Miss Annie Neave, Hayden Clement and Miss Catherine Cartwell, Mont Murphy and Miss Mary Carter, Walter Crump and Miss Mary Carter, Whitehead Klutz and Miss Janet Crump, Burton, Craige and Miss Beale Henderson, J. W. Tankersley and Miss Annie Klutz, Sam Wiley and Miss Adelaide Rankin, Louis McKesson and Miss Helmi; invited guests: Arnold Snider and Miss Mary Ramsey, Jno. W. Davis and Miss Mary Radcliffe, Dr. W. P. Exum and Miss Elizabeth Crump, E. C. Land and Miss Beulah Haden, Claude Morris and Miss Louisa Neave, Linn Burnhardt and Miss Julia Crouch, John Fisher and Miss Beulah Kern, Clarence Bernhardt and Miss Lillie Heilig, George Burnhardt and Miss Lura Thompson, Chas. Coughmond and Miss Janet Quinn, Richard Eames and Miss Kathleen Klutz, Stahl Linn and Miss Sadie Snider, James Davis and Mrs. L. R. Tate, Stanton Turpin and Miss Sena Critz, James Russell and Miss Grace Brown, Earnest Taylor and Miss Rosa Holmes, Henry Hobson and Miss Rosa Bernhardt, Donald Clement and Miss May McCovick, Paul Bernhardt and Miss Bettie Alton Land, Frank Sanford and Miss Virginia Meuney, Littleton Hurdley and Miss Helen Rhyns, Haden Holmes and Miss Dorothy Doe, Tom East and Miss Beulah Rankley, Fred McCorkle and Miss Marion Heilig, Earle Thompson and Miss Helma Davidson; stags: Walter Linton, W. S. Baldwin, John Gordon, Ed Neave, John McCannell, Will Gaskill, Dr. R. V. Brawley, Louis McKesson, H. C. Rupert, C. W. Smith, Mr. McElver, Ernest Alexander, chaperones: Dr. and Mrs. J. Frank Miller, Mrs. E. B. Neaves, Miss Fannie McNelly, Dr. and Mrs. R. L. Ramsay, Mr. and Mrs. Adams, of Statesville.

You will not find beauty in rouse pot or complexion whitewash. True beauty comes to them only that take Rocky Mountain Tea. It is a wonderful tonic and beautifier. It costs Ten or Twelve. J. E. Jordan.

NO DELAY IN DUKE SUIT.

Vice Chancellor Pitney Denies Mrs. Lillian N. Duke's Appeal to Court of Errors and Appeals in Divorce Suit.

Special to The Observer.

Newark, N. J., Jan. 2.—Vice Chancellor Pitney to-day declared that he would not allow the appeal from his jurisdiction to the court of errors and appeals to act as a stay in the divorce case of James B. Duke, the tobacco magnate, against Lillian N. Duke.

"I cannot allow the appeal to act as a stay," said the vice chancellor, "as that would be to confess the possibility of this court having made an error of judgment. The trial of this court must proceed as if there was no court of error and appeals. The plaintiff will have no difficulty in establishing that fact. If she is guilty, she does not deserve any special favors at the hand of the court."

The appeal means a delay of two years with a delay of several years more if the case is afterward appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States.

"This," said Vice Chancellor Pitney, "involves the possibility of witnesses dying or their memory becoming so dim that they could not recall the important facts."

The appeal was taken by Mrs. Duke's counsel, the vice chancellor having decided that the half-million dollar palace, built by Mr. Duke at Somerville, N. J., constituted Mr. Duke's "matrimonial residence." The lawyers contended that his residence was either New York or North Carolina, and that suit should accordingly have been brought in either of these States, and not in New Jersey.

SALISBURY SOCIAL EVENT.

Mrs. Lyman H. Baldwin Gives Delightful Informal Reception.

Special to The Observer.

Salisbury, Jan. 2.—The informal reception of Mrs. Lyman H. Baldwin and her son, Mr. Warham E. Baldwin, at their home on Horah street yesterday afternoon, was by every account, a delightful period. The hours were from 3 to 6 and in that time a large number of their friends came and paid them homage. Mrs. Baldwin was assisted in the entertainment of her visitors by Mrs. W. H. Dow, who served eggnog, and by the Misses Neave, who dispensed coffee. Mr. Baldwin welcomed the company at the front door and gave his delightful presence to them in their short visit.

Not at any time has Salisbury been honored with more splendid citizens than those who have lately come among her people.

ASLEEP ON THE TRACK.

Young Railroad Man Meets Instant Death Near Hutto, His Body Being Horribly Mangled.

Special to The Observer.

Heldsville, Jan. 2.—A young man named Hess, residence unknown, was killed near Hutto to-day. The young man, who had been on duty for two or three days, was sent out from his train to flag an incoming train. While waiting for it, he fell asleep on the track and his body was horribly mangled. The remains were brought here and prepared for burial but, so far, no orders have been received regarding the disposition to be made of them.

"Steam ox" and "steam camel" are the names given to automobiles by the natives of Southwest Africa.

MR. GUTHRIE BETTER.

Condition of President Republic Iron and Steel Co. More Hopeful—Salisbury News Notes.

Special to The Observer.

Salisbury, Jan. 1.—Mr. V. S. Guthrie, the millionaire president of the Republican Iron and Steel Company, who is in Salisbury very ill with appendicitis, is improved slightly to-day. He underwent an operation Sunday and his condition grows hourly more hopeful.

Mr. T. Edgar Johnston, who has spent five weeks at the sanitarium recovering from two serious operations, is growing better and will shortly be out. He sat up last night. Mr. Johnston is the well-known ticket agent at the Southern station.

Dr. Ray M. Armstrong, an osteopath of Franklin, Ky., has moved to Salisbury and will practice here. He comes with splendid credentials.

Dr. J. W. Tankersley and E. B. Clement have returned to Jefferson College, Philadelphia, where they complete their medicine course this spring. They are as good as the city ever sent away and are succeeding splendidly in their studies.

Mr. T. G. Barker has sold to Mr. C. E. Robertson his interest in the Robertson Grocery Company's business and will shortly begin his work with the new buggy and wagon company.

Mrs. A. J. Loughny and daughters, Misses Catherine and Maria, returned to Greensboro to-day after visiting Mrs. R. M. West.

C. P. Ellis & Co.'s Cotton Letter.

Special to The Observer.

New Orleans, Jan. 2.—The European market was flooded with American selling orders this morning, which exercised an unusually depressing influence, volume, 16,000 bales. This weakness abroad was followed by rather general selling, both here and in New York, for account of interior bales, with the result that a break of about 10 cent was quickly established, which, in turn, attracted a heavy demand from the more important short interest, the buying of this disposition proving ample to effect a reaction of 20 points, part of which was lost at the close.

It is noticeable that sentiment is more divided than perhaps at any time this season. This is undoubtedly due to the very discouraging character of the European demand, and the inability of those who have cotton for sale to find buyers. We refer, of course, to hedge cotton, less of which is always offering on the basis of future regardless of actual market valuation. At the same time our information again to-day indicates that the interior is unconcerned over the existing depression and certainly after disposing of the greater portion of the crop they should be more independent with reference to the real value, and they manifestly are.

A continuance of this policy can have but one result in our judgment, and that is to buying about higher prices, ultimately. Everyone is agreed on the volume of the consumption and if the short crop theory are correct it means a depletion of supplies at the end of the season to the vanishing point.

Under the circumstances, we can see no justification for the advocacy of short selling, on the contrary, we believe that the best evidence of an increased trade demand will be the signal for a renewal of aggressive speculative support and a sharp recovery. The census figures to be published on the 5th instant should make a very bullish exhibit, if we are to judge from the nature of our private advice coming to hand from widely scattered localities.

C. P. ELLIS & CO.

More than 64,000 acres of the soil of India are devoted to the raising of tea. The total yield last year was 22,500,000 pounds. The capital engaged amounted to \$6,775,000.

THREE MURDER CASES.

They Are on Docket for Trial at Present Term of Spartanburg Court. Correspondence of The Observer.

Spartanburg, S. C., Jan. 1.—Solicitor Sease was busy Monday all day preparing the docket for the two weeks term of sessions court, for the trial of criminal cases which convene Tuesday, with Judge Memminger, of Charleston, presiding.

There are three murder cases on the docket to be disposed of at this term as follows: Nelson and John Coke, charged with the killing of Lewis Jeter at a negro breakdown and dance at Tom Morris's Thanksgiving night; Fred Wright, the defendant being an officer, who it is claimed, was attempting to arrest Brown when the homicide took place; John Sheldon, for the killing of Al Briggs last August.

Besides the above there are other cases of interest that will come up for a hearing at this week's term of court. Solicitor Sease stated to-day that he was sure that the docket would be entirely cleared at this term of court and that a new record for the new year will be made.

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