

A REAL BLIND TIGER TERM

JUDGE BRYAN SCARES THE BOYS

No Court Ever Like the One Now in Session in Charlotte—The House Will Not Hold the Throng of Defendants, Witnesses and Spectators—The First Shot Out of the Box Honors Makes the Weak-Kneed Pale Under the Gills and Sick at Heart—Solicitor Clarkson and Mr. Cameron Morrison Preparing to Walk About Among the Tickers

The February criminal term of the Mecklenburg Superior Court convened yesterday morning with Judge Henry R. Bryan, of Newbern, presiding, and Solicitor Heriot Clarkson and Mr. Cameron Morrison representing the State and the Law and Order League, respectively, prosecuting. There are something over 200 cases on the recorder's court. About two-thirds of these cases are for selling liquor.

There has never been a more interesting assembly than that at the Mecklenburg Superior Court yesterday morning. It was the most democratic in the broadest sense of the word. As one entered the door he had to elbow his way among the crowd, for 20 feet before he could see the light. On the bench sat Judge Bryan, a man of 50 years and dignity and aristocratic brow. In the bar, immediately in front of the judge, the Charlotte lawyers occupied seats. To the left were the grand jurors who were to pass on every case and upon it either "true bill" or "no true bill." To the right sat a number of petit jurors, all ready and waiting for a case. Clerk Moore, Sheriff N. W. Wallace and his auditor, Mr. O. Johnson, and Mr. Heriot Clarkson, were all in evidence as they made ready for business. The foregoing named persons made up the inner circle.

But the most interesting section of the congregation lay behind the rail, out of the pole, where the common herd did foregather and wait for something to turn up. There were rich folks, poor people, pale people, pink people, black people and others. Among the sinners were a few of the other class, for Rev. W. W. Orr and one or two other members of the Law and Order League were here to pass the time of day with their attorney.

In "Nigger Hebben," the gallery just above the rear end of the main hall, several hundred Afro-Americans had gathered to hear and witness the proceedings of court. It was being a little dark at best, reminded an on-looker of a swarm of black birds in the low grounds. Many of them were interested in cases, either as defendants or witnesses. Some were common spectators.

Everything was attention when the first case was called. Two negro boys, Harvey Ivey and John Watson, were indicted for an affray. The negroes had fought but without doing any damage. They were drunk at the time and Ivey threatened to cut Watson's throat. Col. T. L. Kirkpatrick, who defended the darkeys, put Rev. D. M. Austin on the stand to testify as to Ivey's character.

"What do you know about this boy?" asked the attorney.

"Well," said Mr. Austin, "I have known him for 15 years and he is a good negro. His father has tried to raise him right, and I never heard of him getting into any trouble. It is time and he admits that he sent to Richmond, got a jug of whiskey and drank too much."

Others swore that Ivey had a fraternal character. Col. Kirkpatrick had succeeded in presenting pretty good negroes to the court and he was willing to rest there. He had submitted for his client and pleaded the mercy of the judge. Therefore, when he sat down all eyes were turned to the ground to see what his honor would do.

"Six months on the county road is for Ivey and four for Watson. Call the next case."

15 years of age, was charged with hitting a street urchin, Abram by name, on the head with a rock. It will be recalled that this incident occurred near the widow several weeks ago. Abram is a tiny foreigner who lives in the streets, and is well known along West Trade. His cause was championed by Mr. R. H. Matthews, the main witness in the case, who had seen the negro knock the boy down. The facts were to the effect that the negro, for some alleged offense, had pipped the boy in the back of the head with a stone and felled him to the gutter. Abram is a mere child. After hearing the evidence Judge Bryan sentenced the negro to six months on the county road.

Tom Wilson, colored, was fined \$3 for carrying knives. Mr. W. M. Yates, falling to appear as a witness after he had been summoned, was called out and fined \$50.

James H. King, the blind wine seller, who has figured in several courts prior to this, appeared to give an account of his citizenship. Mr. Plummer Stewart, their attorney, spoke for him.

"This man, please your honor," said Mr. Stewart, "was indicted here for selling wine in quantities less than a gallon. He did not know that he was breaking the law. He submitted and the judge was merciful to him. He was permitted to go on promising to obey the law in the future and to appear before following courts and report. After he went home I told him that he could sell the wine, his own manufactured goods, if he did not let any one have less than a gallon in a lot. He followed my instructions to the letter, but later we found that he was breaking the law which says that wine cannot be sold within a certain distance of a church. Technically, he is guilty but I am responsible for it, as I failed to find the act when I looked for it. I hope you will give him another chance."

Here Solicitor Clarkson arose and presented the side of the State.

"Please your honor, I do not believe that there is a spot in this county where it is legal to sell liquor or wine any one afflicted as he is, does not quit this. He was left off before because of his blindness. He has wine scattered all through that country and he seems compelled to sell it. A man who sells liquor is like a dog that sticks eggs. He will go back to it if he has the liquor. Let him pour it out or get rid of it some other way."

At the thought of pouring out the wine there was a perceptible shudder and drawing up of mouths. One or two old sots drew in big mouthfuls of air.

"This man," said Mr. Stewart, "is all right. He can prove a good character. I do not want him abused. Please your honor, I want the prayer of the court continued and I will see that he gets rid of his wine."

"How much has he?" asked Judge Bryan while the congregation rose half way up to hear the better.

"About 500 gallons."

Stewart, their attorney, told the court that the defendants were ill, and would not be able to appear. The solicitor indicated that he was from Missouri, and threatened to make an investigation for himself.

"This negro," said Mr. Clarkson, "was a tiger feeder, and after we gave him a round he went into business for himself. I'll send the county physician to see him."

The case of Will Jenkins, colored, charged with running a blind tiger, was brought up. Jailer Johnson notified the court that Jenkins was real sick. Col. T. L. Kirkpatrick spoke in behalf of the defendant, who is a client of his, saying: Judge, as the sheriff and the jailer well-know (and it is no fault of theirs) the jail is a bad way. A sick negro cannot get any rest there, and I believe that humanity demands that you send this boy to the county home, or somewhere else."

Mr. Clarkson agreed to let him go to the Good Samaritan Hospital.

"Let him go at once," said Judge Bryan.

The following cases were disposed of in the afternoon: John Clifton, Pink Alexander and Arthur Wyatt, colored, and J. F. McIlwain, white, carrying concealed weapons. Clifton and McIlwain were fined \$5 and costs each; Alexander and Wyatt \$7 and costs each.

F. A. Brown and Tom Simpson, white, who were arrested last week on the charge of playing poker, were fined \$7 and costs each.

Messrs. J. C. Palmer and Robert Gray, Jr., who were tried at a recent term of the court on the charge of retailing whiskey at the Gray drug store, were arraigned to testify that they had not dispensed any straight booze or "don't care" drinks with whiskey in the present term of court.

Solicitor Clarkson arose and were simply tuning their instruments yesterday and they will open up with a lively piece or two to-day. They fully intend to walk about among the tigers, and if they succeed a shortage of ho hands will follow. The road roads work will prosper.

on the edge of a precipice and that they suffer much mental anguish as a result. They have retained Mr. J. D. McCall to represent them in the suit.

IN THE CITY POLICE COURT. Three Blind Tigers Arraigned—Two Indictments for Orders of Boose Arrests—Pickaninies Fight.

The array of blind tigers in the city police court yesterday morning consisted of John Key, John Barnes and Henry Robinson, colored, the latter two of whom had been caught by Patrolman Christenbury in a freight car, which they were using as an improved saloon. The court consumed little time in hearing the cases and the three offenders were bound over to the present term of the Superior Court and sent to jail.

J. T. Traywick, white, was arraigned under the recent decision of the Supreme Court to the effect that a man who acts as agent is guilty of retailing. Mr. Traywick had gotten some whiskey on two occasions for a friend. He was bound over to the Superior Court.

Jesse Owens, an old veteran, and Jim Black were initiated into the order of Boose Artists. The initiation fee was \$5 in either case.

Alfred Palmer and Ernest Twitty, two pickaninies who had "flung" rocks at each other, were fined \$3 and the costs for their dice diversion.

STORE OF M. C. COGGINS BURNED. Damage Estimated at \$1,400—Roof of Adjoining House Also Burned—Kitchen of Mrs. Catherine Rowdiger Catches Fire.

The store of Mr. M. C. Coggins, situated at No. 316 East Twelfth street was discovered in flames yesterday morning at 2:30 o'clock and an alarm was turned in at once from box No. 19. The department responded immediately but the fire had reached that stage where neither the store building nor its contents could be saved. The roof of the adjoining house caught fire but the flames were extinguished. Mr. Coggins estimates that his damage is something like \$1,400, while the damage to the adjoining residence will be something in the neighborhood of \$300. Both store and residence belonged to Mrs. Elizabeth Hunter.

Fire was discovered in the kitchen of Mrs. Catherine Rowdiger, at 301 North Church street at 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The flames were extinguished by the chemical engine and the damage was small.

To Organize Brass Band. There is a very strong movement on foot to re-organize the old Charlotte brass band. Two meetings for practice have already been held and considerable enthusiasm has been manifested at each. At the practice several nights ago, there were 15 present. The movement which is designed to give the city a first class band is to be commended and should meet with hearty co-operation.

Chance For Cheap Clothes THE LONG-TATE CLOTHING CO. Oldest Clothing Store in Charlotte. Goods sent on Approval, Returnable at Our Expense.

Furnishing Goods! After all it is the small things in life that count. The same is true of a man's dress. It is possible to make a bad appearance with the finest clothes that can be bought, by lagging on the smaller parts of one's dress. Such mistakes are not liable to happen when you get your furnishings from us. Our furnishing department is not excelled by any store between Washington and Atlanta. This statement is made after due deliberation and a visit to our furnishing department will convince anyone who has the slightest doubt.

Ed. W. Mellon Company LEADING CLOTHIERS MAIL ORDERS RECEIVE PROMPT AND CAREFUL ATTENTION.

BE SATISFIED This you can get as good, if not better, work at our place on your Fancy Evening Dress, Waist, Opera Cloak, etc., as can be had anywhere in the United States.

SEE OUR LINE OF FOUNTAIN PENS. A full assortment—all sizes and prices. Every one guaranteed. The best made. If you have ever had trouble with a Fountain Pen, give ours a trial, and we are sure you will be satisfied.

FOR SALE. A bargain second hand 30 H. P. Swift Engine, with extra shafting and pulleys, in first class condition, now located in Statesville, N. C. Will exchange for lumber.

Correct Hats For Men Spring Styles ready Saturday, February 17th. The Tate-Brown Co. SOLE AGENTS.

LEATHER FURNITURE SALE Do not let this opportunity slip by you. To-day we present an array of real bargains in Leather Furniture. Leather Couches.....\$25.00 to \$65.00 Leather Davenports.. 45.00 to 120.00 Leather Sofas..... 16.00 to 60.00 Leather Library Suits 45.00 to 75.00 Turkish Leather Rockers \$26 to 60.00 Leather Seat Rockers 4.50 to 25.00 Leather Chairs..... 2.75 to 25.00

KNOX HATS For Spring \$5.00 and \$3.50

OLDEST LARGEST BEST In The Spring.. Spring will soon be here, then we'll be busy cleaning and dyeing household draperies, lace curtains, portieres, etc. But why not start early and send them along now. No better time than right NOW. Don't forget that we clean carpets clean. CHARLOTTE STEAM LAUNDRY. Launderers, Dyers, Cleaners, 219 South Tryon street.

Special Prices ON Sideboards Our present stock must be reduced to make room for our new stock of spring goods. If you are in need of a Sideboard This Reduction Means Money Saved Watch our west window for these unusual values Lubin Furniture Company

Big Sale Of Rugs and Mattings WE are offering special low prices on all kinds of FLOOR COVERINGS. Our Rug Department was never so complete as to-day. 9x12 good Tapestry Rugs as cheap as \$14.50 to a handsome 9x12 size Wilton Rug at \$45.00. Wilton Velvet Rugs, superior quality and style, 9x12 size, worth \$40.00. Special \$32.50. Bigelow Axminster Rugs, in designs and colors appropriate for library, parlor or dining room. All sizes at lowest prices. Our spring line of Mattings, Linoleums and Oil Cloth are on display, and we can positively save you money on these lines. See our stock before you buy. Cash or Credit W. T. McCOY Cash or Credit SOUTH TRYON STREET.

Yorke Bros. & Rogers Sole Agents Agonizing Burns are instantly relieved, and perfectly healed, by Bucklen's Arnica Salve. C. Rivenbark, Jr., of Norfolk, Va., writes: "I have used your Arnica Salve on my face, and it has healed all my sores, and healed it without a scar." Also has all wounds and sores, 25c. at S. H. Jordan & Co's, Druggists.