

THE DURHAM RECORDER.

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THE OLD MAN STILL IN TOWN

Sees and Hears Many Things Around That He Wants Printed.

CONDITIONS OF MORALITY NOT GOOD.

Show Girls Attract Attention—The Board of Health—County Politics and Many Other Things Talked About.

True to his promise the "Old Man" remained with us and talks freely about what is going on around the town as he sees it in his wanderings:

"I was up the street one night last week and realized that something unusual must be on from the way the crowds acted. I fell in line with a crowd of young bucks and determined to find out the cause of the stir. I followed them to the Academy of Music and learned that the cause of the unusual feeling of unrest and anxiousness was the desire to get a front seat to witness the performance of the female minstrel crowd that were holding forth. The principal feature of the show was the seven pretty girls and from what the fellows said as they passed out they seemed to feel that they received their money's worth.

"I was talking a few days ago to an observing lawyer (that has made his home in Durham for some time and he remarked that he did not believe the citizenry was as careful of their morals as when he first came to Durham. I suggested that possible the conditions were no worse than formerly but that people were more careless of the opinion of others. He did not agree with me, but I am of the opinion that many young girls are emboldened to be familiar with strangers because it seems to be the popular thing and they can command much more attention in this way.

"When I began to ask about county politics it seems that there never was such a thing and the present occupants of the office are giving such satisfaction or that they are such good politicians other Democrats seem loathe to enter the race. Democrats seem satisfied with conditions, some saying that there is little interest to be had while others are saying that if the same people are to hold on it makes no difference as they have filled the position well so far as they know. The matter of county commissioners has not been mentioned with a view to any one in particular. It is very difficult to get good men to run for the legislature and the candidate for this office that enters the race will have to be persuaded by good men that have the best interest of the county at heart. The suggestion I have made to you of Mr. Percy Reade has met with favorable comment at the hands of many good Democrats and my opinion of him as the best possible material for the place has not changed, but has been strengthened.

"Owing to an endeavor to enforce some of the regulations of the Health Board of Durham much discussion has been brought out. There are few people but agree in the main with the health board in trying to keep the city clean, but many do not appreciate the methods of the officers of the board and the manner they use in dealing with people. Nor do they appreciate the fact that there is nothing in the regulations of the health board that compels the officers to do their duty in all cases. As an instance, look on Main street where the pond

lilies grow all the year round because pools of water stand where filth and all kinds of refuse matters collect, or near the public library, where a pool of water stands from one year to another, notwithstanding the protest of people in the community who have been to every officer connected the sanitary department that they know in their effort to have such places fixed.

"With such matters in mind, in my travels, I walked around to some of best kept streets in the city and one particularly nice yard attracted my attention. Upon inquiry I learned that a very active member of the Civic League lived in this house and found the cause of the beautiful condition of the front yard. I was talking about this to a man who happened to live just behind this residence and he said that I did not know half, that I should have looked into the back yard and around the stables. This same man said he expected to move before the summer because he could not keep his windows on that side of the house raised during the summer on account of these stables, and that continued complaints to the sanitary department had failed to afford any relief.

"Another matter that people that live near certain parts of the town do not like is the idea of being so particular about the way dry closets are kept in the city at all places and so careless about the dumping ground. In one section that I saw the collections from the sanitary wagons is dumped on the surface within 200 yards of the city limits and residents living just inside cannot keep the Southern windows raised during the Summer, and flies are terrible. Of course the men in charge of the wagons make an effort to cover up their load, but with two or more shovels of dirt there is little chance of it remaining so after a rain.

"To my mind the health regulations of the city are the most important matters for her citizens to consider, and if the officers of department will be consistent few people will have any kick.

"I find Durham and interesting place and expect to remain here for some weeks, I find so many things I want to talk about that I must have them said in some way, and will see you again next week."

Mr. Giles Appointed.

The name of Mr. J. A. Giles, of this city, has been sent to the senate by President Taft as appointee of the Durham postoffice.

There is still talk about whether he will be confirmed by that body or not. A portion of the Republican element in this city is not satisfied, and whether they can bring influence to bear to cause any delay remains to be seen. Mr. Giles is not saying about the matter at this writing and the results are still interesting.

LATER.—On Tuesday the Senate confirmed the appointment of Mr. Giles as postmaster at Durham and he will now assume charge. It is generally conceded that Mr. J. T. Poppe will be Mr. Giles' assistant.

The demonstrators of the Globe Remedies have a large display of tape worms in their window at 108 Church street. Stop in and ask about them. Always glad to answer questions concerning our remedies. Office open from 8 a. m. to 8 p. m.

Ed Horton, who has been serving on the roads, escaped one day last week, and has not been heard of since.

POLICEMAN SHOTS NEGRO.

Officer Cobb Kills Tom Hawkins Saturday Night.

THE NEGRO TRIED TO SHOOT OFFICER

Jury Finds That Officer Was Not to Blame—A Narrow Escape for Officer Pendergrast.

Saturday night about eight o'clock Officers Pendergrast and Cobb heard of a gambling game going on down at the home of Walter Sneed on Red Cross street and went down to investigate.

When they raided the players they all made their escape and Tom Hawkins, who, it seems lived in the same house, became infuriated at the conduct of the officers. In going out the negro got hold of a shot gun and attempted to shoot Mr. Cobb, but he dodged and yelled to Mr. Pendergrast that the negro had tried to kill him. About this time the negro and Pendergrast met and the former fired at the officer. Just here Officer Cobbs words will better tell what occurred:

"The next thing I heard was the shot and Pendergrast said he come pretty near killing me, watch out. I had my pistol out then and he ran round, dropped on his knees and levelled the gun at me when I shot. I aimed I thought about the waistband, but hit him near the heart. He fell with the gun in his hands, making no sound as he fell."

Sergeant Pendergrast bore slight scorchers about the eyelashes, the powder from the gun appearing to have burnt him. He says that the gun's point was but a few feet from him when the dead negro fired. It was all done so soon that neither officer knew just what had taken place. Policeman Cobb declares that while he knew the gun had but a single barrel there was time for reloading it and he expected to be fired upon when the negro made the second attempt to shoot him.

The gun was found lying under the negro who had it grasped in both hands. Near the heart was a bullet wound which appeared not to have gone through the body. There was hardly a drop of blood. The wild stare of eyes was fixed; the dead man wrote the account of his death in his face. There were several colored people about who gave somewhat the same story of the death duel. They did not know so much about it, but agreed that the dead man had fired upon the officers who were not after him. He had raised no disturbance, it seems, and, for that matter, the dead man has been comparatively a good negro. He has no criminal record.

Soon after the shooting Coroner A. C. Jordan was on the scene conducting an examination. The testimony that he received was all along the same line, notwithstanding which Sheriff Harward put the officer under arrest until the jury was gotten together, R. W. Brown, J. E. Vickers, F. D. Styron, C. R. Phillips, T. H. Lawrence, M. S. O'Brien composed it and their verdict was that "the deceased, Thomas Hawkins, colored, came to his death by a pistol shot fired into the breast by W. A. Cobb," and the jury further finds that "the shooting was justifiable and in self-defense, and we recommend the release of the said W. A. Cobb."

Officers Cobb and Pendergrast then went to their respective homes. Mr. Cobb expressed himself as deeply regretful of the

necessity for using the gun, but declared that nobody knew what the dead man was going to do.

An examination of the gun shows that it had been fired once and that the discharge was fresh. The shell was still in the gun and it smelled as of fresh shooting. An examination of the premises by several men showed the shot aimed at Sergeant Pendergrast had taken effect. While discussing the excitement Mr. Pendergrast asked that the place be examined, declaring himself certain that the load lodged in some of the wood of the house.

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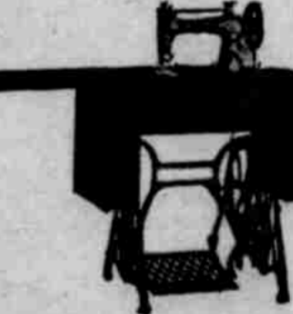
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