

### OUTLINES.

At the trial of Joshua Harrison, in Elizabeth City, N. C., yesterday, charged with kidnaping and murdering the 9-year-old son of State Senator Beasley, two witnesses testified that Harrison told them that he had the boy and would hold him till a suitable reward would be offered for his return.—The four railroad presidents who were to hold a conference with President Roosevelt, according to J. Pierpont Morgan's arrangement, decided in New York yesterday to let the President alone.—William J. Bryan was the guest of the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee at a banquet in Boston last night, and in an address touched upon various Democratic doctrines which had been vindicated by events and by the Roosevelt administration.—In the trial of Harry Thaw in New York yesterday, the defendant's counsel fought hard to prevent Abe Hummel, the divorce lawyer, from testifying, but the court admitted his testimony in which he said he drew the affidavit signed by Evelyn Thaw in 1903, declaring that Thaw beat her because she would not lie on Stanford White; five alienists were on the stand and testified that in their opinion Thaw was sane when he killed White.—After having experienced a flood which caused damage of \$10,000,000 or more, Pittsburg is again assuming normal conditions; the rivers were the highest ever known and 100,000 people who were out of employment hope to return to work by Monday.—Cincinnati the condition is worse; 60 foot rise in the Ohio river being forecast for tonight; thousands of people have been driven from their homes and there is great suffering.—There was a violent rebound in the stock market in New York yesterday, and prices went up in such a way that the members of the Exchange cheered; the banks bought stocks and many bargain hunters helped to create a demand, relieving the financiers from fear of a panic.—Nicaragua claims that she has about conquered Honduras and her recognized the rebel government in Honduras, declaring it to be the ally of Nicaragua.—Dun's Review of Trade notes the remarkable condition that the cotton and steel mills of the United States have their product sold well into the future and cannot keep up with the demand.—At a banquet in New Orleans last night President Finley, of the Southern Railway, appealed to the South to co-operate with and not antagonize the railroads on the development of the South.—New York market: Money on call, firm, 4 to 15 y 48 cent; ruling rate, 12; closing bid, 3 1/2; offered at 4; not cotton, 5 points higher closing steady at 11 1/2 cents; flour, quiet and steady; wheat, easy; No. 2 red, 52 1/2 elevator; corn, easy; No. 2, 57 1/2 elevator; oats, steady; mixed, 47 1/2; turpentine, steady, 77 1/2 to 78; rosin, firm.

The Washington Herald says: "Mr Taft in shape, somewhat resembles Mr. Cleveland." Right there the similitude ends.

President Roosevelt says he will not recede from his policy to bust the trusts, somehow or other we can't trusts. Somehow or other we can't trusts.

A contemporary state that the daily lunch of Secretary of the Treasury Cortelyou is a sandwich, beer and mince-pie. It is not stated why the Secretary has decided on slow suicide.

A gentleman from the dark and bloody ground of Breathitt county, Ky., started to kill a stranger whom he mistook for one of the fellows he intends to kill. This was a case where a man's personal appearance seems to have been against him.

Chicago a few days ago sent out a press dispatch to the effect that "a newly married man was robbed of \$6,500 by his wife." Might have known that he was "newly married," for one of your experienced guys would know better than to leave that much loose change in his clothes.

The Raleigh Times remarks: "It seems that there is to be a contest between Washington and Chicago as to the most beautiful women. But it will never be settled. It's a matter of taste." Well, if they need any tasters to decide the matter, no Wilmington man would have the heart to decline to serve.

Ashpole, Lumberton county, N. C., got too big for its breeches. It got to be such an up-to-date pretentious town that its old name was a reproach to its aspiring inhabitants. They, therefore, got the Legislature to change the name of the place and henceforth it will be known as Fairmount.

The Inter-Nation is a Boston publication, and in a recent issue the Hon. Richard Olney, a distinguished Cleveland and former member of Cleveland's Cabinet, contributes an article on "Modern industrialism"—a defense of, and apology for trusts. P. S.—This is a sign that Mr. Olney is not a candidate for the nomination for President next year.

## BONDS FOR STREETS FIRE ACROSS RIVER SHOOTING IN FIFTH RECORDER'S COURT THE SECOND PRIMARY

### Statement of Conditions By Chairman McQueen of Audit and Finance Board.

### NEW REGISTRATION CALL

Board of Aldermen Will Meet in Called Session This Evening—Recorder's Court Bill Also to Be Voted On.

A special meeting of the Board of Aldermen is called for tonight for the purpose of considering the matter of a new registration for the forthcoming municipal election in May, especially as it regards the bond issues proposed for waterworks, sewerage and street improvement. Experience at the primary just ended has shown that the registration books are in very unsatisfactory condition, and it is proposed to eliminate all question as to the bonds, so that they may command the highest price on the market.

The several bond issues proposed are being freely discussed on the streets and the following communication from Chairman H. C. McQueen, of the Board of Audit and Finance, relative to the condition of the city and the advisability of the bond issue will be read with interest:

Editor Star: The bill authorizing bonds having passed in the General Assembly, it may be worth while for the citizens to consider some figures and suggestions if you care to publish them.

The bond issues to be voted on at the May election are:

For Water & Sewerage, not exceeding .....	\$500,000
For street improvement .....	400,000
Total .....	\$900,000

The interest on this at 4 per cent .....

.....	\$ 40,500
Sinking fund .....	4,500
Total .....	\$ 45,000

I believe the city could pay this and could reduce the rate of taxation. We are spending for permanent street work about \$36,500. Paying for water \$1,000.

It is a safe calculation that the tax valuation will be increased at least \$800,000. One and one-half per cent on this is \$12,000.

The water works and sewerage plants after enlarging and extending, should yield from private users at least 5 per cent above operating expenses, but put this \$17,500 or 3 1/2 per cent on \$500,000. These amounts foot up \$73,000. In estimating the income from water works and sewerage, I assume that the city would take over the present water works. It should do so at a price fair to both parties. It would be folly to put in a system and have competition for private consumption.

A sinking fund of \$4,500 would in 50 years about extinguish the entire \$900,000. So I would favor 50 year bonds. The proposed improvements are for the use of the coming generation and they should have the privilege of sharing in the expense. It is not probable that 4 1/2 per cent bonds could be sold under present conditions, but these may improve, and we could wait until they do.

As I have shown above, interest and sinking fund \$45,000 on the one side, on the other, increased valuation, income from water works and sewerage and other items \$75,000, this leaves \$28,000. A reduction in the tax rate of 2-10 per cent would amount to about \$20,000 leaving \$8,000 margin for any defect, in these estimates. I think if bonds are issued the tax rate should be reduced and it is very possible it could be made 1-4 per cent. The growth of the city and its business ought to take care of any additional revenue necessary for increased expenses in the city government.

The present debt is \$684,000, of this \$536,000 matures in 1918-1922. By retiring with the sinking fund now growing, and refunding the annual interest can be reduced from \$34,000 to \$25,000. This is something off but is something to look forward to. Interest on bonds or any other kind is expensive and burdensome but if the city wants improved streets and other luxuries, the only way to get them now is to borrow the money to pay for them.

H. C. McQUEEN.

### NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Hibernian Society—Attention. Palace Market—Special Today. W. A. French, Jr.—To the Voters. C. W. Polvogt Co.—Millinery Opening. People's Savings Bank—Saug Bank Account.

Business Local. Found—Bunch of Keys. Wanted—50 Men and Boys. Wanted—Ladies to Canvass.

Linden and Myrtle Grove of Druids, of this city, had an enjoyable social session last night at the hall on Third street. The degrees were given in amplified form and an elegant supper was enjoyed afterwards. A feature of the exercises was the presentation to Marsden Bellamy, Jr. Esq., Noble Arch of the new Grove, of a handsome silk regalia of the office by Justice G. W. Bornemann.

## LODGING HOUSE AT BRUNSWICK FERRY SHED BURNED LAST NIGHT—VALIANT SERVICE OF THE FIRE BOAT ATLANTIC.

A small one-story frame house just south of the shed of the Brunswick Bridge and Ferry Company, across the river opposite Market street dock, was partially destroyed by fire last night about 11 o'clock. That the long shed of the ferry company and other property in close proximity was not destroyed is due to the valiant service of the Fire Boat Atlantic, manned on the occasion by Firemen A. J. Burriss, Henry Litgen and John T. Yates. An alarm was sent in to the Department from Box 41, and though the apparatus responded, there was no way of getting the machines over the stream and the Atlantic was the only dependence. She steamed over in remarkably quick time and by the time the other side of the river was reached, she had steam up and a stream was brought immediately to play on the property with the result that the damage will not be over \$100.

The house is one used by the ferry-men and people from the country coming to and from the city by the ferry. There were several of the strangers camping in the house at the time and they were asleep until awakened by the flames. One of the number was sleeping with \$50 in money under his head, and is said to have lost this in the excitement of getting out of the house. The fire is supposed to have started from heat from the fire place or from a defective flue.

### PROSPEROUS FAIRMOUNT.

Story of Growth of Thriving Robeson County Town.

(Special Star Correspondence.) Fairmont, N. C., March 15.—Once upon a time, as the fairy stories begin, a kind old gentleman gave the land for a Baptist Church on Tadpole Branch in Robeson county. For a long while the church was called by the name of the benefactor. The Pitman Church, but was afterwards called Ashpole, perhaps in honor of the largest swamp in the county. As the years passed by a thriving community and then an up-to-date town grew around the church—as good people as are to be found in all our Commonwealth.

But, as its people began moving out into the world, they realized that the name of the town, now grown to an influential part of the county, was a great handicap. Whenever a citizen visited and told the name of his residence, it was sneered at, laughed at or pitied. "What, you actually live in a place named Ashpole." "How do you get out of the swamp?" "Who on earth ever heard such a name before?" These were among the comments.

Visitors to the town were always amazed to find a pretty town in a high, dry altitude, bustling with life. "Well, I was sure I'd have to wade your roads." "Why, where is your swamp?" "Why can't you get a name for as nice a little town as you have here." These comments for years from visitors decided the citizens to change the name. A few for the sake of old memories were opposed to the change, as is always the case, but all the officials of the place desired the late Legislature to make the change. It is done. Phoenix like, rises the bustling, bustling little town of Fairmont, Robeson county, North Carolina, ready to take her place in the vanguard of progress of our beloved State.

We have churches, schools, industries, climate, health, and friendship, for all who would like to join us in making Fairmont a power in the land.

### COMIC OPERA SUCCESS.

Production of Dorcas at Academy of Music Today.

That comic opera "Dorcas," by the authors "Eremine," will be presented at the Academy today at matinee and night by the Ethel Morton Opera Company, under the management of Mr. Brandon Courtney. Miss Morton is one of America's best and youngest song birds, having been seen in prominence with Frank Daniels, Lulu Glasser, and replaced Miss Hatty Williams in the "Girl from Kay's," in which she toured the country to the coast and was a most worthy successor to Miss Williams. Miss Morton is said to have one of the sweetest and best controlled voices in comic opera and has had several opportunities to go abroad to study for Grand Opera, which she has refused owing to her love for her own country, and not wanting to be away from her parents.

The matinee prices will be 25 and 50 cents. The sale for tonight is up to \$1.

### DIED IN PENDER COUNTY.

Mrs. Hayes, wife of a well known citizen at Rocky Point, N. C., died Thursday night at her home, after an illness of several days. Rev. J. S. Crowley, pastor of Immanuel Presbyterian Church, and Mr. J. Frank Jarman, a relative, went up to Pike Presbyterian Church yesterday, the funeral having been conducted there yesterday afternoon. Mrs. Hayes is survived by her husband and five children; also two brothers, Messrs. William and Thomas Brown, of Rocky Point.

## MIKE BRYAN SHOT BY T. N. SIMMONS YESTERDAY AFTERNOON

Men Were Parleying Over Differences in Primary and Fight Resulted in Which Both Drew Pistols. Claims Self-Defence.

### IN J. M. HALL'S DRUG STORE

Michael H. Bryan, for several years a member of the Wilmington Fire Department and a son of former Police-man S. J. Bryan, was shot and without a doubt fatally wounded by Thos N. Simmons, a carpenter, in Hall's drug store, Fifth and Castle streets, yesterday afternoon about 5 o'clock. Bryan is in the hospital and his death is expected at any moment. Simmons claims self defence and made no attempt to escape, being locked up without bond at the police station in a short time after the shooting.

There was only one eye witness to the shooting, Mr. Percy O. Hall, prescription clerk at the store. Bryan and Simmons were handling tickets for Messrs. Brown and Jewell, respectively, in the Fifth ward during the day and had been jibing one another more or less. About the hour indicated they came in Hall's drug store and asked permission to go in the rear office. Mr. Percy Hall allowed them to do so and one or two other friends were there for a while, Simmons producing a flask of liquor and asking all hands to have a drink. This was refused by one or two but it is stated that Simmons and Bryan did have a drink together. Simmons, it is said, was rather more under the influence of liquor than Bryan and the two began to jibe one another about which was best man. One word led to another and finally Bryan is reported to have told Simmons that he (Simmons) was a very much larger man than he was and that if he made a break at him, he had better be a pillar in the church or make peace with his God, containing a threat to shoot a hole in him. Simmons approached him. This seemed to annoy Simmons and he knocked Bryan down in one corner of the room against a shelf of bottles. As Bryan started to recover himself, he drew a pistol and Mr. Hall grabbed Bryan and tried to get him out of the door to prevent further trouble. When he saw Bryan with the pistol, he released Simmons and Simmons fired. Mr. Hall grabbed Simmons again and the hammer of the pistol cut through the flesh of Mr. Hall's hand as he attempted to stop the shooting. Bryan realized that he was shot and ran through the store and up Castle street to an alley by the Primitive Baptist Church and then up Church street to Seventh where he sat down on some timbers in the construction of a new house there. Simmons ran out also and stopped on the street, saying that he had shot Bryan and claiming self defence. As Bryan ran through the alley by the church, Superintendent of Fire Alarm John T. Yates saw him throw his pistol in a yard from which it was later recovered. It was loaded but had not been fired. Simmons stood up on the street while a large crowd ran forward from the polls where the primary was in progress diagonally across the street. Simmons was placed under arrest by Officer J. J. Moore and his pistol was taken from him. Mr. Joe Bryan, a brother of the injured man, Dr. C. D. Bell and others went in search of the other participant in the trouble and found him at the place indicated. It was seen from the first that he was badly wounded and he was at once hurried to the hospital in the ambulance, after Dr. Bell had done all for him possible.

Simmons' pistol was fired twice but only one of the balls took effect. This entered just under the right collar bone and ranged straight through, piercing the lung and passing out the back; in fact the bullet fell out of the young man's clothing when his coat was removed. Bryan also had a slight wound on the head but the hospital surgeons say they do not know whether it was inflicted by a bullet or whether it was caused by some other instrument, probably as he was knocked down against the shelf of bottles in the drug store. This morning at 1 o'clock it was stated easy but there was scant hope for him. Only about a year ago Bryan was stabbed in the back by a young man named Marine in a Castle street saloon. It was thought then that he would certainly die, but he now the same joyful recovery and it is now the same thing that was pierced then through which he is shot. He is a man of wonderful vitality and this may save him, but the surgeons state that there are a hundred chances against him, as he had lost much blood before he reached the hospital and internal hemorrhages may have set in.

Mr. Simmons was seen in the police station when he was brought there yesterday afternoon. He was much under the influence of liquor and declared that he had to shoot to save himself and Percy Hall. Mr. Hall gave the facts about as set forth above, saying that Simmons had to shoot after he knocked the man down in self defence. He did all in his power to avert trouble but was unable to

## PASSING OF PRIMARY BRINGS DISCUSSION OF OTHER LIVE ISSUES—COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO MEET TO CALL ELECTION.

Now that the municipal primary has become a matter of the past, there is a very general discussion of the proposition to establish in the county a Recorder's Court, which is left to a vote of the people under the recent act of the General Assembly. Thus far there are no announced candidates for the position of Recorder, though it is pretty generally understood that Mayor Waddell will be in the contest. The candidates most frequently spoken of for clerk of the court are Messrs. W. S. Huggins and F. T. Skipper. Not only will the voters express themselves at the election as to the establishment of the court but they will also vote for officers of the same in case it is carried.

### CONTEST IN FOURTH WARD

Both Sides Claimed Victory There and Executive Committee Had a Lengthy Hearing, Finally Deciding As Stated.

The second Democratic city primary yesterday for the nomination of four members of the Board of Aldermen who failed to receive a majority in the first primary on Wednesday, resulted in the nomination of Mr. Martin Rathjen by a majority of 53 over Mr. Jos. F. Sellars in the First Ward; Mr. Thos. W. Wood by a majority of 40 over Mr. John H. Sweeney in the Second Ward, and Mr. K. W. Jewell by a majority of 273 in the Fifth Ward. The vote, between Messrs. W. A. French, Jr., and J. McRee Hatch in the Fourth Ward was so close that a contest developed over a number of folded ballots found double in the box and an alleged discrepancy between the number of names on the poll list and the number of votes. The City Executive Committee, all members being present except Mr. George W. Chestnut, was in session until nearly midnight in an effort to adjust all the differences in a satisfactory manner to both the candidates and their friends. Whether the latter result was attained is an open question, but at any rate the nomination of Mr. French was declared by a majority of two votes.

### THE SIGN OF THE CROSS.

Magnificent Spectacular Performance at Academy of Music.

No play is better known nor more universally praised than Wilson Barrett's powerful story of the persecution of Christians in the days of Nero's terrible reign in Rome. It will pass through the ages of dramatic record as the first play to be championed by priests and clergy of all denominations in all countries where "The Sign of the Cross" has planted its success. In America it has had a succession of memorable triumphs in its splendid presentation by William Greet and his London Company from the Lyric Theatre. Mr. R. G. Grearin succeeded Mr. Greet in the ownership of "The Sign of the Cross" for the United States and Canada, having purchased the rights to present this great drama and also having secured all the original scenery and appointments from the Lyric Theatre, London, which attracted so much attention for sumptuous scenic and costume display. "The sign of the Cross" will be a great attraction at the Academy Monday matinee and night.

Many of the leading players of William Greet's London Company will be in the cast of twenty-five carefully chosen actors.

### BRUNSWICK COURT.

March Term Will Be Convened at Southport Tuesday.

The Southport Herald of yesterday has the following: Brunswick Superior Court convenes next Tuesday week, March 19, with Judge Webb presiding and N. A. Sinclair solicitor. Neither of these gentlemen have held court here previously, Solicitor Sinclair only having been elected last Fall.

The docket this term is not usually heavy, but will come well up to the average, there being about 60 criminal cases, and about 70 civil suits. None of the criminal cases are of a capital nature and there are at present but two prisoners in the county jail, one being a white man named Hewitt, who is under charge of barn burning and the other being a small colored boy who is held under a charge of assault with a deadly weapon, he having cut the throat of another boy in a fight.

### NO EXCURSIONS THIS YEAR.

Seaboard to Concentrate All Efforts Towards Jamestown Exposition.

The Charlotte Observer of yesterday has the following: "The probabilities are that there will be but one or two excursions to the coast this Summer. The Seaboard is already planning to use all of its cars in hauling passengers to the Jamestown Exposition. The demand is even greater than the supply and no trains will be run to Wilmington, Asheville or anywhere else. Every thing will be headed for Norfolk and Jamestown, Va. It is probable that one excursion will be made to the Wilmington this Summer, that of the Wright Memorial Baptist Sunday School, but there is little likelihood of any other."

do so or to get them out of the room before the shot had been fired. Simmons has been a resident of the city for a number of years and came originally from near White Store, in Anson county. He has a wife and three children. He has received several contracts lately and one of them is the string of cottages which the Wrightsville Beach Development Company is having erected on Wrightsville Beach. Bond has been denied him until the result of Bryan's injuries are known or until there is a hearing of the circumstances of the case in any event.

## MESSRS. RATHJEN WOOD FRENCH AND JEWELL DECLARED NOMINEES FOR ALDERMEN.

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### FIRST WARD.

Martin Rathjen .....	282
Joseph F. Sellars .....	236
Rathjen's majority .....	53

For Executive Committee Messrs. M. Schnibben and J. D. Mote were chosen, having received three and four votes respectively, with no opposition.

### SECOND WARD.

T. W. Wood .....	262
John H. Sweeney .....	222
Wood's majority .....	40

### FIFTH WARD.

K. W. Jewell .....	412
James O. Brown .....	139
Jewell's majority .....	273

The returns from the Fourth Ward were taken up by the committee last, Chairman Kellum asking all not directly interested to withdraw from the inside of the railing behind which the committee had seats. This was for the purpose of allowing the committee to have a free hand at the impending investigation. A perfect sea of faces overlooked the committee from outside the railing, and it was plainly evident that there was much feeling among the supporters of the two candidates. There was a call by the returns from the pollholders by Chairman Kellum, and Capt. W. P. Oldham, one of the three, handed the tally sheet to the committee. Mr. Kellum began to read from the report, but George L. Peschau, Esq., arose and stated that as counsel for Mr. Hatch he desired to enter a protest before the official report was read on the ground of irregularities and fraud. This charge by Mr. Peschau was greeted with cheers by a large number of friends of Mr. Hatch in the audience. Mr. R. W. Wallace interrupted to say that he represented Mr. French in the official count at the polls, both sides being allowed representatives according to the custom, and that in behalf of Mr. French he desired to claim the election on the face of the returns. Mr. Kellum continued with the reading, and it was found that the pollholders, composed of Capt. Oldham, Mr. W. G. Johnson and Mr. R. G. Rankin, Sr., had decided to make no official report, but certify the differences to the committee and let that body settle them. Upon motion of Mr. Rogers, the committee voted to request the pollholders to retire to the Board of Audit and Finance room across the hall and make an official return of the differences they were unable to settle. The committee was out for more than an hour, and made a full recount of the ballots. Returning to the room, Capt. Oldham reported that Mr. French had received 174 votes and Mr. Hatch 172, a total of 346. This did not take into account several votes that had been laid aside upon which the pollholders desired the committee to rule. Mr. Peschau said that before the result was declared officially he desired to present his position as counsel for Mr. Hatch. He was advised and was ready to prove that four of the six double folded ballots had been cast for Mr. French. At least six of these votes were irregular, and from a mathematical deduction he showed that there was a tie of 176 votes for each candidate. Either this or the whole ward was

(Continued on fourth page.)