

J.B. SHERRILL, Editor and Publisher.
VOLUME XLVII.

O. G. THOMAS GIVES HIS TESTIMONY TODAY

DEFENDANT INSISTS HE THOUGHT MAN WAS TRYING TO ROB HIM

Tells of Plans for the Ride to Overcash House, and How Pleasure Ride Ended in Tragedy.
WAS ON STAND THREE HOURS

Several Other Witnesses Introduced to Corroborate the Details as Told by Thomas.

Describing his actions on the night of October 25th, 1921, O. G. (Red) Thomas, Charlotte auto salesman, being tried here for the murder of Arthur J. Allen, took the stand in his own defense when court opened this morning.

The direct examination of Thomas, conducted by John J. Parker, disclosed quickly and conclusively the facts of the case, and the other testimony offered by the other witnesses for the defense, Thomas' story as told today was similar to that told in Charlotte at the habeas corpus hearing before Judge Shaw.

Incidents leading up to the shooting were told almost exactly as told yesterday by Mrs. Robert Lowe, who was with Thomas when Allen was killed. Planned pleasure ride with Mrs. Lowe and other friends terminated in the death of Allen, but only because the defendant thought he was being held up, and not because he recognized the man who was killing Allen, Thomas stated.

The testimony of the defendant was the big gun fired by the defense, and all evidence introduced by the defense heretofore had been woven around the story that Thomas told the court.

On cross examination by Mr. Hart, the defendant stated that he had known Allen about one year. Allen's place of business was a short distance from the Forest Hill Motor Company, where Thomas made headquarters.

When Thomas stopped near Overcash's Ford sedan was about 75 yards from his car. Before defendant stopped his car he had seen a man get out of the Ford sedan, but paid no attention to him and did not notice him again until he was 10 or 15 feet from his car.

Overcash relative to collecting for a car he had sold. The witness said he had learned that a purchaser of his car which was in the whiskey business and defendant feared the state would seize the car and confiscate the same.

At supper defendant said he invited Miss K and Mrs. Lowe to the picture show after he had seen Mr. Overcash. After supper he went down town and ascertained that Overcash had returned to Kannapolis. He then went by the Fixall Garage and back to the Cline house.

Mr. W. J. Cline, Thomas invited them both to go with him over to Mr. Overcash's home. Mr. Cline said he could not leave the house, Mrs. Lowe got in to the car and went with him.

The Ford sedan had stopped in front of the Setzer home, and Thomas noticed a man had gotten out of it. When Thomas got the car stopped the man was within ten or fifteen feet of him.

When Thomas noticed the man had gotten out of the car, he saw that the man was in the Ford sedan, and he saw that the man was in the Ford sedan, and he saw that the man was in the Ford sedan.

When Thomas noticed the man had gotten out of the car, he saw that the man was in the Ford sedan, and he saw that the man was in the Ford sedan, and he saw that the man was in the Ford sedan.

When Thomas noticed the man had gotten out of the car, he saw that the man was in the Ford sedan, and he saw that the man was in the Ford sedan, and he saw that the man was in the Ford sedan.

When Thomas noticed the man had gotten out of the car, he saw that the man was in the Ford sedan, and he saw that the man was in the Ford sedan, and he saw that the man was in the Ford sedan.

When Thomas noticed the man had gotten out of the car, he saw that the man was in the Ford sedan, and he saw that the man was in the Ford sedan, and he saw that the man was in the Ford sedan.

SPEAKS FOR A LOWER COAL FREIGHT RATE

The Average Freight Now Paid on Ton of Coal Is \$2.27, While Price of Coal at the Mine Is \$2.23.

RATES ADVANCED 75 TO 200 PER CENT.

Railroads Would Be Justified in Making Lower Rate on Coal Due to Reduction in Cost of Coal to Them.

Washington, Jan. 19.—Should the Interstate Commerce Commission decide as a result of the present inquiry that rate schedules may properly be lowered, the lower rate should be applied first to coal, the commission was told today by J. D. A. Morrow, vice president of the National Coal Association, who said he spoke for 2,000 mine operators producing approximately 60 per cent. of the country's bituminous coal.

The average freight paid on a ton of coal at the present time between the mine and points of consumption amounted to \$2.27 while the price of coal at the mine was \$2.23. He estimated that coal rates had advanced from 75 to 200 per cent., according to locality, since 1914.

The railroads would be justified, Mr. Morrow asserted, in making a reduction of 75 cents a ton on the average haul by reason of savings in their operating cost which already had been attained by reduction in the price of coal during the past year, added to the further savings they would make from the lower freight charge.

North Carolina Man Finds His \$1195 in Bank. Washington, D. C., Jan. 17.—Several months ago, when it looked as if old hard times would hurt everybody, a depositor in the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of Bakersville, far in the mountains of North Carolina, withdrew his money, \$1195, in greenbacks.

When Governor Morrison is at home next week. Raleigh, Jan. 18.—Governor Morrison plans to spend all of next week in Charlotte. He will go to Washington tomorrow night to appear with Highway Commissioner Frank Page before the department of agricultural office's report to the distribution of \$1,700,000 of federal money in North Carolina.

Graded School Notice. It has been the rule of the Concord schools not to admit beginners after the first three weeks of school.

DR. SMITH RESIGNS Was the Man Who Got Into a Row With Congressman Godwin.

Washington, Jan. 19.—Dr. Hugh M. Smith, who has been United States Commissioner of Fisheries since 1913, has resigned after 29 years of service with the Bureau of Fisheries.

One political feud involving Dr. Smith's attitude on the question as to whether fish and politics should mix was recalled today in connection with the Commissioner's resignation. Representative H. L. Godwin, of North Carolina, in 1913, called the Commissioner on the telephone and asked for 2,000,000 shad fry for the Cape Fear River.

Wholesale Price Levels Remained Stationary Through November and December, Says Bureau of Labor Statistics. Washington, Jan. 19.—The general level of wholesale prices remained stationary through November and December, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the department of Labor announced today.

Respect for the Treaties That Fixed Peace Terms. Is the Platform That Premier Poincare Will Present to His Cabinet. Paris, Jan. 19.—(By the Associated Press)—"Respect for the treaties that fixed the peace terms" is the platform that Premier Poincare decided to present for his cabinet this afternoon.

Meeting of Executive Officials of Epworth League. Memphis, Tenn., Jan. 19.—Appointment of international secretary and secretary of the Epworth League board of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, Dr. Parker outlined the work of the Epworth League in the Far East from which he recently returned.

The Negro Whitfield Starts South. New York, Jan. 19.—Declaring that he would rather jump from the Brooklyn bridge than be returned to the South, Wm. Whitfield, negro, today started back to Onslow County, N. C., in the custody of Sheriff Taylor, to face a holdup charge. He was captured last June on the request of the North Carolina authorities, and waged a long but unsuccessful fight against extradition.

Illness of the Pope. London, Jan. 9. (By the Associated Press).—Pope Benedict's fever is somewhat diminished but absolute quiet and rest are essential for him, a Central News dispatch from Rome today said. The Pope is troubled by persistent coughing, pains in his head and chest and by weakness, but continues in high spirits, the statement adds.

Community Sing-Song. A community sing-song will be held at the High School Friday evening at 7:30. A very attractive program will be rendered. The public is cordially invited. No admission.

TURNED BAD MAN INTO A MODEL PRISONER

As Result of Operation Performed to Remove a Bullet From Brain of Benj. Buckner, Serving Life Term.

Chicago, Jan. 19.—Results of an operation performed to remove a bullet from the brain of Benjamin Buckner, serving a life term in the Joliet state penitentiary for murder, which transformed him from a "bad man" to a model prisoner, will be put before the state board of pardons and paroles in an effort to obtain his release, became known here today.

New Bern Celebrates 150th Anniversary. Takes on Colonial Aspect—Hundred of Visitors in the City. New Bern, Jan. 19.—With many wearing sash knickerbockers, colored coat top hats and broad buckled shoes, all ladies attired in colonial attire, the town of New Bern today commemorated the 150th anniversary of St. John Lodge A. F. & A. M., and the 150th anniversary of the George Washington visit to this city.

All-American Crew Sails on Ship With Grain For Russia. Baltimore, Jan. 17.—Laden with about 7,000 tons of grain, and manned by an all-American crew, from master to messboy, the steamship Western Maid sailed today for Reval, a Baltic seaport, where the cargo will be unloaded for starving Russia.

Will Hays to Assume New Duties Sometime After Fourth of March. New York, Jan. 18.—Will H. Hays will become directing head of the new National Association of Motion Picture Producers and Distributors, "immediately after March 4," it was announced tonight at a dinner at which the Postmaster General was the guest of a group of motion picture officials.

At the Theatres. Wanda Hawley plays the leading part at the Star theatre today in that unusual feature, "Too Much Wife." "No Woman Knows," the amazing story of Fanny Herself, is the headliner at the Pastime today and tomorrow.

Microbes in connection with disease were first written about by a German scientist in the seventeenth century.

WOODROW WILSON FOUNDATION Active Campaign Now on to Raise One Million Dollars.

A national committee of 226 representative men and women has undertaken to establish the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. The purpose of the foundation is to honor a great American and to create a method whereby public service will be encouraged and conspicuously recognized in this and future generations.

Headquarters for the foundation have been established at 150 Nassau Street, New York City. The following subscriptions have been received: Tribune and Times \$10.00, A. B. Palmer 5.00, Dr. J. E. Smith 2.00, Dr. W. C. Houston 10.00, J. P. Allison 10.00.

REY. and Mrs. T. N. Lawrence Give an Informal Reception. The members of All Saints' Episcopal Church were guests of Rev. and Mrs. T. N. Lawrence at an informal reception at the rectory last evening from eight to ten o'clock.

All-American Crew Sails on Ship With Grain For Russia. Baltimore, Jan. 17.—Laden with about 7,000 tons of grain, and manned by an all-American crew, from master to messboy, the steamship Western Maid sailed today for Reval, a Baltic seaport, where the cargo will be unloaded for starving Russia.

Will Hays to Assume New Duties Sometime After Fourth of March. New York, Jan. 18.—Will H. Hays will become directing head of the new National Association of Motion Picture Producers and Distributors, "immediately after March 4," it was announced tonight at a dinner at which the Postmaster General was the guest of a group of motion picture officials.

At the Theatres. Wanda Hawley plays the leading part at the Star theatre today in that unusual feature, "Too Much Wife." "No Woman Knows," the amazing story of Fanny Herself, is the headliner at the Pastime today and tomorrow.

Microbes in connection with disease were first written about by a German scientist in the seventeenth century.

MILITARY RULE IN A NEW TEXAS OIL CITY

The First Week Netted 149 Arrests on Various Charges Including Violation of Prohibition Laws. CONDITIONS FAR FROM SATISFACTORY Nearly All Liquor Seized by Police Was Product of Illicit Distilling, the Officers of Mexico State.

Mexico, Texas, Jan. 19.—The first week of military rule in this northern oil city netted 149 arrests on various charges including violation of the prohibition law, gambling and other violations characteristic of oil-town towns, according to a military announcement.

Mysterious Killing in Millport, Alabama. Woman Killed When a Load of Shot Was Fired Through a Window While She Was Reading. Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 19.—Police were searching today for a woman who possessed an expensive outfit of clothing, part of which was found this morning inside the body of Isabel McDaniels, aged 28, in a vacant lot in Fountain Heights, a fashionable residential section.

Killing in Birmingham. Police Searching for Woman, Part of Whose Clothes Were Found Inside the Corpse. Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 19.—Police were searching today for a woman who possessed an expensive outfit of clothing, part of which was found this morning inside the body of Isabel McDaniels, aged 28, in a vacant lot in Fountain Heights, a fashionable residential section.

Honor Lee's Memory. Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 19.—The one hundred and fifth anniversary of the birth of General Robert E. Lee, leader of the military forces of the Confederate States of America, was generally observed throughout the South today. In nearly all of the States the day is a legal holiday and is observed by the closing of the schools, public offices, banks, and many business houses.

Ethics to Govern Cities. Chicago, Ill., Jan. 19.—That one city should not try to build itself up at the expense of its neighbors is the main theme behind the "ethical conference" of Illinois cities, which is to be held in Chicago tomorrow. The Illinois Chamber of Commerce has issued invitations to the conference and it is expected that nearly every municipality in Illinois will be represented at the gathering. A definite code of ethical policy to govern the cities of the State will be presented to the meeting for adoption.

With Our Advertisers. Many attractive values in groceries are offered by the Fluffy-Wiggly in a new ad. today. Tires, tubes and accessories, a large stock always on hand at the Central Billing Station. The big sensational sale of winter caps, overcoats, shoes and hats is in full blast at the Brown-Graham Co. The sun, if it were a hollow globe, could contain a million spheres as large as the earth. The man who agrees with every thing you say lies to others eyes.