

The Charlotte Observer.

J. P. CALDWELL, Publishers. D. A. TOMPKINS, Publishers.

EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR

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PUBLISHERS' ANNOUNCEMENT

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Advertising rates are furnished on application. Advertisers may be sure that through the columns of this paper they may reach all the people in this State and adjacent States.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1909.

A MATTER OF IMPORTANCE.

We have finished petitions from residents of the eastern section of the city in the case of a bill of attorneys that they get from the legislature power to land a section of Sugar creek and drain the Witkovsky and Earthing bottoms. Twenty-three citizens living on East Fifth street extension, represent that with few exceptions every inhabitant of that section has had malarial or typhoid fever and the fact has been proved by good reason, no doubt, to the creek and the condition of the bottoms. Ear should be given the plant of those petitioners. The health of the people should be the first concern of the city and it is unquestionably menaced by the conditions existing in the section in question. It is suggested that the county might give the use of the convicts to canal the creek and drain the bottoms. It ought to do so. It is suggested again that the land-owners immediately interested might contribute to the cause. They could well afford to and some of them undoubtedly would. Without, however, discussing ways and means here, it is enough to say now that the proposition is a meritorious one, really, as it does to the city's dearest interest—the health of the people—and to express the hope that the mayor and aldermen will interest themselves in the subject.

LESSON FOR THE MOB SAVAGE.

From The Richmond News Leader we learn that on the day following a brutal attack by a negro upon a young lady while she was walking early morning church services a number of representative colored men gathered informally and considered a suggestion that the sentiment of the colored people be embodied in a public statement. It was decided that the white people of Richmond know the negroes of Richmond so well that no such statement was necessary. The expressions used against the criminal by all who spoke were strong. It was felt that a wild beast put shame upon his own race in a manner very hard to bear. When a negro is lynched, on whatever charges an important motive is sometimes the sole motive is to make through the lynching a demonstration against the entire negro population. The horrible brutality and wrong involved is well illustrated by the gathering of colored people in Richmond. There was, as those present declared, no need of a formal statement, but we are glad, all the same, that such a meeting was held. It has been pointed out that citizens of Charlotte are delighted with Governor Thomas's recommendation that North Carolina, on Jan. 12, the Australian ballot and are signing petitions to the Legislature in behalf of it. The signer, it is stated, is that by this method the individual ballot can be more freely sent to officers and upon issues of vital concern. That is exactly the spirit and for that very reason it will not be adopted in North Carolina for many years. There is no possibility of intimidation or coercion under it. Who supposes that under the operation of the Australian ballot state-wide prohibition would have carried North Carolina last May? Mr. Spence's opinion that under its operation Mr. Spence's majority in November would have been the half of 22,000?

Whatever views the new members of the Legislature may entertain on the subject, we are sure that the members who have been in the majority in favor of a short session. They have experienced in some measure the effect on the human system of a steady diet of Chatham County rabbits which has ruined the stomachs of the people of Raleigh.

We notice amongst other things as we journey through the wilderness of this world, that Judge James B. Whitfield, who has just been chosen for the second time Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida, was born in North Carolina.

Nothing could be more felicitous than the address of Lieutenant Governor Winston in retiring Tuesday from an office which, by the way, he has occupied with very great credit to himself.

WARPATH IN TENNESSEE.

They are certainly having lively times in Tennessee. Having combined with the Republicans to organize the Legislature, the radical prohibition element on the Democratic side hopes to get through a State-wide bill and pass it over Governor Patterson's veto by the simple majority needed for such a purpose. Presently the object is to make Chattanooga, Nashville and Memphis a "dry" notwithstanding the very strong protest of each of them. The Memphis News-Simitar, so extreme a Carmackite, that it has called for Governor Patterson's impeachment, nevertheless urges that in the movement to induce the Legislature not to ratify this ruinous measure upon Memphis all factional lines and all political enmities ought to be wiped out for the time being. The News-Simitar declares that all the State troops in Tennessee could not enforce a prohibition law in Memphis. Such a law would be a dead letter and would simply "concentrate" for all laws. Memphis would apparently occupy somewhat the position of Savannah, which does not even pretend to obey the Georgia State prohibition law and has been loudly threatened by Governor Hoke Smith in consequence.

Lively times in Tennessee? We only hope that the contest will close without any actual fatalities. There was no passage in Governor Kibb's inaugural more deserving approbation than that relating to good roads. The importance of permanent road improvement in North Carolina could not be over-stated. What had roads cost our people compared to the cost of making good roads across in different counties and as conditions differ, but the most expensive of them are cheap, are worth more than they cost. Our Governors past are known under distinctive aliases, as the "educational Governor," the "Industrial Governor," etc. Much as they have accomplished in the several matters with which their names are associated, Mr. Kibb will have accomplished, as much as any of them if he shall decrease to go down as the "good roads" Governor. This would be enough glory for any man.

We consider the steel trust one of the most heinous trusts in the country and are far from approving the President's course in permitting the absorption of the Tennessee coal and iron Company, but The Louisville Evening Post speaks quite truly when it declares that this trust has had far more favors from Congress than it could possibly get from the executive department. "It is to-day," points out our Louisville correspondent, "the chief beneficiary of the iron and steel schedule of the tariff, and it is this protection that has enabled it to absorb so large a part of the iron and steel production of the United States."

"The International Association of Aeronauts" is holding its first session in London, with fifty delegates present, representing nine countries, and among other things will draw up "rules of the air." This is another evidence that we people of scientific achievement are coming along. Now we are to have rules, fashioned as the rule of the road, and as those of the ships which pass in the night and hail each other in passing. Looking soberly at this matter of aerial navigation, in retrospect, we are amazed at the incredulity of those foolish people who in time past doubted that we would fly.

It is amazing to note the many suggestions in the newspapers, and to learn that it is talked in Washington, that the President should be impeached. The New York Sun, for instance, quotes the tenth of the articles of impeachment of Andrew Johnson, touching his attacks upon Congress, and demonstrates that the attitudes of Johnson then and of Roosevelt now are exactly parallel. It is suggested by The Sun and others that the President will not be impeached because there is not time. Of course he will not be. But the idea that it should be talked about!

We acknowledge with pleasure a check for \$11.27 from Rev. John F. Kirk, pastor of the Methodist church of Mocksville, the contribution of his congregation to the relief fund for the sufferers from the Italian earthquake, and go out of the way to observe that the Methodists of Mocksville have done themselves a great deal of credit in making this contribution—the first we have noted having been made by any Protestant church in the State.

The amount that the House committee on naval affairs has added to the navy appropriation bill for the construction of new ships—\$25,000,000—is significant. The committee evidently expects the government to win its case against the Standard Oil Company on the second go-round. The addition to the appropriation is just the amount of the Kennebec Mountain Lands fine.

The city authorities of Charlotte, as all the delegates to the tuberculosis conference will agree, are doing a most excellent thing in reviving the enforcement of the anti-spitting ordinance. In fact, no one who has the least regard for common decency can entertain any other opinion upon the subject. We hope that enforcement will not need to be revived hereafter.

The State Legislature has refused to raise the Governor's salary to \$8,000, but, a contrary impression prevailing widely in the press, the State will get some good advertising (unfortunately undeserved) out of the matter, anyhow.

There is no love nor ever has been between Senator Tillman and The Charlotte News and Courier, each of whom has in time and time recent, said many harsh things of the other; yet when Senator Tillman gets in trouble with the President and is under charges of having done something wrong The News and Courier is the first paper to fly to his side and to resent the attack upon him, making for him, as has been said, a better defense than he has made for himself. The position he has taken in the matter, all the circumstances considered, does it honor and is an honor to the newspaper profession. There are newspapers, whether the public believe it or not, which in their dealings with public men and measures, rise above all considerations of personal prejudice or predilection and dwell in a higher atmosphere. The Charlotte News and Courier is one of them.

These various contemporaries who have remarked upon The Observer's course in discussing the moot question of Edgar Allen Poe's birthplace without claiming him for North Carolina more or less unconsciously pay tribute to the historical accuracy regardless of bias always sought by this journal. We might safely offer a large reward for proof that we had ever claimed any one as born in North Carolina who was born anywhere else.

In brief, the President's message on the subject service was but the match which touched off the congressional powder mine. The membership of Congress hitherto "had it in" for the President, and when it was realized that he had laid himself open to attack by the House as a body—although in a matter where Congress was sure to be wrong and more than half ashamed of itself—the explosion went off.

The Petersburg Index-Appal and The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot may think they have made us feel bad by saying that we were "talking about something we didn't know anything about." In discussing cocktails, but they have not. We almost feel like taking their remarks as a compliment.

ROOSEVELT MAKES TEST.

In order to prove to the Critics that the "Army Riding Order" is Not Too Severe the President Remains in the Saddle at Hunt, Covering 90 Miles—Makes Trip Over Bad Roads and in a stiff Sleet and Rain—Shows No Signs of Fatigue on His Return and Eats a Hearty Supper.

Washington, Jan. 12.—President Roosevelt rode 90 miles on horseback today, and when he dismounted to-night at the White House door, more than 12 hours after having departed therefrom, he did not show any marked signs of weariness. The object of his long day in the saddle, he explained to a representative of The Associated Press after his return, was to "prove to the critics who have found fault with the recent order requiring all army and navy officers to take a physical test, that if a President, who is not in training, can ride 90 miles in one day, without being laid up in bed to-morrow, it should not be too much to ask the army, who are supposed to be in the best of physical training all the time to ride 90 miles in three days."

Mounting his faithful rider and jumper, "Howdy," in front of the White House, at 3:30 o'clock this morning, he dismounted at the same place at 5:40 o'clock to-night. The journey was to Warrenton, Va., and back. "And Virginia roads in the winter time," said the President, "are not usually in the best condition. With the President were Sir Carey Grayson, general of the navy, Dr. Carey Grayson, and Captain Archibald Butt, one of the President's aides.

On the return trip, the last 30 miles of the journey were made in sleet and rain, while the last 12 miles were in almost pitch darkness. Arriving at the Aqueduct bridge across the Potomac, the President refused to take the carriage which was waiting there for him. When he dismounted, his coat and hat were frozen stiff with sleet and rain. In less than an hour after returning to the White House, the President had changed his ice-coated clothing for evening dress and appeared in the dining room, ready for a hearty meal as he has eaten for a long time. The "army riding order" had dropped in about that time, they would have been sadly disappointed, for the President did not show in the least by his walk that he had been sitting for nearly 12 hours in a hard saddle.

Samuel Higgins' Residence Destroyed by Fire.

New Haven, Conn., Jan. 13.—In a fire that completely burned the residence of Samuel Higgins, the general manager of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad, here, early to-day, his mother, Mrs. Moore, lost her life, his mother-in-law, Mrs. Higgins, was fatally hurt, and his wife, daughter Isabel, his young son and Mr. Higgins himself barely escaped death in the flames by jumping from a second story window. It was a result of this jump that Mrs. Gordon was hurt.

High Point Charter to Be Left to a Committee.

High Point, Jan. 13.—A mass meeting of the citizens was held last night at the Anchor Warehouse to discuss the proposed new charter and lay it before the people in the best possible manner. The meeting was called to order by Mayor M. J. Wynn and after some preliminary remarks and questions it was decided to put the matter in the hands of a committee of twenty gentlemen, five from each ward, who are to get together, make changes they think best, and report within ten days when another mass meeting will be held.

Second Night-Rider Trial May Begin Monday.

Union City, Tenn., Jan. 12.—It is probable that another night-rider trial will begin next Monday. An agreement was made between Attorney General Caldwell and attorneys for the defense, to take the matter up then, and it is almost certain that one of the conspiracy cases will be called on that day. An agreement also has been reached wherein nine men indicted for other night-rider offenses (their names have been released) have been indicted under arrest who have been indicted for the murder of Captain Banks, who has not been tried.

SALISBURY NEWS OF A DAY.

Overman & Co. Acquire the Salisbury Roller Mill Property. The Salisbury Roller Mill, property of Overman & Co., has been acquired by the Salisbury Roller Mill Co., of which Mr. Overman has been manager for some time. Mr. Overman, with his wife, will visit Cuba and Florida and will be away from Salisbury several months.

The Davis & Wiley Bank stockholders in annual session yesterday elected the following directors: Hon. T. P. Klutz, Senator Lee S. Overman, H. C. Henderson, P. H. Beard, R. Eames, Jr., W. L. Klutz, N. P. Murphy, W. Murdock Wiley, J. M. McCorkle and O. D. Davis. The report of the business of the year was a good showing and the usual semi-annual dividend of five per cent was declared. O. D. Davis was elected president; P. H. Beard, vice president, and J. M. McCorkle, cashier.

At the annual meeting yesterday of the present officers of the First National Bank were re-elected and no change was made in the office working force. The executive officers are W. C. Coughenour, president, T. P. Linn, vice president, and H. Wiley, cashier. The report of the cashier was gratifying to the stockholders.

Organizer George F. Wise, of the Woodmen of the World, has just returned from Taylorville, where he organized a camp of the W. O. W. This order, Mr. Wise says, is growing rapidly in Piedmont and western North Carolina.

Dr. R. M. Armstrong and Mr. C. S. Morris, manager of the Salisbury Cotton Mill, have each purchased a building lot off of the valuable Wiley home site on West Bank street and will later build residences thereon. Dr. A. H. Bowers, of Gold Hill, who died in a Greensboro hospital this morning, was married only two weeks before Christmas to Miss Pearl Langie, of Faith, this county, his wife being a sister of Mrs. Thomas M. Keeler and Mrs. Frank H. Bolick, of this city. Dr. Bowers had been operated on for appendicitis. The body was brought to Salisbury at half past 2 o'clock this afternoon and taken at once to Faith through the country by Undertaker Wright. The funeral will be from Faith Lutheran church at 11 o'clock to-morrow morning, conducted by the pastor, Rev. C. P. Fisher. The Woodmen of the World of Gold Hill and Granite quarry will attend the burial in a body, the deceased being a member of the Gold Hill camp of the Woodmen.

Probably the two happiest people in Salisbury to-day were Mr. Caleb T. Bernhardt, a prominent business man of this city, and Mr. J. C. Bundy, of Monarch, Montana. The two were comrades in the civil war and met on the battlefield and this was their first meeting since. Mr. Bundy was from Cabarrus county, has been living in the West twenty-five years and while on a visit to North Carolina came to this city to see his friend of the sixties.

New Railroad Projected From Laurinburg to Gibson.

Laurinburg, Jan. 13.—It is now assured that Laurinburg is to have a second railroad. A line will be built in the near future from this place to Gibson, a contract with the Atlantic Coast Line. The stock has been taken. Besides several strong stockholders abroad, the road will have the backing of John E. McNair, A. L. James, James A. Jones, John Blue, J. P. McRae, R. C. Coxington and others here, which will assure it of successful competition. This will mean great things for Laurinburg. Situated in the best farming section of the State, with large cotton fields, the oil mill, the guano factory and the cotton gin, Laurinburg is already a growing town. But while only one railroad enters, there must be a feeling of insecurity about freight rates. But with the entering in of this young railroad she will be assured of competition there also.

Southern Agent at Spencer Resigns.

Spencer, Jan. 13.—W. H. Shanan who for the past year has been agent of the Southern Railway Company at Spencer, has resigned the position to enter business at Greensboro. During his stay in Spencer his services have been highly satisfactory both to the company and to the general public and his departure is greatly regretted here. To fill the position made vacant by the resignation of Mr. Shanan, Mr. W. M. Young, of Anderson, S. C., has been appointed agent at Spencer and has already entered upon his duties. He has many friends here who are glad to have him here. He will be assisted by Mr. T. P. Brooks, who has for a year or more been in the employ of the Southern at the Spencer station.

One of The Observers' Bright Young Men.

Raleigh Evening Times. A newspaper man sent here by the great paper represents Mr. W. Adams of The Charlotte Observer, who came to rest in direct touch with the work of electing a Speaker, as well as to get an insight into what was likely or not likely to be done. How well Mr. Adams has succeeded is told in the letters he has sent to his paper since coming to the capital. If there is any one thing that Mr. Adams excels in, above another, it is this class of work. He never writes a dull letter from Raleigh when he came hunting for the real things being done.

Goes to Burlington For His Third Wife.

Winston-Salem Sentinel, 12th. "Mr. L. C. McCoy, a substantial and highly respected citizen of Hanesville, Mecklenburg county, passed through the city to-day en route to Burlington to take unto himself his third wife, in the person of Miss Elsie Simpson, a splendid lady of that town. Mr. McCoy is 38 years old, but one who has known him for years says that he can ride a bicycle and do other stunts, almost equal to a lad of ten years. The age of the bride is 40 years.

Permsimon Beer the Proper Chaser For 'Possum.

To the Editor of The Observer: Many a 'possum dinner have I been to in "Black Mammy's" cabin on the old plantation down home. The bill-of-fare would be 'possum and 'taters, simmon beer and ginger cake; so, if you are after "preserving harmonies," I would say suggest to Georgia permsimon beer. Branch water will do very well for set fry, but permsimon beer is the drink with 'possum. S. W. BECKWITH. Lenoirville, Jan. 13th, 1909.

POSTOFFICE SITE SELECTED.

The Hoyt Property at Washington, Which Was Offered the Government by the Public, Has Been Recommended as the Place For the Public Building. Special to The Observer.

Washington, N. C., Jan. 13.—The location for the site of the proposed public building for this city has at last been determined upon as was given out in a letter from Congressman John H. Small to Mr. A. M. Dumay, president of the chamber of commerce of this city, and received a few days ago and made public yesterday. In his letter Mr. Small stated that he had recently called upon the Treasury Department and looked over the report of the agent for sites of public buildings, Mr. G. L. Ellsworth, who recently made a visit to this city for the purpose of selecting a site for Washington's public building, and he had recommended the Hoyt property, on the corner of Market and Second streets, as the best site and his report was clearly expressed and makes a very good showing in justification of this conclusion. He names the Sumner and Havens property on the opposite corner as second choice. The Hoyt property was bid at \$15,000 and this price, it is understood, was accepted. This property has an area of 120 feet on Market street and 135 on Second street and is conveniently located for both the business interests and the residents and is one of the most valuable as well as desirable sites in the city. Just how long before the work of erection of the public building for which and appropriation had already been made by Congress, will begin, is not known at present.

SCHOOLS MISS LIQUOR TAX.

New Hanover County Board of Education Finds Itself Without Funds to Run the Schools—Deficit of \$13,000 Since the Saloons Were Put Out of Business and Special Tax Will Be Necessary. Special to The Observer.

Wilmington, Jan. 13.—In making the semi-annual apportionment of the school fund this week, the board of education found itself with a deficit of \$13,000 in the fund for running the public schools of the city and the end of their present term this deficit being brought about by the loss of \$13,000 in revenue from liquor for each year. Before the schools had barely enough for their eight months' term and now two months will have to be lopped off the city schools and one off the rural schools unless other provisions are made. Under an act of the General Assembly of 1907 the county board of education may demand of the county commissioners an election for a special tax, and Chairman George Rountree has signified his purpose to appear before the board and make a request for an election the first week in March. It will require about 12 cents on the hundred to create the same revenue as was formerly derived from the saloons, the present county, State and school rate being 2 cents on the \$100 valuation. Before the election every effort will be made to educate the people up to the necessities of voting this tax.

CONVICTED OF PERJURY.

L. C. Jackson, of Cumberland County, Fined and Sentenced by the Superior Court For Having Sworn Falsely That He Saw a Neighbor Abstract a Barrel From the Box. Special to The Observer.

Fayetteville, Jan. 13.—L. C. Jackson, a well-to-do farmer of this county, was convicted in the Superior Court of perjury in swearing that he saw Mr. Thomas Seals, of Rockfish, falsely take a vote from the ballot box in a school tax election last June, and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$25, and serve 18 months on the county roads. Motions to set aside the verdict and for a new trial were denied, when the defendant appealed to the Supreme Court and was placed under a \$400 appearance bond.

KILLED BY HIS OWN GUN.

Accidental Discharge of the Weapon Proves the Undoing of an Alameda County Citizen. Special to The Observer.

Burlington, Jan. 13.—Mr. Julius Greason was killed by the accidental discharge of his gun yesterday while hunting near his home, eight miles west of Burlington. Mr. Greason and his associate, Wyatt Frazier, were working in the woods when their dog started a rabbit and Greason had his gun looking for an opportunity to shoot it. Upon returning to work Mr. Greason, in attempting to stand the gun against a log, checked the trigger as against some object, discharging it, the charge entering his abdomen. Death resulted two hours later.

Russian Becomes American.

Mr. Samuel White, until yesterday a subject of the Czar in Russia, having satisfied all the requirements for the privilege, yesterday renounced allegiance to the ruler of the Russias and became an American citizen. The application was read in the Superior Court, the government being represented by Assistant United States District Attorney A. L. Coble. Notice of intention had been filed two years ago. Mr. White has lived in Charlotte a number of years, being engaged in the furniture business.

Irrigated Himself With Whiskey.

From the arid wastes of prohibition Charlotte, Tom Alexander, colored, secured for himself yesterday a pint with which to irrigate himself. The end of that diversion was the lockup, the negro finally getting beyond locomotion. After Tom got in his cell he begged the officers not to take his whiskey away from him, but he spoke in irony, in the bottom of the bottle only a few drops remaining.

Rumor That North Carolina Midland is to Be Completed.

Special to The Observer. Reidsville, Jan. 12.—For some time past engineers have been going over the old right of way of the North Carolina Midland between Lenoirville and Madison, and it is being persistently rumored that this gap is to be completed at an early date. This road was surveyed and part of it graded several years ago, but for some reason was never completed.

Slight Shocks Felt in Austria.

Vienna, Jan. 13.—Slight earthquake shocks were felt to-day in southern Austria and the Tyrol. The disturbances extended from Sarajevo, in southeastern Bosnia to Merano, in the Tyrol. Among other places where the shocks were felt were Trieste, Pola and Trent. No damage has been reported.

The Little-Long Co. DEPARTMENT STORES CHARLOTTE, N.C.

A BIG MILL-END BUSINESS ALL DAY YESTERDAY

Even With Such Bad Weather All Kinds Rain Goods and Footwear Were Much in Demand

Big 89c Umbrella Sale

Big new lot Ladies' and Men's Umbrellas, assorted handles, worth \$1.00 to \$1.50 each and every one guaranteed. Choice.....89c.

A \$4.00 "Sorois" Shoe \$2.85

This is the best Ladies' Shoe we handle and we have one lot of the \$4.00 Patent that goes in the Mill-End Sale for.....\$2.85

Our American Lady \$3.00 Shoe.....\$2.15

One lot \$5.00 Knox Shoes for Men at.....\$3.55

Rubbers for.....25c. and up

One lot Men's Raincoats worth \$20.00 to \$25.00. Choice.....\$13.65

A beautiful \$18.50 Oxford heavy weight Overcoat for.....\$10.35

Ladies' Raincoats and Rubberized Coats at About Half Price

Great Blanket Sale

500 pairs N. C. 10 and 11 quarter Wool Blankets at the biggest cut price yet.

Here's Your Chance to Buy Blankets and Comforts

Thousands of matchless values all over our three big stores equal to these few mentioned.

The Little-Long Co. DEPARTMENT STORES CHARLOTTE, N.C.