

SALISBURY AND SPENCER ALL SET FOR CHRISTMAS

Safe and Sane Time in Prospect—Grand Finale of Shopping Rush On—Poor Remembered.

The Christmas of 1922 in Salisbury gives promise of being about the safest and sanest that has ever been celebrated here.

Today has been one of activity with shoppers and employees of mercantile establishments, and in the homes where preparations are going forward for the big dinner and the putting of the house in order for the glad day.

The streets have been crowded and not only have numberless sales been recorded but deliveries have been made from early morning and this will keep up until late tonight.

Great loads of holly, mistletoe, evergreens and Christmas trees have been secured and there is scarcely a home in Salisbury or boys they will be most conspicuous.

The postoffice has probably been the busiest place of any during the past few days and tons of mail matter has been received and dispatched through the local office.

Officials advance the theory that the wreck was caused by a broken rail.

The fact that no one of the 250 passengers was injured seriously is the fact that the train left the track, struck an embankment and bounded back to the road bed.

All cars were of steel construction.

Members of the Kiwanis club gathered up a basket of food and necessities of life for distribution among the needy of Salisbury and vicinity this morning and distributed them under the direction of Mr. M. O. Linton, the county welfare officer.

The packages sent to the orphanage were prepared and addressed to a particular child and sent as though Santa Claus sent the package.

Christmas cheer for the poor and the distressed should not be overlooked, and we have no doubt that these will receive ample attention at this full-of-joy season.

Good little boys may slumber peacefully tonight and Christmas eve for Santa's bound this way, according to radio information received at the various local stations.

It is a law of Santa Claus—carried out to perfection and detail—that only good boys will be recipients of Christmas gifts.

Worst part about it is, Santa's the sole judge of the merits or demerits of the particular person in question.

According to the information received via radio, Santa will drive his reindeers if it snows; if not, he will make the trip shortly after midnight in his mystic manner, probably in an airplane.

Have you been good? Yes? Hang 'em up!

Mr. and Mrs. Theo Thompson, of Greenville, S. C., Mrs. M. S. Grooms, of Charlotte, and H. T. Sawyer, of Mooresville, are here to spend Christmas with their mother, Mrs. H. T. Sawyer.

ROBBERY SUSPECTS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY N. M. OFFICERS

(By Associated Press) Santa Fe, New Mexico, Dec. 23.—Six men with heavy suit cases, who arrived from Los Vegas in an automobile early this morning were placed in the county jail pending an investigation in connection with the robbery of United States Federal Bank truck at Denver.

The United States marshal's office had received a tip from Los Vegas and deputies Gouphey and Assistant Superintendent Dugan, of the penitentiary, after observing suspects at breakfast in a restaurant, took them into custody.

15 INJURED WHEN BAD RAIL WRECKS A. C. L. FAST TRAIN

Train Leaves Track Near Lucama, N. C.; 250 Passengers Escape Fatalities; Struck Bank.

(By Associated Press) Rocky Mount, N. C., Dec. 23.—Fifteen passengers were injured early this morning when 8 cars, including 4 sleepers and the engine of the Atlantic Coast Line train No. 82, en route from Jacksonville to New York, were derailed near Lucama.

Two of the injured, Mrs. F. L. Glass, Laurel; whose back was hurt and Mamie Riddle, negro, of Reaford, N. C., nervous shock, were brought to a hospital here.

The others injured only slightly, were given attention by physicians at Lucama.

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BELT BUCKLE AIDS IN IDENTIFYING L. A. LAKE VICTIMS

"Death Lake" Victims Identified by Relatives; Hearing is Set for January 5th.

Mer Rouge, La., Dec. 23.—The wire bound mutilated bodies of the two men recovered yesterday on Lake FaFourche by state troops, believed to be those of Watt Daniels and Thomas Richards, who disappeared after being kidnapped by masked and white robed men last August, were further identified this morning when viewed by Richard's widow, J. L. Daniels, aged father of Watt and a score of other relatives and friends.

The identification of at least Watt Daniels is completed, according to authorities by aid of the initials "F. W. D.," found on a belt buckle and which buckle, Daniels is said to have worn when kidnapped.

The bodies are lying in the Masonic temple where they are guarded by a detachment of Monroe, Louisiana national guards. The guards are armed with automatic rifles and were instructed by Captain Cooper to shoot persons who make an attempt to steal the bodies.

Inquest This P. M. The inquest will be held late this afternoon, according to Dr. Fred Patterson, Moor House parish coroner, who returned today.

Dr. Patterson said no effort had yet been made to officially identify the bodies.

He said he was awaiting instructions from the highway general as to how to proceed.

Hearing January 5. Monroe, La., Dec. 23.—Attorney General Cocco has set January 5 as the date for the Moor House parish open hearing in connection with the Moor House kidnapping case, it was learned officially today.

3 More Companies Arrive. Monroe, La., Dec. 23.—The attorney general and a special train with two companies of Louisiana national guard arrived in Baston this morning and the guardsmen pitched camp on the court house square.

J. E. CORRELL NAMED POSTMASTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHINA GROVE

Mr. J. E. Correll, one of the best known citizens of China Grove, the progressive town in south Rowan, ten miles from Salisbury, has been named as postmaster for that place to succeed Mr. A. A. Blackwelder, who has held the office for a number of years.

Mr. Correll is well qualified to fill the position and has many friends who are glad that he has been named to take charge of the office, inasmuch as a change was certain at an early day. The present postmaster, Mr. Blackwelder, has made a most efficient public servant and has given general satisfaction. The change will be made as soon as arrangements preliminary to such a transfer can be made.

\$5 BILL, PART OF BIG DENVER LOOT, FOUND IN BALTIMORE

(By Associated Press) Baltimore, Dec. 23.—Discovery has been made here of one of the \$5 bills stolen by armed bandits in the raid on the United States Federal Reserve bank truck at Denver last Monday, police officials here declared.

The bill was passed at a downtown restaurant last night.

CAROLINA DELIGATION HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Washington, Dec. 23.—Senators Simmons and Overman and representatives Kitchen, Abernethy, Douglas, Sledman, Lyon, Hammer, Doughton, Edwinkle and Weaver will spend Christmas in their respective homes. Representative Ward will go to Panama with a congressional party. Most of the members of the North Carolina delegation are already at home. They have been leaving some for the last few days.

SHIELDS SOURCE OF HOOTCH

Atlantic City, Dec. 23.—Mrs. Amelia Hassan, dressmaker arrested on a charge of drinking anti-Volstead refreshments, refused to reveal the source of her supply to Recorder Joseph Corio.

"Who is your bootlegger?" demanded the court. "Now, Judge," she replied, "you know that you don't like a squealer, and I am sure that I do not know where I bought the liquor."

BILLS TO CHANGE ROAD LAW AND PAY SOLICITOR SALARY FAVORED BY ROWAN SENATOR

Woodson-Thinks County Should Be Made Highway Unit Instead of District to Prevent Favoritism.

Senator Woodson of Rowan has two bills in his mind of which may produce considerable talk in Raleigh before many weeks. He was talking to a newspaperman today and after expressing himself very sharply and most emphatically he said, "yes, you may quote me," and the senator stands for these two measures, by way of revision of present way of doing things:

A revision of the present road law which would make the county the unit instead of a large district as at present;

Placing all solicitors of the state on a salary basis.

Senator Woodson expressed his firm belief that the district idea is wrong, that it works favoritism within the district and to the hurt of some sections of the district.

"Take the road map," he said, "and you can locate the home of a commissioner."

Continuing he said he would introduce such a bill and urge its passage.

As to the second measure the Rowan senator is sponsoring that of placing solicitors of the state on a salary basis, Mr. Woodson said that he had been informed that some solicitors were making as high as \$12,000 a year, many of them easily from \$7,000 to \$8,000 a year, and this is an additional burden to the state, they pay the penalty of their guilt and carry, too, the high cost of prosecution.

Mr. Woodson said that some of the solicitors were making these high fees which represented a big thing as compared with the U. S. District Attorney, getting something like \$4,500 a year.

There has been quite a good deal of talk about the matter of placing solicitors on a salary basis. The subject has been discussed more than once and it threatens to be made the subject of serious debate with each assembly. Senator Woodson will have a good deal of strong sentiment with him, certainly so if these prosecuting officers are making as much out of the office as is indicated by the figures given by Mr. Woodson.

As to the other measure, the change in the road law here indicated, the dissatisfaction over the manner of districting will just now begin to manifest itself. The fact that the fifty million bond issue is about all spent or provided for and some counties and sections are awakening to the realization that they have gotten very little consideration will bring the matter very seriously to their attention.

If the money is allotted to the roads by district and some section of the district are favored, there will surely be one or more sections to be losers, suffering at the expense of the favored section or sections. The county unit idea is that the money be apportioned to the county direct, not to a district and leave each county to fight within the district for whatever it may be able to get.

Unless we make no mistake not one cent has yet been spent in Rowan from this fifty million, and no matter how much may be in mind to spend in the county, if the money is all spent it will do little good to allot the funds to us, after there are no funds in hand. So with other sections of the state. The unfairness lies in the fact that a few sections bear all the left over, and comes up to the end of the two years depending on an additional bond issue to carry through the original campaign, and if the thing works to that end in one instance what is to hinder it from running through another bond issue the same way?

If the whole campaign lasts fifteen million of being finished it certainly ought to be established that all have fared alike in the expenditure, and all equally dependent upon the remaining need. That is the situation which leads to a demand for making the county the unit, it tends to guarantee each individual county a fair share.

It may be a case of locking the barn after the horse has been taken, but Senator Woodson believes the principle is right and is ready to move to that end.

A GIGANTIC OIL COMBINE TO WORK IN MEXICAN FIELD

By Far the Biggest Oil Transaction in the History of that Country is Under Way.

(By Associated Press) Los Angeles, Dec. 23.—The Los Angeles Times today reports an announcement from promoters that a group of Los Angeles manufacturers, bankers and oil operators has obtained from the Mexican government what amounts to a blanket concession on all government lands in the oil district of the east coast.

"It is by far the biggest oil transaction in Mexican history," the Times said, "includes recent workings of some of the oldest established companies in the Tampico and Tuxpan districts."

The paper further declared the "transaction also has important political significance, coming as it does after the extended controversy between the Obregon government and American oil companies and in which the United States government has been yet an unsuccessful arbitrator.

It announces that the Los Angeles group will go into the Mexican oil districts and operate according to Mexican article 27 and under federal concession on the same royalty basis which established governments have declared were confiscatory.

852,000 BALES COTTON GINNED IN N. C. THIS YEAR

Price Averages Around 25 Cents a Pound; Eight Cents Higher Than a Year Ago.

Raleigh, Dec. 23.—Despite the fact weather conditions have been unsettled during the past two weeks, farming progress has been general in North Carolina, according to the semi-monthly bulletin issued by the North Carolina and United States department of agriculture.

The bulletin follows: "More cotton has been ginned than expected, indicating a large crop. Practically all of the crop has been picked. The per cent ginned today is slightly less than last year. The quality is good. The production for the state is estimated at 852,000 bales of 500 pounds, gross weight, or 408,489,000 pounds of lint. The production is greater than last year by about 75,000 bales, and 24.5 cents is about 8 cents higher than a year ago.

"The auction sales of tobacco sold today total 166,000 pounds. The average price is 31 cents per pound, or about 4 cents better than last year. The heaviest sales were reported on the following markets: Wilson, Winston-Salem, Greenville, Kinston and Rocky Mount.

"Hay prices are generally firm. The receipts are ample for the demand. This has been one of the state's largest hay crops in yield and acreage. Pastures are furnishing some feed for livestock, due to the continued rains and normal temperatures.

"Future grain prices advanced the week ending December 2, and regained a good part of the losses of the previous week. The week closed at \$1.18 5-8 for the December wheat and 70 1-2 cents for the December corn. Red winter is reported scarce.

"This has been a record breaking year for shipments of pears in the country as a whole, with California the leading state, with a production of 5,000,000 bushels. This state's commercial pear crop is comparatively small. Large quantities of apples are being marketed from this state.

"The total shipments of leading lines of vegetables and truck have dropped sharply. Potato markets weakened in spite of decreased shipments. Prices of cabbage and onions have advanced. Sweet potatoes advanced slightly due to decreased receipts.

"This season's shipments of sweet potatoes to November 25, total 386 cars, which is almost half of the shipment of 1921-22 to the same date. The production is considerably greater this year than last.

"The last two weeks have been generally unsettled, with changeable weather. The temperature has been about normal as a rule. General rains and cloudiness were reported in many parts of the state during the period, with light snows in some sections, accompanied by low temperatures. However, no serious damages have been reported from the colder weather. Farm progress has been general throughout the state. The comparatively mild weather was favorable to plowing and seeding of grains."

URGE LEGISLATORS TO ABOLISH FLOGGING

Raleigh, Dec. 23.—Recommendations for legislation to be introduced at this session of the North Carolina Assembly, increasing and establishing the rotation system in the board of directors of the state prison, placing the state prison under support of government funds and returning proceeds from the institution to the state treasury, abolishing flogging and making other changes, have been decided upon by the committee on policy and program of the Citizens Committee of One Hundred on Prison Legislation.

YOUNG COUPLE MARRIED AT THE COURT HOUSE

Mr. Rufus Lee Shinn, 18 years old, son of Mr. James Shinn, of Rockwell, and Miss Pearl B. Moore, 19 years old, daughter of Mr. Isaac Moore, also of Rockwell, were married at the court house yesterday afternoon by Squire J. C. Kesler. The young couple will reside at Rockwell.

AN OIL STOVE BLAZE

The antics of an oil stove at 421 East Liberty street caused a fire alarm at noon today and summoned the department to the scene. However, no water or chemicals were used by the firemen and the blaze was soon extinguished with only slight damage.

IRISH PRISONERS FREED

Dublin, Dec. 23.—Two hundred and sixty-four Republicans, held prisoners in Mt. Joy prison were released today, having signed a declaration of allegiance to the free state. Four of those released were women.

PREACHER GIVES HAYS CALL DOWN

(By Associated Press) New York, Dec. 23.—Rev. Chas. S. MacFarland, general secretary of the Federated Council of the Church of Christ, in America, today made public a letter to Will Hays, head of the motion picture industry, calling for an explanation why he, as a member of Mr. Hays' committee was not consulted about the reinstatement of Mr. (Fatty) Arbuckle, the film comedian, who figured in the party that resulted in the death of Virginia Rappe, the actress.

Rev. Mr. MacFarland, as general secretary of the federation, is a member of the executive committee on public relations which Mr. Hays organized recently from religious and civic organizations to aid him in putting the movies on a higher plane.

His letter, besides raising the question as to why he was not consulted declared that "unfortunately the impression has gained ground that this was due to the pressure of financial interests interested in Arbuckle pictures."

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DUMB FOR SIX YEARS IRELL MAN SPEAKS; VOICE CLEAR AND STRONG

Statesville, Dec. 23.—David Joyce, 54 years of age, residing on Oakland avenue, in the Bloomfield cotton mill community, spoke Monday for the first time in six years and a half. After his prolonged silence, during which he was able to hear distinctly everything that was going on around him but was powerless to express himself in words, he first addressed one of his children, calling by name. He whispered at first, but now his voice is a clear and strong. He is unusually nervous and talks almost continuously.

GUilty WIFE MURDER

New York, Dec. 23.—Abraham Becker was declared guilty of first degree murder in a verdict returned early today by a jury in Bronx county court. The penalty for the crime in New York state is electrocution. Sentence will be pronounced Tuesday. He was convicted of killing his wife.

DEATH OF MRS. BOST

Mrs. Ellen E. A. M. Bost died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Drover Leonard, Gold Hill, N. C., Dec. 21, 1922. She was born January 2, 1853. She married John L. Barringer, Feb. 18, 1875 and to this union were born four sons, George, John, Calvin and Sidney, and two daughters, Mrs. Mary Barringer Leonard and Miss Dovie Barringer who preceded her mother to the grave. The body was taken to Lower Stone church for burial and the services were conducted by the Rev. E. F. K. Roof, pastor of the Rockwell Lutheran pastorate.

POPE TO SUMMON ECUMENIC COUNCIL

(By Associated Press) Rome, Dec. 23.—The possibility that the Pope will call a meeting of the entire Catholic episcopacy in Rome during the next jubilee year was announced in the papal encyclical issued today.

Such a meeting would be a continuation of the ecumenic council which was held in Rome in 1870. Pope Pius' encyclical recalls the recent conflicts in Italy and the efforts of the church to quiet them. Among peaceful interests in recent years it calls attention to the twenty-sixth international eucharistic congress and the great religious manifestation attendant upon the transportation of the image of the virgin from Rome to Loreto.

COTTON FAMINE IS PREDICTED BY SENATOR HEFLIN

Alabama Senator Declares That Crop is Short; Blames Speculators for Low Prices.

(By Associated Press) Washington, Dec. 23.—Declaring that cotton consumption figures for November as announced yesterday by the department, indicated a possibility of exhaustion of the American cotton supply by next June, Senator Hefflin, Democrat, Alabama, stated in the senate today, that present prices of 26 cents a pound for the product showed "conclusively that the speculators have got control of the market and are depressing the price."

"We have produced another small cotton crop," he said, "and during November we consumed more at home and exported to foreign countries 1,435,898 bales of American cotton.

"The world cotton crop is short and the demand for United States cotton is constantly increasing.

"The government estimates the present crop at less than 10,000,000 bales.

"If the consumption demand for November continues to December and on to August, 1923, the present cotton supply will be exhausted early in June next year and the world will be face to face with a cotton famine.

"In spite of the fact that the cotton crop is small and the world demand for United States cotton is great the cotton producers of the United States are not getting a price that will yield them a fair profit.

"The commissioner of agriculture of the state of Texas, the largest cotton producing state in the union, says that cost farmers of Texas about 25 cents a pound to produce the present crop.

"Three fourths of the crop has gone out of the hands of the farmer at a price below 25 cents a pound. The law of supply and demand warrants 30 cents and more."

SPECIAL SESSION VA. LEGISLATURE

(By Associated Press) Richmond, Va., Dec. 23.—A call for a special session of the state legislature to meet Wednesday, February 28, and for a special election to fill five vacancies in the senate and one in the house, to be held Tuesday, February 20, was issued today by Governor Trinkle.

The extraordinary session of the legislature will be held to consider, in the words of the governor:

"First, the question of providing funds for the highway department to take care of its immediate and responsible needs.

"Second, for the correction of errors of the last session of the general assembly in connection with the redistricting of the state.

"Third, to consider any matter that may come up relative to the enlargement of our new office building, now under construction."

PAYS CENT QUARTERLY TAX

New York, Dec. 23.—John T. Rafferty, Collector of Internal Revenue for Brooklyn, told of a woman whose total tax for the year was 4 cents, and who paid 1 cent every three months. He added that the postage used in notifying her of the amounts due was far in excess of the tax.

Collector Rafferty announced that \$2,868,870 in income tax was collected in his office on the last day for payment of the last quarter for 1921. From December 1 to 15, he said, \$4,718,901 was taken in. The total amount received for the last quarter was this year slightly in excess of last year. Mr. Rafferty thought the delinquents probably numbered less this year than last.

LEAGUE TO CAROL

On Tuesday night, Dec. 26, 1922, the Luther League of St. James Lutheran church, Rockwell, will sing carols on the streets. They will sing in front of each home where the invitation is given in the front window in the form of a light. They will take an offering for benevolence.

Mrs. B. R. Howell, of Charlotte, is spending some time with her grandmother, Mrs. Mary Gordon, on North Main street.