

JURY IN ROBERTSON ASSAULT CASE FAIL TO ARRIVE AT VERDICT AND A MISTRIAL RESULTS

After deliberating from 7 o'clock Thursday evening until 9 Friday morning, the jury, in the case of State vs. Robertson in which the defendant was charged with an assault upon a female, reported that they had failed to reach a verdict as to the innocence or guilt of the defendant, and that there was no prospect of a verdict. Thereupon Judge J. Lloyd Horton discharged the jury, and ordered a mistrial. The vote of the twelve jurymen stood 5 to 7, with no definite information as to which side had the seven. The case was tried in Gates County Superior Court and every session was attended by large crowds.

Thus ended a two-day-and-a-half trial which has shaken the very moral foundation of a large part of the town of Ahoskie since last August 10th., on which day J. H. Robertson is alleged to have committed an assault upon Mrs. L. K. Walker. This one thing has given Ahoskie more publicity than any other occurrence ever happening here; and it has been the most sordid, degrading, fiendish and disreputable affair ever aired in the courts, coming out of the town.

The plaintiff upon the witness stand swore that Robertson, a man who had never before entered her home, came to her front door on the afternoon of August 10th, and, against her will and by force, gained admittance into her hall way, after she had answered a rap at the door. She was dressed in her kimono, when she heard the knock at her door. She went to the door and, seeing Robertson through the glass panel, unlocked the door, cracking it open slightly to tell him that her husband, a local physician, was down town and that he could see him there, thinking that he had come to the house for medical aid. He then forced his way into the hall, while she retreated to her bedroom and closed the door behind her, and ordered him to leave her home. Cracking her bedroom door slightly to see if he had left, she saw him standing there, with the front door closed, and his hand on the door knob. She ordered him out again; but he only smiled at her suggestively and said "come on out; you look good enough. She once again ordered him to leave but he only repeated to her that she looked good enough and not to be afraid. Then he asked if the two young children were asleep and if she was sure there was no other person in the house. She said "no, you get out of this house." He reminded her then that the neighbors might see him leaving; and, upon being ordered way the next time, he told her that some one was passing in front of the house. She told him that she did not care who was passing and who might see him, for him to leave and leave at once. She testified that while he was there in her hall, she ordered him to leave as many as eight or ten times.

She testified that Robertson advanced a step or two towards her as she stood in the bedroom and while standing there, he asked her something about a setting of eggs that she had promised his wife.

Notwithstanding her repeated commands to leave the house, Robertson again smiled suggestively, turning his face first towards her and then out of the front door as if to see that no one was around and appearing nervous, and then recited some things that he alleged took place between "some man" and herself. Robertson, she testified told her that he had seen these things happen. She replied "No you haven't, Mr. Robertson, for

not even God himself has ever seen any such things." Again, in her desperation, she ordered him to leave, threatening to go out the back door and make an alarm to the neighbors. He left.

Excited, nervous and grief-stricken at the attack made upon her, but with forethought about the trouble it would cause her husband who she feared might blow out the brains of her assailant, she waited until Friday morning to tell her husband. On Friday morning, however, after constant thinking, brooding, crying and praying over it, she phoned to her husband's office and had him come to the house, where and when she told of the insult and assault made upon her. When she had related what occurred, Dr. Walker came back down town, and on his way, stopped and confided what he had just been told to his friend, Mr. Roberts Jernigan. When the former said that he was going to get a gun and kill the "scoundrel" Mr. Jernigan advised him against the act contemplated and suggested that he adopt a saner method. Dr. Walker waited, then, until Robertson left his work at the depot, accosted him near the postoffice and, exchanging words, he hit Robertson a blow upon the head, after the latter had placed a knife, which he held in his hand, into his pocket, as commanded by Dr. Walker. Others were near, and they rushed up. Robertson, seeing the danger that lay before him suggested that they retreat into the store of J. N. Vann and Bro. and let him explain. He attempted an explanation by saying that he would have to implicate another man, that being W. W. Lawrence. The latter was immediately sent for, confronted his accuser who repeated the things which he had told Mrs. Walker on Wednesday, and accused Lawrence of having told him that he, Lawrence, was the man who was involved and that Lawrence had told to him upon several occasions the things which he had told two days before. Whereupon, Lawrence called him a "liar" and at the same time pounced upon him, crushing him to the floor. He jumped upon him and clutched Robertson's throat and was choking him severely when Mr. Jernigan pulled him off, and along with him came both the shirt and the collar of Robertson.

Following this episode, Robertson left town and for a few days remained out of sight of Ahoskie people. Mrs. Robertson according to the testimony of Dr. Walker, came to him in distress on the day her husband was beaten up, and told him that Mr. Robertson would leave Ahoskie for good, if he would not prosecute him. Dr. Walker says, in a hope to cause the least embarrassment to his wife and to protect the good name of the town, he would consent not to urge any prosecution if he were to leave town and stay away. Mrs. Robertson denied making the proposal about leaving the town. The other incidents, including service of papers upon Robertson when he returned to Ahoskie, the Masonic trial and his expulsion from the local lodge, and his dismissal from the service of the Atlantic Coast Line railroad, are already known to the readers of the HERALD.

Following her cross examination, conducted by lawyer Sumner Burgwyn, and during which she remained unshaken in the testimony given on direct examination, Robertson took the stand, and denied forcing his way into the home, denied saying he had seen anything between the plaintiff and another man, and denied being ordered out of the house, altho he did admit upon cross examination

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TOBACCO ASSOCIATION WILL MAKE A STRENUOUS DRIVE

DR. J. Y. JOYNER ISSUES APPEAL TO FARMERS

Organization Committee of the Tobacco Growers Association Calls Upon the Farmers and Business Men to Come Across and Help To Put North Carolina Over The Top

Raleigh, Dec. 9.—Calling for 10,000 volunteers to help North Carolina beat Kentucky in the sign up for cooperative marketing of tobacco, Dr. J. Y. Joyner, has issued the following statement of behalf of the state organization committee.

"Kentucky has signed up 85 per cent and is well on the way to 90 per cent of her tobacco crop for cooperative marketing under five year contracts like ours, has incorporated under the North Carolina Co-operative Marketing Act, and the association will pool and sell this year's crop of burley tobacco.

Virginia has already signed up between 60 and 75 per cent of her crops and hopes to beat Kentucky before the first of the month of January.

News from South Carolina indicates that her growers are signing a million pounds a day and that she will have her minimum sign-up by January 1st. or before.

North Carolina, the biggest grower of flue-cured tobacco in the United States, must not lag behind—must beat Virginia and Kentucky before the 1st of January. The bigger the sign up the more assured the success of the association, the less the overhead expenses of the marketing, and the bigger the profits for the grower member.

"The Organization Committee has set the goal and inaugurated an intensive campaign for not less than 75 per cent on or before the first of this January. This means that about 50 million more pounds of the tobacco must be signed up during the next three weeks. The time is short. The task is great. It can be—it must be done, but it will require hard work, active cooperation, and some sacrifice of time from all that interested in this great movement.

"The members of the Organization Committee for twelve months have given freely of their time, thought and labor for the successful organization of the Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association, without any compensation, without reward or the hope of reward, except to help tobacco growers to secure a more business-like, intelligent, profitable system of the marketing of their tobacco and to promote the general prosperity of the state by increasing the profitability of one of its chief industries and the prosperity of one of its largest classes of citizens.

"The movement is receiving the endorsement and the active support of the many leading bankers, merchants, and other business men, even those of the leading tobacco warehouses of the state.

"The responsibility for the success or failure of this final 3-week campaign for enough new signers to secure the biggest of the signups for the cooperative marketing of tobacco in the nation, rests now upon the thousands of signers of the contract and upon every other progressive, patriotic citizen interested in the general prosperity and progress of North Carolina.

"On behalf of the Committee, I earnestly appeal to every one of these—Farmers, bankers and business and professional men—to volunteer for active service in securing signers. Get in touch with your county leaders, who will tell you how well you can help. Let every signer and every other volunteer sign up at least one unsigned neigh-

REASONS FOR DAIRY COW ON EVERY SINGLE FARM OF SOUTH

STATE DEPARTMENT MAN GIVES REASONS FOR COW

The First of A Series of Especially Prepared Articles For the Herald, written by Expert in State Department of Agriculture, Giving the Value of the Dairy Cow on The Southern Farms

(By A. C. KIMREY)

Wherever people are to be fed, soil fertility to be maintained, and boll weevils to be combated, the dairy cow has a place. Her place on the average Southern farm is not only to help feed people on the farm, but also to aid the farmer in his efforts to make money to buy those things which he must have that he cannot produce.

The dairy cow consumes the grain and the roughages which any farm can produce, and she readily converts these things into milk, a most palatable and essential food product, which can well be relied upon to furnish at least forty per cent of the food necessary to maintain the bodies and health of those who cultivate the fields and also who keep the farm homes.

The dairy cow is by her nature and ability, the foundation animal of the well balanced farm. It is a well known fact that the most successful agricultural states and communities are those in which the dairy cow is the foundation stone on which their farming system is built. The agricultural thrift of Denmark and Holland are the models for the world, and it is built around the dairy cow. On the other hand the agricultural systems of Russia and Spain stand out as beacon lights of failure, and neither of these recognize the dairy cow as having a vital part in their system of farming.

It is generally conceded that the greatest problems of agriculture is the maintaining of soil fertility. It is doubtful whether soil fertility can or will be conserved on farms where the main crops are grain and cotton, and where these are sold from the farm. Whether or not it is possible to conserve the soil fertility under such conditions, it is certain that it is seldom. Selling crops directly from the soil is nothing more or less than drawing out and putting on the market the fertility of the soil that past ages have stored in our fields, and thereby leaving the land poor and unprofitable. On the other hand, there are numbers of farms in every county where, by means of a system of live stock farming, the soil fertility has not only been conserved, but very remarkably increased. It is noticeable that this takes place more rapidly on those farms where the dairy cow holds sway.

When grain and hay crops are fed to dairy cows and the dairy products are marketed, a very small part of the soil fertility of these crops actually leaves the farm. For example when two thousand pounds of butter is sold from the farm, less than seventy five cents worth of fertilizing material goes with it. When two thousand pounds of milk is sold, less than \$3.00 worth of soil fertility is sold with it. In the case of selling butter at the present market prices one-tenth of one per cent of the money received for it will buy back all the fertilizing material sold therewith. This, it will be readily seen, is practically negligible from a soil depleting standpoint.

In addition to producing the best food a family can have, and at the same time guaranteeing a part in the biggest movement ever started for making our state more prosperous and powerful by making its chief industry—agriculture—more profitable."

STATE NEWS IN DIGEST COMPILED FOR READERS OF THE HERTFORD COUNTY HERALD.

—R. A. Kohless, Federal Prohibition officer for North Carolina, states that whiskey is more plentiful in the eastern part of the state than in the western sections, and that the manufacture of corn whiskey and "monkey rum" in Eastern North Carolina is more extensive and harder to stamp out than in any western counties of the state.

—J. T. Flythe, for thirty years clerk of the Superior Court of Northampton County, died in a Norfolk hospital Friday. His death followed an operation for appendicitis. Mr. Flythe was widely known throughout Eastern North Carolina.

—The Teacher's Association of the town of Greensboro have decided that high school girls attending their schools must set up a rigid standard of morals, cut out all movies, dancing, and abstain from appearing in public without a chaperone, and otherwise conduct themselves in a "modest and unassuming manner." It is thought that the girls will make strong opposition to this decree.

—Fayetteville High School now holds the state championship for football, having acquired it in their victory over Winston-Salem Saturday, in a hard-fought game at Chapel Hill.

—The tobacco market of Durham will close for the holidays on Friday, December 16th, to reopen on January 3rd.

—The tobacco growers of Wake County are in the lead in signing up for Co-operative Tobacco Marketing, having exceeded all other counties of the state in the number of signers.

—The Prohibition officer and local citizens of Dunn have applied to the District Attorney at Raleigh to decide the question as to "who owns the liquor when captured by the officers?" 48 quarts of "bottled-in-bond" were captured near there last week, and the proper disposal of the precious fluid seems to be worrying the aforesaid parties, none being willing to see it dumped in the sewer.

—Robeson County has elected a woman, Miss Elizabeth Frye, for county welfare officer.

—A cousin of the famous Jesse James was captured in Concord Tuesday, on several charges of robbery and swindling. This man, Fred James, has almost equalled his brother in deeds of robbery and trickery, having been involved in countless jewel swindles and robberies.

—The girls of Durham High School have placed the ban on lip-stick, rouge, powder, and even chewing gum and rolled stockings. They have adopted as a motto: "Back to the ways of grandmothers days", and have announced their intention of living up to it.

—B. O. Townsend, a prominent farmer of Dunn, has successfully proven that sea island, or long staple cotton can be grown on the soil of that county, and also in the surrounding sections as well. This will mean an in-

teering to keep up the soil fertility, the dairy cow produces a product that can be marketed in one form or the other every day in the year, and thus guarantees a constant cash income, which is a thing badly needed on every Southern farm, and especially on the cotton farms.

Still one more place the dairy cow can fill on the farm is to furnish profitable employment for the farmer and his help during those months of the year, when he otherwise would have no such employment, and thus enable him to increase his income, without very materially increasing his capital.

dustry of no little importance to the farmers of that county, if the project is successful.

—Sales of tobacco on the Rocky Mount market have been very heavy for the past week, totaling 1,033,766 pounds, which sold for \$252,929.32, or an average of 25c per pound for all sold.

—The session of Superior Court in Wake County this week has a larger criminal docket than in many years, there being a total of 110 cases, two for murder.

—A large boiler at the works of the Empire Manufacturing Company at Goldsboro exploded Monday, killing a mechanic, injuring several, and partly wrecking the plant.

—A gathering of the railway masons of the Southern Railway met in Charlotte Monday. Many prominent officials from all over the south were present.

—The town of Wake Forest is raising money for the erection of a new high school building, larger and more modern in design than the present building.

—Two automobiles were stolen in the town of Fayetteville Saturday night, both of which are recovered by the police, and the miscreants also, who are now safely in jail.

—An Orange County man, O. L. Sykes, escaped from the State Insane Hospital last week, and killed his brother, also committing other depredations before the police were successful in capturing him and returning him to the hospital.

—The city of Kinston has been on a boom since November 1st, according to the reports of local merchants, who assert that the holiday trade has been heavier than in many years. Other lines of business have also taken on a stimulus, partly due to the good prices which have prevailed on the Kinston tobacco market throughout the entire season.

—Hazing at Wake Forest College has been on the increase this season, as is evidenced, by the students who are to appear in Wake County court this week to answer charges of excessive violence and disorderly conduct, both as pupils and as "hazers".

—Stephen Douglas, a young man of Hillsboro, committed suicide Monday, as a result of de-ranked condition of mind, brought on by the fact that his still had been destroyed a few days previous by prohibition officers, and he himself being sought for by the sheriff. His attempts to evade capture brought on the mental derangement, it is believed.

—The city of Fayetteville is to have a trolley system installed in a few weeks. The project is backed by Raleigh and Fayetteville capitalists.

—The traffic officers of Henderson have become so rigid in the enforcement of the local traffic laws, that the farmers of the vicinity hesitate to come to town on their cars, for fear of being "pinched."

Entertainment at Oak Grove

There will be an entertainment at Brantleys Grove School Friday night, December 23, beginning at seven o'clock. Come and hear the little six year old alto singer, and bring the children to see Santa Claus. After the entertainment there will be a box party and refreshments served for the benefit of the school.

—Advertisement.

When in need of Job Printing—think of the Herald at Ahoskie.