

# THE ROBESONIAN

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LUMBERTON, NORTH CAROLINA, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1910

WHOLE NO. 2616

## ARCHIE G. MCKAY ENDS OWN LIFE.

Lumberton Profoundly Shocked by a Tragedy Thursday Evening—A Popular and Capable Young Man Shoots Himself Through the Heart—Deliberately Planned—Leaves Pathetic Note in Which He Gives Whiskey and Cigarettes as the Cause.

Archie G. McKay, about 24 years old, chief clerk at the Seaboard station here, committed suicide Thursday evening a few minutes before 7 o'clock in his room at the home of Mr. J. W. Morris, cashier at the Seaboard depot, corner of Walnut and First streets, by shooting himself through the heart with a Colt's automatic revolver. Death resulted in about five minutes after the fatal shot was fired. The deceased was a son of Mr. M. G. McKay, an aged and well-to-do citizen of Laurinburg, and the remains were taken to Laurinburg Friday morning by Rev. Mr. Williams, pastor of the Baptist church of that place, and Mr. G. T. Goodwin, both friends of the family, who arrived Thursday night about two hours after the tragedy.

It was inexpressibly sad, perhaps the saddest tragedy ever enacted in Lumberton, and when it became known, as it did in an incredibly short time, the entire community was profoundly shocked. Native ability that might have carried him far in the world, a personality that had won him many friends during his short stay in Lumberton, all the promise of young manhood—these things skilled nothing in his hour of fierce trial, and shutting himself alone in his room, with no suggestion of bitterness toward the world, or to any person in it, with a hearty "All right, old boy, come in" upon his lips in response to the earnest appeal of a friend to be allowed to come in, he coolly placed a pistol to his breast and sent a steel messenger of death into his heart.

That he had fully made up his mind to take his life several hours before there seems no doubt. Wednesday night, while sitting in the office at the Seaboard freight depot, Mr. J. D. McMillan, night operator, the only other man in the room, observed Mr. McKay throw his right hand back to his hip pocket and lean himself forward with his head bowed, in which position he remained for some time, as though in profound debate with himself. Finally Mr. McMillan gave the young man a dig in the side and Mr. McKay immediately straightened up, jerked out the pistol upon which his hand had been resting, and fired six shots in rapid succession into a desk in the room. Mr. McKay had evidently been drinking then and the following day he did no work, but in the afternoon was about the depot for some time. He told two men with whom he frolicked for a while to wait until tomorrow and they could do anything with him they pleased. Later he tried to borrow a pistol from Mr. C. E. Rogers, but Mr. Rogers refused on some pretext, and after that Leslie Biggs, to whom he had loaned his own pistol, returned it to him, not dreaming, of course, that the young man contemplated doing himself injury. Lonnie Fisher bought a telegraph instrument of McKay Thursday and McKay told him to pay him before the evening passenger train left. Just about train time Fisher offered him the money but McKay told him to keep the money and not let anybody know he owed him anything, that he would not need it, that he had always been a bother to everybody and was going to "settle it all right here"—pointing to his heart. Many other expressions of like nature were made during the afternoon, but no one paid special heed, thinking naturally that they were but the careless expressions of a man who had indulged too freely. Shortly after 6 o'clock McKay went to

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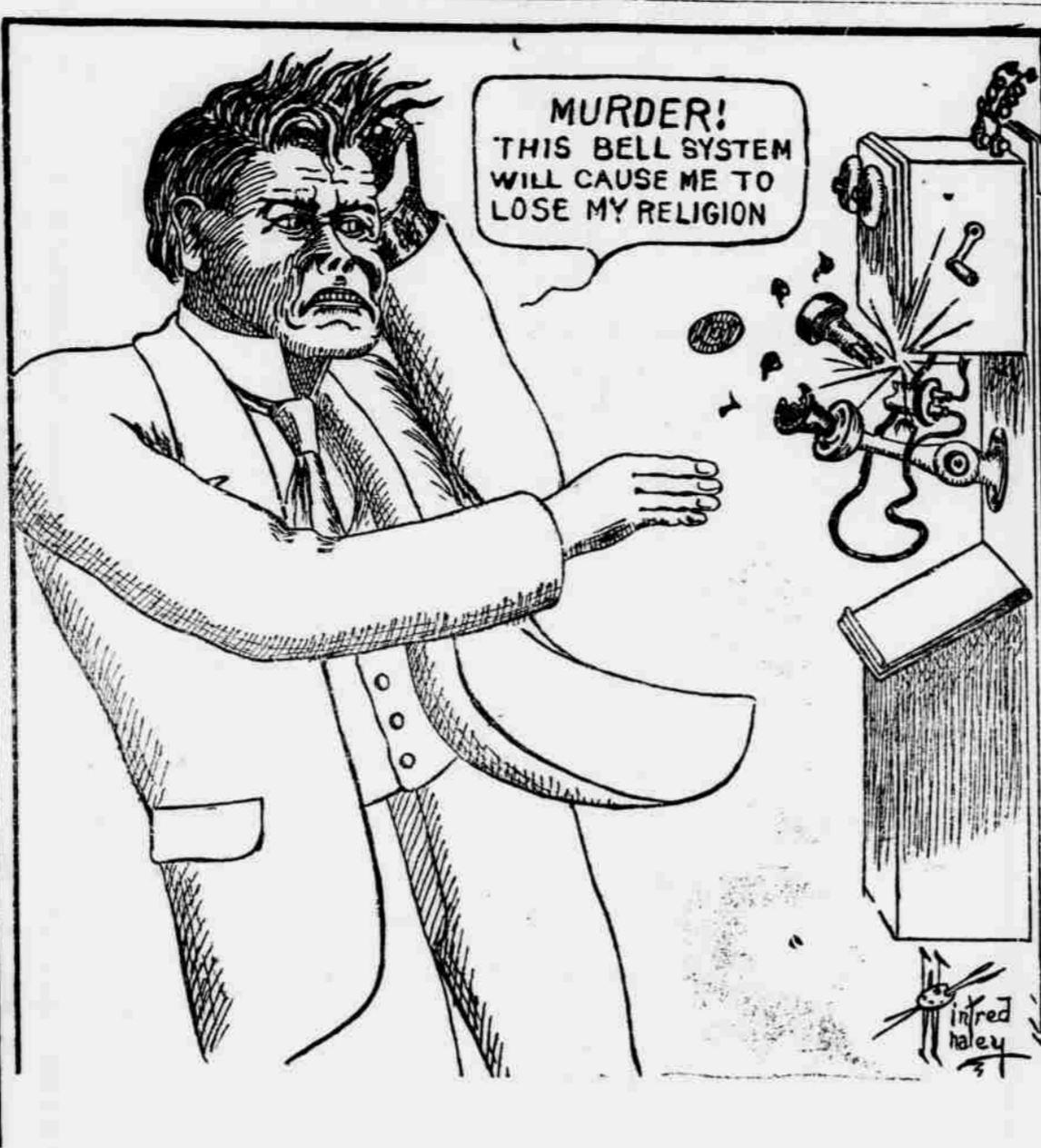
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SELL COTTON TO W. J. PREVATT FOR BEST PRICES AND BUY GOOD THERE TO GET VALUE RECEIVED

BANK OF LUMBERTON  
CAPITAL \$100,000.00  
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4% INTEREST PAID ON SAVINGS DEPOSITS  
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Leaders in Holiday Goods  
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I AM ON MY WAY THERE  
FOR SHOES DRY & GOODS & NOTIONS  
GO TO JOHN T. BIGGS CO.

HEAD QUARTERS FOR GOOD THINGS TO EAT  
TABLE DELICACIES FRUIT CANDY &c  
C. B. REDMOND PROPRIETOR

Deposit with  
FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK  
EVERY ACCOMMODATION EXTENDED

## SUPERIOR COURT.

John Calvin George Gets 5 Years for Second Degree Murder—Term Closes.

The criminal term of Robeson Superior Court which began on the 9th, Judge O. H. Allen of Kinston presiding, closed for the term Friday night. The jail was almost emptied, only four prisoners being left. Three were sent to the penitentiary and 7 to the chain gang.

The jury in the case against John Calvin George, colored, for killing Marshall Clark, colored, at Kingsdale September 25, 1909, returned a verdict Friday night of murder in the second degree and George was sentenced to the chain gang for 5 years.

Other cases were disposed of as follows:

John Townsend, a. d. w.; plead guilty; 60 days on roads.

Cardin Pass, using profanity; former judgment stricken out and judgment suspended on payment of costs.

Haynes Wilcox, resisting officer and a. d. w.; judgment suspended on payment of costs.

Claud Blount, retailing; 12 months in jail with leave to commissioners to farm out.

Gus Thompson, a. d. w.; adjudged insane by jury and court orders that he be taken by the sheriff to the State hospital for the insane at Raleigh.

Wm. McLeod, retailing, continued; D. B. Walters, a. d. w., nol pros.

## LOCAL BRIEFS.

Licenses have been issued for the marriage of Emeline McMillan and Leslie Whitehead; Bertha Harrington and J. O. Minton.

There will be a moving picture show at Ten Mile Wednesday evening, and after the show refreshments will be sold for the benefit of the school.

Ex-Sheriff Geo. B. McLeod, who has been at the Hignsmith hospital in Fayetteville since the auto wreck near Raeford two weeks ago in which he was injured, is expected home this evening. He has about recovered from his injuries and was able to be on the streets at Fayetteville Saturday.

Mr. J. W. Morris, who for several years has been the efficient cashier at the Seaboard depot, has been made chief clerk to succeed Mr. Archie McKay, whose unfortunate death is mentioned elsewhere in this paper. Mr. Morris' successor has not yet been appointed. Mr. Lee Caldwell is assisting at the depot for the present.

Fire which is supposed to have originated from the carelessness of smokers did damage yesterday amounting to more than \$100 to the cotton belonging to the McLeod estate stored on the vacant lot on the corner of Elm and Fifth streets. It was discovered about 9 o'clock a. m. and was quickly extinguished. Four of 5 bales were badly damaged and several others scorched. The cotton was guarded all night and small blazes broke out about dark and again about midnight.

Four men were killed at the Indian Head, Md., proving grounds of the navy Saturday by the premature explosion of a gun.

In a fight between soldiers and police on one side and revolutionists on the other at Puebla, Mexico, Friday, more than 100 persons were killed. Dispatches yesterday stated that the troops were in control of the situation and no further conflicts were feared.

Ralph Johnstone, the brilliant young aviator who at Belmont Park, New York, recently broke the world's record for altitude with a flight of 9,714 feet plunged from a height of 500 feet at an aviation meet at Denver, Colo., Thursday when one wing of his machine broke and was instantly killed. Some of the thousands of spectators who witnessed his death fought for pieces of the broken plane and one man even snatched a stay that had gone almost through Johnstone's body and rushed away with it, the blood still dripping from its ends.

## GOOD ROADS ASSOCIATION

Robeson County Good Roads Association Organized in Lumberton Saturday—State Geologist Pratt Addresses Good Roads Meeting—A Start for Real Good Roads Work.

The Robeson County Good Roads Association of North Carolina—sounds good, Doesn't it?

That is what was organized in Lumberton Saturday and the following officers were elected: A. J. McKinnon of Maxton, president; W. S. Cobb of Lumber Bridge, vice president; A. E. White of Lumberton, secretary-treasurer. The executive committee, to be selected later, will be composed of one member from each township in the county. With two minor changes relating to the number of members of the executive committee, the constitution recommended in the good roads circular issued by the North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey was adopted.

Briefly, the above is what was accomplished at the good roads meeting held in Lumberton Saturday after an address on good roads by Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt, State Geologist and president of the Southern Appalachian Good Roads Association. As announced in The Robesonian, the call for this meeting was issued by Mr. A. E. White as chairman of a committee appointed at a good roads meeting held in Lumberton September last for the purpose of getting Dr. Pratt to address a meeting and organize a good roads association. Owing to the fact that a two-weeks term of court had just closed the meeting was not as well attended as it otherwise would have been, but those present are very much in earnest about this subject of good roads, and this organization gives a starting point for work which will result in untold good to the county.

Mr. White called the meeting to order, was made permanent chairman, and introduced Dr. Pratt.

Dr. Pratt showed at the outset of his remarks that good roads are of more importance to the rural sections than to the towns, and he thinks that the best results cannot be obtained with the township system Robeson county has; it is not just to the county as a whole, for some townships are not able to do much work, and it costs more for machinery, etc. He thinks that the roads of this county may be improved 100 to 200 per cent. with the proper sort of work. We do not need macadam roads, but sand-clay roads, and we have the material necessary for building them. The best sand for roads is the kind that a plasterer wants for making mortar, and all clay will do except what he called "butter-milk" clay, the kind that when

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wet foams and forms a scum. The county has revenue enough if some adequate plan is decided upon. We are losing thousands and thousands of dollars yearly in transportation charges alone on account of bad roads. Throughout the State, he said, it has been carefully estimated that the loss on account of bad roads amounts to \$10,000,000 to \$12,000,000 yearly—loss on account of not being able to haul, loss of time, increase in cost of hauling, etc.

Good roads have a vital relation to schools. In some States in the West they have found it cheaper and better to maintain one good graded school for a district and haul the children to school in free busses than to maintain many small schools. We will unquestionably have to come to that sort of plan, but it would not work except where the roads are good the year round. So the limit of our advancement along educational lines has been reached unless roads are improved.

Dr. Pratt believes that the right-of-way of roads should be 40 feet, instead of the 20 feet now required. Dirt roads can be kept in good condition, he said, except when they freeze—which is mighty seldom in this section—all the time by the judicious use of the split-log drag, a simple device that can be constructed at a cost of from \$2.50 to \$5, and advocates letting individual farmers look after different parts of the road, each man to go over his section with the drag after each rain.

Dr. Pratt's talk was exceedingly practical and full of good suggestions. It is to be regretted that he did not have a larger audience. In subsequent issues of The Robesonian mention will be made of other points that he brought out and the constitution adopted by the association will be printed.

All who are interested in securing good roads for the county are urged to join the Robeson County Good Roads Association. The membership fee is \$1, and this includes membership in the State Good Roads Association and a year's subscription to Southern Good Roads, a monthly magazine published at Lexington.

## Through Train Service to the North and East.

Through trains Nos. 83 and 86 on the Atlantic Coast Line now stop at Hope Mills for all Lumberton and Virginia & Carolina Southern passengers, to and from Richmond, Va., and beyond. This means that Lumberton has advantage of through train service to and from Richmond, New York and the East over the Virginia & Carolina Southern and gives Lumberton really first-class train service.

Count Leo Tolstoi, the noted Russian novelist and reformer, died at Astapova, Russia, yesterday.

## MAXTON NEWS ITEMS.

In Social Realm—Two Autos Collide—Miss Clarkie Belle McNair Has Narrow Escape From Fire—Personal.

Correspondence of The Robesonian.

Maxton, Nov. 18.—This afternoon at 3:30 o'clock the Merry-Go-Rounders began to gather at Miss Margaret Baldwin's. The drawing room was decorated in yellow autumn leaves. The programme was carried out, which consisted of a poem by Miss Sallie Austin, a reading by Miss Lillian Austin, a piano solo by Miss Kate Southerland. The first contest was to give names to the 15 different leaves, represented, Miss Lillian Austin being awarded the prize. Then little Miss Elizabeth Currie and Master Henry Evans passed around tally cards for the members to engage in a progressive game of tiddley-winks. Miss Kate Southerland was awarded the prize, which was a handsome hand-painted party book. Dainty refreshments were served. At a late hour the members departed to meet next time with Misses Clarkie Belle and Bessie McNair.

Yesterday afternoon about dusk as Dr. Gibson was coming into town and Dr. Kirkpatrick going out, they met near the Methodist church, the result being a collision of their automobiles. The damages were confined to the machines, none being hurt. The accident was attributed to want of lights on the respective machines.

As Miss Clarkie Belle McNair was engaged this morning in making candy on a chafing-dish, her dress became ignited by the flames and a serious accident for a moment seemed imminent, but owing to the presence of mind of Mrs. Jno. McCallum the flames were quickly extinguished by a rug and a valuable life was saved.

Our hearts were glad this morning by the return of Mr. Walter J. Pace, who has been absent for the past year in search of good health. This he has regained and is looking well.

At the last meeting of the stockholders of the Bank of Robeson Mr. Hector McLean was elected president.

Mr. S. B. McLean is in Lumberton to-day, this being court week.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Croom's baby, Robert Jr., is very ill.

Mrs. A. B. Croom entertained the Edinborough Book Club Thursday.

Miss Alice Fowler of Rockingham is visiting Mrs. B. F. McLean.

## County Teachers' Meeting December 3d.

On account of the fact that many of the teachers desire to go home for Thanksgiving, Supt. Poole has decided to postpone the meeting of the County Teachers' Association from Saturday of next week to the Saturday following, December 3d.