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THE ROBESONIAN

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VOLUME LII

LUMBERTON, N. C., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1921

NUMBER 200

Lacy Prevatt Shot From Ambush

He Was Assisting Officer in Search for Stolen Goods—Dangerously Wounded but May Recover—Troy Thomas, Indian Merchant of Pembroke and Two Negroes, Arrested in Connection With the Shooting and Robbery—Goods Thrown Off a Freight Train and Sold.

Mr. Lacy Prevatt, a young white man of Buie, was shot from ambush and dangerously wounded about dark Friday evening. Deputy Sheriff Ed Baxley deputized Mr. Prevatt and Mr. Paul McNeill to go with him to look for some stolen goods that had been hidden in a swamp, the goods having been thrown off a freight train. When they were near the stolen goods the three men were fired upon from ambush, a bullet from a 38-calibre pistol striking Mr. Prevatt in the stomach. The bullet first struck Mr. Prevatt's left hand and passed on, cutting his leather belt in two. He was rushed to the Pittman hospital, Fayetteville, and the bullet was removed. Latest reports from Mr. Prevatt state that his condition is as favorable as could be expected and that he has a chance to recover.

Three arrests have been made in connection with the stealing and shooting. John Henry Barton, alias "Fo Day" Barton, colored, was arrested Saturday morning at Pembroke by Policeman Herbert Lowry. When arrested, Barton had a 38-Belgian pistol on him, one blank chamber and three that had been snapped upon being in the gun. The pistol is one of the largest ever seen by Robeson officers. Troy Thomas, Indian merchant of Pembroke, was arrested and is in jail. Thomas admits that he went to the place where the goods were hidden Friday afternoon with three negroes—John Henry Barton, Ben Alford and Floyd McEachern—and bought the goods from the negroes for \$120. Friday night he drove his car near the scene and Floyd McEachern, who has also been arrested and is in jail here, hauled the stolen goods from where they were hidden to his car and that he then carried them to his store at Pembroke. More than \$200 worth of the stolen goods were found in Thomas' store and were recovered by the officers. The goods were thrown off a moving freight train, by the negroes, it is said. The third negro, Ben Alford wanted in connection with the affair, has not been arrested.

Sheriff R. E. Lewis and his deputies and a number of citizens of the Buie and Pembroke sections searched diligently for the negroes all Friday night and Saturday, spent yesterday searching for Ben Alford, who has not been apprehended. Alford is said to be an escaped convict from South Carolina and has served a term on the roads in this county for larceny.

McEachern admits that he aided in moving the stolen merchandise from where it was hidden in the swamp, near Buie. Barton will have to answer the charge of firing upon the officers Friday evening.

The officers had an exciting chase of about 5 miles before they caught McEachern. He was chased from a point near Buie to near Pembroke before he was overtaken. He ran practically all the 5 miles, according to the officers. He was unarmed when arrested.

The store of Mr. W. L. Everett of Rennett was robbed on the night of January 6 and Saturday Mr. Everett recognized several suits of clothes that were taken from his store in the Thomas store at Pembroke.

Many freight cars have been robbed in and near Pembroke of late, it is said, and the officers think they have unearthed the mystery that has surrounded the continued robberies thereabouts.

Building and Loan in Fine Shape.

The annual meeting of the Robeson Building and Loan association was held Thursday afternoon. The following officers and directors were elected: K. M. Biggs, president; F. F. Gray, vice-president; Geo. M. re-elected; K. M. Biggs, L. H. Caldwell, F. F. Gray, S. F. Caldwell, A. E. Whitfield, secretary-treasurer—all White, Q. T. Williams, E. J. Britt, directors.

The report of the officers showed that the association is now in fine working order.

Negro Child Seriously Burned.

Nancy Geneva, 3-year-old daughter of Rufus McLean, colored, who lives on R. 1, from Raynham, was seriously burned recently when her clothing caught while she was starting a fire in an open fire-place. Her condition is improving and it is now thought she will recover.

Miss Ruby Norton, a student at Carolina college, Maxton, spent the week-end here visiting her brother, Prof. J. W. R. Norton, principal of the Lumberton high school.

Miss Ethel Blue left today for her home near Southern Pines after spending ten days here visiting at the home of her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Rossie B. Britt, Seneca street. She was accompanied by Mrs. Britt, who will spend a week visiting relatives in Moore county.

Pledging To Reduce Cotton Acreage

Many Pledge Cards Have Been Signed by Robeson Farmers—Big Cut in Fertilizer Use Too.

Mr. O. O. Dukes, county farm demonstrator, is receiving many pledge cards signed by Robeson farmers to reduce their cotton acreage this year. He has received about 100 such cards from Orrum township alone. Indications are that the cotton acreage will be reduced considerably in Robeson this year.

No commercial fertilizer is being shipped and it is thought that the use of fertilizer will be reduced at least one-half from last year. Fertilizer was moving freely in January last year and some was shipped in December of the previous year. Very few fertilizer dealers have closed contracts for handling it this year, it is learned.

General Assembly

Measures of Local Interest in the General Assembly.

Senator Varner has offered local bills as follows: To prescribe the form of crop liens applicable to Robeson. This reduces the fee for filing from \$1.25 to 40 cents.

Pertaining to a bond issue of the town of Lumberton. This provides for increasing bond issue for sewer and paving to \$182,000.

To ratify and validate proceedings of the town of St. Pauls.

The bill to increase the county board of education from 3 to 5 members, appointing two women members, will be introduced by Senator Varner tonight.

Senate Votes to Cut Personal Property Exemption—Pardon Board Measure Comes Up Next Thursday.

The Senate passed Friday the Burgwyn bill which reduces the personal property exemption from \$300 to \$100 on the third reading and make the action final by tabling a motion to reconsider.

The minority report on Senator Welker's bill for the submission of a constitutional amendment for the creation of a pardon board was placed as a special order next Thursday and the minority report on the Burgwyn bill for the election of the superintendent of public instruction in Northampton county by a vote of the people was set for Tuesday.

The conference report on the bill abolishing the office of treasurer of Ashe county was also set for Tuesday. The conference committee recommended that the Senate recede from its amendment which would enable the present Republican treasurer to complete the term for which he was elected. A dissenting report was filed by Senator Robinson, Republican, a conferee, on the part of the Senate.

When the House adjourned Saturday it adjourned in honor of three members whose birthdays fell on that day—Messrs. McArthur of Robeson, Bellamy of New Hanover and Glover, the House "baby," just 23 years old.

The Senate Saturday passed a bill providing that commissioners of any county may bar carnivals or other shows.

Say Many Bankers Charge Excess Interest.

Final hearing on the 8 per cent. interest bill will be held before the banking and currency committee of the House of the General Assembly Thursday afternoon of this week. John Mitchell, chief State bank examiner, stated before the committee Friday that many bankers in North Carolina are charging 8 per cent. interest on loans and are escaping prosecution through intimidation of the borrower because of the financial stringency. Mr. Mitchell also showed from the records of the banking department that 25 per cent. of the resources of the State banks are loaned outside the State at 3 per cent., this item alone amounting to more than \$50,000,000, he declared. Added to this is a much larger amount drawn from National banks to outside borrowers where the prevailing interest rate is 8 per cent. Mr. Mitchell believes that the rate must be raised to bring the money home.

GENERAL FAIR WEATHER FORECAST FOR THIS WEEK

Washington, Feb. 12.—Weather predictions for the week beginning Monday are:

Middle Atlantic states, unsettled weather, occasional snows or rains and temperature near or above normal.

South Atlantic and East Gulf states: Generally fair weather with temperature near or above normal.

West Gulf states: Generally fair with temperature near or above normal.

Washington's Birthday at Centenary.

Correspondence of The Robesonian. Rowland, Feb. 12.—A Washington's birthday program will be given by the pupils of Centenary school Friday evening, Feb. 18. The public is invited. Admission 15 cents.

CHRISTINE M. FLOYD, Prin.

REVENUE MEASURE WILL CARRY ONLY THREE CENTS TAX.

Graduated Income Tax Ranging from One to Two and a Half Per Cent.—Tax Commissioner to Administer Tax Laws—Three Cents Property Tax Will Be Levied Only as Equalizing Fund for School Purposes.

Today's Raleigh News and Observer gives the following:

A graduated tax on incomes, ranging from one per cent to two and a half per cent, with \$1,000 exemption for unmarried men and women and \$2,000 for men and women with families, increased privilege, cooperate and franchise taxes, and no tax on real property other than three cents on the \$100 to be used as an equalization fund for public schools will be provided for in the Revenue and Machinery act scheduled for presentation to the General Assembly Thursday.

Administration of the State's system of levying and collection of taxes will be vested in a State tax commission, the office being fashioned largely after the office of the collector of internal revenue for the United States. Following as it will the Federal income tax law, the work of administration will entail less administrative work than would be the case otherwise, and the force of agents of the department will likely be very much smaller.

Submit Bill Thursday

Three weeks of intensive work on the part of the sub-committee charged with the duty of drafting the biennial revenue act into such shape that it can be passed upon by the full committee, which is scheduled for tomorrow or the next day. The clerical work of putting the document into type, which covers more than 100 pages, has been completed in the less essential features, and there remains now the final draft of the more important sections of the measure.

The committee is definitely committed to equalization of property values both in the county as the unit and in the State as a whole, but there will be no horizontal reduction in any case recommended by the committee. County boards of appraisers will be re-established, either separately or with the county boards of commissioners, with power to readjust property values, with the final appeal to the tax commissioner.

It is generally conceded, both in Assembly, that a horizontal reduction of values would work little in the way of relief for the complaints that have been made against the Revaluation Act. With a definite income to be raised, the only effect of a flat reduction would be to lessen values and raise tax rates. It is pointed out that the evident inequalities still obtain.

Equalize Valuation.

Relief of a material nature will be afforded in the removal of a large part of State tax, and such as is levied being used for an equalization fund for public schools. None of the money used for State administration will be collected from real property, and that collected will be returned with the general school fund. A part of the school fund for the State will be gained from income taxes. Taxes levied on property in North Carolina will be levied by county and municipal units of government.

Appointment of the proposed Tax Commissioner will be left in the hands of the Governor, but the general sentiment, arising to the dimensions of Corporation Commissioner A. J. Maxwell. Mr. Maxwell has acquired a large personal following in the General Assembly and throughout the State during the past two years through his handling of taxation matters, and he is declared to be the logical man for the appointment.

WHAT DETAINED MR. BARNES

Like a Certain Scotch Minister of Another Day, Mr. K. M. Barnes Got Headed the Wrong Way and Had to Stay in That Dear Hamlet All Night When He Fully Expected to Sleep in Lumberton.

On his journey home the other day from Raleigh, where he went to look in on the General Assembly, Mr. K. M. Barnes, treasurer of the Planters Bank and Trust Co. of Lumberton, had an experience like unto that of a well-known Scotch minister of another day.

The story goes, as related in the New York Globe, that a certain able Scotch minister who was very absent-minded set out horseback on a day from his home in Aberdeen to fill an appointment at a church seven miles away. When about half way to his destination he decided to take a pinch of snuff. The wind being contrary, he turned his horse around in order to get all that was coming to him from his indulgence, and when the snuff had been taken he started his horse in the direction he was then headed. His astonishment was great when he arrived back in Aberdeen at the very hour when he should have been preaching seven miles away.

Now it came to pass, that Mr. Barnes, when he arrived Hamlet last Wednesday night from Raleigh, took his seat in a Charlotte-Wilmington train and made himself comfortable. After the train started Mr. Barnes felt that something was wrong. The lights outside did not look right, and he appeared to be going in the wrong direction. Making hurried investiga-

CONNOR IN HOUSE ATTACKS STATE FINANCIAL POLICY

Denounces Loose Method of Incurring Debt Without Making Provisions to Pay—House Backs Lacy in Borrowing Money at High Interest Rate.

"This is the third time that we have funded these bonds since they were issued 65 years ago, and during that time we have paid \$10,000,000 in interest to New York bankers on a principal of \$2,000,000," declared Representative H. G. Connor, Jr., yesterday in his arraignment of the policy of the State Treasury, and of the General Assembly in issuing bonds without a sinking fund.

Notice was served upon the House by Mr. Connor that before the end of the present session he intended to make an effort to secure the passage of an act to prohibit the issue of securities by the State without attendant provisions for their retirement serially. The entire system of the State's financial policy was held up to rebuke by the member from Wilson, and he openly proclaimed that he was criticizing the State Treasurer.

The discussion was precipitated when the Senate resolution validating the action of State Treasurer Lacy in placing \$4,500,000 short term notes at an interest rate of 6 1/4 per cent. The loan was necessitated by the maturity of an issue of \$2,000,000 in bonds for the building of the old North Carolina railroad, and for short term notes placed two years ago to take care of certain improvements at State institutions.

A unanimous vote was given the resolution, after Representative Dougherty declared that it was necessary for the State to place the loan at any rate obtainable in order to save the State's credit, but a dozen members, in voting, pledged their support to Mr. Connor, explaining that their affirmative vote was only for preserving the State's credit in the present emergency. The Wilson member's bill will probably be offered in the House some time before the end of the week.

Taking the position that the State ought not to incur indebtedness without making some provision for paying the debt, and citing the fact that the tax payers of the State during the past half century have been drained of \$10,000,000 to pay the interest on a \$2,000,000 bond issue, Mr. Connor spoke for more than a half hour on the general financial policy of the State Treasurer and the General Assembly.

The fallacy of selling bonds to the highest bidder when often the premium paid was less than one tenth of one cent on the \$100, was bitterly ridiculed by the Wilson member. The bonds ought to be sold at par, he declared, as the United States Government and every other government in the world sells its bonds.

Dependency upon New York banks for credit was attacked with vigor. Mr. Connor cited the fact that North Carolina had bought \$150,000,000 worth of Federal bonds during the war, and declared that the State could and would buy every bond offered by the State Treasurer, the money raised at home and the interest kept at home. No State would bankrupt if it borrowed at home and paid its interest at home he asserted.

"They tell us that it is not in keeping with the State's dignity to peddle its bonds. The United States peddled its bonds during the war and we bought them, and bought them at par. The British government peddles its bonds the French and the Italian governments peddle their bonds, and we ought to do it. There are resources in the banks of the State to take care of every penny of bonds that the State will issue, and the banks and their depositors would be glad to buy them if they had a chance. Why sell them to New York bankers and pay them the interest?"

"I know that I am criticizing a department of the government of the State, and an officer who comes from my own party, but I don't care. The system is rotten, it is unsound, it is unwise, and if the finance committee of this house will not offer a bill to correct it, I will offer it, and use every ounce of my energy to get it passed."—Raleigh News and Observer Feb. 13.

He found that he was on the train going to Charlotte—and he had set his heart on getting back to Lumberton that night. After the train had gone up the road towards Charlotte some quarter of a mile, or maybe it was half a mile or a mile, Mr. Barnes succeeded in getting the train stopped. He had to count crossties back to Hamlet. And it was a dark night. And it was a rainy night, if you remember—or whether you remember it or not. And so it happened that Mr. Barnes walked back into Hamlet at about the hour he should have arrived at Lumberton.

N. B. Mr. Barnes did not get pointed in the wrong direction on account of taking snuff.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Bass and daughter, little Miss Gertrude, and son, Master Clayton, of the Fairmont section, are among the visitors in town today.

Mr. H. R. West of the Allenton section is in town today.

Read; Ponder; Act

The Facts for Cutting Down Cotton Production—Half a Crop This Year Will Bring More Than Large Crop.

The world spindles consumed of American cotton, and cotton produced in other countries, a gross total of 17,555,000 bales of 500 pounds weight each, from August 1, 1919, to July 31st, 1920. Consumptive figures show for the past five months about twenty per cent less than for the corresponding period in 1919, which would indicate that the world's consumption of raw cotton from August 1st, 1920, to July 31st, 1921, will not exceed a gross total of 14,000,000 bales. Whether consumptive requirements will increase during the next five months or not, there is no way at this time to ascertain. Figures, therefore, on the estimated world supply of raw cotton at the end of the estimated production of the various world cotton crops from the crop of the season, July 31st, 1920, and of 1920, there is presented below the following data:

World's estimated supply at end of season, July 31, 1920. Bales (500 pounds gross) 5,846,000

World's estimated production for 1920-21:

United States (Bureau of Crop Estimates) 12,987,000
India (Department of Agriculture) 4,676,000
Egypt (Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture) 1,315,000
Others (Based on Chronicle figures) 800,000
Total 25,624,000

World's consumption, linters excluded, based on rate of consumption to date (20 per cent below 1919 figure of 17,555,000) 14,044,000

World's supply at end of season July 31, 1921, based on present rate of consumption to date, 11,580,000

This data indicates a world's supply of cotton on hand and unconsumed at the end of the season, July 31, 1921, of 11,580,000 bales, or within two and a half million bales of enough to meet consumptive requirements for 1922, if there does not develop a material increase in the present operating spindle capacity of the world.

Of the estimated world carry-over of raw cotton on August 1st, 1920, about 4,000,000 of the total 5,846,000 bales was American. This added to the estimated production of 12,987,000 bales of American cotton from the 1920 crop, gives a grand total of American of about 17,000,000 bales, and 8,624,000 for the balance of the world. If we assume that two-thirds of the estimated consumptive requirements by the world from August 1, 1920, to July 31, 1921, will be of American cotton out of the total estimated consumption of 14,000,000 bales during that period, it will mean about the following analysis of the situation:

Total supplies of American cotton to July 31, 1921, Bales, 17,000,000.
Total consumption American cotton to July 31, 1921, Bales, 7,300,000.
Leaving on hand, unconsumed, July 31, 1921, Bales, 9,700,000.

The largest world carry-over ever before in the history of the cotton trade was in 1914-15, which amounted to 8,355,000 bales estimated. We are now confronted with a probable carry-over the first of next August of 9,700,000 bales of American cotton alone, which, added to the estimated carry-over of cotton from other countries, amounting to 1,880,000 bales, on the same basis of consumptive requirements, which will make a grand total carry-over of cotton throughout the world of 11,580,000 bales, or three and a quarter million bales more than the big surplus year of 1914-15.

American Cotton Association. In view of the above facts and figures, what are we going to do? It is either to cut acreage or cut our throats. The present year demands the greatest economy, an acreage reduction of one half, a fertilizer reduction of two-thirds. Four million bales will bring as much money as a crop of eight millions. A full acreage means destruction and five cents a pound. Think—ponder—act.

FRANK GOUGH

THE RECORD OF DEATHS.

Mrs. F. D. Jennings Died at Spartanburg Last Night.

Mr. H. B. Jennings left this morning for Spartanburg, S. C., in response to a message advising him of the death of his mother, Mrs. F. D. Jennings of Spartanburg. Mrs. Jennings died last night of pneumonia. She was 81 years old. The funeral will take place tomorrow.

The condition of Neill Archie Jennings, 9-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Jennings, who has been ill with pneumonia for several days, is thought to be favorable.

Mrs. F. F. Townsend and daughter, little Miss Lois, of R. 6 from Lumberton, are among the visitors in town today.

Misses Margaret Odum and Annie Cain, teachers in the Mt. Elm public school, were among the shoppers in town Saturday.

Miss Louise Bernard of Norfolk, Va., arrived yesterday and is visiting Miss Kate Britt at her home on R. 1 from Lumberton.

COTTON MARKET.

Middling cotton is quoted on the local market today at 12 cents the pound; strict middling 13 cents.

BRIEF ITEMS LOCAL NEWS

Snow fell here Saturday morning about 9 o'clock for a short time.

In a basketball game on the local grounds Friday afternoon Lumberton defeated Antioch by the score of 27 to 18.

Ninety-six new mail boxes are being installed at the local postoffice. The boxes will be rented to patrons of the office.

A Ford car belonging to Mr. A. D. Barnes, who lives near Back Swamp church, was stolen from Mr. Barnes' car shed last night.

The Lumberton camp, W. O. W., will re-organize tomorrow (Tuesday) evening at 7:30 in the old Woodmen hall. All ex-Woodmen are urged to be present.

Miss Amelia Linkhaider, proprietress of the Style shop, left Thursday evening for New York to purchase spring millinery. She was accompanied by her nephew Mr. Frank Gough, Jr.

The fire company was called out about 6 o'clock Friday evening on account of a blaze on the roof at Elm inn. The fire was extinguished before much damage was done. It is not known how the fire originated.

The congregation of Smyrna Baptist church gave their pastor, Rev. R. L. Byrd, a piousing yesterday. Mr. Byrd wishes to thank those who made up the piousing through The Robesonian. He is at Lumberton today.

Twenty-two years ago last Saturday—February 12, 1899—a heavy snow fell hereabouts that stayed on the ground for 6 weeks, according to Mr. Stephen McIntyre. The snow was so deep that the trains were held up for two or three days.

The water in Lumber river is fast subsiding. While it did not reach near the high water mark, a number of houses in the "bottom" were surrounded by water and the occupants had to use boats in getting to and from their places of abode.

A double-header marriage took place at the home of Justice M. G. McKenzie, Elm street, at 12:30 this afternoon. The contracting parties were Fannie McIntosh and Lewis McRae; Cora Belle Smith and Floyd Walters, both couples being colored. License has been issued for the marriage of Frank W. Johnson and Ina Lynch; Arthur Cain and Edna Ruth McWhite; Raymond D. Graham and Pearl Barnes; Madison Cook and Eliza Hill; Clarence D. West and Anna May Kinlaw; Welton Davis and Daisy Jane Faulk.

Evangelist Baxter F. McLendon of Bennettsville, S. C. passed through town Saturday en route to Wilmington, where he preached yesterday. "Cyclone Mack," as Mr. McLendon is known, conducted a 5-weeks' revival here during the winter of 1917-18, the services being held in the Big Banner tobacco warehouse.

"Did they make it?" was the question asked by many here yesterday. Saturday night about the middle of the night and even during the wee sma' hours a couple from another town were trying to locate a minister or a justice of the peace who could unite them in the holy bonds of matrimony. They went so far as to try to get a man who was not qualified to speak the words, it is said. It has not yet been learned whether or not they succeeded in getting "tied up."

AMERICAN LEGION



The Lumberton post of the American Legion will give a smoker in the legion hall at the municipal building Thursday evening of this week at 8 o'clock. A business meeting will be held in connection with the smoker and officers will be elected. All members are urged to be present.

Meeting Places for Community Service.

Smyrna Monday, February 14.
Orum Tuesday, February 15.
Rex Wednesday, February 16.
Baltimore Thursday, February 17.
Parkton Friday, February 18.
Pembroke college (Ind) Saturday, February 19.

M. N. FOLGER, Director Community Service. J. R. POOLE, Supt. Schools.

Morganton Votes \$75,000 for Schools. Morganton, Feb. 11.—Morganton will issue \$75,000 in school improvement bonds as a result of the election held here today. Of the 755 votes cast, only five were "against bonds." The registration books were beaten by a good majority.

Mr. J. A. Sessoms of R. 7, Lumberton, is among the visitors in town today.

Messrs. N. A. Townsend and I. V. Britt of the Ten Mile section were among the visitors in town Saturday. Mr. R. C. Lawrence is spending the day in Wilmington on legal business.