

# THE ROBESONIAN

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WHOLE NO. 2543

## ATTEMPTED ASSAULT.

**Robt. Roper, A Young Negro, Awaiting Trial on Charge of Attempting Assault on Aged Negro Woman—Minor Court Cases.**

Robert Roper, a negro about 20 years old, was given a preliminary hearing at the jail here Saturday morning about 11 o'clock before Justice J. A. Rowland on the charge of an attempt at criminal assault on Sarah Ballard, a colored woman about 80 years old, at her home in Raft Swamp township Thursday, and was bound to court in a \$500 bond, in default of which he will await trial in jail.

The attempt at assault is alleged to have been committed about noon Thursday. Sarah lives near Mr. J. E. Carlyle's. She says that Roper, after making improper proposals to her, threw her down but did not accomplish his purpose because he was frightened away by her screams. About one o'clock Thursday afternoon Mr. Carlyle, who had just learned of the assault, phoned Sheriff McNeill, who immediately put deputies at work at various places, and Roper was caught two or three hours later near Pembroke by Messrs. Hector Brown and Marvin Paul. He answered the description given and had on him when arrested a pair of large metal knucks, on which were dangerous spikes. He was brought to jail Thursday night by Mr. D. W. Biggs, who was on his way to Lumberton from Rowland. Friday Sheriff McNeill lined up four young negroes, Roper among them, and Sarah at once pointed out Roper as the man who attempted the assault. Mr. Carlyle, who reached Sarah's home—she lives alone—shortly after the negro boy left, says that the ground where Sarah says the assault was attempted showed evidences of a struggle. Roper was seen by several people in the neighborhood, and when arrested his shoes and trousers showed that he had been wading through swamps. He has served a term on the chain gang.

At the hearing Saturday the only evidence brought out was Sarah's statement, substantially as given above, and the testimony of a negro girl, who said she met Roper "going up the road" about half a mile from Sarah's house. Roper plead not guilty but made no statement, saying that he would wait until he could get his witnesses. He claims to have been working at L. T. Cottingham's lumber mill at Bellamy.

Ben Freeman, who skipped a bond, signed by Mr. J. P. McNeill, of Lumberton, given for appearance to answer the charge of retailing, and went to South Carolina, returning to the county recently, was arrested Friday by Deputy Sheriff T. C. Barnes at Mr. W. C. Powell's saw mill in Howellsville township and is now lodged in jail to await trial.

Deputy Sheriff Britt, of Columbus county, was in Lumberton Friday looking for a negro named Yates, for whom he has two warrants for gambling and one for carrying a concealed weapon, and who was brought to jail here some two weeks ago under an indictment for gambling. Yates is wanted in Columbus when the Robesonian authorities get through with him.

## Rev. N. R. Pitman to Lecture Wednesday Evening.

Rev. N. R. Pitman, of Kansas City, Mo., will lecture at the First Baptist church Wednesday evening at 7.30 o'clock on his trip to China and Japan. Elsewhere in this paper will be found mention of Mr. Pitman, who is a distinguished preacher and editor. The public is invited.

—Messrs. W. H. Bagley, business manager, and Edward L. C. on, associate editor, of the Raleigh News and Observer, are in town today winding up their work in connection with the Robeson county industrial edition of The News and Observer.

## A DELIGHTFUL RECITAL.

**Miss Moring's Primary Pupils do Themselves Proud—A Musical Treat.**

Reported for The Robesonian.

Those who failed to attend the recital given by the primary class of the music department at the graded school auditorium last Friday evening missed a treat. The audience was not so large, but every one in attendance enjoyed the recital from the first through the last selection on the program. The program was not only interesting, but it was brief. Miss Moring deserves to be congratulated upon the arrangement of the program, upon its brevity, and upon the excellent spiciness in which it was carried on—no delay or a hitch having occurred throughout the exercises. The following program was rendered, and taking into consideration the ages of the pupils, and the time they have been taking music, we believe the exercise could not have been made better:

### PROGRAM.

- 1 Duet—Seguidilla—C. Bohm.
- Carrie Mae Hedgpeth and Miss Moring.
- 2 On the Train—Frank Lynes.
- Flora Prevatt.
- 3 Curious Story—Stephen Helen.
- Mary Lee Caldwell.
- 4 Violin—Robins Lullaby—Krogmann.
- Robert Caldwell.
- 5 Hide and Seek—Eilenburg.
- Vashti White.
- 6 Song—Willie Wingles—Gottschalk.
- Six Girls.
- 7 Lullaby—Otto Hack.
- Carlyle Bethea.
- 8 The Pearl—F. Behr.
- Carrie Mae Hedgpeth.
- 9 Hide and Seek—L. Schytte.
- Vivian McNeill.
- 10 Melody—R. Schumann.
- Carlyle Bethea and Miss Moring.
- 11 Song—Topsy Turvey—Class.

The six little girls in the class delighted the audience with their song, "Willie Wingles," and the applause did not subside until they came upon the stage the second time. Robt. Caldwell made his first appearance before the public with his "fiddle and bow" and as an evidence that he pleased the audience, the applause continued until he had to play the second time. Carlyle Bethea, a mere tot, surprised as well as delighted the audience by playing his instrumental solo from memory.

Well, all those little girls deserve special mention, but space forbids deserved favor. The recital was a decided success. We congratulate the pupils, we congratulate Miss Moring.

The exercises closed—mark you—just about 35 minutes from the time the curtain first rose, and the crowd was left in a storm of applause over "Topsy Turvey," the last song by the class.

## Miss Ruth Whaley Entertains The Round Dozen Club.

Reported for The Robesonian.

Miss Ruth Whaley delightfully entertained the Round Dozen Club at her home on Elm street Thursday afternoon. After a short business meeting each guest was asked to make as many words as possible from the letters found in the expression, "Round Dozen Club." At the end of ten minutes it was found that Miss Leslie Proctor had won the pink ribbon, having made seventy-four words.

Refreshments, consisting of fruit salad and cake, were served by Epsie Fuller and Evie Whaley, who made charming little waitresses.

Some idea of the good time spent with Miss Whaley was shown by the many expressions of pleasure made by the guests at their departure.

## A Wedding Near Allenton.

Reported for The Robesonian.

A very quiet wedding was celebrated yesterday at 4 o'clock p. m. at the home of Mr. John M. Smith, near Allenton, when Mr. W. L. Rice, of route No. 4 from Lumberton, and Miss Lina Smith were united in marriage by Rev. J. M. Fleming, pastor of the East Lumberton Baptist church.

## LAYMEN'S RALLY.

**To be Held at Antioch on the 20th—Will be a Notable Occasion—Other Items.**

Correspondence of The Robesonian.

Red Springs, March 4—Sunday, March 20th, is the day of the great Laymen's Convention to be held at Antioch, near Red Springs. The local committee is composed of Messrs. J. A. Hodgkin, J. C. Nixon and Fred Brown and they have secured the services of Prof. Wm. J. Martin, of Davidson; Hon. Henry W. Malloy, of Wilmington. The committee has invited other speakers also, but have not heard from them. Col. N. A. McLean, of Lumberton, has been invited, but hasn't been heard from. It is hoped he can attend, as his presence is always desired at Antioch on any occasion. Ten adjacent churches have been invited. It is the hope of the committee to have at least five hundred laymen present. While it is primarily a laymen's convention, yet provision will be made for all of our lady friends. A basket dinner will be served on the ground to the invited guests of Antioch. It will not be served as a picnic dinner, as the desire of those having this important feature of the programme in hand is to eliminate anything having a tendency to detract from the object of the meeting. The music will be under the direct supervision of Miss Margaret Overcash, director of music at Antioch academy. Miss Overcash is numbered as one of the leading musicians to be found anywhere. She is not only a graduate of Statesville Female College, but also of the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. She has secured the services of some of the best singers from our sister towns, and in addition to the great number of trained voices there will be an orchestra. It is the purpose of the promoters of this movement to make this the most important epoch in the history of Antioch church. As we cannot write a personal letter to all of our friends to come we take this method of writing them one and all to come and enjoy this feast of good things which has been prepared for them. We would be glad to see Mr. Sharpe, the clever and versatile editor of The Robesonian, with us. We don't recall his having ever honored us with a visit, although we have repeatedly invited him.

Mr. Jno. A. Brown, Sr., is spending several days in "Lower Robeson" visiting his daughter, Mrs. K. M. Barnes, of Barnesville. The condition of Mrs. S. M. Hodgkin, of Antioch, who has been very low for some time, is still unchanged. Mrs. Hodgkin is one of our oldest and best citizens and her many friends hope that she may be spared to her relatives and friends. She is in the 72nd year of her age. We are sorry to note also that Miss Effy Brown, sister of Messrs. J. A. and N. B. Brown, remains about the same. Miss Brown is in the 82nd year of her life. She has been confined to her room for more than six months. Spring seems to have arrived and our farmers are now busily engaged preparing for the next crop. The acreage of cotton will be somewhat reduced. [Thanks for the invitation and we hope to be able to attend—Editor.]

**Failure-to-List Cases.** Solicitor N. A. Sinclair being busy at Columbus court Thursday, when more delinquents had been summoned to appear before him in Lumberton for failure to list taxes, County Attorney E. J. Britt was requested to attend to the cases. Some 15 or 18 men appeared before Mr. Britt and the cases were dismissed, as former ones had been, when tax receipts were shown, upon payment of costs, amounting to \$11.60 in each case. Two or three of those who were summoned Thursday were able to show that they had listed, and of course there was nothing for them to answer for. Other failure-to-list cases will be taken up by Solicitor Sinclair later.

## How Two Young Ladies Away From Home Received The Robesonian.

Two young ladies of Lumberton were far from home. They were attending a heap big meeting. Folks from All Over were there. They had to leave home on the day The Robesonian was published—left on an early train, before the paper came out. A thoughtful friend knew they would be impatient to see the paper. He wrapped one up, put a special delivery on it, mailed it. Next day the young ladies, strangers in a strange land, were in the meeting. "I'd like to see The Robesonian," said one. "Wouldn't we, though!" said the other. In rushed a messenger boy. Messenger boy whispers usher, usher whispers to presiding officer. Presiding officer lifts up his voice: "Are Misses 'So' and 'So' in the hall?" A flutter, indicating they are there. Robesonian delivered. Meeting proceeds. Young ladies happy. Selah.

## A Civil Action For Fee As Expert Witness.

An action instituted by Dr. Jos. Akerman, of Wilmington, against Mr. O. M. Britt for recovery of \$180 claimed as expert witness fees in the well-remembered case of O. M. Britt versus the Raleigh & Charleston Ry. Co.—in which Mr. Britt obtained a verdict for \$20,000, a compromise afterwards being made for \$12,500—was tried before Justice W. G. Reynolds Saturday in the court house. The action was begun before Justice J. A. Rowland ten days ago and was moved to Justice A. P. Caldwell and then to Justice Reynolds, who held that inasmuch as the plaintiff did not file his bill for expert fees at the time of the trial the defendant was not liable for same and dismissed the case. Mr. Woodberry Lennon appeared for the plaintiff, Col. N. A. McLean and Mr. E. M. Britt for the defendant. The case was appealed.

## Mr. Jas. Kerr Receives Wire Announcing Death of His Father.

Mr. Jas. Kerr, pharmacist at the Pope drug store, received a wire yesterday announcing the death of his father, Dr. J. D. Kerr, at Kerr, Sampson county, whose illness was mentioned in Thursday's Robesonian. Mr. Kerr returned Friday from a visit to his father and it was then thought that his condition was improved. A wire yesterday morning advised that a change for the worse had taken place and Mr. Kerr was preparing to go to Fayetteville by automobile to catch the afternoon train when a second wire came announcing Dr. Kerr's death. Mr. Kerr went to Fayetteville in an automobile and thence to Kerr yesterday afternoon. Dr. Kerr was 65 years old. He died of pneumonia.

## Stockholders of the Lumberton Drug Co. Meet.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Lumberton Drug Co., formerly the McLean-Sledge Co., was held Friday. Drs. John Knox, Jr., and T. D. Kitchin and Messrs. F. P. Gray, A. W. McLean and R. S. Sledge were elected directors. At a subsequent meeting of the directors the following officers were elected: Dr. John Knox, president; Dr. T. D. Kitchin, vice president; F. P. Gray, secretary; R. S. Sledge, treasurer and general manager. The date of the annual meeting of the stockholders was changed from the first Monday in March to the second Wednesday in January.

## V. & C. S. to Begin Laying Rails Next Week—Ninety Convicts Received Saturday.

Ninety convicts began work Saturday on the new road the Virginia & Carolina Southern Ry. is building from St. Paul to Elizabethtown, going to St. Paul from the Laurinburg & Southern road. Including free labor, 200 hands are now at work on this road. The work of laying rails will begin next week.

## A Sensational Shooting at Scotland Neck.

A sensational shooting occurred at Scotland Neck Friday afternoon when E. E. Powell, Sr., a well-known citizen of the town, shot down in quick succession State Senator E. L. Travis, of Halifax, State Representative A. P. Kitchin and Deputy Sheriff C. W. Dunn, of Scotland Neck. Mr. Kitchin is a brother of Governor Kitchin, Congressman Claude Kitchin, and Dr. T. D. Kitchin, of Lumberton. It seems that Powell asked Mr. Travis something about not replying to a letter, and when Travis replied that the letter had escaped his notice Powell began to curse him. Mr. Kitchin tried to pacify Powell, placing his hand on his shoulder, when Powell immediately pulled his pistol and shot Kitchin. Kitchin fell to the ground and Powell turned and shot Travis in the face, Travis falling also. Dunn started to approach but when Powell raised his arm to fire he turned, the ball entering his side. Dunn is fatally wounded, it is thought. The wounds of Kitchin and Travis are painful but not considered dangerous. Powell has the reputation of being a bad man. After the shooting he threatened other people with his gun and refused to surrender for several hours. The question of his sanity is being raised.

Powell was taken to the State penitentiary at Raleigh yesterday. It was reported in Raleigh yesterday that Dunn died yesterday at noon. It has been impossible to get any word here today from Scotland Neck.

## Letters by Telegraph—The Western Union Inaugurates New Service.

Manager S. H. Hamilton, of the local Western Union telegraph office, has been notified that beginning to-night the Western Union will inaugurate a new service known as "night letters". By this service messages of 50 words or less will be sent at the standard rate for day messages of ten words, and one-fifth of the standard day rate will be charged for each additional ten words or less.

—An oyster supper will be given at Orrum Friday evening of this week, beginning at 7.30 o'clock, the proceeds to be used for the school auditorium.

—The attendance at the First Baptist Sunday school, always good, was unusually good yesterday, 245 being present. Among the number were all the members of 15 families. The collection the first Sunday in each month goes to the Baptist Orphanage at Thomasville and the collection yesterday amounted to \$76.45, which was an unusually good collection for even that notably generous Sunday school.

—Miss Cammie McNeill, a student at Peace Institute, Raleigh, came home Thursday evening on account of the serious illness of her uncle, Mr. Walter Smith, who has been here in the Thompson hospital for about two weeks. Mr. Smith's condition this morning is not thought to be much improved. Mr. Lawrence Smith, of Linden, a brother of Mr. Walter Smith, arrived one day last week and will remain until there is some change in his brother's condition.

—Miss Josephine Breece returned Friday from a trip of ten days to Baltimore and New York, where she went to purchase spring goods for her millinery store. Miss Olive Crosby, of Hampton, Va., who will be with Miss Breece again this season as assistant trimmer, came from Baltimore with her Friday. Miss Edna Reynard, of Baltimore, who will be head trimmer for Miss Breece this season, arrived yesterday. Miss Crosby, who was quite popular here last season, and Miss Reynard, who comes to Lumberton for the first time, have been making pattern hats in a wholesale store in Baltimore for the past six weeks. Miss Breece's opening will be on Thursday and Friday of next week, the 17th and 18th.

## LOCAL BRIEFS.

—The county commissioners and the county board of education are holding their regular monthly meetings today.

—Mr. W. R. Ivey, of Maxton, was in town Saturday and he brought the pleasing information that his father, Mr. B. A. Ivey, who has been very sick for some time, is improving in health.

—Licenses have been issued for the marriage of Mary Pridgen and Joseph Howell; Rosanna Marsh and Neill F. M. White; Lena Smith and W. L. Rice; Pennie Kinlaw and F. P. Pitman; Martha Dowlass and Walter T. Barker.

—Mr. D. W. Biggs, who was formerly in charge of the street force in Lumberton and who went to Rowland some months ago to engage in the saw-mill business with Mr. J. M. Butler, has returned to Lumberton to live.

—Mr. John R. Morris, the baker man, made two of the fetching wedding cakes Friday, to be sure. They were things of beauty—all covered over with icing, with dates and banjo-work, and things. They looked weddingy for a fact.

—Mr. C. B. Meares has sold his barber-shop business, in the Columbia hotel building on Elm street, to Mr. Wright J. Prevatt, who has been employed in the shop. Mr. Meares will continue to work in the shop. The deal was made Saturday.

—Messrs. T. N. McDiarmid and C. R. Skipper, who defended Walter Morrison, the negro rapist of this county who is under sentence to be electrocuted on the 18th inst., will go to Raleigh tonight to see Governor Kitchin in an effort to get Morrison's sentence commuted to life imprisonment.

—Mr. R. L. Furgeson, who was a member of the senior class at Trinity College last fall but is staying out this spring on account of ill health, is a guest at the home of Rev. and Mrs. E. M. Hoyle, at the Methodist parsonage, where he will probably stay during the summer. Mr. Furgeson was raised at the Oxford Orphanage.

—The baseball meeting called for Thursday evening was postponed on account of the fact that it had not been advertised sufficiently. Another meeting will be called in the near future and it is to be hoped that it will be well attended and that Lumberton will make good use of its material and put a good team in the field, as it can easily do.

—Miss Amelia Linkhaw, who is in charge of the millinery department of Messrs. Caldwell & Carlyle, returned yesterday from New York, where she spent ten days purchasing spring millinery. Misses Anna Beck, of New York, and Elizabeth Thomas, of Baltimore, expert trimmers who have been at work in wholesale houses in New York and Baltimore, came with Miss Linkhaw and will be with her this season. This will be the first season in Lumberton for Misses Beck and Thomas.

—Fayetteville Observer, 4th: The Robesonian of Thursday has the following: "License has been issued for the marriage of Alice Humphrey and W. A. Graham." They are both well known in Fayetteville. Mr. Graham is a popular young business man of Proctorville, Robeson county, and Miss Humphrey is the beautiful and accomplished daughter of Mr. Simpson A. Humphrey, of Orrum, Robeson county, and a niece of Mr. W. A. Humphrey, of this city.

—There will be a music recital at the St. Paul high school at St. Paul Friday evening. The programme will consist of songs, duets and solos to be rendered by the "B Sharp" music club, and there will also be some drills by the first and second grade children. After the exercises refreshments will be sold, the proceeds to go for a piano fund. Much time has been spent in preparation for the occasion and the evening no doubt will be one of many pleasures.

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