

Thomas to Ask Court For Change of Venue

That O. G. (Red) Thomas, Charlotte auto salesman, will ask for a change of venue when his case is called for trial here next week, is the report that comes from Charlotte. The Charlotte News of Tuesday afternoon said: "Motion for removal of the trial of O. G. (Red) Thomas, charged with the murder of Arthur C. Allen, of Kannapolis, will be made before Judge Webb in Concord Monday."

"Attorneys for Thomas, who is a local automobile dealer, will argue to the court that the case should be removed from Cabarrus county because of the feeling in that community."

"The place of removal will rest with the court."

"Thomas' case has been reviewed by the Supreme Court of North Carolina and the defendant has been given a new trial. Machinery for the new trial will be set in motion Monday and the first proposition to be put before the court will be the motion for removal of another county."

"A formidable array of legal talent will again appear in defense of Thomas, who at the conclusion of the first trial, was given 18 years in the State penitentiary by Judge Biss Ray. Appearing in the cast will be J. J. Parker and E. T. Cansler, of Charlotte, Maness and Armfield, of Concord, and John M. Oglesby, of Concord."

"Thomas' defense at the first trial based on his contention that Allen approached his car on a lonely road near Kannapolis in August, 1921, with the command 'Throw up your hands,' Thomas contended that he thought the man was a highwayman and that he shot to protect himself."

"This statement was backed up by the testimony of Mrs. Robert Lowe, who was in the automobile at the time of the shooting."

"The Charlotte Observer of today has

BLUE-EYED BABY GIRL BEHIND LOUISIANA WAR

Governor Parker Aroused to Do His Utmost When Little Child Pleaded With Him to Bring Her Daddy Home for Christmas.

New Orleans, Jan. 2.—A little blue-eyed baby girl scarcely more than three years old is behind the war which John M. Parker, governor of Louisiana, is waging today against the Ku Klux Klan. To her alone are due the expenses which are shaking the state and causing a crisis against the hooded cohorts of the "invisible empire." She alone, if her baby tongue could do more than prattle or her baby fingers do more than scribble, could tell and write the inside story of the Mer Rouge murders.

She is back of the march and counter-march of armed troops which maintain martial law in Morehouse parish today. She is back of pistol-bulging hips and lightly slung rifles and shotguns on the arms of scores of north Louisiana citizens. She is back of the half-ton of dynamite, mysteriously deposited that brought to the surface of Lake Fourche, the headless, wretched bodies of Thomas Richards and Watt Daniels, after legal and medical tests being assembled by Governor Parker to the lake bed. She is back of their four months' rest in the cozy place the responsibility for that double murder and the torture men say preceded it. She is back of the second public hearing of this sort in two centuries of Louisiana history when, on January 5, men will gather in the machine gun-guarded court house at Badstrop to thresh out the case.

This little girl is Leota Richards, daughter of Thomas F. Richards, one of the men tortured and murdered by the Mer Rouge mob, which Gov. Parker asserts was made up by members of the Ku Klux Klan and which daily developments substantiate.

Promises Girl Her Daddy.

The machinery which started the clean-up drive against the Klan in this state was put in motion after Gov. Parker heard a tale of midnight murder of a mother's grief, of supreme local authority and at last swore a mighty oath, when the little child climbed on his knee in his office at Baton Rouge and pleaded:

"Will you please bring my daddy home for Christmas?"

The story goes back to the summer's night when little Leota and her daddy, hand in hand, were going home. A group of men interrupted them. They wore hoods and masks.

"Come with us," they told Richards. He came. Gun muzzles enforced obedience. An employee of the Richards garage took Leota home. She tried to tell her mother what had happened. But it was not until Richards had been questioned, released and Richards knew he was "warned" that Mrs. Richards knew her husband had fallen into the hands of the hoodlums, who were seeking evidence or confessions as to the attempts which Dr. B. F. McKoin, former mayor of the little town of Mer Rouge, said had been made to assassinate him. Leota only knew that masked men had taken her daddy away.

"Daddy" came back that time. But another time Daddy didn't come back. It was after a night of terror on the Bastrop-Mer Rouge road, when masked and hooded men and robed men with firearms took five men from the hundreds that were meeting from the good roads meeting at Bastrop. Leota's daddy was one of the five. The world knows that three of the five returned. Watt Daniels and Richards did not. Days and nights of search followed along

with grand jury sessions, which indicted nobody. The constituted authorities of Morehouse parish seemed singularly spine and sinister whispers crept about. No arrests were made. "Nothing to report," was the official attitude.

Widow Takes Little Daughter to the Governor.

Then one day Mrs. Thomas Richards, who, in her heart, knew herself to be a widow, took a train with Leota to Baton Rouge. Doors were closed behind them in the state capitol. With tears streaming down her face, Mrs. Richards told Gov. Parker of the loneliness of long and bitter days and nights; of the sinister whisperings that came to her.

"It was the Klan that killed my husband," she exclaimed bitterly. "They'll do nothing about it in Morehouse parish. They killed him and they killed Watt Daniels and their bodies are somewhere in Morehouse parish today."

Little Leota, used to her mother's crying for days and nights, looked curiously about the room of the ancient feudal-like building with its great mirrors. And as her mother sobbed, she ran up to the map with the gray hair and Gov. Parker, whose kindly eyes and quiet manner had won her confidence.

He lifted her to his knee. It was then Leota asked the governor to bring her daddy back. There were tears now in the governor's eyes. "I will, Leota," he said, simply. "That was all."

But, within his heart, he swore a mighty oath to keep faith with that child. Leota went home comforted. Had not the man with the kindly eyes and comforting hands and kind face, said he would see to it that her father would be home for Christmas?

Details did not bother Leota. She did not know that the state government provided only meager funds for special investigation, such as the case required. She did not know that Gov. Parker, out of his own pocket, spent thousands of dollars to make the investigation thorough. She did not know that, in her native parish, under cover, investigators searched out the clues; that a special diver was brought from St. Louis; that special guardsmen were sent to Morehouse parish with orders to kill anyone who interfered with the search; that a body of men crept forth one night and exploded nearly half a ton of dynamite near the Eastland Ferry in Lake LaFourche, and that the two bodies brought up were identified as those of Daniels and Richards, her daddy. Leota just played about, wondering what Christmas would bring and scrawling pencil lines which her mother knew were words to the Ku Klux Klan to bring her daddy back. Possibly Leota had forgotten the grand man with the kindly eyes. But the man had not forgotten.

Dr. Miller Hutchison is to Lead Boll Weevil Fight

New York, Jan. 3.—Dr. Miller Reese Hutchison, for many years chief engineer of the Thomas A. Edison Laboratories, has been selected to lead a cotton crusade against the boll weevil in the cotton fields of the South. The fact was tendered Dr. Hutchison by the American Cotton Association, which, in connection with an Atlanta, Ga., organization, has undertaken to

the following relative to the request for a change of venue:

"Motion for the removal of the trial of O. G. (Red) Thomas on the charge of murder is to be made before Judge James L. Webb at Concord Monday, according to statements here yesterday, his attorneys simply asking that the trial be removed from Cabarrus county on the ground that there is too much antagonistic feeling that the trial be removed from Cabarrus to obtain a fair and impartial trial."

"The case has been reviewed by the Supreme Court and Thomas has been granted a new trial. The defendant was sentenced to 18 years by Judge J. Biss Ray at the conclusion of the first trial several months ago. Attorneys for Thomas are: J. J. Parker and E. T. Cansler, Sr., of Charlotte; Maness and Armfield, of Concord; and John M. Oglesby, of Concord."

When the State Supreme Court several weeks ago granted Thomas a new trial, the report became general here that a request for a change of venue would be made, but local attorneys for the Charlotte auto salesman have never given official sanction to the report. Mr. Maness, who is chief counsel here for Thomas, has had nothing to say about the case, but from other sources it has been learned that a change probably will be asked. One Concord man stated this morning that he had been asked to sign an affidavit which declares that Thomas could not get a fair trial in Cabarrus county, but attorneys have nothing to say in regard to such an affidavit.

Sheriff W. R. Mabry has been handed the list of persons wanted subpoenaed by both the State and the defense, and he has been busy, this week serving the papers, according to reports here.

To Pass Six Million Mark In Spindles in This State

Charlotte Observer.

With approximately 5,500,000 spindles in the North Carolina mills at present, David Clark, editor of The Textile Bulletin, and one of the best informed men in the south on industrial matters in the cotton sections, predicts the passing of the 6,000,000 mark within the coming year, in new spindles for mills in this state.

The Textile Bulletin has just completed an estimate of the construction that is going on and that is contemplated for the next year in the states of North and South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas. The total, estimated spindles to be added to the mills' capacity in these states is around 900,000, while in the state of North Carolina alone nearly 550,000 spindles will be added to the mills.

The Textile Bulletin, in an early issue, is bringing these facts to the attention of mill machinery and equipment men and comparing them with the lack of growth and expansion that is said to exist in the New England states.

The estimates of growth and expansion and new construction of the mills in the cotton producing states, prepared by The Textile Bulletin, follows:

Forest City, N. C.—The Appleton Mills, of Lovell, Mass., will build a 115,000 spindle 3,500 loom mill on gingham. A large finishing plant will be included.

Atlanta, Ga.—The Pepper mills, of Biddleford, Maine, are endeavoring to buy a large Alabama mill. If unsuccessful they will build.

Cramerton, N. C.—The Cramerton mills (formerly Mays Mills) will add 50,000 spindles and install 2,300 looms on fine shirtings.

Great Falls, S. C.—The Republic mills will add 1,000 looms.

Greenville, S. C.—The Judson mills will add 1,200 looms.

Greenville, S. C.—The Mills mill will add 5,000 spindles.

Calhoun Falls, S. C.—The Calhoun Mills will add 15,000 spindles and 400 looms.

Newberry, S. C.—The Newberry Cotton Mills are considering a large addition.

Montgomery, Ala.—The Kilby mills with 10,000 spindles and 300 looms is being completed.

West Helena, Ark.—Arthur H. Lowe, of Fitchburg, Mass., has purchased the Goodman-Howard Yarn mills and contemplates building a large gingham mill.

Porterdale, Ga.—Bibb Mfg. Company will build 5,000 spindle coarse yarn mill.

Belmont, N. C.—The Acme Spinning Company will add 10,000 spindles.

Belmont, N. C.—The Eagle Yarn mills will complete the construction of their 10,000 spindle mill.

Belmont, N. C.—The Perfection Spinning Company will complete the construction of their 15,000 spindle mill.

Belmont, N. C.—The Stove Spinning Company will complete the construction of their 20,000 spindle mill.

Bessemer City, N. C.—The Gambrell and Melville mills will add 4,000 spindles and 100 looms.

Bladenboro, N. C.—The Bladenboro Cotton mills will build an addition of 15,000 spindles.

Cherryville, N. C.—Carlton Yarn mills with 5,000 spindles is being completed.

China Grove, N. C.—The China Grove Cotton mills with 15,000 spindles is being completed.

Forest City, N. C.—The Alexander Manufacturing company will add 5,000 spindles and 300 looms.

Gastonia, N. C.—The Arkway mills will complete their 20,000 spindle mill.

Gastonia, N. C.—The Mint Manufacturing company will complete their addition of 23,000 spindles.

Gastonia, N. C.—The Groves mill will build a 15,000 spindle addition.

Gastonia, N. C.—The Lora mills will add 30,000 spindles by moving the United States Cotton mill from Central Falls, R. I.

Gastonia, N. C.—The Ridge mills will add 4,000 spindles.

Granite Falls, N. C.—The Southern Manufacturing company is being erected with 4,000 spindles.

Greensboro, N. C.—The Proximity Manufacturing company will add 30,000 spindles and 1,000 looms.

Hillsboro, N. C.—The Eno Cotton Mills are planning a large addition.

Leaksville, N. C.—A branch of the

General List of Cabarrus Carolina Alumni

The following is a list of the General Alumni Association of the University of North Carolina in Cabarrus County:

Barnhardt, Eugene Columbus, Jr., Barnhardt, Mrs. J. (nee Miss Helen Ingram Matthews), Blackwell, Bruce, Ford William, Bost, Joseph Clark, Brown, Earl Henderson, Brown, Eugene Fisher, Buchanan, Grand McDonald, Buchanan, Sidney E.H., Caldwell, Daniel Greenlee, Cannon, James Wm. Jr., Cannon, Junius Ross, Cannon, Martin Luther, Crowell, James Lee, Jr., Crowell, James Lee, Davis, Isaiah Johnson, Jr., Dorland, Chas. Johnson, Dorland, Wm. Gardner, Ford, Frederick C., Foll, Wm. Archibald, Jr., Furr, Daniel Monroe, Gibson, Richard Puryear, Gibson, Wm. Gracber, Eugene Black, Hartsell, Joseph Albert, Hartsell, Luther Thompson, Jr., Hartsell, Luther Thompson, Haywood, Fabius Julius, Hendrix, Joseph Wertz, Hoover, Aubrey Ranscur, Hoover, Otis Clyde, Jarratt, H. Augustus, Jenkins, Wm. Adrian, Klutz, Adam Ross, MacFadyen, Paul, Rutherford, Dr. McRae, Cameron, Means, Aford, Means, Gaston Bullock, Means, George Washington, Misenheimer, E. A. Jr., Oglesby, John Montgomery, Overcash, James Oliver, Jr., Patterson, Fred Marion, Pemberton, Wm. David, Phillips, Millard Brown, Pike, Joseph William, Frost, Garab Henderson, Puryear, Henry Shepherd, Deakin, Richard Brandon, Rankin, Samuel Wharton, Dr. Reed, Ralph Augustus, Robertson, Judge Buxton, Sappenfield, Dewey, Edward, Scott, Calvin Jackson, Smith, Albert Lewis, Stallings, Daniel Mouton, Tucker, Ephraim Colly, Wadsworth, Wm. Houston, White, Farrel,

Fisher's is making exceptional reductions on wraps, coats and furs. New ad. today gives price particulars.

The Citizens Bank and Trust Company carries a new ad. in this paper each day. The ads. are written for your benefit and will prove of interest and profit to you if you read them carefully. Don't fail to read new ad. today.

In the days of Oliver Cromwell Christmas was an illager festival in England. It was Cromwell's idea that it was a superstitious festival, and he forbade it to be celebrated. He also ordered all holly and mistletoe to be destroyed, regarding them as plants of the Evil One. As a matter of fact, little notice was taken of the order, and most people celebrated Christmas as usual.



BEGIN HERE TODAY

BEN DARBY, a prisoner, is paroled to an old friend of the Darby family because it is proven by a noted alienist that Ben is a victim of dementia. The old friend, EZRA MELVILLE, takes Ben on a journey to the Yuga River to locate on a rich claim left by Ezra's dying brother.

HIRAM MELVILLE, in Seattle lives Jeffery Neilson, leader of Ray Brent and

CHAM HEMINWAY, notorious crooks. They plan to steal the claim left by Melville and locate there before his brother can arrive. Brent is in love with Neilson's beautiful daughter.

BEATRICE, who repulses him, when Ezra and Ben arrive at the north woods, the latter's memory suddenly returns. On the road to Snowy Gulch, where they were to procure supplies and call for FERRIS, pet of the deceased Hiram, Ben and Ezra meet a frontiersman, while Ben is otherwise engaged Ezra learns from a wilderness stier that Neilson and his gang have started toward Hiram's claim. Not waiting for Hiram's Ben's life, Ezra suggests that Darby go alone to Snowy Gulch, leaving Ezra to travel toward their destination.

Ben finds Ferris to be a wolf that has just broken loose and stands ready to destroy a beautiful girl.

GO ON WITH THE STORY

The fangs were bared, gleaming in foam, the hair stood erect on the powerful shoulders; and instantly Ben recognized its breed. It was a magnificent specimen of that huge, gaunt runner of the forests, the Northern wolf.

He knew this breed—this savage, blood-mad, fierce-eyed creature that turned, snarling, at his approach. Ferris was only a fellow wilderness creature, a pack brother of the dark forests, and he had no further cause for fear.

"Ferris!" he ordered sharply. "Come here!" His voice was commanding and clear above the animal's snarls.

There followed a curious, long instant of utter silence and infinite suspense.

"Down, Ferris," Ben said again. "Down!"

Then slowly, steadily, Ben moved toward him. Watching unbelieving, Morris saw the force eyes begin to lose their fire. The stiff hair on the shoulders fell into place, tense muscles relaxed.

Ben stood beside him now, his hand reaching. "Down, down," he cautioned quietly. Suddenly the wolf crouched, cowering, at his feet. Ben straightened to find himself under a wondering scrutiny by both Morris and the girl. "Good Lord, Darby!" the former exclaimed. "How did you do it?"

Suddenly Ben reached and took the wolf's head between his hands. Slowly he lifted the savage face till their eyes met. The wolf growled, then, whimpering, tried to avert its gaze. Ben held the wolf's head as the man had.

And now, for the first time, Ben found himself regarding Beatrice. He could scarcely take his eyes from her face. He knew perfectly that he was staring rudely, but he was without the power to turn his eyes. Her dark eyes fell under his gaze.

"There's nothing I can say to thank you," the girl was murmuring. "I never saw anything like it; it was just as if the wolf understood every word you said."

"Old Hiram had him pretty well trained, I suspect." The man's eyes fell to the shaggy form at his feet. "He happened along, Miss—"

"Beatrice Neilson. I live here."

Neilson! His mind seemed to leap and catch at the name. Just that day he had heard it from the lips of the merchant. And this was the house next door where dwelt his fellow traveler for the morrow.

"Then it's your father—or brother—whose going to the Yuga—"

"No," the girl answered doubtfully. "My father is already there. I'm



THERE'S NOTHING I CAN SAY TO THANK YOU, THE GIRL WAS MURMURING.

Journey should hold only delight for Ben. A half-mile down the river he suddenly made a most momentous and disturbing discovery.

He had stopped his horse to reread the copy of Hiram Melville's letter, intending to verify his course. His gaze came to rest upon a familiar name.

Look out for Jeff Neilson and his gang," the letter read. "They seen some of my dust."

At first he did not glance at Beatrice. Slowly he fished the letter and put it back into his pocket.

"I'm going all right," he announced. He urged his horse forward.

"It seems to me we must be heading into about the same country," Ben went on. "You see, Miss Neilson, I'm going to make my first permanent camp somewhere along this still stretch."

"My father has come to the conclusion that it's really worth prospecting. He's in this same country now."

"I suppose I'll meet him—I'll like to meet him tonight when I take you to the cabin on the river. You said his name was—"

"Jeffery Neilson."

Ben's thought flashed to Ezra. The recovery of the mine had been the old man's fondest dream, the last hope of his declining years, and this setback would go hard with him. But there would be certain planning, when they met again over their camp fire. And there were three of them allied now. Ferris the

bon plant where Burnett was a foreman.

The sheriff today recalled that Teegstrom had publicly declared Burnett was at the carbon plant on August 24. Burnett told newspaper men at the jail Friday he could prove an alibi by the Pratt's records.

Although there had been reports that the records were destroyed by the mysterious party, officials of the plant announced today the records were intact.

Victor Teegstrom, prominent citizen of Monroe, is assisting the local authorities and Federal agents in locating his son. The sheriff said he did not know whether the youth was handled by friends or enemies of Burnett.

The incident added another chapter to the book of startling events being written here which already include masked and robed mob stealing five men from a public highway; of punishments grounds were two were mercifully flogged and two beaten to death and horribly mutilated; of bodies being decapitated, wire bound, weighted with iron and thrown into a lake; of the governor of the state personally entering into the investigations; of troops, divers and volunteers dragging lakes and swamps searching for the bodies of mysterious dynamiters blowing them to the surface; of arrests of prominent men and the promised arrest of others; of confessions involving 45 men; of charges that the Ku Klux Klan was responsible for the deeds, and of counter charges; and of open hearings and trials to commence.

New Year's day was celebrated quietly here and at Mer Rouge. All business was suspended and but for the presence of three companies of state troops and federal agents, there were no outward signs the commu-

ties were passing out of a year of tragedy into a period that was shrouded in mystery.

Preparations were being completed for the open hearing to begin Friday.

Sixty-Eight Millions in Property to Pay Tax.

Raleigh, Jan. 2.—Sixty-eight millions in property will pay taxes as the result of the United States Supreme court's opinion today in the railroad taxation cases. It decided every detail in North Carolina's favor and franchise taxes of \$210,000 will come in the wake of that mandate.

Attorney General Manning and Governor Morrison were a delighted pair and Sidney Alderman, of Greensboro, who argued the case in the supreme court, is the lion of officialdom tonight. Of all the men who presented that issue, his grasp was regarded as the finest, and the highest court notice of his presentation. The carrier is expected to come gracefully across.

Poison Ram Gets Many.

Cleveland, Jan. 1.—Deaths from poison liquor during 1922 showed a marked increase over previous years. Coroner A. P. Hammond, of Cuyahoga county announced tonight. Deaths from this cause totaled 77. Of 1922 traffic deaths in the county, 135 occurred in Cleveland. In 1921 traffic accidents here resulted in 152 deaths.

Negro Finley is Jailed.

Charlotte, Jan. 1.—Charles Finley negro, who, according to police, asserted he had been hiding in a barn on the Newell road near Charlotte since he killed another negro last Tuesday night, was in jail here today, warm and well fed for the first time in almost a week.

CHAPTER VII
The Wolf Seeks Death
As twilight darkened to the full gloom of the forest night, Ben and Beatrice rode to a lonely cabin on the Yuga River—one that had been built by Hiram Melville years past. They had seen a lighted window from afar, marking the end of Beatrice's hard day's ride.

"Of course you won't try to go on tonight?" she asked Ben. "You'll stay at the cabin?"

"There likely won't be room for three," he answered. "But it's a clear night. I can make a fire and sleep out."

"They halted at last; and Beatrice saw her father's form, framed in the doorway. She hastened into his arms; waiting in the darkness Ben could not help but hear his welcome. Many things were doubtful; but there could be no doubt of the love that Neilson bore his daughter.