

PRISON HEARING NEARLY FINISHED

Superintendent Mann Introduces Many Character Witnesses Before Committee

EVIDENCE CUMULATIVE

Thus Far, Only Point on Which All Witnesses and Officials Are Agreed Is That Housing Arrangements on Both Farms Are Bad and Need Improving

When the legislative committee investigating conditions at the State Prison Farm adjourned last night at 7:30 o'clock until 3 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, it had to hear only a few remaining witnesses to be introduced by Superintendent J. L. Mann in rebuttal of testimony brought before the committee.

Thus far, the one point upon which all witnesses and officials agree, is that the housing arrangements on the farm are bad. Captain Christian declared that he visited the farm during his fifteen years of supervising there, he had recommended new quarters.

Warden Enters Denial. The warden denied generally all the evidence introduced against him, particularly as to his whipping.

Senator George Holderness, member of the Board of Directors of the Prison, when Solomon Shepherd, negro convict, was shot, repeated the statement he made at the investigation which then occurred in which he held that the shooting of the negro when shackled, was nothing short of murder.

On cross examination by Representative Beasley he said he had made no study of prison systems of other States and worked along lines of his own experience with prisoners. He did not understand exactly what the indeterminate sentence was, and was not in favor of some of the ideas that Warden Osborne advanced.

Following Warden Busbee's testimony a number of witnesses were examined, all of whom gave him an excellent character. They were Messrs. J. A. Briggs, J. Fleming, Thomas A. Partin, C. B. Edwards, Gilbert Crabtree and Mr. Rowland.

Captain Christian Testifies. Captain C. N. Christian, supervisor of Farm No. 1 in detail, reviewed the cases of whippings or shootings brought up in testimony against the prison management. The guard Whitfield, he said, who shot a convict was discharged by him and the solicitor of the district was requested to prosecute.

Mr. I. G. Shaw, R. F. D. carrier, from Halifax to the State Farm had fine words for the farm supervisors, treatment and care of convicts, and the absence of abuse of any kind. He testified that he had seen Steward D. R. Ball, under the influence of liquor, while in the stockade on duty, but had never seen him incapacitated.

G. E. Burgwyn told the committee likewise of the good character of the supervisors and the fine management of the farm. He was asked by Mr. Hinsdale if he could explain why Captain Rhem whipped 84 prisoners in a year and a half and Captain Christian whipped 234, according to the records. He could not.

Former Prisoner Testifies. H. L. Grant, former convict who was sent to the State Prison from Asheville for one year for embezzlement, told the committee that he did not employ a lawyer to fight his case but decided, when the charge was brought, simply to tell the court his story and if convicted to try prison life as a new experience.

Testimony for the State Prison, all introduced to show the high character of the prison management, particularly the quality of supervision exercised by Captain Christian and Captain Rhem of the State prison farms, consumed the two hours of the committee's sitting yesterday morning.

W. G. Biggs and wife to F. E. Glover, two tracts of about 85 acres, for \$3,000. W. B. Hobby to Virginia D. Hobby, tract of 125 acres, for \$10 and other considerations.

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free, and recited dangers undergone there from the nature of the work done by convicts. On cross examination by Superintendent Mann, he denied that it was because of his unfriendly and critical attitude toward Mr. Busbee, the warden, that he was dismissed.

At this point, Superintendent Mann addressed the committee warmly. "Mr. Chairman," he asked, "I would like to know whether this is an investigation or a prosecution?"

Superintendent Mann then stated that it had come to his knowledge that there was one witness, an ex-convict, who had not been called, although present, and intimated that it was for the reason that Mr. Hinsdale had found out that he would testify to good treatment accorded prisoners at the farm.

Chairman Turner suggested that he was at liberty to call anyone he chose, but he declined to call an ex-convict, whereupon Mr. Hinsdale put S. W. Sparbeck, the man referred to, on the stand.

The witness told of having seen convicts at the camp of Captain Christian dishing in cold water, up to their knees and some times hips in water, with the usual clothing, as a distance of a quarter of a mile or more from quarters. He told of the shooting of Mark Deans, testifying that Captain Christian had condemned it. He had seen nine men whipped in one morning.

Dr. J. R. Rogers, physician at the central prison here, told of physical examinations given prisoners when they are sent to prison before being transferred to the various camps, and then Warden S. J. Busbee took the stand.

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have heard a great many say that they have been well treated." He admitted that prisoners were whipped, but could not recall how many were whipped during the year but took issue with other statements made during the inquiry that employees of the prison are a low type of men.

Mr. J. O. Applewhite, for twenty years merchant of Tillery, told the committee that he had never known instances of cruelty or inhumanity to prisoners and that Captain Christian and Captain Rhem were kind and humane men.

Mr. S. M. Gary, clerk of the court of Halifax county, proved a first-rate character witness for all prison employees involved, and declared that he knew of no better men in the State than Captain Rhem and Captain Christian.

The testimonial is signed by Walter F. Daniel, J. H. Brown, B. A. Pope, Fletcher H. Gregory, George Lewis, E. W. Hamel, W. V. Warren, W. F. Copledge, D. M. Campbell, R. L. Applewhite, J. A. Willcox, E. L. Vinson, R. L. Miller, S. A. Richards, D. C. Fenner, Elliott Clark, W. D. Willcox, C. H. Willcox, J. B. Bass, E. N. Sater, H. C. Houseman, I. G. Shaw, J. H. Fenner, H. S. Fenner, H. J. Burrell, F. F. Daniel, W. J. Ward, J. E. Green, W. R. Smith, J. O. Drake, R. L. Travis and E. C. Clark.

Following this testimony Mr. Fitzpatrick, of Halifax, testified to the good character and standing of the supervisors and denied that the prison employees are men of low type. He was followed by Capt. J. J. Laughinghouse, former superintendent of the State Prison.

Declaring his faith in the supervisors at the farm, Captain Laughinghouse said: "I don't believe there are any two men in the State who can take their places and perform the service to prisoners and the State they are doing."

Wants Pardoning Board. The former superintendent advocated the establishment of a pardoning board. "One change that would benefit more than anything else would be to take the pardoning power out of the hands of the Governor and put it in the hands of a pardoning board.

The committee adjourned for lunch with Captain Laughinghouse still on the stand. At the resumption of the sitting he explained the birth of the mulatto child, referred to in preceding evidence, and declared Captain Rhem was not responsible for the conditions which made it possible.

He likewise declared his faith in the innocence of Mr. Brooks, steward, referred to in connection with charges of immorality.

Captain Laughinghouse then gave the committee his version of the killing of Solomon Shepherd who was shot in an attempt to escape. Prior to the shooting, the witness said, the negro had made frequent attempts to inflict such injuries upon himself as would incapacitate him for work.

"He had often expressed his purpose either to escape or kill himself," Captain Laughinghouse said. At the particular time of the shooting, he continued, the guard under whose supervision the negro was had also under his care fifteen others. To have chased Shepherd, even though he was shackled, when he ran off, would have meant that all or a number of the fifteen would have escaped. No other guard was near. There was nothing else to do, the witness held, but to shoot.

"Everybody was glad the negro was gotten rid of," he added, "because he was an insane brute."

He paid tribute to the high disciplinary qualifications of Warden S. J. Busbee and declared his appointment one of the best acts of the Craig administration.

"I have already recommended to Governor Bickett that he be reappointed as warden of the State Prison," he declared.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS. Deeds were filed yesterday to be recorded in the office of the register of deeds as follows:

R. Y. Penny to J. C. Carroll, 54 acres in Panther Branch township, for \$1,308. Carey J. Hunter to Raleigh Cemetery Association, property adjoining the cemetery, for \$308.

Glenwood Land Company to Frank K. Thompson, five lots in "Glenwood" for \$100 and other considerations. W. T. Booker to F. L. Stephens, tract of 41 acres, for \$100 and other considerations.

D. F. Fort, Jr., and wife to Jesse L. Parker, property on Jones street, for \$200 and other considerations. J. J. Ross to W. H. Williams, 50 acres in White Oak township, for \$400.

W. O. Biggs and wife to F. E. Glover, two tracts of about 85 acres, for \$3,000. W. B. Hobby to Virginia D. Hobby, tract of 125 acres, for \$10 and other considerations.

BILL FIXES WORK DAY OF FEMALES

Grier Measure Would Also Regulate Employment of Minors

When Representative Grier, of Ireland, introduced his bill entitled "An Act to Regulate the Hours of Employment of Females and Minors in Mercantile Establishments," his fellow townsman, J. Paul Leonard, of Statesville, State secretary of the Merchants Association, immediately sat up and took notice.

Mr. Leonard, "is very commendable, but the question is whether its provisions are practical, and not too far reaching. Mr. Grier is right much of a humanitarian and wants to better the condition of the young manhood and womanhood of the State, particularly the working boys and girls, and he hopes that his bill will meet the approval of the merchants and others affected. But this remains to be seen. I will probably begin receiving expressions from merchants immediately after they read of the introduction of the bill."

The bill, which was introduced Wednesday, reads as follows: A Bill to Be Entitled "An Act to Regulate the Hours of Employment of Females and Minors in Mercantile Establishments."

Sec. 1. That no female, or minor under fourteen years of age, shall be employed or permitted to work in any mercantile establishment, laundry, bakery, hotel, restaurant, printing establishment, book bindery, theater, show house or place of amusement, more than nine hours in any one day, or more than fifty-four hours in any one week. Provided that in cases of emergency in hotels and restaurants, females may work to a maximum of ten hours during the twenty-four with their consent. Such females to be paid not less than double their regular compensation for such extra time.

Sec. 2. No female under sixteen years of age shall be employed or permitted to work in, or in connection with, any of the establishments or occupations named in section one of this act before the hour of six o'clock in the morning or after the hour of six o'clock in the evening of any one day.

Sec. 3. No female, or minor under fourteen years of age, shall be employed or permitted to work more than six hours continuously in any establishment, or occupation named in section one of this act, without an interval of at least one hour; except that such female, or minor under fourteen years of age, may be so employed for not more than six and one-half hours continuously, if such employment ends not later than half-past two o'clock in the afternoon, and if such female or minor is then dismissed for the remainder of the day.

Sec. 4. Any employer, overseer, superintendent, foreman or other agent of any such employer, who shall require or permit any female, or minor mentioned in the foregoing section to violate the provisions of this act, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined or imprisoned, or both, in the discretion of the court.

Sec. 5. That this act shall be in force and effect after the first day of April, 1917.

COL. C. HUTCHINGS DIES AFTER LINGERING ILLNESS.

Mr. Celden Hutchings, familiarly known to his host of friends as "Col. C." died at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon in Rex Hospital where for the past ten weeks he had been undergoing treatment following an operation.

Mr. Hutchings was about 70 years old and a son of the late Col. C. W. D. Hutchings. He entered the Confederate army when 17 years old and attained the rank of Lieutenant of Company C, 47th North Carolina Regiment. He served throughout the war and was slightly wounded at Reams' Station.

He leaves one daughter, Mrs. Harry Debnam, of Washington City, and one sister, Miss Narcissa Hutchings, of this city. He is also survived by a brother, Mr. Ed. Hutchings, of Baltimore; two daughters-in-law, Mrs. Maxwell, of Norfolk, and Mrs. Barbara Hatch, of this city; four nephews, Messrs. Walter, F. G. Garland and Ed. Tucker, of Raleigh, and two nieces, Mrs. Diehl, of Mason, Ga., and Mrs. Nico, of Baltimore. His wife died shortly after he was taken to the hospital and he was never informed of her death.

He was commander of the L. O. B. Branch Camp of Confederate Veterans at the time of his death and was a member of Occaneechee Tribe No. 16 of Red Men. He was also an honorary member of Capital City Lodge of Odd Fellows. With a pleasant greeting for all, he was popular in a very large degree and was perhaps more widely known among the people of this city than any other citizen.

The body was carried to the residence of Mrs. Hatch in the Raleigh Apartments and the funeral services will be conducted at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon from the Edenton Street Methodist Church. The mass funeral services which will be held at the cemetery were requested to act again. The interment will be in Oakwood Cemetery.

Notice To Red Men. All Red Men are requested to meet at their wigwag at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon to attend the funeral of their late brother, Mr. C. Hutchings. By order of: A. DUGHI, Sacham. W. T. DAVIS, Chief of Records.

Many New Spring COAT SUITS

Suits bought by our staff of more progressive manufacturers, their recent productions embodying every up-to-the-minute style point.

Many are made up of the newer materials, such as "Triticine" and "Gunnybirl," besides the always popular French Serges, Poiset Twill and Poplins.

The shades this season are also somewhat different, Gold Chatreause, Apple Green, in fact, many of them carrying out the rage for sport wear are most daring.

Prices, as usual, are moderate. Many wonderful models are priced \$14.95, \$16.95, \$19.95 to \$24.95. A few very nifty models priced higher.

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J. E. MOSES NAMED PIG CLUB AGENT

Alabama Man Takes Place of Mr. B. P. Folk Who Recently Resigned

Taking the place of Mr. B. P. Folk, who resigned to go into general farming in the State of Louisiana, Mr. J. E. Moses, formerly county agricultural agent in Escambia county, Alabama, has been selected as pig club agent.

Mr. Moses has had considerable experience in the promotion of pig clubs while county agent and this with his technical knowledge of the swine industry should make him a valuable member of the Agricultural Extension Service.

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EPISCOPAL CHURCH WILL MAKE EPOCHAL OFFERING SUNDAY

An epoch-making free-will offering, country-wide in its scope, will be made in Episcopal churches Sunday.

Every Episcopal congregation in the United States has been requested to make a supplementary collection on Quinquagesima Sunday, which is to be added to the larger subscriptions and pledges already made out to the Church Pension Fund.

Backed by the united support of all the church membership, male and female, final success seems assured. Numerous pledges and subscriptions have been made in Raleigh, some covering a period of five years, and Sunday's collection, it is expected, will largely increase the part that should be raised by the local congregations.

Washington's Birthday Excursion To Washington, D. C. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1917 via Seaboard Air Line Railway

\$6.00—ROUND-TRIP—\$6.00 Tickets On Sale All Trains 21st—Proportionately Low Rates Other North Carolina Points—The Best Service Without Change of Cars In Seaboard's All Street Trains

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FUNERAL OF LATE T. A. JONES AT 3 O'CLOCK THIS AFTERNOON.

The funeral of the late Thomas A. Jones, of Kernersville, who died Thursday morning in a Winston-Salem hospital, will be held at 3 o'clock this afternoon from the First Baptist Church.

The pallbearers will be Messrs. T. H. Briggs, John E. Ray, J. B. Pearce, Carey J. Hunter, Joseph G. Brown and Joe H. Weathers.

Some men refuse to pay their debts because they think it would injure their credit.

Every man feels that he has a proprietary interest in his wife's religion.

The Weather

Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 16, 1917. For North Carolina. Fair and warmer Saturday. Sunday probably rain; moderate to fresh southwest winds Saturday, becoming strong south Sunday.

Table with 2 columns: Time and Temperature. Rows include 8 a.m., Highest temperature, Lowest temperature, Mean temperature, Average daily excess since January 1st, Precipitation (in inches), Amount for the 24 hours ending at 8 p.m., Total for the month to date, Deficiency for the month, Deficiency since January 1st.

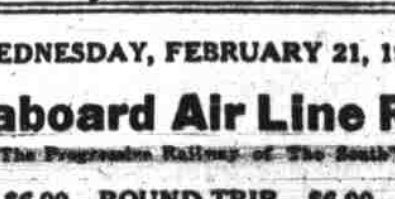
Where Can I Find Relief From Itching, Terrifying Eczema?

This Question Is Ever on the Lips of the Afflicted. Eczema, Tetter, Erysipelas and other terrifying conditions of the skin, are deep-seated blood diseases, and applications of salves, lotions and washes can only afford temporary relief, without reaching the real seat of the trouble.

Our chief medical officer is an authority on blood and skin disorders, and he will take pleasure in giving you such advice as your individual case may demand absolutely without cost. Write to-day, describing your case to medical department Swift Specific Co., 37 Swift Laboratory, Atlanta, Ga. (Adv.)

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