

BICKETT GIVES REASON WALKER'S COMMUTATION

Sentiment Held Sway and Swamped
Governor's Sense of Justice
—Opens Road to Law-
lessness, Murder

People here are justly indignant at the unwarranted commutation of the death sentence passed upon Charlie Walker, convicted at the November, 1916, term of Caldwell Superior Court and affirmed by the Supreme Court. The feeling is that Gov. Bickett has outraged the laws of North Carolina and disregarded the overwhelming sentiment of the people of this county and section, and these people are unwilling to accept the Governor's tin-horn reasons—that is, if they can truly be called reasons—as set forth in his official statement.

Sentimentalism seems to have swayed the Governor, and, apparently throwing aside of sense of justice, the laws of the great commonwealth, he tears down the decisions of two courts and then tries to condone his action by the following statement, which, from a standpoint of pure slush and weakness, has no parallel. From reading this statement one is inclined to the opinion that it was prepared by a writer of fiction or was drawn from the imagination of an intelligent inmate of some insane asylum:

The statement is as follows:
"Charlie Walker, North Carolina, Caldwell County, November Term, 1916. Crime: Murder in First Degree. Sentence: Death by Execution.

"Sentence commuted to life imprisonment November 5, 1917.

"On the first Sunday in October, 1916, in the county of Caldwell, and near the town of Lenoir, Charlie Walker shot and instantly killed Florence Sutphin. He was duly tried, and convicted of murder in the first degree. There was an appeal to the Supreme Court, where the judgment of the lower court was affirmed, and a plea is now made to me to commute the death sentence to life imprisonment.

"In support of this plea there is submitted (1) a petition signed by ten of the twelve jurors who found the prisoner guilty. These jurors who heard all the evidence in the case and rendered their verdict, certify that in their opinion the ends of justice would be met by a term of life imprisonment. (2) The judge who tried the case writes that he does not feel warranted in asking a commutation of the sentence, but if there is a doubt in my mind he thinks I should commute the sentence and that he will cheerfully and heartily endorse any decision that I may reach. (3) A petition signed by over three hundred citizens of Caldwell county. On this petition are men and women of intelligence and good character from all walks and stations in life, and they say that in their opinion the ends of justice would be met in this case by a term of life imprisonment, and ask me to commute the death sentence accordingly.

"On the other hand, there is a vigorous protest filed against any interference with the prescribed penalty of the law. In support of this protest there is submitted (1) A letter from the solicitor who prosecuted the case, and who files his objections to the commutation. (2) A number of personal letters from men known by me to be men of high character and intelligence who strongly protest against any interference with the law. (3) Formal protest signed by over two hundred and fifty people who come from all walks and stations in life and are citizens of good character and intelligence, who say that in their opinion the ends of justice require the execution of the prisoner.

"One thing that impresses me is that in a large number of instances husbands signed the protest against the commutation, while their wives signed the petition in favor of it. All this is evidence of the intensity of feeling that exists in the community where the crime was committed. While sentiment in the county is clearly and emphatically divided the record before me indicates that the decided weight of public opinion in Caldwell is against any interference with the death sentence. For this public opinion I have profound re-

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COL. COX'S BOYS AT CAMP GET THEIR GUNS

Tennessee Negro Troops Are at
Camp Sevier—French Offi-
cers Arrive to Instruct
in Fighting

Look out, Mr. Hun! The Fifth artillery brigade, which includes Col. Albert Cox's 113th regiment, has received its first guns, and the brigade will start soon on training which it hopes will put it in trim to blast its way to the Rhine. The artillerymen are elated over the arrival of the field pieces, which present a very business-like appearance.

Only a few pieces arrived with the first shipment and these will be used for training purposes, but more and more are expected soon. The guns that arrived were three-inch field pieces, each gun being made up of four pieces, including the limber and ammunition caisson. The pieces were distributed among the 113th and 114th artillery regiments.

With only their red hat cords to designate them as artillerymen, the men of the 113th have been getting hardened and trained in the infantry drills, but now they have something more interesting ahead and every man is keen for the new and interesting training that will come soon.

For the present drills will be given in loading and firing, which will be followed by practice on the artillery range when the Tar Heel artillerymen will hear for the first time the blast of the little "Hun Hunters."

Company G, Tennessee national guard, a negro organization, has arrived at Camp Sevier and is encamped near Paris on part of the site formerly occupied by the depot brigade. Since its call to colors the negro outfit has been doing guard duty in its native state. The company is made up entirely of negroes, three officers and 106 men.

Three more French officers and three non-commissioned officers who have seen actual fighting on the western front have arrived at Camp Sevier to instruct the officers of the Thirtieth division in the ways that fighting is really done "Over There." There are now eight French officers at Camp Sevier and two others are expected soon. Ten British officers are also expected to arrive in the near future.

The French officers will hold classes in grenade throwing and other battle tactics.

REV. J. G. PULLIAM TALKED TO GRADED SCHOOL PUPILS

We were peculiarly fortunate to close our week's campaign for the conservation of food, in which the school children secured pledges in over a hundred and fifty families, with an excellent chapel talk on Wednesday morning by Rev. J. G. Pulliam, recently of California, a brother of our popular townsman, E. D. Pulliam, and who is now engaged in the food conservation campaign under the direction of Herbert Hoover at Washington and Mr. Page at Raleigh. Mr. Pulliam's plea to the school children was that they substitute other foods for the ones most needed by our allies in Europe. He brought forth a hearty laugh from his young audience when he asked that we return to the custom of olden days and have "John Constant," corn bread, come to the table again and allow "Joe Seldom," wheat bread, appear less often. His talk was thoroughly practical and entertaining and will leave a lasting impression upon the future citizens of Lenoir, I am sure.

HORACE SISK.

STATE COTTON CROP IS 80,933 BALES SHORT

A falling frost on Oct. 8 and a late spring, Maj. W. A. Graham, commissioner of agriculture, says, is largely responsible for a shortage of 80,833 bales of cotton ginned compared to that of the past year. The report of Oct. 25, 1917, gives a total of 89,107 bales ginned; that of Oct. 25, 1916, 170,040.

Robeson, Scotland, Mecklenburg and Cleveland are the only counties reported showing an increase over the past year. The prospects are, Maj. Graham says, that the crop for the year will fall considerably behind that of the past year. Wake county reports 4,180 bales ginned in 1917; 7,946 in 1916.

SECOND LIBERTY LOAN MUCH OVERSUBSCRIBED

\$4,617,532,300 Is the Amount Taken,
All the Reserve Districts
Exceeding Their
Quota

Americans responded to the call for a second Liberty Loan by subscribing \$4,617,532,300, an oversubscription of 54 per cent of the \$3,000,000,000 asked, and only \$383,000,000 less than the \$5,000,000,000 maximum fixed by the treasury.

Tabulations completed Tuesday night, eleven days after the close of the nation-wide bond selling campaign, showed that every Federal reserve district exceeded its quota, and 9,400,000 persons subscribed in the big war financing operation, which Secretary McAdoo described as the greatest ever attempted by any government.

Half of the oversubscribed sum will be accepted, making the actual total of bonds to be issued \$3,808,766,150. Ninety-nine per cent of the subscribers will receive the amount for which they bargained, all subscriptions for \$50,000 or less being allotted in full, and those above that amount being pared down in varying proportions, ranging from a 90 per cent allowance on subscriptions between \$50,000 and \$100,000 to 40 per cent for the largest single subscription of \$50,000,000.

"The success of the second Liberty Loan, like that of the first, is a distinct triumph for the people of the United States," said Secretary McAdoo, announcing the loan results. "It not only demonstrated their ability, patriotism and resources, but augurs the certain success of any future loans that may be offered by the government."

The secretary added a denial of reports that the third loan would be solicited in January, 1918. "In view of the large over-subscription of the second Liberty Loan," he said, "I am glad to state that this will not be necessary."

It has been generally understood that the third loan would be sought probably in late February or early March next year.

Although only one per cent of the number of subscriptions were for sums above \$50,000, for which only partial allotments will be made, \$2,129,000,000, or nearly half the big aggregate, was made up by the larger sums. More than three-quarters of a billion dollars were subscribed in individual amounts of more than \$1,000,000.

Subscriptions to the first Liberty Loan, which closed June 15, were \$3,035,000,000, a 50 per cent over-subscription of the \$2,000,000,000 offered and allowed. There were more than 4,000,000 subscribers, and allotments were made in full on subscriptions of \$10,000 and less.

On the second Liberty Loan payment of 2 per cent of the subscription amount was required with the subscription, and thousands of purchasers of the smaller bonds, particularly of \$50 and \$100 denominations, paid cash in full. From these payments \$151,000,000 already has been received by the treasury. The second installment of 18 per cent will fall due Nov. 15; 40 per cent additional will be due Dec. 15, and the last installment of 40 per cent will be due Jan. 15, 1918.

OVER TWO HUNDRED MILLION TAKEN BY RICHMOND DISTRICT

The men, women and children of the Richmond Federal reserve district, of which North Carolina forms a part, flung defiance in the face of the kaiser and his government when they subscribed \$201,212,500 worth of bonds of the second Liberty Loan. Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo announced the total subscriptions to the second loan, amounting to 4,617,532,300.

FIVE TEUTON ARMIES ARE OPERATING AGAINST ITALY

It is announced that the Austria-Hungarian army headquarters that the Teuton armies operating against Italy number five. They are under Gens. von Krobatin, von Krass, von Below, von Henriquez and Wurm, with the leadership vested in von Below, who commands the center army.

There is a possibility, the dispatch adds, of the Austro-Hungarian fleet co-operating with Gen. Wurm's army along the Adriatic coast.

NOTICE!

There will be no Court second week, as several of the bar will attend Supreme Court that week.

There will be a week of Civil Court beginning Nov. 26, third week.

All jurors drawn for third week will please come Monday, Nov. 26, at 10 o'clock a.m.

W. C. MOORE, JR.,
Clerk Superior Court.

145 MEN CALLED TO REPORT MONDAY-TUESDAY

Are to Fill Vacancies Caused By
Exemptions and Discharges
Notices Sent Out
This Week

Notices calling 145 men to report for examination Monday and Tuesday have been mailed by the local exemption board. A meeting preliminary to calling out these men was held Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. The men called are to fill vacancies caused by exemptions granted by the district board and discharges by the army officials at the camp. The following are the men called:

Robert Burton Rash, Nathaniel Hall, Horace McGarr, Joseph Dobbins Coffey, William Fox, Richard Cleveland Childers, Elisha G. Powell, Elyum Church, Melvin Grady Miller, Leonard Martin Green, Lee Ferguson, Carl O. Pearson, William Malone Ferguson, Walter S. Crump, June Beach, Nathaniel M. Helton, Charlie McLean, Oliver Owen Griffin, Thomas Jefferson Hudson, Lloyd G. Sullivan, William Oscar Shell, William Jones McCalliard, Corbin Ingram, Hillie Horton Coffey, Edwin D. Martin, Walter Columbus Scott, Lonnie Perkins, Ed Jones, William Fred Haas, John Henry Clark, William Thomas McLoud, John Wesley Setser, William R. Kirby, Oliver Burleson, Grover C. Bush, Woodard Myers, Edgar William Cobb, William Roby Sanders, William Lee Elmore, Thomas Alfred, Eller, Art Henry Freeman, Lacy Oliver Hayes, George Richards, Luther Augustus Hartley, Roy Webb Green, Thomas Settle Walker, Arthur A. Douglas, William B. Bush, David Munroe Teeters, Robert Shaver Sigmon, Oscar Alvan Brown, Robert Smith, James Avery Simmons, Haywood H. Sanders, Charley M. Kirby, Robert Cleveland Barlow, Ellis Eugene Arney, Wade Correll, William Thomas Childers, Guthrie Ogden Allen, Dock Beach, David Boone King, Alfred Reece Crisp, Carl Boyd Munday, Ted Larrouque Whitener, Henry B. Johnson, J. Van Jackson, Pink Harrison Lovens, Alonzo Mott James, Albert Gwyn Pearce, Jeter P. Wadell, Clarence Tuttle Coffey, Rufus L. Hartley, James Bristol Hood, Walter W. Smith, John Vitulas Harris, Finley Richard, Herndon Larney, Simpson T. Stemple, Harrison Watson, Robert Lee Norwood, James Rufus Cottrell, Warren Vitus Wagner, Reuben Price, William Henry Bowman, Chas. D. Hice, Addehon H. Varner, Joe Lail, John W. Carlton, Henry Clay Dula, Henry Grady Joy, P. Bart Rowe, Marvin Daniel Helderman, Robert Clinton Welch, Robert Lee Ray, Kelly Mischeaux, James G. Bollinger, Noah Sidney Watson, Charlie Smith, Calvin Cannon, Arnold Corpening, Aaron R. Sanders, Gordon Lee Pitts, David Hunter, Charles W. Kirby, Todd Lloyd White, Lawrence J. Curtis, Sloan A. Rhyne, Tilden L. Benfield, W. Anderson Keller, Sherman Ross Tolbert, John Midas Church, Hezekiah Annis, Charles Lemuel Gragg, David W. Turner, John Francis Edmunds, Walter Theodore Holden, Alonzo Mosteller, Fred Shade, Robert Winkler, Milas Munroe Bolick, Roy Gerald Wood, William David Williams, Charles F. Cook, Fred Dixon Marler, Ross V. Land, William Lee Hartley, Pinson Lee Tolbert, George Washington Patterson, Jr., Finley Kelly Price, Alfonso William Monk, John Shuford, James Reid, Arthur Pleasant Turnmire, William Harris, Marvia Leander Cornwell, James W. Cloer, Jarvis Colje Tolbert, Lawrence E. Babb, Thomas Arvel Storie, Charles Carter Triplett, Oscar E. Nelson, Roby Arthur White.

Caldwell Superior Court convenes here next week.

WAVE OF PROSPERITY IS SWEEPING SOUTH

The Monthly Report of the Federal
Reserve Board Shows an Un-
precedented Condition in
This Section

The monthly report of the Federal reserve board for October bears out the statement made by Col. W. H. Osborn about the prosperous condition of North Carolina and other southern States: Reports from all points in the Richmond district, the board said, indicate unusually prosperous conditions. The corn crop is much larger than the average, tobacco fully up to the average and selling at unprecedented prices, and the cotton crop about the same as last year, but selling above 25 cents per pound. Farmers are more prosperous and better supplied with money than ever before in the history of the district. Conditions are reflected in unprecedented deposits in the banks, money is circulating freely and high prices seem no hindrance to trade, which is reported good among wholesalers and retailers.

The production of lumber is below normal, due to the scarcity of labor and inadequate transportation, but orders are abundant at satisfactory prices and the general condition in this line much improved. Ordinary building has been considerably restricted, owing to high prices of material, but government work and construction for the filling of government orders have been on a large scale.

Everything in the manufacturing line is reported running to full capacity, restricted only by scarcity of labor. There has been some loss of crops due to inability to harvest them on account of scarcity of labor.

Railroad earnings have increased in gross very considerably, but the increase has been largely absorbed in operating expenses. Bank clearings indicate an expansion of 25 per cent; postoffice receipts are above normal.

The South throughout is prosperous.

U. S. PATROL BOAT IS TORPEDOED; 21 MISSING

The American patrol boat Alcedo was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine in the war zone early Monday morning and one officer and twenty-one enlisted men are missing.

The Alcedo, a converted yacht, carried a crew of seven officers and 85 men.

RECRUITING OFFICER TO BE HERE FROM 8th TO 14th

Editor Lenoir News:
Sergeant Lowell N. Gross, formerly of company A, First N. C. infantry, now on duty at the army recruiting station, Hickory, will be in Lenoir from Nov. 8 to 14 for the purpose of obtaining enlistments for the regular army, national guard and the national army.

A great many men are needed for the newly organized engineer regiments, and no matter what a man's trade is he can be used to a good advantage.

All branches of the army are now open for enlistment excepting the cavalry arm.

Any one who is interested will do well to have a talk with either the postmaster, Mr. Guire, or Sergeant Gross.

Men who are registered and who have not been called before their examination boards can volunteer for either the regular army, national guard or the engineer branch of the national army. ROY BLACK, Sergeant, G. S. I.

SAYS WOMEN WILL VOTE IN N. C. IN 1920

Chief Justice Clark predicts that at the next election for governor and State officers and for President (in 1920) the women of North Carolina will vote. He says that Congress next spring will pass both the prohibition and the suffrage amendments and the necessary number of legislatures will promptly ratify.

If his calculation is right half the votes that will go into the ballot for the next governor and State officers will be cast by women, and aspiring young politicians need to begin to look about them and get their records straight.

The cause of food conservation offers to every American citizen a chance to render a patriotic service that does not entail a sacrifice.

IS ABHORRENT EVEN TO THE GERMAN SOLDIERS

Prussian Policy of Butchery Brought
Protest From Germans—Gerard
Implored to Protest Against
Terrible Atrocities

The fact that German soldiers themselves appealed to Ambassador Gerard as "the representative of a Christian state" to protest against atrocities and butcheries in which their commanders forced them to participate, will be disclosed in a forthcoming issue of a pamphlet by the committee on public information entitled "German War Practices."

One German soldier, conscience-stricken with the massacre of Russian prisoners, implored the American ambassador to protest and signed his letter "A German Soldier and Christian."

Another, who, through the ambassador, addressed his appeal to the American government against the butchery of prisoners, signed his letter "A Soldier and Man Who is No Barbarian."

This was the protest of a German soldier, an eye-witness of the slaughter of Russian soldiers in the Masurian lakes and swamps:

"It was frightful, heart-rending as these masses of human being were driven to destruction. Above the terrible thunder of the cannon could be heard the heart-rending cries of the Russians: 'O Prussians, O Prussians—but there was no mercy. Our captain had ordered: 'The whole lot must die; so rapid fire.' As I have heard, five men and one officer on our side went mad from those heart-rending cries. But most of my comrades and the officers joked as the unarmed and helpless Russians shrieked for mercy while they were being suffocated in the swamps and shot down. The order was: 'Close up and at it harder.' For days afterwards those heart-rending yells followed me and I dare not think of them or I shall go mad. There is no God, there is no morality and no ethics any more. There are no human beings any more, but only beasts. Down with militarism."

This was the experience of a Prussian soldier, at present wounded: "Berlin, Oct. 22, 1914.—If you are a truth-loving man please receive these lines from a common Prussian soldier."

This was the testimony of another German soldier on the east front: "Russian Poland, Dec. 18, 1914.—In the name of Christianity I send you these words.

"My conscience forces me as a Christian German soldier to inform you of these lines.

"Wounded Russian are killed with the bayonet according to orders. "And Russians who have surrendered are often shot down in masses according to orders, in spite of their heart-rending prayers.

"In the hope that you, as the representative of a Christian state, will protest against this, I sign myself "A German Soldier and Christian."

"I would give my name and regiment, but these words could get me court-martialed for divulging military secrets."

This letter was from a soldier on the western front: "To the American Government, Washington, U. S. A.:

"Englishmen who have surrendered are shot down in small groups. With the French one is more considerate.

"I ask why men let themselves be taken prisoner in order to be disarmed and shot down afterwards? Is that chivalry in battle? It is no longer a secret among the people; one hears everywhere that few prisoners are taken; they are shot down in small groups. They say naively: 'We don't want any unnecessary mouths to feed.' Where there is no one to enter complaint there is no judge. Is there then no power in the world which can put an end to these murders and rescue the victims? Where is Christianity? Where is right? Might is right.

"A Soldier and Man Who is No Barbarian."

SPECIAL TERM OF COURT ORDERED FOR BURKE CO.

Gov. Bickett has authorized a special term of court for Burke county, beginning Dec. 3 and continuing for one week, for the trial of criminal cases.