

MIGHTY EARTHQUAKE TAKES TOLL AMONG FIFTY THOUSAND AND VICTIMS

HOLDS AGAINST THE McARTHURS

Supreme Court Reverses Cumberland Co. Court in Case Involving Genuineness of Signatures.

PLAINTIFF BANKS NOW AHEAD IN LITIGATION

About \$300,000 Involved in the Various Cases Against Alleged Endorsers for J. Sprunt Newton.

(By W. T. Bost.)

Raleigh, Jan. 14.—The Supreme court has reversed the Cumberland county court that answered the issues in the Fourth National bank action against J. Sprunt Newton and the McArthurs in favor of the defendants, and the litigation that is one of the suits in which \$300,000 is involved, goes back for trial.

To date the plaintiff banks in the country are ahead of the defendants who have set up a plea of forged signatures. The first case was tried in Raleigh with the Citizens' bank of Norfolk plaintiff on a \$25,000 note. The jury disagreed, eleven holding the signatures of the McArthurs endorsers of Newton, genuine, the twelfth declaring their spuriousness. The next attempt at trial was luckier for the bank. It won a judgment in the same court. Judge H. G. Connor presiding. The case in Cumberland county was barely less interesting. Two notes of \$10,000 each were involved. The jury answered the issues of forgery for the defense. The plaintiff appealed and Judge Walker writes the opinion giving the court's reasons.

In the Cumberland case it has been often declared that three of the jurors could not read and genuine handwriting was the issue. The defense, resisting a verdict, presented an expert as the plaintiff did. The defense presented an engraver, O. A. Lester, L. Raleigh, who faked the signatures of the defendants and confounded witnesses for the plaintiff by showing imitations which they declared genuine. The plaintiff objected and the Supreme court sustains the objection. The court gives the reason for this and for the further reason that Judge Rountree asked the plaintiffs why they did not produce Sprunt Newton to prove certain facts. A further objection was that the photographed signatures were not competent unless proof of the conditions under which they were taken was given to go to the jury.

The Supreme court delivered opinions in eleven appeals yesterday, left seven other appeals undecided until the opening of the spring term on the first Monday in February and adjourned for the term. The cases that go over until the next term are Morton vs. light and power company, Pasquotank county; Norris vs. Duffey, Wake (this case involving the question of the right of the state to collect inheritance taxes on real estate instigated by the corporation (Continued on page 3))

Severe Winter Weather On Whole Battle Front

Paris, Jan. 14.—Severe winter weather from one end to the other of the battle line of France is hindered military operations Tuesday, according to the official statement of the French war office yesterday. The French artillery showed some activity, notably near Soissons and between Rheims and the Argonne. There were no decisive results. The fighting to the northeast of Soissons is severe and continues. Large forces of infantry have been engaged at some points. The French have retained their gains in some places but in others have been compelled to retire before the Germans. The text of the communication follows:

"Unfavorable weather prevails along almost the entire battle line and hinders our operations. In Belgium, there was a sand storm in the dunes along the coast. "In the region of Neuport and Ypres, the French artillery directed an offensive fire against the earthworks of the enemy. "In the Alsace region, to the northeast of Soissons, the fighting around

PRIMARY BILL NOT OPPOSED

At This Time State-Wide Reform Measure Appears to Have Plain Sailing in Legislature.

SENATOR WEAVER TO PRESENT BILL ALSO

Rather Warm Colloquy in the House Over Fisheries Bill for Hyde County—Matters of Routine.

(By W. T. Bost.)

Raleigh, Jan. 14.—The state-wide primary act took a start yesterday with Senator McNeely of Union presenting the bill. Senators Hobgood of Guilford and Weaver of Buncombe are scheduled next.

At this writing it seems that no fight will be made against this measure. Not only is every party pledged to it, but republicans remaining over here from Tuesday's love-making are looking on and urging their members to press this issue to a finish. In the general assembly democrats are exceedingly anxious that they shall have the advantages that attend making a party issue. Hardly anybody rises to excuse the party blunder in the convention of 1914 which failed to declare outright for the primary.

Moreover, throughout the campaign democratic leaders observed the insistence of republican papers upon the passage of such a bill by the general assembly, such frequency of demand coming to headquarters in Raleigh that very soon every opposition to the primary vanished. Every man in the state administration is supposed to be in favor of the bill. The lower house yesterday warmed a little in colloquy. Representative Currie of Cumberland blocked Representative Clayton of Hyde in the bill relating to fisheries in Hyde. Mr. Clayton wanted the bill to go through without delay because he said the fishermen who could put their nets out from 2000 to 5000 and 10,000 yards farther in the Dare waters than they could in the Hyde, were given an advantage and they ought to have a restricting law now before the fishing season begins.

Mr. Currie replied that from fifty to one hundred thousand dollars is lost annually on the fisheries by reason of mismanagement and that no bill like this could possibly be called a local bill. It affected every locality in the state. He insisted upon its taking the usual course before a committee.

The senate was convened at 11 o'clock by President Doughton. Senator Ward reported favorably from the committee on rules the substitute for the McRae joint resolution of private and public local bills and it took its place on the calendar. The resolution provides for such a committee to consolidate bills in the interest of economy and the saving of time to (Continued on page 3)

CITY OF AZEZZANO WHOLLY DESTROYED

Official Reports Say Death List There Will Total At Least 15,000.

DEBRIS OF CITIES HAS BURIED DEAD

Pagliozzo, Celano and Tesciana, Partially Destroyed--All Italy Is Stirred By Upheaval--Another Shock Today.

Rome, Jan. 14.—The victims of the earthquake, according to the latest reports available, will number 50,000, including the dead and wounded.

AZEZZANO LOSES 150,000. Rome, Jan. 14.—Official reports from Azezzano declare that the dead in the city and vicinity as the result of the earthquake in Italy yesterday will number more than 15,000.

London, Jan. 14.—The Express has received dispatches to the effect that it is estimated that the number of dead at Azezzano, Italy, caused by the earthquake is easily 15,000.

TOWN COMPLETELY DESTROYED.

London, Jan. 14.—Trains arriving at Rome today brought about 100 people who had been injured at Azezzano and Pagliozzo in the earthquake, according to a dispatch to the Reuter Telegraph company for its correspondent at the Italian capital, who confirms the information that Azezzano is completely destroyed.

DEBRIS BURIES DEAD.

Paris, Jan. 14.—Dispatches to the Havas agency from Aquila, Italy, say that the latest news confirms the report of the complete destruction of Azezzano; and that the towns of Celano and Tesciana, not far from Azezzano, were partially wrecked, a great number of dead being buried beneath the ruins of the towns.

ANOTHER SHOCK IN ROME

London, Jan. 14.—A news agency has received a dispatch from Rome that in Rome was felt another distinct earthquake shock about 3 o'clock this morning. In several quarters of the city the people fled from their houses to the open air.

The correspondent of the Express in Rome says that the shock was felt with varying results all over the districts of Rome and Naples. In Rome, it had been established that there was no loss of life, although a great many ancient buildings

CONFLICT FOR HILL STUBBORN

Central Earnings Sixteen Per Cent

Good Reports of Last Year's Business Submitted at Annual Meeting of Bank.

At the annual meeting of the Central Bank and Trust company, one of this city's youngest banking institutions, reports were submitted showing that the past year was a very prosperous one. The deposits for the past year were \$70,000 more than for the year previous, an increase of 25 per cent, as published in The Gazette-News several days ago. The net earnings for the year were 16 per cent. The accumulated surplus now amounts to \$18,000, on a capital stock of \$50,000. A dividend on the capital stock of six per cent was declared, payable semi-annually. The stockholders of the institution re-elected the following as directors of the bank to serve during the next twelve months: Charles W. Brown, J. R. Oates, Dr. P. R. Moale, Cante N. Brown, John C. Arbogast, Charles French Toms, Dr. J. A. Sinclair, J. W. Rutherford, Judge Henry B. Stevens, J. D. Earle, Thomas S. Rollins, Eugene Carland, W. B. McEwen and Wallace B. Davis.

At a subsequent meeting of the directors, the officers of the institution were re-elected as follows: President, Charles W. Brown; vice president, W. B. McEwen; cashier, Wallace B. Davis.

RAILWAY OFFICIALS MAY BE INDICTED

New York, Jan. 14.—Officers and directors of the Interborough Rapid Transit company are facing grand jury action as the result of the verdict of the coroner's jury yesterday accusing them of culpable negligence in connection with the wreck on the 6th avenue elevated line, in which two persons were killed. Counsel for the defendants stated that bonds in the sum of \$5000 each would be furnished by a surety company. There were no arrests.

The men thus accused are: Theodore P. Shonts, president of the company; Frank Hedley, general manager; August Belmont, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Edward J. Herwind, W. Leon Pepperman, F. C. Sullivan, Edward D. Bacon, T. DeWitt Cuyler, Edward Marston, Andrew Freeman and Chas. B. Ludlow, directors; and Horace M. Fisher, secretary.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC STOPPED IN GERMANY

Amsterdam, Jan. 14.—By Way of London.—All ordinary passenger traffic has been stopped on most of the railroads in Germany since January 13, as a measure to expedite the movement of troops and munitions of war. Traffic is affected over almost the whole of Germany.

Germans Claim Victories In Western Engagements

Berlin, Jan. 14.—(By Wireless to London)—German victories in several engagements in the western arena of the war are recorded in the official statement which the German army headquarters staff gave out in Berlin. It was said that the allies were compelled by the German artillery to evacuate trenches near the Belgian coast in the neighborhood of Neuport; attacks were repulsed at other points; and the Germans captured 1,700 French prisoners at one time. In the war in Russian Poland, there are no developments of consequence. The text of the statement follows:

"In the western arena, fierce artillery duels in the neighborhood of Neuport resulted in the evacuation of the enemy's trenches at Palscurd, a suburb of Neuport. "The enemy attacked our forces at La Bassee and was finally repulsed. "The French attacks at La Bassee and on the hill at Tourvon were repulsed. Yesterday, there was an unsuccessful attack on the hill near Crony, which was followed by a German counter attack and ended in the complete defeat of the French and the clearing of the hill to the northwest of Bussy and north of Crony. "We have taken possession of two French positions; and captured 1,700 men, four cannon and several machine guns. "Attacks by French sappers in the neighborhood of St. Mihiel were successfully repulsed. Our troops in possession of the hill to the east and northeast of Nomeny. "The situation in the Vosges changed. "In the eastern arena, the situation has not undergone

'NOT GUILTY' IS JURY'S VERDICT

E. M. Jarrett, Charged With the Murder of W. B. Grant, Is Given His Freedom by Jury of His Peers.

DEFENDANT WEEPS AS VERDICT IS ANNOUNCED

Case Went to Jury at 10:30 This Morning—Verdict Returned at 11:10—Self-Defense Was Plea.

E. M. Jarrett, who was placed on trial in Superior court Tuesday afternoon on charges of having killed William B. Grant, was found not guilty by the jury this morning at 11:10 o'clock. The jury remained out of the court room about half an hour.

Jarrett, surrounded by his wife, children, relatives and friends, awaited the verdict of the 12 men who were to decide his case with breathless suspense, and when the foreman of the jury spoke the words, "We, the jury find the defendant not guilty," making him a free man again, he broke down and cried. His family and dozens of friends crowded around him, all weeping, and it was several minutes before the business of the court could be resumed. In a few minutes, however, Jarrett, his family and friends had departed from the court room and his case became part of the great record of the court's business; the daily grind of trying cases, imposing fines and sentences moved on as before.

Immediately upon convening this morning, Judge James L. Webb delivered his charge to the jury, the speeches of the attorneys in the case having been concluded yesterday afternoon. Judge Webb's charge was one of the most forceful and masterful heard in a Superior court in this county in some time and he was given the closest attention by the members of the jury and the large number of people, who filled every seat in the large court room. The jury retired to their room shortly after 10:30 o'clock and returned with the verdict at 11:10. They were thanked by the court and dismissed.

In a row that occurred in the store of the Blue Ridge Mercantile company on Southside avenue on the morning of December 22, E. M. Jarrett shot and killed William B. Grant, who conducted a shoe shop a few feet from the scene of the shooting. Grant was shot twice, one bullet entering the right shoulder and the other entering the heart. Although shot through the heart, Grant lived for about 30 minutes, although he did not speak after the shooting. A coroner's jury, on the afternoon of the shooting, found that Grant came to his death at the hands of Jarrett and held the defendant to Police court, where, at a preliminary hearing the next morning, he was held for Superior court without bond.

When Superior court convened here on Monday, January 4, Solicitor J. E. Swain stated he would ask for a verdict of murder in the second degree. It was thought until that time that Jarrett would be tried for life.

The case was hard fought and a brilliant array of counsel was engaged in the case. Assisting Solicitor Swain were Mark W. Brown, Judge W. P. Brown and Will Daniel, while J. Scoop Styles, O. K. Bennett and P. C. Smith represented the defense. Jarrett set up a plea of self-defense and maintained throughout the trial that his life was in danger at the time

Gutierrez Renamed.

Mexico City, Jan. 14.—(Via El Paso)—It is reported that the national convention has renamed General Eulalio Gutierrez provisional president.