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TAR



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Devoted to the Industrial Development of Eastern North Carolina.

Vol. 1.

ELIZABETH CITY, N. C., FRIDAY, MAR. 28, 1902.

No. 38

WILCOX GUILTY.

Sentenced to be Hanged April 25th, 1902.

STILL HOLDS HIS NERVE.

Hears His Doom Amid Lamp Lights Dim, and calmly Returns to His Cell. Case Will Be Appealed.

The case in which Jas. Wilcox was tried for his life, for the murder of Nellie Cropsey on the night of Nov. 20, 1901, closed Saturday night at 10:10 o'clock when the jury brought in a verdict of murder in the first degree and the Judge sentenced him to hang on April 25th between the hours of 10 and 3 o'clock.

The Judge in charging the jury summed up the contention of both sides as follows:

THE STATE'S CONVENTION.

Taking the commonwealth's contention first, Judge Jones said the State held Nell Cropsey was killed, that the prisoner at the bar did it; that he had the motive and opportunity; that the facts showed he did kill her; that she was stricken in the temple and thrown into the river. He said the State held further the blow in the temple, the absence of clotted blood in the heart's venous side, the absence of water in the stomach and lungs indicated the deceased did not die by drowning; that for three years Jim and Nell had been companions by day and night; that he gave her Christmas and birthday presents; that they loved; that the affection had cooled on Nell's part; that Wilcox burned with resentment, became jealous and decided to kill his sweetheart before she should become the wife of another; that he came the fatal night with murder in his heart, was moody, absorbed and called Nell out to kill her.

The State also held, he said, that Wilcox's indifference was not consistent with innocence; that there was unaccounted for time. He said it was circumstantial evidence.

THE DEFENSE'S CLAIM.

Judge Jones said the defence claimed that the evidence did not show that murder was done, that the fact and prisoner's conduct was consistent with innocence; that their love was mutual; that lover's quarrels were common; that was no motive for murder; that Nell's conduct was not indicative of real spruening; that her heart was burning with love one night and consumed by hatred the next; that her exuberant spirit that night, the talk of suicide may have indicated her purpose to destroy herself.

He said the defence admits the opportunity for murder, but denied the motive, and held that a responsible man would not have chosen the father's yard for murder; that his clothes were not wet, that his conduct and appearance, when seen by Leonard Owens, before midnight, were natural. The defence held, too, that Wilcox's conduct and conversation with State's witnesses were natural.

THE VERDICT.

The town clock was chiming the hours of 10 when the jury entered the court room. They were seated. The Judge gave them a few words of instructions and the Prisoner arose to receive the verdict. Turning with military precision he looked the jury full in the eye. The flickering shadows of the oil lights gave the surroundings a ghastly appearance. The suspense was terrible. The clerk asked for the verdict, the jury replied "Guilty." "In what degree?" "First Degree."

The Judge pronounced the death sentence. The words "hang by the neck until dead—dead" unnerved all save the prisoner. Jim Wilcox betrayed not a tremor of motion.

CECIL RHODES DEAD.

Africa's Un-crowned King Passes Away.

Cape Town, March 26.—Cecil Rhodes; multi-millionaire and empire-builder, is dead. He died at 5:57 o'clock this afternoon (about 1:20 o'clock, Washington time.) The end was peaceful.

Cecil Rhodes was born in England. When a boy his health was bad and he went to Africa for his lung trouble. There in subsequent years he amassed a vast fortune in diamonds and became known the world over a diamond King. He has been closely associated with the British policy in South Africa and was charged by some as being the instigator of the Boer war. He is the head of the great industrial enterprise in the Dark Continent and is building the great railroad which is destined to extend from one end of the continent to the other. He has been ill with heart disease for about two weeks and his condition was considered serious. He owned magnificent palaces in Africa.

WORK OF A MOB.

Speedy Justice Given to a Negro in Washington.

Washington, N. C., March 25.—The body of James Walker, the negro who poisoned the whole family of Dr. David T. Tayloe, of the State Board of Medical Examiners, was found dangling from a limb of a gum tree on the Greenville road just outside of the town limits of Washington, N. C., early this morning.

A man coming to town ran into the body, which hung over the walking path. He hastened in to inform the authorities. Coroner Tayloe was summoned and impanelled a jury, who brought in a verdict that the negro came to his death by lynching at the hands of unknown parties. The negro was about 19 years old. When some one attempted to use the wires to Williamston this morning they found that the telegraph and telephone wires were both cut. The lynching party came from the Williamston direction, and when the body was found this morning, it had not been long since the lynching took place as the body was not then rigid.

Rush Work on Baseball Grounds.

Washington, N. C., March 25.—Rush work is being done on the baseball grounds here to prepare them for the Philadelphia National League team that will arrive here this week. They will have one of the best grounds in the State. There will be twenty-two men excluding the newspaper reporters of several papers in the North.



HE IS WAITING FOR A YOUNG LADY. WHERE IS SHE?

Every one sending us a correct solution to the above puzzle accompanied with \$1.00, will receive the TAR HEEL for one year.

ROBBED AND SLAIN.

J. J. Cobb Murdered and Thrown into Canal.

Weldon, N. C., March 24.—J. J. Cobb, a farmer who formerly lived near Weldon, but who has been at work at Roanoke Rapids for the past few months, was murdered by unknown parties and his body thrown into the canal where it was found yesterday morning. Mr. Cobb had been missing for a week, and it was thought at first that he had gone back to his farm. Investigation led to the belief that he had been foully dealt with. The canal was drawn off Sunday and his body was found at the locks, near the electric power house. He had been murdered. Three pistol shots had been fired into his person. His arm was badly shattered and one ball took effect in the leg. There was an ugly wound upon the head, and this caused his death. His skull was fractured. Coroner O'Brien was notified and held an inquest. The verdict of the jury was that J. J. Cobb came to his death by violence at the hands of parties unknown.

Three arrests were made yesterday on suspicion, but there being no evidence against the accused persons they were released. Every effort will be made by the authorities to capture the guilty person or persons.

Crop Report for April.

Reports on the condition of the crops of the year begin with the April report, when the condition of winter wheat and winter rye is fully stated. Besides the customary expression of condition in the form of a percentage of a normal crop, there are several questions relating to condition of soil, climate, etc., during or subsequent to the planting season, the answers to which will be of especial value to the Department in all cases where the crop has been injuriously affected.

The remainder of the report is devoted to farm animals, their mortality during the year, the diseases that have been unusually prevalent among them, and their condition on April 1. To these reports is added an estimate of the number of breeding sows on farms, expressed as a percentage of the number on April 1, 1901.

CHAMPION SKATER.

Entertainment at the Rink Next Week

For a few years past the skating rink has been the popular amusement in this city. Mr. D. R. Munden the manager of this attraction has been alive to the best interests of his patrons. To meet the demand for novelty it has become a diversion with him to all-ways have some treat in store for his guests. His latest and boldest move in this direction was to engage Prof. Albert Waltz of New York for the week beginning March 31, 1902.

Prof. Waltz is not known here as his performances have been limited to the larger cities. Suffice it to say he is considered the champion skater of the world accomplishing over 100 original and sensational tricks.

To lovers of the art, a rare treat is now in store. The capacity of the building will be packed beyond a doubt. Don't forget the hours 3:30 in the afternoon; 7:30 at night. Admission 15 and 25 cents. Ladies' skates free.

HERTFORD.

Hertford, N. C., March 27.—Correspondence of the TAR HEEL.

One of the prettiest grand opening displays were seen in this section was shown at the millinery store of Mrs. G. T. Hawkins in this city, under the management of Miss Lade White. The business has rapidly grown until to-day, it caters to the trade of four counties. This millinery display yesterday was an unusually fine one. The latest affects of the season were shown. This line this season embraces a variety of pleasing and tasteful designs, new creations everyone.

The spring session of the Superior Court convened here Monday. The docket was rather large containing a number of divorce cases that consumed no little time. Judge Jones spoke well for Hertford. He is credited with saying that Hertford is the nicest town he has ever visited in his travels all over the Tar Heel state. Hertford does not boast its street railways, water works and electric lighting systems but when it comes to wealth, culture and refinement she has all others "skinned to death."

Saloons are a dead issue in Hertford. They went "up the spout" a few years ago and the liquor sign is a relic of by gone days. There are a few who continue to howl "this will never be a town of any size unless saloons are put back here." The man who says this is the very fellow who used to hang around the "Bowery" waiting for some one to treat. We don't want a population of this kind, what we want is men, "high minded men," and we can say with pride that our community is full of just such and Hertford is growing.

EXPRESS OFFICE MOVED.

Mr. Jno. D. Sykes Appointed Agent For This City.

The Elizabeth City branch of the Southern Express office is taking on new life, and evincing a spirit of progress and enterprise which is highly pleasing to its patrons.

This is perhaps due mostly to Mr. Jno. D. Sykes who has recently been given the agency for this city. Mr. Sykes is in every way qualified for the responsible position and the residents of this city may expect a competent service under his management.

To the TAR HEEL reporter Mr. Sykes said. "We will spare no pains to give the public the greatest possible convenience and satisfaction. We have leased a convenient office, only two doors from the Citizens Bank, and we will arrange it in a modern manner, combining both the telegraph and express offices. This is a desirable location and no doubt will meet with the approval of the public."

VALUE OF TIME.

Dr. Ivey Says Only Twenty Years Are Allotted for Work.

Rev. Dr. T. N. Ivey preached in the Edenton Street Methodist Church last evening and he gave a strong sermon on life.

Dr. Ivey said that if a man lived to be seventy years old his time would be thus divided up, the first 15 years in training passed in childhood, 23 years in sleep, 6 years eating, 6 years in recreation and only twenty years remains for work. Dr. Ivey says that the majority of people did not live seventy years, hence they did not even have 20 years to accomplish their life work. He then pointed out how short 20 years was to fulfill God's purposes. The mind is to be developed, character built, fellowmen benefitted and preparation made for the great hereafter all within this short time. Man has no time to throw away or waste.—Raleigh Times.

Proposed Steamboat Line.

Mr. Edmund Alexander, with a party of capitalists, left this week for Hatteras where he goes in the interest of the proposed steamboat route between this city and that point. Mr. Alexander is manifesting a spirit of enterprise in this matter that is highly commendable and merits the full appreciation of the people of this city. He is a good citizen, fully alive to matters of public interest and the city would be the better as a result of an additional of several of his kind.

This proposed line from Hatteras, touching at intermediate points, will do more to increase trade with this city, and develop the lower sound country, than any other project of equal expense. The promoters should be encouraged. Mr. Alexander assures us that he has matters pretty well in hand and that the line now seems an assured success.

IT IS UP TO US.

A New Railroad for Elizabeth City Seems Assured.

PRESIDENT BOSLEY WRITES

The Terminus a Desirable one. How the Road Will Enter the City. Right of Way Secured and Surveyors at Work.

The Elizabeth City and Western R. R. now seems an assured success. The new road will come direct from Bosley, N. C., to this point, entering the city from the rear of Overman's Cemetery, through Euclid Heights and down Park Ave., to a point on the river front that has been given to them by the Riverside Land and Improvement Co. The site is one of mutual advantage. By the depots being located in the less populated section, building will be encouraged at that point and the city will soon begin to spread out and assume creditable proportions. There is a good depth of water at the referred point and good wharfage can be obtained.

We are not giving our readers a sensational story but undisputed facts. We are sooner or later going to have this road. As to how soon depends upon the immediate action of the citizens.

The following is an extract from a letter to Hon. T. G. Skinner from Pres. W. H. Bosley of the Suffolk and Carolina R. R.

"While we are all decided that the extension should be made, at the same time we must perfect our other arrangements before we begin. We must receive the agreement or contracts for our terminals at Elizabeth City in such shape as they can be enforced and used by us when the road is built to that point, and the rights of way over the line as surveyed by us. We must have all this before us in business form and legal shape before we actually commence the construction."

Immediate action, while not positively necessary is advisable, and we suggest that the next meeting of the Chamber of Commerce be largely attended and the matter given due consideration.

The surveyors were in town this week and were evidently well pleased with the proposed terminus.

Mr. Skinner has met with good success in obtaining right of way for the road. In all cases the farmers having either given right or sold at a nominal figure.

It is now up to us. Let us by all means act at once.

To Visit Charleston.

Capt. W. T. Old, commanding the Naval Brigade, and his staff will leave here on April 5th, for the Charleston Exposition. The Brigade will go from here to Wilmington, N. C., where they will take the yacht Hornet for an ocean voyage to the Exposition City.

Recently having elected Dr. J. H. White as their Commander. The Naval Reserves have taken on new life. Dr. White is well fitted for the position and is endeavoring, with the unanimous support of his company, to make their division the most efficient in the state.