

MAYOR FRANKLIN RETURNS

TELLS ABOUT FORGERY CASE.

Chief Executive of the City, Who Spent Week in New York Trying to Convict Samuel Citron, Who Was Charged With Uttering a Forged Charlotte Bond States That the Defendant Could Speak English, Although This Was the Technical Point That Spared Him of Conviction—Trail Full of Many Interesting and Some Rather Sensational Features.

"I knew the case was lost for us as soon as Judge Crane delivered his charge to the jury," said Mayor T. S. Franklin yesterday, who had just returned from New York, where he attended the trial of Samuel Citron, charged with uttering forged city bonds. "The court gave the defendant the benefit of the doubt when he instructed the jury that it was a privilege to talk in the language with which he was most familiar, the basis of the defense which the man's attorney put up was the contention that Citron could not speak nor understand English and, although he had been told in English that the paper which he was uttering was a forgery, he did not understand it. On this technicality he was spared the severe penalty which he would have received, for in my mind and in the judgment of many others, he was a very bad man. The funny thing about the whole affair, however, is the fact that Citron could speak English, for he talked to me after the trial in perfectly plain English language."

AN INTERESTING CASE. A very interesting case in every respect was that against Citron. Several weeks ago it became known to the city officials that a forgery of bond No. 1 of the City of Charlotte on the National Bank of Commerce of New York had been committed. The litigating house which issued the bonds, the brokerage firm through whom they were negotiated and the district attorney's office were notified and these working in conjunction with Mayor Franklin secured the arrest of Citron on the charge of uttering through Lieutenant Pollock, of the detective bureau of the metropolis Mayor Franklin, Chairman G. G. Scott, of the finance committee, and City Clerk and Treasurer A. H. Wearin went to New York to arrest the man who was arrested and began to prepare the evidence against him. Mayor Franklin returned to New York on another occasion to give testimony against Citron on the grand jury which returned against him a true bill. The recent trip was the third which Mayor Franklin made and the second for Mr. Wearin. They did all in their power to secure a conviction and their confidence was not shaken. They are inclined to think that the young attorney of Citron, who was one of his own race and exceedingly shrewd, simply outmaneuvered the assistant district attorney.

EVIDENCE AGAINST DEFENDANT. The handling of the evidence against Citron was rather impudently handled by the prosecution. At various points the evidence was taken from the witness stand by the young attorney for the defense. The prosecution had evidence that when Citron was arrested coupons of bonds Nos. 2 and 3 of the City of Charlotte were in his possession, as well as other suspicious papers, three other forged bonds and a number of lottery tickets. These, he explained, had been picked up somewhere on the highway, and when he was an inhabitant, but they nevertheless fixed circumstantial guilt upon him. There was also a bit of evidence in the possession of the district attorney's assistant, who handled the case, that Citron had been in work for a company recently failing in the metropolis and which had been guilty of many forgeries prior to its liquidation.

COULD SPEAK ENGLISH. The court at the onset ruled out all evidence against Citron which would tend to prove that he was guilty of forgery in the first degree and this threw a rather hard burden upon the prosecution. The real standing blow came, however, when the court ruled that Citron would be allowed to speak the language with which he was most familiar, and claiming that he could not use the English vernacular, it was necessary to secure an interpreter. This naturally weakened the evidence as it placed secondarily in the hands of Mayor Franklin and Mr. Wearin both state that Citron could speak English very intelligibly. After the trial he came up to Charlotte's chief executive and made several statements in the American language. He thanked Mayor Franklin very profusely, for what he could not understand. It could have been further produced an evidence that Citron understood English and that he presented the forged coupon at the National Bank of Commerce and was told to sign his full name to the paper, which he did. A representative of Estabrook & Co., to whom the bonds were sold, also stated that when he went to Citron, pretending to negotiate with him for the remaining bonds not presented to the bank, but held in his possession, he seemed to understand perfectly well what he was talking about. When the representative, however, told him that it was a forgery, he could not understand him at all. All the circumstances led the Charlotte officials to believe that Citron could speak and understand English, but that he resorted to his native tongue when he did not want to understand.

THE CITY NO LOSER. It is certain that the city will not stand to lose even the small amount secured by Citron on the first forged paper presented to the bank upon which he received \$12,500. It is expected that the National Bank of Commerce which cashed the paper will make good this small amount. The case, however, was important to the city for the reason that such illegal transactions might have a tendency to depreciate the city's bonds in the future. Mayor Franklin stated yesterday that the case attracted a vast deal of attention and he was told that it was similar to none that had been tried in the New York courts since the present officials have been connected with it. The trial was most interesting to all who participated in it and was full of rather sensational features. Of course, the local officials are disappointed because no conviction resulted, but in their own minds they are satisfied that Citron is guilty.

Fireproof Library Wanted. The local United Daughters of the Confederacy are much interested in the bill now before the General Assembly at Raleigh asking for a fireproof library building. Behind the movement is also the State Literary and Historical Association. The point is made that the records of North Carolina's past are at present endangered in a fashion nothing less than disastrous. The co-operation of all public-spirited citizens is invited to carry the measure to success.

CANTATA THURSDAY NIGHT.

"The Golden Legend" to Be Given at Elizabeth College This Week Under Direction of Mr. H. J. Zehm—The Chorus.

Sir Arthur Sullivan's beautiful cantata, "The Golden Legend," will be given at Elizabeth College Thursday night by the Choral Society of that institution under the direction of Mr. H. J. Zehm, musical director. The soloists will be: Miss Cynthia Sessions, soprano; Mrs. Frank F. Jones, contralto; Mr. George H. Newcomb, tenor; Mr. Cecil C. Butt, bass; organist, Miss Helen Poil; pianist, Miss Katherine H. Rosser; and the entire chorus, participating, is as follows: Ladies—Ruth Bradley, Beatrice Boyd, Margaret Bomar, Grace Barnhardt, Annita Bryant, Beulah Bryant, Lena Beck, Mary Best, Ethel Burke, Pearl Roger, Grace M. Boyer, Ethel Cline, Martha M. Carr, Lula Carpenter, Katharine Carpenter, Eva Covington, Ethel Durham, Annie Davis, Ann Dyer, Margaret Dewdney, Minnie Fowler, Rachel Fay, Earnestine Graichen, Margaret Greever, Maybelle Greever, Edna Hipp, Mattie Hyndman, Zula Hedrick, Edna Harper, Anna Kincaid, Irma Killian, Julie Klauer, Ruth Lillard, Luchia Lowery, Lois Lucas, Mabel Lau, Margaret Marquis, Willie McLaughlin, Irene McLeod, Rosalia Philpot, Alice Rahn, Mahie Raabe, Nellie Ray, Minnie Rogers, Marjorie Richardson, Bessie Rogers, Annie Siler, Mary T. Saezer, Cora Stansell, Blanche Simmons, Willie M. Taylor, Chattie Usher, Louise Vollers, Katharine Vollers, Eulalie Walker, Anna C. Walter, Emily Wright. Gentlemen—J. D. Auten, T. H. Asbury, George R. Bell, W. L. Blackwelder, E. C. Royette, C. C. Butt, H. C. Deiter, E. C. Frank, J. W. Hastings, W. J. Huntington, W. L. Jenkins, John Kirby, W. C. Kirby, C. R. McAdams, G. H. Newcomb, W. H. Overcarab, J. H. Parks, F. B. Riggsbee, Ed. Scholtz, C. M. Setzer, J. A. Stevenson, L. J. Townsend, T. H. Tatum, H. M. Usher, G. Valzer, J. C. Walters, A. R. Willmann, G. R. Willmann, D. D. Withers, W. Wunstorff.

FUNERAL OF MRS. BUTT.

Funeral service yesterday morning on East Vance street—Services Simple But Expressive of High Regard For the Beloved Lady Whose Passing is Widely Mourned.

With ceremonies beautiful in their simplicity as was the bright, brave life in whose memory they were held and in the presence of a large company of devoted friends whose heart-strings had been wrenched by the unspoken sadness of her death the remains of Mrs. Carey W. Butt were laid to rest yesterday morning in Elmwood cemetery beneath an encompassing banking of flowers, tribute of love, inexpressible. The funeral service was held at 11 o'clock from the residence on East Vance street "Some Day We'll Understand" and "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" were sung by a quartette composed of Mrs. Carrie C. Martin, Mrs. H. S. Ryan and Messrs. R. M. Usher and Walter Scott. Rev. A. A. Presbyterian church, of which Mrs. Butt was a member, offered prayer, after which he spoke briefly and hopefully of the joy of the righteous dead.

EXPECT TO CLIMB HIGHER.

Stonewall Management Planning a Further Addition to Depot Hotel—Larger Facilities by the 15th.

Almost before the mortar on the bricks of its building was dry, the management of the Stonewall Hotel planned and began the building of a substantial addition at the rear. And now, three weeks before the completion of this building, it is considered practically certain that either this spring or early this summer two stories will be added to the original building, increasing the total number of rooms to 125. At present the hotel has 56 rooms in all. The final completion of the addition, which will be accomplished about February 15th, will swell the total by about 25. The management will then be in a position to determine how soon the other addition should be begun, whether right away or, if possible, at a somewhat later date. There have been only three nights since the hotel opened when every room was not occupied.

May Bring His Paper Here.

Mr. Robert C. Day, of Wilson, spent yesterday in the city with a view to looking-over the complete prospectus of the paper, which is to be published by Mr. Day and Rev. John B. Jenkins, a noted Baptist divine in the eastern section of the State. Mr. Day was here a few days ago holding a protracted meeting for Rev. Dr. E. E. Bomar at the Pritchard Memorial church in Dilworth and during his stay here made many friends and was much pleased with the city. The Messenger is an independent religious weekly and enjoys a liberal patronage. It is believed that Mr. Day will decide to bring the publication's central offices to this city.

Will McDonald "Up."

"The roads go for thirty days" So says the "Square Deal" when Will McDonald, a young negro man, yesterday afternoon, the defendant was charged with abandoning his wife to fight the battle of life unaided and also with beating her cruelly. He made many friends and was much pleased with the city. The Messenger is an independent religious weekly and enjoys a liberal patronage. It is believed that Mr. Day will decide to bring the publication's central offices to this city.

GRAVE PROBLEM AT STAKE

THAT OF A DEPOSITORY

Agitation For and Against a Medical Depository the Talk of the Day—Widely Circulated—Some Expressions of Opinion From a Charlotte Business Man—Not Yet Satisfied That Depository Would Prove Successful in Charlotte—A Cosponsor—The Letting Down of the Bars.

But one topic is engaging the attention of the Charlotte public at this time and that is the so-called medical depository agitation. The movement to take whiskey from the drug stores and centralize it in a place where it would be under municipal control reached a head last week when the special committee from the local anti-saloon league met and made public a draft of a bill which it will ask the Legislature to approve. Since then there has been hot and cold discussion in the streets and in the offices of the city. Petitions galore have been circulating and signers by the hundreds secured. To the twenty odd anti-depository petitions, there have been attached the signatures of over 1,200 voters, 800 of which were secured in the city and 400 in the county.

While many of those signing these petitions were opposed to prohibition in the election last May, others voted for the bill "against the sale and manufacture of alcoholic liquors." One of these was a leading business man of the city yesterday who is an outspoken prohibitionist. Said he: "I am and always have been opposed to the manufacture and sale of liquor and always expect to be. I voted for State-wide prohibition last spring and no one rejoiced more than I did when the law went into effect the first of this year. It was a great victory for a great cause."

"But I am opposed to a medical depository for Charlotte and I will tell you why. No, I have not signed any of the petitions for the simple reason that if I did, some of my friends, sincere and honest men that they are, would not understand why I did so. I am not satisfied that a medical depository such as the one the bill calls for would prove a success in Charlotte even though it had the evidence of success in Wadesboro and Monroe. I do not say that I would not be a success but to my mind it is doubtful and the great stake at stake is too serious to experiment with."

"Charlotte has prohibition and there is a most healthy public sentiment back of it. I cannot disburse my mind of the idea of a depository such as that suggested is a compromise so arranged as to invite trouble. Prohibition has been in force in the city but a few months and to my mind it is going on. There are no doubt violations by some of the drug stores and by some of the doctors but not near so much as a man would make believe. There are more than a dozen in Charlotte to-day than ever before and a great deal of the liquor procured from those suburban agencies are credited to the drug stores. I have heard the cry of 'swill' 'swill' too often."

"And then too I have pondered over this depository plan at some length. This feature has presented itself before the depository is in operation and it proves a failure, what will be the result? 'I am fearful of such an outcome. It would be impossible to return to the present basis. The pendulum would swing back the other way, and the last state would be far worse in my opinion than the first. Frankly speaking, I am afraid that those advocating a depository have not sufficiently considered the consequences."

"One man or perhaps a dozen men have declared that the drug-store system is a 'farce.' That does not make it so. There must be violations for nothing is perfect and with a matter as vexatious and hard to handle as the liquor problem here will be many violations. I have studied the system in force in the city and I believe that it is about the best under the circumstances possible. Those anxious to overturn the system in force and substitute for it another should consider well their ground. Better results will be expected of the new system than the one done away with. And the medical depository

does not make allowance for the blind tigers and the clubs. The medical depository may be all the advocates claim for it. I am only fearful that those who are so strenuously urging it at this time do not fully appreciate the importance of the situation and their course. They are assuming the gravest of responsibilities. I say what I do in order that some of those so rampant on the subject may reflect. There was much talk last spring of eliminating the liquor question, of getting it out of politics, of settling the matter for good and all. Now a radical change is contemplated. This I am afraid will have the effect of throwing down the bars and nullifying all the declarations made last May."

To Raise Commissioners' Pay.

Considerable interest has been aroused in the proposition now before the Senator and Representatives from Mecklenburg in the Legislature in the form of a petition that the salary of the chairman of the board of county commissioners be raised from \$75 to \$125 a month and the pay of the commissioners from \$2 to \$4 a day for the actual time served. It is said that the petition is quite numerous and signed and up to this time no movement has been started against it.

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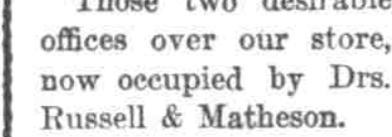
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